



PICTURE OF HOTNESS

Actor Disha Patani's latest post in a yellow bikini on social media has left her fans floored

LEISURE

P2



'DON'T VOTE FOR JD(U)'

LJP chief Chirag Paswan appeals to people against voting for JD(U) and claims an alliance of his party and BJP will form govt

TWO STATES

P7



ZARDARI INDICTED

An anti-corruption court charged former Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari in two graft cases

INTERNATIONAL

P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



So, when these American politicians fall sick, which country do they rush to?

SHORT TAKES

UP: 50% aspirants skip UPSC prelims

Lucknow: Nearly 50 per cent of the candidates opted out of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) preliminary examination 2020 for selection to Indian Administrative and Allied Services in Lucknow. The exam was conducted Sunday. As many as 43,921 candidates were registered for the test at various centres in the city. About 21,790 (49.6 pc) candidates appeared in the first shift for "general studies" paper. The number dropped further to 21,607 (49.2 pc) in the second shift for "optional subject".

J&K: Two CRPF personnel killed

Srinagar: Two motorcycle-borne Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants opened indiscriminate fire on a security forces party in Nowgam area of the city here on Monday, killing two CRPF personnel and injuring three others, police said. The injured include an assistant sub-inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said. Militants fired upon a security forces party near Kandizal Bridge in Nowgam, Srinagar this afternoon, a police official said.

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
BULLION CURRENCY BOURSES	SENSEX	38973.70	276.65
	NIFTY	11503.40	86.40
	DOLLAR	73.61	₹0.05
	EURO	86.29	₹0.06
	GOLD	₹50,580	₹10
SILVER	₹61,847	₹702	

WEATHER			
		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	29.5°C	31.6°C
	MIN	24.4°C	23.0°C
Humidity		98%	95%
Rainfall		02mm	5mm
		Forecast Generally cloudy sky	

Schools to reopen in graded manner

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 5: The Union Education Ministry released guidelines Monday for reopening schools, which included thorough cleaning and disinfection of premises, flexibility in attendance, no assessment for up to three weeks and ensuring smooth transition from home-based schooling during COVID-19 lockdown to formal schooling.

It also asked states and Union Territories (UTs) to frame their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for health and safety precautions based on their local requirements. "Schools must arrange and implement for thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all areas, furniture, equipment, stationery, storage places, water tanks, kitchens, canteen, washroom, laboratories, libraries, on school campus and ensure air flow in indoor space," the ministry said in a set of guidelines for gradual reopening of schools from October 15.

"Schools may be encouraged to make their own SOPs based on the

SMOOTH TRANSITION

- States, UTs asked to frame own SOPs for health and safety conditions based on local requirements
- The ministry recommended that schools adopt flexible attendance and sick leave policies

guidelines issued by states and UTs, keeping in view the safety and physical or social distancing norms, and ensuring that the notices, posters, messages, communication to parents in this regard are prominently displayed and disseminated," it said. The ministry recommended that schools adopt flexible attendance and sick leave policies.

"Flexible attendance and sick leave policies may be developed and implemented to encourage students and staff to stay at home when sick. Students may attend schools only with the written consent of parents. Students may opt for online classes rather than physically attend school.

"There shall be no assessment

up to 2-3 weeks of school reopening and use of ICT and online learning shall continue to be encouraged," it said. Universities and schools across the country were ordered shut March 16 to contain the spread of the coronavirus. On March 25, the Centre announced a nationwide lockdown. While several restrictions have been eased gradually in different phases of "Unlock" since June 8, educational institutions continue to remain closed.

However, as per the latest unlock guidelines, schools, colleges and other educational institutions can reopen outside containment zones after October 15. The decision on whether to reopen educational institutions has been left with states and union territories.

"Schools should ensure smooth transition of students from home-based schooling during lockdown to formal schooling. Schools can implement re-adjusted school calendar and redesigned Annual Curriculum Plan (ACP), remedial classes or conduct back to school campaign among other steps," the guidelines said.

Centre to pay GST compensation cess, IGST dues: Nirmala

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 5: The Centre will disburse GST compensation cess amounting to ₹20,000 crore to the state government on Monday night, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Besides, Sitharaman said that IGST dues worth ₹24,000 crore will also be paid to the state governments by next week. The Council also decided that firms with up to ₹5 crore turnover have to file only eight GST returns in a year from January 1. It also waived 18 per cent GST for start-ups which use ISRO and Antrix Corporation services to launch their satellites.

This apart, the crucial meeting of the Council failed to reach a consensus on ways to compensate states as the panel was split on political lines over using borrowing as a tool. Briefing reporters after a marathon meeting of the panel, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said 21 states had opted for one of the two options the Centre had previously suggested for borrowing to meet the shortfall in GST collections.

But some states did not opt for any of the two options, and the Council decided for more deliberations, she said, adding the panel will meet again October 12. She said the panel decided to extend using GST cess collections to compensate states beyond previously agreed June 2022 timeframe. The panel besides easing compliance burden of small taxpayers also exempted satellite launch services by ISRO and Antrix, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said.



Ruckus in House as Oppn rakes up 'mining scam'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The Assembly Monday witnessed uproarious scenes as opposition BJP and Congress members raked up mining scam in the state. The ruling BJD too aggressively replied to the Opposition.

As soon as the House assembled for the day, Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik questioned extension of lease period of three mining owners for a period of five years in 2015. "Three mines operators—Runtha Mines holding lease of Jajang block, Serajuddin Mines (Balada block) and Nayayanposhi lessee of Aryan Mining & Treading were allowed to operate on deemed extension since 2015 even though Vigilance cases were pending against them," Naik said.

If the Mining and Minerals Development & Regulation Act was enacted in 2015 and the state was unable to put the mines on auction, it could have extended it for one year, he said and sought to know as to why five years extension was given to the three minors?

"The state government in collusion with a group of corrupt officials has misappropriated Rs 1 lakh crore by illegally allowing the lease. Though we have apprised the Chief Minister of this matter, there is no response," Naik alleged.

Further, the mines owners are allowed to participate in the recent mining auction process which is unacceptable, the BJP leader said. Participating in the debate, leader of the Congress Legislature Party Narasingha Mishra, accused the state government of incurring a loss of Rs 3,600 crore from nine mines during a period of three years, which the Supreme Court had pointed out.

Such a huge loss cannot occur without the knowledge of the government, he stated demanding action against the involved officers. Refuting the allegations, BJD member Pratap Keshari Deb said the state government has auctioned the mines in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court and the Centre. "Instead of creating ruckus in the House and trying to get cheap political mileage, the Opposition members should place their arguments based on facts," he said. A virtual face-off was seen between BJD and the opposition for a while.

Deb further said Coal and Power Minister Piyush Goyal and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had visited the state in 2015-16 and stated that the state would receive lakhs of rupees from mining revenue. But how much money the state actually received, he questioned.

CROP CUTTING



Farmers harvest Sorghum crop at Nandipur village in Karad district of Maharashtra, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Cong, BJD slam Centre over farm Bills

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Opposition Congress and the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday attacked the Centre in the Assembly over the controversial farmer Bills.

A hot debate was conducted on the admissibility of an adjournment motion over farmers' issue moved by the Congress party. As soon Speaker SN Patro allowed Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo to make his statement on the motion, BJP members rushed to the well and tried to disturb the proceedings. However, the debate continued with noisy atmosphere.

Later, BJP members staged a walk-out.

The Leader of Opposition PK Naik said, "As the adjournment motion was accepted without our knowledge, we staged a walkout." Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra attacked Prime Minister and Union Agriculture Minister for bringing in the law to exploit farmers. Both the PM and Agriculture Minister have given misleading information to farmers inside and outside Parliament, he said.

During his visit to Odisha prior to 2014 election, the Prime Minister had assured to provide two and

half times of minimum support price (MSP) on paddy. He had also assured to implement the MS Swaminathan report in letter and spirit. It is unfortunate that all these claims have become an eye-wash only, the Congress leader said.

"The Centre has brought the law to favour capitalists and allowed them to exploit farmers," Mishra said, adding, the ordinances brought by the Centre are anti-farmer and would help millers and industrialists.

"If you want to ensure MSP to farmers, you could have made a provision in the law. And if you really think for farmers, you would

have also made a provision of punishment for persons who violate the MSP norms," he said.

Mishra also criticized the state government for bringing similar ordinances in line with the Union bills. He urged the state government to implement the resolution passed in the Assembly to enhance the MSP to ₹2930 per quintal. He also demanded monthly allowance of ₹6,000 for farmers.

BJD's PK Deb said the new law brought by the Centre will not help farmers. "I apprehend that like Jio, the new law will help farmers in the preliminary stage. Later farmers will suffer a lot," he said.

SMART torpedo successfully flight-tested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 5: India Monday successfully flight tested its indigenously developed SMART torpedo system, which the DRDO said will be a "game changer" in anti-submarine warfare, marking yet another milestone in strengthening the country's maritime strategic capabilities, defence sources said.

The Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) was tested at 1145 hours from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island, earlier known as Wheeler Island, off the Odisha coast. It met all the objectives "flawlessly". SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight anti-submarine torpedo system for anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations far beyond the torpedo range. This launch and demonstration is significant in establishing anti-submarine warfare capabilities, a defence statement said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated Defence Research and Development Organisation scientists on the successful conduct of the test which marks a major breakthrough for stand-off capability in anti-submarine warfare, a DRDO official said.

The flight testing of SMART follows the successful test firing Saturday of its indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile 'Shaurya' with a strike range of around 1,000 km from the test range.

3 share Nobel medicine for discovering hepatitis C virus

AGENCIES

Stockholm, Oct 5: Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice and British-born scientist Michael Houghton won the Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday for their discovery of the hepatitis C virus, a major source of liver disease that affects millions worldwide.

Announcing the prize in Stockholm, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work identified a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the previously discovered hepatitis A and B viruses.

Their work, dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, has helped saved millions of lives, the committee said. "Thanks to their discovery, highly

sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health," the committee said. "Their discovery also allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C," it added. "For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating hepatitis C virus from the world population."

The World Health Organisation estimates there are over 70 million cases of hepatitis C worldwide and 400,000 deaths from it each year. The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis requiring liver transplants.

The medicine prize carried par-



ticular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world. Will Irving, a virologist at the University of Nottingham, said that identifying hepatitis C had been the "holy grail" in medicine.

"After hepatitis A and B were discovered in the 1970s, it was clear there was still at least one other virus or more that were causing liver damage," he said.

Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors drew a parallel between this year's prize and the current rush by millions of scientists around

the world to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Unlike hepatitis A, which is transmitted via food or water and causes an acute infection that can last a few weeks, hepatitis B and C are transmitted through blood.

American scientist Baruch Blumberg discovered the hepatitis B virus in 1967 and received the 1976 Nobel Prize in medicine, but this did not explain all cases of chronic hepatitis, a disease that was becoming more common even in apparently healthy people who had received or given blood.

"Before the discovery of the hepatitis C virus, it was a bit like Russian roulette to get a blood transfusion," said Nobel Committee member Nils-Göran Larsson. Alter, who was born in 1935 in New York, was working

at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda when he discovered that plasma from patients who didn't have hepatitis B could also could transfer the disease.

"The breakthrough came in 1989, when Michael Houghton and colleagues working at Chiron Corporation used a combination of molecular biology and immunology-based techniques to clone the virus," said Nobel Committee member Gunilla Karlsson-Hedestam.

The hepatitis C virus belongs to a group known as flaviviruses that also includes West Nile virus, dengue virus and yellow fever virus. Thomas Perlmann, the Secretary-General of the Nobel Committee, said he managed to reach two of the winners, Alter and Rice.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are very apprehensive about your possessions today, and will not like to share them. This mood may be because of someone particular. Affairs regarding love, Ganesha says, are progressing fine, and your married life will bloom.

TAURUS

A short trip could be in the offing today, says Ganesha. Before proceeding, you may, however, be compelled to make changes in your itinerary. If you are not too happy with the new schedules and decide to stick to your original plans, you are likely to feel disturbed, uneasy at the end of the day.

GEMINI

You will find yourself caught in two minds repeatedly, owing to your unpredictable mood swings. This will be the cause of a lot of mental stress. You can reduce your anxiety by talking out your issues with family members and experts.

CANCER

A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesha's blessings in tow.

LEO

A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully. Your personal life will proceed as usual, however expectations from you at the work-front will increase.

VIRGO

Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom. Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesha advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people

SCORPIO

Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture.

SAGITTARIUS

The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesha says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

CAPRICORN

You may have sweated your guts out for an opportunity to pursue higher studies abroad, and met with disappointment. Try again today, advises Ganesha. For those of you engaged in speculation, transaction in stock and shares is likely and may fetch substantial gains.

AQUARIUS

Are you facing a road-block in your path? Make a minor change in your route, you will find a smooth and clear road once again, advises Ganesha. The efforts you have made in the past will come to fruition, today.

PISCES

Do not commit yourself to any large investments today. It is best to avoid speculative activities. For those who have a job, the co-operation of your colleagues will help you progress, says Ganesha.

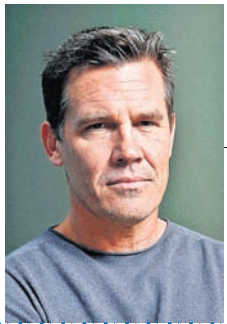


MACDOWELL TO CO-STAR WITH DAUGHTER QUALLEY IN MAID

Veteran actor Andie MacDowell has boarded the cast of the Netflix series Maid, headlined by her daughter, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood breakout Margaret Qualley. The upcoming dramedy will see the star play Paula, mother to Qualley's Alex.

PLAYING 'THANOS' GAVE MORE FREEDOM TO JOSH BROLIN

Hollywood star Josh Brolin says he had more fun in playing villainous Thanos in the last two Avengers films while his role of Cable in Deadpool 2 felt harder despite being funny. During an interview, Brolin said acting in Deadpool 2 felt like more of a business transaction.



Disha's latest post makes fans asking for more



Mumbai: Actress Disha Patani Monday had a sizzling gift for her fans on social media. She posted a new snapshot in yellow bikini, and fans were left asking for more.

Disha posted the image on Instagram, captioning it with a giraffe emoji.

"Hotness," a fan wrote.

"Yellow suits you so much," another fan said.

"You are so hot," a user commented.

Disha is currently busy shooting for her film Radhe, which features superstar Salman Khan along with Randeep Hooda. The film is directed by Prabhudeva. Salman has shared his happiness on resuming shoot for the film after almost seven months.

The actress also has the starring role in KTina, produced by Ekta Kapoor. The film also features Akshay Oberoi and Sunny Singh.



Ransomware attack on Pooja's website

Panaji: Celebrity Pooja Bedi in a complaint to the Goa Police Cyber Cell Monday, said that her business website happysoul.in was targeted by hackers, who were now demanding 'ransom' in order to restore access to her e-commerce site.

Bedi, who resides in Goa and whose website trades in organic supplements, also took to Twitter with her woe, tagging Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Director General of Police (DGP) Mukesh Kumar Meena, saying the hackers have threatened to sell drugs and narcotics substances on her website, if the ransom is not paid.

"Dear @DGP_Goa my ecommerce website http://happysoul.in HACKED AGAIN last night & this time they state if i don't pay ransom they will sell DRUGS on my website. I have registered (an) FIR in Old Goa Police Cyber Cell last week but no action from Copr. My company regd in Goa @goacm," the actress said in a tweet. IANS

'Looking forward to another 25 years'

Mumbai: Bobby Deol completes 25 years in Hindi film industry, and the actor says his journey has taught him to never give up and always bounce back.

He posted a photo collage on Twitter with the words: "25 years of lights, camera, action, humble and grateful".

Alongside the image, he wrote: "It's been 25 years at the movies for me. A journey that started in October of 1995... an overwhelming and emotional one. I proudly say I've seen the highs and the lows. The one thing these 25 years have

taught me is, to never give up; always bounce back and keep moving ahead!"

He added: "Looking forward to another 25 years with my colleagues at the movies



Books that make for good read during Unlock 5.0

APART FROM LOVE, SEPARATION, LOSS OF HONOUR, REBELLION, SACRIFICE, SORROW AND CATHARSIS, HARSHALI SINGH'S THE ANATOMY OF CHOICE TALKS ABOUT COMPLEX SUBJECTS SUCH AS POLYAMORY AND AMORALITY.

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Stories of powerful female leads, explored in a variety of contexts and evocative of a whole spectrum of emotions, make for good reads, just as the country is getting more and more active post the lockdown.

Mother At Nineteen by Gulista Chaudhary

Gulista Chaudhary's Mother At Nineteen is a tale of love, sacrifice, friendship, relationship and foremost-motherhood. The plot revolves around the decisions that we make in life can make or break relationships. Aashna made a decision of being a 19-year-



old, unmarried mother. Little did she know that she'll break all other relationships in the process. The author drew inspiration for writing this book from her personal life.

Endurer by Kapil Raj

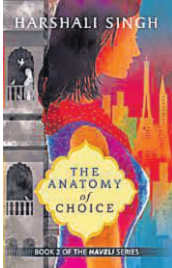
Kapil Raj's Endurer's is a heart-rendering story of a girl, whose beliefs and horror has been battered, stands up to make choices, rediscovering the meaning of life. The story revolves around Palak who is the epitome of beauty and charisma and lives a privileged life. Newfound love, drugs, cat-fights, patch-ups, crushes, night hangouts, and unplanned trips, she was experiencing



whatever passed her way. Her exploration goes too far when she attends a rave party. She wakes up to the horror of finding herself raped.

The Anatomy of Choice by Harshali Singh

Harshali Singh's The Anatomy of Choice talks about whether choice is really a possibility for women. The story revolves around Bhavya Sharma, the second offspring of the Sharma family that inhabits a large historical haveli near Chandni Chowk in Delhi, with its mysterious mausoleum. The story also complex subjects such as polyamory and amorality, and normalizes them. The themes of love, separation, loss of honour, rebellion, sacrifice, sorrow,



and catharsis are present in the story.

5 Minutes by Vrinda Singh

Vrinda Singh's 5 minutes is a thriller. Just like riding on a roller coaster, reading this book alternates between making you feel excited and exhilarated, happy and sad, disappointed and desperate, in just 5 minutes. What makes this book worth reading is the author's collection of various real-life incidents jotted down into subtle 16 chapters which are fast paced, grounded in reality, adrenaline soaked, grab you by the feels, keep-you-guessing, intriguing, completely unexpected, heart-breaking yet hopeful and a crazy read on the wild side.



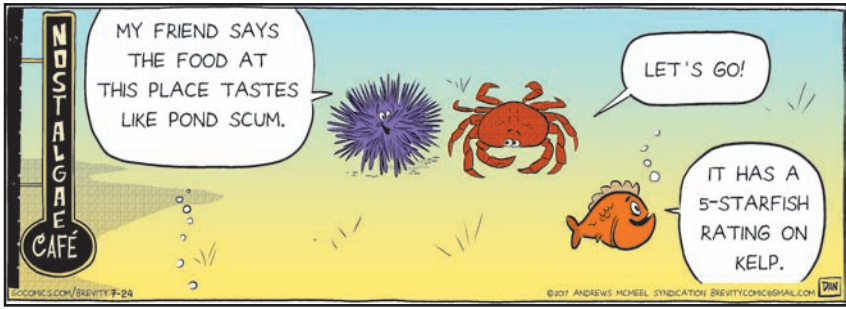
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

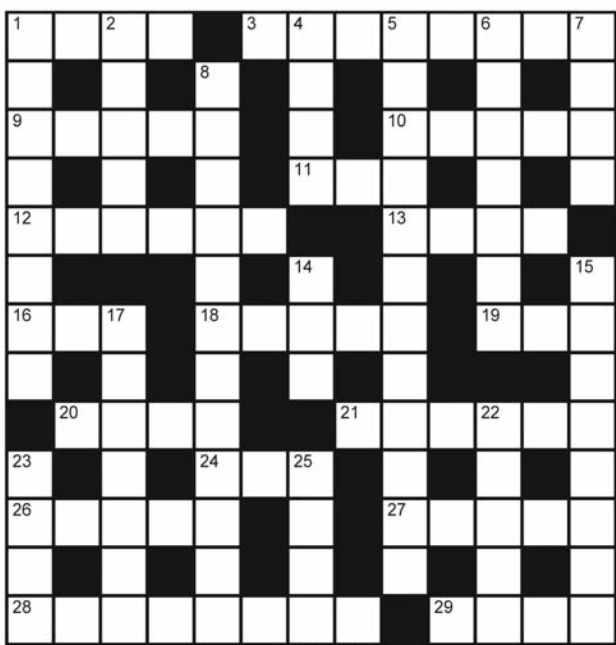


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Talk wildly
- 3 Feasts
- 9 It's south of Sicily
- 10 Sufficient
- 11 Make a mistake
- 12 Jot down
- 13 Tugboat sound
- 16 Guinness suffix
- 18 Pillow stuffing
- 19 Have a bawl
- 20 Lollygag
- 21 Mexican cloak

Down

- 1 Woos
- 2 Hotel employee
- 4 Malarial fever
- 5 Sprinting athlete
- 7,5

6 Utilises

- 7 Slip through the cracks
- 8 Mental contest (6,2,4)
- 14 Psyches
- 15 Outmoded
- 17 Win big
- 22 Recipe
- 23 Food for sea urchins
- 25 Mountain pool

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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STATE REPORTS BELOW 3K CASES AFTER 40 DAYS

17 FRESH FATALITIES PUSH ODISHA'S VIRUS DEATH TOLL TO 924

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: After a gap of nearly 40 days, Odisha registered less than 3,000 Covid-19 cases in a day with the coastal state witnessing 2,617 infections in the past 24 hours, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said Monday, adding that 17 fresh fatalities pushed state's virus death toll to 924.

The fresh infections raised Odisha's Covid-19 tally to 2, 35, 330. Of the new cases, 1, 521 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest were detected during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, of which capital city Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 506, followed by Bargarh 148, Cuttack 136, Kendrapara 132, Angul 115 and Jajpur 112.

"Regret to inform the demise of seventeen #COVID-19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals," the Health and Family Welfare Department said on Twitter.

Of the 17 fatalities, three each were registered in Cuttack and Puri districts, two each in Balasore, Boudh and Khurda and one each in Angul, Keonjhar, Nabarangpur;



Rayagada and Sundargarh.

Ganjam district alone reported 221 of the 924 deaths in the state, followed by Khurda 151 and Cuttack 80. Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities, according to the official.

As many as 34.82 lakh tests have been conducted so far, including 41,567 Sunday.

On August 25, Odisha reported more than 3,000 new cases and since then the Covid cases were showing a rising trend and crossed the 4,000-mark from September 15 last.

Official sources said the state witnessed record Covid-19 deaths of 17 people on a single day Sunday from 10 districts.

The Covid-19 tally crossed 40,000-mark in Khurda district (40,702) while Cuttack and Ganjam districts have reported over 20,000 marks with 21,909 and 20,376 respectively. Puri district has reported over 10,672 Covid-19 tally cases till date.

CMC loses control room in-charge

CUTTACK: The officer-in-charge of Cuttack Municipal Corporation's (CMC) COVID-19 control room Biswanath Lenka succumbed to COVID-19 Monday. Initially, Lenka was working at the CMC as an officer in the Statistical Department. He was made in-charge of the coronavirus control room a few months back. CMC Commissioner Ananya Das broke the news about Lenka's death. She said Lenka had always been a frontline warrior against the virus. He never shied away from his responsibilities. "Heart-broken on the demise of one of our senior COVID-19 Warriors, Sri Biswanath Lenka, Statistical Officer CMC. He firmly led from the frontline and meticulously performed duties as in-charge of the CMC COVID-19 Control Room and Nodal Officer of LnT CCC," the CMC tweeted.



₹26 lakh worth brown sugar seized in Puri

PURI: Police have busted a drug racket gang with the arrest of six members and seized 275 grams of brown sugar worth about ₹26 lakh from their possession near Manglaghat road under Baselisahi Police station area. Police identified the accused as Krushnachandra Bhujabal, Somanath Bhujabal, Anil Baral, Balaram Bhoi, Babuna Behera and Babuna Naik. The accused were booked under various sections of NDPS act and interrogation was on to get information about other members of their gang. Police also seized a pistol with live cartridges, a four wheeler, two bikes and mobile phones from their possession.

Prani Mitra award for Rajesh Mohapatra

New Delhi: Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar, Monday, conferred Prani Mitra Award on Odia biologist Rajesh Kumar Mohapatra under biologist/educationist category for 2020 during a virtual ceremony here. Mohapatra, who is presently working at Nandankanan Zoological Park, was shortlisted for the award among 150 nominations under the category. His present research interests include conservation breeding and soft release of Indian pangolin, species recovery of gharials, zoo animal behaviour, biology and welfare, a source informed.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Ashirvad Patnaik, S/o Sri Rabi Narayan Patnaik resident of Duplex-3, Golakpuri, Kalarahanga, Bhubaneswar - 751024 have changed my name to Aashirvad Patnaik. Vide Affidavit - F.C.No.- 34/15.9.2020.

DAYLIGHT MURDER

MANHUNT ON TO NAB CULPRITS

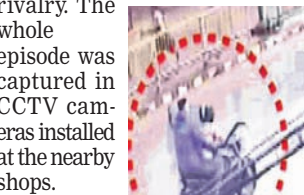
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Commissionerate Police, Monday, conducted raids at different places to arrest the accused involved in the daylight murder of a confectioner at Samantarapur market under Lingaraj police limits Sunday afternoon.

Sources also claimed that police have arrested two persons reportedly associated with the sweet-meat shop where Jambu Sahoo, the deceased, had been working before lockdown.

Earlier in the day, Police Commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi told the media that police has succeeded in identifying the accused persons who will be under police net soon.

Notably, two bike-borne miscreants hacked Jambu, a confectioner, to death at Samantarapur market in broad daylight over past rivalry. The whole episode was captured in CCTV cameras installed at the nearby shops.



Jambu, who sustained grievous injuries, succumbed while running just a few metres away from his stall.

The deceased's wife alleged that Jambu's former employer and his son were involved in the brutal murder of her husband. She claimed that the accused were livid with Jambu, who had recently opened a sweet stall at the market after the closure of the accused persons' shop during lockdown.

The accused had also damaged Jambu's stall around a month ago. Later, they had reached a compromise after police intervention.

TAKING TO STREETS



Members of Utkal University Teachers' Association and Joint Action Committee of Odisha Universities demonstrate near the varsity gate in Bhubaneswar, Monday, demanding withdrawal of the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Ordinance 2020

OP PHOTO

FAVI THERAPY AT DOORSTEPS

POST NEWS NETWORK

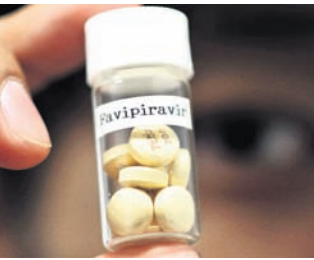
Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: With more number of asymptomatic and mild symptomatic Covid patients adopting home isolation, the state government has initiated steps to start Favipiravir therapy for such patients.

At a high-level meeting with doctors and experts Monday, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy asked officials to start Favipiravir therapy at door steps of patients under home isolation.

"Covid-19 is an evolving crisis. The new clinical input and empirical evidence about the pandemic has proved the effectiveness of Favipiravir treatment as an antiviral therapy. It will save the patients in home isolation from getting serious. Many doctors and virus experts have posited that the medicine will be helpful in Covid management to a large extent," Tripathy said.

The CS warned that medicine needs to be administered with proper advice and precaution. He asked a team of experienced doctors to advise patients in home isolation over audio visual media about this therapy. The patients will take the therapy under the advice and guidance of physicians.

Tripathy instructed the health & family welfare department to widely circulate the SOP on use of oral Favipiravir among doctors. The department was asked to train members of the rapid response teams (RRTs) for assessing suitability of a patient in home isolation. As of now nearly 80 per cent



ADVISORY ISSUED

- CS seeks issuance of elaborate advisory with precautionary guidance
- Doc teams asked to explain therapy through virtual mode
- RRTs to have regular contact with patients under home isolation

of positive Covid patients have opted for home isolation.

Additional Chief Secretary Health & Family Welfare PK Mohapatra advised the members of RRTs to properly explain a patient and his/her care giver or family member about use of oral Favipiravir, its side effects, precautions and actions to be taken by them after initiation of the therapy.

The therapy would start only after informed consent of the patient. The RRTs would deliver medicines, detail information sheet, 'dos and don'ts' along with 'how and whom to report reactions/progress about patient's condition' at door step of patients. On event of any major adverse reactions, the RRTs would coordinate shifting of the patient to appropriate Covid care facility.

Plus II second cut-off list out

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The second phase cut-off list for admissions to Plus II courses in colleges across the state was released Monday. Ravenshaw Junior College in Cuttack topped the list again in Science stream with 86.33 per cent cut-off mark, followed by BJB College in Bhubaneswar with 86 per cent.

Other top colleges with high cut-offs in Science include Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Berhampur (84.83 per cent), Upendranath Higher Secondary School, Soro (84 per cent) and Basic Science and

Humanities College, Bhubaneswar (81.83 per cent)

BJB College also topped the list in Arts stream with 70 per cent marks, followed by Ravenshaw Junior College (68.40 per cent), Shailabala Women's College, Cuttack (67.17 per cent), Samanta Chandrasekhar College, Puri (64.83 per cent)

Vyasa Nagar Higher Secondary School in Jajpur road topped the list in Commerce stream with 79.67 per cent followed by Ravenshaw Junior College 73.33 per cent.

Altogether 35,591 candidates were selected for admission in the second phase.

Out of them, 28,181 students were selected for Arts stream, 2,064 for Commerce, 4,606 for Science, 369 for Sanskrit and 371 for Vocational streams.

Earlier, September 18, the Directorate of Higher Secondary Education announced the first selection merit list of Plus-II courses for the academic year 2020-21.

In Arts stream, the highest cut-off was obtained by Ravenshaw (Junior) College at 72.5 per cent, followed by Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar (BJB) Junior College and Government Junior College, Rourkela at 67.8 per cent.

OJEE releases protocol for Oct 12-19 test

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The standard operating procedures (SOPs) to conduct OJEE exams, which are scheduled to be held between Oct 12 and Oct 19, were released by authorities Monday. These will be implemented at all 53 exam centres across the state.

In compliance with COVID - 19 guidelines of Govt. of India and Govt. of Odisha, all necessary measures, with respect to hygiene and social distancing, shall be taken at

JEE-ADV: SIBASISH IS ODISHA TOPPER

Bhubaneswar: The results of IIT-JEE Advanced-2020 were declared Monday and Sibasish Rout, who got all-India rank 73, has topped the state. He secured 287 marks. Rout is a student of SAI International School. Around 25 students of SAI International School have secured admirable ranks in JEE Advanced examination. Rounak Dalmia of Bolangir got 52 rank but he appeared from Chhattisgarh for the exam.

the test venues to ensure health and convenience of the candidates.

In all the test centres, only 50% of the total seating capacity will be utilized such that the gap between consecutive candidates will be maintained as per guidelines of Govt. of India.

In case, any candidate appears to have high body temp or any other

SC notice to state in Kandhamal 'Maoist attack' case

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 5: The Supreme Court, Monday, issued a notice to Odisha government while taking up a bail application filed by Radhika Mallick, Sebastian Mallick and Tirupati Kadapa, who have been awarded life imprisonment for their involvement in a Maoist attack case in Kandhamal in 2011.

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices SK Kaul, Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy heard the matter and sought the state government's response. The

bench adjourned the hearing for three weeks.

According to the petitioners, a complaint was filed by Suna Rupamajhi August 5, 2011 alleging that around 18 Maoists arrived at his house and abducted his son at gunpoint before killing him. He also named Radhika, Sebastian and Tirupati in his complaint. He said that the trio was involved in the group of Maoists.

An FIR was filed on the basis of his complaint at Kotagada police station following which the appellants were arrested. A court in Phulbani,



January 31, 2015, passed a judgement in the case and sentenced the three accused to life imprisonment. The order of Phulbani court was

A complaint was filed by Suna Rupamajhi August 5, 2011 alleging that around 18 Maoists arrived at his house and abducted his son at gunpoint before killing him

Petitioners prayed the apex court to grant interim bail as they belong to the economically weaker section of the society and have a family to take care of

challenged in Orissa High Court, which dismissed the ruling January 14, 2020.

The counsel for the petitioners

contended that the entire case of prosecution was based on two eye witnesses - the father and the sister of the deceased. The counsel also submitted that there are contradictions in the statement of the witnesses.

The petitioners said that police had not recovered any material related to Maoists from the petitioners' possession. No gun or uniform was recovered by the police. The prosecution failed to prove any cogent evidence to link the petitioners with the ultras.

As per one of the witnesses in

the case, there was no electricity in their village and it was dark in the evening when the incident occurred.

"So, it would be difficult to identify the accused. But witness No. 9 has clearly mentioned the name of the accused without any reasonable doubt," reads the petition.

Petitioners prayed the apex court to grant interim bail as they belong to the economically weaker section of the society and have a family to take care of who are finding it difficult to sustain themselves in the absence of the petitioner.

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Land acquisition hurdles for flyover

The much-needed flyover in Sambalpur has run into problem with land acquisition posing serious bottlenecks in construction of its service road

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 5: Completion of a flyover to ease traffic problem in this town has run into problem with land acquisition posing serious bottlenecks in construction of its service road, a report said.

The Works department had planned to complete the project by December this year. However, with uncertainty plaguing the service road construction works it does not seem that the bridge work will get completed anytime soon.

The bridge work started four years back but the department has failed to make any headway in land acquisition on both sides of the bridge for construction of the service road. As a result, residents have to face a lot of problems while commuting on the road. This has only deteriorated the traffic condition in the town and sparked resentment among the residents.

Residents alleged that the authorities of the Works department are only evicting roadside hotels, small vendors, hawkers to make space for construction of the service road but have failed to acquire 15 decimal of private lands on both sides of the flyover bridge.

Notably, construction of the flyover connecting Dhuchurapada Square to Kacheri Square was started February, 12, 2016. It was planned to get completed by May 11, 2017. The initial plan outlay was Rs66.38 crore but is expected to go up by the time it will be completed, sources said. The flyover of 1.880 mtr in length will stand on 51 columns



The under construction flyover. Residents say the administration fears to undertake any move towards acquiring land for the service road as the private lands identified for the purpose are owned by influential and political persons

SPIRALLING COSTS	
CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLYOVER CONNECTING DHUCHURAPADA SQUARE TO KACHERI SQUARE STARTED FEBRUARY, 12, 2016	IT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY MAY 11, 2017
	THE INITIAL PLAN OUTLAY WAS ₹66.38 CRORE BUT IS EXPECTED TO GO UP BY THE TIME IT GETS READY

ranging from 5 mtr to 15 mtr.

A point to be noted here is that the flyover is being constructed by the consultancy agency which was involved in the Bomikhal flyover bridge construction in Bhubaneswar. The Bomikhal flyover bridge had collapsed during construction leading to the death of a person and severe injuries of others. This is the

reason for which the Sambalpur flyover bridge works was shelved for six months.

The residents alleged that the department except pulling down the compound walls of district collectorate, RDC office, Akashvani, DIG office, Reserve police, residential bungalow, head post office, Town hall ground and Town police

station, Mahanadi Club has failed to acquire the private lands required for construction of the service road.

The department has failed to proceed further except issuing notice to the land owners and holding discussion with them. Sources said that the administration fears to undertake any move as the private lands identified

for the purpose are owned by influential and political persons.

Residents claimed that the administration is only laying stress on completion of the flyover and pulling up the implementing agency to finish the work within deadline. However, if the service road is not constructed then the flyover will not serve any purpose for which it was constructed.

When contacted, executive engineer, Bijay Mohanty, said, “A plan was ready to complete the construction works by December-end. The work was stopped for the last six months due to Covid enforced lockdown but resumed recently after the government lifted the restrictions.” He added that labourers have been hired from other states to finish the work within the deadline after the lockdown was lifted.

Uncertainty looms over Bhuban bullock fest



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF BHUBAN, THE TRADITIONAL BULLOCK FESTIVAL MAY NOT BE CONDUCTED THIS YEAR OWING TO THE COVID PANDEMIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhuban, Oct 5: Apart from being famous for India's youngest martyr Baji Rout as well as brass and bell metal wares, Bhuban is also famous for another reason.

It is the enthralling bullock festival, a tradition for hundreds of years observed on the occasion of Vijayadashami.

For the first time in the history of Bhuban, the traditional bullock festival is going to be disrupted this year as the district administration has taken a decision not to allow the organisers to host the festival this year due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The festival was started by the members of Thoria community. The administration's decision has not gone down well with the community members.

According to Biswanath Sahoo, president, Thoria Samaj, the world-famous bullock festival was started by Thoria community. “With the consent of presiding deity Maa Banajari, we have been organising the festival.” Revelers from near and far come to Bhuban to witness the festival. “We will request the administration to allow the bullocks of Thoria community,” he added. This way, the age-old tradition can be kept alive without flouting the COVID-19 guidelines, he hoped.

During the pre-independence days, there used to be no commute facilities like what we are enjoying now. People were dependent on bullock carts to go from one place to another. The businessmen of Bhuban area would also use bullock carts and bullocks to go to different areas carrying their commodities.

hearsal with their bullocks, uncertainty is still looming large since no meeting has so far been held in this regard.

Dillip Kumar Das, member, Peace Committee, said the festival, with which the people have an emotional attachment, should not be stopped. “The administration should find out a way on how the festival will be observed adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.”

Echoing the same sentiments, Basudev Behera, president, Town Committees' Association, said the festival will be observed this year, giving top priority to people's safety. Steps would be taken after a meeting with the administration, he concluded.

When contacted, sub-collector Bishnu Prasad Acharya said, “The decision has been taken to stop the bullock festival this year keeping

the pandemic situation in mind.” The Durga Puja will be celebrated with strict adherence to the guidelines. The height of idols of the goddesses should not be more than four feet. Only seven people will be allowed at

the puja pandals. No cultural events will be allowed. “Regarding the bullock festival, a joint meeting will soon be convened where the final decision on whether the bullock festival will be observed or not will be taken,” he clarified.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
No. B-316

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JHARSUGUDA (R&B) DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
E-mail ID: eepwdjsg2014@gmail.com, Telephone: 06645-271242
Kalimandir Road, Jharsuguda - 768202

“e” - Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. EE-R&B-JSG-09 of 2020-21

1.	The Executive Engineer, Jharsuguda (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single Cover system on ONLINE mode from eligible contractors for construction of Civil Building Works (Civil + EI + PH) as detailed in DTCN
2.	Nature of Work : Civil Works
3.	Estimated Cost : Rs.8.10 lakhs to Rs.26.55 lakhs
4.	No. of Work : 03 (Three) Nos.
5.	Tender Cost : Rs.6000/- (as per DTCN)
6.	Class of Contractor : "D", "C" & "B" for Civil Work
7.	Availability of bid document in the website : 10.00 A.M. of Dt.07.10.2020 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.16.10.2020
8.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I) : 11.30 A.M. on Dt.17.10.2020
9.	The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in). Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Jharsuguda (R&B) Division
OIPR-34094/11/0004/2021

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT,
SAHEED LAXAMAN NAYAK MEDICAL
COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, KORAPUT
Tel.No.06852 252121, E-mail-suptdtslnmchkt.od@gov.in, slnmchktpt18@gmail.com
No. 4494/2020
Date. 01.10.2020

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. E-287:- The Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput-764020, Dist. Koraput, Odisha invites sealed tenders in the prescribed proforma from the Registered and reputed wholesale/distributors/supplier & Manufacturers for "Supply of Drugs & Medical Consumables to SLN Medical College & Hospital, Koraput". The details information, terms and conditions of tender documents can be downloaded directly from the website www.koraput.nic.in.
The last date of receipt of tenders through Regd. Post/ Speed Post is on or before dt.15.10.2020 by 5.00 P.M & the tender will be opened on dt.16.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M. The Superintendent, SLNMCH, Koraput reserves right to accept/reject /cancel any or all the tenders in full or part without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd./- Superintendent, SLNMCH, KORAPUT
OIPR-10121/11/0015/2021

14 YEARS AGO, TRAINS OPERATED FROM HERE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balia, Oct 5: The Badakhandaeta Railway Station under Biridi tehsil in Jagatsinghpur these days has the look of a haunted place. The station has been non-functional since 2006 and is not being maintained even, a report said.

The Badakhandaeta Railway Station was constructed in 1974. It is the oldest station on Cuttack-Paradip railway line. People of 10 panchayats of three blocks in Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur districts availed of this station to go to their respective destinations.

However, suddenly the station was closed for passengers in 2006. All the equipment and machinery were shifted from there.

Currently, the station and the staff quarters close by have a haunted look. No one is seen in sight. Doors, windows and other furniture have been stolen from the station as well as from the quarters. Wild plants and weeds have grown everywhere. As there is no power, the entire area has become a haven for miscreants.

PLEA ON DEAF EARS

Local residents including Kailash Chandra Behera, Bijay Dalai, Ashok Mohanty and some others have in the past urged Jagatsinghpur district Collector, Railway Ministry,

FROM A RLY STATION TO A 'HAUNTED PLACE'



The station and the staff quarters close by have developed a haunted look, locals say

Doors, windows and other furniture have been stolen from the station as well as from the quarters' premises

As there is no electricity here, the entire area has become a haven for anti-socials

the Chief Secretary, East Coast GM and DRM, Khurda to intervene and take necessary steps for resurrection of the station. Letters have been sent to all the persons concerned, but so far there have been no results.

Local residents staged a sit-in at Jagatsinghpur sub-collector's office way back in January 12, 2011, demanding the station be made functional again. Following it, they had conducted a mass demonstration at the railway station April 6, 2011. However, all their pleas seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

In February 2012, hundreds of people belonging to several villages

that lie in close proximity to the station had staged a 33-hour-long 'Rail roko' programme. They squatted on the tracks disrupting traffic. The demonstration was called off after the then Jagatsinghpur sub-collector Brajabandhu Bhol assured their demands would be considered.

Accordingly, the sub-collector had informed the Khurda divisional manager Tribikram Mishra in a letter (Letter No-119/March 29, 2012). This apart, the villagers have submitted memorandum to the Railway Ministry and other authorities on several occasions but to no avail.

2 held for smuggling cannabis in 'PPE kits'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 5: The ganja mafias' (cannabis smugglers) bid to outsmart the cops by concealing cannabis in PPE kits in a fake ambulance with the seizure of more than 250 kg contrabands in Behrampur district.

According to sources, the ambulance with ganja was going to Digapahandi from Kodala in Ganjam district Sunday late night when a patrolling team of

The 250kg consignment worth Rs50 lakh was being smuggled in a fake ambulance vehicle

Kabisuryanagar police intercepted the vehicle at Budhamba area under Kabisuryanagar Police limits suspecting its movement at that hour.

The driver tried to outrun the police vehicle and escape from the spot but failed in his plan. Police in-


tercepted the vehicle and seized contraband worth Rs50 lakh covered in PPE kits.

Police arrested two persons in this connection including the driver.


The Kabisuryanagar Police are carrying out further investigation into the case.

Similarly, the Excise department officials in the wee hours of Monday seized seven quintals of ganja during a raid at Sargiguda village in Malkangiri district.

Police also arrested three in this contraband smuggling case.



National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)



BHARATMALA
ROAD TO PROSPERITY

Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4-Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

F.No. NHIDCL/2(7)/Rectt Tech & Fin/2020/HR

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been set up by the Government of India as a Corporation under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to fast pace construction/ up-gradation/ widening of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region and areas that share International boundaries with neighbouring countries.

Applications are invited from dynamic, effective and experienced eligible retired Officers from Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, BRO (GREF), Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings on Engagement on Contract basis on the Terms & Conditions indicated below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts & Place of Postings	No. of Vacancy*	Pay Matrix Level in CDA Pattern
1.	Executive Director (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	02	Pay Matrix Level-14 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.10,000/-]
2.	General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
3.	Deputy General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/-] plus Grade Pay Rs.7,600/-]
4.	Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-11 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised Pay Band-3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade Pay Rs.6,600/-]
5.	General Manager (Land Acquisition & Coordination) [For NHIDCL HQrs]	01	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
6.	Deputy General Manager (Fin.) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	06	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade Pay Rs.7,600/-]

* The number of vacancies in the Posts may vary, depending upon the requirement. Further, NHIDCL reserves the right to prepare Panels (one for Roads Sector and another for Infrastructure Sector) of selected Candidates for filling up the indicated and future vacancies that may arise in NHIDCL. Panel would be valid for a period of 12 months, unless further extended.

Last date for submission of Application: 02.11.2020 (Monday) up to 18.00 hrs.

For detailed Terms and Conditions please visit - www.nhidcl.com

NOTE 1: Officers presently serving in the Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings and satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply for the post on Deputation basis in the prescribed proforma along with copy of APARs for last five years, No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Vigilance Clearance (VC).

NOTE 2: Any change or amendment to this Vacancy Circular will be posted on the NHIDCL Website only.

NOTE 3: Incomplete applications or those received after the prescribed date shall be summarily rejected.

Dy. General Manager (HR)

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

"Yes, of course," said the doctor with a pat on Uttam's left shoulder.
"Oh, how nice it would be. I have been illiterate for so long," replied Uttam with joy.

THE BILLION PRESS

**B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,
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Tushar Anand, PATNA

Don't vote for JD(U), BJP-LJP will form next govt: Chirag

LJP Sunday decided to put up its candidates against JD(U) citing 'ideological differences' with the party to assert that it will not accept Nitish Kumar's leadership of NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: A day after walking out of the NDA in Bihar targeting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Chirag Paswan appealed to people against voting for Kumar's JD(U) and claimed that an alliance of his party and the BJP will come to power in the state after the Assembly polls.

In an open letter, Paswan told the voters of Bihar that a vote for the JD(U) will force the migration of their children tomorrow as he sought their support for his party candidates in the three-phase poll starting October 28.

The LJP Sunday decided to put up its candidates against the JD(U) citing 'ideological differences' with the party to assert that it will not accept Kumar's leadership of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the principal member of the NDA and it has already announced Kumar as the leader of the bloc in the state.



"This is the most decisive moment in the history of the state of Bihar. It is a question of life and death of the 12 crore people of the state and we have no time to lose.... The road ahead is not easy for the LJP but we will fight and win too," Paswan said. All LJP MLAs will work under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

The 37-year-old leader also made a reference to his ailing father, Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, who has undergone a heart surgery at a private hospital in Delhi



and is expected to remain hospitalised for some time.

He spoke of his 'Bihar first, Bihari first' vision document and said his father would be proud that his son has stuck to the issue he had raised through it.

Citing his party's differences with the JD(U), Paswan said he it the growing bureaucracy in Bihar, the ruling party's treatment of its allies or its agenda, people's grievances are not being addresses either by the officials or the chief minister.

J&K continues to be political puzzle for Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 5: It has been over one year since Jammu and Kashmir lost its special status, but politically the union territory continues to be a jigsaw puzzle whose pieces do not seem to fall in place sometime soon.

Having ruled the state for over 70 years harping on the special status protected by Articles 370 and 35A, both of which were abrogated August 5, 2019, regional political parties and even mainstream political parties, are still undecided about the way forward.

The largest regional political party, the National Conference (NC), headed by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, wants the pre-August 5, 2019 status restored before a genuine political process can be restated in J&K. Joining chorus with the NC, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) headed by Mehbooba Mufti, Peoples Conference (PC) headed by Sajad Gani Lone, Awami National Conference (ANC) headed by Khalida Shah, the CPI-M have supported the restoration of J&K's special status by pledging support to the 'Gupkar Declaration'.

The declaration wants Articles 370, 35A and statehood restored as a pre-condition for these parties to join any future political process.

Known otherwise to hedge his bets, Farooq Abdullah recently went too far by saying that the mistrust between Delhi and Srinagar has grown so deep that 'Kashmiris would



The NC has suffered serious ground erosion and yet it remains in one piece as a political entity in both the regions of J&K

While Congress does not publicly support the restoration of 370 and 35A for obvious reasons, yet the party has stated that the manner in which these changes were brought in has left everything to be desired

CONUNDRUM PREVAILS

The BJP is categorical that Articles 370 and 35A are done and dusted and there is no way these can be restored. The biggest problem for the BJP in Kashmir is that it has not been able to catch the imagination of the common man, despite a deep feeling of betrayal towards the NC and other regional parties

The PDP as a political party stands decimated so far as its top leadership is concerned, but the party's loss has not been the BJP's gain

rather like to be ruled by China.' Insiders attribute the hardening of anti-Delhi posture by Abdullah to his son, Omar Abdullah, who reportedly believes that after August 5, 2019, Delhi has choked the space in which pro-India regional parties could operate in Kashmir.

Apni Party, headed by former minister and senior PDP leader, Syed Altaf Bukhari, is the only regional party that advocates moving ahead to bring in a political government to address the problems faced by the people. Bukhari says what happened August 5, 2019 was a disaster, but we must move ahead without giving up on the demand to restore whatever was taken away. "The Supreme Court of the country is to decide on whether

the abrogation of 370 was constitutional or not. All of us must have faith in the apex court and its decision must be binding on us. The special status was abrogated by the Parliament and after that the only constitutional recourse is to approach the Supreme Court which we have done. Constitutional matters will have to be decided constitutionally," Bukhari told IANS while setting aside reports that his party was okay with the abrogation of J&K's special status.

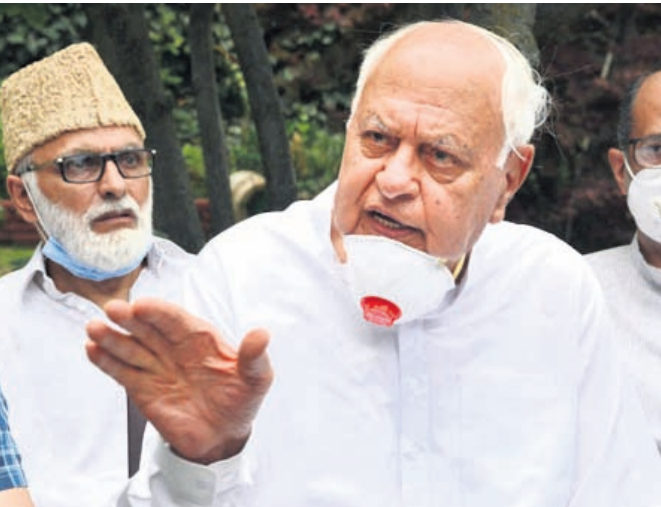
In contrast to Apni Party, all other regional political players are facing an inertia of sorts which prevents them from facing the people after they lost what they believed to be their 'raison d'etre' to exist as pro-Kashmir parties with-

out supporting separatism.

While restoration of statehood is achievable, the restoration of 370 and 35A are ruled out even by the most optimistic political observers. "Our problem is that once we give up on our demand for restoration of J&K's special status, we logically cease to be a regional party. How would we be different from those in the BJP after we agree to forget August 5, 2019," said a senior NC leader.

After having demonised NC and PDP as political extensions of family rule and corruption, the BJP will find it impossible to work out any future arrangement with either of them. The detention of political leaders for nearly one year has not generated a groundswell for the BJP in Kashmir:

'Peace, progress not possible unless Aug 5 decisions reversed'



Abdullah says it is the stupendous challenge of fast-tracking all-round development which has been at the receiving end in Jammu and Kashmir since the 'unilateral, unconstitutional and undemocratic' abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 5: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Monday said the objectives of peace, economic progress and development in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be achieved unless the Centre reverses all the decisions taken August 5 last year.

Abdullah, who is also the MP from the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, made these comments at a private function here. "The goal of inclusive development in J-K can be turbo-powered only by empowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the real sense and by reversing the August 5, 2019 actions," the NC chief said.

"J-K's path to development and economic progress is not possible unless New Delhi doesn't do justice with the people of J-K and reverses all the decisions taken August 5, 2019," he added.

Currently, Abdullah said, the development scenario in Jammu and Kashmir is very depressing. "Until recently feted for topping various human development indices, the development scenario in J-K currently is very depressing. The private sector in J-K particularly has suffered major reverses on one account or the other since the 5th of August, 2019. Despite being very stunted, the private sector in J-K used to provide jobs to scores of well-qualified and skilled youth. Regrettably, the successive clampdowns and lockdowns since August last year have pushed the already ailing businesses to the wall," he said.

Abdullah said it is the stupendous challenge of fast-tracking all-round development which has been at

The private sector in J-K particularly has suffered major reverses on one account or the other since the 5th of August, 2019... The sector used to provide jobs to scores of well-qualified and skilled youth. Regrettably, successive clampdowns and lockdowns since August last year have pushed the already ailing businesses to the wall
FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC CHIEF

the receiving end in Jammu and Kashmir since the 'unilateral, unconstitutional and undemocratic' abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. "A catch-up to the pre-crisis situation is a far cry under the present situation with no active fiscal support coming from the government," he said.

The pervasive unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is a direct consequence of the measures undertaken by the government of India last year, he alleged.

Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir provides numerous opportunities in agriculture, handicrafts, food processing, and other untapped resources in the services and hospitality sectors.

Fostering entrepreneurship activities, however, requires a conducive atmosphere for businesses to thrive. Budding entrepreneurs continue to suffer due to the lack of support from government and financial institutions, he said.

Tejashwi, Tej Pratap booked in Dalit leader's murder case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Purnia (Bihar), Oct 5: A political storm has erupted ahead of the Bihar elections after an FIR was registered in the Khajanchi Haat police station in Purnia against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav and his brother Tej Pratap Yadav. The duo has been named in an alleged case of murder of Shakti Mallik, a Dalit leader and former state unit secretary of the RJDs SC/ST cell.

A police official said Monday that Mallik was shot dead by some unidentified assailants at his residence in Purnia Sunday.

Based on the written statement of the deceased's wife Khushboo Devi, an FIR was lodged at the Khajanchi Haat police station which allegedly names RJD leader and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Assembly Tejashwi Yadav and his brother and former Health Minister Tej Pratap Yadav. The other accused named in the FIR include Kalo Paswan, Anil Kumar Sadhu, Suniti Devi and Manoj Paswan.

A video of the deceased Dalit leader shot a month ago has gone viral on the social media in which he speaks about the possibility of getting killed. The video says that if Mallik is killed, Tejashwi Yadav and Anil Sadhu should be held re-



A POLITICAL STORM HAS ERUPTED AHEAD OF THE BIHAR ELECTIONS WITH THE RJD REFUTING ALL THE ALLEGATIONS AND CALLING THE FIR A 'POLITICAL CONSPIRACY'

sponsible for his death.

Purnia SP Vishal Sharma said an FIR has been lodged in the Khajanchi Haat police station and the police are investigating the case. "Prima facie it appears

to be a case of murder. The family members of the deceased have alleged that Mallik was preparing to contest the Bihar elections which is perhaps the reason behind his murder," the Purnia SP added.

JD-U spokesperson Rajeev Ranjan said that after Tejashwi Yadav figured in the murder case, his real face has been exposed. However, he added, it was the job of the police to investigate the matter and unearth the truth. BJP's Ajit Chaudhary said when the RJD was ruling Bihar, the murder of Dalits and the underprivileged sections of society was commonplace. Even today the modus operandi of the RJD has not changed, he added.

However, the RJD has refuted all the allegations, calling it a 'political conspiracy'

Kashmiris take to e-platform to revive Sharda script

Dating back to the eighth century, the script is a writing system based on the Brahmic family of scripts and was well flourished even in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab in the 13th century AD; Sharda texts have been widely found in Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 5: A few years ago, some professionals from diverse fields came together on an e-platform to revive, learn and teach the most ancient and near-extinct 'Sharda' script of Kashmir; a cursive script formerly used for writing Sanskrit and Kashmiri languages, thereby paving the way for the creation of a corps of 3,000 learned script writers.

Under the banner of the 'Core Sharda Team' (CST), these young Kashmiri professionals, mostly based in Pune, took "a small step and a big leap of faith" when they started their journey of the revival of the Sharda script, which is incidentally the mother script of a lot of north Indian scripts and which has long been forgotten, through a WhatsApp group initiative.

"A small step and a big leap of faith is what the Core Sharda Team had taken when it started its journey of the revival of the Sharda script. All it had was faith and some basic knowledge of the script as there were not many teachers or any teaching material," CST member Nidhi Bhat told PTI.

She said the script is the key to understand the glorious past of the land of sages and mystics like Acharya Abhinavagupta and Saint Lalleshwari and a lot of missing links of this history were hidden in manuscripts lying in museums, libraries and in the custody of individuals, which were waiting to be read. "The CST is a bunch of enthusiastic people who have taken upon a mammoth task of the revival of the Sharda script, the forgotten script of the valley of Vitasta. It is important to bring to light the team's efforts to revive the script," Bhat said.

The team started with small WhatsApp groups to teach the script, picking one letter at a time, and it now organises live webinars with 500-700 participants, she said, adding that it has come a long way but a lot still has to be done.

"We have got an enthusiastic response from both Kashmiris and non-Kashmiris. Currently, the team is working at many levels and has diversified its approach towards its goal," Bhat said. The team has introduced the 'Sharda Lipi' to 3,000 students so far through the core Sharda platform and an equal number of students through personal classes held



Sharda texts have been widely found in Afghanistan. One was engraved on a marble statue of the Indian elephant god, Ganesha, that was found near Gardez...The Sharda inscriptions all seem to date to the eighth century CE
AK BHAT | ACADEMICIAN

by its graduates, she added. "As many as 400 students are part of the core team now who have gained expertise as Sharda teachers. The team conducts a regular webinar to teach the script to 700 Sanskrit scholars, most of whom are part of the team and working on the transcription of important manuscripts," Bhat said.

The team runs six WhatsApp groups, which work on the transcription of the manuscripts on a daily basis. The team provides free

resources and training materials to all the aspirants who are willing to learn the 'Sharda Lipi'. Bhat said over 120 Sanskrit and manuscript scholars are part of the team today and online training materials in the form of YouTube videos are regularly published.

"The efforts of the team bore fruit when the Sharda Lipi was used to write a Kashmiri couplet

written by Professor D N Koul Nadim, which was published in the Union Budget 2020," she added.

On the technological front, the team has been able to create the Sharda keyboard, which is available on both Android and iOS 14 platforms. It has also developed an Android mobile application to facilitate Sharda learning.

"It has been noted by Hieum Tsang during his visit in the seventh century AD that Sanskrit is spoken very fluently even by the women and children of Kashmir like their native language. People used Sharda as the main script to write Sanskrit," academician AK Bhat said. Historian and academician Lalit Gupta said Sharda, in turn, grew into several variants in a few centuries.

"By the 10th century, the first variant, the Landa script, had appeared in Punjab and would eventually be transformed into the Gurmukhi script. By the 14th century, other variants such as Takri and Kashmiri also appeared in the Jammu and Kashmir regions respectively. In fact, Takri descended from Sharda through an intermediate form known as Devashesha, which emerged in the 14th century," he said.

of the day quote

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is holding discussions with various religious organisations and he will soon take a decision on reopening places of worship in the state

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP

The government will come up with a plan to improve and expand zoos in the country through public-private partnership

Prakash Javadekar | Union Environment Minister

Haryana government has no problem if Rahul Gandhi enters the state with a few people for his tractor rallies on Tuesday and Wednesday, but he will not be allowed to bring a big crowd to disturb the atmosphere

Anil Vii | Haryana Cabinet Minister

SHORT TAKES

Man arrested

Kolkata: A 20-year-old man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping and marrying a teenage girl from Kolkata, police said Monday. The man was arrested from his house in Gholia in North 24 Parganas district based on a complaint filed by the girl's family, who lives in the Garfa area, they said. The girl has also been rescued in the raid conducted Sunday, police said.

3 women killed

Jamtara: Three women were killed and three to five others trapped as a mound caved in while they were mining white soil in Jharkhand's Jamtara district Monday, officials said. The incident happened in the Mirgapahadi area in Naraipur block of the district, Deputy Commissioner Faiz Aq Ahmed Mumtaz said. Some women from the nearby villages were mining white soil for painting their houses during which a mound caved in, burying them, he said.

Builder shot dead

Pune: A 64-year-old builder was killed here in Maharashtra Monday by an unidentified person who shot him outside a bank, police said, adding that two people have been detained in connection with the attack. The builder, identified as Rajesh Kanabar, succumbed to his injuries in hospital in the afternoon, a Bundgarden police station officer said. Police suspect a property dispute to be the cause behind the fatal attack on the builder.

FIR lodged

Indore: A 27-year-old woman from Indore in Madhya Pradesh has lodged an FIR against her husband for giving her triple talaq, a practice now banned under law, police said Monday. The couple got married February 7, 2016. However, the woman left her husband's house in the state's Dewas district after the wedding due to alleged dowry harassment. The couple's ailing son also died during treatment some days back, Sadar Bazar police station in-charge Ajay Verma said.

Body found

Mumbai: The body of a 32-year-old woman who fell into an open drain a couple of days ago in Ghatkopar in the metropolis was found floating in the Arabian Sea off the Haji Ali Dargah coast, over 20 kilometres away, early Monday morning, police said.

CBI RECOVERS ₹57L AFTER RAIDS



People gather outside the residence of KPCC president DK Shivakumar as CBI raids the premises of Shivakumar and his brother MP DK Suresh in Bangalore, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bangalore, Oct 5: The CBI has registered a case against Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets worth Rs 74.93 crore and carried out searches at 14 locations Monday during which the agency claimed to have recovered Rs 57 lakh cash, officials said.

The case was registered after a seven-month-long preliminary enquiry looking into disproportionate assets of Shivakumar amassed in his and his family members' name during his tenure as a minister in the Karnataka government, the CBI alleged.

This is the first case by the CBI against Shivakumar, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President and an MLA, who was earlier arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a case of alleged money laundering, they said.

The Congress hit out at the BJP-led central government, accusing it of "witch-hunt", and linked the CBI action to the November 3 by-election in two assembly seats in Karnataka.

The BJP rejected the charges and said Shivakumar should answer the agencies on the source of his assets.

After registering the case under IPC Sections related to criminal conspiracy and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, the CBI teams searched at 14 locations spread across Karnataka, Maharashtra and Delhi.

Nine locations in Karnataka, four in Delhi and one in Mumbai were searched by the CBI which also included the residence of Shivakumar at Safdarjung Enclave and that of his brother DK Suresh, a Member of Parliament, in Kaveri Apartments in the national capital and their residences in Bangalore, they said.

"Searches were conducted today at 14 locations including Karnataka, Delhi, Mumbai at the premises of said MLA (Shivakumar) and others which led to the recovery of cash of Rs 57 lakh (approx) and several incriminating documents including property documents, bank related information, computer hard disk, etc. Investigation is continuing," CBI spokesperson RK Gaur said in a statement.

CID to probe BJP leader's murder

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Oct 5: Amidst angry protests by West Bengal BJP activists, investigation into the Manish Shukla murder case was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Monday, police sources said.

A team of CID officials visited the site where Shukla was shot dead by motorcycle-borne assailants Sunday night on BT Road, barely a few metres from the area police station. Police said Shukla was shot multiple times in the back and upper torso.

Meanwhile, the BJP workers Monday set up road blockades in various parts of West Bengal's North 24-Parganas district as part of a dawn-to-dusk shutdown in Barrackpore to protest against the murder of their party leader.

Irate party activists also burnt tyres to block major road stretches such as Barrackpore-Barasat Road and Kalyani Expressway, virtually bringing traffic to a complete standstill.

A team of senior BJP leaders led by party's newly-appointed National Vice-President Mukul Roy and National General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya went to Titagarh to meet the bereaved family.

"It is extremely shameful that



Situation alarming, says Bengal Governor

Kolkata: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar Monday expressed his concern over the "alarming situation" in the state after a BJP leader was shot dead in North 24 Parganas district, and said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should take note of critical aspects that "run down the democratic governance and lawlessness". He said political violence and targeted killings should be stopped. Earlier in the day, Dhankhar slammed the state administration after the home secretary and the DGP failed to turn up, disregarding his summons over the killing of BJP leader Manish Shukla.

the ruling Trinamool Congress has now started such politics of violence. We demand a CBI inquiry into the matter," Vijayvargiya said.

BJP MP from Barrackpore Arjun Singh said that sophisticated weapons were used in

Two troopers killed in terror attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 5: Two motorcycle-borne Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants opened indiscriminate fire on a security forces party in Nowgam area of the city here Monday, killing two CRPF personnel and injuring three others, police said.

The injured include an assistant sub-inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said. Militants fired upon a security forces party near Kandizal Bridge in Nowgam, Srinagar Monday afternoon, a police official said. He said five CRPF personnel, including an ASI, were injured in the firing.

The injured personnel were taken to the Army's 92 base hospital, where the doctors declared two of them - Constables Shalinder Pratap Singh and Devendra Kumar Tripathi - brought dead, the official said.

He said the other three personnel -- ASI Gorakh Nath, Constable Kirgain and Constable James - are undergoing treatment and their condition is stated to be stable. The mil-



Militants fired upon a security forces party near Kandizal Bridge in Nowgam, Srinagar Monday afternoon, a police official said

itants fled the spot after the attack. Soon after the incident, the area was cordoned off and a manhunt was launched to nab the attackers. Senior officials also rushed to the spot.

Speaking to reporters, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the attack was carried out by two LeT militants who have been identified.

"Two militants from Lashkar-e-

Toiba came on a motorbike and fired indiscriminately on the CRPF Road Opening Party using AK-47. The forces retaliated and there was heavy cross-firing. The militants were

successful in escaping, but we have identified them and will soon neutralise them," the IGP said.

He said one of the militants has



been identified as Saifullah, a Pakistani militant, and the other is a local. "Saifullah was involved in an attack on CRPF in Chadoora in which an ASI was martyred. He was also involved in firing in Nowgam. This is his third attack and we will neutralise him soon," Kumar said.

He said that militants find it easy to target security forces on the highway. "The national highway is a target and a vulnerable place but because many civilian vehicles pass every day, our forces face difficulty in retaliating. If we retaliate and fire indiscriminately too, there will be civilian casualties. So we have to take preventive measures," the IGP said.

Kumar said the militants were using guerrilla warfare tactics to attack the security forces. "Militants do not announce that they are coming for an attack, they come by concealing their weapons, come close and then fire. They attack like guerrilla warfare, but we have a solution to this and we will soon neutralise them in an encounter," he said.

Rape victim's nephew goes missing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur, Oct 5: Three police personnel deployed in the security of family members of Unnao rape victim, who died after being set ablaze by upper caste men last year, have been suspended after her six-year-old nephew went missing.

Inspector general (Lucknow range) Lakshmi Singh, who went to investigate the matter Saturday, has ordered the suspension of gunner Narendra Kumar Yadav, Constable Rajesh Kumar and lady Constable Anju.

On the basis of the family's complaint about the incident that occurred late Friday, the police have registered a case against five people. Investigations and search operations were underway to locate the child.

Those named in the complaint are Captain Bajpai, Saroj Trivedi, Anita, Sundara Lodh and Harshit Bajpai. All belong to the same village and are related to the accused in the rape victim's case, namely Shubham and Shivam Trivedi, Hari Shankar, Umesh and Ram Kishore.

Ex-Union minister dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saharanpur, Oct 5: Former Union minister and five-time Lok Sabha MP Rasheed Masood died Monday at a Roorkee hospital where he had been admitted for the management of post-COVID complications, his nephew said. He was 73.

Masood's nephew Imran Masood said that his uncle Rasheed Masood had tested positive for the coronavirus infection some time back and had undergone treatment at a Delhi hospital.

He had even recovered from the infection there a few days ago and he was admitted to a nursing home in Roorkee where he died Monday morning, said Imran.

Born on August 15, 1947, Masood was a B.Sc and an LLM-degree holder from the Aligarh Muslim University. Masood was the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare with independent charge in the National Front government led by V P Singh.

Topper Chirag Falor will head to MIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Pune, Oct 5: Pune boy Chirag Falor, who has topped this year's JEE Advanced, will skip studying at any IITs in the country as he has already secured admission in the United States' Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Falor, who bagged the top rank in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Advanced, had also scored 100 percentile in the JEE-Mains. He secured admission in MIT in March but was pursuing studies online from here due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdown.

Falor said he had prepared for the JEE for four years as it is just one exam but with a vast syllabus, while MIT evaluates a candidate on personality and potential and checks how much one can leverage from opportunities. "I have secured admission in MIT and I will go ahead with it. The classes have already begun and I am attending them online. I had prepared for four years for these exams so I didn't want to skip appearing for the exam," Falor said from Pune.

Falor has scored 352 out of 396 mark in the JEE Advanced. "The JEE was tougher than

the exam at MIT. The exam has given me a different confidence altogether," he said. "I used to attend MIT classes online during the night and then prepare for IIT exams in the day," he added.

Falor, who studied in Pragati Public School in Delhi and in St Arnold Central School here till Class 10, said he had planned to go back to the US in January next year. The JEE Advanced results were announced by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi Monday.

Falor had received a gold medal at the 13th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) held in Hungary in 2019. He also bagged the first rank at American Mathematics 2019. He won accolades at Homi Bhabha Balvaidnyanik competition. He was also awarded the Bal Shakti Puraskar 2020 by President Ram Nath Kovind and was praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the time.

JEE Advanced was conducted September 27 amid strict precautions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, 1.6 lakh students had registered for the exam and 1.5 lakh appeared for it. Over 43,000 candidates, including 6,707 girls, have cleared the exam.

ISRO set for rocket launches with Virtual Launch Control Centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 5: Trying to make up for lost time due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian space agency is gearing up for three quick rocket launches carrying domestic and foreign satellites, said a senior official.

The Indian space agency has also developed a Virtual Launch Control Centre to test the rocket systems at the rocket port in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh remotely from the Thiruvananthapuram-based Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), part of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), he added.

"With Covid-19 pandemic prevailing, the Indian space agency in

order to reduce the number of people travelling to Sriharikota, has developed a Virtual Launch Control Centre at VSSC. As a result, the testing of various rocket systems is being done at VSSC," S. Somanath, Director, VSSC, said.

The physical launch control centre is located in the building that houses the Mission Control Centre in Sriharikota and the systems there have been replicated at VSSC in the form of a virtual launch control centre.

"Three rockets are getting ready for launch at the rocket port in Sriharikota viz Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C49 (PSLV C49), PSLV C50 and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).



The first rocket to fly will be the PSLV C49 sometime next month

with about 10 satellites. It will be carrying India's RISAT-2BR2 and other

commercial satellites lifting off from the first launch pad," Somanath said. The next one to fly will be PSLV C50 with the GSAT-12R satellite. The rocket is being assembled at Sriharikota with various systems coming from different centres. It will fly from the second launch pad, he added.

"We are targeting PSLV C50 sometime in December. It needs about 30 days to get ready for another launch after one launch," he said. Presently four Indian satellites are ready for launch viz GISAT, Microsat-2A, GSAT-12R and, RISAT-2BR2.

The launch of the GISAT-1 satellite slated for March 5, 2020 was postponed due to technical reasons a day before the launch. "The GISAT-

1 satellite will be carried by a GSLV rocket. The GSLV rocket was dismantled after the launch was called off. The rocket is being refurbished. The rocket's cryogenic engine has been brought down and it is being readied again," Somanath said.

According to him, the GSLV carrying GISAT-1 is expected to fly after PSLV C50. When queried about other countries launching satellites even during the Covid-19 pandemic period, Somanath said they could be having the entire manufacturing set up under one roof or at nearby places. In the case of India, the ISRO centres making different components for the rocket and made at different centres and logistics was an issue during the Covid-19 period.



Modi is not strengthening the system. If Modi gives better PDS and guarantees MSP and gives more mandis, then Ambani and Adani cannot make money
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

DELHI'S AIR BEGINS TO WORSEN

Delhi's overall air quality has been in moderate category, but is set to deteriorate further in the coming days, thanks to stubble burning, SAFAR warned Monday



of the day quote

In the Hathras case, the Uttar Pradesh CM has assured me of stringent action. Post my conversation (with Adityanath) I saw that he has referred the case to the CBI



SMRITI IRANI | UNION WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

People can still opt for Covid care centres. Unless the pandemic dies down, we will not shut down any centre



PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

The agriculture reform bills of the Modi government are the guarantee of happiness and prosperity of crores of farmers of the country



MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

3 held for betting on IPL match

Chandigarh: Haryana Police Monday said it has arrested three people in Rewari on charges of betting on an Indian Premier League (IPL) match between Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders. A police spokesperson said acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted at a flat in Manchanda Society, where three people were found betting on the IPL match.

FIR against over 500 Cong workers

Noida (UP): The Gautam Buddh Nagar Police has filed an FIR against over 500 Congress workers, charging them with unlawful assembly two days ago at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in Noida amid the COVID-19 outbreak, officials said Monday. The FIR has been registered against Congress' Gautam Buddh Nagar unit president Manoj Chaudhary, Noida unit chief Shahabuddin and 500 unnamed party workers, the police officials said.

Man stabbed to death in Delhi

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man was stabbed to death in the national capital and another left wounded by robbers as the duo caught hold of a man who attempted to run after snatching a mobile. The victim Aman, and his friends were out Sunday night when during a snatching bid a robber was caught red-handed. Aman had managed to pin him down as he snatched his mobile and tried to flee on G.B. road.

15-yr-old girl raped

Gurugram: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour at Sector-45 in Gurugram, the police said Monday. The family of the girl alleged that the accused - 24-year-old Bablu Sheikh - forcibly took the girl to his room when she had gone outside to relieve herself the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Farmer ends life

Durg: A 34-year-old farmer, who was apparently distressed over damage caused to his crops due to some unknown disease, allegedly committed suicide in Chhattisgarh's Durg district, police said Monday. State Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu has asked officials concerned to ascertain the kind of new disease affecting crops and chalk out a solution to deal with it.

China can't get better of us: IAF chief



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 5: IAF chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria Monday said Chinese air power can't get the better of the capabilities of his force in any conflict scenario in eastern Ladakh, asserting India is "very well positioned" to meet any threat from China.

Stressing that the country's sovereignty and interests will be fiercely protected under all circumstances, Bhadauria also said the Indian Air Force (IAF) is fully prepared to deal with any two-front war.

He said the IAF has made "very strong" deployments in all relevant areas in view of the five-month-long border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, and it is in a firm position to handle any contingency along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The Chief of Air Staff, addressing a press conference here on the eve of the Air Force Day, said China has its areas of strength and the IAF has evolved plans and strategies to deal with all scenarios. "Of course we are," he said replying to a question on whether the IAF was fully ready to deal with any challenge from China. "There is no question of not taking on the threat there (eastern Ladakh). We are very well positioned and there is no question that in any conflict scenario there, China can

'China digging in for winter in Ladakh'

India sees China digging in for the winter along the disputed border in eastern Ladakh, the Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said Monday. The Air Force chief said that the next three months will depend on how talks between Indian and China progress. "Current progress is slow, what we see is [an] effort to dig in for the winter. We are taking action accordingly. Our further action will depend on the ground realities," Bhadauria said.

get the better of us," Bhadauria said.

He said "swift and rapid" deployments were made along the LAC in view of the ground situation, adding Ladakh was one of the areas where IAF's assets were stationed.

"It is not only Ladakh. Ladakh is a small area. We have some airfields there where we have deployed our assets. That is a very small part of our deployment. We have deployed across all relevant operational locations that are required to access this area (Ladakh)," he added. "Details cannot be divulged. But be rest assured that we have deployed strongly and are firmly in a position to handle any contingency." Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria on Monday did not rule out procurement of more Rafale jets, and said the induction of the French-made multi-role aircraft has given the Indian Air Force an operational edge to strike "deep and hard".

WOMAN TRAVELS OVER 800 KM TO FILE RAPE CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Oct 5: A 22-year-old Nepalese woman travelled all the way from Lucknow to file a rape case here in Maharashtra against a man, police said Monday.

Since the man warned her against approaching police in connection with the alleged offence that took place in the Uttar Pradesh capital, the woman fled from there and somehow managed to reach Nagpur, located over 800 km from Lucknow.

She came to a friend here who helped her in lodging a zero FIR, they said. A zero First information Report (FIR) can be filed in any police station and it can be later transferred to the appropriate police station having competent jurisdiction. As per the woman's complaint, she came to India from Nepal in 2018 for a job. Since March this year, she was staying with a woman friend in the latter's rented flat on Faizabad Road in Lucknow, senior police inspector Wazeer

Sheikh, from Nagpur's Koradi police station, told PTI.

The friend introduced the victim to the accused, Pravin Rajpal Yadav, a Lucknow native who worked as software engineer in Dubai, on a video call.

After a couple of days, the accused also came to Lucknow from

Dubai. He met the victim at the hotel, where he allegedly drugged her and raped her, the official said.

The accused also shot some objectionable photographs and videos of the victim. He also took her to a friend's place in Lucknow where he allegedly again gave her drugs and raped her, the official said.



BACK ON TRACK



Visitors at a food court in a mall as the authorities have allowed restaurants to have dine-in facility as a part of Unlock 5.0 in Thane

PTI PHOTO

19 FIRs filed in Hathras case

AGENCIES

Hathras/Lucknow, Oct 5: Nineteen FIRs have been filed by the Uttar Pradesh police in the aftermath of the alleged gang rape and torture in Hathras of a young woman who died last week.

The police have lodged an FIR against "unknown" persons and invoked the sedition charge against them for attempting to trigger a caste conflict and tarnish the UP government's image.

The FIR lodged at Chandpa police station Sunday mentioned 19 IPC sections, including 124A (sedition), 505 (intending to cause public alarm and inducing someone to commit offence against state or public tranquillity), 153A (promoting enmity between groups). ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said six cases have been filed in Hathras district and the rest 13 in Bijnor,

Ink thrown at AAP MP

Ink was thrown at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh in Hathras Monday, when he was returning after meeting the family of the girl. Singh was speaking to reporters when a man threw ink on his white kurta and shouted "PFI dalal wapas jao".

Saharanpur, Bulandshahr, Allahabad, Ayodhya and Lucknow. The development comes amid an undying controversy over the alleged gang rape of the woman and consequent protests and visits to her village by political leaders and activists. The FIR filed at Chandpa police station has also invoked section 67 (transmitting obscene material in electronic form) of the IT Act, according to the FIR. According to the FIR, lodged on a complaint by a local policeman,

some anti-social elements wanted to leverage the situation to as part of a well-thought "criminal conspiracy" to provoke a "specific community" and a "specific caste" in order to disrupt law and order and "dent the image of a legally established government in the state."

"The accused also tried to lure the victim's family with an offer of Rs 50 lakh and tried to manipulate them into speaking against the government by changing their previous testimony," the FIR stated.

It also alleged that an unidentified journalist had tried to pressure a family member into convincing the victim's father and mother "to give a bye (statement to TV media) saying they are not satisfied with the probe done by the administration and the state government while the victim's father had earlier publicly said that he was satisfied with the probe."

SSR DEATH CASE

Now, doubts over CBI probe and AIIMS report too, says Raut

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 5: Reiterating the conspiracy theory to defame Maharashtra in the Sushant Singh Rajput probe, Shiv Sena Spokesperson Sanjay Raut on Monday said it was strange that even the CBI probe and the AIIMS forensic report were now questioned.

"This is something very surprising. Earlier, they (Sushant's family and supporters) did not have faith in the Mumbai Police investigations and the autopsy report given by Dr RN Cooper Hospital," Raut said here.

He pointed out that the AIIMS report -- which said that the Bollywood actor died by suicide -- is as per the investigations by its forensic medical board led by Dr Sudhir Gupta. The report concluded that Sushant was not murdered, which was in tune with what the Mumbai Police probe maintained, Raut said. "Now, the

CBI probe is being doubted and the AIIMS report is being questioned," said the Sena leader who had earlier sarcastically commented that the matter could be probed by even some international agency like KGB or Mossad.

Earlier, Sushant family's lawyer Vikas Singh expressed concerns over the AIIMS report. "Highly perturbed with the AIIMS report. Going to request the CBI Director to constitute a fresh forensic team. How could AIIMS team give a conclusive report in the absence of the body, that too on such shoddy post-mortem done by Cooper Hospital wherein time of death also not mentioned?" Singh tweeted.

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in the state continues to embarrass the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi government, claiming that the Mumbai Police was allegedly told to ignore the drugs angle probe in the Sushant case.



Cheetahs to make a comeback in India

CHEETAHS ARE ENDANGERED SPECIES, ACCORDING TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES)

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 5: If sources are to be believed, cheetahs shall be coming to India soon. They will be air-lifted either from South Africa or from Namibia.

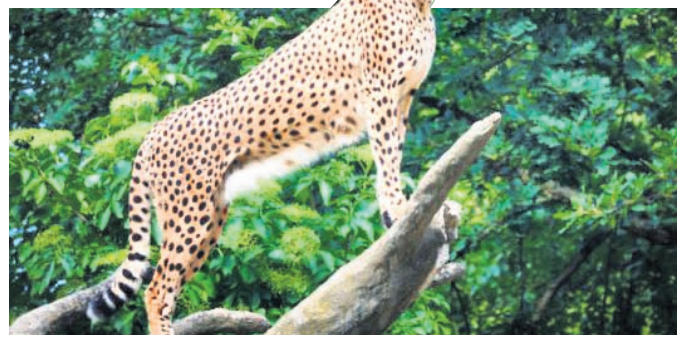
This fastest running predator which became extinct in the country during the 1950s, are set to be re-located and may be put up either in Madhya Pradesh or in Rajasthan. Bihar too have showed interest to host the Cheetahs, officials informed.

A video conferencing among officials and Ranjitsinh, a prince from Wankaner in Saurashtra, and a 1961 IAS batch officer, was held September 30, 2020 to chart out a plan.

Ranjitsinh has been raising his voice for cheetah's re-entry in the

country since last many years, environmentalist Harsh Vardhan told IANS adding that he was nominated as the chairman of a three-member committee formed by the Supreme Court. Y.V. Jhala, Dean at the Wildlife Institute of India

(WII), has also been nominated to head the Cheetah-team for inspecting habitats where the predator can be rehabilitated, said Harsh adding that the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is appointed as



the new Cheetah-Office in India via the Supreme Court Order.

A sum of Rs 2.5 crore has been sanctioned to WII by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to facilitate this wild cat's entry into India.

The Asiatic Cheetah survives in Iran only and as this country is disinterested to part with it to any country, the only option left is the African Cheetah and South Africa and Namibia are apparently willing to export to India, he informed.

Lauri Marker, founder-head of Cheetah Conservation Foundation in Namibia, visited India last February and discussed diverse aspects of the project with some key players.

Many questions, however, are left unanswered including if the

forest officials have re-examined the impact of this fastest running animal in Indian conditions

This animal basically needs open and scrub habitat promising a grass cover and abundant feed. However, India lacks such large tracts of habitats which does exist in its African homes. Hence, the feed quotient raises yet another question which is "Will village population face the brunt in the suggested areas," questions Harsh.

"What will the villagers feel when the predator will pick up their sheep, goat, poultry, etc?" Harsh asks. Have the Indian foresters chalked out any plan in this perspective. Presently, there is tigers vs the villagers. Now will Cheetah add to worries or solve them, he asks.

'Secret extradition proceedings on to bring Mallya'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: The Centre Monday told the Supreme Court that "secret" extradition process was going on to bring fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya to the country but it was not aware about its status.

The Centre also told the top court that it was not a party to the proceedings. A bench of Justices U U Lalit and Ashok Bhushan asked Mallya's lawyer to inform the court what kind of "secret" proceedings are going on to extradite him.

Advocate Ankur Saigal, appearing for Mallya, told the apex court that he was not aware what kind of proceedings are going on. He said, "I have knowledge that my request against extradition has been rejected".

The bench also directed Mallya's lawyers to apprise it by November 2 when can the fugitive businessman appear before the court and when the "secret" proceedings are going to end.

Advocate Rajat Nair, appearing for the Centre, told the court that extradition request has been made as per the direction of the court. "Some secret extradition proceedings are going on to which we are not a party. "Extradition proceedings have been upheld by the highest court of UK but it has not been happening as of now," he said.

The apex court had earlier directed Mallya to appear before it on October 5 while dismissing his plea seeking review of the 2017 verdict which held him guilty of contempt for transferring USD 40 million to his children in violations of court orders. Mallya, an accused in bank loan default case of over Rs 9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines, is in the United Kingdom.

INDIA FUNDS RESTORATION OF PAGODAS IN MYANMAR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: The Indian government is working on the restoration and conservation of pagodas in Myanmar that suffered damages due to a severe earthquake four years ago, officials said.

The project, fully funded by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), had commenced in January 2020, but had to be suspended after the coronavirus pandemic hit the world earlier this year. After a brief disruption due to the pandemic followed by suspension of work owing to extreme weather conditions, the Indian government has restarted the restoration and conservation of pagodas in Myanmar, officials said.

Located in the ancient city of Bagan, which is a UNESCO World Heritage City, the Archeological Survey of India has taken up the renovation of 12 pagodas in the first phase.

Pagodas in Myanmar typically house Buddhist relics, including relics associated with Buddha. Dozens of ancient structures dotting the plains of Bagan had suffered damages when a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar in August 2016.

There are more than 2,200 pagodas, temples, monasteries and other historical structures built between 11th and 13th centuries in the spectacular plains of Bagan.

According to officials, during the India visit of Myanmar President Htin Kyaw, Myanmar had agreed to offer technical and financial help for the conservation and restoration of the damaged structures and paintings at the site.

of the day quote

Australia's federal budget, scheduled to be unveiled Tuesday, was aimed at keeping more citizens employed amid the coronavirus-induced recession

JOSH FRYDENBERG | AUSTRALIAN TREASURER

The best thing we can do now for all those who have suffered in the course of this pandemic is bring it to an end in the speediest possible way

BORIS JOHNSON | UK PRIME MINISTER

Compared to some other states, Allah has been kind to us in Pakistan and spared us worst effects of Covid-19. There is a fear onset of winter could result in second wave

IMRAN KHAN | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Suicide car bomb kills 8 in Afghan

Kabul: A suicide car bomber targeted the convoy of a provincial governor in eastern Afghanistan Monday, killing at least eight people, including four civilians, government officials said. The governor, Rahmatullah Yarmal, was unharmed in the attack in Laghman province, according to his spokesman, Asadullah Dawlatzai. Four of Yarmal's bodyguards were killed, the spokesman said, adding that about 38 people — both military and civilians — were wounded in the attack, which took place in Mitherland, the provincial capital. Dawlatzai said 36 civilians were among the wounded, including children, as well as two other bodyguards of the governor.

Banned JMB member arrested

Dhaka: The Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) has arrested a member of the banned Neo-Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) militant outfit in Gazipur district. The 25-year-old Abdullah Al Noman Khan "was arrested Sunday at around 4.35 a.m. in a raid at the greatwall Bazar Bridge area under Gazipur police station", Aslam Khan, Police Super of Media and Awareness of the ATU, said. According to Aslam Khan, Noman was an accomplice and planner in the bomb attack on a traffic police box in Chittagong February 26.

Punitive action against NYPD cops

New York: New York Police Department (NYPD) officers will face disciplinary action if they do not wear a face mask while on duty, it was reported. In an email sent out by the force, NYPD officers were reminded "that they are required to wear face coverings at all times when performing duties in public areas, department facilities and whenever social distancing is not possible", ABC7 New York said in a news report Sunday.

Ola banned from London roads

London: Indian ride-hailing company Ola has been refused a licence to continue operating in London over "passenger safety" failings by the British capital's transport authority, a decision the company said would appeal. The Bangalore-headquartered company, which had launched its services in London in February, has 21 days to appeal against the decision of Transport for London (TfL).



A resurgence of the virus is not our only worry; resurgence of complacency is right up there too

JACINDA ARDERN | NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER

BEIRUT EXPLOSION 'MOST POWERFUL' NON-NUCLEAR BLASTS IN HISTORY

The explosion that happened in August in the Port of Beirut was one of the most powerful non-nuclear blasts in history, according to a new assessment of the disaster in the Lebanese capital by researchers



Heavy fighting continues over Nagorno-Karabakh

AGENCIES

Baku, Oct 5: Azerbaijan's second-largest city, Ganja, has been shelled by Armenian forces, as heavy clashes continue over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. The enclave is officially part of Azerbaijan but run by ethnic Armenians.

The self-proclaimed authorities there said they hit Ganja's military airport after Azerbaijani forces shelled the region's capital, Stepanakert, the BBC reported. Azerbaijan said no Ganja military sites were hit. More than 220 people have died since clashes began a week ago.

Armenia and Azerbaijan went to war over Nagorno-Karabakh in 1988-94, eventually declaring a ceasefire. However, they have never reached a settlement over the dispute.

The current fighting is the worst seen since the ceasefire and the two former Soviet republics have been blaming each other.

There are fears that the actual death toll among the militaries from all sides as well as civilians could be much higher, as casualty claims have not been independently verified.

Global Covid-19 cases cross 35 million-mark



AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 5: The overall number of global coronavirus cases has crossed the 35 million mark, while the deaths have increased to more than 1,036,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Monday, the total number of cases stood at 35,075,423 and the fatalities rose to 1,036,095, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 7,420,779 and 209,821, respectively, according to the CSSE.

India comes in second place in terms of cases at 6,549,373, while the country's death toll soared to 101,782.

The other top 15 countries with the maximum amount of cases are Brazil (4,915,289), Russia (1,209,039), Colombia (855,052), Peru (821,564), Argentina (798,486), Spain (789,932), Mexico (761,665), South Africa (681,289), France (629,509), the UK (505,619), Iran (471,772), Chile (470,179), Iraq (379,141), Bangladesh (368,690), and Saudi Arabia (336,387), the CSSE figures showed.

Brazil currently accounts for the second highest number of fatalities at 146,352.

The countries with a death toll above 10,000 are Mexico (101,782), the UK (42,440), Italy (35,986), Peru (32,609), France (32,171), Spain (32,086), Iran (26,957), Colombia (26,712), Russia (21,260), Argentina (21,018), South Africa (16,976), Chile (12,979), Ecuador (11,647), Indonesia (11,151) and Belgium (10,044).

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CONDITION UNCLEAR

Infected Trump leaves hosp briefly to greet supporters

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 5: Doctors treating President Donald Trump for Covid-19 sent conflicting signals about the severity of his condition Sunday, hours before the President surprised supporters gathered outside the hospital with an impromptu motorcade.

Trump, who said Friday morning he had the infectious disease, was swiftly criticized for risking the health of support staff.

It was Trump's first appearance in public since he was evacuated to the hospital Friday. "It's a very interesting journey. I learned a lot about COVID," he said in a video posted on Twitter shortly beforehand.

Democratic presidential chal-

lenger Joe Biden tested negative again for the disease that has killed more than 200,000 Americans, his campaign said Sunday. The former vice president, who shared a debate stage with Trump last Tuesday, previously tested negative in two tests Friday, the day Trump disclosed his coronavirus infection.

Doctors said the president was improving, although they were monitoring the condition of his lungs after he received supplemental oxygen. They said he could be sent back to the White House as soon as Monday.

But Dr. Sean P. Conley said the president's condition had been worse than he previously admitted. Conley said Trump's blood oxygen levels had dropped in prior days and that he had run a high



Trump wore a mask as he waved from the back seat of a black SUV

REUTERS PHOTO

fever Friday morning.

Asked what tests had revealed about the condition of Trump's lungs, Conley replied: "There's

some expected findings, but nothing of any major clinical concern." Conley's response suggested the X-rays revealed some signs of pneu-

TERROR FUNDING

FATF decision on Pak's grey list status this month

The Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 5: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is all set to decide on Pakistan's grey list status in a virtual meeting scheduled later this month, according to a media report Monday.

The Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Seeking to wriggle out of the FATF's grey list, debt-ridden Pakistan in August imposed financial sanctions on 88 banned terror groups and their leaders, including 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and underworld don Dawood



Ibrahim. The virtual FATF plenary scheduled for October 21-23 will decide if Pakistan should be excluded from its grey list, based on a review of Islamabad's performance to meet global commitments and standards on fight against money laundering and terror financing (ML&TF), the Dawn News reported. The meeting was earlier scheduled in June but Islamabad got an unexpected breather after the global watchdog against financial crimes temporarily postponed all mutual evaluations and follow-up deadlines in the wake of grave health risk following Covid-19 pandemic, it said.

The agency also put a general pause in the review process, thus giving additional four months to

Pakistan to meet the requirements.

In February, the FATF gave Pakistan, which missed 13 targets, a four-month grace period to complete its 27-point action plan against ML&TF committed with the international community.

In its third plenary held virtually in June, the FATF decided to keep Pakistan in the grey list as Islamabad failed to check flow of money to terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

With Pakistan's continuation in the "grey list", it is increasingly becoming difficult for the country to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the nation which is in a precarious financial situation.

In July, Pakistan's Senate unanimously approved two Bills related to the tough conditions set by FATF.

Former Pak President Zardari indicted in corruption cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 5: An anti-corruption court Monday charged former Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari in two graft cases, a week after he was indicted in a major money laundering case.

Zardari, 63, the co-chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and husband of the country's first woman Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was present in the Islamabad-based court and pleaded not guilty. During the hearing, the accountability court indicted 19 others accused in the Park Lane case and 15 others in the Thatta water supply case.

The court charged Zardari, his

sister Faryal Talpur in a mega money laundering case September 28. In the Park Lane case, Zardari and his son Bilawal Ali Zardari are accused of purchasing 307 acres of prime property in Islamabad at very low rates using frontmen.

In the Thatta water supply case, a private contractor was illegally awarded project contracts. In the money laundering case, it is alleged fake accounts were used by the

former president and the other accused to park and launder ill-gotten wealth. The court has rejected Zardari's plea seeking acquittal in all three cases. He was arrested last year by the National Accountability Bureau.



Vatican Swiss Guards arrive to the St. Damaso courtyard on the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony at the Vatican, Sunday. The ceremony is held to commemorate the day in 1527 when 147 Swiss Guards died protecting Pope Clement VII during the Sack of Rome

PTI PHOTO

Facing a conservative turn, Supreme Court opens new term

EIGHT JUSTICES GOT BACK TO WORK MONDAY AT A MOST UNUSUAL, POLITICALLY FRAUGHT MOMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 5: The Supreme Court opens a new term with Republicans on the cusp of realising a dream 50 years in the making, a solid conservative majority that might roll back abortion rights, expand gun rights and shrink the power of government.

Eight justices got back to work Monday at a most unusual, politically fraught moment in American history. They're still mourning the death of their colleague Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the leader of the court's liberal wing. They're working in the midst of a pandemic that has forced the court to drastically change the way it conducts business.

And the presidential election is less than a month away.

President Donald Trump's nominee for Ginsburg's seat, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, could be on the bench in time for one of the term's biggest cases, post-Election Day arguments in the latest Republican bid to strike down the Affordable Care Act, which provides more than 20 million people with health insurance.

Barrett's confirmation would cement a 6-3 conservative majority and diminish Chief Justice John Roberts' ability to moderate the court's decisions. That's because conservatives would have five votes even in cases where Roberts might side with the remaining three liberal justices.

"I would guess that on the whole we're going to see a considerable and perhaps quite rapid shift to the right," said Orin Kerr, a law professor



at the University of California, Berkeley. The term is so far short on high-profile cases, but that could change quickly because of the prospect of court involvement in lawsuits related to the election.

Trump has said he wants Barrett

in place soon so that she could be among nine justices, including his other appointees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, who weigh in on any voting cases. Four years ago, Republicans were content to leave a Supreme Court seat open through

the election, even if it meant having an eight-justice court decide any election challenges.

High-court involvement in the election could make this "the most tumultuous and divisive term since the Supreme Court decided Bush v. Gore 20 years ago and effectively determined who would become president of the United States," said Irv Gornstein, a Georgetown University law professor.

Already this year, the justices have weighed in on election issues in Wisconsin, Alabama, Rhode Island, Florida and Texas. Among the issues: ballot witness requirements and allowing all voters to vote by mail.

Pending are pleas from Republicans to reverse decisions extending the deadline for receiv-

ing and counting mail-in ballots in the battleground state of Pennsylvania and suspending a ballot witness requirement in South Carolina, where polls find a tight race between Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic challenger Jaime Harrison.

The court will begin the term the way it ended the last one, meeting by telephone because of the coronavirus pandemic and allowing the public to listen live to arguments.

The biggest change is the absence of Ginsburg, who died of cancer last month at age 87 after 27 years on the bench. When the justices met remotely in May, she already was suffering from a recurrence of pancreatic cancer that was first diagnosed in 2009.

Now that we have so much debt, it doesn't take a lot for suddenly 'Yikes' - we have to come up with X billion pounds a year to pay for higher interest



RISHI SUNAK | FINANCE MINISTER, BRITAIN

My assessment is that the macro situation has improved quite a bit, especially in the last month or so. I'm seeing a clear return of optimism and this is evident when I converse with CEOs of various organisations



AMITABH CHAUDHRY | CEO AND MD, AXIS BANK

We should not think this is a sustainable recovery. This recovery is very tactical because of pent-up demand, because of lockdown, because of some shifting from public to private transportation and maybe some very few people who just want to buy cars now because they want to have some feel good factor



RAVEEV CHABA | PRESIDENT AND MD, MG MOTOR INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Accenture names Strategy Officer

New York: Global professional services company Accenture Monday said that it has appointed Bhaskar Ghosh as its Chief Strategy Officer. Ghosh succeeds Simon Eaves who has now been appointed as the company's Managing Director of UK and Ireland effective January 1, 2021, with overall responsibility for Accenture's industries and services in those countries. Effective immediately, Ghosh will be responsible for the company's strategy and investments, including ventures and acquisitions.

'Surge driven by expectations'

Mumbai: Equity markets are being fuelled by investors' confidence in the Indian economy over a longer term and it is this buying amid easy liquidity which is leading to a perceived disconnect between the stock market and the real economy, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC's (ABSLAMC) CEO A Balasubramanian said Monday. The chief of the fourth largest asset manager said a V-shaped recovery will be possible in FY22.

Edelweiss rolls out index fund

Mumbai: Edelweiss Asset Management Monday announced a partnership with MSCI to launch the country's first passive thematic index fund which will bet on 45 healthcare companies from India and abroad. The company feels that healthcare as a category has under-performed over the last two years during which it has seen issues like difficulties in getting US FDA licenses, and will do better in the future due to which the offering has been launched through a tie-up with MSCI.

IBM to set up CoE for AI

New Delhi: IT company IBM will set up a centre of excellence for artificial intelligence (AI) in India in partnership with Government e-Marketplace, a top official of the firm said. "I am happy to announce we are creating an AI centre of excellence in partnership with GeM. Our goal is to apply the power of AI to improve usability and transparency and drive efficiency in cost saving," IBM CEO Arvind Krishna said at RAISE 2020 summit.



Overall, I believe that despite a moderation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the fundamentals of Indian economy remain strong and GDP growth is expected to rebound from the second quarter of FY 2020-21

ASHISHKUMAR CHAUHAN | MD AND CEO, BSE

'60% PLAN TO TRAVEL IN 6 MONTHS'

With gradual easing of restrictions across the country, around 60% respondents said they will plan a trip domestically within the next six months to beat the lockdown effects. Only 20% respondents said they were wary of travelling within India, with 14% saying they would not cross domestic borders without a vaccine



Google defers Indian in-app fees after irate startups complain

THE MOVE COMES AFTER MANY STARTUPS IN INDIA BANDED TOGETHER TO CONSIDER WAYS TO CHALLENGE THE COMPANY BY LODGING COMPLAINTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND COURTS

REUTERS

New Delhi/Bangalore, Oct 5: Alphabet Inc's Google has extended its deadline for Indian app developers to comply with a new billing system for commission fees by six months, it said Monday, days after local startups voiced anger about the charges. Google will now enforce its global policy more strictly and charge a 30% commission fee for in-app purchases from Indian developers from March 31, 2022, the company said, saying it was "being mindful of local needs and concerns".

The move comes after many startups in India banded together to consider ways to challenge the company by lodging complaints with the government and courts over the

original deadline for compliance of September 30 next year.

They were upset about the commission fee and also criticised several other Google Play Store policies for hurting their businesses.

"We do not succeed unless our partners succeed," Google said in a blog post, adding that it will set up "listening sessions" with leading Indian startups to understand their issues.

Last week, Google fixed the enforcement date for the new billing system at September 30, 2021 and said only 3% of apps globally were non-compliant.

The dispute started after Google briefly took down India's top digital payments app Paytm for violation of certain Play Store policies



last month, drawing sharp rebukes from the Softbank-backed Indian company's founder, Vijay Shekhar Sharma, and several other entrepreneurs.

Nearly 99% of India's half a billion smartphones run on Google's

Android mobile operating system. Some Indian startups say that allows Google to exert excessive control over the types of apps and other services they can offer, an allegation the company denies.

"A deferment (of the fees) is just

not enough," said an Indian startup executive, who did not wish to be named. "The gatekeeper of the biggest application store should be fair and transparent."

The spats have strained Google's strong ties to Indian startups. It has invested in some and helped hundreds with product development. In July, its Indian-born CEO Sundar Pichai committed \$10 billion in new investments over five to seven years.

Globally, app developers have said a 30% fee is excessive compared with the 2% fees for typical credit card payments processors. Google and rival Apple, which charges a similar fee, have said the amount covers the security and marketing benefits their app stores

provide.

On Monday, Paytm's Sharma posted a newspaper clipping of Google's decision to defer the fee, saying it "proves who is ruling us".

In recent days, dozens of Indian entrepreneurs held calls to strategise challenging Google legally and by designing a local mobile application to list apps and reduce dependence on Google.

Leading Indian newspapers carried a front-page ad from Paytm Monday announcing the launch of a "mini app store".

"Calling all developers. Let's build India's Digital Revolution, together," the ad said, adding there would be no payment charge when a Paytm wallet or a state-backed payment system is used.

INDIA INC's FOREIGN BORROWINGS DROP 47%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: India Inc's foreign borrowings fell by over 47% in August this year to \$1.75 billion, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed Monday. The domestic companies had borrowed a total of \$3.32 billion from overseas markets in August 2019, by way of external commercial borrowings (ECBs).

Of the total borrowings from overseas sources during the month under review, \$1.61 billion was raised through ECBs, while the rest \$145.74 million was raised by issuing rupee denominated bonds (RDBs) or masala bonds, showed the RBI's 'Data on ECB/FCCB for the month of August 2020'.

Splitting the data in the ECB category, it said a total of \$1.57 billion was raised by various companies through the automatic route, while the rest \$35.93 million came in through the approval route.

The major borrowers in the automatic route of ECB included Reliance Sibur Elastomers, a manufacturer of chemicals and chemical products, which raised



Of the total borrowings from overseas sources during August, \$1.61bn was raised through ECBs

BMW India Financial Services raised \$88.72mn for on-lending purpose; Birla Carbon India \$50mn for refinancing of rupee loans

\$339.42 million for refinancing of an earlier ECB.

Vijayapura Tollway raised \$160 million for infrastructure development and China Steel Corporation India Private Limited \$104.5 million for refinancing of an earlier ECB.

BMW India Financial Services raised \$88.72 million for on-lending purpose; Birla Carbon India (chemicals and products manufacturer) \$50 million for refinancing of rupee loans; and Wistron Infocomm Manufacturing (India) Private Limited (manufacturer of computer, electronic and optical products)

\$45 million for import of capital goods.

Suzlon Energy Limited was the lone borrower through the approval route (\$35.93 million).

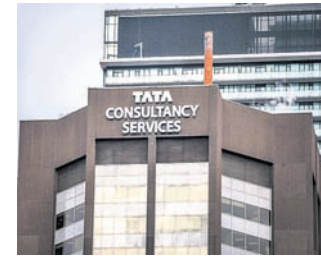
A total of eight firms issued masala bonds or RDBs, which included Ostro Mahawind Power Private Limited raising USD 78.6 million and Ostro Renewables Pvt Ltd \$20.01 million.

Heramba Renewables Limited and Shreyas Solarfarms Limited raised \$13.33 million and 13.32 million respectively, as per the data. No money was raised through masala bonds in August 2019.

TCS m-cap surpasses ₹10L cr mark; 2nd Indian firm to do so

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Monday became the second Indian firm after Reliance Industries to attain a market valuation of more than ₹10 lakh crore helped by a rally in its share price. The stock jumped over 7% ahead of its board meeting later this week to consider a share buyback proposal.



The stock rose by 7.30% to close at ₹2,706.85 on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 8% to its record high of ₹2,727. It zoomed 7.55% to settle at ₹2,713.95 on the NSE.

Following the rally in its share price, the company's market valuation jumped ₹69,082.25 crore to reach ₹10,15,714.25 crore at close of trade on the BSE.

'US TikTok, WeChat bans break WTO rules'

REUTERS

Geneva, Oct 5: China said at a World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting that restrictions by the United States on Chinese mobile applications TikTok and WeChat are in violation of the body's rules, a trade official said.

The Trump administration has ordered download blocks on the two mobile apps and ordered ByteDance, the Chinese owner of TikTok, to sell its operations to a US company, citing national security concerns. However, US judges have questioned the government's case.

A representative for China said at the closed-door meeting Friday that the measures "are clearly inconsistent with WTO rules, restrict cross-border trading services and violate the basic principles and objectives of the multilateral trading system," a trade official familiar with the matter, who did not wish to be identified, said.

The official said the delegate described the U.S. failure to provide concrete evidence of the reasons for its measures a "clear abuse" of rules.



In the same meeting, the United States defended its actions, saying they are intended to mitigate national security risks, the trade official said. The government has previously said data from American users is being accessed by the Chinese government.

The office of the US Trade Representative had no immediate comment. An official at the Chinese mission to the WTO did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Chinese statement will not have any consequences on its own although China could launch an official legal complaint about it to the Geneva body.

SBI Life unveils Financial Immunity survey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: SBI Life Insurance, one of the most trusted private life insurers in the country unveiled a comprehensive consumer survey, providing deep insights into consumer predispositions towards Financial Immunity in the post-Covid world. SBI Life commissioned the 'Understanding consumer attitude towards Financial Immunity' survey with The Nielsen Company, reaching out to over 2,400 consumers across 13 key cities covering the length and breadth of India.

The survey further attempts to better understand the cause of stress, by enquiring about the top financial worries of the consumers



today. The top three reasons for stress are attributed to (1) Financial Security against critical illness, (2) Family member(s) getting infected by any lifestyle disease or Covid-19 and (3) job/income loss.

The reasons for financial worries cited by consumers underpin the stress caused by financial management of lifestyle diseases. Alarming, over 50% Indians are not sufficiently prepared to face any financial emergencies related to lifestyle diseases.

Ravindra Kumar, President - Zone III, SBI Life said, "We believe that gaining financial immunity rests at the foundation of achieving one's full potential and we shall continuously strive to provide the right protection tools for individuals across the country".

BIZ BUZZ

TradeIndia hires 700 as rev jumps over 35%

Mumbai: Price and product discovery platform TradeIndia has hired 700 digital marketing consultants during the lockdown as it witnessed massive spike in demand that led to a 35% jump in revenue during the period. Hiring by TradeIndia, which had revenue of only ₹127 crore last fiscal - up 23% over FY19, took place even as many companies fired their employees or forced salary cuts on them following the outbreak of COVID-19. The nearly 25-year-old B2B platform already employs over 1,700 and has over 50,000 registered users and 3.1 lakh daily visitors, which grew by over 150 per cent during the lockdown. TradeIndia Chief Operating Officer Sandip Chhetri said that the portal has been getting 5,000 new registrations daily since the lockdowns. Of the total 5.5 million users, 50,000 are paid customers.

V-Guard inaugurates new school building

Bhubaneswar: V-Guard Industries Ltd Monday inaugurated a new school building at Lal Bahadur Govt. high school under the school reconstruction CSR project in partnership with World Vision India. V-Guard Industries has supported the reconstruction project of three school buildings that were destroyed by cyclone Fani in the state last year. On this occasion Sumanta Kumar Pradhan (Branch Head Bhubaneswar) inaugurated the building with presence of V Guard Bhubaneswar team, Guest BEO Bhubaneswar Santosh Kumar Rout, Ex BEO Sasmita Mali, Marseior S Lyngdoh (Associate Director World Vision India), World Vision Bhubaneswar team and all the teachers of Lal bahadur Govt high school.



'Festive spending may dip by 33% this year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: Consumers spending in the upcoming festive season is likely to drop by one-third compared to last year and coronavirus impact may further add to the woes of local retailers, according to a survey by LocalCircles. Most of the consumers surveyed opined that they want to buy small traditional items and gift packs online instead of going to market.

"With COVID-19, consumer spending in festive season 2020 is expected to get impacted by approximately one third in value in comparison to festive season 2019 with major decline expected in property, automobile and jewellery purchases," LocalCircles founder and chairman Sachin Taparia said. The survey covered over 65,000 re-



spondents across more than 300 cities. Around 61% of consumers said they will spend on purchases in this festive season compared to 78% respondents in 2019.

Around 14% consumers said that they will spend between ₹10,000 and ₹50,000 in the upcoming fes-

tive season, 44% between ₹1,000-10,000 and only 3% said that they will spend more than ₹50,000 for purchases.

Most of the consumers said that they will spend money on grocery and food supplies, 19% on white goods and appliances, 15% on smart-

phones and consumer electronics, 11% on home renovation and 8% on fashion and festive wear.

"Due to Covid-19, e-commerce is expected to see a major spike as the percentage of consumers that

With COVID-19, consumer spending in festive season 2020 is expected to get impacted by approximately 1/3rd in value in comparison to previous festive season with major decline expected in property, automobile and jewellery purchases

SACHIN TAPARIA | FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, LOCALCIRCLES

STOINIS, BOWLERS LIFT DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 5: Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis (53 n o, 26b, 6x4, 2x6) cracked a blistering half century before bowlers did their job efficiently to help Delhi Capitals (DC) register a 59-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) here, Monday.

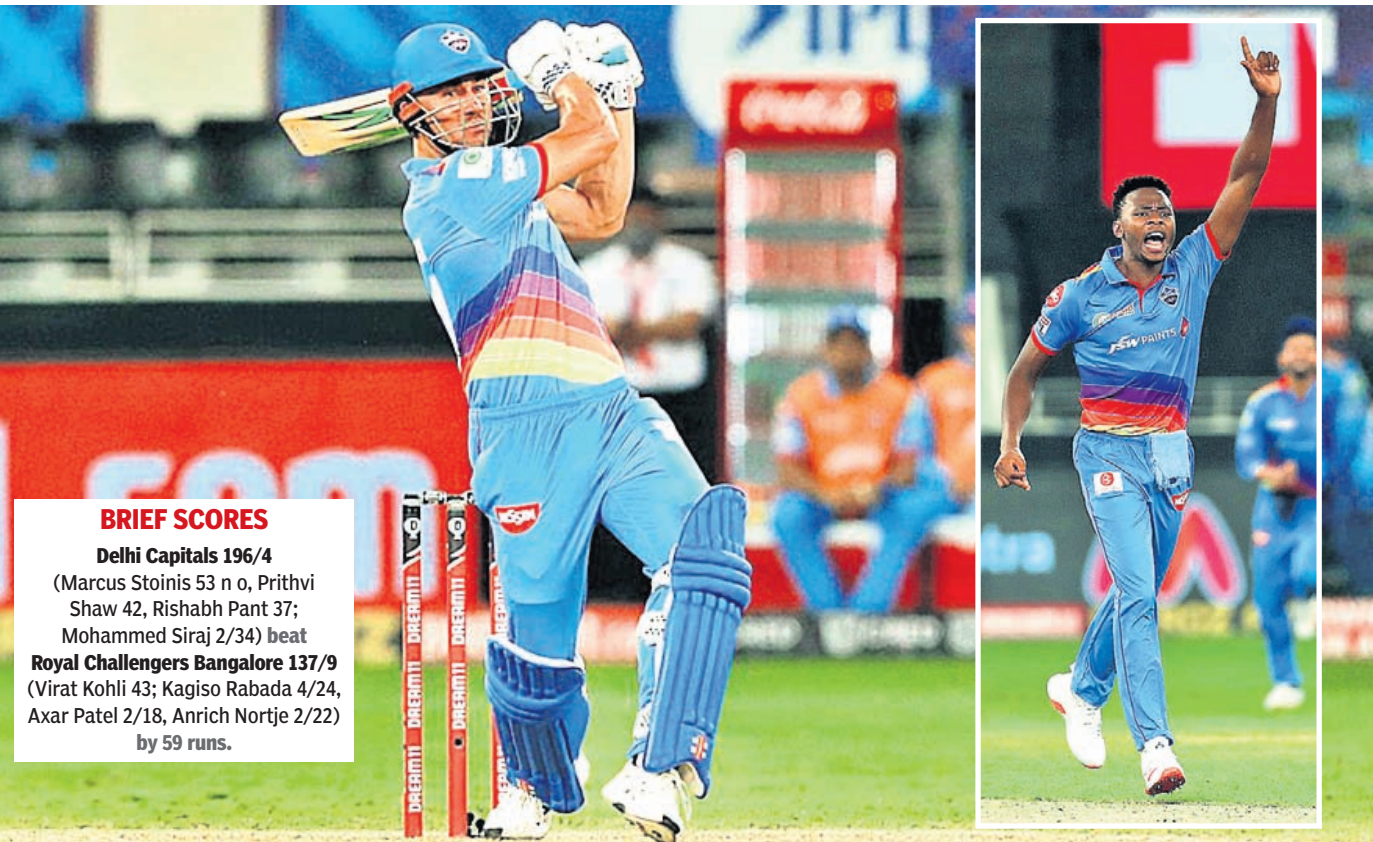
Chasing a massive 197, RCB could muster only 137/9 in their allotted 20 overs. Kagiso Rabada (4/24) was the pick of the DC bowlers as the South African pacer dismantled the RCB middle order. He was ably supported by Axar Patel (2/18) and Anrich Nortje (2/22).

RCB faltered from the very beginning of the match as neither their bowlers nor batsmen could do much. Ravichandran Ashwin (1/26) dismissed the in-form opener Devdutt Padikkal (4) to inflict a collapse on the RCB side.

After then, RCB struggled to get going. They lost wickets at regular intervals. Skipper Virat Kohli (43, 39b, 2x4, 1x6) tried to keep his side in the game before Rabada ended his struggling in the 14th over.

MISHRA, BHUVI OUT OF IPL

DUBAI: Delhi Capitals' senior leg-spinner Amit Mishra and Sunrisers Hyderabad seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's IPL stint this season has come to an abrupt end. Mishra fractured his ring finger during the match against KKR in Sharjah, while Bhuvi sustained a thigh muscle injury, playing against CSK. The 37-year-old Delhi leggie sustained the injury while going for a low return catch offered by KKR batsman Nitish Rana. He was in pain but did well to bowl two overs. DC later issued a press release, stating that the bowler will consult a specialist on his return to India for recovery and rehabilitation. Bhuvi sustained the injury while bowling the 19th over of CSK's innings during their October 2 clash here and hobbled out of the field after just one delivery. His injury will be a massive blow to SRH skipper David Warner as he struggles for quality death bowlers in his side which is short on experience. He might stay back in the UAE as the Indian team's physio Nitin Patel is also there as part of the BCCI's medical team.



Marcus Stoinis in action; Kagiso Rabada (inset) celebrates a wicket, Monday

Earlier, Prithvi Shaw (42, 23b, 5x4, 2x6) provided a blazing start to take DC to a competitive 196/4. Stoinis, who was dropped on 30 by Yuzvendra Chahal, made RCB pay for the mistake with a splendid knock.

Invited to bat, Shaw provided a dream start, hitting three fours off pacer Isuru Udana (1/40) in the game's very first over.

The opening duo of Shikhar Dhawan (32, 28b, 3x4) and Shaw put up a 68-run stand and looked to go the distance before the RCB bowlers

made a splendid comeback.

Mohammed Siraj (2/34) provided the first breakthrough for his team by removing the dangerous looking Shaw. After Udana accounted for Dhawan, while young Padikkal pulled off an excellent catch at the boundary to dismiss DC's in-form skipper Shreyas Iyer (11).

Stoinis and Rishabh Pant (37, 25b, 3x4, 2x6) immediately got into the recovery act. The duo stitched an 89-run partnership. Shimron Hetmyer also played a short cameo.

Kohli inadvertently applies saliva on ball

Dubai: RCB captain Virat Kohli inadvertently applied saliva on the ball after stopping a cracking drive during their IPL match here Monday, violating the ICC's COVID-19 protocol. Fielding at short cover during his team's game against DC, Kohli did not let the ball, which was headed in his direction at a great speed, go past him. While the Indian captain did not show any discomfort, he ended up applying saliva on the ball. This happened after DC opener Prithvi Shaw launched into a booming drive against pacer Navdeep Saini in the third ball of the third over. The skipper, though, realised his mistake immediately, smiled and also acknowledged the slip-up by raising his hands. Amazed at Shaw's powerful shot and Kohli's brilliant fielding, the legendary Sachin Tendulkar promptly put out a tweet in appreciation. "What an incredible shot by @PrithviShaw there! A million dollar reaction by @imVkohli after almost applying saliva on the ball. Sometimes instincts take over!" Tendulkar tweeted. Last week, Rajasthan Royals batsman Robin Uthappa was seen applying saliva on the ball while fielding against KKR.

COMMENTS ON CSK-KXIP MATCH



MS DHONI: I think we did the small things right. That's what was important to us. The kind of start we got in batting, that's what we needed. Hopefully, we'll be able to replicate this in the coming games. Every team has furious hitters who can disrupt the bowling and our bowlers did well. We needed momentum with the right kind of shots. Watto and Faf backed themselves with the shots they're known for. (About Watson) it's not about being more aggressive. He was hitting it well in the nets and what you need is to do that in the middle. It was just a matter of time. Faf is like a sheet anchor for us, keeps playing those shots in the middle. He can always confuse the bowler with the lap shots and all coming in. They complement each other



KL RAHUL: There's no rocket science, we know where we're going wrong. The execution part has been bad. I thought 178 was a good score. The wicket stopped a bit when we started batting, we felt like 170-180 was par on this wicket. But we know if we don't get wickets against players of this class, we'll struggle



Shaky Barca held by Sevilla at Camp Nou

REUTERS

Barcelona, Oct 5: Philippe Coutinho scored his first league goal since returning to Barcelona to help his side draw 1-1 at home to an excellent Sevilla side in La Liga Sunday as the Catalans dropped points for the first time under Ronald Koeman.

Europa League holders Sevilla took an early lead when Dutch forward Luuk de Jong pounced on a poor headed clearance in the area and smashed into the net, flummoxing Barca keeper Neto.

But the Catalans hit back less than two minutes later when club record signing Coutinho, back at the club after spending last year on loan with Bayern Munich, reacted fastest to fire home after a Lionel Messi pass was deflected into his path.

Antoine Griezmann missed a good chance to give Barca the lead before halftime but hit the side netting while midfielder Frenkie de

Jong should have scored late in the second half but missed the target from inside the area.

Sevilla could also have snatched a winner, with Youssef En-Nesyri seeing a deflected shot hit the crossbar before failing to test Neto with a free header.

Barca and Sevilla each have seven points after three games and are fifth and sixth in the standings, with champions Real Madrid top on 10.

The Catalans had made a superb start to the campaign under new coach Koeman, hammering Villarreal 4-0 in their opening game before pulling off an impressive 3-0 win at Celta Vigo despite having 10 men for the entire second half. But they met a very different challenge in Sevilla, who finished fourth in the league last season. Barca's new signing Sergino Dest made his debut three days after completing his switch from Ajax Amsterdam, coming off the bench to replace the injured Jordi Alba.



OFF THE MARK: Philippe Coutinho is airborne in celebration, alongside Ansu Fati at Camp Nou, Sunday

Reds left red-faced; Spurs maul Man Utd



An Aston Villa player heads in a goal as Liverpool players watch haplessly; Son Heung-min scores past a diving Luke Shaw and an onrushing David de Gea, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Oct 5: English football's biggest teams have never experienced a day like it. Liverpool and Manchester United were both comprehensively humiliated by defeats that rank among the heaviest in their history.

Just when it looked like United's 1-6 collapse at home to Tottenham would be the day's biggest shock in the Premier League, Liverpool managed to surpass it.

The champions fell apart to lose 2-7 to an Aston Villa side that only avoided relegation on the final day of last season and is now one of only two sides with 100 percent starts.

No defending champion in 67 years has lost so heavily in England.

It's been 57 years since Liverpool were beaten as badly.

With Leicester opening Sunday with a 0-3 loss to West Ham, it leaves Everton and Villa, whose last titles came in the 1980s, leading the way with perfect starts.

Sunday's latest wave of erratic results — with 25 goals across six games — continued the breathless, high-scoring start to a season being played out without fans in stadiums due to the pandemic. The 3.79 per game goal ratio is the highest in the English league in 90 years, according to statistics from Opta.

To put into perspective the gulf between Villa and Liverpool — 64 points separated them last season. Coronavirus infections denied Liverpool both Sadio Mane and



Thiago Alcantara. A shoulder injury meant Alisson Becker had to be replaced in goal by Adrian.

And it was Adrian's poor pass that was seized on by Jack Grealish to set up summer signing Ollie Watkins for his first Premier League goal after four minutes.

It was the start of a hat-trick for the recruit from second-tier Brentford. Captain Grealish was on target twice, while there were also goals for John McGinn and Ross Barkley on his debut after joining on loan from Chelsea.

Mohamed Salah did score twice for Liverpool, but only when 0-2 and 1-5 down as the visitors were completely outplayed by Villa.

Manchester United have now opened the season with back-to-

back home losses for the first time since 1986.

But it had started so well for United by winning a penalty inside 30 seconds that Bruno Fernandes converted. But Spurs quickly turned the game around by exploiting United's wretched defense, with goals from Tanguy Ndombele and Son Heung-min ensuring Jose Mourinho's side was in front by the seventh minute.

United lost Anthony Martial to a red card that came after Erik Lamela overreacted to a slap in the face, with a delayed fall to the ground.

Harry Kane extended Spurs' lead on the half-hour and completed the rout from the penalty spot in the second half after Son netted again and Serge Aurier hit the target.

LEWANDOWSKI SAVES BAYERN MUNICH'S DAY

REUTERS

Munich, Oct 5: Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski scored four goals including a stoppage-time penalty to give the German champions a 4-3 home win over Hertha Berlin in a pulsating Bundesliga clash Sunday.

The result left Bayern fourth in the standings on six points from three games, one behind the top three led by Leipzig on goal difference, while Hertha slipped to 13th on four points.

The sides had a goal each ruled out for offside before Lewandowski fired Bayern into a 40th-minute lead, drilling in a Serge Gnabry cross after goalkeeper Alexander Schlotterbeck had saved his header.



Bayern seemed to be in cruise control after Lewandowski made it 2-0 with a superb shot on the turn from the edge of the penalty area in the 51st, but the visitors had other ideas.

Jhon Cordoba pulled one back with a towering header which Bayern keeper Manuel Neuer could not keep out and Matheus Cunha equalised after muscling his way past several defenders to steer a low shot into the bottom corner.

That set up a frantic climax, with Lewandowski again taking centre stage and boosting his tally to 103 goals in 98 home games for Bayern at the Allianz Arena.

He popped up at the far post in the 85th minute to tap in a cross from the right but Bayern's joy was short-lived as substitute Jessic Ngankam levelled three minutes later with his first touch of the ball.

The 20-year-old Ngankam netted his first Bundesliga goal with a diving header after a cross from the left, only for Hertha to see what would have been a well-deserved draw slip from their grasp.

Kvitova in 1st French Open QF since 2012

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 5: Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova reached the French Open quarterfinals for the first time in eight years by beating Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-4. The seventh-seeded Czech player lost her only semifinal match at Roland Garros in 2012.

Zhang had a medical timeout while trailing 5-2 in the first set. Kvitova sat waiting wrapped in a pink coat to combat the chilly conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier. She then did some leg exercises to keep warm.

Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Grigor Dimitrov **6-3, 7-6(11-9), 6-2**
Andrey Rublev bt Marton Fucsovics **6-7(4-7), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6(7-3)**
Dominic Thiem bt Hugo Gaston **6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-3**
Jannik Sinner bt Alexander Zverev **6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3**

The 30-year-old Kvitova will next face Laura Siegemund. The unseeded German beat Paula Badosa 7-5, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals at a major tournament for the first time.

There will still be crowds for the final week of French Open after Paris police decided not to reduce the limit of 1,000 spectators per day.

