



ROOM FOR SPECULATION

Pictures of Deepika Padukone's badminton session with PV Sindhu has triggered talks of a biopic

LEISURE P2



NEW COVISHIELD TWIST

UK includes Covishield in travel advisory, but Indians still have to undergo isolation on arrival

INTERNATIONAL P10



CITY, LIVERPOOL TRIUMPH

Manchester City and Liverpool registered victories over their respective opponents in English League Cup

SPORTS P12

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DUBAI	10,333/-*

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KARLAPAT MINE AUCTION PUT ON HOLD



Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has put the auction of Karlapat iron ore and bauxite block on hold till further notice following a court order. As the block lies near the Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, a designated elephant corridor in Kalahandi district, environmentalists were opposed to the mining operation in the area. The Directorate of Mines, under the Steel and Mines department of the Odisha government, in a notice Tuesday put the auction on hold 'till further notice'. Karlapat was among the 11 mineral blocks, put up for auction by the state government for which the bidding process began Saturday.

TRIPATHY SET TO BE NEW ODISHA CIC



Bhubaneswar: Retired Tamil Nadu cadre IPS officer and former DGP of Tamil Nadu, Jalad Kumar Tripathy is all set to be the new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of Odisha. Sources said that the name of Tripathy was finalised at a virtual meeting Tuesday presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Once the appointment is approved by Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, a gazette notification will be issued. The post of the CIC has fallen vacant with Sunil Mishra retiring August 15 this year.

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MOTHER, KIDS FOUND DEAD

Police are baffled to find nail marks on the neck of the deceased woman, who worked as a daily wagger

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Sept 22: The bodies of a woman and her two children were recovered Wednesday by the police in their house at Fatakpada under Ganganagar area in Brajrajnagar locality of Jharsuguda district. The husband of the woman, Narayan Poddar, has since been missing, police informed. The deceased woman has been identified as Soni Poddar (28). Among the two deceased kids, one girl is five years old while the other is a three-year-old, police stated.

Sources also informed that the woman and her husband were natives of Chhattisgarh. Both worked as daily wagers and were staying in a rented house in Fatakpada. They also informed that when the bodies were recovered, the police found nail marks on the neck of the woman, while the two kids were oozing blood from their mouth. Neighbours spotted the three dead bodies from a window of the house Wednesday morning and informed the police.

Police reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem. A forensic team was also pressed into service and conducted an examination. Police have also questioned the relatives and neighbours regarding the incident.

Soni's father, who arrived after getting the tragic news, blamed the absconding husband for the death of his daughter. He alleged that the two were not in good terms.

Jharsuguda SP, who also rushed to the spot for investigation, said that post-mortem reports will ascertain the exact cause of the death and further details of the incident will be known after a proper probe.



WILD FURY



A wild elephant which strayed into the Sajanagera panchayat in Balasore district from Jharkhand went on a rampage and was seen destroying a hut OP PHOTO

BMC to rectify 75 weak points

2 days after the death of the 15-year-old student, the municipal body wakes up and promises action

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Wednesday that it has identified 75 vulnerable waterlogging spots in the state capital. This disclosure came two days after an open storm water drain claimed Monday the life of 15-year-old student Jyoti Prakash Behera.

Speaking on the issue, BMC Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh said that the municipal body is trying to rectify the vulnerable points. He however, blamed construction violations due to which these 75 points have been exposed. He also added that at present it will not be able to repair all the weak points, so BMC will press into service as many pumps required to clear places affected due to waterlogging.

leading to severe waterlogging this monsoon.

Residents of the 'smart' city however, have alleged that such claims are made every year but precious little is done. The Odisha capital has now witnessed seven deaths including those of three minors since 2015 due to open drains.

It should be mentioned here that the government in June this year had issued a mandatory checklist to all ULBs directing them to install signages or cover open drains to avoid mishaps. Locals alleged that the BMC ignored their pleas of constructing a permanent drain at the site where the boy slipped and met his watery grave, Sunday.

Singh while admitting that BMC regretted the loss of life, said that measures will be put in place to avoid such accidents in future. "Natural drains cannot be concretised or covered with slabs because of Supreme Court and NGT guidelines. However, such incidents are regretful and will not be repeated. We have decided to expand drainage channels 7 and 10 on a pri-



"The main cause behind increase in waterlogging spots is due to violation of construction guidelines, encroachment on drains and the land around those and destruction of recharge points. The entire drainage system will be redesigned and revamped to make it more robust. This will be implemented as quickly as possible so that in future we will be able to deal with heavy rainfall," Singh informed.

It should however, be stated here that the Odisha government had earlier sanctioned ₹750 crore for widening, covering, and cleaning of drains in the city. However, the civic body could de-silt only 383km of its 625km of drainage system

ority basis to prevent waterlogging in New Forest Park and Bairagi Nagar areas," Singh said.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Assembly House Committee, after taking a serious note of the death of the minor boy decided to hold a meeting with top civic officials of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack over the issue. "The committee has taken serious cognizance of the incident. A decision has been taken to hold discussions with commissioners of both the BMC and Cuttack Municipal Corporation, chief engineers of drainage division and other authorities October 5," MLA Mohammed Moquim, a member of the panel said.

₹50k for kin of Covid victims

The Centre however has told the apex court that the responsibility will be on the states to provide the compensation from their own disaster funds

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 22: The families of those who die of Covid-19 will get an ex-gratia of ₹50,000, the Centre told the Supreme Court here Wednesday. It said that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has recommended the amount.

Significantly, compensation will be paid against not only for deaths that have already occurred but for future ones, too, the court was informed.

The Centre also told the apex court that the ex-gratia assistance will also be given to the kin of those who died of the virus due to involvement in Covid-19 relief operations or activities associated with the preparedness for dealing with the pandemic.

The ex-gratia will be paid by the respective state governments, sourced from their respective disaster response funds, and will be channelled through the district dis-



aster management authority or the district administrations, the government said in an affidavit filed before with the Supreme Court. Since the pandemic broke out in January 2020, India till now has registered over 4.45 lakh Covid-related deaths.

"The ex-gratia assistance... will continue to be provided for deaths that may occur in the future phases of the Covid-19 pandemic as well, or until further notification," the affidavit by the Centre said.

"Compensation will be given to families of even those deceased who were involved in Covid-19 relief operations or associated in activities related to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and preparedness activities. The cause of death needs to be certified as Covid-19 in accordance with Health Ministry guidelines," it added.

The concerned families will submit their claims through a form issued by the state authorities along with specified docu-

SC SETBACK FOR CENTRE

New Delhi: Observing that induction of women to the NDA cannot be postponed by one year, the Supreme Court allowed Wednesday female candidates to take the exam in November this year and not wait till May 2022 as requested by the government. The Centre had told the top court that a notification allowing women candidates to appear for the NDA exam will be out by May next year. A bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said the Armed Forces are the best response team to deal with any emergency and it is hopeful that necessary arrangements will be put in place to pave the way for the induction of women in NDA without delay. **MORE P9**

ments, including those certifying the cause of death.

"All claims must be settled within 30 days of submission of the required documents, and disbursed through the Aadhaar-linked direct benefit transfer procedures," the Centre's affidavit said.

"In case the decision of the committee is not in favour of the claimant, a clear reason for the same shall be recorded," the affidavit further stated.

Pradhan seeks Jagan's assistance

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought the intervention of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for amicable resolution of border disputes over villages between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The minister termed the entire development as 'unfortunate' and said that the skirmishes, which started in 20-odd villages under Kotia gram panchayat in Pottangi block of Koraput district, have now spread to other bordering villages in Gajapati district.

"Such disputes pose a threat both to the security as well as developmental aspirations of villagers staying in border villages of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh," Pradhan said in his letter.

Pradhan requested both the AP chief minister and his Odisha counterpart to withdraw armed police forces in the disputed villages and also cases registered against local representatives and government officials of both states.

"There is a need for building an enabling environment to facilitate talks between the States in view of the flared-up situation on ground," he suggested. "Then only an amicable solution is possible," Pradhan added.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How can any country object to our vax certificate? It has photo of world's most popular leader!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	58927.33	↓ 77.94
NIFTY	17546.70	↓ 15.30
DOLLAR	74.12	↑ ₹0.20
EURO	86.69	↑ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹46,632	↓ ₹6
SILVER	₹61,178	↑ ₹739

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.7°C	32.4°C
MIN	24.6°C	25.0°C
Humidity	89%	88%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely

Covid-19 hits IPL again, event to continue

BCCI had suspended the tourney in May when a number of players had tested positive. This time however, it is not ready to incur huge losses due to another suspension

AGENCIES

Dubai, Sept 22: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) pacer T Natarajan has tested positive for Covid-19, but even then the team's IPL game against Delhi Capitals will go ahead Wednesday as scheduled, the BCCI said. Six persons, who had come in close contact with Natarajan, have also put in isolation including India all-rounder Vijay Shankar.

The decision of the BCCI to go ahead with the event is not surprising. The BCCI earns approximately ₹67 crore from television rights of each IPL match. A second suspension may well lead to the cancellation of the tournament as no more windows are available this year. It means a loss of approximately ₹2,000 crore for the BCCI and the franchises. It should be stated here that last season, amid crowd-less stadiums at the UAE, the BCCI had earned revenues of over ₹4,000 crore from TV rights of the tournament.

The income generated from the event is transferred to the BCCI's central pool. Then the entire amount is shared between the eight franchises and the BCCI. The cancel-



If the tournament is cancelled the BCCI will lose approximately ₹2,000 crore in TV rights

Each franchise will lose out on individual sponsorships amounts if they don't play

This is the 2nd time Covid-19 has hit the Hyderabad side

lation of IPL-2021 at this stage would mean the franchises losing out on sharing of approximately ₹2,000 crore. Also each franchise has individual sponsors. Not having a game means losing out also on sponsorship money.

The 2021 edition of the IPL was suspended May 4, after a number of players like Wriddhiman Saha (SRH), Varun Chakravarthy (KKR) and L Balaji (CSK, bowling coach) had tested positive for Covid-19. However, even then while announcing the decision to suspend the tournament, the BCCI and the IPL governing council had said that they would try and conduct the remaining part of the tournament later in the year. Hence the tournament was again shifted to the UAE.

"Sunrisers Hyderabad player T Natarajan tested positive for Covid-19 at a scheduled RT-PCR test. The player has isolated himself from the rest of the squad. He is currently asymptomatic," a BCCI release stated. "The rest of the contingent including the close contacts underwent RT-PCR tests at 5.00am local time this (Wednesday) morning and the test reports are negative. "As a result, tonight's (Wednesday's) game between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals will go ahead at the Dubai International Stadium," it further stated.

As per the IPL's standard operating procedure, Natarajan will now have to isolate for 10 days and test negative twice before being allowed back into the bubble.

leisure



LIAM CANCELS BELFAST GIG AFTER COPTER FALL

Rocker Liam Gallagher was left bruised after he accidentally took a tumble out of the rotorcraft and plunged to the ground. The former *Oasis* frontman has now been told to rest up by doctors and won't be able to make his planned performance at Belsonic festival, in Belfast Friday, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

SEX AND THE CITY ACTOR GARSON PASSES AWAY

Actor Willie Garson, who is known for playing Stanford Blatch in *Sex and the City* and Mozzie in *White Collar*, passed away aged 57. A family member of Garson's family confirmed his death. The cause of death has not been disclosed, reports *variety.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may wake up with your nose in the air. Though you may feel bossy and important, others may not feel that way about you. Avoid giving orders that sound like insults. Otherwise, the whole thing may fall flat on your face, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
This day your energy levels are likely to be below par. You may tend to be restless, inactive, and averse to exerting yourself in any way. Routine tasks, even the important ones could remain unattended. But, says Ganesh, you will try to pull yourself together later in the day, make amends by trying to do something meaningful.

GEMINI
You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of the decisions you take today, as well as proceed on all matters with caution. You will attempt to dispose off matters casually today. You will worry more about your own interests in the later half of the day.

CANCER
Ganesh reminds you that an auspicious work must begin with you. Fulfill your task first, before embarking on a helping spree. You will spend the evening in romantic moments with your beloved. It will lighten your mood and give you immense joy.

LEO
You will open your heart to someone special today, and spill all your hidden desires and feelings. You will say everything you feel truthfully. Your love and attention is likely to be reciprocated. It is a good day, for romance is in the air, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your courageous nature will impress many people. However, Ganesh warns that something particular could ruin your show. On deep contemplation, you will find a lot of progress in your inner self. In the evening, the antics of your children will put a smile on your face.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a good day for businessmen. Your luck will really favor you today. Your emotions will dull your brainwork today and this will create a problem in your gaining success and moving ahead in life and career. Ganesh says that you should not expect too much or you would feel dejected and disappointed when it is not met.

SCORPIO
You share an unspoken bond with your partner; your eyes speak a thousand words even when you do not talk to each other. Your skills and talents at work are likely to grab attention and you may even receive a round of applause for it. Time to bask in the glory of success, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Pack your travel bags; business trip on the cards. Money make the world go around and so it does for you. Consider financial matters as your priority today. In the evening, sit back, relax and bask in the glory of success, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You get up from the bed today with a strong desire to prove your metal to the world, feels Ganesh. Enthusiastic and jovial, you are in your best possible mood. You will seek approval of your family members for actions.

AQUARIUS
You will understand the importance of friends in your life, and you will go an extra mile to get back in touch with them. Your communication skills will help you get through the door at work, and everybody, even your competitors will be appreciate your talents. This skill will work wonders at home, as you will please your sweetheart with your eloquence, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
Today being a slightly risky day for, tread cautiously when it comes to financial dealings. Read the fine print and thoroughly thrash out the nitty-gritty of any contracts you commit to. Any mistakes made now could come back later and extract a heavy price.

Disha shares her work experience in *Radhe*



Mumbai: Actress Disha Patani who was seen as Diya in *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai* opposite Salman Khan recalls working with him in it. She played the role of Jackie Shroff's (Abhyankar) sister. She appeared to be a fun-loving girl and the amusing ban-

Disha says: "I feel very lucky that I got the chance to work with Salman Sir once again. He makes you feel so comfortable that you don't realise you are working with a super star. I used to admire him for how he does everything with such an ease."

The movie revolves around Radhe played by Salman Khan who is an encounter specialist of Mumbai Police force. Randeep Hooda is shown as Rana, a gangster and a murderer. The movie is directed by Prabhu Deva. She adds: "This was also the first time I was working with Prabhu Sir and he was so supportive and clear about how exactly the steps and scenes should look."

Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai will premiere on & pictures September 26 at 12:30pm.

ter between

Salman Khan and Disha Patani were quite entertaining.

Grammy nominees to be unveiled Nov 22

New York: The 2022 Grammy nominations will be announced November 22, the Recording Academy announced. The unveiling takes place just two days before Thanksgiving, as they were last year, reports *variety.com*.

This year's roster could be significantly different from ones in recent years, as the Academy has eliminated the 'secret' nominating committees of artists, creators and industry experts that curated the final lists over the past couple of decades.

Now, the final nominees ostensibly will be chosen by the broader Grammy voting body. The move and a subsequent overhaul of the Academy's awards team was made after last year's con-

troversial nominations, which inexplicably saw the Weeknd, who'd had one of the most successful albums of the year and, with *Blinding Lights*, one of the most successful singles of the 2000s, receiving no nominations whatsoever.

The 2022 awards will have a 13-month eligibility period, due to industry delays caused by the pandemic. Earlier this week, *Variety* also confirmed that the Academy is pausing two honorary awards programmes, the Grammy Hall of Fame and its special merit awards, for one year. The former is being delayed to revise its process and the Academy plans to relaunch it next year; the latter is being delayed because last year's ho-



nourees have not yet been properly acknowledged.

The Grammy Awards return to Los Angeles' Staples Center January 31, 2022, and will broadcast live on the CBS Television Network and stream live and on demand on Paramount+.

Deepika, Sindhu play badminton, trigger biopic talk

Mumbai: Top star Deepika Padukone has posted a motley of pictures from her badminton session with world champion PV Sindhu. The pictures have left so-

cial media users wondering if a biopic is being made on Sindhu.

Deepika posted the set of pictures on Instagram. In the images, the two are seen playing an intense game of badminton on an indoor court. "Just a regular

day in my life...Burning calories with @pvsindhu!" the actress, who is the daughter of former badminton player Prakash Padukone, captioned the image.

The picture currently has 1.9 million likes. Deepika's husband and actor Ranveer Singh dropped a comment on the photograph.

He wrote: "MAJOR FOMO ATTACK!"

Many social media users reacted to the picture on the comment section. One wrote: "Lgta h biopic bnne vli h (seems like a biopic is being made)."

"That means I was right, we are getting the PV SINDHU BIOPIC," wrote another.



Ananya announces her debut album

Mumbai: Singer-songwriter Ananya Birla announced her debut album *Bombay Basement*. Ahead of the full release of the album, Ananya released the music video of the lead track *When I'm Alone* Tuesday night. The video also marks her maiden innings as a music video director.

Recently Ananya teamed up with AR Rahman for the official *Cheer4India* song of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, *Hindustani Way*.

Elaborating on how the album shaped up, Ananya informed, "Bombay Basement was borne out of a jam session in the basement of my Bombay residence, with a couple of friends. I had a lot I wanted to write about and share and it all just kind of clicked."

Including the lead track, there are six songs in the album - *Give Me Up, Deny Me, Do It Anyway, Tu Hi Mera Ghar* and *Old Me*.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

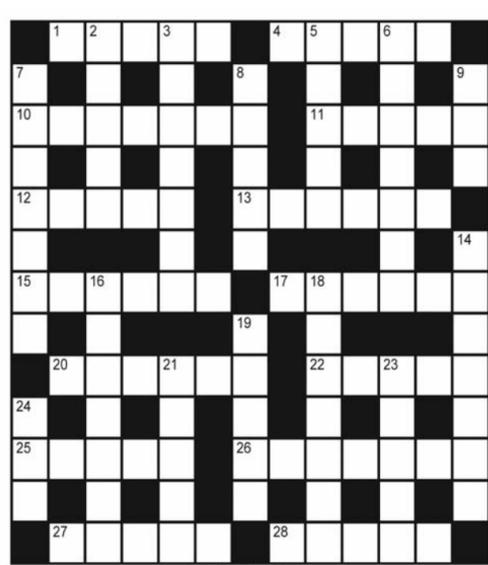


BREVITY



FUN post

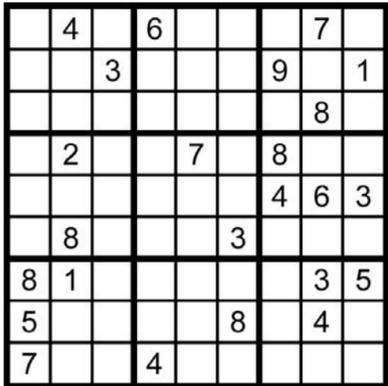
CROSSWORD



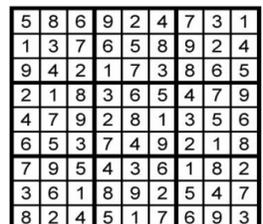
- Across**
- 1 Task
 - 4 Quartz variety
 - 10 Consultant
 - 11 Luminous
 - 12 Yawn-inducing
 - 13 Like a marsh
 - 15 Modus operandi
 - 17 Overacts
 - 20 Beat up
 - 22 Benny Hill, e.g.
 - 25 Back tooth
- Down**
- 2 Any port in a storm
 - 3 Clear up
 - 5 Jelly fruit
 - 6 Fan palm
 - 7 Berate
 - 8 Light refractor
 - 9 Wise one
 - 14 Ids
 - 16 Suppress
 - 18 Old World monkey
 - 19 Built for speed
 - 21 Traffic sign
 - 23 Wavelike design
 - 24 Down Under bird

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



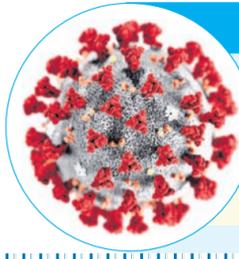
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



NATURE'S BEAUTY

Kans grass in full bloom alongside the Nuapatna road in Cuttack, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,05,38,052	20,72,65,997	47,25,981
India	3,35,31,498	3,27,83,741	4,45,768
Odisha	10,21,950	10,08,671	8,150

Smart health card for 4.5L families of Bolangir dist



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik hands over the BSKY smart card to a beneficiary at Bolangir, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday launched distribution of smart health cards to the people of Bolangir district under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). Naveen started the smart card distribution at Patnagarh, Titlagarh and Bolangir towns of the district. He also inaugurated various projects worth ₹200 crore and laid foundation stones for different projects of ₹597 crore in the district.

Greeting the people by extending 'Nuakhai Juhar' to them, the Chief Minister said about 96 lakh families in the state including 4.5 lakh families of Bolangir district will benefit from the health cards.

Stating that smart health card is a milestone in the healthcare delivery system in India, he said the BSKY scheme has been imple-

THE CHIEF MINISTER INAUGURATED VARIOUS PROJECTS WORTH ₹200 CRORE AND LAID FOUNDATION STONES FOR DIFFERENT PROJECTS OF ₹597 CRORE IN THE DISTRICT

THE BENEFICIARIES CAN AVAIL FREE HEALTH SERVICES BY USING THIS CARD IN MORE THAN 200 BIG HOSPITALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY INCLUDING ODISHA

EACH FAMILY CAN AVAIL TREATMENT COST UP TO ₹5 LAKH PER ANNUM. WOMEN MEMBERS CAN AVAIL THIS BENEFIT UP TO ₹10 LAKH EVERY YEAR

mented in a new form by distributing the cards to all ration card holders under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and State Food Security Scheme (SFSS). Now, without showing any docu-

ment, the beneficiaries can avail free health services by using this card in more than 200 big hospitals across the country including Odisha, Patnaik said.

Each family can avail treatment cost up to ₹5 lakh per annum. Women members can avail this benefit up to ₹10 lakh every year, Patnaik further said.

He said the main objective of the programme is that no one should be deprived of quality healthcare due to financial problems.

"For me, every life is precious. The state will progress, if everyone remains healthy," he pointed out.

It is worth mentioning that Patnaik had announced the distribution of smart health cards to the BSKY beneficiaries on the occasion of Independence Day this year. He has already launched distribution of the smart health cards in Malkangiri and Sundargarh districts in two phases.

BOOST TO HEALTH INFRA



Collector Samarth Verma reviews developmental works at Puri District Headquarters Hospital, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

After Angel Priya, Angel Pihu too in custody

The accused woman spent August 15 night at the youth's place in Bhubaneswar where she served him spiked prasad

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The twin city Commissionerate Police Wednesday arrested a West Bengal woman from Puri on charges of robbing a City youth of cash and jewellery worth over lakhs of rupees after befriending him through WhatsApp in August this year. Saheed Nagar police have arrested Pihu Biswas from Baliapanda area of Puri for de-

frauding a youth, a resident of Bankual area here.

According to ACP (Zone V) Sanjeev Satpathy, Biswas befriended the youth through WhatsApp by introducing herself as an employee of a reputed college.

"The accused (Biswas) spent August 15 night at the youth's place in Bhubaneswar where she served him spiked prasad. As the youth fell unconscious, Biswas decamped with ₹10 lakh in cash, jewellery



and other valuables," Satpathy said, adding that gold ornaments

worth ₹5 lakh and some cash were seized from her possession.

Sources said that the woman was earlier arrested in Kolkata for similar frauds.

The police are investigating if some more people in Odisha were also entrapped by the woman. The police have appealed to people to come forward if anyone has been cheated by the accused.

Recently, a woman identified as Angel Priya was arrested by Saheed Nagar police for duping people by creating fake profiles on Facebook and identifying herself as a doctor, beautician and nurse.

HE dept orders for closure of 5 colleges

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Higher Education (HE) department Wednesday directed the Regional Directors of Education of Bhubaneswar, Balasore and Sambalpur for closure of five private colleges and forfeiture of 50 per cent of the pledge money of the institutions concerned.

HE department Additional Secretary Rajashree Mohanty said the state government has ordered for the closure of five colleges and forfeiture of 50 per cent of pledge money of the institutes as per the decision taken at a high-level meeting held recently.

The pledge money is a kind of security an institution has to deposit with the government to get recognition from the education board.

As per the order, Swami Vivekananda College of Management in Balasore, Star College of Engineering and Management in Bhubaneswar, Vasudha Institute for Development Works, Training and Rehabilitation in Bhubaneswar, Pentagon Computer Academy in Bhubaneswar and Sarala Degree College in Rourkela will be closed.

The department directed the authorities concerned to initiate necessary action towards closure of the colleges and forfeiture of 50 per cent pledge money of the colleges.

ILLEGAL MINING IN KEONJHAR

NGT seeks status report on land reclamation

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 22: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Keonjhar administration to submit an affidavit mentioning the status of rehabilitation and reclamation of the areas affected by illegal mining in the district.

A bench of judicial member B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta granted three weeks time to the state government to file a comprehensive affidavit stating the condition of the areas affected by illegal mining in Ghasipura tehsil of Keonjhar and the recovery of compensation.

The tribunal noted that the Keonjhar Collector was simply dragging his feet in the matter of identification of the wrongdoers and recovery of environmental compensation from them.

The green body observed that the joint inspection, conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, Kolkata, Odisha State Pollution Control Board, district mining officer and the divisional commissioner in December 2019, had es-



The tribunal noted that the Keonjhar Collector was simply dragging his feet in the matter of identification of the wrongdoers and recovery of environmental compensation

timated environmental compensation of ₹7.3 crore to be recovered from the wrongdoers.

"But even after two years of the inspection nothing has happened with regard to the recovery of this amount from the wrongdoers," the tribunal observed.

During the hearing, the state government's counsel submitted that illegal mining was going on for almost 20 years in Keonjhar and identification of the illegal miners is a time-taking process.

An affidavit filed by the assistant conservator of forests (ACF) of Keonjhar district mentioned that forest conservation and reclamation were being carried out in Madanpur mouza of Ghasipura tehsil, the bench noted.

However, petitioner's counsel Sankar Prasad Pani submitted that nothing has been placed on record before the tribunal to show whether rehabilitation and reclamation of the land has been done in Keonjhar district.

Stir halts public hearing for bauxite mining at Mali Hills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Sept 22: The Koraput district administration Wednesday stopped the first public hearing for operation of bauxite mines at Mali Hills in the wake of protests by local people and a section of environmentalists, an official said.

The protestors broke chairs and the tent erected for holding the meeting at Kankada Amba under Semiliguda police station, according to eyewitnesses.

Public hearing is mandatory as per the law before going ahead with the mining operation in areas inhabited by tribal people. Bauxite mining at Mali Hills, a sacred place for the local tribal population, was awarded to Hindalco.

The district administration with help of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) had organised the public hearing to obtain environment clearance for annual mining of 0.6 MT of bauxite at Mali Hills spread over 268.11 hectares of land across Aligaon, Sorispadar and Kankada Amba village under two tehsils of Pottangi and Semiliguda.

"Villagers created ruckus at the public hearing for which it couldn't be completed. The district administration will decide on

the future course of action," OSPCB regional officer P K Kar said.

Officials of the district administration and Hindalco refused to comment on the matter.

Bauxite mining at Mali Hills to develop aluminium was awarded to Hindalco in 2005. However, the company was forced to stop operations due to opposition by local villagers who started protesting under the aegis of Mali Parvat Surakhya Samiti (MPSS).

"We don't want to destroy our Mali Hills. We worship Mali Hills and will not allow mining there at any cost," MPSS member Dasi Nandibali said.

He claimed that over 36 water sources will get dry and farmland of more than 40 villages of Semiliguda block will be affected if mining operations start at Mali Hills.

Efforts to extract bauxite from nearby Niyamgiri Hills were stopped following protests by local people a few years ago.

Mining major Vedanta had signed a deal with state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation to mine over 900 million tonnes of recoverable bauxite deposits from Niyamgiri Hills that are also regarded by local tribal people as the abode of their reigning deity

High-octane campaign for Pipli byelection

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pipli, Sept 22: Political parties have intensified their campaigning for Pipli byelection which is scheduled to be held September 30.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Wednesday organised a Mahila Samabesh (women's meeting) at Laxminarayanpur panchayat under Pipli Assembly constituency and highlighted the programmes of the Union government to woo voters.

"I will try to arrange houses for the poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) if people elect me in this bypoll," said BJP nominee Ashrit Pattnaik.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra, party leaders Smruti Patnaik, Anita Priyadarshini Patnaik, Subshis Prath, Parshuram Mahapatra and Prakash Mangaraj among others participated in the meeting.

The saffron party leaders alleged that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government in Odisha is involved in several irregularities in the implementation of various central schemes in the state. They urged people to reject the family-centric politics in Pipli for all-round development of the constituency.

Around 2,000 women from the locality participated in the meeting.



People immersing a clay idol of Goddess Khudurukuni in Kathajodi river in Cuttack, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Experts skeptical about radio collars for jumbos

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Wildlife Society of Odisha (WSO) has raised concerns over the effectiveness and longevity of radio collars proposed to be fitted on elephants in Odisha to monitor their movement, citing failure of similar measures in other states.

In a letter to the state government, the WSO mentioned that the effort to closely monitor the jumbos is laudable. However, it said, the available radio collar technology may not deliver expected results as the initiatives like this by Chhattisgarh government have not been fruitful. The experts stated that out of seven collars fitted on the elephants, only one remained active since 2018.

"It is a fact that elephants are extremely intelligent animals and also playful in nature. A radio collar fitted on a tusker attracts the at-



FILE PHOTO

ention of the rest of the herd and some adventurous animals try to tug it with its tusk pulling it off in the process. Though the pre-charged battery is expected to last for at least five years, it is a pity that six transmitters were lost within a short span of time. Some fell off within five days too," said WSO secretary Biswajit Mohanty.

Stating that a radio collar costs

around ₹5 lakh, Mohanty also said that there are additional costs of at least ₹5 lakh per annum to track the satellite signals and monitor the jumbos.

"We feel it is of utmost importance to carefully assess the effectiveness and durability of the collars keeping in view the fact that the project failed in Chhattisgarh. Now, the elephants there are being

What is a radio collar?

A radio collar is a lightweight belt fixed on an elephant's neck. The collar is fitted with a GPS device and the data is relayed real time on a computer or mobile app. The real-time monitoring of data helps in early warning whenever the elephant is in the vicinity of a human settlement

visually monitored by ground tracking teams. Odisha Forest and Environment department has also engaged elephant trackers who follow the herds and report their position on a regular basis," he added.

It can be mentioned here that the wildlife wing of Odisha has already initiated the process of radio collaring of elephants of Chandaka sanctuary after which more elephants would be radio-collared in Sundargarh division and other parts of the state.

Now, pharmacists to act as doctors

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Health department Wednesday issued an order allowing pharmacists to prescribe drugs for patients in the absence of doctors in health centres. However, the order would be applicable for health centres having lone doctor. The department has prepared a list of 12 common diseases for which the pharmacists can prescribe drugs.

As per the order, pharmacists can prescribe medicines to people suffering from malaria, fever, diarrhoea and some skin diseases. According to sources, several health centres in the state are functioning with a single doctor. In the absence of doctors in these hospitals, patients are deprived of basic healthcare.

SWEETMEAT SELLER HELD FOR KILLING 20 STRAY DOGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Sept 22: A 24-year-old sweetmeat seller was arrested Wednesday for allegedly poisoning at least 20 stray dogs to death in Cuttack district in the last five days as he was exasperated over their howling at night and the mess they used to create near his shop, police said.

The incident came to light when locals stumbled upon at least 10 dog carcasses dumped in a nearby pit. They also found more bodies strewn around the marketplace of Sankarpur village in Tangi-Choudwar block, around 13 km north of Cuttack city.

The accused confessed that he had given the dogs food laced with poison as he was irritated over their howling at night and the mess they created, a police officer said.

The man was booked under sections of the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, he said, adding that the carcasses were sent for forensic examinations and further investigation was underway.

FM College told to use balance money for campus facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Higher Education (HE) department Wednesday gave its in-principle approval to Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, Balasore to utilise the balance money lying with self-financing BEd funds of the college.

In a letter, HE department joint secretary Snigdha Champatiray said that the department has given permission to withdrawal of funds upto ₹2.5 lakh from the self-financing BEd funds lying unused with the college to meet the expenditure to give a facelift to the college campus before the visit of the University Grants Commission (UGC) expert committee for spot verification for extension of autonomous status.

In 2016, the commission had given autonomous status to Fakir Mohan College. An autonomous college has the freedom to determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi, and restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

I Subasini Rout, Niladri Vihar, lost my sale deed No. 11131005034 (Executed before, S.R. Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar on 03.05.2010) on 14.09.2021 while returning from R.I. Office, Gadakana to Niladri Vihar. Khata No.-619, Plot No. 293, Mouza-Chandrasekharpur-41. Humble request if anyone got it or find out, please contact my Mob. No.-7894379426. Thanks.

ODISHA'S POSITIVITY RATE STANDS AT 5.18%

With 734 fresh cases, state's Covid-19 tally mounts to 10,21,950

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The state Wednesday registered 734 fresh Covid-19 cases, including 101 children, which pushed the tally to 10,21,950, a Health department official said.

On Tuesday the state had reported 462 cases while Monday it was 510, said the official.

The Covid-19 death toll rose to 8,150 as four more fatalities were reported from Cuttack, Khurda, Kendrapara and Nayagarh districts, the official pointed out.

Of the 734 new cases, 424 were reported from quarantine centres while the remaining 310 were local contact cases.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest of 335 new cases followed by Cuttack (91) and Jagatsinghpur (32). Five districts reported zero cases, said the official.

The Test Positivity Rate (TPR), which was 0.80 per cent Tuesday, slightly increased to 1.05 per cent.

The state now has 5,521 active Covid-19 cases, while 10,08,226 patients including 560 Tuesday, recovered from the highly infectious disease.

The state has so far conducted over 1.94 crore sample tests including 69,326 Tuesday. Odisha's positivity rate stands at 5.18 per cent.

The official said over 75 lakh people out of a target of 3.9 crore beneficiaries in Odisha have been fully inoculated.

Till Tuesday, 75,33,882 people



HIGHLIGHTS	
Khurda district reported the highest of 335 new cases followed by Cuttack (91) and Jagatsinghpur (32)	
The Test Positivity Rate (TPR), which was 0.80% Tuesday, rose to 1.05% Tuesday	The state has so far conducted over 1.94 crore sample tests including 69,326 Tuesday
Till Tuesday, 75,33,882 people have received both the doses of the Covid-19 vaccine while 2,07,95,514 beneficiaries have received single dose	

have received both the doses of the Covid-19 vaccine while 2,07,95,514 beneficiaries have received single dose, he said, adding that over 2.83 crore doses have so far been administered.

The state government appealed to the people to come forward for the second dose of the vaccine as Odisha set a new target of administering at least 4 lakh doses daily.



Members of a Congress delegation pose for a photo after submitting a memorandum to a senior JICA official in Cuttack requesting early completion of civic projects in the Silver City, Wednesday

Babus on exposure trip to Ganjam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 22: District-level officers of the state are on an exposure visit to Ganjam district from Wednesday to witness the implementation of various government schemes.

The main objective of the exposure visit of the officers is to replicate the same in their districts, Ganjam Collector Vijay Kulange said.

Over 700 officials of 29 districts will visit the district in phases till October 25.

On the first day, around 65 officers of Khurda, Kalahandi and Boudh districts visited Chhatrapur, Ganjam, Sanakhemundi, Digapahandi, Aska, Hinjili, Sheragada, Purushottampur, Kukulakhandi, Rangeilunda blocks and Berhampur city, an official said.

They witnessed the transformed high schools under the 5T initiatives, and also inspected different projects set up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGN-REGA).

Immediately after assuming

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE EXPOSURE VISIT OF THE OFFICERS IS TO REPLICATE THE SAME IN THEIR DISTRICTS

ON THE FIRST DAY, AROUND 65 OFFICERS OF KHURDA, KALAHANDI AND BOUDH DISTRICTS VISITED CHHATRAPUR, GANJAM, SANAKHEMUNDI, DIGAPAHANDI, ASKA, HINJILI, SHERAGADA, PURUSHOTTAMPUR, KUKUDAKHANDI, RANGEILUNDA BLOCKS AND BERHAMPUR CITY

GANJAM DISTRICT STOOD FIRST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MGNREGA, GENERATING THE HIGHEST PERSON-DAYS OF WORK IN THE STATE IN THE CURRENT FISCAL

charge for the fifth time in a row in 2019, Patnaik had launched the 5T initiative (Technology, Transparency, Teamwork and Time leading to Transformation) model of governance.

The projects include rural parks, rural tourist circuits, model ponds, hatcheries, and Anganwadi centres, libraries

and others, the official said.

"We will discuss with the Ganjam Collector and the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) project director about the implementation of the schemes," said an officer from Kalahandi district.

Last month, over 100 MLAs and MPs had visited the district and expressed happiness after witnessing the school transformation projects in Hinjili and Sheragad blocks.

The job created under the MGN-REGA has helped the rural people to sustain their livelihood amid the pandemic. DRDA Project Director Shinde Dattatraya Bhausaheb said.

Ganjam district stood first in the implementation of the MGN-REGA, generating the highest person-days of work in the state in the current fiscal.

The district generated 1.89 crore person-days of work till Tuesday. It has also ranked first in providing 100 days of work.

Till Tuesday, the district provided 100 days of work to 36,454 households and incurred expenditure of over ₹370 crore during the period, officials said.

DRDO SPYING 'Pak woman' was luring 5 accused of marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 22: The suspected Pakistani woman, who honey-trapped the five accused in the Balasore Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) spying case, was offering to marry them, Crime Branch (CB) ADG Sanjeeb Panda said Wednesday.

"We've found that the unknown woman operative trapped the five on Facebook by introducing herself with multiple names somewhere in April 2020. Later, they began conversations on WhatsApp. In a bid to gain access to classified defence secrets, the woman lured the accused of marriage. She even used to video-call the five in order to take them into confidence," Panda pointed out.

On Tuesday, the CB, which has been probing the alleged espionage case, claimed that the woman had sent ₹38,000 from an account in Dubai to one of the accused and that she was using a mobile phone with a United Kingdom (UK) number.

Balasore police had September 14 arrested four contractual employees—Basanta Behera, Seikh Musafir, Tapas Ranjan Nayak and Hemant Kumar Mistry—and a regular staffer Sachin Kumar on charges of sharing highly sensitive defence information with unknown foreign agents, suspected to be from Pakistan. Later, the CB took over the investigation from Balasore police and is currently interrogating the accused in their custody in Cuttack.

OCCL senior manager held in DA case Discom official owns assets worth ₹2.57cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Vigilance Directorate Tuesday arrested an official of the Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd (OCCL) on charges of amassing assets worth ₹1.64 crore, disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Movable and immovable properties worth ₹227 crore were unearthed during the searches

House searches were conducted at three places in Sambalpur by the district Vigilance division Monday following a complaint that the senior manager of OCCL, Ranjan Dang, possessed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, the directorate said in a release. Dang is the senior manager in the Sambalpur unit of OCCL, a state-run public sector unit.

The state Vigilance Tuesday said it found assets worth ₹2.57 crore during the search of the house of an official of Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPNODL).

Five teams of the Balasore Vigilance Division conducted simultaneous raids on the properties of TPNODL's SDO (Electrical), Maheswar Sethy, at five places in Keonjhar district, the department said in a press statement.

Movable and immovable properties worth ₹227 crore were unearthed during the searches, it said.

Dang's income, expenditure, and assets were calculated, and he was found in possession of disproportionate assets worth ₹1.64 crore, constituting 166 per cent of his known sources of income, according to the statement.

A case was lodged under the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act and Dang was arrested, it said.

During the raid, the state anti-corruption wing found Sethy had two double-storeyed buildings in Keonjhar, four plots, three two-wheelers, bank deposits of ₹24.63 lakh, insurance deposits over ₹24 lakh, and other movable and immovable properties. The total market value of the assets would be over ₹2.57 crore, it said.

The TPNODL is a joint venture of Tata Power and the Odisha government.

Vig glare on Motu IIC

Vigilance sleuths Wednesday carried out simultaneous searches at multiple places related to Malkangiri's Motu IIC Sushant Sahu on charges of amassing disproportionate assets. Earlier in the day, the anti-corruption wing of the Odisha Police intercepted Sahu near Phulnakara Square here and claimed to have found ₹2.8 lakh in cash in his possession. "Sahu could not give satisfactory account of the cash which is suspected to be ill gotten."

Electropreneur Park launches OCP 2.0 for startups boost



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Electropreneur Park, a Centre of Entrepreneurship (CoE) for Electronic System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) development in Odisha has launched the second Open Challenge Program (OCP 2.0) for selection and on-boarding of startups.

The OCP is a platform where the applications are called to identify and select the entrepreneurs, innovators and startups in ESDM domain.

In the first edition last year, six startups from the state were selected to work in the Electropreneur Park and develop their ideas.

EP-Bhubaneswar offers the selected startups to be part of state-of-the-art incubation and pre-incubation program and ensure their success through strategic networking, seed funding, mentoring, support for training, marketing, patenting, access to the CoE labs, software & tools. Speaking on the occasion, Software Technology Park of India (STPI) DG Omkar Rai urged the innovators and startups to come up with brilliant ideas and solutions to be part of EP-Bhubaneswar and ESDM growth story of the country.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) department Principal Secretary Satyabrata Sahu spoke about the vibrant

The OCP is a platform where the applications are called to identify and select the entrepreneurs, innovators and startups in ESDM domain

EP-Bhubaneswar offers the selected startups to be part of state-of-the-art incubation and pre-incubation program and ensure their success through strategic networking

An MoU was signed between STPI and Texas Instruments to boost the collaborative ecosystem of STPI for promotion of startups and innovation in the state

startup ecosystem of the state and aspiration of the state government to be number one in startup ranking. During the event, EP Design Library & Resource Centre was launched by the principal secretary of MSME department which will provide access to reference designs for wide range of product modules including power supplies, sensors, control boards and others for startups.

On the occasion, an MoU was signed between STPI and Texas Instruments (TI) to boost the collaborative ecosystem of STPI for promotion of startups and innovation in the state.

Electropreneur Park is being set up with support from the Union and state governments to promote ESDM startups and create a holistic eco-system for encouraging innovation, product developments and entrepreneurship in the ESDM sector in the state.

Two DAV teachers get CBSE honour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Two teachers of DAV Public School, Pokhariput, were conferred with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Honour for Excellence in Teaching and School Leadership 2020-21 on virtual mode.

Postgraduate Teacher (PGT) in Mathematics Sitakantha Pati and trained graduate teacher (TGT) in English Smaranika Pattnaik of the school were felicitated by Union Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi, sources said.

Each awardee received a certificate of commendation, monetary reward of ₹50,000 and a shawl

Each awardee received a certificate of commendation, monetary reward of ₹50,000 and a shawl. The CBSE felicitates outstanding teachers and principals of its affiliated schools every year on Teachers' Day to recognise their exemplary contributions towards enhancing quality of teaching and learning. This time, out of 15 lakh teachers from 27,000 schools, 22 teachers were selected by a screening committee for this desirable honour.

Pati received the award for using innovative art-integrated pedagogy in teaching even during the pandemic. Similarly, Pattnaik elevated herself to this coveted position as a dynamic teacher and a certified counsellor, who had taken various initiatives for keeping the students stress-free during the pandemic.

MOMENT TO CAPTURE



People during a photo op after being felicitated at Puri Rotary Club, Wednesday, on the occasion of International Peace Day

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Jambirai creates breach, Jalaka floods two blocks

The water level in the Jalaka river rose suddenly after floodwaters from Jambirai river washed away a 200-metre stretch of its embankment under Rasgobindapur block in Mayurbhanj district, leading to floods in many areas under Basta and Sadar blocks



Unprecedented floods hit the villages like Mathani, Bahardha, Dudhahansa, Sadanandapur, Baruna Gadia, Basichakuri, Darada, Gadapada, Rautapada under Basta block, Srirampur and Rasulpur under Sadar block. Hundreds of acres of farmland in these areas got inundated.

Communication to various villages has been disrupted as Mathani-Gandhi Chhak Road, Rautpada-Katipola Road and the main road submerged under water. Floodwaters entered premises of SDPO office, Basta police station and the court.

the court.

Meanwhile, Collector K Sudarshan Chakraborty, tehsildar Kartik Chandra Das, BDO Gyanaranjan Sahu and executive engineer of the irrigation department Ashok Kumar Das have visited the flood affected areas.

Firemen and ODRAF teams started rescue operation in the flood-hit areas. Tehsil office sources said that 2,400 people have been rescued to safety while thousands of hectares of farmlands have been under floodwater.

People in riparian villages like Melaka, Pegarapada, Laxmanapada, Sanakhudi, Siba Gadia, Talatapanda, Badakhudi and Dhalasahi were panicked over probable flood situation as embankments alongside the Jalaka river have become weak at several places.

Residents of Basta and Sadar blocks apprehended that if rain continues to batter the upstream areas of the Jalaka river, the river embankments might collapse at any moment as the repair works of the embankment have not been taken up since last ten years.

WOMAN DIES AS WALL CAVES IN

BARIPADA: A 25-year-old woman was killed on the spot when the mud wall of her house collapsed due to heavy rain in Mayurbhanj district Tuesday taking the toll in rain-related incidents to seven, an official said.

The mud wall of her house at Palasamundali village under Moroda police station caved in when the woman was breast feeding her six month old baby girl, the officer-in-charge of Moroda police station said.

The baby is reported to be well and safe.

Mayurbhanj witnessed 21.6 mm rainfall since Monday. The state has experienced heavy rains caused by deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, a cyclonic circulation and activation of south west monsoon in the state since Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Kanchani Behera (25). Police register an unnatural death case in this connection, the OIC said.

HONOURED



Pramod Bhagat, who has bagged gold for badminton (singles) at Tokyo Paralympics is being honoured at a programme in Bargarh

VILLAGERS TREK 18KM FOR PDS STUFF, WARN OF STIR



“To get 1 kg of rice for ₹1, we have to spend an average of ₹5 per kg in terms of travel cost. For 35 kg of rice, one has to spend ₹150,” locals said

They warned of agitation in the coming days if the rations are not delivered near them

“The government has laid a road to our panchayat, but when it comes to rations, we have to depend on another panchayat,” villagers rued, demanding rations be delivered in their panchayat

block administration to sort out the issue, no step is being taken to ease the PDS disbursement difficulties. They suffer from trekking to Hataguda in Janbai panchayat, 18 km from Dhuliput panchayat.

“To get 1 kg of rice for ₹1, we have to spend an average of ₹5 per kg in terms of travel cost. For 35 kg of rice, one has to spend ₹150,” locals said.

They warned of agitation in the coming days if the rations are not delivered near them. This panchayat, close to Andhra Pradesh border, comprises 25 villages with a population of over 4,000.

“The government has laid a road to our panchayat, but when it comes to

tions, we have to depend on another panchayat,” villagers rued, demanding rations be delivered in their panchayat.

On the other hand, people of Dabuguda and Kadelguda in Potrel panchayat have decried lack of development.

“DRDA, ITDA and the block administration have been spending lakhs of rupees for various development works in other villages. However, no development works have started in Dabuguda and Kadelguda,” they said.

People of two villages met Collector Vishal Singh and apprised him of the need for road connectivity.

ITDA has not started work of a culvert on the main road linking Dabuguda while the block administration is yet to work on a guard wall at Kadelguda.

FARMERS' STIR



Farmers launch 'Goon Ku Chaala Abhiyan' (back to village drive) at Sambalpur, opposing farm laws of the Centre, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Hubby slits teacher's throat in school

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Sept 22: A school teacher working at Durgapali village under Puntala block in Bolangir district was attacked by her husband with a sharp weapon on the school premises Wednesday forenoon.

According to a police source, the Sanskrit teacher was identified as Sanjurani Debta of Durgapali High School and the accused husband as Pradeep Panda. The man attempted to kill his wife by slitting her throat. However, Sanjurani had a close shave, the official said.

The accused husband also works as a teacher in Bolangir.



Sanjurani got married a year ago. Pradeep started torturing her for dowry just few days after their marriage. Subsequently, the victim stayed separately in a rented house at Durgapali as she was unable to bear her husband's

torture every day and got disgusted with him. Pradeep went to his wife's school at around 11.00am Wednesday. He told the woman to come to his home for a discussion on an important issue. As the victim refused, he got annoyed and attacked her with a knife.

Fortunately, Sanjurani was rescued by some of her school staffers who were present nearby. Later, they rushed her to Santha Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir. Besides, they overpowered the accused and handed him over to Puntala police. The police have initiated a probe which is underway, the official informed.

Gun-making unit busted in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 22: Police have busted an illegal gun manufacturing unit at Basupali village under Jujumura police limits in Sambalpur district Wednesday.

Police have arrested a couple-Tarani Pradhan and his wife Janani Pradhan and their neighbour Kumar Mirdha in this connection.

Police seized six iron gun barrels along with country-made gun-making instruments. Five others were detained. A case under Section 25(1) of the Arms Act has been registered against the couple.

Police said the couple and their associates were running the unit in their house for a long time.

Flood brings croc fear to Rajnagar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Sept 22: As if being marooned in floodwater for seven days was not enough for the people of 13 villages under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district, now crocodiles are being sighted in villages. The villagers are presently living in fear and apprehension.

The villagers of Belapala, Dandi, Chakibanka, Govindpur, Santhapada, Tanganatoila, Ostia, Nagad, Katakana, Naladia, Bandhapatana, Rajpur and Balichandrapur are these days facing a double whammy. They are struggling with the woes of waterlogging and living with the fear of crocodile attack.

With the flow of water in the Brahmani basin increasing, the water level in the flood-affected areas in Rajnagar block

was also rising. At the same time, adding to the woes of the flood hit villagers, crocodiles from the Brahmani river started entering the villages.

The villagers said they had seen a crocodile in floodwater at Belapala Kalipadia Tuesday. “To bring drinking water or get vegetables, we have been wading through the water for last three days. But we are now in fear and apprehension. There is every possibility of crocodile attack,” they added. Fear of crocodile attack has gripped the villagers so much that yesterday some villagers who came to Madanpur square to buy vegetables were seen returning homes in the trailer attached to a tractor.

Around 40,000 people in Bandhapada, Ostia, Belapal and Rajpur panchayat have been

marooned. The floodwater in Rajnagar block started increasing from September 15 night. Even though the paddy fields were completely submerged, there was no water on village roads from September 17 to September 19 morning. But the floodwater suddenly came gushing into the village after September 19 morning and the water level kept rising.

These four panchayats are now cut off from the district headquarters. Knee-deep floodwater is still stagnant in Ostia-Bandhapatna High School.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. SNTPBSEXYARDOT 042021 Dt.: 16.09.2021

Name of the work: MODIFICATION TO EXISTING EI SYSTEM OF MEDHA MAKE AT PARADEEP (PRDP) EXCHANGE YARD IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Advertised Value: ₹ 77,49,199/-, **Completion period:** 12 Months.

Tender closing date & time: at 1030 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 fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

By, Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (P&D)/Bhubaneswar PR-64/CE/21-22

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-463
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
e-Procurement Notice-2/2021-22
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SAL-BDK-2-P1 OF 2021-22

- Name of Work : Maintenance of Canal and Embankment (River & Saline) works
- Class of Contractor : Varies from "D" Class to "A" Class
- No. of works : 24 Nos. (Details as per NIT available in website)
- Value of Work : Rs. 8.25 Lakhs to 58.93 lakhs
- Time of Completion : 1 to 3 Calendar Months
- Type of Bid : Percentage Bid
- Summary for key dates is provided below.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender for Online bidding		Date & Time of opening of bid
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, Salandi Canal Division, Bhradak	SAL-BDK-2-P1 OF 2021-22	24.09.2021 at 11.00 AM	07.10.2021 UPTO 5.00 PM	8.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in/www.dowr.odisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Salandi Canal Division, Bhradak
OIPR-32005/11/0002/2122

e-mail ID- rw_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in; Phone No. 0663-2401850 No.3715 dated. 20.9.21

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-08 OF 21-22

No. O-750-

1. Name of the work	: Building Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
2. Total No. of Work	: 06 (Six) Nos
3. Estimated Cost	: Varies from Rs.6.19 to 26.55 lakhs
4. Period of Completion	: 01 (One) to 02 (Two) Calendar months
5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding	: 24.09.2021 at 11.00 AM to 04.10.2021 upto 5.00 PM
6. Date and time of opening of Tender	: 05.10.2021 at 11.00 AM
7. Name and address of the officer inviting bid	: E.E. R.W. Division, Sambalpur

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur
OIPR-25076/11/0010/2122

TENDER NOTICE

Ref No:-03/SFURTI/ST/21 Date: 23.09.2021

Siksha Trust, At-Tarapur, P.O.- Laxminagar, Jajpur Road, Jajpur, Odisha, 7555015 invites tender notice in a sealed cover under two bid system i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid from OEMs/ Authorized distributors for "Supply, Installation, testing, commissioning and trial running of the machinery and equipment for Common Facility Center (CFC) for Haripur Mytho Dresses Private Limited (SPV) AT/ PO- Kabirpur, Via- Kuakhia, Jajpur, Odisha, 755009.

Date of commencement of tender	Last date and time of submission of tender	Date & time for opening of tender	Cost of tender paper
23.09.2021	13.10.2021 at 5 P.M.	18.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	Rs.5,000/-

A complete set of the Bid documents containing the details of the terms and conditions may be downloaded from the website www.knpjajpur.org and the same can be submitted along with cost of tender paper on shape of Bank Draft. Any corrigendum/ addendum/ information related to this NIT will not be uploaded in Siksha Trust website which will not be published in Newspapers. The authority reserved the right to accept / reject any part or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. The authority has the right to increase/ decrease / cancel the quantity of procurement of the equipment/ instrument without assigning any reason thereof.

CHAIRMAN

Government of Odisha No. CAD-1248
Office of the Project Director,
DRDA, Bargarh
E-mail: ori-dbargarh@nic.in
Tender Call Notice No. 3168/
Dtd.21.09.2021/Health Building Works

1 Type of works	: Health Building Works
2 Total No. of Works	: (9) Nos.
3 Estimated Cost	: Rs. 18.00 lakh to Rs. 24.00 lakh (approx.)
4 Class of Contractor	: "D", "C" & "B" Class
5 Period of Completion	: 6 (six) calendar months
6 Date of Bidding	: 27.09.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to 25.10.2021 up to 4.00 P.M.
7 Last Date of receipt Bid Documents	: 27.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM
8 Date & Time of opening of tender	: 28.10.2021 at 11.00 AM

Bid documents consisting of specification & schedule of quantities (BOQ) and the set of terms and conditions of contract (DTCN) along with other necessary documents can be obtained/download from district NIC website www.bargarh.nic.in and Sealed Bids must be enclosed with appropriate cost in shape of a non-refundable Demand Draft of Rs.6000/-only for each work, separately issued from any scheduled bank payable at Bargarh in favour of Project Director, DRDA, Bargarh. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

Project Director, DRDA, Bargarh
OIPR-19133/11/0003/2122

Whatever is the difficulty if we keep truly quiet the solution will come.
THE MOTHER



Les Anglo-Saxons

Two days before the Normandy landings in June 1944, Charles de Gaulle demanded the right to govern France after it was liberated by the Allies. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who detested de Gaulle, had no intention of agreeing to this. Winston Churchill, who rather admired de Gaulle's illusions of grandeur, sided with Roosevelt. He told the Free French leader that if he had to choose between de Gaulle and Roosevelt, he would always choose Roosevelt.

Churchill's attitude was entirely understandable. Europe was occupied by Nazi Germany. The Free French were largely a symbolic force. And Britain was one of the three major Allied powers. Later, however, Britain's choice to cling to the United States came what may (with one or two exceptions, including the Suez crisis in 1956 and the Balkan war in the 1990s) came with a heavy price.

Flush with wartime victory, Britain turned down every opportunity to shape European institutions in the 1950s, and when Prime Minister Harold Macmillan concluded in the early 1960s that Britain could remain a serious country only within the European Economic Community de Gaulle stood in his way. British membership of the EEC was vetoed by the general in 1963, and again in 1967.

De Gaulle hadn't forgotten Churchill's words in 1944. He saw Britain as a Trojan Horse for American domination of Europe. France, in his view, was Europe's natural leader. And, because Germany had no desire to assert leadership, and other Europeans had had quite enough of German power, this arrangement was widely accepted.

Britain finally joined the EEC in 1973, but even so, British prime ministers, except for Edward Heath in the 1970s, hung on to their so-called (especially by the British) 'special relationship' with the US. This was largely a matter of shared nuclear secrets, intelligence, and military cooperation. Britain hoped that the special relationship would allow it to remain a formidable global player, even long after its empire was lost.

Now, once again, Britain has opted to side with the US, this time in a new defence pact with Australia to counter China. AUKUS is its unlovely name. A long-standing agreement with France to supply diesel-powered submarines to Australia was broken in favour of Anglo-American nuclear-powered boats. France is understandably furious. The three AUKUS countries didn't even bother to notify the French of their impending deal. France recalled its ambassadors from Canberra and Washington, but not from London; Britain was not deemed to be important enough.

There may be good reasons why Australia decided American submarines would be more suitable as a defence against China. It might also be argued that it makes sense to strengthen US alliances in the Indo-Pacific region, not just with Australia, but also Japan and India. Quite what British interests in the region are, apart from puffing up a self-image of 'global Britain' after Brexit, is less clear. France, with 1.5 million people, 8,000 troops, and island territories in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, has more at stake there than Britain does.

But there is more to AUKUS than submarine deals, lucrative though they are. US President Joe Biden has decided to confront China's expanding power in East Asia with a show of military force. He has often expressed his wish that American allies would join him in this effort, even as Japanese and Europeans worry about damaging trade interests in China and being sucked into a potential war. But by undercutting France, the US, with the connivance of Britain, has widened a historical rift among European allies. It is as though de Gaulle's suspicion of *Les Anglo-Saxons* in 1944 has been proven right.

There is of course another way of looking at this. Wartime nostalgia plays an important part in Britain's instinctive fondness for the special relationship. Like former Prime Minister Tony Blair in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, some British politicians might believe that the United Kingdom is the only European country with serious armed forces and the political will to use them. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, like Blair before him, seems to fancy himself a modern-day Churchill.

Unfortunately (or not), Britain's military power is insignificant compared to what Churchill could command in 1944. Wartime nostalgia has drawn Britain into several foolish American wars, which other European countries were wise to avoid. The question is whether provoking China's wrath by supporting Biden's sabre-rattling is justified nonetheless, even if it doesn't involve direct British interests. Is the alternative of backing off and doing business as usual with China a form of cowardly appeasement? Or might there be other options?

Fear of repeating Neville Chamberlain's appeasement in 1938 is one reason why the US and Britain have gotten themselves entangled in unnecessary wars in the decades after World War II. This is why French leaders have called for greater 'strategic autonomy' for the European Union. Europe should beef up its own military force and wean itself from dependence on the US. The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell announced that Europe, too, would like to limit China's power. The bloc would seek a trade deal with Taiwan while still engaging with China. Even the pro-European, left-leaning newspaper *Le Monde* called this 'deficient in backbone.'

As long as the EU has no common foreign policy and sufficient armed forces of its own, talk of strategic autonomy is just that. Only the full cooperation of Britain, and far greater military participation by Germany, might one day give Europe some chance of autonomy. But the combination of Germany's historical baggage and Britain's fixation on its special relationship stands in the way.

As a result, the fate of the Indo-Pacific region, and perhaps many places beyond, will remain in the hands of the increasingly aggressive authoritarians in Beijing and whoever happens to be sitting in the White House. Either way, neither Britain nor Australia, much less France and the EU, will have much to say in the matter.

The writer is an author and editor.
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FOCUS VACCINATION

GLOBAL NORTH'S TEST

With low-income countries in Africa and elsewhere still importing rich countries to stop stockpiling millions of unused COVID-19 vaccines, there are still real doubts as to whether the United States and Europe will honour the promise made at this year's G7 summit to vaccinate the world by the end of 2022.



Gordon Brown

ACCORDING TO A MAJOR STUDY BY THE RESEARCH FIRM AIRFINITY, THE NUMBER OF UNUSED DOSES WILL REACH ONE BILLION BY THIS DECEMBER

US President Joe Biden's administration has said that the Global North can deliver enough doses for everyone by next September's United Nations General Assembly. But the gulf between the vaccine-rich and vaccine-poor has grown so vast that under 2 per cent of adults in low-income countries are fully vaccinated, compared to over 50 per cent of adults in most high-income countries. Worse, millions of doses in high-income countries are now being wasted because they are not being used in time.

For many months earlier this year, Western governments could at least say that there was not enough vaccine supply to meet global demand. But, we are now producing 1.5 billion vaccines every month. As I write this, around 300 million doses of vaccines are lying unused, hoarded in warehouses or on their way to fulfill delivery contracts that have been monopolised by Western countries. As a result, the World Health Organisation's September 2021 goal of vaccinating at least 10 per cent of the population in every low-income country – the basic level needed to cover health workers and the elderly – remains unrealised.

According to a major study by the research firm Airfinity, the number of unused doses will reach one billion by this December. To put that staggering figure into perspective, it is enough to meet our year-end goal



If the West does not deliver the necessary supply of vaccines to the rest of the world, low-income countries will have little reason ever to trust it again. Failing to transfer millions of surplus doses to those in desperate need would be a grotesque failure of the most basic test of human solidarity and decency

of vaccinating 40 per cent of the African population.

Making matters worse, Airfinity shows that if we do not act, 100 million unused vaccine doses will have passed their expiration dates by the end of this year. And if we cannot airlift surpluses to where they are needed on a schedule that preserves a two-month shelf life, this figure could rise to 241 million. Either way, that is near-criminal wastage.

Exaggeration comes easily to politicians. But it is no overstatement to say that unless more vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments are made available to the Global South, there could be at least one million more COVID-induced deaths over the next year.

We know that more than 100,000 lives have been saved in Britain, owing to the administration of fewer than 100 million vaccine doses. Allowing 200 million or

more doses to be wasted is thus tantamount to condemning hundreds of thousands of unvaccinated people in low-income countries to unnecessarily suffering or death.

The upshot is that at Biden's vaccine summit this week, more lives hang in the balance than at any other peacetime gathering that I can recall. If the West does not deliver the necessary supply of vaccines to the rest of the world, low-income countries will have little reason ever to trust it again. Failing to transfer millions of surplus doses to those in desperate need would be a grotesque failure of the most basic test of human solidarity and decency.

And so for world leaders convening at the UN this month, the stakes could not be higher. We are at a make-or-break moment to mitigate the monstrous, unforgivable vaccine inequality that has prevailed so far.

The data compiled by Airfinity suggests that 200 million doses can be transferred immediately to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility and the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust for distribution across Africa and other low-income countries. That would be enough to meet the WHO's 10 per cent target for every country. Moreover, Western countries can send the same amount of additional doses – around 200 million – to COVAX each month thereafter. That would be enough to address Africa's deficit of nearly 500 million doses, ensuring that some 40 per cent of the continent's population is vaccinated by the end of the year, in line with the WHO's goal.

We have seen how vaccine nationalism leads to inequality, wastage, and far too many avoidable deaths. Not only is this approach self-serving; it is self-defeating. The longer the disease is allowed to spread in low-income countries, the greater the likelihood that it will develop new variants that will come back to haunt even the fully vaccinated.

This basic truth lies at the heart of pleas that have been building this week from African leaders, former heads of state and government, the Pandemic Action Network, and groups like The Elders. NGOs and faith leaders in the Global South have issued statements calling for immediate action to prevent an epic moral catastrophe.

In a global health crisis born of a highly infectious and communicable disease, there is no alternative to collective global action. This week's vaccine summit represents the rich world's best chance to show that it means what it says.

The writer is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
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SPECTRUM ACADEMIA

Draupadi, DU and inconvenient truths



Lekha Rattanani

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL DETERMINE WHAT UNIVERSITIES SHOULD TEACH, OR WHICH BOOKS MAY BE BANNED

Delhi University enjoys the stature of an 'institute of eminence' in the Indian educational set-up. In less than a year from now, the university established in 1922 with just four colleges, will celebrate its 100th foundation day. Its motto is "Nishtha Dhriti Satyam", which translates to mean dedication, steadfastness and truth. With some 6.5 lakh students (conventional and distance mode) enrolled across more than 500 programmes and over 90 colleges affiliated to it, DU stands out as a premier institute of higher learning.

It is this prestigious university that has now decided to drop some inconvenient truths from its syllabus. Among those erased from the syllabus of BA (Honours) is the late Mahashweta Devi, who is a winner of the Jnanpith award, the Padma Vibhushan, the Indira Gandhi award for National Integration, the Sahitya Akademi award for Bengali writers and the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts.

The axe has fallen on Mahashweta Devi's short story 'Draupadi', which is a raw, chilling and explicit story of a tribal woman brutalised by Indian security forces. The English translation of the original in Bengali by post-colonial theorist Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak has now been dropped from the BA (Honours) course, stirring a controversy after 15 academic council members have protested but a

rival group has endorsed the change. The changes were ordered by DU's oversight committee, which also dropped from the syllabus the works of two Dalit writers, Bama Faustina Soosairaj and Sukirtharani. The changes and their enthusiastic endorsement by the DU administration have led to new fears of political control on academia and what this might mean for an education system that is already under strain.

This is not the first time that political considerations will determine what universities should teach, or which books may be banned. But the action this time is blatant, and worse, is explained away in equally blatant language on what these stories do to India's image. Consider the DU registrar saying that the 'gruesome' details in the sexual assault of Draupadi in the story of Mahashweta Devi are 'uncomfortable' and also show the Indian forces in a very poor light. "We don't want our students to hate them based on fictional stories," he has been quoted as saying.

Three members of the Delhi University Academic Council and the Delhi University Teachers' Association said the administration was "complicit in the unethical and the unacademic chopping of authors."

Among other changes, two poems by Sukirtharani and selections from Bama's Sangati were excluded from the syllabus. Some 1,500 writers, academics, artists, and celebrities who petitioned DU against the

step, argued that these writings are essential readings, noting that "Bama and Sukirtharani articulate the lived experience of being Dalit women in contemporary India. They illumine how caste oppression colludes with modes of patriarchy to produce gendered oppression and exploitation." The dropped writers were part of a core paper of the final year English Honours syllabus, titled 'Women's Writings' that aims to explore past and contemporary lives of women in India and elsewhere.

Another text that has been removed is a feminist reading of the Ramayana which has been part of a DSE (Discipline Specific Elective) paper titled 'Pre-colonial Indian Literatures'. The oversight committee has instructed the English department to replace 'Chandrabati Ramayana' with 'Tulsidas. Chandrabati who lived in what is now Bangladesh is believed to be the first Bengali woman poet. Chandrabati wrote a woman-centred version of the Ramayana which has been translated into English by noted academic Nabaneeta Dev Sen. Very little is known about the author except that her version of the Ramayana is believed to be sung even today by peasant women in Bangladesh. Chandrabati's work is a unique example of looking at the Ramayana from Sita's point of view and it also comes well before works that questioned the undisputed place of Lord Rama in

India. Nineteenth century Bengali poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt who followed some 300 years after Chandrabati, challenged the position of Lord Rama over Ravana. The Lankan monarch is the hero of Dutt's works and not portrayed as a demon king. His 'Meghnad Badh Kavya' about the killing of Ravana's son Meghnad, while he is unarmed and worshipping at a Lankan temple, is portrayed as an act of cowardice by Lakshmana.

Lionising Ravana is not new in India. While his effigies are burnt across the country on Dussehra, his devotees worship at the five temples dedicated to Ravana in India. The village Ravangram in Vidisha has one of the most famous temples of Ravana whose wife Mandodari is believed to be from the place. There is also a temple at Mandasaur where they are believed to have been married.

In her original introduction to the collection of stories of which 'Draupadi' is one, Mahashweta Devi wrote: "Life is not mathematics and the human being is not made for the sake of politics. I want a change in the present social system and do not believe in mere party politics." It is the misfortune of DU to show that the system isn't changing and politics will rule, more forcefully and blindly than ever before.

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press.
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WISDOM CORNER

- The enemy is within the gates; it is with our own luxury, our own folly, our own criminality that we have to contend. **MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO**
- The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future. **OSCAR WILDE**
- When a person really desires something, all the universe conspires to help that person to realize his dream. **PAULO COELHO**

LOL Should have glasses

A policeman stops a lady and asks for her license. He says "Lady, it says here that you should be wearing glasses." The woman answered: "Well, I have contacts."



The policeman replied: "I don't care who you know! You're getting a ticket!"

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Vaccine racism

Sir, This refers to the news report "India vows action against UK." *Orissa POST*, September 22. There is consternation and uproar in India with the UK's discriminatory travel restrictions for Indian travellers. The UK's decision to quarantine even vaccinated Indians lacks logic. Why is the UK making an exception to Covishield? Is it not a fact that Covishield is another name for Vaxzena, the European brand name for the AstraZeneca vaccine? It is also claimed that the entire controversy stems from some technical issues in the CoWin certification process. Now, the question arises, why the Serum Institute of India didn't ensure Covishield was in the approved list of vaccines in the UK? The UK follows the approval procedure of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). In July, the British government had said the UK health regulator had approved Serum Institute of India's vaccine, but EMA was yet to give its nod. Even now Covishield is not in the EMA's list of approved vaccines.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Fly high

Sir, After two unsuccessful attempts to find a buyer for Air India, the Centre seemed to have found one. In 2001 and 2018, reputed private airlines backed off from final stages after showing initial interest in Air India. Two prominent companies have been making the final moves on owning the state-run aviation giant that has been incurring huge losses for the last 14 years – approximately to the tune of ₹80,000 crore. The two have submitted their financial bids. In another three weeks, the name of the buyer will go public although the actual transfer of assets will take another four to five months. A 100 per cent stake in Air India, 100 per cent stake in Air India Express and 50 per cent stake in Air India Airport Services Private Limited are being sold by the government in contrast to its earlier stand of retaining 24 per cent stake in Air India. A smooth disinvestment take-off was hindered by the huge 'monkey on its back' – massive debts. No buyer would risk pumping money into a loss-making venture, and then spend his/her entire time in struggling to pay off the debts. Left with a Hobson's choice, the government had to yield to the requests of the private players for a cent per cent stake in Air India and 50 per cent stake in AISATS.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

LOWER INDRA OUSTEES BLOCK NH-353 OVER AID



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 22: People displaced by the Lower Indra irrigation project at Tikhali under Khariar block in Nuapada district blocked the NH-353 Wednesday.

They alleged that people ousted from the villages having completely submerged and partially submerged had not yet received financial assistance. They raised various demands including laying a siege to the road near Bilenjora bus stand.

In 2000, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the Lower Indra irrigation project at Tikhali. The project has been commissioned in 2021. It was alleged that though 20 years have passed since the project inception, many oustees have been running from pillar to post to get financial assistance. Thus, they resorted to agitation.

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Due to the irrigation project, as many as 10 villages have been completely submerged while 21 villages have been partially submerged. Over 50,000 people have been affected by the project.

"As we have not received our assistance, we are unable to move to other places. Over 800 families are yet to receive compensation. But the government is yet to sanction their assistance," they lamented. They demanded that their other issues related to rehabilitation and resettlement be sorted out soon at the government level.

Inhabitants of Konabira, and a few other villages such as Sonbahali and Budhachhapar, have been demanding payment of outstanding dues to compensate for their displacement from their lands.

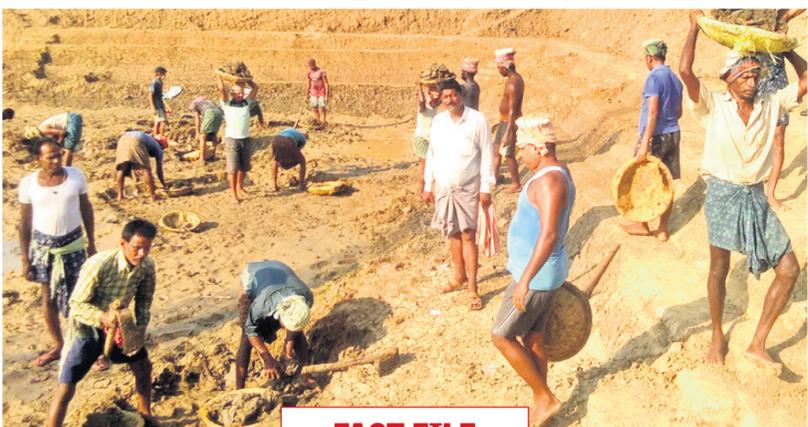
The project can irrigate 29,900 hectares in Nuapada and Balangir districts. It was conceptualised in 2001 at an estimated cost of ₹211 crore. The project was revised in 2003 at an escalated cost of ₹521 crore, with ten villages identified to fall inside the reservoir and 21 villages facing partial submergence. By 2018, the cost of the project stood in excess of ₹1,750 crore.

COLLEGE UNREST



Students of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjadeso University in Baripada stage a demonstration, demanding a reduced re-admission fee, Wednesday OP PHOTO

MGNREGS mess: Job card holders awaiting incentives



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, Sept 22: Even as 80 days have passed, job card holders under the poverty alleviation scheme MGNREGS under this block in Balasore district are yet to receive their incentives, a report said.

This has sparked resentment among the beneficiaries who are reeling from financial stress due to non-payment of incentives so far. They have warned of launching an agitation if immediate steps are not taken to pay their incentives.

The district administration had launched various projects under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to provide livelihood opportunities to the migrants returning home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many people, including the migrants, enrolled their names for a job card and worked under various projects implemented by the state government from April 1 to June 30.

The state government had then announced to provide ₹50 per day to all the beneficiaries during the period by July 30. The government had also earmarked an additional

FACT FILE

Many people, including the migrants, enrolled their names for a job card and worked under various projects implemented by the state government from April 1 to June 30

The state government had then announced to provide ₹50 per day to all the beneficiaries during the period by July 30

The government had also earmarked an additional fund of ₹352 crore to provide incentives to around 32 lakh labourers engaged under the scheme

Though 80 days have passed since then, the block administration is yet to make the incentive payments to several beneficiaries

8,500 beneficiaries or job card holders benefited by the scheme

However, though 80 days have passed since then, the block administration is yet to make the incentive payments to several beneficiaries. Many of the beneficiaries from Kurunta and Saradanga panchayats have alleged that they are yet to receive payments towards their incentives.

Namita Barik from Kurunta panchayat has alleged that delay in payment of incentives has derailed the purpose of the government behind the implementation of the scheme.

Anadi Parida of Saradanga panchayat alleged that it is quite unfortunate that money towards incentives is yet to be transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries even after over two months.

When contacted, Prashuram Parida, block development officer of Khaira block, said delay has been inordinate as several posts of MGNREGS staff are lying vacant in the block. The remaining beneficiaries will receive their incentives soon and over ₹43 lakh has been transferred to the accounts of many beneficiaries so far.

Malkangiri: ₹7cr to boost healthcare

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 22: Over ₹7.13 crore has been sanctioned by the 5th Finance Commission to boost healthcare services in the district. The status of healthcare services was discussed at a meeting chaired by the Collector in the presence of the CDMO, DRDA and National Health Mission, officials said.

There are 158 primary health centres in the district while 88 centres will be upgraded with facilities like diagnostic tests for children and pregnant women.

Four PHCs have no buildings of their own. Their infrastructure was developed with the funds.

It was decided that two special teams will be formed for Chitrakonda and Kalimela blocks to ensure that patients do not face problem in obtaining beds, food and quality healthcare services. Thus, the patients will not have to go outside the state seeking treatments.

Body of bootlegger fished out from river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 22: The body of a liquor trader, who jumped into the Kantiachira river in Balasore district Monday to escape arrest and subsequently went missing, was recovered Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Sapan Majhi, a resident of Srijang village under Khantapada police limits in Balasore district.

Local excise officials received a tip-off about the presence of four bootleggers carrying liquor in the area. They swung into action and chased the liquor traders.

They managed to nab three of them, while the fourth, Swapan, jumped into the river to evade arrest and subsequently went missing. Fire department personnel started a rescue operation, but it failed to trace him. His body was found in the river next day.

Over 300 join BJD in Jharigaon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharigaon, Sept 22: Ahead of the panchayat elections, the Biju Janata Dal in Jharigaon block of Nabarangpur district Wednesday received a boost as over 300 supporters of other parties joined the ruling party.

A Mishran Parba programme was organised at Fufugaon panchayat Wednesday. MLA Prakash Chandra Majhi was the



chief guest. Congress workers from several

villages like Baraguda, Dengaguda, Tarajyoti, Purnaguda and Biriguda joined the BJD.

They said they were impressed by the development agenda being pursued by the Naveen Patnaik-led government. They vowed to strengthen the ruling party.

BJD leaders welcomed their entry into the party fold. They urged the party workers to work for the victory of the party in the panchayat polls.

RALLY FOR RIGHTS



Anganwadi workers take out a protest over their multiple demands at Jamankira in Sambalpur, Wednesday OP PHOTO

Youth held for lewd comments on Anganwadi workers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 22: Cyber police station officials here Tuesday arrested a youth for making obscene comments against Anganwadi workers in his YouTube channel 'Sambalpuri Dokan'.

The accused has been identified as Lakheshwara Mallick, 35, of Samara village under Sainatala police limits in Bolangir district. A case was registered in this connection and the accused was produced in court.

Reports said that a viral video clip containing obscene picture of an Anganwadi worker had been uploaded in YouTube channel named 'Sambalpuri Dokan' where the accused made disparaging and obscene comments against them. The video sparked sharp resentment and anger among the Anganwadi workers as well as in various quarters. Prashanta Kumar Padhi, a resident of Sambalpur district, filed a complaint in Sambalpur Cyber Police Station in this regard.

Based on the complaint, Sambalpur Cyber Police swung into action and launched an investigation. During the investigation police arrested the accused Tuesday and forwarded him to court.

Road brings turnaround in Maoist-infested village

THE CONTRIBUTION OF A WOMAN WARD-MEMBER IN BRINGING DEVELOPMENT TO THE VILLAGE IS INCOMPARABLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 22: A village in Sambalpur district, which was once infested by Maoists amid dense forests, is on the way to development after a road was constructed to the area under Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana with sheer efforts of a woman ward member, a report said.

The village was identified as Jarang village under Kayakud panchayat of Jujumura block in this district. The village lies around 50 km from the district headquarters town and is surrounded by four forests.

In the past, the village was prone to Maoist menace where ultras would call every shot in the village. The villagers always lived in an atmosphere of fear and trepidation. But gone are those days after a road was constructed.

This has become possible due to the sincere and dedicated efforts of woman ward member Barilona Kandolona of the village. She is leaving no stone unturned and has poured her heart and soul to bring a turnaround in the village. Villagers are now finding it



easier to join the mainstream after the village was selected for construction of a road under the Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana. Officials and social activists have started visiting the village which has helped in achieving financial and social development of the village.

The village has a population of 350 comprising 65 tribal families from four hamlets of Taldihi, Chadali, Budamunda and Schoolpada. Agriculture is the mainstay of villagers and they cultivate a variety of crops like green grams, black grams, horse grams, maize, pearl millet, and various



types of vegetables. They also collect minor forest produce like Bahada, Sal seeds as well as mahua from the forest and now sell them in the local markets.

They no longer incur damage of their harvested products as they can now travel to the nearest market and sell their produce following construction of a road. This has helped them in their financial growth. Ambulance can now reach the village smoothly and traders can visit the villagers at their doorsteps and buy their harvested products.

The village has a school up to Class V while many of them study outside for higher education. The



nancially independent from their male counterparts.

Many developmental works have been carried out in the village during last five years. Kandolona has always been working to make more funds available for developmental works in the village and in making the government welfare schemes accessible to people.

She is so thoughtful for the development of her village that she gives less time for her family and more for the uplift of the village,

Many problems in the village have been resolved. But power cuts are frequent. We demand solar lights to be installed and piped water supply to the village

BARILONA KANDOLONA I WARD MEMBER

government has also made a provision to send the children of the school to study in Ashram School. Moreover, five women self-help groups work in the village which has helped them in becoming fi-

Kandolona said. She said earlier there was no road to the village for which villagers had to walk on a dirt road and cross three nullahs covering nine km to reach the National Highway-55.

When contacted, Kandolona said many of the problems have been resolved while they experience power cuts frequently. She demanded solar lights to be installed and piped water supply to the village.

6 govt employees sacked for terror links

25 government servants have been dismissed from service over the last 6 months for their alleged links with terrorists in the UT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 22: Six government employees, including two policemen, were Wednesday dismissed from service for their alleged links with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, taking the total number of employees sacked in last nearly six months to 25, officials said.

Among those dismissed from service earlier, there were two sons of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and tainted Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh who was caught along with a wanted terrorist and two others early this year.

The six employees who were dismissed by the government, include constable Showkat Ahmad Khan, a resident of Budgam who was involved in the looting of service weapons from the house of a member of legislative council in Srinagar with whom he was posted as a Personal Security Officer in 2018. The policeman was arrested and subsequently detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) August 8 last year, the officials said.

They said constable Jaffer Hussain Butt of Kishtwar was arrested in a case that is presently under investigation of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The probe has revealed that Butt provided his car to Hizbul



Mujahideen terrorists and facilitated their safe movement in his hometown, the officials said, adding that he is currently on bail since August 30.

Teacher Abdul Hamid Wani of Bijbehara in Anantnag district was also among those dismissed from service. It is alleged that before joining government service, he was a district commander of terrorist group Allah Tigers and propagated secessionist ideology, the officials said.

They said he had reportedly secured the employment without

any selection process by leveraging Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) influence. He was a key speaker and organiser in the 2016 agitation following the killing of terrorist commander Burhan Wani.

A junior assistant in the Roads and Buildings Department, Mohd Rafi Butt of Kishtwar, is accused of having provided logistical support to Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists in Kishtwar, besides providing a safe environment to them to execute terror plans. He figures in an FIR registered by the NIA and is presently on bail after

being arrested, the officials said.

They said teacher Liyaqat Ali Kakroo of Baramulla was appointed in government service in 1983 and was arrested in 2001 with an explosive substance. The probe against him revealed that he was a locally-trained terrorist.

A cache of arms was recovered from his possession in 2002 and subsequently, he was detained under the PSA for two years. However, he was acquitted by court in both the cases, the officials said, adding that two grenades were recovered from his possession again in 2021.

Range officer Tariq Mahmood Kohli of Poonch was allegedly involved in smuggling of illegal arms, ammunition and explosives, including hard drugs and fake Indian Currency Notes from Pakistan, they said.

They said Kohli, who was arrested in a case registered against him in 2010, had remained in touch with active militants and was mentioned as an overground worker in police records.

In an identical order about the dismissal of the six employees, the General Administration Department (GAD) said the Lt Governor was satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the cases and on the basis of the information avail-

able that the activities of these employees were such as to warrant their dismissal from service.

"...The Lieutenant Governor is satisfied under sub-clause (c) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India that in the interest of the security of the State, it is not expedient to hold an enquiry in the case of... Accordingly, the Lieutenant Governor hereby dismisses... From service, with immediate effect," the order said mentioning the name of each sacked employee.

July 11, as many as 11 employees, including two sons of the Hizbul Mujahideen chief, were dismissed from service.

Earlier in April-May, the administration dismissed seven employees, including DSP Davinder Singh.

Drees Jan, a teacher from North Kashmir's Kupwara district was the first government employee to be sacked from service for anti-national activities May 1.

His dismissal came barely a week after the Union Territory administration constituted a Special Task Force (STF) empowered to look into allegations against government employees of involvement in anti-state activities and recommend dismissal of those found involved.

Assam burns rhino horn hoard to highlight they have no medicinal value



The ritualistic burning of 2,479 rhino horns was done publicly on the occasion of World Rhino Day

AGENCIES

Bokakhat (Assam), Sept 22: Assam Wednesday consigned to flames 2,479 rhino horns, world's largest stockpile destroyed in a single day, to bust a myth that the horns have miraculous medicinal properties.

The move by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is part of an effort to curb poaching of the endangered one-horned Indian rhinoceros.

"We want to give a strong message to the world that the rhino alive with the horn on its head is precious to us, and not a dead animal with its pride removed by poachers or those kept in the government treasuries," the Chief Minister said.

The ritualistic burning of the rhino horns was done publicly at Bokakhat on the occasion of World Rhino Day in the presence of the Chief minister, some of his cabinet colleagues including Forest and Environment Minister Parimal Suklabaidya and local AGP MLA and Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, senior forest department officials and conservationists in a first of its kind exercise in the country. Indian laws as well as international conventions forbid sale of body parts, whether of humans and animals, both by individuals and governments and Assam committed to follow it, Sarma said.

"A section of people have questioned us why we are burning the horns when it can be sold and the government could earn revenue ...

I ask them is it right to sell kidneys when people are ready to pay huge amounts for them," he asked.

The chief minister argued that since the horns have no proven medicinal values, allowing them to be sold tantamounts to cheating people and encouraging poaching. "Just like all communities, whether they are Hindus, Muslims or Christians, send away their beloved ones with rituals and prayers, we also decided to send our beloved to the other realm in the same manner," he said.

There are an estimated 2,600 rhinos in Assam's Kaziranga, Manas, Orang National Parks and Pobitora wildlife sanctuaries.

Poaching of the animal has declined considerably with poachers realising that during "the tenure of this government, it will not be easy to kill an animal in the state," the Chief Minister claimed.

It has also been decided to set up a Natural History Museum at Kaziranga National Park where 94 rhino horns, extracted from those animals that had died naturally, will be kept and preserved scientifically as heritage pieces for academic purpose and public viewing, he said.

The world's largest rhino recorded, with a standing height of 42.5 cm, and the heaviest horn at 3.05 kg, will also be on display at the Museum, Sarma said.

The state Cabinet September 16 had decided to destroy 2,479 of the 2,623 reconciled rhino horns, stockpiled in the treasuries of different districts, while 29 rhino horns, including 19 genuine and 10 fake, under court cases would be preserved with due procedures.

We want to give a strong message to the world that the rhino alive with the horn on its head is precious to us, and not a dead animal with its pride removed by poachers or those kept in the government treasuries
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER

Strike protesting 'anti-trade' policies hits life in Jammu

AGENCIES

Jammu, Sept 22: Normal life was hit across the Jammu region Wednesday amid a day-long strike call given by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) to protest against the alleged 'directionless anti-trade policies' of the administration.



The strike, which evoked widespread support from almost all opposition political parties and social groups, remained peaceful with no untoward incident reported from anywhere, officials said.

The work in courts was affected by the strike, which was also supported by the Jammu chapter of the J&K High Court Bar Association.

The main markets in the city wore a deserted look as shops and business establishments including retail chemist shops were closed, while the movement of public and private transport was thin.

Protests and rallies at various places by traders, activists of National Panthers Party (NPP), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Aam Aadmi Party and Dogra Front in the city marked the strike, which was the first of its kind in the Jammu province after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Among other things, the sponsors of the strike are agitated over the scrapping of the 'darbar move' by the government without consulting the stakeholders and new excise policy, rendering wine shopkeepers jobless.



A medic prepares to administer a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a beneficiary in Srinagar, Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

ASSAM ORDERS PROBE INTO BODOLAND ENCOUNTER

Assam has witnessed a series of 'encounters' since the present BJP government, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma assumed office May 10, with many alleged militants and criminals being shot dead or injured while allegedly trying to flee from custody

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Sept 22: Assam government has ordered an inquiry into the killing of two alleged United Liberation of Bodoland (ULB) militants by policemen, a day after a 12-hour bandh to protest the death brought life in the four districts of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) to a standstill.

An order issued by the Assam government said the Divisional Commissioner of Lower Assam Jayant Narlikar has been directed to inquire into the circumstances leading to the death of two suspected ULB militants in an encounter with the police at Ultapani in Kokrajhar district September 18.

Narlikar was tasked to submit the report within 15 days. The killing of the two suspected



militants evoked wide-spread protests in the BTR with a 12-hour bandh called by All Bodo Peoples (ABP) shutting down normal life in the region Monday.

Several political and non-political organizations and leaders have strongly condemned the killings, claiming the encounter was 'staged' and the youths killed were innocent.

Bodoland Peoples' Front (BPF) Chief Hagrama Mohilary Tuesday appealed to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to initiate a high level probe by the CBI into the encounter in the "interest of peace and tranquility" in the BTR.

He also appealed to the ULB leadership to refrain from violent activities to prevent loss of life and property.

"I appeal to the UBL leadership to restrain from retaliatory activities or planting of bombs, which might further escalate the situation in Bodoland region," the former Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Chief said.

The police had claimed Saturday that two suspected militants of a newly formed outfit, United Liberation of Bodoland (ULB) had been killed and their camp busted while two pistols and grenades were recovered from the encounter site.

Assam has witnessed a series of "encounters" since the present BJP government, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma assumed office May 10, with many alleged militants and criminals being shot dead or injured while allegedly trying to flee from custody. The opposition has alleged the state police has become "trigger-happy". The Chief Minister however, has supported police action and said Assam police had 'full operational liberty' to fight criminals "within the ambit of law".

In all, 26 accused have been killed so far and 42 others injured when police fired on them claiming that they had tried to escape from custody in the last four-and-half-months.

Cop enters temple, killed in case of mistaken identity

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Sept 22: A policeman died in Kupwara district Wednesday after being shot at by his colleague in a case of mistaken identity, officials said.

Ajay Dhar, a follower in the police department who was posted at Handwara, was shot at by a sentry guarding a temple around 2 am after he failed to stop when asked, they said.

According to preliminary investigation, Dhar was going from the Handwara Police Station to sleep at the temple which is located in main Handwara town.

"The victim was using headphones on his mobile phone. When he reached near the temple, the guard there observed suspicious movement and signalled him to stop. Dhar apparently could not hear the sentry prompting him to open fire," the officials said.

They said Dhar was rushed to a hospital here but succumbed to his injuries during treatment.



This is the second incident of fratricide in Kupwara district in three days. An Army soldier died in a firing incident on Monday following an argument with his colleague during a break from patrolling.

Cong questions Assam CM's involvement in Naga talks

AGENCIES

Guwahati/Kohima, Sept 22: The Congress has raised questions over Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's involvement in the Naga peace talks and said the state's interest may be compromised in the long run.

Demanding publication of the Naga Framework Agreement (NFA), signed between the government of India and the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) in 2015, Assam Congress President Bhupen Kumar Borah has asked the Centre to clear at what capacity Assam CM has been involved in the peace talks in Nagaland. "As a Chief Minister of Assam can he (Sarma) hold talks with NSCN (IM) without discussion in the state Assembly and without taking Cabinet into confidence? The NSCN (IM) has been demanding for 'Greater Nagalim' (integration of Naga dominated areas of neighbouring states) and for all we know it is supposed to include parts of Assam. Congress Party is committed to keeping its state intact and under no circumstances will allow any part of its land into Greater Nagalim," the Assam Congress chief told the media.

He asked: "Can the people of Assam trust Sarma to defend the state's interests when he had miserably failed to do so in the recent Mizoram-Assam border issue? He (Sarma) had publicly said that he is ready to give the whole of Barak



Valley (southern Assam) and even Guwahati to Mizoram? Can Sarma be trusted to defend Assam's interests in his talks with NSCN (IM) when his blind allegiance to the Delhi BJP high command's diktat is well known to all?"

Borah said that it has been reported that Nagaland and Manipur Chief Ministers have also been asked to be part of the talks along with Assam CM but it was learnt that Manipur CM has decided not to participate due to differences on 'Greater Nagalim issue'.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Nagaland Framework Agreement of Government of India with NSCN (I-M) by declaring that this marks the end of a problem. However, the Framework Agreement was not publicly divulged and "though the Congress had demanded at that

time that the contents of the Agreement should be made public, till today nobody knows what is there in it," Borah said.

Subsequently, the Prime Minister appointed a trusted aide, Naga Peace Talks Interlocutor R N Ravi as Governor of Nagaland in 2019. However, Bora alleged this did not help take forward the talks and the Framework Agreement appeared to have become a "Discord Agreement" with public spats between leaders of NSCN (I-M) and the Governor becoming news headlines. The Central government has been separately holding peace talks with the NSCN-IM and eight other outfits, which came together a few years ago under the banner of NNPGs. The NSCN-IM and the other outfits entered into a ceasefire agreement with the Government of India in 1997.

of the day quote

About 87 cases have been recorded in September this year. Last year, 188 cases were reported in entire month of September, and 190 the year before that. In preceding years, the figures stood at 374 (2018), 1103 (2017), 1,300 (2016) and 6,775 (2015)

SATYENDAR JAIN | DELHI HEALTH MINISTER

The NDA government is not talking to the protesting farming community and the trade unions which are fighting against privatisation

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI (M) GENERAL SECRETARY

Like other farmers, potato farmers of Uttar Pradesh are also worried. They have to sell the produce of their hard work for peanuts

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Hidden camera found in washroom

Hyderabad: A hidden camera phone, with its recording switched on and found by a customer in the women's washroom of a drive-in restaurant in Jubilee Hills has led to the arrest of a worker in the eatery. According to the Jubilee Hills police, the phone, which had its camera switched on and was recording, was found in an overhead shelf of the washroom by a woman customer in the restaurant located on Road No.10 in Jubilee Hills. Noticing that the phone camera was recording, she informed the management of the restaurant and also complained to the police.

Vax shortage hits inoculation drive

Chennai: After two successful mega vaccination drives conducted September 12 and 19, the inoculation drive in Tamil Nadu has been hit by the shortage of vaccines. The state did not conduct any vaccinations Monday and Tuesday. Chief Minister MK Stalin has already written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi apprising him of the urgent need for vaccines to the state and has requested 50 lakh vaccines a week.

'Accidental' firing kills man, 2 held

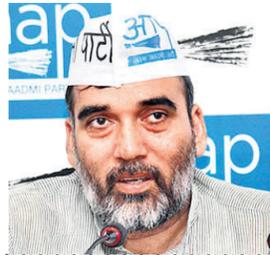
Bulandshahr (UP): A 22-year-old man was killed in accidental firing in Syana area here, police said Wednesday. Manish, a resident of Nayabans, used to work at Lifecare Diagnostic Lab and died under "suspicious" circumstances due to a bullet injury Tuesday night, Alka, Circle Officer of Syana Police said. Police have registered a case against Satyendra, the lab owner, and another person named Bablu and arrested the duo.

Mahant Giri's autopsy concludes

Allahabad: A panel of five doctors Wednesday conducted the post-mortem examination of Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad president Mahant Narendra Giri, and submitted the report to officials. After the post-mortem, the body was taken to the Baghambri Gaddi Muth where preparations were being made to bathe the body in the Ganges and the last rites will be held later in the day.

3 Naxals surrender

Raipur: Three Naxals, one of them carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, surrendered before police in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district Wednesday, an official said.



The trial of the smog tower has been completed. It will be working at full capacity from October 1

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SETS FOOT IN TRIPURA

Even as the Northeast is battling the Covid-19 pandemic, a few states are also witnessing an outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF). After Mizoram witnessed the ASF outbreak, now cases have been reported in Tripura where a large number of pigs have died in a government farm in Kanchanpur



PM calls for mutual recognition of vax certificates Farmers' protest completes 300 days

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Washington, Sept 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Wednesday that international travel should be made easier through mutual recognition of vaccine certificates, amid several countries adopting different sets of rules to allow foreigners to enter their territory in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his video remarks at the Global Covid Summit hosted by US President Joe Biden, Modi also said India is ramping up production capacity of existing vaccines and the supply chains of raw materials must be kept open so that vaccine supplies to other countries can be resumed.

"We also need to focus on addressing the pandemic's economic effects. To that end, international travel should be made easier, through mutual recognition of vaccine certificates," Modi said.

His remarks comes on a day when the UK government issued an updated international travel advisory to include AstraZeneca Covishield among the eligible Covid-19 vaccine formulations but kept India out of the 18 countries on an approved vaccinations list, requiring Indians to follow rules set out for "non-vaccinated" travellers.

Despite the inclusion of Covishield, Indian travellers are not



exempt from the quarantine rules under the UK's new international travel norms that will come into force from October 4. On Monday, the US had announced a new international travel system under which fully vaccinated individuals would be allowed to enter the country beginning early November.

Former US president Donald Trump had imposed a blanket ban on foreign travellers from entering the US at the start of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020. The new system adopted by the Biden administration essentially lifts the travel ban on countries like India that the US had earlier enforced. In his remarks, Prime Minister Modi

said that India is ramping up production capacity of existing vaccines. "As newer Indian vaccines get developed, we are also ramping up production capacity of existing vaccines. As our production increases, we will be able to resume vaccine supplies to others too. For this, the supply chains of raw materials must be kept open," Modi said.

India stopped the export of Covid-19 vaccines after the second wave of the pandemic hit the country in April this year. On Monday, India said that it 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.

COVAX is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines directed by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed India's decision to resume Covid-19 vaccine exports as an "important development" in support of the goal to reach 40 per cent vaccination in all countries by end of the year. Noting that India is running the world's largest vaccination campaign, Modi said that over 200 million Indians are now fully vaccinated.

"Recently, we vaccinated about 25 million people on a single day. Our grassroots level healthcare system has delivered over 800 million vaccine doses so far," he said. "Earlier this year, we shared our vaccine production with 95 other countries, and with UN peacekeepers. And, like a family, the world also stood with India when we were going through a second wave. For the solidarity and support extended to India, I thank you all," he said. Modi said India's pharmaceutical industry has produced cost-effective diagnostic kits, drugs, medical devices and PPE kits. These are providing affordable options to many developing countries, he said.

Preparations for the "Bharat bandh" called by the SKM September 27 are in full swing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: As the ongoing farmers' protest against three contentious agriculture laws of the Centre completed 300 days Wednesday, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said the movement is a testimony to the will and determination of lakhs of farmers across the country that would only grow stronger.

"It has been 300 days since lakhs of farmers were forced to stay put at Delhi's borders. The protesting farmers have been peacefully communicating their resistance against a corporate takeover of India's food and farming systems."

"Their demands are clear and known to the (Narendra) Modi government, which has been obstinately choosing not to agree to these legitimate demands of farmers, even though farmers constitute the largest set of workers in the country and even though elections in our democracy are won through votes cast mainly by farmers," a



statement issued by the SKM said. "The Samyukt Kisan Morcha states that this historic movement stands as a testimony to the will, resolve and hope of lakhs of farmers across the country. The SKM also vows to strengthen the movement, going forward, and make it more widespread," it added.

"Various sections of the society are being reached out to by farmers' outfits in different parts of the country to get their support and solidarity to the farmers' cause, which is also becoming a movement to protect India's democracy," the SKM said.

According to the statement, workers' unions, trade unions, employees' and students' unions, women's organisations, transporters' associations, in addition to the joint planning meetings of many farmers' organisations, are being roped in for the planning of the "bandh".

Will keep Sidhu away from CM's post, says Amarinder



AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Sept 22: Amarinder Singh Wednesday said he would fight Navjot Sidhu's elevation to Punjab Chief Ministership tooth and nail, and was ready to make any sacrifice to save the country from such a "dangerous man".

Even as he reiterated his intention to counter any move to make Sidhu the state's Chief Minister face, Amarinder Singh said he will pit a strong candidate against him in the 2022 Assembly polls to ensure his defeat.

"He (Sidhu) is dangerous for the state," said the former Chief Minister in a series of media interviews.

Asserting that he will only leave politics on a high, he said: "I was ready to leave after a victory but never after a loss."

He disclosed that he had offered his resignation to party President Sonia Gandhi three weeks earlier but she had asked him to continue. "If she had just called me and asked me to step down, I would have," he said, adding that "as a soldier, I know how to do my task and leave once I am called back".

He said he had even told Sonia Gandhi that he was ready to hang

his boots and allow someone else to take over as the Chief Minister after leading the Congress to another sweeping win in Punjab. "But that did not happen, so I will fight," he asserted, taking strong exception at being subjected to "humiliation" by calling a Congress Legislative Party meeting in a secretive manner, without taking him into confidence. "I would not have taken MLAs on a flight to Goa or some place. That is not how I operate. I don't do gimmicks, and the Gandhi siblings know that is not my way," he said, adding: "Priyanka and Rahul (Gandhi) are like my children... this should not have ended like this. I am hurt."

He claimed that the Gandhi siblings were "quite inexperienced" and "their advisors were clearly misguiding them".

Indicating that he was still keeping his political options open, the former Chief Minister said he was talking to his friends before deciding on his future course of action. "You can be old at 40 and young at 80," he quipped, making it clear that he did not see his age as a hurdle.

On allegations of inaccessibility, Amarinder Singh said he had been elected to the Vidhan Sabha seven times and twice to the Parliament.

TN shocker: Woman beheaded in revenge

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 22: In a shocking incident, a 59-year-old woman was beheaded Wednesday as revenge for the 2012 murder of Dalit leader Pasupathi Pandian and her decapitated head placed in front of his residence in Tamil Nadu's Dindigul, police said.

The gruesome murder of Nirmala Devi occurred at Chettinayakanpatti area of Dindigul.

A gang had barged into Pandian's residence in January 2012, killing him instantly. Five persons were killed as revenge for the killing of the Dalit leader even though a trial in the case was taking place.

Nirmala Devi was accused of helping the killers find a house to stay in Dindigul. Inspector General of Police, South Zone, TS Anbu, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Dindigul, B. Vijayakumari, and Superintendent of Police, Dindigul, V.R. Srinivasan are camping at the spot.

Police said that Nirmala Devi was involved in allocation of Mahatma Gandhi National



Employment Guarantee Scheme work in the morning when armed men attacked her with matches, swords, and other lethal weapons. IGP Anbu told media persons that a manhunt is on to nab the culprits.

DESTROYED IN SECONDS



SMC demolishes Majura Fire Station's building in Surat

PTI PHOTO

SC REFUSES TO DEFER 1ST NDA EXAM FOR WOMEN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Wednesday rejected the Centre's plea to defer the first National Defence Academy (NDA) exam for women candidates, and directed they should be allowed to sit for the upcoming exam November 14.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said: "This won't send the right signal to women after having given them the aspiration. Let's begin from this year." As Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, submitted "your lordships may allow us to skip this examination (November 14) which is going to take place, for which your lordships had passed the interim order", the bench said: "Let us see the result -- how many will take it

and how many women will clear the exam", as it emphasised that it finds it difficult to postpone everything by a year. "Having given some hope to the women to take the examination in November, we don't want to belie that hope now," it said.

The bench said the planning can go on and appreciated Centre's endeavour to develop a curriculum and infrastructure for the women cadets, as it reiterated that the Armed Forces should allow women to appear for the NDA exam in November this year, and not wait till May 2022.

Bhati contended that in the very next exam, the first exam of 2022, the girls can participate. "Your Lordships will appreciate that there is a fixed number of every course of NDA - the standards will have to be fixed to start with the medical standards etc," she said.

Top court rejects Shree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Wednesday rejected a plea filed by Shree Padmanabha Swamy Temple Trust (SPSTT), run by the Travancore royal family, seeking it be exempt from the special audit of 25 years as ordered by the top court last year.

The special audit should be completed as early as possible, preferably within three months, the apex court said. A bench headed by Justice U U Lalit said it had initially directed special audit of the temple and its properties be conducted by Vinod Rai, former CAG, in response to the report of the senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, who was appointed amicus curiae in the case April 24, 2014.

The amicus had suggested an audit in his report from the financial year 1989-90 to 2013-14. Later, the order of May 5, 2015 recorded the submissions of senior advocate Arvind P Datar, appearing for SPSTT that it would not have any difficulty in cooperating with Rai in undertaking scrutiny of the audit reports and in conducting a fresh audit.

"It is quite clear that the audit contemplated by said direction was not intended to be confined to the Temple but was also with respect to SPSTT. This direction has to be seen in the light of the report dated April 15, 2014 of the amicus curiae and the submissions of Datar. Thus, the first prayer made in Miscellaneous Application No.1465 of 2021 deserves to be rejected," said the bench.

The apex court however refrained from passing any order on the plea of the Trust to exempt it from the administrative supervision of the Administrative Committee constituted by it saying that it requires factual analysis.

Air pollution biggest environmental threat: WHO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to human health alongside climate change, the World Health Organisation said Wednesday as it released its new air quality guidelines for the first time since its last global update in 2005.

"New World Health Organisation Global Air Quality Guidelines provide clear evidence of the damage air pollution inflicts on human health, at even lower concentrations than previously understood," it said in a statement.

The guidelines recommend new air quality levels to protect the health of populations, by reducing levels of key air pollutants, some of which also contribute to climate change.

AQG is an annual mean con-

MATTER OF CONCERN



centration guideline for particulate matter and other pollutants. "Since WHO's last 2005 global update, there has been a marked increase of evidence that shows how air pollution affects different aspects

of health. For that reason, and after a systematic review of the accumulated evidence, WHO has adjusted almost all the AQGs levels downwards, warning that exceeding the new air quality guide-

line levels is associated with significant risks to health," the WHO said.

The 2021 guidelines stipulate that PM 10 should not exceed 15 µg/m3 (micrograms per cubic metre of air) annually, or 45 µg/m3 24-hour mean. According to the

2005 guideline, the limit was 20 µg/m3 annual mean or 50 µg/m3 24-hour mean for PM 10.

They recommend that PM 2.5 should not exceed 5 µg/m3 annual mean, or 15 µg/m3 24-hour mean. As per the 2005 guideline, the limit was 10 µg/m3 annual mean or 25 µg/m3 24-hour mean for PM 2.5.

Under the 2005 guideline, the AQG level of another pollutant Nitrogen Dioxide was 40 µg/m3 annual mean which has now been changed by the WHO to 10 µg/m3.

The global health body added that by striving to achieve these guideline levels, countries will be both protecting health as well as mitigating global climate change.

In 2013, outdoor air pollution and particulate matter were classified as carcinogenic by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

international

of the day quote

Rich countries hoard life-saving vaccines while poor nations wait for trickles. They now talk of booster shots, while developing countries consider half doses just to get by

North Korea, for its part, must brace for changes that benefit the era of global community... Remain always ready and willing to reach out to North Korea in a cooperative spirit

We maintain our stance in favour of solving the ongoing problem in Kashmir for 74 years, through dialogue between the parties and within the framework of relevant United Nations resolutions

SHORT TAKES

Sri Lanka probes prison minister

Colombo: Sri Lanka police are investigating an incident in which the government prisons minister allegedly threatened to kill two ethnic minority detainees inside a prison, an official said Wednesday. Lohan Ratwatte, state minister of Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation, resigned last week following a public outcry after he was accused of threatening to kill two Tamil prisoners. He was also accused of forcibly entering another prison with his friends to show them the gallows. Government spokesman Dullas Alahapperuma said a police investigation is underway. He said Cabinet ministers also discussed the allegations at their weekly meeting on Tuesday and Justice Minister Ali Sabri sought approval to launch a separate investigation headed by a retired judge.

Shots fired

Kyiv: Ukrainian police say the car of a top aide to the country's president came under heavy gunfire, seriously wounding the driver. The national police said more than 10 bullets were fired Wednesday at the car of Serhiy Shefir, first assistant to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Authorities said Shefir was not hurt, but did not clarify if he was in the car at the time of the shooting in a village on the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv. No arrests have been made.

One dead

Louisville: A drive-by shooting at a school bus stop Wednesday morning in Kentucky left one student dead and another hospitalised, police said. A third child was injured by unknown means as the youths waited at the bus stop just west of downtown Louisville, authorities said. A car drove by and shot at the waiting children, some of whom were not injured, Louisville Metro Police Maj. Shannon Lauder said during a news conference. She asked the public to come forward with any information about the shooting.

Quake hits Victoria

Sydney: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 jolted 38 km south of Mount Buller in Australia's state of Victoria Tuesday night, the US Geological Survey said. Geoscience Australia reported the earthquake occurred at 9:15 am on Wednesday and was 10-kilometers deep. The epicentre, around Mansfield in Victoria's north-east, is about 130 km away from Australia's second largest city of Melbourne.



The UN should serve as the central platform for countries to jointly safeguard universal security, share development achievements and chart the course for the future of the world
XI JINPING | CHINESE PRESIDENT

NARAYAN KHADKA IS NEW FOREIGN MINISTER OF NEPAL

Veteran Nepali Congress leader Narayan Khadka has been appointed as country's Foreign Minister. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has appointed Khadka as new Foreign Minister Wednesday, Deuba's private secretariat has confirmed



INDIAN TRAVELLERS MUST FOLLOW NON-VACCINATED RULES, SAYS UK

Under new international travel norms that come in force for England from October 4, India is not yet on a list of 17 countries on an approved vaccinations list and therefore not exempt from quarantine rules



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 22: The UK government Wednesday issued an updated international travel advisory to include AstraZeneca Covishield among the eligible COVID-19 vaccine formulations but kept India out of the 17 countries on an approved vaccinations list, requiring Indians to follow rules set out for non-vaccinated travellers. Under new international travel norms that come in force for England from October 4, India is not yet on a list of 17 countries on an approved vaccinations list and therefore not exempt from quarantine rules. There was widespread condemnation of the Serum Institute of India manufactured Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, Covishield, not being covered under the reviewed international travel norms and fully vaccinated travellers from India being subjected to the compulsory 10-day quarantine in line with non-vaccinated travellers. "We are engaging with the government of India to explore how we could expand UK recognition of vaccine certification to people vaccinated by a relevant public health

body in India," a British High Commission spokesperson said on Wednesday. "The UK is committed to opening up international travel again as soon as is practicable and this announcement is a further step to enable people to travel more freely again, in a safe and sustainable way, while protecting public health," the spokesperson said. It came amid much confusion over the process for Indian travellers as the advisory states: "Formulations of the 4 listed vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Moderna Takeda, qualify as approved vaccines." However, UK government officials have indicated that Indian travellers to the UK must follow the "non-vaccinated rules", which means Indian passengers must take a COVID test three days before departure and book in advance for two COVID tests to be taken upon arrival in England. On arrival in England, the passengers must self-isolate in the place they have confirmed on their passenger locator form for 10 days. A privately paid-for "Test to Release" option does exist at day five, which allows an early end to the 10-day quarantine with a negative PCR test.

China, Russia, Pak envoys meet Taliban officials in Kabul



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 22: Special envoys of China, Russia and Pakistan have met the top officials of the Taliban's interim government as well as Afghan leaders Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul and discussed the formation of an inclusive government, combating terrorism and humanitarian situation, a top Chinese official said Wednesday. The three special envoys visited Kabul from September 21 to 22 and held talks with acting Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Akhund, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, Finance Minister and other high-level officials of the interim government, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here. Significantly, they also met with former President Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, President of the Council for National Reconciliation under the previous government. "We exchanged views on the current developments in the country, & welcomed the role of AFG's neighbours in achieving peace, stability & inclusive government," Abdullah Abdullah tweeted. "They emphasised on formation of an inclusive government acceptable to all, peace, stability, moderate policy, respecting women rights, equal right of education for all Afghans & regional

cooperation," he said. This is perhaps the first time that the foreign diplomats met Karzai and Abdullah who stayed put in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan last month ahead of the withdrawal of the US and NATO troops. "The Taliban underscored special attention to advancing relations with Russia, China and Pakistan and stressed the major role of the three countries in strengthening peace and security in Afghanistan," Russia's TASS news agency reported, citing Russian government news release on the three envoys' visit to Kabul. All three countries kept their embassies open in Kabul while the US, India and the EU countries have closed their missions after Taliban's takeover of Kabul. Besides coordinating closely with Russia on Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, who are playing a lead role after the Taliban seized Kabul, are trying to establish a new grouping of countries sharing borders with Afghanistan. The new grouping includes China, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, all of them Afghanistan's neighbours. The Foreign Ministers of the group held a virtual meeting September 7. Highlighting its significance, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said Tuesday that the new group will jointly decide about extending recognition to the Taliban's interim government.

Taliban name Shaheen as Afghan envoy to UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 22: The Taliban have written to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres nominating their spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's new ambassador to the UN and have asked to participate and speak in the high-level 76th session of the General Assembly currently underway here. The nomination sets up a confrontation between the Taliban and Afghanistan's fallen government envoy, Gram Isakzai, who has held his post so far. The Taliban swept across the country last month, seizing control of almost all key towns and cities in the backdrop of withdrawal of the US forces that began on May 1. On August 15, the capital city of Kabul fell to the insurgents. The Taliban claimed victory over opposition forces in the last holdout province of Panjshir on September 6, completing their takeover of

Afghanistan three weeks after capturing Kabul. On September 20, on the eve of the commencement of the high-level UN General Debate, the Secretary-General received a communication with the letterhead "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs" dated September 20, 2021, signed by "Ameer Khan Muttaqi" as "Minister of Foreign Affairs". In the letter, the Taliban requested to participate in the "76th session of the UN General Assembly on September 21-27." Farhan Haq, the Deputy Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said that the letter also indicates that as of August 15, 2021, "Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is ousted and (countries across the world) no longer recognise him as president". Ghani, who had fled the country as the Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15, had appointed Isakzai as Kabul's envoy to the UN in June 2021.

Five million Chinese will be working in Pak in next 4 years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: There would be around five million Chinese nationals working in Pakistan by 2025, The News has reported. To meet the health needs of these Chinese nationals, a collaboration between the Pakistani and Chinese medical universities, research institutes and biotechnological firms under the China Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC) is being enhanced, a senior Pakistani public health expert said on Tuesday. Vice Chancellor Health Services Academy (HSA) Prof Dr Shahzad Ali Khan told The News: "In order to meet the health needs of millions of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asian States, we need to have specialised health facilities, based on both modern and traditional treatment systems.



"This can only be achieved by enhancing collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese health institutions under the China Pakistan Health Corridor." He said talks were in advanced stages to sign multiple, joint collaborative agreements with different Chinese academic, research institutes and biotechnological firms and added that during the 11th Annual Public Health Conference in Islamabad on September 23-24, 2021, several

Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) would be signed between Pakistan and Chinese institutions. "We wish to train Pakistani experts in modern medical technologies as well as traditional Chinese medicines, which is a treatment of choice by millions of people in China. These experts would not only fulfill the medical needs of visiting Chinese nationals but also of the Pakistani people, who believe in alternate medicine," Prof Shahzad Ali Khan said. In the first step, Chairman China Pakistan Health Corridor Dr Lee, also the VC, HSA, will sign an MoU for the HSA's joining into the China Pakistan Health Corridor, he said, adding the Department of Public Health of Wuhan University will sign an MoU for multiple cooperation in the academic partnership between China and Pakistan in the field of public health.

Quad summit faces changed environment after US pullout

THE CHAOTIC US WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN HAS CHANGED THE DYNAMICS IN THE REGION GIVING CHINA AN EDGE BECAUSE OF ITS ADOPTION OF THE TALIBAN WHILE RAISING DOUBTS FOR THE ALLIES ABOUT THEIR RELIANCE ON THE US

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Sept 22: When Prime Minister Narendra Modi sits down Friday with President Joe Biden and Prime Ministers Yoshihide Suga of Japan and Scott Morrison of Australia for their in-person summit - the first with Biden - they will face a world with a new set of complexities - but also a higher level of intent by the US to involve itself in the region. The chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan has changed the dynamics in the region giving China an edge because of its adoption of the Taliban while raising doubts for the allies about their reliance on the US.

Former British Prime Minister Theresa May asked in Parliament, "What does it say about NATO, if we are entirely dependent on a unilateral decision by the US?" The European Union (EU) also is stepping up its involvement in the Indo-Pacific, but independent of the US. But Biden has shifted his priorities to the Indo-Pacific where a direct confrontation with China is building up and, in fact, he cited that as a rationale for pulling out of Afghanistan. He is continuing on the path to expanding the role of the Quad beyond just security matters, a goal the leaders set when they held a virtual summit in March.



Giving a reassurance about the commitment to the group, he said

at the UN on Tuesday, "We elevated the Quad partnership among

Biden has shifted his priorities to the Indo-Pacific where a direct confrontation with China is building up and, in fact, he cited that as a rationale for pulling out of Afghanistan

Australia, India, Japan and the United States to take on challenges ranging from health security to climate to emerging technologies, engaging with regional institutions." In another indication of the com-

mitment, Australia, the United Kingdom and the US announced a security pact, AUKUS, that could impact the Indo-Pacific region. He has offered Australia nuclear-powered submarines that would make its navy more effective in facing threats from China. But at the same time, it set off a diplomatic spat with France, whose contract to sell diesel submarines to Australia was scuttled. The EU, which had been somewhat ambivalent about the strong policy that Biden has co-opted from the strategic arsenal of former President Donald Trump, is also showing renewed interest in the Indo-Pacific with plans of its own.



Our endeavour should be to ensure livable and sustainable growth in the post-pandemic future. Restoring the durability of private consumption, which has remained historically the mainstay of aggregate demand will be very crucial going forward

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

NIGERIA, GHANA IN RACE TO HAVE OWN DIGITAL CURRENCY

Nigeria and Ghana are racing to adopt a central bank digital currency as they look to ride the wave of popularity of cryptocurrencies in West Africa's two largest economies. Central banks in both countries have partnered with foreign financial tech companies to create digital versions of their currencies



of the day quote

With this package all of those fears to some extent have been put aside. With this tremendous change our business plans will have to be updated, which means our funding requirements will also have to be updated

RAVINDER TAKKAR | CEO, VODAFONE INDIA

As part of its commitments, the bank has set a target of incremental lending of ₹30,000 crore over the next 5 years, under wholesale banking towards pertinent sectors included in its Sustainable Financing Framework

RAJESH DAHIYA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AXIS BANK

I have spoken to authorities to complete the two-phase work by 2024 though the original deadline is 2025. The plan has been reworked and rescheduled. I have asked BMRCCL to speed up work as commuters are suffering

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | CM, KARNATAKA

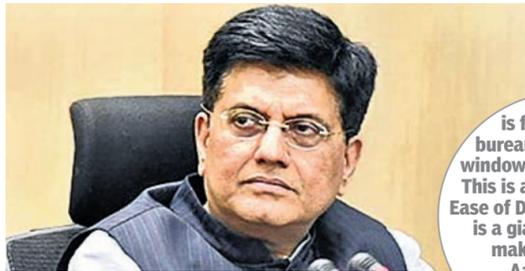
Govt unveils single window system for investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Wednesday soft launched the National Single Window System for businesses and said the portal will usher in freedom from the legacy of running to government offices for approvals and registrations.

Goyal said the single window portal will become a one-stop-shop for investors for approvals and clearances. He further said the portal would bring transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the ecosystem and all information will be available on a single dashboard.

"This platform is an enabler for



businesses. The government has come together to work as Team India in partnership with industry, stakeholders and the people. This collective approach has resulted in this game-changing initiative," he added.

The National Single Window System would "usher in Azadi" from legacy of running to government offices, from paperwork, duplication and information asymmetry, he said.

Goyal further said India holds the attention of the world. The entire world, he said is looking at India to rise and claim its rightful place as an economic powerhouse.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) congratulated the entire team for the soft launch of

National Single Window system. Vice President-FICCI India and IMFA MD Subhrakant Panda said,

This is freedom from bureaucracy and from windows within windows. This is a big step towards Ease of Doing Business. This is a giant leap towards making India truly Aatmanirbhar

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

"The soft launch of the National Single Window System is a very welcome development. FICCI has been strongly advocating it to facilitate investment, and I congratulate Piyush Goyal and DPIIT for making it a reality. The adoption of such an approach at a national level integrating 32 ministries of the central government and 14 states augurs well in making India a destination of choice for investors."

"Odisha has been a pioneer in adopting the Single Window approach which has resulted in a lot of investment commitments even through the pandemic period. I believe a coordinated approach between the centre and state will result in a very positive outcome," Panda added.

L&T commissions expansion of UAIL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Larsen & Toubro has commissioned the 0.5 MTPA (million tonne per annum) expansion project of Utkal Alumina International (UAIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hindalco, company's statement said.

The statement said, "The plant is located at a remote location at Kucheipadar, near Tikiri in Rayagada district, Odisha. With this expansion, the alumina production capacity of the refinery has been upgraded from 1.5 MTPA to 2 MTPA."

The expansion project was recently inaugurated by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The Metallurgical and Material Handling (MMH) has executed several alumina refinery projects in the domestic and the international markets in the past.

L&TMMH has executed this project in a time bound manner ensuring the most critical process units of the refinery are ready. The company used the modular erection methods with sophisticated machinery for speedier project execution.

MILESTONE MOMENT

First tech startup to list on Nasdaq

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 22: Tech firm Freshworks Wednesday made its debut on the Nasdaq stock exchange after a billion-dollar IPO, making it the first Indian SaaS company to list on the American bourse.

The San Mateo, California-headquartered software as a service (SaaS) company was founded in 2010 by Girish Mathrubootham and Shan Krishnasamy in Chennai. The company had announced the pricing of its IPO of 28,500,000 shares of Class A common stock at USD 36 per share.

"Today is a dream come true for me - from humble beginnings in #Trichy to ringing the bell at #Nasdaq for the Freshworks IPO. Thank you to our employees, customers, partners, and investors for believing in this dream. #Freshworks #IPO #NASDAQ," Mathrubootham tweeted.

India to block Chinese investment in LIC IPO

The trust deficit has significantly widened, said one of the government officials, adding that Chinese investment in companies like LIC could pose risks

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 22: New Delhi wants to block Chinese investors from buying shares in Indian insurance giant Life Insurance Corp (LIC) which is due to go public, four senior government officials and a banker told agencies, underscoring tensions between the two nations.

State-owned LIC is considered a strategic asset, commanding more than 60% of India's life insurance market with assets of more than \$500 billion. While the government is planning to allow foreign investors to participate in what is likely to be the country's biggest-ever IPO (Initial Public Offering) worth a potential \$12.2 billion, it is leery of Chinese ownership, the sources said.

Political tensions between the countries rocketed last year after their soldiers clashed on the disputed Himalayan border and since then, India has sought to limit Chinese investment in sensitive companies and sectors, banned a



raft of Chinese mobile apps and subjected imports of Chinese goods to extra scrutiny.

Aiming to solve budget constraints, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration is hoping to raise 900 billion rupees through selling 5% to 10% of LIC this financial year which ends in March. The government has yet to decide on whether it will sell one tranche of shares seeking to raise the full amount or choose to seek the funds in two tranches, sources have said.

Options to prevent Chinese investment in LIC include amending the current law on foreign direct investment with a clause that relates to LIC or creating a new

Govt is hoping to raise 900 billion rupees through selling 5% to 10% of LIC this financial year

Under current law, no overseas investors can invest in LIC but the government is considering allowing foreign institutional investors to buy up to 20% of LIC's offering

Ten investment banks including Goldman Sachs, Citigroup and SBI Capital Market have been chosen to handle the offering

law specific to LIC, two of the government officials said.

They added that the government was conscious of the difficulty in checking on Chinese investments that could come indirectly and would attempt to craft a policy that would protect India's security but not deter overseas investors.

A third option being explored is barring Chinese investors from becoming cornerstone investors in the IPO, said one government official and the banker, although that would not prevent Chinese investors from buying shares in the secondary market.

SHORT TAKES

Crude oil production falls, gas output rises

New Delhi: India's crude oil production fell 2.3 per cent in August but natural gas output rose by more than a fifth on the back of output from KG-D6 fields of Reliance-BP, government data released Wednesday showed. Crude oil production dropped to 2.51 million tonnes in August as output from fields operated by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) dipped. India is 85% dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and the government has been for long looking at ways to raise the domestic output to reduce import dependence.

Flipkart launches marketplace model

New Delhi: Walmart-owned Flipkart Wednesday said it is introducing a separate marketplace model 'Flipkart Xtra' to offer flexible earning opportunities to individuals, service agencies and technicians. Through the 'Flipkart Xtra' app on Google Play Store, Flipkart will provide a simple and seamless onboarding experience to interested individuals. After background verification, individuals will be able to onboard themselves for various roles, including delivery executives to start with, and service partners or technicians in the coming months.

RattanIndia forays into drone business

Mumbai: RattanIndia Enterprises Wednesday announced the launch of its drone business with its wholly-owned subsidiary NeoSky India Limited. NeoSky India will develop a cutting edge drone system platform, focusing on industry applications in India. The company recently made a strategic investment in US-based urban drone logistics. "I am sure NeoSky will usher in a new era of aerial industry applications with its cutting edge drones platform," said Anjali Rattan, Business Chairperson of RattanIndia Enterprises.

Hero Electric plans to ramp up production

New Delhi: Hero Electric Wednesday said it plans to ramp up production capacity at its Ludhiana facility to over five lakh units by March next year in order to cater to enhanced demand for electric two-wheelers. The company's electric scooters, with the revised amendments to FAME 2 and additional state subsidies, were the most affordable in the country, it said.

BIZ BUZZ

Audi drives in two electric supercars

New Delhi: German luxury carmaker Audi Wednesday launched two fully electric four-door coupes - the e-tron GT and the RS e-tron GT - in India, priced at ₹1.79 crore and ₹2.04 crore, respectively (ex-showroom). The e-tron GT comes with a power of 390 kW and accelerates from 0-100 km/h in 4.1 seconds, while the 475 kW RS e-tron GT achieves the same feat in 3.3 seconds. "Today is a milestone day for us as we launch India's first electric supercars. This is our fourth and fifth electric vehicle launch since July 2021 and we couldn't be more excited for our customers," Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon said in a statement.



Fossil launches new smartwatch Gen 6

New Delhi: Fossil Wednesday launched its Gen 6 Touchscreen Smartwatch, the newest generation of its wearables. Gen 6 is the first smartwatch powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon Wear 4100+ Platform, providing users faster application load times, highly responsive user experiences, and more efficient power consumption, the US watches and accessories firm said. Fossil for the first time is introducing a smartwatch in the US and other markets, including India, simultaneously. Fossil brand Gen 6 will be the first to market and pre-orders will begin September 25 onwards on fossil.com.



Indian Bank CEO meets Odisha CS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: SL Jain, MD and CEO of Indian Bank, met Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Chief Secretary of Odisha and Vishal Dev, Secretary of Finance and discussed about various projects currently in progress and upcoming business prospects in the state.

The Chief Secretary Mahapatra said that there are several projects in road, infrastructure, health and education which are coming up in the state from Govt & private industrial houses where bank can consider participation.

Vishal Dev requested for enhanced participation of the bank with SHGs, PSC, agriculture, allied activities and MSME in the state for the improvement in CD (credit deposit) ratio. Jain briefed about the bank's



presence and business position in India and Odisha. In Odisha, the bank has 205 branches, 141 ATMs and 245 BCs with a total business of ₹19,000 crore. The bank is also actively involved in financing to MSMEs, agri, retail, SHGs and allied agriculture activities. The bank has launched an online training programme 'MSME

Prerana' for financial literacy and capacity building of entrepreneurs in association with knowledge partners.

Jain assured Indian Bank's enhanced participation in the State with objective to reach the unbanked by increasing footprints all across Odisha for utilising its full potential.

Things to remember while renewing motor, health insurance policies

Renewals allow you an opportunity to review your contract, upgrade and improve your cover to ensure that you are thoroughly protected

Motor Insurance

IDV - Insured declared value is the most important element in your motor insurance and directly affects the cost of the premium. IDV reflects the maximum amount which you will get from your insurer in case of total loss. During renewal, you might be allured by the prospect of paying a lower premium offered by another insurer; however, more often than not this lower premium comes at the cost of reduced IDV. Please do not compromise your IDV for a lower premium, as it will leave you underinsured.

No claim bonus - You are eligible for no claim bonus if you haven't filed any claim in the preceding year. For each claim-free year, your insurer rewards you with NCB which goes maximum up to 50% for 5 consecutive claim-free years. NCB discount can consid-

erably reduce your Own Damage (OD) premium; make sure you opt for NCB during claim-free years. I want to highlight that NCB discount applies only to OD premium, not the entire premium which constitutes both the premiums, OD and TP.

Add On features - Apart from the standard cover, motor insurance offers many useful add-ons which help in building a complete protection plan for your vehicle. Few add-ons like engine protection cover, zero depreciation cover, no claim

bonus protection cover, return to invoice cover can add value and bolster your motor insurance. Also, few add on covers are granted basis to the age of the vehicle and may not be available for your older vehicles.

Health Insurance

Sum Insured adequacy - Renewal is the right time to re-visit your sum insured limit and evaluate its sufficiency. The sum insured that you opted initially might not be ade-

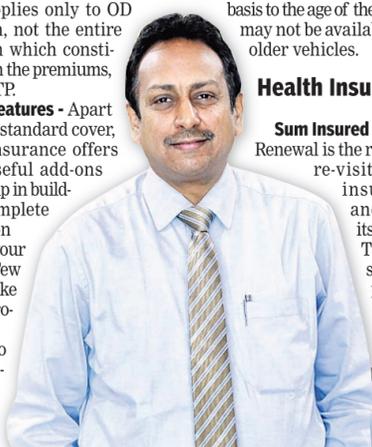
quate a few years down the line due to medical inflation and increased cost of treatment. A high sum insured ensures that you have sufficient cover during the time of need.

Top-up plan - While evaluating the adequacy of your health cover, if you realize that your current policy is not sufficient to cover you during exigency, you can avail top-up plan. They are designed to provide you additional coverage over and above the base policy at a nominal price. Top-up plans give you the freedom to explore the market since you can buy the cover from any insurer of your choice and are not bound to buy it from your incumbent insurer.

Disclosure of new ailments - If you or the insured members in

the policy have acquired any new ailment, it is in your best interest to declare it during the renewal. In a health insurance policy, it is of material importance that you share the details related to your health with your insurer to avoid hassles later, especially during the time of claims.

I know, it becomes difficult to keep track of the renewal dates, and it is one of the major reasons why policy lapses. However, today all leading insurance companies have their apps which are as important as any other application on your mobile. These apps have a dashboard that will give you an overview of all your policies. It will help you in keeping track of your renewals besides the entire policy management. In a matter of few simple clicks, you can renew your insurance contract and enjoy peace of mind.



T A RAMALINGAM
Chief Technical Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Dominant DC maul SRH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 22: Delhi Capitals (DC) rode on a brilliant fast bowling performance from their South African duo Anrich Nortje (2/12) and Kagiso Rabada (3/37) to pulverise wooden spooners Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by eight wickets as they took a giant leap towards IPL play-offs Wednesday.

Capitals produced top-notch performance in their first match of the second phase of this year's IPL to eke out the easy win in 17.5 overs in their pursuit of a modest 135-run target.

It was only possible after fast furious Nortje bowled at 150 clicks and was ably supported Rabada and Axar Patel (2/21) in a brilliant bowling effort.

Last edition's runners-up are now well and truly in contention for clinching a play-off berth with 14 points from nine games while SRH with two points are all but out of the competition.

DC started their chase on an aggressive note with Shikhar Dhawan (42, 37b, 6x4, 1x6) and young Prithvi Shaw (11) adding 20 runs in 17 balls before the latter was caught by Kane Williamson off the bowling of Khaleel Ahmed as the batsman went for an extravagant shot over mid-wicket.

Orange Cap Dhawan was unperturbed as he continued his attacking batting. While SRH batsmen struggled, Dhawan made batting look easy on the wicket as DC reached 69/1 in the 10th over.

But Dhawan paid the price for being too aggressive when he was holed out by Abdul Samad off the bowling of Rashid Khan (1/26) as the left-hander went for a slog sweep over deep square leg in search of a six.

Shreyas Iyer (47 n o, 41b, 2x4, 2x6), who played the second fiddle when Dhawan was around, then took the onus on himself and upped the ante. Iyer continued to bat freely and in the company of skipper Rishabh Pant (35 n o, 21b, 3x4, 2x6) took DC home with 13 balls to spare.

Earlier, SRH put up a dismal batting performance to manage a meagre 134/9. Nortje and Rabada were terrific with the ball as they extracted extra bounce and pace from the relatively low and slow wicket to dismantle SRH top-order.



Anrich Nortje (L) celebrates with teammates after dismissing David Warner (not in picture), Wednesday

BRIEF SCORES

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD 134/9
(Abdul Samad 28, Rashid Khan 22; Kagiso Rabada 3/37, Anrich Nortje 2/12, Axar Patel 2/21)

lost to DELHI CAPITALS 139/2
(Shreyas Iyer 47 n o, Shikhar Dhawan 42, Rishabh Pant 35 n o; Rashid Khan 1/26)

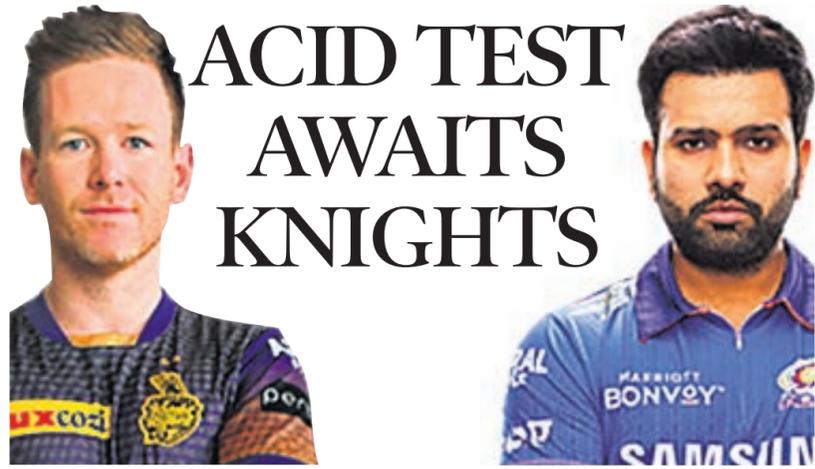
BY 8 WICKETS.

The script didn't turn out as SRH wanted after opting to bat as they lost David Warner (0) in the third ball of the innings without any runs on the board. Wriddhiman Saha (18) then added 29 runs with skipper Williamson (18) before the former mistimed a pull to Dhawan

at midwicket of the bowling of Rabada.

Williamson and Manish Pandey then stitched 31 runs for the third wicket but SRH soon suffered a jolt when their skipper gave a simple catch to Shimron Hetmyer at long-off the bowling of Patel. Pandey (18) followed suit and Kedar Jadhav (3) too didn't help his cause either. Jason Holder (10) too turned out to be a big flop for SRH.

Damage already done, Abdul Samad (28) tried his best to shore up the run-rate in company of Rashid Khan (22) but he too departed in search of quick runs, top-edging a miss-timed pull to DC skipper Rishabh Pant off Rabada's bowling.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 22: Defending champions Mumbai Indians would look for inspiration from skipper Rohit Sharma, who is set to return to action, when they take on a rejuvenated Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Indian Premier League match here Thursday.

Mumbai were without the services of Rohit and star all-rounder Hardik Pandya in their 20-run defeat to Chennai Super Kings Sunday as both were rested as a precautionary measure due to having niggles. However, head coach Mahela Jayawardene has said Rohit should be fit and available for selection for the match against KKR.

KKR, on the other hand, have registered a dominating nine-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in their opening game of the second leg of the league.

Mumbai, who are currently placed fourth in the table with eight points, began their second

TODAY'S MATCH
MI v KKR
Time: 07:30 pm
TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

leg campaign in a typical slow manner but with only half the tournament left to play, the defending champions need to win to stay in the top half of the league table.

Rohit, who has been in fine touch of late, will be expected to continue in the same vein and help his side make amends of the inept batting performance against CSK. Apart from Saurabh Tewary, who hit an unbeaten half century, none of the other batsmen were able to capitalize on their starts against CSK, failing to chase down 156.

On the other hand, the comprehensive win would have boosted KKR's confidence. Having struggled in the first leg, KKR looked a completely different unit, in the manner in which they defeated RCB.

The Eoin Morgan-led side, placed sixth in the points table, fired on all cylinders with mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and star all-rounder Andre Russell wreaking havoc with the ball before openers Shubman Gill and debutant Venkatesh Iyer chased down the 93-run target with 10 overs to spare.

Skipper Morgan had said that KKR would be dangerous opponents with nothing to lose in the second leg and the team certainly looked menacing against RCB. They will hope to continue playing in a similar aggressive fashion and win the title just like 2014 edition when they notched nine victories in a row.

They will also hold the edge over their rivals having already experienced the conditions at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium against RCB.

COMMENTS ON RR-PBKS MATCH

KARTIK TYAGI: This feels really good. I have been talking to seniors over the years and they keep telling me that things keep changing in this format, so I need to keep believing. I've always heard from everyone and also watched games in this format where strange things have happened. Today, I was fortunate to play a big role in something special.

SANJU SAMSON: It's funny that we kept believing (that we could win). I kept the overs of Mustafizur and Tyagi for the end, believing. Cricket is a funny game right. We just kept fighting and believing. I always believe in my bowlers, want to keep fighting and that's why I kept those two overs till the end. To be very honest, to get that score on this wicket, we felt good because we had the bowling. If we took the catches, we could have won the game earlier. People have really worked hard on their fitness.

KL RAHUL: This is a tough one to swallow. We need to see how we can handle pressure better. It's happened to the best in the game. Tough one to swallow that you haven't learnt from your previous mistakes. We bowled decent lengths in the first six. Unfortunately that edges got it away from us. But we pulled this back nicely with the ball.

ANIL KUMBLE: It's (letting the game slip away) sort of become a bit of a pattern for us, especially as soon as we get to Dubai, it seems. There was a clear message saying we need to finish this game in 19 overs, and that was the approach. Unfortunately, we let it till the end, and in the last couple of balls it becomes a lottery (with) a new batsman going in, it is a bit of lottery.



RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

Government of Odisha, Rugby India and supporting partner Blade Urban Air Mobility (India) Wednesday felicitated and announced cash rewards (ranging from Rs 4-5 lakhs per partner) for the 15-member girls team, who secured silver medal at the Asia Rugby U-18 Girls Rugby Sevens Championship in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), here at the Lok Seva Bhawan. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik acknowledged and applauded the effort of the team through a video message during the event.

Kho kho nationals gets underway



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The 40th Junior National Kho Kho Championship got underway after its inauguration at the KIIT Campus

here, Wednesday. In the matches being played Wednesday, Telangana eked out a narrow 13-11 win over Assam. Jharkhand completely decimated Dadra & Nagar Haveli 28-2, while

Puducherry registered a 23-14 victory over Himachal Pradesh. Kerala, on the other hand, outplayed Arunachal Pradesh 26-2.

SOFT TENNIS TEAMS LEAVE
Odisha teams left Wednesday for the 18th National Senior Soft Tennis Championships in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. The event will take place September 26-30.

THE TEAMS: (Men) Manas Ranjan Singh (C), Mohammed Aman, Ajit Sabar, Rajat Kumar Raita, Bikash Kumar Mohapatra, Dasarathi Muduli, Mohammed Azam (coach), Bhagwan Sethi (manager); (Women) Anasuya Barik (C), Pupran Oram, Manisa Oram, Hemanti Bilung.

Pak blames India for NZ withdrawal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 22: Pakistan Wednesday alleged that a threatening email was sent to the New Zealand cricket squad from India, which prompted the Kiwis to call off a tour of the country.

The Kiwis called off their first tour of Pakistan after 18 years last Friday due to a security threat to the team, followed by a decision by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Monday to cancel a bilateral series scheduled for next month in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been claiming that India was behind some of the terror attacks in the country recently. India has dismissed these claims as "baseless propaganda" and asked Islamabad to take "credible and verifiable" action against terrorism emanating from its soil instead.

"It is not new for Pakistan to engage in baseless propaganda against India. Pakistan would do well to expend the same effort in setting its own house in order and taking credible and verifiable action against terrorism emanating from its soil and terrorists who have found safe sanctuaries there," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in July.

"The international community is well aware of Pakistan's credentials when it comes to terrorism. This is acknowledged by none other



Pakistan paramilitary troops and police officials stand guard outside the Pindi Cricket Stadium following the cancellation of the first ODI, eventually the tour, against New Zealand, September 17

than its own leadership, which continues to glorify terrorists like Osama Bin Laden as 'martyrs'," he said.

Speaking at a press conference alongside Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed here Wednesday, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that a fake post was created in August under Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan militant Ehsanullah Ehsan's name which told the New Zealand cricket board and government to refrain from sending the team to Pakistan as it would be "targeted".

Despite this, the New Zealand cricket team travelled to Pakistan. However, on the day of the first match New Zealand officials said that their government had concerns of a credible threat and cancelled the tour, Chaudhry said. "PCB officials, the interior min-

istry security team, everyone went to them and asked them to share the threat... (but) they were as clueless as us," he was quoted as saying by 'Dawn News'.

He said that a day later, a second threatening email was sent to the New Zealand team using the ID, Hamza Afridi. He claimed that investigating authorities discovered that the email was sent from a device associated with India.

"It was sent using a virtual private network (VPN) so the location was shown as Singapore," he claimed. He said that the same device had 13 other IDs, nearly all of which were Indian names.

"The device used to send the threat to the New Zealand team belonged to India. A fake ID was used but it was sent from Maharashtra," he claimed.

He said that the interior ministry had registered a case and had requested Interpol for assistance and information on the Tehreek-i-Labbaik ProtonMail and the ID of Hamza Afridi.

He said that the West Indies team was travelling to Pakistan in December. "A threat has already been issued to the team," he claimed, adding that this was also issued via a ProtonMail account.

"This is unfortunate. We believe this is a campaign against international cricket. The International Cricket Council (ICC) and other bodies must take notice," he said.

Tuesday, Chaudhry had claimed that his country was paying a price for saying no to the US on allowing American military bases on its soil.

Commenting on England's decision to cancel their tour, Chaudhry said that British High Commissioner Christian Turner had made it clear that the United Kingdom government's advisory for Pakistan was not being changed.

"So if the government has no reservations, who is the ECB (to cancel the tour)? To claim that players are tired is a shoddy excuse," he said. He said that PCB chairman Rameez Raja, foreign ministry and Interior ministry would take up the issue at all concerned forums and Pakistan Television would evaluate the financial losses. "We are working on this and if our legal team permits, we will sue the ECB," he said.

CITY, REDS ADVANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 22: Bidding to win the English League Cup for a fifth straight season, Manchester City's players fell behind during a game in the competition for the first time in nearly four years.

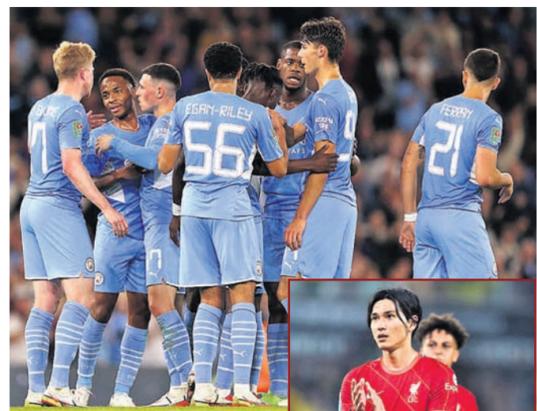
They immediately put that right. City responded to conceding a surprise opening goal at home to third-tier Wycombe Wanderers in the 22nd minute by scoring three times before halftime and eventually easing to a 6-1 win.

Among the scorers for City were Kevin De Bruyne and Phil Foden as they build up their match fitness after early-season injuries.

Brandon Hanlan put Wycombe ahead in front of a stunned home crowd at Etihad Stadium. De Bruyne equalised within seven minutes and there were further goals from Riyad Mahrez (2), Phil Foden, Ferran Torres and young substitute Cole Palmer.

Pep Guardiola's team last tasted defeat in the League Cup in October 2016, and hasn't trailed since the first leg of the semifinals in January 2018.

Like City, Liverpool used the competition to hand starts to fringe players and senior debuts to a number of its promising youngsters — including a 16-year-old in Kaide Gordon — and they enjoyed a 3-0



Man City players celebrate a goal against Wycombe Wanderers; (inset) Takumi Minamino reacts after Liverpool's win against Norwich

victory at fellow Premier League team Norwich. Japan forward Takumi Minamino started and finished the scoring.

Liverpool and City are tied on a record eight League Cup titles. Six of City's have come in the eight previous seasons.

Everton were one of three Premier League teams taken to a penalty shootout by lower-league op-

position, and fell to an 8-7 loss to second-tier Queens Park Rangers following a 2-2 draw after 90 minutes.

Southampton and Leeds fared better to overcome teams who were in the top flight last season — Sheffield United and Fulham, respectively. Brentford thrashed Oldham 7-0 and Burnley cruised past another third-tier opponent, Rochdale, 4-1.