Actor Madhuri Dixit, on World Animal Day, urged people to give love and respect to animals LEISURE P2



BJP MLA from UP Surendra Singh said that parents are themselves responsible for incidents like the Hathras gangrape and murder case

TWO STATES P



A limited number of pilgrims return to Mecca as Saudi eases virus

restrictions INTERNATIONAL P10

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BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 2020

RREGULAR by MANJUL



Well, I have no interest in Bigg Boss. I myself am dealing with a bigger boss!

SHORT **TAKES**

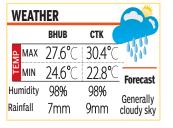
■ Toddler dies after falling into open pit

Atabira: An 18-month-old boy was killed after he accidentally fell into an open pit dug up for a tube well near Garbhana Papanga Colony under Bheden police limits in Bargarh district, Sunday. The deceased was identified as Bablu, son of Pawan Behera of Garbhana-Betrapada village. The incident sparked tension in the area as the residents blocked the state highway No 54 at Garbhana Square near Godbhaga-Turum. On being informed, Rushuda outpost OIC Ganesh Kalet rushed to the spot with his team and tried to placate the locals. The residents, however, refused to listen and continued with their road blockade. They called off the road blockade after Bheden additional tehsildar Narayan Dansena reached the spot and assured the locals to look into their demands.

Assam Rifles jawan killed in ambush

Itanagar: An Assam Rifles

jawan was killed while another was hurt in an ambush by suspected militants in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh Sunday, officials said. Police officials in Itanagar said that armed militants attacked the 19 **Battalion of Assam Rifles** troopers near Hetlong village when the paramilitary personnel were on their way to collect drinking water by a water tanker. Police suspect that around 30 terrorists belonging to the Paresh Baruah faction of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA-Independent) and the Yung Aung faction of the **National Socialist Council of** Nagaland (NSCN-K) are behind in the ambush.



Stormy GST Council meet today

IN THE CURRENT FISCAL, THE STATES ARE STARING AT A STAGGERING ₹2.35 TRILLION GST REVENUE SHORTFALL

6 tribal schoolgirls LJP to go solo in Bihar

AGENCIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The GST Council meeting Monday may turn into a stormy affair, with non-BJP ruled states still being in disagreement with the Centre on the compensation issue.

While as many as 21 states, mostly ruled by BJP or parties which have supported it on issues, had till mid-September opted to borrow ₹97,000 crore to meet the GST revenue shortfall in the current fiscal, Opposition-led states like West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala have not yet accepted the borrowing option given by the Centre.

Sources said in the 42nd meeting of the Council October 5, Oppositionruled states would object to the Centre's borrowing options and demand alternative mechanism for funding GST compensation deficit.

They feel that the constitutional liability of compensating states lies with the Union government. In the current fiscal, the states are staring at a staggering ₹2.35 trillion Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue shortfall.

POST NEWS NETWORK

tender ages.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Even as

public outrage over the gangrape

and torture in Hathras continues

to rock the nation, the state gov-

ernment Sunday informed the

Assembly that six tribal girls from

government schools managed by the

SC/ST department became preg-

nant in the last five years and most

of them also delivered babies at

The data was furnished from

the state government as a written

statement in response to a query

posed by an MLA on the issue. The

government in its response claimed

that strict actions were taken against

enquiry reports in all the cases

and talked about the actions taken

against the culprits and steps

taken by them to ensure welfare

of the victims. The six cases were

recorded in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

Maximum of three cases were re-

in most cases the girls who be-

came pregnant had physical rela-

tionship either with their rela-

tives or fellow villagers. In one

case a headmaster of the school was

found guilty of sexually harass-

According to the details pro-

vided by the government, in 2015

a Class 10 tribal girl studying at a

government school in Kandhamal

delivered a baby after becoming

pregnant in 2015. The enquiry re-

The government claimed that

ported in 2019 alone.

ing a minor.

The government also cited the

the culprits in such cases.

impregnated in

state in 5 years: Govt



Of this, as per Centre's calculation, about ₹97,000 crore is on account of GST implementation and rest ₹1.38 trillion is the impact of Covid-19 on

states' revenues. The Centre in August gave two options to the states to borrow either ₹97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or ₹2.35 trillion from market and has also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing. The non-BJP ruled

port hinted at her relationship with

a relative while spending her va-

In the same year, another case

was detected in an Asharam School

in Koraput where a Class VI girl

gave birth to a baby boy in the hos-

tel. In this case too, the govern-

ment attributed the pregnancy

owing to her relationship with a fel-

low villager: While action was taken

against the accused, the girl was

IX tribal girl reported sexual

abuse by the headmaster of a

girls' high school in Koraput the

school and delivered a baby. A

case was filed against the accused,

while the girl was paid a com-

among tribals girls were reported

from Daringbadi, Dhenkanal and

Mayurbhani. In these cases too.

actions were initiated against the

culprits, while compensations were

In 2019, three cases of pregnancy

pensation of ₹2.35 lakh.

In 2017, another case of a Class

given ₹1 lakh compensation.

cation at her village.

window facilitated by the RBI or ₹2.35 trillion from market states are at loggerheads with the Centre

over the issue of funding the shortfall.

In the 42nd meeting of the

are likely to object to the

and demand alternative

compensation deficit

Centre's borrowing options

mechanism for funding GST

The Centre two options to

the states to borrow either

₹97,000 cr from a special

Council October 5.

Oppn-ruled states

Chief Ministers of six non-BJP ruled states West Bengal, Kerala, Delhi, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu - have written to the Centre opposing the options which require states to borrow to meet shortfall.

While these states want the Centre to borrow to meet the shortfall, the Centre has argued that the revenue accruing from GST compensation cess goes to the states and the Centre can-

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Lok Janshakti

Party (LJP) Sunday announced it will not

fight the October-November Bihar

Assembly polls under the leadership of

Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish

The LJP's decision, at a meeting of its

Parliamentary Board, to quit the NDA al-

liance in the state came despite outreach

efforts by the BJP's top leadership, par-

ticularly assigned by party president JP

Nadda and a meeting between Union

Home Minister Amit Shah, Nadda and

Kumar, and will go solo.

LJP chief Chirag Paswan.

not borrow on the security of the tax it does not own.

Under the GST structure, taxes are levied under 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent slabs. On top of the highest tax slab, a cess is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods and the proceeds from the same are used to compensate states for any revenue loss.

Attorney General of India KK Venugopal had given his legal view on the compensation cess issue where he has opined that there is no obligation on the Centre under the GST laws to compensate for the loss of revenue. He had opined that the GST Council has to find ways to meet any revenue shortfall arising out of GST implementation.

The payment of GST compensation to states became an issue after revenues from the imposition of cess started dwindling since August 2019. The Centre had to dive into the excess cess amount collected during 2017-18 and 2018-19. The Centre had released over ₹1.65 trillion in 2019-20 as GST compensation. However, the amount of cess collected during 2019-20 was ₹95,444 crore.

ferences with the Janata Dal-United in

the Bihar poll alliance, the Lok Janshakti

Party has decided to fight the elections in

Bihar outside the alliance," the resolu-

tion passed by its Parliamentary Board,

stated. In a clear announcement that it was

taking arms against the JD(U), the LJP said:

"In many seats, there may be ideological

fights with the JD(U) where the public

can decide which representative will keep

However, the LJP has been very care-

ful to indicate that its relation with the BJP

at the Centre will stay unaltered, and also

assured a "post-poll alliance" with the

BJP to "uphold the developmental agenda



Leaders pay last respect to Pradeep Maharathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Biju Janata Dal MLA Pradeen Maharathy died at a private hospital here in the early hours of Sunday, family sources said.

He was 65. The seven-

time MLA from Pipili in Puri district is survived by wife Prativa, son Rudra Pratap and daughter Pallavi. Maharathy, who had tested

positive for Covid-19 September 14, was discharged from the hospital after recovery but was admitted again as his condition became critical. He was on ventilator support since Friday.

The Odisha Assembly was adjourned for the day after members observed a minute of silence in memorv of Maharathv.

The veteran politician started his career as a student leader at the SCS College in Puri. He joined the

elected to the Assembly from the Pipili constituency.

He was arrested under MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act) during the Emergency. Popularly known as Natu Bhai, Maharathy had won

subsequent elections from Pipili. He joined BJD in 2000. He was inducted in the Naveen

Patnaik

Cabinet in 2011 and held the portfolios of Agriculture, Fisheries, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water. During his tenure as the Agriculture Minister, Odisha had re-

ceived Krishi Karman Award

for four consecutive years. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed deep grief at the demise of Maharathy and described him as a "stalwart" of BJD and a longtime associate of Biju Patnaik. "He was a true leader of people. I extend my deep sympathy to the bereaved family and the people

of Pipili," Patnaik said in a___

"At the state level and for ideological difof Prime Minister Narendra Modi". Heavy rainfall to continue for another two days: IMD

Bihar's good in mind."

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The ongoing heavy rainfall activity will continue to affected normal life in many parts of the state for another two days, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said here Sunday.

A low pressure area has formed over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Odisha coast coupled with cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level, the IMD said in a bulletin. Under its impact, heavy rainfall occurred in many areas during past three days and it will continue for an-

other two days, the bulletin said. Heavy rainfall will occur at one or two places over Nawarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Nuapada, Bolangir, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Angul and Keonjhar districts, Monday.



Similarly, some places in Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts would experience heavy rainfall,

Baripada recorded the maxi-

mum rainfall (32 mm) between 8.30 am to 5.30 pm Sunday, followed by Bolangir (27.2 mm). Other places that witnessed heavy rainfall include Daringibadi (18 mm), Malkangiri (16.4 mm), Chatrapur (15 mm), Cuttack (9 mm), Bhubaneswar (7 mm) and Balasore (7mm).

Meanwhile, the MeT department predicts the possibility of another low pressure area over north Andaman area and adjoining east Central Bay of Bengal around October 9. It is very likely to move northwestwards towards north Andhra and Odisha coasts with gradual intensification into a depression during the subsequent 2-3 days, said director of Bhubaneswar Met Centre, HR Biswas.

The fresh low pressure area is likely to trigger heavy rainfall in the state in between October 11 and 13, he said.

CONFECTIONER

condolence message.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: A confectioner was hacked to death in broad daylight in a bustling marker on the outskirts of the City, Sunday. The victim has been identified as Prabhakar Sahoo alias Jambu.

Two bike-borne miscreants attacked Sahoo with sharp weapons when he was drinking tea near his stall Sunday afternoon. He sustained severe injuries on his neck and other parts of the body and succumbed to the injuries at the place within few minutes. The entire incident was captured by the CCTV cameras installed in the nearby shops.

Soon, irate locals staged a roadblock by laying the dead body on the busy Bhubaneswar-Puri highway. The situation in the area was tense for some hours but brought under control following intervention of the Lingaraj police.

A resident of Boudh district, the deceased had recently opened a sweetmeat stall at Samantrapur under Lingaraj police limits here.

According to the deceased's wife, Balaram Sweets, a former employer of Sahoo, and his son were involved in the ghastly murder of her husband. She told the media that Sahoo used to work at a sweetmeat shop in the same market. However, Sahoo was left jobless after Balaram Sweets downed shutters around four-five months ago.

Recently, Sahoo opened his own sweetmeat shop with money borrowed from various sources. Sahoo's wife alleged that the father-son duo was livid with him over the success of his shop. The father-son duo had attacked Sahoo and damaged his stall few days ago. However, they reached a compromise after the intervention of the police. Accordingly, Sahoo reportedly paidback money which he had taken as advance from the Balaram Sweets.

Of Presidents & health, history replete with secrecy, lies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 4: Throughout American history, an uncomfortable truth has been evident: Presidents have lied about their health.

In some cases, the issues were minor, in others quite grave. And sometimes it took decades for the public to learn the truth.

Now President Donald Trump has been diagnosed with the Covid-19 disease. The White House initially said he had "mild symptoms." By Friday evening, he was admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre. After a rosy press conference by the President's medical team, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Saturday that Trump had gone through a "very concerning" period Friday and that the next 48 hours would be critical in terms of his care.

Pandemics have cursed the presidencies of both Trump and Woodrow Wilson. Each played down the viruses that killed hundreds of thousands of Americans. Both Presidents got sick - and each had to decide how much to tell the public.

Like many administrations before. Wilson's White House tried to keep his sickness secret.

He was at talks in Paris on ending World War I when he fell ill in April 1919. His symptoms were so severe and surfaced so suddenly that his personal physician, Cary Grayson, thought he had been poisoned. After a fitful night caring for Wilson, Grayson wrote a letter back to Washington to inform the White House that the president was very sick. Flash forward 100 years. In a tweet at 12:54 am Friday, Trump



told the world that he and first lady Melania Trump had contracted Covid-19.

The White House initially shared few details about his condition. White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said he was taken to Walter Reed many hours later "out of an abundance of caution." However sick he was or wasn't, his Covid-19 was startling since Trump had been declaring almost daily that the nation had turned the corner on the disease, which

has killed 208,000 people in the US. Trump has said he has played down the pandemic so as not to create panic, but there were political reasons for doing so. Seeking another four years in office, Trump did not

want the US economy to tank before the November 3 election.

"The Wilson administration, for a very different reason, completely downplayed the pandemic," said John Barry, an adjunct professor in public health at Tulane University whose book "The Great Influenza' chronicles the 1918-19 pandemic that sickened Wilson and killed

675,000 Americans. William Howell, professor of American politics at the University of Chicago, wonders how transparent the White House will be

about Trump's case of COVID-19. History is replete with examples of how Presidents have kept the American public in the dark about their ailments and medical conditions. President Grover Cleveland, fearing poor health would be a po-

litical weakness, underwent secret

oral surgery late at night in a private yacht in Long Island Sound. The cancerous lesion taken from his mouth was displayed in 2000 in an exhibit by the College of Physicians, a Philadelphia-based medical society.

President Lyndon B Johnson secretly underwent surgery for removal of a skin lesion on his hand in 1967. After leading the nation through a decade of war and depression, Franklin D Roosevelt was diagnosed early in 1944 as suffering from high blood pressure, hypertensive heart disease, cardiac failure and acute bronchitis

According to historian Robert Dallek, President John F Kennedy suffered more pain and illness than most people knew and took as many as eight medications a day, including painkillers, stimulants, sleeping pills and hormones to keep him alive.



leisure



VERGARA FORBES' TOP PAID ACTRESS

Sofia Vergara of Modern Family fame has bagged the top spot of Forbes' annual list of the highest paid actresses. While Vergara has topped the list with \$43 million, Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie secured the second position (\$35 million) and Gal Gadot (\$31 million) stood third, reports forbes.com.

LENNON WAS A UNITER: ELTON JOHN

Legendary singer Elton John says his friend and the Beatles star John Lennon would have won a Nobel Peace Prize if he had not been killed in 1980. The singer discussed his "wonderful two or three year whirlwind bromance" with the Beatles band member on Radio 2's John Lennon at 80 special, reports dailymail.co.uk.





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ARIES

If you are aiming to marry soon, you can start making preparations today. However, before you take the final decision, it would be better to look at both sides of the coin, advises

TAURUS

This is one of those dreadful days when you could be unduly touchy and short tempered, fears Ganesha. Don't go around getting into fights and quarrels with anyone who seems unfriendly or ill

A progressive day awaits you. However, you need to keep yourself in check when enjoying yourself. You will spend time with your friends and family and bond emotionally. Do not neglect your family members in the group activities that you

CANCER

tions, warns Ganesha.

Today looks set to be a day full of extremes, especially when it comes to your shifty moods. However, you will need to keep reminding yourself of not getting overly emotional or impractical. Otherwise you may end up being in complicated situa-

LEO

Today there is a chance that you will meet that special someone that for all your life. You may possibly give

your partner a beautiful gift. You will be more inclined towards the arts and will he able to exhibit this new-found appre ciation to the max, says Ganesha

Ganesha predicts that vou will be rewarded today for all the good work done earlier. You will prefer to manage things in your own way, rather than taking orders from others. However, Ganesha advises you not to throw your weight around, but to stay calm and composed.

Ganesha says you will about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor or by purchasing expensive cosmet ics. To enhance your appearance and personality you may also go on a shopping spree for clothes

SCORPIO

Yet another mundane day in your life, as nothing exciting is on the cards However, be cheerful and keep trying hard to bring in some spice in life. You never know when the planets change their mood and make an exciting future. Keep the hope alive, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

No pains, no gains. So, when you go through \boldsymbol{a} lot of turmoil and toil hard for your work, the rewards are definitely going to be fruitful, says Ganesha. Time for get together and soiree with family and friends! In a nutshell, a day with lot of fun activities.

CAPRICORN

Your hands are full with plenty of projects and assignments. Finish them off as soon as you can and spend rest of the day refreshing your mind. Communicating with people of all walks of life will make you enhance your horizon of knowledge, feels

AQUARIUS

Be sure of your strengths and decisions, and Ganesha guarantees you success. You don't care what others think about you, but don't be so indifferent that you ignore their choices, preferences and comforts completely.

PISCES

Ganesha warns that your expenses could be twice as much as your income or profit. You need to be

more careful in money matters. It is not an auspicious day for any new work, new deal or any new beginnings. Ganesha indicates that things will look up after two days or so.

Madhuri, hubby support furry friends

Mumbai: On the occasion of World Animal Day Sunday, actress Madhuri Dixit Nene and husband Dr Shriram Nene have urged people to make an effort to give love and respect to animals. She took to Twitter to

post a video of her



eral animals are being taken care of. "Had a chance to visit #ProbablyParadise in Karjat. Roxanne Davur has cared tirelessly for countless animals. Many have been abandoned and abused or who need help," he



FANS ANXIOUS OVER SANJAY'S

while posing along with one of his fans.

Seeing the picture, social media users

"Baba looks so weak. Hope he recovers soon," a user wrote.

"Hope he feels better soon," another one

his health. He had shared that he was takfamily members did not reveal anything officially, trade analyst and film industry insider Komal Nahta subsequently confirmed that Sanjay has been diagnosed with lung

August.



VIRAL IMAGE

Mumbai: A new viral picture of actor Sanjay Dutt has fans worried about his health. The image doing rounds on the Internet show Sanjay is looking weaker

wished the Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. star a speedy recovery.

wrote. Currently, Sanjay is not in the best of ing a break for medical treatment August 11. Although the 61-year-old actor or his

"Sanjay Dutt diagnosed with lung cancer. Let's pray for his speedy recovery," tweeted Nahta on his official Twitter account in



'Ramayana travelled to Southeast Asia during Bali Jatra'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Renowned mythologist and best-selling author Devdutt Pattnaik Saturday attended Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF)'s popular digital dialogue platform Bhava Samvad to discuss Odia Ramayanas and connect them to the national and international trends in Ramavana studies

Devdutt, while Speaking on the topic Odia Ramayanas-Overlooked Songs, Stories and Beauty, elbaorated, "Dandi Ramayana is the oldest of the ramayanas which was authored by Balaram Das in the 15th century while Valmiki Ramayana was written during Mauriyan age. On the other hand, Laxman Rekha episode was included for the first time in Kritibas Ramayana written in Bengali.



Interactions underway between Devdutt Patnaik and Prateek Pattanaik

Similarly, the Assamese Ramayana added the episode of Sita returning to Ayodhya.'

Asked about his favourite chapter in Ramayana, Devdutt picked up the one that narrates Lord Rama's journey inside the forest. "There is a description about the rishis enamoured of Ram's per-

sona and good looks. Realising their state of mind, Rama promises to return as Krishna in Dwapara Yuga and have his leelas," said the mythologist.

"Ramayana travelled to south east Asia through the Odias during Bali Jatra and through *Ravan* Chhaya, a form of shadow pup-

petry," added Devdutt speaking about the overseas popularity of the Indian epic.

He also spoke highly about the rich culture of Odisha. Be it the theatre form of South Odisha, Odissi dance or Puri's Akhada and Malla Yudha culture, the diversity has made the state a bastion of rich cultural heritage, said Devdutt. The session was moderated by Odia musician and researcher Prateek Pattanaik.

The KLF launched KLF Bhava Samvad to bring poets, writers, thinkers, philosophers, spiritual masters, researchers, performers, and common citizens to reflect upon the lives and emotions s during the lockdown and beyond. The platform has so far conducted more than 5 sessions garnering

PEANUTS

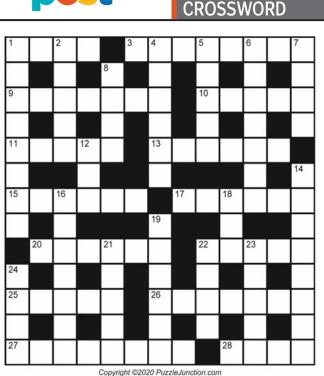


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





Across

- 1 Church alcove
- 3 Cause of a
- sleepness night
- 9 Mixer 10 Choppers, so
- to speak 11 Hostile force
- 13 Soothsayer
- 15 Twosome
- 17 Plaster of Paris 20 Hard to find
- Down 1 Atmosphere
- 2 Public spat

22 Flower feature

28 Airport postings

25 Expensive

26 Check out

27 Delirium

- 4 Constrictive
- 5 Old Roman port 6 Pokes fun at
- twins

7 Massage target

16 Sand dollars 18 Pizza order 19 Sign of the

8 Nervous

14 Copies

12 Tourist's aid

- 21 Verse 22 Tower site
- 23 Canary's call 24 Moonfish

nearly nine lakh views.

SUDOKU

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

Α			3									9	4	
	1				0	5	В		Е	6			D	
8	5						J.	Г	1			Е		
		9	D						2	С				
2				7	1	Α	9	D						
		D	Ε	0	7		П	Α		8		3		С
				П			3	Г	6	Е	0	7	В	
	7					9	8	1				2	- 8	
			2	П			6	0	7				Α	
		2	1	5										
	9	4	Г			В		2		0	Г			
	Α			Е			7	Г	D	3		4		
С								4		5		1		Α
		6		1					9		С	D		7
		Е	Г	D	С	6	1	5		2	Г			

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



WINGED BEAUTIES

Cranes frolic at a pond in Bidyadharpur area of Cuttack, Sunday

24 22	COVID-19 TRACKER						
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD			
	World	3,52,32,160	2,62,11,076	10,39,349			
	India	65,13,256	54,69,357	1,01,273			
	Odisha	2,32,713	2,02,302	907			

₹752cr sanctioned from **SDRF for Covid-19 mgmt**

REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT MINISTER SUDAM MARNDI TELLS THE STATE ASSEMBLY

From the PM Cares Fund, 15 districts of the state have received ₹23.69 crore to meet Covid-19 related expenditures

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The state government has released ₹752.31 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to various departments and districts for Covid related expenditures till September end.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi informed this to the state Assembly in a written reply (UD No-423) during the ongoing Monsoon

As per his statement, highest allocation of ₹395 crore has been granted to Health and Family Welfare department while ₹239.23 crore is sanctioned to Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water depart-

and Urban Development department got ₹17.70 crore while ₹96.20 crore has been allocated to all Collectors, ₹2 crore to DG Police and ₹1.85 crore to DG-Fire Services. Similarity, the government has sanctioned ₹17.34 lakh to Home department and ₹15.31 lakh to Odisha State Disaster



of the fund for Covid management works, he highlighted.

The Central and state governments are now providing fund at a ratio of 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively for the SDRF. Therefore, the state government has released its share of ₹267.50 crore for the

Apart from the above, 15 districts of the state have received ₹23.69 crore from PM Cares Fund to meet Covid-19 related expenditures.

In another reply, the minister said that at least 100 orders, guidelines, circulars and SOPs have been

Dept/ Authority	Amount (in ₹)
Health and Family Welfare department	395 cr
Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department	239.23 cr
Housing and Urban Development department	17.7 cr
All district Collectors	96.2 cr
DG Police	2 cr
DG-Fire Services	1.85 cr
Home department	17.34 lakh
Odisha State Disaster Management Authority	15.31 lakh
Management Authority (OSDMA) issued by the gr	orzonnmont for Corrid

Management Authority (OSDMA) to undertake Covid management works, Marndi added.

The Union government has so far released ₹802 crore towards the SDRF and allowed the state government to spend up to 50 per cent issued by the government for Covid-19 management.

The communications issued in between March 13, declaring Covid-19 as a state disaster, and September 10, issuing guidelines

Cop 'misbehaves' with woman in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

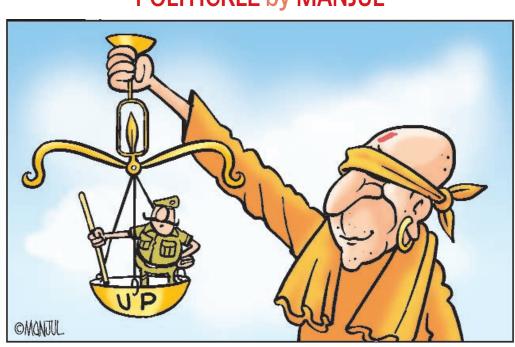
Puri, Oct 4: A woman Sunday alleged that Kumbharpada police inspector in-charge (IIC) misbehaved with her when she visited the police station to enquire about her husband who was detained by the cops.

Victim Lebov Nath, a Russian woman and wife of Shakti Prasad Nath, lodged a complaint in this regard with Puri Superintendent of Police Akhilesvar Singh.

As per the complaint, some policemen attacked Shakti Prasad and took him to Kumbharpada police station on the plea that he was not wearing a face mask properly.

IIC Kulamani Sethi, however. rejected the allegation and claimed that they had registered a case against Shakti Prasad for violation of Covid-19 norms.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Investment proposals worth ₹5.28L cr okayed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: To attract large scale investments, the state government has organised 79 investors' conclaves inside and outside the state during the last five years. It has so far approved 212 investment proposals worth ₹5.28 lakh crore.

Industries minister Dibya Shankar Mishra said this in the Assembly while replying to an unstarred question of BJD MLA Debi Prasad Mishra. The minister said the government had conducted 24 investors' meet inside the state and 55 outside the state including foreign countries like UAE, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia and China.

During the meetings, the gov-



THE STATE IS VET TO GET 74

PROPOSALS WHICH MAY ATTRACT INVESTMENT OF ₹97,750 CRORE

PROJECTS HAVE BEEN EITHER PARTIALLY OR FULLY EXECUTED

WORK IS UNDERWAY FOR **EXECUTION OF 104 PROJECTS**

HE REMAINING PROJECTS ARE AT VARIOUS STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Single Window Clearance Authority has approved 212 proposals worth ₹5,28,609 crore, Mishra added.

The state is yet to get 74 proposals which may attract investment to the tune of ₹97,750 crore.

The minister further said that out of the approved 212 proposals, only 13 projects have been either partially or fully functioned while work is underway for execution of 104 projects. The remaining projects are at various stages of implementation, he added.

The 'Make In Odisha Conclave 2020' which was proposed to be started from November 30 in the state is under consideration in view of the Covid-19 pandemic,

Heavy downpour, waterlogged roads in City spoil denizens' weekend plans



Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: True to the Met department's predictions, intermittent to continuous rains for three days in the state capital disrupted weekend plans for denizens of the capital city as many parts witnessed water-logging.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier predicted intense spells of rain for the twin cities with possibility of about two-three cm of rain per hour in certain areas. Eventually, the

weekends, Saturday and Sunday observed heavy downpour accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning.

"20 mm rainfall was recorded at airport area, while 32 mm at Raj Bhavan. About 30 mm rainfall was observed at KIIT University area. On an average, the city recorded 43 mm rainfall Saturday," read data from Skymet weather.

While the continuous torrential rain for several hours during three days inundated low-lying areas in both cities;

the downpour continued overnight and also Sunday. With knee deep waters, shops downed their shutters and vehicles went off the flooded roads throwing life out of gear for the denizens.

'I had my flight to Kolkata Sunday afternoon. Although I was wary of the rains and had made plans accordingly, things went out of hand when sudden rains lashed out around 1 in afternoon. I had booked a cab who cancelled it later after looking at inundated water in my vicinity. Eventually, I missed my flight," said Chandan Swain, a Nayapalli resident.

area

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over the

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Bengal, the

IMD stated

rains are

Meanwhile, had my flight to with a low **Kolkata Sunday** pressure ifternoon. Although I was wary of the rains and had made plans accordingly. ings went out of hand when sudden rains lashed out around 1 in afternoon that heavy CHANDAN SWAIN | NAYAPALLI and moderate

> likely to continue till October 7. "The low pressure area is moving very slowly and under its impact most parts of the state will get heavy to moderate rainfalls. Yellow warning has also been issued to few districts," said IMD, Bhubaneswar Director, HR Biswas.

ernment had got 286 intents from investment of ₹6,26,359 crore in the

the businessmen promising a total

state; of which, the State Level

8th Convocation

On Monday, 5th of October 2020 at 11:00 AM



His Excellency The Governor of Odisha

Prof. Ganeshi Lal

Visitor, Centurion University Will preside over the online Ceremony

www.cutm.ac.in

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



A plantation drive underway at INS Chilika in Khurda district as part of the Swachhta Hi Sewa Campaign, Sunday

COP SWINDLED OF ₹50K BY CYBER CROOKS IN CAPITAL

The victim Pruthviraj Patel is a resident of Ratakhandi in Bolangir and works as a SOG commando

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: A cop here has allegedly lost around Rs 50,000 after mistakenly sharing his credit card details with unknown cyber crooks. The victim identified as Pruthviraj Patel is a resident of Ratakhandi village of Bolangir district. Patel, who works as a SOG commando is deployed at the SOG training center at Chandaka. Patel has lodged a complaint with the Chandaka police in this

Patel's mobile phone was with his younger brother when the miscreants called him. The cyber crooks reportedly threatened Patel's brother that the credit card would be blocked as its validity had ended. His brother who picked up the phone shared all the credit card details with the fraudsters. Patel was shocked to find out messages regarding online shopping of around Rs50,000 from various e-commerce sites with his credit card.

15 fresh nCoV fatalities rock state

29,451 [-,797] 2,32,713 [+3,326] 2,02,302 [+4,108] 907 [+15] Odisha 0.9 % of India case 3,57 % of India case 3.13 % of India case 3.7 % of India case ∨ India 54,69,357 [+75,620] 1,01,273 [+950] 65,13,256 [+74,288] 9,41,702 [-2,288]

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The state Sunday reported 3,326 new cases of COVID-19, taking Odisha's tally to 2,32,713, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) depart-

State's virus toll, on the other hand, rose to 907 with 15 more patients losing their lives to the deadly infection, said the official.

Three patients each died in Khurda and Cuttack districts and two patients lost their lives in the Kendrapara district. One patient each died in Boudh. Dhenkanal. Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri and Sambalpur districts.

As many as 53 other COVID-19 patients have also died in the state, but the government attributed the cause of their deaths to comorbidities.

Of the fresh cases, 1,945 were reported from different quarantine centres while 1,381 people were found COVID positive during contact tracing exercise, said the H&FW department official.



LATEST STATS

hree patients each died in Khurda and Cuttack, and two patients lost their lives in Kendrapara. One patient each died in Boudh, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri and

Of the fresh cases, Khurda reported the highest 638 infections, followed by Cuttack (268), Jajpur (148), Nuapada (147) and Mayurbhanj (131)

he top four districts which have reported Covid cases are Khurda (40,196), Cuttack (21,773) Ganjam (20,333) and Puri (10.593)

AS FAR AS THE NUMBERS OF COVID DEATHS ARE CONCERNED, GANJAM HAS REPORTED A HIGHEST NUMBER OF 221 CASES FOLLOWED BY KHURDA (149), CUTTACK (77) AND PURI (49)

Khurda district, of which Capital city Bhubaneswar is a part, continues to report maximum number infections with 638 new cases detected during the past 24 hours followed by Cuttack (268), Jajpur (148), Nuapada (147) and Mayurbhanj (131). The top four districts reported the

Covid positive cases are Khurda (40,196), Cuttack (21,773) Ganjam (20,333) and Puri (10,593).

As far as the numbers of Covid

DMF funds to be used to . construct old-age homes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The state government has planned to use the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds from the mining areas of Odisha to construct old-age homes in such areas.

The funds are deposited by the miners of the concerned area for

the rehabilitation and welfare of the local community. As per the plan of

THE GOVT HAS STARTED CONSTRUCTION IN NINE MINERAL BEARING the Department of **DISTRICTS AND EACH** Social Security and STRUCTURE COSTS Empowerment of AROUND ₹30 CRORE Persons Disabilities (SSEPD), IN EACH MINERAL RICH DISTRICT, THE FUNDING in a recent communication to the Collectors OF THE PROJECT WOULD BE MADE OUT of mines areas, it was conveyed that the DMF OF THE DISTRICT MINERAL FUND, SAYS funds should now be diverted to the construction of such old-

age homes. The department has planned to construct one old-age home in each district with the investment of Rs30 crore on each of them to rehabilitate the senior citizens of the area.

The department has planned to construct an Integrated Infrastructure Complex (Old Age Home) in every district for taking care of the senior citizens, destitute and persons with disabilities at these centres.

"The purpose is to provide wide range of facilities necessary for the maintenance, welfare and rehabilitation of elderly persons, destitute and persons with disabilities with a view to encourage their assimilation into the mainstream," a written communication to Collectors from the department said

It also added, "The government has started construction in nine districts and each structure costs around Rs 30 crore. It has been decided that in mineral rich districts the funding of the project should be made out of the District Mineral Fund as it would cater to the need and welfare of the above vulnera-

ble people at large.

The district administrations from the mineral rich areas have been asked to send their 'solid commitment' for funding the construction of the old-age homes in their districts.

The district Collectors to whom the communication was sent included—Keonjhar, Jajpur, Koraput, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Angul, Rayagada, Balasore and Mavurbhani.

Nandankanan & Botanical Garden reopen their gates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Oct 4: After remaining out of the bounds for visitors for more than six months in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdowns, Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) and Botanical Garden here reopened Sunday and witnessed a footfall of at least 345

While Nandankanan saw 306 visitors, Botanical Garden witnessed 39 visitors Sunday. According to ACF (visitor management) Amulya Kumar Parida, adequate arrangements are in place at Nandankanan as well as Botanical Garden to ensure compliance with Covid-19 norms.

"Both online and over-the-counter ticketing facility is available for NZP and Botanical Garden. While sanitiser and thermal screening facilities are available near the ticket counter, provision for full



body sanitisation has been put in place near the ticket checking gate. Stress is being given to ensure compliance with Covid-19 norms like wearing of mask and social distancing to keep the virus at bay," Parida pointed out.

Sources said revenue collection has remained almost zero as the zoo has been closed for visitors since third week of March in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak and sub-

sequent lockdowns in the state. NZP, which records a footfall of earns around Rs 15 crore revenue, had not registered a single visitor in 2020-21 financial year so far. The zoo, however, may continue to sustain loss as authorities have decided to allow a limited number of visitors a day to control crowd and prevent spread of the virus.

"Initially, we have planned to allow entry of a maximum of 1,500 people per day," the senior NZP official said.

According to sources, NZP authorities have prioritised e-ticket booking over manual ticket booking and collection for contactless transaction. This apart, the zoo authorities will ensure cleaning and disinfection of all facilities especially elements that are touched frequently to keep Covid at bay. Visitors have been asked to refrain from chewing pan masala and gutka and spiting on the zoo premises.



deaths are concerned, Ganjam dis-

trict has reported a highest number

of 221 cases followed by Khurda

These four districts together have

There are 33,559 active cases in

the state at present, while 1,98,194

patients have so far recovered from

the deadly infection. The state has

tested total 34.40 lakh samples for

COVID-19, including 45,570 Saturday,

RECOVERY CROSSES 2L-MARK

crossed the two lakh-mark with an-

other 4,108 Covid-19 patients recu-

perating from the disease, Sunday.

The total recovered cases of Odisha

The maximum number of 721

recovered cases was reported from

Khurda followed by 492 from

Cuttack, 212 from Jajpur, 186 from

Angul and 154 from Jharsuguda

district. A total of 289 Covid-19 pa-

tients from the state pool also re-

State's total recovery count

 $506\,Covid\,deaths, almost\,55.7\,percent$

(149), Cuttack (77) and Puri (49).

of total deaths in the state.

the official pointed out.

now stand at 2,02,302.

Otherwise busy Badambadi bus stand area in Cuttack looks empty due to the incessant rain, Sunday

RPF conducts awareness programme on Covid-19

Keeping in view the relaxations announced under *Unlock 5.0, the programme was conducted as footfall in* the Rly Station is expected to grow exponentially

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) Sunday organised a passenger awareness programme at the Bhubaneswar Railway Station here. The passenger footfall at the station has started increasing gradually which will rise manifold keeping in view of the relaxations announced under Unlock 5.0.

The officers and staff of RPF here carried out the campaign to aware the passengers about various measures to remain safe from Covid-19 infection during travel.

The RPF personnel urged the passengers through loudspeakers to wear face masks, frequently use sanitisers and maintain social distancing among themselves. They also educated the passengers about proper use of face masks and also gave them physical demonstration on how to wear it.

This apart, the RPF staff made announcements to spread awareness on drug menace. The passengers were requested not to share or accept eatables from co-passengers or any strangers and pur-



chase eatables from IRCTC only. The passengers were urged to seek the help of RPF in case of any emergency by dialing the toll free Security Helpline No. 182 for any security assistance during their

These youths are bridging the digital gap in edu

On World Teachers' Day, let's celebrate the ones who are ensuring that tech doesn't become a deterrent in education access

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Online classes have become the new normal but still the technology and the setup are beyond the reach of many, especially in the rural pockets of the state.

Amidst the lockdown, the Odisha government launched a programme called 'Odisha Shiksha Sanjog' in which WhatsApp groups are formed to stay in touch with students and engage them in the teaching-learning process. But as per reports and surveys, 80 to 90 per cent of the parents of the children covered under the programme in several districts do not have access to a smartphone. The case of Kandhamal is even worse as around 40 per cent of the parents there do not have access to any kind of mobile phone.

To bridge this digital gap, many CSOs are taking the help of youths and college students in several districts, and running around 110 remedial class centres comprising 660 students. Tribal and Dalit communities, who would have otherwise suffered due to lack of digital resources, are mainly the beneficiaries. On the occasion of World Teachers' Day, let's celebrate these exemplary youths who are ensuring that no one is left out.

Mira Seth, a teacher at a nodal school in Sundargarh, got moti-

remedial class centres comprising 660 students vated to teach these children as the school where she used to teach had been remaining closed. So, she volunteered to teach these children in her village and at present, she takes classes of 12 children, six in the morning and six in the evening.

Similarly, Phanindra Singh, a college student from Kuarkela, after taking classes online, devotes two hours to teach students of Class VI to VIII at a club room in the village. Disruption in regular classes due to the Covid-19 pandemic has left students in rural areas in a lurch. "Online education remains out of reach for a majority of poor students who do not have access to smart phones. Poor internet connectivity in villages is another concern for them," he said.

Another two examples-

..I feel bad when the school teachers are sitting idle and the government isn't engaging them for this purpose

Remedial classes by the youths in progress. Many CSOs are taking the help of youths and college students in several districts, and running around 110

(remedial classes). Teachers should take remedial classes in their locality... JYOTSNAMAYEE NAIK | VOLUNTEER TEACHER

Online education can supplement towards bridging the learning gap, but it cannot replace the classroom

ANJAN PRADHAN | CONVENER, ODISHA SHRAMAJEEBEE MANCHA

Jyotsnamayee Naik (23) and Bidhata Pradhan (22), fresh graduates from Kandhamal, took up the responsibility to teach these underprivileged children in batches; in morning and evening shifts. Jyotsnamayee was first introduced to the remedial class initiative by the local organisation 'Sangathan Mahila Jeebika Suraksha Mancha' in Kandhamal. One of the 'Janasathis' of the or-

ganisation explained Jyotsna about the initiative. Jyotsna, after discussing with the 'Janasathi' immediately agreed to volunteer for the initiative and started teaching children from August 15. Subsequently, Bidhata, another graduate girl from the village followed Jyotsna's footsteps.

Daily, around 24 schoolchildren are being taught in four batches by

these two volunteers and the parents are happy that their efforts have been helping these kids to continue pursuing their studies. Both Jyotsna and Bidhata use their homes and the clubhouse to teach these children. Jyotsna said, "Schools weren't open and children couldn't attend online classes. It was then the idea of teaching them struck me. However, I feel bad when the school teachers are sitting idle and the government isn't engaging them for this purpose. Teachers should take remedial classes in their locality under

the government direction." "Online education can supplement towards bridging the learning gap, but it cannot replace the classroom,' opined Anjan Pradhan, Convener of Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha, a CSO which works with these youths.

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OrissaPOST

ILLEGAL STONE QUARRIES TURN INTO DEATHTRAP

Jajpur/Jenapur, Oct 4: Illegal stone quarries on forest land in this district have become deathtraps for labourers.

The police Sunday arrested a quarry owner on the charge of his involvement in the death of a labourer and for destroying evidence. The deceased was identified as Madan Barla, a native of Gambharia village. He was working as a casual labourer in the illegal stone quarry at Bichhakahndi reserve forest owned by Anchal Pradhan. Pradhan is a native of Radhakantapur village under Dharmasala block

Reports said that there is no let-up in the death of labourers in illegal stone quarries. Over 20 labourers have died under various circumstances during the last five years. The labourers are often lowly paid and work under hazardous conditions without using any safety gears. It is alleged that action is taken only in those cases which come out in the open while the rest

Observers claimed that over 500 illegal stone quarries are in operation under Dharmasala block and Jenapur police limits. Many influential and unscrupulous persons are the owner of these stone quarries and are operating them in connivance with the revenue, police and administrative

Doctor arrested

for sexual assault



■ There is no let-up in the death of labourers in illegal stone quarries in Jajpur. Over 20 labourers have died under various circumstances during the last five years. The labourers are often lowly paid and work under hazardous conditions without using any safety gears

A report submitted by the Dharmasala tehsildar to Jajpur additional district magistrate (ADM) says that these illegal quarry owners have encroached upon 456.34 acres

■ A report submitted by the Dharmasala tehsildar to Jajpur ADM says illegal quarry owners have encroached upon 456.34 acres of land in Bichhakhandi, Anjira and Kusunpur reserve forests

A labourer identified as Barla was crushed to death by a stone in a mine while another worker Himanshu Mallick was injured Sept 26

of land in Bichhakhandi, Anjira and Kusunpur reserve forests to set up their quarries for extraction of black stones. The report was prepared after the Balanga revenue

inspector conducted a probe.
Police said that Barla died after a huge stone came rolling down from the hill and landed on him and another labourer Himanshu Mallick, September 26. The two were busy in drilling work when the incident occurred. Barla sustained critical injuries and succumbed while being rushed to a hospital. Mallick is still under treatment.

Acting on a tip-off, Jenapur police registered a case on their own under various sections of IPC and MMDR Act and arrested the quarry owner Pradhan in this connection. Pradhan was produced in a court Sunday while the other accused are

Pradhan is accused of destroying evidence by burying the body of Barla in a cashew orchard near the Bichhakhandi hill without informing his family members or the police. Meanwhile, the police are yet to crack the case wherein another labourer died in an illegal stone quarry in Kusunpur forest September 22. It is alleged that the persons involved in the incident have suppressed the incident.

Jenapur IIC Ashis Kumar Sahu said soon the remaining accused will be arrested. The revenue department has apprised the Cuttack divisional forest officer of the mushrooming of illegal stone quarries in the reserve forests.

Show-cause to unauthorised mine

JAJPUR: The state pollution control board (SPCB) issued a show-cause notice to an illegal stone quarry on Jhilli hill in Kankadahada tehsil of Dhenkanal district on charge of violation of air and water pollution norms. The letter (2210, dated-1.10.2020) issued by the SPCB regional officer in Angul has warned the quarry owner of closing down the unit if he fails to reply satisfactorily to its showcause notice within a period of 15 days. The letter has been issued to the quarry owner and the tehsildar. The SPCB action came

after residents Sukanti Pradhan, Sipra Pradhan, Shaila Pradhan, Premananda Pradhan, Santanu Kumar Sahu and Santanu Bhukta filed a petition in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in this regard. The petitioners in their application-83/2020 before the NGT alleged that several precious timber trees like sal have been chopped off for establishment of the stone quarry and crusher unit in the hill. This has adversely affected the bio-diversity in the area and led to air and water pollution.

Elephants keep Champua on edge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, Oct 4: There is no letup in elephant menace in Champua area of Keonjhar district. A herd of elephants is on a damaging spree in this range while farmers have lost their sleep.

The farmers spend sleepless nights at their farmlands to keep the animals away



A tusker, separate from the herd, has become a cause of concern for the people. Now, 48 elephants are on the move in Champua range. The herd has split into two. A herd of 22 was holed up at Kalikaprasad reserve forest while Bamabari and Joda areas have 15 elephants.

Locals alleged that the herd stays in forests in the day time, but goes on a rampage at night.

Locals are panicked while the forest department has been on the job of driving the animals away.

"Elephant squads are on 24hour duty and are monitoring the movement of the animals so that crops are not damaged," said Champua ranger Ghasinath Patra.

Two killed in road mishap in Koraput

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput,Oct 4: Two persons were killed after an unknown vehicle hit a two-wheeler from the rear near Mundiguda area under Narayanapatna block in Koraput district in the wee hours of Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Molik Praska, 35, and Barak Praska, 25, from Mundiguda. The deceased duo and several others were going to Laxmipur on two two-wheelers.

The unknown vehicle hit Molik and Barak from behind killing them on the spot. Narayanapatna police reached the spot, recovered the bodies, sent them for postmortem and seized the bike. A detailed investigation is

INCLEMENT WEATHER



Warned about stormy sea due to a low pressure over the Bay of Bengal, fishermen have anchored their boarts at Kharinasi fishing jetty in Kendrapara OP PHOTO

The doctor in Boudh district landed in the soup after the woman,

Berhampur, Oct 4: Police have

arrested a doctor for allegedly sex-

ually assaulting a woman after

POST NEWS NETWORK

promising to marry her.

with whom he had developed a relationship on social media, levelled cheating and sexual assault charges against him.

According to sources, medical officer of the community health centrict Dr Tapan Kumar Satpathy was in a relationship with the woman from Chhatrapur area in Ganjam district.

Tapan, who was earlier a PG student of MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur, came to know the woman here. The doctor allegedly developed intimacy with the woman on promise of marrying her.

The woman alleged that Tapan maintained physical relationship with her and exploited her by making fake promises on social media on the pretext of marriage, though he was already married. She entered into a relationship with him in 2019 and developed physical inti-

Acting on the FIR at local Mahila Police Station, the doctor was booked under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and forwarded to a local court, the police station sources informed.

"After we received a report from the woman, we arrested the accused," Berhampur SP Pinak

Returnees make beeline for other states lies when we are sitting idle? We have no work hore? I lamonted some mix. A company had taken 10 labour. A company had taken 10 labour.



Loisingha/Bhawanipatna, Oct 4: Western Odisha districts, which are known for migration of labourers, are now witnessing return of migrant workers, who had come back home after losing their jobs during the pan-

Lack of job opportunities in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts are forcing youths to return to their workplaces in other states, a report said.

A report from Loisingha said a large number of people of Agalpur block have returned to their workplaces three days ago.

The migrant workers from Rinbachan, Uparbahal, Bharsuja Agalpur and Prakruiti panchayats boarded a bus to a neighbouring state.

They alleged that the government had promised them work under the MGNREGS, but most of them were unable to do manual labour while scores of them failed to get work.

"When we have no work here, we are bound to go back to our workplaces, they lamented. Some middlemen and labour contractors are on the prowl and are cashing in on the situation. Jobless labourers are lured to other states when the pandemic situation is worsening across the state.

Similar is the situation in Kalahandi where thousands of migrant workers have failed to get jobs after returning home.

A report from Bhawanipatana said that with Covid caseload growing in the district, work is not available sufficiently. "How can we run our famino work here," lamented some migrant works.

The report claimed that migration of returnees has started in 13 blocks of Kalahandi district.

Thirty to 40 buses have so carried returnees from Parla, Behera, Gadiajora, Dhoknaguda, Bheraguda, Bhaluchuan, Amaguda, Boden, Jaipatna, Kewadi (Dharmagarh block), Lolsara, Gambhariguda, Sirliguda (Koksara block), Golamunda, Junagarh, Kalampur, T Rampur, Narla, Lanjigarh to brick kilns in south India.

Many are going to work in Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Goa, Kerala, Surat and Mumbai.

It is said that some companies of Kerala, Surat, Goa and Mumbai are

A company had taken 10 labourers from Dharmagarh on a flight a few days ago. Some middlemen and labour contractors have taken the responsibility of taking the labourers back to their workplaces. Brick kilns, cotton mills and other plants have started functioning in other states where shortage of workforce has been felt. On the other hand, the administration is allegedly doing no registration of the labourers bound to other states. These migrants are risking their lives by going back to their

workplaces. A database of the labourers at the panchayat level is supposed to be made, but this not being done, it is alleged.

BUS CARRYING TN-BOUND MIGRANTS OVERTURNS

Malkangiri: At least seven persons suffered critical injuries after a bus carrying Tamil Nadu-bound migrant workers overturned on NH-326 near Champakhari area in Malkangiri district Sunday. All the injured labourers have been admitted to the Malkangiri district headquarters hospital (DHH). According to a source, 27 labourers aboard the bus were travelling from Sonepur to Tiruchirapalli district in Tamil Nadu to work at a spinning mill. As the bus was nearing Champakhari, the driver lost control on the wheels following which the bus skidded off the road and overturned. Local people immediately informed the police and rushed to the spot. Later. police reached the spot and with the help of local people, rescued the injured labourers who were then rushed to the DHH. The remaining 20 labourers were fortunate enough to have escaped with minor injuries.

Bolangir Covid patients get treated at Chhattisgarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 4: Despite the tall claims of the state government regarding effective management of COVID-19 situation in the state, many patients in Bolangir district have alleged that they have to depend on neighbouring Chhattisgarh for treatment of the deadly disease.

Owing to alleged shortage of ventilators and ICU beds in the COVID Hospital and COVID care centres in Bolangir town, patients are moving to Chhattisgarh in critical condition.

"The healthcare facility in the district is incapable to even treat 10 per cent of the critical patients being de-

tected here. Left with no other choice, we are compelled to go to other states and spend exorbitantly," said Shankarlal Barai, the relative of a COVID-19 patient in Bolangir district.

According to Barai, his relative failed to get proper treatment at the lone COVID hospital here and was later shifted to Chhattisgarh for treatment.

Relative of another COVID-19 patient in this district Rajendra Patnaik recently had to sell his ancestral land to spend money on his brother's treatment in Raipur. "I had to shift my brother to a hospital in Raipur where we are now paying Rs 30,000 per day as hospital charges. I had to sell my land in order to meet the medical expenses,"



said Rajendra. Had there been adequate facilities available in Bolangir district, we would not be facing such issues, he added, COVID-19 patients from Kantabanji area in Bolangir district

are also moving to Raipur for treatment. "There is no ventilator or oxygen facility here, for which I had to first

avail COVID treatment at a hospital in Raipur and later shifted to Vishakhapatnam. I had to spend around Rs 2,00,000 for my treatment," said Suresh Agarwal, a person from Kantabanji area.

On being contacted, Bolangir Collector Chanchal Rana refuted the allegations and said, "All arrangements are being made in the district to tackle the situation. We have added 20 more ICU beds.'

"Around 90 per cent of our available ICU beds are occupied. Those who are moving to Raipur hospitals, it is their prerogative. However, we are providing the best possible arrange ment here," the collector added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur. Oct 4: Forest department officials along with police, Sunday raided an illegal saw mill at Ainlabhata village under Padmapur police limits in Bargarh district. The officials seized several equipment and logs worth lakhs of rupees from the mill during the raid, sources said. The police have also arrested three persons in this connection. Locals said that the saw mill had been operating in the locality ille-

gally for the last couple of years. Forest officials had received information regarding smuggling of precious timbers from the mill. Acting on the tip-off, forest department officials along with their police counterparts raided the mill and seized the timbers. During the raid, police also confiscated two motorcycles and machines that were being used to cut wood and a tractor.

Locals alleged the forest department was aware of functioning of the illegal mill. However, it was not taking action against the mill. It was only due to the persistent complaint of the villagers that the mill was finally raided.

Forest officials informed later that they were trying to ascertain where the smuggled timber was being sent to.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua/Joda/Jhumpura, Oct 4: Floods due to heavy rains towards the last part of August spelt a doom to the lift irrigation (LI) sector in riparian parts of Keonjhar district a report said.

According to the report, 186 LI points were damaged by floods in Champua, Joda and Jhumpura blocks. The cost of the damage was estimated at Rs 50 lakh.

Floods from Baitarani, Aradei and Karo rivers left LI points and their cables submerged under water. About 110 LI points in Champua, 48 in Joda and 28 in Jhumpura blocks were damaged by floods. Cables, panel boards and starters were damaged too.

As the LI points are not working, famers have to face difficulties in irrigating their farmland. They have been frequenting

to the lift irrigation office with request to repair the defunct LI points.

They pointed out that many farmlands require water due to insufficient rainfall.

"If the LI points are not repaired, farming in the rabi season will be affected. The department should take



immediate steps to set things right before the farming season," affected farmers said.

"We hope to raise pulses and oil seeds, apart from rabi and kharif crops, but we are unable to get irrigation facilities as all the LI points are defunct. they lamented.

According to reports, the irrigation department had set up several LI points along Aradei in Rajia panchayat in 2016-17 with an expenditure of Rs 16.24 lakh. The LI points give irrigation coverage to 40 acres of land.

Assistant engineer of the lift irrigation department. Ramesh Chandra Nayak said that after receiving complaints from farmers, the district authorities were apprised of the damage by floods. The cost of the damaged LI points was estimated at Rs 50 lakh while efforts are on to redress the problems of the farmers.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH**

No. O-396 e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH-03 OF 2020-21

1	Name of the W	ork : Co	truction of 16 (Sixteen) Nos. Road Works during 2020-21 in the district of Bargarh							
2	EMD	: 1 (0	One) % of Estimated Co	e) % of Estimated Cost						
3	3 Other detials : As per DTCN									
	Procurement	Bid Identification	Availability of Tend	der Online for Bidding	Last date & time	Date & time of				
	Officer	No.	From	То	of seeking tender clarification	opening of tender				
	1	2	3	4	5	6				
	cutive Engineer, Rural Works vision Bargarh	ONLINE- BGH-03 of 2020-21	07.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	15.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.	14.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.	19.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M.				

urther details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.ir

OIPR-25062/11/0005/2021



Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away

ISSaPOST

MONDAY | OCTOBER 5 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

THE MOTHER



HATHRAS

athras is a small town in Uttar Pradesh and, according to the Puranas, this settlement could have been as old as the Mahabharata. Popular for its literary and cultural background, it is from here that the great Hindi satirical poet Kaka Hathrasi was born. In the late 19th century, Sharat Chandra Gupta was working at Hathras Railway station as Assistant Station Master. He spotted a monk who impressed him much at this rail station. He left his job and became the disciple of that monk who, later, was known as Swami Vivekananda. Sharat Chandra's name, too, was changed to Gupta Maharaj after he joined the Order. Hathras is back in news currently but for all the

A terrible gang-rape culminating in the gruesome mutilation and murder of the victim girl at Hathras has brought the name of this place

Undoubtedly, rape is among the most heinous of crimes and a violation of the sanctity of a human's body. In India, however, what is more shocking is the brutal manner in which the victims are treated after the rape; something that is horrendous to visualize. Despite strengthening of laws, more such cases of gang-rape and brutal killing of girls and women are coming in from different parts of the country - especially from the northern states. from places like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan. Even Odisha has not lagged behind lately.

The series of such incidents is long and mind-boggling. The brutal gangrape of a paramedic in a moving bus in Delhi in December 2012, known as the Nirbhaya incident, had shocked the nation. New laws were enacted in Parliament to ensure the safety of women. The government said it added more teeth to the existing law. But on the ground, more cases of brutal rapes continue to be reported. The reason is not difficult to comprehend. The system, especially the law enforcement agencies like the police, in most states but more so in places like Uttar Pradesh are unwilling to do justice. The feudalistic social structure in which the poor are treated as dirt and prey to satisfy the whims of the rich and the landlords without fear of retribution from lawenforcers has its worst manifestation in states like UP a situation that is also compounded by the caste system in which Dalits are the worst sufferers. They have no human rights as such in the lexicon of the rich and powerful.

A former BJP MLA has shown the gumption to call a meeting of the village Mahapanchayat in Hathras a day ago to pronounce that the accused in the death of the girl "are not as guilty as they are projected to be by the media and the opposition." This exposed the mindset of even those who 'lead' the people from the front. Or, take the case of the high-ranking District Magistrate who went to the victim's family two days ago and counseled them caution and silence, by saying "the media that raised a hue and cry would go away tomorrow, and we (the officials and police) will be here thereafter too." It came in the sugarcoated form of what was in reality a threat to their existence

In December last, a 23-year-old girl from Unnao, in UP, had been raped and then set on fire while she was about to head for the court case. Another girl in Unnao was raped at the hands of a BJP legislator in 2017 and he was arrested a year later. The girl too was killed following an engineered road accident, and her family too suffered when three of its members, including her father, were killed by the MLA's henchmen. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's assertion in 2018 that there will, thereafter, be 'zero tolerance' to such crimes was belied when this time, a week ago, the Hathras girl was cremated by policemen at the dead of the night after bringing her body from a Delhi hospital. The cops locked down the family members and all other villagers too so as to stop them from having a glimpse of her body that bore several ugly mutilation marks. The attempt on the part of the police thereafter was to say there was no rape at all after destroying all evidence. It may be because the slate has already been cleaned thoroughly that CM Yogi Adityanath has, very bravely, asked for an impartial enquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). As for the efficiency of the CBI, if the recent Bombay movie world investigations are any indication, less said the better. It was only after several days of nationwide agitations and also by locals that the Yogi government decided to suspend a few cops, which is no more than an attempt to silence the people, just as ordering a CBI probe into the girl's death is a mere eye wash. Clearly, the Yogi government was trying to protect the guilty through sham investigations and the CBI probe too will not be of any help in meting out justice to the victim if previous instances are any indication. The attempt, at best, is to buy time. New issues will arise and this will be

The plight of women in this country remains miserable and the security of poor women from disadvantaged sections of the society is non-existent While the images of goddesses are there to be seen and revered across India, more than of gods, the mindset of the people is such that they do not respect women both in their homes and in public. Women are still considered as instruments for cooking, cleaning the home and washing vessels. At best, to bear children for these murderous men to produce more such horrible progenies. Crimes such as rape may not be exclusive to India. It exists all over the world, wherever there are men. Interestingly, since the Hathras incident seems to embarrass the BJP government of UP, a whole lot of messages are flooding social media platforms which try to insinuate that statistics claim that there are more rapes in other countries than in India, and a big issue is being made out of this particular rape case.

An interesting argument has cropped up against this barrage of diversionary messages. Since lower caste people were always thought of and still are considered 'Untouchables', this argument stated, why then do the Upper Caste men touch them in the process of raping their girls and again to mutilate or murder them. Untouchables should, according to this view point, be left alone and never allowed to have physical interaction with Upper Caste males. Those who do touch should be considered Lower Caste and be barred to legally inherit paternal properties.

The brutality that underpins such acts has no parallel. A change in our mindset vis-à-vis women is a matter of first priority, followed by the coming into being of a more responsive law and order machinery that does not dance to the tunes of the high and the mighty and not make the life of the poor miserable. This change can only start when men in charge of administration decide to change.

WISDOM CORNER

But a lifetime of happiness! No man alive could bear it: it would be

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Only the dead have seen the end of war.

Get out of your head and get into your heart. Think less, feel more.

OSHO

WORDS**WORTH**

■ Trussell

t has been a long time since coins were made by hand in England (the technical term is hammered coinage, to distinguish it from the modern machine-made type). The language associated with it is as obsolete as the technique. Coin blanks were called flans. This is the same French word as the one we use in Britain for an open tart (in the USA for a custard baked with a caramel glaze), which can be traced back to the old Germanic flado, a flat cake; we once had a relative, flawn, for a type of cheesecake or pancake, which led to the long-defunct proverb "as flat as a flawn". The flan was placed on an anvil called a pile. This is from Latin pila, a pillar, and is a close relative of the words for things piled in a heap and piles driven into the ground to support a structure. The anvil got that name because it was a short upright iron pillar, usually driven into a wooden base. The coiner put the flan on the pile, placed a punch called a trussell on top and hit it with a hammer. The top of the pile and the bottom of the trussell were engraved with the designs for the two sides of the coin, which were thereby transferred to the flan. Trussell is from the same source as modern French trousseau and our truss, both at first meaning a bundle or package, though it isn't obvious how it came to be used for a die punch.

FOCUS NATION

A SUPERPOWER MOMENT



Saeed Nagvi

A LOOK-BACK TO THE TIME WHEN **US WANTED INDIA TO BE ITS ALLY, BUT VAJPAYEE AS PM FLINCHED AWAY FROM WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DISASTROUS MILITARY ENGAGEMENT IN NORTHERN IRAQ**

aswant Singh's final goodbye acquired extra poignancy. Ushered into his study in my mind's eye by the reliable Thomas, his secretary, I can see him induce a smile by way of politeness, gesture with his right hand, slowly nodding his head disapprovingly. He would have been pained at the Hathras rape and a blanket 'not guilty' verdict on all and sundry accused in the Babari Masjid demolition conspiracy case. He was a gentleman politician with whom one could disagree and yet return satisfied with many takeaways. He had the rare ability to change his views (as on Jinnah) if that is what the evidence suggests.

Jaswant Singh reminded me of Ismat Chugtai's description of Dilip Kumar who acted in films for which she had written the script and which her husband, Shahid Lateef, had directed. "Dilip Kumar is not a handsome man but he knows how to act as one.'

Likewise, Jaswant Singh's 'haw, haw' English was plausible, if not always authentic. He spoke with deliberation which was custom made for pauses enabling him to pluck out words he enjoyed using. His feudal Rajput background, polished by his years at the National Defence Academy under the supervision of Commandant Leslie Keith Malcolm (Bonny), a fastidious Scottish officer, his yen for polo and custom-made safari suits with epaulettes (sans insignia), all these enhanced his aristocratic bearing

The 'style' came in handy when as external affairs minister, he kept Bill Clinton's deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott, in his thrall during the marathon series of exchanges on the nuclear issue.

In the choreography of Atal Behari Vajpayee's cabinet, the Jaswant Singh persona had a deliberate placement. Was his 'princeliness' a criteria? That would have exposed Vajpayee to the charge of having a class fetish. After all, the minister of state in the foreign office, Vasundhara Raje Scindia, was a thoroughbred princess. It was Vajpayee's larger-than-life figure, his seniority over any RSS chief



Vajpayee's was a cabinet of ladies and gentlemen, a few rotten apples notwithstanding. Supposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood in front of a mirror and kept a photo of this team of seniors by his side, for easy contemplation, I wonder what thoughts would cross his mind

during his time, his evolution into international cosmopolitans through the Nehru years, his incomparable oratory and a natural bent for deep reflection, left in him no smallness of mind to nurse prejudices or be overawed by 'style'.

Jaswant Singh's flair was allowed full play in the cabinet but the reins were firmly with Vajpayee, something which became so clear when Vajpayee flinched away from what would have been a disastrous military engagement in northern Iraq and on which Jaswant Singh had set his heart. Having pulverised Iraq in April 2003, the US thought of sharing administrative responsibility with 'allies' on what it imagined was a 'conquered' oil rich country. Blandishments came India's way.

Singh was not the only one so dazzled by the projection of American power on new global television, particularly the hyped up drama on April 9 on the pulling down of Saddam Hussain's statue. The story put out by the US was that the statue had been pulled down by anti-Saddam masses. Nothing of the sort had happened That's another story which must be told in detail.

The pulling down of the statue registered with Vajpayee as the rise of an 'awesome power,' an event which dictated that festering regional conflicts should be ended. A week later, on April 18, 2003, while on a visit to Srinagar, he held out his hand of friendship to Pakistan. This, despite the two

armies poised for military action after Operation Parakram. Jaswant Singh saw the same events somewhat differently: as a confirmation of a powerful unipolar world. India had come so close to this powerful entity that a bonding was full of promise. Hence his enthusiasm for an Indian role in Iraq. India was to take charge of the Kurdish North – an imperial role at last. Something in Jaswant Singh was turned on. A senior Indian diplomat was dispatched on a secret mission to gauge the level of hospitality India would receive, should it accept its new imperial role. The diplomat returned after meeting Masoud Barzani, Jalal Talebani and, by way of a bonus, with a bag full of truffles strewn

all over Talebani's Estate. With foresight, the diplomat made a clever detour to Dubai to establish contact with Adnan

Pachachi, a former Iraqi foreign minister who the diplomatic grapevine in West Asia tipped as the possible front for the new 'conquerors' of Iraq. The Indian Ambassador to Iraq, BB Tyagi, had been parked in a three-star hotel in Amman, waiting for the Americans to declare themselves the country's new rulers. Tyagi would charge down and present his credentials Such unseemly obsequiousness.

Away from the herd, Vajpayee had made his own calculations. He realised his cabinet colleagues had been taken in by the sole superpower moment. At this moment (his colleagues thought) it would be tactless to refuse an American invitation. But Vajpayee asked tough questions. A division plus 8,000 soldiers and men would be required. The thrill and grandeur of the expedition was alluring, but not if New Delhi had to foot the bill. Permanent membership of the Security Council would be worth the gamble but that is not what the Americans were talking about.

Vajpayee, the skillful politician, came into play when he called up CPI leader, AB Bardhan, a friend of many years. Would Bardhan be happy at the sight of Indian troops, in Division strength, operating under US command without a UN flag? Vajpayee's signal to Bardhan was to mobilise public opinion against the idea. Not only would it help India, but it would enable his colleagues to slide down the pole they had climbed up to impress the Americans.

That Singh corroborated to me bits of this untold story, a story in which he himself does not come out smelling of roses, shows the kind of gentleman he was. In fact, Vajpayee's was a cabinet of ladies and gentlemen, a few rotten apples notwithstanding. Supposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood in front of a mirror and kept a photo of this team of seniors by his side, for easy contemplation, I wonder what thoughts would cross his mind.

The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues.

SPECTRUM SCIENCE

Technology that helps blind gain vision



Dr. Bhubanananda Sahu

NANO SCALE ENGINEERING AND GENE TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY HAVE A GREAT FUTURE TO PROVIDE CURE FOR MULTIPLE DISEASES IN HUMANS

unique satellite to Space called cosmic background explorer (COBE) in 1989 to measure the scatter infrared and microwave radiations from the early universe. It is reckoned that COBE can visualise the infrared and microwave light coming from the distant universe to confirm the big bang explosion that took place 13.7 billion years ago.

The satellite sketches the thermal map of the universe which is the leftover heat just after the explosion of the primordial universe. This is the first evidence of the big bang, and two scientists got the Nobel Prize for this dis-

covery in 2006. Human beings can only visualise 0.0035 per cent of the total light which is called the visible spectrum. The visible spectrum comprises seven colours as in rainbow. Our light sensing compartment of eye, retina, processes the visible light with a cell called cone photoreceptor. This constitutes three distinct types of cells -- red cone, blue cone and green cone -stimulated by red, blue and green light respectively. Other complementary colours are made by using

this primary RGB colour. We cannot see the electromag-

he National Aeronautic netic spectrum beyond the rain-thermal image get superimposed possible for long until a grand disolet with decreasing order of wavelength are UV, X-Ray, gamma ray and cosmic ray. Longer wave lengths of light beyond red are infrared, microwave, radio wave etc. If we could visualise the rest of the electromagnetic spectrum, the world would have been a wonderland as describe in fairvtale.

Some of the creatures stand out from humans in their extraordinary vision in the infrared region. Sitting near a campfire is an example of experiencing visible light as colour, and infrared light as heat. Snake has this infrared vision capability to precisely locate its prey and predator in the dark. It has a special sensory system between the eye and nostril, called pit organ. The presence of infrared vision feature in the pit organ helps snakes track the location and details of warmblooded animals such as rodents, birds, lizards and mammals.

Warm-blooded animals maintain the body temperature higher than that of the environment by regulating the metabolic process, and hence release heat to the surroundings. The eve of a snake creates the visual image of the prey and its pit organ generates the thermal image. Both visual and

Space Agency (NASA) of bow colours, above violet and be- in same part of the brain to con- covery was made, wherein the struct the shape of the prev

The pit organ contains a nerveending that has specialised protein called transient receptor potential family A1 (TRPA1). This is a heat sensor and gets activated by the infrared heat coming from the warm-blooded prey. Following the receipt of heat, the TRPA1 channel opens up and generates an electrical response that goes into the brain for further processing -- into a thermal image.

Nano scale engineering and gene transfer technology have a great future to provide cure for multiple diseases in humans. This writer and his colleague have used nano technology to rescue vision in blind mice. One of the inherited visiondefects in humans is leber congenital amaurosis. This disease affects vision in early childhood and is due to mutations of many genes including the retinal pigmented epithelium 65 (RPE65). The RPE65 gene is essential in regenerating chromophore in retina for vision.

Mice with RPE65 mutation become blind since birth. The writer delivered a nanoparticle tagged with a healthy RPE65 gene in subretinal space that restored the vision in mice. Customising infrared vision in living creature was imand gene supplementation so as to provide infrared vision.

Genetically modified blind mice were used as the preclinical model for this study. These mice are insensitive to light by four weeks of age. This research was published in Science Journal in June, 2020. Scientists used TRPA1 from the Texas rat snake to add infrared vi-

The customised retina for infrared vision is the great leap in our perimeter of visual field. Thermal imaging has long been in application in defense and homeland security operations, using special goggle. But this is the first time a mammal's retina is designed to see the infrared light. This has considerable potential with respect to bio-integrated nano-device in security, military operations and human-machine interfaces. This technology can be used in future to provide vision to blind people with regional retinal degeneration.

> The writer is from Jamseth, Bargarh; and works as research scientist at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, USA.

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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Art for social change

Sir, World history has recorded how art and literature helped the society refine itself and progress. There are two theories, namely of art for art's sake, and art for social change. India is in a transitional phase. We are witnessing scenes of chaos like mob lynching, riots, Hindu-Muslim fanaticism, cast feelings and religious bigotry. People are facing massive unemployment, farmers are committing suicide, children are malnourished, education is becoming costlier due to privatisation, poor people are without food, public sector units are either closed or handed over to the corporates, there is retrenchment, lockdown and more. Industrialisation is on a ride downhill, and youths without employment are turning to crimes as a pastime. Progressive literature is the need of the hour which will guide the young generation fight against all odds with a positive frame of mind. During the freedom struggle, art and literature have played a great role to popularise the people's movement. Tagore's poetry is known for its spiritualism and mysticism. It also tried to push the society forward, but his stress was more on art for art's sake. Sarat Chandra's literature has a social purpose as in Pather Devi, which is about revolution. It fights against injustice, oppression and sufferings of the people. In the current situation, we must follow the literature of Faiz, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sharat Chandra, Premchand, Manto, Kabir and Bhima Bhoi, Maxim Gorky and Tolstoy. Refining the society is an important cause for all Indians now. Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Hathras & Cong

Sir, It is surprising that the Congress party in Odisha is wasting its time in the state Assembly over what has happened in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh. Such cases keep happening in every state, and the law and order machinery in the respective state must remain alert. But. there is no reason why other state assemblies should be wasting their time on what happens elsewhere.

Gopal Mittal, BHUBANESWAR

Disgraceful comment

Sir, BJP MLA from Balliya, Surendra Singh, has said that incidents like the alleged gangrape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit girl in Hathras can be stopped only if parents inculcate good values in their daughters. This is a disgraceful comment and shows how insensitive our public representatives are towards issues like rape and murder. Politicians should refrain from making such statements.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA



OrissaPOST

MONDAY | OCTOBER 5 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

BJP'S CHANCES IN BYPOLLS LOOK BLEAK 'Cong grooming

Party strategists are now putting their heads together to counter the anti-Dalit narrative that is being run by the opposition

are mainly Dalits. Valmikis, who

had supported the BJP in 2017 and

2019 elections, are now out on the

streets protesting against the alleged

"insensitive attitude of the BJP

government and its officials in

dealing with the gang rape and

murder case of a Valmiki girl of

in the incidents by Bahujan Samaj

Party and Bhim Army, which is

leading from the front, has caused

The active interest being taken

Hathras"

Lucknow, Oct 4: Hathras, Balrampur, Azamgarh, Bulandshahr, Kanpur -- as the list of crime against Dalit women gets longer in Uttar Pradesh, BJP leaders in the state are worried over the impact this might have on the upcoming by-elections on seven assembly seats where polling is due

The party strategists are now putting their heads together to counter the anti-Dalit narrative that is being run by the opposition against the Bharatiya Janata

"This is actually a conspiracy against the Yogi Adityanath government by people with vested interests. The cyber cell has registered an FIR after investigations pointed towards a conspiracy to malign the Yogi government and provoke caste violence.

"The social media has been used to conspire and spread canards and we have proof of the involvement of outfits like PFI and SDPI. Some mafia dons who are being

STOPPED TWICE



targeted by the Yogi government are supporting this campaign with money," said a government spokesman.

He said that "false reports of the victim being raped, her tongue being cut and other mutilations were a part of this conspiracy in which some verified accounts on social media were used".

While the government is probing the conspiracy angle, the party is concerned about the social impact of the incidents since victims

raped, her were a part of a conspiracy

conspiracy angle, the party is concerned impact of the incidents since to malign victims are the govt mainly Dalits

Valmikis, who had supported the BJP in 2017 and 2019 elections, are now out on the streets protesting against the administration

A senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh functionary said that the BJP had gone out of its way to ensure 'Samajik Samarasta' (social harmony) and this had brought Dalits into the party mainstream.

He admitted that some administrative decisions taken by the officials in the Yogi governmenta "mainly, the cremation of the victim's body in the dead of the night without the familya" had caused an unpleasant situation for

uation in a sensitive manner so that the opposition cannot exploit it. We will need to reach out to Dalits and other weaker sections before others mislead them further," he said.

The BJP will now ask legislators to fan out in their respective constituencies and interact with members of Dalit communities and explain the actual position in the incidents and also the action taken by the state government.

"Groups of legislators will go to the constituencies where by elections are to be held on November 3 and hold meetings with the local people (Dalits). We will also explain the conspiracy angle to the people and tell them that the party and the government committed to protecting their rights,' senior BJP office-bearer.

Incidentally, the BJP is also facing the anger of upper castes who feel that their members are being falsely implicated in crimes against Dalits. These upper castes have even held a series of panchayats on

Bhim Army chief meets

Hathras victim's family

Hathras, Oct 4: Bhim Army chief

Chandrashekhar Azad this evening

met the family of the 20-year-old

woman who died in Delhi after al-

leged gang rape and torture in Uttar

Azad marched for about five km

after he was stopped by the police for

the first time when he was on his way.

He was stopped again when he en-

tered Hathras and was told "not all the

people accompanying him could go

Demanding Y-Plus category security

for the family, Chandrashekar Azad this

evening said: "When Kangana Ranaut

can be given Y-plus security, meet-

ings are being held to back the ac-

cused... I demand that the govern-

ment arranges Y-Plus category security

for the victim's family. We have all

seen that the CBI follows the govern-

CBI is being used only to scare people.

We want a probe monitored by a re-

tired Supreme Court judge," he added.

"Under the present leadership, the

Pradesh's Hathras

next-gen leaders'



Bangalore, Oct 4: Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar has said that the Congress in Karnataka had put an end to granting positions in the party through recommendations and would be identifying and grooming new-generation leaders.

Launching the Youth Congress Membership Campaign at R.N. Shetty Kalyan Mantap here Saturday, Mr. Shivakumar said the focus was on building a cadre-based party now and all the activities and works of the office-hearers from the booth level to the leaders, were being documented.

"If any party member has to get a position, his or her work and sacrifice will be considered, and it will be decided through an internal election. As per the vision of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, if the country has to survive and prosper; more representation should be given to students, youngsters and women," he said.

The KPCC president said that in order to strengthen the organisation of the party from the booth level, a mobile application — Praja Pratinidhi — was being developed and tested on a pilot basis in his con-

"From the booth level, one can get various positions. Politics is like agriculture. If and only when one works at various levels can one get the crop named position. We have dropped the tradition of appointments through recommendations. At the booth level, a 'digital youth' will be appointed, he said.

Mr. Shivakumar also said the party was where it was because of too much "individual worship". 'From here onwards, only those who do party worship will survive. From activists to leaders, the focus should be on strengthening the organisation. One should be a member and organiser first, and then a leader." he said.

Taking a dig at the BJP, Mr. Shivakumar said that Hindutva was not any one person's property; it was the property of the nation.

"The country has more statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar than of Lord Sri Ram because he was the voice of the oppressed who were exploited and ill-treated for centuries. Now, the people of the country have started raising their voice against governments. If at all the Constitution of India has to be protected, agitation is inevitable. And everyone should be ready to fight,'

Referring to the changing times and the need for the party to change, Mr. Shivakumar called on leaders and members to be amidst the peo ple and become their voice. "Only those become the voice of the people will become leaders.

Bhim Army president Chandrashekhar Azad along with party workers on his way to meet the family members of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who died

after being allegedly gang-raped two weeks ago, at Sasni road in Hathras, Sunday

BJP cadre to propagate state policies

The move is also intended to counter the Opposition that is attempting to gain political mileage by highlighting controversies

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Oct 4: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh (UP) has decided to train a team of over 100 speakers in each district who would be entrusted with the responsibility to propagate the policies of the state and the Central governments, party officials said.

The move, which is in keeping with the UP assembly polls slated to be held in 2022, is also intended to counter the Opposition that is attempting to gain political mileage by highlighting controversies such as the alleged gang-rape and murder of a Dalit teenager (19) by four

upper caste men in Hathras district seen after the Narendra Modi-led last week, party leaders said on condition

anonymity. The BJP will organise divisionallevel cadre training

workshops between October 11 and 31.

UP party functionaries have been asked to attend the training workshops and talk about the changes that the country has

government had swept to power 2014 and since re-elected last

have a tradition "We have a tradition of of training our cadres. training our cadres. It's It's due to this training due to this training that that the BJP today is the the BJP today is the world's biggest political world's biggest politiparty cal party. In the train-SWATANTRA DEV I ing workshops we will UP BJP CHIEF guide our cadres on how to logically counter the opposition canards and

> conspiracies," UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev told party functionaries. However, Dev didn't specify how

to handle political controversies such as the Hathras incident.

> BJP leaders said that the team of party cadres would undergo training about how to blunt the opposition from hurling accusations at the government. The party feels that this trend is likely to gain momentum as the date for 2022 assembly polls comes closer.

> The BJP faces a mini electoral test in November when by-polls will be held for the seven of the eight vacant assembly seats.

> Panchayat, graduate and teachers' polls are also due to be held, but their schedules are yet to be an-

'Parents responsible if daughters are raped'

AGENCIES

ment's orders.'

Balliya (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 4: In a bizarre statement, Surendra Singh, BJP MLA from Balliya, has said that incidents like the alleged gangrape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit girl in Hathras can be stopped only if parents inculcate good values in their daughters.

Talking to local reporters in Balliya, the BJP MLA said neither governance nor use of weapons can prevent such crimes.

"Incidents like these can be stopped with help of good values -'na shashan se, na talwar se'. All parents should teach their daughters good values. It is the combination of governance and good values that can make the country beautiful," he told a news agency.

Surendra Singh has been known for making controversial

Weaves of despair: Karna industry in deep crisis

statements. Singh had earlier stoked a controversy by comparing government officials with prostitutes. "Prostitutes are better than officials. They take money and dance all night. But these officers despite taking money from the public, don't do their work," he had said.

He also landed in controversy when he stated that "Muslims who have many wives and children in large numbers have an animalistic

"In the Muslim religion, you know that people keep 50 wives and give birth to 1.050 children. This is not a tradition

but an animalistic tendency. In soparents should ciety, giving teach their birth to only daughters good values two to four

It is the combination of children is governance and good normal," the alues that can make BJP leader the country beautiful was quoted as having said. He has also made objec-

tionable remarks on Congress president Sonia Gandhi and BSP president Mayawati.

Mayawati raises concern over DM threatening Hathras victim's family

Lucknow, Oct 4: Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati Sunday expressed concern over allegations of Hathras district magistrate threatening the family of the Dalit woman who died after being allegedly gang-raped.

In a tweet in Hindi, Mayawati said, "There have been serious allegations of the Hathras DM threatening the family of the victim. Despite this, the UP Government is maintaining silence, which is sad and extremely worrying."

"The government has agreed for a CBI probe but with the DM staying there (Hathras), how can the matter be impartially probed? People are feeling apprehensive,"

Saturday, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had demanded the suspension of the district magistrate after meeting the



Hathras victim's family.

The 19-year-old woman was allegedly raped by four men on September 14. After her condition deteriorated, she was referred to Delhi's Safdarjung hospital where she breathed her last on Tuesday.

She was cremated in the early hours of Wednesday, with her family alleging that the local police forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of night.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday recommended a CBI probe into the incident.

effects of Covid-19 and lockdown continue to take a toll on the weaver community, which is poor but large, in different parts of

AGENCIES

The relief measure announced by the government to help weavers has hardly helped them, and caught in a deep financial crisis, they have been left wondering whether they would get their businesses back on track at all.

Belagavi, Oct 4: The disastrous

First, it was the floods of 2019 that destroyed powerlooms, raw materials and ready sarees at several units in Belagavi.

Soon after came the Covid pandemic, putting paid to an industry that was just looking up.

Though the government has announced a ₹100 crore package for weavers, the money is meagre when it reaches an individual, in-

dustry experts pointed out. As per the Textile Department records, there are over 26,000 powerlooms in the district, half of them situated at Shahapur, Vadgaon and Khasbag areas of Belagavi city and the rest in Ramdurg, Nippani and Sulebhavi.

The looms here manufacture drapes that are popularly known as 'Shahapuri Sarees' and are mainly sold in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and other states. Parashuram Dhage, Secretary, Belagavi District Weavers Association, said, "With the pandemic, no big weddings and functions are being organised, hitting our sales. There has been no demand from other states too. To make matters worse, buyers who



had sourced our sarees earlier are not willing to release payments.

Srinivas Talukar, a weaver from Vadgaon, said, "Though we were literally thrown on the road, the government announced a ₹2,000 relief per month per family. This is far less than what is being given to other communities, who get ₹5,000 per month. Weavers who

earned ₹500 per day earlier are now working as construction labourers, farm hands, security guards and even at Covid Care Centres where they are paid ₹200. Some have slipped into depression as they have no work and are not skilled to take up any other profession. Many have committed sui-

cide as they could not repay loans."

TANGLE IN THE LOOM Half of them situated at

Shahapur, Vadgaon and Khasbag areas of district | Belagavi city. The rest in Ramdurg, Nippani and Sulebhavi ₹2,000 **Textiles Minister**

Shrimant Patil suggests to the govt to buy 'Shahapuri Sarees' from weavers, which requires allocation of ₹50 crore

Vasudev Doddamani, Deputy Director, Textile Department, said, 'The families of two weavers who committed suicide have got ₹2 lakh relief from the Revenue Department. In other suicide cases, the compensation is vet to be released. Cooperative banks havewaived off the interest for loans taken by weavers.'

national



We are all pained by the expiry of Sushant but he cannot be honoured by falsely implicating a lady as an accused. I have earlier said that Rhea Chakraborty was an innocent lady. She should be released without further harassment. She has been the victim of political conspiracy

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY | LEADER OF THE CONGRESS IN LS

KHADI SALES FIGURE CROSSES ₹1 CRORE-MARK

The soaring spirit of Khadi lovers got better of the Covid-19 fear on Gandhi Jayanti with the Khadi sales figure crossing the ₹1 crore-mark at Delhi's flagship Khadi India outlet in Connaught Place



According to the aggrieved family, the worst treatment meted out to them was by the district magistrate. Who is

trying to save him? He should be immediately suspended, and his role in the entire matter should be

PRIYANKA GANDHI CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal will launch a mega antiair pollution campaign Monday following a meeting



After easing of lockdown and the COVID-19 restrictions, people should adopt mask-

wearing as it could be a social medicine to stem the spread of the infection

KIRAN BEDI

SHORT **TAKES**

1 killed, 3 hurt

Gangtok: At least one person was killed and three others were injured after heavy rains triggered a landslide at Tafil village in West Sikkim district, an official said Sunday. Personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and police conducted rescue operations to trace a person who is still missing after Friday's landslide, Block **Development Officer** Ranjan Raj said.

Several injured

Nalbari (Assam): Several persons, including police personnel, were injured when locals who were staging a protest against the entry of controversial BJP leader Satya Ranjan Borah in Nalbari district Sunday clashed with his supporters, and police wielded batons and fired in the air to disperse them, officials said. Problem began in the morning when people blocked Dhamdhama-Kadamtal road at Garbhitor village to prevent Borah, who allegedly makes provocative comments against a community, from attending a meeting at Kadamtal village, they said. As soon as the news of the leader's arrival spread, hundreds of locals blocked the road, leading to a clash between them and Borah's supporters.

Five arrested

Ahmedabad: Five people were arrested in two separate cases of rape in Guiarat, police said Sunday, A 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped by four persons when she went to meet a friend on September 28. a Jamnagar C-Division police station official said."Three of the four accused were arrested on Sunday, while one is absconding," he said. "She (girl) spoke about the incident to her mother two days ago after which a case under section 376D (gang-rape) of IPC and provisions of the POCSO Act was filed," the official said. In another incident, a 35-year-old woman was allegedly threatened and raped by two persons on several occasions in the last 15 days at Santrampur town of Guiarat's Mahisagar district. police said.

Man ends life

Mumbai: A 24-year-old man died allegedly by hanging himself from the ceiling fan at his shanty in suburban Santacruz area here, police said Sunday. The man, Najmul Ansari, was found dead on Friday evening, a police official said. He said Ansari started taking drugs during the coronavirus lockdown period. Police have registered an accidental death report, the official said.

Rahul vows to scrap farm laws



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and other leaders during a tractor rally, 'Kheti Bachao Yatra', in protest against the new farm Bills 2020, in Punjab's Moga district, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moga, Oct 4: Vowing to scrap the new farm laws once the Congress returns to power at the Centre, Rahul Gandhi Sunday alleged that the BJP-led government was acting at the behest of select corporates to "destroy" farmers.

Leading a tractor rally in Punjab against the farm legislations, the Congress leader launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and questioned the need for bringing in the new laws at the time of the coronavirus pandemic

'Their target is to end the MSP and food procurement system. They know the day that happens, farmers of Punjab and Haryana will be finished," he said."But the Congress will not allow this to happen, we stand firmly behind you. We will not back down an inch," Rahul said while addressing a public rally at Badni Kalan here before a tractor rally through the districts of Moga and Ludhiana.

The Congress, which is in power in Punjab, is holding tractor rallies from October 4 to October 6 across the state in protest against the Centre's new farm laws. Rahul Gandhi alleged that the Modi government was "a puppet whose strings were in the hands of the Adanis and the Ambanis". "I guarantee the day Congress government is formed (at the Centre), these three black laws would be scrapped and consigned to wastepaper basket," he said.

The former Congress president said if the laws were meant for farmers, then why were they agitating against these new legislations, and referred to the Congress' opposition to the Land Acquisition Bill. He said while the system needed reforms and change, there was no way the Congress would allow it to be destroyed.

"I am not saying that there is no deficiency in this system. There is a need to reform the system, but it does not need to be destroyed. "If you do so then there will not be anything for farmers' safety and they will have to directly talk to Ambani and Adani and farmers will be destroyed," he said.

President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill: Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill; and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, which were passed by the Parliament last month. The government has maintained that the MSP system will remain and has accused the Congress and other opposition parties of misleading farmers.

Covid vaccine for 25 cr by July: Vardhan PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Centre estimates to receive and utilise 40-50 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine covering 20-25 crore people by July next year and it is preparing a format for the states to submit by October-end their list of priority population group to receive the vaccine, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said Sunday.

He said priority would be given to health workers engaged in COVID-19 management in getting the vaccine. During an interaction with his social media followers on 'Sunday Samvad' platform, he said a highlevel expert group is going into all the aspects of vaccines and the health ministry is preparing a format in which states will submit

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said priority would be given to health workers engaged in COVID-19 management in getting the vaccine

lists of priority population groups. The list of frontline health workers will include government as well as private-sector doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitary staff, ASHA workers, surveillance officers and many other occupational categories who are involved in tracing, testing and treatment of patients.

This exercise is targeted to be completed by the end of this October

guided to also submit details about cold chain facilities and other related infrastructure which will be required down to the block level, the minister said.

'The Centre is also working on plans for building capacities in human resources, training, supervision and others on a massive scale and roughly estimates to re-

ceive and utilise 400-500 million doses covering approximately 20-25 crore people by July 2021. All this is under various stages of finalisation," Vardhan said. He further informed his audience that the government is also keeping an eye on immunity data concerning COVID-19 disease while finalising these plans.

"Our government is working round the clock to ensure that there is a fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, once they are ready. Our utmost priority is how to ensure a vaccine for each and every body in the country," Vardhan said.

The minister stated that a highlevel committee under the chairmanship of Niti Aayog Member (Health) Dr V K Paul is drawing up the entire process.

Dalit leader

shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Purnea/Patna, Oct 4: A 37-year-

old Dalit leader was gunned down

at his residence in Bihar's Purnea

district Sunday and his wife al-

leged that it was a political killing

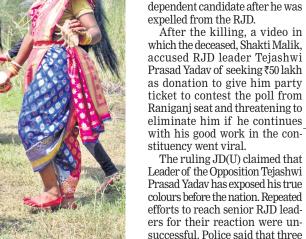
as her husband was preparing to

contest Assembly election as an in-

FESTIVE SPIRIT



Women perform on a field, ahead of Durga Puja in Nadia district, Sunday



Teen claims rape, 3 booked

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh), warded a complaint of gangrape to the police on WhatsApp after she was found pregnant. The teen has claimed she was raped multiple times by three men during a course of over one-and-half years.

A team led by a woman circle officer was sent to the girl's home where her statement was recorded and an FIR under suitable sections was registered. Three people have been booked for rape case, including a 72-year-old man.

The teen has claimed she was raped multiple times by three men during a course of over one-and-half years

"The family of the rape survivor got to know about the ordeal of the girl after her condition deteriorated recently and she was taken to a local hospital where the family was informed about her pregnancy," Senior Superintendent of Police (SP), Senior Bulandshahr, Santosh Kumar said.

"In a statement to the police, the rape survivor said she was sexually harassed by one of the accused, Shrichand, a 72-year-old man. The second accused in the case is Balveer, 52, younger brother of Shrichand who allegedly raped the girl on several occasions. Third accused Mahesh, a milk vendor, is also accused of raping the girl," the SSP said.

Police also claimed Balveer had facilitated a loan of ₹1.5 lakh to the family and there was a brawl recently when he confronted the family for its repayment. "Over a year ago, the rape survivor's brother had sustained severe injuries in a train accident. Balveer had facilitated a loan from a Noida farm house owner to the family. The accused claimed that a brawl ensued on Thursday when he approached them for its repayment," the SSP said. The SSP said the matter was being investigated.

Jawan killed in terror ambush

Police officials in Itanagar said that armed militants attacked the 19 Battalion of Assam Rifles troopers near Hetlong village when the paramilitary personnel were on their way to collect drinking water

Itanagar, Oct 4: An Assam Rifles jawan was killed while another was hurt in an ambush by suspected militants in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh Sunday, officials said.

Police officials in Itanagar said that armed militants attacked the 19 Battalion of Assam Rifles troopers near Hetlong village when the paramilitary personnel were on their way to collect drinking water by a water tanker.

Police suspect that around 30 terrorists belonging to the Paresh Baruah faction of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA-Independent) and the Yung Aung faction of the



National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K) are behind the ambush.

"A report said that the militants had triggered an IED blast prior to opening indiscriminate firing. However, we are yet to get the full details of the incident," a police official said refusing to disclose his

The injured jawan was admitted to a government hospital in Changlang. He is likely to be airlifted to Guwahati in Assam. Three districts of Arunachal Pradesh - Tirap. Longding and Changlang share porous and unfenced borders with Myanmar and for many years the Armed Forces Special Powers Act had been enforced in these areas.

Various militant outfits are using these forested areas as their transit route and clandestine hideouts. It was not immediately known how many Assam Rifles troopers were travelling by the water tanker and whether they retaliated to the militant attack.

of Shakti Malik in Purnea in the morning and shot him in the head while he was sleeping.

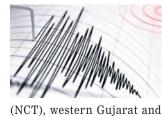
Foreshocks, swarms caused

recent quakes: GSI official PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

quakes in different parts of India, albeit of small magnitudes, have occurred due to foreshocks and swarms, a top official of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) said, warning that frequent tremors were a matter of concern in the subcontinent, where several areas are prone to major seismic activities

Dr Sandip Som, the deputy director general of GSI, also said that foreshocks -- mild tremor preceding earthquakes - or swarm activities -- series of earthquakes indicate release of tectonic stress and strain during the continuous deformation process, and a detailed study of these jolts could help predict if a significant seismic event is in store.

'These minor earthquakes are mainly clustered in the northeastern and north-western Himalayan region, around the Delhi-National Capital Territory



bike-borne men entered the house

Western Maharashtra areas which have been demarcated as seismic zones IV and V," the geologist said Sunday.

In the past, too, low-magnitude earthquakes have been recorded in these regions, he said. According to the GSI scientist, earthquakes in the north-eastern and north-western Himalayas occur along the plate convergence zones - between India and Eurasia.

"In the Delhi-NCT region, the spatial distribution of seismicity shows seismic activity-concentration mainly in three places -west of Delhi (near Sonipat), along the Mahendragarh-Dehradun subsurface fault and Delhi Subsurface Ridge," he said.

BEST FRIENDS

Army dogs keep danger, stress at bay for soldiers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shopian (Kashmir), Oct 4: Dogs can be great stress-busters. And they are proving exactly that for soldiers of 44 Rashtriya Rifles who have found comfort in the company of two-year-old Rosh, a labrador whose ever-bubbling energy provides an instant relief after a hard day of patrolling.

Rosh is among six members of the seemingly submissive canine unit that transforms into a mighty challenger to the enemy, aiding their soldier-friends of the 44th unit of Rashtriya Rifles, an anti-militancy force carved out of regular Army units.

Rosh, Tapi and Clyde have been deployed with the unit which keeps a vigil on sensitive areas of south Kashmir, covering Lassipura in



Pulwama, Imam Saheb and Shopian town. Performing with aplomb, the canines have been helping the troops in locating improvised explosive devices, chasing violent mobs or tracking fleeing terrorists.

Col A K Singh, who heads the 44 RR, feels that the canine squad has

played an important role in many anti-militancy operations and averted many incidents that could have led to causalities of security forces.

Ruffling Rosh, Col Singh said that he is "one of our celebrities" as he had successfully caught a wanted Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist last

year, about 1.5 km away from the site of an encounter. Recalling the incident. Col Singh said that the encounter took place in Dragar village in Shopian during night and the unit could neither ascertain the number of terrorists nor gauge their exact location.

'After the first light, a search party identified two terrorists and a blood trail. We immediately deployed Rosh, who has high standards of training and handling, and the search began as he had picked up the scent.

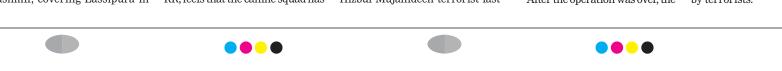
"Moving through a rough and dense orchard, Rosh kept effectively following the terrorist even after the blood trail became almost invisible...and suddenly he jumped on a thick pile of twigs where the third ter-

rorist was hiding," Col Singh recalled. After the operation was over, the

third terrorist was identified as Abid Manzoor Magray alias Sujju Magray, who was the commander of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen terror group and wanted in many cases, he said. Rosh has also received a commendation card from the Northern Army chief on this year's Army Day.

Some of the Army personnel pat the canines while others throw a ball or offer biscuits for a great job done by them during an anti-militancy operation -- detecting explosives or alerting troops about suspicious movements.

Soldiers devote a considerable free time of theirs to their canine "colleagues" who keep a watch when the personnel sleep in their accommodation or walk down the roads which could be mined by terrorists.



national



The biggest advantage of contract farming is that the ownership of the land will not change. Only the crop grown (on the land) will be a part of the contract. The farmer will be able to sell his produce at a good price PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

PASWAN UNDERGOES HEART SURGERY

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has undergone a heart surgery in a Delhi hospital, said his son and Lok Janshakti Party national president Chirag Paswan in a tweet





Krishna Varma was fearless and selfless. He devoted himself towards India's

inspired many nationalists. India bows to him on his Jayanti. We shall always work hard to realise his vision for our nation

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

I am told that by the end of next year, the entire East West Corridor project of 16.55 km is expected to be

completed: hopefully with no further hiccups coming up due to the Covid pandemic

PIYUSH GOYAL RAILWAY MINISTER









Congress leader dies of Covid

New Delhi: Former Congress MLC Naseeb Pathan died of COVID-19 at the Medanta Hospital Sunday, with party leaders condoling his demise. Hailing from Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh, he began his political career with party leader Sanjay Gandhi and was twice elected the MLC in the state. State Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu said that Pathan was a true fighter in spirits and a very active party worker.

Man crushed to death

Thane: A car occupant was crushed to death and its driver was severely injured when some heavy bales of scrap cardboard fell off a truck after it overturned on a flyover in Maharashtra's Thane city, officials said Sunday, The accident took place around 10 pm Saturday at Waghbil Naka on Ghodbunder Road in the city. they said. A truck moving on the Waghbil flyover hit the bridge divider and overturned.

Arms seized

Munger (Bihar): Four persons have been arrested and arms and ammunition seized from their possession in Bihar's Munger district Sunday, a senior police officer said. Acting on a tip-off, police personnel raided four locations in Mufassil and Asarganj police station areas and arrested four persons with arms and ammunition. district Superintendent of Police Lipi Singh said.

Five pubs raided

Bangalore: The Central Crime Branch police raided five pubs in the city as part of its crackdown against the drug menace. The searches were carried out on Saturday night, they said. "In the drugs case investigation, we found that generally drugs are taken in some pubs. So, search warrants were taken and five pubs searched yesterday night," Bengaluru Joint Commissioner of Police Sandeep Patil said in a brief statement on Sunday.

Man held for rape

Pratapgarh (UP): A man was arrested in Kandhai police station area of this district Sunday for allegedly raping a seven-year-old girl, officials said."On the evening of September 22, the girl was playing at the door of her house, when the 22-year-old man from the same village took her to a toilet and allegedly raped her, SHO of the police station Tushardutt Tyagi said.

VIRTUAL SIM CARDS A HEADACHE FOR SECURITY AGENCIES IN J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 4: Virtual SIM cards pose a new headache for security agencies fighting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as their use in the valley has seen an increase among terror groups to connect with their handlers in Pakistan, officials said here.

The penetration of this new technology was found in 2019 when a request was sent to the United States to seek details from a service provider of "virtual SIMs" used by suicide bomber of Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group involved in the Pulwama attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead.

However, a detailed investigation done by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and other security agencies indicated that over 40 virtual SIM cards were used in the Pulwama attack alone, and there are probably more of them floating in the cyberspace of the valley, the officials said.

It is a fairly new modus operandi wherein terrorists across the border are using "virtual SIM" cards, generated by a service provider from a foreign country. In this technology, the computer generates a telephone number and the user downloads an application of the service provider on their smartphone.

The number is linked to social networking sites like WhatsApp, Facebook, Telegram or Twitter. The



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n this technology, the computer generates a telephone number and the user downloads an application of the service provider on their smartphone

verification code for activating the service is generated by these networking sites and received on the smartphone. The officials said the numbers used were pre-fixed with a country code or Mobile Station International Subscriber Directory Number (MSISDN) number. They said that, besides telecom companies in the US, Canada, the UK, Israel,

numbers of Puerto Rico, a Caribbean island being controlled by the US, are doing the rounds in the market.

Every mobile phone instrument is sent for a detailed forensic analysis to have a thorough check to look for any telltale signs of use of virtual SIM cards, the officials said. Technology has its pros and cons, and while fighting terrorism, the security agencies have to not only keep up the pace but also move a step ahead of those planning to misuse t, says an official.

The risk of forging identities during purchase of virtual SIM cards also runs high. During investigation of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, it was found that an amount of USD 229 was wired to Callphonex, via Western Union Money Transfer receipt number 8364307716-0, for activating the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) used during the strikes.

141 prisoners freed in Telangana

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 4: As many as 141 prisoners were released from various prisons in Telangana since Saturday following the remission granted by the state government on the occasion of Gandhi Javanti.

About 40 convicts were released by prison authorities after completing the formalities as per the orders issued by the prison department.

A maximum of 39 convicts were released from Warangal Central Prison followed by 19 from Cherlapally Central Prison and 14 from Chanchalguda Central Prison. Official sources said 26 convicts were released from Cherlapally Open Air Jail and 20 from Chanchalguda Women

The orders were also issued for release of convicts from Nizamahad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Sangareddy, Nalgonda and Adilabad district jails and Miryalguda sub-jail. However, in view of the model code of conduct in force for bye-elections to one Assembly and one Council seat, the release of convicts in four districts was put on hold.

Though the government had permitted for remission of convicts on August 15, framing of the guidelines for the same was delayed. The authorities finally decided to issue the orders to coincide with Gandhi Jayanti. As per the guidelines, remission was granted only for convicts with good conduct and priority was given to elderly persons.

Less than 10L active cases for the 13th day

India's steady trend of posting high level of daily recoveries also continues with 82,260 recoveries being registered in a span of 24 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: For the 13th day in an "unbroken string", India has maintained its steady trend of clocking less than 10 lakh active cases of COVID-19, the Union Health Ministry said Sunday.

It also said that an average of 11.5 lakh tests for detection of coronavirus infection were done on a daily basis during the past ten days. From merely one in January 2020. India's total tests for detection of COVID-19 have crossed 7.89 crore so far. There has been a commensurate dip in the COVID-19 positivity rate, it said.

"With progressively falling positivity rate, testing has worked as a highly effective tool to limit the spread of COVID-19 infection," the ministry highlighted. There are 9,37,625 active cases of COVID-19 as on date, which is 7,371 cases less than Saturday.

India has posted high daily testing numbers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with 10,97,947, 11,32,675 and 11,42,131 tests being conducted respectively. "There has been an exponential rise in India's daily testing capacities. More than 15 lakhs tests can be conducted every day.

"An average of 11.5 lakh tests were done on a daily basis during



the past ten days," the ministry said. Very high levels of testing lead to early identification, prompt isolation and effective treatment of COVID-19 cases. These have eventually resulted in a sustained low fatality rate which has dropped to 1.55 per cent.

India's steady trend of posting high level of daily recoveries also continues with 82.260 recoveries being registered in a span of 24 hours in the country. In contrast, 75,829 new cases of COVID-19 have been reported. The new recoveries have exceeded the new cases in the recent days.

India's total recoveries crossed 55 lakh (55,09,966) on Sunday. Higher number of single-day recoveries is reflected in the continuous increase in the national recovery rate, which is at present 84.13 per cent.

Woman gangraped, brutally thrashed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, Oct 4: In a shocking incident, a 25-year-old woman who hails from West Bengal, was allegedly gangraped and brutally thrashed by four men when she resisted them in a property dealer's office in the city's DLF phase-2.

The accused, who were in an inebriated state, had smashed the woman's head in the incident late on Saturday night. A security guard informed a police patrolling vehicle which was just 100 meters from the incident spot. The police team

The other three accused were already waiting there and they asked her to have sex with all of them. She resisted the offer and tried to leave the spot. The men then brutally thrashed and gangraped her in turn. Her head was smashed against a wall leaving her bleeding profusely following which the accused fled the spot.

"A security guard of the society who was present outside the dealer's office informed the police PCR van which was 100 metres away from the incident spot. The police person-



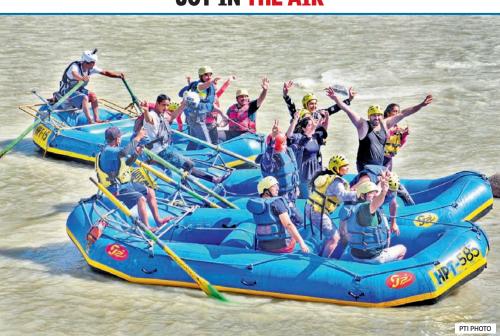
The accused, who were in an inebriated state, had smashed the woman's head in the incident late on Saturday night

rushed the victim to a hospital and later arrested all four culprits from different parts of Gurugram. The woman's condition is said to be out of danger, the police said Sunday.

The arrested accused has been identified as Ranjan (23), Pawan (24), Pankaj (26) and Gobind (20). All of them live in Chakkarpur village. The woman was allegedly picked up by Ranjan from the Sikanderpur metro station for paid sex with two men around 1:30 am. Ranjan accompanied the victim and walked her to the property dealer's office in DLF phase-2 where nel immediately reached the spot and rushed her to a hospital but by then the culprits had fled the

spot," said ACP (DLF) Karan Goel. The victim, in her complaint, claimed that she was forced to have sex with the four accused, even though she had refused."We immediately formed special raiding parties and managed to arrest all the culprits within hours from different parts of the city and Chakkarpur village while they were trying to flee. They are currently being interrogated. Further probe is on," Goel said.

JOY IN THE AIR



Tourists during river rafting on Beas river after the authorities eased some restrictions during Unlock 5, in Kullu, Sunday

Firefighters rescue more than 2,400 birds

New Delhi, Oct 4: Firefighters in the national capital rescued more than 2,400 birds between mid-March and September, with a maximum number of such cases being reported around Independence Day when people traditionally fly kites and leave many stray strings that create a

death trap for them. According to data shared by the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), they received 13.271 distress calls between March 15 and September 30 this year, of which 2,433 were for rescue of birds and 1,681 for animals. Firefighters receive on average 150-200 calls every month



for rescue of birds or animals. And the number goes up sharply in the month of August.

This time, DFS received 882 calls for bird rescue and 345 calls for animal rescue in August alone, its director Atul Garg said. He said the drastic rise in bird and animal rescue calls during August was due to the kite flying season, especially around Independence Day celebrations.

Fire services officials said most

of the rescue calls they receive are for birds like crows, pigeons, parrots that either get stuck on electric wire or a tree due to kite string. Or, they get calls related to cows, cattle, dogs or cats which get stuck inside narrow lanes, closed spaces, sometimes even inside houses, in a pit, canal or a drain.

The officials who rescue birds and animals, a vehicle is sent along with a team consisting of four-five firemen. The vehicle usually has a ladder but in cases, where it faces difficulties with high rises, bigger vehicles are sent if required. Once the bird is rescued and in case, it needs treatment, the fire services personnel shift them to a bird hospital.

Meeting of DGPs, IGPs to be held virtually

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: For the first time in its history, the annual conference of the country's top police brass will be held virtually next month amid the coronavirus pandemic, officials said Sunday.

About 250 officers in the rank of DGP and IGP from all states, Union Territories and central government will take part in the two-day virtual meeting to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval among others

The key role played by police during a disaster and pandemic, new-age crimes like cyber terrorism, radicalisation of the youth and the Pakistan-sponsored militants in Jammu and Kashmir will be discussed during the conference, to be held in multiple sessions, a Union Home ministry official said. The conference will be held in the last week of

November, the official said. As the role of police during the ongoing pandemic came under wholesome praise from all quarters, the meeting is expected to discuss how to enhance their knowledge and capabilities to handle natural disasters and such health crisis, the official said. The state police chiefs will share their experiences in handling the pandemic and how the police have helped the distressed people and the migrant workers during the nationwide lockdown.

The prime minister is likely to make special mention about the exemplary work done by the police personnel while fighting the coronavirus, the official said.



When PM refused to meet Harsimrat

arsimrat Kaur Badal, who quit as Cabinet Minister for Food Processing in protest against three farm-related Bills, had a taste of Prime Minister Modi's style of functioning. She tried hard to persuade Modi to defer the Bills in Lok Sabha, but failed. Left with no

option, she sought an appointment with the PM. But she was politely told by the PM's aide to contact the Home Minister or party president JP Nadda. Amit Shah was convalescing after returning from the AIIMS. Left with no option, she knocked at the doors of Nadda. She told Nadda that if these Bills were passed, she would be left no option but to guit the government and maybe even the NDA. She wanted the Bills to be sent to "Select Committee of Parliament" as a last ditch effort. An ever smiling Nadda had a tough task in hand as Akalis are BJP's oldest ally for five decades. What transpired between Nadda and the government is not known. But Harsimrat Kaur was told that if she tendered her resignation from the Cabinet, it will be accepted without delay. When

the Bills were finally passed in the Lok Sabha, she sought an urgent appointment again with the PM. But the PM was busy. A frustrated Harsimrat Kaur handed over her resignation letter in a sealed cover to a junior aide in Modi's office. Modi accepted it without blinking.

CBI groping in the dark

or six years, the CBI has been going after the Gandhi family and Ahmed Patel in the AgustaWestland helicopter Rs 3,727-crore deal. It was alleged that Patel got 3 million euros. The deal was clinched during the UPA regime for the purchase of 12 VVIP helicopters. When the charges of bribery surfaced, Dr Manmohan Singh cancelled it and a CBI inquiry

rocked over the scandal and hogged headlines. The CBI filed two chargesheets against former Indian Air Force chief and other officials, middlemen including Christian Michel James, Rajiv Saxena and others. But lately, there is a silence of the grave and as no politician was found to be involved in the second supplementary chargesheet. The CBI continues to be groping in the dark.

was ordered. The country was

Contrary picture

Bihar may be claiming credit for good governance. But data throws up a contrary picture and may provide fresh ammunition in the arsenal of RJD as crime during JDU-BJP alliance regime rose sharply compared to RJD-JDU alliance

period. According to State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) of Bihar, total number of criminal cases registered jumped from 3,39,599 under the Nitish-Lalu regime to 4.12.889 under Nitish-Sushil Modi dispensation. As per the data provided by Bihar Police, the state has reported 1,774 incidents of rape under the Grand Alliance regime that mounted to 2,324 during NDA tenure. Similarly, till March 2019, 68 incidents of kidnapping for ransom were reported as against 37, when RJD was a partner in the government led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

No relief from Modi

The Special CBI court may have acquitted 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case. But

Narendra Modi has kept most BJP leaders involved in the case at arm's length. Barring Uma Bharti, who was made a Union Minister in Modi's first term for a brief period, none could win his favour. Be it stalwarts like Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Kalyan Singh or fire-brand leader Vinav Kativar, none found favour with Modi. Kalyan Singh was belatedly made the Governor of Rajasthan as RSS leadership requested for it on health grounds. But he was denied a second term. His only consolation is that his son has been given a Lok Sabha ticket. But Vinay Katiyar wasn't so lucky. Though he was a member of the Lok Sabha and a very popular OBC leader, he was denied a Rajya Sabha ticket in 2018 and was never made a minister.

international



Mahatma Gandhi's concept of non-violence is interconnected with philosophy, politics and action with morality

AJAY BISARIA | INDIA'S HIGH

LOVE FOR PETS

Coronavirus-wary animal owners in the Philippines had their pets blessed via a drivethrough ceremony Sunday to mark World Animal Day and the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals





The best thing we can do course of this pandemic is bring it to an end in the speediest

Bangladesh consistently grown at a rate of 7 per cent and despite the pandemic has clogged the growth rate of 5.2 per cent in the last fiscal year. The progress achieved by Bangladesh in social indicators is

BISHWADIP DEY ACTING INDIAN HIGH

We know that washing hands, socially distancing and wearing masks makes all the difference in our



ANDREW CUOMO NEW YORK GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Obamas urge people to vote

Washington: Marking their 28th wedding anniversary, former US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle urged people to cast their ballots during the November 3 presidential election. The couple shared photos on Instagram Saturday to mark the day.

Eco-friendly tribute to Gandhi

Sharjah: In an eco-friendly tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 151st birth anniversary, more than 4,000 students of Sharjah Indian School made his iconic round-framed glasses with recycled paper, used matchsticks and cardboards to create his famous charkha and paper plates to depict the three monkeys. The students ranged from classes reported.

18 killed in China road mishap

Beijing: Eighteen people were killed in a road accident involving multiple vehicles in China Sunday. One person was injured in the accident that took place in Jilin province. A truck rear-ended a tractor and then collided with a van on a highway in Fuyu city, state-run China Daily reported.

New SOPs for travellers to Pak

Islamabad: The Pakistan government has issued new standard operating procedures (SOPs) against the Covid-19 pandemic which will require travellers from affected countries to undergo a mandatory PCR test 94 hours before leaving for the country. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued the new directives which will come into from Monday and remain until December 31, The Express

Israelis protest

Tribune reported.

Tel Aviv: Thousands of Israelis took to the streets across the country to protest against new Covid-19 lockdown restrictions that would ban mass demonstrations, the media reported. According to the new measures passed last week, residents of the country are barred from travelling more than a kilometer from their homes to protest, while also limiting demonstrations to socially distanced groups of 20, reports The Times of Israel

'Trump's condition was worse than revealed'

Washington, Oct 4: White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows revealed that President Donald Trump's condition Friday was far worse than officials had made public, saying doctors recommended the President go to the hospital after seeing he had a fever and his blood oxygen level dropped rapidly

Meadows made the comments in an interview with Fox News broadcast Saturday night that capped two days of conflicting and opaque assessments of the 74-yearold president's health.

'I can tell you this the biggest thing we see is with no fever now, and with him doing really well with his oxygen saturation levels, Meadows told Fox host Jeanine

PREZ VOWS 'TO BE BACK' SOON

President Donald Trump, who was admitted to a military hospital for treatment of COVID-19, said he has started to "feel much better" and thanked the American people and global leaders for their support. " came here. Wasn't feeling so well. I feel much better now, We're working hard to get me all the way back. I have to be back because we still have to Make America Great Again," Trump said in a video message from the military hospital in a suburb of Washington Saturday. However, White House physician Sean Conley has said the president is "not yet out of the woods". "While not yet out of the woods, the team remains cautiously optimistic," Dr Conley said, adding that the plan for Sunday is to continue observation in between doses of Remdesivir, closely monitoring his clinical status while fully supporting his conduct of presidential duties.

Pirro. "Yesterday morning we were really concerned by that. He had a fever, and his oxygen level had dropped rapidly. Yet in typical style, this president was up and walking

White House officials including Meadows said on Friday that Trump was experiencing "mild symptoms" and continuing to work. He told Fox News however, that doctors from Walter Reed and Johns Hopkins recommended that Trump go to the hospital.

"He's made unbelievable improvements from yesterday morning when I know a number of us, the doctor and I, were very concerned," Meadows said. President

Biden leads

A new poll has revealed that Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden was leading US President Donald Trump by sizable margins in the two key swing states of Florida and Pennsylvania, following the first fiery debate between the two rivals September 29.

Donald Trump tweeted thanks to his supporters Sunday from the hospital where he is being treated for COVID-19, after a series of contradictory messages from the White House caused widespread confu-

FIGHTING SPREADS

Azerbaijan's President Ilham

Aliyev said on Twitter his forces

had captured the town of Jabrail

towards Azerbaijan. The leader

Xi pitches for closer

ties with Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Xi made the remarks in an exchange of congratulatory messages with his Bangladesh counterpart, Mohammad Abdul Hamid, on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral diplomatic relationship Sunday.

In his message, Xi hailed the steady and long-term friendship saying he is ready to work with Hamid to better align development strategies with Bangladesh, step up cooperation under the framework of the BRI and push forward the China-Bangladesh strategic, cooperative partnership to a new level, official media reported.

With over \$ 26 billion Chinese investments and \$38 billion dollars funding commitments, Bangladesh is one of the largest recipients of China's massive infrastructure project.

China has also offered zerotariff treatment to 97 per cent of Bangladesh's exports by adding up China's global influence.



Honduran migrants trying to reach the US walk along a road after bursting through a border checkpoint to enter

5,161 more items to the existing list of 3,095 duty-free products.

The BRI seeks to build rail, maritime and road links from Asia to Europe and Africa in a revival of ancient Silk Road trading routes. The issues related to BRI, earlier known as One Belt One Road (OBOR), has been a major bone of contention between India and China as one portion of the corridor passes through Pakistanoccupied Kashmir.

Besides Pakistan, where China initiated over \$60 billion as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China has stepped up its huge infrastructure investments in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives rising concerns of its growing influence in India's immediate neighbourhood.

The BRI is President Xi's top priority initiative, which aims firm

Pompeo cuts short upcoming Asia trip

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Oct 4: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will cut short his upcoming Asia trip, the State Department announced, amid President Donald Trump's hospitalisation following his Covid-19 diagnosis.

The top US diplomat was expected to visit Japan, Mongolia and South Korea, but according to the Department's announcement on Saturday, he has canceled the Mongolia and South Korea legs of the trip, reports CNN.

Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said Pompeo would work to reschedule those countries on another Asia trip later this month. Pompeo will depart for Tokyo

The announcement by

Sunday as originally scheduled. **US secretary of State** will skip Mongolia and

South Korea legs of trip. Pompeo's visit to East Asia would be his first to the region in over a year

The development came after Pompeo called off a trip to Florida address a conservative Christian organization Saturday evening, saying he had done so "out of an abundance of caution"

Pompeo said he told Vice President Mike Pence that "everything's in good order". "You should know that I'm feeling fine, I'm doing great, I've been tested twice in two days, I'm as healthy as I've been and I intend still to have a trip that I'm planning to take to Asia tomorrow," CNN quoted the Secretary of State as saying Saturday. Following Trump's October 2 announcement that he and First Lady were infected with the virus, Pompeo said that he had not interacted with the President since the signing of an agreement between the US, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates at the White House September 15

Pompeo and his wife were tested after Trump's announcement, but the couple tested negative. This was the fourth time that

the Secretary of State had been tested in the last two and a half weeks, the CNN reported.

Azerbaijan says Armenia attacks city



Baku/Yerevan, Oct 4: Azerbaijan said Sunday that Armenian forces had fired rockets at its second city of Ganja, killing one civilian and wounding four, and threatened to retaliate by destroying military targets inside Armenia.

The developments marked a sharp escalation of the war in the South Caucasus that broke out one week ago. Until now, the main fighting has been between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, an eth-

JUI-F chief named

1st Prez of Pak

Oppn alliance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Oct 4: Maulana Fazlur

Rehman, chief of the Jamiat

Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-Fazl) party,

has been named the first President

of the oppositions Pakistan Dem-

ocratic Movement (PDM), after

his unanimous nomination by the

heads of all the constituent parties.

He was named PDM President

after the opposition alliance's first

formal meeting through video link

committee convener Ahsan Iabal.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

(PML-N) supremo and deposed

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif pro-

posed Maulana's nameand it was

endorsed by Pakistan Peoples

Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal

Sharif had initially proposed that

Maulana Fazl should be appointed

as the president on a permanent

basis, but the idea was opposed

by Bhutto-Zardari and Awami

National Party (ANP) leader Amir

Haider Hoti, who suggested that

the office should be given on a ro-

tational basis to leaders of the

agreement among the leaders that

the Maulana should lead the PDM

in the first phase as he had al-

ready led last year's 'Azadi March'

against the incumbent Pakistan

Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government.

Maulana's nomination to lead the

movement came only a week be-

fore the formal launch of the anti-

government campaign by the op-

position parties with PDM's first

public meeting scheduled for

October 11 in Quetta.

The sources said there was an

constituent parties

Sources told Dawn news that

Bhutto-Zardari and others.

According to PDM's steering

Saturday, reports Dawn news.

Azerbaijan, but it now threatens to spill over into a direct war with Armenia itself. "Azerbaijan will destroy mil-

itary targets directly inside Armenia from which shelling of its population centres is taking place," presidential aide Hikmet Hajiyev said. He said there were also civilian casualties in another Azeri region, Beylagan, which borders Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia denied it had directed fire "of any kind" these attacks."

and several villages in what, if confirmed, would be a significant advance on the southern edge of Nagorno-Karabakh.

of Nagorno-Karabakh said his forces had targeted a military airbase in Ganja but later stopped firing in order to avoid civilian casualties. The conflict threatens to drag in other regional powers as Azerbaijan is supported by Turkey, while Armenia

has a defence pact with Russia. Turkey's Foreign Ministry said: 'The attacks of Armenia targeting the civilians in Gania...are a new manifestation of Armenia's unlawful attitude. We condemn

Mecca reopens for limited 'umrah' pilgrimage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riyadh, Oct 4: A very small, limited number of people donning the white terrycloth garment symbolic of the Muslim pilgrimage circled Islam's holiest site in Mecca Sunday after Saudi Arabia lifted coronavirus restrictions that had been in place for months. The kingdom had taken the

rare step of suspending the smaller "umrah" pilgrimage that draws millions year-round from across the world in early March as the coronavirus morphed into a global pandemic and prompted



countries to impose lockdowns and curfews to slow down transmission. But as nations begin to ease those restrictions, the Saudi government on Sunday started allowing a maximum of 6,000 pilgrims a day to enter the sprawling Grand Mosque in Mecca. Only Saudi citizens and residents will be permitted to enter the mosque during this first phase of reopening, and each person has up to three hours to complete the pilgrimage.

The Grand Mosque, which is

being sterilised and cleaned mul-

tiple times a day, houses the cubeshaped Kaaba that observant Muslims pray toward five times a day. Before visitors can enter the mosque to pray or perform the umrah, they have to apply and reserve a specific time and date through an online application to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing. Visitors can also select via the app their means of transportation and meeting points. State TV showed on Sunday what appeared to be fewer than 50 people circling the Kaaba at the same time and walking several metres (feet) apart. Typically, the mosque would be packed with worshippers from around the world crowded shoulder-to-shoulder at all times of the day and night. The second phase for loosening restrictions at the Grand Mosque comes into effect on October 18, allowing a maximum of 15,000 pilgrims and 40,000 for prayer from among residents and citizens based on allocated times via the app.

PANDEMIC TIMES

Market capitalism has failed, needs reform: Pope

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Oct 4: Pope Francis says the coronavirus pandemic has proven that the "magic theories' of market capitalism have failed and that the world needs a new type of politics that promotes dialogue and solidarity and rejects war at

Francis Sunday laid out his vision for a post-COVID world by uniting the core elements of his social teachings into a new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti" (Brothers All), which was released on the feast day of his namesake, the

peace-loving St. Francis of Assisi. The document draws its inspiration from the teachings of St. Francis and the pope's previous preaching on the injustices of the global economy and its destruction of the planet and pairs them with his call for greater human solidarity to address today's problems.

In the encyclical, Francis rejected even the Catholic Church's own doctrine justifying war as a means of legitimate defense, saying it had been too broadly applied over the centuries and was no longer viable.

Francis had started writing the encyclical, the third of his pontificate, before the coronavirus struck and upended everything from the global economy to everyday life. He said the pandemic, however, had confirmed his belief that current political and economic institutions must be reformed to address the legitimate needs of the people most harmed by the coron-



avirus. "Aside from the differing ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident," Francis wrote.

"Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality." He cited the grave loss of millions

of jobs as a result of the virus as evidence of the need for politicians to listen to popular movements, unions and marginalised groups and to craft more just social and economic policies.

The fragility of world systems in the face of the pandemic has demonstrated that not everything can be resolved by market freedom." he wrote.

"It is imperative to have a proactive economic policy directed at 'promoting an economy that favours productive diversity and business creativity' and makes it possible for jobs to be created, and not cut."

He denounced populist politics that seek to demonise and isolate. and called for a "culture of en-

counter" that promotes dialogue, solidarity and a sincere effort at working for the common good.

As an outgrowth of that, Francis repeated his criticism of the "perverse" global economic system, which he said consistently keeps the poor on the margins while en-

riching the few. Francis rejected the concept of an absolute right to property for individuals, stressing instead the "social purpose" and common good that must come from sharing the

Earth's resources. Francis once again rejected "trickle-down" economic theory as he did in the first major mission statement of his papacy, the 2013 Evangelii Gaudium, (The Joy of —

the Gospel), saying it simply doesn't achieve what it claims.

business



The renewable energy certificate trading should be resumed soon. We really hope that **Appellate Tribunal for Electricity gives** its final order soon so that green certificates trading can be resumed this month without any further delays SHRUTI BHATIA

HEAD (CORPORATE COMMUNICATION), IEX

SONY, KIOXIA SEEK US APPROVAL

Japan's Sony Corp and memory chipmaker Kioxia Holdings Corp have applied for US approval to continue supplying Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, reports Nikkei. If confirmed, the move follows other tech companies such as Intel Corp that recently received licences from US authorities





Both (DTH and place as they serve mutually exclusive and unique content



HARIT NAGPAL | MD AND CEO, TATA SKY

It (the used bike programme) will be rolled out in at least 10 dealership networks by December. We are calling it as Triumph Approved. We are going to buy back used bikes from our customers, upgrade them and sell them with warranty

SHOEB FAROOO BUSINESS HEAD, TRIUMPH MOTORCYCLES

Worst is behind...while all other business are performing, RFL is slowly getting out of woods. Two years ago, all four wheels (of RFL) were in the ditch and were stuck. Now the

RASHMI SALUJA CHAIRPERSON, RELIGARE

wheels are on the ground and we

are refuelling for a take off

SHORT TAKES

Nerolac to invest ₹450 cr

Mumbai: The country's largest automotive paints maker Kansai Nerolac, which completed a century of operations last month, is investing ₹450 crore to add capacity by 40,000 lakh litres as it expects demand to grow in double-digits this year. A 57% market share in the automotive paints segment makes Kansai Nerolac the largest segmental player. However, its share in the more lucrative decorative paints, which is 75% of the ₹55,000-crore domestic industry, is only 11% yet fetches 55% of revenue.

'Alang to grab 50% share'

Alang: With the giant piece of Indian naval history INS Viraat becoming the first gigantic ship to beach at Gujarat shores for dismantling after enactment of recycling legislation. India aspires to raise its share in global ship recycling business to at least 50%. Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya said. Beaching of ships for dismantling at Alang shipbreaking vard, is increasing post lockdown and fiscal 2020-21 is expected to be the hest for business at Alang, said the shipping minister.

CIL's coal quota rises 8% to 8MT

New Delhi: CIL's coal allocation under special forward e-auction for the power sector registered a rise of 8.4% to 7.94 million tonnes (MT) in April-August period of the ongoing fiscal. The stateowned company had allocated 7.32 MT of dry fuel in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, according to the monthly summary by the coal ministry for the Cabinet. However, in August there was no coal allocation under the scheme, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said.

Kia looks to ace

New Delhi: South Korean automaker Kia Motors is vying for the top slot in the high selling entry-level, mid-SUV segments in India with Seltos and Sonet generating robust volumes for the company, according to a senior company official. The company, which reported its highest-ever retail sales in the country in September, has already raced to number one position in the sub-four meter compact SUV segment last month with its newly launched model Sonet dominating the segment.

FIGHTING COVID

Reforms to ensure long-term sustained growth: FinMin

The enabling policy environment and initiatives taken by all stakeholders to seize the available opportunities will actualise the growth potential of the Indian economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: Important structural reforms undertaken by the government to combat risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic will strengthen the country's economic fundamentals and ensure long-term sustained growth, a report by Finance Ministry has said.

The enabling policy environment and initiatives taken by all stakeholders to seize the available opportunities will actualise the growth potential of the Indian economy," the monthly economic report prepared by the Economic Affairs Department of the Finance Ministry

The sustained spread of the virus poses a downside risk to short-term and medium-term growth rate, it said adding that the government has strategically undertaken various important structural reforms, encompassing various sectors, to combat these risks.

The report said data for the 14-day

Op at Nalco's CPP

restores normalcy



period from September 17 to 30 suggests that India may have crossed the peak of COVID-19 caseload.

During this period, the sevenday moving average of daily positive cases steadily declined from about 93,000 to 83,000, while the seven-day moving average of daily tests rose from about 1,15,000 to 1.24.000. it said.

"The pandemic however is far from over. Yet, the declining positivity rate at all-India level sets the stage to further push up the frontiers of economic recovery," it added.

According to the report, major structural reforms launched by the government in agriculture markets, labour laws and definition of MSMEs provide unparalleled opportunity for the resilient MSME sector to grow and prosper now and thereby, contribute to job creation in the primary and secondary

to put these outlived pots back to

operation within the shortest pos-

committee has been set up to

analyse the cause of the power fail-

ure in CPP and to adopt measures

to avoid any such incidence in fu-

According to a media report, at

least 80 pots of the Nalco's smelter

plant have been affected as power

supplies from its CPP and state

grid have been disrupted due to

technical glitches. The report also

claimed that the potlines consists

four lines of 240 pots in each. It

has been calculated that approxi-

mately 11 tonnes of molten alu-

minium could not be extracted in

a day due to the pots' failure.

Besides, a high level technical

sible time of two months.

The historic labour reforms, discussed for three decades after the conditionality in the 1991 loan from International Monetary Fund (IMF) but never implemented thus far, will benefit MSMEs to increase employment, enhance labour productivity and thereby wages in MSMEs, it said.

Saying that the reforms in agricultural sector were overdue, it said the existing laws kept Indian farmers enslaved to the local mandi and their rent-seeking intermedi-

The implementation of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat" package and unlocking of the economy have ensured that economic recovery in India has gained momentum.

During the month, other high-frequency indicators also improved in sync with global activity and

PNB launches 'Gram

Sampark Abhiyan'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Punjab National Bank, Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar launched financial inclusion & Literacy Camp 'Gram Sampark Abhiyan' at Chandaka and Haripur Gram Panchayat. Ashwani Kumar, Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar inaugurated the

Apart from the Zonal office, the programme was also launched in 5 districts across the state and in five Circle Heads viz.

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Sambalpur and Berhampur. MD and CEO of the bank SS Mallikarjuna, Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar officially launched the nationwide campaign.

The campaign is centered around four key themes: digital, credit, social security and financial literacy. The abhiyan will culminate December 31, 2020.

Under the focus theme area PNB Adhaar seeding, mobile number seeding, digital onboarding (BHIM UPI).

Under the second theme of credit, PNB will focus on agri, investment, credit scheme, self help group scheme and PSB59 minutes

Overall credit growth continues to be muted

New Delhi: Overall credit growth continues to remain muted amid weak credit demand and heightened risk aversion among banks, as per a report by the Finance Ministry. Credit to medium witnessed an uptick, according to the Monthly Economic Review for September 2020, released by the **Department of Economic Affairs** Sunday. "Bank credit growth continued to moderate in the first six months of this year to reach 5.3% as on September 11, 2020. Bank credit to the commercial sector recorded a growth of 5.4%, mirroring weak credit demand and increased risk aversion in the banking system," it said.

India's export rose 5.3% in September on annual basis, the report said.

As on September 25, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$542.02 billion, equivalent to more than 13 months of imports and offer a comfortable buffer to provide for surge in imports following acceleration in the pace of economic activity, it added.

In its latest review, S&P Global Ratings retained India's investment grade (BBB-) credit rating with stable outlook as it expects the country's economy and fiscal position to stabilise and begin to recover from

Govt weighs legal options against Voda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The government is weighing its legal options after losing the high-profile international tax arbitration case against Vodafone as it looks to limit damages not just in this matter but also in case of a separate lawsuit with Cairn Energy goes against it.

Last month, an international arbitration court ruled that the Indian government seeking ₹22,100 crore in taxes from telecom giant Vodafone using retrospective legislation was in "breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment" guaranteed under the bilateral investment protection pact between India and the Netherlands.

Finance Ministry sources said the government will decide on challenging the award before a court in Singapore - which was the seat of the arbitration, after taking legal opinion. While the cost implication in the case is limited to having to pay ₹85 crore to Vodafone in legal cost, what is weighing on the government mind is a separate arbitration involving UK's Cairn Energy plc.

If a separate arbitration panel were to hold a demand for ₹10,247 crore in taxes using the same retrospective legislation as illegal, the government will have to pay Cairn as much as USD 1.5 billion (₹11.000 crore).

This is the amount equivalent to the value of shares of Cairn that the government had sold to recover a part of the tax demand. It also includes the dividends and tax refund seized. Sources said Vodafone International Holding (a Netherland

Finance Ministry sources said the government will decide on challenging the award before a court in Singapore which was the seat of the arbitration

company) had in February 2007 bought 100% shares of Cayman Island-based firm CGP Investments for \$11.1 billion to indirectly get 67% control of Hutchison Essar Ltd - an Indian firm.

The Tax Department felt the deal was designed to avoid capital gain tax in India and so imposed a tax demand, which was rejected by the Supreme Court in 2012.

To stop abuse and plug the loophole of such indirect transfer of Indian assets, the government in 2012 amended the law to make such transfers taxable in India, they said adding Vodafone was slapped with a fresh demand which the firm contested through international arbitration.

The tax demand on Cairn Energy, they said, is different as it pertains to alleged capital gains the firm made on transfer of Indian assets to a new company and listing it on

Over 1 lakh *kirana* stores to participate

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Oct 4: Over 1 lakh Amazon-enabled local shops, kirana and neighbourhood stores across India will serve customers in the upcoming festive season on the e-commerce platform. More than 20,000 offline

retailers, kirana and local shops from "Local Shops on Amazon" programme will participate in the "Great Indian

Festival" sales for the first time. "The programme is seeing remarkable response from retailers from across India and has scaled rapidly in just 5 months, with more than 40% of the sellers coming from outside the top 10 cities," the company said in a statement

Manish Tiwary, VP, Amazon India, said: "This festive season we are focused on helping our sellers and other MSME partners grow their business and

bounce back from the recent challenges.

He noted that in the last few months, the company has seen businesses of all sizes increasingly adopt technology into their

The integration of Amazon's programmes with over 1 lakh

ubiquitous neigh-**AMAZON's** bourhood stores. for selling online, to help customers buy online, to make deliveries and enable con-

tactless payments, is a testament of the adaptability and inventiveness of Indian entrepreneurs, Tiwary added.

"We hope that this 'Great Indian Festival' will bring them growth and success as they get ready to serve millions of customers across India," he said

'Local Shops on Amazon' is a programme that was launched in April this year to help bring offline retailers, kiranas and local shops online.

Regional rural banks incur net loss of ₹2,206 cr in FY20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 4: Regional rural banks (RRBs) as a group reported net loss of ₹2,206 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, as_ against ₹652-crore net loss in FY19, according to data published by

During FY 2019-20, 26 RRBs earned profit of ₹2,203 crore, while 19 incurred losses of ₹4,409 crore. the data showed.

The data on RRBs, recently published by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), is based on the data uploaded by the RRBs in the Ensure portal.



As on March 31, 2020, there were 45 RRBs functioning in 685 districts of 26 states and three union territories (UTs). These RRBs were sponsored by 15 commercial banks and operating through a network of 21,850 branches.

Gross non-performing assets as a percentage of gross loans outstanding of RRBs marginally declined to 10.4% as on March 31, 2020. from 10.8% as March 31, 2019, the data showed.

Share of standard, sub-standard, doubtful and loss assets stood at 89.6 per cent, 3.6%, 6.5% and 0.3%, respectively, as of end March 2020. Eighteen of the 45 RRBs (as against 20 out of 53 RRBs as on March 31, 2019) had GNPA above 10% as on March 31, 2020.

Vedanta's Q1 net profit down 23.5%

Mumbai: Anil Agarwal-led natural

resources company Vedanta Ltd has reported a 23.5% drop in its consolidated net profit for the guarter ended June of the current financial year (2020-21). Its consolidated net profit during the April-June quarter was ₹1,033 crore, against ₹1,351 crore reported during the same period of the previous financial year, the company said in a regulatory filing. The company's revenue from sales declined 25.9% on a year-on-year basis to ₹15,687 crore during the quarter ended June.

Steady recovery of economy on the anvil: CII utilisation - is estimated to be lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The 1,200

MW Nalco's Captive Power Plant

(CPP) at Smelter & Power Complex

in Angul has restored its normal

production from October 3. The

plant stopped its operation after

witnessing a disruption in power

generation for a brief period owing

to technical glitches two days back.

operation activities at Smelter

Plant have also been resumed ex-

cept some outlived pots which were

to be taken under maintenance

shortly. The operation was halted

lated during this shutdown and

management has devised a plan

The outlived pots have been iso-

here due to some reasons.

Similarly, the production and

New Delhi, Oct 4: The CEOs of top 115 companies who met at CII's National Council earlier this week indicated revival of business sentiment and a gradual rise in expected corporate performance in a poll, raising hopes that a steady recovery of India's economy is on the anvil.

The CEOs, who took the poll, included representatives from across sectors like metals and mining, manufacturing, auto, pharma, health, energy, infrastructure, construction and leading services sector including ITES, health hospitality tourism and e-commerce, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said Sunday.

"A steady recovery of the Indian economy is on the anvil as corporate India restarts business and economic activity with lockdowns being increasingly relaxed in many parts of the country," the chamber said.

India Inc is now estimating a capacity utilisation of more than 50% in the second half of this financial



year, it added. However, according

to CII, governments both at the

Centre and states would need to

focus on livelihoods in addition to

lives, and hence efforts need to be

made to stall the practice of sudden

and ad-hoc lockdowns announced

disrupted the revival of economic

 $The \, lockdowns \, not \, only \, further \,$

by states as well as districts.

mand is expected to gain momen-

tum in the coming weeks with the

festive season round the corner.

RESURRECTING SOON India Inc is estimating a capacity

utilisation of more than 50% in the second half of this financial year

The unlocking of most economic activities along with the reform and revival measures announced by the Centre and RBI have contributed to the gradual improvement in business sentiments in H2

Apart from the agri-sector, there are now clear indications of a smart recovery in sectors like automobile, FMCG, consumer durables

activities but also do not yield the desired results on lives either. "It is important to allow a complete opening up of the economy for demand to pick up which in turn will propel capacity utilisation," CII said, adding that the uptick in deof the current financial year, the

> chamber said. "While in most cases, the per-

The unlocking of most economic activities along with the reform and revival measures announced by the Centre and RBI have contributed to the gradual improvement in business sentiments in the second half

formance – revenue or capacity

the CEOs are hoping for better prospects, while another 27% of them expect no change when compared to the second half of last year, CII said. However, only 31% of the CEOs

than the comparative figures in

2019-20, a large percentage of the

CEOs polled have shown confidence

in the days ahead indicating that the

On consumer demand, 32% of

worst may be behind," CII said.

expect their revenue growth to be in positive territory in the second half of the current financial year as compared to last year.

About 40% of CEOs expect better prospects on exports, while 24% of them expect no change in the prospects during the second half of the current year as compared to the same period last year.

Apart from the agri-sector, which has been in positive territory, there are now clear indications of a smart recovery in some sectors like automobile, FMCG, consumer durables and construction equipment, CII

SUV segment

BOWLERS PUT UP DISCIPLINED DISPLAY TO HELP MUMBAI WIN BY 34 RUNS

MI's all-round show sinks SRH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 4: Quinton de Kock (67 39b, 4x4, 4x6) was back amongst runs before the bowlers did a commendable job on a batsmen-friendly pitch here to power Mumbai Indians (MI) to a clinical 34-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their IPL-13 game here Sunday. The win took MI to the top of the points table with six points from five games. Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore are also on the same number of points, but MI have a better run rate. DC and RCB however, have played a game less.

The swashbuckling duo of Hardik Pandya (28, 19b, 2x4, 2x6) and Kieron Pollard (25 n o, 13b 3x6) scored at their usual brisk pace but it was Krunal Pandya (20 n o, 4b, 2x4, 2x6) who propelled MI to 208 for five.

Then, the MI bowlers did just enough to restrict SRH to 174 for seven with pacer Trent Boult (2/28) winning the man of the match award. He was ably supported by James Pattinson (2/29) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/41).

Jonny Bairstow started the SRH reply in right earnest sending Boult's third delivery into the stands. However, Boult had the Englishman for a 15-ball 25. Skipper David Warner (60, 44b, 5x4, 2x6) and Manish Pandey (30, 19b, 4x4, 1x6) looked like taking the battle to MI. However,





IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS: Quinton de Kock shapes to play the paddle scoop during his innings against SRH; (Right): Trent Boult was the pick of the MI bowlers

both were sent back to the hut by Pattinson and SRH never recovered.

Earlier after the early dismissal of Rohit Sharma (six), De Kock and Suryakumar Yadav (27) added 42 runs for the second wicket to stabilise the innings. Then the South African added 78 runs for the third wicket with Ishan Kishan (31, 1x4, 2x6) to set up the base for the power hitters.

Siddarth Kaul, who played his first game of the season, was the worst sufferer going for 64 runs in his four overs. He was taken to the cleaners by Krunal and Pollard. As usual it was leg-spinner Rashid Khan (1/22 off 4) who once more

stood out for SRH. He got the important wicket of De Kock.

Brief scores: MI 208 for 5 (Quinton de Kock 67, Hardik Pandya 28, Kieron Pollard 25 n o, Kruna Pandya 20 n o, Sandeep Sharma 2/41, Rashid Khan 1/22) beat SRH 174 for 7 (David Warner 60, Trent Boult 2/28, James

CHENNAI TRIUMPH IN BATTLE OF KINGS

Dubai, Oct 4: Finally old turned gold for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) as they beat Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in an IPL-13 game here Sunday. It was an important win for CSK as they had lost three of their four matches on the trot and had slipped to the last position in the points table. However, at the crunch CSK were the better side as they romped home by wickets.

Shane Watson (83 n o, 53b, 11x4, 3x6) finally found some form with the bat and along with Faf du Plessis (87 n o, 53b, 11x4, 1x6) put on a terrific unbroken opening stand of 181 runs for CSK to take them home. It was probably the moment MS Dhoni's team were waiting for. Everyone is aware of Watson's brute power at the top of the order. It was missing and so was CSK's fortune. The moment Watson found form CSK looked a different side altogether.

It was Du Plessis however, who started the carnage by hammering Chris Jordan for 19 runs in the sixth over of the innings

Earlier, KXIP decided to bat after winning the toss. KXIP skipper KL Rahul thought that the wicket may lose pace as the match progresses and it would be difficult to bat second. However nothing of the sort happened and CSK enjoyed chasing down the target.

Rahul (63, 52b, 7x4, 1x6) and his in-form opening partner Mayank



DEADLY DUO: Faf du Plessis (left) and Shane Watson of CSK have something to discuss about during their match-winning stand against KXIP, Sunday

Agarwal (26) put on an opening stand of 61 runs in a little over six overs. Agarwal was the first to go as Piyush Chawla deceived him with a top-spinner. The batsman was hurried into the shot and he holed out at deep mid-

Mandeep Singh (27) and Nicholas Pooran (33, 17b, 1x4, 3x6) got starts, but failed to build on those.

And then Dhoni took a brilliant catch flinging himself to his right

to send back Rahul off Shardul Thakur (2/39). The dismissal quashed whatever hopes KXIP had of putting up a 200-plus total. A ball earlier Thakur had dismissed the dangerous-looking Pooran with Ravindra Jadeja taking a fine catch on the boundary.

Brief scores: KXIP 178 for 4 (KL Rahul 63, Shardul Thakur 2/39) lost to CSK 181 for no loss in 17.4 overs (Faf du Plessis 87 no, Shane

lockdown, We

analysed our games as well

onwards and we have built a solid

base to take greater work load in

the coming months," added the

Rupinder believes has helped the

men's team in particular is hav-

One of the other factors that

"I feel Hockey India hosting back-

of those of our opponents.

We improved technically

RUPINDER SINGH

tall defender.

SHORT TAKES

Unique feat

Dubai: Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has added a new feather to his illustrious hat. He has become the first cricketer in the IPL to score 2,000 runs and scalp 110 wickets. Jadeja playing for CSK achieved the feat in the game played Friday against SRH. During the game which Chennai lost by seven runs Jadeja scored a 50 to achieve the distinction. "I am humbled to be the only cricketer in the history of IPL to achieve the double. This will only push me to work harder and bring more glory to India and my team," Jadeja said Sunday.

CFC recruit Memo

Chennai: Two-time champions Chennaiyin FC (CFC) has roped in Brazil's Emerson Gomes de Moura, better known as Memo, on a free transfer for the 2020-21 season of the ISL starting next month. The 32-year-old joins CFC on the expiry of his contract at Jamshedpur FC where he played for three successive years. CFC in a statement announced the recruitment of Memo, Known for his versatility as a defensive midfielder and central defender, Memo is set to add experience and stability in CFC ranks, "I am delighted to be a part of the Chennaivin family. The upcoming season will be fantastic, I am certain," Memo said in the statement.

Open to pay cuts

London: Veteran England pacer Stuart Broad has said his country's cricketers are open to a pay cut as it would be wrong for them to remain on their current salaries when the game is going through a financial crisis owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The **England and Wales Cricket** Board (ECB) has lost close to 100 million pounds because of COVID-19 restrictions. "I think 100 per cent there'll be pay cuts. The players are very aware of the situation. With the ECB having to potentially lose 60-odd staff, it would be wrong that the players stay on a similar pay," Broad was quoted as saying by 'Sky Sports'. "The players are very open to cuts," he added.

Easy victory

London: Kenyan world record holder and defending champion Brigid Kosgei cruised to a dominant victory Sunday in the 40th London Marathon. She overcame her rivals on an unfamiliar multilap course in relentless rain to triumph in two hours, 18.58 minutes. Running her first marathon since setting the world record of 2:14.04 in Chicago a year ago, Kosgei left all opposition behind. AGENCIES

BATTLE OF TEAMS IN GOOD FORM

Delhi challenge awaits RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 4: A back-in-form Virat Kohli's tactical acumen will be put to test against Shreyas Iyer's unassuming but dynamic brand of captaincy when the two most impressive teams of the ongoing IPL -Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Delhi Capitals – face each other here Monday.

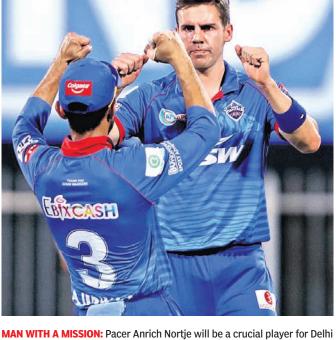
Both DC and RCB have looked



solid so far in the tournament and are placed atop the standings with three wins out of four games each. Iver has been in good batting touch so far and now that Kohli has finally regained his form, an exciting match is certainly on the cards. The advantage that DC however, have is they have played a number of games at the stadium here while for RCB it will be a change of venue from ABU Dhabi.

The two skippers Monday would look to lead from the front and outwit each other in what promises to be a thrilling contest.

Prithvi Shaw has so far looked quite in control at the top of the order for DC. However, Shikhar Dhawan's form would be a cause of concern for Iyer. On the brighter side, Delhi seem to have finally got Rishabh Pant back in form as he dusted off his rusti-



MAN WITH A MISSION: Pacer Anrich Nortje will be a crucial player for Delhi Capitals in the game against Royal Challengers Bangalore

ness with a quick-fire 17-ball 38 against KKR.

On the bowling front, Kagiso Rabada is the go-to man for DC even though he leaked runs against KKR the other day. South African pacer Anrich Nortje has also been impressive for DC in the opening and slog overs.

Nortje is in fact relishing the challenge that he will have to bowl to the likes of Kohli, AB de Villiers and Devidutt Padikkal.

"It's going to be a good challenge.

They have got a pretty good line-up, and have some big names. But, I think we have got a good team as well and the guys have been training really well," Nortje said in a re-

lease issued Sunday by DC. "If we just execute our skills, perform the way we have been, I think it's going to be a very good game, and I'm sure we can outskill

them (RCB)," he added. It should however, be stated here that DC have only won eight of their 23 encounters against RCB.

Morgan happy batting lower down the order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 4: England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan, who is playing the role of a finisher for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the ongoing IPL, said it is 'difficult' to get a spot higher up the order in a team that boast of so many 'match-winners'.

Coming in to bat at No. 6, Morgan hit an 18-ball 44 to conjure up hopes of a successful run-chase before KKR fell short by 18 runs against Delhi Capitals' total of 228 Saturday. Andre Russell (13) and skipper Dinesh Karthik (six) batted ahead of him. When playing for England, Morgan usually bats at either No.4 or No.5.

Morgan was asked if he came out late to bat. "No, I don't think so. When you look at our batting line-up, we have a number of match-winners, so it's very difficult to go up the order." the England skipper stated.

Particularly when you have a world-class all-rounder in Russell. he is an incredible striker, and when he comes up the order, obviously everybody else has to shift down a little bit," added Morgan.

Morgan also said that a number of positives have emerged in spite of the loss to DC.

'We kept the match till the 20th over," Morgan pointed out. "When you are chasing a huge target, you need to hang in there and everyone tried that. It just goes to show how positive the boys were,'

Morgan added. Morgan stated that Delhi had batted well and that in the end was the turning point.

'Lockdown helped in improving our skill set'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Oct 4: Experienced defender Rupinder Pal Singh has said the COVID-19 lockdown period helped the Indian men's hockey team develop their technical knowledge about the game and also polish their up their skill set. "I always like to see positive side

to any scenario and I truly feel the series of lockdowns helped us develop our technical knowledge base. We would watch a lot of videos, analyse matches, discuss video referrals etc while we remained indoors with no hockey allowed," Rupinder said Sunday here.

'We have also studied our opponents during this period and all these aspects will be beneficial for us in our preparations for the Olympic Games," he added. Rupinder further stated that

to-back events in India has also been a contributing factor to our performance. Playing in front of home crowds is not just an incredible feeling but there's also a lot of pressure to perform," explained the drag going back to basics when flicker who has been part of some activities resumed in the naof India's significant victories such as the 2014 Asian Games, Asian tional coaching camp has

ing events in India.

helped perfect their skills. Champions Trophy in 2011 "We have paid a lot of atand 2016. "This expotention to basics when we sure obviously helps us face greater challenges when we play abroad," he added.



City lights fade after bright start

AGENCIES

Leeds, Oct 4: Leeds United's Rodrigo Moreno struck his first goal for the club to earn a 1-1 draw at home to Manchester City in the Premier League here as visiting Pep Guardiola was denied victory against one of the men who inspired him to be a coach.

Man City's Spanish boss has often spoken highly of Leeds' Argentine coach Marcelo Bielsa. It



GREAT FEELING: Rodrigo Moreno (2nd from left) celebrates with teammates after scoring the equaliser for Leeds against Man City

was the same Bielsa who Guardiola took advice from before going into management at Barcelona.

City were dominant early on as they looked to quickly forget their shock 2-5 home defeat by Leicester City last time out, with Kevin de Bruyne almost opening the scoring with a clever free-kick in the third minute-the post denying the Belgian.

Guardiola did not have to wait long, however, for his side to take the lead, with Raheem Sterling darting inside before firing home his first league goal of the season in the 17th minute. They continued to create chances, finishing the first half having had 12 shots at goal, but Leeds improved after the break. with Rodrigo pouncing on a mistake from City goalkeeper Ederson to

equalise in the 59th minute. That was good (game), Guradiola said after the game. 'When both teams want to attack. it's always a good game. We failed to utilise our chances," he added.

Nadal cruises into French Open quarters

Paris, Oct 4: Rafael Nadal dealt with windy conditions and one of the brightest 'NextGen' ATP talents here Sunday to reach a recordbreaking 14th quarterfinal in the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros.

Nadal, the 12-time champion converted eight of 11 breakpoints to breeze past Sebastian Korda 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 in one hour and 55 minutes. With his win against the American, Nadal improves to 14-1 in round of 16 encounters at the Stade Roland Garros.

"Today (Sunday), there were very

AT A GLANCE Rafa Nadal bt Sebastian Korda

6-1, 6-1, 6-2 Iga Swiatek bt Simona Halep

6-1, 6-2 Martina Trevisan bt Kiki Bertens 6-4, 6-4

difficult conditions out here with this wind. I am happy to be in the quarterfinals again and now I have another very tough match, for sure, in two days," said Nadal during an on court interview after the match.

By reaching his 14th quarterfinal here, Nadal broke a tie with Novak Djokovic, who has reached the last eight at the clay court Grand Slam championship 13 times. Djokovic will attempt Monday to rejoin Nadal atop the leaderboard when he faces Karen Khachanov. HALEP STUNNED

It was a day of upsets in the women's section with Polish



TOP SEED HALEP STUNNED IN WOMEN'S SEGMENT BY POLISH TEENAGER

ing off top seed Simona Halep. Swiatek won 6-1, 6-2 victory to make her maiden Grand Slam quarterfinal. She will next meet Italian qualifier Martina Trevisan, who also scripted an upset by defeating fifth-seeded Dutch Kiki Bertens

> me a lot. And right now I think I can Halep came into the fourth handle the pressure," she added. Swiatek avenged that moraleround clash on a 17-match unbeaten streak havsapping defeat and her victory ing defeated the 19under the closed roof of Court Philippe Chatrier in 68 minutes vear-old Swiatek, was no less impressive against the ranked

> > 54th in the

world, 6-1,

6-0 in 45 minutes at the

2018 French Open champion. Halep arrived here having won clay court tournaments in Prague and Rome. The 29-year-old was the overwhelming favourite to add a third Grand Slam trophy to her cabinet. But she watched in disbelief as Swiatek started with aggression and painted the red clay

"I wasn't experienced at all then.

That was my first match in a big sta-

dium." Swiatek said in her on-court

interview, after wiping away tears.

"I was pretty stressed. Since then I

have made huge progress and I have

played few big matches... it helped

rooted to the spot on the court. Swiatek hit 30 winners as opposed to the 12 managed by Halep, while the Polish player did not face a single breakpoint on her service.

with winners, often leaving Halep

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