

Mumbai, Sept 26: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Saturday questioned Hindi film actors Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor for several hours in a drugs case in connection with the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Besides the three actors, the NCB also questioned Deepika's former manager Karishma Prakash. According to NCB sources, Deepika and Karishma were "evasive" on alleged procurement of drugs as was indicated in an alleged chat of October 2017

Deepika, who arrived at the NCB office before 10 am at the agency's guesthouse in Colaba area, left around 3.30 pm. Even Karishma, who deposed for the second time Saturday at 10.45 am, left around 3.30 pm.

The NCB has got the details of the chats of Deepika and Karishma from October 2017 wherein the two were discussing drugs and planned to meet at Club Koko. Deepika and Karishma were summoned by the NCB after their names came to the fore in the drug-related case.

Meanwhile, Shraddha, who appeared at the NCB office around 11.45 a.m., left the NCB office in

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan reach the NCB office, Saturday

the Ballard Pier area at 6 p.m. Sara, who arrived at the NCB office around 1 p.m., was questioned for over four and half hours.

Shraddha's name came to the fore after her alleged chat with Sushant's former manager Jaya Saha asking for CBD oil came to the fore and also that she visited Pawna resort along with Sushant.

Meanwhile, troubles for Sara mounted after Sushant's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, during one of the television interviews, claimed that the late actor caught the habit of smoking marijuana while shooting for Kedarnath. Sara starred with Sushant in the film. Deepika was summoned Wednesday when she was in Goa for the shooting of a film. She arrived in Mumbai Thursday and was set to appear Friday. But on the request of Deepika's legal team, the NCB post-

poned it to Saturday.



(From L) Actors Deepika Padukone,

NCB grills Deepika, Sara Ali, Shraddha AGENCIES Mumbai, Sept 26: The Narcotics FIN MIN SOURCES DISMISS ALLEGATIONS OF 'DIVERSION' **COMPENSATION CESS FUND**

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 26: Finance ministry sources have countered CAG audit finding of Central government wrongly retaining ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess meant for states, saying temporary retention cannot be termed as diversion.

Days after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged that the Centre in first two years of the GST implementation wrongly retained GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss of revenue, ministry sources said compensation due for the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 was fully paid to states.

Time taken in reconciliation of compensation receipts cannot be termed as diversion of GST cess fund when the dues to states were fully released by the Central government, they said.

Sources said that in 2017-18, ₹62,611 crore was collected, out of which the government released full compensation dues of ₹41,146 crore to the states and union territories (UTs).

In 2018-19, an amount of ₹95,081 crore was collected, out of which ₹69,275 crore was paid as full compensation dues to



states and UTs. They said an amount of ₹47,271 crore collected in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 had remained unutilised for reconciliation post full payment of GST compensation dues.

For the year 2019-20, the Central government released ₹1,65,302 crore as GST compensation against a cess collection of ₹95,444 crore which it could do so with the unutilised cess of ₹47,271 crore.

The GST (Compensation to States) Act guarantees all states an annual growth rate of 14 per cent in their GST revenue in the first five years of implementation of GST beginning July 2017. It was introduced as a relief for states for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.

If a state's revenue grows slower than



The collected compensation cess flows into the consolidated fund of India (CFI). and is then transferred to the Public Account of India, where a GST compensation cess account has been created. States are compensated bi-monthly from the accumulated funds in this account. However, instead of transferring the entire GST cess amount to the GST compensation fund during 2017-18 and 2018-19, the CAG found that the Centre retained these funds in the CFI and used it for other purposes.



Saffron loses its oldest ally as Akalis quit NDA



AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Sept 26: The Shiromani Akali Dal has quit the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the farm Bills issue, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal Saturday night.

He made the announcement after holding a core committee meeting of the party here.

"The highest decisionmaking body of the Shiromani Akali Dal core committee at its emergency meeting FARM BILLS here FALLOUT tonight decided unanimously to pull out of the BJP-led NDA al-

liance," he said. According to a party state ment issued here, he said the decision to guit the NDA was taken "because of the Centre's stubborn refusal to give statutory legislative

the Shiv Sena and the TDP. Badal said the SAD will continue to stand by its core principles of peace, communal harmony and guard the interest of Punjab and Punjabi in general, and Sikhs and farmers in particular. guarantees to protect as-He said the decision has sured marketing of farmbeen taken in consultation ers' crops on MSP and its with the people of Punjab, continued insensitivity to especially party workers Punjabi and Sikh issues like and farmers.

the NDA was t ecause of the

to give statutory legisla

assured marketing of

tees to protect

farmers' crops on MSP and

its continued insensitivity

age in Jammu an

excluding Punjabi language

as official language in

third major NDA ally to pull

out of the grouping after

Jammu and Kashmir.' The SAD becomes the

SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | CHIEF, SAU

to Punjabi and Sikh issu

like excluding Punjab

language as official

Centre's stubborn re



To ensure that the oxygen is

The new ceiling prices are

available at reasonable rates, the government has capped manufacturers' prices at 15.22 rupees per cubic metre (CUM), the statement said. Prices of a cubic metre of medical oxygen delivered by cylinder

such as hospitals and clinics which use the oxygen.

to end-users has been fixed at 25.71



SHORT TAKES

I completely trust the

govts. Especially their

inefficiency.

Man held for making fake Covid-19 vaccine

Bhubaneswar: A man was arrested in Bargarh district on charges of manufacturing a dubious vaccine for Covid-19, said an official Saturday. The authorities conducted a raid and busted a fake Covid-19 vaccine manufacturing unit at Rushuda village under the Bheden Police Station in Bargarh Friday. They seized several vials labelled as Covid-19 vaccine, some powder and chemical materials from his possession. Surprisingly, the 32-year-old accused Prahallad Bisi has only studied up to Class VII. "After getting information, we raided the unit and found Bisi preparing a large quantity of fake Covid-19 vaccines

applicable for six months and exclude taxes India's demand for medical oxygen has increased by

almost four times to 2,800 tonnes a day, straining production and supply

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 26: India said Saturday it was capping the price of liquid oxygen used to treat victims of novel coronavirus and other respiratory diseases after complaints of hoarding and shortages, as total Covid infections hit 5.9 million countrywide. The Indian health ministry

Saturday reported more than 85.000 cases in the last 24 hours. "Due to the absence of a price cap

on liquid medical oxygen, manufacturers have hiked prices to fillers," the government said in a statement, referring to off-takers

rupees, higher than the previous ceiling price of 17.49/CUM. The new ceiling prices are applicable for six months and exclude taxes. India's demand for medical oxy-

gen has increased by almost four times to 2,800 tonnes a day, straining production and supply, the statement said.

COVID WORSENS IN STATE WITH HIKE IN DAILY SPIKE BHUBANESWAR: Odisha recorded its biggest single-day spike of 4.356 Covid-19 positive cases in the last 24 hours, taking the state's total tally to 2,05,452, said a health official Saturday.

The state's Covid-19 death toll increased to 783 with 16 more patients succumbing to the virus in the last 24 hours. Khurda recorded four deaths -three each in Koraput and Puri districts; one each in Balasore, Bolangir,

Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj districts.

Ahead of the World Tourism Day Sunday, workers sanitise railings at Taj Mahal after it reopened

for visitors, amid the coronavirus pandemic in Agra, Saturday

Bizman dupes senior citizen of ₹70L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: A businessman has allegedly duped an elderly person of around ₹70 lakhs on the pretext of availing him a homestead plot in the city. The victim, Chhabindra Nath Patra, recently lodged a complaint with the Badagada police in this regard.

According to the complaint, the accused and the victim hail from Gop area of Puri district. The accused has been doing wholesale trade of beetle leaf in Gop area.

The accused used to visit Patra's residence here often and seek monetary help from him. Patra, due to repeated requests by the accused, finally agreed to lend him Rs70 lakhs July 1, 2019. The accused also promised Patra to avail a plot at a prominent area of the city in lieu of the loan amount.

Patra later signed an agreement with the accused July 11, 2019 before a notary here. According to the agreement, the accused would officially register the plot in Patra's name within a few months of the

receipt of the money. However, he started avoiding Patra after getting the money. Meanwhile, the businessman later gave four cheques amounting to ₹70 lakh when Patra reached at his home

However, when Patra deposited all the four cheques in different banks for realisation, the cheques bounced due to insufficient balance in the respective accounts.

Upon enquiry, Patra later found that the documents like sale deeds as well as the cheques were forged by the accused.

Economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia breathes her last

She was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature



NEW REGIONAL PARTIES SET TO ENTER POLITICAL FRAY AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS In Bihar, it's not only BJP vs. Grand Alliance

Diesel price drops again for 2nd day

Bhubaneswar: Diesel prices in the Capital continued to fall on the second consecutive day. Diesel price, Saturday, was dropped by 17 paisa while petrol price remained static for the fourth consecutive day. After the deduction, diesel price stands at ₹77.26. Petrol price was paused at ₹81.66.

Diesel- ₹77.26 (- 17p) Petrol- ₹81.66 (no change)



AGENCIES

Patna, Sept 26: As the Election Commission announced the dates for the Bihar Assembly elections, it seems to be a direct fight between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the RJD-led **Opposition Grand Alliance** (Mahagathbandhan). However, in these elections several rookie parties and groupings will also be in the political fray.

Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP),

Janata Dal (Rashtrawadi),

One such grouping is the Left others. which had to be content with very few seats in the previous elections. Many other outfits will also come before the voters after having fought previous elections in alliance with other parties. These include the



Jantantrik Vikas Party (JVP) and

Former MP Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party (JAP) has announced it will contest on 150 seats. It is no secret that Yadav, a former RJD leader, has carved his own political space in many regions of Bihar. Speculation is rife that he will benefit from the hard work done in the last five years in some regions.

Pappu Yadav said Bihar is frustrated with the ruling party and the Opposition and was looking for an alternative political narrative offered by him.

JVP Chief Anil Kumar has also announced he will field party candidates on 150 seats. The party is considered strong in Buxar, Bhojpur and

Rohtas districts.

Kumar said the development which has been claimed to have been done in Bihar has been exposed during the ongoing corona pandemic and such fake develop-

- Former MP Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party will contest on 150 seats
- JVP chief Anil Kumar has also announced to field candidates on 150 seats
- Former MP Ranjan Yadav, who has worked with RJD prez Lalu Prasad Yadav, is also in the electoral fray contesting on a Janata Dal (Rashtrawadi) ticket

ment promises were known to the people.

Former MP Ranjan Yadav, who has worked with RJD President

Lalu Prasad Yadav in the past, is also in the electoral fray contesting on a Janata Dal (Rashtrawadi) ticket in these elections. Party workers showed their strength Friday, taking to the streets in protest against the farm Bills passed by Parliament.

Janata Dal (Rashtrawadi) Convenor Ashfaq Rahman said his party is contesting as a constituent of the Union Democratic Alliance (UDA) which gives people an alternative political choice.

The performance of the Left-centric parties is also not considered to be better in Bihar. In the last elections, the Left parties had to be content with only three seats. However, in this election the Left is set to enter the political arena aligning with the Opposition Grand Alliance.

New Delhi, Sept 26: Economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia passed away at her New Delhi residence Saturday morning after a long battle with high-grade cancer for months. She was 74.

She was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature. She would have turned 75 October 1.

The wife of India's leading economic policy driver, and former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Isher Judge carved her niche in the sector serving as the head of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Affairs for 15 years.

Isher Judge stepped down as the chairperson of ICRIER August 10, this year, on account of her poor health. She was elected as the Chairperson of the Councilat the Annual General Meeting held August 8, 2005.















LONGORIA TO HELM, PLAY LEAD **IN ACTION COMEDY SPA DAY**

Hollywood star Eva Longoria will direct and play the lead in upcoming action comedy Spa Day. The 45-year-old actor will also produce the film, alongside Ben Spector through their UnbeliEVAble Entertainment banner, reported Variety. The plot details have been kept under wraps.

YARA SHAHIDI TO PLAY TINKER BELL IN DISNEY'S LIVE-ACTION PETER PAN

Grown-ish star Yara Shahidi will be playing Tinker Bell in Disney's live-action Peter Pan, an animaited classic made in 1953. Shahidi joins newcomers Alexander Molony and Ever Anderson in the film, titled Peter Pan & Wendy, reported Deadline.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**



Ganesha anticipates some exciting times for you. You are likely to meet some people today who will prove to be assets in the future. You apply yourself to perfection in work, and in your thinking

TAURUS

Today might be a day of untying and getting out of the tangles, says

Ganesha. You may take the blame for the actions of another. Things may get frustrating around the afternoon and your confidence levels may stoop

GEMINI

You are likely to be concerned about your finances, jointly held assets and property, says Ganesha. Also, you will be a little edgy today. Even the most insignificant problems will damper your mood. You will probably take chances in money matters

CANCER

People will surround vou. You will entertain them with your hilarity. Social contacts will ben efit you. Students will excel and concentrate on their work. It will be a good day. says Ganesha

I FO Decisions taken in haste

will prove to be harmful. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of every decision that you take today, considering all the possible alternative thoroughly. You need to be extremely industrious on the work-front as well.

VIRGO Today, you will be

aspire to be a master of your own destiny. You have the ability to see through the façade that people put up to shield their true self. You wil choose your company wisely and plan for success. Polish your presentation skills and you may need to work an extra bit to get your ideas approved, says Ganesha.



Adah on what she looks for in roles

Mumbai: Actress Adah Sharma wants her characters to be of importance in a script, even if she plays a de-

"I would love to be

running around trees

and I love to play the

demure girl, which I

have played in a few

of my south films.

My point was even if

I am a demure

girl or running

around trees, I

want that to be

important in the

script," said the

"Whatever I

am doing I want

that to be impor-

tant to the script.

So, for me picking

1920 actress.

a role is not

the trees.

she explained. What does she want for while taking up a script? "I mure girl running around

want it (the character) to be important to the plot. If you take away the

(about) sweet girl or bad girl,

character from the story, will the story still work Sometimes I do movies

where, yes, if vou remove the character the story would still work," she

said

When Shakti helped Chunky at 20 pc commission

Mumbai: Popular screen villain Shakti Kapoor once helped actor Chunky Panday find his feet in Hindi film industry.

Chunky worked with Shakti in his debut film, the multi-starrer Aag Hi Aag that released in 1987. Soon, Shakti Kapoor was helping Chunky find his feet in the film industry.

"Chunky did his first film Aag Hi Aag with me, and I was very impressed with him At a party in a hotel, I took him to Rakesh Roshan and said if he doesn't sign him, he would lose an opportunity as he is a future superstar. Later, I took him to about 25 producers and directors, everyone gave him ₹500 or ₹1000 as signing amount. After leaving the party, I took 20 per cent of the amount!' Shakti recalled. IANS

'During lockdown, couples got pregnant or divorced' Mumbai: Actress Aahana Kumra,

who plays the female protagonist in the upcoming digital film, Rules Of The Game, says her character in the film is unusual and it brought out the crazy streak in her.

"The character I played in the film had no reference point for me because I am not married. Also, not often are such characters and equations between couples explored in films," Aahana said.

The film also features Chandan Roy Sanyal and Anindita Bose. It is written by Gazal Dhaliwal and directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury of Pink fame.

Sharing her experience of working with the director, who is known by his nickname Tony in film circuits, Aahana said: "Honestly, Toni da brought out the crazy in me during the shoot. This couple is doing role play. They are trying to create the spark in their sex life as they have been married for a long time. The story is relatable because in the last five months of lockdown couples either got pregnant or divorced. I mean, two extremes -- a series of discoveries happen to couples!." Rules Of The Game is part of the Zee5 series Forbidden Love

'Live Anywhere' travel's emerging trend

WORLD TOURISM DAY

A study reveals that over 20 per cent of all searches in last three-month period in India, have been for long-term stays at a property

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Online searches for accommodations over the past few months are reflecting how consumers are viewing travel in the new normal, and several unique trends are emerging, reveals a report.

From digital nomads, and millennials to solo-travellers and families, all are looking at newer use-cases for travel dur-

ing the pandemic. Some of the key trends paint a picture of travel in the new nor-

Digital nomads go for Live Anywhere: Data by Airbnb, an online market place company. suggests that over 20 per cent of all searches within the last threemonth period in India, have been



mote working infrastructure people are willing to relocate to new accommodations for months at a time.

Reconnecting with nature: In the past 90 days, while 45 per cent of searches by travellers were for tree houses. Searches for barns and farm stays stood

at 41 per cent and 34 per cent respectively. With summer coming

Commenting on these trends Amanpreet Bajaj, General

Manager - Airbnb India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, said: "There is a gradual shift in consumer behaviour towards travel. Our recent search trends have pointed to the fact that travellers are looking to explore safe and hygienic accommodations that offer flexibility. Bookings trends have shown us that unique stays and large homes have emerged as a choice for family and friends to be together for breaks and longer stay options

What is clearly emerging is that while travel as we know it is still on the path of recovery, people are eager to see the world



searched-for destination for homestays, followed by Lonavala, Shimla and Uttarakhand.

According to search trends from this period, guests travelling to Goa were looking for amenities such as a relaxing pool, gardens, and traditional Portuguese villas - further, the top 7 most wishlisted homes in India are in Goa.

undertaking of various tough tasks and completing them today will showcase your business acumen. You will show your inclination to the finer arts like music and dance

SCORPIO

Ganesha predicts you will possibly plan to launch a new product today. But put off the launch if you want to supersede certain unscrupulous elements. But after a waiting game, you

may go ahead with your plan with much fanfare, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

The sage within you will take the lead today. You are likely to prescribe yourself to your own medication for peace of mind. Wise and content that you are today, you will spread the message of love around you. All in all, a peaceful day is in store for you today

CAPRICORN

For you everything is fair in love and war, and you utilise every possible means to achieve your targets. You have a strong sixth sense and it will direct you while making the right decisions, feels Ganesha, You are a soft hearted person and it makes you

sad to see others in sadness and trouble.

You are good with words and with the art of eloguence you manage to get through any situation Today, thanks to your communication skills, you will be able to crack important deals and make people follow your vision You, however, need to respects opinions of others' as well, advises Ganesha

PISCES You will delay taking important decisions in the office or regarding business. You will take you time to come to a conclusion and put in all the required thought and this will grant you clarity on all the issues at hand.

to a close, many families are exploring breaks with their children, and searches for 'trips

lowed by kitchens and pools. Goa most searched desti**nation**: As per traveller wish,

home with great Internet

connectivity makes Airbnb the

platform-of-choice for digital

nomads. Working from home

is translating to working from

any home. With remote offices

becoming the trend, people want

to be connected all the time from

anywhere; 23 percent of guests

specifically searched for homes

with Wi-Fi as a top amenity fol-

on their own terms and are looking at stays in newer, more intimate formats





mal



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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

| | | | | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | | | 5 | 8 | 1 | | С |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|-----|---|
| | | | 4 | С | В | | | 8 | | | | 2 | | A |
| | | 6 | | | | | 0 | | | С | | 1. 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 9 | |
| | | | 1 | | | | | | | Е | В | | 7 | |
| 1 | | 8 | | | | 5 | 6 | | | 2 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | 5 | 4 | | | 7 | D | | А | 8 | |
| | | 2 | | | | | А | 7 | | | Е | | 5 | |
| 7 | | | А | | | | 8 | В | 5 | | 6 | D | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | 3 | | С | 9 | | | 4 | 1 | | | |
| | 6 | | 5 | 1 | | | | D | | | | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| | | 9 | | 7 | | | | | 6 | | | | - (| 5 |
| | 7 | В | 0 | | С | Е | | 3 | | | | 8 | | |
| | | | | | Е | | 1 | | | В | | | | |
| 4 | | С | | | | | 5 | | 9 | | Α | | | |

SOLUTIONS IR N NE CROSSWORD EWE SI IS W E PEDESTAL ED 2 E 5 C D 9 A 4 8 0 7 3 B 3 9 4 8 A 7 1 D E 6 5 3 4 8 3 C 9 4 1 0 6 E 7 SUDOKU A 2 6 8 7 D B 5

| | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | D | 0 | 6 | 7 | 3 | С | 2 | В | А | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| A | 6 | С | в | 1 | Е | 9 | 0 | 5 | D | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | A | | | | |
| 5 | 8 | Е | 3 | 9 | D | в | С | 0 | 7 | А | 6 | 2 |
| D | 9 | 1 | А | 2 | В | 8 | 3 | 7 | С | E | 4 | 5 |
| С | 4 | в | 0 | 6 | 8 | 5 | D | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | A |
| 3 | В | 8 | 7 | 0 | С | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | D | 1 | Е |
| | | | | | | | | С | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 6 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | E | | | | |
| 4 | 5 | D | 1 | Е | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | В | 8 | A | С |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |











COVID test on MLAs, staffers begins

INFRA BOOST

A newly-constructed overhead water tank at Sishu Bhawan in Cuttack being painted Saturday

COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|-----|-------------|-------------|----------|
| rld | 3,28,44,035 | 2,42,18,730 | 9,94,859 |
| ia | 59,03,932 | 48,49,584 | 93,379 |
| sha | 2,05,452 | 1,70,193 | 783 |

Woman found dead; murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Sept 26: In a tragic incident, a married woman was found dead at her maternal uncle's house here Saturday.

The husband of the woman is suspected to have killed her and is absconding. Police have launched a manhunt to nab the accused The deceased woman was identified as Sasmita Behera, 28, who was staying near PN College Road under Khurda Industrial Estate police limits



According to locals. Sasmita's husband Harekrushna Behera used to visit her. However, most of the visits were marred by arguments and spats.

Sources said that Harekrushna visited her wife Sasmita Friday night. They suspected that Harekrushna murdered his wife after the two had another spat. On being informed, local police rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. The police said the victim was bleeding profusely as the head was bludgeoned. Police have seized the body and sent to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) for post-mortem.

POST NEWS NETWORK

allowed to participate in the ses-Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: In an aim to ensure that the novel coronavirus does not spread its tentacles during the upcoming monsoon session of the Assembly, COVID-19 test of MLAs and officials concerned started Saturday.

Over 700 persons including

Speaker Surya Narayan Patro,

Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Bikram Keshari Arukha, Leader

of Opposition Pradipta Naik and

many MLAs have undergone COVID

and massive financial irregu-

management, second, the failure

larities involved in it.

session, he said.

sion. After attending daily proceedings, they have to remain in isolation to ensure they are not infected in between," Patro said. If anyone develops symptom

negative for the virus will only be

when the House session is in progress, he/she has to undergo rapid antigen test, he said.

All necessary arrangements and precautionary measures have been taken for smooth functioning of the House in view of COVID-19, the Speaker added. Meanwhile, BJP Legislative Partv

test on the Assembly precincts. "The members who will be found held its meeting and chalked out Cong plans to corner govt in Assembly

of the government in ensuring as-**BHUBANESWAR:** The state unit of Congress Saturday said that it sistance to the people during the recent floods and the last but not has decided to attack the state the least the deteriorating law government in the upcoming Assembly session for its alleged and order problem in the state," failure in COVID management he said. Routray also said that unemployment issue and BJD's partial support to the controver-Congress leader Suresh Routray sial farm Bills will be taken up dur-

ing the session. said the state government has 'The law and order situation committed irregularities to the tune of Rs 1.900 crore in COVIDin the state has deteriorated in the 19 management. Matters relatstate. We have also seen massive ing to floods and law and order government apathy during the would be raised in the monsoon recent floods in the state. Many government construction works "We have decided to rake up were washed away by the floods. three main issues. First, the fail-The problem of unemployment ure of the government on COVID is acute in the state. We will take

up these issues," he said.



he/she has to undergo rapid antigen test

Over 700 persons including Speaker Surya Narayan Patro, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha, Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik and many MLAs have undergone COVID test on the Assembly precincts

Dharmashala land issue, new uni-

versity amendment act and other

issues during the session, said

The session will start September

29 and end October 7. There will

be a sitting Sunday (October 4)

Like the practice adopted by

the Parliament, members will par-

ticipate in the debate from their re-

too

BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi.

The members who will be found negative for the virus will only be allowed to participate in the session

If anyone develops symptom when the House session is in progress,

strategies to attack the BJD govspective seats in the House and ernment during the session. The ministers will reply to the queries party has decided to raise issue inby from their respective seats too. cluding power tariff hike, COVID It was decided not to issue any mismanagement, flood, Bagala lobby pass to any person other

than members. No papers/reports would be distributed among members in the House except amendments to Bills and the replies of ministers. The papers and reports, if any, will be dispatched to the members by post. The Assembly hall and its premises will be sanitised on a daily basis by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

NHRC moved for CB probe into double murder in Rajnagar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: A human rights activist Saturday filed a petition with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking a Crime Branch (CB) probe into the alleged murder of a lady and her daughter at Manapada village under Rajnagar police limits of Kendrapara district.

Odi

The application based on a report published in Orissa POST was filed by activist Himanshu Kumar Nayak. Nayak urged the commission to direct the Chief Secretary of Odisha to pay Rs 30 lakh to the next kin of the victims and send the proof of compensation details to the commission within three weeks.

He also urged the commission to direct the DGP of Odisha to direct the Crime Branch to probe the in-

INVESTIGATIONS ON

Ajay Kumar Pattnaik, who identified

himself as a call boy, had visited the

hotel at Kalpana Square and enquired

about the room number booked in the

name of one Miss Sonia

The receptionist told Pattanik that no

room had been booked in the name

of the lady

Pattnaik, however, showed the

receptionist a WhatsApp message

regarding the booking of a room at

the hotel

vance. He also told the hotel au-

thorities that one Deepak who has

been running the racket had sent

him the message regarding book-

ing of hotel room on WhatsApp

Panda BJP vice president. Tudu national secv

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Jagat Prakash Nadda Saturday announced the names of the party's new office-bearers. As many as four leaders from Odisha found place in the list. While Baijayant Panda was appointed the national vice president again, Mayurbhani Lok Sabha MP Bisweswar Tudu was chosen as party's national secretary. Similarly, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and Sambit Patra were appointed as national spokespersons of the party.

Hotel seeks police help as racket 'smears' image

> Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: A prominent hotel here has lodged a complaint with Badagada police seeking stringent action against unknown criminals who dragged the hotel's name into illegal flesh

The police have started investigations into the incident after registering a case in this regard.

According to sources, a youth identified as Ajay Kumar Pattnaik had recently visited the hotel at Kalpana Square and asked the receptionist about the room number booked in the name of one Miss Sonia.

The receptionist, after checking he register, informed Pattanik that no room had been booked in the name of the lady

Special trains for UPSC Prelims

cident and send the documentary

proof of action-taken report, post-

mortem examination report, videog-

raphy of postmortem examina-

tion, histopathology examination

of viscera, final cause of death

based on FSL report to the com-

Notably, the dead body of Pramila

Nath, 45, was found floating in a

river near the village while her

daughter Satyapriya's body was

spotted floating in a pond at

Satyapriya was found to be an ad-

vance stage of pregnancy during

neighboring village.

the autopsy.

mission within three weeks.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The Ministry of Railways has decided to run examination special trains under East Coast Railway (ECoR) jurisdiction October 3 towards different cities to facilitate transportation for the candidates appearing for **UPSC Civil Services Preliminary**



These examination special



PANDEMIC BLOW TO TOURISM

POST NEWS NETWORK trade



State's prominent tourism destinations - Udayagiri caves (top) and Rajarani temple - in Bhubaneswar wear a deserted look, Saturday, on the eve of World Tourism Day PHOTOS: BIKASH NAYAK

Later, Pattnaik showed the receptionist a WhatsApp message, with explicit images on his mobile phone, regarding the booking of a room at the hotel. The lady receptionist immediately called the front office manager who took Pattnaik inside his chamber and asked him about the sources of the obscene message.

Pattnaik revealed that he works as a call boy in the city and usually goes to various hotels where rooms are booked by his customers in ad-

The hotel manager was shocked to find that the name of the hotel is being misused by the miscreants bringing great disrepute to the business establishment.

Later, the hotel authorities informed Badagada police about the whole episode.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**. IIC of Badagada police station, Biswaranjan Nayak said, "We have received a complaint from hotel authorities in this regard. We are also investigating about the racket and the names of other hotels who have faced such situations as well.

trains will leave Berhampur, Kenduihargarh, Khariar Road and Ichhapuram at 4pm and from Koraput at 5am and another at 1pm and will reach at their exam centre cities in the evening on the same day. These special trains are: Brahmapur-Cuttack MEMU Examination Special Kendujhargarh-Cuttack MEMU Examination Special, Ichhapuram-Visakhapatnam MEMŪ Examination Special. Khariar Road-Sambalpur Examination Special, Koraput-**Cuttack Passenger Examination** Special, Koraput-Visakhapatnam Passenger Examination Special, Rourkela-Cuttack via Jharsuguda Examination Special, Baripada-**Cuttack Examination Special** and Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Examination Special.

The UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) Exam is scheduled to be held October 4.

ORLD TOURISM DA

Some special However, OTDC is

programmes yet to announce

organised on will be allowed to

the occasion view the

Tourism Day

will be whether tourists

of World spectacular light

Strict social distancing norms

will be adhered to during

the programme

and sound show

Fake sauce-making unit busted in Cuttack

detained for interrogation.

of food safety protocol too.

Earlier, Choudwar police in

Cuttack district had busted a fake

cow ghee and sauce manufactur-

ing unit near the Girls' High

School in Ward No 9, September

14. A day earlier, their counterparts

'puja Items' manufacturing unit

in Chamada Godown Lane near

Canal Road of Ranihaat under

Malgodwn Police Station in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 26: Jagatpur police here busted an adulterated sauce manufacturing unit near IB Road here Saturday.

The cops also seized huge quantities of adulterated tomato and chili sauce bottles from the premises

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Jagatpur police conducted a raid at the factory. Preliminary investigations revealed that the unit had been manufacturing fake tomato and chili sauces and selling them in the names of reputed brands. Large number of containers, packaging machines, la-



the city.

13 barrages in state soon to ease water woes POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The state government has decided to bels and other materials used for construct 13 barrages and inmaking sauces were also seized stream storage structures (ISSs) from the premises of the busted on different rivers for the preserunit. Several persons have been vation of river water.

A decision to this effect was Police said there was violation taken recently after a meeting was conducted among officials of IDCO, IPICOL and the state Water Resources department through videoconferencing.

Water Resources department chief engineer Jyotirmaya Rath told mediapersons that approximately Rs 1,000 crore would be spent on construction of barrages during the current fiscal. A high-level committee including officials from Nabard

has sanctioned the required funds, Rath said. The decision to build the barrages was taken to minimise the gap in availability of water between monsoon and non-monsoon seasons. "We

have chalked out plans for instream storage of river water for next six years, including construction of some barrages," the chief engineer revealed. Rath

said the move will ensure uninterrupted water supply to industries.

'It will also help reduce rehabilitation problems as there will not be any evacuation of people due to floods. The waters from the proposed barrages could be used for industrial, farmland irrigation and drinking purposes as well," Rath said.

Dhauli light & sound show to resume today

POST NEWS NETWORK in Cuttack city had busted a fake

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The 'light and sound' show at Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda) atop Dhauli hill on the outskirts of Capital city will resume Sunday to mark the World Tourism Day.

This is the first time that show is being conducted since it was closed down in March because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Some special programmes will be organised on the occasion of World Tourism Day, OTDC officials said. However, OTDC is yet to announce whether tourists will be allowed to view the spectacular light and sound show.

A felicitation programme will

also be conducted at 8am Sunday Strict social distancing norms will be adhered to during the programme. The light and sound show will be held Sunday evening with a small gathering, sources said.

Notably, the light and sound show has been closed since March this year due to COVID-19 pandemic. The show was launched August 15, 2015 at the Shanti Stupa. The programme was launched in joint collaboration of both the state and central governments at an investment of over Rs 6.5 crore.

The initiative has drawn much appreciation from visitors all over the world. In the 35-minute long show presented in three languages (English, Hindi and Odia), audi-



ences witness stories glorifying the Kalinga empire, feuds within the Mauryan empire, King Ashoka's rise to power and his epic transformation from

Chandashoka to Dharmashoka. The show also depicts the gruesome Kalinga War and its morbid aftermath as well as King Ashoka's remorse at the massive

bloodbath. It ends with Ashoka renouncing violence, embracing Buddhism and propagating thereligion from Kalinga to the rest of the world.

downtown

Khurda logs all-time high 902 nCoV cases

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Odisha Saturday registered its highest single-day spike of 4,356 COVID-19 cases which took the state's tally to 2,05,452 while 16 fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 783, a senior health department official said.

Of the 4,356 cases, 2,529 were reported from various quarantine centres, and the rest from contact tracing, the official said.

Khurda district, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded an all-time high of 902 new cases, followed by Cuttack at 409, and Angul at 197.

Fifteen other districts registered over 100 cases each in the last 24 hours.

Taking to Twitter, the health and family welfare department said, "Regret to inform of the demise of sixteen Covid positive patients while under treatment in hospitals.'

Four deaths were recorded in Khurda, followed by three each in Puri and Koraput, and one each in

The Covid tally of Odisha reached 2,05,452 Saturday while 16 fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 783 Of the 4.356 new cases, 2,529 were reported from various quarantine tracing

Altogether 4,761 people from across the state recovered from the virus infection Saturday

Balasore, Bolangir, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj.

Over 30.62 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the state, including 53.534 Friday.

As many as 319 new COVID-19 cases were detected under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits in last 24 hours, BMC said Saturday.

While 62 of them are quaran-



lier tested positive for the disease, have recovered from it. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Saturday,

20,538 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 16,864 have recovered. While there are 3,574 active cases, 84 persons succumbed to the disease Meanwhile, the Silver City reported 217 new cases Saturday said sources in Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). Of the total, 44 cases were from institutional quarantine facilities while 75 were from home quarantine. This apart, the city reported 98 local contact cases, said CMC sources.

With this, the total Covid cases in Cuttack reached 11,346. Out of this, 8,573 people have recovered from virus infections while the active cases stood at 2,731. A total of 42 people in Cuttack have lost their lives due the infection, CMC sources added.

On the other hand, altogether 4,761 people across the state recovered from the virus infection Saturday, said the health and family welfare department. With this, the total recovered cases in Odisha reached 1.70, 193.

As per the health department data, as many as 1,173 people in Khurda district recovered from Covid-19 infection Saturday while the number was 411 in Cuttack district, 216 in Mayurbhani, 167 in Sundargarh and 142 in Jajpur.



A woman weaving baskets from bamboo flakes alongside Taladanda canal road in Cuttack, Saturday

State second biggest recipient of central aid to fight drug abuse



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Data furnished by the Union Women and Child Development Ministry claimed that Odisha is second after Maharashtra to get maximum central assistance for drug-de-addiction programmes

At the same time, the ministry data also claimed that Odisha is the second state in the country to host the maximum number of de-addiction centres after Maharashtra Data submitted by the ministry in the Lok Sabha recently claimed that the state is home to 41 de-addiction centres. Maharasthra on the other hand hosts the maximum 70 de-addiction centres. Other states which host more such centres after Maharashtra and Odisha are

addiction programme.

The central allocation to Odisha to fight drug abuse has only increased over last three years. The state received Rs 569 lakh in 2016-17 while it saw inflow of Rs 622 lakh in the next fiscal while the amount went up to Rs 846 lakh in 2018-19, the ministry data given in Parliament said.

The data was given by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani in a written statement in Lok Sabha. "A study conducted by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on the magnitude of substances used in India presents major findings of the survey in terms of proportion of Indian popPanel to re-assess groundwater recharge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: With an aim to prepare a state specific strategy for ground water management, the state government has constituted a high-level committee to reassess the ground water recharge in the state.

Water resources secretary has been appointed as chairman of the 12-member committee while regional director of the Central Ground Water Board is the member convener. Director industries, director agriculture, NABARD general manager, engineer-in-chief of water resources department, MD of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation, EIC rural water supply and chief engineer of minor irrigation are among other mem-

bers of the panel. The last assessment of the statewise ground water recharge for the entire country was carried out for the water year 2016-17 based on

Land Surface Surface Water 0.0.0.0.0 DIGIO Fractured rock Groundwater fills the spaces Grave between soil particles and fractured rock beneath the earth's surface. The last assessment of the state Water resources secretary has been appointed as chairman ground water recharge for the entire of the 12-member committee country was carried out for the water while regional director of the year 2016-17 based on the methodology Central Ground Water Board is adopted by the Ground Water the member convener **Resources Estimation Committee -2015**

the methodology adopted by the Ground Water Resources Estimation Committee -2015. Since then, lots of changes in ground water scenario in many parts of the county have been observed, sources said here Saturday.





Level Committee was constituted, the sources said.

The panel will re-assess annual ground water recharge of the state and estimate the status of utilization of the annual extractable ground water resources. The committee was asked to submit its report by February 2021.

The groundwater level in the state stood at 16.69 billion cubic metres in 2009, which dropped by 1.12 billion cubic metres to 15.57 billion cu m in 2017. It means the water level has decreased by 6.71 per cent in just eight years.

With a constant dip in groundwater and also surface water, the annual per capita availability of water is also falling in the state. The average annual per capital availability of water in Odisha in 1991 was 3802.84 cubic metre, which has gone down to 2578.09 cubic metre in 2019. This figure will also fall down to 2329.88 cubic metre in 2030. sources said.

Radio Pathasala from Sept 28

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The state government has decided to start a radio programme titled 'Radio Pathasala' to impart education to students between Class I and Cass VIII this September 28.

In view of the pandemic, the schools and colleges in the state have been closed down since March 17. The programme will be aired

from Monday to Friday each week from 10 am to 10.15 am. Education programme for students from Class I to Class V will be aired each Monday while Tuesday will have programme for Class II & Class VI, Class III & Class VII-Wednesday, Class IV & Class VIII-Thursday and Class VI, Class VII & Class VIII—Friday. The state government has reduced 30 per cent syllabus of students due to the pandemic.

Woman, 4-yr-old daughter stabbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack. Sept 26: A widow and her four-year-old daughter sustained critical injuries after they were allegedly stabbed by one of their rel-



Karnataka (36 centres) and Tamil Nadu (35)

While the ministry in 2018-19 sanctioned Rs 1370 lakh to Maharashtra (the highest allocation to any state), Odisha received Rs 846 lakh for the same, second in the country to get the highest allocation for drug-de-

ulation using various substances and those affected by substance use disorders," the minister said in her written statement

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report of 2018, the state witnessed a total of 17.228 cases under Liquor and Narcotic Drugs Related Acts

Illegal structures alongside a road near Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar being demolished by the civic body , Saturday

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Smt. P. Rajarathanam wife of late Sirla Anandam, resident of Kashinagar, Gajapati have changed my name from Smt. P. Rajarathanam to Sirla Rajaratnam (Proposed new name as per Bank Account, Aadhaar and all other documents etc.) for future reference.

I, Army No. 15616546N Hav. Sudarsan Mohanta, S/o. Maheswar Mohanta, R/o. VPO- Silipadi, Teh.-Saharpada, Dist. Kendujhar (Odisha) declare that in my service recrods my son's name Sameer Kumar Mohanta is wrongly mentioned. My son's correct name is Samir Kumar Mohanta

BMC urged to clean up Bindu Sagar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: In a letter to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC) has requested to expedite the process of removal of algae from Bindu Sagar to initiate the cleaning process of the pond.

In an MoU signed between OBCC and the Institute of Chemical Technology, Indian Oil here, cleaning up of five ponds including Bindu Sagar, was proposed ear-

lier in June this year. However, works at Bindu Sagar pond which is scheduled to begin next month is still waiting for civic authority to initiate the de-weeding process, a necessary step before cleaning. "Of late, 25% of Bindu Sagar pond is covered with green algae

and lotus plants. These are required to be periodically removed failing which it may affect the ef-



ficiency of pumps and the water cleaning process. The cleaning operation has been targeted to start in October 2020. Thus, it is requested to kindly make necessary arrangements to remove the algae and lotus plants from the lake,' the OBCC wrote to the BMC Commissioner.

The cleaning work which is proposed to begin at five holy water bodies of Debipadhara. Papanasisni, Kedar Gouri and Brahmeshwar other than Bindu Sagar will see deployment of pumps under the water bodies using hydrodynamic cavitation technology. This technology which requires liquids in the reservoir to be pumped through cavitation chambers requires unimpeded supply of liquid to produce clear water.

The National Water Policy, 2012

has also recommended that the

ground water resources of the

country should be re-assessed pe-

riodically. With a view to re-as-

sessing the ground water resources

for the water year 2019-20, the State

However, aquatic biologists have opined that removal of algae should be treated with caution as it may lead to ecological disturbance of the pond. "Algae has a very important presence in a pond. They, along with other microorganisms like bacteria, help minimize the levels of toxic forms of nitrogen in the water. They produce oxygen and are vital for a healthy aquatic system. However, too much algae is a different story," said Debendu Bhattacharya, a Kolkata-based ma rine biologist

Often highly revered, the Bindu Sagar pond has presented a deplorable sight with constant neglect. While its water was recently sent to Ayodhya for 'Bhumi Puian' ceremony of Ram Mandir, the pond could be seen filled with plastic and other wastes, usually streamed into it by rain waters during monsoon.

atives on a temple premises at Khuntuni area in Cuttack, local police station IIC Suchitrabirya Das informed Saturday

The victims were identified as Kalpana Gochhayat and her daughter Payal from Dhenkanal district. They were admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for treatment, sources said. Kalpana, who hails from Dudurkote village under Balimi police limits, works at a firm in Dhenkanal. Her brotherin-law reached her house Friday evening and asked to get ready for their native place. On the pretext of going to Dudurkote, he took them on his motorcycle to a temple at Dwarabatipur village under Khuntuni police limits on Cuttack-Sambalpur road.

The accused attacked the motherdaughter duo with a knife, leaving them grievously injured and fled the spot on his two-wheeler. While

Kalpana sustained deep wounds on her head, face and left palm, her daughter Paval sustained severe injuries on her back

Kalpana sustained deep wounds on her head, face and left palm. her daughter Paval sustained severe injuries on her back.

After hearing the screams of the victims, locals rushed to the place and rescued them in critical condition. Khuntuni police sent the victims to Athagarh sub-divisional hospital for primary treatment. Later, they were shifted to SCB as their condition deteriorated.

Factory mishap: Boiler worker killed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 26: A boiler operator was killed Thursday in an accident at the Shree Ganesh Sponge Factory here. The deceased has been identified as Jogesh Dora, a resident of Sector-2 in Rourkela.

Jogesh and a co-worker were carrying out repair work on the factory's bunker. However, while carrying out the repair, Jogesh fell down and sustained severe

head and waist injuries. His colleagues rescued Jogesh and rushed him to a private hospital here. Later, he was shifted to ESIC Model Hospital here as his condition deteriorated. However, all efforts to save him failed and he breathed his last Thursday.

Top officials of the factory, however, seemed apathetic to the accident. Neither did they express their condolences for the bereaved family nor did they announce any compensation.

OR CLASSIFIED /ERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS AD

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.







OrissaPOST SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 27 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

Stone mafia throws Sec 144 to winds

THE ROGUES CARRY ON STONE EXTRACTION ON 456 ACRES OF RESERVE FOREST LAND COURTESY ADMIN APATHY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 26: Stone mafia and local touts with political connections have reportedly grabbed reserve forest land in Kusunpur area under Dhamashala tehsil in Jajpur district. They have been carrying out stone mining, flouting pollution and environment protection norms, even though prohibitory orders under Section 144 have been imposed in the area.

Furthermore, the illegal stone mining also takes a toll on labourers working in mines.

A couple of days ago, a worker of Muraripur village lost his life while working in a stone mine in the reserve forest land.

Sadly, the administration has allegedly turned a blind eye to such illegal activities in the area, which are being carried out under the nose of some political leaders.

There are several stone mines in Kusunpur reserve forest. On the other hand, the forest and the revenue departments keep on passing the buck to each other over the ongoing stone mining in reserve for-

est. What is worse is that for lack of safety measures in the unauthorized mines, workers have to lose their lives. Over 15 workers have allegedly lost their lives there.



According to reports, the mafia has been carrying out stone mining on 456.34 acres of forest land at Bichhakhandi, Anjira and Kusunpur.

This was stated in an investigation report submitted by Balanag revenue inspector to Dhamashala tehsildar. The report has been submitted to Jajpur ADM. Dhamashala tehsildar Saroj

Kumar Panda in his letter (989/28/3/2019 and 461/7/2/2019) had drawn attention of the Cuttack forest divisional officer towards illegal stone mining in forest land.

Rampant stone mining has taken a heavy toll on biodiversity, natural resources and wildlife. Despite all such facts, no action has been taken against the stone mafia and checking of illegal stone mining. People of the villages in this area alleged that biodiversity and environment has been put at risk while stone mafia bargain with unscrupulous

officials and local touts to carry on their illegal stone extraction. Illegal stone mining was taking place in Balarampur hills, but vil-

lagers moved the court against it. Stone mining still goes on at Bichhkhandi (khata no-398), Kusunppur (khata no-631) and Anjira forest land (khata no-1729).

That apart, many stone crushing units operate on the forest land. Illegally extracted black stone is supplied to these stone crushers.

Owing to stone quarrying and stone crushing, people in the area are at the receiving end of growing air and water pollution. The state government is also losing huge revenues due to illegal stone mining.

To put curbs on illegal stone mining, the administration had imposed Section 144 of the CrPc in 2019. It was

LOOT OF MINOR MINERAL

state

MAFIA HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT STONE MINING ON ACRES OF FOREST LAND AT BICHHAKHANDI, ANJIRA AND KUSUNPUR

CUTTACK DFO SUDARSHAN PATRA SAID THE DHARMASHALA TEHSILDAR HAS BEEN ASKED TO DEMARCATE THEIR LAND IN THE AREA, BUT NO STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN IN THIS REGARD TILL DATE

DFO SAID STEPS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE ILLEGAL STONE MINING IN RESERVE FOREST LAND AT KUSUNPUR

> alleged that black stone is being transported in vehicles everyday even without submitting R-Forms, which are mandatory for mineral transportation. Locals have demanded an investigation into the matter.

When asked about illegal stone mining in the forest land, Cuttack DFO Sudarshan Patra said the Dharmashala tehsildar has been asked to demarcate their land in the area, but no step has been taken in this regard till date. "Steps will be taken against the illegal stone mining in reserve forest land at Kusunpur," he added.

7 killed in separate road accidents

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada/Berhampur/Jajpur, Sept 26: Seven people were killed in separate road accidents in Rayagada, Ganjam and Jajpur in the last 24 hours.

Reports from Rayagada said, two persons were killed when their motorcycle skidded and the bike went under a 14-wheeler trailer in this town late Friday night.

The deceased have been identified as Shantanu Mandangi and Shiva Mandangi of Dumuripadar village under Narayanpatna police limits in Koraput district.

Shantanu and Shiva were returning home when the accident happened. Police sent the bodies for post-mortem.

Reports from Berhampur said, two persons were killed while another was injured In a road accident on National Highway-16 at Haladiapadar Chhak under Rangeilunda tehsil limits in Ganjam district early Saturday morning. According to sources, a truck crashed into the rear of another

heavy vehicle resulting in the death of the driver and his assistant on the spot. Immediately after the accident, the driver of the other vehicle fled the spot.

Local residents rescued the injured and took him to MKCG

Medical College and Hospital. Reports from Jajpur said that three persons including a couple and a child were killed after a head-on collision between an ambulance and a motorbike on NH-16 near Neulapur under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district Friday afternoon.

The deceased were Shankar Sahu (50), Mamina Sahu (42) and Sampurna Sahu (five) of Gopal Sahi locality of Bidanasi area in Cuttack city, Dharmasala police sources informed.

According to sources, Shankar was on his way to Panikoili from Cuttack with his wife and daughter on pillion. Their bike was hit by an ambulance coming from the opposite direction.

As road construction work was underway, vehicles from both directions were moving on one side of the road. All three died on the spot after the head-on collision. The driver of the ambulance fled from the spot following the accident. Sources said in spite of restrictions on speed, the ambulance was moving at a very fast pace.

Dharmasala police seized the bodies and sent them for postmortem. The police have registered a case in this connection and launched investigation to find out the reason behind the accident.

Keonjhar: Use of OMBADC fund comes into question



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 26: Funds of the **Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas** Development Corporation (OM-BADC) should be utilized for various developmental activities in the mining-hit areas, but this fund is not allegedly being utilized in some pockets of mineral rich Keonjhar district.

This was alleged by Koenjhar Vikasha Manch, a local outfit fighting for the cause of development. Shankar Sahu, president of the Manch expressed displeasure over utilization of OMBADC funds. He said, following an order of the Supreme Court, the state government has formed OMBADC December 31, 2014. The fund is sup-

posed to be utilized for all round development of people and boosting their livelihood, strengthening infrastructure and protection of environment.

The apex court has appointed Justice Anang Patnaik to monitor utilization of OMBADC funds.

However, the Manch alleged that though this mineral rich district has immensely contributed to the OM-BADC with the chief secretary as its head, the latter has neglected the

like poor connectivity, lack of drink ing water, poor health care.

It is said that the state government can't take more than 60 per cent of OMBADC fund as loans while interests on the loan should be deposited every six months.

The Manch alleged that the state government had taken Rs 16,526 crore out of a total of Rs 16,621 crore in the OMBADC fund as loan. This loan amount is 99.6 per cent of the total fund. Only Rs 95 crore is left at the OMBADC.

Pointing out such discrepancies, the Manch had sent a letter to Justice Anang Patnaik September 17.

However, Just Patnaik, in his reply, said that the OMBADC fund has been given to the state government as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court and its interests will be collected every six months.

It may be noted here that the state government has approved infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,700 crore for mining-affected districts under the OMBADC.

The amount is to be



JUMBO HERD PLAYS HAVOC IN BUGUDA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Buguda, Sept 26: After a gap of six months, people of Buguda area in Ganjam are facing the scourge of elephants.



As per the Supreme Court guidelines, all mineral bearing districts should have OMBADC cells, but this cell has not been formed for the Keonjhar district.

district.

In many pockets, people have been deprived of basic facilities

supply of 24×7 safe drinking water projects in 13 urban local bodies in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts, livelihood projects and procurement of medical equipment for health facilities in Mayurbhnaj district.

Pest attack worries Boudh farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Harbhanga, Sept 26: People of Harbhanga block and other areas in Boudh district had expected good harvest this year, but floods washed away their hopes. Whatever crop was spared by floods is now being attacked by pests.

While caseworm damages leaves of the paddy plants, stem borer damages its stems, farmers said.

Growing pest attack in some areas has come up as a cause of concern for farmers. Hectares of land have been affected by bacterial leaf blight disease, caseworm and stem borer pests in Katuniapada,



Sukapali, Tukulunda, Dhalpur, Lunibahal, Hareksrushnapur under this block

Farmers alleged that though pesticides are being applied on the

paddy, they fail to be effective.

However, the block agriculture officer has only suggested ways to contain the pests. Farmers demanded that the agriculture department should provide pesticide on subsidy.

The agriculture department is sensitising farmers on the use of pesticide and bactericide to save their crops.

The affected farmers lamented that they have invested their money taking from cooperative banks and borrowed from private persons, but they were worried about paying back the loans when the crop has already been damaged.

A herd of 16 elephants strayed from Khurda and Nayagarh districts into the Buguda range 15 days ago. As the sun sets down, an uneasy fear engulfs many villages as the pachyderms keep creating havoc.

An elephant attacked an elderly person at Jeja village Monday night. He was critically wounded.

Forest personnel have been trying to drive away the rampaging herd while night patrolling is being conducted in the area. The animals have destroyed paddy and vegetables at Kiriamba, Jhadapada, Jamabani, Mahulapalli and Nuapalli. Farmers demanded compensations for crop losses.





POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 26: The Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) in Burla in Sambalpur district was closed for four days starting Saturday. The decision has been taken as two professors of the institution tested positive for Covid-19. One of the teachers is from the Electrical Engineering Department while the other is from Civil Engineering.

The vice-chancellor of VSSUT said that the campus will be sanitised during the closure. Other teachers have been asked to conduct classes online. It should be stated here that the VSSUT was earlier shut down for seven days August 1. Then a lady teacher had tested positive for Covid-19.

Covid situation in the district is still grim with the tally crossing the 5,000-mark with 81 new cases found Saturday. Currently the total number of ovid patients in the district stands at 5,516 while 4,337 patients have recovered. 1,157 are undergoing treatment.

JHARSUGUDA: In view of the rising Covid-19 cases in the district, the Jharsuguda Chamber of Commerce (JCC) has decided that industrial and business organisations will observe a week-long shutdown in Brajrajnagar, Belpahar and this town.

VSSUT Profs test +ve, hosp shut

However, the decision to observe the shutdown will be voluntary. The chamber has requested all its members to close down their units for seven days. A decision to this effect was taken Friday.

The JCC said that the move is aimed at containing the spread of Covid-19 in these localities. All shops and markets were seen closed Saturday and the same situation will prevail till October 2. With business and office outlets closed, the number of people on roads came down substantially. Residents of Brajrajnagar, Belpahar and this town have been urged not to step out of their homes unless there is an emergency.

Members of the JCC said they hope such a move will contain the spread of Covid-19 and in the process will save lives.



Notably, 'Corona Niyantrana Committee', an outfit formed by the members of several social organisations in Bolangir town, has imposed a similar week-long shutdown starting September 25.

Jharsuguda district reported 120 new Covid-19 cases Saturday taking the tally up to 4,111. At present, there are 1,016 active cases while 3,094 persons have recovered from the disease. The virus has so far claimed one life in the district.

₹3L fine imposed on Nuapada truck owner

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 26: Commercial Tax & GST Enforcement Unit in Nuapada Saturday collected a whop ping Rs 3,04,932 from a truck owner and released his vehicle that was seized earlier.

According to sources, a squad of the Commercial Tax and GST Enforcement Unit led by Deputy

Commissioner Priyabrata Gartiya had stopped a truck September 16 for checking. The truck was heading from Raipur to Khariar road. The squad conducted a search and found the truck carrying iron

bars weighing 25.6 tonnes.

When grilled, the driver failed to produce valid documents for transporting such a huge quantity of iron bars.

This was then the owner of the truck was served a notice, informing him about the fine amounting to Rs 3,04,932 being levied on his vehicle for illegal trans-

portation of goods. Thereafter several notices were served. And finally, after 10 days since the seizure of the vehicle, the truck owner deposited the fine and got his vehicle

Toddler branded with hot iron to cure stomachache

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 26: Despite the health department taking several measures to wean away people from traditional healing practices grounded on superstition, incidents of people falling back on them are still pouring in.

The latest incident was reported from Udala area in Mayurbhanj district Saturday. It came to the fore after the parents admitted their ailing baby girl to Udala government hospital.

According to sources, a toddler from Tikarpada village under Khunta police limits had complained of stomachache Wednesday. The mother of the child consulted her brother who took her permission



and branded the child with hot iron on her stomach. Far from being cured, the toddler's health condition deteriorated further. With no other options left, the

woman took her daughter to Udala government hospital Saturday. The child is out of danger, informed pediatric Dr Laxmikanta Pati, who is treating her.

VICTIM OF SUPERSTITION

SUCH CASES RECUR ROUTINELY IN PARTS OF MAYURBHANJ SUNDARGARH AND KEONJHAR DIS-TRICTS, EVEN THOUGH SOCIAL ACTIVISTS AND ADMINISTRATION CARRY OUT AWARENESS DRIVE AGAINST SUCH SUPERSTITIOUS PRACTICE

DR LAXMIKANTA PATI SAID, INSTANCES OF SUCH TREATMENT PRACTICES ARE YIELDING NO RESULTS AND SOMETIMES LEADING TO DEATHS OF MANY

According to Pati, instances of such treatment practices are yielding no results and sometimes leading to deaths of many. Unfortunately, people are still following the same practices mostly in tribal-dominated districts of the state. Awareness programmes launched by the government have little impact on them, he rued.

Superstitious practice believed to cure ailing children by branding them with hot iron nails or bangles is still deeply ingrained in some tribal pockets of Mayurbhanj and other districts.

Such cases recur routinely in parts of Mayurbhanj Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts, even though social activists and administration carry out awareness drive against such superstitious practice.

It is said illiterate and ignorant in traditional healers when it comes to treatment of their children.



released Saturday.











power post

FOCUS US ELECTIONS

Humanity is not the last rung of the terrestrial creation. Evolution continues and man will be surpassed. It is for each individual to know whether he wants to participate in the advent of this new species.



THE MOTHER

Stop hounding NGOs

he Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act is a funny old piece of legislation. It appeared in India in 1976 as a law to prevent external interference in India's electoral process and democracy. It prohibited the receiving of foreign money by political parties and their candidates, journalists and newspaper publishers, judges, bureaucrats and members of parliament.

In time, liberalisation meant that many of these categories received foreign money legally and the Indian government actively promoted the bringing in of such money. That, after all, is the foreign direct investment whose numbers this government is so proud of and speaks of regularly. For instance the media, both print and television and certainly online (which is the most dominant form of media today) can not only receive foreign investment, it can be dominated by it. The largest media companies in India are Facebook and Google, which are entirely foreign owned and managed. Newspapers can receive equity investments from foreign firms as can news channels.

Even the political parties managed to get themselves off the hook on FCRA. In January 2013, a PIL was filed in Delhi High Court claiming that

the BJP and the Congress had received donations from the same company, Vedanta/Sterlite, which were in violation of the FCRA Act. On 28 March 2014, the court held that the BJP and Congress were guilty of FCRA violation and asked the Modi government and the election commission to act against the two parties.

In December 2015, it was reported that the government was making amendments to the law that would get both the parties off. This happened in the budget of 2016, when the definition of foreign source was changed. legitimising the donation received by political parties. Unfortunately for the parties, this was done in fairly slipshod fashion and so another amendment was passed in 2018 to again try and get the parties off. This finally happened in March 2018 through the amendment of a repealed law, an entirely farcical operation.

This is the background to the political side of the FCRA, which was the intent of the legislation. What has happened over the years is that the law has been turned

around and instead of reducing foreign influence on politics, it has been made a weapon against non-profit organisations. No government has any fondness for the sector called civil society, but the BJP in particular is hostile to it. The Economic Times reported ('PM Narendra Modi says he is victim of NGOs' conspiracy', 21 February 2016) a speech in Bhubaneswar that the Prime Minister made to put forth his views on the subject. Modi gave no evidence for his accusation that NGOs were foreign agents, but was convinced that they were trying to topple his government. In the entire Modi era, the government has been trying actively to cut the size of the NGO sector. India has over 30 lakh such organisations, which range from neighbourhood associations to the most powerful NGO in the world, the Rashtriva Swayamsevak Sangh. The groups work on education, disaster relief, violence against women, public health, human rights, criminal justice system, environment, agriculture and so on. Between 2014 and 2018, a report estimated, there had been about a 40 per cent cut in foreign funding for these groups.

Yet another amendment made to the FCRA this month seeks to squeeze them further. This was introduced without any advance notice or consultation and passed without much debate. What it does is make it even more difficult for NGOs to function in India and in fact is an invitation for them to shut down.

I have worked in the sector for a few years and can say that it is filled with highly committed individuals who do the work in many sectors that the State in India cannot do. This is work that happens without a problem in large parts of the world and in all parts of the democratic world. The damage that is being done to the India NGO sector is being done in part because of the paranoia of the BJP that there is some sort of giant agenda behind organisations that do such work. Many of them are highly respected organisations around the world and the one that I worked for has won the Nobel Peace prize. It is not in the interest of India or its people or even the government to persecute and harass these organisations. Unfortunately that is what has happened and is happening and the reality is that many of them, already under assault from the State, will have to wind up operations and others will have to scale down. The civil society is full of motivated people and much of their work will continue because these individuals are not doing this work because of the money. I have worked with people with a background in investment banking, law and of course media who have chosen to work in an NGO for much less than in their corporate job. Such Indians will continue their work and it is a shame that they are being hindered. Today India invites foreign investment in arms and ammunition and bombs and guns, and in alcohol and tobacco, and petroleum and pharmaceuticals and everything else that one can think of. But it restricts investment in India on health, education and rights. Something is very wrong with such a state of affairs.

Aakar Patel

No government has any fondness for the sector called civil society, but the BJP in particular is hostile to it

TIME TO PLAY HARDBALL round the world, rightcies and reliance on white rewing populists are holsentment, the GOP has fully comlowing out democracy mitted to being a minority party, and the rule of law. But which is why it has sought to enunlike many twentieth-century trench itself in non-majoritarian dictators, today's aspiring auinstitutions like the Senate (where rural voters hold vastly dispro-

thoritarians have tried to preserve the façade of the institutions they are destroying, which creates a dilemma for opposition parties. Should they play by the rules of a game that is rigged against them, or should they start writing their own rules and risk accusations of being liberal democracy's real gravediggers?

The conventional wisdom has been that violating norms simply accelerates the destruction of democracy. But constitutional hardball is appropriate under specific circumstances. When autocratic legalists use the letter of the law to violate the spirit of democratic institutions, their opponents should do the opposite.

In many countries under rightwing populist rule - think of Hungary or Poland – there is no unified opposition, and parties can propose a variety of policies as alternatives to what the government offers (and not everything that a right-wing populist regime does is authoritarian per se). But when basic political principles are at stake, the opposition absolutely must unite and clearly signal to citizens that the situation has moved beyond run-of-the mill political disagreement.

In the United States, the Republican Party's effort to abolish the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ('Obamacare') is cruel and incoherent, but it predates Donald Trump's presidency. and its success would not represent the end of American democracy. By contrast, the Trump administration's brazen defiance of congressional oversight is not just a case of "politics as usual," but rather an attack on what the political philosopher John Rawls called "constitutional essentials." To be sure, distinguishing between ordinary policy disputes



When autocratic legalists use the letter of law to violate the spirit of democratic institutions, their opponents should do the opposite

and threats to the system is more of an art than a science. If it is done convincingly, it can stanch the spread of cynicism among the electorate. But such a strategy assumes that citizens can be persuaded with arguments about constitutional commitments that all democrats ought to share.

That is a perilous assumption, given that media pluralism has been radically reduced in many countries. Under Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, attacks on independent television stations and newspapers are now commonplace. And in the US, Republican voters have cocooned themselves in a media ecosystem dominated by Fox News and other right-wing propaganda channels.

But even if all voters were receiving accurate information, some still might be inclined to put partisanship above the protection of liberal democratic institutions. One of the most depressing findings in political science in recent years is that citizens often put their partisanship first even when they recognise that right-wing populists pose a threat to democracy. In other words, they are ready and willing to trade away democracy itself to satisfy personal policy or ideological preferences.

Such cynicism is not a reason for opposition parties to give up on

Nor is it above blatant voter suppression to prevent non-whites from casting ballots. If the Democrats want to force Republicans to act differently, they must sanction every one of these norm violations severely. If the Republicans try to ram through a Supreme Court nominee within the next few weeks, the Democrats should bring Senate business to a appealing to voters' consciences. halt by objecting to all routine But it does require the opposition unanimous consent requests; they to recognise that its audience inalso should be drafting credible cludes not just potentially perplans to expand the size of the suadable voters, but also right-Supreme Court in the event that wing populists and their they return to power. opportunistic allies. In address-Would these hardball tactics ing the latter group, the point is not

to shame the shameless, but to

fight fire with fire. In the US, for

example, Republicans have bene-

fited from a clear asymmetry. While

the GOP will do anything to claim

and hold on to power, Democrats

have remained committed to the

spirit of the rules, even holding out

hope for bipartisanship. But if

Republicans believed that the

Democrats, too, would start push-

ing the limits, they might change

Consider the dilemma Democrats

now face following the death of

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader

Ginsburg. In rushing to fill the va-

cant seat with a conservative hard-

liner, Senate Republicans are not

even pretending to preserve any

consistency with the positions they

took in 2016, when they flat-out re-

fused to consider President Barack

Obama's Supreme Court nominee,

Merrick Garland, citing that year's

today's Republican Party is not only anti-Democrat but also anti-

democratic. With its highly un-

popular, plutocratic economic poli-

Democrats must recognize that

coming presidential election.

their own political calculus.

deepen the country's political polarisation and trigger a downward spiral of norm violations Polarisation could hardly be deeper than it already is. But, more to the point, not all norms are the same or even properly normative. Trump broke the 'norm' of having a pet (usually a dog) in the White House, but that is hardly a matter of fundamental democratic principles. By contrast, there are Democratic

portionate power) and the courts.

proposals to make the Senate more representative by abolishing the filibuster and granting statehood to Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. These measures absolutely would reflect democratic principles, and they would be fully justified in the name of equality and freedom, as would stronger protections for voting rights. Yes, the decision to play constitutional hardball must never be taken lightly. But it must be taken when fastidious adherence to norms for the sake of democracy hands democracy's enemies certain victory.

> The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Spaces can impinge on our well-being

ahlil Gibran's often-quoted lic space (more than 12 ft). These ers. A pun is intended in 'spaces', sonal spaces are invaded. 'Proxemics' The great luminary meant to include here the physical distancing among people to ward off any malicious assault or a coronaviruslike disease. The essentiality of physical spaces for health, good living and optimum growth of living beings has never been questioned. The spacing concept is based on the premise that imbued with enormous potential even an average person can flourish well and soar high enough only when assigned free space to use all of one's gears. Most people are known to use only one gear or two out of several, throughout their life span. The same principle holds good for the plant kingdom. Growth of plants is constricted when too close to each other. Witness the specific spaces between two consecutive plants of any crop in the farm. Ever given a thought why people having made huge fortunes from their business in downtown, living in vicinity in shabby, dense multi-storied houses relocate to outskirts in the open spaces. For decades they were facing a space crunch to breathe,

line, "Let there be spaces ranges vary with communities, in our togetherness" is more even within a community. People are than an admonition against in- embarrassed, uncomfortable, angry truding into personal affairs of oth- or apprehensive when their per-

century essavist Lord Bacon. The variegated rubric of family networks in Indian communities particularly among the Hindus is manifest in distinct names for each relationships, like with father's and

Covid-era has widened interpersonal gaps that had already set in due to excessive focus on one's own shell in disregard of concern for others. It may be hard to regain the level of working relationships we had in pre-Covid era. Growing holistically and fully does not warrant insulating oneself from ethos and concerns of others. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much," said Helen Keller. The power of collectivism and benefits of togetherness can be harnessed only in the spirit of sharing of thoughts, concerns and feelings. Inability to understand this has been at the root of much malaise that is spiritually and mentally enervating. Unwanted spaces need to be bridged. not created or widened It would be not only inhuman but also blasphemous and ungrateful to create spaces with those having been instrumental and supportive in our journey of life thus far. A mother. who does not cling the newborn by her breast or avoids hugging him throughout childhood even later, or consigns her 5-year-old baby to an exclusive room to study, play and sleep, most likely brings out an adult with little sensitivity and loyalty to family and nation. Understanding of how much space to maintain in different contexts helps one to lead a happy, blissful and meaningful life.



Mueller

ONE OF THE MOST DEPRESSING **FINDINGS IN** POLITICAL **SCIENCE IN RECENT YEARS IS THAT CITIZENS OFTEN PUT THEIR** PARTISANSHIP FIRST EVEN WHEN

THEY RECOGNISE

THAT RIGHT-WING

POPULISTS POSE

A THREAT TO

DEMOCRACY

WISDOM CORNER

| | To forget one's purpose is the commonest form of stupidity. FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE |
|----|--|
| 66 | Knowing others is wisdom, knowing yourself is Enlightenment. |
| 66 | Think in the morning. Act in the noon. Eat in the evening. Sleep in the night |

WILLIAM BLAKE

WORDS**WORTH**

Tripudiate

f you tripudiate a person, you dance with excitement or figuratively trample on an opponent in triumph. The Oxford English Dictionary marks this as "rare and affected," a reasonable conclusion. It had its time before the public, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but as writers came to eschew rhetoric and prefer straightforward prose, it gradually fell out of use and had pretty much vanished by the end of the nineteenth century. A typical instance of the type of high-flown language in which it flourished is Thomas Carlyle's History of Friedrich II of Prussia. He recounts the occasion in 1730 when the future king let slip some premature news about the marriage of his sister Wilhelmina to Frederick, the British Prince Of Wales: "Upon which the whole Palace of Charlottenburg now bursts into tripudiation; the very valets cutting capers, making somersets, and rushing off with the news to Berlin." (Somerset is an old form of somersault, to turn head over heels.) The word is from Latin tripudium, stamping on the ground, which is possibly from words meaning three and foot, indicating a measured dance of some sort, perhaps during a religious ritual. The first sense in English referred to dancing, skipping or leaping for joy or excitement. The sense of trampling on an opponent came into the language only in the nineteenth century.



think and live freely! Broadly, human beings follow a four-layered spacing system viz. intimate space (0-2 ft), personal space (2-4 ft), social space (4-12 ft) and pub-

studies how spaces influence behavioural and communication patterns, social interactions and growth of individuals.

While close proximity may breed contempt, overmuch space, mental or physical tends to vitiate intimacies and relationships among human beings, so vital for healthy living. Everyone needs shoulders to bank upon, to share one's ethos and pathos. Remaining unheard or unloved can be agonising and eventually traumatic. The issue of spaces being created among people, unawares or intentionally thereby impinging on the togetherness of human beings is not new. Over decades, tapering of family and personal ties, and non-sharing of feelings leading to alienation, mental sickness and associated complications have been issues of intellectual debates, and also a recurring motif in literature and arts. Poetic works of TS Eliot are testimony to the growing alienation of man and its implications like insensitivity to fellow beings. The lonesome nature of man has been attributed in part to urbanisation, automation, and also attrition of human values like acceptance, appreciation, affection, love, loyalty, trust and empathy. "Bigger the city, lonelier the man is," said the 17th

mother's elder and younger brothers and sisters, spouse's father and mother, their elder and younger brothers and sisters, and so on. There is also a code of etiquettes to be observed for each relationship like a married lady was forbidden not to share a seat contiguous to her husband's elder brother. While showing the gravitas attached with others in extended family, this feature of Indian families strengthened one's sense of belongingness, leaving little scope to fall apart in difficult moments. This is unlike in Western families where life is almost confined to one's spouse and young ones.

'We are born alone, we live alone, we die alone." Each person is an isolated, if not an insulated entity, in that the biochemical composition of each individual is unique, a remarkable feature that facilitates establishing biometric identities. Ditto for the individual's mental frame; drawing from a vast array of permutations, the dominating thought in the individual psyche picks something that gradually shapes one's mindset. Considering what we call mind-body chemistry, we align ourselves with people of particular ilk, and maintain distances accordingly.

The author is a Delhi-based journalist who writes on social and health issues.

The precept of distancing in

Legend's legacy lives on

Sir, In the passing away of SP Balasubrahmanyam, the world of music has

lost an iconic playback singer, a talented actor and a fine human being. With a record 40,000 songs in 16 languages in his kitty, SPB carved a special niche

for himself bagging six national awards, besides being decorated with the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011. Blessed with a divine voice, his lilting melodies transcended borders and stole the hearts of millions of music aficionados. SPB may be no more but his legacy lives on.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Crumbling buildings

Sir, The vagaries of monsoon continue to heap misery on people. When rains lash old and ramshackle buildings, the unfolding of misery is complete. But commercial and residential buildings collapsing like a pack of cards are becoming all too familiar, and at a frightening frequency. It was South Mumbai's Fort and Malad in July, Konkan Maharashtra's Mahad in August, and Bhiwandi in suburban Mumbai last Monday. The Mahad building was a seven-year-old construction while the one that collapsed at Bhiwandi was nearly four decades old that was built in two phases, the latest put in place twelve years ago. That forty apartments sheltered nearly one hundred and fifty residents in a structure more than forty years old tells us only a part of the story. The fact that the three-storeyed rundown building was not included in the dilapidated building list of the local municipal corporation tells us the other half of the story. This story is, however, contested by the authorities. The local body government swears that it had served not one but two notices to the building owners on the unsafe conditions. The residents say they haven't heard about it although a few have said the building was indeed in a pathetic state. Perhaps the residents are loath to come forward with their account because they were all poor, and were offered a roof to stay for affordable rates by the owner. That is to say the builder, who is now behind the bars, exploited the credulous. The municipal corporation has also said that it had asked the owner to vacate the building, but in vain. The question is whether the owner ignored the notices or the corporation failed to pursue the same.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

TO THE EDITOR are most welcome to contribute letters

(200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 105 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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Andhra steps up vigil at places of worship

At a time when religious politics is raging in the state, the police have asked religious heads to be vigilant and fix surveillance cameras in churches, temples, mosques

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Sept 26: The Andhra Pradesh government has ordered the police to secure all places of worship to avoid any untoward incident, especially in the light of the Antarvedi Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple chariot blaze, at a time when religious politics is raging in the state.

The police department has already initiated the process of asking priests and religious heads across the state to be vigilant and fix surveillance cameras in churches, temples, mosques,

In Prakasam and West Godavari districts, like all others, the police visited temples, churches and mosques, suggesting safety measures to the clergy as well as locals.

A Prakasam police official said the department is keeping 24x7 vigil at all places of worship in the district. A couple of policemen were seen securing a Lord Hanuman temple at Parchur village, another temple at Komarole, a mosque in Kandukur



town and a Telugu Baptist Church in Pamuru. Similar scenes were seen in Epurupalem, PC Palli, Kanigi and other places in the district.

Meanwhile, Prakasam Superintendent of Police (SP), Siddharth Kaushal, has warned hate mongers that the police are keeping a strict vigil to thwart any opportunity for vested interests to exploit the situation. "We are taking it very seriously on the ground. We are ensuring that no opportunity

is given and everything is attended to promptly on ground, responded to promptly and no opportunity is given to exploit this situation," Kaushal told IANS. He said police are also monitoring social media to look for trou-

blemakers. "We are drawing up a list of suspects who might want to capitalise on a provocation. We are keeping a close watch, taking everything very seriously on the ground," he asserted.

Besides vigilance, the police department is also engaging in community activities to foster brotherhood among people. "We are trying to sort of bring together communities, mitigate the negative atmosphere. We will build it up," he said about Sadhbhavana, a programme for peace and harmony. As part of Sadhbavana, police interacted with Imams in Chirala

town and people associated with a temple at TV Palli and other places.

NDA is one, will contest polls together: Prasad on Bihar tiff

NITISH KUMAR'S JD(U) AND CHIRAG PASWAN-LED LJP HAVE BEEN AT LOGGERHEADS FOR SOME TIME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 26: Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said Saturday that the constituents of the NDA will contest the Bihar assembly elections together, asserting that the problems within the coalition will be resolved.

Prasad, the Union Law Minister, exuded confidence that the Nitish Kumar-led alliance in Bihar will win the election with a decisive mandate because of the development work done by the Centre and state government.

"NDA is one... We will contest the elections together. If there is some problem, it will be solved," he said, replying to a question on the differences between the LJP and JD(U).

Nitish Kumar's JD(U) and Chirag Paswan-led LJP have been at loggerheads for some time.

The LJP has indicated that it would field candidates against the JD(U), leading to an uneasy situation within the NDA in Bihar.

Even as Paswan swears by his lovalty towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in whose cabinet his father and LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan is a minister, he has often criticised the Nitish Kumar



government

The elections will be held in the state in three phases from October 28 to November 7. The votes will be counted November 10. Speaking to reporters at the party

office here, Prasad said that discussions are underway on the seatsharing "at levels where it should "This is the domain of the parliamentary board and central election committee. It is their job to decide. I can't enter their domain.' he said, replying to a question on the seat-sharing formula. Prasad, who represents the Patna Sahib seat in the Lok Sabha, said the Nitish Kumar-led government has done a lot of work for the state's overall development.

"I am confident that the people of Bihar will bless the NDA and help it return to power with a decisive mandate because of its development work. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's love for Bihar is evident from the fact that the announcements which he made have been translated into reality," the minister said.

In an apparent swipe at RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yaday, Prasad questioned why the photos of Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi have been dropped from the party's hoardings. "Out of sheer curiosity, I just want to know as to why one is ashamed of his or her heritage? Why there is a need to hide one's heritage? It is because they have nothing to show," he said.

The BJP leader said there is no clarity on who is the leader of the opposition Grand Alliance and it is in a state of disarray.

"The alliance is in disarray as people are leaving it. It will be interesting to know as to who stays in the alliance," Prasad said.

Bihar's ex-top cop meets Nitish days after taking VRS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 26: Former Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar here Saturday, lending credence to speculations that the IPS officer's sudden move of taking VRS was propelled by the intention to join politics

Pandey, who stepped down as the state police chief less than a week ago, however, insisted that he had walked down to the state headquarters of the JD(U), headed by the Chief Minister, to 'thank' Kumar for the trust reposed in him bv the latter.

Sabha seat where a by-poll has been necessitated by the death of

sitting JD(U) MP Baidyanath Mahto. The JD(U) draws its support, largely, from among non-Yadav OBCs and Pasmanda Muslims. The party hopes that with the induction of Pandey it may be able to reach out to the Brahmins, traditionally supporters of the Congress who have gravitated towards the BJP of

late. Pandey had hit the headlines recently for his vocal condemnation of the non-cooperation meted out to the Bihar police team that had visited Mumbai to probe the death by suicide of Patna-born actor

Tejashwi, Tej Pratap booked for violating Covid protocol

The RID leaders had taken out rallies in Patna to protest against the contentious farm Bills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 26: RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, his elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav, Jan Adhikar Party (JAP) leader Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav have been booked in poll-bound Bihar for taking out rallies here to protest against the contentious farm bills without permission and violating the COVID-19 protocol.

The three were booked Friday along with 150 others and an FIR was lodged at the Kotwali police station on the basis of a complaint by the magistrate deputed to oversee the situation, the police said.

Several farmers' organisations and opposition parties including



AP's one stop paddy procurement centres

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati. Sept 26: As the crop procurement season approaches, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed officials to make Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBK) as one stop centres for paddy procurement Friday.

The CM stated that RBKs would be made the one-stop center for paddy procurement," said an official. Reddy said that the government

will extend all support to farmers in terms of procuring their produce. Nearly 84 lakh tonnes of different crops are expected to be produced in this kharif season against a procurement target of 62 lakh metric tonnes. "With no shortage of seeds, fer-

tilizers and pesticides, agriculture production is also expected to grow



e-cropping, registration of farmers, information on grain collection should be given at the RBK level, said the official.

The CM entrusted joint collectors to monitor the day to day operations, including educating farmers on MSP rates, frequently asked questions, market perception, information on water, moisture content and others.

He also told the local legislators

Meanwhile, commenting on cot-

ton farmers, Reddy said that they had suffered corrupt business prac-

to get involved in the procurement

process for a smooth operation.

SSR DEATH PROBE



Gupteshwar Pandey had hit the Gheadlines recently for his vocal condemnation of the non-cooperation meted out to the Bihar police team that had visited Mumbai to probe the death by suicide of Patna-born actor Sushant Singh Rajput

Dandey's comment, while he was still the DGP, that actress Rhea Chakraborty accused of abetment to suicide by Raiput's father did not have the aukaat (standing) to make any snide remarks against Nitish Kumar was also much talked about

"I discussed nothing political with the Chief Minister. I have worked with him for long and, after retirement, I just wanted to thank him for his support. If and when I decide to join any political party, I will make it known to all," Pandey told a posse of journalists waiting outside the JD(U) office at Birchand Patel Marg.

Although the IPS officer, who took VRS less than half a year before he was scheduled to superannuate, has chosen to keep his cards close to the chest, the grapevine has it that he is all set to join the JD(U) and get a ticket from one of the assembly segments in his native district of Buxar.

Reports in a section of the media also say that Pandey might be considered for the Valmiki Nagar Lok

With a candour that is usually not associated with bureaucrats, Pandey had lashed out at the municipal authorities in Mumbai when they had forcibly guarantined Vinay Tiwari, a young IPS officer from Patna who heading the investigating team until the probe was handed over to the CBI upon a request to the effect from the

Sushant Singh Rajput.

Pandey has earlier brushed aside criticism from the Shiv Sena, saying "they keep saying many things, I don't give much credence to it."

deceased actor's father

Pandey had resigned from service in 2009 to contest the Lok Sabha elections held that year. His resignation letter was, however, intriguingly not forwarded and he was reinstated into service a few

months later. Earlier, Tuesday, decks seemed to have been cleared for Pandev's future move as his application for VRS received an expeditious approval from Governor Fagu Chauhan and an exception was

made in his case with the waiver of a mandatory three-month-long cooling off period for government servants.

RJD had held protests against the farm bills here Friday. RJD heir apparent Tejashwi Prasad Yadav rode a tractor to lead the protest against the passage of the three farm Bills Friday. His elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav sat atop its hood.

A named FIR has been lodged against five persons including RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Tej Pratap Yadav, Jan Adhikar Party (JAP) leader Pappu Yadav while 150 others have been made as unnamed accused. They have been booked for taking out protest march Kotwali police station SHO Sunil Kumar fold PTL These leaders and unnamed persons have also been booked for taking out a protest march on Baily road where any kind of protest is prohibited, the SHO said. The FIR has been lodged under various sections of IPC and Disaster Management Act 2005.

Tejashwi Yadav, who is also the leader of opposition in Bihar Assembly, had Friday termed the farm Bills as anti-farmer and aimed to privatise the agriculture sector. The Congress, Left parties, JAP protests across Bihar Friday as part of the opposition's nationwide protest against the passage of farm bills. It was marked by a clash between the BJP and JAP here.

The clash took place in front of BJP's state headquarters when JAP workers raised anti-Narendra Modi government slogans outside its gates to protest against the farm Bills. The BJP workers came out in large numbers from the party office and started hitting with sticks the JAP activists who were in a open pick up van.

significantly," he said.

According to the official, Reddy is taking special interest in crop procurement by bringing in a market intervention fund which aims to procure ₹3,300 crore worth agricultural produce. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has also given some other directives to officials, such as displaying the minimum support price (MSP) for crops on a large billboard at all RBKs.

"In the future, RBKs should also stand as full-fledged centres for grain procurement. In addition to

tices during the erstwhile Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime. "Cotton business reputation should not be lost and made sure that scams do not take place in cotton purchases. Authorities need to increase the CCI purchasing

centers and make it more beneficial to the farmers. If needed, purchasing centers have to be set up," said Reddy.

Mission to revive dwindling dwarf cow population

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Sept 26: Aimed at arresting the dwindling numbers of Punganuru cow, a dwarf bovine offering A2 milk rich in medicinal values and endemic to Andhra Pradesh, the state government has launched 'Mission Punganuru' recently.

"It is about a local breed which is almost dwindling. With modern technology, we are planning to improve the numbers of the breed so that we are able to get the multiplication rate over and above the normal rate," Animal Husbandry department special chief secretary Poonam Malakondaiah told IANS.

As part of the project, Malakondaiah said the department is working on breeding technology to produce more female Punganuru cows. With a budget of ₹73 crore for the mission, the senior IAS officer said the state government wants to reverse the neglect inflicted on this indigenous bovine breed all these years.

She said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is very keen on promoting indigenous breeds. "When we were promoting cows under any scheme, it was mostly about Jersey cows and others renowned for maximum vield and being economical. But then, our own local breeds with good medicinal properties and dung



best for organic farming were getting ignored and eroded," she observed. Malakondaiah asserted that the state cannot allow genetic material to be eroded with that kind of negligence.

On achieving multiplication rates in Punganuru numbers, the animal husbandry department will set up Punganuru cow farms in each district, where the cow's milk will be collected and sold with departmental certification.

Priced higher than regular milk

with many takers, Punganuru cow milk is expected to compensate the farmers. However, it will take time as the project stretches for a period of three years

Elaborating on the dwarf cow, the department's director, T. Damodar Naidu, said Punganuru is the pride of Andhra Pradesh.

"Punganuru cow originated by virtue of the terrain it lives in, around Punganuru taluka of Chittoor district, abutting Madanapalle and Horseley Hills

ENDANGERED SPECIES

he National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, which deals with the genetics of different breeds in India, has categorised Punganuru as an endangered species as it numbers dwindled below 2,000 at one time

he dwarf cow, also known as big goat for its low maintenance cost, is famous for climbing small hillocks in search of fodder

nlike a regular cow or buffalo, Punganuru cow cannot be used to pull a bullock cart or plough a field but is reared only for its milk, rich in A2 protein

and Palamaneru," said Naidu.

"It is called a big goat as far as its maintenance is concerned. So it consumes less feed when compared to a buffalo or cow. Its milk is just sufficient for the farmer's domestic needs and the calf," he said.

A2 milk, especially from Gir or Ongole animals is being sold at a premium price of ₹70-100 per litre, said Naidu. Similarly, with a gestation period of only nine months, Punganuru cow can bear a calf in just 12-14 months, making it a good

backyard investment for a house hold, he observed.

So with this motive, the government of AP wants to promote this breed by first multiplying it and then distributing.

For this multiplication purpose, the department will make use of IVF and embryo technology at Pulivendula in Kadapa district with academic support.

Simultaneously, steps will also be taken to encourage farmers in every district to start organic farming, which will take 2-3 years.

"So this panchagayya, diyamrutam, dhanamrutam and kashaya concept can be made from the dung and urine of these cows. Punganuru cow also gives 3-4 litres of urine per day, which can be collected and marketed," he said.

Apart from Punganuru, the department also intends to raise some more indigenous cows which produce good amount of milk, and aligns with the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote indigenous cow breeds.

Currently, some people are buying Punganuru cow even at a price of ₹2 lakh for fancy purposes, although it ranges between ₹40,000 -50,000 rupees.

Punganuru cow price can come down to around ₹30,000.

















Why the Akalis are still a part of the anti-farmer and anti-people **BJP-led government at the** Centre, which had conspired with large corporate houses to deprive farmers of their livelihood and ruin Punjab? AMARINDER SINGH | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

STATUE OF UNITY SCULPTOR TO INSTALL VAJPAYEE'S STATUE IN SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet Saturday decided to hire the sculptor behind the Statue of Unity for installing the statue of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the historic Ridge in the state capital



Chargesheet filed

against 9 TN cops

New Delhi, Sept 26: More than

three months after the alleged

custodial torture and death of a

father-son duo in Tamil Nadu

triggered a nationwide outrage,

the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) has filed a

chargesheet against nine police

officials who were posted at the

AGENCIES

CUSTODIAL DEATH

'Will Centre have ₹80K crore to give each Indian Covid vax?'

IARI scientists have developed a chemical that decomposes stubble and turns it into manure. There is no need for farmers to burn stubble

uote

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

How will elections be held in such atmosphere? The country must know How will the election campaign and rallies be held? Voting cannot be online. You have to stand in a aueue SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA LEADER

The Opposition is trying to stall the farm Bills drafted in the interest of country's farmers, because they are worried about the increasing popularity of PM Modi ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Large haul of drug seized

Guwahati: A large haul of drugs, valued at ₹5 crore, was seized in Assam's Karbi Anglong district and three people arrested, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a police team, led by DSP Nahid Karishma, intercepted a Guwahati-bound truck coming from Manipur at a check post on Dimapur-Manja road and recovered the drugs including brown sugar, heroin and Yaba (Methamphetamine) tablets from the vehicle. The drugs, which were in 143 packets, are suspected to be smuggled from Myanmar through Manipur.

2 held for betting on IPL match

New Delhi: Delhi police arrested two gamblers for indulging in a betting racket during an Indian Premier League (IPL) match and seized ₹27.500 cash, a box of portable manual telephone exchange with seven mobile phones. One HP laptop for maintaining accounts. One Sony LED TV with Wi-fi Set Top Box, One notepad have been recovered from the possession of the accused persons. A case of gambling has been registered against the accused Shamit Bhasin and Amarjeet Singh.



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 26: Chairman of Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) Adar Poonawalla took o Twitter to pose a question to the Ministry of Health Saturday. The SII has partnered with the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca for the manufacturing and distribution of its Covid-19

vaccine candidate in India. He asked, "Quick question; will the Government of India have ₹80,000 crores available, over the next one year?" He went on to add, "Because that's what

@MoHFW_INDIA needs, to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India. This is the next concerning challenge we need to tackle. @PMOIndia.'

"I ask this question, because we need to plan and guide, vaccine manufacturers both in India and overseas to service the needs of our country in terms of procurement and distribution," Poonawalla said in another tweet about an hour later.

Clinical trials for Covishield, the vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca in collaboration with SII have begun in

Mumbai's KEM and Nair hospitals. They are likely to begin at a state-run hospital in Pune sometime in the coming week.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) had earlier this month revoked its order suspending any new recruitment for phase-II and phase-III of the clinical trials of Covishield. This was done across the globe after one of the volunteers who received the vaccine experienced spinal inflammation.

"As I'd mentioned earlier, we should not jump to conclusions until the trials are fully concluded.

KEEPING FIT

'The recent chain of events is a clear example why we should not bias the process and should respect the process till the end. Good news, @UniofOxford," Adar Poonawalla had said after the revocation of DGCI's order.

Following a brief period of ex-amination, the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca received a goahead from authorities in the UK to resume clinical trials for Covishield.

The SII has, in fact, also partnered with Novavax for the manufacturing of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate, NVXCoV2373.

police station where the alleged torture took place. The police personnel include an inspector/SHO, two SIs, two head constables and four constables. They were posted at the Sathankulam Police Station in Tamil Nadu and had been arrested during the investigation and kept under judicial custody. One more accused, then a subinspector, died during the in-

vestigation. The CBI had registered two cases July 7 related to the allegations of custodial death of the father-son duo – P Jeyaraj and J Benniks – in Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu. The cases were filed based on the request of the state government and a notification of the Central government.

As per the CBI investigation, the father-son duo were arrested in the evening of June 19 and were allegedly tortured at the Sathankulam Police Station by the accused on the same evening as well as in the intervening night. Following this, they both succumbed to their injuries and died on the intervening night of June 22 and 23.

The CBI is also investigating the role of other persons in the case.

In August, the CBI had told the Madras High Court that the father-son duo died after suffering multiple injuries.

Women wearing protective face masks exercise at an open-air gym in a municipal park amidst the COVID-19 outbreak in Kolkata

FADNAVIS, RAUT **MEET; NOT POLITICAL,** SAYS BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 26: Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut met here Saturday, prompting speculation in Maharashtra's political circles. Raut, who hogged media lime



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturdav pitched for full implementation of a constitutional provision by the new Sri Lankan government to ensure devolution of powers to the minority



BJP announces Team Nadda

Many young turks with strong articulation skills have been given a shot to prove their mettle



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The BJP Saturday announced the longawaited list of its national officebearers as the party affected a major reshuffle in key organisational positions, gave the team a more pan-India look and brought in new faces, including some seen to be strongly associated with its core ideology.

The highlights of the new list are replacement of several general secretaries, including Ram Madhay, P Muralidhar Rao and Anil Jain, with new faces, appointment of Tejasvi Surya, an articulate and fiery advocate of the Hindutva plank, as the party's youth wing president, and giving place to West Bengal leader Mukul Roy, and Vinod Tawade and Pankaja Munde of Maharashtra in the team.

Roy has been made a vice president. and the two Maharashtra

Nadda has given additional thrust to its Gen-Next, it has also meant making space for them by removing some veterans like Ram Madhav and Muralidhar Rao, provoking speculation whether some of them may find a space in the Cabinet in the much-speculated Cabinet reshuffle while entering through the Rajya Sabha. At least four big names were dropped as BJP national general secretaries in Team Nadda - Ram Madhav who has been taking care of the party's

affairs in J&K, Ladakh and the northeast. Muralidhar Rao, who has been spearheading its

Why Ram Madhav, Uma Bharti excluded

NEW DELHI: While BJP's Team

5 held for selling toddler

Thane: Police have arrested five persons, including three women, in Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly kidnapping a two-and-a-halfyear-old boy and selling him to a childless couple for ₹70,000, an official said Saturday. The toddler was rescued and reunited with his parents recently and the accused were arrested Friday, he said. "The boy was kidnapped September 15 from near his house located close to the circus ground area in Ambarnath township when he was playing," senior inspector Sanjay Dhumal said.

Girl shot dead by spurned lover

Jaipur: A student was shot dead by a man near her college in Rajapark area of the city Saturday when she had gone to appear for her graduation final year examination, police said. "She had come from Jhunihunu to write the exam. scheduled from 7 am to 10 am. The accused attacked her with a knife and then opened fire around 10.30 am near her college," DCP Rahul Jain said. She was rushed to SMS government hospital where she succumbed to the injuries, Jain said.

leaders secretaries. There had been reports that all three of them were miffed with their respective state leadership.

Surya replaces Poonam Mahajan. Uma Bharti has been dropped as vice president along with MP Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Prabhat Jha, Om Prakash Mathur and Shyam Jaju among others, while Saroj Pandey has been dropped as general secretary.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the new team of officebearers and expressed confidence that they will uphold the "glorious tradition" of the party of serving the people of India selflessly and with dedication.

There are five new general secretaries among the total eight: Dalit leader Dushvant Kumar Gautam. D Purandareshwari of Andhra Pradesh, CT Ravi of Karnataka, Tarun Chugh of Punjab, a state where the BJP's ties with ally Akali Dal have nosedived over farm bills. and Dilip Saikia from Assam.

aegis of BL Santosh, and Rajya Sabha members Anil Jain and Saroj Pandey

south India affairs under the

Bhupender Yadav, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Arun Singh have retained their position as general

secretaries, who occupy a critical position in the organisation as they are often put in charge of states and serve as a link between the regional and central leaderships. Sources said the BJP leadership

has chosen to go with leaders who are fit for their role and are seen to be reflective of the party's ideology. They said those who have been dropped should not be naturally judged negatively, adding that any new list of office bearers is bound to have a high proportion of fresh

faces, something the party's constitution also advocates. However, some may have been dropped for reasons like their wont to make comments which have repeatedly irked the leadership and non-performance, they added

light for his strident anti-BJP posture over power sharing formula after last year's state Assembly polls, met Fadnavis at a suburban hotel here.

Maharashtra BJP chief spokesperson Keshav Upadhye said there was no political angle to the meeting. "Raut wanted to interview Fadnavis for (the Sena mouthpiece) Saamana and this meeting was to discuss how to go about it," he tweeted.

"Fadnavis has informed Raut that he would grant Raut the interview after returning from poll campaigning in Bihar, and there are no political connotations to the meeting," Upadhye said.

Shiv Sena and BJP, which contested the state Assembly elections as allies, fell out over power sharing formula and the Uddhav Thackeray-led party formed the government with the NCP and Congress as the new alliance partners.

Tamil community even as he announced a \$15 million grant to the island nation for promotion of bilateral Buddhist ties.

The issue of Tamil reconciliation process figured prominently at a virtual summit between Modi and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who assumed charge of the top post last month for a fresh tenure after his party secured a two-thirds majority in the parliamentary polls.

In the talks that lasted for about an hour, the two sides deliberated on ways to further boost maritime security cooperation, strengthen trade and investment ties and implementation of the East Container Terminal (ECT) project in Colombo port involving India and Japan.

On the Tamil issues, Prime Minister Modi emphasised that implementation of the 13th amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution is essential for carrying forward the process of peace and reconcilThe issue of Tamil reconciliation process figured prominently at a virtual summit between Modi and Lankan **Prime Minister** Mahinda Rajapaksa

iation, Joint Secretary (Indian Ocean Region) at the Ministry of External Affairs Amit Narang said at a media briefing.

"Prime Minister Modi called on the new government in Sri Lanka to work towards realising the expectations of Tamils for equality, justice, peace and dignity within a united Sri Lanka by achieving reconciliation nurtured by implementation of the constitutional provisions." he said.

The 13th amendment provides for

devolution of power to the Tamil community. India has been pressing Sri Lanka to implement the 13th amendment which was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987. In the talks, India raised the issue of the ECT project in Colombo port as it was put on hold by the Sri Lankan government nearly a after a pact for its implementation was signed.

"Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that the new government will take early and decisive steps for implementation of these projects," Narang said when asked about the project being implemented by India and Japan.

In the summit that lasted for about an hour, Modi also expressed his hope that the temporary restrictions imposed by the Sri Lankan side on the imports of some products will be relaxed soon since it will also benefit the economy and common people of the island nation.

Lancet cautions India on giving 'too much positive spin' to Covid

LANCET SAID THE EPIDEMIC IN INDIA IS FAR FROM OVER, WITH A POTENTIALLY HUGE BURDEN OF MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY TO COME

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 26: The renowned medical journal, Lancet has criticised India on the danger of presenting the current situation in India with too positive a spin. It not only clouds reality but also hampers vital public health initiatives.

It said that perpetuating unrealistic claims or failing to honestly report negative news creates uncertainty among the public and health-care professionals, discouraging people from taking preventive action or taking public health messages seriously.

India has the expertise in medicine, public health, research, and manufacturing to lead the nation through the Covid-19 pandemic. "To capitalise on these attributes,

the country's leaders must respect scientific evidence, expert commentary, and academic freedom, and not provide false optimism, Lancet said in a criticism directed at the government. Hope is important, and recognising successes is vital, especially during a pandemic, it added.

The epidemic in India is far from over, with a potentially huge burden of mortality and morbidity to come unless public health measures are used and adhered to. Without clear and honest communication of the risks of Covid-19 to the population, stemming the epidemic will be impossible.

"Most crucially, the rapidly growing case numbers, alongside the continuing relaxation of restrictions, are creating an atmosphere



of fatalism mingled with false optimism that undermines effective use of non-pharmaceutical interventions such as masks and physical distancing," Lancet said. Lancet said according to news

reports, hours before announcing the national lockdown. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told owners and editors from India's largest media organisations that it was important to tackle the spread of pessimism, negativity, and rumour.

This pressure to avoid negative news, and to offer reassurance, appears to have been felt by several professional scientific organisations in India.

Lancet has slammed ICMR. "The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been singled out by experts for straying from scientific evidence, appearing at worst politically motivated and at best overly optimistic," it said. A letter from the Director General of the ICMR. Balram Bhargava, said that the ICMR envisaged launching a coronavirus vaccine August 15

Indian Independence Day; a deadline considered unrealistic by most medical experts); ICMR has supported treatment with hydroxychloroquine despite insufficient evidence; and news reports claim that data on coronavirus infection were

removed from a scientific paper. It has also pointed towards issues with Covid numbers. 'Transparency of the data on Covid-19 cases and deaths, especially those underpinning the case fatality rate, has also been questioned, as detailed in a recent World Report. The Indian government reports a case fatality rate of 8%, much lower than the reported rate in other countries, but it is difficult to know if the numbers are comparable,' Lancet said.











India feels the absence of a PM with the depth of Dr Manmohan Singh. His honesty, decency and dedication are a source of inspiration for us all. Wishing him a very happy birthday and a lovely year ahead RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

4.5 QUAKE STRIKES NEAR J&K'S GULMARG

An earthquake of magnitude 4.5 was reported near Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir Saturday afternoon, according to India's National Center for Seismology

Bathinda, Moga, Kotkapura

and children also participated in

protests. Farmers would force the

government with a series of protests

and agitations to withdraw the farm

Bills, he said, adding that these Bills

would only "benefit" big corporates.

hension that the Centre's farm re-

forms would pave the way for the

dismantling of the minimum sup-

port price system and they would

be at the "mercy" of big corporates.

The farmers said they would con-

tinue their fight till the three farm

(Amendment) Bill, 2020, the Farmers'

Produce Trade and Commerce

(Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

and the Farmers (Empowerment

and Protection) Agreement of Price

Assurance and Farm Services Bill.

2020 were passed by the Parliament

The Essential Commodities

bills were revoked.

earlier this week.

Farmers have expressed appre-



Farmers continue to block rail tracks in Punjab

Congress sought votes in the 2018 Assembly polls in the name of Jyotiraditya Scindia but then went on to

form a government in the state under Kamal Nath SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

uote

I have no objection to it. Let them bring it. Every six months they (Congress) must move the noconfidence motion.

So I will be safe for the next six months

BS YEDIYURAPPA KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER



Central minister, one Rajya Sabha MP and an MLA. In the corona corruption case, there has been a corruption of almost

₹2,000 crores and there are riots everywhere

SIDDARAMAIAH CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

CBI books 4 former CBSE officers

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said that it has filed a case against then Joint Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries, and one more official of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on charges of alleged irregularities in recruitment. CBI officials said that the case was registered against four former officers of CBSE on charges of misusing their official position, circumventing reservation provisions, and using forged and fake documents to get jobs in the CBSE.

Ceasefire violation by Pakistan again

Jammu: Pakistan army Saturday targeted Indian positions by using small arms and mortars on the Line of

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 26: Farmers in Punjab continued their 'rail' roko agitation Saturday at several places in the state in protest against the three farm Bills passed by Parliament recently.

The movement of trains in the state continued to remain suspended in the wake of farmers' stir.

Farmers have been protesting on rails tracks at many places in the state since September 24. The call for the 'rail roko' agitation was given by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee and later, different farmers' outfits had extended their support to it.

Squatting on rails tracks, agitating farmers Saturday shouted slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre and demanded the rollback of the farm Bills which

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Indian and

Japanese navies will hold a three-

day mega military exercise from

today in the North Arabian Sea to

further consolidate their opera-

tional convergence, officials said.

The exercise is taking place in the

backdrop of growing concerns

over China's military muscle flex-

ing in the Indian Ocean Region as

It will be the first military ex-

ercise after the two countries signed

a landmark agreement September

9 that will allow their militaries

to access each other's bases for lo-

tion of the India-Japan maritime

exercise JIMEX will feature a mul-

titude of advanced exercises across

the spectrum of maritime opera-

tions, in reflection of high degree of

The officials said the fourth edi-

well as in the Indo-Pacific.

gistics support.

they described as "black laws". In Amritsar, a group of protesting farmers went shirtless to express

India, Japan Navies begin

three-day mega exercise



their anger against the farm Bills. "Farmers have taken off their 'kurtas' and shirts to make the government hear our voice." said Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher

inter-operability and joint opera-

tional skills. The JIMEX series of ex-

ercises started in January 2012 with

a special focus on maritime security

cooperation. The last edition of

JIMEX was conducted in October

and exercises planned during

JIMEX-20 are indicative of the con-

tinued upswing in Indo-Japanese

defence relations and continued

efforts by both governments to

work closely for a more secure,

open and inclusive global com-

mons, in accordance with inter-

national regulations," an Indian

exercises involving weapon fir-

ings, cross deck helicopter opera-

tions and complex surface, anti-

submarine and air warfare drills

will further consolidate coordina-

tion between the two navies.

He said multi-faceted tactical

Navy spokesperson said.

"Advanced level of operations

2018 off Visakhapatnam coast.

over the phone. Bare-chested protesters, sitting on Amritsar-Delhi rail track, raised slogans against the BJP-led Central government. The Committee Friday had announced to extend its three-day 'rail

Squatting on rails tracks, agitating farmers Saturday shouted slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre and demanded the rollback of the farm Bills which they described as "black laws"

he Committee Friday had announced to extend its three-day 'rail roko' agitation from September 26 till September 29

roko' agitation from September 26 till September 29. The 'rail roko' agitation had started Thursday, forcing the railway authorities to suspend the operation of 14 pairs of special passenger trains in the state.

Farmers under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) blocked rail tracks in nine districts. BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdey Singh Kokri Kalan said the rail tracks were blocked at Patiala, Sangrur,

EVE OF WORLD TOURISM DAY



Girdhar Vyas, who claims to sport the longest moustache in the world, poses for a photograph on the eve of World Tourism Day in Bikaner, Saturday

Send children in care homes back to their families: Child rights body

The NCPCR said the decision was taken also keeping in view the alarming concerns

'POISON' PEDDLER WOMEN WILL BREW NECTAR NOW these women has taken the lives



of their husbands. From time to police does conduct raids

Raj woman accuses father of raping her for 10 years

Faridkot, Muktsar, Jalalabad Fazilka. He said elders, women, youth AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 26: A 23-year-old woman in Rajasthan's Kota accused her father, an employee with the Indian Railways, of repeatedly raping her for the last 10 years, police said Friday.

In a complaint to Bhemganjmandi police station, the woman accused the father of repeatedly raping her at home and at places where he was posted, they said.

The woman also has alleged that her father attempted to sexually harass her vounger sister on a number of occasions. police said.

The woman has written that her mother was aware about the conduct of her father, but was unable to break her silence as she herself was a victim of domestic violence, the official said.

Based on the woman's complaint, the accused was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official said.

The accused has been detained for questioning but not arrested yet, the official added.

The woman was sent for medical examination and her statement will be recorded before a magistrate September 28, police said.

SP Balasubrahmanyam laid to rest with state honours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 26: Versatile singer, actor and music composer SP Balasubrahmanyam hailed as "singing moon" by his millions of fans was laid to rest at his farm house near here Saturday with a 24-gun salute by Tamil Nadu police.

After the singer's son SP Charan performed the funeral rites amid Vedic chants by priests, last post was played by a police band and 24 personnel in ceremonial attire___ gave a gun salute.



Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. "At around 11.15 a.m. today, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district," Defence Ministry spokesperson Colonel Devender Anand said. "Indian army is retaliating befittingly," he added.

BSF officer dies on duty in Kashmir

Srinagar: A Border Security Force (BSF) officer collapsed and later succumbed while on duty in the high security Rai Bhawan area of Srinagar city. The incident happened Saturday. Police sources said Havat Singh, assistant subinspector belonging to 163 BSF battalion, collapsed while on patrolling duty in the Rai Bhawan area of Srinagar city. He was shifted to the unit headquarter hospital where doctors said he was dead on arrival.

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Decomposed body found

New Delhi: The decomposed body of a woman was found in a rented accommodation in Qutub Vihar area of Dwarka Friday, police said. The woman has been identified as Dishu Kumari, 26, who was from Jharkhand and working in Gurugram. Police suspects that the murder was committed at least two days back. The flat was rented by her male friend, who is now absconding. According to preliminary investigation, the male friend of the woman had rented the accommodation two to three months back. He has been absconding since the past two days.

over the safety and security of children residing in these institutions as well

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The country's top child rights body NCPCR has directed eight states that account for over 70 per cent of children in care homes to ensure their return to their families, noting that it is the right of every child to grow up in a familial environment.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) said the decision was taken also keeping in view the alarming concerns over the safety and security of children residing in these institutions as well.

The eight states - Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Mizoram, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Meghalaya-have 1.84 lakh (or nearly 72 per cent) children in child care homes out of a total of 2.56 lakh in the country.

The NCPCR has directed the district magistrates and collectors of these states to ensure that the children living in these care homes return to their families, preferably within a 100-day period.

Those who could not be sent back to their families must be placed for adoption or in foster home, it added. Speaking about the direction, NCPCR chairperson Priyank Kanoongo said this exercise will be carried out in a phased manner beginning with these eight states and it will be then executed in the rest of the country.

"The principle of the Juvenile Justice Act is to keep children with families, and keeping children in child care homes must be the last resort till all attempts are made to give them an atmosphere of home," he said. "It was observed in south India that some CWCs (child welfare

committees) are ordering to keep children in children homes due to the poverty of the family. You cannot take away the right to family from a child because of poverty. It is the failure of the state if due to poverty the child is forced to reside in child care homes. It is the duty of the state to strengthen the family so that they could take care of their children, he told this news agency.

He further said that the commission will sit with each district and discuss the plan of how each and every child can be sent back to their families.

In a letter to these states, the NCPCR said it was observed that maximum number of child care institutions (CCIs) and children in need of care and protection (CNCP) placed in these homes are located in five southern states of the country, "which paints an unsettling picture.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Barabanki (UP), Sept 26: Women of the Chayanpurva village in Barabanki will no longer peddle 'poison', they will now distribute honey.

This village is among the 12 hamlets in the vicinity of Ramnagar police station of Barabanki district in central Uttar Pradesh, 60km off the district headquarters. It was infamous for production and sale of 'killer hooch' that has destroyed families and ended many lives.

And this deadly mixture is being brewed mostly by women, who are bound to produce the illicit hooch to run their kitchens as they have no means of livelihood. However, this hooch produced by

and arrest the women for the crime



The Barabanki Police have taken an initiative to help these women, who are criminals in the eyes of law. The police are trying to bring them out of the 'business of poison' now by helping them to harvest honey and lead respectable lives.

Later, the body with SPB's glasses on and smeared with 'Thiruneeru' (sacred ashes) on the forehead and draped in zari dhoti was lowered into a deep pit and buried as chants of "SPB Pugazh Onguga" (Live long SPB's fame) rent the air. Flower petals were showered on the body and crystal salt strewn around inside the pit before its closure.

With policemen, their rifles tucked under their arms marching along, the body was brought on a traditional hay lined bier to the final resting place on the verdant premises from a 'pandal' earmarked for people to pay homage and perform rituals.

Row over dropping chapters on Nehru's policies from Class 12 syllabus

THE CHAPTERS WERE DELETED BY ASSAM HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION COUNCIL UNDER MEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE THE COURSE-LOAD ON STUDENTS ON ACCOUNT OF THE LOSS OF ACADEMIC SCHEDULE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Sept 26: The Congress in Assam has lodged strong protests against dropping of chapters on Jawaharlal Nehru's policies, Ayodhya dispute and the Gujarat riots from the Class 12 syllabus of the state board.

The chapters were deleted by the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) under measures taken to reduce the course-load on students on account of the loss of academic schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia wrote a letter to Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, urging him to instruct the AHSEC to retain certain chapters, pertaining to the policies and contribution Jawaharlal Nehru.

Saikia said that any step to ease the workload of the students would have been welcome but the choice of chapters dropped was questionable. He cited the dropping of chapters on Jawahar Lal Nehru's foreign policy and "Garibi Hatao" cam-

paign initiated by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. "Any unbiased person would concede that Pandit Nehru laid the foundation of modern India by lay-

ing emphasis on industrialization of the country via scientific technology. Similarly, Pandit Nehru had signed the Panchasheel Agreement with China and the neighbouring country had recently stated that it still wants bilateral ties based on that The topics on

pact," he said in the letter. Saikia said that Jawaharlal Nehru continues to garner global respect for spearheading the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War.

"Even political opponents like Bharat Ratna Atal Behari Vajpayee

implementation of the Mandal Commission report, Punjab crisis and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the Central governments under the United Front, Ayodhya dispute and Gujarat riots have also been dropped

and the incumbent Defence Minister; Rajnath Singh publicly acknowledged Pandit Nehru's unparalleled contribution to nation building and nurturing of democratic values. Saikia said in the letter.

Saikia added that "everyone had

noticed a concerted campaign by a certain section over the past few years to tarnish the image of Jawaharlal Nehru and negate his contribution to the nation."

'There is ground to suspect that this force is behind the AHSEC's decision to drop chapters about Pandit Nehru from the curriculum," Saikia said.

The topics have been cut short in all the subjects of the three streams-Science, Arts and Commerce,

In a document uploaded on the official website, AHSCE Secretary Manoranjan Kakati had said that syllabus has been slashed to reduce the exam stress on the students for the current academic year.

"This syllabi is only the reduced portion for the preparation of up-

coming final exams of Higher Secondary 1st and 2nd year to be held in 2021," Kakati had said.

The topics on implementation

of the Mandal Commission report (on job quota for OBC), Punjab crisis and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the Central governments under the United Front, earlier regimes of NDA and UPA, Ayodhya dispute, Gujarat riots, famine and suspension of five-year plans, have also been dropped.

Not only in the political science, for the sociology paper, the struggle for women equality, minority rights and nation-building, panchayati raj and challenges of social transformation, globalisation and socialchange, land reforms and tribal movements have also been dropped.









OrissaPOST SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 27 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR international

US President Donald Trump will leave office if he loses the **November 3 election** JOE BIDEN DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

SHOCKING REVELATION

The number of Covid-19 cases has surged to more than 32.4 million or 0.4 per cent of the Earth's total population - meaning nearly every 250th person has already contracted coronavirus



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Establishing constructive relations between Japan and North Korea will not only serve the interests of both sides but will also greatly

contribute to regional peace and stability YOSHIHIDE SUGA JAPAN'S PM

We all knew that in September there would be a greater need for testing. I'm really angry. It's another example of lessons not being learned. You can explain the delay. incompetence in March. There's no excuse now

SADIQ KHAN | LONDON MAYOR



RIVA GANGULY DAS INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH

SHORT TAKES

Plane crash death toll rises

Moscow: Searchers combing the area where a Ukrainian military aircraft crashed found two more bodies Saturday, bringing the death toll to 26. One person survived. The plane, a twinturboprop Antonov-26 belonging to the Ukrainian air force, was carrying a crew of seven and 20 cadets of a military aviation school when it crashed and burst into flames Friday night while coming in for landing at the airport in Chuhuiv, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of the capital Kyiv. Two people initially survived the crash, but one later died in a hospital. No cause for the crash has been determined.

White supremacist killed in shootout San Francisco: Police in the

.

Lebanese PM-designate resigns

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, Sept 26: Lebanon's Prime Minister-designate resigned Saturday amid a political impasse over government formation, dealing a blow to French President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to break a dangerous stalemate in the crisishit country.

The announcement by Mustapha Adib nearly a month after he was appointed to the job further delays the prospect of getting the foreign economic assistance needed to rescue the country from collapse.

Adib said he was stepping down after it became clear that the kind of Cabinet he wished to form was "bound to fail." The French leader has been pressing Lebanese politicians to form a Cabinet made up of non-partisan specialists that can work on enacting urgent reforms to extract Lebanon from a devastating economic and financial crisis worsened by the August 4 explosion at Beirut port.

The country is in desperate need of financial assistance but France and other international powers have refused to provide aid before serious reforms are made. The crisis is largely blamed on decades of systematic corruption and mismanagement by

Lebanon's ruling class. But efforts by the French-supported Adib have hit multiple snags, after the country's main Shiite groups, Hezbollah and Amal, in-



sisted on retaining hold of the key Finance Ministry. Their insistence emerged after the U.S. administration slapped sanctions on two senior politicians close to Hezbollah, including the ex-finance minister. The two groups also insisted on naming the Shiite ministers in the new Cabinet and objected to the manner in which Adib was form-

ing the government, without consulting with them. After a short meeting with Aoun Saturday, Adib said he was stepping down after his efforts hit a dead end. "I have apologized about con-

tinuing the mission of forming a government after it became clear that a Cabinet according to the characteristics I had set for it would be bound to fail," he said. The Lebanese pound dropped



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he country is in desperate

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other international powers

have refused to provide aid

month after he was appointed to the job further delays the prospect of getting the foreign economic assistance needed to rescue the country from collapse

against the dollar following his resignation, trading at more than 8,100 Lebanese pounds on the black market Saturday. Lebanon, a former French protectorate, is mired in the country's worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history. It defaulted on paying back its debt for the first time ever in March, and the local currency has lost nearly 80 % of its value amid hyperinflation. soaring poverty, and unemployment. Talks with the International Monetary Fund on a bailout package have stalled

The crisis has been compounded by the coronavirus pandemic and more recently by the August 4 explosion at Beirut's port caused by the detonation of thousands of tons of ammonium nitrates

THOUSANDS **FLOUT COVID** RESTRICTIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 26: Thousands of anti-lockdown demonstrators turned up at Trafalgar Square in London Saturday for a socalled "We Do Not Consent" rally to protest against restrictions imposed to check the spread of coronavirus, including the current "rule of six" which limits gatherings to a maximum of five people.

The Metropolitan Police issued a statement to warn that it would be stepping up patrols in line with the planned demonstrations, even as it reminded the public that such gatherings could be in breach of regulations designed to protect people from the virus.

It is illegal for people to gather in groups of more than six, unless they are exempt. While protest is one of those exemptions, organisers must submit a risk assessment and must comply with social distancing.

"Officers will, of course, continue to use the approach of engaging, explaining and encouraging people to follow the regulations. However, if people fail to comply, and continue to put themselves at risk, officers will take enforcement action,' said Commander Ade Adelekan who is leading the Met Police operation Saturday.

US to restrict stay of scribes to 90 days

The move came amidst worsening of bilateral ties over a range of issues like the coronavirus pandemic, trade, Beijing's increasing grip on Hong Kong and

alleged human rights abuses against minorities *in the Xinjiang province*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 26: The Trump Administration is seeking to restrict the stay of journalists from China in the US to just 90 days with the provision of another extension for a similar duration, according to a federal notification. The move came amidst wors-

ening of bilateral ties over a range of issues like the coronavirus pandemic, trade, Beijing's increasing grip on Hong Kong and alleged human rights abuses against minorities in the Xinjiang province.

The proposal of the Department of Homeland Security is part of the fixed time limit on visas of students, researchers and foreign journalists in the US. While the time limit for foreign journalists in general has been restricted to

240 days and another extension of a similar period, those for a journalist from China would be issued a visa by the United States just for 90 days, as per the federal notification issued Friday.

Stakeholders have 30 days to respond to the federal notification before it can be enforced. Foreign nationals travelling on a passport issued by China or Hong Kong would be issued visa which is the category for a foreign journalist -- may be admitted until the "activities or assignments consistent with the classification" are completed, not to exceed 90 days, the notification said.

Passport holders from Macau Special Administrative Region have been given exception. The extension for Chinese journalists is also for 90 days only. Foreign journalists and their dependents would have to leave the country immediately on expiry of their visa or denial of their extension application.

No swanky gala: Nobel Prizes to go ahead amid Covid-19 REUTERS

Stockholm, Sept 26: The winners of this year's Nobel Prizes will miss out on a swanky

gala in Stockholm surrounded by royalty and Sweden's glitterati, but 2020 will at least not be added to the war years when no awards were given.

Yet as the coronavirus pandemic rapidly enveloped much of the world earlier this year that was far from certain. "When we were thinking about this in March and April this year, we were worried that it wouldn't be possible to award any prizes at all," Lars Heikensten, head of the Nobel Foundation that adminis-

ters the prizes founded by dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel, said. While Sweden has not imposed

a rigid lockdown like many European countries, Heikensten said the committees that decide the various prizes had to switch to working digitally to make the selection process work. But the foundation was de-

termined that the awards - worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million) this year - go ahead. "We thought it was particularly important in a year like this, when the importance of science is so obvious." Heikensten said. The awards were cancelled during parts of World War One and World War Two.

United Nations, Sept 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday questioned for how long will India, the world's largest democracy and home to 1.3 billion people, be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations, asserting that reform in the responses, processes and in the very character of the global body is the "need

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of the hour." In his pre-recorded video statement to the landmark General Debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, Modi said the stability in the United Nations and empowerment of the world body are essential for the welfare of the world.

The Prime Minister's strong push for UN reforms and the much-de-



layed expansion of the powerful Security Council came as India will begin its two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the 15member Council from January 1 next year.

"For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations? How

long would a country have to wait particularly when the transformational changes happening in that country affect a large part of the world?" Modi asked.

He said that while it is a fact that the faith and respect that the United Nations enjoys among the 1.3 billion people in India is "unparalleled", it

PM MODI CALLS FOR UN REFORMS is also true that the people of India have been waiting for a long time for the process for the reforms of the United Nations to get completed.

'Today, people of India are concerned whether this reform-process will ever reach its logical conclusion," he said, adding that every Indian today, while seeing the contribution of India in the world organisation, aspires for India's expanded role in the United Nations.

'Reform in the responses, in the processes, and in the very character of the United Nations is the need of the hour," he emphasised. India has been spearheading decades-long efforts to reform the Security Council, saying a structure set up in 1945 does not reflect contemporary realities of the 21st Century and is ill-equipped to handle current challenges

US state of California has said that a white supremacist was killed during a shootout with authorities, it was reported. In a statement on Friday, the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office said the incident took place in Templeton town on Thursday morning when officers tried to conduct a traffic stop on the 38-year-old victim, Christopher Michael Straub, a known member of a white supremacist gang, CNN reported. On seeing the approaching officers, Straub got out of his vehicle, hid and later ambushed them, firing multiple rounds with a handgun, it said.

Indian expats donate blood

Riyadh: The Indian diaspora community in the Saudi Governorate of Hafr Al Batin has donated blood in a gesture to celebrate the Kingdoms 90th National Day, according to a media report. Dozens of Indian residents in the eastern governorate donated blood at various health facilities in coordination with the local health department, Gulf News Friday quoted the Saudi news portal, Ajel as saying.

Polls open in Malaysian state

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Kuala Lumpur: Polls opened Saturday in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state in a vote seen as a referendum for embattled Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's 7-monthold unelected government. The leader of the oppositionruled state dissolved the assembly July 30 to seek early elections and thwart attempts by Muhyiddin's ruling alliance to take over Sabah through lawmakers' defections.





Environmental activist and campaigner Mya-Rose Craig, holds a cardboard sign reading "youth strike for climate" as she sits on an ice floe in the middle of the Arctic Ocean

Trump names his next Supreme Court nominee

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 26: President Donald Trump Saturday planned to name conservative appellate judge Amy Coney Barrett as his third US Supreme Court appointment, setting off a scramble in the Republican-led Senate to confirm her before Election Day in 5-1/2 weeks.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has made confirming Trump's judicial nominees a top priority and Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, who mounted an angry defense of Trump's last high court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in 2018, has signaled he expects to have Barrett confirmed as a justice by November 3.

Barrett, 48, was appointed by

Trump to the Chicago-based 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017 and is a favorite of religious conservatives, a key Trump voter bloc. Her confirmation to replace liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died September 18, would make Barrett the fifth woman ever to serve on the top U.S. judicial body and push its conservative majority to a commanding 6-3.

Conservative activists hailed Trump's selection, which surfaced Friday night, while liberals voiced dismay. Democrats, still seething over McConnell's 2016 refusal to consider President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nomination of Merrick Garland because it came during an election year, will raise objections to Barrett but have scant chances of blocking confirmation.

Asked whether two million fa-

talities worldwide was possible be-

fore a vaccine became available,

Dr. Ryan said: "It's not impossible."

"Unless we do it all, the number

you speak about is not only imag-

inable, but unfortunately and sadly,

'Sirisena must take responsibility'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 26: Former Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena should take responsibility for the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that claimed the lives of over 250 people, ex-police chief Puiith Jayasundara has told a panel probing the attack, according to media reports.

April 21, 2019, Easter Sunday, nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamic extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels in the island nation, killing 258 people. Suspended Inspector General of Police Jayasundara testified Thursday before the presidential inquiry commission probing the attacks, the Daily Mirror Lanka reported. "I provided intelligence to senior DIGs Nandana Munasinghe, Latheef, Priyalal Dasanayake and Waruna Jayasundara who had been appointed to cover the entire island. Provincial officers were also informed," the newspaper quoted Jayasundara as saying.

He said Sirisena's brother had ensured the intelligence that he provided was deleted from telecom records, who at the time was the president of Mobitel Telecom, reported the Colombo Page.

Jayasundara told the commission that Sirisena had asked him to take responsibility for the attack and indirectly offered inducements -- high government post, appointment as an Ambassador."He also said he will save me from the Malalgoda Commission, if I accept the responsibility. I left without saying anything,' Jayasundara was quoted in the Colombo Page report.

WHO warns death toll may hit 2mn even with vaccine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, Sept 26: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the global coronavirus death toll could cross the two-million figure before an effective vaccine is widely used

Dr. Mike Ryan, the WHO's emergencies head, said the figure could be higher without concerted international action. The number of Covid-19 deaths is fast approaching one million -- nearly nine months after the outbreak started in China.

The Covid-19 infections continue to rise, with 32 million cases confirmed globally, led by the US and India. The US, India and Brazil have confirmed the most coronavirus cases, recording more than



15 million between them. Ryan also urged Europeans to ask themselves whether they had

done enough to avoid the need for lockdowns. "He questioned whether all the alternatives had been implemented, like testing and tracing, quarantine, isolation, social distancing, wearing masks and hand-washing," the report said.

Virus infections continue to rise with 32 million cases confirmed globally. The start of a second surge of coronavirus infections has been seen in many countries in the northern hemisphere as winter approaches.

"Overall within that very large region, we are seeing worrying increases of the disease," Dr. Ryan said about the spike in cases in Europe. "Lockdowns are almost a last resort -- and to think that we're back in last-resort territory in September, that's a pretty sobering thought." he said at the WHO's headquarters in Geneva.

Earlier, Spain's capital Madrid brought another eight districts under tougher coronavirus restrictions, which now affect a million people in the city. In France, staff from bars and restaurants in the southern city Marseille protested against the closure of their workplaces which was brought in on Saturday. In the UK, tougher re-

verv likelv'

went up.







strictions were announced in sev-

eral regions as new daily infections





Digital technologies such as conversational AI, AR, 3D content and VR can help brands create immersive experiences throughout the customer's digital journey from awareness to engagement and finally commerce, driving online sales in innovative and affordable ways ANURAG GUPTA | MD AND LEAD-STRATEGY & CONSULTING, ACCENTURE (INDIA)

US FIRMS SUE TRUMP ADMIN

About 3,500 US companies, including Tesla Inc, Ford Motor, Target Corp, Walgreen Co and Home Depot have sued the Trump administration in the last two weeks over the imposition of tariffs on more than \$300 billion (£235.35 billion) in Chinese-made goods



FISCAL PACKAGE ON THE CARDS AHEAD OF FESTIVIT

China's participation in Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) is totally insufficient. told (the) G7 that we must apply further pressure on them, that DSSI needs to be extended beyond this year-end deadline

uote

TARO ASO FINANCE MINISTER, JAPAN

Niti Aayog has been working on a #StateEnergyIndex that is set to foster healthy competition in the states' energy #DISCOM space. The index would not only allow for better formulation & implementation of strategies for continuous improvement & management of resources

RAJIV KUMAR VICE-CHAIRMAN, NITI AAYOG



SHORT TAKES

Generic drug launched

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Saturday said it has launched Dimethyl Fumarate delayed-release capsules, used to treat multiple sclerosis (MS), in the US market. The company's product is a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Biogen's Tecfidera delayed-release capsules, the Hyderabadbased drug firm said in a statement. According to IQVIA Health data, the Tecfidera brand and generic market had sales of around \$3.8 billion (about ₹28,000 crore) in the US for the most recent twelve months.

Vahdam Teas ties up with **BYJU'S**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 26: A fiscal package to put money in the hands of the consumer in the festival season is on the cards. The package could be rolled out around Navratri which is the biggest purchasing season for consumers and the economy going up till Diwali. This would mean putting money into the hands of the people as income has gone down for the salaried, migrant workers and small businesses. This will also shore up demand

for companies In October 2017, just before Diwali, the government had announced cuts in GST rates on around 27 items, mostly consumer items, along with some other incentives.

In September last year, again just around the festival season, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman an-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

its offering.

framework

New Delhi, Sept 26: Telecom reg-

ulator Trai has decided to drop pro-

ceedings against Vodafone Idea Ltd

(VIL) in priority plan matter after

the telco withdrew contentious

claims on faster speed and modified

The move brings down curtains

on the controversial priority plan

issue, which saw the Telecom

Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)

initiating a probe into telco's claims

of priority network and faster data

slapped a show-cause notice on VIL

over its priority mobile plan, say-

ing the tariff offer lacked trans-

parency and was "misleading" and

not in compliance with regulatory

recently dropped the faster data

speed claims which formed a promi-

nent part of its pay-more-for-priority-

treatment offering and filed a revised

Faced with regulatory heat, VIL

Last month, the regulator had

speeds for premium customers.

nounced a ₹1.45 lakh crore corporate tax rate cut, bringing in an early Diwali.

Markets are also anticipating a fiscal stimulus. Joseph Thomas, Head of Research - Emkay Wealth Management said on Friday, "The expectations of a further fiscal package from the government ahead of the festival season is a factor that may endow the markets with some strength".

Markets have been wobbly in the past few trading sessions with the emergence of the second wave of the pandemic and probability of geopolitical tensions centering around Chinese standoff.

Fitch Ratings had indicated that it is very likely that the government will have to spend a bit more on fiscal measures to support the economy.

Earlier this month, Ficci had un-

Trai drops probe

PRIORITY PLAN ISSUE



derlined the need for a fiscal stimunderlines the need for a major ulus. Ficci said: "The contraction stimulus to energise and strengthen seen in the country's GDP in the first demand in the economy." As the Indian economy is proquarter of the current fiscal is matter of great concern and clearly gressively opening up in phases,

businesses are seeing improvement in some of their operational parameters. However, the setback that has been caused to members of cor-Reviving porate India on the economy

account of requires a Covid-19 sustained effort, will reespecially when we quire a have seen that in the 1st much gr our GDP has suffered a major longer blow. In the absence of a major period fiscal push, we could end up before being stuck in a quagmire of one sees low demand and lowan imincome cycles prove-SANGITA REDDY | PRESIDENT, FICC ment

tinue lending strength to businesses through all possible additional measures as well as improvising the already announced set of measures basis feedback from all stakeholders

Sangita Reddy, President, FICCI said, "Reviving the economy requires a sustained effort, especially when we have seen that in the first quarter our GDP has suffered a major blow. In the absence of a major fiscal push on the demand side, we could end up being stuck in a quagmire of low demand and low-income cycles. If we have to return to the positive growth trajectory, the time for bold and decisive action is now."

formance on a sustained basis, Ficci said.

Till that time, government and regulatory institutions must con-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a Special economic and comprehensive package of ₹20 lakh crore - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP in May during the lockdown.

NRL. NALCO sign **Reliance Retail MoU** for supplying petroleum coke

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) and PSU major National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for supplying of calcined petroleum coke (CPC) for five years with an annual estimated sale of 40,000 metric

tonne. Both the companies will benefit from the agreement with NRL gaining a

Indahi (2) NALCO

dedicated market and NALCO ensuring raw material security for itself, it said. The MoU was signed Thursday at NALCO Bhawan.

NALCO Chairman and MD Sridhar Patra and NRL MD SK Barua and other senior officials of both the companies were present during the signing of the agreement.

NRL produces around 70,000-75,000 metric tonne of CPC per annum by processing raw petroleum coke generated in the refining process. The material will be dispatched from NRL's marketing terminal at Numaligarh in Assam to NALCO's smelter plant at Angul in Odisha by railway rakes, the statement added

receives ₹7,500 cr from Silver Lake PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in per-

New Delhi, Sept 26: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Saturday said it has received ₹7,500 crore from US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners (SLP), which has picked up 1.75% stake in its retail arm.

Earlier, September 9, RIL had announced that Silver Lake would invest ₹7,500 crore into its arm Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL). RRVL has received "the subscription amount of ₹7,500 crore

from SLP Rainbow Holdings Pte Ltd (Silver Lake)", RIL said in a regulatory filing Saturday. Following the allotment of equity stake, "SLP Rainbow Holdings holds 1.75% of the fully diluted equity share capital" of RRVL, it said. This investment had valued RRVL at a pre-money equity value of ₹4.21 lakh crore.

This is the second billion-dollar investment by Silver Lake in a Reliance Industries subsidiary after the \$1.35 billion investment in Jio Platforms announced earlier this year. With more than \$60 billion in

combined assets under manage-

ment and committed capital and a

focus on the world's great tech and

tech-enabled opportunities. Silver

This is the Its other second investments have billion-dollar included Airbnb. investment by Alibaba. Silver Lake in a Alphabet's **RIL** subsidiary after the \$1.35 units, Dell

Verily and Waymo illion investment Technologies, and in Jio Platforms Twitter

Lake is the global leader in large scale technology investing.

Its other investments have included Airbnb, Alibaba, Alphabet's Verily and Waymo units, Dell Technologies, Twitter and numerous other global technology leaders. Late last month, Reliance acquired the retail and logistics businesses of Future Group for ₹24,713 crore to boost its retail vertical.

Silver Lake was the first US private equity firm to invest in Jio after tech giant Facebook took a 9.99 per cent stake in the company for ₹43.573.62 crore.



VIL that "the authority has decided not to proceed with the investigation/ further inquiry"

Trai letter, seen by PTI, noted that the operator has informed that the earlier RedX plan has been discontinued and that a new tariff plan of RedX, without the claim of priority 4G network feature with faster speed, has been filed.

"It has been further stated that VIL believes that the same would address the concerns of the authority and based on the same. VIL requested the authority to grant closure to the pending enquiry," the regulator said closing the matter. Earlier this month. VIL sub

plan with Trai.



The regulator has now informe



stopped touting claims of faster

speeds for RedX plan and instead

spoke of benefits purely in terms

of entertainment privileges (Netflix

and Amazon Prime), travel privi-

leges, mobility benefits and other

Trai had been examining VIL's

priority plan RedX and Bharti Airtel

Platinum offering to see if network

preference to specific customers

led to deterioration of services for

other non-premium subscribers or

violated any norms.

privileges for the said offer.

New Delhi: Vahdam Teas Saturday said it has partnered with BYJU's for providing digital learning to children of tea estate workers. The two partners plans to kick off a pilot project this month across 8-10 tea estates in Darjeeling covering more than 1,000 children, Vahdam Teas said in a statement. The pilot is through Vahdam's flagship social initiative TEAch Me.

India inks pact with Denmark

New Delhi: India and Denmark Saturday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to increase cooperation in the area of intellectual property rights (IPRs) by exchanging best practices and collaborating in training programmes. The two sides will draw up a biennial work plan to implement the MoU which will include detailed planning for carrying out cooperation activities, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

ADB approves

\$570 mn loans

New Delhi: The Manila-

Development Bank (ADB) has

approved two loans totalling

projects in Rajasthan and MP.

ADB said it has approved a

\$300 million loan to develop

and a \$270 million loan for

Project. In a statement, ADB

been approved to finance

sanitation infrastructure

inclusive water supply and

said the \$300 million loan has

Madhya Pradesh Urban

Services Improvement

Rajasthan's secondary towns

\$570 million (about ₹4,200

crore) for urban sector

headquartered Asian

STRIKE HELD TO REVIVE NINL, KALINGANAGAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The fate of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL), Kalinganagar is yet to be decided by the state and central government. To bring the situation under government's notice, NINL staff, employees staged a demonstration at Duburi Square, Kalinganagar demanding payment of seven months' pending salary and immediate running of plant. General Secretary of Neelachal

Executive Association (NEA) Ajit Kumar Pradhan said, "Decision of strategic disinvestment of 100% shares of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) was adopted by both the Central and the state government

in January 2020. The plant has suspended its production of all units since March this year. Likewise, the regular & contractual staffs of NINL have not been paid since February. They are now living in the midst of acute financial hardship.' "Upon written promise from IIC Kalinganagar PS, Addl SP Kalinganagar, Tahasildar, Sukinda for arranging a meeting involving the Collector and DM, Jajpur for discussion of their demand within 7

days, the strike was withdrawn, said Pradhan. Sukinda MLA Pritiranjan Gharai has written letter to Chief Secy to take up the matter with MMTC for releasing of salaries and arrears of the employees as early as possible.



BIZ BUZZ

Amazon to host 'Handicrafts Mela'

New Delhi: Amazon Saturday said it will host a virtual 'Handicrafts Mela' from September 26-October 10, showcasing more than 270 art and craft forms from various parts of the country. Over eight lakh artisans and weavers associated with 1,500 Amazon Karigar sellers and 17 government emporiums including Tantuja, Harit Khadi, Tribes India and national-level artisan organisations like Craftmark and Dastkari Haat Samiti will benefit from this mela, Amazon India said in a statement. Amazon's Handicrafts Mela which will showcasing over 55,000 unique products will help customers discover and purchase products from artisans and weavers from different parts of the country, the statement said.

Startup develops 'First ever social drinking platform'

Hyderabad: A Hyderabad-based startup has launched what it claims to be the world's first social drinking platform, which will also deliver liquor to people at their doorsteps. The developers of Booozie, the web and app-based platform, claim it will promote responsible drinking. It features a database of bars/clubs in every city, offers and events at various bars/clubs, an exhaustive catalogue which lists the brands and current MRP of brands available in every state of India and free online delivery of liquor at doorsteps. "Booozie will be a delivery aggregator by picking up liquor from the nearest shop, with upfront payment to stores without any commission from stores and will provide free delivery," Vivekanand Balijepalli, Co-Founder and CFO of Booozie, said.

Mindtree co-founder, family sell 4.66L shares

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Mindtree co-founder Krishnakumar Natarajan and his family have sold over 4.66 lakh shares of the company, reducing their combined shareholding to 2.01 per cent. The transactions were carried out by Krishnakumar N, wife Akila Krishnakumar and son Siddarth in multiple tranches between September 15-23, Mindtree said in a regulatory filing Saturday.



This reduced their combined

shareholding from 2.29% to 2.01%,

it added. Earlier this month, another regulatory filing had stated

Hunt for jobs in hospitality, tourism rise: Report

OVERALL. JOB POSTINGS IN AUGUST WERE DOWN BY 56% COMPARED TO THE SAME MONTH OF 2019, WITH JOB SEARCHES FOR THESE ROLES DOWN BY 44% COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 26: Job searches for roles in the hospitality and tourism sector have been on the rise since May coinciding with the easing of lockdown measures across the country, says a report.

Searches by job seekers saw a 30% increase between May and August 2020, according to a report by global job site Indeed.

Jobs in hospitality and tourism are bouncing back in India, its data suggests. Job postings in the sectors were down only 58% in September, against the 69% drop in May this year -- when compared with 2019 levels.



Though, the job postings are still down, witnessing 21% drop during the same May-August period, the report said.

the tourism industry saw job postings decrease by 49% between March and August compared to the same period of 2019.

Overall, job postings in August were down by 56% compared to the same month of 2019, with job searches for these roles down by 44% compared with the same period of 2019.

Job searches during this time were also down by 45%, the report added.

"Job searches for tourism-related roles have been on the rise since May, coinciding with the easing of lockdown measures across the country," it said.

"Despite the setback the hospi-

tality industry has faced in light of the pandemic and its repercussions, it is heartening to see positive jobseeker sentiment towards these roles. With one in every eight jobs in India related to tourism. directly or indirectly, the sector is a vital contributor to the nation's economy," Indeed India MD Sashi Kumar said.

With the government's measures to ensure both the safety of its people as well as the wellbeing of its economy, it is the ideal environment to take stock of the challenges that the sector sees and implement sustainable solutions that will boost tourism in the long run. he added.

that Natarajan and his family had sold over 42 lakh shares of the company in multiple tranches between April 30 and September 14 that had reduced their combined shareholding to 2.29% Natarajan, who held 1.96% share, sold about 2.85 lakh shares, the filing said Saturday. Post the transaction, his shareholding reduced to about 1.79%. Akila sold about 1.32 lakh shares

between September 15 to 21, bringing down her holding from 0.19% to 0.11%. Siddarth Krishna Kumar sold 49,405 shares and bought 1,000 shares, bringing his latest shareholding to 0.10%.

The shares were sold and purchased in the open market, the filing said.

The report is based on data on job

Further, the report revealed that

postings and searches on Indeed

site during March to August





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IMPRESSIVE KKR DOWN SRH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 26: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) displayed a splendid performance with both bat and ball as they outplayed Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by seven wickets in their IPL game here, Saturday.

Chasing a modest target of 143, young opener Shubman Gill (70 n o, 62b, 5x4, 2x6) took the onus and along with an experienced Eoin Morgan (42 n o, 29b, 3x4, 2x6), he guided his side to their first victory this season. The duo made an unbeaten 92-run fourth wicket partnership after losing their skipper Dinesh Karthik in the seventh over, with the scoreboard reading 53/3. Earlier, KKR put up a disciplined

effort with Pat Cummins (1/19) brilliantly spearheading the attack to restrict SRH to a 142/4.

Having drawn flak for bowling short against Mumbai Indians, the IPL's most-expensive overseas buy returned with tidy figures, while spinner Varun Chakravarthy (1/25) outfoxed the dangerous David Warner (36) to derail SRH early on. Manish Pandey (51, 38b, 3x4, 2x6)

returned to form at No.3 with a 38ball half century and along with Wriddhiman Saha (30), tried to repair the damage but the duo were dismissed at the death and SRH lacked the finishing touch to settle for a seemingly below-par total.

Unlike their last match against Mumbai Indians, KKR looked more intent and aggressive with their approach, having brought in Sunil Narine and Cummins up front with the new ball.

COMMENTS ON DC-CSK MATCH



sports

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD 142/4 Cummins smartly altered his (Manish Pandey 51. David length and bowled Jonny Bairstow Warner 36: Andre Russell 1/16. with an absolute ripper to give KKR Pat Cummins 1/19) beat the first breakthrough. In his sec-KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS 145/3 ond-coming, architect-turned mys-(Shubman Gill 70 n o. Eoin tery spinner Chakravarthy dis-Morgan 42 n o; Rashid Khan missed a well-set Warner in a soft manner for his maiden IPL wicket.

ROYALS twice when his opposite

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Sept 26: Sanju Samson will like to continue his dream form while the presence of Jos Buttler puts Rajasthan Royals (RR) on

even keel with Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in an IPL game which promises to be yet another six-hitting contest Coming into the match after

morale-boosting victories, both KXIP and the Royals would look to build a winning momentum after starting the tournament as underdogs.

Buttler, who missed the first match due to quarantine rules as he reached the UAE separately with his family, is expected to open alongside Yashashvi Jaiswal while Steve Smith will take David Miller's position in the batting order. Tom Curran and Jofra Archer will again complete the four-player overseas quota.

"I am really excited to play my first game, it was great to be back in training with the boys, there's a great vibe around the team so I'm really looking forward to tak-

ing the field," Buttler said on the eve of the match. "The atmosphere and energy around the squad is fantastic, obviously lots of confidence after that first game. The training has been very energetic, guys are lively and enjoying each other's company. So expecting a really tough match against Kings XI," Buttler said after a net session at Sharjah

ground. KL Rahul, touted as a future India captaincy material, plundered a record 132 not out off just 69 balls with the help of seven sixes in a much bigger ground in Dubai to lead KXIP to a resounding 97-run

win over Royal Challengers

Bangalore. He did get reprieve

T 7:30 PM number Virat Kohli dropped a couple of sitters TELECAST: The 28-year-old Rahul,

one of the cleanest hitters of the ball, notched up the highest score by an Indian in IPL history and he would like to

continue in the same vein on a ground which has short boundaries on all sides.

The young Samson, on the other hand, made a mincemeat of the Chennai Super Kings bowlers, hitting nine sixes in his 32-ball 74 before Jofra Archer joined the party with a four-six burst in the final over in the match played at the same

venue here Tuesdav. The Royals captain Smith also chipped in with a 47-ball 69 while playing his first match after concussion related issues in the United

Kingdom. For KXIP. Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell would look to make amends for his low score (5) in the earlier match against RCB.

In the bowling department, Mohammed Shami and West Indian Sheldon Cottrell led the pace-bowling department quite well for KXIP while the likes of leg-spinners Ravi Bishnoi and Murugan Ashwin grabbed three wickets apiece against RCB.

The Royals managed to defend their 216 run target with Archer bowling brilliantly at the death and leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (3/37) inflicting top order damage.

The sore point was yet another poor show from Jaydev Unadkat, who has never been able to raise his IPL game save one odd season with **Rising Pune Supergiants.**

It will be interesting if Smith and Andrew McDonald decide to try out rookie Kartik Tyagi or seasoned Varun Aaron in Unadkat's place keeping his lack of pace and short boundaries in mind.

STEPHEN FLEMING: Well, we're a bit

muddled at the moment. We're missing some key players, and we're trying to find a balance that allows us to be competitive. We're looking to develop a personality based on the wickets that we're facing. Each wicket has been completely different, and our batting is without Rayudu, (Suresh) Raina etc. We're trying to find a way or a combination and how to use players. We've learned a massive amount over three days

1/25) BY 7 WICKETS.

MS DHONI: I don't think it was a good game for us. There was no dew, but the wicket did slow down. We are lacking a bit of steam in the batting and that hurts. The run rate keeps on mounting after such slow starts and adds pressure, we need to figure that out. We need to come back with a clearer picture, looking at the combination. Maybe, the team balance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game

PRITHVI SHAW: My plan was to play my natural game but play the shots along the ground, last game we saw there were some silly mistakes and it was not working for me or the team. CSK has some good pace bowlers, I was able to time the ball and get some gaps. As the spinners came on, even if we are 40/0, it doesn't matter, I knew me and Shikhar Dhawan could pace our innings after the powerplay

SHREYAS IYER: I am really happy with the performance. I would give them the benefit of doubt, is tough to catch in these conditions. You misjudge the ball, really don't know how to pace yourself. In the team meeting we decided that we are going to assess the batting conditions early and then play accordingly. The way the openers started, gave us a lot of confidence

6 recovered COVID-19 players have integrated with team: Reid -

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The six hockey



Man Utd edge past Brighton

Bruno helps

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brighton, Sept 26: Bruno Fernandes converted a penalty in the 10th minute of stoppage time with the last kick of a game to earn Manchester United a 3-2 win over Brighton, which had earlier scored in added-on time Saturday. United were awarded a spot-kick after the referee saw on the pitchside monitor that Harry Maguire's header deflected off the outstretched hand of Brighton striker Neal Maupay. Despite the full-time whistle having already been blown, Fernandes was allowed to take a penalty. In the added-on time, Solly March headed home that looked like sealing a point for the hosts. Brighton went ahead through Maupay's 'Panenka' penalty. United equalised via an own-goal by Lewis Dunk. Then Marcus Rashford put United ahead.





and the finish was good too



Barcelona, Sept 26: Barcelona's 2020-21 La Liga campaign will begin at home to Villarreal Sunday night, with new head coach Ronald Koeman preparing to lead the team into a new era.

The Catalan giants will be determined to make a positive start to their league season but face a tough examination by a Villarreal side that have already picked up four points in Spain's top flight this term.

At one stage, it seemed incredibly unlikely that Lionel Messi would be in the Barca XI for their first league match of the season, with the Argentine signalling a desire to leave Camp Nou in this summer's transfer window.

Messi has ultimately accepted to spend at least one more year with the club, but there have been huge changes this summer with the likes of Arthur, Nelson Semedo, Ivan Rakitic, Luis Suarez and Arturo Vidal all moving on.

Miralem Pjanic has been the major incoming, while deals for Francisco Trincao, Matheus Fernandes and Pedri have also been secured, but there has been no Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang or Lautaro Martinez this summer.

Barca's involvement in the latter stages of the Champions League, where they incredibly lost 2-8 to Bayern Munich, means that they are late starters in La Liga, although Koeman's side did beat Elche 1-0 in the Joan Gamper Trophy last weekend and have also played two friendlies this summer.

There is no downplaying the importance of this weekend's clash at

Camp Nou, and a number of side stories should make it a fascinating encounter against an extremely dangerous Villarreal outfit.

Villarreal, as mentioned, have already played twice in Spain's top flight this season and currently sit third in the table, having gathered four points courtesy of one win and one draw.

The Yellow Submarine opened their campaign with a disappointing 1-1 draw against Huesca but managed to beat Eibar 2-1 last weekend courtesy of goals from Gerard Moreno

and Paco Alcacer. Unai Emery's side finished fifth in Spain's top flight last term, meaning that they

will be present in the group stages of this season's Europa League and could be a side to watch in that particular competition.

> Villarreal have been relatively busy in the current transfer window, meanwhile, securing deals for the likes of Francis Coquelin and Dani Parejo, while a

15million pound swoop for Watford's Pervis Estupinan is a signal of their intent.

Villarreal have not actually beaten Barca in La Liga since March 2008, though, and have lost six of their last seven encounters with the Catalan giants in Spain's top flight.

MISSING LINKS

Barca will be without their number one goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen until at least the end of October with a knee injury, meaning that Neto is set to line up between the sticks for the home side. Samuel Umtiti and Martin Braithwaite are also out with knee and thigh issues

As for Villarreal, Alberto Moreno, amiro Guerra and Ruben Pena are definitely unavailable through injury, while Raul Albiol has

respectively

a broken nose and could therefore miss out on a spot in the XI

players who contracted COVID-19 last month have integrated with the rest of their teammates and are close to reaching peak fitness, men's national team head coach Graham Reid said Saturday.

Captain Manpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh, Varun Kumar, Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Mandeep Singh were discharged from a Bangalore hospital August 17 and were kept on quarantine for some more days before joining the team.

"They have integrated with the team and so they are doing what the others are doing. They started 2-3 weeks after others had started. They began at a slow level but they are now close the level of other players (in fitness)," Reid said during a webinar organised by Hockey India.

"It is a serious disease and you may think you are fine, but in reality, it may be otherwise. So, I was pleased that the tests were done. It was detected and they were given treatment."

The Australian said he is hoping all the players would have full training in the next 4-5 weeks. "We are having our basic things, internal matches and will get to full training hopefully in 4-5 weeks. But international matches seem to be distant '

The national camp for both men and women's teams resumed August

19 at the Sports Authority of India Centre in Bangalore

Women's team coach Sjoerd Marijne warned the players against going full throttle and risk getting injured. "You have to be patient, you cannot achieve full fitness quickly. It takes long time. You need to come out of this without injury," he said.

"A lot of hamstring injuries are happening in football leagues. If you start too fast you are risking injuries and you may be out for, say, six months. So, don't underestimate these lost months.

Nadal slams French Open ball choice

REUTERS

Paris, Sept 26: French Open organisers have had enough problems dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the dwindling number of fans on site and inclement weather but they faced another controversy Friday-criticism of the choice of ball for this year's edition

Roland Garros has switched to Wilson balls for the 2020 tournament after using Babolat for many years and 12-times champion Rafa Nadal was not impressed.

'You have to take care because with these conditions you can't practise that much because the ball is super heavy," the second-seeded Spaniard told reporters Friday.

"Different brand than last year. a new ball. The ball is much slower than the previous years. If we add these conditions of cold and humidity, then it is super heavy."

Nadal, a 19-time Grand Slam champion, prefers warmer weather and faster clavcourts at his favourite tournament but faces cooler and



wetter conditions at this year's event, which was pushed back to September-end from its May-June dates

While the decision to change the ball was already known, Nadal felt the prevailing conditions had an even bigger impact.

"I practised with the balls in Mallorca," said the Spaniard. "In Mallorca with warm conditions, the ball was very slow, I think (it's)

for the shoulders, I think.'

Austria's newly-crowned US Open champion Dominic Thiem, who lost to Nadal in the final of the last two editions at Roland Garros, also prefers the ball used in previous editions.

"I practised two days at home with the ball. Now, of course, here. I'm a little bit sad because the Babolat at Roland Garros, it was my favourite ball, it was perfect," he said.

"Obviously it was the ball from my racket company. (It) was fast, was taking spin incredibly well. But the Wilson ball is good, as well. It's just a little bit slower. It gets a little bit bigger after a while.'

However, Russian Daniil Medvedev, who prefers slower claycourt conditions and less spin, had no complaints. "I like the balls because, yeah, tennis is a funny and interesting sport," said the World No.5, who lost to Nadal in last year's US Open final.

"It's normal that when one player doesn't like something, second one -(maybe is going to like it. So far I like it. I think it suits me, not bad.'

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estly. That is my personal opinion.

makes things tougher. But I knew

before arriving here. So no problem

"(But) I really believe that the

organisation need to take a look at

that for the next couple of years, for

the health of the players too, be-

cause the ball is super heavy. (It) be-

comes dangerous for the elbow and

at all. Just accept the challenge.

"Even with these conditions it