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WHEN MARIAH CAREY FELT NOT 'WORTHY OF EXISTING'

Singer Mariah Carey has recalled the time when she did not feel worthy of existing. In a The Oprah Conversation episode, Carey was seen saying there were moments in her life when she didn't feel 'worthy of existing', reports *etonline.com*.

GIGI HADID, ZAYN MALIK BLESSED WITH BABY GIRL

Supermodel Gigi Hadid and former One Direction singer Zayn Malik have welcomed their first child. Pop superstar Zayn tweeted to confirm the birth of their baby girl Thursday. "Our baby girl is here, healthy and beautiful," wrote the 27-year-old singer on his verified Twitter account.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be torn between work and family as both try to grab your attention. You may reserve the evening for having fun. You crave to become famous and are likely to accomplish your ambition shortly. You have Ganesh's blessings to support you.

TAURUS
This is not a day when you should be fooling around with your health. Do not take your health and fitness for granted, warns Ganesh. You will be feeling lazy and listless all day long. Chances are that you could fall ill on account of carelessness. Both physical exertion as well as mental stress should be meticulously avoided. From sunset onwards you can rest easy. The period of care and caution will have passed.

GEMINI
An auspicious day awaits you. You will pay more attention to your family than to your career or at the work front. This will mean the resolution of some long pending issues and projects at home. An enjoyable time with your family and children awaits you, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will love to stroll in a world of fantasy. Religious impact will prevail over you. You will charter your fantasy to a mysterious level. You will have communion with God at a temple, mosque or church. You will try to draw lessons from your experience.

LEO
You will be in a very good mood today. You will inspire others to achieve substantial things in life. While you have been looking to take on an extremely challenging project, you have been unable to find the right opening so far. You ought to start such projects today, says Ganesh. The obstacles in your way will fade away on their own and you will be easily able to find the path to success.

VIRGO
You will start the day by scribbling down things to do. But don't just jot them down; instead, set realistic goals and prioritise them. Items you mark highest will demand quick actions, cautions Ganesh.

LIBRA
It is very likely that you will arouse immense jealousy in others with your success and growth in business. Your business rivals may attempt to dent your credit worthiness in one way or the other. You may prefer to deal with them subtly rather than confront them openly, feels Ganesh.

SCORPIO
It is more than likely that you will find yourself in a tricky situation today, says Ganesh. You may start the day feeling lonely and empty but yet, at the same time, you will have some responsibility that will prevent you from showing it. Try to keep your mind off negative thoughts. Work and friends will help you cheer up later in the day.

SAGITTARIUS
Stay stern, says Ganesh, as it might be necessary to exercise your grit to get the desired results today. Your presence may be dominating at the workplace, but your subordinates will find your manner pleasing as you hold them in awe of you. Do not get carried away by your success or the tables may turn, suggests Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Your investments, inheritance, receipts, etc. will keep your pockets filled with cash. No sooner you try to put them in safe; there will be more than one reason for some expenditure. Keeping a watch on incomes and expenses both will help you avoid any monetary problems, advises Ganesh. Your maturity, practicality and experience will come to your rescue today.

AQUARIUS
The day seems normal as you are unlikely to encounter unpleasant situations, says Ganesh. The high point of the day will be your consummate skill with which you will handle mundane tasks. Ganesh reminds you of the saying, "Success is one percent inspiration and 99% perspiration."

PISCES
For those in the creative, marketing or advertising fields, today will likely bring about an important milestone on their path to progress, says Ganesh. Your creativity and ingenuity will be at their peak. Remembering that confidence is the key to success will keep you from stying away from challenges, which when surmounted will bring you substantial gains.

Saiee to shine in Mumbai attack martyr's biopic



MUMBAI: Actress Saiee Manjrekar has signed her second film after *Dabangg 3*. She will be seen in the Mahesh Babu-produced bilingual, *Major*, starring Adivi Sesh. The movie is a bilingual shot simultaneously in Telugu and Hindi, is inspired by the life of NSG commando Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who

was martyred in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks of 2008. Actor-filmmaker Mahesh Manjrekar's daughter Saiee took to Instagram and posted a picture where she is seen dressed in a pristine white suit teamed with a chunky silver necklace. She completes her look with minimal make-up and her hair tied. "Honoured, humbled and excited to be a part of the brave-

heart, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan's biopic. It's a film based on the NSG Commando, who fought with utmost bravery in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Can't wait to join the cast and start shooting next month! #MajorTheFilm @adivises @sobhitad @sonypicsprodns @gmbents @urstrulyMahesh @aplusmovies @sashikiran-tikka," she captioned the image.

Tinaa denies being a Big Boss 14 contestant

MUMBAI: Television actress Tinaa Dattaa has denied rumours suggesting that she is set to be a contestant on *Big Boss Season 14*. The *Uttaran* actress took to her verified Instagram account Thursday morning and put an end to speculations through a letter saying she loves the reality show but only as an audience.

The letter reads: "Dear Big Boss, ever since rumours of my 'imaginary' relationship with you started, my phone has been buzzing nonstop! I feel like the girl who has just gotten engaged... my phone is off the hook! Sponsorships for my wardrobe, calls from the media and headlines about the two of us. I am thinking yeh khichdi paki hai kaise? My darling, I still love you but as an audience member and not a contestant! Love, Tinzi Tinaa Dattaa."

Hosted by Salman Khan, *Big Boss 14* is all set to premiere on Colors October 3.



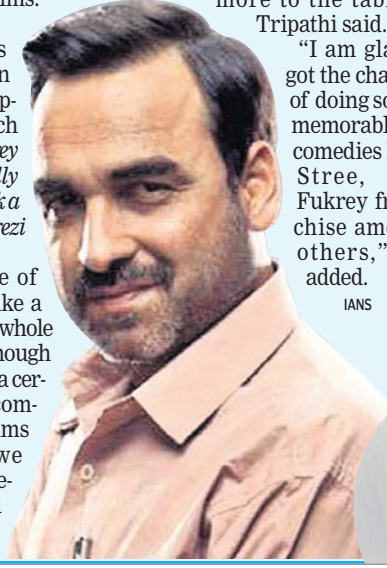
'GLAD I GOT TO DO SOME COMIC ROLES'

MUMBAI: Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is loved for his versatility on screen, says he is glad that he got a chance to essay several interesting comic roles in Hindi films.

Tripathi's comic streak as an actor has been particularly popular in films such as *Stree*, the *Fukrey* franchise, *Bareilly Ki Barfi*, *Luka Chuppi* and *Angrazi Medium*. "Every piece of work has to make a point. That's the whole point of art. Although the nineties had a certain brand of comedy, new-age films demand that we poke fun more responsibly and use comedy to

say something effective. In such a scenario, comedy films have to offer more than just about laughs and fun. Similarly, actors are expected to bring more to the table," Tripathi said.

"I am glad I got the chance of doing some memorable comedies like *Stree*, the *Fukrey* franchise among others," he added.



INDIA COUTURE WEEK 2020

Sindoori celebrates a bride's beauty, complexities

Fashion designer Anju Modi has taken cues from the artworks of legend Raja Ravi Varma to create a line-up that comprises anarkali, lehengas and sarees

NEW DELHI: Designer Anju Modi's latest couture collection titled *Sindoori* celebrates the beauty and complexities of a bride and the ceremony of getting ready for the occasion. Beginning with Haldi and ending with Sindoori (vermillion), it is a tribute to the solemn occasion and marks the festivities in the run up to the nuptials. The collection was launched Wednesday through a fashion film, streamed online on the final day of the digital India Couture Week, by the Fashion Design Council of India. Modi said the collection is inspired by the 'unprecedented time'

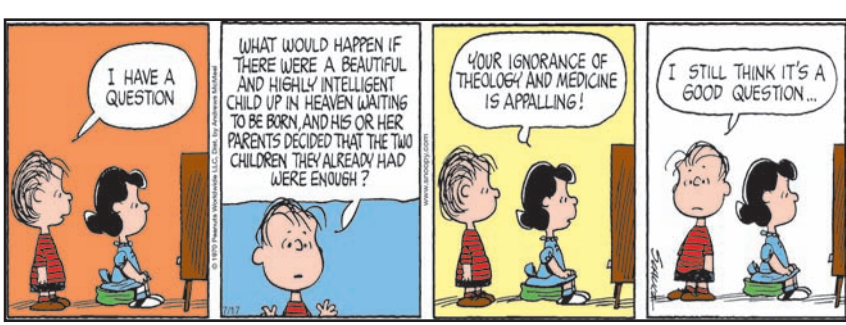
the world is facing today. Speaking about it, the couturier said: "This is an unprecedented kind of time which we all are facing and enduring. It has brought a whole new perspective and my inspiration comes from here. Very intimate weddings are happening (at present). So of course, the girls are in a state of anxiety. 'How will I look, what should look the best on me?' I suggest they opt for reds, the Sindoori (vermillion) is my inspirational colour..." Modi has taken cues from the artworks of Raja Ravi Varma and the miniature painting tradition to create a line-up that comprises

anarkali, lehengas and sarees. Giving a contemporary twist to archival textiles and heritage embroideries, she crafts pieces into modern heirlooms. The ensembles feature mashru, brocades, jamdani and pashminas, zaradozi with dabka and mukaish and foil print to create the bridal ensembles. The colours of the outfits are inspired by various traditional items used in an Indian wedding—'haldi' (turmeric), and deep wet 'mehendi' (henna) among others. There are hues of soft, creamy ivories and muted marble tones, culminating in red and purple.



Models showcasing Anju Modi's collections

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

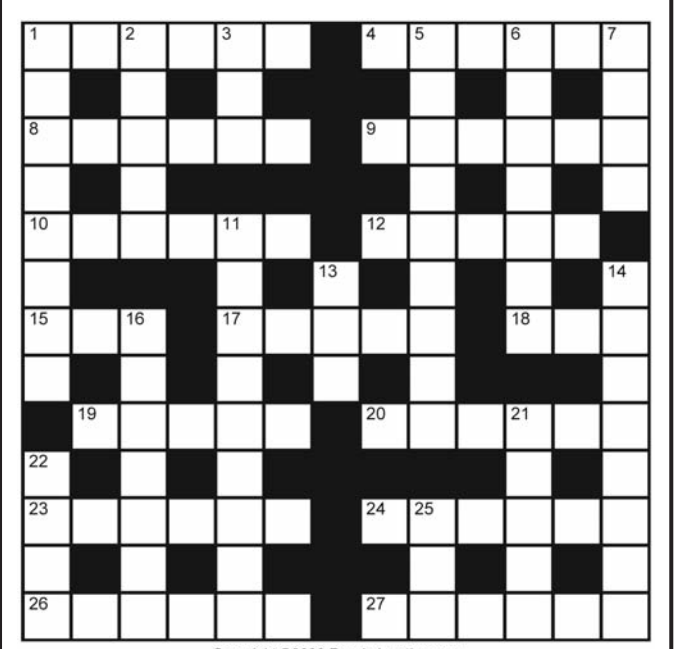


BREVITY



FUN post

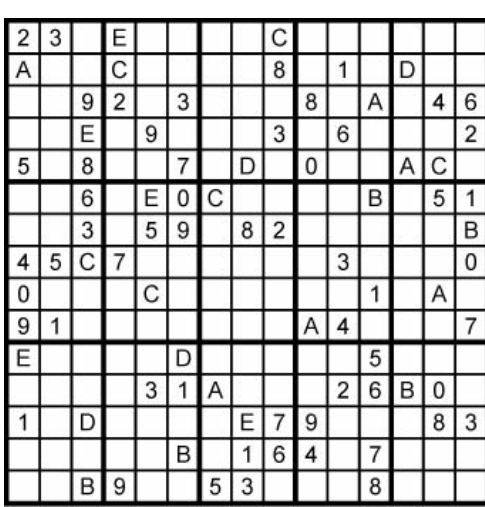
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Frolic
 - 4 Beloved of Aphrodite
 - 8 Greek water nymphs
 - 9 Acts
 - 10 Pang
 - 12 Obscure
 - 15 Circle segment
 - 17 Friend in a sombrero
 - 18 Country club figure
 - 19 Animal group
 - 20 Bull type
 - 23 Aare and Ouse, e.g.
 - 24 Hunting expedition
 - 26 Milky Way
 - 27 Kind of opportunity or rule
- Down**
- 1 On time
 - 2 Cover story?
 - 3 Atlantic food fish
 - 5 Behavioral attribute
 - 6 Bridge bid (2-5)
 - 7 Ho-hum (2-2)
 - 11 International race (5,4)
 - 13 Assist
 - 14 Footnote, for one
 - 16 16th century small vessel
 - 21 Squirrel away
 - 22 Rum drink
 - 25 Brouhaha

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



BIG BREAK

Actor Saiee Manjrekar will be part of *Major*, a biopic on Mumbai terror attack martyr Sandeep Unnikrishnan

LEISURE



LOCKDOWN IMPACT

Air quality in Delhi's 13 pollution hotspots improved significantly due to the lockdown restrictions

TWO STATES P5



DEAN JONES DIES

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of sudden cardiac arrest

SPORTS BACK PAGE

www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 2020

P1

Nepal plans to conduct census in Kalapani areas

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Nepalese government is planning to conduct a census in the Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani areas of Pithoragarh and some "hawkish elements" in the neighbouring country's political leadership have even drafted a questionnaire for the exercise, according to a newspaper report.

Nepal conducts a census every 10 years and the next exercise is scheduled for May, 2021. The census involves a nationwide door-to-door survey, the report said.

According to sources in the Nepalese government want the census to be carried out in the villages comprising the three areas, which the country had earlier included in the maps for its school textbooks and on coins.

Villagers in the area, meanwhile, said that there is "no question" of them participating in this exercise conducted by Nepal.

"We are citizens of India. Why should we participate in a census conducted by the Nepalese government?" Mahendra Budhial, a resident of Budhi village, said.

Officials of the district administration, too, said in case there is such a plan in the offing, "it can never materialise."

Nationwide farmers' shutdown today

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 24: Intensifying their protests against the contentious agricultural Bills passed by the Parliament, various farmers' organisations, including from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, have called a national shutdown Friday.

The farmers' groups said they will hold a 'chakka jam' from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Though many of the protesters said that they will protest in their own areas and not aim to head to Delhi, Delhi Police are on high alert and have made preparations to seal the border with Haryana, in a bid to forestall any such attempt. However, traffic across the Delhi-Haryana border was normal Thursday.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) is among the groups that have called the shutdown, while in Punjab, 31 farmers organisations have come together to protest against the new laws. BKU's Haryana President, Ratan Singh Mann, said: "Various farmers' organisations of Haryana will hold protests in all districts, tehsils, blocks and village levels against the farm bills passed by the Parliament. There will be a 'chakka jam' from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Organisations of the 'arhatiyas' (commission agents), traders' bodies and other commercial organisations will also participate. All sections are supporting the farmers'



Farmers block a railway track as they participate in Rail Roko Andolan during a protest against the farm Bills passed in Parliament recently, at village Devi Dass Pura, about 20km from Amritsar, Thursday

- Opposition parties rallying against the farm Bills have sought the intervention of the President in the matter and urged him not to sign the controversial Bills
- The Congress and AAP staged protests in the state capital Thursday, on the eve of the 'Bharat bandh' called by several farmers' organisations Friday
- Farmers in Punjab began their three-day 'chakka jam' stir Thursday paralyzing movement of all trains to and from the state

struggle. Traders in Haryana will also keep their establishments shut in solidarity. We will protest in our areas and have no plans to march to Delhi." Mann also said that like Haryana,

there will be protests in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and other states. Other farmers' groups also clarified that their protests will be local and they will not move to Delhi. However, as a precaution, Delhi Police will be maintaining vigil at all border points.

With farmers in Punjab intending to block railway movement too, several trains bound for the state or passing through it have been cancelled, while some have been diverted. On Thursday, there were protests on the Punjab-Haryana border, but Haryana Police have set up barricades to prevent entry of agitating farmers into the state on their way to Delhi.

OPPN CALLS BHARAT BANDH IN STATE TODAY

Bhubaneswar: The Congress party and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Thursday staged separate protests in the state capital against the passing of the controversial farmers Bills in the Parliament and called for a Bharat bandh Friday to protest against the controversial Bills. The two parties claimed they have the moral support of other Opposition parties in the state on this issue.

On the eve of the stir, senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh Thursday told the media in the state capital that the Bills allegedly targeted the farmers, while benefitting the multinational companies.

Singh accused the Modi government at Centre of allegedly depriving the farmers and the poor of their rights on the pretext of Ease of Doing Business. "The government recently got many Bills passed in Parliament in blatant violation of rules. These Bills have been envisioned to ensure entry of millionaire traders of foreign origins into the country and make the lives of farmers tougher," he said.

He said that the controversial farm Bills were passed by the Centre due to pressure from the WTO. "The Modi government has succumbed to WTO pressure which the Congress had been fighting against to safeguard the interests of farmers of the country."

Singh also accused the BJD government of being anti-farmer. "The BJD is anti-farmer. Though it has opposed the farm Bills in the Parliament, it stands with the BJP. Both the parties are hand in gloves on several issues."

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Sensex tanks 1.1K pts amid global selloff

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 24: The Indian stock market witnessed a bloodbath Thursday, in line with the global sell-off, with the BSE Sensex losing 1,100 points.

Post Thursday's selloff, Sensex lost 2,292 points in the last four sessions. This was the sixth consecutive session of loss for the Indian indices. This was the biggest single day fall for the BSE Sensex in four months and the biggest losing streak (6 sessions) in seven months.

The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) fell well below the psychological 11,000 mark.

The recent bear run has been due to resurgence in coronavirus cases across the

world, largely in Europe and anticipation of fresh lockdown restrictions across several countries in the continent including the UK and France. The BSE Sensex closed at 36,553.60, lower by 1,114.82 points, or 2.96 per cent, from the previous close of 37,668.42. It had opened at 37,282.18 and touched an intra-day high of 37,304.26 or a low of 36,495.98 points. The Nifty50 closed at 10,805.55, lower by 326.30 points or 2.93 per cent from its previous close.

Manish Hathiramani, technical analyst, Deen Dayal Investments, said: "The support level of 10,900-10,950 has been disrespected during today's trading session. We have also pierced 10,882 which was made August 3, 2020."

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Deepika, Rakul to face drugs probe today

MUMBAI: Actors Deepika Padukone and Sara Ali Khan flew back to Mumbai from Goa Thursday, a day after they were summoned in a drug probe related to the Sushant Singh Rajput death investigation. Two more actors, Shradha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh, have also been summoned by the Narcotics Control Bureau in the widening probe into drug allegations related to the film industry. Deepika Padukone has been summoned Friday and Sara Ali Khan and Shradha Kapoor Saturday. Rakul Preet Singh, who was to appear before the anti-drugs bureau Thursday, will be questioned Friday. Sara Ali Khan, 25, was seen at the airport with her mother Amrita Singh, a veteran actor. The names of stars have cropped up in WhatsApp chats found in course of the investigation into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, 34, June 14.

FLOOD COMPENSATION

State seeks ₹932 crore for river embankments

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The August floods in the state caused extensive damages to the river embankments, according to a report submitted by the Water Resource department.

The state Water Resources department government submitted a proposal to Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) seeking assistance of more than ₹932 crore for damage caused to river embankments during the flood and for strengthening of river embankments.

Water Resources department Engineer-in-Chief Jyoirmaya Rath said while ₹28374.71 lakh was sought for damage to river embankments and canals under major and medium sectors, ₹64889.60 lakh mitigation proposals for strengthening of embankments was submitted through the Special Relief Commissioner for funding under SDRF.

Earlier, as per the preliminary

report damage amounting to Rs18146.54 lakh was submitted September 10 last. After the recession of flood water, a final damage report relating to major and minor sector amounting to Rs28374.71 lakh has been prepared.

"The department has earlier submitted a preliminary damage report mentioning loss of ₹181.46 crore due to the natural disaster. Now, the damage has been pegged at ₹283.74 crore," said the EIC.

"Further, as per previous instruction of the department, flood mitigation proposals for strengthening of embankments in flood-affected districts have been prepared. The cost of the proposed projects has been estimated at ₹648.89 crore lakh," Rath said.

The EIC said the flood has caused 38 breaches and partially damaged 996 km of river embankments. There is no threat of flood now. However, the assistance has been sought for the coming year to strengthen 351 km of river embankments spread over 11 districts, he said.



MENACING INFERNO



Flames rise from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plant after a fire broke out on its premises in the wee hours in Surat, Thursday. While the fire has been extinguished, no casualties were reported

City experienced cloudburst Monday

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The deluge caused in Bhubaneswar city Monday afternoon was the result of a cloudburst, according to the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) here.

The intensity of rainfall between 3 pm and 3.50 pm on the day was measured at 96 mm per hour as per the rainfall data and temp-humidity data, CEC Director Dr. SC Sahu said.

Extremely heavy precipitation of about 100 mm per hour over a small area is termed as 'cloudburst' but

it generally occurred in mountainous and desert regions though it is often experienced over continental landmasses due to strong vertical velocity with continuous flow of moisture from nearby water bodies, he said.

"The rainfall to come down in a steady shower caused excessive condensation in the clouds as new drops form and old drops are retracted back into it by the updraft," the CEC Director said.

Dr. Sahu said while the rainfall was recorded over an hour starting from 3 pm in Bhubaneswar, the nearby surrounding places like

Khurda, Cuttack, Begunia and Puri did not report such high intensity precipitation.

The rainfall recorded at the CEC observatory during the 24 hours on that day was 109.2 mm whereas 80 mm of rainfall was recorded between 3 pm and 3.50 pm, he said.

Dr. Sahu said towering cumulus clouds were being formed over the city during the past 10 days due to rise in temperature and availability of plenty of moisture by the flow of monsoon wind but sporadic low intensity rainfall were recorded in spells though temperature was more than 34-35°C.

ED probes money trail in NDPS case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has started an investigation into the seizure of brown sugar worth around ₹2.70 crore by Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch from Balasore district in March.

Sources said the ED sleuths of the zonal officer here will investigate the suspicious financial transactions involved in the case traced by the STF.

Acting on reliable intelligence inputs, the STF had conducted a raid at Nilagiri area in Balasore and arrested two local engineering students with 2.729 kg brown sugar worth ₹2.70 crore in March. A case was registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The accused identified as Pradip Kumar Das and Lokanath Behera were later arrested by the STF. It was reported to be one of the biggest drug seizures by Odisha Police.

The police found that the duo used to procure brown sugar from various hotspots in West Bengal. Later, they would supply the drug to drug peddlers in Balasore, Khurda, Bhubaneswar and adjoining areas. The duo was also believed to be having links with bigger drug peddling networks. Odisha has recently turned into a hotbed of illegal trade in brown sugar and cannabis.

Woman murdered for refusing to convert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonbhadra (UP), Sept 24: A 23-year-old woman was murdered as she allegedly refused to convert after marriage, police said here Thursday.

Police have arrested her husband and one other in this regard. SP Ashish Srivastava said the woman's beheaded body was found in a forest area near Preet Nagar under the Chopan police station area Monday. Police tried to know her identity through social media.

The SP said Tuesday, one Laxminarayan from Preet Nagar identified her as his daughter Priya Soni from her shoes and clothes. He told police that Priya had married one Ejaz Ahmed against the wishes of the family about a month and half ago. He alleged that Ejaz was pressuring her to convert, to which she did not agree. Ejaz had made an arrangement for her stay at a lodge in the Obra area while continuously pressuring her to convert, the SP said.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	36553.600 ↓ 1114.82
NIFTY	10805.50 ↓ 326.40
DOLLAR	74.33 ↑ ₹0.36
EURO	86.05 ↓ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹49,638 ↑ ₹130
SILVER	₹58,002 ↓ ₹486

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	33.6°C	34.0°C
TEMP. MIN	26.8°C	25.4°C
Humidity	84%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
		Forecast Light rain likely

Can't promise peaceful transfer of power if I lose: Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Sept 24: President Donald Trump Wednesday refused to clearly guarantee a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the upcoming US election in November to Joe Biden.

"Well, we're going to have to see what happens," Trump responded when asked at a White House press conference whether he is committed to the most basic tenet of democratic rule in the United States.

Trump, who is currently behind in the polls against Democratic challenger Joe Biden, then resumed his near daily complaint about the way the election is being organised.

Apparently referring to the increased use of mail-in ballots - due to the coronavirus pandemic



- he said: "You know that I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots and the ballots are a disaster."

Trump frequently claims that

mail-in ballots are vulnerable to mass fraud and are being encouraged by Democrats to rig the election. However, there is no evidence that ballots sent through

US POLLS 2020

the postal service have ever led to significant fraud in US elections. At the press conference, Trump seemed to suggest annulling what are expected to be the huge numbers of mailed-in ballots, saying that in such a scenario, he would remain in power.

"Get rid of the ballots and you'll have a very peaceful - there won't be a transfer, frankly. There'll be a continuation," he said.

Trump's latest insistence that there cannot be a fair presidential election November 3 came as pressure mounts over his plan to put a new, right-leaning justice on the Supreme Court.

Trump is set to nominate a re-

placement on Saturday for the late liberal-leaning justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. His Republican Party, which has a majority in the Senate, is then expected to quickly confirm the nominee. If they succeed, the nine-justice court would then likely have a strongly pro-conservative bent for years to come.

Democrats are crying foul, saying that the process should wait until the results of the election are known, allowing the winner to shape the Supreme Court.

With Trump and the Republicans mounting a series of court challenges against the use of mail-in ballots, the chances of a contested election result are considered high.

On Wednesday, Trump said he thinks the election "will end up in the Supreme Court."

Highest single-day spike in nCoV cases, deaths

4,340 NEW CASES TAKE ODISHA'S COVID-19 TALLY TO 1,96,888, WHILE RECORD 16 FATALITIES PUSHED THE DEATH TOLL TO 752

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: State Thursday registered its highest single-day spike of 4,340 COVID-19 cases, which raised the tally to 1,96,888, while record 16 fatalities pushed the death toll to 752, a senior official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Of the 4,340 fresh cases, 2,517 were reported from various quarantine centres, and the remaining cases were detected during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, accounted for maximum number of 663 cases, followed by Cuttack 567 and Puri 203. These apart, Jagatsinghpur reported 193 cases, Jharsuguda 174, Balasore 162, Angul 155, Jajpur 151, Nabarangpur 143, Kandhamal 143, Sundargarh 138, Sambalpur 130, Sonepur 129 and Mayurbhanj 127 cases.

Similarly, Kendrapara witnessed 109 cases of COVID-19, Bhadrak 105, Bargarh 108, Ganjam 90, Keonjhar 90, Nayagarh 84, Koraput 77, Nuapada 74, Boudh 67, Rayagada 62, Kalahandi 58, Dhenkanal 56, Bolangir 53, Malkangiri 34, Deogarh 22 and Gajapati 19. Besides, the state pool has 164 cases in the last 24 hours.

Five fresh fatalities were recorded in Khurda, four in Puri, two in Kendrapara, and one each Bolangir, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Subarnapur and Rayagada districts, the official pointed out, adding that the previous highest deaths of 15 COVID patients were reported September 23



UNENDING WAR AGAINST VIRUS

OF THE FRESH CASES, 2,517 WERE REPORTED FROM VARIOUS QUARANTINE CENTRES, AND THE REMAINING WERE DETECTED DURING CONTACT TRACING

KHURDA ACCOUNTED FOR THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF NEW CASES AT 663, FOLLOWED BY CUTTACK 567 AND PURI 203

FIVE FATALITIES WERE RECORDED IN KHURDA, FOUR IN PURI, TWO IN KENDRAPARA, AND ONE EACH BOLANGIR, MAYURBHANJ, NAYAGARH, SUBARNAPUR AND RAYAGADA

from 10 districts.

Meanwhile, 3,779 patients recovered from the viral infection, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 1,61,044. As many as 53 COVID-19 patients have so far died in the state due to comorbidities, according to the official.

More than 29.56 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the state so far, including 50,570 Wednesday, added the official.

The top seven districts which reported highest number of COVID cases are: Khurda (33,543), Ganjam (19,871), Cuttack (18,359), Jajpur (7,504), Mayurbhanj (7,199), Rayagada (7,060) and Sundargarh (6,987).

On the other hand, Ganjam district has registered the highest number of 218 COVID deaths followed by Khurda (115), Cuttack (60), Sundargarh (39), Rayagada (36) and Sambalpur (22).

Three districts—Balasore,

RT-PCR test begins in Puri

PURI: The Health department has started RT-PCR tests at a COVID hospital here to ramp up sample testing in Puri district. Earlier, samples from the district were sent to Bhubaneswar for RT-PCR test, sources said. "The Health department Wednesday started RT-PCR tests at the virology laboratory of a COVID hospital here. Now, RT-PCR tests can be done for 100 samples daily. Prior to this new facility, we were testing around 1,200 samples from across the district every day," said Puri Collector Balwant Singh Thursday. Singh further said that the coastal district has witnessed a surge in positive cases in last few days. However, at least 80 per cent infected people in the district have recovered, Singh claimed.

Nayagarh and Kandhamal have reported 20 deaths each.

According to official sources, the state has been witnessing over 4,000 COVID cases daily and the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have reported maximum number of COVID cases over the past nine days.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has saluted all the health workers and 'COVID Warriors' who are working with utmost dedication and making huge

sacrifices to save every precious life.

Patnaik expressed happiness that Odisha has crossed yet another milestone in the deadly fight against COVID-19 with more than 1.5 lakh recoveries. The CM congratulated Jagatsinghpur Collector as the district emerged second in the country in implementation of Tuberculosis programme amidst fight against COVID-19.

City shopkeepers to deploy pvt guards

The Commissionerate Police Thursday held discussions with several market and puja committees here over strict enforcement of COVID-19 guidelines to rein in the spiraling cases of novel coronavirus in the city.

The bazaar committees have been urged by the Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi to cooperate with the cops during the ongoing intensified enforcement drive. Sarangi also assured the committee members that the Commissionerate Police will consider the demands and suggestions raised by them during the meeting.

He urged the traders to dial 100 whenever they find an unruly crowd flouting social distancing and other guidelines. Meanwhile, the police also permitted the shopkeepers to deploy volunteers at their shops to ensure proper compliance of COVID-19 guidelines.

The private guards will also ensure that customers coming to shops wear masks and maintain social distance. The committee members have been asked to prevent excessive crowding at market places. Police will also help them in constructing barricades at the shops to avoid crowding.

PROBE BEGINS

Elderly suffers fractures due to 'police brutality'



Gokul Mahapatra OP PHOTO

Cops initially admitted Mahapatra to Puri DHH. Later, Mahapatra's family shifted him to SCB Medical College and Hospital when his condition deteriorated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 24: An octogenarian man suffered fractures in his both hands and one of his legs when he was allegedly assaulted by some personnel of Kanas police in the district here.

Besides, seven members of the victim's family have been allegedly arrested by the police over a fake case. Victim Gokul Mahapatra, 83, of Badalpur village of Kanas Thursday approached the Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) for justice. As per the complaint, at least six plain-clothes personnel of Kanas police had reached Mahapatra's house August 14 this year and tried to take his son into custody over a fake case.

The police personnel assaulted Mahapatra's son when he sought identity proof from the former. However, the policemen left the place when Mahapatra's family protested the highhandedness. Subsequently, the police team accompanied by more number of per-

sonnel barged into Mahapatra's house and attacked his family members. "A policeman covered my face with a towel while another few beat my hands and legs with iron rods. They also assaulted my wife, daughter and niece when they protested the incident," Mahapatra said in his complaint.

Police initially admitted Mahapatra to Puri district headquarters hospital. Later, Mahapatra's family shifted him to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack when his condition deteriorated, said the complaint. "Doctors at SCB have operated on my hands while my broken leg has been plastered. They have sent me home due to the spread of coronavirus in the hospital. I have been advised to consult the doctors after a month," Mahapatra said. Puri additional SP Arun Kumar Jena said they have received a complaint from Mahapatra and deputed a deputy superintendent of police to probe the allegation. "We will take appropriate action after receiving the probe report," he added.

Cong leader, ex-minister Matlub Ali passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Veteran Congress leader and former Odisha minister Sk Matlub Ali died Thursday, family sources said. He was 78.

Ali was admitted to a private hospital here September 7 after he complained of illness. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment at the hospital this morning, his son Masud Ali said.

He is survived by his wife and son.

Born December 16, 1942 Matlub Ali was elected to the Odisha Assembly four times (1974, 1980, 1985, and 1995) from Mahanga constituency as a Congress candidate.

Ali was the Power and Irrigation, Rural Development and Higher Education minister in the J B

Patnaik and Nandini Satpathy government.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik and many politicians cutting across party lines expressed grief over Ali's demise.

"I am saddened over the demise of Ali. My thoughts and prayer are with the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace," the chief minister said in his twitter post.

Senior Congress leader Panchanan Kanungo, also a close friend, said, "Matlub Babu had deep knowledge in Gita and Mahabharat apart from being an expert in Quran." Apart from politics, Ali was also associated with social work and worked for Oxfam and Save the Children Fund.



CBI arrests MES JE in bribery case

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Central Bureau of Investigation Thursday arrested a junior engineer of Military Engineer Services (MES) posted at Paradip for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 from a complainant.

According to the agency, a case was registered U/s 7 of the PC Act, 1988 on a complaint alleging that accused Rajiv Ranjan Reddy, demanded bribe of Rs 30,000 from complainant's relative for forwarding bio-data of six persons of complainant's firm to the Office of GE (I), MES, Bhubaneswar for formal approval relating to the work order in favour of complainant's firm. CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while demanding & accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 from the complainant.

The agency also conducted search ops at the office and residence of accused and recovered incriminating documents.

STIR OVER POWER TARIFF HIKE



BJP activists hold a demonstration in front of the OERC office in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, to protest the hike in power tariff in state

Govt for quick disposal of Swargadwar land cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The state government has instructed Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RCD), Cuttack to take necessary steps to expedite pending revenue cases related to Swargadwar land in Puri.

Revenue and Disaster Management secretary Bishnupada Sethi has written to the RDC in this regard.

"The possession of the land settled in favour of Lord Jagannath has not been taken by the district administration till date. I would, therefore, request you to look into the matter personally and ensure that record correction is ensured by tehsildar, Puri and all cases pending with the tehsildar as well as ADM are disposed of expeditiously," Sethi said in his letter.

Heavy rain to lash five dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday said heavy rainfall will occur in some places of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts Friday.

Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning would occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nawarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal during Friday, the IMD said. There is no heavy rainfall warning issued for any parts of the state during next four days starting from September 26.

However, light to moderate rainfall would continue to occur at some parts of south and coastal Odisha. During the past 24 hours, the most amount of rainfall was recorded at Rengali in Angul district 32.2 mm, followed by Tiring in Mayurbhanj (26.2 mm), Harabhangha in Boudh (23 mm), Ambabhona in Bargarh (19 mm), Athmalik in Angul (16 mm), Hirakud (15.8 mm) and Paikmal in Bargarh-14 mm, it said.

Bus depot at Khandagiri by Oct

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sep 24: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), Thursday claimed that it will complete the construction of a bus depot at Khandagiri by October for shifting of the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) bus depot from Baramunda.

The new bus depot for OSRTC at Khandagiri is part of the construction of Baramunda Interstate Bus Terminal (ISBT) project. The bus depot involves an expenditure of Rs 179.94 crore.

"The bus depot is spread over 2.5 acres of land and has reached the last leg of completion. The construction work began in November last year but was delayed due to restrictions on movement of labourers for COVID-induced lockdowns and shutdowns. The project will be completed next month before it is handed over to OSRTC by October 15," said Rajendra Kumar Nayak, Chief Engineer BDA.

However, despite tall claims by BDA of speedy work on the project, the initiative has faced vehement protests from vendors and locals who have complained of loss of livelihood due to shift in bus stand. As a consequence, the joint



BARAMUNDA ISBT

THE NEW BUS DEPOT FOR OSRTC AT KHANDAGIRI IS PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARAMUNDA INTERSTATE BUS TERMINAL (ISBT) PROJECT

The bus depot involving an expenditure of Rs 179.94 crore is spread over 2.5 acres of land and has reached the last leg of completion

The construction began in November last year but was delayed due to restrictions on movement of labourers for COVID-induced lockdowns and shutdowns

eviction drive by the BMC and BDA could remove only a few temporary sheds, two boundary walls and two toilets constructed over there illegally.

Sources at BDA revealed that though many shops have been erected in the area illegally, many others have been rented out by the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC).

"This is the biggest roadblock in removal of the structures for the project. Some of these who have been given on rent have managed to get

a stay order on eviction from the court. However, we are positive that the new bus depot will be up and running by October this year," a BDA official said. Meanwhile, once finished, the depot will accommodate around 40 buses at one go.

Moreover, it will boast of amenities such as office, store-cum-driver rest room, workshop, washing bay, security room and other facilities. Besides, there would be a dedicated electricity sub-station, lighting and illumination facilities available in the depot.

CITY MAN DUPED OF ₹70K

Cyber fraud reveals data in banks unsafe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: A person lost around Rs 70,000 to an impersonator who pretended to be a credit card agent of a private bank here. The cyber criminal won the trust of the victim by revealing all the personal details in the private bank.

The victim, identified as Dilip Kumar Mohapatra of Jagamara area, has lodged a complaint at Khandagiri police station in this regard. A few days ago, he received a phone call from the person who identified herself as Sweta who was the agent of the private company's credit card section. She informed the victim that he had earned 28,680 bonus Point on his credit card. The lady told Mohapatra that the bonus

point would be adjusted with his current outstanding bill which is due for payment October 1.

Mohapatra failed to smell any foul play as the lady mentioned all the private and confidential details of his bank account, PAN card and the 16 digit credit card number. Later, he received OTP codes which he sent to the phone number of the lady as per her instructions. Subsequently, he lost around Rs 70,000 to the cyber criminal in four installments.

He immediately rushed to nearby branch of the private bank where the authorities informed him about the fraud. They also advised the victim to seek the help of police to nab the culprit. Khandagiri police have started investigation into the matter after registering a case in this regard.



Mohapatra failed to smell any foul play as the lady revealed confidential details of his bank account, PAN and credit card



As per 1990 settlement, 16,735 acre land was available for Swargadwar, out of which government land was 705 decimal, bebandobast land was 5,040 acre and private land recorded in several khata was upto 10,990 acre.

However, the Puri tehsildar has recorded 1,246 acre in government Khata due to its communal use. Out of balance land, 3,794 acre has been recorded in favour of Lord Jagannath. Similarly, private land to an extent of 8,083 acre has been recorded in favour of Lord Jagannath but RORs (record of rights) are yet to be corrected while certain other cases are also pending for disposal with the tehsildar. The Revenue department has come to know that 16 cases have been pending in the court of ADM, Puri against orders of tehsildar. An FIR has also been lodged with Sea Beach police, Puri by tehsildar in connection with forged documents.

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MGNREGS faces fund crunch in Sambalpur

WAGES OF RS 50 LAKH ARE PENDING WITH ADMINISTRATION CLEARANCE AMID PANDEMIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 24: Thousands of migrant workers and daily wagers were badly affected by the pandemic which cost them their jobs. The government thought the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) could act as a panacea for the rural workforce at this time.

However, severe fund crunch has become a concern for daily wagers in Sambalpur district, a report said. Migrant workers and resident daily wagers had got work in various projects under the MGNREGS, but scores of them have not yet received their wages. The rural job scheme has not helped them at this difficult time when their wages are pending.

According to information from DRDA, wages amounting to Rs 50 lakh are yet to be cleared. This has come about due to fund crunch.

Labour unions have expressed displeasure as the daily wagers live in misery with wages pending with the administration. They pointed out that if this situation continued for a longer period, migrant workers, who had come back to the district, will be bound to go back to their workplaces.

Some daily wagers lamented that they had to go through such hard-



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Severe fund crunch has become a concern for daily wagers in Sambalpur district, a report said. Migrant workers and resident daily wagers had got work in various projects under the MGNREGS, but scores of them have not yet received their wages. The rural job scheme has not helped them at this difficult time when their wages are pending

ship and managing their families is too difficult. They are planning to migrate to other places to get work. On the other hand, district coordinator of MGNREGS, Sobhit Bisi said once the process is completed, wages will be cleared. In Sambalpur, many projects were executed during the pandemic while thousands of migrant and resident workers got work.

The administration claimed to have created 20,13,432 workdays for daily wagers in the district. Projects worth Rs 52.3 crore under the MGNREGS have been executed. But wages of Rs 50 lakh has been pend-

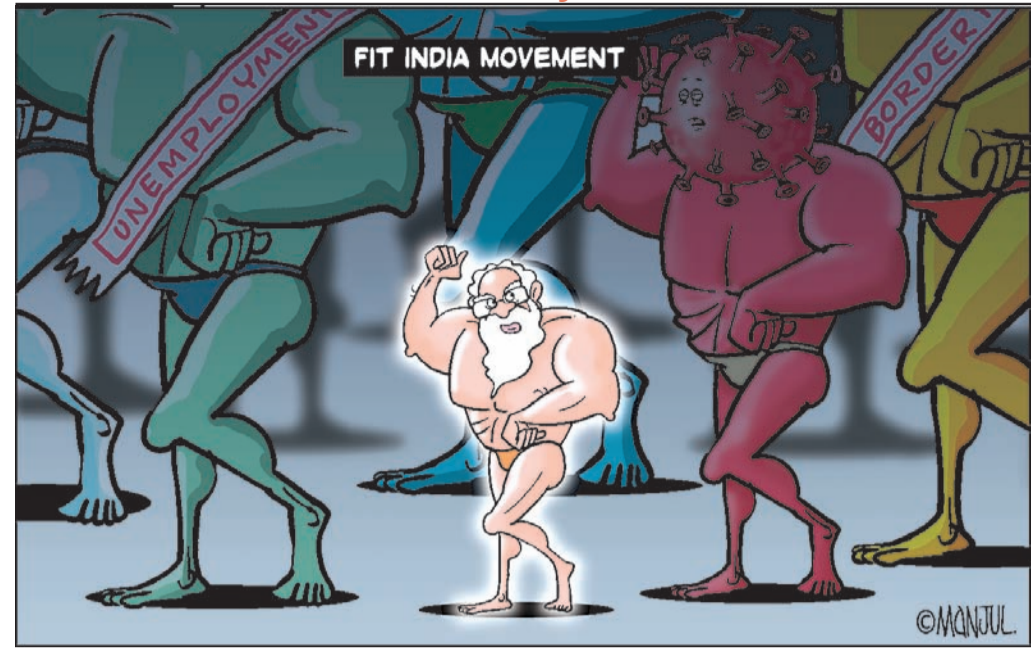
ing for clearance. A record number of workdays were created in Jamankira block. 3, 83, 847 workdays were created for daily wagers. The administration has managed to create 2,34,106 workdays in Rairakhol block; 33,22, 174 workdays in Bamara block; 3,30, 362 workdays in Jujumara block; 1,64,105 workdays in Naktideula block; 2, 42, 098 workdays in Kuchinda block; 1,51,420 workdays in Rengali block; 87,231 workdays in Dhankauda block and 98,098 workdays in Maneswar block. However, it was found that the scheme faces difficulties in some

areas in meeting the demand for work and paying wages on time. These issues are likely to be exacerbated in the days to come.

Social activists and labour experts pointed out that the pandemic seems to linger on for several months while current agricultural season appears to be lean. The demand will be on MGNREGS. But fund crunch will be a hurdle in mitigating the problem for the rural workforce.

Availability of funds and timely clearance of wages will help the migrants and resident daily wagers in the district, they added.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Boudh farmers left high and dry as fertilizer prices soar

A packet of fertilizer priced at Rs 280 is sold for Rs 600 in many pockets while black marketers are making hay out of the situation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, Sept 24: Amid a shortage of fertilizers, farmers in Boudh district were left high and dry as prices of fertilizer have soared beyond their reach. The already delayed agriculture activities due to pandemic and erratic rainfall are impacted by black marketing of fertilizers.

Reports said, a packet of fertilizer priced at Rs 280 is being sold for Rs 600 in many pockets. Black marketers are making hay out of this situation.

Farmers have expressed displeasure over such high price of fertilizers. They alleged that the agriculture department has failed to ensure supply of fertilizers.

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh said, "At a time when Covid-induced restrictions have affected all activities, black-marketing of fertilizers and its short supply have added to the woes of farming communities in the district."

Admin cracks whip on unscrupulous dealers

Bhadrak, Sept 24: Cracking whip on unscrupulous fertilizer dealers, the Bhadrak administration has served show cause notices on eight dealers.

Reports said, an investigation had been conducted over black marketing of fertilizers in different parts of the district, following a directive from the director of the agriculture and food production.

The ADM, the DAO, the BAO and AAO started an investiga-

The farmers' body pointed out that this problem cropped up when the farming season is at its peak in the district.

It was alleged that some unscrupulous dealers are making the most of the erratic supply of fertilizers with tacit support of agriculture officer.

A delegation of farmers led by farmer leader Suryanarayan

and examined the stocks at 21 fertilizer dealers. They had found some irregularities in fertilizer supply in some areas.

Licenses of two dealers in Tihidi, one each in Bhadrak and Chandbali were cancelled. Show cause notices were served on two dealers each in Tihidi and Bhadrak, three in Chandabali and one in Dhamnagar.

Stern action will be taken against these dealers if satisfactory replies are not available.

Mohapatra submitted a memorandum to the district agriculture officer, seeking immediate solution to the short supply of fertilizers and black marketing.

In the memorandum, they said, "At this time, paddy requires urea and other fertilizers for growth. Urea is not available with the dealers and the primary agricultural co-operative societies in the district. Wholesalers and dealers are deliberately creating artificial shortage of fertilizers."

It was alleged that fertilizer dealers, retailers and some agriculture officials have formed a racket to divert subsidized fertilizers into open market.

The problem is in sharp contrast to the state and the central governments' emphasis on smooth supply of fertilizers to farmer during the pandemic times. Krushak Sangh has warned of agitation if no action is taken against black marketers to sort out the short supply of urea.



BJD rules out bickering within party ahead of Balasore bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 24: Even as the process to nominate a candidate for the Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency bypoll by the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is on, the grapevine has it that the party is facing infighting. The party has, however, ruled out the allegations.

There had been rumours that BJD MP from Balasore, Rabindra Jena, may quit the party. However, he has ruled out any such development. Jena has said he is the district president of the party and will continue to work for the BJD in future also. There is no chance of quitting the party, he said.

"I am not keen to contest the bypoll. I have been appointed as the district president, I will work along with other BJD members for the candidate whom the party supremo nominates," Jena said.

Meanwhile, senior BJD leader



There had been rumours that ex-MP from Balasore, Rabindra Jena, may quit the party. But, he has ruled out any such development and said he is the district president of the party and will continue to work for the BJD

Pratap Jena had a closed-door meeting with former Balasore Sadar MLA Arun Dey. Briefing media after the meeting, Dey said he will not contest the bypoll. "I have won elections for five times from this Assembly constituency. So I will not contest again," Dey said.

Sources said former Minister and BJD vice-president, Debi Prasad Mishra would have been

made in-charge of the Balasore bypoll. However, a recent CBI raid on his residence has spoilt his chance as the BJD does not want a controversial person to lead the party in Balasore.

Meanwhile, social media is abuzz that actor Arindam Roy will be the BJD's candidate for Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency. Roy, however, has dismissed the news as 'baseless rumour'.

Man beats minor daughter to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tensa, Sept 24: In a shocking incident, a man beat his four-year-old daughter to death at Lalahating under Koida police limits in Sundargarh district Thursday. However, what caused the man to kill his minor daughter is not yet known.

According to reports, Arun Lakhua is a rag picker. He has two wives and children.



His two wives were away for work Monday. On returning home, they found their daughter critically wounded. They took her to Koida CHC and later shifted her to Barbil CHC. However, the minor girl succumbed.

Arun and his second wife were taking the body for burial when locals suspected something fishy and informed the police.

Police registered a case following a complaint from his first wife. Arun and his second wife are absconding. Police started a search operation to nab them.

Bees sting woman to death; three hurt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, Sept 24: In a bizarre incident, bees stung a woman to death and left three others hurt at Tiribili under Champua police limits in Keonjhar Wednesday.

Reports said, Sini Munda, Sabitri Sardar, Chandu Munda and Basumati Sardar, the relatives of Janika Munda visited Tiribili. All the four went to a nearby forest to collect grass for making brooms. All of a sudden, a swarm of bees attacked the four.

Basumati Sardar was critically hurt while three others managed to escape suffering stings. The four were immediately taken to a nearby hospital where Basumati succumbed.

Wild bear strays into Nabarangpur school

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Sept 24: A sloth bear was spotted inside Dahana Sadashiva High School at Dahana village under Nandahandi tehsil in Nabarangpur district Thursday morning.

Residents of Dahana village woke up to the frightening incident Thursday morning. On hearing that a bear had entered inside Dahana Sadashiva High School campus they thronged the spot to keep a watch on its movement.

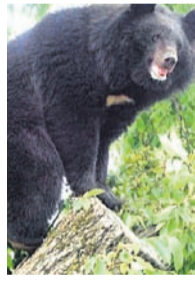
The school's peon first spotted the

bear. He informed the school authorities who, in turn, informed the forest department.

Forest officials set up a trap inside the campus to catch the animal. The animal scaled the boundary wall and escaped into the forest.

According to villagers, incidents of bears sneaking into villages are not uncommon in this area. They often come to the villages in search of food. However, they usually return to the jungle before dawn.

"This bear somehow failed to return to its habitat," a local said.



Villagers cross river using wires, ropes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 24: A gloomy picture of development in Kandhamal district came to the fore when hundreds of villagers were seen crossing a river with the help of electric wires and ropes near Bindhapada village under K Nuagaon tehsil limits in the district in the absence of a bridge.

Local residents belonging to five nearby villages in-

cluding women, children and elderly people cross the river regularly for their daily needs risking their lives and properties, a local said.

"We risk our lives while crossing the river. In case of a medical emergency, we face a lot of hardship in the absence of a bridge. Despite running from pillar to post over past several years, all we have are loads of assurances," an elderly man rued.

A woman from the area said, "It's too difficult to cross the river while carrying children. There have been incidents when people have fallen into the river. In case of health emergencies, we do not get ambulance service and it becomes difficult for us to reach the hospital".

While the administration has been made aware of the plight of these people many a time, no action has been taken to redress the problem.



A BURDENED LIFE



A girl pushing her mother and sibling in a tricycle in Angul town

OP PHOTO

Ganjam observes Covid-19 awareness week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, sept 24: Continuing its fight against coronavirus, the Ganjam district administration is observing Covid-19 awareness week from Thursday. The programme will continue till October 1.

Ganjam District Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange informed that various activities will be taken up during this week to develop awareness among the people regarding the disease. Health workers will visit residences in a very systematic manner to trace symptomatic patients. Extensive Covid-19 testing will also be carried out during the week in the district, informed Kulange.

The Collector said that the awareness programme will be observed in all urban local bodies and blocks across the district. During the Covid-19 week, awareness rallies will be organised maintaining strict social distancing norms. A drive will be launched to identify plasma donors also. During the Covid-19 week 'Sachetana Rathas' will



go around the district. Programmes like 'panchasutra' enforcement, mass sanitation and mask distributions will be organised during the week.

At the same time, the week will also see online a series of lectures organised by the Ganjam Knowledge Hub.

Webinars will also be conducted on health and nutrition. Online competitions for school children will also be organised so that they are aware about the precautions that need to be taken to fight Covid-19.

The district reported 90 fresh Covid-

FIGHT TO THE HILT

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19 cases Thursday, taking the total tally to 19,871. Among the infected persons 19,309 patients have so far recovered from the disease. Currently there are 336 patients are undergoing treatment. The pandemic has so far claimed 218 lives in the district.

FOCUS WORLD

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



More often than not, the UN's failure to meet its stated goals has been the result of member states – particularly but not exclusively the five permanent members of the Security Council – not meeting their responsibilities. When countries place narrow national interests above common priorities, everyone loses out

its stated goals has been the result of member states – particularly but not exclusively the five permanent members of the Security Council (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China) – not meeting their responsibilities. When countries place narrow national interests above common priorities, everyone loses out.

To be sure, this past July, I welcomed the UN Security Council's unanimous adoption of Resolution 2532, which called for a global ceasefire to avert further humanitarian catastrophes in the context of the pandemic. I also strongly supported this initiative when UN Secretary-General António Guterres first proposed it in March. Yet I was disappointed to see so many valuable months wasted in arguments over the details of the text.

Squabbles over semantics in the face of bloody conflicts and an unprecedented pandemic sent a terrible message to the global public. Beyond the direct health effects, the economic fallout from the crisis will be long-lasting and severe; creating ripple effects that will be felt in many fragile and conflict-affected parts of the world for some time to come. This was no time to play diplomatic hardball.

Since then, the World Food Programme has warned that we may be headed for the worst humanitarian crisis since WWII, with as many as 600,000 children likely to die from famine and malnutrition in hard-hit countries like Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria, and South Sudan.

The Covid-19 crisis is a somber reminder of our common human bonds and vulnerabilities. If we fail to respond to the pandemic and other shared threats with a renewed sense of solidarity and collective action, we will have dishonored the victims of the virus and betrayed the hopes that the UN's founding generation had for us.

The writer is a former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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Covid-19 has shone a light on the acute vulnerabilities of a deeply interconnected world. No country, regardless of its size, wealth, or technological sophistication, can tackle this crisis alone. Owing to the pandemic, the United Nations General Assembly this month is being held under exceptional circumstances, with heads of state participating "virtually" rather than traveling to New York City.

The unique nature of this year's gathering should serve as a reminder that the only way to overcome the threat of Covid-19 is through international cooperation, transparency, and adherence to shared rules and regulations.

It is a poignant irony that the pandemic has struck on the UN's 75th anniversary. Born from the wreckage of World War II – a wholly human-made calamity – the world's premier international forum embodied post-war leaders' determination that future generations must be spared from the kind of suffering they had witnessed.

In the Middle East and other conflict-riven regions, the UN and its principles of multilateral cooperation remain indispensable for finding long-term, sustainable solutions that will guarantee peace, stability, and prosperity. The principles of international law are the bedrock of our global order, providing a crucial framework for defending rights and exercising power in the face of global challenges. We can see this clearly in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has lasted for almost as long as the UN itself. The best solution will be two states – Israel and Palestine – for the two peoples, based on the internationally recognized pre-1967 borders and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 2334, among others.

The recent establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and two Gulf countries – the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain – is a significant political development that I hope can help overcome decades of es-

trangement and mistrust. I still believe that the only way to achieve true "normalization" between Israel and the Arab world is for all parties to work toward a durable two-state solution that delivers peace, justice, dignity, and security to Palestinians and Israelis alike. People's inalienable rights should never be bartered away by others.

In 1945, many hoped that the world had finally learnt the lessons of two disastrous world wars. In the words of the UN Charter, the body was created to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," and to pursue peaceful and inclusive paths to global prosperity and democracy. The web of UN-centered international covenants and institutions that have been established since then is far from perfect. Yet, for more than seven decades, it has decisively supported the pursuit of peace, security, human rights, and eco-

nomie and social improvements around the world.

To highlight this legacy, The Elders – a group of independent global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela, of which I have the honour to serve as deputy chair – recently released a report on the defence of multilateralism. In it, we issued five calls to action for today's leaders: Recommit to the values of the UN Charter; Empower the UN to fulfill its mandate for collective action on peace and security; Strengthen health systems to tackle Covid-19 and prepare for future pandemics; Demonstrate greater ambition on climate change to meet the Paris agreement targets; and mobilise support for all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

All countries must recognise that the only way to achieve these objectives is through effective multilateralism, which is ultimately in everyone's interest. More often than not, the UN's failure to meet



Ban Ki-moon

THE COVID-19 CRISIS IS A SOMBER REMINDER OF OUR COMMON HUMAN BONDS AND VULNERABILITIES

A parallel GST

From the election point of view, farmers are too important a segment for any political party in the country to ignore. No political party in India worth its salt can afford to antagonise this segment. This being the case, why is that the BJP-led NDA government comes across as anti-farmer so far as the passage of the three farm Bills by both the Houses of Parliament go? The government has pushed through three farm Bills that the Opposition dubs as anti-farmer. So much so that Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) resigned from the Union Cabinet registering her party's protests against the Bills. Agriculture is a state subject. And to that extent, the Centre is constitutionally bound to consult state governments and develop consensus before it goes ahead with any legislative reforms for the farm sector. In the instant case, due process has not been followed as is the wont of this government. In the past also, Bills have been tabled and passed in Parliament without discussion, let alone attempting to reach consensus with state governments. The Centre claims the farm Bills will be a game changer for the farming community and will be most beneficial for them. Claims apart, the government has failed to take the Opposition on board on its logic. First, there was no need to rush through the legislation by the government without so much as reaching a consensus among its alliance partners. Granted that the government's initiatives are well-intentioned, but why is it shying away from convincing its alliance partners and then various other stakeholders of the Bills that they purportedly intend to benefit. A national debate is in order to remove various apprehensions about the Bills.

The Centre claims the reforms will give farmers the much needed freedom to decide who to sell the produce and where to sell. Earlier, he depended on APMC. But, the reality was that APMCs could never do 100 per cent procurement of the produce, leading to distress sale by farmers. Even in states like Maharashtra where the APMC system is very strong and organised, many farmers have committed suicide. Freedom to access the market would not necessarily mean farmers could sell the produce at best prices. What is required is making available to farmers scientific warehouses and cold storages where they could store the produce until they get better prices for their produce. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act now allows regulating the supply of certain food items only under extraordinary circumstances. Major items such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cooking oils, onion and potatoes have been taken out of the purview of the Act. In a state like Odisha where people are vulnerable to price fluctuations of tubers due to hoardings by middlemen and traders, the amended Act will serve no purpose. In 2017, when the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out, the Centre deprived states of their rights to tax services and commodities. What they got was an assurance that they would get compensations for five years. This fig leaf has also not come their way at a time when state governments are fighting with the Covid-19 with their back to the wall. Snatching away financial powers of the state governments by way of GST was bad. But what the Centre is trying to do by way of the farm Bills is to do a parallel GST by tinkering with the food and livelihood of farmers.

WISDOM CORNER

- It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. **ARISTOTLE.**
- For peace to reign on Earth, humans must evolve into new beings who have learned to see the whole first. **MANUEL KANT**
- Only laughter makes a man rich, but the laughter has to be blissful. **OSHO**

WORDSWORTH

T-ray

Doctors were soon to have a new diagnostic technique, which penetrates just a few millimeters below the skin, an area of the body that other procedures like X-rays can't easily image. The scanning technology is based on T-rays, short for terahertz rays. This is a type of radiation similar to X-rays and light, but with frequencies around a million cycles per second (the prefix tera- refers to a factor of 10 to the power of 12). These rays lie in the region between infra-red and microwave radio frequencies, a region that's sometimes called quasi-optics. It's a type of radiation that has been hard to generate in the past, but a team at the Toshiba Cambridge Research Laboratory has recently found a relatively simple way, by firing a laser at a semiconductor crystal. T-rays are sensitive to very small changes in the composition of the materials they pass through, so they're excellent for imaging. They also have the highly desirable property that they don't damage living tissues. It's likely that the first medical application will be to image skin cancers prior to surgery. Various reports suggest that T-rays' time is coming – they're also being investigated for many other purposes. Because they penetrate clothing, security experts hope that T-rays will prove useful in airport scanners – to show up concealed weapons, for example. They may help to create ever-more-detailed semiconductor displays. And astronomers hope that they may reveal details of comets and other astronomical bodies.

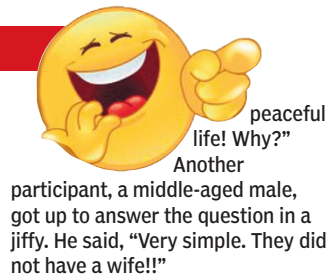
Trebuchet

A trebuchet was the classic medieval military siege engine for hurling heavy missiles at an enemy, a big boys' catapult. It consisted of a long pivoted arm with a sling at one end and a heavy counterweight at the other. You put a missile in the sling, wound the arm down by windlass and rope and released it by a catch. It was commonly used to pound down the walls of a castle or fortified town during a siege. As an alternative, you might shoot the putrefying corpses of horses over the walls in the hope of infecting the defenders with disease, or wage psychological warfare by lobbing back your enemies' severed heads. Let us not confuse this with a mangonel, a smaller weapon in which the power for flinging the missile came from twisted ropes or animal guts. The word trebuchet came into English from an Old French word, which at first meant to stumble or trip, a compound of tres, over, with buc, body or trunk. In imitation of later senses of the French word, it has also been used in English for a set of assay scales, an animal trap, and as another name for that instrument of punishment for fraudulent tradespeople, disorderly women and scolds, the ducking-stool. You might think the word is as defunct as they get, but there are people around who have re-created them for archaeological research purposes, and others whose hobby is to build and operate the things. One British enthusiast, Hew Kennedy, has used his to hurl grand pianos and old cars about the Shropshire countryside. Asked why, Kennedy answered, "Well why not? It's bloody good fun!"

LOL

WIFE

A brainstorming session was on at the Town Hall. It had a question-answer session. A participant raised this question: "Women lived a better, longer, and



peaceful life! Why?" Another participant, a middle-aged male, got up to answer the question in a jiffy. He said, "Very simple. They did not have a wife!"

SPECTRUM REGION

Major shift in India's Afghan strategy

India has deep and historical relations with Afghanistan consisting of trade, culture, education and security. However, New Delhi has been on the periphery of diplomacy on restoring peace and security in Afghanistan. In December 1979, Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. The United States, a rival of Soviet Union, organised resistance to the Soviet occupation from within Afghanistan. That resistance has mutated into a formidable fundamentalist-militant force known as Taliban.

Since 1979, much water has flown down from river Amu Darya as Afghanistan has gone through trials and turmoil, lots of bloodshed to restore peace harmony and internal security. It has also been a hotbed for political intrigues and power rivalry by vested interests.

The situation in Afghanistan dramatically changed after 9/11 when it was found that Al-Qaida was operating from Afghan soil. Taliban regime was dislodged in 2001-2002. Since then there has been international efforts to keep Taliban at bay and support the elected government. Despite sustained international support, Afghan government has been wobbly in the fierce resistance by Taliban. The confi-

dence of world power was jolted when the elections in 2019 became controversial. Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah were both sworn-in as Presidents. Although the world came to recognize Ghani as the President, the experience left a bad taste in the mouth.

Donald Trump came to power in 2016 and changed the American involvement in the world including Afghanistan. He has had a transactional approach to American foreign policy and he found the heavy presence of American soldiers in Afghanistan costly and bloody.

The President and his team on Afghanistan decided to have a truce with Taliban which had become too formidable to ignore. Also, demographically, Taliban comprises Pashtun tribes which constitute 42 per cent of Afghan population. The peace treaty between American and Taliban was signed in February 2020, paving the way for an Afghan-controlled peace process. Arguably, Pakistan has been a key to American strategy in Afghanistan. But after Osama-bin-Laden was found sheltered in Atobabad, Pakistan, Washington's confidence in Islamabad was shaken.

India's position on Afghanistan has been consistent but rigid. New Delhi has dealt only with the gov-

ernment, did not engage with other political forces. It refused to have any contact with Taliban which was playing to the tunes of Pakistan and sponsoring terrorism against India.

The biting point for India came after the US signed the peace accord with Taliban. The major world powers also came to recognise the power and presence of Taliban in the Afghan peace process. The change of strategy in New Delhi also involved an argument that contact with Taliban does not mean acceptance of their ways but simply a step forward. India has invested a lot in Afghanistan, mainly in development projects of the order of 3 billion dollars. Some 400 projects have been implemented in 134 provinces. The other famous project is Chabahar port in Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran that gives connectivity for India to the landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia.

The major gap in India-Afghanistan relations was the absence of diplomatic and military engagement in the peace process. India did not want the above-mentioned development interventions go unrecognised in the absence of its diplomatic role. So, New Delhi changed the strategy in favour

of a pro-active involvement in the peace process. It was invited at the behest of Afghan government, backed by the US, to Intra-Afghanistan Negotiation (IAN) on September 12 in Qatar. Pakistan successfully opposed India's participation.

India's participation in IAN involving Taliban is a major shift in New Delhi's Afghan strategy. India wants a sovereign, united, stable, plural and democratic Afghanistan.

India's national interest lies mainly in ensuring that Afghan soil and Taliban are not used by its opponents like China and Pakistan to train terror on India. That is the point impressed upon by Americans and even Russians. Both suggest that if New Delhi wants to neutralise Taliban then it must talk to them. The other possibility is that by talking to Taliban, New Delhi may be able to transform them into a peace entity. Although, Taliban holds a traditional Islamist position, they are interested in development and stability.

Afghanistan occupies a strategic point for India's security. We should not have left the space entirely to Pakistan, and later to China. INFA

The writer is Professor of International Politics, JMI.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Farm Bills

Sir, This has reference to Editor Tathagata Satpathy's write-up, "Trample the farmer" (OP, Sept 22), which eloquently presented the state of the farmers here. A majority of the farms belongs to the small and marginal categories. Some 70 per cent of farm units are less than of two hectares. Small farm holdings are less profitable due to high input costs. Reports say paddy has consistently been purchased at prices lower than of the MSP by the Agricultural Product Marketing Committee (APMC). The distress sale of paddy and mismanagement of the procurement system havened the farmers ultimately bear the brunt. The middlemen take the benefit. There are flaws in the functioning of the APMC. According to a past National Sample Survey, Odisha has 7.8 million households in rural areas, of which 4.4 million are agricultural households. More than half of these households are caught in debt burden. The bulk of the agricultural transactions take place outside APMC due to the indebtedness of the farmers, lack of their bargaining power and lack of financial capacity to sell their produce in the mandis. Yet, why is the central government not concerned about the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission on farmers? With the implementation of three new legislations on the plea that these would guarantee better returns to farmers by allowing private players into the system, farmers could rather be in deeper trouble. The people's representatives from the state could have done more in Parliament to protect the interests of the farmers.

Dr Sarbeswar Padhan, DR BHIM RAO AMBEDKAR COLLEGE, DELHI

FCRA, funds

Sir, This has reference to the recent Foreign Currency Regulation Act (FCRA) amendment. Not all FCRA-permitted organisations are ever capable of luring funds from abroad except for a few having the right connections. Not all are involved in anti-national activities. Had it been so, there must be action as per rule. What matters to the government, though, is that an entity of advocate Indira Jaisingh, the ex-additional solicitor general, availed around ₹100 crore in foreign funds and when the MHA issued a notice to her, she being a government servant, she quipped, "I am no government, but a public servant". So, the amendment covered this too. This means lawyers, judges and politicians can't receive any foreign funds. But the entities of several public servants and NGOs, as also sitting MPs, MLAs, are receiving such funds with full knowledge of the government.

Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ



IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN

Major improvement in Delhi's air quality

THE DELHI GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTIFIED 13 POLLUTION HOTSPOTS IN THE CITY BASED ON THE ANNUAL AVERAGE OF PM10 AND PM2.5 LEVELS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Air quality in Delhi's 13 pollution hotspots improved significantly due to restrictions on industrial operations and commercial and vehicular activity during the lockdown, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The Delhi government has identified 13 pollution hotspots in the city based on the annual average of PM10 and PM2.5 levels. These are Okhla Phase-II, Dwarka, Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Narela, Mundka, Punjabi Bagh, Wazirpur, Rohini, Vivek Vihar, Anand Vihar, R K Puram and Jahangirpuri. PM2.5 is tiny particulate matter less than

2.5 microns in diameter. It can enter deep into the lungs and even into the bloodstream.

The CPCB said it analysed air quality data in three stages — pre-lockdown (March 1-21), lockdown phase-I (March 25 - April 19) and lockdown phase-II (April 20 - May 3). A comparative analysis was also done for the corresponding time periods in 2019 to assess the improvement. "Noticeable reduction in PM2.5, PM10 and NO2 levels in hotspots of Delhi was observed during the lockdown period as compared to 2019 levels, in all likelihood due to restrictions on operations of industrial and commercial areas and vehicular activity," it said.

The reduction in PM2.5 levels varied from 54 percent in Jahangirpuri to 26 percent in Punjabi Bagh. Dwarka, which has a significant presence of residential-cum-institutional sites with substantial traffic movement, recorded a 50 percent decline in PM2.5 levels. "It affirms that traffic restrictions and closure of commercial areas were instrumental in improving air quality," the CPCB said.

Restrictions on operations of industries in Mundka led to a 38 percent reduction in PM2.5 levels in the first phase of lockdown. "Even though there were data gaps for Anand Vihar and Narela, considerable reduction in PM2.5 levels was observed for the days on which data was available," the report read.

PM10 levels in the hotspots of Dwarka, Mundka, Wazirpur declined by over 60 percent during the lockdown periods. "This may be attributed to reduced road dust re-suspension due to minimal vehicular movement and restriction on construction and demolition activities," the apex pollution body said.

Sizeable improvement in NO2 levels was observed across the hotspots as compared to 2019 levels, except Jahangirpuri. Other areas such as Rohini, Ashok Vihar and R K Puram witnessed over 70 percent reduction in NO2 levels during the lockdown periods as against 2019 levels, primarily due to reduced vehicular activity.

Driest Sept in Delhi in 16 years: IMD

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, has recorded just 20.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 109.3 mm this month 'a deficiency of 81 per cent,' according to IMD data

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 24: Delhi recorded less than 21 mm rainfall in September, the lowest for the month in 16 years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said Delhi has already recorded the last rainfall of the monsoon season and any precipitation is unlikely now.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, has recorded just 20.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 109.3 mm this month — a deficiency of 81 per cent, according to IMD data. The last time the weather



station recorded any rainfall (1.3 mm) was September 8. According to IMD, the national capital recorded only three rainy days this September, the lowest since 2016, when it witnessed just two rainy days.

Rainfall recorded in September last year was 74 mm. It was 237.8 mm in 2018 and 158.5 mm in 2017. The city gauged 75 mm rainfall in September 2016 and 21.8 mm in 2015. Before this year, the lowest September rainfall was recorded in 2004 (3 mm).

Delhi received just 1.6 mm precipitation in September 1994, according to the IMD data.

Interestingly, the national capital had gauged 237 mm rainfall in August this year, the highest for the month in seven years. Overall, the city has recorded 576.5

mm rainfall against the usual of 633.1 mm since June 1, when the monsoon season started — a deficiency of 9 per cent.

The monsoon is likely to start withdrawing from Rajasthan September 26-27. Thereafter, it will recede from Delhi, Haryana, west Uttar Pradesh simultaneously by September last week, Srivastava said. The weather system had reached Delhi June 25, two days earlier than normal. Scientists at India Meteorological Department (IMD) have forecast no rainfall in the remaining days of September.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are also expected to increase by one degree for the next few days.

The date of monsoon withdrawal would be declared by the end of the month.

WB Cabinet clears scheme for Brahmin priests

CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE HAD LAST WEEK ANNOUNCED THE SCHEME, AND SAID MANY PRIESTS WERE REELING UNDER FINANCIAL CRISIS AND HER GOVERNMENT WAS DOLING OUT SOPS TO SUPPORT THEM

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Sept 24: The West Bengal Cabinet Thursday gave its nod to the 'Rajya Purohit Kalyan Prokolpo', a scheme under which a monthly allowance of ₹1,000 and free housing would be allotted to each of around 8,000 Sanatan Brahmin priests.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had last week announced the scheme, and said many priests were reeling under financial crisis and her government was doling out sops to support them.

"The Cabinet has given its nod to the 'Rajya Purohit Kalyan Prokolpo' which the chief minister had announced a few days ago," state home secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay said at the secretariat.

During Thursday's meeting, the Cabinet also approved a plan to form a development authority for converting Birsingha - the birthplace of poly-



math Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar - into an "educational tourist hub".

"The authority will follow the West Bengal Town and Country Planning and Development Act for executing the project. The district magistrate will be the chairman (ex-officio) and

MPs and MLAs and other public representatives members of the planning body," Bandyopadhyay said.

The ministers also held discussions and weighed the pros and cons of launching a ₹22-crore solar project at Sagardighi Thermal Power Plant, he

said. "The five-megawatt floating solar project, the largest in the country, will benefit around one lakh households, once operational," the home secretary stated.

Several other development plans, including a riverbank township project, were taken up for discussion at the meeting.

The ministers, following the meeting, congratulated Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha, who is set to retire September 30, for his service to the state. Sinha had taken over as the chief secretary on the same day last year, following the retirement of Malay Dey.

Over two lakh Hindu priests in West Bengal have become jobless as various social functions, rituals and religious festivities have either been cancelled or postponed to prevent public gatherings in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

FOR A REASON



Unemployed youths, who had enrolled their names with West Bengal Yubasree Employment Bank, agitate for jobs outside the Directorate of Employment (Department of Labour, West Bengal), in Kolkata

VIOLATION OF COVID NORMS

Over 3L challans issued by Delhi Police

A total of 3,23,233 challans were issued for mask violation from June 15 till Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Delhi Police has issued more than three lakh challans between June 15 and September 23 for violation of COVID-19 norms in the national capital, officials said Thursday.

A total of 3,54,944 challans were issued from June 15 till Wednesday, they said. According to police, 1,837 challans were issued for mask violation Wednesday till 4 pm. Delhi Lt Governor Anil Bajjal had empowered health, revenue



and police officials to impose fines up to ₹1,000 for violations of norms, including non-observance of quarantine rules, non-maintenance

of social distancing, not wearing a face mask in public or work places, spitting in public places, and consumption of paan, gutka and tobacco in public places, to contain the spread of COVID-19.

A total of 3,23,233 challans were issued for mask violation from June 15 till Wednesday, they said. Three challans were issued Wednesday for spitting and 2,591 since June 15.

Similarly, 116 challans were issued for social distancing violation Wednesday and 29,108 since June 15, police added.

Khalid sent to judicial custody till October 22

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 24: A Delhi court Thursday sent former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Umar Khalid, arrested in connection with a case related to the widespread violence which broke out in Delhi's North-East area in February, to judicial custody till October 22.

Delhi Police's Special Cell had arrested him September 13 night under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, following which he was sent to 10 days police custody. He was produced before Additional Session Judge Amitabh Rawat of Karkardooma court via video-conferencing earlier in the day at the end of the remand period.

On the request of Umar Khalid and his counsel Trideep Pais, the court allowed him to meet his parents before going to jail and directed his counsel to move an application for providing him spectacles. Advocate Pais will also move an application requesting the court to provide him security.

"In the last 10 days in police custody, I have not signed any paper or statement," Umar Khalid informed the court during the video conferencing.

He is accused of hatching a criminal conspiracy to cause communal unrest by inciting people protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens.

CAG raps Kolkata Port for dredging deficiencies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 24: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has rapped the Kolkata Port Trust, rechristened as the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, for its dredging deficiencies that may have resulted in a loss of ₹278.61 crore during the 2013-2018 period.

The CAG said it was seen that a quantum of 81.68 million cubic metre (MM3) was dredged during the period from 2013-14 to 2018-19, involving an expenditure of ₹1,857.37 crore.

"A quantum of 12.25 MM3 of dredged material happened to come back into the shipping channel", considering a rate of 15 per cent recirculation, the auditor said.

It increased "the cost by ₹278.61 crore by KoPT," the CAG said in a report submitted to the government recently. The auditor also said the KoPT did not have any strategic plan, enumerating the broad guidelines to be followed for dredging from time to time.

The CAG also highlighted deficiencies in the execution of dredging contract with the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCIL). "The target depths in the dredging contracts were reduced with reference to the desired or required depth mainly due to underperformance of the DCIL dredgers," the auditor said.



Nuclear scientist Sekhar Basu dies of coronavirus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 24: Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Sekhar Basu succumbed to COVID-19 early Thursday at a private hospital here, a health department official said.

He breathed his last just three days after turning 68. A mechanical engineer, Dr Basu is revered for his contributions to the country's atomic energy programme. He was awarded Padma Shri in 2014.

He had also pioneered the highly complex reactor for India's first nuclear-powered submarine INS Arihant. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee mourned the demise of Dr Basu and extended her condolences to his family. Describing Dr Basu's death as an "untimely loss",



eminent physicist and Padma Bhushan-recipient Bikash Sinha said "the country lost a wonderful engineer and a gentleman." "I would say he left us at a relatively young age. He still had a lot more to contribute. He was an ingenious engineer who worked very hard for our nuclear programme."

"Basu also did a brilliant job for the nuclear-powered submarine. We are going to miss a good man," Sinha (75), the former director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, said. Born September 20, 1952, Dr Basu did his schooling from the city's Ballygunge Government School and then graduated in mechanical engineering from Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), University of Mumbai, in 1974.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: ST-SBP-TENDER-2020-15 Dt: 21.09.2020

Name of the Work: REPLACEMENT OF SINGLE SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTERS WITH HIGH AVAILABILITY OF 8 BLOCK SECTIONS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Tender Value: ₹ 24,40,088/-, EMD: ₹ 48,800/-

Tender closing date & time: 14.10.2020 at 1500 hrs.

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

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

Note: The prospective bidders are advised to visit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/compenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom) PR-271/L/20-21 Sambalpur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, KENDRAPARA

No. O-380-1st Corrigendum to bid identification No. E-procurement R.W.D.-II/PPKD-04/2020-21 dt. 22.09.2020

1. The period of sale and availability of tender online bidding for work invited vide above tender call notice is modified to the following extent: 2. E-Procurement Officer

1	2	3		4		5		6		7
		From	To	From	To	Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Technical bid	Financial bid		
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Kendrapara	R.W.D.-II/PPKD-04/20-21	01.10.2020 from 11.00 A.M.	16.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.	20.09.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.	17.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on.				

All other term and condition in respect on the work invited vide above tender call notice remain unaltered. 1. All other details can be seen in the bidding documents which is available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. 2. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./-A.K. Mohapatra, Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Kendrapara

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH

E-Mail- rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in

No. O-382:-

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-EESNG-04 OF 2020-21

1. Name of the work: Road work. 2. Total No. of works: 02 Nos. Road. 3. Estimated cost: Rs.57.98 lakhs & Rs.66.89 lakhs. 4. Class of contractor: 'B' & 'A'. 5. Period of completion: 03 calendar months. 6. Type of tender: Double cover. 7. Other details:

1	2	3		4	
		From	To	From	To
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh	Online-EESNG-04 of 2020-21	29.09.2020 10.00 A.M.	12.10.2020 05.30 P.M.		

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh

OIPR-25046/11/0004/2021



Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has accorded high priority to ending tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the sustainable development goal

HARSH VARDHAN | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM KUSHINAGAR BY DIWALI

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced the start of international flights from the Kushinagar airport by Diwali



of the day quote

This government is willing to bear the expenditure for running the Tamil medium school in Ahmedabad which has been closed down

The Goa government will launch a year-long 'Karmayogi' drive, as part of which bureaucrats will have to travel to all the 191 village panchayats in the state in a bid to create short-term and long-term plans to make the state self-reliant in terms of goods and services

In his desperation to promote the BJP-led NDA government's conspiracy to ruin farmers, Tomar has thrown all propriety to the winds, spreading disinformation against the Congress in general, and me in particular, by peddling shameless falsehoods

Delhi riots case: Khurshid, Bhushan named in chargesheet

September 16, the police filed a voluminous chargesheet against the accused under various sections of the UAPA, the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. The copy of the charge sheet was supplied to their counsels Monday



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Jahan and one accused Khalid Saifi. Such statements are inadmissible under Section 25 of the Indian Evidence Act.

New Delhi, Sept 24: From politicians to lawyers and activists, names of various prominent personalities have come up in the charge sheet filed by the Delhi Police in the Delhi riots case. This includes the name of Congress leader Salman Khurshid and advocate Prashant Bhusan.

In her disclosure statement, Ishrat Jahan said that various personalities such as former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, advocate Prashant Bhusan, activist Harsh Mander and activist-turned-politician Yogendra Yadav took part in the protests.

Must ensure stability on ground, says MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Two days after its military talks with China to resolve the border standoff in eastern Ladakh, India Thursday said the way ahead will be to refrain from making any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo while the two sides continue discussions to achieve complete disengagement in all friction areas.

tion areas, it is at the same time also necessary to ensure stability on the ground. The latest senior commanders meeting should be seen in this overall context," he added.



Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said disengagement of troops is a complex process which would require mutually agreed 'reciprocal actions'.

India and China held the sixth round of Corps commander-level talks on Monday following which both sides announced a series of decisions including to stop sending more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

SHORT TAKES

Sisodia diagnosed with dengue

New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was diagnosed with dengue Thursday, a day after he was hospitalised due to COVID-19, sources said here. They said the deputy CM's platelet count has also dropped.

Cong MLA dies

Bangalore: Congress' Karnataka legislator B. Narayan Rao died of Covid-19 at a private hospital in Bangalore on Thursday. He was 65. Rao was critically ill with multi-organ failure, after he was diagnosed with a severe Covid-19 infection, and passed away at 3.55 p.m.

Girl killed

Indore: A 7-year-old girl was allegedly killed by a male relative, who lured her with a biscuit and crush her head with a stone in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said Thursday. The accused, who is in his 20s, has been apprehended based on the CCTV footage from the area where the crime took place.

Cops help woman

Ranchi: The human face of the police came to the fore here Thursday when they helped a pregnant woman reach the hospital where she safely gave birth to a baby girl. Jyoti Dandung arrived at the Khadgada bus stand here by bus from Simdega district on Thursday morning. After coming out of the bus, she broke down. She was suffering from labour pain.

Forces alert, will give reply: DGP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 24: Security forces are alert to Pakistani efforts of dropping consignments of weapons and narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir along the border and they will give a befitting reply to these attempts, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said here Thursday.

itants were a cause of concern as they posed a threat to the civilian population and peace in Jammu and Kashmir. "Tunnels are mostly old, but now the intelligence network is strong and we are destroying these hideouts whether in forests or built up areas," he added.

4 killed in Punjab building collapse

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Sept 24: Four people were killed as a commercial building in a residential area collapsed in Punjab's Dera Bassi town near here Thursday, police said. The rescue operation was over but officials suspected that some more people might be trapped under the debris.

Madras HC grants 30-day parole to Rajiv's assassin



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 24: The Madras High Court Thursday granted 30-day parole to Perarivalan, an assassin of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The parole was granted on a petition filed by Perarivalan's mother Arputhammal citing his health condition and also at a time when inmates at Puzhal jail have been testing positive for the coronavirus.



Locals stage a protest, demanding the construction of a sea wall at Chellanam in Kochi, Thursday

Covid-19 patient goes 'missing' from hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Sept 24: A 33-year-old woman patient has allegedly gone missing from a COVID-19 jumbo hospital in Pune, prompting her family members to stage a protest outside the medical facility Thursday.

woman was discharged from the hospital on September 5, her relatives have filed a missing person's complaint at Shivajinagar police station here in Maharashtra. The woman was admitted to the hospital, located at the College of Engineering Pune (COEP) ground, on August 29 after testing positive for coronavirus, her mother said.

the next day, but the staff at the jumbo facility told me that the patient is inside the ward and she is safe. I was asked not to worry and instructed to come after 15 days," she said.

told us to come after 15 days of the quarantine period, why was she given discharge in between? Why were we not informed? Why she was not sent home in an ambulance?" the woman's mother asked.

NEW BATTLE

Bihar polls: Parties engage in 'poster wars'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 24: A new battle is being waged between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the opposition Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan) on the streets through posters, as parties take political potshots at each other or use sarcastic messages to corner one another ahead of the state polls this year.

yellow background has a picture of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with the caption 'The whole of Bihar, our family'. In one corner of this poster, the slogan 'Nyay ke saath tarakki, Nitish ki baat pakki' is written.



Tej Pratap Yadav as MLAs, their mother and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi depicted as a Legislative

Councillor while Rajya Sabha MP is written over the picture of Lalu's daughter Misa Bharti.

A day later, Lalu Prasad and his family members were targeted in a poster with a new slogan. Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi were depicted as drivers of the 'Loot Express'. The poster shows a bus as a 'Loot Express' inside which former Chief Minister Rabri Devi, elder son Tej Pratap Yadav and daughter Misa Bharti are seated while Lalu and Tejashwi are seen standing on top of the bus.

is described saying, "There is a problem in Nitish Kumar's DNA. He keeps on changing colours yet every tall claim by him falls flat." Another poster by the RJD has a picture of Modi and Nitish Kumar in which the people of Bihar are shown saying, "The BJP was made to sit in the Opposition by us, then how did they come to power?"



The Opposition's politics has become directionless. They had the right to sit in Parliament and express their views but they instead abdicated it and staged a walkout. They began protests and dharna outside and are now meeting the President

Prakash Javadekar | Union Minister

ALLAHABAD HC TURNS DOWN PLEA TO RENAME ITSELF

The Allahabad High Court has dismissed a plea to rename itself either as the Prayagraj High Court or the Uttar Pradesh High Court



of the day quote

After farmers, workers have been targeted, exploitation of the poor, nurturing of 'friends', This is Modi ji's rule

Rahul Gandhi | Congress Leader

The farm bills passed in Parliament are against the interests of farmers and if needed, the Congress may move court against their implementation

Bhupesh Baghel | Chhattisgarh CM

It would have been better if the Centre had taken the decision on bringing the legislation after consulting farmers

Mayawati | BSP President

Govt to strengthen protection

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The government is working on an "ambitious" plan to gradually withdraw border guarding forces like the BSF, the ITBP and the SSB from internal security duties in order to strengthen protection at various frontiers of the country, official sources said Thursday.

They said the proposal was first discussed during a meeting of these forces chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah last year.

According to the proposal, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is working on a new "model" where the burden of internal security duties, including conduct of elections, will be largely borne by the country's largest paramilitary force, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The 3.25 lakh strong CRPF is already designated as the lead internal security force of the country. Officials in the security establish-



ment, quoting the proposal, said that a new experiment will be put in place during the forthcoming elections in Bihar and bypolls in some states where the CRPF will be deployed in a 70:30 ratio along with state police forces.

"The CRPF will be the overall security in-charge during conduct of polls. Border guarding forces

duties in aid to state governments over the next few years," the official said.

Every year, thousands of troops of these border forces are withdrawn from the front and sent for conduct of elections apart from duties to strengthen law and order arms of various state police forces in view of the challenging internal security scenario in their domains.

The official said the border guarding forces have already been directed to strengthen security at their respective fronts including by operationalising more posts and reducing inter-border out post distance. While the BSF is tasked with guarding sensitive international borders with Pakistan (over 3,300 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km), the ITBP mans the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China while the SSB guards open Indian fronts with Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km).

19-year-old Dalit girl gangraped in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hathras (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 24: A 19-year-old Dalit girl from Uttar Pradesh has been allegedly gangraped by four upper caste men who also have tried to strangle her.

The girl has been admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) in Aligarh medical college. She managed to give her statement to the police days after the incident and has stated that she was raped by four upper caste men on September 14 when she had gone to collect fodder for animals. Earlier, based on her brother's complaint, the police had booked a man identified as Sandeep for attempt to murder and under the provisions of the SC/ST Act. The accused was arrested and remanded to judicial custody after the family alleged that he had tried to kill the girl over some old enmity.

On Tuesday after the girl's statement, rape charges were added to the FIR and three more people were booked. "One more accused has been held and others, too, will be arrested soon," Hathras SP Vikrant Vir, said.

Additional SP Prakash Kumar said the girl's statement under section 161 of CrPC was not recorded earlier by the investigating offi-



cer as the girl had been in the ICU after she was referred to Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in Aligarh from Hathras district hospital. He said the charge sheet would be filed soon.

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee Vice President Deepak Kumar met the survivor and alleged that the family was being threatened by the accused as well as the police. He said that he would give a detailed report on the matter to party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi and party state chief Ajay Kumar Lallu.

Congress leader Sheoraj Jivan Valmiki, who also reached Hathras on Wednesday to meet the survivor's family members, has demanded action against police officers for delay in recording the statement, adding that injustice to the members of the Dalit community would not be tolerated.

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: One terrorist was killed in an encounter that broke out between terrorists and security forces in South Kashmir's Pulwama district Thursday, officials said. The firefight started in Pulwama's Maghama after security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on the basis of a specific information about the presence of terrorists. As the security forces zeroed in on the spot where the terrorists were hiding they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter.

Heroin seized

Chandigarh: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday said it had seized 13 kg heroin worth Rs 65 crore in Punjab's Ferozepur district. The recovery was made close to the international border with Pakistan. "Vigilant border men are relentlessly thwarting smuggling attempts from across the border," BSF Punjab tweeted.

Trooper succumbs

Srinagar: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who was injured in a terrorist attack Thursday in central Kashmir's Budgam district has succumbed to his injuries, officials said. The Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) was attacked and his service rifle was snatched after motorcycle-borne terrorists shot at him from close range in Chadoora area. The injured trooper was rushed to Army's 92 base hospital in Srinagar where he succumbed to his injuries.

Two cops held

Dhubri: Two police officers from the district were arrested Wednesday night by Assam's vigilance and anti-corruption cell for taking bribe, officials said. Officer-in-Charge of Gauripur Police Station Satyajit Borthakur and Assistant Sub Inspector Abu Kalam Azad were held for accepting money from a complainant, they said.

Worker dies

Thane: A 29-year-old worker died of electrocution at a textile unit in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district and an offence has been registered against the factory owner, police said Thursday. The incident took place at Sri Sakambari Textile company Wednesday afternoon, when Sajabai Gamar got electrocuted after power leaked into the external body of the machine he was working on, an official said. The victim sustained severe burn injuries on both his legs and died on the spot, he said.

FRUITS OF LABOUR



Labourers sort sweet lime at a wholesale market in Bhopal, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Posters of guilty to be displayed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 24: Eve-teasers, those guilty of crimes against women and habitual offenders in cases of sex-related crimes will now find their posters on road crossings in Uttar Pradesh.

According to the government spokesman, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to launch 'Operation Durachari' to check crime against women.

"The Chief Minister has directed that women police personnel should be asked to take firm action against such offenders and their photographs should be pasted on crossings in order to name and shame them," the spokesman said.

The Chief Minister further said that people should know who are the persons who are vitiating the atmosphere in society and indulging in crime against women. He further said that in case any incident related



to crime against women takes place, the beat in-charge, chowki in-charge, station officer and the circle officer would be held responsible.

The Chief Minister also ordered that anti-Romeo squads should be further activated and strengthened so that the strategy to check crime against women becomes increasingly effective. It may be recalled that the Yogi Adityanath government had pasted photographs of anti-CAA protesters on crossings in Lucknow in an attempt to name and shame them just before the national lockdown was announced.

TEACHER HELD FOR RAPE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 24: A Shiksha Mitra in Uttar Pradesh has been arrested for allegedly raping a six-year-old student inside a primary school in Meerut district.

Circle officer of Mawana area, Uday Pratap Singh, said that a case of rape has been registered against the accused and appropriate sections of POCSO Act will also be invoked since the victim is a minor. According to reports, the accused is a teacher (Shiksha Mitra) in a village primary school.

The incident came to light after the girl informed her family members on Tuesday and they, along with the villagers, rushed to the school and thrashed the accused. A few people later locked the accused inside a classroom and informed the police.

Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Mawana, Kamlesh Goel, and circle officer Uday Pratap also rushed to the school with police force and convinced the villagers to hand over the accused to the police. The girl has been sent for medical examination and the accused will be produced in court on Thursday.

Meet the Covid-19 hero

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 24: Wearing a helmet and facemask and carrying handwritten posters, this teacher of a government school has been pedalling around villages in Telangana's Khammam district for over six months to create awareness among people about the deadly coronavirus.

Ever since the pandemic broke out earlier this year and the lockdown imposed in March, Gollamandla Suresh Kumar has been cycling to remote villages in his district to educate people on how they can protect themselves by following simple precautions.

"Maintain cleanliness, keep your surroundings clean, always wear a face mask when going out and keep physical distance," he announces on megaphone while peddling around in the villages.

He has fixed to his bicycle posters with slogans in Telugu about the Covid-19 precautions. He has written slogans even on his helmet to send a message.

Leaving home early in the morning and covering 2-3 has



been his routine for 190 days. The 46-year-old is happy that he is doing his bit in the fight against Coronavirus. A teacher in Zilla Parishad High School in Peuvoncha village under Kallur mandal, he has so far covered over 250 villages.

He is continuing with his mission though the schools have reopened this week after six months. "I am still covering a few villages while going to the school from Kallur and while returning home. September 23 was 190th day of my journey on bicycle against coronavirus," he said.

Suresh Kumar has been active in social work besides discharging his duties as a teacher. He had earlier hit the roads on his

bicycle to create mass awareness about pollution, HIV and ill-effects of smoking and liquor.

When Covid-19 broke out and even before the lockdown was imposed, Suresh Kumar was out on the streets with his 17-year-old bicycle to play his part. He felt that while authorities are doing their best to create mass awareness, there is a lot to be done and directly reaching out to people in villages with the message will be more effective.

He feels that addressing the villagers in their own language and taking the message to their doorsteps yield better results. Suresh Kumar took risks to peddle amid the pandemic and braved scorching heat and rains.

Despite strides, Covid crisis far from over: Scientists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: From 500 cases to 57 lakh. Six months after a nationwide lockdown, COVID-19 is spreading fast across the length and breadth of India with more testing and developments on the vaccine front but no clarity on when the disease will be controlled, say scientists.

March 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a 21-day lockdown for the entire country, stating it was the only way to break the chain of infection. At the time, the number of people infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus was a little over 500 and the death toll 12.

Six months on, India has the

second highest number of cases in the world after the US with a tally of 57.32 lakh cases, 86,508 people testing positive in a day and a total of 91,149 fatalities, according to Union Health Ministry figures on Thursday.

As COVID-19 rages -- and even laypersons get conversant with the complexities of RT-PCR tests versus the cheaper but not so reliable rapid antigen tests -- US-based economist and epidemiologist Ramanan Laxminarayan said there is a "hidden epidemic" happening even as the pandemic spreads.

He noted that the infection is spreading widely across all parts of the country, including in rural India, although the visibility is lower in places where testing is



weak or inadequate. "We will likely see some increases in states like

UP and Bihar but only if RT-PCR testing increases. Right now, we

have a hidden epidemic in many parts of the country which have weak health systems," the director of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy in Washington said.

"While the infection is spreading at a slower rate than if people were not taking precautions, it is definitely not under control," Laxminarayan added. However, he expects the number of cases to start coming down in the next month or two as India approaches some sense of "population immunity". As a substantial number of the population is infected and recovers from the disease, they are unlikely to spread the virus.

"Given the precautions that are being taken both by the govern-

ment and individuals, the epidemic has slowed down. This would mean that we would see a sustained plateau for a while before the cases start coming down," Laxminarayan said.

March 23, a day before the prime minister announced the lockdown and two days before it came into force, India had tested 18,383 samples. Till September 22, this had gone up to at least 6, 62, 79,462 tests, both RT-PCR and rapid antigen. The recoveries have gone up to over 46 lakh people, pushing the national recovery rate to 81.55 per cent. Immunologist Satyajit Rath sounded a note of caution and said India is still at the stage of spreading viral infection across communities.

international



For too many decades, we have allowed cars to pollute the air that our children and families breathe. Our cars shouldn't make wildfires worse -- and create more days filled with smoky air

GAVIN NEWSOM | CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

COVID SHOCKER

Researchers in the US have found that COVID-19 can leave some patients with signs of heart inflammation and injury months after they get sick with the virus, even in non-severe cases



of the day quote

As the economy continues to recover, it will be critical that distressed businesses have the necessary flexibility to either restructure or to wind down their operations in an orderly manner



JOSH FRYDENBERG | TREASURER OF AUSTRALIA

The global COVID-19 pandemic has shown just how crucial it is for cities across the world to work together while standing up for what's right. We cannot lead the world without speaking out against injustices



BILL DE BLASIO | NEW YORK CITY MAYOR

The swearing in of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko to a sixth term during a secretive ceremony lacks democratic legitimacy



JOSEP BORRELL | EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Israel tightens second lockdown

Jerusalem: Israel Thursday moved to further tighten its second nationwide lockdown as coronavirus cases continued to soar, ordering all nonessential businesses to close and requiring people to stay within 1,000 meters (yards) of their homes.

Over 360 held in Belarus

Kyiv: Over 360 more people have been detained in Belarus during protests against the country's authoritarian President, who was unexpectedly sworn in to his sixth term in office after an election the opposition says was rigged. Thousands of Belarusians took to the streets of the capital of Minsk and other cities Wednesday evening, protesting the unannounced inauguration of President Alexander Lukashenko that took place in the morning.

PiO UNICEF UK chief quits

London: Sacha Deshmukh, the Indian-origin chief of the UK arm of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has resigned, months after taking charge of the post after raising bullying concerns against the UN charity's chair. Deshmukh, who took over as the Executive Director of UNICEF UK in April, is believed to have raised some concerns around bullying behaviour by a senior.

Prominent HK activist held

Hong Kong: Joshua Wong, a prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy activist, was arrested Thursday for "participating in an unauthorised assembly" last October, according to a post on his Twitter account. "Joshua is arrested when reporting to Central Police Station at about 1 p.m. today. The arrest is related to participating in an unauthorised assembly October 5 last year.

Former VW boss faces trial

Berlin: A German court has ruled that former Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn must face trial on a second set of charges in the company's diesel emissions scandal, these ones related to alleged market manipulation. Thursday's announcement by the Braunschweig state court followed a decision earlier this month that he must stand trial on fraud charges.

Health experts warn of 'twindemic' as Europe cases surge

Research by scientists at PHE suggested the risk of death more than doubled for people who tested positive for both flu and COVID-19



AGENCIES

London, Sept 24: A surge in COVID-19 cases in Europe risks becoming a deadly double epidemic of flu and coronavirus infections, EU health officials warned Thursday as they urged Europeans and their governments not to let their guard down.

"It is abundantly clear that this crisis is not behind us. We are at a decisive moment," the EU's commissioner for health, Stella Kyriakides, told a media briefing. With winter approaching in the region, she warned of the risk of a potentially lethal "twindemic of COVID-19 and the flu" and urged governments to encourage people to get seasonal flu vaccines and adhere to social distancing measures to reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus.

"This might be our last chance to prevent a repeat of last spring," Kyriakides said.

Adults at high risk from flu are also most at risk from COVID-19. Research by scientists at Public Health England (PHE) released this week suggested the risk of death more than doubled for people who tested positive for both flu and COVID-19, compared to those with COVID-19 alone.

Seasonal flu viruses cause between 4 and 50 million infections each year across the European re-

gion - depending on whether the region experiences a severe or relatively mild flu season - and an estimated 15,000 to 70,000 Europeans die each year of causes linked to flu.

Kyriakides and Andrea Ammon, director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, which monitors disease across the European region, said there had been a worrying increase in COVID-19 cases since August, with some countries already seeing higher case numbers than during the March peak.

"This can partly be explained by improved testing strategies," Ammon said. "However, several countries appear to be now progressing again from limited local transmission towards sustained community transmission. "The pandemic is far from over and we must not drop our guard."

Meanwhile, the US Food and Drug Administration has said it would not approve any vaccine unless it meets a 50% efficacy threshold, while the European Medicines Agency said they do not have a minimum criteria and that potential coronavirus vaccines would be considered on a case-by-case basis. The World Health Organisation said it hopes experimental vaccines will prove at least 70 per cent effective, but acknowledged that first-generation shots may not reach that target.

NK TROOPS KILL SK OFFICIAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Sept 24: South Korea said Thursday that North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean government official who may have attempted to defect and set his body on fire after finding him on a floating object near the countries' disputed sea boundary.

South Korean officials condemned what they called North Korea's "atrocious act" and urged it to apologise and punish those responsible.

North Korea is unlikely to accept the South Korean demand, and ties between the rivals - already strained amid a deadlock in broader nuclear diplomacy - will probably suffer a further setback, observers say. According to Seoul, the man disappeared from a government ship that was checking on possible unauthorized fishing in an area south of the boundary on Monday, a day before he was found in North Korean waters.

North Korea sent officials wear-



ing gas masks aboard a boat near the man to learn why he was there Tuesday afternoon. Later in the day, a North Korean navy boat came and opened fire at him, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

Sailors from the boat clad in gas masks and protective suits poured gasoline on his body and set it aflame, the Defense Ministry said, citing intelligence gathered by surveillance equipment and other assets. It's unclear how he ended up in North Korea. But a defense official

said the man might have tried to defect to the North, citing acquired information.

He refused to elaborate. The official, requesting anonymity citing department rules, said the South Korean official was wearing a life jacket and was on a small floating object when he was found in North Korean waters.

He said North Korea may have decided to kill him in line with its stringent anti-coronavirus rules that involve shooting anyone illegally crossing the border. Gen. Robert

Abrams, the commander of US troops in South Korea, said last month that North Korea had put special forces along its border with China to keep smugglers out and that they had "shoot-to-kill orders in place" aimed at preventing the virus from entering the country.

North Korea has steadfastly said there hasn't been a single virus case in its territory, a claim widely disputed by foreign experts. Observers say a pandemic could cause devastating consequences in North Korea because of its broken public health care system and a chronic shortage of medical supplies. South Korea sent a message to North Korea on Wednesday to ask about the missing official, but hasn't received a response, according to the South Korean Defense Ministry. Senior military officer Ahn Young Ho told reporters Thursday that South Korea strongly condemned North Korea's "atrocious act" and urged it to punish those responsible.

Nobel prize cash raised to \$1.1mn

This year's prizes in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics will be announced during the week of October 5

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Stockholm, Sweden, Sept 24: The cash envelope that accompanies each Nobel prize will be increased this year from nine to 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million), the Nobel Foundation said Thursday.

"The work done in recent years to strengthen the Nobel Foundation's financial standing has made it possible to increase the prize sum," the foundation said in a statement. This year's prizes in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics will be announced during the week of October 5.

The prize sum was reduced from 10 to eight million Swedish kronor in 2011, when the foundation launched a programme to improve its finances.

Since the beginning of 2012, its investment capital has risen from just under three billion kronor to 4.6 billion, while the return has been close to nine percent per year thanks to a generally good market performance and good results from the foundation's own asset



management, it said. Prize creator Alfred Nobel, an inventor and scholar who made a vast fortune from his invention of dynamite in 1866, decreed in his 1895 will that the bulk of his estate - about 31.5 million Swedish kronor; equivalent today to about 2.2 billion kronor (\$222 million, 203 million euros) - be invested to fund the prizes.

The Nobel Foundation has previously announced that the tra-

ditional award ceremony and banquet in Stockholm have been cancelled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, replaced by a televised event with laureates receiving their prizes in their home countries.

The Peace Prize ceremony, which takes place in Oslo, will go ahead albeit in a scaled-back version - with the traditional banquet cancelled.

Oil tanker that caught fire to pay \$1.8 mn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 24: The owners of the Greek-owned oil tanker that caught fire off Sri Lanka's eastern coast have agreed to settle the claim of \$1.8 million, officials said Thursday.

They agreed to pay the amount a week after Sri Lanka's Attorney General Dappula de Livera staked a claim of \$1.8 million for the costs incurred on dousing the fire on board the Panama-registered tanker MT New Diamond September 3.

New Diamond, a vessel under charter by the Indian Oil Corporation, was carrying 270,000 metric tonnes of crude oil from Mina Al Ahmadi port in Kuwait to the Indian port of Paradip when a boiler explosion in its engine room caused a fire off the coast of Sangamankanda in Ampara district. A Filipino crew member died and another was injured in the incident.

The Sri Lanka Navy with the help of Indian counterparts and coast guard doused the fire after great effort.

SMART WALKER



A flamingo is pictured on the beach of Kuwait City

UNI PHOTO

Legendary journalist Sir Harold Evans dies

REUTERS

New York, Sept 24: Sir Harold Evans, a British-American editor whose 70-year career as a hard-driving investigative journalist, magazine founder, book publisher and author made him one of the most influential media figures of his generation, died Wednesday at the age of 92.

Evans died of congestive heart failure in New York, according to his wife Tina Brown. A former editor of Britain's Sunday Times and, at his death, Reuters editor-at-large, Evans put a unique stamp on investigative journalism. Championing causes either overlooked or denied, he and his team uncovered human rights abuses and political scandals, and advocated for clean air



policies. One of his most famous investigations exposed the plight of hundreds of British thalidomide children who had never received any compensation for their birth defects. Evans organised a campaign to take on the drug companies responsible for manufacturing the drug, an effort that eventually won compensation for the families after more than a decade. Evans founded Conde Nast Traveler magazine and served as president and publisher of Random House from 1990 to 1997.

UK may inject volunteers with nCoV for vaccine trials

Around 2,000 potential volunteers have signed up for challenge studies in the UK through the US-based group I Day Sooner, campaigning for COVID-19 trials, and are expected to be paid a few thousand pounds for signing up to the upcoming trials

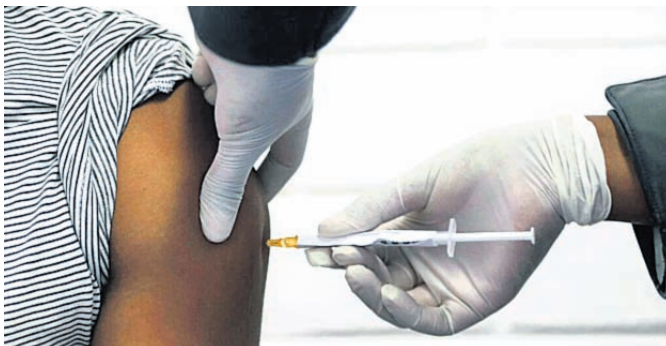
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 24: Scientists in the UK are moving towards what are being referred to as "challenge trials", which will involve healthy volunteers being deliberately infected with the novel coronavirus to test whether a vaccine offers any protection, according to a media report.

In the first trial of its kind expected to be formally announced next week, participants will be injected with an unnamed experimental vaccine and around a month later exposed to Sars-Cov-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. 'The Financial Times' reported.

The government-funded study is expected to begin in January, with the trials likely to take place in a large secure facility in Whitechapel in east London or nearby.

Around 2,000 potential volunteers have signed up for challenge studies in the UK through the US-based group I Day Sooner, campaigning for COVID-19 trials, and are expected to be paid a few thousand pounds for signing up to the upcoming trials, according to the newspaper. The project's academic leader is Imperial College London, and it will be run by hVivo, a spin-out from Queen Mary University of London that was bought earlier



this year by Open Orphan, a Ireland-based pharmaceutical research organisation.

Oxford University is also believed to be considering a similar "chal-

lenge trial" to test whether people have protective immunity from COVID-19 if they have been previously infected. A government spokesperson said it is looking into

collaborating on the potential development of a vaccine through human challenge studies.

Any trial that involves exposing people to the virus would need the approval of the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), as well as an independent research committee. "The safety of trial participants is our top priority and any proposal from a developer to include a human infection challenge as part of a clinical trial for development of a vaccine would be considered on a benefit-risk basis, with risks monitored for and minimised in the proposed trial design," the MHRA said.

Nepal-China border point reopens after 3-week closure

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kathmandu, Sept 24: The Rasuwagadhi-Kerung border point between Nepal and China reopened Thursday after it remained closed for around three weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a senior customs official said here.

The border point, which is one of the key trade routes between the two country, was closed after a Nepali worker tested positive for the novel coronavirus, reports Xinhua news agency.

Earlier, it reopened in early July



after it was closed for nearly six months firstly due to snowfall in the bordering Chinese region and later because of the COVID-19 outbreak. "Two containers of medical goods entered into Nepal after the reopening of border point Wednesday," senior customs officer at Rasuwagadhi, Punya Bikram Khadka told Xinhua. "Now, we hope the movement of goods will take place normally." According to the officer, there has been a restricted flow of goods through this border as both countries have adopted zero human-to-human contact policy between the two sides until the pandemic is over. The Tatopani-Zhangmu, another border point, which reopened in late March after closing in January, has also remained shut for the last few months.



We are looking to defer some of our refinery expansion projects to sync them with changes in demand patterns resulting from the pandemic and a gradual rise in the use of cleaner fuels

SHRIKANT MADHAV VAIDYA | CHAIRMAN, IOC

FB JOINS HANDS WITH MATRIX PARTNERS

Facebook has joined hands with early stage venture capital fund Matrix Partners to scale small businesses in India by providing them with timely digital skilling support. The move comes barely a week after the social networking giant announced a grant of ₹32 cr for more than 3,000 small businesses in five metropolises impacted by Covid-19



of the day quote

The Morrison government will undertake the most significant reforms to Australia's insolvency framework in 30 years as part of our economic recovery plan to keep businesses in business and Australians in jobs



JOSH FRYDENBERG | TREASURER OF AUSTRALIA

Dealers are looking at moving to smaller places with relatively low rent and also looking at rationalisation of manpower in order to carry forward in these challenges times



If we don't survive the short term (relating to Covid's second wave), there is no sense worrying about the medium to longer term. It's all hands on deck



CRAIG WRIGHT | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

RBI rejects all bids for outright OMO purchase



REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 24: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday rejected all the bids it received at its first outright open market purchase of bonds for this fiscal year, puzzling traders and investors.

The RBI had planned to buy up to ₹100 billion (\$1.35 billion) worth of six-year to 11-year papers at an open market operation (OMO). But despite receiving bids worth ₹664.73 billion in total, it did not accept any of them.

"The RBI seems unhappy with the bids offered. If the market is in stress as (traders) say they are due to the high supply, (the market) should be selling at reasonable levels," a senior trader at a private bank said.

"It is possible that RBI, which is also buying in the secondary market, feels that they can get better results there".

The benchmark 10-year bond yield rose to a session high of 6.03% after the OMO results were announced but ended the day steady

at 5.99%.

The central bank extended market trading hours by a total of two hours, which traders said reassured the market and suggested the RBI will buy bonds in the secondary market despite rejecting the bids at the OMO.

Several traders had been hopeful of more OMOs to help cope with the government's record market borrowing of ₹12 trillion this fiscal year, which could go up further if tax revenues remain muted and the government fails to raise funds from other avenues like divestments.

Thursday's failed auction however, the RBI announced another round of simultaneous purchase and sale of bonds worth ₹100 billion each October 1, similar to the US Fed-style 'Operation Twist', continuing with its practise thus far.

"The RBI seems to suggest that they don't want to add to market liquidity. Market will take it negatively," said A Prasanna, an economist with ICICI Securities Primary Dealership.

The RBI seems to suggest that they don't want to add to market liquidity. Market will take it negatively

A PRASANNA, ECONOMIST | ICICI SECURITIES PRIMARY DEALERSHIP

Harley-Davidson shuts down India manufacturing facility

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 24: American cult bike manufacturer Harley Davidson Thursday said it is discontinuing its current business model in India. As part of the process, the company is planning to close its manufacturing facility in Bawal (Haryana) and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon, the bike manufacturer said in a statement.

The company is communicating with its customers in India and will keep them updated on future support, it added. Its dealer network will continue to serve customers through the contract term, Harley Davidson said.

"As part of The Rewire, an overhaul of its operating model and market structure, the company is changing its business model in India and evaluating options to continue to serve its customers," it noted.

The Milwaukee-based company refers "The Rewire" as a term to describe restructuring actions related to employees and other services.

Industry sources said the com-



RESTRUCTURING ACTION PLAN

- The bike manufacturer seeks local partner to serve existing customers
- The India action will include an associated workforce reduction of around 70 employees
- The company expects to complete the restructuring activities in a year

pany is looking to tie up with a partner to run its business in the country. "These actions are aligned

with The Rewire which is planned to continue through the end of 2020, leading to The Hardwire, a new strategic plan for 2021-2025 aimed at building desirability for the Harley-Davidson brand and products," the statement said.

In a separate SEC filing, the American firm said that between August 6, 2020, and September 23, 2020, the company approved commitments to additional restructuring actions under "The Rewire" related to optimising its global dealer network, exiting certain international markets, and discontinuing its sales and manufacturing operations in India.

Market mayhem: Investors lose ₹11.31L cr in 6 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Investors have lost a whopping ₹11.31,815.5 crore in six days of market declines, with concerns over economic recovery sapping risk appetite. Falling for the sixth straight session, the BSE Sensex plunged 1,114.82 points or 2.96 per cent to close at 36,553.60 on Thursday, tracking a heavy selloff in global markets.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies stood at ₹1,48,76,217.22 crore, down by ₹11.31,815.5 crore in six sessions.

Since September 16, the 30-share BSE benchmark index has fallen by 2,749.25 points. In Thursday's trade, barring Hindustan Unilever, all Sensex constituents ended in the red. IndusInd Bank emerged as the biggest laggard, falling 7.10%, followed by Bajaj Finance, M&M, Tech Mahindra, TCS and Tata Steel.



SHORT TAKES

Flipkart Wholesale expands footprint

Bangalore: Digital business-to-business marketplace Flipkart Wholesale Thursday said it has expanded its operations to 12 new cities ahead of the festive season. Flipkart Wholesale will now be operational in Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Mysuru, Chandigarh Tricity, Meerut, Agra, Jaipur, Thane-Bhiwandi-Ulhasnagar, Greater Mumbai, Vasai-Virar-Mira-Bhayanadar, Thane (Kalyan-Dombivli) and Thane (Navi Mumbai). Expanding with the fashion category in these cities, Flipkart Wholesale said it is looking to digitally transform kiranas and MSMEs to help them grow faster, retain their customers, and improve their profitability.

Export boost to help pharma sector

Mumbai: Higher exports will help the Indian pharmaceutical sector come out "unscathed" from the coronavirus pandemic and deliver a marginally lower 9% revenue growth, ratings agency CRISIL said Thursday. Exports and domestic formulations account for an almost equal share in the ₹2.8-lakh crore domestic pharma sector, CRISIL said. It added, "In 2020-21, growth in exports at 11-12%, will outpace growth in domestic formulations expected at 5-6% from 10% in 2019-20."

Bhutani Infra to invest ₹5,000 cr

New Delhi: Realty firm Bhutani Infra Thursday said it will invest around ₹5,000 crore over the next four years to develop three commercial real estate projects in Noida and Greater Noida to cater the rising demand of office and retail spaces. The total area in these three projects, each around 25 acres in size, is 160 lakh sq ft, of which 20 lakh sq ft has already been constructed. The company plans to sell 75% of the area and will give the remaining 25% space on lease.

Imports fall leads to trade surplus

Wellington: New Zealand imports fell nearly NZ\$1 bn (\$650 mn) in August, leading to the country's largest annual trade surplus since 2014, the Stats NZ said Thursday. The NZ\$1.3 bn annual goods trade surplus reflected a rise in exports and a fall in imports over the past months; Xinhua news agency quoted Stats NZ as saying, "The recent falls in imports and growth in exports resulted in an annual trade surplus not seen since the strong 2013-2014 dairy export season," senior analyst Nicholas Cox said.

Samsung unveils Galaxy S20 FE fan edition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The popular smartphone maker Samsung has unveiled the much-awaited Fan Edition of its flagship-level phone Samsung Galaxy S20 FE, the newest member of the Galaxy S20 series. Galaxy S20 FE has been priced at \$699 (approximately ₹51,700) for the 5G variant.

Samsung took selected features of the Galaxy S20 series, such as the super smooth scrolling display, an AI-powered camera, advanced chipset, hyper-fast connectivity, all day battery, expandable storage, with a streamlined premium design, in order to create the all-new



Galaxy S20 FE.

President and Head of Mobile Communications Business for Samsung Electronics TM Roh said, "The S20 FE is an extension of the Galaxy S20 family and is the beginning of a new way to bring meaningful innovation to even more people to let them do things they love with the best of Galaxy."

The Galaxy S20 FE brings a pro-grade camera along with the 32MP selfie camera including tetra-binning

technology. With Galaxy S20 FE's large image sensors including multi-frame processing, users can take richer, more vibrant images — even in low light. Night mode multi-frame processing with AI frame integration stabilises motion in-shot while you record, so you can focus on having fun. The Galaxy S20 FE comes in a selection of six vibrant colors — cloud red, cloud orange, cloud lavender, cloud mint, cloud navy and cloud white.

Samsung equipped the Galaxy S20 FE with an advanced processor and 5G connectivity to enable a seamless experience. It is the perfect device for fluid scrolling or watching a video, thanks to its 6.5-

inch Infinity-O Super AMOLED screen with a super smooth 120Hz refresh rate.

The makers have equipped Galaxy S20 FE with 4,500mAh battery that offers powerful AP performance and super fast charging.

The new smartphone is also water and dust resistant IP68 rated. Moreover, Galaxy users get three generations of Android operating system (OS) upgrades.

Starting October 2, 2020, Galaxy S20 FE will be widely available through Samsung.com, carriers and retailers online. Pre-orders for the Galaxy S20 FE 5G and S20 FE began on Samsung.com on September 23, 2020.

BIZ BUZZ

Jio starts offering mobile services on int'l flights



New Delhi: Reliance Jio has started offering mobile services on 22 flights on international routes, with plans starting at ₹499 per day. The company's partner airlines include Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Etihad Airways, Euro Wings, Lufthansa, Malindo Air, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, and Alitalia. With this, Jio has become the second Indian telecom company to offer in-flight service. Tata group firm Nelco has started providing in-flight mobile services in Vistara airlines on the London route. The company has announced three international roaming packs for international travellers from India priced at ₹499, ₹699 and ₹999 with 1-day validity. While all plans offer 100 minutes of outgoing voice calls and 100 SMS, the ₹499 plan provides 250 megabyte (MB) of mobile data, ₹699 gives 500 MB and ₹999 plan comes with 1 GB of data.

MG Motor unveils premium SUV Gloster

New Delhi: MG Motor India Thursday unveiled its premium SUV Gloster, which is equipped with the first level of autonomous driving feature as the company looks to be among the frontrunners in India in the connected, autonomous, shared and electric (CASE) segment. The company has opened pre-bookings for the vehicle, which will be launched in the market in October when its full prices will also be announced. Customers can pre-book with a down payment of ₹1 lakh at the company's dealerships or online.



'Hindi Day' celebrations conclude

Bhubaneswar: The Balasore Region of Union Bank of India concluded Hindi Day Celebrations. Sudarsan Sethi, DGM from Field General Manager's office, Bhubaneswar was the chief guest on the occasion. He emphasised the need of the use of Hindi in business development of the bank. Sethi further said that the customer is 'supreme' for bankers and it was utmost important to provide them best service. He appealed the staff members to seize the opportunity of drastic rate-cut in home loan advances in order to enhance the home loan portfolio of the bank. Sovan Sengupta, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region said that a host of e-tools like unicode, voice typing, phonetic key board, google translation, e-Mahashabdakosh etc were available to promote Hindi.



SUNAK ANNOUNCES CRISIS PLAN TO SAVE JOBS IN UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 24: UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak Thursday unveiled a new COVID-19 emergency Jobs Support Scheme, which will see the government top-up wages of workers covering up to two-thirds of their hours for the next six months.

In a statement to the House of Commons on his "Winter Economy Plan", the Indian-origin finance minister reiterated his past message that he may not be able to protect every job and business suffering through the coronavirus pandemic lockdown, but his new set of measures are intended to provide "absolutely maximum support possible".

"Our approach to the next phase of support must be different from that which came before. The primary goal of our economic policy remains unchanged — to support people's jobs — but



the way we achieve that must evolve," said Sunak.

Nearly three million workers - or 12 per cent of the UK's workforce - are currently on partial or full furlough leave, the BBC reported.

The new Jobs Support Scheme will replace the existing furlough or Jobs Retention Scheme, which saw the government bear the burden of wages for workers sent on furlough, or forced leave, during the peak phases of the lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

PANDEMIC IMPACT

9/10 cautious about spending going forward: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 24: With the record-setting coronavirus caseload creating more uncertainty about jobs and economic recovery, nine in ten people polled in the country are worried and cautious about spending going forwards, says a survey.

According to a global survey by British lender Standard Chartered Bank Thursday, "as much as 90% of Indian respondents say the pandemic has made them more careful with their expenditure now. Globally, only 75% say so".

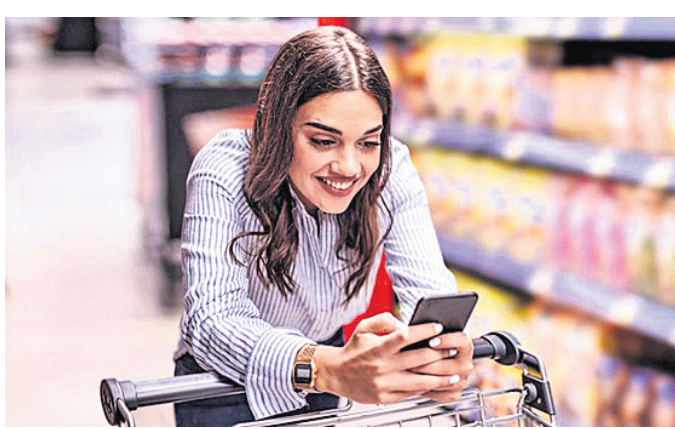
Reflecting this increased caution, 76% of Indian respondents as against 62% globally feel that the economic impact of the pandemic has made them more likely to track their spending, with over 80% either using or interested in using budgeting tools or tools that block card-

spend over specified limits, says the survey.

They also want new ways to track their money digitally even as a vast majority of 78% of the Indian respondents say they will shop more online while the global average is only around two-thirds.

Consumers around the world, including in India, are now spending more on basics such as groceries and healthcare and digital devices than they did prior to the pandemic, and they expect this increase to continue in the future. Also, a full 64% of Indians in the survey said they have spent less on travel/holidays than they did before the pandemic (64% globally), while 30% have spent less on experiences (41% globally) and 56% have spent less on clothes (55% globally).

The survey assumes this trend to continue in India with 41% saying



they anticipate spending less on travel/holidays, 19% on experiences and 28% on clothes in the future.

Also, Indians are more likely to shop conscientiously than the average global consumers as over two-thirds say they are now more

likely to shop locally (72%), more sustainably sourced products (69%) and with small businesses (73%).

The online survey -- conducted among 12,000 adults across 12 markets of Britain, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, China, Malaysia,

way the global health crisis is changing consumer spending habits.

Respondents in all the 12 markets want to do more online shopping from now on because of the pandemic but in India, the preference for online shopping has shifted significantly.

Prior to the pandemic, only 54% of Indians preferred to shop online versus in-person, but this is now 69% for future purchases. This higher preference for online shopping/payments is true across a range of purchases, from groceries and travel to digital devices, says the survey.

As a result, 87% of Indians in the survey as against 64% globally now expect their country to go fully cashless, the highest in any country surveyed, with a majority expecting this to happen by 2025, says the survey.



RAHUL BLITZKRIEG, BOWLERS LIFT KXIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 24: Skipper KL Rahul (132 n o, 69b, 14x4, 7x6) smashed the first century of the 2020 Indian Premier League (IPL) to propel Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) to a daunting 206/3 before their bowlers bundled out Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for a paltry 109 to script a massive 97-run victory here, Thursday.

It was a completely lopsided contest. First RCB bowlers, sans Yuzvendra Chahal (1/25), were hardly posed any threat to Rahul, and then the KXIP bowlers did their job quite magnificently.

RCB had to deal with a tragic start to their chase as they were reduced to 4/3 inside opening three overs, losing Devdutt Padikkal (1), Josh Philippe (0), who was promoted up the batting order, and skipper Virat Kohli (1).

Apart from Aaron Finch (20), AB de Villiers (28), Washington Sundar (30) and Shivam Dube (12), none of the RCB batsmen reached double figures. Leg-spinners Murugan Ashwin (3/21) and young Ravi Bishnoi (3/32) shared six wickets between them, while Sheldon Cottrell (2/17) bagged two of the first three RCB wickets. Mohammed Shami (1/14) and Glenn Maxwell (1/10) took a wicket each.



Aaron Finch was bowled by Ravi Bishnoi (not in picture), Thursday

132* Score of KL Rahul in this match as he surpassed Rishabh Pant to post the highest individual score by an Indian in IPL history. Pant had scored 128 not out against Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2018

60 No. of innings taken by Rahul to reach 2000 runs in IPL, fastest by an Indian, surpassing the previous record of Sachin Tendulkar (63)

Earlier, Rahul, who was dropped in the 17th over, while he was on 83, and then again in the 18th over by Kohli, played the role of sheet anchor.

Opening the batting with Rahul, Mayank Agarwal (26) looked dangerous and shared a 57-run stand with his captain. However, with the introduction of spin into the attack in the seventh over, Chahal struck with the last ball, cleaning up Agarwal (26) with a delightful googly.

Nicholas Pooran (17) and Glenn Maxwell (5) once again failed to make an impact as Shivam Dube (2/33) accounted for the duo. Karun Nair pitched in with an eight-ball 15.

The pace trio of Umesh Yadav (0/35), Dale Steyn (0/57) and Navdeep Saini (0/37) had a torrid time as the KXIP skipper was on fire in his second game as captain. All players wore black armbands

to honour Australian cricketer-turned-commentator Dean Jones, who died in Mumbai due to a cardiac arrest Thursday.

BRIEF SCORES

Kings XI Punjab 206/3 (KL Rahul 132 n o, Mayank Agarwal 26; Shivam Dube 2/33) **beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 109** (Washington Sundar 30; Murugan Ashwin 3/21, Ravi Bishnoi 3/32, Sheldon Cottrell 2/17) **by 97 runs.**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 24: Skipper MS Dhoni's much-awaited promotion in the batting order will be an area of interest when Chennai Super Kings strive to pick up pieces against a confident Delhi Capitals in their third IPL encounter Friday.

The shock defeat against Rajasthan Royals on a batting belt in Sharjah could be primarily attributed to a poor show by their spinners along with a disastrous 20th over but the batsmen can't absolve themselves completely, especially Murali Vijay, Kedar Jadhav and the skipper himself.

Dhoni had come in to bat at No.7, promoting the likes of Sam Curran, Jadhav and Ruturaj Gaikwad ahead of himself but the play backfired badly leaving Faf du Plessis with too much work in too little time.

While his fans still swear by his six-hitting ability, a closer look would show that Dhoni is unable to change the gears against express pace and it was only when Tom Curran came with his medium fast, Dhoni launched an attack. That too when the match as a contest was over.

However on a big Dubai ground with bigger-sized boundaries, the skipper can rotate the strike better unlike Sharjah and also take those extra deliveries to settle down.

For Delhi Capitals, winning a cliffhanger right at the onset would have given them a lot of

confidence even though Ravichandran Ashwin's probable absence after a shoulder injury could force them to reshuffle their bowling line-up.

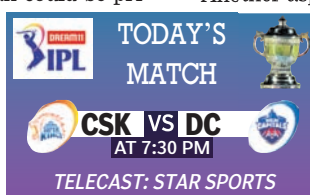
Senior spinner Amit Mishra could be an option to partner Axar Patel in case Ashwin is unable to make it. The cushion of bigger boundaries can always help a wrist-spinner attack more by tossing the ball up.

Another aspect will be pacer Mohit Sharma's performance. While Mohit got KL Rahul at the beginning but his loose deliveries at the back-end made things difficult for the Capitals even as Kagiso Rabada bowled tightly at one end.

Against a side like CSK which revels in attacking the last 10 overs, the Capitals might like to try Harshal Patel, who is also a handy batsman at any number having opened in domestic cricket.

Anrich Nortje in his first IPL game wasn't bad but left-armers Daniel Sams could create those awkward angles that batsmen dislike. Shimron Hetmyer is likely to get one more chance unless Ricky Ponting wants to bring in some stability in the form of Alex Carey.

Talking of big hitters, Delhi has one too many in their line-up including Prithvi Shaw, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, skipper Shreyas Iyer and last match's hero Marcus Stoinis, who would like to throw up an open challenge for Piyush Chawla and Ravindra Jadeja, who had a forgettable last outing.



TODAY'S MATCH
CSK vs DC
AT 7:30 PM
TELECAST: STAR SPORTS

COMMENTS ON MI-KKR MATCH

ROHIT SHARMA: It is not easy to play long innings here (in UAE). It takes a lot out of you to play in these conditions. Maybe I was a bit tired in the end and it was a lesson for us that one set batsmen needs to bat deep till the end

DINESH KARTHIK: Pretty rusty day to be honest. Don't want to be too analytical about it. The boys know where they need to get better. (Pat) Cummins and (Eoin) Morgan just finished their quarantine today (Wednesday). So it is not easy to come in and play in this heat

TRENT BOULT: I wouldn't say I'm comfortable in these heat and conditions. It's a big challenge to bowl against the likes of Morgan and Russell but it's nice to come out on the winning side tonight. I have been bowling back in New Zealand and it's winter there, that's been the biggest challenge but everyone is excited to have cricket around



DEAN JONES dies of cardiac arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 24: Former Australia batsman Dean Jones, one of the finest exponents of ODI cricket, died of sudden cardiac arrest here, Thursday.

Jones, 59, was in Mumbai with the Star Sports' commentary team for the IPL. He was in a bio-bubble in a city hotel. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. He played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia and was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team.

A player well ahead of his time, Jones scored over ODI 6,068 runs at an average of 44.61 with seven hundreds and 46 fifties.

For Indian fans, he will forever remain in their memory for the historic tied Test at Chhapauk, where he laid the foundation of a big Australian score with an unbeaten double hundred in challenging conditions.

There was an iconic picture of Jones throwing up while batting and so severely dehydrated he was that had to be admitted to a hospital during the course of the Test match.

There is a famous anecdote from that Test match when Jones was suffering from cramps. "I want a tough Tasmanian and not a weak Victorian," was what Border said, something that spurred Jones on.

In ODI cricket and those numerous World Series Cup matches

on Australia's Channel 9, Jones, clad in yellow jersey and the lips lined with zinc cream is still etched in memories of the late 80s and early 90s generation.

In his post retirement life he performed the role of a cricket analyst for various channels, primarily in South Asia - India and Pakistan, where he was immensely popular.

One of the Indian news channel named him 'Professor Deano', a moniker that stuck with him and was also his twitter handle.

REACTIONS

SACHIN TENDULKAR: Absolutely heartbreaking news about Dean Jones passing away. A wonderful soul taken away too soon. Had the opportunity to play against him during my first tour of Australia. May his soul rest in peace and my condolences to his loved ones

SUNIL GAVASKAR: He was one of the most dynamic of cricketers, also as you said with the mic, he set new standards and that's what he did with the bat as well

DAVID WARNER: I can't believe this news. So very sad to hear about this. Rip Deano, you will be missed

AARON FINCH: Still in shock hearing the news of Deano's passing. Thoughts are with Jane and the family at this incredibly tough time. A great man with an amazing passion for the game

Havertz treble scripts Chelsea victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 24: Three goals for Kai Havertz and a debut for Thiago Silva. Things are slowly falling into place for Chelsea after their off-season spending spree.

After two underwhelming appearances in the Premier League, Havertz — signed for USD 92 million from German club Bayer Leverkusen — announced himself in English football by scoring a first career hat-trick in Chelsea's 6-0 win over second-tier Barnsley in the third round of the League Cup Wednesday.

The 21-year-old Germany international played in his favored position behind the striker after being tried in various roles in the forward line so far against Brighton and Liverpool by manager Frank Lampard.

He looked more at home as a No.10 and his finishing was assured, albeit against modest opposition. "It was a great night for



ON A ROLL: Kai Havertz wheels away in celebration after scoring one of his three goals against Barnsley, Wednesday

Kai," Lampard said, "and the first of many for him."
Silva, meanwhile, lasted 61 min-

utes before being withdrawn by Lampard as the Brazil center back looks to build up match sharpness

OTHER RESULTS
Luton Town 0 - 3 Man United
Leicester City 0 - 2 Arsenal
Fleetwood Town 2 - 5 Everton
Morecambe 0 - 7 Newcastle United

before a league debut, which could come at West Bromwich Albion Saturday.

Chelsea has spent more than USD 250 million on new players ahead of this season, with Timo Werner, Hakim Ziyech and Ben Chilwell also joining for big fees. Chilwell came on as a 66th-minute substitute against Barnsley for his debut, replacing Havertz, and set up the sixth goal scored by Olivier Giroud.

Chelsea will next play Tottenham or fourth-tier Leyton Orient, whose third-round fixture Tuesday was postponed after some Orient players contracted the coronavirus.

Ankita out of French Open qualifiers

Paris: Ankita Raina could not go past the second round at the French Open qualifiers, suffering a straight set defeat against Japan's Kurumi Nara here, Thursday. Ankita, India's top singles player, lost the second round contest 3-6, 2-6 in one hour and 21 minutes. Ankita's defeat means that no Indian will compete in the singles main draw of the clay court Grand Slam. Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajesh Gunneswaran have already bowed out of the men's singles qualifiers. Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan will compete in the men's doubles with their respective partners.



Ibrahimovic tests positive for COVID-19

Milan: AC Milan forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic, 38, has tested positive for COVID-19, the Serie A club said in a statement Thursday. AC Milan said that the Swede would miss the Europa League match against Bodo. The club statement reads: "Zlatan Ibrahimovic has tested positive for COVID-19 following a second round of swab tests ahead of tonight's (Thursday) game against Bodo/Glimt. The Club has informed the relevant authorities and the player has been promptly placed in quarantine at home." He is the second Milan player to test positive after defender Leo Duarte did so Tuesday.



Suarez bids adieu to Barca

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 24: Luis Suarez is staying in Spain after all, not in Barcelona though. Barcelona said late Wednesday that they reached a deal with rivals Atletico Madrid for the transfer of the Uruguayan striker for six million euros.

Suarez was let go by Barcelona following six mostly successful seasons in which he won 13 titles with the Catalan club. He leaves as Barcelona's third highest scorer ever with 198 goals, behind Cesar Rodriguez (232) and Lionel Messi (634).

The 33-year-old Suarez had to find a new club after being told by new Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman that he was not in his plans.

Messi, Suarez's longtime friend and teammate, wanted to leave but

will stay after the club denied his request for a free transfer at the end of last season.

Barcelona said it wanted to publicly express its 'gratitude to Luis Suarez for his commitment and dedication', and wished him 'all the best for the future'.

The club said Suarez will give a news conference Thursday. He reportedly bid farewell to his teammates earlier Wednesday.

Spanish media said Barcelona had initially made an agreement with Suarez to allow him to leave for free, but later backtracked after it became known that he wanted to go to rival Atletico. Suarez's lawyers had been negotiating with the Catalan club since Tuesday to try to make his move to Atletico possible.

Suarez, who arrived in Barcelona from Liverpool in 2014, will be joining Atletico's Argentine coach Diego Simeone, who has always praised Suarez and is also known to carry the same hard-working, never-give-up attitude as the Uruguayan striker.

Suarez had initially looked set to join Juventus in Italy, and had even taken a test to receive a European passport that could help him complete the move. But the deal fell through because the passport process reportedly would take too long, and Juventus decided to go after Atletico's Alvaro Morata, opening space for Suarez in Simeone's squad.

Simeone still has Diego Costa and Joao Felix as their main attackers, but the duo only scored 14 goals combined for Atletico last season, seven fewer than Suarez scored for Barcelona.

The Catalan club had already added young Portugal forward Francisco Trincao this season. It still has Antoine Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele and youngster Ansu Fati, who Wednesday was officially added to the first team and had his buy-out clause increased from 170 mil-



HOLDING TEARS: Luis Suarez wears a gloomy look as he drives away from Barcelona training ground after his final practice session, Wednesday

lion euros to 400 million euros. Martin Braithwaite also is an option for Koeman up front.

Atletico will make its Spanish league debut on Sunday against Granada at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium.

Tvesa makes cut in Lavaux Ladies Open



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Geneva, Sept 24: Tvesa Malik recovered from her first round card of 2-over 74 to shoot even par 72 and make the cut at the Lavaux Ladies Open here Thursday.

Tvesa, who finished T-10 last week at the Lacoste Open de France on the Ladies European Tour, was T-38 after the first round and moved up to T-31 at the end of 36 holes. The 54-hole event finishes Friday.

Tvesa's playing partner Pia Babnik, a hugely talented teen star, added 9-under 63 to her first 3-under 69 to get to 12-under and lead by five shots over overnight leader, Agathe Sauzon (67-71) who is at 7-under 135. Argentine amateur Magdalena Simmermacher (69-69) was third at 6-under.

Tvesa had a birdie on second and then suffered a setback with back-to-back bogeys on third and fourth. She reached even par with a birdie on Par-5 fifth. A bogey on 10th and a birdie on 12th with rest being pars ensured even par 72.