



POSITIVE FEELING

Actor Shalini Pandey hopes that the year ahead turns out to be an extraordinary affair for her

LEISURE P2



MUMBAI BATTERED

Heavy rains lash Mumbai leaving many parts of the city in waist deep water

TWO STATES P7



HOPES SHATTERED

WHO chief says there is no guarantee that any Covid-19 vaccine in development will work

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We need to be more efficient. We could pass only 7 bills in 3.5 hours even with the Opposition absent!

SHORT TAKES

IPS reshuffle: 9 officers shifted

Bhubaneswar: In a minor reshuffle among senior IPS officers, the state government Wednesday transferred nine police officers including Dhenkanal SP Anupama James. Anupama has been appointed as Vigilance SP. Senior IPS officers Arun Kumar Ray, YK Jethwa and Ritu Arora, who have recently returned from Central deputation, have been appointed as ADGP Communication, ADGP Law & Order and OSD to Home department, respectively. Lalit Das, a 1992-batch IPS officer, has been posted ADGP headquarters while Vinaytosh Mishra is transferred as director of State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB). Additional police commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh has been replaced by Rekha Lohani and transferred as IGP modernisation. Besides, 1998-batch IPS officer Rajesh Kumar has been appointed as IGP State Forensic Science Laboratory.

MoS for Rlys dies of Covid in AIIMS

New Delhi: Union MoS for Railways Suresh Angadi passed away at Delhi Wednesday due to Covid-19. He was admitted at AIIMS 2 weeks back. Angadi represented Belagavi constituency in the Lok Sabha as a member of the BJP.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VIARIATION
SENSEX	37668.42	↓ 65.66
NIFTY	11131.90	↓ 21.80
DOLLAR	73.75	↑ ₹0.04
EURO	86.42	↓ ₹0.33
GOLD	₹49,725	↓ ₹656
SILVER	₹59,211	↓ ₹2002

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	32.6°C	34.0°C
TEMP. MIN	25.4°C	24.5°C
Humidity	85%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

POWER TARIFF HIKED BY 20P PER UNIT ■ NEW RATE TO COME INTO EFFECT FROM OCT 1

ELECTRICITY GETS DEARER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) has increased the power tariff by 20 paise per unit for domestic consumers with effect from October 1. Hearing pleas of GRIDCO, the OERC passed an order in this regard, Wednesday.

However, the revised price will not be applicable to farmers and BPL consumers (Kutir Jyoti). "There is no change made in the monthly minimum fixed charge, demand charge and meter rent," the OERC order added.

The Commission said it has not increased the tariff in its order issued in April due to the Covid situation. As the GRIDCO appealed again, the OERC has hiked the tariff.

The Commission has passed the order revising the Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) and Bulk Supply Price (BSP) of GRIDCO and resultant rise in retail supply tariff and open access charges for distribution companies. After revision, the gap in the ARR of GRIDCO has remained at ₹341.15 crore against ₹660.15 crore allowed earlier for this year, the Commission said.

With the hike, the domestic con-



UNITS	TARIFF (IN ₹)
0-50	2.7
>50 and <200	4.5
>200 and <400	5.5
>400	5.9

The hike will not be applicable for BPL and agriculture consumers

sumers will now have to pay tariff at ₹2.70 per unit for the first 50 units, ₹4.50 per unit above 50 units and up to 200 units, ₹5.50 per unit above 200 and up to 400 units. The tariff has been fixed at ₹ 5.90 per unit above 400 units per month. The power tariffs remained unchanged during last two financial years—2018-19 and 2019-20.

The OERC has also revised the BSP rate of power distribution companies (discoms) with effect from October 1. The Commission has allowed relia-

bility surcharge of 10 paise per unit for high transmission consumers availing power irrespective of nature of feeder. Similarly, the industrial consumers having 1MW or above line and drawing power in 33 KV will get a rebate of 10 paise per unit for the units consumed in excess of 70 per cent of the load factor. The rebate will be 20 paise, if the industrial consumer consumes more than 80 per cent of the load factor per month. Similarly, 2 per cent rebate will be given to all pre-paid con-

sumers while the rural domestic consumers will get 5 paise per unit in addition to all existing prompt payment rebate, the Commission said.

Meanwhile, Odisha Electricity Consumers' Association president Ramesh Satpathy demanded immediate rollback of the hike. "To safeguard the interests of GRIDCO and discoms, the Commission has put extra burden on the consumers, who are struggling for bread and butter due to the pandemic. We will take legal action," he stated.

Mystery shrouds minor boy's death



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 23: A minor boy was found dead under suspicious circumstances hours after he was beaten by a neighbour while allegedly caught stealing Rs500 from the latter's house at Jaijanapoli under Karanjia police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

The deceased was identified as Rajan Behera (14), son of Jageswar Behera. The family members of the boy informed police about the body.

The police along with a scientific team started an investigation. The investigation revealed that Rajan had entered the house of Sasmita Behera, Tuesday. Sasmita admitted that she had beaten the boy when "he was caught stealing the money."

It may be noted here that according to Sasmita "the incident took place in the daytime, but he was found dead at night." Police are looking into various angles.

However, initial media reports suggested that the minor was 'beaten to death' over the alleged theft. Reports added that the main accused along with a few others had beaten up the boy. The boy had sustained grievous injury on his head and other parts of the body, reports added. The family members of the boy took him to the hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Rajya Sabha passes FCRA Bill

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Rajya Sabha Wednesday passed a Bill sans Opposition making Aadhaar mandatory for registration of organisations receiving foreign funds, and also to give the government powers to stop utilisation of foreign funds by an organisation through a 'summary enquiry'.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020, which seeks an amendment to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, proposes to include 'public servants' in the prohibited category and decrease administrative expenses through foreign funds by an organisation to 20 per cent from 50 per cent earlier.

"The Bill ensures that the NGO has to mandatorily open an account in the SBI FCRA branch to receive funds and then one more account to another bank of choice, for this they don't have to

- An NGO has to mandatorily open an account in the SBI FCRA branch to receive funds
- And then one more account in another bank of choice
- For this, it doesn't have to travel to Delhi but the nearest SBI branch will facilitate

LS adjourned sine die

The Monsoon Session of the Parliament was adjourned sine die Wednesday, seven days before the schedule, amid concerns of the spread of coronavirus among lawmakers

travel to Delhi but the nearest SBI branch will facilitate the opening of account in New Delhi," said Minister of State of Home Nityanand Rai.

It has also sought to prohibit any transfer of foreign contribution to any other association or person. Amendment of Section 17 of the Act has sought to pro-

vide that every person who has been granted a certificate or prior permission under Section 12 shall receive foreign contribution only in an account designated as 'FCRA Account'.

"There was a need to streamline the provisions of the earlier Act by strengthening the compliance mechanism, enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year and facilitating genuine non-governmental organisations or associations who are working for the welfare of the society, the minister said.

He gave an example of the amendment made in 2010 when administrative expenses were reduced to 50 per cent, then also a demand was made to reduce it up to 10 per cent. He said P Chidambaram had then mentioned that 10,000 crore of the foreign contribution is not even audited.

State logs 15 Covid-19 fatalities in a day

ODISHA'S nCoV TALLY RISES TO 1,92,548 AS 4,237 MORE PEOPLE TEST POSITIVE FOR THE INFECTION

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: State's novel coronavirus disease tally rose to 1,92,548 Wednesday as 4,237 more people tested positive for the infection, while record 15 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's COVID-19 death toll to 736, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The state had registered 14 coronavirus deaths September 11 and August 29, said the official.

Bhubaneswar reported the highest number of fresh fatalities at



four, followed by two each in Puri and Mayurbhanj and one each in Balasore, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Nayagarh and Nuapada districts, the official said. Ganjam district has so far registered the highest number of COVID-19 deaths at 218, followed

by Khurda (110) and Cuttack (60), added the official.

According to the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department, as many as 2,485 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,752 people tested positive for the infection during con-

tact tracing. Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of new cases at 647, followed by Cuttack (577), Puri (219) and Jharsuguda (205), the I&PR department said in a tweet.

Odisha now has 38,546 active coronavirus cases, while 1,53,213 people have been cured of the disease so far. As many as 53 COVID-19 patients have died due to other ailments so far. The state has so far tested over 29.05 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 45,321 Tuesday, the official added.

For 4 days, 2 bodies rot on roadside in Kendrapara village

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Sept 23: Bodies of a woman and her pregnant daughter, 'both murdered', had been lying on the roadside for the last four days at a remote village of Kendrapara. Their family had refused to cremate them, police said Wednesday.

Alleging police inaction, the family along with the locals had been protesting since Sunday at the Manapada village in Mahulia panchayat in the Rajnagar police station area. Pramila Nath (45) and her daughter Satyapriya (22) were reported missing September 19, Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Ranjan Kumar Dey said.

A day later, their bodies were found in a pond in the vicinity of the village, he said.

The post-mortem was conducted and the bodies were handed over to their relatives.

Satyapriya was found to be in an advanced stage of pregnancy during the autopsy, Dey added.

The villagers were alleging that both the women were murdered, but police are trying to cover up the matter.

A case of unnatural death under section-174 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was registered after the post-mortem. Subsequently, a case of murder under section-302 IPC was also registered and a suspect has been detained, the officer said.

THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE FOR US CONSERVATIVE ACTIVISTS FOR DECADES HAS BEEN TO OVERTURN THE LANDMARK 1973 ROE V. WADE DECISION

Post Ginsburg, can Trump change US abortion law

Roe v. Wade is on the line in a way it never has been before. Even if Roe is not overturned, we could be in a situation where the court is upholding even more restrictions on abortion

JULIE RIKELMAN | LAWYER, CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 23: With President Donald Trump poised to nominate a US Supreme Court justice to fill the vacancy created by the death of liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a new 6-3 conservative majority could be emboldened to roll back abortion rights.

The ultimate objective for US Conservative activists for decades has been to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalised abortion nationwide. But short of that, there are other options the court has in curtailing abortion rights.

Republican-led states including Ohio, Georgia, Missouri, Arkansas and Alabama have passed a variety of abortion restrictions in recent years. Some that seek to ban abortion at an early stage of pregnancy are still being litigated in lower courts and could reach the justices relatively soon.

Abortion is one of the most divisive issues in the United States. Conservative opposition to it has been a driving force behind Republicans, including Trump, making a high priority of judicial appointments in recent years. Trump has said he intends to an-



nounce his nomination Saturday, with Conservative appeals court judges Amy Coney Barrett and Barbara Lagoa considered the front-runners to be named to succeed Ginsburg, who was a strong defender

of abortion rights. Ginsburg died last week at age 87.

The leadership of the Republican-controlled Senate is poised to move forward with the nomination even as Trump seeks re-election November 3.

Even though the court had a 5-4 conservative majority before Ginsburg's death, some activists on the right were concerned about Chief Justice John Roberts' incremental approach. Roberts angered Conservatives by siding with the court's liberals in June when the court ruled 5-4 to strike down a Louisiana abortion restriction in-

volving a requirement imposed on doctors who perform the procedure.

Roberts, who wrote a separate opinion explaining his views, signalled he may back other abortion restrictions in future cases but said he felt compelled to strike down Louisiana's law because the justices just four years earlier had invalidated a similar law in Texas.

Trump vowed during the 2016 Presidential campaign to appoint justices who would overturn Roe v. Wade. He already has appointed conservatives Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the court. Both voted to uphold the Louisiana law.

leisure



SUPERGIRL TO END WITH SEASON VI NEXT YEAR

The Melissa Benoist-starrer superhero series, *Supergirl*, will conclude with its sixth season, which is expected to premiere in 2021. "I'm so excited that we get to plan our conclusion to this amazing journey," Benoist wrote on Instagram.

JOHN CUSACK OPENS UP ON EVENTS, HAPPENINGS IN INDIA

Hollywood star John Cusack says he got closer to knowing and understanding India during his pursuit to understand the world in a better way. The actor has been vocal about the events, or turmoils, happening in India, and addressed them through social media.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Decisions about career and finance will keep you preoccupied today. After a hectic day, all you may want to do is relax. In that case, Ganesh may send a short but pleasurable trip your way, which is sure to rejuvenate you.

TAURUS
You must learn to get to the root of a routine to keep things fresh today, feels Ganesh. Just learn the basic psychology of people and analyse the facts. All action and decision has a motive, you will need to understand the chain to get the most out of things, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
It's time you took stock of your personal life. Is there someone you want to propose but are afraid to do so? Ganesh advises you not to let the fear of rejection stop you from making an effort. There are strong indications that you will be accepted if you speak your heart today.

CANCER
Ganesh believes that you are likely to have a heightened interest in the study of philosophy and the working of the metaphysical world. This may be mere curiosity or a part of your effort to improve your professional skills.

LEO
It's fun, fun and more fun on the horizon! Ganesh foresees you taking time out for some leisure and frolic today. Broaden your horizon with a bit of travel since you are very likely to be going on a small trip to recharge your batteries. When it comes to work – which you seem to have put on hold – it is a matter of pride for you to play the role that you essay within your company.

VIRGO
Reflect on past glories and assemble the machinery for accomplishing more in the future. New relationships will mark the road to progress. You easy-going nature will help you get along famously with people.

LIBRA
It's a spiritual and harmonious mood that grips you today, feels Ganesh. You may want to focus on meditation, as you essentially seek peace. This may have something to do with the fact that at work, your subordinates may attempt to throw around their weight to force you to make drastic changes.

SCORPIO
House renovation is in the offing. You may furnish it with portraits and artefacts. Today, you may also feel like playing the stock market game and stake your bets, says Ganesh. Have a great time at home by hosting friends over.

SAGITTARIUS
Personal grooming will be on your mind today. A small fortune may be spent on enhancing the way you look, especially on a new hair-do. Retail Therapy is on the cards, and you may indulge spending on clothes and jewellery.

CAPRICORN
You will prioritise your needs, and the most critical would be the need to manage finances to save for the future. Also, the company you choose to keep will reflect the kind of person you are. So, beware of who you befriend, warns Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Lady Luck gazes lovingly upon you today! Bosses are pleased, colleagues are happy, and this makes work seem like leisure. You may want to get in touch with old friends who have moved far away.

PISCES
Well begun is half done. With this in mind, you will set out to actively seek the cooperation of your colleagues and the sanction of your seniors to tackle some important projects, says Ganesh.

B'day girl Shalini gets positive feeling

Mumbai: Actress Shalini Pandey, who is all set to make her Hindi film debut opposite Ranveer Singh, turned 27 Wednesday. She hopes that the year ahead turns out to be extraordinary for her.

Shalini shot to fame as Vijay Devarakonda's co-star in the Telugu superhit *Arjun Reddy*, which was remade in Hindi as *Kabir Singh*. She will next be seen in *Jayeshbhai Jordaar* opposite Ranveer Singh.

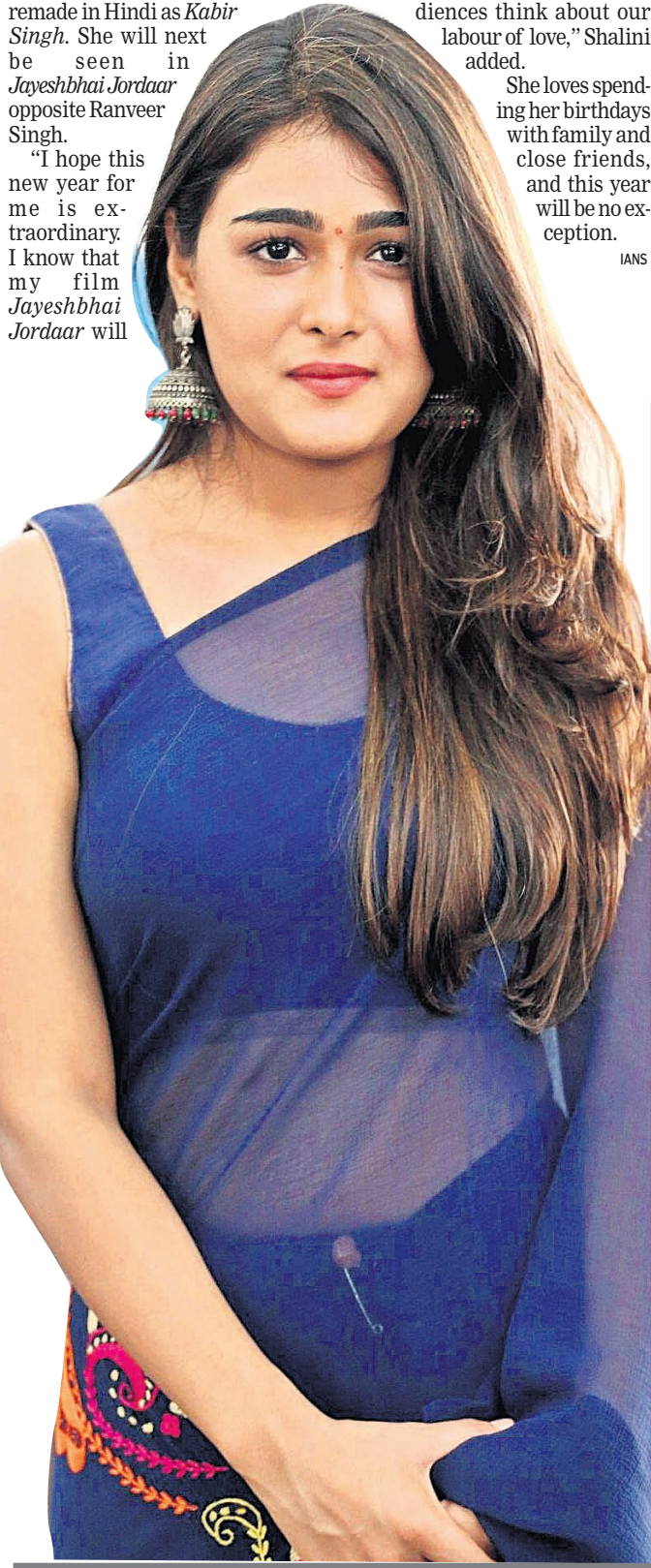
"I hope this new year for me is extraordinary. I know that my film *Jayeshbhai Jordaar* will

release in theatres and I just can't wait for that experience! People will go back to the theatres to watch cinema post the pandemic, and our film will definitely bring them back to the theatres," she said.

"The entire team has really worked hard on this film and it will be great to know what audiences think about our labour of love," Shalini added.

She loves spending her birthdays with family and close friends, and this year will be no exception.

IANS



Ayushmann amongst world's 100 Most Influential People



Mumbai: Indian actor Ayushmann Khurrana is in the Time magazine list of 100 Most Influential People this year.

The National Award-winning star is among five Indians who have made the prestigious list in 2020, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, London-based Indian origin doctor Ravindra Gupta who worked to find a cure for AIDS, and Bilkis Dadi, who was at the forefront of Shaheen Bagh protests in Delhi.

Ayushmann has been listed in the Artists category, which also includes Oscar-winning Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-ho, Hollywood star Michael B Jordan, pop superstars Selena Gomez and J Balvin.

DEEPIKA MEMES FLOOD INTERNET

Mumbai: Social media has been flooded with memes and trolls targeting actress Deepika Padukone, after it was reported that her manager has been summoned by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), as part of investigation into the drug angle in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case.

Twitter is flooding with memes featuring Deepika, and trolls targeting allege the actress is a drug addict. "Now you know the secrets

of her Healthy body, Skin and Hairs. Deepika's Hidden Health Supplement...Don't consume any of them," wrote a user, with the tags #DrugMafiaOfBollywood, #BollywoodDruggies, #BollyDawoodKilledSSR.

"Deepika keep calm and have drugs," trolled another user. "Probe JNU presence of Deepika, now terrorism linked with drugs will also come out," urged a user reminding that the actress had visited JNU during the CAA stir e, in a move that had been criticised as a publicity stunt by many IANS



CAPITAL I TO BE RELEASED ON STREAMING PLATFORM

Being the first Odia film to highlight LGBTQ issues, the movie was opposed by a section in Odisha during its production stage



A screen grab from *Capital I*

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Odia film *Capital I*, is all set to release September 25 at Cinemapreneur, a popular streaming platform dedicated to promote independent Indian cinemas.

The OTT follows a pay-per-view model. The viewers can directly watch the film by paying for it, without having to subscribe to the platform. Cinemapreneur curates hand-picked independent films from India, offering some rare gems to the film lovers.

Capital I has been a landmark film in many ways. Critically acclaimed by critics and film enthusiasts, the film sparked controversies in Odisha for its lesbian perspective. Being the first film to highlight LGBTQ issues, the film

was opposed by a section in Odisha at its production stage.

However, the movie got a very encouraging feedback from its limited theatrical screenings in Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and Mumbai.

Written and directed by Amartya Bhattacharya, the film marks the acting debut of the internationally acclaimed filmmaker Susant Misra, who has also produced the film along with Swastik Choudhury, under the banner of Swastik Arthouse.

It also features young actor

Pallavi Priyadarshini in the lead, along with Ipsita Mohanty, Pratyush Patra, Prateek Mohapatra, Herijit Alex and late Sidharth Mohapatra who played a key role.

Amartya said, "*Capital I* is my debut feature film, and it will always be special to me. I feel it is one film which all film lovers must watch at least once. I'm sure the film will evoke certain feelings from every passionate art lover. I can't thank Cinemapreneur enough for presenting this movie to viewers.

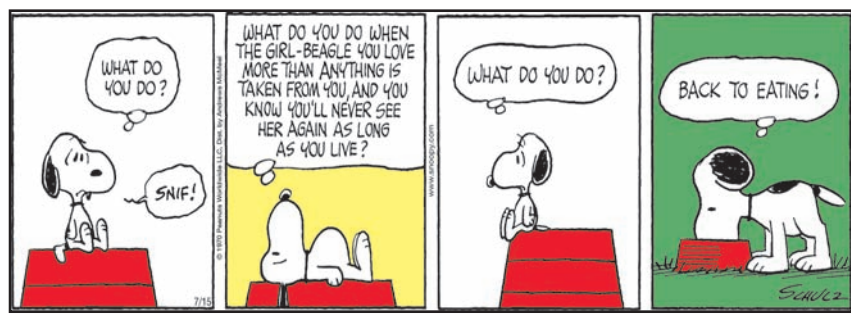
Khyanikaa in Parliament

Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka recently raised a question in Parliament as to why Odia movie *Khyanikaa - The Lost Idea*, produced by Swastik Choudhury and directed by Amartya Bhattacharya, was removed unceremoniously from streaming platform Amazon Prime Video citing issue of language restrictions. It is both regressive and insulting to Odia language, the MP stated. He sought an answer from the Minister of Information and broadcasting Prakash Javadekar but in vain. Producer Choudhury, however, thanked the lawmaker for taking up the issue in the Parliament. "This is true representation of people's sentiments and we hope to get a quick response from the concerned minister," he added.

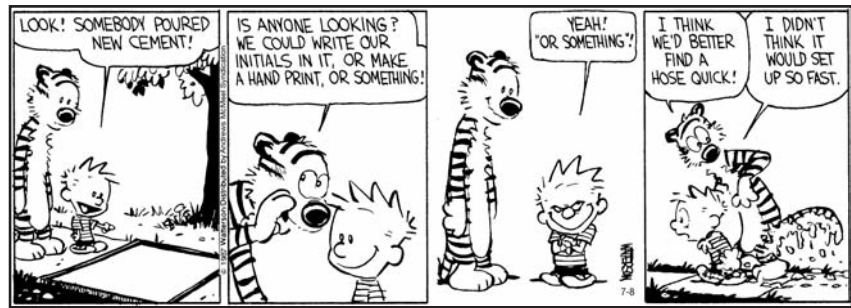


A poster of *Khyanikaa*

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

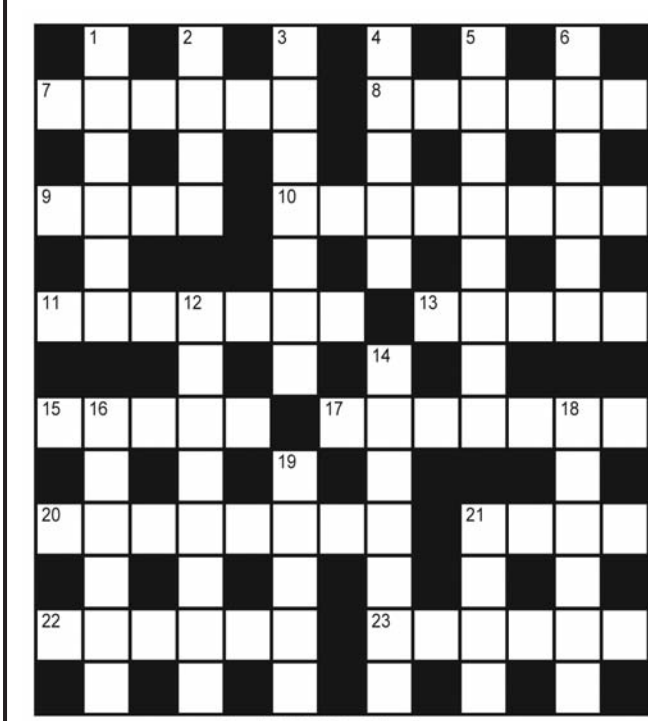


BREVITY



FUN post

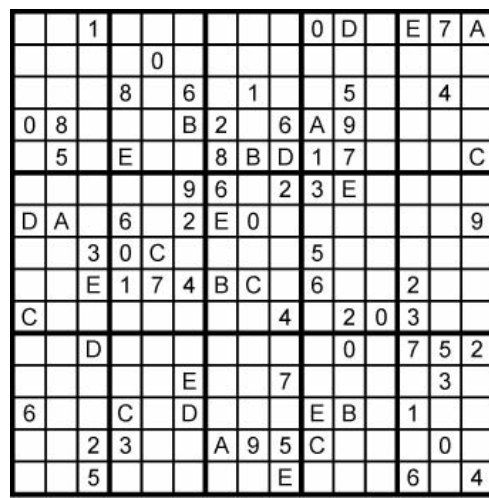
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Scrimpy
 - 8 Sock pattern
 - 9 Hefty volume
 - 10 Pasta dish
 - 11 Tethers
 - 13 Condition
 - 15 Frighten
 - 17 Catnaps in Mexico
 - 20 Rabble
 - 21 Despise
 - 22 Indistinct
 - 23 Large lizard
- Down**
- 1 TV accessory
 - 2 Fairy tale villain
 - 3 Jam ingredient
 - 4 Chutney fruit
 - 5 Stirs up
 - 6 Mercury, for one
 - 12 Certain to be successful (4-4)
 - 14 Kitchen wrap
 - 16 Flu symptom
 - 18 Be there
 - 19 Flower part
 - 21 Drag

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

CROSSWORD



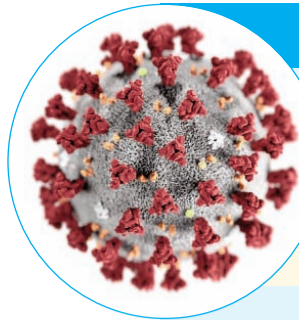
SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



QUALITY MATTERS

A farmer applies manure to a millet field while others remove weeds at Ouat in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,18,80,171	2,34,76,296	9,77,204
India	56,43,481	45,84,392	90,050
Odisha	1,92,548	1,57,265	736

KEEPING COVID AT BAY



The seats at Odisha Assembly being separated by glass Wednesday as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 ahead of the Monsoon Session of the house

Govt for CB probe into Lingaraj land grabbing

Revenue Secretary recommends CB probe for fraudulently recording Lingaraj Mahaprabhu's land in favour of private individuals



STATUS REPORT SOUGHT

The land belonging to Lord Lingaraj has been incorrectly recorded in the names of three persons -- Lingha Pradhan, Ghana Pradhan and Annapurna Bhoi

The Collector has also been asked to make a detailed verification of Lord Lingaraj's property and furnish a status report within a month

the provisions of Odisha Land Reforms (OLR) Act and therefore the recording of Lord Lingaraj's land in favour of private persons is clearly a violation of statutory principles and malafide on the part of settlement officials," the secretary said in his letter.

He asked the Collector who is also the chairman of Shree Lingaraj Temple Trust to refer the matter to the Crime Branch for investigation into the wrong recording of land.

Sethi has asked the Endowment Commissioner to further examine the records of Lord Lingaraj and take all necessary steps to safeguard the interest of the deity.

The executive officer of Lord Lingaraj Temple was asked to file revision case before the Member, Board of Revenue for restoration of deity's land.

The Collector has also been asked to make a detailed verification of Lord Lingaraj's property and furnish a status report within a month.

favour of Shree Lingaraj Mahaprabhu. Lingha Pradhan and Baja Pradhan were recorded as sub-tenants under the said Khata. However, in the RoR, the property of Lord Lingaraj has been incorrectly recorded in favour of Lingha Pradhan, Ghana Pradhan, and Annapurna Bhoi. Shree Lingaraj Mahaprabhu is a

public deity and as per provisions, all deity lands are to be recorded in the name of public deity, Marfat Trust Board. A thorough study of the matter reveals that the recording of deity's land in favour of private persons is apparently erroneous, he said.

"Tenancy will not be created against the trust property under

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Expressing anguish over recording of Lingaraj temple land in favour of private individuals, Revenue and Disaster Management secretary Bishnupada Sethi Wednesday recommended Crime Branch probe into the case. In a letter to Khurda collector, Sethi said that the land belonging to Lord Lingaraj has been incorrectly recorded on the name of three persons. Khata No 1935 of Village Bhipmur was recorded in

Increase ASHA, Anganwadi workers' honorarium: BJD

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 23: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Subhash Chandra Singh Wednesday urged the Union government to raise the remuneration given to Asha and Anganwadi workers citing the nature of their duty and significantly low pay.

While speaking during the Zero Hour in the Upper House, the BJD MP said many Anganwadi work-

ers and helpers have been working for 40-45 years in projects relating to women and children. He said, "During the COVID pandemic, the Anganwadi and ASHA workers are working day and night and are declared COVID warriors."

"These COVID warriors are the backbone of entire quarantine centres in India everywhere. But, unfortunately, the remuneration of an Anganwadi worker is only Rs 4,500. ASHA workers are also doing hard work. They are getting Rs 2,500 per month as remuneration. Remuneration for an Anganwadi worker may be raised to Rs15,000 per month and for ASHA worker it may be raised to Rs10,000 per month," said Subhash Chandra.

He also said that the state government has announced a package for ASHA and Anganwadi workers' kin in case of death.

State MPs pose 326 questions

Odisha MPs posed as many as 326 written questions to the Union government in both Houses during the 10-day long Monsoon session of the Parliament. The session, which started September 14, was scheduled to conclude October 1 after completing 18 sittings. However, due to increase in COVID-19 cases, the government shortened the Monsoon session to 10 days.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

'Non-serious patients may defer chemo'

POSTS NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Doctors talked about management of COVID-19 for cancer patients during the daily home isolation interactive sessions conducted by the state government Wednesday.

Dr Surendranath Senapati, an oncologist from the Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre (AHRCC), Cuttack, said, "In non-serious cases, chemotherapy among patients could be deferred for 7-10 days if a cancer patient suffers from COVID-19."

"Cancer patients who are undertaking chemotherapy and get infected, we can defer it. But in some serious cases, we can give low dose chemotherapy or we can treat them with hormone therapy or other forms of treatment. In many cases, we can shift the chemotherapy in young and non-serious patients during the infective phase," he said.

He also said that cancer patients are usually more vulnerable to COVID-19 due to their low immunity on account of the disease and undertaking of treatments like chemotherapy.

He, however, suggested that all patients who are taking chemotherapy



ADVISORY FOR CANCER PATIENTS

■ ASYMPTOMATIC PATIENTS CAN OPT FOR HOME ISOLATION AFTER DOCTOR'S APPROVAL

■ SYMPTOMATIC CANCER PATIENTS NEED TREATMENT AT COVID HOSPITALS

■ CHEMOTHERAPY CAN BE DEFERRED DURING COVID INFECTION IN CASE OF NON-SERIOUS PATIENTS

■ SERIOUS CANCER AND COVID PATIENTS NEED CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIOTHERAPY

can continue to avail the facility from the District Headquarter Hospital (DHH) with consultation with AHRCC doctors through DHH telemedicine facilities. Senapati said that many cancer patients are now reported to have stopped their treatment.

"Several cancer patients have stopped or temporary halted their cancer treatment. This can hamper their health and decrease their chances of getting better. I want to tell that all the District Headquarter Hospitals (DHH) have now several treatment facilities for the cancer patients which they can take during this time," he said.

He also added, "There is no need

to come to AHRCC for chemotherapy. They can take chemotherapy at DHHs and also take our consultation through telemedicine."

He also clarified that cancer cured persons are as good as normal people in terms of immunity. "Cancer cured persons are like general people. We cannot compare them with the cancer patients. They have better immunity than the cancer patients."

Dr Senapati said that cancer patients with no symptoms of the disease can opt for home isolation but after consultation with the doctors. He, however, said that symptomatic cancer patients must opt for COVID Hospitals for their treatment.

Street vendors get collateral free loans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The Centre Wednesday sanctioned ₹8.2 crore as collateral-free loans to street vendors in Odisha under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Aamta Nirbhar Nidhi Scheme (PM SVANidhi).

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted the announcement.

There are 63,222 street vendors in Odisha. Out of them, 23,550 vendors have applied for affordable working capital loans. The central

government has sanctioned the loans for all vendors who applied.

Odisha has been among the top 10 states to benefit from the PM SVANidhi scheme. The street vendors of Sambalpur, Cuttack, Berhampur, Balasore and other towns in Odisha have already been provided collateral free loans of up to ₹10,000.

The PM SVANidhi scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs June 1, 2020. It aims to provide affordable working capital

loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been affected due to the coronavirus lockdown.

The scheme is projected to help over 50 lakh vendors who would be eligible to avail a working capital loan of up to ₹10,000. They will be allowed to repay the amount in 12 monthly installments. If someone is able to repay the loan earlier, an interest subsidy of seven per cent per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries every quarter.

Also there will not be any penalty on the early repayment of loans.

BJD appoints youth unit bearers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday approved the appointment of new working members and district presidents of the youth wing of the party. However, president of the wing has not been named so far. As per a statement issued by BJD general secretary

(youth affairs) Pranab Balabantaray, Baikuntha Naik has been appointed as the new working president of Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD) while Elisha Dash is the new secretary general. Rana Pratap Patra, Dhruvi Ranjan Marthia and Jyotsnamayee Parida have been placed as senior vice-president of the BYJD.

Similarly, Bijaya

Ketan Sahoo has been appointed as president of Bhubaneswar zone, Subhanshu Narayan Mishra for Cuttack zone, Nachiketa Swain for Ganjam, Manindra Mohanty—Bolangir, Debasish Parida—Sambalpur and Tapas Tripathy—Koraput.

Uniform signage to avoid confusion in heritage spots

Currently, different types of signage are installed in Ekamra Kshetra by various agencies leading to visual clutter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: In a bid to bring consistency in sign boards, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) notified recently that it will bring a uniform signage plan for heritage spots and business establishments in Ekamra Kshetra to avoid any confusion.

As per provision of the Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2018, name of a business establishment in the area would be written in Odia language and if required, it can be written in English as a supporting text.

However, presently, different types of signage have been installed in Ekamra Kshetra by various agencies including Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) leading to visual clutter and absence of proper interpretation creating confusion among visitors.

Observing this, the BDA in its Comprehensive Development Programme (CDP) 2030, had identified the need to develop guidelines for unified signage designs for special heritage zones. These zones under the CDP included that of Ekamra Kshetra heritage zone in Old Bhubaneswar,

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



These zones under the CDP include Ekamra Kshetra heritage zone, Aitihashik Kshetra heritage zone and Sanskritik Kshetra heritage zone

Six types of signage will be put up at heritage sites which will indicate directions, interpretation, orientation, facilities, business establishments and buildings

The colour, font, line spacing, paragraph style, arrows and icons, material and scale of all signs will be historically sensitive

Aitihashik Kshetra heritage zone (Sishupalgarh) and Sanskritik Kshetra heritage zone (Dhauili).

"As the Old Town or Ekamra Kshetra of Bhubaneswar is one of the most prominent abodes of Lord Shiva, the Heritage Signage Guideline will bring in a perfect sync with the past and the present as this area is the essence of the State Capital. Similar Guidelines will also be prepared for other special heritage zones identified under CDP 2030 which will bring

uniformity in information dissemination and improve the overall visitor experience," said BDA Vice Chairman, Prem Chandra Chaudhary. Furthermore, the notification mentioned that the colour, font, line spacing, paragraph style, arrows and icons, material and scale of all signs will be historically sensitive to the monument/building and the distinctiveness of the old town area. These signage guidelines will be adopted as part of the BDA (Planning

and Building standard) Regulations. As per the guidelines, six types of signages will be put up at heritage sites which will indicate directions, interpretation, orientation, facilities, business establishments and buildings. Moreover, these signages will be followed for all planning and design projects, building plan approval, building construction, addition, alteration, renovation, display boards, and others in the notified area.

Meanwhile, the BDA which had earlier notified Ekamra Kshetra as 'No Hoarding Zone' said that the guidelines will be strictly followed further. While the existing hoardings from all government and private spaces in the area would be removed, advertisement through painting on the walls will be disallowed within the heritage zone.

"We felt there is a greater need to develop guidelines for unified signage designs for special heritage zones as specified in CDP - 2030 due to heavy congregation of monuments in the Old Town and surrounding areas. Besides, there is a need for stronger bridge between tourism signage as per international standards and uniqueness of heritage resources existing within the city," said Suparna Surabhatta Das, Assistant Town Planner of BDA.

CORRIGENDUM TO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

With reference to the previous public announcement issued in accordance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations 2016 and published on the website of Maadurga Thermal Power Company Limited https://www.mtpcl.in on February 25, 2020, the e-auction timelines for acquisition of Corporate Debtor as a going concern stands amended and restated as under:

(Under Regulation 32 and 33 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	Maadurga Thermal Power Company Limited
2. Date of incorporation of Corporate Debtor	December 15, 2008
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered	Registrar of Companies - Cuttack
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U40102OR2008PLC010501
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Registered Office: CAAD Centre Building, 2nd Floor Press Chhak, Madhupatna, Cuttack, Orissa - 753010 Plant Location: Bainchua, Tangli, Cuttack - 754022, Orissa June 25, 2019
6. Liquidation commencement date of the corporate debtor	June 25, 2019
7. Name, address, email address, telephone number and the registration number of the Liquidator	Name: Pankaj Dhanuka Registered Address with IBI: FE 328, Sector 3, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700106 Registered Email Address: pankajdhanuka@gmail.com Telephone: +91 98300 19128 Registration No.: IBI/PA-001/IP-P01205/2018-2019/1911 Communication Address: Deloitte Touche Tomhatsu India LLP, 13th Floor, Building - Omega, Bengal Intelligent Park, Block - EP & GP, Sector - V, Salt Lake City, West Bengal 700091 Communication Email Address: inmtpcl@deloitte.com
8. Date of E-Auction	Auction Start Date & Time: October 13, 2020 @ 11:00 a.m. Auction End Date & Time: October 13, 2020 @ 04:30 pm
9. Manner of Obtaining the Process Document	The detailed terms and conditions of the auction process are set out in the process document, which can be obtained by the bidders by sending an email request to inmtpcl@deloitte.com.
10. Last Date of Obtaining the Process Document	October 6, 2020
11. Subject Matter of Auction Process	Acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a going concern.
12. Manner of Submitting Bid	As set out in the process document to be issued by the liquidator of the Corporate Debtor.
13. Mode of Sale	The mode of sale is open e-auction where bidders can view other competitive bids from other bidders during the open window. The acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a going concern shall be on an 'as is where is' basis without any representation, warranty or indemnity by the Corporate Debtor or the liquidator.

Notes:
Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or a commitment to sell the Corporate Debtor as a going concern or any of its assets.
Bidders must note that the aforementioned auction process is being conducted in accordance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ("Code") and the relevant regulations thereunder. In the event if any of the assets of the Corporate Debtor are realised by existing charge holders in terms of Section 52 of the Code read together with the applicable regulations, the same shall be excluded from the ambit of the auction process being conducted by the liquidator, as and when such an option is exercised by the relevant charge holder.
The liquidator reserves the right to amend and/or annul this invitation including any timelines or the process therein, without giving any reason, at any time and in any respect. Any such amendment in the invitation, including the aforementioned timelines, shall be notified on the website of the Corporate Debtor www.mtpcl.in.

For Maadurga Thermal Power Company Limited
Sd/-
Pankaj Dhanuka
Registered Address: FE 328, Sector 3, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700106
Registered Email: pankajdhanuka@gmail.com
Communication Address: Deloitte Touche Tomhatsu India LLP, 13th Floor, Building - Omega, Bengal Intelligent Park, Block - EP & GP, Sector - V, Salt Lake City, West Bengal 700091
Communication Email: inmtpcl@deloitte.com

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DIRECTOR

No COVID test after death: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The state government has asked both state-run and private hospitals to avoid conducting coronavirus tests on the bodies of patients dying while undergoing treatment for non-COVID ailments, an official said Wednesday.

The directive was prompted by incidents of relatives and neighbours abstaining from funerals of people testing positive for the infection after their death, he said.

The Health and Family Welfare department, in a notification issued Tuesday, asked the hospitals to avoid undue delay in releasing patients' bodies to prevent harassment of bereaved family members.

The department has also directed all hospitals treating COVID-19 patients to submit the death report along with the copy of bedhead tickets, investigation reports and coronavirus test status to the Director of Health Services, Odisha



The directive was prompted by incidents of relatives abstaining from funerals of people testing positive for the infection after their death

within 48 hours of the death of a patient for a state-level death audit.

All the deaths of COVID-19 patients are audited at the state-level to determine the cause of death, it said.

The hospitals were also asked to record all the pre-existing diseases with signs and symptoms at the

301 NEW CASES IN CAPITAL CITY

Bhubaneswar: As many as 301 new COVID-19 cases were detected under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits in last 24 hours, BMC said Wednesday. While 83 of them are quarantine cases, remaining 218 are local contact ones. Meanwhile, 392 persons who earlier tested positive for the disease have recovered. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Wednesday, 19,544 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 15,746 have recovered. While there are 3,711 active cases, 73 persons succumbed to the disease. Meanwhile, Odisha's COVID-19 caseload touched 1,92,548 with the detection of 4,237 new cases, while 15 more fatalities pushed its coronavirus death toll to 736. As many as 2,485 new cases were reported from quarantine centres, while 1,752 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing. The state Tuesday tested 45,321 samples for COVID-19, taking the total number of tests conducted so far to 29.05 lakh.

time of admission of a patient along with related investigation reports and submit them to the state-level committee along with the name and contact number of the treating physician. As many as 53 COVID-19 patients have died due to other ailments in the state so far.

Odisha's COVID-19 death toll stands at 736, while 1,53,213 people have recovered from the disease so

far and 38,546 patients are undergoing treatment.

"#Odisha has crossed yet another milestone in the deadly fight against #COVID19 with more than 1.5 lakh recoveries. Salute to all the health workers and #CovidWarriors who are working with utmost dedication and making huge sacrifice to save every precious life," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted.

HITTING THE STREET



Members of various trade unions hold a demonstration at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, to protest the 'anti-people and anti-farmer policies' of the Centre

OHRC breather for nCoV +ve injured youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), Wednesday ordered a private hospital here to carry out surgery on an injured youth of the city who had been denied treatment for 12 days after he tested positive for COVID-19.

The victim, Ranjit Nayak, 21, of Chandrasekharpur, was allegedly stabbed at his residence by his neighbours after a violent conflict over theft of a mobile phone September 8. The attack caused deep injuries in the lower part of his belly and he was bleeding profusely. Ranjit's parents went to Chandrasekharpur police station to lodge an FIR. However, the police suggested them to hospitalise the youth stating his condition serious and refused to file the FIR. But much to Ranjit's ordeal, the hospitals here - both private and public - denied him the treatment citing COVID regulations or paucity of medical infrastructure.



Ranjit was admitted to emergency ward of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. In the meantime, Ranjit's blood tests were conducted which eventually indicated him to be COVID positive. The hospital authorities allegedly denied surgery owing to 'not having operation theatre for COVID patients.'

Ranjit's brother filed a petition in OHRC mentioning that his brother was taken from one hospital to another for treatment despite suffering from severe pain. The OHRC then stated that the patient cannot be denied surgery on the plea of COVID.

The commission also asked the Health and Family Welfare department Secretary to probe the alleged medical negligence and submit a report during its next hearing October 15, 2020.

COVID INFECTION

Loss of taste, smell transitory: Doctor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Doctors dealing with cases of nervous system and brain claim that loss of taste and smell arising out of novel coronavirus infection in some patients are not permanent in nature.

Dr Ashok Kumar Mallik, a neurologist from SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack said that these symptoms are temporary in nature and patients regain the senses but the time period varies from person to person. He also said that in many patients the sense does not come immediately after completion of home isolation or hospitalisation period.

"We have seen that many patients complain of loss of smell. We have not found accurate answer as to how many days it takes for recovery. But after recovery the patients can regain the sense of smell and taste. There are very few cases like accidents where there are permanent loss to taste and smell," he said.

He also added, "In COVID, the sense comes after some regeneration process. There is nothing to panic. Even after completion of 14

days, the complete loss of taste and smell may not come back immediately in some cases. It varies from person to person."

The doctor, however, warned that the viral disease affects the nervous system badly in some cases leading to paralysis, stroke and other ailments. "Patients affected by COVID-19 see effect on their central nervous system, peripheral nervous system, spinal cord, brain and muscles. Brain infection and brain stroke are also seen in some patients. Headache, inflammation of different parts of the brain is also seen.

We have also seen paralysis and other issues with the patients, who are affected by novel coronavirus infection," he said. Bigger damages to the nervous system like paralysis, brain stroke among others are not seen in many cases, said the physician, adding most of the patients exhibit mild symptoms.

Mallik also said that there are several asymptomatic persons and even young people showing symptoms like paralysis, strokes, fainting and other severe forms of damages, but after examination many such cases turned out to be COVID positive.

In COVID, the sense comes after some regeneration process. There is nothing to panic. Even after completion of 14 days, the complete loss of taste and smell may not come back immediately in some cases. It varies from person to person

ASHOK KUMAR MALLIK | NEUROLOGIST AT SCB

9 fertiliser dealers face music

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo Wednesday said that action has been taken against nine dealers for not supplying fertiliser to the farmers for Kharif crops.

This apart, licences of 163 dealers were cancelled. There are around 6,881 fertiliser dealer points in the state. The minister asked the authorities to supply fertiliser

to farmers on time. Earlier, in a bid to provide financial assistance to the farmers during the COVID-19 crisis, the Odisha government had raised the cooperative Kharif loan to Rs 9,000 crore from Rs 7,500 crore for 2020-21.

As per reports, there has been a notable growth of 13 per cent in farmers' registration for paddy procurement under the Price Support System for this Kharif season.

HC no to termination of rape survivor's pregnancy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Sept 23: The Orissa High Court Wednesday refused to allow the termination of pregnancy of a physically-challenged woman.

Holding the state responsible for her plight, the High Court directed the Odisha government to pay as an immediate measure a sum of Rs 5 lakh by way of ex gratia within seven days.

The court observed that the termination of the pregnancy, which is more than 24-week-old, would put the woman's life in danger.

The court directed that the state government would further grant a sum of Rs 3 lakh if the 22-year-old woman delivers a male child and Rs 5 lakh if she gives birth to a female child.

Additionally, she will be entitled



MAJOR DIRECTIONS

- HC directed the state govt to pay the victim Rs 5 lakh by way of ex gratia within 7 days
- The court observed that the termination of the pregnancy, which is more than 24-week-old, would put the woman's life in danger

The court directed that the state government would further grant a sum of Rs 3 lakh if the 22-year-old woman delivers a male child and Rs 5 lakh if she gives birth to a female child

to receive compensation awarded under the Victim Compensation Scheme, the court said.

"Considering the mental condition of the victim and financial condition of the family, utmost care of the victim is to be taken in continuation of her pregnancy. The best medical facility will be made available so as to ensure proper care and supervision during the period of pregnancy as well as post-

natal care at the SCB Medical College and Hospital," the court said.

"The entire transport, medical and medicinal expenses, including accommodation of the victim and her mother, if necessary, during treatment, shall be the responsibility of the Jagatsinghpur district administration," said Justice Biswanath Rath.

The entire education of the yet-to-born child will be the responsibility

of the state government, the court said.

The woman, also a mentally-challenged, is a resident of a village in the Kujangapoli police station area in Jagatsinghpur district. She was raped by a local and the police complaint was filed only August 13 after her family came to know about it.

By the time, her mother approached the HC, seeking permission to terminate the pregnancy, medical reports indicated that the woman was already pregnant for over 20 weeks.

The HC also issued an 11-point specific direction to the state government, and 14-point general directives to other authorities, including the district courts, State Legal Aid Services Authorities, police and doctors as to how to handle similar cases in the future.

Konark Special Exp cancelled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Konark Special Express from Mumbai has been cancelled for Wednesday due to heavy rain and water-logging on railway track.

Similarly, Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Special Express from Bhubaneswar for September 25 will remain cancelled from Bhubaneswar due to cancellation of the pairing train.

Earlier, the Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Konark Special was rescheduled to depart from Mumbai at 10pm Wednesday instead of earlier scheduled 3:05pm due to heavy rain and water-logging on railway track in Mumbai area.

The India Meteorological Department Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar Wednesday predicted heavy rain, thunderstorm with lightning in many parts of odisha from September 25.

It also issued yellow weather warning for several districts in the state during the period.

Odisha blocked PM Kisan money, allege BJP MPs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs Wednesday wrote to Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar alleging scam in disbursement of assistance under PM Kisan Scheme in Odisha.

The parliamentarians said that many of the 37,00,578 registered farmers under the scheme are deprived of the last few installments of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi released by the Centre.

The MPs accused the Odisha government of blocking the assistance from the Centre.

"An examination of this disconcerting trend of annually decreasing coverage of beneficiaries under the scheme in Odisha reveals that for the sixth installment, 12.93 lakh farmers have been deprived of their benefit as Odisha government has blocked their names for receiving the benefit, without any justification," the joint letter said.



Many of the 37,00,578 registered farmers under the scheme are deprived of the last few installments of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi released by the Centre, said the BJP MPs

It also added that the Odisha government November 2019 had issued a circular stating that all small and marginal farmer beneficiaries identified under the KALIA scheme of the state government had been registered under PM Kisan Scheme and would be paid Rs 6,000 from the central scheme and the remaining Rs 4,000 in two installments under KALIA scheme.

"However, we are distressed and alarmed to note that till this day there is no integration of data pertaining to the beneficiary list of KALIA scheme with the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana portal," the letter alleged.

The BJP MPs said that it was disappointing to note that these alleged unjustifiable inaccuracies and oversight of the state government in disbursement of benefits under the central scheme to the needy farmers of Odisha in the backdrop of COVID-19 caused hardships to the farmers of Odisha.

The MPs sought personal intervention of Tomar in the matter and asked him to instruct the officials concerned to institute a probe by a Central agency to look into the alleged 'blunders' committed by the state government in the implementation of the scheme.

226 freight rakes carried by ECoR in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Wednesday said it has carried 226 rakes of freight in the current month so far through its business development initiative.

The ECoR authorities have been in touch with various trade and industry bodies through the business development units (BDUs) to increase its share in the transportation of goods, it said in a statement.

"Following the efforts of the business development units created recently, ECoR has carried 226 rakes of freight till September 21 and transported about 0.67 million tonne of goods," it added.

These include loading of fertiliser by IFFCO from Dhanmandal

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



ECoR has carried 226 rakes of freight till September 21 and transported about 0.67 million tonne of goods

These include loading of fertiliser by IFFCO from Dhanmandal railway station, fly ash from Tata Bhushan Steel Ltd sidings at Meramandali

The ECoR has set up BDUs to attract traders and industrial entities for transportation of their products by railways

railway station, fly ash from Tata Bhushan Steel Ltd sidings at Meramandali. Similarly, maize was carried from Kesinga and Jeypore stations, cement from Bargarh.

These include loading of fertiliser by IFFCO from Dhanmandal railway station, fly ash from Tata Bhushan Steel Ltd sidings at Meramandali. Similarly, maize was carried from Kesinga and Jeypore stations, cement from Bargarh.

short-distance transportation of slag and steel from Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to Gangavaram Port.

At least 15 rakes of fertiliser, 40 rakes of rice and 32 rakes of cement were transported, while 78 rakes of iron ore and 56 rakes of slag

and steel were carried by ECoR since the beginning of this month, the statement said. The ECoR has set up BDUs to attract traders and industrial entities for transportation of their products by railways.

"The BDUs are now stepping up their efforts for both short and long-distance transportation of commodities along with non-bulk items," it added. The ECoR has also planned to provide its 28 sheds of goods on an outsourcing basis to various business units and has called for an expression of interest for the purpose, it said.

The ECoR is now exploring ways to increase miscellaneous non-bulk goods traffic to improve its share in the transportation of commodities.

DIRTY SIDE OF CAPITAL CITY



Piles of garbage, coupled with mud, turn the Unit-1 vegetable market in Bhubaneswar a filthy place

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5 irrigation units in Kalahandi soon

MINOR IRRIGATION DEPT WILL ALSO RENOVATE 13 OTHER PROJECTS IN GOLAMUNDA BLOCK

Bhawanipatana, Sept 23: The agriculture sector has failed to see a remarkable growth in Kalahandi as many parts of the district are deprived of irrigation.

Like other western Odisha districts, Kalahandi also sees annual migration of workers to different states in search of work.

In view of this, state government has laid more emphasis on irrigation to boost development of agriculture in western Odisha.

Now the focus is on Golamunda block of the district. The block is comparatively less irrigated than other parts. Five new minor irrigation projects will be set up in the block. It was also learnt that the government has decided to restore 13 irrigation projects in the district.

This was revealed by Minister of Energy, Industries and MSME Dibyashankar Mishra.

Mishra and chief engineer of the minor irrigation department Saroj Patnaik had visited minor irrigation projects at Karnakote and Chahaka under Golamunda block September 20.

They also visited a water harvesting project of the soil conser-



Now the focus is on Golamunda block of the district. The block is comparatively less irrigated than other parts. Five new minor irrigation projects will be set up in the block. It was also learnt that the government has decided to restore 13 irrigation projects in the district

Like other western Odisha districts, Kalahandi also sees annual migration of workers to different states in search of work

In view of this, the state government has laid more emphasis on irrigation to boost development of agriculture in western Odisha

The MSME minister and the chief engineer of the minor irrigation department Saroj Patnaik had visited minor irrigation projects at Karnakote and Chahaka under Golamunda block September 20

vation department at Kanipur.

After the visit, the chief engineer of the minor irrigation department revealed that 13 minor irrigation projects under this block will be restored.

Besides, the government has made plans to set up five more new irrigation projects at Gadalaharan, Kalipur, Dandarakhoh, Bhitarkote and Dhangiamunda.

A 42-km long canal of Indravati passes through Brundabahal,

Dasapur and Pharang under Golamunda block, he added.

Moreover, work of mega lift irrigation projects is underway at Mahaling, Kuhura, Kengan and Borda while 11KV feeder line has been drawn from Dashapur 33/11 substation to run lift irrigation projects in Golamunda.

"Farmers can make use of the feeder line in lifting water from the Tel river at different places," the

minister said.

With all these irrigation projects, farmers of Golamunda block will be immensely benefitted, he added.

It may be noted here that the government has already laid foundation of 41 irrigation projects a couple of years ago to provide water to 50,000 hectares in Kalahandi, Bargarh, Balangir, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Boudh, Subarnapur and Gajapati districts.

MOCK DRILL



Personnel of fire department demonstrate safety measures during a mock drill at Bhadrak Covid hospital, Wednesday

Chemists asked to tip off on Covid suspects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 23: As part of his efforts to take on the virulent pandemic, Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange Tuesday took stock of the situation at the district headquarters town of Chhatrapur.

After a few days' gap, he again visited each and every shop on foot from the bus stand to Dashiri Jagannath Mandir Chhak to ascertain strict observance of the guidelines such as social distancing, barricading, maintaining contact diary, use of mask and sanitizer.

Kulange asked medicine store owners to immediately intimate the district administration in case of any suspected Covid-infected customer is found pur-



chasing medicine.

The District Collector also reviewed the sanitation measures being undertaken in the headquarters town. He advised people to sincerely use waste disposal bins. He directed NAC executive officer N Ganesh Babu to implement night shift waste disposal and sanitary activities in addition to morning shifts from Tuesday night onwards.

Lifer for serial killer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 23: Serial killer Jhasketan Rout was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing four people - two each in 2015 and 2016 in Angul.

Adjudicating the case through videoconferencing, the District and Sessions Judge here pronounced the quantum of punishment Monday. The court has also imposed a fine of Rs 3 lakh on the convict, it was learnt.

According to reports, Jhasketan, a resident of Kusakila village under Jarpada police limits in Angul district, had murdered Abala Garnayak (65) and her nephew Kumud Sahu (27), residents of Kukurpeta village May 22, 2015. After committing the crime, he had buried Abala's body near a pond and put concrete mixture on the spot. In the similar manner, he had also buried Kumud's body near a school.

He again killed two persons - Rajkishore Sahoo and Hiranakshya Sahoo of Kusakila village. He committed his second crime February 4, 2016 and buried the bodies in a similar fashion to avoid arrest.

However, a case was lodged against him in connection with the death of Abala and Kumud February 11, 2016. He was arrested first in 2018. For his production before Angul court May 18, 2018, he was put in a court cell. On the pretext of attending nature's call, he went to the court toilet and from there he escaped through the asbestos roof by breaking it open.

After escaping from the court, he had stayed in Kolkata, Gujarat and in some other places before hiding in a jungle near Deogarh.

Land for Bhadrak textiles park lies unused for 25 yrs

MP MANJULATA MANDAL RAISED THE ISSUE IN PARLIAMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Sept 23: Acres of land acquired for a food and textile park at Dhamnagar Chhak in Bhadrak remain unutilised. The issue was taken up by Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal in Parliament recently.

She pointed out that 217.71 acres were acquired in 1995 for the textile park.

Mandal demanded that if the textile park is set up on the land, people from the district would not have to migrate to Gujarat and other states in search of jobs.

The MP drew attention of the Union Minister of Natural Gas and petroleum toward the long pending project while this project has been proposed by the IOCL.

"During the pandemic, thousands of migrant workers, skilled and unskilled, have returned to the district, after losing their jobs in other states. They live in miseries in absence of jobs made available to them by the administration. If the IOCL's textile park is set up, that will give them employment," she added.

Several other projects have also been in limbo, she added. The only major project that has been made



THE MP POINTED OUT THAT 217.71 ACRES WERE ACQUIRED IN 1995 FOR THE TEXTILE PARK

The MP drew attention of the Union Minister of Natural Gas and petroleum toward the long pending project while this project has been proposed by the IOCL

Locals alleged that land acquired for industrial projects is lying unused due to political and administrative apathy while employment scope has been neglected

operational is the Dhamara port.

It may be noted here that 217.71 acres had been acquired in 1995 to set up a sugar factory at Dhamnagar Chhak under Bhandaripokhari block. Later, the government decided that the land be used for a food and textile park.

Meanwhile, 25 years have passed since the land acquisition, but the project has not yet been realised.

On the other hand, people who

had spared their farmland for the project on the promise of employment opportunities are frustrated over inordinate delay of the project. People of Pahimahura, Manjurigadia and other villages have lost their land.

Locals alleged that land acquired for industrial projects is lying unused due to political and administrative apathy while employment scope has been neglected.

Sundargarh woman chokes on gupchup, dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Sept 23: Eating gupchup (panipuri) overenthusiastically may take your life! A case in point was a woman who choked on her fifth gupchup and died at Sarafgarh village under Lephripur police station in Sundargarh district, Tuesday night. The deceased has been identified as Phulamati Kisan.

Sources said that Phulamati, a resident of Sarafgarh village, stopped at a gupchup seller's cart to eat the popular street food. Phulamati consumed four gupchups easily but as she took the fifth one she started coughing. Despite all efforts the coughing did not stop and finally she fell unconscious near the cart.

Phulamati regained consciousness when people sprinkled water on her face but could not speak and died within a few minutes. The locals took her to Sundargarh district headquarters hospital, however, doctors at the CHC examined and declared her brought dead.

Sundargarh Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Saroj Kumar Mishra said it was possible that the crispy part of the gupchup got stuck in her windpipe, which resulted in her death.

2 jumbos perish in a week

Tensa: Elephant deaths continue to happen in Sundargarh district, despite a host of protective measures by the forest department. An elephant was found dead at Araghat under Koida range in the district Tuesday. This is the second elephant death in a week. The forest department retrieved its carcass. The animal is aged about 12 to 15 years. Another elephant had died in Sardanga forest September 13, but the cause of its death is yet to be known.



Villagers repair the road from Koyaguda to Canal Bank road under Korukunda block in Malkangiri. The road work allegedly botched up by a contractor

6 poachers held from Similipal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 23: Notwithstanding a plethora of measures, poaching of wild animals inside Similipal National park has not been curbed.

Arrest of six poachers in the Similipal National Park is a pointer to this fact. They were arrested for trying to kill wildlief Tuesday afternoon, forest officials said.

Four crude guns, sharp weapons, five trap nets and several other tools used for hunting purposes were seized from the arrested poachers. Dukura wildlife range officer Ananta Jena informed.

The arrested persons were identified as Madhu Naik, Uttam Bhakta, Gajendra Katual, Galu Naik, Sudarshan Katual and Satrugan Katual. They had entered into the Similipal reserve forest area two days back. As they were attempting



Link of the poachers' gang with outside states, if any, is being verified.

In March, 2020, four poachers had arrested in the Park. A leopard skin was seized from them. Surprisingly, the leopard was killed two years ago inside the Similipal National Park, but its hide was seized years later.

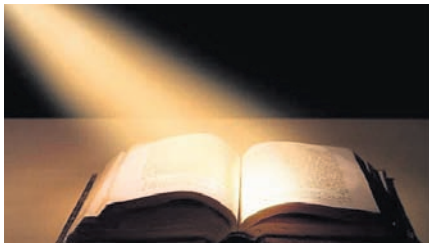
Poaching and hunting bids have been taking place over years inside and around the Similipal, but despite efforts of the forest department, such illegal activities have not been curbed

Muslim girl earns accolades for reciting Vedic hymns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 23: Even devout Hindus these days find it difficult to memorise Sanskrit slokas (hymns) and mantras. In this backdrop, a Muslim girl reciting Vedic hymns sounds surprising. However, that is what has exactly happened in Kendrapara district. The young girl, Samjana Khatun, has been lauded by the all and sundry for reciting Vedic hymns with ease.

It doesn't matter to Samjana that she pursues a different faith. It has not deterred her from reciting scores of Sanskrit hymns and Vedic in-



Samjana has completed her matriculation (10th standard). Though Samjana wants to pursue higher education, her family's poor financial condition has become a hindrance for her in pursuing her dreams

It doesn't matter to Samjana that she pursues a different faith. It has not deterred her from reciting scores of Sanskrit hymns and Vedic invocations. She can sing bhajans of Lord Ganesh and goddess Saraswati

trication (10th standard). Though Samjana wants to pursue higher education, her family's poor financial

condition has become a hindrance for her in pursuing her dreams.

Samjana's mother Sultana encourages her daughter to sing devotional songs belonging to other religions also. "I never dissuade my daughter in whatever she does," Sultana said.

Samjana's father Sheikh Karimuddin is a differently-abled man while her mother works as a daily-wager to support the family. The poor family stays in a thatched house. They go to sleep hungry when Sultana fails to get work.

Neighbours said Samjana is a meritorious student. They said if

provided with financial assistance the girl can achieve success in life.

"The girl had called me and expressed her inability to take admission in a local college. I have assured to help her. It will be appropriate if the local administration or the state government provides her with some financial aid," said Samjana's teacher Nrusingha Rout.

Kendrapara Sub-Collector Jyotishankar Mohapatra has assured all help to Samjana. "I have directed the district education officer (DEO) and Kendrapara welfare extension officer to find ways to help her," said Mohapatra.

VYASANAGAR MUNICIPALITY, JAJPUR ROAD
BID IDENTIFICATION No. 05/2020-21
Tender Call Notice No. 2335 Dt. 22.09.2020
TENDER CALL NOTICE / BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORK
 No. C-142: "Tender Call Notice for carrying out the survey of road length, drain length along with GPS coordinates, condition of road and drain with integration with google map".

Time of Completion of the Work	: 40 Days
Last date & time for submission of documents by the agency by Registered Post/Courier	: Dt.09.10.2020 on or before 4.00 P.M.
Date & time of opening of the Bids	: Dt.12.10.2020 on 11.00 A.M.
Further details available on	: www.jajpur.nic.in

Sd./- Executive Officer
Vyasanagar Municipality
OIPR-13063/11/0002/2021

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KHORDHA
 At/P.O./Dist. - Khordha
 Phone No.: 06755-220674, Fax No.: 06755-222674
 E-mail: khurda_municipality@yahoo.co.in
"e" Procurement Notice
 No. 2800 Date: 18.09.2020
 No. C-136: Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in

1. Tender Reference No.	: KMPITY/01/2020-21
2. Tender ID No.	: 2020 ORULB 1 to 7
3. Name of the Work	: Civil Construction works as mentioned in website
4. No. of Works	: 07 Nos.
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 2.67 lakhs to Rs. 17.84 lakhs
6. Period of Completion	: 30 days to 90 days
7. Date & time of Bidding	: 10.00 A.M. of Dt.23.09.2020 to Dt.07.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
8. Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Dt.07.10.2020 upto 5 P.M.
9. Bids received online shall be opened on	: Dt.16.10.2020 at 11.30 A.M. onwards
10. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, Khordha Municipality

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Khordha Municipality
OIPR-13082/11/0001/2021

FOCUS ASIA

CAUGHT ON WRONG FOOT



The South China Sea's geopolitical map without firing a shot, it seems clear that this will not work on China's Himalayan border. Instead, Xi's approach has placed the Sino-Indian relationship - crucial to regional stability - on a knife's edge. Xi wants neither to back down nor to wage an open war, which is unlikely to yield the decisive victory he needs to restore his reputation after the border debacle.

China might have the world's largest active-duty military force, but India's is also massive. More important, India's battle-hardened forces have experience in low-intensity conflicts at high altitudes; the PLA, by contrast, has had no combat experience since its disastrous 1979 invasion of Vietnam. Given this, a Sino-Indian war in the Himalayas would probably end in a stalemate, with both sides suffering heavy losses.

Xi seems to be hoping that he can simply wear India down. At a time when the Indian economy has registered its worst-ever contraction due to the still-escalating Covid-19 crisis, Xi has forced India to divert an increasing share of resources to national defence. Meanwhile, ceasefire violations by Pakistan, China's close ally, have increased to a record high, raising the spectre of a two-front war for India. As some Chinese military analysts have suggested, Xi could use America's preoccupation with its coming presidential election to carry out a quick, localized strike against India without seeking to start a war.

It seems less likely that India will wilt under Chinese pressure than that Xi will leave behind a legacy of costly blunders. With his Himalayan misadventure, he has provoked a powerful adversary and boxed himself into a corner.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

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China's foreign minister Wang Yi recently declared that aggression and expansionism have never been in the Chinese nation's "genes." It is almost astonishing that he managed to say it with a straight face. Aggression and expansionism obviously are not genetic traits, but they have defined President Xi Jinping's tenure.

Xi, who in some ways has taken up the expansionist mantle of Mao Zedong, is attempting to implement a modern version of the tributary system that Chinese emperors used to establish authority over vassal states: submit to the emperor, and reap the benefits of peace and trade with the empire. For Xi, the Covid-19 pandemic - which has preoccupied the world's governments for months - seemed like an ideal opportunity to make quick progress on his agenda. So, in April and May, he directed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to launch furtive incursions into the icy borderlands of India's Ladakh region, where it proceeded to establish heavily fortified encampments.

It wasn't nearly as clever a plan as Xi probably thought. Far from entrenching China's regional preeminence, it has intensified the pushback by Indo-Pacific powers, which have deepened their security cooperation. This includes China's most powerful competitor, the United States, thereby escalating a bilateral strategic confrontation that has technological, economic, diplomatic, and military dimensions. The spectre of international isolation and supply disruptions now looms over China, spurring Xi to announce plans to hoard mammoth quantities of mineral resources and agricultural products.

But Xi's real miscalculation on the Himalayan border was vis-à-vis India, which has now abandoned its appeasement policy to ward China. Not surprisingly, China remains committed to the PLA's incursions, which it continues to portray as defensive actions. Late last month, Xi told senior officials to "solidify border

defences" and "ensure frontier security" in the Himalayan region.

India, however, is ready to fight. In June, after the PLA ambushed and killed Indian soldiers patrolling Ladakh's Galwan Valley, a hand-to-hand confrontation led to the deaths of numerous Chinese troops - the first PLA troops killed in action outside United Nations peacekeeping operations in over four decades. Xi was so embarrassed by this outcome that, whereas India honored its 20 fallen as martyrs, China refuses to state the precise death toll.

The truth is that, without the element of surprise, China is not equipped to dominate India in a military confrontation. And India is making sure that it will not be caught off guard again. It has now matched Chinese military deployments along the Himalayan frontier and activated its entire logistics network to transport the supplies needed to sustain the troops and equipment through the coming harsh winter.

In another blow to China, Indian special forces recently occupied strategic mountain positions overlooking key Chinese deployments on the southern side of Pangong Lake. Unlike the PLA, which prefers to encroach on undefended border areas, Indian forces carried out their operations right under China's nose, in the midst of a major PLA buildup.

If that were not humiliating enough for China, India eagerly noted that the Special Frontier Force (SFF) that spearheaded the operation comprises Tibetan refugees. The Tibetan soldier who was killed by a landmine in the operation was honoured with a well-attended military funeral.

India's message was clear: China's claims to Tibet, which separated India and China until Mao Zedong's regime annexed it in 1951, are not nearly as strong as it pretends they are. Tibetans view China as a brutally repressive occupying power, and those eager to fight the occupiers flocked to the SFF, established after Mao's 1962 war with India. Here's the rub: China's claims to India's vast Himalayan borderlands are based on their alleged historical links to Tibet. If China is merely occupying Tibet, how can it claim sovereignty over those borderlands?

In any case, Xi's latest effort to gain control of territories that aren't China's to take has proven far more difficult to complete than it was to launch. As China's actions in the South China Sea demonstrate, Xi prefers asymmetrical or hybrid warfare, which combines conventional and irregular tactics with psychological and media manipulation, disinformation, lawfare, and coercive diplomacy.

But while Xi managed to change



Brahma Chellaney

THE SPECTRE OF INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION AND SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS NOW LOOMS OVER CHINA, SPURRING XI TO ANNOUNCE PLANS TO HOARD MAMMOTH QUANTITIES OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



Watch the too indignantly righteous. Before long you will find them committing or condoning the very offence which they have so fiercely censured.

SRI AUROBINDO

Horrible species we are

When Indian elephants meet African elephants, they recognise that they are both elephants. So do Indian tigers meeting Siberian ones. But I have great difficulty recognising that I am of the same species as a person who attends a wild foods festival in New Zealand to drink shots of bull and horse semen taken fresh from animals that have had humans masturbate these animals.

I suppose that if you eat meat it makes very little difference whether you eat the head, the shoulders or the anus. But there seems something so savagely primitive and ugly about people being in celebration at "testicle festivals" held across America in which the testicles of turkey, pigs, bulls and lambs are fried and served.

In the Middle East, grilled testicles along with eyes are served to honoured guests. In New Zealand, they do one better: the young lambs on a farm are routinely castrated to make them fatter; and their testicles are cooked and eaten for lunch at the farm, in front of the animals. Rocky Mountain oysters or prairie oysters are the name for the Canadian/American delicacy made from bulls' testicles. They are known as huevos de toro (bull's eggs) in Latin America and Spain, "ox treasures" in China. In Greece, you call them "unmentionables". In Scotland, they eat the testicles of deer. In Syria baidghanam or sheep testicles are grilled in lemon juice and garnished in parsley. Bull fries are floured and breaded testicles prepared from the animals killed during bull-fighting.

Spaniards consider that eating the testicles of prized bulls is a great way to show their bravery and masculinity. Bulls testicles, pink with red veins running through them, called "Ngäupin" in Vietnamese (which means electric battery), are common in supermarkets all over the world. Most of these testicles are from young animals whose private parts are simply sliced off without anaesthesia while they live in pain for another few months/years till they are killed.

Another great favourite is penises. Bull penis cooked with bananas is a traditional dish in Jamaica and is considered an aphrodisiac. Chinese and Korean eat them too to increase their own manliness. Chinese at the 2008 Summer Olympics munched on deer penises all the time. It reminds me of certain tribes in Africa which, several hundred years ago, used to eat parts of Christian missionaries in order to imbibe their "goodness".

There is no medical evidence that eating penises has any health benefit but they are frozen, dried and sold as Pizzles in the US and eaten in diets that promote low cholesterol and high protein, minerals and hormones.

In China, the country that gave the world the Corona virus because of its filthy eating habits, there are restaurants that specialise in animal penises and testicles. A restaurant called Guolizhuang, started in 1956, states that eating the penis from the head goat of a Mongolian herd will make women more beautiful and men more vigorous. It advertises the genitals of "horses, oxen, chicken, donkeys, dogs, deer, goats, sheep, and snakes."

The dishes are given poetic names such as "The Essence of the Golden Buddha," "Phoenix Rising," "Jasmine Flowers with 1,000 Layers," "Look for the Treasure in the Desert Sand," "Head crowned with a Jade Bracelet," and "Dragon in the Flame of Desire." The restaurant also sells stewed deer faces, sheep foetus and peacock claws. They sell a hotpot of all these different male genitalia in one dish in order to boost the human libido. After all, what could be more energising for a small thin Asian "man" than eat the penises of every other animal? If you need to celebrate your great manhood, you can eat tiger penises soaked in water with herbs. It is officially banned in China along with Rhino horns but served openly.

Seal penises are eaten in Canada and the Fur Institute of Canada announced in 2015 they were going to kill 1,40,000 grey seals to boost the seal penis market. These penises are also dried and sold as sexual enhancement products. They sell a beverage called Dalishen Oral Liquid to Asians, made from seal penis and testicles.

Cow and pig uterus are grilled and eaten in Vietnam by pregnant women and by everyone in Japan. The Pig Uterus Dish is called Ringeru. In Taiwan, pregnant women eat deer penises which are kept and fermented in large jars. Chicken ovaries are yellow and full of veins and make excellent chewsticks for snacking on in front of the TV.

If you can eat the private parts of animals, you can drink them as well. In Iceland, they sell a beer called Hvalur made from smoking whale testicles with sheep dung. Fin whales are an endangered species and it is illegal to kill them. But testicle dungbeer is evidently more essential to the wellbeing of these humans. A beer is made from bull testicles in the US as well. Sex Organ soup made from testicles, scrotum, penis and labia is popular in HongKong. Dick Soups (bull penises) are common in Malaysia.

What a horrible species we are. Even researching and writing this piece has made me feel sick and disheartened about the future of our planet. But, for a meat eater, it is not such a difficult thing to imagine. After all, if you eat the other parts of a slaughtered animal, its genitals are no big deal. And from animals the next step would be humans. On the net, there is someone who has eaten human testicles. This is what he says about the taste, "The testicles were hard on the outside and soft and glutinous in the middle, with a fishy or gamey taste."

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in, www.peopleforanimalsindia.org



Maneka Gandhi

If you eat the other parts of a slaughtered animal, its genitals are no big deal. And from animals, the next step would be humans

SPECTRUM AGRICULTURE

Paradox of poor farmers in food-rich India



Kamal Baruah

INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS WAREHOUSES AND COLD STORAGE IS LIKELY TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF INDIAN FARMERS

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for over 60 per cent of the population. Farmers here suffer more in marketing their produce than in raising their crops or harvesting them season after season. Markets are not farmer-friendly. Will the new farm legislation help farmers get a fair price for their produce? This remains to be seen.

Notably, India started facing severe shortages of food material during World War II. The Essential Commodities Act (ECA) was enacted in 1955 to regulate the production, supply and distribution in order to make food grains and cereals available to consumers at fair prices. The nation went through severe droughts in 1965-66, which led to import food grains. We overcame such grim situations by ushering in a Green Revolution under the guidance of agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan. By now, the Indian food and grocery market is the world's sixth largest. The nation produces 298 MT of food grains. India also has the largest livestock population - some 31 per cent of the world total.

While farming plays a vital role in India's economy, the irony is

that when there is a glut in production of vegetables and crops, there is a shortage of the same in the market. Prices shoot up due to severe supply shortages. Profiteers and black-marketers take advantage of the government's failure to intervene. Farmers switch to new crops due to hardships, uncertainties of pestilence and low yields. Bio-engineered seed varieties are susceptible to virus attacks. Indifferent weather conditions spoil their Rabi crops; but rain is good for Kharif crops.

India has the largest population of hungry people in the world even as there is abundant food production. India is among the 15 leading exporters of agricultural products. But there is a flipside to this great Indian agriculture story. Food grains are rotting in the warehouse. It's time to accord priority to addressing the causes of food storage and problems in distribution. It's a huge paradox that Indian farmers are poor in a food-rich India.

The local administrations try to control or keep low the food prices to satisfy the urban population at the cost of farmers' interests. In the name of subsidies for fertilizers and free power, the gov-

ernments help well-off farmers instead of the ordinary ones who form some 80 per cent of the farming community. As Mahatma Gandhi said, India lives in its villages. All-weather roads still do not connect rural habitations with cities. Lack of cold storages and transport facility, inadequate post-harvest safeguards, bias in procurement policy and inadequate food processing avenues have all resulted in huge waste of food.

The Agricultural bills 2020 promote intra/inter-state trade of farmers' produce beyond the physical premises of APMC (agricultural produce market committee) and MSP (minimum support price) and also facilitate electronic trading e-NAM (The Electronic National Agriculture Market). E-NAM was launched to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities by networking with the existing APMCs. It has 16.6 million farmers and 131,000 traders registered on its platform wherein some 1,000 mandis are already linked. The state governments are prohibited from levying any fee on farmers, traders, and e-trading platforms.

The bills empower farmers to

protect contract farming under a three-level dispute settlement mechanism. The new law stipulates that stock limit on agricultural produce must be linked to prices. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act now allows regulating the supply of certain food items only under extraordinary circumstances. The government also allowed 100 per cent FDI in marketing for food products on E-commerce platforms. The government says the reforms will help farmers get connected to big traders and exporters, thereby bringing them more of profits. Another promise is that the new law will rid farmers and the farm sector of middlemen and other bottlenecks. Yet, farmers have their apprehensions as to what fate awaited them.

Farmers in Punjab and Haryana are up in arms against the law, saying this would hit the functioning of APMC. Ironically, middlemen-run the show by buying farmers' produce in mandis/local bazar at prices even below the MSP, and take high commission. Poor farmers have no choice. Investment in agricultural infrastructure such as warehouses and cold storages likely to improve the lot of Indian farmers.

WORDSWORTH

Tracklements

This is a real word, a delightful one. It's not obsolete, but it's not widely known; it is used almost exclusively in Britain, and not especially often there. It refers to any kind of savoury condiment served with meat, such as rowan jelly. Someone said he first learned of the word when he bought a pot of mustard many years ago from the Tracklement Company, and in databases the word turns up most often in that firm's name. Even among cookery writers it seems to be an occasional relish to enliven prose. A rare sighting came from the Independent newspaper in February 1999: "In the best of Kosher kitchens, another delicious relish made from beetroot and horseradish (known as chrain) is the traditional tracklement to both boiled tongue and beef". The English cookery writer Dorothy Hartley claimed to have invented the word, which she used for the first time in her book Food in England in 1954. She said that she had borrowed it from an English dialect word meaning "appurtenances, impediments". The problem for those tracking down its antecedents is that the dialect word concerned is not easy to identify unambiguously.



The robber kills him and asks the next staff: "Did you see me robbing?"
The second Clerk: "No, but I guess my wife saw you!"

LOL

ROBBERY

After robbing a bank, the robber asks the clerk: "Did you see me robbing?"
Clerk: "Yes I saw you."

Puja, water pollution

Sir, On the occasion of Vishwakarma Puja, all machinery and vehicles are cleaned and washed at different water bodies. Thousands of trucks plying in Joda mining areas in Keonjhar were washed in Karo, a tributary of River Baitarani. Due to this, the river water was severely polluted with diesel, grease and other materials. The water of the river turned oily and greasy and, while flowing down, it got mixed with the waters of Baitarani. The water then turned unfit for consumption. This situation continued for a few days. As per the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, it is the duty of the Pollution Control Board to maintain the good quality of all our water bodies. Yet, a similar scenario persisted for days all over the state. This caused a serious environmental problem. The pollution control board should impose heavy penalties against the errant.

Sudhansu Sekhar Dhada, Jagamura, KHANDAGIRI

Potato prices

Sir, Odisha produces less than half of its potato requirement. We are dependent on West Bengal for its supply. This results in high price for the commodity from September to November every year. While the price of potato in February here was as low as six to eight rupees a kilo, it shot up to ₹30 from September. The state government takes some actions every year to increase the potato production, but to little effect. Worse, Odisha farmers are not benefited by this price rise. Problem is, the state does not have sufficient cold storage facility for farm produce. Others take full advantage, and the people are at the receiving end.

Gopal Mittal, Pagal, BHUBANESWAR

Farm bills, protests

Sir, In the past few days, the nation witnessed unprecedented bedlam in the Rajya Sabha when discussion on the farm reform bills were on. We are accustomed to see such unruly behavior among the MPs and MLAs, but this is against the spirits of democracy and the Constitution. Stalwarts of the past conducted themselves in impressive ways in Parliament. Debates and discussions are a must before any bill is passed into law. The bills should not be rushed through. They should be referred to the Select Committee for modifications if need be. The issues the Opposition raised over the farm bills are serious. A Union minister has resigned in protest against some provisions of the new law. Consensus is the way forward.

Ramdas Ray, BHUBANESWAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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Torrential rains paralyse Mumbai

AFTER HEAVY OVERNIGHT RAIN, TWO SECURITY GUARDS, STUCK IN A FLOODED LIFT OF A BUILDING IN MUMBAI DIED



People wade through a waterlogged street in Mumbai's Parel area after heavy monsoon rain

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 23: Heavy rains lashed Mumbai overnight, leaving many parts of the metropolis in waist deep water and disrupting rail and road traffic Wednesday, officials said. The Santacruz observatory recorded 286.4 mm rainfall during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am Wednesday, making it the fourth highest rainfall in Mumbai since 1974, an IMD official said. At the municipal Nair Hospital in central Mumbai, the COVID-19

outpatient department (OPD) set up in a temporary shed in the compound was shifted to the casualty ward inside the building due to waterlogging in the compound, they said. A doctor from the hospital said the normal OPD at the hospital has been suspended temporarily and only emergency cases are being examined at the casualty ward. Two watchmen died in Agripada area after getting stuck inside a lift in the basement of a high rise building because of waterlogging, a police official said.

There was also waterlogging in several areas in the suburbs like Goregaon, Malad and Dahisar, he said. "Around 6 inches high water logging at Andheri Subway. However traffic has been resumed and police personnel from DN Nagar Police Station are on the spot to ensure convenient commute for Mumbaikars," Mumbai Police tweeted. Rains across the island city and the western suburbs picked up late Tuesday evening. There were intense spells across Mumbai overnight, a civic

official said. On Wednesday morning, public transport services were hit and normal life affected in the financial capital due to heavy downpour and waterlogging. Several streets and low-lying areas were waterlogged due to overnight rains and the road traffic was also badly hit, a civic official said. Some vehicles broke down in the water, affecting the traffic movement, he added. Mumbai's municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal has asked that all offices and establishments in the city, barring essential services, be shut on Wednesday due to the downpour and IMD's forecast of "heavy to very heavy rains" in the city. A Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) release said Chahal has also appealed Mumbaikars not to step out of their homes, unless it is an emergency. Suburban train services of Central Railway and Western Railway were suspended but resumed later as the intensity of the downpour waned. Railways also cancelled or rescheduled many long-distance trains following the heavy rains. There was waterlogging in Sion-Kurla and Chunabhatti-Kurla sections and traffic was suspended on CSMT-Thane and CSMT-Vashi sections for safety reasons, a CR official said. Suburban trains, considered the lifeline of Mumbai, are being operated for essential services employees due to COVID-19 outbreak and common citizens are not authorised to travel in them as of now.

BHIWANDI BUILDING COLLAPSE

Death toll rises to 39, rescue ops on



AGENCIES

Thane, Sept 23: The death toll in the Bhiwandi building collapse in Maharashtra rose to 39 Wednesday, with the recovery of 14 more bodies overnight, police said. The dead include 18 children in the age group of two to 15, including three toddlers, an official said. Twenty five persons have been pulled out of the debris alive so far and are being treated at hospitals in Bhiwandi and Thane, he said. The search operation continued throughout the night despite heavy rains, the official said. The bodies recovered from the debris were mutilated and highly decomposed as they had remained there for over 50 hours, he said. The 43-year-old Jilani building collapsed at 3.40 am Monday. Two

civic officials have been suspended in connection with the collapse and an offence has been registered against the building owner, the official said. The building in the powerloom town - which is around 10 km from Thane - had 40 flats and around 150 persons lived there, the official said. The building, located at Narpoli's Patel Compound near Dhamankar Naka, collapsed while the residents were asleep. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and personnel of the Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF) are still at the spot as the search operation continues, he said. The building was not in the list of dilapidated structures of the Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation, he said.

Dalit farmer beheaded for not sharing water

INDO-ASIAN NEWS

Badaun (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 23: In a shocking incident, a Dalit farmer was beheaded in Uttar Pradesh because he refused to share water for irrigation with another farmer. The police have arrested the accused. The incident took place in Badaun's Din Nagar Sheikhpur village where Nathu Lal Jatav was watering his field late Monday. Another farmer, Roop Kishore, asked Jatav to divert water to his field but Jatav refused, saying that his field needed more water. Jatav was then beaten up and beheaded by the angry farmer.



Some locals tried to intervene, but fled when Roop Kishore attacked Jatav with a spade. The 56-year-old farmer is reported to have slumped to his death. Jatav's son, Ompal, told reporters that he and his father had been working in the field till late in the night. "My father told me to go home and keep dinner for him. When he did not return home till the early hours of the morning, I went to the field. On the way, one of the locals told me that Roop Kishore had killed my father. I reached the spot and saw my father's beheaded body lying there," Ompal said. Ompal further said that Roop Kishore alone could not have committed the crime and there were a few others with him. Superintendent of Police (SP) Siddharth Verma said that an FIR has been lodged against Roop Kishore on the basis of Ompal's complaint.

Webley & Scott guns to be manufactured in UP

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST FOREIGN COMPANY TO MANUFACTURE FIREARMS IN INDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 23: Webley & Scott (W&S), the iconic British firearms manufacturing company, will start blazing its guns in Uttar Pradesh from November when its new unit in Hardoi district becomes functional.

spokesman, John Bright, the co-owner of Webley & Scott has said that they would later manufacture pistols, airguns, shotgun and ammunition as well. "We decided to invest in India and in the state of Uttar Pradesh keeping in view the vast market po-



The company is famous for providing firearms to several countries during two World Wars

The handgun manufacturing giant has joined hands with Lucknow-based Sial Manufacturers Pvt. Ltd. for the project and will begin operations with the production of revolvers. The new unit will manufacture its .32 revolver in the first phase. Joginder Pal Singh Sial of Sial Manufacturers, the all-India distributor of W&S products, said, "The government's support and the Centre's 'Make in India' policy helped the project take final shape." He further said, "The cost of the .32 revolver will be ₹1.6 lakh. We will give stiff competition to the arms manufactured by ordnance factories. People will now get world-class weapons at their doorsteps." According to the government

tential. The idea to expand our business got shape after discussions with the Sial family in 2018. We entered a new joint venture for the manufacture of firearms and airguns in India for the Indian domestic market. We got the licence to manufacture firearms in India in 2019," said Bright in a statement. He said the original design of the Mark IV .32 pistol of 1899 would be used to cater to the Indian market in the first phase. Webley & Scott, which armed the Allied forces during the two World Wars and produced weapons for at least 15 countries, will now mark its presence in the Indian subcontinent with the new unit in Sandila (Hardoi), barely 30 km from Lucknow.

DIVINE PATH



Devotees carry metal pots filled with holy water after taking a dip in Ganga river at Padilla Mahadev temple, during the Manmas month, amid the coronavirus pandemic, in Prayagraj

Two Mumbai hosps begin phase 2, 3 trials of Covishield vaccine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 23: The civic-run King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital in Mumbai today began phase II and III trials of the Oxford Covishield vaccine for COVID-19, an official said. The hospital, located in Parel area, Tuesday got the approval of the Maharashtra ethics committee for conducting the vaccine trials. King Edward Memorial Hospital Dean Dr Hemant Deshmukh told

news agency Press Trust of India that the hospital has started screening volunteers for the trials. The medical facility will be conducting the trials on 100 volunteers, he said. The Mumbai-based BYL Nair Hospital, another facility run by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, has also received approval for conducting trials of the vaccine. Both the King Edward Memorial Hospital and BYL Nair Hospital will be conducting the trials collectively on over 200 volunteers,

sources told news agency PTI. As part of the trials, volunteers who are found negative for coronavirus in both RT-PCR and antigen tests will be given the vaccine, they said. Trials of the Oxford vaccine candidate are being conducted in Pune as well. The Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) has partnered with British-Swedish pharma company AstraZeneca for manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccine candidate, being developed by the University of Oxford, UK.

Iconic Coffee House tweaks menu to include 'Kadha'

MOST OF THE CUSTOMERS HAVE WELCOMED THE CHANGE IN THE MENU

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 23: The iconic Coffee House in Lucknow, whose clientele includes litterateur, politicians, playwrights and the creme de la creme of the Uttar Pradesh capital, has tweaked its menu to suit Covid times. Apart from the filter coffee - its menu still does not include the likes of Cappuccino, Dalgone or Frappe - however, the Coffee House has now included the immunity boosting 'kadha' in its beverage list. "We have done this keeping in mind the health and well-being of our customers most of whom are senior citizens," Aruna Singh, secretary of the Indian Coffee House said. She said that the 'kadha' comprises medicinal herbs, including cinnamon, giloy leaves, cloves, cardamom, mulethi (liquorice root),

tulsi leaves, and black pepper. The immunity boosting drink has been priced at ₹25 per cup (large) and ₹15 per cup (small). "Ever since we reopened coffee house in June, our customers have been mainly those who have resumed office and come here for a break. While they prefer coffee and other items, we thought we should also include the basic immunity drink of any Indian household as it has become the need of the hour," she said. Most of the customers have welcomed the change in the menu of the Coffee House. "For years, the Coffee House has resisted change - whether it is in the ambience or the furniture or the menu - and we are happy that it is now changing with the times. We hope they bring some more changes in the coming days," said Ashwin Lal, a young executive.



Film city euphoria fails to bring cheer to nCoV-hit Agra region

AGENCIES

Agra, Sept 23: Amid the announcement by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to set up the biggest film city in India in Greater Noida, that will have a ripple effect on the adjoining Braj mandal, the grim reality of Covid-19 infection spreading its tentacles in the region, has subdued the euphoria. The local organisations of the artists, writers and culture-agents, including Mathura MP actor Hema Malini, have welcomed Yogi's announcement to set up a huge film city in the western part of the state. This will definitely be a big boost for promotion of local culture and open gates for employment to the local youth, said Surendra Sharma, president of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society. The Agra Mayor Navin Jain has written a letter to the Chief Minister to congratulate him and also sug-



gest that a mini film city should also be opened in Agra. However, the health scene remains grim. As daily testing has gone up in the past month, the number of people testing positive has also shown an upward trend. In the past 24 hours, Agra reported 127 fresh cases and one death. The tally now is 5,125, the number of discharged

after recovery is 4,048. The number of active cases is 958, cure rate 78.99 per cent, case fatality rate 2.32 per cent, sample positivity rate 2.99 per cent. The overall picture remains dismal, particularly as the medical infrastructure is showing signs of strain. The 45 public health centres have proven inadequate and

unequal to the challenge that is now emerging. The S N Medical College is under pressure to increase the number of ICU beds from 160 (all full) to at least 180. Health officials said the work has already begun. District Magistrate PNSingh assured there were enough beds in the district hospital and the supplies had improved. A private hospital was being roped in to broaden services in case of need. The district health officials have been holding camps to sensitive people to follow the guidelines and stay safe. The psychological effect of the reopening of the Taj Mahal and the Fort, has been helpful and people are slowly coming out of their shells with precautions. The expectations are that from the first week of October, more people would start arriving from trains and flights to Agra. But the health experts also warn that the winter would only aggravate the depressing health scenario.

S'PORE OFFER

A Singapore-based media company has offered an initial investment of \$10 million (approximately ₹73.51 crore) for setting up a film academy in the proposed film city in Uttar Pradesh. The offer came during an interaction of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with a bevy of filmmakers and artists Tuesday over the new film city project that would come up in a 1,000-acre area along Yamuna Expressway near Noida, an official statement said. Retired Lt. Col (Dr) Rajesh Chauhan told IANS: "That would be the time for people to be extremely careful as the cold conditions could bring flu back in deadly combination with Covid-19." Chauhan sees little light at the end of the tunnel, till vaccine with proven efficacy and medicines become available.

national



Although Parliament is called the temple of democracy, its dignity has been shredded many times. Even during the ongoing Parliament session, the functioning of the government and the behaviour of Opposition in the House is embarrassing for the dignity of Parliament, Constitution and democracy

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

ATAL TUNNEL INAUGURATION OCT 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the strategic Atal Tunnel, earlier known as the Rohtang tunnel, October 3 in Kullu district, ahead of which Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur reviewed the preparations Wednesday



of the day quote

Very few entrepreneurs have utilised the services of Mahila E-haat portal as only 321 women are registered under it

SMRITI IRANI | WCD MINISTER

The recent archaeological excavations in Keezhadi and other parts of Tamil Nadu reveal that the world reputed Sangam era can now be dated back to as early as 6th century BCE. This places Tamil culture and language as one of the oldest surviving heritages in the world

K. PALANISWAMI | TN CM

An ex-serviceman from Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, who was allegedly beaten up by a BJP MP and his supporters, has been receiving threat calls

ANIL DESHMUKH | MAHARASHTRA HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

4 BJP leaders join Trinamool

Kolkata (WB): Four BJP leaders from West Bengal's Kharagpur, along with hundreds of their supporters, joined the Trinamool Congress Wednesday, giving the ruling party in the state a fillip in the industrial region ahead of the assembly elections due in April-May next year. BJP leaders Sailendra Singh, Ajoy Chatterjee, Rajdip Guha and Sajal Roy joined the TMC in the presence of Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Chandrima Bhattacharya, at the party's headquarters here.

Manish Sisodia hospitalised

New Delhi: Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was hospitalised Wednesday due to coronavirus infection, sources said. The 48-year-old Aam Aadmi Party leader was admitted to the state-run LNJP Hospital here at around 4 PM following complaints of low oxygen levels and fever. He has been kept under observation, they said. He had tested positive for the infection on September 14 and was in home isolation. Sisodia was unable to attend the one-day assembly session on September 14 since he had tested positive.

Ex-VC booked

New Delhi: The CBI has registered an FIR against former Visva Bharati University vice-chancellor Sushanta Duttagupta for alleged corrupt activities during his tenure at the historic university, officials said Wednesday. The action comes after a two-year-long preliminary enquiry (PE) into the allegations levelled against him during 2012 and 2013. It is alleged that during his tenure as the VC he hid the fact that he was also getting pension from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, thus receiving excess payment of over ₹13 lakh, the officials said.

Youth arrested

New Delhi: A married youth has been arrested on the charge of firing outside his alleged lover's house in south-east Delhi, police said Wednesday. Police said accused Sumit Tomar was in a relationship with a young woman for the past 10 years. She, however, began ignoring him after his marriage. Late Sunday night, Sumit Tomar, a resident of Aali Vihar, went to her house and fired several shots from a country-made pistol he bought from Shamsabad in Agra.

NO COERCIVE ACTION AGAINST FB VP: SC

Delhi Assembly's peace and harmony committee had issued a notice to Facebook India vice president and managing director in connection with complaints accusing the social media giant of deliberately not taking action to curb hateful content on its platform



only purpose of serving notice to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is because in the perception of the petitioner's lawyer there may be some interplay of the powers of the Delhi Assembly and the Secretariats in question. The apex court's order came on the plea filed by Mohan, Facebook India Online Services Pvt. Ltd and Facebook, Inc, which contended that the committee lacks the power to summon or hold petitioners in breach of its privileges for failing to appear and it was exceeding its constitutional limits.

They challenged the September 10 and 18 notices issued by the committee that sought Mohan's presence before the panel which is probing the Delhi riots in February and FB's role in spread of alleged hate speeches. Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Mohan, submitted that committee cannot decide the breach of privilege of the house and administrative control over social media is with the Central government.

"Privilege is something to be decided by the Assembly. A committee cannot decide whether action on privilege can be taken or not," Salve said adding that the Delhi government could not put Mohan "in the pain of punishment" by asking him to appear before the Committee.

The senior advocate submitted that Mohan has the fundamental right not to speak under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution and being an employee of a US-based company he does not want to comment on this "politically sensitive issue."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Supreme Court Wednesday directed a Delhi Legislative Assembly panel not to take coercive action against Facebook India VP and MD Ajit Mohan till October 15 in connection with a summons asking him to depose before it with regard to north east Delhi riots.

Delhi Assembly's peace and harmony committee had issued a notice to Facebook India vice president and managing director in connection with complaints accusing the social media giant of deliberately not taking action to curb hateful content on its platform.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari issued notices to the secretary of the Legislative Assembly, the ministries of Law and Justice, Home Affairs, Electronics and IT, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, represented by the Secretary General, and Delhi Police, asking them to respond to the plea.

"Counter affidavit be filed within one week. Rejoinder affidavit be filed within one week thereafter," the bench said. It orally observed that "no coercive action shall be taken against the petitioner till October 15."

The apex court noted that the

Don't sign farm bills: Oppn parties to Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Stepping up the offensive against the government over the passage of farm bills, 18 opposition parties Wednesday urged President Ram Nath Kovind not to sign the contentious bills and alleged that they were passed "unconstitutionally" in "complete disregard" of parliamentary norms.

In a meeting with the President on behalf of these 18 non-NDA parties, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said he has requested the President to return the bills, and only give his assent after they have been passed after following proper rules and procedures.

Narrating the manner in which the two farm bills were passed in



PTI PHOTO

Rajya Sabha on Sunday, Azad told the President that the bills were pushed through the House without taking up the five resolutions moved by the opposition MPs and two separate motions demanding the reference of the agriculture marketing related bills to a select or

standing committee of Parliament. "The President gave me a patient hearing and said he would look into the issue," Azad told reporters after the meeting. The 18 opposition parties have already submitted a memorandum to the President on Monday.

VENTING ANGER



PTI PHOTO

Farmers take part in a protest rally by All India Trinamool Congress in Kolkata against the farm bills passed in Parliament

Modi reviews Covid situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday asked states to reassess if lockdowns of one or two days are effective in containing COVID-19 and told them to press on with full strength in opening economic activities while fighting the virus.

In a review meeting with chief ministers and representatives of seven states with a high number of cases, Modi said "micro containment zones" should be the way forward as it will curb the infection spread and also allow activities to go on.

He asked states to further enhance their focus on effective testing, tracing, treatment, surveillance and clear messaging to curb the pandemic. Noting that most of the COVID-19 patients are asymptomatic, Modi said an effective messaging is all the more important as rumours often get spread and the common man wonders if the testing is wrong.

Some people even make the mistake of undermining the seriousness of the disease, he said, while pitching for the need for an effective messaging.

DRDO test fires anti-tank missile

The laser-guided anti-tank guided missile is likely to significantly enhance the fire-power capability of the Indian Army particularly along the frontiers with Pakistan and China, officials said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: An indigenously developed laser-guided anti-tank guided missile has been successfully test fired by the DRDO at a firing range in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, officials said Wednesday.

The weapon, having a range of up to four km, was test fired from an MBT Arjun Tank at KK Ranges in Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACC&S) in Ahmednagar on Tuesday, they said. The laser-guided anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) is likely to significantly enhance the fire-power capability of the Indian Army particularly along the frontiers with Pakistan and China, the



BIG SUCCESS

officials said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on successful test firing of the ATGM. "Congratulations to @DRDO_India for successfully conducting test firing of Laser Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile from MBT Arjun at KK Ranges (ACC&S) in Ahmednagar. India is proud of Team DRDO which is assiduously working towards reducing import dependency in the near future," he tweeted.

The officials said the ATGM hit the targets with total accuracy and precision. "The missile employs a

tandem heat warhead to defeat explosive reactive armour protected armoured vehicles. It has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from gun of MBT Arjun," said an official.

The Arjun is a third generation main battle tank developed by the DRDO. Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) developed the ATGM in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory and Instruments Research and Development Establishment (IRDE).

Parliament passes Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Parliament Wednesday passed a Bill for inclusion of Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi in the list of official languages in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to the existing Urdu and English.

The Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 was passed by Rajya Sabha through voice vote. Lok Sabha had cleared the legislation Tuesday.

Replying to a debate on the Bill, Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said it was a long-standing demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the language they speak should be included in the list of official languages.

The minister pointed out that around 74 per cent people in the Union Territory spoke Kashmiri and Dogri languages. He said that according to 2011 census, only 0.16 per cent population in Jammu and Kashmir spoke Urdu, while 2.3 per cent spoke Hindi.

Participating in the debate on

the Bill, Naresh Gujral (SAD) termed it "unfortunate" that Punjabi was not included in the Bill and urged the government to reconsider it.

The J&K Constitution included Punjabi and the first Chief Minister of J&K was a Punjabi, he said and added: "It hurts the feeling of those who are settled there. I would urge the government to reconsider because language is the basis of cultural heritage of the community." He said 13 lakh Punjabis live in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mir Mohammad Fayaz (PDP) demanded inclusion of Gurjari, Punjabi and Pahari in the Bill, saying that the motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" was lacking in the state. "Include Punjabi, Gurjari and Pahari so that we win the trust of everyone in J&K," he said. Ramdas Athawale (RPI) expressed "support to Dogri and Kashmiri languages" and in his poetic style said that a day will come when PoK will come to India.

Inside SOG hqs: From tracking social media to planning ops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 23: Dubber Cargo, the headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir's elite Special Operations Group buzzes with activity as various teams work 24x7 to track terrorist activity and plan operations. With each team working on a dedicated task, the SOG is moving full steam ahead with its efforts to hit out at terrorists trying to make Srinagar their base, said senior officials anxious to recast the image of the force.

The idea, said Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh, is to ensure that Cargo becomes a centre of excellence rather than a place that evokes fear. "I wanted to ensure that Cargo, a name which sent chills down peo-

ple's spines earlier, becomes a centre for excellence and I guess that dream has been realised now," Singh said on Tuesday after congratulating SOG personnel for successfully completing an operation. The building - which once housed Indian Airlines cargo, hence the name, and is usually out of bounds for journalists - carries the tagline of the SOG, also known as Special Task Force (STF). The sign outside says 'CARGO: In pursuit of excellence'.

"Hum awam ke dost hain (We are people friendly)," Singh said with Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar by his side as the successful SOG squad saluted him. The SOG commandos, dressed in black and wearing masks in view of the COVID-19 crisis, have adapted the slogan "How's the Josh" from the Bollywood



Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh at Dubber Cargo, the headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir's elite Special Operations Group PTI PHOTO

film "Uri: The Surgical Strike". This year, the SOG conducted

seven special operations within Srinagar city limits and eliminated

16 terrorists of various outfits, significantly higher than previous years. Singh brushes off questions about controversies, including the alleged intimidation of journal-

ists, saying it is not possible in this day and age with so many CCTVs present. "Every one summoned here is shown charges and after hearing their side of the story they are escorted out with full respect. We are doing our job and that's all. I think the SOG is doing a good job," Singh said.

A Cargo unit, headed by Superintendent of Police Tahir Ashraf, is using scientific methods during interrogation and has deployed dedicated teams for specified anti-terror activities, officials said. Among the recent additions is a "command vehicle", providing a 360-degree view of the area where an operation is taking place so it can provide complete backup to its men on the ground.

national

of the day quote

There is no shortage of oxygen in Delhi hospitals. I took a stock of the situation. There is a slight issue, but there is enough oxygen for six to seven days in Delhi government-run hospitals



SATYENDAR JAIN | DELHI HEALTH MINISTER

3,000 information technology professionals, who have returned to the state from other parts of the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been given job offers through the 'Karmo Bhumi' initiative



AMIT MITRA | WEST BENGAL FINANCE AND IT MINISTER

These new bills will ruin farmers



NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU | PUNJAB MLA

SHORT TAKES

Covid-19 patient commits suicide

Shimla: A 54-year-old woman Covid-19 patient allegedly committed suicide in the state-run hospital in the Himachal Pradesh capital on Wednesday, the police said. She had tested positive on September 18 and was undergoing treatment in the Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. She belonged to Chopal in Shimla district. Deputy Commissioner Amit Kashyap said the woman committed suicide by hanging herself in the balcony outside the Covid ward. "A magisterial probe has been ordered into the circumstances that led her to commit suicide in the hospital," he said.

Pakistan violates ceasefire again

Jammu: Pakistan Wednesday continued with its unprovoked firing and shelling at Indian positions on the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district for the 5th consecutive day. "Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation around 9 a.m. today along the LoC in Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors of Poonch district by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars. Indian army retaliates befittingly," Colonel Devender Anand, defence ministry spokesman said.

TN minister's PA released

Chennai: A Personal Assistant of Tamil Nadu's Animal Husbandry Minister Udumalai K Radhakrishnan was allegedly kidnapped Wednesday but released later on by his abductors, following which a probe has been launched. Police said Karnan was abducted at knife-point by four persons from Udumalai in Tiruppur district. After Karnan was driven off in a car by his abductors, police launched a probe and began vehicle-checking drive. Later, the abductors dropped Karnan a few km from his office and sped away. The Tiruppur police is questioning Karnan to get clues to the incident.

4 killed in UP

Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh): Four persons were killed and six injured on Wednesday when the car they were travelling in rammed into a tree on the Bahraich-Sitapur road in Uttar Pradesh, police said. According to the police, the car was over speeding and hit a tree after losing control. Superintendent of Police Rural Ashok Kumar said 10 persons were in the car travelling from Haridwar to Tetra Bazaar in Siddharth Nagar. On the Bahraich-Sitapur road, the car lost control and rammed into a tree. Four persons died while six were injured.



Narendra Modi has destroyed the web of relationships that the Congress built and nurtured over several decades

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

KERALA AGRICULTURE MINISTER COVID+VE

Kerala State Agriculture Minister V. S Sunil Kumar Wednesday became the third minister to test positive for Covid-19



Bihar DGP in limelight over SSR case takes VRS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 23: A day after taking voluntary retirement, speculation is rife that Bihar's former Director General of Police (DGP) Gupteshwar Pandey may begin his political innings. Though nothing has been finalised yet, Pandey says he will talk to people and plan his journey ahead. Pandey said that it was not necessary to join politics to serve the people. Pandey, who is active in social service, said after discussing with people, he will decide on the road ahead and then disclose his future plans.



PANDEY, WHO IS ACTIVE IN SOCIAL SERVICE, SAID AFTER DISCUSSING WITH PEOPLE, HE WILL DECIDE ON THE ROAD AHEAD AND THEN DISCLOSE HIS FUTURE PLANS

HE SAID HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PEOPLE OF MANY DISTRICTS IN BIHAR TO CONTEST THE FORTHCOMING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, he said he was under pressure from the people of many districts in Bihar, including Jehanabad, Begusarai, Valmiki Nagar and Bagaha to contest the forthcoming assembly elections. Thousands of supporters from several places in the state, were in touch with him, he added.

Pandey came into the limelight for his vocal comments after the death of late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput who was

born in Patna. After the Supreme Court endorsed the CBI investigation recommended by the Bihar government, Pandey had said that Rhea Chakraborty "does not have the aukat (stature)" to comment on the Chief Minister.

Following the VRS, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut launched a sharp attack on Pandey, saying he had been carrying out a political agenda in the Sushant Singh Rajput investigation while holding the post of DGP Bihar. "IPS or IAS officers

of the country should be fair and must not be influenced by any political party," Raut had said.

Meanwhile, Pandey has denied all allegations levelled by Shiv Sena and other political parties. "People are connecting my VRS with investigation of Sushant Singh Rajput and blaming me of taken political advantage of it. I want to say that the FIR was registered in Patna since Sushant's old father could not travel to Mumbai. He was not satisfied with the Mumbai Police in-

vestigation. As DGP Bihar, it was my duty to help Sushant's father."

Following a sharp attack by Shiv Sena over Pandey's retirement, the BJP has defended Pandey's right to join politics if he so desires. Nikhil Anand, the chief spokesperson of BJP Bihar unit, said it was best left to Pandey. "I don't know why parties like Shiv Sena are making a hue and cry over his VRS or joining politics. We live in a democracy and it is his democratic right. The opinion of BJP or any other political parties is not required," Anand said.

Pandey has praised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Responding to a question he said, "Nitish ji is very strict in terms of administration and policing. He does not intervene in policing nor does he tolerate any outside interference in its functioning." Pandey, a 1987 batch IPS officer, took over as Bihar DGP last year. He was scheduled to retire in February 2021 but he took early retirement. Pandey, who has held the post of Superintendent of Police in several districts in Bihar, is renowned for his social work.

Cattle smuggling: CBI books ex-BSF officer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The CBI has booked a former Commandant of the 36 BSF Battalion and three others, including an alleged illegal cattle-trade kingpin, over rampant cattle smuggling on the India-Bangladesh border, officials said Wednesday.



The agency also carried out searches at 15 locations spread across Delhi, West Bengal's Kolkata, Siliguri and Murshidabad; Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, Punjab's Amritsar and Chhattisgarh's Raipur, they said. The case has been registered against Satish Kumar, a former Commandant of the 36 BSF Battalion, alleged cattle smuggling kingpin Enamul Haque and two others - Anarul SK and Mohammed Golam Mustafa, the officials said. Kumar is now posted in Raipur, they said.

Haque was also arrested in March, 2018 by the CBI for allegedly bribing another BSF Commandant, Jibu T Mathew, who was arrested

at the Alappuzha railway station in January 2018 with ₹47 lakh cash. The agency started digging into Haque's alleged illegal activities through a preliminary enquiry in April, 2018 to unearth his connections with other government officials who facilitated his nefarious business across the India-Bangladesh border.

During enquiry, it emerged that cattle smuggling was rampant along the border and is aided by some corrupt officers of the BSF and Customs who were receiving illegal gratification from the smugglers, the officials said.

The Border Security Force (BSF) is tasked with guarding the border with Bangladesh.

India crosses 6.6 cr-mark in Covid testing: Govt

Fourteen states and Union Territories, including Gujarat, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Assam, Haryana and Tripura, have demonstrated better COVID-19 response with higher tests per million and commensurate lower positivity rate than the national average, the ministry highlighted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: India's total tests for detection of COVID-19 has reached over 6.6 crore and tests per million have risen to 48,028 as on date with the national cumulative positivity rate being recorded at 8.52 per cent, the Union health ministry said Wednesday.

The country's testing capacity has surged to more than 12 lakh tests daily. Up to September 22, a total of 6,62,79,462 samples have been tested with 9,53,683 samples being tested on Tuesday.

A total of 83,347 new infections have been reported in 24 hours, the ministry said, underscoring that 74 per cent of the new cases are concentrated in 10 states and Union Territories - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.

Maharashtra alone has contributed more than 18,000 cases followed by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka with over 7,000 and 6,000 cases respectively, it said.

Also, 1,085 deaths due to COVID-19 have been registered in a day with



Fourteen states and Union Territories, including Gujarat, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Assam, Haryana and Tripura, have demonstrated better COVID-19 response with higher tests per million and commensurate lower positivity rate than the national average, the ministry highlighted.

"A high level of testing leads to early identification of positive cases. As evidence has revealed, eventually the positivity rate will fall. The national cumulative positivity rate is 8.52 per cent and tests per million stand at 48,028 today," it said.

10 states and UTs - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and Chhattisgarh - accounting for 83 per cent of the new fatalities.

Maharashtra reported 392 deaths followed by Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh with 83 and 77 deaths respectively. India's COVID-19 case-load mounted to 56,46,010 with 83,347 infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 90,020 with 1,085 people succumbing to the disease in 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am on Wednesday showed.

ARTISTIC TOUCH



An artist gives finishing touch to an idol of Goddess Durga, ahead of upcoming Durga Puja, at Kumartuli in Kolkata, Wednesday

Angry boy sets off for Haridwar on bicycle

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sep 23: An 11-year-old boy went on to put Delhi police on its toes when he set off for Haridwar on his bicycle just because his mother scolded him. His parents approached the police at South Rohini police station, and a case of kidnapping was registered Friday night.

What followed was strenuous efforts by Delhi Police to look for the child at various railway stations and bus stops in the national capital followed by checking at various highways and busy roads.

"During the investigation, it was known that recently the minor child had asked about trains to Goa and Paharganj railway station from his parents and he had also taken out around ₹5,000 from the purse of his mother on the day he went missing. He got scared after his mother scolded him. CCTV footage also revealed that the minor boy had gone alone on his



cycle towards Naharpur," said PK Mishra, DCP Rohini.

Without wasting time and sensing the gravity of the matter, the DCP Rohini formed multiple police teams under the close supervision of Inspector Sanjay Kumar, SHO South Rohini. While one team tried to find the boy in the nearby parks, and roads, and hospitals, another team searched parking lots of Metro Stations, roads towards Karnal bypass.

"Duty Officers of police stations of New Delhi Railway Station, Old Delhi Railway Station,

and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station were informed regarding the missing child and his photograph was shared with them on WhatsApp," said the police officer.

Since the boy went missing at around 8.45 p.m., the police tried to find the boy before he could cross the Delhi border. "Matching the time around when the boy went missing, we made a vague idea how far the boy could travel on his cycle to close in the search. He left without the mobile phone making our job difficult, we were also worried about his safety on the road," said another police officer, privy to the search operation.

Finally, at around 4.20 a.m., a police team reached the Singhu border and they spotted the missing child along with his cycle at a tea stall, after crossing the border in Haryana. "He was seeking the direction towards Haridwar from the tea vendor. The minor child was handed over to his parents safely," Mishra said.

Changing alliances set tone for Bihar polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 23: Political parties in Bihar are busy chalking out strategies for the Assembly elections which are likely to be held in October-November this year though the Election Commission (EC) has not yet announced the poll dates.

In many cases, parties which were friends during the last elections will now be seen as opponents while foes in the last polls have joined hands.

In the last assembly elections, the BJP and the Janata Dal (United) fought against each other but in this election they are together in the NDA fold.

The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) is likely to remain in the NDA this time as well but the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) which was

STRATEGIC PLANNING



with the NDA during the last elections has severed ties with it. Former Union Minister Upendra Kushwaha's party RLSP is now part of the Opposition Grand Alliance

(Mahagathbandhan) for the forthcoming election.

However, the RLSP and the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) are said to be upset as the seat-shar-

ing formula in the Grand Alliance has not yet been decided. Former MP Pappu Yadav has also announced to contest this year's election through the Jan Adhikar Party (Loktantrik). Yadav has not yet aligned with any opposition party.

The BJP is enthused with the JDU coming back to the NDA. The importance of the Bihar elections for the BJP can be gauged from the fact that its National President J.P. Nadda has already reached Patna and is busy reviewing preparations for the polls.

The Left which contested the last elections alone is likely to join the Grand Alliance this time. There have been several rounds of talks between the Left and the RJD on contesting the elections together. RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari

said the Opposition grand alliance should expand its outreach. Negotiations were on with many other parties, he added. Asked about the resentment over the seat-sharing formula, he said candidates who could guarantee a win were being selected.

The BJP's Bihar unit President Sanjay Jaiswal says the NDA has jumped into the poll fray with full force. The BJP-led NDA parties were contesting on the sole plank of development. In the last Bihar assembly elections, the JDU, the RJD and the Congress had contested together under the Grand Alliance and formed the government with absolute majority. Later, however the JDU broke away from the alliance and formed the government in Bihar by joining hands with the BJP.

B.Tech student ends life

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, Sept 23: A 21-year-old B. Tech student in Agra has allegedly shot himself to death using his father's licensed revolver. However, no suicide note has been recovered.

Shubhankar Sharma was at his house in Nehru Nagar area when he allegedly took the extreme step on Tuesday. The 3rd year undergraduate student was pursuing B.Tech electronics from NIT Silchar, Assam and had been at home following the Covid-induced lockdown.

According to the police, Shubhankar committed suicide on his terrace after locking the door of the staircase from outside. Shubhankar's mother Archana said that she was taking a walk, in front of her house, when she heard the gunshot. She ran towards the terrace and found the door locked.

She took help of her neighbour who jumped to her terrace and found Shubhankar lying in a pool of blood. They took him to S.N. Medical College emergency but doctors declared him brought dead.

Additional SP Saurabh Dixit said that the family members said that Shubhankar had stopped going out or meeting people. The family did not find anything amiss since the boy was preparing for competitive examinations. The ASP said that an FIR has been registered and the revolver license of the father could be cancelled since it was not kept safely and was accessed by his son.

Saudi bans flights to and from India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 23: Saudi Arabia has banned flights to and from India from Tuesday amid a surge in coronavirus cases, according to an official document.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said it was "suspending travel to and from the following countries: (India, Brazil and Argentina) including any person who has been in any of the mentioned countries above in the last 14 days prior to their arrival to the Kingdom". However, it excluded "passengers who have official government invitations".

The GACA circular - titled: 'Suspension of travel to countries where the COVID-19 virus has outbreak' - was marked to all the airlines and chartered flight companies operating at the Saudi Arabia's airports. Saudi Arabia and the UAE host a significant Indian migrant population.

Five days back, Air India Express had said the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) suspended its flights for 24 hours for bringing two passengers with COVID-positive certificates on August 28 and September 4. Dubai is the most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 23 due to the outbreak.

international

of the day quote

We must move forward with humility - recognising that a microscopic virus has brought the world to its knees
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Kashmir conflict which is also key to the stability and peace of South Asia is still a burning issue
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKEY'S PRESIDENT

As to healthcare, just like in economy, we now need to remove, as many as possible, obstacles to partner relations
VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

India, Nepal launch website
Kathmandu: India and Nepal have launched a website dedicated to provide information about the 2015 post-earthquake reconstruction projects funded by New Delhi in the Himalayan nation's education sector, the Indian ambassador here said. Indian Ambassador to Nepal Vinay M Kwatra and CEO of Nepal's National Reconstruction Authority Sushil Gyawali virtually launched the website Tuesday.

More Covid-19 curbs in Madrid
Madrid: Health authorities in Madrid may extend to more communities the restrictions on movement it imposed on areas of the Spanish capital with high coronavirus infection rates. About 860,000 Madrid residents already are required to justify trips out of 37 neighborhoods, mostly working-class areas.

Quake hits South Shetland Islands
Beijing: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4 jolted South Shetland Islands, the US Geological Survey said. The jolt was felt Tuesday, the Xinhua news agency reported. The epicenter, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 62.4625 degrees south latitude and 58.191 degrees west longitude. South Shetland Islands are located north off the Antarctic Peninsula and covers an area of nearly 3,700 square km.

FB, YT, Twitter ink pact with advertisers on hate speech

San Francisco, Sept 23: After months of intensive talks with major advertisers, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter have agreed to adopt a common set of definitions for hate speech and other harmful content, the Global Alliance for Responsible Media (GARM) said Wednesday. GARM is a cross-industry initiative founded and led by the World Federation of Advertisers (WFA) and supported by other trade bodies, including ANA, ISBA and the 4A's. The move comes after over 200 brands including Starbucks and Levis recently pulled their advertising from Facebook and the #StopHateforProfit campaign gained momentum after celebrities, like Kim Kardashian West, froze their social media account for a day. As a result of the talks between the advertisers and key global platforms, four key areas for action have been identified, designed to boost consumer and advertiser safety. "The issue of harmful content on-

REMEMBERING COVID VICTIMS



A volunteer places American flags representing some of the 2,000,000 lives lost in the US to the coronavirus disease, on the National Mall in Washington

Belarus Prez sworn in at secret ceremony



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Sept 23: President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus has assumed his sixth term of office in an inauguration ceremony that wasn't announced in advance. State news agency Beltra reported that Wednesday's ceremony is taking place in the capital of Minsk, with several hundred top government officials present. It comes after six weeks of mass protests against the official results of the August 9 presidential election that resulted in Lukashenko's reelection after 26 years in office in office. The opposition in Belarus has challenged the election as rigged. According to the official results, Lukashenko, who has run the ex-Soviet nation of 9.5 million with an iron fist, won 80% of the vote. The United States and the European Union have also criticized the violent police crackdown on post-election protests in Belarus. During the inauguration ceremony, Lukashenko swore to "serve the people of the Republic of Belarus, respect and protect rights and freedoms of people and citizens." After being sworn in, he was handed the ID card of the president of Belarus by the head of the country's central election commission. Lukashenko's strongest election opponent, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, got 10% of the vote according to the official results. She didn't accept the outcome of the election as valid.

Protesters rally at Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu against encroachment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Sept 23: A spontaneous protest erupted in front of the Chinese Embassy in Nepal's capital Kathmandu Wednesday afternoon over encroachment of the Himalayan nation's territory by China in north-western part of Humla district. A number of protesters, including youths, chanted slogans against the encroachment and demanded that the Chinese leave Nepal's territory immediately and respect the bilateral border treaty. Some young protesters carried placards that asked China to back off. Later, police dispersed the protesters who also demanded the reopening of two border points between Nepal and China that were shut 10 months ago. Tatopani in Sindhupalchok district and Rasuwagadhi in Rasuwa district were shut even before the start of the coronavirus pandemic,



due to which imported goods and stuff worth billions of rupees coming in from China are stuck there. On Wednesday, the Nepalese media had widely reported the construction of 11 cemented buildings in the Himalayan nation's territory by Chinese security forces in a remote area of Humla district. However, the Chinese Embassy maintained that the said buildings were verified to be on the

'No guarantee any vaccine in development will work'

AGENCIES

Geneva, Sept 23: World Health Organisation (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the top health organisation has no guarantee whether any single Covid-19 vaccine now in development will work. While addressing a virtual press conference, the WHO chief said: "We have no guarantee that any single vaccine now in development will work." "The more candidates we test, the higher the chance we will have of a safe and efficacious vaccine," he added. According to the WHO, almost 200 vaccines for Covid-19 are currently in clinical and pre-clinical testing. "The history of vaccine

development tells us that some will fail, and some will succeed," Ghebreyesus said. Also, the WHO, in collaboration with global vaccine alliance group Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), has launched a scheme COVAX. The aim of the collaboration is to accelerate the development of Covid-19 vaccines and enable equitable access for every country in the world. The COVAX Facility enables governments to spread the risk of vaccine development and ensure their populations can have early access to effective vaccines. Even more importantly, the COVAX Facility is the mechanism that will enable a globally-coordi-



development tells us that some will fail, and some will succeed," Ghebreyesus said. Also, the WHO, in collaboration with global vaccine alliance group Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), has launched a scheme COVAX. The aim of the collaboration is to accelerate the development of Covid-19 vaccines and enable equitable access for every country in the world. The COVAX Facility enables governments to spread the risk of vaccine development and ensure their populations can have early access to effective vaccines. Even more importantly, the COVAX Facility is the mechanism that will enable a globally-coordi-

test, according to the WHO chief. "The fastest route to ending the pandemic and accelerating the global economic recovery is to ensure some people are vaccinated in all countries, not all people in some countries," he noted. Meanwhile, US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Wednesday that the US trial of AstraZeneca PLC's Covid-19 vaccine remains on hold while the US Food and Drug Administration investigates a patient illness that shut down the global trial. Azar said that the FDA's investigation, which has continued even after the trial has resumed outside of the United States, shows that the agency takes safety of the vaccine seriously.



We will strike down terrorists who threaten our citizens and we will keep America out of endless, ridiculous, stupid foreign wars
DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

LIVESTREAMS OF WILDLIFE

Sri Lankan authorities announced that they will offer livestreams from the island nation's wildlife parks, in a move to help revive a tourism industry that has been decimated by the coronavirus pandemic



Navalny appears in public after leaving Berlin hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Sept 23: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been released from a Berlin hospital after more than a month's treatment for poisoning, with doctors now believing that a "complete recovery" from the Soviet-era nerve agent is possible for him, the hospital said Wednesday. Navalny spent 32 days at Berlin's Charite hospital, 24 of them in intensive care, before doctors deemed his "condition had improved sufficiently for him to be discharged from acute inpatient care." As he was released Tuesday, the 44-year-old displayed his characteristic sarcastic sense of humor. In an Instagram post, he took swipe at Russian President Vladimir Putin, scoffing at reported comments by the Russian leader suggesting that Navalny might have intentionally poisoned himself. Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator who is Putin's most visible opponent, was flown to Germany two days after falling ill August 20 on a domestic flight in Russia. He spent those two days in a coma in a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk, where Russian doctors said they found no trace of any poisoning. German chemical weapons experts have determined that he was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok — findings corroborated by labs in France and Sweden. The hospital said based on Navalny's progress, physicians believe that a "complete recovery is possible," but added it "remains too early to gauge the potential long-term effects of his severe poisoning." In recent days, Navalny has been posting regular photos of his convalescence from the hospital on Instagram, first showing him sitting



Alexei Navalny sits on a bench while posing for a picture in Berlin, Germany

up in his bed surrounded by his family, then up and about in the building. In his post Tuesday night, he laughed off a report in the French newspaper Le Monde saying that Putin suggested to French President Emmanuel Macron in a call that he "could have taken the poison himself." "Good theory, I believe it deserves the most careful attention," Navalny wrote in Russian. "Cooked Novichok in the kitchen. Took a sip from a flask on the plane. Fell into a coma." He wryly wrote that the "ultimate aim of my cunning plan" must have been to die in Siberia, where the cause of death would be "lived long enough." "But Putin outmaneuvered me. You can't fool him," Navalny wrote. "As a result, I lay in coma for 18 days like a fool, but didn't get my way. The provocation failed!" Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov Wednesday said the report about Putin's conversation with Macron was "inaccurate in its reported wording," but refused to elaborate as to which part was inaccurate.

NEW TWIST

Malaysian oppn leader Anwar plans new govt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kuala Lumpur, Sept 23: Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said Wednesday he has secured a majority in Parliament to form a new government that is "strong, stable and formidable." Anwar said he has been granted an audience with the king Tuesday but it was postponed because the king was in a hospital for treatment. He said he will not reveal details until after he has met the king. "Conclusively, we have a strong, formidable majority. I am not talking about four, five or six ... but much more than that," Anwar said. "With a clear and indisputable support and majority behind me, the government led by ... Muhyiddin Yassin has fallen." There was no immediate response from Muhyiddin, who is due to give a televised speech later Wednesday. Muhyiddin has been grappling to maintain support amid infighting in his coalition that has just a slim two-seat majority. He can ask the



king to dissolve Parliament to seek early general elections. Science and Technology Minister Khairy Jamaluddin countered Anwar's claim. He tweeted a picture of the Cabinet meeting, saying: "Cabinet meeting just ended. Nothing collapsed or fell." Anwar said it will be the king's "sole discretion" but noted that his government will not be an unelected one even though it involves new partners. Anwar's Alliance of Hope was elected in 2018 but collapsed after Muhyiddin withdrew his party and tied up with corruption-tainted opposition parties to form a Malay-cen-

tric government in March. Then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad resigned in protest, but Anwar said Wednesday that Mahathir won't be part his new government. If he succeeds, it will mark a dramatic comeback for Anwar after his roller-coaster political journey since the 1990s. Once a high flyer in the ruling party, Anwar was convicted of homosexual sodomy and corruption after a power struggle with Mahathir in 1998. He was imprisoned for a second time for sodomy in 2014. Anwar and his supporters have long denied the sodomy allegations, saying they were concocted to destroy his political career. Yet rather than give up, Anwar ended his feud with Mahathir from his prison cell to forge a new opposition alliance that won a stunning victory in May 2018 national elections. Mahathir became premier a second time. Anwar was freed with a royal pardon days after the polls and was Mahathir's designated successor before their alliance fell apart.

Alleged rapists offer job to survivor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Sep 23: One of the three men allegedly involved in kidnapping and gang-raping a 22-year-old woman gave her "an influential" person's phone number to contact if she needed a job, police said Wednesday, while quoting the survivor's statement. According to a senior police officer, the woman said the alleged rapist, while dropping her back, gave her a mobile phone number, offering her a job for Rs 30,000 a month if she needed employment, Geo TV reported. Police said Wednesday that the investigation into the mobile number has been completed and the contact is of "an influential person". However, the probe revealed it was not used at the crime scene. The day-to-day activities of the said influential person were also checked but no evidence was found of the man's involvement in the incident, authorities added, noting that the data of his children was also being vetted.



India has tailwinds like the demographic advantage to make it a high-growth economy, but the same cannot be considered foreordained and requires continued action

CHARLES KAYE | CEO,
WARBURG PINCUS

GSMA POSTPONES MWC

The world's biggest four-day telecom assembly Mobile World Congress (MWC) has been scheduled to start from June 28, 2021, said global industry body GSM Association. The MWC is held in the last week of February every year but this year, it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic



of the day quote

We have to carefully look at the taxation system with regulation system parallelly (for creating demand). If the taxation goes another direction, which is not supporting or not creating demand it is very difficult

MASAKAZU YOSHIMURA | MD, TKM

At NSE we intend to play a pivotal role in the idea to IPO journey for entrepreneurs and investors and as the startup ecosystem develops in India, there is an immediate need for awareness and structured learning around private markets from a practitioner POV

RAVI VARANASI | CDO, NSE

Our (Power) sector is very vulnerable to cyber attacks. We have connected the whole country into one grid...you bring down one part and rest will collapse. Therefore, we need to check all imports. (In fact) we are checking if some device is inserted in the imported item

RK SINGH | MINISTER FOR POWER, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

SHORT TAKES

Airtel picks up stake in startup

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel has picked up a strategic stake in Waybeo under its start-up accelerator programme, in line with its strategy to ramp-up cloud offerings. The company did not divulge into the financial details of the deal. Tech startup Waybeo, focused on deep artificial intelligence-based analytics for cloud telephony, is fifth to join the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program. In the past, Vahan, Spectacom, Lattu Kids and Voicezen have joined the programme.

TechM arm sells stake for \$45 mn

New Delhi: IT services major Tech Mahindra (TechM) Wednesday said its subsidiary has divested over 18.5 million shares in Altistar Networks for \$45 million (about ₹331 crore) to Rakuten USA, Inc. "Tech Mahindra (Americas) Inc - an 100% subsidiary of Tech Mahindra Ltd - divested its holding of 18,518,518 C1 Preferred shares in Altistar Networks," TechM said in a regulatory filing.

Flipkart partners with Max Fashion

Bangalore: E-commerce platform Flipkart Wednesday said it has partnered with retailer Max Fashion ahead of the upcoming festive season and the annual Big Billion Days. The Max Fashion store on Flipkart will have more than 13,000 new styles, and majority of them under ₹1,000 price point, the company said. As a result of the partnership, a wide selection of product ranging across womenswear, menswear, kidswear, and accessories will now be available to over 250 million customers on Flipkart.

Accenture to acquire N3

San Francisco: Global professional services company Accenture will acquire N3, a tech-driven sales and demand-generation firm that helps clients drive sales growth in an increasingly virtual environment, the company said, without disclosing the financial terms of the acquisition. The acquisition adds approximately 2,200 employees to Accenture globally, along with AI and ML capabilities, Accenture said Tuesday.

COMPENSATION CESS LEVY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 23: The GST Council is likely to approve a two-year extension of compensation cess levy on goods and services to allow Centre to pay entire shortfall in GST tax collection by states expected till June 2022.

Sources in the government said that with 21 states expressing their preference for the Borrowing Option-1 proposed by the Centre to meet the GST compensation needs of states this year, the next course of action would extend the period of cess levy beyond five year GST transition period that ends in June 2022.

GST Council likely to approve 2-yr extension

As the Council is likely to adopt the compensation formula suggested by the Centre in the difficult year of Covid-19 pandemic, sources said it may also decide how long compensation cess levy should be extended to clear all dues to states.

"A two-year extension of cess is the most likely outcome of the Council meeting scheduled on October 5. However, the council may decide to adopt compensation formula for FY21 in the next meeting and defer decision on cess extension till a more appropriate study of the issue is done," sources quoted earlier said.



Under the existing GST Act compensation for shortfall in GST collection over an agreed formula is payable by the centre for the first five years of the operations of new tax system from July 2017 to June 2022. This is paid through collection made on account of cess levy on cer-

tain goods and services. The term of the cess is co-terminus with compensation liability with the Centre. So, the Council should withdraw cess also after completion of five years. But with Covid presenting different challenge before the governments and

h as lead to states bleeding over GST collections, the compensation needs of the Centre has grown manifold. As cess could not cover this high level of compensation needs this year and may be next year, there is talk of extending the levy of cess beyond June 2022.

As per the Centre's projection, the total amount expected to be collected from Compensation cess would be to the tune of ₹65,000 crore in fy21 while total compensation payable to all states and union territories may be to the tune of ₹3,00,000 crore. So there is a total shortfall of ₹2,35,000 crore expected this year.

KKR to invest ₹5,550 cr in Reliance Retail Ventures

THIS IS THE SECOND INVESTMENT BY KKR IN RIL UNITS. IT HAD PREVIOUSLY PICKED UP A 2.32% STAKE IN THE DIGITAL ARM, JIO PLATFORMS FOR ₹11,367 CRORE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 23: US private equity firm KKR & Co will invest ₹5,550 crore to buy a 1.28% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd's retail arm as the Mukesh Ambani-run conglomerate extends fundraising spree that has already netted more than \$20 billion.

"KKR will invest ₹5,550 crore into Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd," the Indian firm said in a statement.

The investment values Reliance Retail, which runs grocery stores and fashion chains, at a pre-money equity value of ₹4.21 lakh crore.

"KKR's investment will translate into a 1.28% equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis," it said.

This is the second investment by KKR in Reliance Industries (RIL) units. It had previously picked up a 2.32% stake in the digital arm, Jio Platforms for ₹11,367 crore.

For Reliance Retail, KKR is the second investor. US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners had earlier this month agreed to buy 1.75%



stake in the venture for ₹7,500 crore.

Reliance Retail Limited, a subsidiary of RRVL, operates India's largest, fastest-growing and most profitable retail business spanning supermarkets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets, and online grocery store JioMart. It operates almost 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000 towns.

The investment will add fire to Ambani's battle for dominance in the retail market that is also being eyed by Jeff Bezos' Amazon.com and Walmart Inc's Flipkart.

In May, Reliance launched an online grocery delivery service

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 23: Although fresh insolvency proceedings were suspended in May for a period of six months to help companies weather the coronavirus pandemic, ongoing proceedings continued and as many as 24 companies were ordered to go in for liquidation by NCLT benches across the country in about two months after the nationwide lockdown was imposed.

As many as 19 of these companies were defunct, according to the data of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

The total admitted amount of the companies was ₹9,302.82 crore, and the total liquidation value was just 8.6 per cent of the total admitted amount at ₹803.89 crore, the data showed. Data of some of the companies, including admitted dues and liquidation were not available.

Three corporate debtors which were ordered for liquidation as a going concern, or which were not defunct, were Bhatia Global Trading Private Ltd, Lotus Auto Engineering Private Ltd and Vintron Communication Private Ltd.

Bhatia Global Trading was ordered for liquidation by the Ahmedabad bench of the NCLT

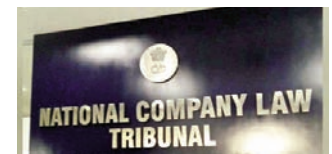
24 firms' liquidation ordered by NCLT during April-June

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

May 29 while the New Delhi bench ordered the same for Lotus Auto Engineering and Vintron Communication on June 1 and 8, respectively.

The admitted claims for Bhatia Global Trading amounted to ₹1273.93 crore while the liquidation value was ₹250.92 crore. Similarly, the admitted claims for the CIRP of Lotus Auto Engineering was ₹458.03 crore, while its liquidation value was ₹87.69 crore. The admitted claims due from Vintron Communication stood at ₹29 lakh and its liquidation value was not calculated.

Some of the companies ordered for liquidation during April-June 2020, which were defunct, include Siddharth Tubes Ltd, Topworth Pipes and Tubes Private Ltd, Rathi Super Steels Ltd, Nu Tek India Ltd, with admitted claims of ₹2,146.85 crore, ₹2,859.10 crore, ₹1,023.13 crore, and ₹8.27 crore, respectively, and their liquidation value stood at ₹12.69 crore, ₹182 crore, ₹184.14 crore, and ₹37 lakh, respectively.



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BIZ BUZZ

Union Bank gets new regional head

Bhubaneswar: Hemant Kumar Pradhan joined as the Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Rayagada Region. Pradhan has over 35 years of rich banking experience and has worked in states like Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat. As a banker, he has served across diverse customer segments from rural, urban, semi-urban, state capitals and metros. In his previous assignment, he served as the Branch Head of erstwhile Corporation Bank, Gandhidham (Port City-Kandla), Gujarat. Under his leadership: advancements in MSME, import-exports and NPAs' recovery saw a remarkable upturn. Pradhan envisages scaling up of digital adoption of banking services, advances under thrust sectors like agriculture and MSME.



Canara Bank celebrates Hindi Day

Bhubaneswar: Canara Bank, Circle Office, Bhubaneswar celebrated 'Hindi Diwas' recently under the Chairmanship of BL Meena, General Manager. Mrityunjay Mahapatra, ex-MD and CEO of Syndicate Bank was present as the chief guest at the occasion. Meena said that the bank is committed to compliance with the policy and rules of (official language) Hindi of the Government of India and accordingly ensure the implementation in its offices and branches. Mahapatra spoke about the importance of Hindi language and said that Hindi is the official language of India as well as the language that binds people from all parts of the country.



Pact signed for reclamation of crude oil import terminal port

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: For the first time, maintenance dredging material will be utilised for land reclamation of the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) storage terminal at Paradip. Union Minister of Shipping Mansukh Mandavdya has been encouraging ports for such beneficial reuse of dredge materials. This is a unique initiative being taken by Dredging Corporation of India with PPT & NRL.

NRL entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) involving Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) for reclamation of the proposed 200 acres of land allotted to NRL for setting up its Crude Oil import terminal (COIT) at Paradip Port.



An MoU was signed to this effect Wednesday at Paradip amongst AK Mahapatra; Dy. Conservator PPT, CGM DCI - S Divakar and DGM (Projects Pipeline) NRL - A J Phukan in presence of Rinkesh Roy, Chairman PPT, MD NRL, SK Barua & MD DCI, Rajesh Tripathi and other senior officials from all the three organisations.

The terminal is being set up as

part of NRL's integrated Refinery Expansion project that is being implemented at an estimated cost of more than ₹22,000 Crore. The mega project envisages amongst others, import of crude oil at Paradip Port and laying of pipeline to Numaligarh to transport the same.

Project activities have gathered pace after receipt of Environmental Clearance in the month of July, 2020.

'Affluent Indians lead food delivery market recovery'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 23: In a sign that Indians are now no more afraid of ordering food despite a surge in caseloads, Zomato Wednesday revealed that the food delivery sector has recovered to (and even grown beyond) pre-Covid levels in a number of large pockets of the country, led by some of the most affluent residential areas in the country.

With the ongoing IPL season and the subsequent festival season, Zomato expects food delivery in both metros and smaller cities to make a full recovery soon and resume growing over pre-Covid levels.

Delhi and Mumbai are nearing full recovery (95% of pre-Covid levels), whereas metros such as Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Chennai are still behind the curve (nearly 80%

of pre-Covid levels). "Some cities such as Kolkata, Patna, Jamshedpur, Ranchi, and Siliguri have recovered completely and have exceeded pre-Covid levels," Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal said in a statement.

In Delhi-NCR, affluent residential areas like DLF Phase 1 and 5 have recovered to 1.5 times of pre-Covid levels.

In South Delhi, average order value rose by 65% between February and September 2020. Food delivery business in South Delhi is back to 110% of pre-Covid levels.

Connaught Place bounced back to pre-Covid levels and some micro-localities within Central Delhi are at two times of pre-Covid levels, said Zomato.

The food delivery industry continues to grow back steadily to pre-Covid levels, with the overall sector clocking over 85% of pre-Covid



GMV (Gross Merchandise Value), up from nearly 75% last month. "With more premium restaurants, - restaurants where a meal for two may cost ₹1,500 and above, now opening up to online delivery

- a larger number of affluent consumers are embracing online ordering," the company informed. Overall spends on such premium restaurants have grown by over 25% over pre-Covid levels.

LEADING THE WAY

With the ongoing IPL season and the subsequent festival season, Zomato expects food delivery in both metros and smaller cities to make a full recovery soon

DELHI AND MUMBAI ARE NEARING FULL RECOVERY (95% OF PRE-COVID LEVELS)

In Delhi-NCR, affluent residential areas like DLF Phase 1 and 5 have recovered to 1.5 times of pre-Covid levels

Cities like Kolkata, Patna, Jamshedpur, Ranchi, and Siliguri have recovered completely and have exceeded pre-Covid levels

"Customers are now relying on food delivery even more than usual when a city goes under a lockdown. Some cities such as Kolkata see more customers ordering online when the city is (more or less) shut,

Honda Cars launches virtual showrooms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Honda Cars India Wednesday said it has launched virtual showrooms as part of company's digital plans to move closer to customers. This platform will enable customers to discover and engage with Honda's entire model range in a seamless digital experience from the comfort of their homes, the Japanese automaker said in a statement.



The interactive showrooms can be easily accessed through computer and smartphone browsers where customers can intuitively browse and explore the design, features and technical details available for each model, it added.

"With this initiative we have brought experience of a real Honda showroom in a virtual form to our customers so that they can digitally explore and experience the features of their favourite Honda cars on the go and also from the comfort of their homes in a convenient manner," Honda Cars India Senior VP and Director, Marketing & Sales, Rajesh Goel said.

In an age where digitisation has become a defining force in human lives and there is an increasing trend of customers opting for online car-buying journey, the company aims to give prospective customers an up-close and personal experience of brand Honda through a digital platform right from exploration till they drive out vehicles, he added.

Kotak's term extended by 1 yr as IL&FS Chairman

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 23: Uday Kotak is set to remain the Chairman of IL&FS for one more year as the Centre has extended his tenure on the group's board till October 2, 2021.



The restructured board with the Kotak Mahindra Bank's MD as the Chairman was formed in October 2018 and was mandated to complete the resolution of the IL&FS and its group companies, which have a debt of over ₹90,000 crore, through a fair and transparent process.

Resolution of the group companies is underway and the group expects to address debt of about ₹57,240 crore out of the total debt of over ₹99,000 crore. The revised estimate is well above the 50 per cent mark of the overall debt.

The aggregate value of debt being addressed is now estimated at over ₹57,000 crore, with around ₹50,500 crore likely to be addressed by March 2021, IL&FS had said in July.

but restaurants are open," Goyal stressed.

With lockdown restrictions, celebrations have moved back home and customers, who had not ordered since the first day of lockdown, are 20% more likely to order for the first time during such festivals and occasions.

As customers spend more time with their families, group ordering has become more relevant than ever, Zomato said.

"Order sizes, i.e. items per order, have increased by 20% over pre-Covid levels. Recovery on single person meals, which constituted nearly 60% of all orders pre-Covid, lingers at 50-70% level for most regions," Goyal said.

On the other hand, orders with meals for three or more persons have recovered well and are higher than even pre-Covid levels currently, the company informed.

ROHIT, BOWLERS LIFT MI

Kings XI all set for a Royal challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 23: Skipper Rohit Sharma (80, 54b, 3x4, 6x6) led from the front before his bowlers helped Mumbai Indians (MI) secure their first win this year in the IPL beating Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by 49 runs.

Jasprit Bumrah (2/32) was going brilliantly, with his figures reading 2/5 in three overs. However, he conceded 27 off his final over with Pat Cummins (33, 12b, 1x4, 4x6) clobbering him for four sixes off that over.

Chasing 196, KKR were never looked like troubling MI as they lost the openers – Shubman Gill (7) and Sunil Narine (9) – inside five overs with the scoreboard reading 25/2. Skipper Dinesh Karthik (30) and Nitish Rana (24) tried to make amends but couldn't negate a disciplined MI bowling attack, which eventually put a lot of pressure on Eoin Morgan (16) and Andre Russell (11).

A lot was expected from the duo, but the pressure got the better of them and both got out in Bumrah's third over. KKR were down to 101/6 inside 16 overs before eventually being restricted to 146/9 in their 20 overs.

Earlier, Rohit led from the front to guide MI to 195/5. After Shivam Mavi (2/32) removed opener Quinton De Kock (1) cheaply, Rohit and Suryakumar Yadav (47, 28b, 6x4, 1x6) conjured 90 runs for the second wicket



JASPRIT BUMRAH



ROHIT SHARMA

Pollard plays 150th match for Mumbai

NEW DELHI: At the 2010 IPL player auction, Mumbai Indians (MI), Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) were locked in a fierce bidding war for West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard. Eventually, MI grabbed him for a whopping USD 2.2 million. Since then, the Trinidadian has been a MI loyalist, and Wednesday, he played his 150th IPL match for the four-time IPL champions when he turned out against the KKR in Abu Dhabi. A master of hitting humongous sixes, 33-year-old Pollard has played 11 consecutive seasons for MI since 2010, has scored 2,773 runs at an amazing strike rate of 146.64 – hitting 177 sixes and 182 fours, before the start of Wednesday's game against KKR.

to pull the team out of trouble.

Mumbai raced to 94/1 after 10 overs. Saurabh Tiwary (21), Hardik Pandya (18) played perfect second fiddle to Rohit. Mumbai added 48 runs in the last five overs.

BRIEF SCORES

Mumbai Indians 195/5 (Rohit Sharma 80, Suryakumar Yadav 47; Shivam Mavi 2/32) **beat Kolkata Knight Riders 146/9** (Pat Cummins 33; James Pattinson 2/25, Rahul Chahar 2/26, Trent Boult 2/30, Jasprit Bumrah 2/32) **by 49 runs.**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 23: Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) will look to put behind the controversial 'short run' decision in their IPL opener and start afresh when they take on Virat Kohli's buoyant Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) here Thursday.

In their opening game against Delhi Capitals, the square-leg umpire erroneously called KXIP's Chris Jordan for a 'short run' in the third ball of the 19th over, effectively costing his team the closely fought game.

KXIP went on to lodge an appeal to the match referee over the incident but Thursday, KL Rahul and Co would like forget the unsavoury incident and focus on the task ahead.

In contrast, RCB opened their campaign on a winning note defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs, raising hopes that things might finally fall into place for them this season.

Devdutt Padikkal started his IPL career on a classy note hitting a sublime half century and will once again be in focus, while AB de Villiers will also look to continue in the same vein following a crucial half century.

Both Kohli and Aaron Finch looked good Monday night and would be itching to spend more time in the middle. Yuzvendra Chahal, as always, will be the key man in the RCB bowling attack. The leg-spinner was instrumental in his team's victory Monday, trig-

gering a batting collapse.

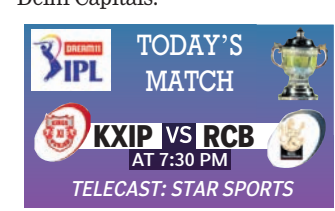
Umesh Yadav continues to leak runs in the IPL and going by his showing in the first game, he could be replaced by Mohammad Siraj. It remains to be seen if the team can fit in England all-rounder Moeen Ali in the middle-order. With Josh Philippe being chosen as the specialist wicketkeeper-batsman to start with, Ali can only replace Dale Steyn in the eleven.

For KXIP, Mayank Agarwal looked in imperious touch but was gutted to not be able to get his team over the line with just one run required to win.

Rahul, Glenn Maxwell and Nicholas Pooran will be expected to step up as they possess the ability to take away the game from any opposition.

Big hitters Chris Gayle, who was left out of the opener for better balance in the eleven, could be back and batting all-rounder Jimmy Neesham could also be given a chance.

KXIP's bowling is spearheaded by Mohammed Shami, who proved his high worth in the team's opener. Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi will go into the game more confident, having impressed against Delhi Capitals.



Gambhir lashes out at Dhoni

NEW DELHI: MS Dhoni did not lead from the front by dropping himself down the batting order during a mammoth chase, opined former India batsman Gautam Gambhir, tearing into CSK captain's decision to bat at No.7 against Rajasthan Royals.

Dhoni sent the likes of Sam Curran, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Kedar Jadhav ahead of him. CSK lost the match by 16 runs.

"I was a bit surprised to be honest. MS Dhoni batting at No.7? And sending (Ruturaj) Gaikwad, Sam Curran before him. Makes no sense to me. In fact you should be leading from the front," Gambhir told ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out.

"This is not what you call leading from the front. Batting at No.7 when you're chasing 217. The game was over. Faf was probably the lone warrior," he said.

"See, if someone else would have done this, some other (batsman) captain had batted at No.7, he would have got a lot of flak. It is MS Dhoni

– probably that's why people don't talk about it."

The 38-year-old Gambhir also questioned CSK's intent to win the game. "There is nothing wrong if you end up getting out early, at least start leading from the front, trying to inspire the team as well. What you did in the last over (hitting 3 sixes in last over), probably if you'd done that coming in at No.4 or 5, alongside Faf, you could have made a game out of it," said Gambhir.

"Probably there was no such intent to make a game out of it. I thought after the (first) six overs, they had literally given up on the game. And probably MS was trying to get back into that match rhythm of batting till the end and get some runs under his belt so he can actually play these kind of innings in the coming games."

"You've got to be in the present, try and win each game possible. I thought there was no intent to win the game and they were never there



MS DHONI

in the chase." Gambhir said it was 'absolute miscalculation' on the part of CSK to delay Dhoni's arrival at the crease. "Probably not the right captaincy as well. This is not how you ask someone like MS to lead the side."

COMMENTS ON RR-CSK GAME

STEVE SMITH: I think the last surge from Jofra was an incredible bit of hitting. Sanju Samson, looked like everything he hit went for six. MS smacked a few in the end, and Faf got going too, but nice to get a win

MS DHONI: With 217 on the board, we needed a very good start which was not the case. Steve (Smith) and (Sanju) Samson batted very well. We need to give credit to their bowlers. Once you've seen the first innings, you know the lengths to bowl. Their spinners did well to bowl away from the batsman. Our spinners made the error to bowl too full. If we would've maybe restricted them to 200, it would've been a good game

STEPHEN FLEMING: MS (Dhoni) was in the 14th over, which is pretty much optimal time, and sort of batted accordingly. He is coming back from not playing a huge amount of cricket. So, the expectations to see him at his best is gonna take some time. But you see him towards the end, he was very good. Faf (du Plessis) carried the form, so we weren't too far away. It wasn't the batting that was the worry to be honest

SANJU SAMSON: I think range-hitting is what the game demands in this generation. I had time to work out in these 5 months, and I think I've increased that ability. My game plan is 'stand and deliver'. If it's in the arc I go for it, and it's very important to keep the intent to hit the ball if it's there to be hit

Holder in for SRH as Marsh out of IPL

Dubai: Australian and Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Mitchell Marsh was Wednesday ruled out of the remainder of the IPL with an ankle injury he suffered in the team's opener against RCB. West Indies captain Jason Holder has been named as Marsh's replacement and is expected to join the Sunrisers squad soon in the UAE. Against RCB, Marsh could only bowl four deliveries as he twisted his right ankle in the second ball while trying to stop a shot in his follow through. This is the second time, after 2017 (due to shoulder problem), that Marsh has been ruled out of the IPL due to injury.

Morris still recovering from side strain

Dubai: South Africa all-rounder Chris Morris is suffering from a side strain, the team's Director of Cricket Operations Mike Hesson said. Morris, who was bought for 10 crore by RCB in a bid to strengthen their weak death bowling department, had also missed the team's opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad. "Chris Morris unfortunately picked up a slight side strain a few days ago, he would have played a huge role through the middle and death overs, his batting would have had a huge impact as well," Hesson said in a video posted by RCB's Twitter handle. "Hopefully, Chris will come into consideration for selection in a game or two, we will continue to monitor him," he added.

Women's U-17 WC likely to be postponed again

Originally scheduled to be played in five venues of India, November 2-21, the women's age group showpiece was pushed to February 17-March 7 next year due to the coronavirus pandemic



U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP INDIA 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: The women's FIFA U-17 World Cup, which has been rescheduled to February-March, is likely to be postponed yet again in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally scheduled to be played in five venues of India, November 2-21, the women's age group showpiece was pushed to February 17-March 7 next year due to the pandemic, which has played havoc with sporting calendars worldwide.

With the health crisis still showing no signs of abating and with the qualifying tournaments yet to be held in Africa, North and Central America and South America, there is a high possibility of the tournament getting postponed yet again.

"There is a high possibility that the women's FIFA U-17 World Cup will be postponed again. The new time frame when the tournament will be held is yet not known. But most probably it is getting postponed," a source privy to the development told this agency on condition of anonymity.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kunal Das, however, told this agency that there is 'no official update' on the

No Messi, CR7 in UEFA POTY list after 10 yrs

REUTERS

Nyon, Sept 23: For the first time in 10 years, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are missing from the short-list for the UEFA men's Player of the Year (POTY) award.

Kevin De Bruyne and Robert Lewandowski are leading the pack for the award, European football's governing body said Wednesday.

Lewandowski guided Bayern Munich to their sixth Champions League title, finishing as the competition's top scorer with 15 goals in 47 games in all competitions as Bayern won the treble.

City midfielder De Bruyne provided a record-equalling 20 assists in the Premier League last season, the highest in Europe.

Manchester City full back Lucy Bronze, Chelsea striker Perrinle Harder and Olympique Lyonnais defender Wendie Renard were short-listed for the women's award.

Morata returns to Juventus

Turin: Alvaro Morata returned to Juventus, signed on a loan deal from Atletico Madrid. Juventus said they will pay Atletico 10 million euros for the season-long loan for the Spain striker. They then have the option to purchase his full rights by the end of the season for an additional 45 million euros. Juventus also said they have the option to extend the loan for another season through 2022 for another 10 million euros, after which they can purchase his full rights for 35 million euros. Morata won two Serie A titles with Juventus in 2015 and 2016, and played together with new Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo for part of that stint.



Semedo joins Wolves from Barca

Barcelona: Barcelona announced Tuesday the departure of Nelson Semedo to Wolverhampton Wanderers for 30 million euros plus 10m euros in variables. The right-back left the Camp Nou after three years, 122 appearances and two La Liga titles with the Catalan giants. Barcelona are expected to use the funds from Semedo's transfer to try and strengthen the squad before the transfer window closes October 5. Ajax right-back Sergino Dest, 19, is leading the list to replace Semedo at the Camp Nou. Premier League side Norwich's full-back Max Aarons, 20, is also among the discussions for the position. Memphis Depay and Eric Garcia also continue to be linked with a move to Barcelona.



Serena to resume quest for 24th major

REUTERS

New York, Sept 23: Serena Williams' latest quest to make history begins when the curtain rises on the French Open at Roland Garros next week.

While a Grand Slam brings enormous pressure for all, the weight of expectation is greater on Williams than anyone else in her sport, with speculation renewed as to whether she can equal Australian Margaret Court's record 24 major titles.

With World No.1 and holder Ash Barty plus 2019 and 2020 US Open winners Bianca Andreescu and Naomi Osaka out of the tournament, the French Open could see plenty of surprises and a chance for Williams to pounce.

However, the ninth-ranked American, who has won at Roland Garros three times, most recently in 2015, also faces plenty of obstacles.

Her quest for 24 continues on clay – her least productive surface – where Romania's Italian Open winner Simona Halep, Spain's Garbine Muguruza and US Open semifinal foe Victoria Azarenka of



Belarus could all present a major challenge.

Williams must also make a quick switch from hard court to clay, after an Achilles injury kept her out of the Rome event.

She has come close to winning a 24th major on several occasions,

Azarenka went on to lose in the final to Japan's Osaka.

Speaking to reporters at Flushing Meadows, Williams had said she tried to embrace the pressure of chasing records.

"As Billie Jean King said, 'Pressure is a privilege'. So I wouldn't want it any other way," said Williams, who will be 39 when the French Open women's singles main draw begins.

"So I just try to think about how fortunate I am to have been in this position, and honestly, to be Serena. It feels weird to say that."

But Williams' powerful serve and fearsome backhand, which were on full display at Arthur Ashe Stadium, could once again level the field and confirm she is a perennial contender.

"As I said always, many girls from the top 10, top 15 have a chance to win a Grand Slam," Halep, who defeated Williams at Wimbledon in 2019, told reporters this week.

"Roland Garros is very open because it's clay court but it's a little bit faster (than other clay courts), so also the big hitters can win it easy."

PRAJNESH BOWS OUT OF FRENCH OPEN QUALIFIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 23: India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran crashed out in the second round of the men's singles qualifiers of the French Open after losing in straight sets to Aleksandar Vukic of Australia here Wednesday.

Prajnesh, India's second-highest ranked singles player who got the better of Turkey's Cem Ilkel in the opening round, lost 4-6, 6-7(4-7) against Vukic to bow out of the event.

The other two Indians in the

fray – the country's top singles player Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan – bowed out in the first round of the qualifying event.

While the 16th seed Nagal, who became the first Indian in seven years to win a singles match at a Grand Slam with his opening round victory at the US Open, lost 6-7(4-7), 5-7 to Germany's seasoned player Dustin Brown, Ramanathan was shown the door by local wildcard Tristan Lamasine 5-7, 2-6.