



INTERNET SENSATION

Trending Sri Lankan singer Yohani Diloka De Silva of *Manike Mage Hithe* is all set to perform in India

LEISURE P2



BOOST TO BUSINESS

Himachal Pradesh's famous handlooms, organic fruits will soon be available on e-commerce platforms

TWO STATES P8



US DRIVES OUT MIGRANTS

US expels 12K migrants camping around a bridge in Del Rio, Texas, after crossing from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico

INTERNATIONAL P10

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NEAR BHUBANESWAR AIRPORT

CHANNI TAKES OATH AS PUNJAB CM



CHANDIGARH: Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi was Monday sworn in as Chief Minister of Punjab, making him the first Dalit to hold the top post in the state. Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and OP Soni, both outgoing ministers in the previous Amarinder Singh cabinet, were also administered oath of office and secrecy by the Punjab Governor. They will be designated as deputy CMs. In his first remarks after being sworn in, the 58-year-old Channi asked the Centre to withdraw the three contentious farm laws.

HAVE LOST FAITH IN JUDICIARY: KANGANA



MUMBAI: Actor Kangana Ranaut appeared before a Mumbai court Monday in connection with a criminal defamation complaint against her by lyricist Javed Akhtar, and said she had "lost faith" in the magistrate's court as it indirectly "threatened" her of issuing a warrant if she failed to appear before it in a bailable offence. Ranaut also moved a counter complaint against Akhtar for alleged "extortion and criminal intimidation", and her lawyer said they have filed an application before chief metropolitan magistrate, seeking transfer of hearing into another court.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Even my astrologer never predicted about me becoming a CM. All he said was I have a great future in puppetry!

BMC under fire over killer drains

The death of a 15-year-old boy in an open drain of the city has rallied people and the opposition parties on a single platform

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday came under fire from residents and opposition parties here who held the civic body responsible for constant neglect of open drains that claimed yet another life, Sunday.

After about 19 hours of frantic search, the Odisha Fire Service personnel Monday recovered the body of the 15-year-old boy who went missing after falling into a road-

side open drain at Shatabdi Nagar in the state capital here, police said.

The 15-year old boy was swept away by storm water in Shatabdi Nagar. After a massive search operation, his body was recovered at Panchashakha Nagar. The city has now witnessed seven deaths including three minors since 2015 after falling into open drains.

A nine-year-old boy had drowned in an open drain near Nayapalli. Two persons of Patia-Chandrasekharpur were found dead after they were washed away in a drain in 2017. In more recent tragedies, Hari Patnaik, a resident of Pichupadia Slum in Unit-VI, died after falling into an open drain in August 2018. A lady, 68, had drowned in an open drain near

Ekamra Villa road in 2019.

"The BMC has become absolutely indifferent to the most important issues plaguing our city. It is quick to raise holding tax and fine citizens who violate norms," said Suranjana Sahoo, a resident.

"Where has the money gone? Why do the drains continue to remain open? The death of a child in the open drain is disturbing and is the result of administrative apathy," said Congress leader Narasingha Mishra. BJP's Bhubaneswar president Babu Singh lodged a complaint at the Khandagiri police station against BMC Commissioner Sanjay Singh holding him responsible for the mishap. They demanded Rs1 crore compensation for the deceased boy. The BJP staged a dharna outside the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation office at 11am Monday.

The government had sanctioned Rs750 crore to the BMC for widening, covering, and de-silting of drains in the city. However, the civic body could de-silt only 383 km of its 625 km of drainage sys-

Heavy rain from Sept 26

BHUBANESWAR: When people in some parts of coastal Odisha are still reeling from heavy rainfall, the IMD Monday said another spell of heavy rainfall would batter the state from September 26. The IMD said a cyclonic circulation is likely to form over east-central and adjoining north-east Bay of Bengal around September 25. **MORE PAGE 3**

Bidyabharati faces lie detection test

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Bidyabharati Panda, the wife of deceased Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, underwent a lie detection test (polygraph) at the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) at Rasulgarh here Monday.

Bidya was accompanied by her father for the polygraph test. She reached the SFSL early in the morning. Crime Branch sleuths reportedly asked several questions to Bidya during the four-hour long test at the SFSL. They tried to find out the relationship between her and Mohapatra. What was she doing when her husband caught fire July 12 night and her alleged relationship with the DFO.

The state agency probing Soumya's death recently conducted lie detection tests of Gajapati DFO Sangram Keshari Behera and Mohapatra's cook Manmath



Kumbha, who along with Bidyabharati are the key accused in the case. The deceased ACF's father Abhiram Mohapatra had earlier lodged an FIR against Bidyabharati, DFO Behera and the cook alleging that the trio is involved in the case which is apparently a murder.

More than 100 questions were asked to Behera during a three-hour long polygraph test carried out September 18, the source added.

As there was gross mismatch in statements of the DFO and the cook earlier recorded by police and the CB, the duo had to undergo the lie detection tests.

Barabati to host T20I Feb 15, 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Barabati Stadium in Cuttack will host the first match of the three-T20I series against West Indies February 15 next year, BCCI announced in its international itinerary Monday.

This will only be the third T20I at the iconic ground since its beginning of its T20I journey in October 5, 2015 in a six-wicket loss to South Africa. India, however, registered a huge 93-run victory over Sri Lanka in their second visit to the Silver City December 20, 2017.

The last time Barabati Stadium had hosted an international match was in 2019, when India defeated West Indies by four wickets in an ODI in December 22, 2019.

According to the itinerary, the Indian team will play 14 T20Is, just four Tests and three ODIs at home between November 2021 and June 2022.



WHERE HAS ALL THE MONEY GONE? WHY DO THE DRAINS CONTINUE TO REMAIN OPEN? THE DEATH OF A CHILD IN AN OPEN DRAIN IS DISTURBING AND IS THE RESULT OF ADMINISTRATIVE APATHY

NARASINGHA MISHRA | CONGRESS LEADER

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	58490.93	↓ 524.96
NIFTY	17396.90	↓ 188.30
DOLLAR	73.94	↑ ₹0.18
EURO	86.36	↓ ₹0.26
GOLD	₹46,293	↑ ₹307
SILVER	₹60,079	↑ ₹87

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.6°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	24.5°C	24.2°C
Humidity	95%	83%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely



Brett Goldstein, Hannah Waddingham, Jason Sudeikis, Juno Temple and the cast and crew from Ted Lasso pose with their awards for outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series, outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series and outstanding lead actor in a comedy series at the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards at Los Angeles. **(REPORT ON P2)**

Shooting at Russian varsity leaves 8 dead

AGENCIES AGENCIES

Moscow, Sept 20: A gunman opened fire Monday at a university in Russia, leaving eight people dead and 28 hurt, officials said.

The suspect was detained after being wounded in an exchange of fire with police, the Interior Ministry said. There was no immediate information available on his identity or possible motive.

During the attack, students and staff at Perm State University locked themselves in rooms, and video posted on Russian news sites showed some students jumping out of second-story windows.

In some footage, a black-clad, helmeted figure could be seen striding on a campus sidewalk cradling a long-barreled weapon. Russia's Investigative Committee said the gunman fired a smoothbore hunting weapon. That could indicate he used a shotgun.

A traffic police unit was the first to reach the scene, and the suspect opened fire on them, according to the Interior Ministry. He was wounded when police returned fire and then was disarmed, the ministry said. Although firearms laws are strict in Russia, many



people obtain permits for hunting weapons. News reports cited officials as saying the suspect had a permit for a pump-action shotgun, although it was not clear if it was for the weapon used.

In May, a gunman opened fire at a school in the city of Kazan, killing seven students and two teachers, with a registered weapon.

The university, which has 12,000 students enrolled, said about 3,000 people were on the campus at the time of the shooting. The school is in the city of Perm, which is about 1,100 kilometers (700 miles) east of Moscow with a population of about 1 million. The Investigative Committee said 28 people were injured, some of them hospitalised, but did not give details.

Severe staff crunch cripples scientific wings of state police

Despite dismal rate of convictions in criminal cases courtesy poor probes, the state govt has failed to appreciate the urgency to adequately staff the scientific wings of the state police

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Experts in criminal justice system insist on the need to adopt advanced scientific methods during investigation to crack complex criminal cases without resorting to third degree torture in police custody.

Investigating officers rely heavily on the reports of scientific experts at the forensic science laboratories and fingerprint bureaux in various districts as well as the

State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) and State Finger Print Bureau (SFPB) in Bhubaneswar.

However, severe staff crunch has crippled the capabilities of the prime scientific wings of the state police force for past several years resulting in huge pendency of cases.

The "Finger Print in India-2020", annual report released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) said there is more than 50 per cent vacancy in SFPB and other fingerprint bureaux across the state. The report claims as many as 34 posts out of the sanctioned strength of 66 are lying vacant at SFPB, Bhubaneswar and various districts of the state. There are only 20 Sub Inspectors (SIs) working



in the bureau in place of sanctioned 38 SIs.

All Assistant SI posts are lying vacant while only one constable is deployed as against the sanc-

tioned six posts in the state. Similarly, one director's post is also lying vacant at the SFPB here.

Meanwhile, the cops deployed at various courts of the state man-

aged to send only 15 fingerprints of criminals post conviction to the SFPB in 2020. The SFPB of Punjab received 11,593 finger print records during the same period. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh managed to record the fingerprints of 5,566 and 5,469 convicts in 2020.

All major states recorded much higher record slips than Odisha in 2020. The SFPB receives a number of requests from the investigators to search and trace the identity of the accused to trace their criminal antecedents using the storage of finger prints in its possession.

The SFPB managed to trace the identity of the accused in 4,813 cases out of the finger print records of 1,90,356 including 17,701 received

last year. The SFPB succeeded in helping the cops in identifying the accused in 24 cases by collecting evidence from crime scene.

The situation of forensic science laboratories is also no better than the finger print bureaux.

Recently, the Orissa High court, while hearing a case, expressed its concerns over the huge manpower shortage at the laboratories across the state. The HC directed the state government to strengthen the laboratories and fill up vacancies to deal with the huge pendency of cases. As per reports, as many as 589 cases in connection with DNA tests are pending with SFSL. Other sections of SFSL have also recorded a huge number of pending cases.



RUPAUL MAKES HISTORY FOR MOST EMMY WINS

TV personality, host and producer RuPaul, whose full name is RuPaul Charles, made Emmy history by becoming the most-awarded person of colour in the Emmy Awards history with 11 honours. Her series *Drag Race* is the most-awarded reality competition show at the 73rd Emmy Awards.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE MAKES RECORD FOR MOST EMMY LOSSES

Actress Elizabeth Moss-starrer *The Handmaid's Tale* set a record with most losses at the 73rd Emmy Awards. The series had a nomination tally of 21 nods, it was expected to pick up a couple of honours between the Creative Arts and Primetime Emmys ceremonies.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
It is a sunny, sparkling day, and the stars spell success. If you're feeling creative, simply pick up a paintbrush or try a new recipe. However, care and caution should be the buzzwords if you are driving alone, suggest Ganesh.

TAURUS
You may feel let down as your folks may not extend the support you expected from them, says Ganesh. You should try to remain practical and not get swayed by emotions. It is highly likely that family feuds may erupt today. Ganesh advises you to avoid confrontations and keep smiling to emerge a winner.

GEMINI
If you are into retail business, planetary positions indicate today is a day for bumper sales. You will set records in making profits. After work, you may want to take your beloved out shopping. Though it may burn a hole in your pocket, the returns you get once you reach home will be worth every penny!

CANCER
Ganesh advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture. In short, life will teach you priceless and precious lessons today, predicts Ganesh.

LEO
The bourgeoisie feasted on cake, while the masses starved for want of a mere loaf of bread. Ganesh foresees something similar for you today, as you show the propensity to indulge in unwanted expenses. Whether it is impulsive decisions or compulsive buying, they shall not serve as an excuse on a later date when the milk is already spilt. Remember the fable of the Grasshopper and the Ant? Learn to exercise restraint.

VIRGO
You will be cool as a cucumber today. Nothing that happens will unsettle that composure, says Ganesh. Your loved ones will stand tall and strong behind you, and inspire you to overcome obstacles. Your work will reflect dedication, says Ganesh. Go ahead and ask for work that is intellectually taxing.

LIBRA
Sit back and think hard – think about what it is that you really want when it comes to your business enterprises, because there are many ways to go about things at work, and they all shall lead you somewhere different. The stars favour you today with a golden touch, so take it in your stride and make hay while the sun shines. Learn to take charge and take initiatives, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Don't put off cultivating healthy eating habits, says Ganesh. You should do better to control over-indulging in food as it may lead to obesity. Ganesh advises you to stick to a healthy lifestyle, especially when it comes to meals.

SAGITTARIUS
Life is bubbling within you and you shall be in a hyper-elevated state of bliss today. Your high-spirits and energy will inspire you to perform at your best. Moreover, your inner voice will be loud and bellowing. Make the most of this superb day, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Planning strategic moves will be done with, and all that will remain is execution. But Ganesh says there may be delays in implementing ideas that are crucial to the success of your project, and this may leave you disappointed and dismayed. But the problem will be short-lived and you will have nothing to worry about as you have all it takes to be a winner. So, just sit back and wait for the rewards to come.

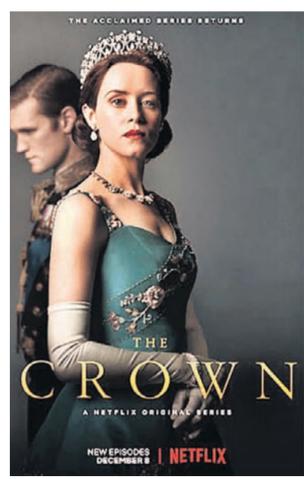
AQUARIUS
You need to think dispassionately and with clarity, says Ganesh. As always, sentiments may come in the way of your success today. Be careful, especially while taking decisions that will impact your future. You don't want to study law, just because your friends are doing it!

PISCES
Major expenses are coming your way, but the good news is a lot of them can be avoided simply by drawing a line between your needs and your wants. Exercising a little restraint now will go a long way in boosting your savings later on, says Ganesh.

EMMYS 2021

The Crown lords over other nominees

Kate Winslet won lead actress title in a limited series or movie for her stellar performance in 'Mare of Easttown' while Jason Sudeikis was named outstanding lead actor in a comedy for 'Ted Lasso'



A poster of TV series The Crown

LOS ANGELES: Shows such as *The Crown*, *Ted Lasso* and *Mare of Easttown* bagged 10 of the 12 acting awards during the 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards, hosted by Cedric the Entertainer Sunday night at LA's Microsoft Theater.

Actor Jason Sudeikis was named outstanding lead actor in a comedy for his turn as the soccer coach in *Ted Lasso*, while Hollywood star Kate Winslet won the lead actress title in a limited series or movie for her role as a detective sergeant in *Mare of Easttown*.

Network Apple TV Plus' *Ted Lasso* and HBO's *Mare of Easttown* picked up the first awards of the night, each winning the pair of supporting acting awards for a comedy and limited series, respectively.

Stream giant Netflix's *The Crown* took over the drama fields while the show Hack dominated the comedy fields.

Jean Smart took home her fourth Emmy of her career for her role as stand-up comic *Deborah Vance*, and the show took home the writing and directing for a comedy awards.

After going virtual in 2020, the Emmys are being held in-person this year.

The TV Academy has limited the ceremony to about 600 attendees, due to health and safety guidelines as the Delta

FULL LIST OF WINNERS

Outstanding Drama Series: THE CROWN	Outstanding Actress - Limited Series or Movie: Kate Winslet - Mare of Easttown
Outstanding Comedy Series: TED LASSO	Outstanding Supporting Actor - Comedy: Brett Goldstein - Ted Lasso
Outstanding Variety Talk Show: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver	Outstanding Supporting Actor - Drama: Tobias Menzies - The Crown
Outstanding Limited Series: The Queen's Gambit	Outstanding Supporting Actor - Limited Series or Movie: Evan Peters - Mare of Easttown
Outstanding Supporting Actress - Comedy: Hannah Waddingham - Ted Lasso	Outstanding Supporting Actress - Drama: Gillian Anderson - The Crown
Outstanding Supporting Actress - Limited Series or Movie: Julianne Nicholson - Mare of Easttown	Outstanding Director - Comedy: Lucia Aniello - Hacks
Outstanding Director - Drama: Jessica Hobbs - The Crown	Outstanding Director - Limited Series, Movie or Dramatic Special: Scott Frank - The Queen's Gambit
Outstanding Actor - Comedy: Jason Sudeikis - Ted Lasso	Outstanding Writing - Comedy: Lucia Aniello, Paul W Downs and Jen Statsky - Hacks
Outstanding Actor - Drama: Josh O'Connor - The Crown	Outstanding Writing - Drama: Peter Morgan - The Crown
Outstanding Actor - Limited Series or Movie: Ewan McGregor - Halston	Outstanding Writing - Limited Series, Movie Or Dramatic Special: Michaela Coel - I May Destroy You
Outstanding Actress - Comedy: Jean Smart - Hacks	
Outstanding Actress - Drama: Olivia Colman - The Crown	



Winslet flaunts her trophy

variant of Covid-19 continues to rage across the US.

The event was also moved outdoors and the media center was replaced by a virtual counterpart.

Netflix's *The Crown* and Disney Plus' *The Mandalorian* led the nominations with 24 each, going into the night, followed by Marvel and Disney Plus' *WandaVision* with 23 and Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale* with 21.

HBO and HBO Max topped networks and streamers with 130 total nominations, followed closely behind by Netflix with 129, reports *variety.com*.



Sania Mirza talks about Lee-Hesh in Break Point

MUMBAI: Upcoming web series *Break Point*, which explores the on- and off-court partnership of iconic tennis duo Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Peas, will also talk about what went wrong between them. In the series, ace tennis player Sania Mirza will shed light on what a partnership means to sportspeople.

Sania will appear as one of the guests in the series and also talk about off-court relationship between the icons.

Sania says: "Leander is an extrovert. He's a leader whether it's on the court or in a conversation; he is always the first person to start

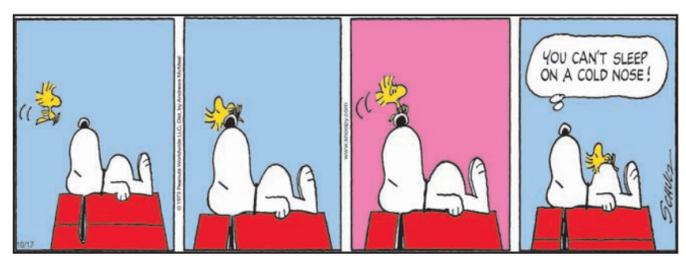
a conversation. He leads you on the court. Mahesh on the other hand is very introvert. At first, you would think that Mahesh is very arrogant but it's only that he is so shy and so within himself. I have had the opportunity to play with them so I can tell you."

The series will also give a detailed account of the highly publicised split between the two tennis players.

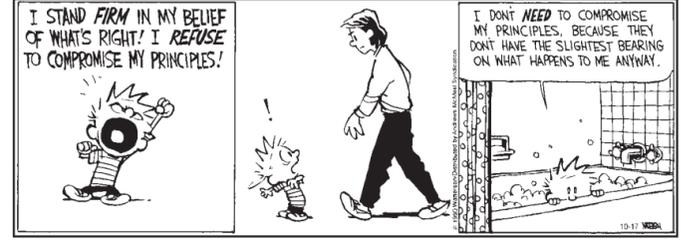
Directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari and Nitesh Tiwari under their banner Earthsky Pictures, *Break Point*, the seven-episode series will stream on ZEE5.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

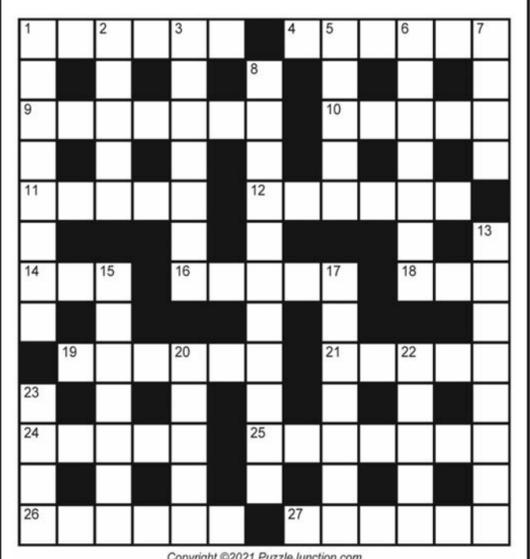


BREVITY



FUN post

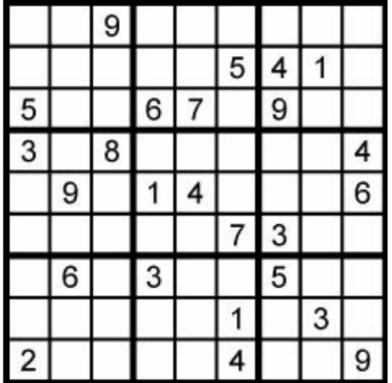
CROSSWORD



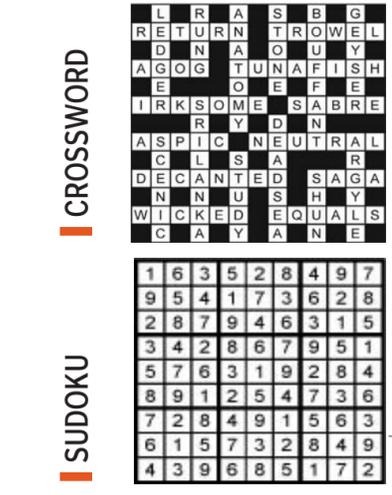
- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Elocute, as a poem
 - 4 Cancel officially
 - 9 ___ arts
 - 10 Famous posture
 - 11 Musical pace
 - 12 Water tap
 - 14 Historic period
 - 16 Flower starters
 - 18 Relative
 - 19 *Human Comedy* author
 - 21 Violin maker
 - 24 UFO passenger
 - 25 Italian city
 - 26 African menace on the wing
 - 27 Golfer's posture
 - 5 Boredom
 - 6 Viewpoint
 - 7 Whirlpool
 - 8 Broken limb bandage (7,4)
 - 13 Snake bite curative
 - 15 Greed
 - 17 Actress on the way up
 - 20 Districts or areas
 - 22 Cook's garment
 - 23 Bonkers
- Down**
- 1 Sent payment
 - 2 Billiard ball bounce
 - 3 Garment workers

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



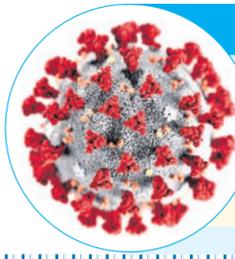
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DEFT HANDS

An artisan carves out clay figures for the Durga Puja at Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,94,14,751	20,60,72,807	47,07,872
India	3,34,78,419	3,27,15,105	4,45,133
Odisha	10,20,754	10,07,666	8,141

CYCLONIC CIRCULATION LIKELY

Another wet spell on the cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: As if the rain related misery is not enough and at a time when the coastal Odisha are still grappling with deluge owing to last week's torrential rain, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday predicted heavy rain from September 26.

Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation, a fresh spell of heavy rain is likely to lash the state from September 26

The weatherman, in its forecast Monday, said that a cyclonic circulation is likely to form over east-central and adjoining north-east Bay of Bengal around September 25. The



Heavy rain lash Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

system is likely to move west-north-westwards and reach Odisha coast during the subsequent 48 hours (by September 27).

Under its influence a fresh spell

of heavy rain is likely to occur over several parts of Odisha from September 26, the Met department said.

The southwest monsoon has

now been active over Odisha. Light to moderate rain/ thundershower has occurred at most places over the districts of north interior Odisha and many places. Heavy rainfall was at a few places of Kalahandi, Ganjam, Balasore and Sambalpur districts, it said.

As per the IMD prediction, some places in Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Nuapada, Sonepur, Sambalpur and Deogarh districts would witness heavy rainfall Tuesday.

Squally weather with surface wind speed 40-50 kmph (gusting to 60 kmph) is very likely over north-west Bay of Bengal, along and off Odisha-West Bengal coast due to a cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal. Therefore, the weather office has advised fishermen not to venture into along and off Odisha-West Bengal coast & north-west Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours.

MONSOON PRAYERS



Puri Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati, along with others, comes out of Srimandir after completing the Chaturmasya Brat, Monday

OP PHOTO

MST, QST restored for 6 special trains



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: For the convenience of daily commuters, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) has allowed train journey with monthly season tickets (MST) and quarterly season tickets (QST) in six special trains. These special trains are Puri-Angul-Puri Special, Khurda Road-Kendujhargarh-Khurda Road Special, Visakhapatnam-Gunupur-Visakhapatnam Special, Visakhapatnam-Raipur-Visakhapatnam Special, Titilagarh-Bilaspur-Titilagarh Special and Visakhapatnam-Kakinada Port-Visakhapatnam Special.

On the other hand, passengers can now recharge their automatic ticket vending machine (ATVM) smart card online through UTS on website and mobile app instead of visiting the station booking counter.

They can use all digital payment options for recharging of ATVM smart cards. For this, they have to visit www.utsonmobile.indianrail.gov.in. If a passenger is already registered for mobile ticketing, same account can be used.

After successful login, the passenger has to select menu, then smart card recharge, and then feed ATVM smart card stock number which is printed on the card. Then passenger has to enter a valid recharge amount and agree to complete the top up at ATVM within specified time period.

Parties hit campaign trail for Sept 30 Pipli byelection

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: As campaign for the September 30 Pipli by-poll officially kicked off Monday, all eyes were on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the president of the ruling BJD.

Patnaik's name figures as the regional party's star campaigner. However, party officials are as yet unsure of the Chief Minister's campaign program in support of the BJD candidate.

"We are not sure whether the party president will physically visit Pipli. Earlier, Patnaik had campaigned for the party candidate Rudra Pratap Maharathy on virtual mode for the April 17 bypoll, which was later countermanded due to death of then Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj," said a senior vice-president of BJD.

He pointed out that Patnaik mostly works from his residence since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. He did not attend two previous sessions of the Assembly physically.

However, Patnaik was seen at Kalinga Stadium welcoming the Indian Hockey players after their return from Tokyo Olympics.

The Chief Minister has however undertaken visits outside the state capital recently after significant improvement in the corona situation across Odisha. Among other places he has visited Kalahandi, Sundargarh, Malkangiri, Puri and Cuttack. He is scheduled to visit Bolangir Wednesday.

"We cannot rule out the possibility of BJD president making a road show in Pipli using his campaign bus... This decision may be



Puri SP Kanwar Vishal Singh briefs security personnel at Pipli

OP PHOTO

taken keeping in view the ground situation in Pipli," a senior leader said.

Since three Union ministers - Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnav and Biswaswar Tudu -

along with the BJP's Kissan Morcha national president Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, are scheduled to campaign in Pipli, the BJD may think of using its trump card. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the senior leader

Though there are 10 candidates in the fray for Pipli bypoll, BJD's Rudra Pratap, BJP's Ashrit and Congress's Bishwokeshan Harichandan are ahead of others

Pipli is traditionally a stronghold of BJD from where Maharathy was elected to the Assembly five times in a row since 2000

said.

Patnaik had not physically campaigned in the two previous bypolls held in November last year in Balasore and Tirtol. The bypoll in Pipli is held following death of BJD's sitting MLA Pradeep Maharathy in October 2020.

Pipli is traditionally a stronghold of BJD from where Maharathy was elected to the Assembly five

times in a row since 2000.

However, BJP candidate Ashrit Patnaik is also seen as a strong contender in the fray. Patnaik had lost the 2019 general elections by 9,787 votes to BJD's Pradeep Maharathy.

Though there are 10 candidates in the fray for Pipli bypoll, BJD's Rudra Pratap, BJP's Ashrit and Congress's Bishwokeshan Harichandan are ahead of others in campaigning being conducted adhering to Covid-19 protocol.

Coinciding with the beginning of the campaign in Pipli for bypoll, DGP Abhay Monday reviewed the poll preparedness with Director Intelligence, Additional DG of Police (Law & Order), IG of Police, Central Range, Cuttack, IG of Police (Law & Order)-cum-Nodal Officer and SP, Puri District through a video conference.

Centre seeks proposals for aid to specially-abled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The state government Monday asked all district Collectors to submit project proposals that would be sent to the Union government for release of grants under two development schemes for persons with disabilities (PwDs) for the year 2021-22.

Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) director Bratati Harichandan wrote a letter to all the Collectors in this regard, Monday.

The department of PwDs under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has invited online applications for release of grants for 2021-22 fiscal under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) scheme, Harichandan said in her letter.

The ministry has decided to re-

DEADLINE SEPT 30
The ministry has decided to receive the proposals and applications only through e-Anudaan portal and will not entertain physical forms henceforth

ceive the proposals and applications only through e-Anudaan portal and will not entertain physical forms henceforth. Therefore, the Collectors have been requested to furnish the same under DDRS and ADIP schemes in the designated portal by September 30 positively.

After receiving the proposals, the multi-disciplinary GIA committee of the SSEPD department will scrutinize and recommend the valid proposals to the ministry, she said.

Sudarsan reappointed Lalit Kala Akademi head

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday reappointed eminent sand artist Sudarsan Patnaik as the president of Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi.

The sand artist was first appointed as the Akademi president in 2018. He would be holding the top post for next three years.

Earlier, Patnaik was appointed as president of Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2018.

Patnaik's appointment as the chief of the state's apex body for fine arts had come after the then Akademi head Late Raghunath Mohapatra resigned from the post following his nomination to Rajya Sabha.

Mohapatra passed away recently while undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

Patnaik was conferred Padma Shri in 2014, the fourth highest civilian award for his contribution to sand art.

PROTEST OVER PLUS II EVALUATION

Ex-regular student slits palm near CHSE office in City

The agitating students alleged that marks have been awarded in theory papers based on their performance in previous CHSE examinations, which is unacceptable

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Hundreds of ex-regular and dropout students Monday protested near the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) office alleging disparity in Plus II evaluation.

During the protest, a girl student from Ganjam district slit her palm as her repeated pleas seeking reply from CHSE about marking went in vain.

The girl was immediately admitted to Capital Hospital here and later handed over to her family who came from Ganjam to pick her up, said police sources.

The students alleged that as per the assessment formula devised for Plus II, regular students have been awarded scores in theory papers on the basis of their per-



Police personnel take the agitating girl to safety

OP PHOTOS

formance in Class X board exam. However, in case of ex-regular students, marks have been awarded in theory papers based on their performances in previous CHSE examinations, which is unacceptable.

An ex-regular student Manoranjan said, "We want marks to be awarded as per our performance in Class X since we were not told in advance that an offline exam would be conducted. We have been neglected and cheated. Regular students, who had passed Class X with 70 per cent marks, were

awarded similar marks in Plus II. But many of us who scored good marks in the matriculation exams have been marked failed."

Earlier, the dissenters had attempted to march towards Naveen Niwas September 6. Their attempt to gherao the Chief Minister's residence was foiled by the police during their demonstration near Master Canteen Square.

The students' wing of the Congress party had backed the protest saying the fate of the students hanged in balance due to the 'apathy of the state government and CHSE'.

The pass percentage of ex-regular students in Arts stream was 26 as only 7,161 students passed the exam while 27,595 had appeared for it. In commerce, 2,530 ex-regular students were assessed, from which a total of 1,386 students passed and the pass percentage stood at 54.78 per cent.

"We faced difficulties in assessing ex-regular students as many of them had not appeared any examination under the CHSE in the last few years. The council searched for marks they had secured in their latest examinations," said School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash.



Students stage a sit-in in front of CHSE office in Bhubaneswar, Monday

STARTING AFRESH



Senior Biju Janata Dal leaders welcome Congress workers from Rayagada district as they join the ruling party in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

With daily TPR at 0.81%, state sees mild dip in Covid cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The state Monday registered a slight decline in the daily Covid-19 cases with 510 people testing positive for the infection which pushed Odisha's caseload to 10,20,754, a Health department official said.

The state Sunday had reported 623 cases while it was 695 Saturday. Of the 510 new cases, 79 were children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years. The rate of infection among the children and adolescents was 15.49 per cent against 15.24 per cent Sunday.

While 297 new cases were reported from quarantine centres, the remaining 213 were local contact cases.

Khurda district, of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest 197 cases, followed by Cuttack (78). Khurda and Cuttack districts together accounted for 53.92 per cent of the total

FIGURES SAY IT ALL

Odisha registered 510 fresh Covid-19 cases which pushed the caseload to 10,20,754, while six more fatalities due to the infectious disease pushed the toll to 8,141

The state has so far conducted over 1.93 crore sample tests, including 62,509 Sunday. Odisha's cumulative positivity rate stands at 5.28 per cent

Over 71.84 lakh people have been fully inoculated while above 2.03 crore people have been administered with a single dose of the Covid-19 vaccine

single day new cases in the state.

The districts of Bargarh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Subarnapur did not report any new cases in the last 24 hours.

The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said that six fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,141. This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities, said the official.

As 510 people tested positive for the infection out of the 62,509 samples tested Sunday, the daily test positivity rate (TPR) now stands at 0.81 per cent.

The state currently has 5,494 active Covid-19 cases while as many as 10,07,066 patients, including 746 Sunday, recovered from the highly infectious disease.

The state has thus far conducted over 1.93 crore sample tests, including 62,509 Sunday.

Odisha's positivity rate stands at 5.28 per cent.

Over 71.84 lakh people have been fully inoculated while above 2.03 crore people have been administered with a single dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Online refresher courses for aided college teachers too

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The Higher Education (HE) department Monday decided to include the teachers of the state's aided colleges for the online refresher courses.

Keeping in view the importance of refresher courses for aided college teachers, the HE department has also directed the principals of all aided degree colleges in state to introduce UGC approved online refresher courses for aided college teachers.

The last date of registration for this course is September 30.

Earlier, the refresher courses were started only for government college teachers as an experiment by the department, for which it had tied up with HRDC, Savitribai Phule Pune University.

The department had added that if the courses ran well, the initiative would be extended for aided college teachers too.

While the department will bear the course fee, teachers will have to register for the course by visiting <http://hrdc.unipune.ac.in>.

After the registration is over, the department will select a maximum of 50 teachers for each course. The timing will be from 2:15pm to 7:15pm. There will be three sessions of 90 minutes every day.

SC notice to WB over Bhadrak convict's juvenility petition

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Supreme Court Monday served a notice on the West Bengal government while hearing a special leave petition filed by a murder convict of Bhadrak, who has been serving life sentence, claiming juvenility during the com-



mission of the crime in 2001.

A two-judge bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathana adjourned the hearing for four weeks. The petitioner's counsel informed the apex court that the man has already served a jail term of 20 years and four months.

Sources said that the murder

convict had in August claimed juvenility following a certificate issued by the headmaster of a school in Bhadrak district in February this year.

The bench also noted that in pursuance of its earlier order, the session judge Bhadrak has submitted a report after recording the statement

The petitioner's counsel informed the apex court that the man has already served a jail term of 20 years and four months

of the headmaster of the school.

Notably, the man was convicted and sentenced life imprisonment on charges of murder by a trial court in West Bengal in March 2004.

Earlier, the Calcutta High Court had dismissed his plea and upheld the conviction in September, 2020.

DEATH TRAPS IN MILLENNIUM CITY



PATA POLA

As a 15-year-old boy died after falling into an open drain in Siripur area of Bhubaneswar Sunday, Orissa POST finds many such 'death traps' in Cuttack, the city with a network of around 1,000 kilometre drainage system, which has been grappling with poor maintenance

Photos: Rajkishore Mohanty



BARAPATHAR



BHAKTA MADHU VIDYAPITHA ROAD



SUTAHAT TALA SAHI

Biometric attendance in varsities, colleges to resume October 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The Higher Education department decided to resume the biometric attendance system for universities and colleges from October 1.

Department Secretary Saswat Mishra, in a letter to all the state public universities and all government, non government and aided colleges, said that the biometric attendance recording system, which was suspended since March 2020, will resume from October 1 for all teaching and non teaching employees.

Prashanti Spl on diverted route

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: In view of safety related modernisation work between Kurichedu and Donakonda stations with regard to commissioning of track doubling work in Guntur-Guntakal railway section under South Central Railways jurisdiction, Bhubaneswar-Bangalore-Bhubaneswar Prashanti Special will be diverted from both the directions September 26 and 27.

This train will run via Guntur-PGDP-Kacheguda-Dhone stations instead of Vijayawada-Guntur-Nandyal-Guntakal stations bypassing Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Markapur Road, Cumbum, Giddalur & Nandyal

stations on the above days.

This apart, the timings of Puri-Surat special from Puri have been revised at four stations under Sambalpur division from September 25. It will arrive at Bargarh Road at 02:39hrs and leave at 02:41hrs instead of its schedule arrival time at 02:50hrs and departure at 02:52hrs. The train will leave Kantabanji at 05:45hrs instead of 06:00hrs.

Likewise, Bhubaneswar-LTT Special from Bhubaneswar with effect from September 27 and 02866 Puri-LTT Special from Puri from September 28 will reach Jharsuguda Road at 13:30hrs and will leave at 13:35hrs instead of earlier arrival timing at 13:39hrs and departure at 13:44hrs.

Man convicted after 15 years of murder

PURI: A local court here Monday sentenced life imprisonment to a man after holding him guilty in the sensational murder of Rupak Das in the city in 2006. The convict was identified as Sanjay Sahoo. Earlier, Sanjay's brother Ranjay had also been awarded life imprisonment for the gruesome killing of Das, a resident of Chudanga Sahi-Mata Gosei Lane under Town police limits here, December 18, 2006. The incident was fallout of previous enmity. Ranjay, who was arrested soon after the murder, was convicted in 2008, while Sanjay, who was on the run ever since the incident, was arrested in 2014.

Agri min launches OAIC portal, skill training for 150 youths



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo Monday launched a website of the Odisha Agro Industries Corporation (OAIC) and inaugurated a free of cost skill development training programme for 150 unemployed youths from five districts.

The programme aims to impart skill training on repair and maintenance of power tillers, pump sets, reapers and power weeders. The youths will be trained in five batches during the 12-day training module for each batch.

The Agro Industries Corporation launched the website in order to have more popularity amongst the farmers and to intimate the farmers the activities undertaken by the corporation from time to time. The corporation has been sup-

CREATING RESOURCE POOL

The programme aims to impart skill training on repair and maintenance of power tillers, pump sets, reapers and power weeders

The youths will be trained in five batches during the 12-day training module for each batch

The dept recently bagged the 'Best Millet Promoting State' award from the Union government for its Odisha Millets Mission Programme

plying fertilisers, pesticides, tractors, power tillers, pump sets and other agricultural equipment at government approved price to the farmers at their doorsteps since 1962. It has also taken up installation of lift irrigation projects for creation of ad-

ditional irrigation potential under Jalandhi2 and Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana (BKVY) schemes.

The minister also said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Agriculture department is doing great work for agriculture development and farmers' empowerment. The department recently bagged the 'Best Millet Promoting State' award from the Union government for its Odisha Millets Mission Programme.

Sahoo added that for more development of agriculture sector, farmers need to learn new technical and technological skills. The skill training that would be provided during this programme will be helpful in the development of farmers and agriculture. He also said that presently, there are many opportunities in the agriculture sector for youths and this training will be imparted to more youths in coming days.

CLEANLINESS DRIVE



Labourers deployed by the civic body remove weeds from Barabati moat in Cuttack

OP PHOTO

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Babuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

No water for farmers in dist with 5 rivers

NEGLECTING THE FARMERS, GALLONS OF WATER IS BEING SUPPLIED DAILY TO THE 12 INDUSTRIES IN KALINGANAGAR INDUSTRIAL AREA

POST NEWS NETWORK

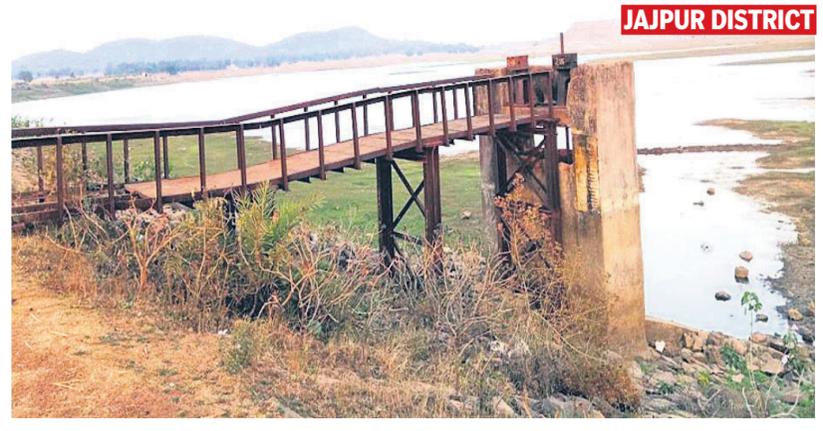
Jajpur, Sept 20: Considering Jajpur district's continuous contribution of crores as revenue to the state exchequer, and the fact that rivers like Brahmani, Baitarani, Kharasrota, Birupa and Budha flow through the district, the farmers here should have had better irrigation facilities. But here on ground, the situation is quite the opposite.

The government is laying emphasis on irrigation, setting a target to irrigate hundred percent of all agricultural land in state. For this, the number of pani panchayats and their capacity are said to be increased through Command Area Development programme, for equal distribution of water, maintenance of canals and increasing the capacity of the projects.

Similarly, a huge amount of money is being spent every year to construct field irrigation canals, to repair and resurrect community ponds.

But looking at the evident current scenario, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how Jajpur district is neglected with respect to providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

The Minor Irrigation department in the district has had proposals to construct 74 minor irrigation projects (MIPS) for a long period now. Of these projects, Barchana block has maximum 19 projects, followed by Sukinda



JAJPUR DISTRICT

Irrigation irregularities

Minor Irrigation dept in the district has had proposals to construct 74 minor irrigation projects for a long period now. But no progress has been achieved in this regard

While the political leaders and workers are keeping mum about the construction of minor irrigation, high level canal or lift irrigation projects, they are busy awarding lease of stone quarries so that they can earn big money

(17), Danagadi (10), Korei (eight), Dharmashala (six), Jajpur (five), Binjharpur and Dasarathpur (four each) and Rasulpur (one). But no progress has been achieved in this regard.

It is expected that once these projects are completed and functional, more than 5,000 hectare of agricultural land would be irrigated. With these projects still confined to proposals only, the apprehensions of drought leave the farmers in a state of panic. As of now, according to the government sources, a total of 4,479 hectare of land is being irrigated through only 58 MIPS.

Neglecting the farmers, gallons of water is being supplied daily to

the 12 industries in Kalinganagar Industrial area by IDCO. For this, an intake well has been set up on the riverbank at Pankapala. Similarly, 90 percent of the water in the Baitarani River flows into the sea.

What surprises the locals is that not a single irrigation project has been constructed in the upper catchment area of these two main rivers which flow right through the district. Not for nothing are the people of the district terming that the two rivers are not for farmers but for industries.

The government is claiming that out of total 1,45,450 hectare of agricultural land in the district, through major and minor irrigation projects, 61,322 hectare

(42.16%) and 34,600 hectare (23.78%) is irrigated in kharif and rabi seasons respectively.

But the ground report tells a different tale. From the Baitarani-Budha anicut, 10,000 acre of land in Sadar, Dasarathpur and Binjharpur blocks and 8,384 hectare of land in Barchana and Dharmashala blocks gets water in kharif season. At the same time, this 164.005 kilometre-long canal fails to irrigate 680.89 hectare of land.

While the political leaders and workers are keeping mum about the construction of minor irrigation, high level canal or lift irrigation projects, they are busy awarding lease of stone quarries so that they can earn big money.

JUMBO MENACE

Irate locals plan stir against forest dept



POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, Sept 20: For the past few days, elephants have been on a damaging spree in various parts under Bamur range in Angul district. This has caused wide resentment among the locals who have been rolling their sleeves for an agitation against the forest department September 22.

As farmers have been losing their crops to the marauding giants on a daily basis, they have accused the forest department of doing nothing to contain the menace.

Local farmers, united under Jeeban Jibika Krushi Jami Surakhya Committee, held a meeting and discussed the issue Saturday. Residents of various villages alleged that there was no let-up in elephant menace in this range while the forest department has allegedly failed to subdue the mayhem for a long time.

Farming community has been the worst affected. The frequent visits of these animals to farmlands have robbed the farmers of sleep.

With paddy crops and vegetables being trampled and destroyed

As farmers have been losing their crops to the marauding giants on a daily basis, they have accused the forest dept of doing nothing to contain the menace

on a regular basis, they have voiced their concern and demanded effective step against the problem.

They also alleged that in most cases, affected farmers are left deprived of compensation from the forest department.

"Although forest officials are being urged to take action, nothing is being done," locals further alleged. Farmers lamented that as a result, their economic condition was shattered by the elephants.

They demanded immediate deployment of elephant squads and right assessment of the crop damage. It may be noted here that a farmer guarding his crop was killed Friday night by an elephant at Khandualmunda village under Mahabirod Range in Dhenkanal.

Woman's body fished out from Brahmani river

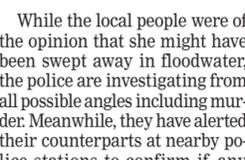
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, Sept 20: Police recovered a woman's body from the left side of the Brahmani River near Rameswar temple at Ramchandrapur under Bari police limits in Jajpur district, Sunday.

The police are yet to ascertain the identity of the deceased.

According to a source, few local people first spotted the body floating in the water. They immediately informed the villagers who alerted the police.

Later a team from Bari police station reached the spot and with the help of fire personnel fished out the body. After the completion of inquest, the cops sent the body for post mortem.



While the local people were of the opinion that she might have been swept away in floodwater, the police are investigating from all possible angles including murder. Meanwhile, they have alerted their counterparts at nearby police stations to confirm if any missing report is lodged at any police station or outpost.

Regarding the cause of her death, the police said they could say anything about the case only after completion of the investigation.

RAGING PROTEST



Tribals of Gangabada and Kerandi panchayats in Gajapati district bordering Andhra Pradesh stage a demonstration outside the collectorate in Paralakehundi protesting high-handedness of the neighbouring state including eight other demands

Man bludgeoned to death; killers mention next target

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purusottampur, Sept 20: A man has been allegedly bludgeoned to death by some unidentified miscreants while he was asleep at Chingudighai village under Purusottampur police limits in Ganjam district, late Sunday night.

On being informed by locals, Purusottampur police reached the spot and recovered the body of the deceased.

Police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe into the incident.

The deceased was identified as 48-year-old Binayak Pradhan. He was



Primary evidences suggest that multiple persons are involved in the murder of Binayak (48). The miscreants have written with blood of the victim the name of their next target as 'driver Gouda'

a liquor shop owner and was sleeping near a temple when he was attacked by the miscreants, IIC Priya Ranjan Chhotray stated.

The exact cause of death has not been ascertained yet. It appears to be a valid reason that he must have been murdered by some local bootleggers as Binayak repeatedly complained about them,

a senior official of Purusottampur police station expressed.

Primary evidences suggest that more than one person are involved in the alleged murder of Binayak. The miscreants have written with blood of the victim the name of their next target as 'driver Gouda'.

Likewise, they have left a note mentioning the name of their target Prabha Gouda, Purusottampur SDPO Suryamani Pradhan said.

The targeted driver had been staying in Surat of Gujarat for past several years and returned to the village recently.

Police have initiated a manhunt to nab the killers, the SDPO added.

Flood plays spoilsport for cage fish farming in Balasore

THE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HAD CULTIVATED AROUND 5.5 QUINTAL OF POMPANO FISH FINGERLINGS IN CAGE FISHING METHOD BUT HARVESTED ONLY 16 QUINTAL IN 40 DAYS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rupsa, Sept 20: Low pressure triggered rainfall and the subsequent flood have played spoilsport for cage fish farming near the Bahabalpur fish landing centre under Sadar block in Balasore district, a report said.

Incessant rainfall coupled with the flood muddied the sea water and increased its salinity, following which the fisheries department had to harvest the fish within a period of 40 days, much before the designated period of three months. However, this has not deterred the department or the fishermen as they plan to cultivate more fish in 22 cages after a month.

The department had cultivated around 5.5 quintal of pompano fish fingerlings in cage fishing method but got only 16 quintal due to premature harvest. The fish after their harvest were auctioned at ₹127 per kg.



Reports said that cage fish farming involves this newer method of growing fish in existing water resources by means of an enclosed net or cage which allows free flow of water. It is an

aquaculture production system made up of a floating frame, net materials and mooring system. Fish farming in marine cages is providing a ray of light for many fishermen who are reeling under dwin-

dling catches coupled with the rising operational cost of vessels and environmental degradation. Fishermen are getting attracted to cage aquaculture because of the huge profit margin in this method.

Ganja worth ₹62L seized, 7 arrested

Berhampur: Seven people were arrested Monday after cannabis worth ₹62 lakh was seized during two separate operations in Ganjam. Acting on a tip-off, a team of excise personnel intercepted a mini truck laden with bananas in Kanishi area during patrolling on National Highway 16 and seized around 1,140 kg of cannabis, he said. Three persons were apprehended in this connection, Berhampur Excise Superintendent Ramendra Nayak said. The same team of excise personnel also recovered around 110 kg of the contraband from a car near Randha area and four people were held, he said. The consignments were being transported from Rayagada to Khurda, the official added.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-18-21

Description of work : **HIRING OF LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE (TATA SUMO/BOLERO OR EQUIVALENT VEHICLE) WITH DRIVER FOR ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (G)/KHURDA ROAD FOR ELECTRICAL WORKS FOR A PERIOD OF 3 YEARS.**

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 14,31,252.15, Cost of tender document: ₹ 2,360/-, Completion period: 36 Months.

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 08.10.2021.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

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

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-395/M/21-22 Khurda Road

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Statutory Body of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)
Block II, Second Floor, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016.

VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for filling up the post of Deputy Legal Adviser in Technology Development Board.

Sl. No.	Post	No. of Posts	Level of Pay	Mode of Recruitment
1	Deputy Legal Adviser	01	Pay Level 12 of Pay-Matrix of 7th CPC	Deputation (including short term contract) failing which by contract and failing both by absorption.

Last date for receipt of application: **29th October, 2021, 5:00 PM**

DoPT, DST and TDB websites (<http://persmin.gov.in/>, dopt.asp, www.dst.gov.in and www.tdb.gov.in) may be referred for detailed vacancy Notice along with essential qualification and desirable qualification, eligibility criteria, application format and other terms and conditions etc.

davp 36106/11/0002/2122 Under Secretary, TDB

Government of Odisha
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jharsuguda
Email: eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643
Bid Identification No. Online-SEJSG-08 of 2021-22

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROADS WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement No. O-728-

1	Name of the work	: Roads works per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in
2	Total No. of work	: 75 (Seventy five) Nos.
3	Estimated cost	: Rs. 4.09 lakh to Rs. 15.59 lakhs
4	Period of completion	: 3 (Three) calendar months
5	Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding	: Dt.21.09.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to 30.09.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
6	Date and time of bid opening	: Dt.01.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
7	Name and address of the officer inviting bid	: S.E. R.W. Division, Jharsuguda

(1) Other details can be seen from Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
OIPR-25104/11/0008/2122

FOCUS LAW AND ORDER

WHAT AILS OUR POLICE



It is indeed unfortunate that the mention of police today evokes images of corruption, abuse of power, human rights violations, collusion with criminals, acting under influence, and an overall unprofessionalism lined with insensitivity towards the common citizens they are meant to serve

Police personnel singularly responsible for all that is wrong with the institution as a whole? What can be done to change the work culture of the police to build confidence and create an environment of mutual coordination with the public? Is there a way out of this quagmire of disbelief and cynicism?

The answer to these questions has been dealt seriously both by independent police researchers and other institutions such as courts, civil society and by successive governments as well as by police leaders leading the force. While the former have unequivocally beemoaned the multiple prejudices that have plagued the police and have attributed this to the colonial legacy of the present police system, the latter have flagged the issues of the harsh and challenging working conditions, long working hours, non-existent social life, hostile environment and lack of public empathy and support, as the reasons affecting the behaviour and work culture of the force.

Be that as it may, one may wonder if the situation will ever ac-

tually change, or are the police ordained to wear the badge of distrust and disparagement forever? Are citizens doomed to accept the contemporary police as fait accompli or deserve a sensitised, modern and a people's police? The answer to these questions perhaps lies in "technology".

As we know, policing demands interaction of police officers and personnel with the public. It is during these interactions that a common man often complains of experiencing a rude, insensitive and uncouth police force. Intimidating interaction, unfriendly gestures, denial and delay in redressing the grievances, perfunctory investigation, and corruption in providing services, use of brute and violent methods makes the experience of a citizen with the police harrowing and tormenting.

It is in this backdrop that technology has the potential to be a game changer. Sensitive policing can be fostered by leveraging technology to both reduce the burden of work on police personnel, while automating administrative and

other day-to-day tasks, thereby minimising police interaction with citizens for these routine procedures and maximising the potential of the workforce.

For example, a simple facility of e-FIR now available in many police jurisdictions in the country is a pioneering example of technology coming to the aid of police personnel as well as citizens. It has reduced the discretion of the police in not registering cases and bringing transparency in the process.

Using technology to mediate traffic maintenance and including automated tickets for traffic violation have proved useful in eliminating petty corruption and harassment of citizens by police.

The use of body cameras used by police personnel on the ground dealing with law and order and other enforcement activities have proved as an effective check in the use of disproportionate force.

The use of DNA technology in investigation of sensational crime has the potential of enhancing the credibility of the police investigation. Other emerging fields such as artificial intelligence and innovative use of social media have been playing a significant role in bridging the communication gap between police and the public.

Technological innovations have been changing the police landscape rapidly. It's a new world out there, and it continues to throw up challenges and opportunities that are markedly different from what we have been used to. India of the 21st century needs a modern, adaptive police force that reflects not the fears and apprehensions of people, but their hopes and aspirations. Therefore, an educated and professionally trained police force that knows how to leverage technology for effective policing is essential in order to meet the challenges and opportunities as well as to uphold the trust of the people.

The writer is an IPS officer currently serving at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

WHY IS THE IMAGE OF THE POLICE CLOUDED WITH DISTRUST, SUSPICION AND FEAR AND WHAT FOR DOESN'T IT CHANGE DESPITE SIGNIFICANT INTERVENTIONS AND REFORMS? ARE THE POLICE PERSONNEL SINGULARLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THAT IS WRONG WITH THE INSTITUTION AS A WHOLE?



Pinak Mishra, IPS

Recently, while interacting with IPS probationers at the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lamented over the negative image of the police and exhorted the young officers about to enter the force to work assiduously on changing that perception.

The Prime Minister was neither the first head of government to have expressed his displeasure and concern over the flagging public confidence on the police, nor was the issue pointed out for the first time. The dwindling confidence of the public towards the police force has been discussed ad nauseam and volumes have also been written about the people's lack of trust in the police.

However, given that ignominy still persists and the public perception of police in India still remains clouded, it is pertinent to discuss the issue and more importantly search for workable solutions.

Police is an important and integral part of the state machinery and is the fulcrum through which the State enforces law and maintains order. Therefore, managing trust is important for the police as it is the foremost institution that sets the criminal justice system in motion. It goes without saying that the sacrifice the police force makes in maintaining law and order, fighting crime, terrorism and violence and responding to disasters and pandemic is immense.

However, it is indeed unfortunate that the mention of police today evokes images of corruption, abuse of power, human rights violations, collusion with criminals, acting under influence, and an overall unprofessionalism lined with insensitivity towards the common citizens they are meant to serve.

As we discuss the issue of public trust and confidence vis-à-vis police, few pertinent questions arise. Why is the image of the police clouded with distrust, suspicion and fear and what for doesn't it change despite significant interventions and reforms? Are the

In silence, the consciousness grows. It aspires to know You more and more perfectly.

THE MOTHER



New Captain

Some may consider it a sad commentary on the Congress leadership that it took four years and seven months to oust Captain Amarinder Singh as Punjab Chief Minister and find his replacement. It may be a grave mistake to presume that the Captain had no contribution in strengthening his party in that state. Also, the change leaves the new incumbent barely four months to prove his mettle and redeem unfulfilled pledges made by the outgoing Captain. This replacement could have been prompted by a desire to simply offer a new face without any encumbrances. Whether that alone will fetch enough votes for the party to retain power can only be seen in the elections to be held soon. The Congress leadership might have been prompted to react the way it did in Punjab by seeing how the BJP, too, has been behaving in different states recently.

This sort of a change in regional leadership is not new in Indian politics. Congress had been doing this throughout Indira Gandhi's lifetime. The assumption was that the average voter voted for the supreme leader. It was considered that the people in between did not matter in any way. Keen political observers may be able to draw parallels between the behaviour of the Congress of the old times and the BJP of today. The BJP too, now at least, thinks that all those who vote for it are doing so in the name of Narendra Modi. The ignominious manner in which strong man BS Yediyurappa was shown the door in Karnataka is a great example. All he had to do to retaliate was to give a statement that 'Let us not be under any illusion that we can win all elections by using Modi's name'.

The damage has been done. To what extent this will impact the BJP's fortunes will be measureable after the next polls. These are astute leaders whose words hold deep meaning for the common man. Looking at the Congress, it is interesting to note that while the national leadership most likely wanted Navjot Singh Sidhu as the next CM of Punjab, outgoing CM Amarinder Singh had to utter a few words to queer the pitch for him. Amarinder stated 'Navjot Singh Sidhu is an incompetent man. He has a connection with Pakistan. It will be a threat to national security'. Those words were enough to bury Sidhu's political dreams six feet under the ground.

The Congress did benefit from Indira Gandhi's name which did have a tremendous sway over the Indian voters for a long time. Yet, in 1977, not only was the Congress defeated but Indira was personally humbled by a non-entity called Raj Narain. After her death, the damage wreaked by Indira's style of functioning has made the Congress leaderless at the bottom of the pyramid today. Now, with no national figure to charm the voter, the party seems to be doomed to slowly wither away.

Instead of opting for so-called young leaders, it may be wiser for the Congress to hold on to the old guns that are still capable of delivering. All the young leaders promoted during the UPA decade have been unable to retain even their own constituencies. Some prominent ones have defected and weakened the party, thus proving that the selection process was wrong from the beginning. Interestingly, the choosing was done primarily with the idea of promoting legacies which were expected to take prime positions in the future. While the parents might have been stalwarts, the offspring have proven to be useless. This could also mean that new age Indian politics requires leaders at the lowest level. The Congress does not seem to have any machinery capable of encouraging or even recognizing new elements. Without a bunch of fresh faces and new ideas, the party seems to be going down in a spiral.

Piate
Tathagata Satpathy

WISDOM CORNER

If people doubt how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore. MICHAEL RUIZ

You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, love like you'll never be hurt, sing like there's nobody listening, and live like it's heaven on earth. WILLIAM W. PURKEY

Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten. NEIL GAIMAN

WORDSWORTH

Can of worms

To open a metaphorical can of worms is to examine some complicated state of affairs, the investigation of which is likely to cause trouble or scandal and which you would much prefer was left alone. A recent example appeared in the Washington Times: "Uncovering past ownership, however, can open its own legal can of worms in exposing art theft." It has long since become an overused and overrated journalistic cliché, which rather lends itself to mixed metaphors: "Africa is a huge can of worms and we can no longer stick our heads in the sand" (from the Daily Record of Glasgow of 17 March 2006). The earliest example I've found is from a syndicated article in the Ironwood Daily Globe of Michigan in 1951: "The question of command for Middle East defense against Soviet aggression is still regarded as 'a can of worms' at General Eisenhower's SHAPE headquarters here." The evidence suggests that the original cans of worms were real cans with actual worms in them, collected as bait for fishing. Here's one in a largely forgotten work of 1914, Diane of the Green Van, by Leona Dalrymple: "There are times, alas, when even fish are perverse! Thoroughly out of patience, Diane presently unjoined her rod, emptied the can of worms upon the bank, and returned to camp." Fishermen have told me that the most annoying aspect of opening a can of worms is that, being live bait, they crawl out and are difficult to put back. So there may well be an association with the idea of Pandora's Box, as you suspect. It's easy to see how an angler — more probably a non-fishing friend or relative of an angler — who opened a can containing a wriggling mass of worms would see it as something that was best left closed and unexamined.

SPECTRUM GENDER EQUALITY

Afghanistan's forsaken women



Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

OF ALL THE TRAGEDIES WITNESSED SO FAR THIS DECADE, NONE MAY BE WORSE THAN THE ONE NOW FACING THE 19 MILLION WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Owing to the pandemic and other calamities, many referred to 2020 as a "biblical year." Now, however, it is starting to look like we are in a "biblical decade." Between the floods in Western Europe, the wildfires in Greece and Turkey, and the Delta and Mu variants of COVID-19, our planet and traditional way of life are coming increasingly under pressure.

Yet nothing this year can compare to the tragedy that is being visited upon Afghanistan's 19 million women who face an acute threat of being plunged back into the dark ages.

The international media has duly highlighted the risks, with many outlets reminding us of the oppression that women suffered under Taliban rule between 1996 and 2001. The Taliban have responded with reassurances that women's rights — especially their rights to work and receive an education — will be respected as long as they are consistent with the values of an Islamic society under Sharia law. The next few months will show whether this promise will be kept.

One can only hope that Afghanistan's new rulers will stay true to their word and resist the backward-looking forces within their ranks. Doing so would be a clever strategy, not only because it would buy them much-needed good

will with the international community, but also because it would be good economic policy. A society that oppresses women is a society that quashes its prospects for growth and development.

A growing body of research has shown that promoting gender equality benefits not only women but the entire economy. An influential 2019 paper in *Econometrica* shows that the reduction of occupational gender gaps and other distortions contributed to a more efficient allocation of talent and generated sizeable productivity and welfare gains in the United States. The authors attribute a remarkable 20-40% of growth in aggregate market output per person between 1960 and 2010 to the improved allocation of talent.

Eliminating gender and other forms of discrimination could plausibly generate even larger gains in developing countries, many of which exhibit severe resource misallocations and low productivity. Obviously, an economy has a much better chance of achieving its full potential when half of its population is not restricted from deploying its skills and talents. As Christine Lagarde and Jonathan D. Ostry of the International Monetary Fund argued in 2018, excluding women from economic activity prevents a country from benefiting

from complementarities between male and female labour.

Even prior to the recent regime change in Kabul, women's prospects in Afghanistan were bleak. One indication of this came from the World Bank's "Women, Business and the Law" (WBL) score, which measures the degree of legal gender discrimination as it affects women's economic opportunities. A score of 100 indicates complete equality (under the law) between men and women; a score of zero indicates that women have none of the rights afforded to men. In 2020, Afghanistan's WBL score was 38.1, compared to a global average score of 76.1 and a South Asian regional average score of 63.7.

Afghanistan's 2020 score of 38.1 means that women there faced severe legal restrictions in almost every category covered by the index even before the Taliban returned. For example, women still were not allowed to travel outside their home or choose where to live in the same way as men. But this is not to suggest that the country made no progress in the 20 years since the Taliban last held power. Despite the enormous political challenges it faced, women's rights were expanded in some important areas. A 2015 law, for example, allowed women to apply for passports in the same way as men, thus affording them more mobility.

In recent joint work, I argue that while Sharia law imposes some constraints on women, it is not necessarily inconsistent with making progress on legal gender equality. Indeed, several authors have argued that it is patriarchal culture, not Islamic law, which often lies behind stark gender inequalities. Here, Tunisia serves as a good example of how gender equality in the family sphere can be incorporated within the bounds of Sharia. In 2020, the country received a WBL score of 67.5, remarkably higher than the Middle East and North African regional average of 51.5.

Let's hope that the Taliban will not reverse the small gains of the past 20 years. If they uphold their new commitments, they will win some measure of international good will and improve Afghanistan's prospects for economic development. For its part, the international community must keep applying diplomatic, political, and economic pressure to ensure that the country's women are not abandoned to a wretched fate yet again.

The writer, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.

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Gap between Covishield doses

Sir, These days many medical experts are favouring a reduced time gap between the two doses of Covishield vaccine. Earlier, the gap between the first dose and the second one was 42 days, but now it is 84 days. The increased gap is possibly due to supply of vaccination not in keeping pace with the demand. Supply should be stepped up and the gap between the two doses should be narrowed down so that more and more people can avoid being infected by the deadly coronavirus. Experts are of the view that "the primary purpose of protection from the severe disease is well met by the available vaccines, including Covishield". Single-dose recipients are not fully immune to the disease. Some experts are said to be recommending reduction of the time gap to four weeks from the present eight weeks. According to virologist, Prof. Shahid Jameel, science supports the increased gap of 8-12 weeks. Mixed opinion among experts in respect to the gap between two Covishield vaccine doses can be seen. If the increased gap of doses is more effective, then what about the fate of the people who were administered vaccine with a reduced gap of 42 days as against 84 days?

KV Seetharamiah, BANGALORE

Wooing the Dalits

Sir, Speculations over the new Punjab Chief Minister finally came to an end as Charanjit Singh Channi was elected as a Dalit face of the Congress replacing Captain Amarinder Singh. Channi is a close aide of Punjab Pradesh Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, who relentlessly opposed the Captain's leadership. Channi was among the Cabinet ministers who criticised the Captain's handling of the sacrilege issue and failure to curb the drugs and transport mafia and believed that the former Chief Minister had failed to fulfill his 2017 election promises. Channi is the first Dalit leader in a state that has a Dalit population of about 32% but whose Chief Ministers have almost always been Jat Sikhs. His appointment is being viewed as a strategic move by the Congress to win over Dalit votes during the next Assembly elections. This is an attempt by the Congress to regain lost ground. The battle to win Dalit votes seems to be raging with the Shiromani Akali Dal, which is in an alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party, as well as the Aam Aadmi Party promising to elect a Dalit as Deputy Chief Minister if they are voted to power.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

LOL

Tent stolen

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner and a bottle of wine, they retire for the night, and go to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." "I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes," replies Watson. "And what do you deduce from that?" Watson ponders for a minute. "Well, astronomically, it tells me that



there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.

Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe." But what does it tell you, Holmes?" Holmes is silent for a moment. "Watson, you idiot!" he says. "Someone has stolen our tent!"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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New twist to Kotia tale

ODISHA GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT SEPARATE POLLS IN KOTIA PANCHAYAT AFTER AP ANNOUNCES 'ELECTION' RESULTS



Both the Odisha and the Andhra governments have been at loggerheads over territorial rights in Kotia region

Koraput/Pottangi, Sept 20: The feud between the Odisha government and Andhra Pradesh government over control of the Kotia panchayat took a new turn Monday. The Koraput district administration has started its preparation to hold panchayat elections in Kotia. This move comes months after the Andhra Pradesh government conducted polls to the Kotia panchayat.

Congress' candidate Majhi Appalamma secured victory in the rural polls in Tala Ganjeipadar panchayat defeating his nearest rival by 41 votes. He secured 124 votes. Similarly, Koneti Gindo received 311 votes in Phagunsineri panchayat and won as a Samiti member. Ambadi Anil Kumar received 16,305 votes and became a Zilla Parishad member. The YSR Congress candidates were very successful in the 'polls' conducted by the Andhra government.

The Andhra government had conducted the panchayat elections April 8 after changing the names of Ganjeipadar, Phaguna Sineri and Phaatu Sineri. However, due to an Andhra Pradesh High Court order the results had not been announced. They were finally announced Sunday.

This happened because the BJP, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and

Jansena had knocked on the doors of Andhra Pradesh High Court April 6 with a plea to nullify the elections held in Kotia as well as across the state. A three-member division bench heard the matter and stayed the declaration of results. In spite of the high court order, the Andhra government went ahead with the polls. After the stay order was vacated Monday last, the results of the Kotia panchayat were declared Sunday. Notably, Andhra Pradesh had recognised Tala Ganjeipadar, Phagunsineri and Phatusineri villages in Kotia as three separate panchayats and conducted the elections for the posts of sarpanch in all the three.

Meanwhile, the Koraput district administration has started preparing to hold three-tier panchayat polls in Kotia panchayat. The Odisha government will conduct the three-tier rural body election of its own in the Kotia group of villages in due course of time. It has no connection with the election which was conducted recently by the Andhra Pradesh government, District Information and Public Relation Officer (DIPRO) of Koraput, Jagannath Prasad Rayguru said Monday in a press note. He said that the Andhra government-conducted polls holds no meaning for the Odisha government as it does not consider Kotia to be a part of the neighbouring state. The elections to the Kotia panchayat will be conducted with other parts of Odisha, informed Rayguru.

At that time, local candidates can file nominations while the people of Kotia will elect their leaders for the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), the DIPRO further said in the press note



A mock drill on rescue operation during fire mishap underway at Sambalpur railway station, Monday

OP PHOTO

MGNREGS programme goes haywire in Kalahandi district

BLAME GAME OF OFFICIALS STOPS RURAL PARK CONSTRUCTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 20: With an aim to provide work to people under MGNREGS during the pandemic, the Phulbani block administration in Kalahandi district started the construction of a rural park at Tudipaju village. However, work has been left midway into the construction drawing anger of the locals. They have criticised the block administration for its failure to complete the project.

However, some officials pointed out that the funds sanctioned for the project were not sufficient enough to complete the work.

To provide job opportunities to the unemployed, the block administration had decided to set up the rural park. It would not only be a scope of employment, but also a chance for children living in the village to enjoy the atmosphere of a park like their city counterparts do.

Subsequently, a budget was sanctioned for the children's park in Tudipaju village. As it was MGNREGS-related work, a villager (called 'mate') was given charge of execution of the project. However, the 'mate' failed to execute the job properly. It was not his fault alone as a large number of job card holders did not show any interest to work in the project.

Matters turned worse as both



the block and panchayat officials blamed each for failure to finish the construction work.

When contacted, Tudipaju sarpanch Mrutyunjay Kanhar said the park is to be developed for village kids. "A fund of Rs 9,00,000 has been sanctioned for the project. But we are not getting labourers or job card holders to carry out the construction work. Vendors are also reluctant to supply materials as the work order is in the name of the 'mate'. Initially in May, some work was done, but since then there has been no progress," Kanhar said.

The version of ABDO, Santosh Digal, a former gram panchayat extension officer, however, did not match with that of the sarpanch.

"A fund of Rs 15 lakh has been sanctioned for the park. This money will be spent towards the wages of job card holders, buying materials and installing swings and carrying out other ancillary work. But construction has stopped. Efforts are on to restart the work," Digal informed.

Junior engineer of Phulbani block Umesh Chandra Sahu when contacted gave a budget figure that did not match with those provided by the sarpanch and ABDO. "A budget of Rs 5,00,000 has been sanctioned for the park. Since money is not being released for stone chips, sand, cement etc, there is no progress in construction," informed Sahu.

LEOPARD SKIN SEIZED, 2 HELD IN BARIPADA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 20: Forest department officials seized Monday a leopard skin and arrested two persons, including an engineering student, during a raid at a hotel here, police informed. Acting on a tip-off, personnel of the Forest department posing as traders had contacted the person who had the leopard skin. The leopard had been killed inside Similipal National Park, a police officer said.

The Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district is home to tigers, elephants, leopards, barking deer, wild boars, chausingha (four-horned antelope), and giant squirrels.

The seized leopard skin was 71 cm long and 23 cm wide, Santosh Joshi, divisional forest officer, Baripada said. The two arrested persons were identified as Bikas Binay Singh of Palasbani village and Bikas Chandra Bentkar of Khanua village in Mayurbhanj district, the forest official informed.



Villagers forced to drink unhygienic pit water



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jhumpura, Sept 20: With the sole rural drinking water project in Kasia village of Malda gram panchayat under Jhumpura block in Keonjhar district lying defunct for over four months, the villagers are being forced to use water from an unhygienic pit (chua in local parlance). Surrounded by a dense forest, Kasia village falls under Ward No-6 of the panchayat. The village has four sahis and is inhabited by over 600 people. Continuous drinking of the pit water has led to many being affected by various types of stomach ailments.

There had been an effort to ease the drinking water woes in the village. Under the 'Basudha Scheme', a drinking water supply project spending over lakhs of rupees from District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund was set up in the village in 2018-19. A deep bore well was dug up, a water overhead tank was constructed, an electric motor was installed and pipes were laid.

However, within two years of the initiation of the project, the pipes developed cracks leading to the disrupted water supply. Due to lack of proper maintenance, the pipes in the

pump house were also damaged. Lastly, the electric motor pump also developed snags leading to the complete failure of the project.

The villagers have made numerous visits to the panchayat and the Rural Drinking water supply offices in Jhumpura. They have met officials and requested their intervention to make the project functional but to no avail.

"We have submitted letters to the officials concerned on several occasions, requesting them to take steps to end our problem. It seems there is none to listen to our problem. We have again been forced to use the same pit water," rued Shukadeb Munda, Ganda Munda, Durga Munda, Keshab Munda, Shirapani Munda, Kunu Naik and Madan Naik of Ghutu Sahi of Kasia village.

When contacted, junior engineers on the concerned department Mohan Singh and Subhasmita Khamari said the electric motor pump has been sent for repair. Once it is repaired and brought back, the pipes and other materials would be repaired or replaced, as their conditions demand, and the project would soon be made functional.

Children Court starts hearing in Pari case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 20: The Children Court and court of additional district and sessions judge here started recording the statements of witnesses in the sensational murder case of minor girl Pari, Monday.

The witnesses were called to appear in the court where their statements were recorded under Section 203 of Code of Criminal Procedure-1973. Two out of 70 witnesses in the case were scheduled to record their statements in the court, Monday.

However, only witness no-49 Duryodhan Pradhan of Jadupur village recorded his statement. He was questioned for two and half hours. Charan Pradhan of Jadupur village will record his statement in the court October 8.

Effort to attract visitors: Govt to beautify Samarjhola pond

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hinjilicut, Sept 20: The Samarjhola pond located on over 35 acres of land close to national highway-59 in Hinjilicut locality of Ganjam district will be developed to attract tourists, officials said. Keeping in the mind the beauty of the scenic spot, such a decision has been taken, they informed. The administration has started the initiative to boost its tourism potential. A beautification drive has been taken up in and around the pond.

In a bid to attract tourists, various facilities are being developed. Boating facility will be introduced soon, a children's park and a food plaza will also be developed, officials said.

It is said that since the place is close to NH-59 and only nine kilo-



metres from Berhampur, tourists will not have any difficulty in vis-

iting the place. Officials of the district administration are confident that footfalls to the scenic spot will increase once the facilities are developed.

Since the place is close to NH-59 and only nine kilometres from Berhampur, tourists will not have any difficulty in visiting the place. Officials of the district administration are confident that footfalls to the scenic spot will increase once the facilities are developed.

After tender of Rs 4.08 crore is finalized, the department is going to sign an agreement with the contractor. The first phase of work is expected to be completed by July, 2022. The second phase of work will be carried out with help of the Tourism department.

The Collector recently reviewed the progress of its work along with officials and engineers of the Irrigation and Works department and officials of the national highways authority of India (NHAI).

OCCL official in Vigilance net

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 20: A senior manager of the Odisha Construction Corporation Limited (OCCL) was arrested Monday by personnel of the Vigilance department. The manager, identified as Ranjan Kumar Danga, had allegedly amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Vigilance sleuths carried out simultaneous raids on his houses located at different places and his office after being tipped off about the wealth of the official.

The anti-corruption squad has also scrutinised a number of important documents, including bank passbooks and papers related to his official job. During the search, the officials found a bundle of legal



tenders of Rs 500 denomination each. The total valuation of the seized properties can only be ascertained after the raids are over, a Vigilance official said.

Meanwhile, Danga has refuted allegations levelled against him saying that he has constructed the houses after taking loans from

banks. He said that he is paying the monthly installments also regularly. He also informed that his income tax returns are up to date and that he has been in service for the last 20 years without a single blip on his career. He also alleged that he is being 'framed' by his 'enemies'.



Anganwadi workers take out a rally demanding salary hike and in support of other demands in Nabarangpur, Monday

OP PHOTO

Gandhis holiday after Amarinder's exit

AGENCIES

Shimla, Sept 20: Just hours after settling the political tussle in Punjab with the departure of party veteran Amarinder Singh, Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi were in a holiday mood.

Both reached Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's cottage located amid forests of pine and cedar in the suburbs of the Himachal Pradesh capital where she is already holidaying with her family.

Sonia reached Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, by air in the morning from where she headed straight to the cottage by road.

In the evening Rahul too reached here after attending the oath-taking ceremony of newly appointed Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. Rahul reached the Raj Bhawan as the ceremony was about to end. After spending some time with party leaders, he headed to Shimla by road.

The Gandhis are expected to stay here for two-three days and



there is no plan to meet any party functionary during the stay, an official said in a statement.

Priyanka's five-room cottage -- with wooden frames and shingled exteriors and a sloping tiled roof -- is at a height of more than 8,000 feet in Charabra, some 15 km uphill from here.

Priyanka along with her children and mother regularly visits the cottage, just close to Wildflower Hall, on a four-bigha plus agricultural plot that was purchased in 2007. The Congress Sunday picked Charanjit Singh Channi as the next Chief Minister of Punjab.

After having picked Channi as the next Chief Minister of Punjab, the Congress is likely to pick two senior leaders from the state as Deputy CMs. A tweet from senior Congress leader Pawan Kumar Bansal, who is AICC treasurer, revealed the names of two senior leaders and outgoing ministers in

the previous Amarinder Singh's cabinet -- Brahm Mohindra and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa -- as the party's choice for the Deputy Chief Minister's posts.

While Mohindra is the Hindu face of the party, Randhawa is the Jat face. Mohindra was considered a close confidant of former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

"Heartiest congratulations to @Charanjit channi for elevation as #Punjab CM and @Brahm Mohindra & @Sukhjinder INC as Dy CMs. Best wishes for their grand success in the services of Punjab under the leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Sh @Rahul Gandhi," Bansal, a former MP from Chandigarh, tweeted.

Channi Sunday had met Governor Banwarilal Purohit to stake claim to the top job in the poll-bound state soon after being elected as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party.

Amarinder Singh was nudged into quitting ostensibly over his "failure" to fulfil the promises made by the party in the 2017 assembly polls.

DENGUE CRISIS IN DELHI

53 CASES IN LAST 1 WEEK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Over 50 fresh cases of dengue have been reported in the national capital in the last one week, taking the total count this year to more than 210, according to a civic report released Monday.

In this month alone, 87 cases have been recorded till September 18, which is about 41 per cent of the cumulative cases.

The number of dengue cases for January 1-September 18 period is also the highest this year since 2019 when the count had stood at 217 in that same duration.

According to the civic report issued by the municipal corporations last week, 158 cases of dengue were recorded till September 11 this year.

So, 53 fresh cases have been logged in one week.

Seventy-two cases were reported in the month of August, according to the report.

Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November, but the period may stretch till mid-December.

The month-wise distribution of cases are -- January (0), February (2), March (5), April (10) and May (12), June (7) and July (16), it said.

In the previous years, the cases in the same period were -- 1,375 (2016), 1,465 (2017), 343 (2018), 217 (2019) and 172 (2020), according to the report.

According to the civic report released Monday, 86 cases of malaria and 44 cases of chikungunya have also been reported till September 18 this year.

Malaria, dengue and chikungunya are accompanied with high fever and therefore, doctors feel that people might suspect that they have contracted Covid-19.

Dengue cases reported in the national capital till date are "under control" and the Delhi government is alert and all prepared to handle any situation arising out of the



Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water, while those of malaria thrive even in dirty water

At least 211 cases have been reported this year till September 18, according to the civic report issued Monday

Civic bodies in Delhi have intensified their measures to prevent outbreak of vector-borne diseases.

However, no deaths have been reported due to dengue in the city till now

vector-borne disease, city Health Minister Satyendar Jain had told reporters September 15.

The Delhi health minister also said that the government's anti-dengue drive, '10 Hafte, 10 Baje, 10 Minute' running for the last two weeks or so to raise awareness on its prevention, and it will be further intensified.

South Delhi Mayor Mukesh Suryan recently had alleged that the Delhi government was playing "campaign politics" when it came to the fight against the vector-borne diseases, termed its anti-dengue drive an "eyewash".

The senior BJP leader in the party-ruled South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), at a press conference here, had claimed that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was "taking credit" in controlling vector-borne diseases in the city.

Delhi hosp treats 1st case of black fungus in kidney



India always had the highest reported numbers of mucormycosis in the world, but when coupled with Covid it became a disease of epidemic proportions in several states during the 2nd wave of Covid-19

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: A 34-year-old man from Ghaziabad has been successfully treated for a complicated case of Mucormycosis, also known as black fungus, after recovering from Covid infection, doctors at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said here Monday.

The Mucor had not only pene-

trated the nasal cavity but also spread to his left lung and the right kidney -- reported in medical literature as the first case in the world after Covid infection, the hospital said in a statement.

The patient Ranjeet Kumar Singh presented to the hospital with post-Covid illness, which included breathing difficulties, blood in sputum and high grade fever.

After investigation the doctors were shocked to find that Mucor had not spread from the nasal cavity to his left lung and the right kidney.

Since mucor is a fast spreading disease and could further damage other organs, a part of his left lung and the entire right kidney was removed immediately as a life-saving procedure. The complicated surgery lasted for six hours. Mucormycosis is labelled as a rare and emerging fungal infection.

Placement-linked skill training boon for Himachal rural youth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 20: The placement-linked skill training programme - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana -- is proving to be a boon for the poor rural youth in Himachal Pradesh as it enabled to train 5,320 people and provide employment to 3,021 in various sectors, officials said Monday.

The scheme is nurturing skills, besides providing employment opportunities.

It aims to transform the poor rural youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.

With the successful implemen-

The youth in the age group of 15-35 years and the physically challenged, women and other weaker sections up to the age of 45 years are covered under the scheme

tation of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana, the government has fixed a target to provide training to 22,000 youths till 2023. The beneficiaries have received jobs within the state and neighbouring states too, an official statement said. The scheme

is now a demand-driven initiative that enables the youth to benefit from the national and international employment opportunities.

There is a provision of free training, ranging from three to 12 months, along with hostel facilities.

One year training is provided in apparel, hospitality, beautician, sewing machine operator, baking, storage operator, spa, unarmed security guard, electrician domestic, sales associate, accounting, banking sales representative and computer hardware assistant trades.

There are scores of others who availed the benefit of the scheme and skilled themselves in getting employment, an official said.

OVERCAST SKY



Clouds hover over Raisina Hills in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Vehicle owners need to carry PUC certificate

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Delhi government has asked vehicle owners to carry valid pollution under control (PUC) certificates or pay a fine of Rs 10,000 along with an additional action of suspended driving license for three months.

"The Transport department, Government of NCT of Delhi, in its ongoing efforts to control pollution and improve air quality in Delhi, requests all motor vehicle owners in the city to ply their vehicles only with valid PUC certificate," said a notice issued by the Delhi Transport department on Sunday.

"All registered vehicle owners are requested to get their vehicles checked from the pollution checking centres authorised by the state Transport department to avoid any penalty/imprisonment/suspension of driving licence," the notice further added.



As per the record, there are more than 900 pollution checking centres set up at petrol pumps and workshops spread all across Delhi, making it easier for motorists to get their vehicles checked at their convenience.

According to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, vehicles including BS1, BS2, BS3, BS4 and BS6 require to carry the PUC. Even vehicles fitted with CNG and LPG kits require to have the certificate, which is renewed for a year for few diesel vehicles, any BS4 and above petrol vehicle and three months for the rest.

Delhi to get its 1st wild animal rescue centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Delhi's first wild animal rescue centre at Rajokri will be launched during the wildlife week next month, forest and wildlife department officials said Monday.

"The facility has come up on a 1.24-acre plot in Rajokri in New Delhi district where a monkey rescue centre was lying abandoned. We have upgraded it to a wild animal rescue centre. It will be launched during the wildlife week," a for-

est department official said.

There was no such private or government facility in the national capital. Until now, the forest department, along with wildlife NGOs, used to rescue stranded or injured animals and rehabilitate them at Asola Bhatt Wildlife Sanctuary in South Delhi. "The engagement with the NGOs to rescue animals will continue. A veterinarian from the South Delhi Forest Division will be deployed at the centre for their treatment," the official said.

HP's handlooms, organic fruits on e-com platforms soon

Among the products which may be available on the e-commerce platforms include handmade shawls, sweaters, carpets, organic honey, fruits, dry fruits, spices, pickles and medicinal herbs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 20: Himachal Pradesh's famous handmade shawls, sweaters, carpets, organic honey, fruits and spices will soon be available on e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Flipkart and Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

Himachal Pradesh's Rural Development Minister Virender Kanwar said the state government is planning to facilitate 2.80 lakh women belonging to 27,000 self-help groups (SHGs) access to the e-commerce platforms so that they can sell their products in a wider market.

The e-commerce platforms will enable small artisans living in remote or snowbound areas of the hill state to showcase their organic, natural and handmade products and connect them with buyers from across the country, Kanwar said



Representational image

in a statement. The uploading of the SHG products on e-commerce platforms is under progress and will be available under 'Him Ira' brand.

This is a major step towards women empowerment and will give a big boost to the women entrepreneurs, he said. The necessary standardisation procedure and

quality tests along with paper works are being completed expeditiously to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the women from SHGs. The minister said this would

also integrate SHGs with the government's public finance management system (PFMS), thus helping them get their payments without difficulties. The state government will help the SHGs in branding, packaging and pricing their products to make them market competitive. This will open doors of growth and ensure the rural women folks get maximum profit, Kanwar said.

At present, the products made by women SHGs are available only at government and a few other outlets. Following an initiative of Kanwar, the state tourism department has agreed to display these products at all the tourist hotels in Himachal Pradesh so that the SHGs products are easily available to the tourists.

In Himachal Pradesh, about 15,000 SHGs are involved in agri-

cultural activities while 12,000 SHGs in non-farm activities under the ambit of the National Rural Livelihood Mission. Some SHGs sell products at 'Him Ira' shops and weekly markets under the 'Him Ira' brand.

At present 40 'Him Ira' shops are in operation in various parts of Himachal Pradesh and the state government is planning to set up around 100 'Him Ira' shops in all districts of the state so that small farmers and SHGs reach markets without interference of a middle man or vendor.

A woman member of a SHG earns around Rs 200-300 daily and the state government is providing Rs 50,000 to every SHG to start livelihood activities, the minister said.

The central government has also provided them interest subvention on loans up to Rs 3 lakh.

national

of the day quote

It (farmers' protest) is sponsored by you (Congress) in Delhi. Farmers' protest happened around Delhi. It did not happen anywhere else in the country because it is sponsored

With unemployment at its peak, Goa's youth are not getting jobs. Government jobs are available only to people with money and connections. Coming to Goa to discuss this issue with the People of Goa

I feel like I am a CEO (chief executive officer) of a private company and you all (bureaucrats) are working like executives. Government officers are giving 100 per cent

SHORT TAKES

17-year-old gangraped

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped by two men who recorded a video of the crime and shared it on social media, police said Monday. The accused, identified as Shubham and Ashish, have been arrested. The incident took place Sunday in a village under Bhopa Police Station, SHO Subhash Babu said, adding that a case of rape has been registered against the accused. According to the complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the accused lured her into a garden on the pretext of getting her a guava from a tree and raped her.

Self-styled militant held

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police Monday said they have arrested a self-styled Commander-in-Chief of the Kuki National Front, Manipur. According to DCP Pramod Khushwaha of the special cell, the militant identified as Mangkholam Kippen was arrested from Dwarika in Delhi.

Sukanta Majumdar new WB BJP chief

Kolkata: The BJP Monday replaced Dilip Ghosh as its West Bengal unit president with Lok Sabha MP from Balurghat Sukanta Majumdar, amid infighting and a string of defections from the party to the state's ruling Trinamool Congress. In a statement, the BJP announced that Ghosh, also a Lower House MP, has been made a national vice president of the party.

Maoist guerrilla held in J'khand

Ranchi: One Maoist Guerrilla carrying Rs 1 lakh reward on his head has been arrested by police in Jharkhand's Gumla district. According to police, Rakesh Oraon alias Manki Oraon carrying Rs 1 lakh reward on his head was arrested from Marwa jungle situated under Karumgarh police station of Gumla district. Oraon belongs to banned Maoist outfit, Communist Party of India- Maoist.

Elephant found dead

Balod: A three-year-old male elephant calf was found dead in a field in Chhattisgarh's Balod district Monday, forest department officials said. It is suspected the wild animal died due to natural causes, but the exact reason will be known only after a postmortem report is available, they said.



“Making a person belonging to Dalit caste as the chief minister of Punjab is nothing but an election stunt. I have come to know through the media today that assembly elections in Punjab will be fought under a non-Dalit leader and not under Channi”
MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

KUNDRA GETS BAIL

Pornographic content case accused businessman Raj Kundra Monday secured bail at a surety of Rs 50,000 after spending 60 days in jail



India to resume vaccine export

India's vaccination drive has been a role model for the world and it is marching ahead with great speed

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: India will resume export of surplus Covid-19 vaccines in the fourth quarter of 2021 under the 'Vaccine Maitri' programme and to meet its commitment to the COVAX global pool, but vaccinating its own citizens remains the topmost priority of the government, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Monday.

Addressing the media, the minister said the government will receive over 30 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines in October and over 100 crore doses in the next three months. He also said that cumulative doses administered so far across the country have crossed 81 crore and the last 10 crore doses were administered in only 11 days.

Asserting that vaccination of our own citizens remains the government's topmost priority, Mandaviya said the export of surplus vaccines would begin in the next quarter (October-December) under the Vaccine Maitri programme and in order to fulfil the commitment of India towards COVAX. This is in line with our motto of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', he said. He said that the surplus supply of vaccines will be used to fulfil India's commitment towards the world for the collective fight against Covid-19. COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO.

Highlighting the importance of indigenous research and production of Covid vaccines in India, he said that it is due to the relentless efforts and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India was simultaneously undertaking research and production of Covid vaccines in such a big way.

Talking about the expected production and supply trends in the coming months, he said that more than 30 crore doses will be produced in October and more than 100 crores in the coming quarter.

India Friday administered a record number of over 2.50 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra



'Covid may be heading towards endemic stage'

Top virologist Dr Gagandeep Kang said Monday that the coronavirus pandemic in the country may be heading towards endemic stage, adding that a third wave, if it does take place, is likely to be due to local flare-ups that would be smaller and spread wider across the country. "When you have something that is not going away in the near future, then it is heading towards endemicity. Right now, we are not looking at eliminating SARS-CoV-2. This means that the virus has to become endemic," Dr Kang, who teaches at Vellore's Christian Medical College, said in an interview. An endemic stage is one when a disease or illness, instead of going away, is regularly found in a particular region, meaning that people there have to learn to live with it.

Modi's 71st birthday. The daily Covid-19 vaccination in the country was over 1 crore September 6, August 31 and August 27.

India took 85 days to touch the 10-crore vaccination mark, 45 more days to cross the 20-crore mark and 29 more days to reach the 30-crore mark, according to the ministry.

The country took 24 days to reach 40 crore from 30 crore doses and then 20 more days to cross the 50-crore vaccination mark on August 6, it said. It took 19 more days to go past the 60-crore mark and took only 13 days to reach 70 crore from 60 crore September 7, the ministry said.

Naga peace talks commence after over a year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kohima, Sept 20: After over a year, crucial meetings between the Government of India envoy and Naga insurgent outfits began here Monday to settle the long-pending Naga political issue involving various bodies, including the NSCN (IM).

Officials in Kohima said that former special director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Central government representative AK Mishra and the NSCN (IM) leadership led by Thuingaleng Muivah held a meeting at the police complex in Chumoukedima. NSCN-IM leader Rh Raising told the media after the meeting that everything should be initiated on the basis of the Framework agreement signed with the government in 2015. "We reiterated our commitment to the Framework agreement in letter and spirit. After the Covid-19 pandemic, the talks have resumed. The Government of India has sent us a letter stating that Mishra will hold talks with our leaders," Raising told a television channel.

Stating that a separate flag and constitution are uncompromising issues, Raising said: "Any agreement without separate flag and constitution is unacceptable and meaningless."

Can't give 'judicial diktat' to send kids to schools: SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Supreme Court Monday observed it cannot give a 'judicial diktat' for sending children to schools disregarding the possibility of a fresh spike in Covid cases as it refused to entertain a Class 12 student's plea seeking resumption of physical classes across the country.

Stating that it should be left to the government to take a call on "governance issues", the top court also advised the 17-year-old student from Delhi to focus on studies instead of getting involved in seeking Constitutional remedies. At the same time, the court said it would not call the student's Public Interest Litigation (PIL) a "publicity gimmick" but it was a misplaced petition and that children must not get involved in such issues.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna said the student may pursue his remedies with the state government.

"Ask your client to focus on studies in school and not get involved himself in seeking Constitutional remedies. You see how misplaced this petition is. Imagine the (Covid) situation in Kerala. Maharashtra



cannot be the same in Delhi. I am not saying it is a publicity gimmick but this is why children must not get involved in these issues. We don't have any kind of data before us", the bench told advocate Ravi Prakash Mehrotra. The top court then perused the prayers in the PIL and said the petitioner wants re-opening of schools to enable physical classes. The court said that after Article 21A has been brought into force, it has obligated the state governments to provide free and compulsory

education to all children between the age 6 and 14. "You see the governments are ultimately answerable. They are also concerned about the need for children to go back to schools.

That is the purpose of schools. We cannot, by judicial diktat, say that you shall send your children back to school, oblivious of the dangers which may be there."

The court has just come out of the second Covidwave but there is still danger of a possible spike of viral infection, the court said.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE



A hand rickshaw-puller carries a passenger through a waterlogged city road after heavy rains in Kolkata. The city recorded the highest rainfall of September in 13 years

ARRESTED SPY TURNS OUT TO BE ISI AGENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 20: In a joint operation by the Military Intelligence and Karnataka Police a spy who was working for Pakistan's Inter-Security Intelligence (ISI), was arrested here Monday, police said. The accused has been identified as Jitendra Singh from Rajasthan's Barmer district, according to police sources.

Accused spy Jitendra Singh took the videos and photos of Army bases, firing ranges and movement of the Indian Army and sent them to the ISI agents, sources said.

The accused wore an Indian Army uniform while taking pictures and videos. After sending the videos, photos and voice messages, he would delete all of them. However, the police officers have managed to retrieve all the deleted messages, sources said.

Jitendra Singh was trapped through a fake Facebook account called 'Neha Aka Pujaji' by an ISI agent. The agent struck a friendship with Singh as he had put up a picture of him in army uniform.

Sources further said he came in touch with ISI in 2016. After sweet talks for years, he was asked to send videos, photos and other information in return for a huge sum of money. The accused agreed and carried their orders. He was paid digitally from different accounts, sources add.

MAHANT NARENDRA GIRI FOUND DEAD AT ALLAHABAD MUTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Allahabad, Sept 20: Mahant Narendra Giri, the president of Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad, was found dead Monday at Baghambari Muth here, police said.

The Parishad is the largest organisation of sadhus in India. According to Inspector General of Police K P Singh, Mahant Giri's body was found hanging from the ceiling by his disciples.

A purported suicide note was also found at the site in which the seer had written that he was mentally disturbed and was ending his life. He had also delegated various responsibilities to his disciples in the note, the police said.

The IGP said that police had received a call at 5.30 PM from the Muth that Giri had hanged himself.

Prima facie it appeared to be a case of suicide but things will be clearer after the post-mortem and forensic tests, the police said. The influential Hindu seer was hospitalised in April after he tested positive from Covid-19.

'Both Channi, Sidhu to be faces in Punjab polls'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Congress Monday said it will fight Punjab elections under the leadership of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and both will be "our" faces.

The Congress went into damage control after it came under attack from various parties over the statement of its general secretary in-charge for Punjab Harish Rawat that the party would go to polls with Navjot Singh Sidhu as its face.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the next Punjab assembly elections will be fought under the leadership of



both Channi and Sidhu and attacked the BJP, Akali Dal, BSP and Aam Aadmi Party for insulting a Dalit chief minister.

He also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP leadership why they had not named any Dalit as their chief minister and why they and other leaders of BSP, AAP and Akali Dal were undermining the young

Congress Dalit leader.

"Our faces will be Charanjit Singh Channi and Navjot Singh Sidhu as also ordinary Congress workers and leaders who will be supporting them. If anybody says one or the other will be the face, intentionally or otherwise, it is being misinterpreted by the media," he told reporters.

"I want to tell all our friends in the media, please, you also do not grudge the young Dalit leader and the role assigned him as chief minister of Punjab. He will be our face along with Navjot Singh Sidhu which is natural," he said alleging that Rawat's statement has been misinterpreted.

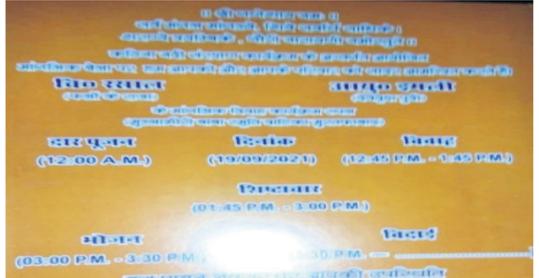
Mango 'weds' tamarind to revive UP river

THE UNIQUE WEDDING WAS SOLEMNIZED SUNDAY WITH THE INTENTION OF REVIVING THE KATHINA RIVER IN MUSTAFABAD

AGENCIES

Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 20: It was truly a wedding with a difference. The groom was 'Chiranjeev Rasal' and the bride was 'Ayushmati Iml'. 'Chiranjeev Rasal' was a mango and the bride was a piece of tamarind. Cards printed for the wedding termed the groom as 'king of fruits' and the bride as 'chulbuli putri'.

The unique wedding was solemnized Sunday with the intention of reviving the Kathina river in Mustafabad. The 'baraat' comprised around 400 guests that came on bullock carts. Fifty newly married couples were also a part of the ceremonies.



The wedding was solemnized in a gaily decorated 'mandap' and the guests were served a sumptuous dinner comprising 'poori', 'sabzi', 'raita' and 'dahi-vada'. A sapling of tamarind tree was

also planted at the venue. Chief Development Officer (CDO), Akshat Verma said that the local people had been planning the wedding for the past several days. They believed that the

It's time to clean

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2018 identified 351 polluted river stretches in India. The assessment of water quality for identification of polluted river stretches found that 31 states and Union territories (UT) had rivers and streams that did not meet the water quality criteria. These states / UTs have to submit their action plans for the same. Maharashtra has the highest number of polluted river stretches (53), followed by Assam (44), Madhya Pradesh (22), Kerala (21), Gujarat (20), Odisha (19), and West Bengal and Karnataka (17). The Ganga is heavily polluted with microplastics at Varanasi, Haridwar and Kanpur, Delhi-based non-profit Toxic Link claimed. Microplastics are plastics that are less than 5 millimetres in size but are a major source of marine pollution. They are non-degradable plastics that often entered the Ganga through industrial waste or packaging of religious offerings, its research found.

event will help in the revival of the Kathina river, Verma said. The local people now plan to plant

fruit trees along the river bank, which they believe will revive the river.



We need to avoid at all cost a Cold War that would be different from the past one, and probably more dangerous and more difficult to manage
ANTONIO GUTERRES
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

BEES KILL 63 ENDANGERED PENGUINS IN SOUTH AFRICA
A swarm of bees has killed 63 endangered African penguins on a beach outside Cape Town, the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds said Sunday



of the day quote

Britain and France have a very friendly relationship. Britain's love of France is ineradicable
BORIS JOHNSON
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

We need a Cabinet that represents the entire Afghanistan, women and people from all ethnicities are seen in that, but what the Taliban has declared does not meet the definition
HAMID KARZAI
FORMER AFGHAN PRESIDENT

In a matter of days, millions of Americans could be strapped for cash. We could see indefinite delays in critical payments. Nearly 50 million seniors could stop receiving Social Security checks for a time
JANET YELLEN
US TREASURY SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Khaleda's prison suspension extended
Dhaka: The Bangladesh government has extended the suspension of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's jail sentence for another six months. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan made the announcement, saying that she can receive treatment at home but cannot leave the country during this period, reports Xinhua news agency. The decision came as the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief's family has long been seeking permission from the government to allow her to go abroad for better treatment.

Afghan schools reopen for boys
Kabul: Secondary and high schools, as well as madrasas, for boys across Afghanistan have reopened after more than a month of the country's takeover by the Taliban, the Ministry of Education said. In its announcement on Sunday, the Ministry however did not say when the schools for girls would reopen. "Boy students and male teachers of all private and government-run secondary, high schools, and madrasas or religious schools have been asked to return to schools in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan," the ministry said in a statement.

Israel re-allows foreign tourists
Tel Aviv: Israel has re-allowed foreign tourist groups to enter the country, the Israeli Ministry of Tourism said. The resumption from Sunday is limited to tourist groups only from countries without high Covid-19 morbidity; Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry as saying. It added that all tourists in the groups must be vaccinated with three doses, or with the second dose given in the last six months. Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in late February 2020, the government has suspended the entry of tourists into the country.

2 killed in Libya copter crash
Cairo: Forces loyal to a powerful Libyan commander said two military planes crashed Sunday over a village in eastern Libya, killing at least two officers. The self-styled Libyan Arab Armed Forces, led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter, said the helicopters collided in the air over the village of Msus, 130 kilometers southeast of the city of Benghazi. A two-officer crew was killed in the crash, while the second helicopter crew survived, the forces said in a brief statement.

France opts for confrontation with US

After Australia renounced its deal for conventional submarines in favour of the US nuclear-powered ones, France pulled its ambassadors from both Washington and Canberra

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, Sept 20: Choosing a full-fledged confrontation with the United States due to the loss of a mega-contract for submarines for Australia, France is making a risky bet and other nations are not rushing to its defense. After Australia renounced its deal for conventional submarines in favour of the US nuclear-powered ones, France took the extraordinary step of pulling its ambassadors from both Washington and Canberra for consultations. Bertrand Badie, an international relations professor at the Sciences Po institute in Paris, said France had put itself in a position where it can only appear to be backing down or losing face once its ambassador re-

SUBMARINE ROW



turns to the United States, its historic ally. "When you get into a crisis like this, you better know where the exit is," he said. Australia said it decided that nuclear submarines were a better choice to ensure its maritime edge as it announced a new three-way alliance with the United States and Britain widely seen as aimed at China - whose rise has been the overriding priority of US President Joe Biden's administration. French President Emmanuel Macron, who has stayed subdued publicly, is set to speak to Biden in the coming days. But Foreign Minister Jean-Yves

Le Drian has used language rarely used among friendly nations, alleging "lying" and "duplicité" and saying France was "stabbed in the back" by Australia. He so far has no meeting scheduled on the sidelines of this week's UN General Assembly in New York with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, himself a French speaker known for his love of Europe. No backing from Europe With a contract worth Aus\$50 billion (\$36.5 billion, 31 billion euros) on its signing in 2016, the French anger may show the country's powerful Defense industry

that political leaders are pressing their case. But the diplomatic impact is less certain, with France appearing isolated at the start of the UN General Assembly. Fellow EU power Germany, which holds elections next Sunday, is hardly eager to get involved. The government simply said it took note of the dispute. Celia Belin, an expert on transatlantic relations at the Brookings Institution, said that France could rally fellow European nations around shared perceptions that the Biden administration is lacking a Europe strategy. "France needs to share this assessment with European allies and put it on the table with the Americans to find solutions," she said. While most European nations rejoiced at seeing Biden defeat the divisive Donald Trump, Biden also triggered criticism from European allies over his determined withdrawal from Afghanistan, which led to a swift Taliban victory after a 20-year NATO-backed war. Another sore point is the continued Covid-19 ban on most Europeans from traveling to the United States, even as the European Union - spurred by nations depending on tourism - relaxed entry requirements for Americans.

107-yr-old Japanese twins certified as world's oldest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 20: Two Japanese sisters have been certified by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living identical twins, aged 107 years and 330 days, the organisation said Monday. The announcement coincided with Respect for the Aged Day, a national holiday in Japan. Sisters Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama were born on Shodoshima Island in western Japan November 5, 1913, as the third and fourth of 11 siblings. The sisters as of September 1 broke the previous record of 107 years and 175 days set by famous Japanese twin sisters Kin Narita and Gin Kanie, Guinness World Records Ltd. Said in a statement.



About 29 per cent of the population of 125 million in Japan, the world's fastest aging nation, are 65 years or older, according to the health and welfare ministry. About 86,510 of them are centenarians - half of whom turned 100 this year. Sumiyama and Kodama were separated after finishing elementary school, when Kodama was sent to work as a maid in Oita on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu. She later married there, while Sumiyama remained on the island they grew up on and had her own family.

VIOLIN OF NOAH



A string quartet plays onboard a violin-shaped boat, titled "Violin of Noah", which was built during the Covid pandemic by artist Livio De Marchi in collaboration with Consorzio Venezia Sviluppo and is dedicated to people who have died from the disease, in Venice, Italy

Pro-Kremlin party on track to retain majority in parliament

Results from about 95% of the country's polling stations gave the ruling United Russia party 49.64% of the vote for the 225 seats apportioned by parties

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Sept 20: Russia's ruling party was on course Monday to retain the super majority needed to ensure President Vladimir Putin's continued grip on power after parliamentary elections that most Opposition politicians were barred

from and that were marred by multiple reports of violations. The vote has been watched closely as key to the run-up to the 2024 presidential election. It's not yet clear whether Putin will run again, choose a successor or outline a different path - but he is expected to keep his hand on the tiller whatever he decides, and an obedient State Duma, or parliament, is crucial to those plans. Results from about 95% of the country's polling stations gave the ruling United Russia party 49.64% of the vote for the 225 seats apportioned by parties, according to the Central Election Commission. Another 225 lawmakers are chosen directly by voters, and the re-



sults Monday morning showed United Russia candidates leading in 199 of those races. Top United Russia official Andrei Turchak suggested that the party will get 315 out of the 450 seats - a result that would give them more than two-thirds of the legislature's seats.

In fact, the results indicated there would be almost no Opposition voices in the Duma at all, with three other parties that usually tow the Kremlin line set to take many of the remaining seats, along with the New People party, which was formed last year and is regarded by many as a Kremlin-sponsored project. Critics that the results had been manipulated mounted Monday, when the results of online voting in Moscow were still not available to the public. The results in the other six regions that were allowed to vote online have been released. In Moscow, approvals of the ruling party have always been particularly low and protest voting has

been widespread, and Kremlin critics were calling for protests of the vote later in the day. Any fraud allegations aside, the Kremlin sweep was widely expected since few opposition candidates were even allowed to run this year after Russian authorities unleashed a sweeping crackdown on Kremlin critics. Organisations linked to imprisoned Opposition leader Alexei Navalny have been declared extremist, and anyone associated with them was barred from seeking public office by a new law. Navalny is serving 2½-year prison sentence for violating parole over a previous conviction he says is politically motivated.

Hundreds starve to death in Ethiopia's blockaded Tigray

FORCED STARVATION IS THE LATEST CHAPTER IN A CONFLICT WHERE ETHNIC TIGRAYANS HAVE BEEN MASSACRED, GANGRAPE AND EXPELLED

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nairobi, Sept 20: In parts of Ethiopia's Tigray region, people now eat only green leaves for days. At a health center last week, a mother and her newborn weighing just 1.7 pounds died from hunger. In every district of the more than 20 where one aid group works, residents have starved to death. For months, the United Nations has warned of famine in this embattled corner of northern Ethiopia, calling it the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade. Now internal documents and witness accounts reveal the first starvation deaths since Ethiopia's government in June imposed what the UN calls "a de facto humanitarian aid blockade."

Forced starvation is the latest chapter in a conflict where ethnic Tigrayans have been massacred, gang-raped and expelled. Months after crops were burned and communities stripped bare, a new kind of death has set in. "You are killing people," Hayelom Kebede, the former director of Tigray's flagship Ayder Referral Hospital, recalled telling Ethiopia's Health Ministry in a phone call this month. "They said, 'Yeah, OK, we'll forward it to the Prime Minister.' What can I do? I just cry." He shared photos of some of the 50 children receiving "very intensive care" because of malnutrition, the first such images to emerge from Tigray in months. In one, a small child with startled-looking



A severely malnourished child is being treated in an intensive care unit at the Ayder Referral Hospital, where medicines have almost run out and hospital staff haven't been paid since June, in Mekele, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia

eyes stares straight into the camera, a feeding tube in his nose, a protective amulet lying in the pronounced hollow of his throat. Medicines have almost run out, and hospital staffers haven't been paid since June, Hayelom said. Conditions elsewhere for Tigray's 6 million people are often worse. The blockade and the starvation that comes with it mark a new phase in the 10-month war between Tigray forces and the Ethiopian government, along with its allies. Now the United States has issued an ultimatum: Take steps to stop the fighting and let aid flow freely or a new wave of sanctions could come within weeks. The war began as a political

dispute between the Prime Minister, 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner Abiy Ahmed, and the Tigrayans who had long dominated Ethiopia's repressive national government. Since November, witnesses have said Ethiopian forces and those from neighboring Eritrea looted food sources and destroyed health centers. In June, the Tigray fighters retook the region, and Ethiopia's government declared a ceasefire, citing humanitarian grounds. Instead, the government has sealed off the region tighter than ever, fearing that aid will reach the Tigray forces. More than 350,000 metric tons of food aid are positioned in Ethiopia, but very little of it can get into Tigray.

of the day quote

Going forward, 2022 clearly looks to be promising to be a difficult year. There is clearly an uptick as far as milk prices are concerned



SURESH NARAYANAN | NESTLE INDIA CHIEF

I have raised the issue of shortage of containers, frequent shutouts by the shipping lines and exorbitant freight rates, that are having a dampening effect on the exports, with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal



A SAKTHIVEL | PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

I would request that the scheme may kindly be extended to the leather, leather products and footwear sector. As our sector suffered immense export losses, there is a need to provide additional credit at lower interest rates



SANJAY LEEKHA CHAIRMAN | CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

SHORT TAKES

Budgetary exercise to start from Oct 12

New Delhi: The government will begin the exercise for preparing the Union Budget 2022-23 from October 12 onwards, according to a circular issued by budget division of the Finance Ministry. The Union Budget is likely to be presented on February 1, 2022 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The focus of the Union Budget for 2022-23 is likely to be on job creation, boosting health infrastructure in the wake of the devastating effect of the second wave of Coronavirus pandemic and gender as well as children budgeting, according to departments for the pre-budgetary consultations.

Airtel to cut GHG emissions by 50%

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel Monday said it has joined global efforts to combat climate change, as the telco has committed to reduce 50 per cent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by FY31 across its operations. The company has pledged to significantly reduce its carbon footprint and emissions from its network operations and will achieve its overarching goals through multiple interventions, including accelerated green energy adoption across its network operations, energy-efficient infrastructure and processes as well as implementing sustainable business practices at its workplaces.

HDFC inks pact with Paytm

Mumbai: Looking to regain lost ground in the credit cards segment, HDFC Bank Monday announced a tie-up with leading payments company Paytm to start selling co-branded plastics before the onset of the festive season. The credit cards will be powered by Visa and will include offerings targeted at millennials, business owners and merchants, an official statement said. The launch of the HDFC Bank-Paytm co-branded cards is slated for next month, ahead of the festive season.

CARS24 raises \$450M by funds

New Delhi: CARS24 Monday said it has raised USD 450 million (about ₹3,321.3 crore) in funding from DST Global, Falcon Edge, SoftBank Vision Fund 2 and others, helping the pre-owned vehicles' e-commerce platform nearly double its valuation to USD 1.84 billion.

'India set to be the fifth largest market globally'

LAST WEEK, INDIA SURPASSED FRANCE TO BE THE COUNTRY WITH THE SIXTH HIGHEST MARKET CAPITALISATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 20: New initial public offerings (IPOs) will help add USD 400 billion to the overall market capitalisation over the next three years, an American brokerage said Monday.

The estimate comes on the back of a surge in IPO activity in the last few months, which has seen companies raise USD 10 billion from public markets since the beginning of the year - higher than the money raised in the three years prior to that, Goldman Sachs said. "We expect the IPO pipeline to remain robust over the next 12-24 months, based on recent announcements from 'new economy' unicorns and our objective framework for estimating new listings," it said.

The number of such 'unicorns', which are companies having a valuation of USD 1 bn and above, has surged in India in recent years, enabled by the rise of the internet ecosystem, availability of private capital and favourable regulatory environment, it said.

"We estimate nearly USD 400 billion of market cap could be added from new IPOs over the next 2-3 years. India's market cap could increase from USD 3.5 trillion currently to over USD 5 trillion by 2024, making it the 5th largest market by capitalization," it said.

At present, Indian equity indices are among the 'oldest' in the



Rise in IPO activity helped firms to raise \$10B from public markets

New IPOs to help add USD 400 bn to m-cap in three years

THE 'UNICORN' SURGE IN INDIA IS ENABLED BY THE RISE OF THE INTERNET ECOSYSTEM, AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE CAPITAL AND FAVOURABLE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

region with the average listing age exceeding 20 years and dominated by old-economy sectors.

However, as the large digital IPOs get included, the new economy sector's exposure could rise from 5 per cent to 12 per cent (at 50 per cent float) and 16 per cent (full inclusion) over the next 2-3 years, it said. Among the companies which have debuted on the stock markets is Zomato, while others like the fintech player Paytm are in the fray.

While Indian equities have done well this year (trading 26 per cent up since January), being the best

performing market regionally has prompted overheating concerns, the brokerage said, but added that it is overweight on expectations of a strong cyclical recovery and supportive flows.

Investors can find attractive return opportunities, as long as they don't overpay for growth, as evidenced by significant outperformance of China's new economy stocks over the past decade. Financial intermediaries may have substantial revenue opportunities from growth in issuance-related activities, it added.

Nabard chairman advises to facilitate rural entrepreneurs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: GR Chintala, Chairman of Nabard, asked officials Monday to infuse required skills and facilitate more rural entrepreneurs to establish their own business and upscale them.

Chintala attended the inauguration of Micro Credit Innovation Department (mCID) - Workshop cum Strategy meeting here. Officials of Nabard from 15 different states and head office representatives participated in the meet.

The Chairman also visited the Odisha State Cooperative Bank (OSCB) and addressed the CEOs of all the Rural District Central Co-operative Banks in the State. He stressed upon diversification of loan portfolio, enhancement of agriculture term loan and strengthening of the IT infrastructure of the cooperative banks to make them relevant and sustainable for

PNB earns ₹170 cr by levying charges: RTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) collected nearly ₹170 crore by levying charges on customers for not maintaining the required minimum balance in their accounts during 2020-21, according to RTI (Right To Information).

The lender's revenue earned from such charges stood at ₹286.24 crore in 2019-20. Banks levy such charges on a quarterly basis during a fiscal year.

The quarterly average balance (QAB) in the April-June period of 2020-21 stood at ₹35.46 crore (both on savings and current account); while no such charges were levied in the second quarter of FY21.

MINIMUM BALANCE

In the third and fourth quarters, the QAB non-maintenance charges stood at ₹48.11 crore and ₹86.11 crore, respectively, PNB said in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) sought by Madhya Pradesh-based social activist Chandra Shekhar Gaur.

Also, the lender earned ₹74.28 crore in the form of ATM transaction charges during the year. In the preceding 2019-20, it was ₹114.08 crore.

The bank said it waived the ATM transaction charges during the first quarter of 2020-21 vide an IBA letter and government guidelines. In response to a query on the number of operative and inoperative accounts, the lender said 4,27,59,597 accounts were dormant as of June 30, 2021, while a total of 13,37,48,857 accounts were operative.

NDTV STOCK LEAPS AMID ADANI TAKEOVER SPECULATION

Media company NDTV's shares are flying on the bourses amid speculation that the entity may be the target of Adani Group that is looking to enter the media business through acquisition. The company shares on BSE flew in the morning hours of trade to hit the 10 per cent circuit levels



BRIBERY CHARGES

Zero tolerance for corruption: Amazon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Amid reports of Amazon probing bribery-related charges against some of its legal representatives in India, the US e-commerce giant Monday said it takes allegations of improper actions seriously and investigates them fully to take appropriate action.

Without confirming or denying allegations, Amazon said it has "zero tolerance for corruption".

When contacted, an Amazon spokesperson said: "We have zero tolerance for corruption. We take allegations of improper actions seriously, investigate them fully and take appropriate action. We are not commenting on specific allegations or the status of any investigation at this time".

A person aware of the development said US-headquartered companies such as Amazon take whistleblower complaints seriously, especially those related to payment of bribes to foreign government officials in order to retain or obtain business. This is also to ensure compliance with corporate governance rules. Meanwhile, traders' body CAIT has demanded a CBI inquiry saying the matter relates to the credibility of the government and is counter to the vision of removing corruption at all levels within the government.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) also demanded that names of officials involved in the matter be made public and ex-



AMAZON HAS INITIATED AN INVESTIGATION AGAINST SOME OF ITS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR ALLEGEDLY BRIBING INDIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

emplary action be taken against them.

CAIT National President BC Bhartiya and Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said it needs to be inquired whether the alleged bribery has "any connection with the ongoing investigation or related with continuous violation of the law and rules by Amazon".

These steps are required to protect Indian e-commerce market and the retail trade from undue influence, abuse of dominance and connivance with government officials, which falls under Anti-Corruption Act, they added.

Evergrande sparks fears over Chinese economy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 20: Chinese company Evergrande has started to repay investors in its wealth management business with property, as the world's most indebted real estate developer faces a key test this week, the BBC reported.

Major banks have reportedly been told that they won't receive interest payments on loans that are due Monday, while interest payments of \$94m on the firm's bonds are also due Thursday.

The company's shares fell by 15 per cent in Hong Kong trade Monday. The property giant's deepening debt problems have triggered fears over the impact its potential collapse could have on China's economy, the report said.

Evergrande grew to be one of China's biggest companies by borrowing more than \$300 billion. Last year, Beijing brought in new rules to control the amount owed by big real estate developers.

The new measures led Evergrande to offer its properties at major discounts to ensure money was coming in to keep the business afloat.

BIZ BUZZ

Ducati starts bookings for Monster, Monster Plus

New Delhi:

Italian superbike maker Ducati Monday said it has commenced the pre-booking for the Monster and the Monster Plus in India. Catering to the demands of motorcycle enthusiasts, the company is accepting bookings for the all-new Monster, Monster Plus for an initial amount of ₹1 lakh. "The new Monster has already witnessed a stupendous response in the global market, and this is especially true of young riders and enthusiasts. We're thrilled to bring the new Monster and Monster Plus to the Indian market, and let our riders experience the sportiest naked we've made for the middleweight segment," Ducati India Managing Director Bipul Chandra noted. The digital launch of the bike would be September 23 and deliveries will begin soon after the launch, the company stated. The Monster bike range comes with a 937 cc engine that puts out 108 bhp of power.



Volvo launches six heavy-duty trucks



Bhubaneswar: Volvo Trucks India, a division of VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd (VECV) launched six heavy-duty trucks under the FM and FMX range in India. Volvo FM & FMX range of trucks combine high productivity and efficiency, unmatched safety, excellent driver comfort and enhanced connectivity features. With cab volume increased by up to 1000 litre, the new range offers better comfort and more working room. Cabin comfort is further enhanced through better thermal and noise insulation helping drivers to improve productivity. With larger windscreen, lowered door lines and new mirrors, driver's direct visibility has improved by 10%. The high capacity FMX 500, a range of newly launched truck, also gets an additional passenger corner camera and provision for four more cameras to be installed for enhanced visibility.

Market Mayhem In 2 days, investors lose ₹5.31 lakh crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Investors' wealth has tumbled by ₹5,31,261.2 crore in two days of equity market decline amid a bearish trend overseas.

Sliding for the second consecutive session Monday, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex plunged

524.96 points or 0.89 per cent to close at 58,490.93. During the day, it dropped 626.2 points to 58,389.69.

In the previous session, the index settled 125.27 points or 0.21 per cent lower at 59,015.89. Following the weak trend, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies tumbled ₹5,31,261.2 crore in two

days to reach ₹2,55,47,093.92 crore.

Tata Steel was the biggest loser on the Sensex chart, diving 9.53 per cent, followed by SBI, IndusInd Bank and HDFC. In contrast, HUL, Bajaj Finserv, TFC, HCL Tech, Nestle India, Bajaj Finance and RIL settled with gains. Sectorally, BSE metal, basic materials, realty, power and

utilities indices tanked up to 6.80 per cent, while FMCG closed higher.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices declined up to 1.84 per cent.

The Indian markets finally seem to be taking a small pause, largely driven by nervousness in the global markets.

Annual salary increments to touch 8.6% in 2022: Survey

THE SURVEY INDICATES THAT THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SECTOR IS LIKELY TO OFFER THE HIGHEST INCREMENTS, FOLLOWED BY THE LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Average annual salary increments are expected to touch pre-pandemic levels of 8.6 per cent in 2022, early estimates from Workforce and Increments Trends Survey by Deloitte reveal. In line with gradual improvement in business confidence in recent months, about 25 per cent of the companies surveyed have projected a double-digit increment in 2022, the report said.

As per the second phase of the survey 2021, 92 per cent companies gave an increment in 2021 at an average of 8 per cent, compared with only 4.4 per cent in 2020, where just 60 per cent companies had ex-



tended a pay hike. Moreover, GDP forecasts for FY 2021-22 were revised down after the second wave and we expect or-

ganisations to closely watch similar developments while managing their fixed cost increases next year, Ghose noted.

IT is the only sector that is expected to extend double-digit increments with some digital e-commerce companies planning to give some of the highest increments.

Retail, hospitality, restaurants, infrastructure, and real estate companies continue to project some of the lowest increments in line with their business dynamics. Going forward, function-specific increment differentiation may become more prevalent as attrition rates vary significantly across different skills, noted Anubhav Gupta, partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India.

The survey further noted that approximately 12 per cent employees were promoted in 2021, as com-

pared to 10 per cent in 2020. Almost 12 per cent companies have updated their bonus or variable pay plans to align their rewards structures with the changing priorities.

In most cases where such a survey was conducted, employees seem to prefer a hybrid work arrangement (combination of work from home and office, wherever feasible). However, at an all India level, only 40 per cent organisations have finalised their return to work strategy.

Some leading organisations are taking specific initiatives to prepare managers to lead teams in a virtual/hybrid workplace model and drive collaboration through training programmes, the survey said.

Russell, Varun sink RCB Kings challenge awaits Royals



Varun Chakravarty is congratulated by teammates after dismissing an RCB batsman, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 20: An authoritative Kolkata Knight Riders bossed Royal Challengers Bangalore from the beginning to the end to record a convincing nine-wicket win in their IPL match here Monday.

Showing serious intent after their mediocre outing in the first phase of the league earlier this year, the KKR bowlers fired in unison to bundle out RCB for a paltry 92.

Then, the opening duo of Shubman Gill (48, 34b, 6x4, 1x6) and debutant Venkatesh Iyer (41, 27b, 7x4, 1x6) played some breathtaking shots and made light work of the chase of 98, completing the formality with as many as 10 overs to spare. The result will not just boost their morale immensely but also improve KKR's net run rate going ahead.

Opening the bowling, architect-turned-mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty (3/13) did the star turn with three wickets in an excellent four-over spell. Star all-rounder Andre Russell (3/9) also bagged three wickets, including AB de Villiers' golden duck, while there were two for Lockie Ferguson.

Devdutt Padikkal was the highest scorer with 22 runs in a forgettable outing in skipper Virat Kohli's 200th game for RCB.

Bowling the day's second over, right-arm medium pacer Prasad Krishna dealt RCB a big blow when he had Virat Kohli trapped in front of wicket with his fourth delivery that jagged in and hit him above the knee-roll.

KKR skipper Eoin Morgan made another bowling change by bringing in Sunil Narine and while the Trinidadian spinner could not get a breakthrough in his first over, Ferguson succeeded in his second when he had Padikkal caught behind when the batsman tried to play the ball fine past the keeper despite hardly getting any room to execute the ramp shot.

Russell ended Bharat's stay in the middle as the pressure mounted on the batsman. And then came the biggest blow for RCB when Russell bowled De Villiers for a first-ball duck with a top-notch yorker targeting the leg-stump.

RCB were in all sorts of trouble at 52/4 in the ninth over and it became only worse for them with the departure of Glenn Maxwell, who brought his own downfall with a

needless heave against Chakravarty's tossed-up delivery and Wanindu Hasaranga, the team's another debutant, getting out cheaply.

Both the batsmen were dismissed off successive balls on a surface that was on the slower side, something that Kohli talked about after opting to bat at the toss.



Dwayne Bravo (L) and Rituraj Gaikwad share a talk during their match-winning stand against Mumbai Indians



Andre Russell reacts after getting rid of AB de Villiers (not in pic)

BRIEF SCORES

Royal Challengers Bangalore 92 (Devdutt Padikkal 22; Andre Russell 3/9, Varun Chakravarty 3/13, Lockie Ferguson 2/24)

lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 94/1 (Shubman Gill 48, Venkatesh Iyer 41 n o; Yuzvendra Chahal 1/23) **by 9 wickets.**

MSD PRAISES GAIKWAD, BRAVO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 20: Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni said Rituraj Gaikwad and Dwayne Bravo "got us more than what we expected" after his team was reeling at 24 for four at one stage of its IPL match against Mumbai Indians here Sunday.

"At 30/4, you want to put up a respectable score, I felt Rutu and Bravo got us more than what we expected. We thought of 140, to get close to 160 was tremendous," Dhoni said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Rayudu got injured, so it was

tough to come back from there but we batted sensibly and finished superbly. It was sensible for one batter to bat right through to the end." Talking about the wicket, Dhoni said, "The wicket was two-paced, slightly slow to start off. Also it's difficult if you're batting lower down, if you don't get a chance to see what is happening, you want to go hard."

Dhoni also said that Ambati Rayudu, who retired hurt after getting hit while batting, should be fine by the next match. Gaikwad was declared the Player of the Match and he said it was one of his better knocks.



to be partnered by either Chris Jordan or Nathan Ellis. If Livingstone and Lewis can be explosive in the Powerplay overs, Royals will expect skipper Sanju Samson to be more consistent in that number three position.

What will be Royals' advantage is Punjab's weak Indian bowling set-up save Shami as they have to depend on either Adil Rashid or Ravi Bishnoi for wrist spin. Their pace line-up with left-armer Arshdeep Singh as the domestic pick doesn't start the strongest.

Royals' third and fourth foreign player in the playing XI will be interesting choices as Chris Morris as an all-rounder is a certainty, while the fourth slot will go to either David Miller in the middle-order or world's No 1 T20 spinner Tabraiz Shamsi.

However, it is the Indian players like Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag, Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan

Sakariya, who will like to step up their game in the next four weeks to ensure a play-off berth for Royals, which many believe is the weakest unit in absence of Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer and Jos Buttler.

Similarly for Punjab Kings, Rahul and Mayank Agarwal are expected to open with Chris Gayle still an enforcer par excellence at the age of 41 which will keep the Rajasthan bowlers on tenterhooks.

In the middle-order, Nicholas Pooran, who had a horrendous outing in the first phase will like to put a far better account of himself along with M Shahrulkh Khan.

TODAY'S MATCH

PBKS v RR

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

50% additional match fee for domestic players

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The BCCI Monday announced that domestic cricketers affected by the COVID-curtailed 2020-21 season will be paid 50 per cent additional match fee as compensation for the disruption and also hiked their remuneration for the upcoming season.

Many Indian cricketers struggled financially after the Ranji Trophy was not held last year for the first time in its history due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The BCCI compensation package for these players was awaited for a long time.

"Cricketers who participated in 2019-20 Domestic Season will get 50 per cent additional match fee as compensation for season 2020-21 lost due to COVID-19 situation," BCCI general secretary Jay Shah said in a tweet.

This effectively means that all players who participated in the last season and played Mushtaq Ali T20 and Vijay Hazare Trophy will get a compensation of Rs 70,000 per Ranji Trophy match (half of match fees of Rs 1.40 lakh).

The decision to give compensation and increase the match fee was taken during the BCCI's Apex Council meeting on Monday.

The per day fee for the top Ranji cricketers, who have played more than 40 matches, was also almost

doubled to Rs 60,000, which will ensure that such players earn Rs 2.40 lakh per first-class match.

Those who have played 21 to 40 matches will be paid Rs 50,000, while players with experience less than that will be entitled to a remuneration of Rs 40,000 per day. The move will likely benefit more than 2,000 male cricketers from the under-16 to the senior level.

On an average, a senior level domestic cricketer if he plays a full season of first-class, one-day and T20 matches can now earn up to Rs 20 lakh even if he doesn't have an IPL contract.

Shah also said that domestic players will be paid an increased match fee. According to the announcement, the cricketers in U-23 and U-19 category will get Rs 25,000 and 20,000 per day respectively. The U-16s will now get Rs 7000 per day instead of Rs 3,500 during earlier seasons.

Before Monday's decision, a first XI player in a Ranji Trophy game was entitled to Rs 35,000 per day. For Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the BCCI pays Rs. 17,500 per game.

The BCCI also announced remuneration for women cricketers and the senior players will now be paid Rs 20,000 per match instead of Rs 12,500 from previous seasons. The U-23 and U-19 girls will receive an increased match fee of Rs 10,000.

VINICIUS, BENZEMA LIFT REAL



DEADLY COMBO: Vinicius Junior and Karim Benzema celebrate one of Real Madrid's goals against Valencia, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 20: Only a few games into the season, Real Madrid already knows it has an attacking duo it can rely on. Vinicius Junior and Karim Benzema added to their impressive starts to the season by scoring late goals in Madrid's 2-1 win against Valencia in the Spanish league Sunday.

Vinicius scored his fourth goal of the season in the 86th minute, and Benzema netted his sixth two minutes later to give Madrid their third straight win in the league. The victory leaves Madrid top with 13 points, two more than defending champion Atletico Madrid, who were held 0-0 at home by Athletic Bilbao Saturday.

Vinicius and Benzema have com-

bined for 11 of the team's 15 goals in their first five league matches and top the league's scoring charts.

Valencia, who entered the weekend tied for first with Real and Atletico, opened the scoring with a goal from Hugo Duro in the 66th after a mistake by Madrid defender Lucas Vazquez, who replaced the injured Dani Carvajal in the first half.

Vinicius restored parity with a shot that deflected off a defender before going in, and then made a well-placed cross for Benzema's winning header that stunned Valencia fans at Mestalla after the hosts had played well for most of the match.

Valencia had won their first two home games for the first time since 2014-15, when they went on to win five in a row at home. Madrid was coming off three victories in all competitions, including at Inter Milan in the Champions League Wednesday.

SEVILLA HOLDS SOCIEDAD

Mikel Oyarzabal missed a first-half penalty kick as Real Sociedad was held to a 0-0 draw against Sevilla in a matchup between teams expected to be near the top at the end of the season.

Oyarzabal had his 27th-minute penalty stopped by Sevilla goalkeeper Bono, who also came up with some key saves later in the game. It was Sociedad's second consecutive draw after three straight victories in all competitions. Sevilla drew their last three games. Sociedad is fourth in the standings, with Sevilla in sixth place.

KIIT to name stadiums after Pramod, Dutee



(From L): Achyuta Samanta, Pramod Bhagat, Dutee Chand and Rakhal Sethy pose with the oversized cheques, Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: In recognition of the achievements of Paralympics gold-winning shuttler Pramod Bhagat and Olympian Dutee Chand, KIIT will name two of its stadiums after them in December this year.

Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT & KISS, announced this during the felicitation of Pramod and Dutee, Monday. KIIT is the first university in India to name its two stadiums after Olympians. KIIT also honoured the para shuttler with a cash prize of Rs 5,00,000.

The Indoor Stadium at Campus-12 will be named as 'Pramod Bhagat Indoor Stadium'. Besides, he will be honoured with an Honorary

Degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) from KIIT or KISS Deemed to be University. In a repeat glory for the nation, Dutee of KIIT School of Law, represented India at the Olympic Games in two successive editions including the recently concluded Tokyo 2020.

Recognising her efforts and achievements, the Synthetic Athletic Stadium will be named 'Dutee Chand Stadium'. Her name is also considered for honouring with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) from KIIT or KISS Deemed to be University next year.

Another World Champion, Rakhal Sethy was also provided a check worth Rs. 2.7 lakh for a wheelchair to participate in Fencing Para World Cup in November.

Team India to play 4 Tests, 3 ODIs, 14 T20Is at home

BCCI announces int'l calendar for India between November 2021 to June 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Indian cricket team will play 14 T20Is and just four Tests at home between November 2021 and June 2022 as the BCCI announced its international itinerary, which features just three ODIs.

The teams that will visit India during the eight-month period are New Zealand (in November-December), West Indies (in February, 2022), Sri Lanka (February-March 2022) and South

Africa (in June, 2022).

In between in December-January, India will be touring South Africa and the IPL will happen between April-May. Against New Zealand, India will be playing two Tests and three T20Is while West Indies are due to play three ODIs and five T20Is.

Sri Lanka will play two Tests and three T20Is while South Africa will come for the shortest tour where they would play five T20Is in a space of 10 days.

"We have kept 14 T20Is because we have another T20 World Cup in

Australia in a year's time and we need to have adequate matches before the big event," a BCCI official said.

The four Test matches will be played at Kanpur and Mumbai for the New Zealand series while Bangalore and Mohali will host Sri Lanka in the traditional format.

As per the rotation system, most of the cities will be getting the 17 white-ball games that has been scheduled. Jaipur, Ranchi, Lucknow, Vizag, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Cuttack, Trivandrum, Chennai, Rajkot, Delhi have all got matches.

THE ITINERARY

Vs New Zealand
Nov 17: 1st T20I (Jaipur); Nov 19: 2nd T20I (Ranchi), Nov 21: 3rd T20I (Kolkata), Nov 25-29: 1st Test (Kanpur), Dec 3-7: 2nd Test (Mumbai)

Vs West Indies
Feb 6: 1st ODI (Ahmedabad), Feb 9: 2nd ODI (Jaipur), Feb 12: 3rd ODI (Kolkata); Feb 15: 1st T20I (Cuttack), Feb 18: 2nd T20I (Vizag), Feb 21: 3rd T20I (Trivandrum)

Vs Sri Lanka
Feb 25-March 1: 1st Test (Bangalore), March 5-9: 2nd Test (Mohali), March 13: 1st T20I (Mohali), March 15: 2nd T20I (Dharamsala), March 18: 3rd T20I (Lucknow)

Vs South Africa
June 9: 1st T20I (Chennai), June 12: 2nd T20I (Bangalore), June 14: 3rd T20I (Nagpur), June 17: 4th T20I (Rajkot), June 19: 5th T20I (Delhi).