



STEADY PROGRESS

Actor Priyanka Chopra joins actors like Kate Winslet and Keanu Reeves as a narrator of an upcoming series

LEISURE P2



BJP BETS ON YEDI

Karnataka BJP confirms there is no change in the leadership of the party in the state

TWO STATES P7



ASSANGE MULLS SUICIDE

Julian Assange is very likely to attempt suicide if he is extradited to the US

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, I don't want any money! Just please stop harassing me with loan offers!!

SHORT TAKES

18-yr jail for Chinese tycoon, Xi critic Ren

Beijing: A court in Beijing Tuesday found Ren guilty on multiple charges, including embezzling some \$16.3 million in public funds, accepting bribes, and abuse of power that caused losses totaling \$17.2 million for the state-owned property company that he once headed. Judges sentenced him to 18 years in prison and imposed a fine of \$620,000. The court said he "voluntarily confessed all of his crimes" and "was willing to accept the court's verdict after all of his illegal gains were recovered." China's court system has a conviction rate of 99%.

Rhea's custody extended till Oct 6

Mumbai: A Mumbai Special Court Tuesday extended the judicial custody of actress Rhea Chakrabarty till October 6. Shortly afterwards she and her brother Showik's lawyer Satish Maneshinde moved the Bombay HC for bail. "Rhea and Showik have filed a bail plea in High Court. It is coming up for hearing September 23 before Justice SV Kotwal," said Maneshinde. The actress was produced before the Special NDPS Court vide video-conferencing after her 14-days judicial custody ended Tuesday.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	37734.08 ↓ 300.06
NIFTY	11153.70 ↓ 96.80
DOLLAR	73.73 ↓ ₹0.08
EURO	86.73 ↓ ₹0.31
GOLD	₹50,585 ↑ ₹114
SILVER	₹61,393 ↑ ₹77

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	31.0°C	33.0°C
TEMP. MIN	24.4°C	23.0°C
Humidity	98%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	

BJD SUPPORTS LABOUR BILLS

Says party is duty-bound to back the Bills in larger national interest

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday supported three Bills in the Lok Sabha that amalgamate laws on social security, occupational safety and industrial relations of labourers.

Speaking on behalf of the party, BJD parliamentary party leader in the Lower House Pinaki Misra said his party is duty bound to support the Bills in the larger national interest and business climate. He said the standing committee laboured over many months on the Bills and the government accepted 74 per cent of the recommendations made by the committee.

Misra also said that the nomenclature of 'Chief Inspector' which is reminder of the Inspector Raj should be reconsidered in the Bills.

The BJD MP also rebutted on several statements that people of Odisha go to other states for work as there are less opportunities in the state. He said equally a large number of people from neighbouring states come to Odisha for employment. He also spoke about the steps taken by the state government for migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Misra suggested that

the Centre should exempt Aadhaar as proof of identification. The government should reconsider the decision of making Aadhaar mandatory and that the state government had exempted Aadhaar card as identification proof in the state from migrant workers, he added.

The BJD opposed the encroachment on the power of state governments in the Bills. He said there is a lot of encroachment on the powers of state government and urged the Centre to revisit these provisions. Earlier, the BJD had opposed the farmers' Bills in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and had demanded that the Bills be sent to select committee for further scrutiny.

Significantly, the Lok Sabha discussed the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 and the Code on Social Security, 2020. The Industrial Relations Code Bill mandates companies with 300 or more workers to prepare and submit to the government standing orders regarding the conditions of service, including shift timings and termination of employment. As of now, this applies to establishments with over 100 employees, under the Industrial

Cereals, pulses, onion, potatoes out of ECAB

NEW DELHI: Parliament Tuesday passed a bill to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, which was approved by the lower house September 15, was approved by a voice vote in Rajya Sabha. The bill replaces an ordinance promulgated in June. The bill is also aimed at removing fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference in their business operations. The freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing of economies of scale and attract private sector/foreign direct investment into agriculture sector, the government had said earlier.

Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, which is among the three Acts the Bill proposes to subsume.

The Social Security Code Bill proposes to bring unorganised sector, gig workers and platform workers under the ambit of social security schemes, including life and disability insurance, health and maternity benefits, provident fund and skill upgradation.

Centre urged to put coal block auction on hold

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The state government Tuesday urged the Centre to put the ongoing coal auction on hold for at least three months as price of coal in market has come down this year in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik has written to Union Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, in this regard. As the pandemic has affected minerals trade, the price of coal has come down significantly this year as compared to last year, Mallik said in his letter.

If the coal block auction is held in this scenario, the highest bidding price of the mineral resource may be very less. The lease period of coal blocks is 30 years and a poor response to the auction will affect the state's coal revenue, he said.

Mallik requested the Union minister to instruct concerned officials to defer the coal block auction process for a period of three months.

When there is an improvement in Covid-19 pandemic situation and market becomes suitable, the coal block allocation process can kick start, he added. The Centre has started auction process for 41 mining blocks including nine from Odisha. They are Chendipada I, Chendipada II, Machhakata, Mahanadi, Radhikapur (East), Radhikapur (West), Brahmanbil & Kardabahal, Kuraloi (A) North, and Phuljhari (East & West). These mines have a total geological coal reserve of 10,750 million tones.

As per the schedule, the last date for submission of the bid is September 29 this year while the e-auction will be held from October 19 to November 9, 2020.

JSW Cement
Start Strong. Grow Stronger.
1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

No posers during session: Speaker

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Odisha Speaker SN Patro Tuesday said a distance of at least four feet will be maintained between two seats in the Assembly which is set to meet for its monsoon session next week, and other necessary arrangements were underway to ensure safety of all members.

Patro also said he has convened an all-party meeting September 25 to discuss the modalities of House proceedings, as Question Hour has been scrapped this time. "Seating arrangements are being made for 145 members of the House, as two seats have remained vacant following the demise of Balasore and Tirtol MLAs. Some legislators will be allotted seats in visitors galleries. Special shields will be



installed in front of each seat," he said.

All lawmakers, including ministers, and Assembly staff would have to undergo COVID-19 tests two days before the commencement of the monsoon session, scheduled to begin September 29 and conclude October 7.

"If any elderly MLA doesn't want to attend the session, the member should intimate the Assembly secretariat in advance. He can then attend the proceedings via video conference," the Speaker added. So far, over 30 MLAs, including eight ministers, have tested for COVID-19 in Odisha.

SC bar on Shapoorji, Mistry from dealing in Tata shares

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Tuesday restrained till October 28 the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) group and Cyrus Mistry from pledging or transferring their shares in Tata Sons Pvt Ltd (TSPL).

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian also directed the Tata Sons and the SP Group not to take any further action on the shares which have already been pledged till October 28, the next date of hearing. The SP group, which owns 18.37 per cent in Tata Sons, had said TSPL moved the top court to block its plan to pledge shares for raising funds and that reeked of vindictiveness and oppression of minority shareholder rights.

On September 5, Tata Sons had moved the top court seeking to restrain the Mistry group from raising capital against their shares. Through the plea, the Tatas had sought to prevent the SP Group from creating any direct or indirect pledge of shares. The SP Group was planning to raise ₹11,000 crore from various funds and had signed a deal with a marquee Canadian investor for ₹3,750 crore in the first tranche against a portion of its 18.37 per cent stake in Tata Sons.



The SP Group share holding in the country's largest business house is valued at over ₹1 lakh crore. In a hearing conducted through video conferencing, the top court said that it would hear the plea after four weeks and "in the meantime, parties shall maintain status quo regarding pledging/transfer of shares".

"We will say status quo on transferring/pledging and any further action with regard to transfer/pledge already made," the bench said. Senior advocate CA Sundaram, appearing for the SP group, said they were being stopped from pledging the shares and "it is creating havoc for me".

On the other hand, senior advocate Harish Salve, representing TSPL, said that the point was "something else" as the TSPL has a right to buy the share at market price, but the SP group was pledging them. Earlier, the TSPL had told the top court that it was not a 'two-group company' and there was no 'quasi-partnership' between it and Cyrus Investments Pvt Ltd.

Bodies dumped in open as morgue in Capital Hosp runs out of space

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Capital Hospital here has been finding it difficult to keep bodies in its space-crunched mortuary due to a large inflow of bodies over last few months. Many bodies can be seen lying in open as the freezers lack enough space to accommodate the increasing number of bodies.

Various local medicals including sub-divisional hospitals in the periphery of the city are referring bodies to the Capital Hospital. The hospital receives more than 15 bodies everyday and most of them are found to be Covid-19 positive.

Speaking on the issue, Dr LD Sahoo, director of Capital Hospital said following the pandemic, the hospital has been recording a 35 per cent increase in the inflow as compared to the period before the onset of the pandemic. Similarly, other hospitals in the city have been witnessing a rise in patient footfalls.

Sources in the hospital told Orissa POST that the hospital had been receiving more than 15 bodies everyday over the last couple of days. The hospitals on the periphery have been referring dead bodies to Capital Hospital due to strict Covid-19 guide-



lines for the cremation of bodies.

There are only two freezers in the hospital with a capacity to store eight bodies at one time. Similarly, unidentified bodies sent to the morgue are normally kept for three hours before their disposal. This further squeezes the space.

The authorities have been keeping the bodies in the open inside the mortuary till Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation (BMC) authorities take them for cremation as per the current guidelines. The decomposed bodies kept in the open have been emitting extremely bad odour, claimed the sources.

This apart, the fear of bodies in

the open getting eaten by rodents and ants can't be ruled out too. The situation will further deteriorate in future due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the city.

Sources in the BMC said the BMC has been cremating nearly 25 bodies every day in the crematorium at Satyanagar after it is informed by the hospital authorities. However, the authorities are failing to cremate more as relatives of patients who died due to corona virus are either not reporting or coming very late due to the fear of getting infected. When contacted by the BMC authorities, relatives even ask for more time.

Boris Johnson urges people to work from home

AGENCIES

London, Sept 22: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has slammed the brakes on the country's return to offices, saying people should work from home if possible, to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Johnson Tuesday announced a package of new restrictions, including a requirement for pubs, restaurants and other venues in England to close between 10 pm and 5 am. He said Britain was at a "perilous turning point" and had to act now.

People will have to wear face-coverings in taxis, as well as public transport. The size of gatherings is being curtailed, with weddings limited to 15 people instead of 30. A plan to bring spectators back to sports stadiums starting in October is being put on hold.

The British government is also increasing the penalties for breaking the rules. The announcement comes a day after the British government's top scientific and medical advisers said coronavirus infections were doubling every seven days and could rise to 49,000 a day by mid-October if nothing is done to stem the tide.

Nepal softens on revised map showing Indian areas

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, Sept 22: Nepal has stopped the distribution of a new text book that includes the country's revised political map showing three strategically-important Indian areas as part of its territory, saying there were a number of factual errors in it, according to a media report Tuesday.

India has already termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belongs to it.

A Cabinet meeting Tuesday instructed the Ministry of Education not to distribute and print any more copies of the text book meant for



File photo shows Nepal Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali points to a map of Nepal

Classes IX to XII as there were some reservations from the Ministry of Land Management and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Kathmandu Post reported.

"The Ministry of Education does not have the authority to change

Nepal's geographical area and there are faults in the book," said spokesperson for the Ministry of Land Reform and Cooperatives Janak Raj Joshi. There are errors in the book prepared by the Ministry of Education on a subject it has no

expertise, he said, adding that the higher authorities have been asked to take corrective measures. The concerned body of the Nepal government is yet to officially declare the revised geographical area of the country.

"The Department of Survey, which is the official agency that declares the total area of the country, however, hasn't made any decision on the area," Joshi said.

Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel on September 15 released the 110-page book titled, Self Study Material on Nepal's Territory and Border which dwells around historical facts about the country's territory and its border dispute mainly with India.

The book states Nepal's new area to be 147,641.28 square kilometers including the 460.28 sq km area of

the Kalapani area which was included in Nepal's political map on May 20 by the Cabinet. Minister for Education Pokharel has written a six-page preface for the book in which he has mentioned about Nepal's border disputes and other related issues. He said that he had launched a campaign to protect the Nepalese territory, including the areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura.

However, Pokharel told The Kathmandu Post that the distribution of the book has been halted for now. After Nepal's Parliament approved the revised political map comprising Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura areas, the Cabinet had endorsed the new map and decided to use it in government offices and print school text books with the new map.

Burnt body of pregnant minor found at married lover's home

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Sept 22: A minor girl of Subdega area under Talsara police limits in Sundargarh district, who had a relationship with a youth of her area, was found dead at her lover's house Tuesday morning under mysterious circumstances.

Police have not declared the details of the minor girl. Sources said that the minor girl had a relationship with a married man of that area. The family members had been opposing the relationship for several months. The girl had been living in the married man's house in a live-in-relationship for the last six months.

The married man has been identified as Srikanth Pradhan of

Tungaripada in the district. Pradhan was staying in a rented house at Subdega area. Tuesday morning some locals found smoke from Pradhan's house. When they looked into the house they found the burnt body of the minor girl.

They informed the police about the same. Police recovered the body and then it sent the remains for postmortem. Preliminary report from the doctor said that the girl was four months pregnant.

Pradhan fled from the spot following the death of the girl. Police suspect that he killed the girl by setting her on fire. On the other hand, police have registered a murder case based on an FIR lodged by the girl's father who alleged that his daughter was killed.



AVRIL ANNOUNCES CONCERT TO FIGHT LYME DISEASE

Singer Avril Lavigne has announced a special livestream concert to raise awareness and funds in the fight against Lyme disease. The #FightLyme concert is scheduled to take place October 25, with proceeds from all tickets and merchandise going to the Global Lyme Alliance and Avril Lavigne Foundation.

KIM MIGHT DIVORCE KANYE OVER ANTI-ABORTION STANCE

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is reportedly considering divorcing husband Kanye West due to his bipolar disorder and his anti-abortion stance. "Kim has the whole divorce planned out but she's waiting for him to get through his latest episode," a source told Page Six.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181

ARIES
Your big ambitions may come to fruition today by the evening. Ganesh says that you will do your best not to make impulsive choices; whatever the expected results may be, you will take sensible decisions.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you devoting the day in taking care of your personal affairs and relationships. You are likely to review the state of affairs, and identify problems and persons who need more time and attention.

GEMINI
There are indications that you will pay special attention to your food habits today, predicts Ganesh. You may go for an interview or start a new job later in the day. At work, you will get both encouragement and inspiration from seniors.

CANCER
Today you will be forced to make quick decisions, foretells Ganesh. At workplace, you will probably refuse to yield to any kind of pressure. You will ace every test that your boss will throw at you. Your quest for fame will restart in the evening, says Ganesh.

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

VIRGO
The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse runs through you today. Expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you in the afternoon. Government officials will have an inspiringly assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through today.

LIBRA
Life is a stage, and we are all characters in the play, so better put up a good show! Pay close attention to the image and emotions that you depict today, as you spruce up your outward show, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
There is a strong prospect that you will be buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle, foresees Ganesh. In the evening, you may finalise deals regarding your dream house. In the evening, you are likely to buy a household item to please your life partner, expects Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Your genial nature and charming smile will captivate many of the opposite sex. Your colleagues will employ your skills to their benefit. Later in the evening, a stroll with your sweetheart will sugar your mood and fill your heart with ecstasy.

CAPRICORN
For this one day, you will be the master of your own fate, assigning work and cleverly getting it done without having to move a muscle. Incidentally, you will put in efforts to get along well with those around you, and unknowingly impress many by dint of your stupendous management skills, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Today, your innermost feelings take precedence over all else. You may also make a short trip on a whim. At your workplace, people will find you more sympathetic than usual. It's the same with your loved ones, who will enjoy your softer side. Do this more often, suggests Ganesh.

PISCES
You will be busy today, watching your colleagues' backs and doing your best to rectify their mistakes. This is not to say you will have substantial success in your endeavours. Indeed, your confidence levels will dip in the same proportion that your frustrations will rise, at the incompetence that others display.

Priyanka joins Winslet, Reeves as narrator

Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra Jonas has joined a host of Hollywood stars including Kate Winslet and Keanu Reeves as a narrator of the upcoming series, A World Of Calm.

Winslet and Priyanka have joined previously announced Mahershala Ali, Idris Elba, Oscar Isaac, Nicole Kidman, Zoe Kravitz, Lucy Liu, Cillian Murphy, and Reeves. The 10-episode un-

scripted series premieres October 1, reports deadline.com. "Excited to join such an amazing group of 'calming' voices for series, A World Of Calm. Coming Oct 1st," Priyanka tweeted while sharing her happiness over her new project.

The series combines mesmerizing imagery with narration by the A-list stars. The logline reads: "A timely antidote for our modern lives, each half-hour episode takes audiences on an immersive visual journey into another world."

The HBO Max series aims to promote stress relief and show the actors narrating a story while calming imagery plays on the screen.



HAPPINESS IS IN SMALL THINGS OF LIFE: MOUNI

Mumbai: Actress Mouni Roy, who will soon be seen in the digital film, *London Confidential*, opposite Purab Kohli, says that lockdown taught her some of the greatest lessons in life.

The actress, who is currently in Dubai, said: "I realised a few things during lockdown that we otherwise never get a chance to sit down and analyse. I have understood that, in reality we need very little

to feel happy because happiness is there in the small things of life. At times we just gather a lot of stuff in our house for no reason. In normal life, we tend to engage ourselves in many things that are otherwise irrelevant! If we want, we actually can stay away from such things!"

"I have also realised that as human beings we will come across different emotions

like anger and being upset, but it is also very easy to drop these negative emotions if we work on these. Looking at the bigger picture, we do not even know what actually we are running after!" added the *Gold* actor.

The actress shot her new film with Purab in London just after the process of unlock started.

Kubbra goes on 'sanity break'

Mumbai: Actress Kubbra Sait is taking a break from Twitter, and will be back after her 'sanity break'.

"Oh dahlin' Twitter... I am taking a hiatus from you. I am ecstatic to announce that I'll be on a jet plane, and it's time for me to uninstall you for a bit. See you post my sanity break... well however long it takes," Kubbra tweeted Tuesday.

However, she hasn't deleted her account on the micro-blogging site.

Reacting to her tweet, jewellery designer Farah Khan Ali commented: "Will miss you though. Good decision."

Kubbra is known for her powerful performances in the web series *Sacred Games*, *Illegal* and *RejctX*.



INDIA COUTURE WEEK -2020 A twist to traditional wedding weaves

She wants her brides to look elegant and maintain the old world wedding charm in a contemporary way, says fashioner Reynu Taandon

NEW DELHI: Designer Reynu Taandon's latest couture collection Surkh draws inspiration from contemporary Indian brides who like to mix modern and minimalist designs with old world charm.

The designer held a virtual launch of wedding wear Monday (Day 4) of the ongoing digital India Couture Week (ICW), organised by the Fashion Design

Council of India.

"I want my brides to look elegant and maintain the old world wedding charm in a contemporary way and thus I have named my collection Surkh," says Taandon. She adds: "Surkh is an expression of keeping your values in this contemporary world, where every bride wants the collection comprises tone-on-tone lehengas, anarkalis, sarees,

sharara and gharara in hand-woven chanderi fabric, heavily embellished with zari, block printing, gota patti, patch and zardozi work in floral and geometrical motifs that give it all the bling required for traditional evening celebrations. The colour palette ranged between baby pinks, fuchsia to reds.

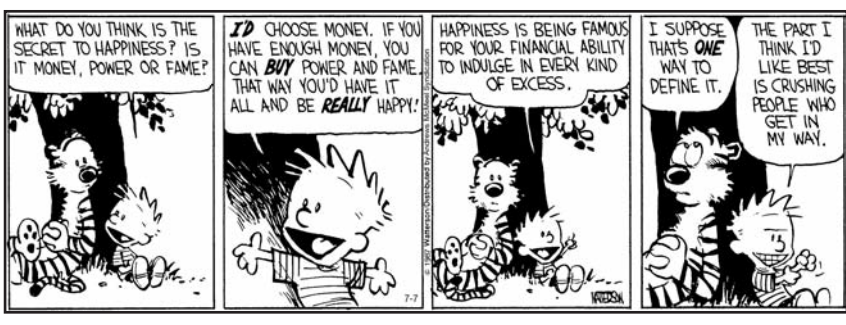
"The collection is a mix of four ever merging yet distinct colours. They have been selected keeping in mind every part of the day and how best it would suit the bride in these wedding times be it a morning, sundowner or an evening wedding," she says.



PEANUTS



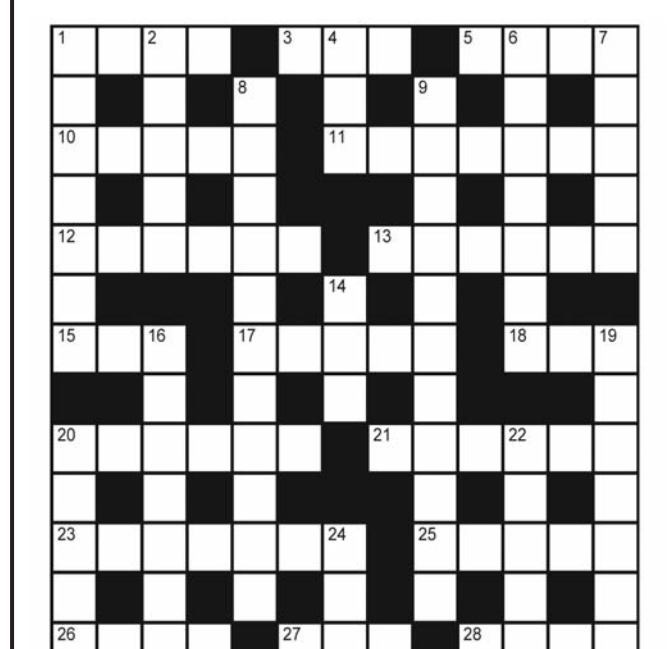
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



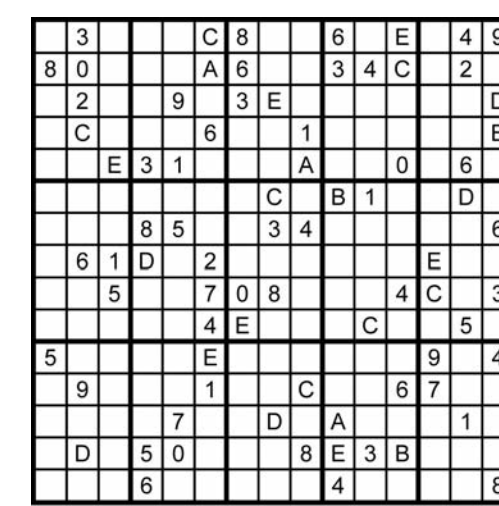
FUN post CROSSWORD



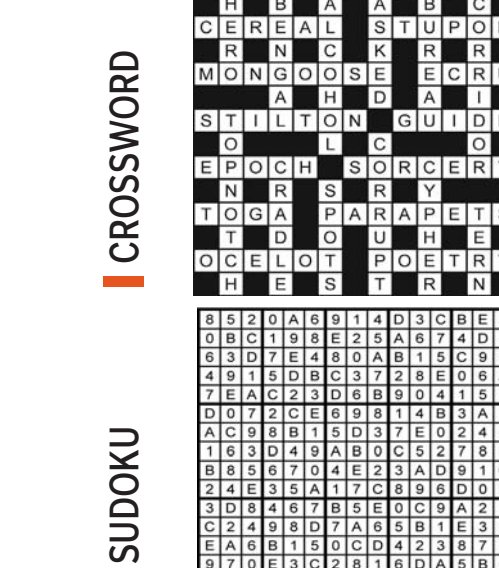
- Across**
1 Dinghy or dory
3 Cricket club
5 Slightly open
10 Gumption
11 Copse
12 Stone fruit
13 Bright fish
15 Hero
17 Time of life
18 Bubbly beverage
20 Warning device
- Down**
21 Cling
23 Upland
25 Spa feature
26 Pinnacle
27 Vigour
28 Conspiracy
- Across**
7 Hotel posting
8 Heaven's front door (6,5)
9 Kick the bucket (4,3,4)
14 Arctic bird
16 Past history, possibly
19 Deluxe
20 Old photo colour
22 Identical
24 Bring into play

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SOLUTIONS



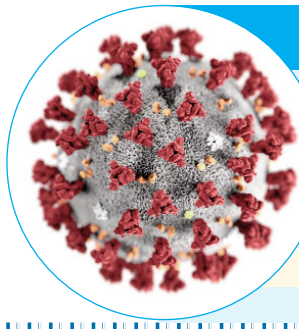
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



THREAT TO COMMUTERS

Authorities are yet to repair the guard wall of a bridge over Taladanda canal at Ranihaat in Cuttack even though the structure was damaged by cyclonic storm Fani last year



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,15,65,811	2,31,69,474	9,70,800
India	55,62,663	44,97,867	88,935
Odisha	1,88,311	1,53,213	721

₹600Cr facelift for of Konark, Barabati, Hirakud

THE PROPOSED ENTRANCE PLAZA AT THE SUN TEMPLE WOULD BE UNDER WI-FI NETWORK AND DIGITALLY ENABLED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: In a bid to augment tourist footfall in Odisha, the state government has lined up projects for development of tourism destinations like Sun temple in Konark, Barabati Fort in Cuttack and Hirakud dam in Sambalpur.

The Works department has submitted a detailed plan to Finance department seeking fund under 15th Finance Commission Grant. The department has planned spend ₹200 crore each for development of the three popular tourism sites.

The government has planned to execute two plans – Transportation Plan worth ₹50 crore and Konark Heritage core Area Redevelopment Plan worth ₹150 crore – for preservation of the Sun temple and development of its surroundings.

The existing road connecting Chandrabhaga beach with Kakatpur junction in Konark and Konark ring road has been proposed to be expanded and made 6-lane.

This road will help provide better access to Sun temple as well as Chandrabhaga beach. The total length of this road is 7.93 km and a detailed project report (DPR) has been prepared for the same. The estimated project cost is ₹50 crore,



Konark temple



Barabati fort



Hirakud dam

BLUEPRINT TO WOO TOURISTS

The Works dept has come out with twin plans – Transportation Plan worth ₹50 crore and Konark Heritage core Area Redevelopment Plan worth ₹150 crore – for preservation of the Sun temple and development of its surroundings

The existing road connecting Chandrabhaga beach with Kakatpur junction in Konark and Konark ring road has been proposed to be expanded and made 6-lane

Major projects planned for renovation of Barabati Fort area in Cuttack include construction of a bridge over the moat to give access to the fort from the west side

For development of Hirakud area, the government has planned to build a high-level bridge over Mahanadi river connecting Burla town to Hirakud town with an estimated cost of ₹165 crore

official sources said. Similarly, the government has

also planned to build an entrance plaza to the Sun temple and ad-

joining Haat which would accommodate existing shops and information centre. This area would be under wi-fi network and digitally enabled, the sources said.

The existing urban Haat at Konark will be redeveloped and street will be pedestrianise. The light house and Jayadev garden will also be developed with public amenities.

Besides, eco-tourism site inside the sanctuary adjoining the temple will be developed that will include provisioning of jungle safari and creating forest and nature trails.

Similarly, major projects planned for renovation of Barabati Fort area in Cuttack include construction of a bridge over the moat to give access to the fort from the west side. Some other projects include pro-

viding water-based activities such as providing boating facility, pathways, food court and laser shows/musical fountain etc have been planned.

For development of Hirakud area, the government has planned to build a high-level bridge over Mahanadi river connecting Burla town to Hirakud town with an estimated cost of ₹165 crore. Along with this, facilities for water sport activities, hotels and resorts, tourist facilities, entertainment activities have been planned near the dam with an estimated cost of ₹35 crore.

Besides, the Works department has sought another ₹150 crore for construction of a high-level bridge over Indravati river near Kenduguda in Nabarangpur district.

Masks could be fatal for newborns: Doc

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Women have been advised not to force their newborns to put on masks during COVID-19 pandemic, citing possible health hazards to them.

Dr Lusi Das, a gynaecologist from SCB Medical College, Cuttack said that such unscientific practice may prove fatal in some cases and should be shunned by the mothers and members of the family. “The kids should never be forced to wear masks. It could hamper their respiration and prove fatal for them,” she said. However, the doctor asked the new mothers to take special care to prevent mother-to-child infection. Das said that transmission of the viral disease from mothers to newborns during pregnancy is yet to be noticed.

“There are very less chances of mother-to-newborn infection of novel coronavirus. But the child can get infected when the baby is in proximity to an infected mother post delivery. However, the infection could well be thwarted if the mother takes adequate measures,” said the gynaecologist.

“This does not mean they (mothers) should not keep their newborns with them. They should keep the child with them but distance must be maintained. The infected



mothers can feed the newborn but they need to do this while wearing a mask and regularly washing their hands. The work of burping of the kids should be assigned to some other members for the time period,” she maintained.

She also said that in case the child tests positive after a few days and mother is negative, the mother needs to take special care of social distancing but can take care of them.

She said, “If a child is under home isolation, the pregnant woman should try not to become its caregiver during the period and try to assign the work to some other members of their family.”

She also talked about special care during the last three months of a pregnancy. “The COVID positive pregnant lady during their last trimester must keep information on where they can get the deliveries done. They can get the information from ASHA workers on the same,” she added.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Plus II first selection admission date extended till Sept 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Amid rising COVID-19 cases in the state, the Directorate of Higher Secondary Education (DHSE) Tuesday extended the last date for the first phase admission to Plus II courses in various junior colleges.



Earlier, the DHSE had declared the last date of first selection admission to continue till Sept 26

The admission that began September 21 will now continue till September 30. Earlier, the DHSE had declared the last date of first selection admission to continue till September 26. However, for a smooth admission process with strict imposition of COVID-19 guidelines, the DHSE had to extend the date of the admission till September 30. As many as 3,47,626 selected students will be enrolled in the first phase, a source said.

The admission in-charges of respective higher secondary schools have been requested to allow admission of CBSE and ICSE students with DigLocker certificate and an undertaking from them declaring to produce the original certificate for verification within one month from the date of admission.

The second selection of the students will be declared October 3 and the admission process for the same will begin October 5.

MONSOON SESSION

COVID mgmt top in Congress agenda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Congress party Tuesday said that it has decided to rake up the issue of alleged failure of the state government in tackling COVID-19 in the upcoming Assembly session.

Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja, Tuesday, informed the media about the likely stand of the party in the session. He said, “We are all set to raise the issue of COVID irregularities. We will raise the issue on how the government has failed to tackle COVID-19. People in the state are bearing the brunt of poor healthcare in Odisha,” he said.

He also added that although the government admits that more than 700 patients have succumbed to

the killer virus till now. “I believe more than 4,000 patients have died in the state. It was due to the utter failure of the government,” he added.

Leader of Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik, on the other hand, said that the party will abide by the rules to be framed in the all-party meeting September 25.

He said, “The session is now likely to start with Zero Hour directly every day. During the all-party meeting, we will raise our issues and a unanimous decision will be taken accordingly. We will welcome the final decision that would be taken in the meeting. As per the preliminary information, the MLAs and journalists will be tested for COVID-19 before entry to the Assembly premises.”

Rare crab in Puri baffles many

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 22: You might have heard of butterflies having patterns resembling the eyes of Lord Jagannath. You would also have often seen clouds taking shape of Lord Shiva or certain animals. But have you ever heard about or seen of crabs having patterns on their shells that look like the fourth incarnation of Lord Vishnu – Lord Narasingha! Yes, such a crab was spotted in Odisha’s Puri recently.

A picture of the crab has gone viral. According to reports, Arakhita Behera and Janardhan Behera from Penthakata area in the town had gone to the seashore to buy fish. There were many fishing boats on



the beach with fishes in the net. The duo’s attention was suddenly drawn towards a certain crab in the net. They were surprised to see a pattern on its shell looking like Lord Narasingha. They asked the fishermen to get it out and clicked some photographs.

The pattern on the crab shell also puzzled everyone present on the

Sex workers in need of govt aid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: A day after the Supreme Court directed the Union and state governments to provide monetary assistance and supply food and basic amenities to sex workers, who have lost their livelihood during the pandemic, city-based social and human rights activists Tuesday urged the state government to comply with the direction.

COVID BLUES

Secretary of Odisha Patita Uddhar Samiti, Abharanai Chaudhary, said, “The state government should provide relief to sex workers as they have been affected by COVID-19.” Now, even the Supreme Court has understood their plight and directed the governments to do something for them, she added.

“We had written to Women and Child Development department and Odisha State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) for the welfare of sex workers,” said Chaudhary.

A three-judge bench led by Justice L Nageswara Rao said that sex workers are under severe distress and Union and state governments should do something without waiting for our directions.

Earlier, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) had directed the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to provide food and ration to the sex workers in the Capital city.

The rights panel directed the BMC commissioner to provide ration to sex workers. This is irrespective of whether they have ration cards or not.

“We are facing a lot of difficulties due to the lockdown. The livelihood of our community is at stake,” said Nagamani Rao, the leader of the sex workers at Mali Sahi.

Mali Sahi is the only red light area in the state capital.

Jagatpur COVID hospital fire wake-up call for officials



Fire brigade personnel demonstrate fire tendering techniques at a Covid hospital in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The fire mishap at Sadguru COVID hospital in Jagatpur area in Cuttack Monday seems to have come as a wake-up call for Fire Services department authorities as they conducted mock drills and training programmes across the state Tuesday.

The authorities hitherto overlooking the poor fire fighting measures at COVID hospitals have suddenly swung into action.

Reports of mock drills and training for hospital staffers on use of fire-fighting equipment came from across the state Tuesday. While a mock drill was held at SUM COVID hospital here, such drills were also conducted at many hospitals like Aswini Hospital in Cuttack, Nimapara COVID hospital in Puri, Jeypore COVID hospital in Koraput,

Phulbani COVID hospital and Bhandaripokhari COVID care centre in Bhadrak district are just to name a few.

At Sitalapali COVID hospital and Aswini hospital at Kainsi in

Reports of mock drills and training for hospital staffers on use of fire-fighting equipment came from across state

Ganjam district, the fire fighters carried out mock drills involving the hospitals’ staff.

They also imparted training to hospital staffers on dos and don’ts during fire mishaps and how to use the equipment available at the hospitals effectively. According to deputy fire officer, Bhubaneswar, Ramesh Majhi, training on use of fire-fighting equipment to hospital staff is important because the trained staff can initially deal with the fire mishap and stop the blaze from spreading.



The fire safety mock drill underway at a Covid hospital in Cuttack

EXPANSION PLAN



Buildings of Behera Colony at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack being demolished for expansion of the state-run health institute, Tuesday

OPF hails new UG, PG academic calendar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Odisha Parents’ Federation (OPF) Tuesday welcomed the Union Higher Education Ministry’s decision of restructuring new academic calendar for under-graduate and post graduate students for 2020-21 academic year and also requested for declaration of new academic calendar for Class I to XII.

“We request that like the colleges and universities, the schools should also be instructed to start new academic calendar from November/Dec or January to July or August 2021 and 180 days should be covered in these 7-8 months, without holidays,” said OPF chairman Basudev Bhatt.

The decision is praiseworthy as education is sector has been severely hit by the pandemic, Bhatt added.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ Tuesday announced the UGC guidelines on academic calendar for the first year of UG and PG students for 2020-21 session.

State loses 11 more lives to COVID-19; toll at 721

ODISHA'S COVID-19 TALLY ROSE TO 1, 88, 311 AS 4, 189 MORE PEOPLE TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE INFECTION



A sepoy of OSAP donates plasma at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: State's COVID-19 tally rose to 1,88,311 Tuesday as 4,189 more people tested positive for the infection, while 11 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's

coronavirus death toll to 721, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said. As many as 2,453 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,736 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing,

Servitor's wife dies two days after his death

Puri, Sept 22: Within 48 hours of the death of senior Srimandir servitor Premanand Dasmahapatra here, his wife Binodini Dasmahapatra, 57, died at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



Binodini was suffering from certain health complications for the last few days, family sources said. The back-to-back deaths of Premanand and his wife Binodini have come as a big shock for Srimandir servitors, sources said. It is worth mentioning here that Premanand passed away at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here Sunday, a few days after recovering from COVID-19 infection. Premanand, 64, was in home isolation following his recovery from the viral disease. Premanand was rushed to the DHH in the wee hours of Sunday after he complained of chest pain. He was declared dead by the doctors at the DHH. Premanand was the secretary of Srimandir Suddhasur Niyog. He had earlier acted as the secretary of Daitapati Niyog of Srimandir and member of Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee.

CLASSIFIED LOST

My Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Secondary Examination of year 2013 and Roll No.6114785 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate Shaista Akhtar Ali, full Address- B/145, Tensa Township, Dist.- Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN- 770042, Mob. 8895260442.

FRESH STATS

Khurda reported the highest number of new cases at 712, followed by Cuttack (586), Puri (265) and Sundargarh (201)

Two fresh fatalities each were reported in Balasore, Bolangir, Ganjam and Malkangiri districts and one each in Bhadrak, Khurda and Puri

Ganjam district has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus deaths at 218, followed by Khurda (106) and Cuttack (59)

said the official. Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 712, followed by Cuttack (586), Puri (265) and Sundargarh (201), the official pointed out. Two fresh fatalities each were reported in Balasore, Bolangir, Ganjam and Malkangiri districts and one each in Bhadrak, Khurda and Puri, said the official of H&FW department.

Ganjam district has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus deaths at 218, followed by Khurda (106) and Cuttack (59), the official said, adding that as many as 53 COVID-19 patients have so far

Regular policing takes a beating

BHUBANESWAR: The rapid spread of Covid-19 among the staff of various police stations in the Commissionerate Police has brought investigation processes to a standstill in the Twin City. Police stations in Bhubaneswar have worn a deserted look amid the pandemic.

Sources revealed that around 1100 cops including nine Inspector In-Charges (IICs) of different police stations are affected with the Corona virus and currently undergoing home isolation. Many even claimed that some officials with mild symptoms are performing their duties after taking drugs like Paracetamol and 'medication used to treat pain and fever'.

The IICs of police stations like Nayapalli, Mancheswar, Kharavela, Lingaraj, Tamando and Chandreshkarpur police stations along with four Additional DCPs are under home quarantine now. Around eight to ten staff can be

seen managing the police stations in the city.

As many as 33 cops have succumbed to Covid-19 infection across the state while the commissionerate police have lost four due to the pandemic till now.

The Commissionerate Police had earlier supplied PPE kits, sanitizers and masks for police officials on duty but many still got infected with the virus due to their nature of duty. The cops usually come in direct contact with citizens which makes them quite vulnerable to the infection.

Meanwhile, the rising graph of crime incidents the city has become a headache for the police amidst the enforcement drive for the Covid-19 guidelines. Many cops who have joined the duty after recovery from Covid-19 are still feeling weak. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to light the benevolent sight of the cops who are often criticized for various reasons.

died in Odisha due to other ailments. Meanwhile, 3,834 COVID patients recovered from the disease, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 1,53,213, said the official. The recoveries include 525 from

Khurda, 389 from Cuttack, 274 from Puri, 210 from Angul and 190 from Bargarh. The state has so far tested over 28.60 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 45,676 Monday.

COVID hosps to have dedicated help desks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Acting on the complaints from the relatives of Covid patients, the state government has directed all private and government Covid hospitals to set up dedicated help desk in one week, which will function round the clock.

Earlier, the government had directed the private hospitals to reserve 50 per cent of the total general bed and 80 per cent of ICU in five Municipal Corporation area and 10 per cent of the total bed in other places for the treatment of Covid patients.

"Complaints are being received from the relatives of the patients as they are not getting any feedback on the status of the patients. Now, after careful examination of the matter, government has stipulated guidelines to be followed for establishing the dedicated help desk in each Covid-19 facility with immediate effect," additional chief secretary Health, PK Mohapatra said in an order. The help desk will have a dedi-

cated telephone preferably a toll free number and will also use social media platforms like Whats App to communicate the voice and pictures of the patient to the attendants.

Hospital authorities have been asked to set up a dedicated conference room at the outside of the hospital with provision of TV and cameras which will be connected with CCTV's installed inside the facilities so that the attendant can see his patient and talk with him/her. As per the guidelines, the

hospitals will collect the contact numbers of the patient at the time of admission and even if not inquired by the attendant of the patient also, general information of the condition of the patient will be communicated through SMS or Whats App message to the attendant of the patient every day at least once.

The government also warned that necessary action will be taken against the hospital which will violate the above provisions.



'Patients show anxiety during home isolation'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Doctors at the State Mental Health Institute, Cuttack Tuesday said that cases of anxiety and sleeplessness are quite high among the lonely, kids and adolescent population during the pandemic.

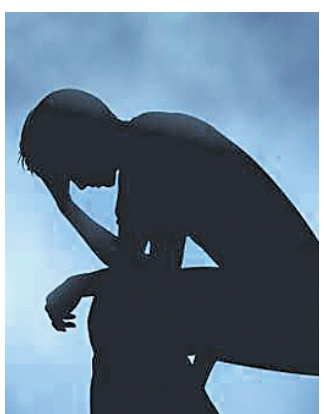
Speaking to the media during the COVID awareness series of the government, Dr Sarada Swain, psychiatrist from the Mental Health Institute, Cuttack said that the institute has seen higher anxiety levels, sleeplessness, depression and relapse of mental disorders among the population.

"They need to take special care. Adults living alone, small kids and adolescents under home isolation are also at risk of mental ailments. Development of phobias, sleeplessness and others are also high among them," Dr Swain said.

He also added, "Those living alone may see hiked anxiety and sleeplessness during the period. Meditation and yoga can help their mind to calm down."

Talking about home-based prevention methods, he said, "Patients under home isolation should indulge in such activities which give them happiness. Their food and water intake should be good enough for a better health. In case they are working during home isolation, they need to take adequate rest and breaks."

"Family members need to observe that if their mental ailment conditions are increasing. They



can seek consultation with the doctors. In many cases, psychiatric help along with home isolation can help them better," he added.

He also admitted that most families of COVID infected persons face social discrimination. "We have conducted webinar with the COVID Care Centre patients. 80 per cent of the patients said that their family members have suffered social discrimination. We should fear the disease and not the patients. There is need to be a social revolution on awareness to decrease the stigma."

He also said that in every district under the District Mental Health Programme, the experts can connect with the family members of the mentally ill patients who can help you. "There is also a helpline number-18003457288. This helpline could be used between 10am to 5pm to get assistance on mental disorders under distress times," he said.

SOCIAL DISTANCING GOES FOR A TOSS



A mad rush for medicines at a Niramaya outlet on the premises of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack even as throwing social distancing norms to winds, travellers wait for trains near Bhubaneswar railway station, Tuesday

2 nonagenarian men defeat COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Two nonagenarian COVID-19 patients have been cured of the highly infectious disease in Odisha, bringing cheers to the medical fraternity.

The two patients - Satchidananda Mohanty and Dhirendranath Das - both aged 91, were admitted to COVID-19 hospitals in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar respectively.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took to the Twitter to congratulate the duo.

Patnaik wrote, "Congratulate nonagenarian Satchidananda Mohanty and Dhirendranath Das on successfully winning the battle against #COVID19. Your win will enthruse #CovidWarriors and boost morale of #COVID19 patients to stay strong to defeat coronavirus. #OdishaCares (sic)."

Both the men were admitted to the hospitals September 5 after

being diagnosed with the disease. They were discharged Sunday night.

Mohanty, an eminent advocate in Kendrapara town, was also suffering from hypothyroid and neurological ailments. He was immediately shifted to the ICU after his admission to the hospital.

"We were worried about his condition as his oxygen level had dropped a day after his admission. However, his condition improved gradually after we put him under oxygen support," a doctor who treated Mohanty said. "I must thank Additional Chief

Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, PK Mohapatra and National Health Mission, Odisha Director Shalini Pandit for making

provision of extra care for elderly COVID-19 patients," Mohanty told PTI over the phone Tuesday. He also thanked Kendrapara District Magistrate-cum-Collector Samarth Verma and health personnel for their dedicated service to the patients.

"Doctors and other health personnel at the hospital were like my family members," Mohanty said. His 60-year-old son Debdas, a

type-II diabetes patient, also recovered from COVID-19 after being treated at the same hospital.

The other nonagenarian patient, Dhirendranath Das, a former senior official with the Press Information Bureau and the All India Radio, was also shifted to the ICU.

Das had developed a breathing problem after contracting the disease.

A team of doctors including Pradipta Kumar Patra, Santosh Singh, Asish Malla and Arun Rath treated Das.

PPE-clad nurses had fed the patient as he was unable to eat by himself.

"While my father was being taken to the hospital, he had told us he would defeat coronavirus. It became a reality because of the relentless efforts of the doctors and the nurses," Das's daughter Debadatta said.

Car stuffed with ganja catches fire in Malkangiri village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 22: A ganja-laden car caught fire while it was trying to evade a checkpoint near MV-17 village in Malkangiri district.

The contraband was stuffed in every possible crevice of the vehicle and weighed about a quintal

The contraband was reportedly stuffed in every possible crevice of the car and weighed about a quintal.

The officials at the checkpoint confirmed that the car had caught fire about half a km ahead but the driver continued to drive in a bid to escape. When the miscreants re-



alised that they cannot make it, they dumped the car and fled, confirmed officials.

The Fire Service officials were able to douse the fire and then the ganja was extracted from the car. An investigation has been initiated.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-933854031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Cotton ginning mill rekindles hope

THE MILL IN GANJAM CAN PRODUCE ABOUT 50 QUINTALS OF PROCESSED COTTON DAILY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Sept 22: Cotton farmers in south Odisha used to face a lot of problem in marketing their produce. Distress sale was a major problem. This is expected to be sorted out with the setting up of a cotton ginning mill in Ganjam. It has brought hopes and cheers among cotton farmers.

Reports said a cotton processing plant was commissioned on the premises of Digapahandi Marketing Regulating Committee about a week ago. The plant has been set up on PPP mode with an investment of Rs.21.10 crore. The plant is capable of producing about 50 quintals of processed cotton every day. This ginning mill will separate cotton fibre from seed bolls and dust particles, thus making ready for buyers on the basis of their quality.

It is said that thousands of cotton farmers living in Digapahandi, Sanakhemundi, Chikiti, Patrapur, Shergad, Dharakote, Sorada, Bhanjanagar and Jagannath Prasad blocks will be immensely benefited. Owing to the absence of storage facilities, the farmers desperately look to sell their produce to traders of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh who usually cash in on their misery.

Delay in procurement was a major cause of concern for cotton farmers of Ganjam. The sole mandi of the district has been made functional at Digapahandi. Around 1,000 metric tonnes of cotton can be



stored at the godown in front of the RMC office. The administration assessed that as this plant and the godown are near the Ranchi-Vijayawada NH-326, transportation of cotton by farmers and traders will be easy. Besides, Berhampur railway station is only 35 km away.

The plant has created job scope for migrant returnees who used to work in cotton mills in Surat and other parts of the country.

It is estimated that over 1,000 skilled and unskilled workers can get direct and indirect employment by the plant while over 5,000 labourers working in lines sectors will be get scope of earning.

District agriculture officer



Bhaskar Chandra Padhi said: "The cotton processing plant at Digapahandi will provide benefits to the farmers. The department has set a target of cultivating cotton in 242 hectares in Digapahandi and Sanakhemundi blocks in the current year. All possible help will be provided by the agriculture department to the farmers."

Arun Kumar Mishra, the secretary of the RMC, said that farmers' cotton will be processed to add quality so that both farmers and traders can get benefits.

S. Sadananda Dora, a cotton grower, said: "After cotton mandi was set up at Digapahandi, farmers started focusing more on cotton

After the cotton mandi was set up at Digapahandi, farmers started focusing more on cotton farming.... But we had to suffer due to lack of necessary government support while pest attack couldn't be tackled often due to non-cooperation of the agriculture officials

S. SADANANDA DORA | COTTON GROWER



The department has set a target of cultivating cotton in 242 hectares in Digapahandi and Sanakhemundi blocks in the current year. All possible help will be provided by the agriculture department to the farmers

BHASKAR CHANDRA PADHI | DISTRICT AGRICULTURE OFFICER

Farmers' cotton will be processed to add quality so that both the farmers and traders can get benefits

ARUN KUMAR MISHRA | SECRETARY, RMC

farming at Gokarnapur, Bajapalli, Kushapada, Narasighpur and other areas. But farmers had to suffer due to lack of necessary government support while pest attack could not be tackled often due to non-cooperation of the agriculture officials.

The major problem was lack of procurement of the cotton, the farmers had to face distress sale and were bound to sell off their produce to Andhra traders at throw-away price. Earlier, farmers used to raise cotton in 10 acres in the area, but for the last seven years, they have focused on maize cultivation, he added.

He further said if the government extends support to cotton farmers, the later will be encouraged to do this cultivation more than before. He added, "Even as the farm-

ers face the situation every year, little has been done by the district administration to assuage their woes."

It may be noted here that Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been buying cotton from farmers in Gajapati district.

The CCI went to Gajapati first because of the ginning mill that separates cotton fibre from seed bolls and dust particles. It is situated at Kesinga which is comparatively nearer to the district than Ganjam. The ginning mill at Aska has been closed for the last five years. Sources said cotton is grown over hectares of land in Sanakhemundi, Digapahandi, Patrapur, Seragada, Soroda and Dharakote. The district contributes to about 25 per cent of total cotton production in Odisha.

A Red-hit block is now a 500-acre plantation estate



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 22: There was a time when development had completely taken a backseat in various panchayats and villages under Kalimela block of Malkangiri district, sharing borders with Andhra Pradesh. Backwardness of these areas was solely blamed on prevalence of left wing extremism. But situation has started changing slowly.

Now, NABARD has come forward to create livelihood for the tribals. In an attempt to provide long term sustainable income to the tribal communities, the NABARD planted fruit trees in 500 acres of upland areas like Manyamkunda panchayat, Kusumput, Potteru, Baliguda, Pindikonda Dokunda, Rajgiri and Manyamkunda.

Such activities will ensure livelihood to 500 tribal families in these areas.

Grafted saplings of mango and cashew were planted on the land while cash crops have been raised around the plantation area.

NABARD has been paying for all - starting from wages of digging pits, to the cost of fertilisers, water and saplings. Wages are directly credited into the accounts of the beneficiaries.

NABARD has drawn an action plan of Rs2.99 crore for drinking water as well as irrigation for the

plantation. Beneficiaries are trained on plantation, and post-plantation maintenance and marketing of fruits after harvest.

"Our target is to ensure that 500 tribal families are benefitted. Each family has been taken as a unit. Fruit trees will be planted in one acre of highland belonging to each family," Dharmendra Beuria, DDM, NABARD, said.

Beuria said that since they are not able to generate any income in the first few years they are being given support for cultivating inter-crops like vegetables.

"Our aim is also to create new forests, to ensure healthy environment and to promote fruit export to other states. This will ultimately help the beneficiaries to be self sufficient," added Beuria.

The project will run for six years and the income of the beneficiary families will be augmented, said Biplab Mirdha, managing director of the project.

It may be noted here that Manyamkunda was once a Maoist infested area. There was hardly any development in that area. NABARD with the help of Netajee Development Society has taken up plantation activities and also cultivating moong (green gram) among others as inter-crop. Through these activities there will be socio-economic development of the people, experts opine.

DEFIANCE PUNISHED



An official of the district administration seals a jewellery shop in Angul for violating Covid guidelines in terms of social distancing

Skeletal remains of youth, killed over love affair, recovered after 3 months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Sept 22: Three months after a youth went missing; his skeleton remains were recovered from a cave in Andhalima forest under Chandrapur police limits in Rayagada district Tuesday. The deceased youth was identified as Manoranjan Baliarsingh of Jatagada in Kandhamal district. Police investigation revealed that he was murdered by kin of a girl with whom he was having a love affair.

According to reports, Chittaranjan Baliarsingh had filed a missing complaint about Manoranjan at Bisamkatak police station about three months ago.

Police said Manoranjan was in a relationship with the daughter of Nakula Danadasena (40) of Sindhiva village under Bisamkatak police limits. Dandadasena's family was against such love affair, but Manoranjan refused to refrain from this affair and used to meet the girl in the village.

Nakula was enraged over this and planned to eliminate Manoranjan. He, accompanied by his relatives Raghunath Bhato (40) of Pankabadi



The deceased youth was identified as Manoranjan Baliarsingh of Jatagada in Kandhamal district

and Ganeswar Sahu (33) of Hanumatpur, called Manoranjan to Andhalima forest, 30 km away from the village. It was there where the three killed the youth with sharp edged weapons and buried the body inside a cave there.

Police recovered the skeleton and weapons used in the crime. The three accused were arrested.

NOTICE

I, Satyaban Nayak, aged about 58 years, S/o. Nanda Kumar Nayak of Vill- Rautarapur, P.O.- Jajpur, P.S.- Jajpur, Dist.- Jajpur, Odisha, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows: That I am giving notice to the public that, I intend to avail a Home Top Up Loan in addition to existing home Loan by the way of equitable mortgage. I have already availed a Housing Loan on the said property (Title Deed/Patta is laminated) at State Bank of India, Jajpur Town Branch. The details of said property is as under: Khata No. 636/37, Plot No. 771, Area- Ac0.020, Mouza- Unit No. 3, Rautarapur, vide Sale Deed No. 288, from SBI, Jajpur Town Branch (Branch Code) - 0094. In case any party having any claim towards the said relevant property, contact to Branch Manager, SBI, Jajpur Town Branch within 15 days from the date of Notice.

Sd./- Satyaban Nayak

NOTICE

No.8537

Date: 21.09.2020

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, BARGARH

In pursuance to Advt. No.6855 Dt.10.07.2020, Zilla Swasthya Samiti, Bargarh invites objections, if any from the candidates applied for different positions for inhouse selection. For this a database has been uploaded, candidates are requested to log in the official website of Bargarh District www.bargarh.nic.in to check their status to send their objections if any and apply through e-mail i.e. dpmubar@nic.in on or before 27.09.2020 upto 5.00 P.M. No personal contacts and after due date no applications shall be entertained.

Sd./- Chief District Medical & PHO Bargarh

Stone mafia ails Kupari's tourism biz

LOCALS ALLEGE THAT THE ADMIN HAS BEEN APATHETIC TO THE LOOT DESPITE BEING INTIMATED ABOUT THE ILLEGAL MINING AND SMUGGLING



Stone mining on in Kupari (resolution of the photo is not high)

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khairra, Sept 22: The stone mafia has allegedly been hewing and transporting laterite stone from government land at Barapada, Haripur and Barajodi under Kupari Revenue circle of Khairra tehsil in Balasore district.

Sadly, such unlawful activities have been happening in this area, which has been declared as a tourism hub in the district.

Local men alleged that the administration has been apathetic to the loot despite being intimated about the illegal mining and smuggling.

Truckloads of laterite stones are being lifted from 35 mines in the area and it is alleged that the transporters are not paying any cess to the government.

The residents have alleged that although the loot has been taking place in broad daylight, no action is being taken against the looters.

They further alleged that most of the officers of Khairra tehsil office are involved in the smuggling and take commission from stone mafias. Before the inspection team comes to the mines area, those corrupt officers inform the mafias enabling them to hide their machines, trucks and other stone quarrying equipment from the spot.

Locals said that after Kupari revenue village was declared a tourist spot by the state government in 1999, the Revenue department stopped auctioning the existing laterite stone mines at the government land to carry out development works to boost tourism.

The tehsil administration had

also closed 109 stone quarries in the area to encourage tourism. However, after a brief hiatus, the stone mafia resumed mining in the area.

Local environmental activists had earlier taken up the matter with the district Collector and the sub-collector. Besides, some local representatives had also complained about the growing menace to authorities.

Taking serious note of the matter, the tehsildar and Revenue Inspector had visited the spot. But getting prior information from corrupt officers the stone mafias fled from the spot.

The stone mafia here has been carrying out extraction at a rapid pace and transporting stones through Kupari-Soro and Kupari-Ranital roads to the neighbouring West Bengal. Transportation of stones through heavy vehicles has

also reportedly affected the roads and environment, it is alleged. The villagers further alleged that truckers are using one challan form for several rounds of transportation.

The villagers have recently submitted a memorandum to Collector K Sudarshan Chakravarty in this connection at a public meeting. The Collector has instructed sub-collector Nilu Mohapatra for taking appropriate action against illegal stone quarrying and transportation, sources added.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RAYAGADA (R&B) DIVISION No.- I, RAYAGADA
Phone/Fax- (06856) 222149, Email- eepwd765001@gmail.com
Letter No. 4902 Date. 21.09.2020

CANCELLATION OF BID
No. B-283:- The tender work "Construction of Fixed Vision Center (FVC) Sunetra in the Premises of CHC, Jemadei Penta Rayagada under Universal Eye Health Programme (UEHP) Scheme during the year 2020-21" was invited vide this office Bid Identification No. RC (RANDB) RGD No. 09/2020-21 Dated 04.09.2020 is hereby cancelled due to technical issue in DSC. Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Division No. I
OIPR-34049/11/0005/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

No. B-285 **INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**
'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. E.E. JSPR (R&B) - 05/20-21

- Name of work : Building works for the year 2020-21
- No. of works : 03 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Above Rs. 10.00 lakhs up to Rs.50.00 lakhs (Approx.)
- Period of completion : Work wise mentioned in NIT
- Class of contractors : (Civil) "C" & "D", (Work wise mentioned in NIT)

Other details as follows:-

- Date & time of availability of bid documents in Portal:- 28.09.2020 at 11.30 A.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in Portal 13.10.2020 up to 05.00 PM.
- Opening of Bid documents: 14.10.2020 at 11.30 A.M.
- Procurement Officer : Executive Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division, Jagatsinghpur with Email address:- eerbjspr@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division
OIPR-34093/11/0005/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.),
DHENKANAL DIVISION, DHENKANAL

No. _____ Date: _____

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
e procurement notice
Bid identification number / Tender call notice no. - EE (A) D/D-01 of 2020- 21

No. L-31:- The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal who has been authorised as the procuring officer for the projects of Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal is directed to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil Construction Works in Angul District under Dhenkanal Division. The costs of the projects are approximately from 25.00 lakhs to 50.00 lakhs. Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from www.tendersorissa.gov.in from 05.10.2020 at 10.00 hours to 14.10.2020 at 16.00 hours. The bid will be opened on 19.10.2020 at 11.00 hours in the O/o Executive Engineer (Agril.), Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal. All other details regarding term and conditions, corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Email ID:- eeaagri.dhenkanal@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Agril.)
Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal
OIPR-01446/11/0001/2021

FOCUS WORLD

UNITED NATIONS AT 75



It is the United Nations that has championed the broad concept of "sustainable development," which recognises that healthy, long-term development must account for economic, social and environmental issues

UN Women is just the latest addition to a dense network of specialised agencies reflecting the UN's commitment to social development. These include UNESCO (the UN's educational and cultural agency), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The ILO was also integrated into the UN system. Yet another essential node of this network is the UN Environment Programme, established at the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. Since then, a series of UN-sponsored conferences – from the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro to the 2015 Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in Paris – have produced landmark agreements to combat climate change, protect biodiversity, and stop desertification. They represent our best hope for keeping our planet habitable. At a moment when the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent, the importance of such efforts cannot be overstated.

In fact, it is the UN that has championed the broad concept of "sustainable development," which recognises that healthy, long-term development must account for economic, social and environmental issues. In 2000, the UN led the way in establishing the Millennium Development Goals, followed in 2015 by the Sustainable Development Goals, which are today the world's main framework for advancing this agenda.

The UN remains a highly influential institution. More important, it embodies the best of humanity – the belief that all people deserve basic dignity, and that working together is the only way to deliver it. Seventy-five years after its birth, the world – beginning with the US – must revive that belief, and recommit itself to the multilateralism that it embodies.

The writer is a former Finance Minister of Colombia and UN Under-Secretary General.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

As the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary, the world is in turmoil. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in nearly one million deaths so far and is nowhere close to being contained. The world economy is experiencing its worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Extraordinarily severe natural disasters, from floods to wildfires, are wreaking havoc on many countries. And the United States – long the world's leading proponent of multilateral cooperation – is rejecting and even antagonising its friends and partners. The UN and the belief in global solidarity that it embodies have never been more essential.

The UN was built on three pillars. The first was peace. Its overriding aim was to succeed where its ill-fated predecessor, the League of Nations, had failed: avoid another world war. Established at the dawn of the Cold War, the UN became an essential forum for dialogue; since the fall of the Berlin Wall, it has played an important peace-building role in several countries.

The second pillar was human rights. In 1948, the UN General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which set out for the first time the fundamental rights – including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights – that all countries were obliged to uphold. Though the mechanisms the UN created to protect those rights have a mixed record, there is no doubt that the UDHR was a major milestone in making human rights an international priority.

The third pillar was development. According to the UN Charter, member countries are committed to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom." The development agenda also encompassed the objective of reducing inequalities among countries, including through decolonisation, which was also part of the post-World War II agenda.

To promote development, the UN created five regional commissions between 1947 and 1973, and supported developing countries

with technical assistance, an activity that became institutionalised with the creation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1965. Moreover, in January 1961, the UN resolved that the 1960s would be its first "decade of development" – an initiative promoted by US President John F. Kennedy.

As an essential element of that agenda, the UN sought to support the creation of a fairer global economic system that would enable shared progress. As the decolonisation process progressed, and a growing number of developing countries became UN members, the organisation became the world's foremost platform for discussing and implementing changes to the world economic order. The UN Conference on Trade and Development – created in 1964 – supported this process. Among its achievements was the introduction in the global trading system of "special and differential treatment" for developing countries.

The UN later expanded its focus to ensuring that developing countries can access the financing they need. The 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development – held in Monterrey, Mexico, and supported by the International Monetary Fund and

the World Bank – was a milestone. Two more such conferences have since been held – in Doha, Qatar, in 2008, and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2015 – to advance the agenda set out in 2002. Similarly, the UN has played a central role in debates on financing developing countries' responses to the Covid-19 crisis.

But economic progress represents only a part of the development equation. This recognition first emerged in 1978, when the International Labour Organisation (ILO) published a study that defined the "basic needs" of people in developing countries: food, clothing, housing, education, and public transportation. This paved the way for the concept of "human development" that the UNDP later operationalised in its Human Development Reports.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, a series of global conferences broadened the human-development agenda further. For example, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995, produced the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights. In January 2011, a designated entity – UN Women – was established to advance these objectives.



José Antonio Ocampo

THE UN EMBODIES THE BEST OF HUMANITY – THE BELIEF THAT ALL PEOPLE DESERVE BASIC DIGNITY, AND THAT WORKING TOGETHER IS THE ONLY WAY TO DELIVER IT

Support job creators

The Covid-19 pandemic's massive spread has created an extraordinary and extremely difficult situation for all segments of society, worldwide. This could be more so for the business community at large, which runs the show on the back of funds borrowed from banks as loans that are repaid from the profits they make at regular intervals. Running a business is no easy job, and more so in India.

So also with the salaried class, which forms a large bulk, to which too EMI is today the main hope and obsession, be it for purchase of an apartment, building a home, buying a vehicle to travel or educating their children. While small-time retailers and business owners lead a hand-to-mouth existence, most of the salaried class can afford to have a carefree life as their salaries are definitely coming in at the end of the month. The same assurance is not enjoyed by those who are job creators and employ the salaried class.

When iterations of lockdowns took effect, life stood still and many among these segments threw their hands up. Their earnings are little, and EMI or other repayment is impossible. So with farmers too, who take loans and raise their crops. Most activities in public and personal life today are motored by loans.

Some consideration was evident on the part of the government and the RBI, which together announced a moratorium on loans up until August 31 in a scenario that began worsening from April last. This moratorium was virtually of no use since interest was imposed and there was interest on interest. Many wise folks actually did not avail any benefit of the moratorium and instead kept paying installments to avoid compound interest. For this, most had to resort to drastic and unconventional saving methods.

Now, an extension of moratorium has been announced by the lead bank, the State Bank of India, for a maximum of two years for home and retail loan borrowers, those under personal loans category, and those who took loans for education and vehicle purchase. The promise is to re-structure the EMIs or other periodic payments. There, however, are conditions; like, only those who are affected by the lockdown will get the relief; that the account has to be a standard one, and that it should not have been in default for more than 30 days as on March 1, 2020. Those who have taken a loan after March 1 will not be eligible for a restructuring. This is meaningless since lockdown was announced by PM Modi on 24 March and people had no clue of the impending catastrophe.

Problem also is, it looks like a piecemeal approach which has been adopted in the matter of giving relief. Many segments of the borrowers have been left out. There are larger numbers of borrowers from many unlisted segments and their plight is not taken note of or addressed. This is a problem with both the Centre and all state governments. They look at matters from selective sides and ignore the larger picture. When a problem of this mammoth size stares point blank at the nation and its people, a knee-jerk response will not be of help. What is required is an overall, universal approach to addressing human distress. This is sadly lacking.

A question is, what of the entrepreneurs of the small, medium segments. One individual would be employing scores or hundreds of people. If he collapses, the families of the entire workforce will collapse too. Society takes a big hit. But, little attention is being paid to the employers, who keep life ticking at the ground level with payment of salaries even in these odd times when funds are scarce to run units. Job creators need to be given the attention they deserve. This is not to say that the housing and retail loan-takers should not get the relief. Help them by all means. These are difficult times for all. But others too deserve a hearing and support from the government and banks at this hour of crisis.

Admittedly, there also are the black sheep, those wanting to take advantage of the relief offers from banks even if they do not really face any odds even in these times. Their numbers would be minimal since everyone has been hit in these times of economic disaster. None is spared. In fact, the banking sector as also RBI was against a further extension when the proposal came before 31 August. RBI said it was concerned about changes in credit behavior among borrowers and that it would increase the risk of loan defaults if such extensions were granted.

SBI and other bankers said even those borrowers who had the ability to repay were taking advantage of the relaxation or moratorium. This does not ring true. A bank like SBI has huge defaults historically since the people working in it were either dishonest or incapable to assess credit worthiness of hundreds of thousands of borrowers countrywide. Now, when the same bank with the same staff makes such a radical claim, it sounds hollow.

Some among the business class have a way of holding back payments where there is even a minute scope. They tend more to play with the money in hand. That is precisely the reason for much of the NPAs, or bad loans, that Indian banks are today saddled with. But, they are small in number, while considering the scene in its totality. Most businesses are struggling hard today, a scenario that was building up since Demonetization and much before the Covid struck the nation. Ease of doing business in India is diminishing because the entrepreneur is looked at with suspicion. Real ease will take over when job creators are consulted and taken care of. Job seekers and holders will benefit only when the job creator is safe and encouraged.

WISDOM CORNER

- Concern for man and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors. Never forget this in the midst of your diagrams and equations. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**
- A paranoid is someone who knows a little of what's going on. **WILLIAM S BURROUGHS**
- Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared. **LORD BUDDHA**

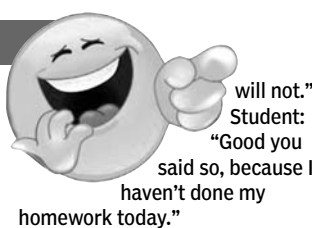
WORDSWORTH

Toxicogenomics

This is a scientific sub-discipline that combines toxicology (the study of the nature and effects of poisons) with genomics (the investigation of the way that our genetic make-up, the genome, translates into biological functions). It has come into being only in the past couple of years. It has been made possible through an investigative technique using microarrays (also called DNA chips), which contain many hundreds or thousands of short DNA strands, each in its own compartment. By washing a solution of a substance over the whole chip at once, the section of DNA affected can be made to fluoresce, so indicating which genes are turned on by the substance and so suggesting its likely effect on the body (in the jargon of the business, taken from computing, the chips are massively parallel discovery processes). It may soon be possible to include the whole human genome on such a chip and so test all of it at once for possible adverse effects. "The most exciting thing about toxicogenomics is that we're going to start investigating genes we never would have thought of looking at," says CTL's Kimber. "That's where the big surprises – and big benefits – are going to come from." SCIENCE, May, 1999. Says an advertisement in the New Scientist in January 2000: "An interest in new technologies, such as toxicogenomics and the use of computerised systems for prediction of safety, as well as in other scientific advances which can contribute to safety assessment would be advantageous."

LOL CLASS

A class is on. A student gets up and asks his teacher, "Would you punish me for something I didn't do?" Teacher: "Good boy, Joe, of course I



will not." Student: "Good you said so, because I haven't done my homework today."

IN JEST THIS

Avoid littering – it may come back to you



Melvin Durai

IF YOU THINK THAT POTATO CHIPS ARE NUTRITIONALLY DEFICIENT, YOU SHOULD TRY EATING THE BAG THAT THEY COME IN

If you happen to visit Khao Yai National Park in Thailand, please be careful not to litter. Littering in a national park could earn you a stiff punishment. The authorities may make you pay a fine as high as ₹12 lakh or sentence you to a maximum of five years in prison.

Can you imagine spending time in prison just because you were too lazy to find a trash bin?

I don't know if this type of punishment is practical on a wide scale. Prisons would quickly get crowded, with entire families needing to share cells. On the positive side, it might allow some long-lost friends to be reunited.

David: "Hey Paul, so nice to see you. What are you in here for?"

Paul: "Littering. What about you?"

David: "Littering, too! I threw away an empty beer bottle. What about you?"

Paul: "I threw away my freedom."

Potential prison sentences may be a deterrent in Thailand, but actually enforcing this punishment may be unrealistic. Perhaps that's why Thai authorities are trying something different: returning the litter to the culprits.



"I will pick up every single piece of your trash, pack them well in a box and mail it to your home as a souvenir," Thailand's environment minister Varavut Silpa-archa wrote in a recent Facebook post.

Now you know why Thailand's environment minister is so busy: he's picking up all the trash by

himself. In case you don't believe him, he has posted photos of a box containing empty plastic bottles, cans and snack bags, ready to be shipped to the violators. The box also contains a polite note: "You have forgotten some of your belongings at the Khao Yai National Park. Please let us return these to you."

This is the type of note I'd love to receive when I forget something in a hotel where I've stayed. But hotels usually don't take the trouble to return lost belongings, except in those rare cases when guests forget something valuable in their rooms, such as their children.

According to a report in the New York Times, the box pictured in Silpa-archa's Facebook post contains litter that was left in a tent by visitors who had stayed overnight in the park. Park officials tracked down the violators by using equipment rental forms and a prescription bottle. Having all visitors register with their addresses makes it easier to track them down if they do something wrong.

Littering is of particular concern at Khao Yai National Park because it has many animals that may eat the litter and hurt themselves. If you think that potato chips are nutritionally deficient, you

should try eating the bag that they come in.

When a bag or wrapper has food residue on it, an animal may swallow it in its entirety. Humans are also capable of doing this, which is why some food manufacturers include instructions like this: "Remove wrapper before eating."

Littering is just one of many ways that humans add their waste to the environment, damaging not only the health of the planet and its inhabitants, but also its beauty. Punishing people who dispose of trash improperly is one way to combat the problem, but we also need to find ways to reduce the total amount of garbage that we produce. Too many consumer goods are over-packaged these days. When you buy a wide-screen TV, for example, it will come in a cardboard box that you could park your car in.

Some of this packaging is necessary to protect fragile items. But it would be great if we can send the packaging back to the manufacturer, so it can be re-used or recycled. Perhaps we can get Thailand's environment minister to do that for us. He can include a note like this: "We wanted the TV – not all the packaging. Please let us return it to you."

Suga, a consensus candidate

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Sir, Even as the Shinzo Abe spell in Japan has ended for all practical purposes, his right hand, Yoshihide Suga, has taken over as prime minister. The 71-year-old Suga is seen in some quarters as a consensus candidate till Japan goes to polls within one year. The LDP, caught in infighting, had no option other than going for Suga, the chief cabinet secretary for the entire eight-year duration of the Abe rule. Suga is viewed as a strong and assertive leader; but, to be hailed as a popular leader, he will have to win the national elections for his party. A "strict disciplinarian" may not be popular among the masses, and it will take some doing for the new PM to win the trust of the people. Domestically, and globally, Suga needs to exhibit a rare vision to prove he is his own man. The famous "Abenomics" has taken some beating in recent years particularly in the Covid-19 situation. An economy based on labour productivity has not been a striking feature of Abenomics. Suga, while living up to the Abe legacy, cannot shy away from creating his own niche. He has his own plans for Japan – increased digitalisation, improving rural economy and reforming the bureaucracy. Although Abe had kept both the US and China at arm's length, he was able to deliver a subtle message to the world about Japan's individuality and ingenuity. His protégé has no reason to shelve the tradition. Extremely important – there has to be a continuity in stability which Abe gave Japan for a good eight years from 2012 after its people had to bear with 19 prime ministers in 30 years.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

An engineering marvel

Sir, One of the greatest Indian engineering marvels of the new millennium – the Atal Tunnel, the world's longest high altitude tunnel – is ready for inauguration soon. It was last year that Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to name the Rohtang passageway as Atal Tunnel to mark the 95th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister. The decision to construct a strategic tunnel was taken on June 3, 2000 when Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. The nine-km Rohtang Pass tunnel in Himachal Pradesh is the world's longest tunnel and is above an altitude of 3,100 metres. Built under the supervision of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of ₹3500 crore, the tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali in Himachal Pradesh and Leh in Ladakh by 46km.

M Pradyu, KANNUR



Karnataka cops widen probe into drugs-hawala-terror funding links

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 22: In a bid to dig deep into the drug mafia's roots in the state, the Internal Security Division of the Karnataka Police had till Tuesday interrogated more than 67 persons. They include Kannada actor, Yogesh, known as Loose Maada, and cricketer and brother of noted film actress Prema, NC Aiyappa who were questioned Monday.

Tuesday, the ISD also summoned TV stars Abhishek Das and Geeta Bhat. Speaking to IANS, ISD ADGP Bhaskar Rao said, "Our angle of investigation is entirely different from that of the ongoing investigations by the Bangalore police. We are looking into aspects of whether this has drugs-hawala-terrorist links."

He added that the ISD had interrogated more than 67 persons so far including actors, TV stars and others. "Our jurisdiction is the entire state and we need to keep track of these events in order to keep track of so many issues. Be it hawala, drug mafia besides terrorist links," he explained.

The department has served notices to several small screen stars. It is confirmed that the drugs scandal also involves people from television and several actors and actresses from this field have been served with notices asking them to be present for questioning.

LOOKOUT NOTICE AGAINST EX-MIN'S SON



BANGALORE: The Central Crime Branch, which is probing the drug abuse in the Kannada film industry, has issued a lookout notice against former Minister and late Jeevaraj Alva's son Aditya, who is at large. The police suspect that Aditya Alva is in India and hiding to evade arrest. They also fear that he may try to flee the country and accordingly all the airports in the country have been alerted to arrest him, police sources said. "We have issued a lookout notice for Aditya Alva," an officer in the CCB told PTI Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Internal Security Division, which is simultaneously probing the case, had summoned a few television and film artists besides sports personalities. However, no one has been arrested yet. According to the ISD officials, notices have been served on 67 people. Meanwhile, a report from Mangaluru said police have arrested a young woman from Manipur, who was in contact with dancer-choreographer Kishore Aman Shetty, facing charges of drug peddling and consumption.

Actor Yogesh and an employee of a private TV channel were questioned on Monday, it is learnt. Yogesh, as per sources, was addicted to some substances when his opportunities started dwindling several years back but he claimed that he does not have any contact with any drug peddler now.

It is being said that Loose Maada and actress Ragini are friends and have attended some parties together. Two TV artistes, Abhishek and Geeta, have been asked to be present for enquiry Tuesday. It is said that cricketer Aiyappa, brother of actress Prema and a small screen actress from Kodagu were questioned by ISD officials on September 19 from morning to evening. Meanwhile, whistleblower director Indrajit Lankesh has demanded the handing over of the drugs case to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a proper probe.

ON WARPATH



Farmers protest against the passage of new farm Bills in the Parliament and land legislations proposed by the Karnataka government, in Bangalore, Tuesday.

Delhi CM targets govt over farm Bills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday targeted the government over the passage of the "dangerous" farm Bills without division of votes in Rajya Sabha, while lauding the sit-in protest on the Parliament premises by the eight suspended MPs.

The eight Rajya Sabha members, including AAP MP Sanjay Singh, were suspended for the remaining part of the Monsoon Session over "unruly behaviour" during the passage of the farm Bills in the Upper House of Parliament.

The other MPs are Derek O'Brien (TMC), Rajeev Satav (Congress), Elamaram Kareem (CPI-M), K K Ragesh (CPI-M), Syed Nazir Hussain (Congress), Ripun Boren (Congress) and Dola Sen (TMC). Since their suspension Monday, the eight MPs have been holding a protest on the Parliament premises. They called off the protest around noon.

Kejriwal said these eight MPs were fighting for the rights of farmers without worrying about heat, mosquitoes or other inconveniences and have spent the night protesting in the Parliament complex.

"They are not asking for anything for themselves. They are fighting for democracy and the Constitution. They are struggling for the farmers of the country," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

Farmers across the country are saying that these laws will end them, he added. "Such a dangerous



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | CHIEF MINISTER

Such a dangerous Bill was passed without division of votes. Then what is the meaning of Parliament, what is the meaning of elections? If you have to pass the law this way, then why did you call a Parliament session

Bill was passed without division of votes. Then what is the meaning of Parliament, what is the meaning of elections? If you have to pass the law this way, then why did you call a Parliament session," Kejriwal asked in another tweet in Hindi. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia compared the present government to the British colonial rulers. "The British ruled the same way. They would commit atrocities on the farmers, labourers and businessmen. They would make black laws to perpetuate the atrocities. And when they met Gandhiji and other leaders, they (the British) would offer them tea. Our rulers are running the government in the same way still," Sisodia said in a tweet in Hindi. He was referring to Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh offering tea to the protesting MPs in the morning.

DELHI RIOTS CHARGESHEET

Over ₹1cr used to manage protests

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: A recent chargesheet filed by Special Cell of the Delhi Police in connection with the alleged conspiracy in the Delhi riots case revealed that five accused, slapped with the stringent UAPA, received ₹1.61 crore to execute the conspiracy. September 16, Police filed a voluminous chargesheet against the accused under various sections of UAPA, Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. The copy of the chargesheet was supplied to their counsels Monday.

In the chargesheet, the police claimed that five persons, including evicted municipal councillor Tahir Hussain, former councillor Ishrat Jahan, student Meeran Haider, activist Khalid Saifi and Shifa-ur-Rehman, received ₹1.61 crore as cash or bank transaction, out of which ₹1.48 crore was used to manage the protest sites and execute the conspiracy of riots. The chargesheet was filed in little less than 200 days of filing an FIR to investigate the conspiracy angle behind the riots that rocked northeast Delhi in February this year. Clashes between the citizenship law supporters and protesters had spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

Besides mentioning the financial transaction, the police also expanded on how the riots were "engineered". They said that a secret conspiratorial meeting was held February 16-17 midnight and it was then that the "key conspirators made up their mind that the final



show down of the pan Delhi protests will be executed in northeast, Shahdara, south districts with the areas of Chand Bagh and Jafraabad as the initial hotspots."

The chargesheet revealed that there was a clear understanding between the key conspirators who attended this meeting that the protest sites, currently located in side lanes in Muslim dominated areas, would need to be shifted and converted into chakka jaam on carefully chosen sites located on arterial or busy roads in proximity to mixed population areas to paralyze the normal movement of traffic and flow of life and engineer riots. "The traffic would be followed by confrontation and attack on Policemen and Public Persons, damage, and destruction of public property by use of arson and other means in these so engineered riots," the chargesheet revealed. It added: "It is not a mere coincidence that while the weapon of offence was financed by Tahir Hussain, the finance for cartridges used in the murder of Rahul Solanki came from Suleman Siddique, one of the persons who had attended this secret conspiratorial meeting."

The chargesheet names Tahir Hussain, Safoora Zargar, Gulfisha Khatoon, Devangana Kalita, Shafa-ur-Rehman, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Natasha Narwal, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Ishrat Jahan, Meeran Haider, Shadab Ahamd, Talsim Ahmad, Saleem Malik, Mohammed Salim Khan and Athar Khan. Tahir Hussain has been named as a main accused in the chargesheet. The chargesheet, however, does not name Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Mohammed Pervez Ahmad, Mohammed Ilyas, Danish and Faizal Khan. Their names will be added in the supplementary chargesheet.

Karna BJP refutes reports of change in state leadership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 22: The BJP in Karnataka Tuesday termed as baseless and misleading reports about replacing Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.

State BJP spokesperson Captain Ganesh Karnik said a few TV channels have repeatedly reported that there is going to be a change in the leadership of Chief Minister Yediyurappa. "BJP strongly refutes this report," he clarified in an official statement. "We categorically state that such reports are absolutely baseless, misleading and far from truth," he added.

There have been strong speculations about possible change in leadership in the future, considering Yediyurappa's age.

The speculation had gained momentum during the 77-year-old leader's recent visit to New Delhi, during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several union ministers and BJP national president JP Nadda.

There were reports that Yediyurappa might be replaced after the Bihar Assembly polls or after him presenting the budget in March 2021.

They suggested that looking at BJP's policy towards seniors crossing 75 years of age, the party was considering honourable exit to the Lingayat strongman by giving him a gubernatorial position and a key post for his younger son BY Vijayendra, who is now the state BJP vice president.



SPECULATIONS GALORE

There have been strong speculations about possible change in leadership in the future, considering Yediyurappa's age

The speculation had gained momentum during the 77-year-old leader's recent visit to New Delhi, during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several union ministers and BJP national president JP Nadda

Several state BJP leaders, including state unit President Nalin Kumar Kateel, minister R Ashoka among others have rejected such reports.

Despite this, there were rumours that several Lingayat legislators, especially from the north Karnataka region, were unhappy with the Chief Minister and were rallying behind a leader from the community who belongs to their region. Yediyurappa Monday had said he was awaiting the high command's directive to undertake the much awaited expansion of his cabinet.

Delhi couple runs street-side classes for poor kids

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Delhi, Sept 22: On a quiet road in India's capital, tucked away on a wide, red-bricked sidewalk, kids set adrift by the country's COVID-19 lockdown are being tutored.

The children, ages 4 to 14, carry book bags more than 2 kilometers (a mile) from their thatched-roof huts on the banks of the Yamuna River to this impromptu, roadside classroom. There, they receive free lessons in math, science, English and physical education, taught by a former Indian diplomat and his wife.

It all began when Veena Gupta's maid, who lives on bank of the river, complained that with schools shut, children in her impoverished community were running amok and wasting time.

"If they stayed at home doing nothing, they'd become drifters," said Dolly Sharma, who works at Veena's high-rise apartment, which overlooks the lush riverbank.

Veena, a singer and grandmother of three, and her husband, Virendra Gupta, decided to go out to the street and teach the kids so they are not left behind when school reopens.

"They don't have access to internet, their schools are shut and they don't have any means to learn," said Veena, who bought books, pencils, notebooks and other teaching materials, and set up the small, open-air classroom under the shade of a leafy banyan tree.

India's stringent lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19 shut schools across the country in late March. Most remain closed as the number of cases has surged past 5 million, making India second worst-hit in the world after the United States.

While many private schools switched to digital learning and online classes, children in most government-run schools either don't have that option or don't have the means to purchase digital learning tools like laptops and smartphones. "There is only one mobile phone in my family and it is usually with my father. I can't study online," said Nitin Mishra, a ninth grader



in Virendra's math class. Mishra's mother works as a part-time maid and his father is unable to find employment as India's economy has been hit hard by the pandemic. The street-side classes have grown as dozens of children showed keen interest. Now the Guptas — with help from their driver, Heera — teach three different groups three times a week, morning and evening. After class, the children are treated to homemade lemonade and cookies prepared by Veena. The Guptas say teaching the kids makes them feel closer to their grandchildren, who live abroad. "My father would make me spend my summer vacation learning the next year's curriculum in advance," said Virendra, who served as Indian ambassador to several countries including South Africa. "That really boosted my confidence and made me interested in schoolwork. And that is what I am trying to do with these children, so when their school reopens, they are slightly ahead of their class." Veena said she hopes to recruit more volunteers to teach the street-side classes. "It is not about the money that people can contribute and give, it is about their time," she said. "They should take out little bit of their time, an hour or so, if not every day, every alternate day, and come and help these children."

help from their driver, Heera — teach three different groups three times a week, morning and evening.

After class, the children are treated to homemade lemonade and cookies prepared by Veena.

The Guptas say teaching the kids makes them feel closer to their grandchildren, who live abroad.

"My father would make me spend my summer vacation learning the next year's curriculum in advance," said Virendra, who served as Indian ambassador to several countries including South Africa.

"That really boosted my confidence and made me interested in schoolwork. And that is what I am trying to do with these children, so when their school reopens, they are slightly ahead of their class."

Veena said she hopes to recruit more volunteers to teach the street-side classes.

"It is not about the money that people can contribute and give, it is about their time," she said. "They should take out little bit of their time, an hour or so, if not every day, every alternate day, and come and help these children."

NIA TO INVESTIGATE BANGALORE VIOLENCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe in the August violence in Bangalore, which was triggered by a derogatory Facebook post on Prophet Muhammad allegedly by the nephew of a Congress MLA, officials said Tuesday.

The central agency has re-registered two separate first information reports under the UAPA and the Indian Penal Code sections related to arson, violence and destruction of public property. The case was earlier being probed by the Bangalore Police, they said.

The Union Home Ministry has handed over the case to the NIA, the officials said. The agency has dispatched a team under an inspector general-rank officer to probe the violence case and it is in Bangalore.

An NIA spokesperson said, "A brief background of the incidents is that August 11, 2020, around 8:00 pm, more than 1,000 people gathered



in front of the house of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy (Pulakeshi Nagar constituency) at Kavalbyrasandra, Bangalore city." "The mob was protesting against the derogatory social media (Facebook) post about Prophet Muhammad made August 11, 2020, around 4 pm by Naveen, the nephew of the MLA, allegedly insulting the religious sentiments of Muslims," the official said. The spokesperson said it is alleged that the state secretary of the SDPI, Muzammil Pasha, had earlier called a meeting and directed members of PFI and SDPI to instigate the mob and incite violence.



Even as the country is reeling under Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre is trying to create famine through these farm Bills
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

SCIENTISTS FIND X-RAY SIGNATURE OF BOUNDARY AROUND BLACK HOLES

A team of international scientists, led by those from India, has found a distinctive signature of cosmic X-rays to identify the boundary around black holes, which "unmistakably separate them" from other objects in the cosmos



of the day quote

The Central government is not just waiting for "act of God" in fight against Covid-19 but also working round-the-clock in the direction to get solution and a vaccine will be available in the beginning of the next year anytime

HARSH VARDHAN | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

A record developmental work had taken place in the state during the last over three years, but the special interest of the Prime Minister has ensured unprecedented infrastructure development in Varanasi

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CHIEF MINISTER

85 per cent of farmers are small farmers with little surplus to sell. If they have to sell the few bags of paddy or wheat, they need many thousand markets all over the country, not one market

P CHIDAMBARAM | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

'China doubles military positions near LAC'

Three years after the Doklam standoff, China has increased its airbases two-fold along LAC, reports Stratfor

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 22: China has started construction of at least 13 entirely new military positions including three air bases, five permanent air defence positions and five heliports near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the aftermath of the Doklam standoff in 2017, according to a report by global security consultancy Stratfor.

The report also said construction on four of those new heliports started only after the current border standoff erupted in eastern Ladakh in early May.

"The 2017 Doklam crisis appears to have shifted China's strategic objectives, with China more than doubling its total number of air bases, air defence positions, and heliports near the Indian border over the past three years," it said.

The report authored by security expert Sim Tack and released Tuesday said China's construction drive projects a future military capability that will see long-term regional tensions with India sustained beyond the two countries' recent standoffs.

The report said the recent pro-



China has started construction of at least 13 new military positions including three air bases, five permanent air defence positions and five heliports near the LAC in the aftermath of the Doklam standoff in 2017

The Stratfor report authored by security expert Sim Tack and released Tuesday said China's construction drive projects a future military capability that will see long-term regional tensions with India

curement of the Rafale fighter aircraft by India has started to provide it some relief, but more time will be required to see indigenous production and foreign acquisitions truly rebuild the strength of India's air force. It observed that the ongoing escalation in the Ladakh region has started to formulate an Indian response to the broader strategic threat posed by China's ongoing military infrastructure drive.

The report titled 'A Military Drive

Spells Out China's Intent Along the Indian Border" analysed that the rapid expansion of permanent Chinese military infrastructure points to Beijing's intentions that span a wider timeframe than current and recent border standoffs.

"Indian and Chinese forces clashed in the Doklam region in June 2017. Since then, China has started constructing at least 13 entirely new military positions near its borders with India, including

three air bases, five permanent air defense positions and five heliports," the report said.

It said China's strategy aims to confront India with an "insurmountable" challenge in territorial disputes by leaning on broad support capabilities that provide Beijing with a tremendous ability to mobilise forces into disputed border areas. The report noted that such an approach is similar to China's strategy in the South China Sea, where a buildup of permanent defense facilities supports Chinese localised military superiority and significantly raises the potential cost of military opposition to Beijing's maritime claims.

"In applying this same strategy on the Indian border, China aims to discourage Indian resistance or military action during future border disputes by ostentatiously demonstrating its ability and intent to engage in military confrontations." The troops of India and China were engaged in a 73-day stand-off in Doklam tri-junction in 2017 which even triggered fears of a conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. Tensions were defused after several rounds of talks.

Govt rushes 6 Bills via RS amid Oppn boycott

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: Amid the opposition boycott of Rajya Sabha proceedings on the issue of suspension of eight Opposition lawmakers, the Central government Tuesday rushed through the passage of at least 6 Bills after extending the sitting of the Upper House.

The passed Bills included the contentious Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The government first got passed The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which aims to give them a tag of national importance. Two Bills proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs to set up a National Forensic Sciences University and a Rashtriya Raksha University were also passed by a voice vote.

"After the passage of the Taxation (Amendment) Bill in an empty Rajya Sabha today, the contributions to non-transparent, non-auditable (by CAG) PM-CARES Fund will be 100 per cent exempt from tax. Chinese companies have given merily to this Fund," senior Congress



leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

The Rajya Sabha also passed The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020, earlier passed in the Lok Sabha, as well as the Banking Regulation Bill.

Earlier in the day, the Opposition decided to boycott the remaining period of the Rajya Sabha's Monsoon Session till their demands were met. Eight suspended members of the Rajya Sabha Tuesday ended their day-long protest after a request from opposition leaders, who also urged them to join the boycott of the ongoing Monsoon Session.

"We have ended our protest but will join in the boycott of the session," Syed Nasser Hussain, one of the suspended Congress MPs, said. His party colleague Rajeev Satav, who too was suspended, said that their protests will move from Parliament to the streets.

SHORT TAKES

'Chakka jaam' stir in Punjab

Chandigarh: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), the BJP's oldest ally, Tuesday announced road blockades across Punjab September 25 to protest against the contentious farm Bills passed by Parliament. The Bills had been passed by Lok Sabha last week. "It has been decided to hold a 'chakka jaam' (road blockade) September 25 in Punjab against these farm Bills," SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema said. He said the party's senior leaders, workers, farmers and farm labourers would block roads in the state for three hours from 11 am in a peaceful manner.

Leopard kills man in U'khand

Pithoragarh: A 40-year-old man was killed by a leopard in the forests of Sukauli near this district of Uttarakhand. The mauled body of Bhupendra Singh Saun was recovered on Tuesday morning, Range Officer Dinesh Joshi said. Saun, who was mentally unstable, lived near a water tank in the forest, he said. The body has been sent for post-mortem, he said.

Rape accused flees Goa jail

Panaji: A 32-year-old man accused of raping a British woman escaped from the Central Jail in Goa Tuesday, police said. Ramchandran Chennadayellappa, a native of Tamil Nadu, was facing trial for allegedly raping the woman at Canacona in South Goa district in December 2018. He escaped from the Central Jail, located around 15 km from here in Colvale, in the early hours of Tuesday, a senior police official said, adding that search was on to nab him.

Marathi actor succumbs to nCoV

Satara: Veteran actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar, who had worked in a number of Marathi and Hindi films, died on early Tuesday morning at a private hospital here after battling Covid-19, hospital authorities said. She was 79. Wabgaonkar was also a noted Marathi theatre personality and had featured in several plays. The actress had tested positive for COVID-19 and was admitted to the private hospital September 17 where she was diagnosed with bilateral pneumonia.

PM Modi visited 58 nations since 2015 spending ₹517.82crore: MEA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in Rajya Sabha Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited 58 countries in the year 2015. The foreign trips of PM Narendra Modi cost Rs 517.82 crore, the External Affairs Ministry said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha.

The ministry also said that during PM Narendra Modi's visits to the foreign countries, some

major Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) on trade, investment, technology and defense field were signed. "PM visited 58 countries in 2015 which cost Rs 517.82 crore. During this visit, major MoUs were signed," the MEA said.

The External Affairs Ministry also said the team of United States President Donald Trump was not tested for coronavirus when it arrived in India in February.

The ministry explained that Donald Trump's team was not tested for the coronavirus as the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the disease a pandemic only March 11, while the United States' President had visited India February 24-25th.

The Trump team was not required a coronavirus test during its visit to India because the WHO declared this (Covid-19) a pandemic March 11, while they visited India 24-25th February.

ED attaches Mirchi's properties in Dubai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: In a massive crackdown against the underworld, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday attached properties worth Rs 200 crore in Dubai belonging to Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar's late close aide Iqbal Mirchi in connection with a money laundering probe, officials said.

"We have attached about 15 properties of Mirchi and his family members, including in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dubai, to the tune of Rs 200 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act," a senior ED official related to the probe said.

The case pertains to Mirchi's Mumbai properties, which have

been called "proceeds of crime". According to the officials, the financial probe agency had already identified Mirchi's 30 properties in London, Dubai and Mumbai worth Rs 1,000 crore.

A criminal case was filed against Mirchi, his family members and others for alleged illegal dealings in purchase and sale of Ceejay House, Sahil Bungalow, Rabia Mansion, Marium Lodge and Sea View at prime Worli locations in Mumbai.

In December last year, the ED attached properties worth Rs 600 crore.

The attached properties included commercial buildings - Ceejay House located at Worli and Arun Chambers in Tardeo area of Mumbai, worth Rs 76 crore.

NEAR CHINESE FRONTIER



A Sukhoi Su-30MKI jet of the Indian Air Force flies over Ladakh region amid border tension with China in Leh, Tuesday

Gandhi replaces Vatsyayan at IIC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: A development at the India International Centre (IIC), a cultural hub where the Capitals creme de la creme hobnobs, has raised eyebrows among some of its members.

In the latest turn of events, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi, has been appointed Trustee of IIC. The sudden move comes just days after renowned scholar and art administrator Kapila Vatsyayan, who was also a trustee of IIC, passed away.

Vatsyayan, a culture connoisseur, helped establish leading institutes such as the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. A Padma Vibhushan, a former Member of Parliament who had authored nearly 20 books and a well-known scholar of art history, she died last Wednesday at the age of 92.

Vatsyayan was not only the chairperson of the Asia Project at the India International Centre (IIC)



but also its trustee.

However, less than a week after her death, the IIC seems to have filled the vacancy. Though a senior official at the IIC called it a "rumour", another trustee and former Solicitor General Soli Sorabjee's office has confirmed the news. "Mr Sorabji has confirmed that Gopalkrishna Gandhi has confirmed his acceptance," his office said.

Earlier, his office said an offer was made to Gandhi and a decision by him was pending. However, they could not give the exact date of

Gandhi's acceptance of the post that belonged to Vatsyayan less than a week before.

Some members of IIC who refuse to come on record have questioned the "tearing hurry" of this appointment. While none of the members questioned the "stature" of Gandhi, the urgency of the appointment to fill the vacancy has evoked the discomfiture of some of the members.

However, the website of India International Centre still shows "Dr. (Smt.) Kapila Vatsyayan" as part of the "Board of Trustees". Meanwhile, Gandhi himself could not be contacted. An email sent to him has not elicited any response so far.

Considered one of the country's premier cultural institutions, the India International Centre is a non-government institution widely regarded as a place where statesmen, diplomats, policymakers, intellectuals, scientists, jurists, writers, artists and members of civil society meet to initiate the exchange of new ideas and knowledge.

DRUGS PROBE

NCB may summon Deepika Padukone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 22: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), probing the alleged Hindi film industry-drug nexus, might summon actress Deepika Padukone if needed, an official said Tuesday.

NCB sources said some WhatsApp conversations purportedly discussing drugs are on the radar of the agency.

Some of these chats were purportedly between Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash and one "D", they said.



The official said the NCB might also summon actors Rakul Preet Singh and Sara Ali Khan, and designer Simone Khambatta this week. The federal anti-drugs agency has already summoned Karishma Prakash and KWAN talent management agency's CEO Dhury Chitgopekar in connection with its probe.

Both of them will be questioned by the NCB this afternoon, he said. "The NCB will first question Karishma Prakash and might summon actor Deepika Padukone if needed," the official said.

During the NCB's investigation into the drugs angle in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, a wider drugs nexus in Hindi film industry surfaced. Rajput's talent manager Jaya Saha was questioned by the NCB Monday.

High courts witnessing surge in abortion cases: Report

"Assessing the Judiciary's Role in Access to Safe Abortion- II" report analysed cases seeking permission of pregnancy from the high courts between May 2019 and August 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: High Courts across the country are witnessing a substantial increase in abortion cases, a new report released Tuesday said.

"Assessing the Judiciary's Role in Access to Safe Abortion- II" report analysed cases seeking permission of termination of pregnancy from the high courts between May 2019 and August 2020.

The report was released by Pratigya, a network of over 100 individuals and organisations working towards protecting and advancing women's rights and their access to safe abortion care in India. "A total of 243 cases were filed

across 14 high courts and one appeal before the Supreme Court. In 84 per cent of the cases, permissions were given to terminate the pregnancy," the report said.

It said, 74 per cent of the total cases were filed post the 20-week gestation period, 23 per cent of them were filed within the 20-week gestation period and should not have gone to the courts at all.

"Out of 74 per cent cases (filed after 20 weeks cut off) 29 per cent cases were related to rape/sexual abuse, 42 per cent related to foetal anomalies; and out of 23 per cent cases (filed even before 20 weeks) 18 per cent cases were related to sexual abuse/rape and 6 per cent of foetal anomaly," the report said.



Commenting on the legal aspect in India and the study findings, Anubha Rastogi, Pratigya Campaign Advisory Group Member and author of the report said the increasing

number of cases only indicate to the fact that access to safe and legal abortion services in this country still leaves a lot to be desired.

"It is imperative that any change in law takes note of these increasing trends and moves towards a rights based, inclusive and accessible legislation on abortion. Any new law/amendment cannot be based on third party authorisation like the medical boards and has to be respectful of a decision that involves the registered service provider and the pregnant person," he said.

Speaking at the launch of the report, VS Chandrashekar, Campaign Advisory Group member, Pratigya Campaign said the fact that even women/girls with gestation below

20 weeks have had to go to courts is distressing.

"The MTP Act allows termination of a pregnancy up to 20 weeks. A large number of the below 20 weeks cases are of survivors of sexual abuse and this only increases their trauma," he said.

The report emphasises on how crucial it is for the law to adapt in accordance to the changing times. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, is awaiting a nod from the Rajya Sabha and a few changes have been recommended by civil society organisations, which if accepted would make the Act progressive and rights based, the report said. "Even if the MTP Amendment

Bill 2020 is passed in the current form, the number of cases approaching the courts is not likely to reduce," Chandrashekar said.

"Therefore, to avoid this, the proposed amendment to 'increase the gestation limit from 20-24 weeks' should be extended to all pregnant persons who need to terminate a pregnancy, instead of being restricted to only to certain categories of women as defined in the MTP Rules," Chandrashekar added.

"Similarly, the 'no upper gestational limit proposed for foetal anomalies' should be extended to survivors of sexual abuse/rape. Forcing a person to carry a pregnancy out of rape to term is a violation of her right to life and dignity," he said.

of the day quote

To personally serve tea to those who attacked and insulted him a few days ago as well as those sitting on Dharna shows that Shri Harivansh Ji has been blessed with a humble mind and a big heart. It shows his greatness. I join the people of India in congratulating Harivansh Ji



NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

After what happened on Sunday, I have been extremely anguished, distressed and in mental agony and have been unable to sleep for the past two days



HARIVANSH | RS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Delay in recruitment, obstructing and diverting amounts to injustice with the youth. Please stop it



PRIYANKA GANDHI | CONG GENERAL SECY

SHORT TAKES

Moderate quake strikes near Mumbai

Mumbai: An earthquake of magnitude 3.5 was reported near Mumbai in Maharashtra Tuesday morning, according to the National Center for Seismology. The epicentre of the earthquake was 104 km north (N) of Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, the agency said. The earthquake struck at 2:50 AM IST at a depth of 5 km from the surface.

Thane bldg crash toll mounts to 20

Thane: The overnight death toll in the building crash in Maharashtra's Bhiwandi town shot up to 20 with seven more bodies recovered from the debris, officials said here Tuesday. The deceased include two infants, seven minors, seven men and four women, said an official of the Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC). Besides, another 25 persons have been rescued so far from the four-decade old Jilani building in the Patel Compound, Narpoli, which crashed around 3.45 a.m. Monday morning.

Militant killed in J&K encounter

Srinagar: One terrorist has been killed in an ongoing encounter between militants and security forces at Chrar-i-Sharief in central Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said Tuesday. The firefight started Monday after security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation after receiving specific information. As the security forces zeroed in on the terrorists' hideout, they came under a heavy firing from the ultras that triggered the encounter.

Woman crushed to death

Panaji: A 63-year-old woman was crushed to death when a huge boulder fell on her house in Goa's Vasco town following incessant rains in the area, a police official said Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday night when the woman and her other family members were sleeping at their home located on a hill in Vaddem ward of Vasco in South Goa district, he said. A huge boulder came rolling down the hill on to their house, causing its roof to collapse. The woman got trapped under the boulder and died on the spot, the official said.



Any suicide is sad. Why is the entire country obsessed over one case when so many farmers are committing suicide?

SHARAD PAWAR | NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY CHIEF

NASA IMAGES SHOW EARLY STUBBLE BURNING IN PUNJAB

Satellite images from NASA have shown that the farmers have started burning the crop residue in parts of Punjab and Haryana, which, every year, plunges the air quality in Delhi and the surrounding region in a severe category



Suspended RS MPs end dramatic sit-in

A UNITED OPPOSITION HAS DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THE REMAINING PART OF RAJYA SABHA'S MONSOON SESSION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: With the Opposition deciding to boycott the remaining session of the Rajya Sabha, the eight suspended MPs Tuesday ended their overnight sit-in inside the Parliament House complex and said they would take their fight against the farm bills to the street.

The suspended Rajya Sabha parliamentarians, who spent the night in the lawns near Mahatma Gandhi's statue in what several old-timers said was the first such overnight protest in the complex, got a surprise visitor in the morning - Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh who came with tea and snacks.

Till late night, the protesting MPs raised slogans and sang songs while a host of Opposition leaders such as National Conference's Farooq Abdullah, Samajwadi Party's Jaya Bachchan and Congress' Ahmed Patel, Digvijaya Singh and Shashi Tharoor visited them to express their support. But their morning visitor did not receive the same enthusiastic response, said some of the protesting MPs.

The Rajya Sabha deputy chair-

man, the protesters said, came early with a posse of news cameras and was told to visit without the cameras and sit with them.

"Another senior MP also told him that while bringing tea was a nice gesture, he was still in the wrong in what he did. He was told he was the one who broke the rules," a protesting MP said.

Several leaders said they did not accept the tea and snacks offered by the deputy chairman. "I did not have the tea brought by him," said AAP leader Sanjay Singh.

"Farmers have been cheated. We kept asking for proper voting and we were ignored completely. This is not the time to make friends but to fight for the rights of farmers, and we sat here the whole night to protest against the anti-farmer Bills," he added.

With the opposition parties boycotting the rest of the session, there was no point in continuing with the dharna, which started on Monday afternoon and ended 24 hours later on Tuesday, said Congress MP Hussain.

"All the opposition parties have boycotted the rest of the session (in Rajya Sabha), nobody is at-



tending the session. They appealed to us to withdraw the dharna and since nobody is attending the session till the suspension is revoked, there is no point in continuing with the dharna," he said.

His party colleague Rajeev Satav added that they will now hit the streets against the farm bills.

"After many Opposition parties have boycotted the remainder of the Monsoon session of the Rajya Sabha, the dharna at Gandhi statue has ended. Now we will take our fight for the rights of the farmers to every town and village in the country," Trinamool Congress' Dola Sen said.

MPs must apologise: Ravishankar Prasad

New Delhi: The government will consider revoking the suspension of eight Rajya Sabha members only after they apologise for their behaviour in the Upper House, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Tuesday. The assertion came after a number of Opposition parties, led by the Congress, staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha demanding that the suspension of eight members be revoked. The Congress was the first to walkout from the House and was later joined by the members of AAP, TMC and Left parties.

Efficacy of Covid vax likely to be 50-100%: ICMR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said that the efficacy of the Covid-19 vaccine in India is likely to remain between 50 to 100 per cent, however, they are trying for 100 per cent efficiency.

"We are aiming for 100 per cent efficacy but may land between 50 to 100 per cent. However, it still would be an effective vaccine against the virus," ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said while speaking to media during a press briefing of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Tuesday.

Bhargava added that as per the World Health Organisation (WHO), a vaccine having above 50 per cent efficacy is acceptable for administration. "100 per cent efficacy is not achieved in vaccines for respiratory viruses," he said.

The Drugs Controller General of India released draft guidelines for Covid-19 vaccine Monday. The 39-page document lists several safety protocols that companies have to follow, including developing adaptive trial designs.



As per the guidelines, the vaccine that will go for approval must elicit superior immune responses compared to no vaccination against Covid-19. An individual who gets the vaccine should be protected from re-infection for at least a year.

Besides, the regulatory approval for the vaccines will come through only if companies demonstrate 50 per cent efficacy in the primary endpoint or more than 30 per cent efficacy in the secondary endpoints.

ABANDONED TEA PARTY



Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh Narayan Singh offers tea to suspended MPs at the premises of Parliament House as they stage a protest over their suspension from the remaining Monsoon Session of Parliament over the ruckus created in Upper House, in New Delhi, Tuesday morning. PTI PHOTO

LS passes two Health Ministry Bills in midnight proceedings

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Lok Sabha in a midnight proceeding Tuesday passed Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

These Bills were moved for passage after the House passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 that seeks to bring a law that punishes those who attack health workers or doctors who are fighting the coronavirus outbreak or during any situation similar to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Union Health Minister Harsh

Vardhan moved these Bills for passage in the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Lok Sabha which Monday started at 3 p.m. and ended at 12.24 a.m. on Tuesday - the second consecutive day in a row of this session in a hurry to pass maximum important Bills brought by the Central government.

The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha September 18, seeks amendment to the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973. It will replace the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 promulgated by the President on April 24 this year.

MAN KILLED IN UP OVER ₹300

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bijnor (UP), Sept 22: Apparently in a drunken stupor, three men killed their neighbour with a wooden stick, fitted with nails, following a dispute over ₹300. The police claimed that all of the accused were in an inebriated state.

The incident took place in Ganj area Monday. The victim, identified as 24-year-old Deepak sustained multiple injuries on his body and succumbed on his way to the hospital.

According to Bijnor superintendent of police (SP), Dharamveer Singh, four youths got ₹300 from a temple. They began arguing among themselves over sharing the money which was in Deepak's possession. As the argument intensified, his neighbours Ravish, Mukesh and Shashi started attacking him with sticks that had been fitted with nails.

TO MEET TESTING TARGET, DOCTOR GIVES HIS SAMPLE 15X

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mathura (UP), Sept 22: In a shocking incident, a video clip of a Mathura doctor giving more than 15 of his own samples for conducting Corona test for completing the sampling target, has gone viral on social media.

The video that first came to light Sunday is from the Baldeo community health centre and samples of Rajkumar Saraswat were seen being taken by a health worker. The samples were sent for tests with fake names to the CMO office.

In the video, Saraswat himself admitted that he is giving his own sample, as the number of sam-

BIHAR POLLS

Owaisi-Devendra alliance may change equations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 22: The announcement by the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Asaduddin Owaisi to form the United Democratic Secular Alliance (UDSA) with former MP and Samajwadi Janata Dal (Democratic) chief Devendra Prasad Yadav for the upcoming Bihar

Assembly elections has given an interesting turn to the battle at the hustings.

With Owaisi and the SJD (D) entering the poll arena in Bihar together, the political fight won't be easy for any of the parties in the Seemanchal region of the state.

Forging an alliance with Devendra Yadav's party, Owaisi has made a political move to play a spoiler of votes for the Yadav and Muslim voters of Bihar who are considered the traditional pocket boroughs of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

Though the UDSA has not yet decided on the number of seats it will contest in the Assembly elections, it is believed that the alliance will field their candidates in Kosi and Purnia regions. The Muslim vote will supposedly be decisive in 15 to 17 seats in Seemanchal but there are many other constituencies where Muslim voters could influence the poll results.

In the 2015 elections, Owaisi's party had fielded candidates for six seats and all of them suffered resounding defeats. On five seats, his party candidates lost their deposits. However, in 2019 the AIMIM's Qamrul Hoda won the Kishanganj seat in the Bihar by-polls.

Political expert and senior journalist from Kishanganj Ratneshwar Jha opines that in the wake of the

alliance by Owaisi and Yadav, it is certain that there will be a split in the Yadav and Muslim votes to the disadvantage of the RJD.

Jha says, "The voters who will be targeted by the UDSA have been considered to be the vote banks of the Opposition grand alliance (Mahagathbandhan) so the number of votes that UDSA gets will only harm the Mahagathbandhan."

Owaisi's poll campaign has always been aggressive and polarising so it would not be surprising if he swings voters in his favour from other areas of Bihar as well.

RJD spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwari denies any political threat from the AIMIM-SJD (D) alliance, saying, "There is a direct political fight between two ideologies in Bihar. Apart from this, whichever party is contesting this election and at whose behest they do so, the people of Bihar know it well. Whichever party tries to weaken the political fight against the BJP, the people of the state will give them a befitting reply."

The RJD may reject the UDSA but it will surely make a dent in the Muslim and Yadav vote banks. In the Muslim-dominated areas, Owaisi could field his party candidates which might pay the BJP political dividends. It is certain that not all Muslims will vote for Owaisi and there will be a split in the community's votes.

On the AIMIM-SJD alliance giving the BJP a political advantage, party spokesperson Dr Nikhil Anand said, "Leaders like Owaisi are always trying to garner Muslim votes through the politics of appeasement by invoking the sentiments of the community. The people of Bihar clearly understand the ideology of such leaders."



Why many farmers, politicians oppose Modi's farm laws

OPPN PARTIES AND FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS HAVE CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR RUSHING THROUGH THE LEGISLATION BY ISSUING THE EMERGENCY ORDERS

REUTERS

New Delhi/Mumbai, Sept 22: The Parliament has approved new farm Bills that the government says will unshackle farmers from having to sell their produce only at regulated wholesale markets and make contract farming easier.

The Union Cabinet had issued emergency executive orders in June to change the longstanding rules that govern the vast agriculture sector, which contributes nearly 15% of the output of the \$2.9 trillion economy and employs around half of India's 1.3 billion people.

Opposition parties and farmers' organisations have criticised the government for rushing through the legislation by issuing the emergency orders and accused Modi's ad-

ministration of getting parliamentary approval without proper debate, scrutiny and consultation.

Key point of contention
Under the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 - one of the laws approved by parliament - growers can directly sell their produce to institutional buyers such as big traders and retailers.

Many farmer organisations oppose this, saying it will leave small growers with little bargaining power.

Nearly 85% of India's poor farmers own less than 2 hectares (5 acres) of land, and they find it difficult to directly negotiate with large buyers of farm goods.

Farmer leaders have said that wholesale markets, which play a crucial role in ensuring timely pay-



ments to small farmers, would lose their relevance and even gradually disappear if large buyers were allowed to buy directly from growers.

Without offering an alternative arrangement to small growers, such

as private markets or direct-purchase centres, the new rule does not make any sense, growers have said. India's grain bowl states of Punjab and neighbouring Haryana also fear that if big institutions

start purchasing directly from farmers, the state governments will lose out on the tax that these buyers have to pay at wholesale markets.

Limitations for farmers

Under the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, a law that dates back more than 55 years, it was compulsory for farmers to bring their products to more than 7,000 regulated wholesale markets where middlemen, or commission agents, helped growers sell harvests to either the state-run food procurement agency or private traders. This was to protect farmers from being exploited by big institutional buyers.

The government now argues, however, that the middlemen of wholesale markets form an extra layer in the supply chain, and that

their commission pushes up prices for consumers. Regulating wholesale markets These markets are run by local bodies which ensure the price of farmers' produce, including fruit and vegetables, is determined by auctions.

For rice and wheat, however, there is no auction as the government buys at guaranteed prices.

Every year, the government raises the price at which the Food Corporation of India (FCI) - India's state grain stockpiler and top buyer - buys rice and wheat from growers. Most farmers in Punjab and Haryana sell their rice and wheat to the FCI.

Some growers believe that, should wholesale markets start to lose relevance, private buyers could arm-twist farmers to sell at lower rates.

international



Seven months into the pandemic, we must be very clear about the gravity of this crisis. We are at risk of losing a generation
MOHAMED MALICK FALL | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR UNICEF IN EASTERN AND SOUTH AFRICA

CHINA TOWARDS NORMALCY

China's Education Ministry Tuesday said that 90 per cent of students across the country have returned to school amid the COVID-19 pandemic



of the day quote

The pain experienced by all the Lebanese under such circumstances requires the cooperation of all parties to facilitate the formation of a government comprised of specialists dedicated to the implementation of a specific program aimed at stopping economic collapse while restoring confidence in the country and its institutions
MUSTAFA ADIB | NEWLY-APPOINTED LEBANESE PM

Multi-lateralism is not an option but a necessity as we build back better and greener for a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world
VOLKAN BOZKIR | PRESIDENT OF THE UNGA

India has intensified its belligerent rhetoric against Pakistan, including threats of military aggression
SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI | PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Deadly weeks in Afghan, 98 killed
Kabul: Afghanistan's Interior Ministry has said that at least 98 civilians were killed and 230 others wounded in Taliban attacks in 24 provinces in the last two weeks as violence has increased in the country amid the ongoing peace efforts. Security source told TOLO News that an average of at least 30 security forces have been killed on a daily basis in Taliban attacks in the last two weeks and 50 members were killed in just 24 hours.

No new nCoV cases in NZ
Wellington: No new COVID-19 cases were reported in New Zealand Tuesday as the country embraced the first day of relaxed restrictions, or Alert Level 1, except the largest city of Auckland. Auckland will ease restrictions on gatherings from Wednesday midnight, moving down from COVID-19 Alert Level 2.5 to 2, while the rest of the country moved from Alert Level 2 to 1 Monday midnight, reports Xinhua news agency.

Facebook set to restrict content
New York: Facebook Inc will take aggressive measures to 'restrict the circulation of content' on its platform if November's presidential poll descends into chaos or violent civic unrest, the Financial Times reported Tuesday citing a company executive.

Xi critic jailed
Beijing: China sentenced a former property executive who once called President Xi Jinping "a clown" to 18 years in prison for graft, a court said Tuesday, in what some critics called an especially harsh sentence amid an ongoing clampdown on dissent.

Floods hit Jakarta
Jakarta: At least two people were killed, 20 others injured and one person reported as missing after flash floods and landslides lashed the Indonesian capital of Jakarta and its surrounding areas, disaster agency officials said Tuesday. Due to torrential rains since Monday, a river has overflowed and submerged surrounding areas in the capital which was recently put under a partial COVID-19 lockdown, spokesman of National Disaster Management Agency Raditya Jati said.

CHINA TURNS TIBETANS INTO FACTORY WORKERS

Beijing, Sept 22: China is pushing growing numbers of Tibetan rural laborers off the land and into recently built military-style training centers where they are turned into factory workers, mirroring a program in the western Xinjiang region that rights groups have branded coercive labor. Beijing has set quotas for the mass transfer of rural laborers within Tibet and to other parts of China, according to over a hundred state media reports, policy documents from government bureaus in Tibet and procurement re-

quests released between 2016-2020 and reviewed by Reuters. The quota effort marks a rapid expansion of an initiative designed to provide loyal workers for Chinese industry. A notice posted to the website of Tibet's regional government website last month said over half a million people were trained as part of the project in the first seven months of 2020 - around 15% of the region's population. Of this total, almost 50,000 have been transferred into jobs within Tibet, and several thousand have been sent to other parts of China. Many end up in low paid work, including textile manufacturing,

construction and agriculture. "This is now, in my opinion, the strongest, most clear and targeted attack on traditional Tibetan livelihoods that we have seen almost since the Cultural Revolution" of 1966 to 1976, said Adrian Zenz, an independent Tibet and Xinjiang researcher, who compiled the core findings about the program. These are detailed in a report released this week by the Jamestown Foundation, a Washington, DC-based institute that focuses on policy issues of strategic importance to the US "It's a coercive lifestyle change from nomadism and farming to wage labor." Reuters corroborated Zenz's findings and

found additional policy documents, company reports, procurement filings and state media reports that describe the program. In a statement to Reuters, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly denied the involvement of forced labor, and said China is a country with rule of law and that workers are voluntary and properly compensated. "What these people with ulterior motives are calling 'forced labor' simply does not exist. We hope the international community will distinguish right from wrong, respect facts, and not be fooled by lies," it said. Moving surplus rural labor into industry is a key part of

China's drive to boost the economy and reduce poverty. But in areas like Xinjiang and Tibet, with large ethnic populations and a history of unrest, rights groups say the programs include an outsized emphasis on ideological training. And the government quotas and military-style management, they say, suggest the transfers have coercive elements. China seized control of Tibet after Chinese troops entered the region in 1950, in what Beijing calls a "peaceful liberation." Tibet has since become one of the most restricted and sensitive areas in the country.

'Pakistan using terror groups to change status quo in J&K'



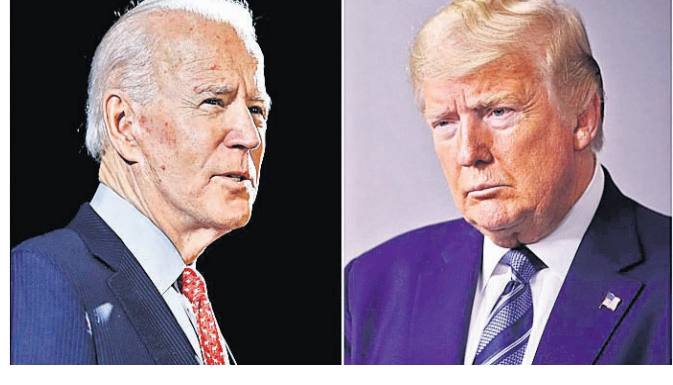
Washington, Sept 22: Pakistan has used terrorist groups to change the status quo in Jammu and Kashmir, which has undermined every peace effort and impacted human rights negatively, a Barrack Obama-era diplomat has told US lawmakers. In a statement to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, Alyssa Ayres, senior fellow for India, Pakistan, and South Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations think-tank, Monday said the situation is complex and tragic in Kashmir. The committee will schedule a hearing on "Stemming a Receding Tide: Human Rights and

Democratic Values in Asia" Tuesday. There is documented history of Pakistan-based terrorists active in Indian-administered Kashmir, and Kashmiris and the Indian government continue to face a difficult challenge of border security and terrorism in this region, Ayres said. "Terrorism has undermined every effort at peace in the last two decades and continues to create insecurity. I would also like to acknowledge the longstanding suffering of the Kashmiri Pandits, a Hindu community driven from their Kashmiri homeland in the early years of the insurgency at the beginning of the 1990s," she said. Ayres said the Indian government revoked Article 370 last year to tackle terrorism in Jammu and

India slams Pak at UN
United Nations: In a scathing attack on Pakistan, India has said that if there is an "unfinished agenda" at the UN, it is that of tackling the scourge of terrorism and the country, a globally-recognized epicenter of the menace, which harbours and trains terrorists, and hails them as martyrs and consistently persecutes its ethnic and religious minorities". She was referring to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's remarks in the country's Parliament where he had termed former al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden as a "martyr".

Kashmir: The move was followed by deployment of additional troops, statewide communications and internet shutdown and several Kashmiri leaders were placed in detention. "More than a year on, it is hard to see improvements on that front," she said adding that the impact on democracy and human rights has been negative.

If Biden wins, China wins



Washington, Sept 22: Former US vice president Joe Biden has enormously harmed the US economy in his five decades as a politician, President Donald Trump has said, adding that if the Democratic leader wins the November 3 polls it would be a win for China. Biden, 77, and his running mate Kamala Harris are challenging incumbents President Trump, 74, and Vice President Mike Pence in the presidential election. "Joe Biden spent the last 47 years shipping your jobs to China and foreign countries. You know that. I've spent the last four years bringing the jobs back to our country and back to Ohio," Trump said at a rally in Dayton, Ohio Monday. The Republican leader described the November 3 polls as the most

important in recent memory. "On November 3rd, Americans will decide whether we lift our nation to soaring new heights of prosperity or whether we will allow Joe Biden - Sleepy Joe - to shut down our economy, impose a \$4 trillion tax hike, abolish Ohio clean coal, oil, natural gas, and ship your jobs in factories overseas to China and countries that you never even heard of," he said. The democratic tax plans for the 2020 election lists a gradual increase in proposed taxes by \$4 trillion in the next decade, placing a greater burden on the super-rich category. "Put simply: If Biden wins, China wins. If we win, Ohio wins and most importantly, in all fairness, America wins. Because you finally have the president who puts America first, and I do put America first," Trump said to applause from the audience.

Rescuers race to save 270 stranded whales in Australia

The whales were discovered Monday on a beach and two sand bars near the west coast town of Strahan

Canberra, Sept 22: Rescuers are racing against time to save 270 stranded pilot whales off the west coast of Australia's Tasmania and about one-third of them have already died. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment in Tasmania said in a statement Tuesday that experts have mapped out the rescue response over the coming days in relation to the state's mass whale stranding, reports Xinhua news agency. There are currently 60 people involved in the rescue efforts on-site.

Marine Conservation Program wildlife biologist Kris Carlyon said marine conservation experts are trying to refloat the animals and assess behaviour. "A lot of the rescue efforts will depend on how these animals respond once they have water underneath them," Carlyon said. Carlyon said a third of the animals have already died, and the rescue efforts are likely to take days, depending on weather and tide conditions. However, he is confident the remaining whales could survive for a few days.



UNCERTAIN JOURNEY



A woman pulls a baby on a pallet as they prepare to move to a new temporary camp for migrants and refugees, on the island of Lesbos, Greece

'Assange likely to attempt suicide in prison'

MICHAEL KOPELMAN, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF NEUROPSYCHIATRY AT KING'S COLLEGE LONDON, SAID ASSANGE HAS A HISTORY OF DEPRESSION AND THERE IS A 'VERY HIGH' RISK OF SUICIDE IF THE US EXTRADITION ATTEMPT SUCCEEDS

London, Sept 22: Julian Assange is very likely to attempt to kill himself if he is sent to the United States to face espionage charges, a psychiatric expert said Tuesday at an extradition hearing for the WikiLeaks founder. Michael Kopelman, emeritus professor of neuropsychiatry at King's College London, said Assange has a history of depression and there is a "very high" risk of suicide if the US extradition attempt

succeeds. "It's the imminence of extradition and/or an actual extradition that will trigger the attempt, in my opinion," Kopelman said during testimony as a witness for Assange at London's Old Bailey criminal court. He said there were "an abundance of known risk factors" including a family history of depression and suicide and the isolation Assange has experienced - first in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he took refuge in 2012, and since April 2019 in a British prison. Kopelman said Assange has

associated with an increased tendency to ruminate on suicide. Under cross-examination by James Lewis, a lawyer representing the US government, Kopelman said he was always alert to the possibility a patient might be "malingering" or exaggerating. US prosecutors have indicted Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks' publication of secret American military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in

prison. Assange's defense team argues that he is a journalist and entitled to First Amendment protections for publishing leaked documents that exposed US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also say the conditions he would face in a US prison would breach his human rights. The extradition hearing began September 7 and is due to last until early October, with Judge Vanessa Baraitser likely to take weeks or months to consider her decision.

Julian Assange also been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, which has been

Calif. wildfire threatens desert homes near LA



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, Sept 22: An enormous wildfire that churned through mountains northeast of Los Angeles and into the Mojave Desert was still threatening homes Monday and was one of more than two dozen major fires burning across California. Five of the largest wildfires in state history are currently burning and more than 5,600 square miles (14,500 square kilometers) have been charred, an area larger than the state of Connecticut, Gov Gavin Newsom said. At 165 square miles (427 square kilometers), the Bobcat Fire is one of the largest ever in Los Angeles County after burning for more than two weeks. It was only about 15 per cent contained.

Evacuation orders and warnings are in place for thousands of residents in foothill and desert areas, where semi-rural homes and a popular nature sanctuary have burned. Statewide, at least 23,000 people remain evacuated, Newsom said. No injuries have been reported for the fire about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of downtown Los Angeles. However, 18 homes and other buildings have been destroyed and 11 damaged, some in the Juniper Hills area, with the toll rising to perhaps 85 when damage assessment teams can complete their work this week, fire officials said Monday evening. Flames destroyed the nature center at Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area, a geological attraction that sees some 130,000 visitors per year. A wildlife sanctuary on the property was undamaged, and staff and animals had been evacuated days earlier. Nearly 19,000 firefighters in California are currently battling 27 major blazes, Newsom said. At least 7,900 wildfires have erupted in the state this year, many during a mid-August barrage of dry lightning ignited parched vegetation. Twenty-six people have been killed.

Sign-up delays for global vaccine plan are procedural: WHO

REUTERS

Reuters Geneva, Sept 22: More countries will sign up to a global vaccination plan and some of the delays were due to procedural issues rather than doubts about the scheme, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said Tuesday. The Geneva-based body has said that 156 nations have joined the so-called COVAX plan to deliver some 2 billion vaccine doses globally by the end of next year but big countries such as China, Russia and the United States are missing. About 64 wealthy nations have signed up and more are expected despite missing an official deadline. However, some of those supporting the plan such as France are reluctant to use it to secure vaccines and have instead struck separate supply deals. "What we've announced is the beginning. It's going to continue," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said, calling the number of sign-ups to date "brilliant". "We all need to be in this together in order to finish this pandemic." She declined to comment on specific countries and said discussions were ongoing. Asked to elaborate on delays to joining, Harris said some were due to paperwork and the need for parliamentary approval. Other countries, however, appear to have no intention of signing up.



business



We are not forcing anyone to invest in small-caps and investment should always be in the interest of investors amid new portfolio allocation rules
AJAY TYAGI | SEBI CHIEF

SENSEX, NIFTY SPIRAL LOWER

Equity benchmarks buckled under selling pressure for the fourth session on the trot Tuesday as wary investors took money off the table amid concerns over economic recovery and weak global cues.



of the day quote

Geopolitical impact is going to become one of the big risks for companies which are global. China is one but in the same way there are various countries across the world



RITESH AGARWAL | CEO, OYO

The new farm regulations will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce



JAWARE GOWDA | PRESIDENT, FAIPA

E-approval of Afibercept injection for intravitreal use presents a new and alternative treatment option to currently available therapies, for patients with DME



MANOJ SAXENA | MD, BAYER ZYDUS PHARMA

Telcos to pay 10 pc of AGR dues by March 31

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Telecom operators shall pay 10 per cent of the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues demanded by the DoT by March 31 as directed by the Supreme Court, Parliament was informed Tuesday. Minister of State for Communications Sanjay Dhotre, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, also said the estimated revenue likely to be generated will depend on the payments made by the telecom companies.

"Revenue expected from Spectrum auction during 2020-21 had initially been projected in the 2020-2021 Budget," the minister said.

The government in the Receipt Budget has pegged over two-fold increase in revenue collection to Rs 1,33,027.2 crore for financial year 2020-21 under the communications head. Regarding AGR dues, the minister said the Supreme Court in its judgement dated September 1, 2020 has determined the dues owed by the telecom companies and the methodology of payment.

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that at the first instance, the respective Telecom Operators shall make the payment of 10 per cent of the total dues as demanded by DoT by March 31, 2021," Dhotre



The government in the Receipt Budget has pegged over two-fold increase in revenue collection to Rs 1,33,027.2 crore for financial year 2020-21

Regarding AGR dues, Supreme Court in its judgement has determined the dues owed by the telecom companies and the methodology of payment

said. According to government calculations, total AGR liability of Bharti Airtel is Rs 43,980 crore, Vodafone Idea (VIL) Rs 58,254 crore, Tata group Rs 16,798 crore, BSNL Rs 5,835.85 crore and MTNL Rs 4,352.09 crore.

Bharti Airtel has paid the government Rs 18,004 crore, VIL Rs 7,854 crore, Tatas Rs 4,197 crore and Reliance Jio has cleared its entire dues with payment of Rs 194.79

crore. Anil Ambani-owned Reliance Communications owes Rs 25,194.58 crore, Aircel Rs 12,389 crore and Videocon Telecommunications Rs 1,376 crore but these companies are under liquidation process.

Companies like Loop Telecom, Etisalat DB and S Tel, which jointly owe the government Rs 604 crore, have shut down their India operations.

GOOGLE TO NURTURE 20 INDIAN STARTUPS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 22: Google Tuesday announced the fourth batch of its Google for Startups (GFS) Accelerator programme with 20 startups who will receive three months of support from the network of internal and external mentors in India.

The fourth GFS Accelerator programme has not only doubled its batch size from 10 to 20 startups but also expanded the scope of the programme, to include startups that are using cutting-edge tech to meaningfully help India and the world adapt and move forward from the pandemic.

It comprises startups from key categories that require urgent innovation, such as workplace collaboration and connection tools, mental health and wellness, health-tech, fintech and agritech, the company said in a statement.

"we aim to focus single-mindedly on helping startups tide over the next 18-24 months, when the effects of the pandemic will be felt the strongest," said Paul Ravindranath G, Programme Manager, GFS Accelerator, Google India.

The 20 Indian startups include Antwak, BharatAri, BlackLight Games, Decoder, Factors.ai, Foxyin, Gram Powder, InnerHour, Leher, Lokal, Math Buddy, Mera Cashier, Mosaic Wellness, myHQ, Navia Life Care, Orrowealth, Virohan, Welthy Therapeutics, Womaniya, and Zee Auto.

Murugappa Group family feud goes on

VALLI ARUNACHALAM DENIED BOARD POSITION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 22: The hopes of one of the female heirs, Valli Arunachalam of the industrial conglomerate, the Rs 38,105 crore Murugappa Group, of becoming a Director in the family's holding company Ambadi Investments Ltd (AIL) were dashed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

A majority of the shareholders of AIL - uncles and cousins of Arunachalam - voted against the resolution proposing her candidature for appointment as a Director of AIL at the AGM held through video-conferencing on Monday morning.

Following the provisions of Section 160 of the Companies Act, Arunachalam had proposed her candidature for the Director's post through a notice to the company August 5, 2020 along with a deposit of Rs 1,00,000.

As per the results of the resolutions passed at the AGM uploaded on AIL's website, 49 shareholders with voting rights of 91.36 per cent had voted against Arunachalam's appointment as the Director while four shareholders with 8.64 per cent voting rights voted in her favour. There was one invalid vote.

Ambadi Investments owned by the Murugappa Group promoter family is the ultimate holding com-



pany of the group.

But a cursory glance at the voting pattern on various other resolutions signals divisions in the Murugappa family.

The resolutions moved for the reappointment of M. M. Venkatachalam and M. A. M. Arunachalam as non-Executive Directors of AIL were opposed by two shareholders with 8.63 per cent voting rights.

Similarly, the resolution for confirmation of two interim dividends declared and paid for the financial year 2019-20 to those members whose names appear in the Register of Members as on the record date was also opposed by two shareholders with 8.63 per cent voting rights.

SHORT TAKES

REPL to develop projects in state

New Delhi: Infrastructure consultant Rudrabhishek Enterprises Ltd (REPL) has bagged two projects for the development of a new medical college in Andhra Pradesh and 93 schools Odisha. "The Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) has appointed REPL to provide consultancy and prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of education infrastructure for 93 schools in Sundargarh district," the company said in a statement. The estimated cost for developing each school is Rs 1.5 crore.

IOC to invest in Gujarat refinery

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's top oil firm, Tuesday said it will invest Rs 17,825 crore in raising the capacity of its Gujarat refinery as well as setting up a petrochemical plant at the unit as part of plans for upscaling petchem business to protect margins. In a regulatory filing, IOC said its board at a meeting on September 21 "accorded approval for implementation of petrochemical and lube integration project at Gujarat refinery."

States get aid for sanitation

New Delhi: The government Tuesday said it has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs 56.32 crore to states for sanitising public transport buses and create awareness about COVID-19 pandemic and road safety. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways also issued advisories to all States/UTs from time to time to undertake all necessary steps to ensure sanitisation of seats, handles & bars in the public transport vehicles and hygiene and sanitisation at bus terminals/bus stops, Parliament was informed.

Over 6,600 H-1B visas approved

New Delhi: Fourteen of the largest Indian technology companies in the US had an aggregate of 6,663 H-1B visas approved for initial employment in 2019-20, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday. "...the 14 largest Indian technology companies in the US had aggregate 6,663 H-1B visas approved for initial employment in the financial year 2019-20," Minister of State for Electronics and IT Sanjay Dhotre said. The actual impact on Indian IT companies can only be gauged in course of time, the minister added.

BIZ BUZZ

TVS Motor launches new variant of Apache

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Tuesday launched a new variant of TVS Apache RTR 200 4V motorcycle equipped with a new braking technology, Super-Moto ABS, priced at Rs 1,23,500 (ex-showroom Delhi). The motorcycle will offer single-channel ABS function, giving it formidable stopping power and superior braking control coupled with the fun of sliding around the race track, the company said in a statement. TVS Apache RTR 200 4V is powered by a 197.75 cc single-cylinder, 4-stroke engine delivering power of 20.5 PS of power at 8,500 RPM. It is enabled with Race Tuned-Fuel Injection 'RT-Fi' technology. The RT-Fi allows consistent power delivery and fuel economy with improved engine durability and better emission control, the company said.



Tata Motors rolls out 300,000th unit of Tiago

Mumbai: Home-grown auto major Tata Motors Tuesday said it rolled out the 3,00,000th unit of its mid-sized hatchback Tiago from the Sanand passenger vehicles manufacturing plant in Gujarat. The car maker had started production of Tiago from this facility in February 2016. "Tata Motors on Monday rolled out the 3,00,000th Tiago from its Sanand facility in Gujarat. Launched in 2016," the company said in a release. It was the first product under the Impact design philosophy and brought to the market a host of segment first features at the time of its launch in 2016, according to Tata Motors. 'Impact Design' philosophy' uses elements created across Tata Motors Design studios in Britain, Italy and India.

'Govt needs to cap MDR on debit card at 0.6%

New Delhi: The government needs to cap the merchant discount rate on all types of debit and pre-paid cards at a lower rate of 0.6 per cent of the transaction value with a view to end distortions in the card payment ecosystem and promote digital transactions, suggested a study. The study done by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay further suggested that there could be an upper ceiling of Rs 150 for a prescribed merchant discount rate (MDR) of 0.6 per cent. "The MDR for all types of debit and pre-paid cards, for transactions up to Rs 2,000, could be fixed with a cap of 0.25 per cent, while for transactions exceeding Rs 2,000, the cap could be 0.6 per cent," it said.



SEBI CONTEMPLATES STRESS TESTING

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 22: With an aim to bring liquidity, markets regulator Sebi is mulling stress testing, minimum asset allocation in liquid assets and swing pricing like mechanism for all open-ended debt oriented mutual fund schemes, its chief Ajay Tyagi said Tuesday.

Sebi is facilitating the setting up of an expert committee to frame a stress testing methodology, encompassing liquidity, credit and market risks, Tyagi said while addressing industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) 25th annual general meeting.

The committee will also design a framework to determine the minimum asset allocation required in

liquid assets, taking into account the nature of scheme's assets, type of investors, outcome of stress testing and minimum redemption requirement during gating, he added.

In the interim, taking into account the recommendations made by the mutual fund advisory committee, Sebi said it would be stipulating a minimum holding of liquid assets by all debt-oriented schemes.

While overnight schemes are primarily invested in liquid assets such as government securities (G-Secs), treasury bills (T-bills), repo in G-Sec and cash, and there is a provision for liquid schemes to hold a minimum 20 per cent in liquid assets.

The other debt-oriented schemes currently have no such require-

DEBT MF SCHEMES



ment and can invest in various categories of corporate bonds, commercial papers, whose secondary markets may not have enough liquidity.

As far as performance of the mutual fund industry is concerned, Tyagi said overall, the industry has weathered the storm well, which demonstrates the robustness of the regulatory framework as well as

the maturity of the industry.

The industry, however, also went through several patches of challenges, especially on the debt mutual fund side.

Some of the issues that arose during the period are now addressed and some are in the process of being addressed, he noted.

In March-April 2020, significant risk aversion and subsequent illiquidity were observed in the bond market especially in AA and below rated papers.

The move created significant challenges in the form of redemption pressures being faced by debt mutual funds, on account of not only normal year-end redemptions, but COVID-19 related redemption pressures.

Trump threatens to cut off TikTok

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 22: US President Donald Trump has threatened to "cut off" TikTok if the popular Chinese video sharing app's tentative deal with two American companies Walmart and Oracle does not go through.

Trump has for weeks threatened to ban TikTok, which is owned by China's ByteDance, on national security grounds unless an American company takes control of its US operations. TikTok has roughly 100 million users in the US, and Trump says the app gives China access to the personal data of Americans.

Trump's latest remark came a day after he announced a possible deal between Oracle and Walmart to share the US operations of TikTok, which was placed on a ban list due to security concerns. "That's working its way through.



I've given a preliminary okay," the president told reporters at the White House on Monday

"They will work - they're two great companies - Oracle and Walmart. (Oracle CEO) Larry Ellison is a great genius at that kind of thing. The technology is incredible. "So if we can save it, we'll save

it. And if we can't, we'll cut it off. But they have (a) preliminary (deal). We'll see what they can do. We have to have total security. That's the only thing - very important. We have to have total security," Trump said in response to a question.

Meanwhile, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy praised Trump for his move on TikTok. "He is standing up and keeping us safer by not allowing China to spy on Americans through their devices of TikTok and others, keeping the ability of Americans to use it, but keeping you safe," he told Fox News.

"But rest assured... that this president is putting the safety of the American people first. The Chinese Communist Party having access to the data of millions of Americans is not a tenable situation. But I'll leave it to him to announce exactly what that deal looks like," she said.

PSBs get more credit inquiries than pvt banks

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 22: The state-run lenders are seeing faster pick up in retail credit inquiries than their private counterparts on quicker opening of branch network, a report by a credit information company (CIC) said Tuesday.

Despite the inroads done by digital alternatives, through which lenders are receiving inquiries and even disbursing loans online, branch offices continue to play an important role, Transunion Cibil said in the report.

The lenders get in touch with CICs while doing diligence on every credit proposal, which triggers inquiries.

It can be noted that many analysts have said that a large share of the incremental credit demand is coming from the more aggressive private sector lenders who also have larger capital buffers.

Ambani's next weapon to dominate telecom is a ₹4K phone

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 22: Reliance Industries Ltd has asked local suppliers to ramp up production capacity in India so they can make as many as 200 million smartphones over the next two years, according to people familiar with the matter, a potentially enormous boost for the country's technology ambitions and a warning shot to rivals such as Xiaomi Corp.

India's most valuable company is in talks with domestic assemblers to make a version of its Jio phone that would run on Google's Android and cost about 4,000 rupees (\$54), said the people, asking not to be identified since the plans are private. The inexpensive phones will be mar-



keted with low-cost wireless plans from Reliance Jio, the parent company's carrier, they said.

Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani is aiming to remake the country's smartphone industry much like he did in wireless services, where his aggressive prices

and simple plans quickly made him the dominant force. The billionaire is also aligning himself with the Indian government's plans to build more domestic manufacturing, a possible boost for local assemblers like Dixon Technologies India, Lava International and Karbonn Mobiles.

"We are of course trying to build our domestic companies. We have a sweet spot in entry level phones," said Pankaj Mohindroo, chairman of the India Cellular & Electronic Association, during an interview on Bloomberg Television. "The world has realized that India is a great place to do business and a great place to do manufacturing also."

Reliance's target of selling 150 million to 200 million phones over

Jio unveils JioPostpaid Plus

After unleashing a price war in mobile tariffs and fibre-broadband services, billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio on Tuesday unveiled postpaid plans, bundling up to 500 GB of data and subscription to Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney + Hotstar. JioPostPaid Plus for mobile customers will have a monthly tariff from Rs 399 to Rs 1,499 with different benefits, the company said in a statement. The move assumes significance as it marks a major tariff offensive by Jio in the post-paid category, where typically average revenue per user (ARPU) tend to be far higher than the pre-paid segment.

two years would represent a massive boost for local factories. India assembled an estimated 165 million smartphones in the year ended March, and about an equal number of basic feature phones, according to Mohindroo's association. About a fifth of the smartphones cost less

than 7,000 rupees, or about \$100. Reliance rival Bharti Airtel is also in talks with assemblers to build its own 4G device, local media has reported. The Business Standard reported earlier that Ambani was considering outsourcing phone-making.

SUPER KINGS BOW TO ROYALS

It's grace vs poise as KKR take on MI

AGENCIES

Sharjah, Sept 22: Rajasthan Royals had a splendid start to their IPL 2020 campaign scripting a 16-run victory over Chennai Super Kings here, Tuesday. Royals became the first team to go past 200-run mark this season, posting 216/7 and in reply, CSK finished their innings on 200/6.

Chasing a massive target, CSK were off to a superb start going past 50-run mark at the end of powerplay without losing any wicket. However, they completely lost momentum after losing both the openers - Shane Watson (33, 21b, 1x4, 4x6) and Murali Vijay (21) - one after the other.

Sam Curran (17, 6b, 1x4, 2x6) was promoted up the order to up the run-rate, but he perished after hitting a couple of sixes. Debutant Ruturaj Gaikwad also got out the next ball, trying to go for full-monty.

It was the end of the road for CSK. Then Faf du Plessis (72, 37b, 1x4, 7x6) tried to resurrect CSK innings alongside Kedar Jadhav (22). Jadhav got out after a 37-run stand leaving CSK at 114/5 in 13.4 overs.

MS Dhoni (29 n o, 17b, 3x6) then joined Du Plessis at the middle. Du Plessis took the onus to attack, while Dhoni tried to play second fiddle. Du Plessis got out in the 19th over. In the final over, Dhoni struck three consecutive sixes off Tom Curran (1/54) to help his side reach



STEVE SMITH

200-run mark.

For RR, leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (3/37) was the star with the ball. He was ably supported by Jofra Archer (1/26), who was the most economical bowler in the match.

Earlier, Sanju Samson (74, 32b, 1x4, 9x6) and skipper Steve Smith (69, 47b, 4x4, 4x6) smashed quick-

fire half centuries to guide RR to a formidable 216/7.

Sent into bat, RR lost young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) in the third over but then Samson joined hands with Smith as the duo played sensibly initially before the Kerala wicket-keeper batsman went hammer and tongs



SANJU SAMSON

at opposition spinners.

In the final over, Jofra Archer (27 n o, 8b, 4x6) hit four sixes off Lungi Ngidi as Royals got 30 runs to take the score past 215. In all, Royals hit 17 sixes with Samson accounting for nine of them and Smith and Archer having four each in their kitties. Sam Curran

(3/33) was the most effective among CSK bowlers.

BRIEF SCORES

Rajasthan Royals 216/7 (Sanju Samson 74, Steve Smith 69; Sam Curran 3/33) **beat Chennai Super Kings 200/6** (Faf Du Plessis 71, Shane Watson 33, MS Dhoni 29 n o; Rahul Tewatia 3/37) **by 16 runs.**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 22: Grace and strength will be on one side while poise and killer instinct on the other when a revamped Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) take on Mumbai Indians (MI), who have once again faltered in the beginning of the IPL, Wednesday.

Since 2013, MI have never won an opening game and the script didn't change against Chennai Super Kings, who took control of the match during the last 10 overs of the first innings.

They will be keen to bounce back while KKR would look for a perfect beginning as it will be a battle between big hitters on both sides on a sluggish Abu Dhabi track.

It will be Shubman Gill's third IPL, the one where he would like to own the stage with his languid grace and effortless hitting, which he is so capable of. He can hit sixes over extra cover with grace and caress the ball through covers too.

These are exactly the traits that made Rohit Sharma, the highest run scorer in IPL history, a legend. Seasoned Rohit versus young Shubman is one for the keeps and makes this battle enticing.

But it's not just grace which makes T20 so appealing. The brute masculinity of power that sends the ball soaring into the orbit is what makes it so special.

Hardik Pandya is back with a chiselled body. There is no doubt that he can unleash his firepower against Sunil Narine and Kuldeep Yadav as well as KKR's highest paid multi-

million dollar recruit Pat Cummins. The second pacer could be between Prasadh Krishana and Kamlesh Nagarkoti.

But Hardik will find his match in Andre Russell, easily the most destructive hitter in current T20 cricket. Russell had openly criticised the team management last year for sending him down the order. He had hit 52 sixes during one of KKR's worst editions.

But this time, he has been promised a promotion to No.3 slot and this could spell doom for any opposition. KKR have Eoin Morgan, easily the best white ball captain in international cricket at the moment, who could advice Dinesh Karthik on how to tackle tense moments.

Whether he would fit in among the four overseas players is the question, as KKR have Narine, Tom Banton, Russell and Cummins, who walk into any T20 playing XI. For Mumbai, it is important that Nathan Coulter-Nile, with more all-round T20 utility compared to Trent Boult, gets fit to add more balance.

They could also think about using Ishan Kishan's explosive firepower rather than bulky Saurabh Tiwary, who can't rotate the strike with ease.



Kohli lauds 'game changer' Chahal show against SRH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 22: Crediting Yuzvendra Chahal's three-wicket burst for his side's 10-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their campaign opener, Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli said the wrist-spinner proved that he can get purchase on any wicket.

Chahal (3/18) removed in-form Englishman Jonny Bairstow (61) and Vijay Shankar in successive balls in the 16th over to tilt the game decisively in RCB's favour.

He had earlier gotten rid of Manish Pandey (34) in the 12th over.

"It's amazing to be honest. Last year, we were on the other side of the result, 6-nil to start. It is nice to be 1-nil. We kept our composure tonight," Kohli said at the post-match presentation Monday.

"Yuzi (Chahal) comes in and completely changed the game for us. Not many spinners got much out of the pitch, but tonight he showed that you can turn it if you have it in your wrists. He showed he can get purchase on any wicket. The way

"I was very nervous upon hearing the news of making my debut. But when I went to bat I settled down after playing a few balls. The last one month that we practiced, I learnt a lot from Virat bhैया. I kept asking him questions whenever I was around him"

DEVUTT PADIKKAL

he came in and bowled attacking lines, he changed the game."

Sunrisers captain David Warner

said his side had the run chase in control initially but later knew they had to go after the bowlers in the end.

"Probably the last over of Chahal was the turning point out there. We have to go back to the drawing board. We obviously can't fix what happened today but we have to go back and work hard before our next game in Abu Dhabi."

AB de Villiers was 'surprised' to find form in the side's IPL opener after being out of action for five months due to the coronavirus-induced break. The former South

African skipper provided the much needed final flourish with a 51-run innings off 30 balls to take RCB to 163 for five.

"I surprised myself to be honest. We had a competitive game in South Africa, which was great, gave me a little bit of confidence," De Villiers said after the match.

"As a 36-year-old to come here, having not played a lot of cricket, in the middle of some talented youngsters - was a pleasing start. Very happy with the basics, seems to be in place," he added.

De Bruyne architects City win over Wolves



A TRUE MAESTRO: Kevin de Bruyne strikes from the spot against Wolves

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wolverhampton, Sept 22: Kevin De Bruyne scored a penalty and had a hand in two other goals as Manchester City opened their English Premier League (EPL) account winning at Wolverhampton 3-1.

Last season's player of the year in English football, De Bruyne has hit the ground running in the 2020-21 campaign with the kind of all-round midfield display that sets him apart.

A surge into the Wolves area saw him brought down by Romain Saiss, and De Bruyne got up to convert the penalty himself in the 20th minute.

De Bruyne was the architect of the second goal by slipping in Raheem Sterling, who cut the ball back for Phil Foden to slot into an empty net in the 33rd.

Raul Jimenez pulled a goal back for Wolves with a powerful header in the 78th, after Daniel Podence cheekily kicked the ball between De Bruyne's legs, ran round him to collect the ball and curled a cross over for his fellow forward.

Gabriel Jesus made the game safe with a deflected third for City in the fifth minute of injury time after De Bruyne helped to win the ball back.

With Liverpool - their biggest rival for the title - already on two wins from two matches, City were under pressure to avoid an early slip-up after starting the season late owing to their involvement in the latter stages of the Champions League in August.

"Wolves have been a bogey team for us the last seasons," De Bruyne said. "So to come here and win is encouraging," he added.

Italian Open comes to Djoko's aid

REUTERS

Rome, Sept 22: Italian Open champion Novak Djokovic said getting back on court for a tournament so quickly after being disqualified at the US Open for striking a line judge with a ball helped him move on from the incident.

The World No.1 came in for heavy criticism at Flushing Meadows earlier this month and the Serb said he spent several days processing what had happened. He returned to tournament play in Rome last week and captured his 36th ATP Masters crown Monday. "I did experience mentally some ups and downs in the first four-five days after that happened," Djokovic told reporters.

"Obviously I was in shock... but I moved on, I've never had an issue in my life to move on regardless of how difficult it is. Obviously having a tournament a week after helped a lot because I really wanted



Novak Djokovic reacts after winning Italian Open final

to get on the court and get whatever trace of that out of the way."

Djokovic said he would have to raise his game further to challenge for the title at the French Open, which begins Sunday.

"I don't think I played my best tennis to be honest, I don't want to sound

arrogant here. I am very satisfied and pleased to win a title. I know I still have a couple of gears," he added.

"Hopefully I'll be able to raise that level for the French Open because that's going to be necessary if I want to go deep in the tournament."

HALEP TAKING HER GAME TO A HIGHER LEVEL AFTER RESUMPTION

Rome: Simona Halep said she had found inner calm during tennis' coronavirus shutdown and that she had returned to the courts with more maturity and perspective on the game. Halep won the Dubai title before the WTA Tour's suspension in March and lifted the Prague crown on its resumption, before claiming another crown here Monday. "The pandemic got me in a place that I really dreamed to be," the World No.2 told the WTA Insider Podcast here. "I'm more mature, more relaxed because I could see that the most difficult things are in life in general, not in sport. So being able to do this as good as I do in the last seven years, it's a big thing." Halep said her first Rome title was the culmination of a dream she had since 2013, though she was a much different person now. "Back then I was fighting with everyone, with myself, the opponent, the ball, the racquet, the weather, the crowd, the team... so I have many on the list," the Romanian added. "Now I tell myself I'm much better in that direction... I have to fight with the opponent because I face an opponent."

SUAREZ'S ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEST UNDER INVESTIGATION

Rome: Authorities are investigating whether Barcelona striker Luis Suarez was illegally helped to pass an Italian language exam last week in order to receive a European passport that could help him transfer to a new club. While Suarez is not under investigation, the director and general director of the Perugia University where the Uruguay forward took the exam are being investigated for allegedly helping him pass the test. Italian reports said Tuesday. Suarez had been linked with a possible move to Italian champion Juventus. Suarez's test grade was allegedly fixed before he took the test. Suarez had been expected to leave Barcelona for free and move to Atletico Madrid, but it seems the Catalan giants are now wondering if that's such a good idea after all. Reports from Spain claimed Monday Barcelona and Suarez had come to an agreement to terminate his deal. The thing is that Barca had told Suarez not to join one of Europe's top clubs including Real Madrid, PSG, Manchester City or Manchester United, according to Onda Cero.

VIDAL JOINS INTER FROM BARCELONA

Milan: Former Juventus midfielder Arturo Vidal has joined Inter Milan, where he will be reunited with coach Antonio Conte. Barcelona said Tuesday that Inter will pay one million euros 'in variables' for the transfer. Vidal had a contract at Barcelona until 2021 but was not part of new coach Ronald Koeman's plans, and the club agreed to let him go. Vidal played for Inter's bitter rival Juventus from 2011-15, winning four Serie A titles and the Italian Cup. Inter coach Conte was in charge for the Chilean's first three seasons at the Bianconeri. Vidal had been at Barcelona since joining from Bayern Munich in 2018. Vidal was discarded by coach Ronald Koeman along with the likes of Ivan Rakitic and Luis Suarez.



Morris' unique tribute to mountaineer Parida

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Odisha mountaineer Nilachala Parida had a memorable gesture from South African cricketer Chris Morris as the all-rounder Monday donned his Royal Challengers Bangalore jersey with Nilachala's name printed on it during the IPL match between RCB and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The South African honoured Nilachala as a 'COVID Hero' for setting up a vegetable shack during the lockdown and offered free home delivery to senior citizens. Morris also temporarily renamed his Twitter profile name as 'Nilachala Parida' as a mark of respect.

The 24-year-old mountaineer, who resides in the state capital, started selling vegetables near Delta Chowk here during the lock-

down to support his family and raise money for government's COVID relief funds. He also delivered vegetables to people staying within the radius of 10 km with no distance limit for senior citizens.

"Nilachala Parida set up a vegetable shack during lockdown and offered free delivery to senior citizens. Saluting Nilachala's spirit, I'll be wearing a jersey dedicated to him and all such challengers!" Morris wrote on his Twitter handle.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appreciated the RCB man's gesture. "Appreciate @Tijo_Morris & @RCBTweets for showcasing the selfless work of people like Nilachala Parida of #Odisha at the grand stage of #IPL2020. These good samaritans inspire the society to stand up for those affected the most by the pandemic," tweeted Naveen, Tuesday



IBRA SCORES TWICE AS AC MILAN WIN OPENER

Milan: AC Milan's veteran forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice and missed an open goal as he secured a 2-0 win over Bologna to get their Serie A campaign off to a winning start Monday. The 38-year-old broke the deadlock with a towering header in the 35th minute and added the second with a penalty - the first in Serie A this season - five minutes after the break. Milan extended their unbeaten run to 15 games in all competitions as they started where they left off last season, suggesting they are capable of battling for a Champions League spot. "If I was 20-years-old, I'd have scored another two," said Ibrahimovic, who has 14 goals in 22 matches since returning for a second stint at Milan in January. "I don't want people to talk about my age, I want to be treated the same as everyone else. It doesn't matter if I am 38, I want to be treated like someone aged 20 and do the same work."

