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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 | 2021



Odia IRS officer appointed CBDT head

New Delhi: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved Wednesday the appointment of Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Mohapatra currently is working as a member of CBDT. He is a 1985-batch IRS officer and was given the additional charge as chairman after the extended tenure of incumbent PC Mody ended in May 2021. Mohapatra, who was inducted May 27 into CBDT, is scheduled to retire in April next year.

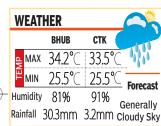
5 including 3 kids electrocuted

Ghaziabad: Five people, including three children, were electrocuted here Wednesday, police said. The tragic accident took place in Street No. 3 near 'Ten Singh' palace at Rakesh Marg of Sihani gate police station locality. The five were under a tin shade placed to protect a grocery shop. Due to strong winds and incessant rains a live electric wire came in contact with the shade and five people who were taking shelter under it got electrocuted. Among them were two kids who had come buy some essentials from the shop.



RREGULAR by MANJUL This is our strategy. Don't let second wave abate and there will never be a third wave





Over 3k consumer



PTI PHOTO

ORMY START TO SESSION LPG price hiked, 3rd

Maoists murder 'police informer'

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Sept 1: Maoists shot dead a 45-year-old village guard late Tuesday night after branding him a 'police informer' at Tikarpada village under Ambadala police limits. The deceased has been identified as Santosh Dandasena.

Police said a group of 10 suspected Maoists called Dandasena out from his home and killed him. "His bullet-riddled body was found Wednesday morning 50 metres outside his house," said Nilambar Jani, a local police officer.

The Maoists left two handwritten notes at the spot, mentioning that they killed Dandasena as he was working as a police informer.

One of the posters said, "(Dandasena) had been warned several times not to share information with the police. However, he disobeyed the order and encouraged some youths of the village also to become police informers. If these youths do not apologise quickly, they will face similar consequences.

On being informed, police reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. They also started an investigation into the matter. Dandasena's killing is the first such instance in the state since January when Maoists in Kandhamal district killed two civilians for being alleged police informers.

cases still pending

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: A total of 3.451 consumer cases filed in 2019-20 and 2020-21 (up to February) are pending in various district forums of the state, Odisha Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain told the Assembly, Wednesday. He mentioned the figures while giving a written reply to a question asked by BJD member Bhupinder Singh.

The minister said 5,813 cases were filed in the year 2019-20, of which 2.726 cases were disposed while 3.087 cases are still pending. Puri district forum with 395 has the highest number of pending cases while Sonepur with five pending cases has the lowest number.

Similarly 556 consumer cases were filed in 31 district forums till February this year. Among them only 192 cases have so far been disposed of and the remaining 364 are still pending. Except Gajapati, all the other districts have consumer cases pending, Swain said.

The inaugural day of the Monsoon Session saw both the Congress and the BIP blaming the government for failing to provide relief to drought-hit districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The Monsoon Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly began on a stormy note Wednesday, with the Congress trying to disrupt proceedings while demanding a debate on the drought-like situation in different districts of the state.

The proceedings of the House started sharp at 11.00am with obituaries of the deceased members being read out.

Immediately after that, Congress members created a ruckus. Party leader Narasingha Mishra demanded a debate on the drought situation during the Question Hour. However, it was declined by Speaker Surjo Narayan Patro. Congress



MLAs including Taraprasad Bahinipati and Suresh Routray then rushed to the Well of the House and tried to disrupt proceedings. They said that the droughtlike situation must be discussed. Due to repeated disruptions and

the thumping of glass shield of the Speaker by Congress MLAs, Patro had no option but to adjourn the House from 11.39am till 12.34am.

When the House resumed, the drought situation came up for discussion. Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi of the BJP criticised

the state government for failing to provide relief to people in droughthit areas. "The BJD-led government has not done much for people affected by drought," Majhi said. "The government should not blame just Nature' for drought. It should instead cater to the needs of the affected farmers," he added. Mishra pointed out that approximately 27 districts in Odisha are under the grip of drought and they need assistance.

Defending the government, Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo said that drought had hit the state

BJD protests fertiliser crunch

BHUBANESWAR: Workers and leaders of the BJD staged a protest near the Raj Bhawan here Wednesday alleging short supply of fertilisers by the Centre. The agitators also submitted a memorandum to Governor Ganeshi Lal in this regard. BJD leader Sanjay Das Burma informed that farmers have cultivated paddy and non-paddy crops on 61.96 lakh hectares of land. However, the Centre has failed to provide the requisite amount of fertilisers in the stipulated time frame as per the 'Agreed Action Plan'. The BJP however, refuted the allegation an said that there is no scarcity of fertilisers in Odisha. **P3**

at least eight times in the last two decades. Sahoo also pointed out that 23 out of the 28 districts have received deficient rainfall.

The CM has asked authorities to repair all defunct lift irrigation projects within seven days and also made a provision of enhancing man-days under the MGNREGA to help farmers, Sahoo added.

time in two months

Petrol, diesel rates decreased by 15 paise each after a gap of more than one week

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: The government Wednesday hiked LPG prices by ₹25 per cylinder making a further dent into the customers' pockets. This is the third time that LPG prices have been increased in less than two months. Even though the government reduced petrol and diesel prices by 15 paise each, the increase in LPG rates dampened the mood of the people.

Subsidised as well as non-subsidised LPG now costs ₹884.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder according to a price notification of oil companies. Subsidised and non-subsidised LPG rates were hiked by ₹25.50 per cylinder July 1. Non-subsidised LPG rates rose by ₹25 per cylinder August 1 and by the same amount August 18.

Industry sources said the subsidised LPG price was not raised August 1 because Parliament was in session. The government did not want to provide the opposition the chance to criticise it over the hike in LPG prices.

The latest increase in subsidised LPG price now has taken the cumulative rate hike since January 1 to ₹190 per cylinder.

The price of domestic cooking gas has more than doubled in the last seven years. The retail selling

CITY FUEL PRICE				
Petrol	₹102.21 (-0.16)			
Diesel	₹96.81 (- <mark>0.16</mark>)			

price of domestic gas was ₹410.50 per 14.2kg cylinder, March 1, 2014. In Mumbai, a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder now costs ₹884.50 while in Kolkata, it is priced at ₹911 – the highest among the four metros

Meanwhile, the cut in petrol and diesel prices came down after more than one week. Petrol price in Delhi now stands at ₹101.34 and in Mumbai, it is ₹107.39 per litre. On the other hand, diesel is being sold at 88.77 a litre and in Mumbai at ₹96.33/litre. The Congress meanwhile hit out at the government over the rise in prices of domestic cooking gas. It said the country is uniting against this injustice.

Pollution reducing life's longevity drastically

People living in northern India are suffering the most due to pollution with life expectancy cut short by a minimum of nine years

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: India's air pollution levels have expanded geographically over time since 2000. The worst affected are people in northern India. However along with them, people living in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are now losing 2.5 to 2.9 years of life expectancy due to pollution, according to a report published by the University of Chicago. The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report states 40 per cent or 480 million people of India, mostly in the Indo-Gangetic plains have been worst hit by pollution.

Residents of northern India are on track to lose more than nine years of life expectancy if pollution levels of 2019 persist the report stated and added that this region experiences the most extreme levels of air pollution in the world. In 2019, India's average partic-

ulate matter concentration was 70.3 microgram per cubic metre $(\mu g/m3)$, the highest in the world



and seven times the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guideline of 10 µg/m3. The report informed that alarmingly India's high levels of air pollution have expanded geographically over time.

"Compared to a couple of decades

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal are among the five most polluted countries in the world

If WHO pollution standards are followed, life expectancy rise by 5.6 years in these 4 nations

ago, particulate pollution is no longer a feature of the Indo-Gangetic plains alone. Pollution has increased substantially in the states of Maharashtra and MP. For example, the average person in those states is now losing an additional 2.5 to 2.9 years of life expectancy, relative to early 2000," the report said. For Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, the AQLI data revealed that an average person would live 5.6 years longer if pollution was reduced to meet WHO guidelines. These countries consistently rank among the top five most polluted countries in the world, the report said. "Average life expectancy across these four countries would increase by 5.6 years," it added.

The report also pointed out the reasons for the extreme level of pollution. It said that in India and Pakistan, the number of vehicles on road has increased about fourfold since the early 2000s. Also electricity generation from fossil fuels has tripled from 1998 to 2017 in these four countries.







eisure



CAMILA CABELLO SAYS HER **BEAU TALKS IN HIS SLEEP**

Singer Camila Cabello has revealed that her singer beau Shawn Mendes has a habit of talking in his sleep. "He's always sleep-talked, but it happened a lot during the pandemic as we were going to sleep together every night," she added.

NAOMI GAVE UP FINDING 'SOULMATE' FOR CAREER

Supermodel Naomi Campbell revealed that she had to 'sacrifice' finding a 'soulmate' for her career in modelling. Campbell has never been married but was previously engaged to U2 bassist Adam Clayton and businessman Flavio Briatore, reports aceshowbiz.com.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com • reliability • trust 🚑 accuracy FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

You are an imaginative and enterprising person, and today you may taste success. Ganesha says that you are ambitious but warns you not to take on more work than you can handle. You are posi tive about your capabilities, so work sincerely and have faith in God.

TAURUS

Today, you are likely to be more reckless than ever in splurging your hard earned money. Ganesha strongly advises you to leave your credit card at home today. Using it for making purchases will only make matters worse

GEMINI

Today will be a day filled with energy and enthusiasm. You will have an ontimistic view of life and this will help you attain success. You will be able to exercise your free will and take up tasks to your liking. While the day will be busy, it will also be rewarding, savs Ganesha

CANCER

A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesha. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

LEO

You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence today. You will be able to take firm decisions when it comes to work related issues. You will not face any difficulties in completing your tasks today, and will achieve success.

VIRGO

It is quite possible that you will love financial challenges that are thrown at you, as they whet your appetite for success. You will come up with innovative ideas and improved methods of problem solving. Ganesha assures you that your current business ideas will work wonders

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will showcase your ability and skills today in your work field and impress people. You will develop and express your inner love for art and artistic things and you will purchase a

new work of art today. Ganesha showe

'Indians warming up to the horror genre'

> New Delhi: When actor Ananya Sengupta signed her first supernatural thriller, The Final Exit, her gut might have warned that it may not do well at the box-office, but she was proven wrong. "Over the past two decades, the audience has warmed up to horror movies. Filmmakers are now open to investing in a horror film with A-list cast and elaborate sets. However, horror as a genre is still evolving, and India has a long way to go to tap its full potential. I am confident it is just a matter of time before we get there," said Sengupta, who was also seen in the movie Ghost.

Intentionally choosing varied genres to prove her versatility, the actor, who has done multiple films down south too will now be seen in the web series Highdose. "The makers were keen to cast me for the lead role of 'Revati'. The concept appealed to me and was quite impressed with their commitment," said the actor who won

the Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress for short films Engima and Silver Gandhi at Port Blair International Film Festival and Golden Sparrow International Film Festival respectively.



Saira hospitalised;

condition stable

Mumbai: Veteran actress of yesteryears, Saira Banu who suffered from a heart problem called ischemia, has been admitted to Hinduja Hospital to treatment but is said to be stable now, her doctor said Wednesday.

Saira Banu, 77, - the widow of legendary actor, the late Yusuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar - was rushed to the ICU of the hospital in Khar, three days ago.

According to eminent cardiologist Dr Nitin S. Gokhale who is attending on her, the left ventricle in her heart had stopped functioning and led to ingress of water in her heart and lungs.

"The problem has been controlled for now and she is medically much better now. We shall shift her out of the ICU tomorrow (Thursday) and then decide further measures," informed Gokhale

Saira Banu's health sparked concerns on social media with many praying and wishing for her speedy recovery and early discharge from the hospital.

In the past few years, she earned legions of admirers for the manner in which she stood by and cared for her husband Dilip Kumar who was ailing for several years before he passed away on July 7 aged 98.

Kiara Advani talks about meeting Dimple Cheema

Mumbai: Actors Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra will be the special guests on The Kapil Sharma Show Saturday.

Shershaah actors Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani spoke at length about their experience shooting for the movie. The film portrays the love story of Captain Vikram Batra and Dimple Cheema.

During an interaction with the cast, Kapil Sharma asks Kiara to reveal the reason behind meeting Dimple Cheema, to which Kiara Advani says: "I did meet Dimple ji before shooting for the film but it was not because I wanted to understand how she speaks and behaves.

> She added: "I wanted to connect with her emotionally and understand her sentiments because, we as civilians, when reading about the soldiers, think about what their families must be going through. Their journey is a different kind of strength.'

Constantine and YONLY C

F9: The Fast Saga: Action-packed and over-the-top

Though every frame is flamboyant and blockbuster in appearance, and is layered with surgical precision, the film fails to awe the audience

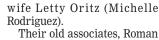
he fizz in the Fast & be able to follow. Furious franchise seems to

be flattening out progressively. The ninth edition of this over-the-top, freneticpaced, action-packed franchise opens with a promise but ends on a ridiculously convoluted and

low note. The film

The narrative takes off from

two years after the events of F8: Fate of the Furious. Dominic Toretto (Vin



Pearce (Tyrese Gibson), Tej Parker (Chris 'Ludacris' Bridges) and Ramsey (Nathalie Emmanuel), arrive with the news that the plane of Mr Nobody (Kurt Russell), an intelligence operative, has crashed in Montequinto, Central America, after being attacked by rogue agents when he was capturing Cipher (Charlize Theron), a criminal mastermind.

Dominic, who is fondly called Dom', agrees to help them in-

DIRECTOR: Justin Lin

CAST: Vin Diesel, John Cena, Michelle Rodriguez, Charlize Theron, Helen Mirren and Kurt Russell.

Searching through the debris of the crashed plane, they find a part of a device named Aries, which can hack into any computer-controlled system that includes all satellites and weapons of the world. How, after travelling to

Cologne, London, Tokyo and

Edinburgh, the team finds the

ing their chops. Though every frame is flamboyant and blockbuster in appearance, and is lavered with surgical precision, the film fails to deliver an awe-inspiring feel.

emotional flashbacks of events

in Dom and Jakob's lives, breaks

the momentum of the mayhem-

laden sequences and thus crashes

Vin Diesel and John Cena

put up a balanced performance,

neither outshining the other.

The rest of the veteran star

cast with their superb on-screen

chemistry are clearly at home

in their roles and they seem to

be having a great time deliver-

the viewing experience.





FILM REVIEW

you with all his blessings

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, you will be soaked in your work today. During the day, you may be loaded with duties and responsibilities, however, evening has a different story to reveal. Exciting as ever, a get away with friends may be liberating and relaxing

SAGITTARIUS

Take it as a piece of advice: tough times don't last: tough people do. The day has a lot of ups and downs in store for you. However, you are the sailor of stormy seas and would sail through all the troubles easily. Take the advice given by your near and dear ones, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Forced to some backbreaking work today, you will feel exhausted by the end of the day. It is a cut-throat competition when it comes to the business world. Your arch rivals are looking out for one small opportunity to damage your business and reputation. But, you are no less. You understand their moves

You may receive some good news from the foreign shores today. The day wil bring on a positive note and it will remain like that for the whole twenty-four hours. You'll be in a mood to merry and it will be transformed to everyone around you, savs Ganesha.

PISCES

Those who work hard to move towards their goals will do well today. It is a good day for business. You will be able to do a lot of new things in your job-business today. With Ganesha's blessings you will definitely succeed, but you need to work hard without getting disappointed



thriller with a weak and worn-out storvline that only diehard Fast & Furious fans would

Diesel) is now leading a retired life in the countryside, raising his son Brian with his

FUN

JOST

vestigate who the rogue agent is after realising his brother Jakob (John Cena) is involved.

other part of the device, forms the crux of the narrative. The plot, punctuated with

PEANUTS

HI, CHUCK!

I'M HERE!WHERE'S THE GUEST ROOM?



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

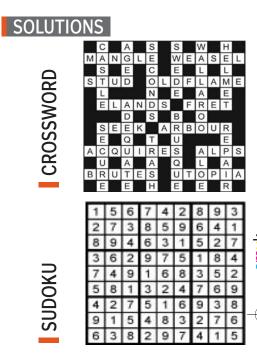
26 High card

4 Fan setting

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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notched

EH. IT'S A

LITTLE MULCH.





downtown



RAIN-SOAKED CITY

People travel amid heavy rain in the Capital city of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	21,88,30,338	19,56,51,489	45,38,484
dia	3,28,10,845	3,19,93,644	4,39,020
lisha	10,08,469	9,93,901	8,022

D-bros' aide arrested in 7-year-old murder case



Accused Deepak Navak in police custody

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 1: The Commissionerate Police Wednesday claimed to have arrested one of the accused, an associate of Dhalasamanta brothers, in the murder of pulses trader Mohammed Farooq Tayab in Malgodown area of the city November 12, 2014.

Accused Deepak Nayak, alias Shankar, 33, of Gopal Sahi in Ranihaat area was on the run since the incident, police said. Shankar was a close associate of gangster brothers Sushant and

Shankar had planned to leave Cuttack once again after the recent arrest of Dhalasamanta brothers' aide **Pradeep Sahu**

tered a case in this regard and launched a probe. The police had arrested three persons in connection with the incident. However. Shankar managed to escape to a neighbouring state, police said. "Shankar recently returned to

Cuttack after spending seven years outside Odisha. He had planned to leave the city once again after the recent arrest of Dhalasamanta brothers' aide Pradeep Sahu. On a tip-off, a special team of the Commissionerate Police nabbed Shankar from near the railway station," said a police officer.

Police seized a gun and two bullets from Shankar. They also took Shankar to Malgodown and

recreated the crime scene. "Shankar has confessed to the crime during interrogation. He was produced in a local court. The Commissionerate Police will soon take him on remand to conduct further investigation into the murder case. We suspect the

'dead on arrival'. Malgodown police had regis-

Sushil Dhalasamanta. Shankar

along with three others had killed

the pulses wholesaler at the behest

of the Dhalasamanta brothers.

The prime reason behind the

crime was extortion, said Police

Commissioner Saumendra

According to police, Shankar

and three others had opened fire

at Farooq when the latter was in

his godown on the fateful day. A

critically-injured Farooq was

rushed to SCB Medical College and

Hospital where he was declared

Privadarshi at a presser here.

Opposition Pradipta Naik, who has been admitted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar for Covid, ceedings live.

his head was speaking live sitting on a chair with medical clip on his finger monitoring his health conditions. Regular beeps from the medical equipment were heard throughout his speech he made on the maiden day of the Monsoon Session of the House.

Narayan Patro, after allowing Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to speak on the obituary statements, allowed Naik to read out the obituary statements on the role and contributions of several deceased members of the House.

STIR OVER FERTILISER CRUNCH



BJD workers stage a dharna in front of the Governor's House in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, seeking adequate supply of fertilisers from Centre to Odisha

LoP's live speech from City AIIMS

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Leader of

A masked up Naik with a cap on

Assembly Speaker Surjya

Centre blamed for farm distress

pared earlier for the ongoing Kharif

season. "The Centre is responsible

for the farmers' distress. Though

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

had earlier informed the central gov-

ernment about the scarcity of fer-

tilisers for the Kharif season, it

did not address the issue," BJD

vice president Debiprasad Mishra

Farmers are facing fertiliser

shortage, particularly urea, at a

time when Kharif crops have been

sown on 61.96 hectares of land in

told reporters here.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Several legislators and workers of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) staged a demonstration near Raj Bhawan here to protest against 'inadequate supply' of fertilisers to Odisha by the BJP-led government at the Centre, a charge the saffron party denied.

The ruling party in the state alleged that the Union government did not supply fertilisers, particularly urea, as per the plan prethe state, BJD leader Sanjay Das Burma said. A team of the ruling party leaders also submitted a memorandum to Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal.

The BJD held the demonstration a day after the opposition BJP and the Congress decided to raise the farmers' issue during the state Assembly's Monsoon Session that began Wednesday.

Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had earlier assured the state of completing work for a fertiliser plant at Talcher within 36 months in 2018, it has not been done, another BJD leader Sulata Deo alleged.

However, the BJP denied all the allegations and claimed that the ruling party created an "artificial fertiliser scarcity" in the market.

The saffron party accused the BJD leaders of diverting fertilisers to businessmen and indulging in black marketing of it.

SC: Prepare timeline for vaccinating mentally-ill

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Supreme Court Wednesday directed Odisha and other states to lay down a timeline for inoculating inmates lodged in mental healthcare institutions

for Covid-19. A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud, Vikram Nath and Hima Kohli asked the state governments to lay down a time-bound schedule for vaccination of inmates

COVID SCOURGE

OP PHOTO

The apex court directed the states to set up online dashboards within four weeks containing information about availability of mental healthcare institutions, facilities provided, occupancy and region wise distribution of halfway homes in the states

The SC also directed that halfway homes must be established by all states as expeditiously as possible within a period of six months

POST NEWS NETWORK involvement of several others in the crime," said the police officer.

stunned many Wednesday when he took part in the House pro-

as well as the healthcare staff associated with such institutions within a period of one month.

The bench asked the state governments to submit status reports on vaccination of such inmates by October 15 with the Union ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

The Supreme Court also directed the states to set up online dashboards within four weeks containing information about availability of mental healthcare institutions. facilities provided, occupancy and region wise distribution of halfway homes in the states

The bench said that the information is to be updated on the portal on a real time basis.

The top court directed that halfway homes must be established

by all states as expeditiously as possible within a period of six months and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was asked to hold meetings at least once in a month with all states keep a track of the progress of establishment of halfway homes and rehabilitation of mentally-ill persons.

Significantly, the order came after a petition was filed by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal seeking rehabilitation of mentally-ill patients and directions to the state governments to protect, safeguard and promote the rights of inmates lodged in mental healthcare institutions. The petitioner pleaded the court

to ensure that persons institutionalised in Mental Health Establishments have adequate sanitary conditions and their privacy intact. He pleaded the court to direct respondents to issue Aadhaar card and voter card to the persons institutionalised in mental health establishments and issue disability certificates as well as pension. "Direct the respondents to allow

women institutionalised in Mental Health Establishments to keep their children with them by way of establishing separate 'mother child ward' in each and every Mental Health Establishment as mentioned under the Mental Healthcare Act 2017 & Section 21 (2) and 24 (3) (d) of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016," the petition reads.

Connectivity mars ONORC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Sept 1: Over 18.74 lakh ration card holding families in the state are yet to be covered under the One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme, owing to lack of internet connectivity, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said Wednesday.

The minister revealed this while replying to an unstarred question (No 6) asked by BJP leader Mukesh Mahaling in the Assembly.

According to Swain, out of the 92.75 lakh families covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 18.74 lakh are yet to be covered under the ONORC

scheme, which allows for inter- and intra-state portability, due to lack of proper internet connectivity at local fair shops. For the time being, they have been deprived of the benefit.

He said that a highest of 13.97 lakh beneficiaries in Keonjhar district are yet to be covered under the scheme, followed by Kalahandi (8.50 lakh), Koraput (6.48 lakh), Rayagada (6.26 lakh) and Kandhamal (5.58 lakh). Similarly, 3.27 lakh families in Sundergarh, Nuapada (3.05 lakh), Gajapati (3.04 lakh), Nabarangpur (2.29 lakh), Bolangir (2.19 lakh), Sambalpur (2.02 lakh) and Malkangiri (1.21 lakh) who are covered under the NFSA are vet to be covered under the scheme.

A CCUSED MOHAMMED AZARUDDIN KHAN, WHO

TRIBAL-DOMINATED DISTRICT AND OUTRAGED HER

HE APEX RIGHTS BODY ASKED THE STATE GOVT,

THROUGH THE CHIEF SECRETARY, TO SHOW

CAUSE WITHIN SIX WEEKS AS TO WHY ADEQUATE

AMOUNT OF INTERIM RELIEF SHOULD NOT BE

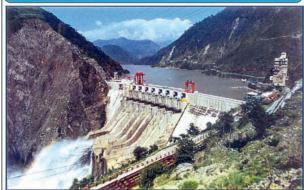
RECOMMENDED FOR THE RAPE VICTIM

HAD BEEN WORKING AS A DRIVER AT

MODESTY JUNE 4, 2020

THAKURMUNDA POLICE STATION, FOUND THE HAPLESS GIRL ALONE AT HER HOME IN THE





NHPC, a premier Schedule-A, 'Mini Ratna' Company with 70.95% owned by Government of India is the biggest hydropower company in India and a leader in design, construction and operation of hydropower plants. NHPC has so far commissioned 22 Hydro Projects, 01 Wind Power Project & 01 Solar Power Project with an installed capacity of 7071.2 MW including projects developed in joint venture

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2	Assistant Rajbhasha Officer/(E1)/ 40,000-1,40,000 (IDA)	7 (SC-01, ST-01, OBC-05)
3	Junior Engineer (Civil)/S1/ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	68 (SC-11, ST-04, OBC-19, EWS-06 UR-28)
4	Junior Engineer (Electrical)/S1/ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	34 (SC-05, ST-03, OBC-08, EWS-03 UR-15)
5	Junior Engineer (Mechanical)/S1/ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	31 (SC-5, ST-02, OBC-06, EWS-03, UR-15)
6	Sr. Accountant/S1/ 29,600-1,19,500 (IDA)	20 (SC-02, ST-02, OBC-02, EWS-02 UR-12)

For complete details please visit our website: https://www.nhpcindia.com/career.htm. join us : 0 0 0 🗈 🗈

4 districts get new courts



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 1: Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar inaugurated six new courts in four districts of the state on digital mode Wednesday.

The new courts were inaugurated at Telkoi in Keonjhar, Bangomunda in Bolangir, Rasagovindpur, Morada and Jashipur in Mayurbhanj, and Jharigaon in Nabarangpur.

Justices Satrughana Pujahari, Krushna Ram Mohapatra, Bibhu Prasad Routray, Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Sangam Kumar Sahoo and Savitri Ratho were present on the inaugural occasion.

BLOT ON KHAKI NHRC notice over differently-abled's rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Sept 1: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Wednesday served a show cause on the state government in connection with the rape of a 19-yearold differently-abled girl by a police official under Thakurmunda police limits in Mayurbhanj in June 2020.

Hearing a plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak (Case-1548/18/9/2020-WC), the commission asked the state government, through the Chief Secretary, to show cause within six weeks as to why adequate amount of interim relief should not be recommended for the rape victim at a time when her human rights have been violated

by a public servant. The NHRC has also asked the Director General of Police (DGP) to turn up within the same period with the report on the outcome of the



departmental action initiated against the delinquent police official in the case.

The commission posted the hearing to October 21, 2021.

Accused Mohammed Azaruddin Khan, who had been working as a driver at Thakurmunda police station, found the hapless girl alone at

her home in the tribal-dominated district and outraged her modesty June 4, 2020, the petitioner informed the commission quoting the police complaint.

The apex rights body took cognisance of the case July 1, 2020 and sought a report from the Mayurbhanj superintendent of police (SP) within four weeks.

In response, the SP informed the NHRC that a case (54) under Sections 457, 376(2) (I) and 506 of the IPC had been registered with the Thakurmunda police and the ac-

cused, who hails from Pandua under Ramchandrapur police limits in Keonjhar, was arrested June 5, 2020. Subsequently, Khan was also suspended from his service a few hours after his arrest.

"Following investigation, a chargesheet has been filed vide Thakurmunda PS C.S No.101 dt.31.08.2020 u/s 457/376(2)(I)/506 IPC and the case is now sub judice,' the SP said in his response.









downtown

Cabinet nod to 50% quota in local polls

Bhubaneswar: The state government would stick to the 50 per cent reservation in the upcoming urban local body (ULB) and panchayat elections. The State Cabinet is stated to have Wednesday approved a proposal to amend Orissa Municipal Act, 1950, Orissa Municipal Corporation Act, 2003, Orissa Grama Panchayat Act 1964, Orissa Panchayat Samiti Act 1999 and Orissa Zilla Parishad Act 1991 to comply with the 50 per cent reservation ceiling clamped by the High Court and Supreme Court.

Plus II offline exam regn from Sept 3

Bhubaneswar: The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) has decided to invite online applications for the Plus II offline examination from September 3. A decision in this effect has been taken during the examination committee meeting of CHSE Wednesday. Students, who are not satisfied with the marks awarded to them for the cancelled annual Plus II examination through alternative assessment system, can opt for the offline examination.

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Odisha's

Covid-19 tally climbed to 10,08,469

Wednesday as 719 more people, in-

cluding 125 children, tested positive

for the virus, a Health department

official said. The test positivity

rate (TPR) among 0-18 age group has

An eight-year-old girl from

Jharsuguda was among 53 more pa-

tients who succumbed to the in-

fection, taking the state's coron-

avirus death toll to 8,022, he said.

reported in quarantine centres,

while 297 infections were detected

children slightly increased to 17.38

per cent from 17.24 per cent Tuesday,

while 38 children have succumbed

to the infection during the second

Khurda district, under which

Bhubaneswar falls, recorded the

highest number of new cases at

259, followed by Cuttack (89).

Gajapati and Nuapada districts did

not register any fresh infection, he

POST NEWS NETWORK

wave of the pandemic so far.

The daily infection rate among

As many as 422 new cases were

surged to 17.38 per cent.

during contact tracing.

Automated ticketing at Cuttack station

Bhubaneswar: Jindal Stainless Limited has installed an automated ticket and management access system at Cuttack railway station under its CSR activities. The machine will be used for thermal scanning, mask checking and automatic ticket verification.

SERO SURVEY IN **CITY CONCLUDES**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Sept 1: The two-day long serological survey conducted by Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) here which aimed at identifying and comparing prevalence of Covid antibodies among different age groups concluded Wednesday

The RMRC began the survey August 29 in Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur. However, it began in the state capital August 31.

The RMRC conducted the survey in coordination with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) here. As per sources, five teams including officials of BMC were engaged to carry out the sample survey of prevalence of antibodies among the denizens. Sample collection was made from Ward No. 8 under North Zone, Ward No. 15 and

present during the launch. As part of the grand inauguration, the brand is offering two schemes — free gold coins with every jewellery purchase or up to 63 under South West Zone and Ward 25% off on making charges of gold

TPR among children Harishankar-Nrusinghanath inches up to 17.38 pc

STATE LOGS 719 NEW COVID-19 CASES, 53 FRESH **FATALITIES INCLUDING AN 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

Lingaraj Temple **reopens**

he famed Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar opened for devotees during the day. The 11thcentury temple of Lord Shiva had remained closed for four months after the outbreak of the second wave of the pandemic. Fully vaccinated devotees were allowed to enter the temple premises on production of the certificate. A maximum of 100 people will be allowed inside the shrine at a time with strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. They will have darshan from the inner barricade (Aadapa Kaatha) and won't be allowed to enter the sanctum sanctorum, an

said, adding that the test positivity

SOP issued earlier by the temple

administration said

rate stood at 1.11 per cent. Khurda reported the highest number of fresh fatalities at 19. followed by six each in Keonjhar and Jagatsinghpur, and five each in Cuttack and Puri. The state now has 7,159 active

cases, while 9,93,235 people have recovered from the disease to date, including 762 Tuesday. Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Odisha has thus far tested over 1.81 crore samples for Covid-19, including 64,656 Tuesday. The state's cumulative positivity rate stood at 5.56 per cent.

The state has so far inoculated over 2.19 crore people, of whom 53.20 lakh people have been fully vaccinated.

Tanishq launches first store in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The projects for development of Harishankar and Nrusinghanath temples in Gandhamardan region will be completed by December 2022.

A presentation was made before Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday on an integrated development plan for sustainable tourism at Harishankar and Nrusinghanath temples. This was the third meeting on development Harishankar and Nrusinghanath.

The project aims at improving

pilgrim and visitor experience of the twin temples of at Gandhamardan hills, official sources said.

facelift by December 2022

The entire temple region will be developed with focus on religious and cultural traditions, natural eco-system and adventure tourism, the source said.

The master plan of the project includes connectivity with upgradation of vehicular road and parking, development of vending zone, religious street, cultural plaza, visitor facilities with centre for cultural traditions and herbal centre, public park and plaza with picnic zone, kids play area, amphitheater

SCREENING FOR DARSHAN



As Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar reopens after around four months, a policeman ensures devotees entering the shrine follow Covid protocol, Wednesday OP PHOTO

and upgradation of temple facili-ties with beautification and lighting, restoration of Dharmasala, Bhoga Mandap and Kitchen.

There is also a proposal of 18 km path for trekking on the hills with active spots like benches, info signage, toilets, café and watch towers.

The meeting was moderated by Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian. Odisha Tourism Development Corporation chairperson Srimavee Mishra, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Development Commissioner PK Jena, ACS Forest, Mona Sharma and other senior officers attended the meeting.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Sept 1: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held a meeting with senior ministry officials Wednesday on the status of the reopening of

Dharmendra reviews

reopening of schools

schools across the country and the roadmap for vaccinating their staff. Schools were closed in March last year ahead of a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of novel coronavirus infection.

The Centre had allowed the reopening of schools as per Covid-19 situation in respective states in October last year. While several states began partial reopening of schools, there was a complete closure again in April this year when an aggressive second wave of Covid-19 hit the country.

With the improvement in the pandemic situation, several states have begun reopening schools now even as concerns have been expressed over the staff and teachers not being completely vaccinated.

'Shiksha Mantri Shri @dpradhanbjp reviewed the status of schools reopening across the country with senior officials of Deptt. Of School Education & Literacy. He also took stock of the roadmap for vaccinating all teaching & nonteaching staff in schools by the month of September," the Ministry of Education said in a tweet.

The ministry added that the Centre is prioritising vaccination of teaching and non-teaching staff in schools across the country to 'ensure a safe environment for reopening of schools'.

OUAT students demand online examinations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The second year Plus III students and PG first year students of College of Basic Science and Humanities of Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT) staged a protest Wednesday demanding online examinations in view of the Covid-19 cases in the Capital city.

The students from UG and PG programmes protested in front of university entrance by raising slogans and showing placards against the college authorities over the decision to conduct offline examinations

Dig Darshan, a second year student, said, "When several colleges in the state including technical institutions are conducting examinations online, why are the OUAT authorities so desperate to hold the examinations offline?"

He said many students don' have a place to stay in the city as hostel accommodations are inadequate. So, the students are in favour of online examinations, he added. Another student Soumyaranjan Samantray said the university authorities took a sudden decision to conduct the exams September 6 without prior information.



Titan Co MD CK Venkataraman (C) inaugurating the first Tanishq store in Puri cently launched a jewellery col- to Tanishq's exclusive collections Locals urge SJTA to open Srimandir on weekends

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 1: A day after the state government lifted weekend shutdowns imposed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri as part of its new Covid guidelines for September, the locals of the Holy City as well as the servitors of Srimandir Wednesday urged the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to allow devotees to visit the shrine Saturday and Sunday.

They pleaded that many devotees usually prefer to visit Srimandir on weekends. "Devotees, especially employees of government and private organisations, are facing problems to visit the 12th century shrine

the SJTA to allow devotees to partake Mahaprasad at Anand Bazar on Srimandir premises.

"Devotees are facing difficulties in partaking the temple delicacies due to the restrictions imposed by the SJTA," he said.

Padhiary also pleaded for allowing devotees to visit Srimandir on weekends. "The Covid situa-

Heavy rain likely from Friday

No. 32 and 41 under South-East zone, as per the direction of the BMC.

Officials at the RMRC confirmed that this is the first sero survey that aims at identifying prevalence of Covid antibody among children. As part of the survey, a total of 6,680 samples are set to be collected including children aged between 6 to 17 years from 137 clusters in 12 districts.

jewellery and diamond jewellery value. The consumers can make use of either of the two offer and these offers are valid from September 1-4, 2021. The new store, spread across 3,000 sq. ft. caters to wide range of over 2,000 designs across gold, diamonds, solitaires and platinum. To celebrate the divine glory of Lord Jagannath, Tanishq also re-

lection offering a tribute to Lord Jagannath through- 'Rajadhiraj'. With the special jewellery collection customers can now keep their faith close to their heart with Tanishq's assortment of pendants and rings from its latest collection crafted especially as a mark of reverence for Rath Yatra. Along with Rajadhiraj, the new store also caters

like Aarambh, Aishani, Padmavat and others. Dharap said, "We are pleased to expand our retail footprint at one of the most sacred pilgrimage city of Puri, which is also an ancient city with modern aspirations. At Tanishq, our aim is to cater to all our customer needs with a fine blend of traditional designs and a contemporary touch."

on weekdays due to work. Now, the state government has lifted the weekend shutdown in Puri. So, the SJTA should keep the shrine open for devotees on weekends," said senior Daitapati servitor Binayak Dasmahapatra.

On the other hand, Srimandir Suar-Mahasuar Niyog secretary Krushna Chandra Padhiary urged weekend shutdown has also been lifted. So, there is no reason to keep Srimandir shut for devotees on weekends," he said. SJTA administrator (development) Ajay Kumar Jena said the temple authorities will take a decision in this regard only after assessing the situation in the coming days.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The regional office of the India

Meteorological Department (IMD)

Wednesday said there is lesser

chance of heavy rain in any part

of the state Thursday. It, however,

said that heavy rainfall activity is

that light to moderate rain could

occur in different parts of the state

Thursday. The department has also

issued warning of thunderstorm

is very likely to occur at one or

two places of Malkangiri, Koraput,

Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi,

Kandhamal, Boudh, Angul,

Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Bolangir

It also added, "Heavy rainfall

very likely to occur at one or two

places over the districts of

Malkangiri, Koraput and

"Thunderstorm with lightning

The department also claimed

likely to resume Friday.

and lightning for the day.

Friday." the IMD said.

Nabarangpur on the day.'

POST NEWS NETWORK

tion has improved in Puri. The

VARSITY TAG SOUGHT



Students under the banner of 'Cuttack Yuva Chhatra Parishad' demonstrate in the Silver City demanding unitary university status to Shailabala Women's College, Wednesday OP PHOTO

OSOU admission date extended till Sept 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Keeping in view the demand from students and study centres, Odisha State Open University (OSOU), Sambalpur has extended the last date of admissions for July 2021 session to September 30.

Currently, about 6,500 students have completed their registrations and nearly 5,000 students are yet to complete the admission process including payment of fees.

The admission and result publication in colleges and universities for both UG and PG programmes have not been completed. The OSOU has taken these factors into consideration while extending the date. However, the students will not

have to pay any late fine along with the programme fee and shall complete the admission formalities in the online portal of the university on or before September 30.



According to the forecast, heavy rain is likely to continue till September 5 while there would not be any major changes in weather conditions during the next two days.

The department claimed that the state capital is likely to see one or two spells of rain or thundershower Thursday while the maximum temperature in the city could go upto 34 degree Celsius. No warning for fishermen was issued.

According to IMD, six districts in the state reported large deficient rainfall in the last 24 hours. These districts are: Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Sundargarh. Nuapada and Deogarh reported no rainfall at all.

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state

Youth arrested for

defrauding woman

Jharsuguda Sept 1: A youth was

arrested by Badmal police in the dis-

trict on charge of defrauding a

young woman of ₹2.50 lakh on the

pretext of marriage. The accused

identified as Deepak Dehury,

32, was arrested from Darlipali

in Sundargarh district. Police

arrested him after the woman

lodged a complaint at Badmal

police station. He was arrested

four months after the crime and

Police said Dehury befriended the

woman on a social networking plat-

form and started a relation with her.

He managed to lure her and to

leave her home and stay with her.

for a fortnight during which

he withdrew ₹2.5 lakh from her

The woman stayed with him

Later, she realised that Dehury

was already married. After realising

that he was a fraud, the girl fled to

her home under Badmal police

limits and lodged a complaint with

the police. Acting on a tip-off,

Badmal police raided a location

and apprehended him Wednesday.

During interrogation, he identi-

fied himself as a reporter and a

press card was recovered from his

possession. He also turned hostile

during interrogation and tried to

dodge police, saying his house is at

Rourkela as well as in Talcher.

produced in court.

bank account.

of ₹2.50 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

KHARASROTA WATER DIVERSION CONTROVERSY

No eco impact survey on BNP by IIT-Hyd

DENIAL BY THE IIT PROFESSOR HAS COMPOUNDED THE TROVERSY OVER THE DRINKING WATER PROJECT



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 1: The controversy surrounding the diversion of the Kharasrota river water from Kendrapara to Bhadrak has reached the national level. Earlier, it was claimed by the administration that Prof Dr Sashidhar of IIT-Hyderabad had conducted a survey about the environmental impact of the mega drinking water project on the Bhitarkanika National Park.

However, Prof Dr Sashidhar has denied reports that there was a special environmental impact study of the project on the Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP). In an email, Dr Sashidhar said that he had not done any special survey on environmental impact of the drinking water on the BNP.

This was revealed by Ananta Nayak, president of Sambhabana, an institution working under the Eco Sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee.

"The district administration has given a wrong report about the drinking water project. This will form the basis on which the mega drinking water project at Barunidiha will be halted. The committee will move the court against the district administration over its wrong report,' Nayak said.

Rakesh Nayak of Rajkanika claimed to have telephonic talks with Dr Sashidhar recently and asked him questions about the conAnanta Nayak, president of Sambhabana, an institution working under the Eco Sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee revealed the opinon of

The administration has given a wrong report about the drinking water project. This will form the base to halt the mega drinking water project at Barunadiha. The committee will move the court against the district administration over the wrong report, Nayak said

Sashidhar

t was alleged that the project is being implemented to meet the water requirement of industries including the Dhamra port in Bhadrak district

troversial drinking water project. He had also communication with the IIT professor through an email.

'The report I have prepared is all about the project's impacts on air, water and sound. These were secondary data. However, no special study on the environmental impact on the BNP was made by me," it was stated.

Dr Sashidhar said he has not even visited the project site.

It may be noted here that the wetland area of Bhitarkanika is spread over 672 square/km. 45 villages in Bhadrak and 147 villages in Kendrapara have been identified as eco sensitive zone by the Central litre per day.

government in 2015. Hence, no construction work is

allowed in eco sensitive zone.

The district administration had held meetings with members of the Eco Sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee December 3 and December 15, 2020. The administration had claimed that the IIT-Hyderabad professor had granted a go-ahead to the proejct in his report.

However, a member of the committee had decried discrepancy in the IIT-Hyderabad report presented by the district administration. He had launched an agitation, alleging that the district administration was misleading people by presenting a faulty report. The members of the committee

alleged that it was a well-hatched conspiracy to protect the interests of industrial houses located in the neighbouring district.

Project opponents argued that diverting water from the Kharasrota river in Kendrapara district to neighbouring Bhadrak district is bound to cause depletion of water intake capacity.

The natural flow of the river should be protected for the larger interest of people of Kendrapara who are mostly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Locals alleged that the project is

being implemented to meet the water requirement of industries including the Dhamra port in Bhadrak district.

If the port and other companies are allowed to draw water from the mega project, the water level will fall drastically and adversely affect farming activities and the ecology of the national park, which is

home to the country's secondlargest mangrove forest cover. The intake well of the ₹892 crore project under Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (BASUDHA) is executed at Barunadiha panchayat under Rajkanika block till October 8.

The project will provide safe drinking water to 92 villages in Bhadrak district where the groundwater table is heavily salinated. The project will require 105 million

Nuapada farmers block NH-353

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 1: Angry over short supply of urea, its black marketing and drought situation, hundreds of farmers united under Jay Kishan Sangram Parishad undertook a Chasi Bachao padayatra from Kurumpuri to Nupada Collector's office Wednesday.

They laid siege to national high way-353 for hours bringing the traffic to a standstill, a report said. According to the report, shortage of urea fertiliser has affected farming in Nuapada district while drought situation has loomed large.

"For the last five years, the district has been witnessing drought conditions, breaking the backbone of farmers. The government is doing nothing to alleviate the plight of farmers. Affected by droughts, people are bound to migrate to

'Sabar' women fish in croc-infested river

in Ramchandi Galia river, a distributary of the Mahanadi river, risking their lives.

According to local residents, there is fear of crocodile attacks in the river as many such cases were reported in the past too. Hanua Bhakta, Gostha Bhakta and a few other women of Sabarpada were the victims.

Local residents alleged that the (IEPF). forest department should create awareness to stop people from catching fish in these dangerous water bodies.

FOR BIKERS' SAFETY



FERTILISER SHORT SUPPL



other states," farmer leaders fumed. The farmers wanted to submit a memorandum over their 11-point demands to the Collector. As farmers tried to enter the Collector's office, they had a faceoff with police. Reports said the Collector was not available for farmers. Later, sub-collector Taranisen Nayak met agitating farmers and received their memorandum. The farming in the district had always been affected by natural disasters, but affected farmers have not been compensated properly, they alleged.

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ENCOURAGING TALENT

Woman drug peddler held, brown sugar



Sanjay Singh, Vice Chairman of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, felicitating a meritorious student on the occasion of the BDA's foundation day. Wednesday

worth ₹5 lakh seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 1: A woman was arrested and brown sugar worth ₹5 lakh seized from her possession in Kendrapara district Wednesday, officials said.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint squad of police and the Excise department intercepted a vehicle at Pattamundai area and seized the contraband weighing 50 gm, according to officials.

The suspected drug peddler has been arrested under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act. The value of the seized contraband is estimated to be worth ₹5 lakh. they said.

The woman is being interrogated to ascertain whether she acted as a conduit of a larger drug-trafficking racket, the officials added

pictures of Sabar community women catching fish in neck deep water in crocodile-infested Ramchandi Galia river in Ramnagar and Petchhela panchayats of Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district are very common.

Mahakalpara, Sept 1: These days

POST NEWS NETWORK

According to local residents, the population of saltwater crocodile. locally known as Baula, is increasing in the rivers, rivulets and 'joras' flowing in Kendrapara district. They usually prey on fish and crabs and collect food from wastages flowing in the water bodies. Instances of these crocodiles attacking people who enter the water are many. Recently, a saltwater crocodile had attacked a woman from Chhatar village when she was catching fish in a rivulet. The woman is now undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar.

These days women of 'Sabar' community are seen catching fish

These women are also aware of the fact that they are sailing too close to the wind. But they have to enter the water every day to feed their family members.

We are very poor. We run our families from whatever we earn by selling our catches. We are caught between the devil and the deep sea. If we stop going to catch fish, we would die. If we venture out into rivers, there is fear of crocodile attack," they lamented.

Sd/-(PREM KHANDELWAL) CFO & COMPANY SECRETARY



Rise in number of birds in Bhitarkanika: Forest officials

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Sept 1: The number of monsoon birds that throng the mangrove forest belts in the Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) for their annual nesting has crossed one lakh with an impressive growth of 11 per cent this year, forest officials said.

According to findings of a census, 1,08,639 birds including 62,983 chicks of eleven species were sighted at the park in Kendrapara district. Rajnagar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Jagnyadatt Pati said.

It is a rise of 11 per cent as compared to 97,866 birds sighted in 2020 rainv season at the wildlife sanctuary which has the second largest mangrove ecosystem in the country, he said.

The number of domestic birds visiting the Bhitarkanika sanctuary has also increased this year. This year, an excess of 10,773 domestic birds in comparison to last

Two teams of forest officials including enumerators participated in the census. As many as 61,107 birds including 25,026 big and 36,081 small birds were traced in 12, 513 nests at Mathaadia

year have visited the sanctuary. The annual bird census took place from August 23 till August 29. The counting of birds was conducted at Mathaadia, Lakshmiprasadadia and Durgaprasadadia inside the sanctuary.

Two teams of forest officials including enumerators participated in the census. As many as 61,107



birds including 25,026 big birds and 36,081 small birds were traced in 12, 513 nests at Mathaadia. Similarly, 41,338 birds including 10,880 big birds and 30,458 small birds were found in 8,140 nests in Lakshmiprasadadia. Likewise 1,375 domestic birds have built their nests at Durgaprasadadia

As many as 2,750 big birds were identified while the number of chickens is 3.444 which take the total to 6,194. This year, over 10 types of birds have been sighted in the Bhitarkanika sanctuary. The pertinent feature of the census findings for the year was that the monsoon birds have found a new nesting site at a mangrove forest in Lakhsmiprasadadia and Durgaprasadadia for the last three years, one of the officials said.

Moreover, despite unfavourable climatic condition, the domestic birds have made the Lakshmiprasadadia, Mathaadia and Durgaprasadadia their new nesting sites where they have also laid eggs. The arrival of birds started in the first week of June. The male birds first build the nests following which the female birds lay eggs. Forest officials have been deployed to ensure the safety of birds from the poachers, he added.

Lack of human interference, ideal climatic conditions and the river systems have always attracted the monsoon birds towards Bhitarkanika, experts said.



power post

FOCUS CLIMATE CRISIS

That within us which seeks to know and to progress is not the mind but something behind it which makes use of it. SRI AUROBINDO



Onus on NATO

here are few more honourable pages in Albania's history than its lonely example of heroism in the face of the destruction of European Jewry during World War II. Nobody asked our grandparents to risk, and often sacrifice, their lives to save people from the Holocaust, yet countless Albanians – Muslims, Christians, and atheists – did just that. Thanks to the Albanian code of honour, which demands all of us to offer shelter to strangers in need, Albania was the only country in Europe with more Jews at the war's end than at its start.

Immediately afterward, we experienced persecution firsthand. After prevailing over our external enemies, we encountered an equally vicious one at home: an oppressive totalitarian regime that jailed, tortured, and murdered those it perceived as enemies.

We lived what the people of Afghanistan now face as the Taliban consolidate power throughout the country. We lived in a state that sealed its border and persecuted dissidents and their families, just like the Taliban are expected to do with their adversaries. For nearly 50 years, we aspired to have the freedom that Afghans tasted over the last 20 years and which they now seem certain to lose.

Today, Albania is a member of NATO, enjoying the benefits and sharing the burdens of cooperation. Given our history,

it is right that we were the first country in the world to offer shelter to thousands of refugees fleeing the Taliban. All NATO members must recognise their responsibility.

Yes, there are important questions about what is happening in Afghanistan and why, and how current events will shape the alliance's future. But while it is imperative to have those dispassionate conversations, there is only one thing to do now: act together to save as many lives as possible. We must uphold the values of the North Atlantic Alliance and shared by all democratic countries. That means not turning our back on people whose lives are now at risk because they believed in us.

Until a few days ago, NATO members were the main source of support for the people of Afghanistan. We cannot recede like shadows, alongside the ideals, principles, and promise of freedom and democracy that we made over two decades. The world's most powerful military alliance, built to uphold those ideals with the threat of force and the force of example, cannot become a spineless entity in the eyes of the Afghan people and the millions of people elsewhere who crave to live in a free, just, and democratic society. All of us, our community of countries, must give hope, shelter, and a new life to all of those who trusted us, worked for us, and fought for the promise of the future we represented

When we agreed to shelter Afghan refugees, we did it because we take seriously our obligations to our allies. But, more importantly, we did it because of who we are. Only 30 years ago, we were the Afghans on the Adriatic coast, desperately trying to escape the 'Red Taliban' of

Tirana, and who during the Kosovo war opened our doors to shelter a halfmillion refugees escaping the ethnic cleansing of Serbia under Slobodan Miloševi . We are well acquainted with all sides of tyranny, both when left in the hands of a brutal regime and when seeking to build a new life as refugees in other countries. Those experiences have taught us that it is not danger that creates fear, but fear that creates danger.

Albania is neither large nor rich. It is not detached from the complex realities of Europe, including how immigration is often perceived as a burden. We know that fear of strangers affects polling, elections, and the commitments of parties and politicians seeking to win office, and we respect the difficult choices all other countries have to make. But, when confronted with life-or-death choices concerning people whom we are honour-bound to help, our path is obvious



Edi Rama

The world's most powerful military alliance, built to uphold those ideals with the threat of force and the force of example, cannot become a spineless entity in the eyes of the Afghan people and the millions of people elsewhere who crave to live in a free, just, and democratic society

RHETORIC & ACTION

he latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is unambiguous. Humanity has already emitted enough greenhouse gases to raise the atmospheric temperature by at least 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This will cause extreme and irreversible climate change over the next two decades. There is still time to prevent catastrophic global warming, but it will require reducing carbon dioxide emissions 80 per cent by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2050. And while United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the latest report a "code red for humanity," an effective response remains far from guaranteed. As it stands, the UN's annual Emissions Gap Report 2020 shows that the rich OECD countries are not reducing their emissions fast enough, and developing economies are on track to continue increasing theirs. In advance of November's **UN Climate Change Conference** (COP26) in Glasgow, world leaders are rushing to agree on more ambitious emissions-reduction goals so-called nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Recognition of the need for climate action has never been stronger.

Nonetheless, the plans under consideration remain grossly inadequate, and the political will needed to change that is sorely missing. This "gap between rhetoric and action," the International Energy Agency (IEA) warns, "needs to close if we are to have a fighting chance of reaching net zero by 2050 and limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C.' Success will require "nothing short of a total transformation of the energy systems that underpin our economies."

The IEA has proposed a roadmap for getting the global energy sector to net-zero emissions by 2050. The IPCC report also charts several pathways to creating a net-zero world. Unfortunately, the world's largest historical emitter, the



The burden of climate action primarily falls on US, China and EU, which will need to provide aid and incentives to encourage other high emitters, such as India. to adopt clean energy

United States, is not following any of them. Consider the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill that the US Senate just passed. It was supposed to include a number of climate-related provisions, such as creating a clean electricity standard, funding zeroemissions public transit, building a national electric-vehicle charging infrastructure, and establishing a Civilian Climate Corps, But over months of contentious negotiations, those provisions were largely removed, resulting in a policy that, if passed in the House, would support outmoded fossil-fuel energy and transportation systems.

Senate Democrats are hoping to make up for this loss with a \$3.5 trillion budget plan, which would support climate action and significantly expand the social safety net. But the bill itself has yet to be written; that is a job for congressional committees. And many elements of it-particularly with regard to climate - are likely to be lost or watered down as it works its way through each committee.

This does not bode well for US Democrats, who rely on the electoral support of younger voters, for whom climate change is a high priority. If Democrats lose power - say, in next year's midterm elections - the chances that the US will take effective action to protect the planet will be further diminished. Even now, pressure from the fossil-fuel industry lobby and from Republicans is so strong that US President Joe Biden's administration has not only failed to curb petroleum production on public and tribal lands, but has approved over 2,100 drilling permits.

Americans want stronger climate policies. In one recent poll, 53 per cent of registered voters said that global warming should be a high or very high priority for the government, and 66 per cent said that developing sources of clean energy should be a high or very high priority. Another poll showed that roughly two-thirds of likely voters - including almost half of Republicans – think oil and gas companies have too much power.

They are right. For decades, the oil industry has produced manipulative studies and funded major marketing campaigns to convince the public that oil and "natural" gas were essential for economic growth and not harmful to the planet. It has also spent liberally to influence lawmakers at the

national and state levels, including in California, a climate leader, thereby blocking climate-related legislation and policies.

US lawmakers must start listening to voters, escape the grip of oil and gas lobbyists, and enact policies that recognise the scale of the climate crisis. This means lowering the country's carbon-equivalent emissions drastically. Although national emissions have lately grown more slowly than output, the IEA warns that the US economy's carbon intensity remains much too high. The decoupling of emissions and economic growth needs to accelerate sharply. The US has the technology and resources to create a modern, cleanenergy economy. It simply lacks the political will. This has far-reaching implications. As the world's largest economy, with the highest per capita CO2 emissions, the US is vital to the success of COP26.

Beyond its direct impact, the US has considerable influence over other large economies, including China, which currently produces 27 per cent of annual greenhouse-gas emissions, and the European Union, which emits 6.4 per cent. Together with America's 11 per cent, these three economies produce close to half of global emissions. The burden of climate action primarily falls on these economies, which will need to provide financial aid and incentives to encourage other high emitters, such as India (6.6 per cent), to adopt clean energy.

For decades, Big Oil has wielded more power than US voters have. The IPCC's latest report shows unequivocally why this must change. To keep our planet habitable, popular majorities in favour of climate action - beginning with Americans – must come together and demand that their government do what is needed.

The writer is Professor of Economics and Director of Center for Work, Technology, and Society at University of California. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Clair Brown

THE IPCC

SEVERAL

PATHWAYS

NET-ZERO

WORLD.

LARGEST

IS NOT

REPORT CHARTS

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THE WORLD'S

HISTORICAL

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EMITTER, THE

UNITED STATES,

The climate crisis hits children hard

ave those who have been termed for which there was no data avail-'climate deniers,' it is generally acknowledged that the climate crisis is a threat that demands immediate and sweeping action. The recent report put out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the 'code red for humanity' is a big red flag. The facts are before everyone to see: atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide was higher in 2019 than in the previous two million years, sea levels have risen far faster since 1900 than in the last 3.000 years and the global ocean temperature has warmed faster over the last century than it has since the last deglacial transition approximately 11.000 years ago, and much more. The climate crisis has a wideranging and far-reaching impact on humankind generally, but it has a disproportionate impact on certain groups, notably children. The recent report published by UNICEF looking at the climate crisis from the lens of child rights, is one such attempt to study the impact on children. A new concept called the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) has been introduced, which "uses data to generate new global evidence on how many children are currently exposed to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses." Across two categories, the CCRI brings 57 variables together to measure risk across 163 countries, minus a few

able and a number of Small Island Developing Nations (those with areas less than 20,000 km sq).

It functions on two pillars - one, exposure to climate and environing, there are a number of problems.

and support to tackle local and global challenges, including climate change and environmental degradation. Although this sounds promis- extremely high-risk countries with

tries where children are at an extremely high risk of the impacts of the climate crisis. CCRI places India among the 33

To fail to act now would mean to turn our backs on our own history, and to forget what we have learned from the tragedies of the past century. It would be to neglect the memory of many fallen soldiers and to erase the countless sacrifices undertaken over 20 long years on the battlefield, while the Taliban and the cruelties they embody remind humanity once more that evil never dies.

Albania is ready to handle its share of the burden that all NATO countries must carry together. But now I ask: if even Albania, the alliance's poorest member, can manage its share of the burden, who among other NATO member states cannot? And what political excuse can be powerful enough to defeat our basic human obligations?

There is too much finger pointing and not enough hand-raising for humanity. The founding principle of NATO is that an attack on one is an attack on all. So, too, should a humanitarian challenge as big as the NATO is leaving behind in Afghanistan be embraced by all.

> The writer is Prime Minister of Albania. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- The mind is the root from which all things grow if you can understand the mind, everything else is included BODHIDHARMA
- To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the sufferina.
 - FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE
- Man as an individual is a genius. But men in the mass form the headless monster, a great, brutish idiot that goes where prodded. CHARLIE CHAPLIN

WORDS**WORTH**

Panjandrum

Awonderful story is told about the origin of this mock title for an Aimaginary or mysterious personage of much power or a pompous, pretentious or self-important person in authority. Foote is said to have composed on the spot as a challenge a bit of nonsense that has since become famous: So she went into the garden to cut a cabbage-leaf to make an apple-pie: and at the same time a great she-bear, coming up the street. pops its head into the shop. "What! No soap?" So he died, and she very imprudently married the barber; and there were present the Picninnies, and the Joblillies, and the Garyulies, and the grand Panjandrum himself, with the little round button at top, and they all fell to playing the game of catch as catch can till the gunpowder ran out at the heels of their boots (Quoted in Oliver Cromwell, Daniel De Foe, Sir Richard Steele, Charles Churchill, Samuel Foote, a book of biographical essays by John Forster, Third Edition, 1860). It is said that Macklin was so indignant at this nonsense that he refused to repeat a word of it. Most of Foote's invented words in this piece vanished as quickly as they appeared, but grand panjandrum survived to become a part of the language, no doubt because of its cadence and internal rhyme, and was later shortened just to panjandrum. There is a problem with this story. The text became widely known only much later, from about the middle of the nineteenth century.



Ishan Chauhan

THE CLIMATE **CRISIS HAS A** WIDE-RANGING **AND FAR-REACHING IMPACT ON** HUMANKIND **GENERALLY, BUT IT HAS A** DISPROPORTIONATE **IMPACT ON CERTAIN GROUPS, NOTABLY CHILDREN**

mental hazards, shocks and stresses, and two, child vulnerability. Under the second pillar, it examines vulnerability and coping capacity with respect to the rights outlined in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). The climate crisis, as one would expect, is giving birth to a multi-pronged child rights crisis of unprecedented proportions.

The child rights, according to the CRC, are primarily the responsibility of the State which is the chief protector of child rights and must fulfill its obligations under the convention. Given the severity of the situation, the State must ensure that it makes decisions with long term effects on climate in mind and in particular with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration. The Committee has specified that "environmental interventions should, inter alia, address climate change, as this is one of the biggest threats to children's health and exacerbates health disparities. States should, therefore, put children's health concerns at the centre of their climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies." The child's participation would be encouraged by suitable education

Like many other international instruments, it lacks a proper enforcement mechanism. It doesn't, on its own, provide a mechanism that enforces compliance (as do some human rights treaties). It has therefore, near complete dependence on national legal means, that is, its conversion into national laws and legal processes. And so, the process of monitoring, by a group of 18 experts elected by the UN, and the report they issue every five years

is somewhat ineffectual. Another issue with child rights, that is particularly highlighted in the context of environmental conservation is the disconnect between the rights-holder and the moral agent, that is, the child and the 'person' authorised to take decisions. India signed the convention in

1992 and has since made strides in realisation of these rights. However, it is pertinent to mention that under the Sustainable Development Goals, India has slipped in rankings and significant challenges remain, with stagnating growth under SDG 5 (gender equality) and challenges under SDG 4 (quality education) and many others as well. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four South Asian counrepeated flooding and air pollution leading to adverse socio-economic consequences for women and children. More than 600 million Indians will face 'acute water shortages' in coming years, while at the same time flash flooding is expected to increase significantly in a majority of India's urban areas once the global temperature increase rises above 2° C. With India having the largest adolescent population in the world, the challenges that have been highlighted by way of this report are only magnified further.

The CCRI, while laudable for being the first child-centric environmental risk index, and also for the improved technology it has used to provide more detailed and essential information, has the problem of being just a report. Given the striking facts of IPCC's sixth assessment report, and the effects of the climate crisis visible before our eyes, do we have time for the conventional understanding of and approach to environmentalism?

Clearly not, so what does the future hold? How do we secure the future of our children? How do we bring about disruption and displacement in the right direction? The writer is an author/ editor of three books. ©THE BILLION PRESS

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 (0) words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Politicians & verbal bloopers

Sir, There are some lawmakers of the country who do not think twice before shooting from the hip on rape cases. Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanedra, for example, seemed to care less about public sentiments when he advised girls to avoid deserted places after evening to 'safeguard' themselves. The minister was commenting on the horrendous rape incident of a college girl that took place at the foothills of the famous Chamundi hills in Mysore. There have been many others, too, who have thought little before coming up with frequent bloopers regarding the security of women in India. Right from advocating sober attire to keeping safe company, politicians have offered free sermons to girls and their parents. Shifting the onus on the victims, by trying to abdicate their responsibilities, comes too easy for ministers. Then there are the Opposition parties whose singular aim is to pin the government to the mat on sensational issues without thinking twice on the subtlety involved in the matter. Yes, the Mysore shocker may have been prevented if the successive governments had cared to install some safety measures along the stretch to the temple where the crime took place. However, the police need enough time to crack a serious and reprehensible crime as rape. The whole of Mysore and Karnataka, and even India, were watching in a daze as the police went about their difficult task of piecing together available evidence with little clues left behind by the perpetrators of the crime. One has to remember that they have a dual task of not only apprehending the offenders but also ensure that no innocent man is caught. Indian police have done exceptionally well when they are given a free hand, and the Mysore police have proved just that. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Speed merchant exits

Sir, Speed merchant Dale Steyn bidding farewell to his cricketing career has stumped lovers of the game. In cricket, there was no better sight than watching the South African steaming in to deliver his thunderbolts and hustle the batsmen. His record of 439 Test wickets, 196 ODI scalps and 64 victims in Twenty20Is speaks for itself and puts him in the league of the greatest fast bowlers of \rightarrow all time. Unfortunately, injuries marred Steyn's career over the last few years, and this must have made him call time earlier than expected. His exit marks the end of an era, and the game will be much the poorer with his absence!

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE





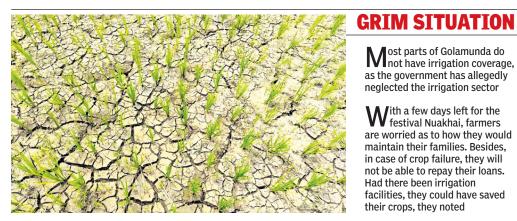




state

farmers mull migration

Farmlands have cracked open and saplings wilted owing to lack of rain. It is already a drought-like situation in 28 panchayats under this block



POST NEWS NETWORK

Golamunda, Sept 1: With monsoon doing a vanishing act, agricultural activities for the current kharif season have been hampered across Golamunda block in Kalahandi district.

As farm work has suffered amid apprehensions of drought in the region, migrant returnees and farmers are planning to migrate to other states in search of work.

Most parts of Golamunda do not have irrigation coverage, as the government has allegedly neglected the irrigation sector. As there is hardly any irrigation facility in the region, agriculture has failed to be a lucrative option for people. Golamunda is one block in western Odisha from where many people migrate to other states in search of jobs.

Farmlands have cracked open and saplings wilted owing to lack of rain. It is already a droughtlike situation in 28 panchayats under this block.

The farming community here is worried over the impending drought. They alleged that the gov ernment has not come forward to set up lift irrigation points during this crisis

Reports said initially monsoon was active and it spurred some farm activities. But in June, July and August, the area has not received adequate rainfall, leading to the farmlands becoming dry.

With a few days left for the fes tival Nuajhai, farmers are worried as to how they would maintain their families. Besides, in case of crop failure, they will not be able

to repay their loans. Had there been irrigation facilities, they could

have saved their crops, they noted. Many farmers have demanded that the government immediately asses the drought situation

and declare the block as a droughthit zone. Block Agriculture Officer

Lingaraj Meher said revenue and agriculture officials will survey the crop situation in the block.

Drought tag for Ganjam sought

BERHAMPUR: Owing to deficit rainfall, drought situation has cropped up in most parts of Ganjam district. Various farmers' organizations have demanded that the government declare the district as drought-affected. Farmers alleged that irrigation systems in certain pockets have allegedly collapsed.

According to information available from the agriculture department, paddy has been cultivated in 2 lakh hectares in kharif season. For want of rain, most of farmlands have dried, leading to damage of crops.

Some farmer organizations observed that the administration take immediate steps for assessing the crop damage and provide financial assistance to the affected farmers

On the other hand, the BJP has made the irrigation as an issue and slammed the state government for doing nothing to improve the irrigation sector in

Sources said during their rule

over Paralakehmundi, the royal

families had carried out various de-

velopment work in their areas.

The then royal Gour Chandra

Gajapati was first to launch the

railway services in the

Paralakhemundi area in 1900, which

was almost impossible to achieve

During the British rule, the for-

mer royals realised that interests

and unthinkable at that time.

the district. Pradip Purohit, the state president of the Krushak Morcha along with a team of BJP leaders, took stock of the drought situation in some areas. They meet the family members of a farmer who has committed

suicide at Baulajholi. Another team of BJP leaders also took stock of crop damage at Chikiti, Gopalpur and parts of

Chhatrapur constituency. It was alleged that drought situation has been grim in parts of

Ganiam. The Left party leaders have slammed the state government

over the sorry state of agriculture this year due to lack of irrigation facility in the district. They pointed out that when the district started reeling from severe drought condition, BJD MP

and MLAs came in hordes to inaugurate smart school transformation programme. They did not have any concern for the farmers and the farm sector.

Drought fear: Golamunda VEDANTA RENEGES ON PROMISES

AFFECTED VILLAGERS OF KATIKELA HOLD SIT-IN OUTSIDE PLANT GATE IN JHARSUGU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Sept 1: The Vedanta plant at Bhurkamunda in this district has been deceiving the displaced and people of other affected

villages for a long time, a report said. The accumulated anger among people has forced them to resort to agitation. The company had promised a lot of things to displaced residents of Katikela village but never fulfilled its promises.

The simmering resentment among villagers flared up Wednesday as people staged a sit-in outside the gate no-1 of Vedanta project. The sitin disrupted coal transportation and traffic on the route. Badmal police reached the spot and tried to placate the villagers. But the villagers refused to relent.

Meanwhile, mediapersons reached the spot and clicked the photographs of the agitation, but were opposed by the Vedanta officials.

Jagmohan Sahu of the company's corporate social responsibility department was found visibly agitated on seeing the media. He raised objections to the arrival of reporters and tried to drive them away from the site.

He said this is a company area and no mediaperson can enter the place and collect news. Debananda Barik, a social activist, questioned the attitude of Vedanta officials. He asked when media is deemed the fourth estate of democracy why Vedanta is opposing the media instead of facing them.

He wondered why should Vedanta fear the media if it has worked for the displaced and affected villagers and for peripheral development. He said the company's avoidance of media speaks volumes about its involvement in

POST NEWS NETWORK

the temple and started its reconstruction. But the work has been left halfway Mediapersons reached the spot and clicked the photographs of the agitation but were opposed by the Vedanta officials agmohan Sahu of the company's corporate social responsibility department was found visibly agitated on seeing the media

illegalities.

Sources said Katikela village is about 2.5 km from the Vedanta project. An ash pond of the firm lies about 100 metres from the village. The ash dumped in the pond flies in the air polluting air and water bodies in the area. Things have come to such a pass that the rivers, creeks, ponds and wells have become contaminated due to the ash. People consuming the water have

been affected by various skin and

In 2017, over 104 acres of farmland were damaged following a breach on the dyke of an ash pond. This infuriated the villagers. They demanded relocation as it was not possible for them to live by an ash pond. The company was not interested in relocating the villagers. leading to prolonged agitations by the villagers. However, at an RPDAC meeting, the company agreed to do so.

and provided compensation to 25 per cent of the affected villagers while The company had initiated the

process to identify land for relocation of the villagers. But the initiative was pushed to cold store. Though villagers have been appealing to the company to restart the process, nothing is being done

respiratory diseases.

in this regard.

In 2009, the company has en-

the company, the latter is paying no

heed. After demolition of the tem-

ple, the deity has been kept in a club house. Demanding reconstruction

croached upon 81 decimals of land belonging to Lord Jagannath temple. It has been dumping ash on it. After repeated requests, the company had promised to renovate the Jagannath temple and pay compensations for the land it has occupied. In 2014, the company demolished the temple and started its reconstruction. But the work has been left halfway. The villagers alleged that though they have been repeatedly drawing attention of

Vedanta then conducted a survey 75 per cent of people in the village are still deprived of compensation.

of the temple work, villagers sought compensation for the land. Information and public relations officer of the company Pratyush Jena said officials of the CSR wing have promised the agitating people to meet their demands.

CB records statements of Soumya's family



The Crime Branch officials quizzed Soumya's father Abhiram Mohaparta, mother Tulasi, maternal-uncle Sitikantha Panda and other members of the family in

connection with the case. The team recorded statements while questioning the family members on Soumya's previous phone calls and Bidyabharati Panda's alleged relationship with Gajapati di-

visional forest officer (DFO) Sangram Keshari Behera, the ACF's father informed. Reiterating his charges, Abhiram Mohapatra, father of the deceased, ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohaptra, said, it is very hard to digest a husband was burnt alive but the wife did not get any hint of this He said that his son could never

have attempted suicide as he was sure Bidyabharati had extramarital affair with the DFO as a result of which he was murdered.'

Similarly, the deceased ACF's mother Tulasi Mohapatra said she does not think her son was burnt inside the house. He must have been murdered somewhere else and his body was lighted later in-

side his house to mislead people. Earlier, the CB said the Gajapati DFO Sangram Keshari Behera and the deceased ACF's wife Bidvabharati would be subjected to a lie detection test.

Paralakhemundi rail route to see facelift ITBP jawan recounts horrific

in the morning

POST NEWS NETWORK

services to the people of Gunupur.

other members of the family.

member team led by its DSP Gyana

Ranjan Mishra reached the ACF's

ancestral house at Begunia village

under Khaira block of Balasore

This historical narrow gauge



SIMMERING

DISCONTENT

n 2014, the company demolished

Paralakhemundi, Sept 1: The British Naipada era Paralakhemundi-Gunupur rail route will soon come alive with the Centre assuring to extend the rail route from Gunupur to Therubali, a report said.

The extension of the 200-year-old rail route will ensure better railway connectivity among the southern Odisha districts. It will not only help people travel to their destinations, but also improve transportation of goods.

The matter came to the fore during the recent visit of the Union Railways Minister Aswini Vaishnaw to Koraput district. During his visit, political representatives, administrative officials and leaders of various political outfits met Vaishnaw and apprised him about the rich history of the rail route. Vaishnaw heard their pleas and assured them to take necessary steps for the development of the rail route.



mence railways services in the area.

Even as Paralakhemundi and Gunupur were remote and inaccessible areas at that time and construction of a rail route was almost impossible, Gour Chandra Gajapati took the challenge and constructed a narrow gauge railway track in 1900 to connect with the main rail route at Naipada in Andhra Pradesh.

of their people could be best served Later, his son Krushna Chandra if communication facilities were Gajapati Narayan Dev, who ascended the throne, extended the improved in the area. Gour Chandra Gajapati spent money from his exrailway track from Paralakhemundi chequer and donated land to comto Gunupur and provided railways

NUTRITION AWARENESS

rail route was closed down in 2002 and replaced with a broad gauge rail track in 2011. However, the track was not extended up to Therubali in Rayagada despite repeated demands from various walks of life. They demanded extension of the track till Therubali at different points of times.

Now after Vaishnaw's visit to the southern districts, people are hopeful that extension of the rail route will gain momentum. The Centre has given its approval for the project and the state government has agreed to provide land for it. However, the project again ran into controversy after the Centre suddenly demanded that the state should bear 50 per cent of the expenditure for the project.

However, Vaishnaw assured to discuss the matter with the state government and start the project soon. This has raised hopes among residents that work may soon begin on the rail route project.

experience in Afghanistan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Sept 1: The return of Taliban in Afghanistan has sparked unprecedented fear among residents and foreigners living there with the US having withdrawn its troops from the country, a report said.

An Odia jawan of Haladia Sasan village in Kendrapara district, who returned home from Afghanistan, recounted his traumatic experience on the developments of past few weeks in the war-torn Afghanistan.

Deepak Choudhary of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was posted at the Indian Embassy for Trade and Commerce at Kandahar. He was part of the NXG Black Commando group of the paramilitary force and was posted at the embassy in-charge of the security of the Public Diplomacy Officers.

He said every moment was tense and danger was lurking around them. Everybody was worried about his own safety. However, without fearing any of these, keeping the name of the motherland high was their priority. Not a single day passed in peace as people in whole camp woke up to deafening sound of gunfire and mortar.

Deepak along with several ITBP jawans helped in evacuating seven officers from the Indian Consulate when the Taliban extremists opened fire and launched rocket strikes in Kabul killing many.

Deepak was stationed in Kandahar amid the deteriorating security situation. His family was worried about his safety. His homecoming has given a new lease of life to his anxious family members.

He said the problem started from June. The Taliban extremists did not allow the Indian flight to land at Kabul airport. However, the flight to evacuate the diplomats landed at Kabul airport after the Prime Minister intervened. He has learned a lot during these times.

DEEPAK CHOUDHARY OF INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) WAS POSTED AT THE INDIAN EMBASSY FOR TRADE AND COMMERCE AT KANDAHAR. HE WAS PART OF THE NXG BLACK COMMANDO GROUP OF THE PARAMILITARY FORCE AND WAS POSTED AT THE EMBASSY IN-CHARGE OF THE SECURITY OF THE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY OFFICERS

DEEPAK ALONG WITH SEVERAL ITBP JAWANS HELPED IN EVACUATING SEVEN OFFICERS FROM THE INDIAN CONSULATE WHEN THE TALIBAN EXTREMISTS OPENED FIRE AND LAUNCHED ROCKET STRIKES IN KABUL KILLING MANY

The entire evacuation process lasted for 60-62 hours. He and his co-jawans escorted the diplomats in two vehicles from the Indian Consulate in Kandahar to the airport. The Talibani extremists had already created a ruckus on road.

The Talibans opened fire on our vehicles but the ITBP jawans took diversions on roads multiple times and travelled in safe routes to avoid mishaps. They managed to arrive at the airport which was around 30-40 km from the Indian Consulate. It took them around 2 hours to reach the destination, he said.

Deepak along with 46 other ITBP commandos evacuated the diplomats and others from the Indian Consulate and arrived at the airport. They were airlifted to New Delhi on Indian Air Force's C-17 Globemaster aircraft and safely reached the New Delhi airport.

He said it was normal for them to hear the sounds of gunfire and explosions in Afghanistan. However, after Taliban took over the reins of the country, the security situation deteriorated to such an extent that the walls of the building they livedin vibrated due to the blasts while the glasses in the room cracked.



Officials flag off a van meant to create awareness on need for nutrition at Muribahal in Bolangir, Wednesday





ОР РНОТС





NGO to move HC over Delhi receives highest Sept rain in 19 years

'financial anomalies' in **Assam NRC updation**

The NRC updating process had begun in 2015 and the final list was published August 31, 2019, with the names of 3.11 crore people included and over 19 lakh excluded



We have been

that Hajela had

malpractices during the

had filed several cases

CID in this connection

tor in 2013.

been taken so far.

excluded

necessary steps in this matter,"

that went on for nearly five years.

AABHIJEET SARMA I APW PRESIDENT

claiming since long

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 1: The Assam Public Works (APW), an NGO whose petition in the Supreme Court led to updation of the National Register of Citizens, has said that it would move the Gauhati High Court over the alleged misappropriation of funds to the tune of ₹360 crore by the office of the NRC state coordinator between 2014 and 2019.

The financial irregularities were detected in the Inspection Report of the accounts of the NRC state coordinator's office and they were committed when Prateek Hajela was at the helm, APW President Aabhijeet Sarma claimed in a press conference.

The NRC, an official record of bonafide Indian citizens living in Assam, was updated under the supervision of the Supreme Court and released August 31, 2019, leaving out more than 19 lakh applicants. However, it has not been notified by the Registrar General of India.

"We have been claiming since long that Hajela had indulged in various financial malpractices during the mammoth NRC exercise and had filed several cases against him with the CBI and CID in this connection," he said.

Hajela, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, had been appointed by the apex court as the NRC state coordina-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Delhi recorded 112.1 mm rainfall in 24 hours ending at 8:30 am Wednesday, the highest single-day precipitation in September in 19 years, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD)

The capital had recorded 126.8 mm rainfall September 13, 2002. The all-time record is 172.6 mm rainfall September 16, 1963.

The heavy burst of rain submerged several areas, including the diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri, in knee-deep water and affected traffic movement in parts of the city.

The city gauged 75.6 mm rainfall in just three hours starting 8:30 am. This means that Delhi has already recorded more than the monthly quota of rain on the first two days of the month.

On an average, the capital gauges 125.1 mm precipitation in September every year, according to the IMD.

Asked if the IMD expected such heavy rainfall -- 187.1 mm since 8:30 am Tuesday, an official said it is difficult to make "precise predictions" for a small area like Delhi two to three days in advance. "The predictions are for larger

indulged in various financial areas, say like Haryana and Punjab. This applies across the world," he mammoth NRC exercise and Mahesh Palawat, Vice said. President, Skymet Weather, a priagainst him with the CBI and



Vehicles ply on the waterlogged Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg after heavy rain at ITO in New Delhi, Wednesday, PTIPHOTO

vate forecasting agency, said the monsoon pattern is changing due to climate change.

'The number of rainy days has reduced over the last four to five vears, and there has been an increase in extreme weather events. he said. "We have been recording short and intense bouts of rains,

24 hours ending 8:30 am Wednesday. sometimes around 100 mm rainfall in just 24 hours. In the past, this much precipitation would occur over a period of 10 to 15 days," he said. Officials at the India Meteorological Department said the Safdarjung Observatory, considmm and 68.2 mm rainfall, respecered the official marker for the city, gauged 112.1 mm rainfall in the

Road, Ridge and Ayanagar have recorded 78.2mm, 75.4mm, 50mm and 44.8mm rainfall, respectively, it said

Tuesday, Delhi gauged 84 mm rainfall in just six hours -- between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm -- that flooded roads and led to massive traffic snarls on key stretches such as ITO, Ring Road near IP Estate flyover, Dhaula Kuan, and Rohtak road. "The intensity is likely to reduce. Another spell of rain is likely from September 7," an IMD official said.

In its forecast for the month of September, the IMD said, "Normal to below normal rainfall is most likely over many areas of northwest." The Delhi Traffic Police issued an advisory against traffic obstruction at Mother Teresa Crescent Marg, Mayapuri Chowk, Ghitorni Metro Station to MG Road and Adchini towards Kishangarh due to the heavy waterlogging.

Weather experts said such spells of rain do not help recharge groundwater and lead to flooding in low-lying areas. The water percolates in the ground if it rains slowly over four to five days. In case of heavy falls, the rainwater runs off quickly, Palawat said.

"The rain washes away pollutants, but since the number of rainy days has reduced, the average annual air quality is also getting affected," he said.

BRAVING THE ODDS



Villagers transport cooking gas cylinders through a boat in a flood affected area in Morigaon district, Wednesday

Assam flood condition

The other side of Delhi's smog tower

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Delhi government seemed to be in a hurry to inaugurate the Smog Tower project even while the work is not even 50 per cent completed yet. The tower's major mainstay -- the air filters -- to make air pure for inhaling are still missing, with not even one of the total of 5,000 required being installed it.

the highest on a day in September

The weather stations at Lodhi

Road, Ridge, Palam and Ayanagar

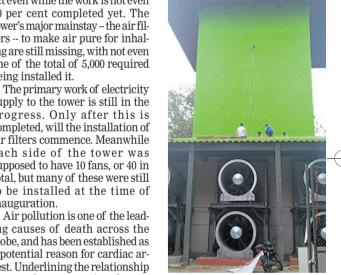
recorded 120.2 mm, 81.6 mm, 71.1

tively, in the 24 hours ending 8:30

am. Since 8:30 am, Palam, Lodi

in 19 years.

The primary work of electricity supply to the tower is still in the progress. Only after this is completed, will the installation of air filters commence. Meanwhile each side of the tower was supposed to have 10 fans, or 40 in total, but many of these were still to be installed at the time of inauguration.



Delhi CM living *Aam Aadmi* life at Raj 'vipassana' centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 1: Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal is living the life of an 'Aam Aadmi' in a Jaipur-based 'vipassana' centre where he has been waking up at 4 am and staying away from all VIP facilities, doing his chores on his own with no aide accompanying him.

Kejriwal came to Jaipur Sunday to attend a 10-day vipassana camp. The vipassana centre is thronged by meditation practitioners from different parts of the world.

Situated at Agra Road, 10 kilometres ahead of the city in the middle of a thick green belt amid mountains, the centre, since ages, has been attracting those seeking peace



within. Those practising vipassana are not allowed to speak and this rule applies to the Delhi CM too, informed the centre's officials

sonal and he was not in touch He has been attending differwith any local leader. "Vipassana ent sessions whose schedule has means disconnecting from worldly been fixed for other practitioners affairs and our CM is following too. From 4 am to 6 am, he stays in the same rule," a party worker his meditation room after which told IANS.



Guwahati, Sept 1: The flood situation in Assam deteriorated fast etc. One person stays in one Wednesday with two more persons room to explore himself and food is served only once a day. The same losing their lives and nearly 6.48 lakh rules apply to the Delhi CM too. people across 17 districts suffer-After lunch, there is a rest period ing from the deluge, an official of an hour. Before going to sleep, bulletin said. the practitioners are shown a video

One person each drowned in Barpeta and Majuli districts, taking the total number of fatalities to five, according to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

ASDMA said more than 6,47,600 people are affected due to floods in 17 districts. Nalbari is the worsthit district with more than 1.11 lakh people suffering, followed by Darrang with over 1.09 lakh people and Lakhimpur having 1.04 lakh people being affected. At present, 1,295 villages are under water and 39,449.58 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, ASDMA said. Authorities are running 85 relief camps and distribution centres in 10 districts, where 3,584 people, including 648 children, have taken shelter. The bulletin said various relief agencies have evacuated 1,617 people from various flood-hit parts of the state.

The affected districts are Barpeta, Biswanath, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Sonitpur and Tinsukia. Massive erosions have been witnessed in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Kamrup, Morigaon and Nalbari districts.

ng causes of death across the globe, and has been established as a potential reason for cardiac arrest. Underlining the relationship between the concentration of every day pollutants and the incidence of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, the findings of a recently-conducted study suggest that air quality should be incorporated into predictive models to assist health systems in planning service requirements.

The Smart Air has analysed 2021 air pollution data for 540 major cities from 182 countries to find out the "25 Most Polluted Cities in the World." The capital city Delhi ranks third in the list, while Ghaziabad in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh ranks second after Lahore. Delhi finds mention two times in the list - once at third position and New Delhi at the fifth position.

The capital's rising air pollution index has been a matter of concern. In an attempt to control the air pollution and purify air. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently inaugurated the first Smog Tower in Connaught Place.

A worker, who only identified himself as Mishra, at the Smog Tower site, said that major works are pending this time. He said that the work has been slow down as the major portion of the workforce has been shifted to another site in Anand Vihar: He said that September 20 is the deadline for the project.

A resident of neigbouring Baba Kharak Singh Marg, who did not want to be identified, said: "Though we are happy with the smog tower in our vicinity, but we are more susceptible about other issues like its exhaust, sound and other aspects.'

However, the project has been marred by controversy for being called "the first smog tower across the nation." The Delhi BJP accused CM Keiriwal of misleading people, claiming Delhi's first smog tower was installed by its MP Gautam Gambhir in 2020.

At the same time, many environmentalists and health professionals say this kind of project cannot provide a permanent solution to air pollution which has many The capital's rising air pollution index has been a matter of concern

In an attempt to control air pollution, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal recently inaugurated the first smog tower in Connaught Place

The government will monitor the data for the next two years. If the experiment is successful. authorities will work to get more such towers installed in Delhi

dimensions and might prove costly for Delhi. Dr Abhishek Shankar. Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi said: "Governments should try to tackle root causes of air pollution with community-based efforts. This might be a time-taking process but our short-term interventions should have long-term sustainability. Smog towers are marketed as a visible solution to air pollution, but are too costly and there is no scientific evidence to support the claim of filtering outdoor air effectively."

Sunil Dahiya, Analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, said: "Once the pollutant is mixed with air, there is no mechanism to extract it. No study suggests that such tower can work efficiently to purify the air."

Terming it a total wastage of public money, he said: "Government should take action against the root cause of air pollution, instead of installing such structure on public money. Government should immediately stop considering other such projects in the capital."

Shambhavi Shukla, Deputy Programme Manager, Clean Air Programme at CSE, said: "Research is going on, but there is no any established evidence that could suggest that such smog tower clean the ambient air in open space. Such system can work in our house inclosed-door but open space it will not work.'

10-day-old rhino calf rescued in Kaziranga

which teaches the benefits of vipas-

sana. It's 'Aam Aadmi' food, life

and living here for this Aam Aadmi

that Kejriwal has kept this visit per-

Local party sources confirmed

leader, said an insider.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Sept1: The expert forest officials in the flooded Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP & TR) rescued a 10-day-old male endangered rhino calf, officials said Wednesday

The park authorities said that the rhino calf was rescued from the outer fringe of the central range near Mihimukh highland.

"The mother of the calf could not be traced. The calf which is weak and debilitated has been sent to the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) for stabilisation and rehabilitation," a KNP & TR -official said

Like previous years, over 70 per cent area of the world famous KNP

& TR, spanning Golaghat, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Biswanath and Karbi Anglong districts, has been inundated affecting and killing the wild animals

A park official said that eight hog deer, two swamp deer and a capped langur have been killed in the ongoing flood so far.

The official said that the KNP & TR authorities are keeping a close tab on the movement of animals that cross over the National Highway running through the park and face the risk of being run over.

India's seventh UNESCO world heritage site, KNP & TR is home to more than 2,400 one-horned Indian rhinos.

To prevent the death and injury to the animals, speed limit is strictly enforced by forest and district ad-



ministration officials and penalty is imposed for any violation. Assam Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma ordered diversion of all heavy vehicles passing through the national park till flood situation improves.

The flood situation in Assam continued to remain grim Wednesday with around 5.74 lakh people affected in 22 of the state's 34 districts, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) officials said.

According to the ASDMA officials, the flood situation was very critical in western Assam's Nalbari district where highest number of people (1,10,671) people were affected followed by Darrang district where 1,09,651 people were hit, followed by 1,08,327 in Lakhimpur, 65,346 in Majuli, and 33,192 in Dhemaji district were affected.

Around 40,000 hectares of crop areas have been inundated, the ASDMA officials said, adding that 1,278 villages were affected by the flood

A total of 105 relief camps were opened in 14 districts to provide shelter to the flood-affected men, women and children.

Over 3.54 lakh domestic animals including poultry were also affected in the flood.











Arvind Kejriwal has deserted Delhi yet again, and left the people at the mercy of God to go for a 10-day Vipasana meditation in Jaipu

ANIL KUMAR DELHI PCC PRESIDENT

In the case of Noida's Supertech Emerald court case, the orders of the Supreme Court should be ensured in letter and spirit. Irregularities in this case have been going on continuously since 2004

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM



SHORT TAKES

Hurriyat leader **Geelani dies**

Srinagar: Pro-Pakistan separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani died hereWednesday after a prolonged illness, officials said. Geelani, who was a member of banned Jamaat-e-Islami and chairman of hardline Hurriyat Conference, had been suffering from various ailments for nearly last two decades. He was a former MLA. Former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti informed about his death on Twitter.

Panneerselvam's wife passes away

Chennai: AIADMK coordinator and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam's wife Vijayalakshmi died here Wednesday at a hospita following a brief illness. Leaders cutting across party lines including DMK president



Kerala has not been following the Centre's advice while reporting the highest daily cases in the country, officials insisted, adding that neighbouring states are feeling the impact



isolated at home, the state needs to

step up measures to curb the dailv

surge, Union Health Ministry

sources said today, stressing on a

"smart and strategic lockdown".

Kerala has not been following the

Centre's advice while reporting

the highest daily cases in the coun-

try, officials insisted, adding that

neighbouring states are feeling the

micro-containment zones, gov-

ernment sources said Kerala needs

to follow curbs, not just at the dis-

trict level, and penetrate deeper

to focus on affected neighbour-

hoods. Patients recovering at home

are not following all safety rules and

this is why Kerala is not able to

contain the spread of the virus,

they added. Officials said the coastal

state, which is a popular holiday des-

tination, urgently needs to apply

stricter measures in containment

zones and restrict movement.

bours, officials stressed.

Highlighting the importance of

impact.

No cases of new C.1.2 New Delhi, Sept 1: With over 85 yet: Health Ministry per cent Covid patients in Kerala

Amid the threat of new Covid variant C.1.2, which has been detected in South Africa and many other countries globally, the Union health ministry Wednesday clarified that no case of this variant has been detected in India so far. A new study has revealed that the new Covid-19 variant C.1.2 could be more transmissible and evade protection provided by vaccines.

Karnataka has already announced seven-day mandatory institutional quarantine for those arriving from Kerala.

The southern state - that earlier drew applause for its handling of the pandemic - recorded over 30,000 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, while India's tally was 41,965. The state has been reporting more than 10,000 new cases every day for more than a month even as other states witnessed a drop in daily surge.

Kerala's weekly positivity rate re-Kerala has logged over 40 lakh mains at 14-19 per cent and it is cases since the start of the panbound to spill over to its neighdemic, and over 20,000 deaths linked to the virus.

3 others summoned in Narada sting case

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Sept 1: A special court Wednesday ordered issuance of summonses to West Bengal ministers Subrata Mukherjee and Firhad Hakim besides three others after taking cognizance of a chargesheet by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in the Narada sting tapes case.

The ED, which is probing the money laundering aspect of the Narada sting operation, had submitted the chargesheet against the five in the special court earlier in the day sources in it said.

The special CBI judge taking cognizance of the prosecution complaint of the ED, which is equivalent to chargesheet, ordered the appearance of the accused November 16.

Apart from the two ministers and Trinamool Congress MLA Madan Mitra, cognizance was also taken against former Kolkata mavor Sovan Chatterjee and suspended IPS officer SMH Mirza.

The court directed that the summonses to Mukherjee, Hakim and Mitra be served through the office of the West Bengal assembly speaker since the three are MLAs. Summonses to the other two are to be served directly at their addresses. the court directed

Sources in the central agency said, "The ED has prayed for awarding maximum punishment to the accused for committing the offence of money laundering and confiscation of the bribe money accepted by the accused"

The Narada sting operation was conducted by Narada news founder Mathew Samuel for over two years in West Bengal.

Samuel had formed a fictitious company and approached several TMC ministers, MPs and leaders for favours.

In the video footage released in 2014 just before the Lok Sabha polls several TMC leaders were allegedly seen accepting money from a person posing as a businessman.

The man was purpotedly offering the money to get favours for starting a business in the state. Mathew Samuels, CEO of the Narada news portal, posed as the

businessman in the purpoted video.

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EVMs, VVPATs stuck, need them for upcoming polls, EC tells SC



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Election Commission Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to grant urgent hearing on its plea alleging EVMs and VVPAT machines used in polls of six states are currently stuck and cannot be used for future elections.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh. representing the poll panel, submitted a large number of EVMs and VVPAT machines are still being preserved and need to be released Submitting that they are preserved due to an order extending

the limitation period for filing pleas, which includes election petitions, the poll body sought that a timeline be fixed for filing election petitions in connection with polls held in Assam, Kerala, Delhi, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. "We have to maintain these EVMs and VVPAT machines and hearing is necessary as elections in states like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Punjab are coming up," Singh said.

At this, a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and A.S.

fix it next week." The top court on April 27, taking into account the onset of second Covid wave, had relaxed the statutory period for filing petitions, including the election petitions, under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. "As a result of the aforementioned statutory provisions/rules, the relevant instructions issued by the Election Commission of India and the Order dated April 27, 2021 passed by this Hon'ble Court, the Election Commission of India is unable to use a substantial number of EVMs," said the EC's plea. The plea further added that it is a cause for concern as the poll body is scheduled to conduct Assembly elections in states like Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh next year. "All the EVMs and VVPATs belonging to the Election Commission of India that were used in recently held Assembly Elections are blocked and cannot be used in future/upcoming elec-

Bopanna, said: "Alright, we will

HIKED AGAIN Congress slams govt LPG PRICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Congress Wednesday attacked the government over rise in prices of essential commodities including domestic cooking gas, with Rahul Gandhi saying the country is uniting against this injustice.

The price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders across all categories including subsidised gas on Wednesday were hiked by ₹25 per cylinder, the third straight increase in rates in less than two months.

The former Congress chief hit out at the government over the rise in prices of domestic cooking gas and shared a chart of the hike in LPG rates in the four metros since January while using the hashtag "#IndiaAgainstBJPLoot".

The Congress party launched the campaign on social media using the hashtag and shared videos of common people from across the country narrating their woes re-



The Congress has been attacking the government over the rise in petrol, diesel and LPG prices and has been demanding reduction in them by removing some of the taxes imposed by the central government.

"The one who is forcing the public to sleep empty stomach is him-

self sleeping under the shadow of

friends....But the country is uniting against the injustice," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. Congress chief spokesperson

tions," it said.

Randeep Surjewala said the prices of domestic cooking gas had doubled in the last seven years, and said "achche din" have come for the BJP to "loot" the country.

"March 1, 2014 - Gas cylinder cost ₹410. September 1, 2021 - Gas cylinder cost ₹884. In seven years, the cost has more than doubled. This is Modi ji's promise of 'Achche din'. BJP's 'achche din' of looting people's budgets," Surjewala said in a tweet in Hindi, using the hashtag. In a tweet in Hindi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also said, "Prime Minister ji, There are only two types of 'development' taking place under your rule: On one hand the income of your billionaire friends is increasing, while on the other, the prices of essential commodities are increasing for the common people".

and Chief Minister M K Stalin visited the hospital and offered their condolences to Panneerselvam, She was 66 and died of heart attack at a private hospital, where she was admitted for treatment days ago, party sources said. V K Sasikala, aide of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa and who was eased out of the AIADMK years ago visited Panneerselvam in the hospital and extended her condolences.

Vietnam PM to visit India

New Delhi: Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh will visit India at the end of 2021 to discuss with PM Narendra Modi measures to advance bilateral comprehensive and strategic partnership, the country's ambassador, Pham Sanh Chau, said here Wednesday. This will be his first visit to India since taking charge in April this year. During a telephonic conversation in July, Prime Minister Modi had congratulated Chinh on his appointment as the premier of Vietnam and invited him to undertake an official visit to India at an early suitable date.

Rawat apologises

Chandigarh: AICC general secretary Harish Rawat on Wednesday apologised for referring to the party's Punjab leadership as "Panj Pyare" and will atone for his remark by sweeping the floor at a gurdwara. Rawat, who had arrived in Chandigarh Tuesday amid the ongoing rift in the party's state unit, had used the word 'Panj Pyare' for the Punjab Congress chief and four working presidents after a meeting at the Punjab Congress Bhawan.



G FARING UP

Workers transport a Lord Ganesha idol to a pandal ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Bangalore



Above normal rain in Sept: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: The country received 24 per cent less rainfall than normal in August, belying the IMD's predictions for the month, but rainfall is expected to be above normal in September.

Above normal rainfall to normal rainfall is likely over many parts of central India in September, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said on Wednesday. The monsoon deficit now stands

at nine per cent and this is expected to come down due to good rainfall during September, he said. July too had recorded seven per cent less rainfall.

The country received 24 per cent less rainfall than normal in August, but rainfall is expected to be above normal in September, the IMD said in its forecast for the month. Mohapatra also said that normal to below rainfall is expected over north and northeast India and southern parts of south India

Students in several states get back to school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: With trepidation and some excitement too. thousands of students returned to their classrooms to face a new Covid reality of masks and socially distanced camaraderie as schools in several states reopened Wednesday

Fifty per cent attendance, no shared tiffin or even stationery, staggered lunch hours and parental consent were some of the dos and don'ts for schools in several parts of the country, including Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, that opened their

doors amid concerns that students had not been vaccinated and neither had all the staff. While some schools opened for the first time since the pandemic

last year, others restarted physical classrooms after the devastating second Covid wave. Now, with many states reporting a dip in numbers, it seemed time to get back on the school track, albeit in a hybrid online-offline format that would enable at least half the children to continue classes from home.

The return to a semblance of normalcy in the national capital began on a rain-drenched note with students of Classes 9-12 trooping into classes, 'rain-coated', carrying umbrellas and all masked up. A school in Uttar Pradesh, where

students of Classes 1-5 returned for the first since the lockdown in March last year, used balloons to sav welcome back. In Tamil Nadu, offline teaching for Classes 9 to 12 resumed with strict COVID-19 pro-

Students sanitise their hands as they enter a school in Tamil Nadu PTI PHOTO

tocol in place. Physical classes in colleges also began.

In March this year, during the second wave, the government or-

dered the closure of schools for classes 9, 10 and 11 from March 22. However, it announced that they would continue to function for

Class 12 students who had to appear for board exams. In Rajasthan, too, government and private schools reopened for Classes 9 to 12 after the second wave. The turnout on the first day was low as online classes are also being held simultaneously.

With cases falling significantly in Madhya Pradesh, physical school for Classes 6 to 12 started with a 50 per cent cap on attendance. The state government had earlier reopened schools for Classes 9 to 12 in the last week of July with classes on specific days a week.

In Telangana, schools, barring residential government institutions, as well as colleges resumed offline classes with COVID-19 protocols in place.

The resumption of Classes 1 to 12 followed a high court order

Tuesday, granting schools permission to do so while staying government residential schools from holding offline classes for four weeks

In Chhattisgarh, the return to school process will take place a day later. The state government on Wednesday issued an order permitting private and government schools to reopen for Classes 6, 7, 9 and 11 with 50 per cent attendance from Thursday, an official said. Schools resumed for Classes 1 to 5, 8, 10 and 12 from August 1. According to the order, schools

in rural areas will have to get recommendations from gram panchayats and parents' committees, while recommendations will be mandatory from ward corpora-tors and parents' committees for institutions situated in urban areas.







international

AGENCIES

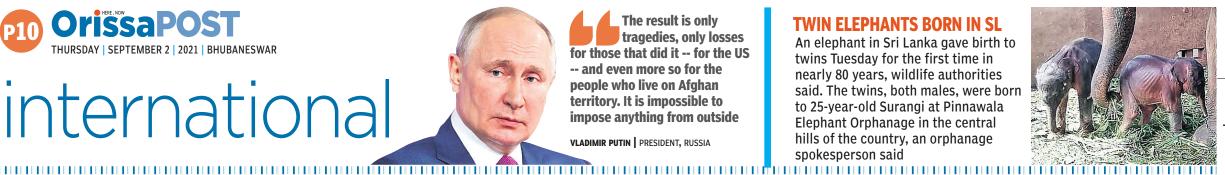


The result is only tragedies, only losses for those that did it -- for the US -- and even more so for the people who live on Afghan territory. It is impossible to impose anything from outside

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

TWIN ELEPHANTS BORN IN SL

An elephant in Sri Lanka gave birth to twins Tuesday for the first time in nearly 80 years, wildlife authorities said. The twins, both males, were born to 25-year-old Surangi at Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in the central hills of the country, an orphanage spokesperson said



uote

Israel believes the Biden administration's plan to reopen the US consulate in Jerusalem to provide diplomatic outreach to the Palestinians is a bad idea

YAIR LAPID FOREIGN MINISTER, ISRAEI

We have thrown everything at this, but it is now clear to us that we are not going to drive these numbers down. they are instead going to increase

DANIEL ANDREWS PREMIER, VICTORIA



gathering and sharing, and also assisting each other with augmenting capabilities to act against terrorists and thwart their plots

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI CONGRESSMAN, US

SHORT TAKES

Google extends WFH till next yr

San Francisco: Google Tuesday extended the option for its employees to work from home into next year due to the pandemic. Returning to Google campuses will remain voluntary globally through January 10, with local offices given the discretion to decide when to require employees to return to their desks, according to chief executive Sundar Pichai. He promised Google workers 30 days' notice before they would have to return to their offices. and announced they would be able to take off an extra day in October and December as "reset days" to "rest and recharge.

Texas abortion ban takes effect

Texas: A Texas law banning most abortions in the state took effect at midnight, but the Supreme Court has yet to act on an emergency appeal to put the law on hold. If allowed to remain in force, the law would be the most dramatic restrictior on abortion rights in the United States since the high court's landmark Roe v Wade decision legalized abortion across the country in 1973. The Texas law, signed by Republican Gov Greg Abbott in May, would prohibit abortions once a fetal heartbeat can be detected, usually around six weeks and before most women even know they're pregnant.

New era for Afghan marred by crises New Covid variant Mu

Taliban officials have said the problems will ease once a new government is in place to restore order to the market and have appealed to other countries to maintain economic relations

Kabul, Sept 1: As Kabul began a new era of Taliban rule, long queues outside banks and soaring prices in the bazaars underlined the everyday worries now facing its population after the spectacular seizure of the city two weeks ago.

For the Taliban, growing economic hardship is emerging as their biggest challenge, with a sinking currency and rising inflation adding misery to a country where more than a third of the population lives on less than \$2 a day.

In an effort to get the economy moving again, banks which closed as soon as the Taliban took Kabul have been ordered to re-open. But strict weekly limits on cash withdrawals have been imposed and many people still faced hours of queuing to get at their cash.

In a cash-based economy heavily dependent on imports for food and basic necessities and now deprived of billions of dollars in foreign aid, pressure on the currency has been relentless

In the Pakistani city of Peshawar, close to the border, many money traders are refusing to handle the Afghan currency, which has become too volatile to value properly.

Kabul market traders said a 50 kg bag of flour was selling for 2,200 afghanis, around 30% above its price before the fall of the city, with similar rises for other essentials like cooking oil or rice. Prices for vegetables were up to 50% higher, while petrol prices

were up by 75%. Even when its economy was floating on a tide of foreign money, growth was not keeping pace with the rise in Afghanistan's population. Apart from illegal narcotics, the



country has no significant exports to generate revenue, and aid, which

tem running again without the specialists who joined the exodus accounted for more than 40% of economic output, has abruptly disout of Kabul.

Taliban to follow Iran model of governance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

KABUL: The Taliban have said that Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada will be the leader under whom a Prime Minister or President will run the country, as per a report by Tolo News. Anamullah Samangani, a mem-

ber of the Taliban's cultural commission, said that Akhundzada will also be the leader of the new government. Tolo News reported.

According to sources, the insurgents are designing a government based on Iran's model - an Islamic republic where the Supreme Leader is the head of state and the highest-ranking political and religious authority even above the President.

Consultations are almost fi-



nalised on the new government. and the necessary discussions have also been held about the cabinet. The Islamic government that we will announce will be a model for the people. There is no doubt about the presence of the Commander of the Faithful (Akhunzada) in the government. He will be the leader of the government and there should be no question on this, Samangani said, as per Tolo News

Afghan economy in crisis After Taliban's sudden

Much international aid has abruptly stopped

Many financial officials have filed, complicating any

appeared. A new central bank chief

has been appointed but bankers

outside Afghanistan said it would

be difficult to get the financial sys-

Afghani currency has weakened, prices for

staples are soaring

takeove

recovery

'The Islamic Emirate is active in each province. There is a governor in each province who has started working. There is a district governor for each district and a police chief in each province who are working for the people," said Abdul Hanan Haqqani, a member of the Taliban, the report said.

The Taliban have already appointed governors, police chiefs and police commanders for different provinces and districts.

Although the Taliban say that consultations are finalised on forming the new government, public discussions have not been held over the system's name, the national flag or national anthem.

resisting vaccine: WHO



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, Sept 1: The World Health Organization has said it is monitoring a new coronavirus variant known as "Mu", which was first identified in Colombia in January. Mu, known scientifically as B.1.621, has been classified as a "variant of interest", the global health body said Tuesday in its weekly pandemic bulletin.

The WHO said the variant has mutations that indicate a risk of resistance to vaccines and stressed that further studies were needed to better understand it. "The Mu variant has a constel-

lation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune escape," the bulletin said.

There is widespread concern over the emergence of new virus mutations as infection rates are ticking up globally again, with the highly transmissible Delta variant taking hold -- especially among the unvaccinated -- and in regions where anti-virus measures have

been relaxed. All viruses, including SARS-CoV-2 that causes Covid-19, mutate over time and most mutations have little or no effect on the propThe WHO currently identifies four Covid-19 variants of concern, including Alpha, which is present in 193 countries, and Delta, present in 170 countries

erties of the virus.

But certain mutations can impact the properties of a virus and influence how easily it spreads, the severity of the disease it causes, and its resistance to vaccines, drugs and other countermeasures.

The WHO currently identifies four Covid-19 variants of concern, including Alpha, which is present in 193 countries, and Delta, present in 170 countries. Five variants, including Mu, are to be monitored. After being detected in Colombia,

Mu has since been reported in other South American countries and in Europe.

The WHO said its global prevalence has declined to below 0.1 percent among sequenced cases. In Colombia, however, it is at 39 percent

TAIWAN SAYS CHINA CAN PARALYSE ITS DEFENCES



GPS navigation system, the ministry added.

This means Beijing can monitor movements around Taiwan, helped by China's regular use of its own spy planes, drones and intelligence gathering ships, it said.





S'pore PM wins defamation suits

Singapore: Singapore's high court ordered two news bloggers to pay Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong a combined S\$370.000 (\$275.113) in damages Wednesday, over an article about the status of the home of his late father and the city-state's modern-day founder, Lee Kuan Yew, The premier filed lawsuits against writer Rubaashini Shunmuganathan and editor Xu Yuan Chen, also known as Terry Xu, over the August 2019 article published on The Online Citizen that included references to a disagreement within the Lee family about what to do with the property. High court judge Audrey Lim said the article "impugned Lee's reputation and character" by alleging he was dishonest.

Bus falls off cliff in Peru; 32 killed

Lima: Thirty-two passengers died, including two children, and more than 20 were injured when a bus plummeted from a cliff in Peru early Tuesday, officials said, in the country's third multiple-victim transport accident in four days. The accident happened on a narrow stretch of the Carretera Central road some 37 miles (60 kilometers) east of the capital Lima.

fences and are able to fully monitor its deployments, the island's defence ministry said, offering a stark assessment of the rising threat posed by its giant neighbour.

In its annual report to parliament on China's military, Taiwan's Defence Ministry presented a far graver view than it did last year, when the report said China still

and hard electronic attacks", including blocking communications across the western part of the first island chain, the string of islands that run from the Japanese archipelago, through Taiwan and down to the Philippines.

China has also improved its reconnaissance abilities using Beidou, China's answer to the US-owned

Although Taiwan's report noted, like last year, that China still lacked transport abilities and logistical support for a large-scale invasion, the Chinese military is working to boost those abilities

Chinese spies in Taiwan could launch a "decapitation strike" to destroy political and economic infrastructure, it added.

With the deployment of midand long-range missiles and more exercises involving its aircraft carriers. China is trying to position itself to delay "foreign military intervention" in an attack on Taiwan, the ministry said.

President Tsai Ing-wen has made bolstering Taiwan's own defences a priority, building up its domestic defence industry and buying more equipment from the United States, the island's most important arms supplier and international backer.



Anti-government protesters escape from a police water cannon with purple dye and tear gas during a protest against the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Din Daeng district of Bangkok. Thailand

H-1B VISA HOLDERS US lawmakers seek permanent residence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 1: A group of 40 US lawmakers led by Indian-American Raja Krishnamoorthi has sought a path to lawful permanent residence for the 1.2 million people in the employment-based green card backlog, a significant majority of whom are from India.

In a letter to Speaker of House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority

Leader Chuck Schumer, the lawmakers said the budget reconciliation package provide relief to these individuals stuck in the employment-based green card backlog.

"Failure to provide a path to lawful permanent residence for the 1.2 million people in the employment-based green card backlog, most of whom are H-1B visa holders, would be tantamount to staging an economic recovery with

one hand tied behind our back," the letter said.

"Permanently relegating H-1B holders to non-immigrant status while China, Russia, and other major powers are ascendant on the world stage-and hungry to be home to the innovators of the 21st century - is simply nonsensical. This can and must be addressed in the budget reconciliation package currently under negotiation," it read.

UK regulator clears Piers Morgan over comments on Meghan IN THE PROGRAMME MORGAN SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE A WORD MEGHAN AND HER HUSBAND PRINCE HARRY GAVE TO OPRAH WINFREY

AGENCIES

London, Sept 1: High-profile television personality Piers Morgan did not breach Britain's broadcasting code in his criticism of Meghan, Duchess of Sussex on ITV's "Good Morning Britain" show earlier this year, Britain's media regulator ruled Wednesday.

The programme in March, in which Morgan said he did not believe a word Meghan had said in a landmark interview she and her husband Prince Harry gave to Oprah Winfrey, attracted more than 50,000 complaints. Most concerned comments Morgan made on mental health and suicide.

Meghan, who during the Winfrey interview revealed she had felt suicidal while living as a royal in Britain, complained to both Ofcom



and ITV about the programme. Morgan left his job on the show following the incident.

"Our decision is that overall the programme contained sufficient challenge to provide adequate pro-

tection and context to its viewers,' Ofcom said In an interview that shook Britain's monarchy, Meghan, a Hollywood actor who married Prince Harry in 2018, said the royal family had also rejected her pleas for mental health support. The couple have stepped back from royal duties and moved to the United States.

Morgan, a former presenter on CNN, has accused the couple of damaging the royal family and seeking publicity on their own terms without accepting the responsibility and scrutiny that come with their position. He had also dubbed her "Princess Pinocchio" in a tweet.

"I'm delighted OFCOM has endorsed my right to disbelieve the Duke & Duchess of Sussex's incendiary claims to Oprah Winfrey. many of which have proven to be untrue," Morgan said on Twitter.

"This is a resounding victory for free speech and a resounding defeat for Princess Pinocchios. Do I get my job back?

Ofcom said that while it was concerned about Morgan's apparent disregard for the seriousness of anyone expressing suicidal thought, the extensive challenge offered by his colleagues throughout the show provided sufficient context. The broadcasting code allows for individuals to express strongly held and robustly argued views, including those that are potentially harmful or highly offensive, Ofcom said.

"The restriction of such views would, in our view, be an unwarranted and chilling restriction on freedom of expression both ofthe broadcaster and the audience," it said.









business

We are working towards achieving the goals (to usher e-mobility) set by PM Modi and NITI Aayog for the induction of green modes of transportation in different categories in next five years. With this level of demand witnessed from cities and financing entities, it is clear that the market is ready for a complete transition to e-mobility MAHUA ACHARYA | MD AND CEO, CESL

OZ ECONOMY GROWS BY 0.7 %

Australia's economy grew in the June guarter but economists warned that the growth could not last. According to national accounts figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Wednesday, GDP increased by 0.7% in the three months to June beating economist predictions



SaaS startups firming up plans for IPOs uote

Our purpose is to provide the best experience at each stakeholder touchpoint. In our journey

towards this purpose, we recognise that emerging technologies will be central pillars in providing such an experience. Be it customers, employees of investors, digital can significantly enhance the experience

JAIRAM VARADARAJ MD, ELGI EQUIPMENTS



passive infra between various service providers mainly towers ever since its inception. Under its new avatar as Dipa, it aims to extend this leadership to all aspects of digital infra for the entire ICT industry

AKHIL GUPTA CHAIRMAN, DIPA

Positive sales momentum and overall strong demand helped us to achieve good volumes with the onset of the

festive season. The celebratory fervour which began with Onam in southern India will extend to the rest of the markets as we move towards the peak of festivities RAJESH GOEL SENIOR VP AND DIR

(MARKETING & SALES), HCIL

SHORT TAKES

Multipurpose Credit Camp held

Bhubaneswar: Central Bank of India (CBoI), Pitala Branch organised Multipurpose Credit Camp and Krushak Sampark Abhijan at Hinjili, Ganjam District and distributed 152 SHG loans amounting to ₹4.36 crore in presence of DN Rajendra Kumar, Field General Manager, Kolkata Zone, Pradeep Samantaray, Senior Regional Manager, Bhubaneswar Region, Satyaprakash Bhuyan, Branch Manager, Pitala Branch and other staffs of CBoI. Vijaya Kulange, Collector and District Magistrate and Ashok Panda, LDM, Ganjam District was also

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: Software-as-aservice (SaaS) companies seem to be coming off age, with several of them firming up initial public offering (IPO) plans to raise capital from the market. Over the past month, two domestic SaaS startups, Rategain Travel Technologies and Freshworks, have announced their plans to launch initial public offerings.

According to merchant bankers. there could be more SaaS players hitting the IPO street, given the

huge investor interest in the sector. Rategain Travel Technologies, the largest domestic SaaS company in the hospitality and travel space, will be the first firm to get listed. Rategain has filed the draft documents with Sebi, seeking to raise about ₹1,200 crore.

Freshworks Inc, the Chennai and Silicon Valley-based SaaS provider founded by Girish Mathrubootham, last Friday filed for a USD 100 million IPO in the US and intends to list its class-A common stocks on the Nasdag Global Select Market, SaaS com-



panies have been attracting huge investments and around USD 6 billion have been pumped into them so far, with over USD 4 hillion coming in the past three

According to merchant bankers, there could be more SaaS players hitting the IPO street. given the huge investor interest in the sector

years alone. Of around 60 unicorns in the country today, 10 are from the SaaS space, with four having joined the coveted club this year alone.

"Indian SaaS is coming off age as companies have capitalised on its leadership in software development and customer-centricity to build world-class products, which are often superior to incumbent options. "A powerful combination of

seasoned enterprise tech founders coupled with a talented developer base has unlocked multiples of value for end-customers, giving Indian SaaS companies a competitive advantage," Sameer Nath, managing partner at Truescale Capital. said.

CIL starts pilot project to replace use of diesel with LNG in dumpers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: In a big push to reduce its carbon footprint, national miner Coal India Ltd (CIL) has initiated the process of retrofitting Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) kits in its dumpers - the big trucks engaged in transportation of coal in mines. This makes significance as the world's largest coal miner uses over 4 lakh kilolitres of diesel per annum with an annual expense of over ₹3,500 crore.

This will be a game changer. The firm has over 2,500 dumpers running in its opencast coal mines. The dumper fleet consumes about 65% to 75% of total diesel consumed by the company

The company in association with GAIL (India) Limited and BEML Limited has taken up a pilot project for retrofitting LNG kits in its two 100 tonne dumpers working at the subsidiary Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL). CIL Tuesday signed a MoU with GAIL and BEML

to get this pilot project executed. Once the LNG kit successfully retrofitted and tested, these dumpers will be able to run on dual fuel system i.e. both on LNG and Diesel and their operations will be significantly cheaper and cleaner with use of LNG. "This will be a game changer. The company has over 2,500 dumpers running in its opencast coal mines. The dumper fleet consumes about 65% to 75% of total diesel consumed by the company. LNG will replace the use of_ diesel by about 30% to 40% and reduce the fuel cost by about 15%," said a senior CIL executive

India's August mfg output growth eases, shows PMI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: India's manufacturing sector activities moderated in August, as business orders and production rose at softer rates due to the pandemic and rising input costs, a monthly survey said Wednesday

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 52.3 in August, down from 55.3 in July, indicating a softer rate of growth that was subdued and below its long-run average.

The August PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the second straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes

INDIA Manufacturing PMI

Jul 55.5 55.4 =57.5 Feb **57.7** 56.4 56.3 = 58.9Oct Sep =56.8=

ce: Nikkei, Markit FM GRAPHICS



contraction. "August saw a continuation of the Indian manufacturing sector recovery, but growth lost momentum as demand showed some signs of weakness due to the pandemic. Yet, factory orders and output rose across the consumer. intermediate and investment goods categories." Pollvanna De Lima.

Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit, said. A softer upturn in sales led companies to pause their hiring efforts, with business confidence dampened by concerns surrounding the damaging impact of Covid-19 on demand and firms' finances, the survey said.

"Uncertainty regarding growth

prospects, spare capacity and efforts to keep a lid on expenses led to a hiring freeze in August, following the first upturn in employment

for 16 months in July," Lima said. August data pointed to back-toback increases in new export orders, but here too growth lost momentum. The pace of expansion was only marginal. Indian manufacturers signalled another monthly rise in cost burdens, thereby taking the current stretch of inflation to 13 months. The rate of increase softened, but remained elevated by historical standards. Cost pressures were linked by survey members to raw material scarcity and transportation problems.

GST mop up tops **₹1L cr for second** straight month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Signalling accelerating economic activity, GST collection topped the ₹1-lakh-crore mark for the second straight month in August at ₹1.12 lakh crore. The tax collections in August on goods sold and services rendered was 30 per cent higher than ₹86,449 crore collected in August 2020, and 14 per cent higher than ₹98,202 crore col lected in August 2019.

Sequentially, however, there was a 3.76 per cent dip in August 2021 collection vis-a-vis ₹1.16 lakh crore mopped up in July 2021.

'The gross GST revenue collected in the month of August 2021 is ₹1,12,020 crore of which Central GST is ₹20,522 crore, State GST is ₹26,605 crore, Integrated GST is ₹56,247 crore (including ₹26,884 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹8.646 crore (including ₹646 crore collected on import of goods)," the finance ministry said in a statement.

During August this year, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) were 27% higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

The GST collection, after posting above the ₹1-lakh-crore mark for nine months in a row, dropped



below ₹1 lakh crore in June 2021.

strictions, GST collection for July and August 2021 have again crossed ₹1 lakh crore, which clearly indicates that the economy is recovering at a fast pace. Coupled with economic growth, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers have also been contributing to the enhanced GST collections. The robust GST revenues are likely to continue in the coming months too," the finance min-

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar, however, cautioned over the sequential dip in collection and moderation in the August manufacturing PMI. The PMI index stood at 52.3% in August, down from 55.3% in July



MSME loan was also distributed.

Wadhwa becomes **IIFL's new CFO**

New Delhi: IIFL Wealth and Asset Management Wednesday said it has appointed Sanjay Wadhwa as the Chief Financial Officer with effect from September 2. Wadhwa joined IIFL Wealth and Asset Management from L&T Financial Services, where he held the position of Group Financial Controller and was responsible for the finance control function of all the group entities, including NBFCs and AMC, according to a statement.

Titan opens premium store

Bhubaneswar: Titan World, one of country's leading watchmaker, Wednesday opened its sixth store in city, 17th overall in the state. This is the first store with modernised appeal across the eastern region to introduce international watch brands like Coach, Seiko and Citizen. The store was inaugurated CK Venkataraman, MD of Titan Company Ltd.

ONGC pumps first gas from U1B deep-water well

🚔 Aug 🗖



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has pumped first gas from its deepwater U1B well in Krishna Godavari block KG-D5 in the Bay of Bengal. The well, in KG-DWN 98/2 Block's Cluster-2, has an estimated peak production of 1.2 million cubic meters per day of gas, the company

said in a statement. "Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Tarun Kapoor flagged off maiden production from the deep-water gas well U1B August 31," it said.

Institutional investments rising: **Intan Co**

The Managing Director of Titan Company CK Venkataraman was present at the pilgrim city – Puri, to launch their maiden Tanishq store. In the sideline of the event, **Orissa POST** caught up with the MD to take stock of the business scenario after lifting of lockdowns and restrictions. Excerpts:

Corporations in industrialised countries have posted high profits during the pandemic, as they could adopt new business strategies. What has been the performance of Tanishq during, 2020-21? Well, the performance of

Tanishq was very good. Obviously, the last year's performance was worst than previous years due to the impact of the pandemic. The markets were hit and we also incurred losses. However, the loss was not as much as we calculated.

Industrialised countries have high percentage of investments from public, even the middle-class also invests. In India, the public that invests is barely 3%. Many people are capable to invest but they choose not to. Does Tanishq have any plan to attract more investors? If I estimate, in last two or three years, there have been a lot of changes. Considering the current performance of stock market last year, we can see

there has been an increase in

institutional investments.

There has been a surge in

interest of the public towards investments in stocks.

Do you feel that people are attracted to invest more in jewellery and other products that Tanishq offers as compared to time



less products like land and real ond wave of the pandemic? estate?

is readily available

quired.

as and when re-

People in-

vest in big

coins but

buy jew-

ellery for

How has

been the

consumer

behaviour

changed

post-sec-

saving.

With the vaccination drive in Buying a precious metal is progress, we witnessed good renot investment. If you think covery after the second wave subof investment, there are sevsided. Customers were confident to eral options like stock mardo some social activities or can atket, real estate or fixed detend social events. posits. But people buy What is the company's expansion jewellery for savings. When

plan? We are planning to add 30 to 40 new stores this year across the country

Company's watches and evewear segment witnessed losses during the pandemic. When do you see this changing?

There was a drop in sales just because of the pandemic. We saw losses in first quarter; in fact, every company has also witnessed the same during this period. People don't buy watches during this period, which resulted in drop in sales. We are not surprised by this drop. But from Q2, the sales have been gradually increasing.

pirations are increasing from the modern workplace, while home-

working is still preferred," JLL

said. Among other findings, 91% of

the respondents favoured flexible

'Majority of corporate staff want to WFH once a week'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Taparia adds new product

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Bhubaneswar: Taparia Tools has added one more product in its wide range of products. It is glad to announce the launch of Bi-Metal Mini Hole Saws (Complete with arbor). Bi-Metal Mini Hole Saws are used to make holes in wood, metal and other materials. It is precisely designed and has a narrow cutting-edge that removes a ring of material from the work piece, leaving the centre of the material whole

New Delhi, Sept 1: Nearly 80% of corporate employees want to work from home at least once a week post-Covid, according to a survey by property consultant JLL India. In its survey Workers Preference Barometer for India, JLL India found that employees would prefer to work two days in the office and three days remotely. The sample size of the survey was 300 employees, working with various corporate houses. 79% of the workforce wants to

in a statement.

The consultant said that an ideal working week, post-Covid, seems to be one where employees spend three days working remotely and two days in the office. The survey highlighted that employees want more balance in their working patterns, with a hybrid work model and flexibility being key.

"The offices of the future will have to be more human-centric, putting health and well-being at the forefront," said Radha Dhir, CEO and Country Head, India. JLL

Almost 60% of those surveyed believe that a workplace that promotes a healthy lifestyle and safety is of key priority, she added.



"There is a greater understanding and need for work-life balance amongst employees now. We are also seeing the need for human connection gaining prominence amongst employees as they crave social connections and emotional engagements in the workplace. Dhir said. The companies would have to be mindful of the require-

POST-PANDEMIC TIMES

79% OF THE ALMOST 60% OF THOSE SURVEYED BELIEVE THAT A WORKFORCE WORKPLACE THAT WANTS TO PROMOTES A HEALTHY WORK REMOTELY LIFESTYLE AND SAFETY IS FROM HOME AT **OF KEY PRIORITY** LEAST ONCE IN A ACCORDING TO THE WEEK, AND THIS NUMBER GOES SURVEY, 21% OF THE WORKFORCE DOES NOT **UP TO 89%** WANT TO WFH IN FUTURE. WHEN A THIRD-PARTY PLACE OF WORK IS ADDED AS OPPOSED TO 16% IN **OCTOBER LAST YEAR**

ment for more flexible work pat-

place in a working set-up being re-

shaped in a post-Covid world, as-

"Even as the office retains its

terns, she advised.

working hours. Stating that the priorities of the workforce have undergone a shift, the consultant said corporate employees want an empathetic employer and work-life balance, more

than a comfortable salary. The pandemic has prioritised working in an environment that puts health and well-being at the forefront.

According to the survey, 21% of the workforce does not want to work from home in the future, asopposed to 16% in October last year.

work remotely from home at least

once in a week, and this number

goes up to 89% when a third-party

place of work is added," JLL said







India eye improved show Final call to be taken

All eyes on team management's stand on Rahane and Ashwin as India look to bounce back from loss in the third Test when they face England in the fourth Test, starting today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 1: Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane's wretched form and senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's probable inclusion will have the most significant impact on the Indian team's efforts to move on from its Leeds debacle when it takes on a stronger England in the fourth Test at the Oval starting Thursday.

The high of an inspirational victory at the Lord's was followed by back-to-back batting debacles at Headingley and the penultimate game at Oval would certainly have an impact on both sides as the series heads towards its busin1ess end Skipper Virat Kohli had said

that a victory at Lord's didn't guarantee a win in the next Test and a defeat at Headingley doesn't mean that an encore would happen at the Oval with the series locked at 1-1.

Not the one to believe that outside noise (fans and experts) should be given much credence, the Indian captain, in his heart of hearts, knows that all is not well with his batting unit and the biggest problem is the performance of its three middle-order stalwarts - the skipper himself, Cheteshwar Pujara and his deputy Rahane.

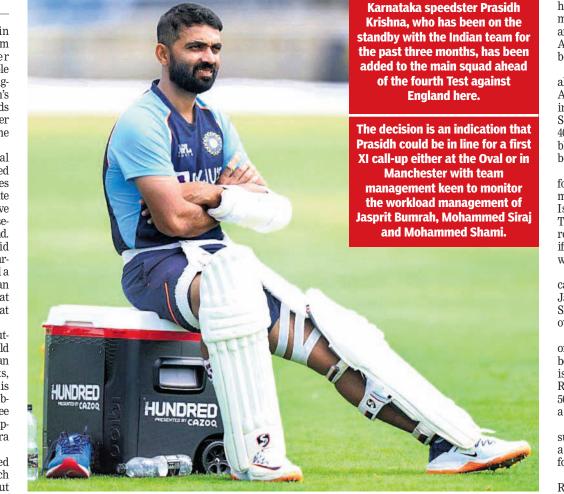
Pujara might have redeemed himself with a knock of 91 which was high on 'intent quotient' but the same can't be said about Rahane, whose form is shaky despite a crucial 61 in the second innings at the Lord's

In all likelihood, Rahane would get another chance but over the past two years, his inconsistency has hurt this team badly.

What many people have found baffling is that even a hundred at

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP **CR7 to Man Utd done**

MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo is looking to the future at Manchester United after a nod to the most influential figure of his football past. Finalizing one of the summer's most high-profile deals on the last day of the European transfer window, the five-time world player of the year completed his sensational return to United after 12 years away and said: "I'm back where I belong." "History has been written in the past," the 36year-old Ronaldo wrote on Instagram Tuesday, "and history will be written once again! You have my word!" Ronaldo signed off his post by dedicating his return to Old Trafford to the man - Alex Ferguson, who first brought him to United in 2003 — when he was a skinny, supremely gifted 18-yearold winger - and turned him into a



Melbourne or a fifty at the Lord's hasn't inspired confidence and he has never looked like getting back into some kind of form.

A total of 95 runs in five innings bowls off-spin. at an average of 19 is not an indicator of Rahane's qualities but a spunky strokeplayer like Suryakumar Yadav or an orthodox batter like Hanuma Vihari

might bring in a bit of freshness in the middle-order. If Rahane is dropped at all, then Vihari has a better chance of coming in as he also

However, skipper Kohli has shown that he can be dogmatic even if suggestions to contrary come from some of India's biggest cricketing legends including Sunil

Gavaskar, who feels that playing an extra batsman might help them. An exhibit of it is his decision of not compromising with the fivebowler theory despite batting failures save for openers Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul (who had a poor third Test).

Ravindra Jadeja in this series, with two wickets from three games, has played primarily as a No.7 batsman whose willow-wielding skills are considered to be far better than Ashwin, who is perhaps the world's best spinner at the moment.

The Oval track has traditionally helped spinners and therefore Ashwin, who had a six-wicket haul in a county game for Surrey (vs Somerset) might just bring in his 400 plus wicket experience to trouble the English batters who have been wary of him in the past.

But Kohli, whose fascination for four pacers is well documented, might want to replace an off-colour Ishant Sharma with Shardul Thakur, who is more of an allrounder and it remains to be seen if Ashwin comes in place of Jadeja, who hasn't been penetrative enough. Similarly, the skipper has indi-

cated looking at the workload of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, both of whom have bowled over 100 overs in the series so far.

If their middle-order is a cause of concern, the other aspect that's bound to give them sleepless nights is the form of rival skipper Joe Root, who has already tallied over 500 runs in just three games with a hat-trick of hundreds.

If Ashwin gets a look-in, Root versus Ashwin will be a contest that a lot of cricket fans will be looking forward to.

India squad: Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prithvi Shaw, Suryakumar Yadav & Shardul Thakur.

on match-day: Arun

ASHWIN'S INCLUSION FOR 4TH TEST

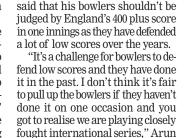
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 1: India's bowling coach Bharath Arun said that English batsmen are "wary of Ravichandran Ashwin's abilities" on tracks with "assistance" but a call on the senior off-spinner's inclusion will only be taken Thursday morning ahead of the fourth Test. Ashwin, world's best off-spin-

ner. has been benched for three consecutive Test matches with Ravindra Jadeja being played as a 'batting all-rounder"

"Ashwin, no doubt, is one of the best bowlers we have and it's unfortunate that he has not played so far but if there is an opportunity and if we feel that he is going to fit into the scheme of things, they will definitely both be bowling in tandem," Arun said when asked if both the spinners can fit into the playing XI at Oval which aids spin bowling.

batters' circumspect way of handling Ashwin may lead to a change in na-



ture of the track along with fickle English weather playing its part.

aids spin but you also know how the

Englishmen are wary of Ashwin's

abilities of what he could do if there

"The best thing would be to decide

is any assistance from the track.

after looking at the track tomorrow

morning as anything could happen

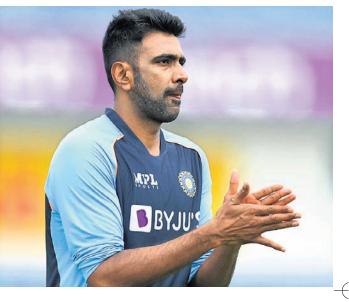
between now and tomorrow. So we

look at it tomorrow morning and de-

cide." The respected bowling coach

"History at the Oval says that it

said. "There are bound to be losses which we know and we have to ac-However, Arun hinted that English cept and take positives and then move on.'



OFC join hands with Djoko tops teen 'Ruuune!' **EPL** side Watford FC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Odisha FC have signed a three-year historic International Club Partnership with English Premier League (EPL) side Watford FC, the Indian Super League team announced Wednesday. This association will be mutually

beneficial for both the regions where the clubs operate and will cover different footballing and nonfootballing aspects.

This partnership will play an nportant role in the development of the footballing eco-system in Odisha as coaches from Watford will help Odisha FC set up youth systems and players from OFC's Elite Youth team will get an opportunity to train with Watford's first team and/or academy team.

along with that, they will collaborate and promote different grassroots programs as well. The clubs will also work together for the development of women's football in the State and across India and friendly matches will be organised between their women's teams.

In addition to that, the Bhubaneswar-based side will have an opportunity to travel and train at Watford as a part of the pre-season training and will also play friendly matches in England.

Both the clubs will cooper



ing system went down when a TV camera wasn't working.

This year, for the first time, every match on every court these two weeks is operating without any line judges. Instead, the only human officiating is the chair umpire, while every shot is ruled in or out by a system that uses cameras to detect where balls land.

Last year, electronic calls for each match except those played at the biggest two arenas, Ashe and Louis Armstrong Stadium, where people made the rulings. It was during a fourth-round match in Ashe against Pablo Carreno Busta that Djokovic was defaulted after a game in the first set when he smacked a ball that inadvertently hit a line judge in the throat. The capable-of-combustion Djokovic, who chucked a racket into the stands while losing to Carreno Busta in the bronze medal match at the Tokyo Olympics a month ago, kept a steady countenance Tuesday, even as a set slipped away and there was applause for his faults during the tie-breaker.

superstar. Ferguson also somewhat also persuaded the former Juventus man to snub Man City offer and chose United. "Sir Alex," he wrote, "this one is for you "

Griezmann back to Atletico

MADRID: The transfer deadline ended with Atletico Madrid getting Antoine Griezmann back, Tuesday. Griezmann returned to his former club on a loan deal from cost-cutting Barcelona in negotiations that saw Atletico's Saul Niguez move to Chelsea and Sevilla's Luuk de Jong join Barcelona. The 30-year-old Griezmann returns to Atletico on a one-year loan with the option for another. renewable by either club. He played two seasons with Barcelona, where he never quite found his stride since joining on a fee of 120 million euros (USD 142 million). He had played five seasons under coach Diego Simeone at Atletico. Barcelona said Atletico will pay

Griezmann's wages, and that the deal included an obligatory permanent transfer clause for an undisclosed amount.

Barca veterans take pay cuts for Aguero

BARCELONA: Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba have taken pay cuts at Barcelona to allow the team to register Sergio Aguero to play in the Spanish league, the Catalan club said Tuesday. They follow another senior player, Gerard Pique, in taking a salary reduction to enable their financially troubled club to register new players and fit into the league's strict financial fair play regulations. Barcelona, who recently announced their debt at 1.35 billion euro (USD 1.6 billion), were unable to keep longtime star Lionel Messi because of financial regulations. As a result, Messi signed for PSG but Aguero will be free to play for Barcelona once he recovers from a calf



injury that could keep him out until mid-October. The 33-year-old Aguero was signed in July as a free agent from Manchester City.

Watford and OFC will support each other in their respective youth systems including scouting and training of young footballers and

with each other in the selection of players, the appointment of coaching and support staff, improving tactical and technical aspects of the game among others for the respective first teams.

OFC and Watford will also share ideas in terms of marketing and social media visibility which will help in popularizing the sport and enhance the fanbase in the region.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York. Sept 1: If the lastname chorus of 'Ruuuuuune!' in support of his relatively unknown teenage opponent at the US Open bothered Novak Djokovic, he never let anyone know.

Nor was there any visible evidence that Djokovic was shaken by the shaky patches he went through while dropping a set Tuesday night as he began his historic bid to complete the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969 and collect a record-breaking 21st major singles championship.

Djokovic was not perfect but all he needed to do was win, and he did, just as he's done every time he's played a Grand Slam match this season, whether on the hard courts of the Australian Open, the red clay of the French Open, the grass of

Wimbledon or, now, the first of what he hopes will be seven times on the hard courts of Flushing Meadows.

Quickly regaining control after a second-set blip, then wearing down his cramping foe, Djokovic beat Danish qualifier Holger Vitus Nodskov Rune 6-1, 6-7(5-7), 6-2, 6-1 to reach the second round. Diokovic will next face Tallon Griekspoor, a 25-year-old from Netherlands ranked 121st who got into the field when Roger Federer pulled out.

Earlier on Day Two, the topseeded woman, Ash Barty, made a successful return to the site of one of the two Grand Slam tournaments she has yet to win.

The biggest holdup for Barty during her 6-1, 7-6(9-7) victory over 2010 US Open runner-up Vera Zvonareva came early in the first set. There was a delay of more than five minutes because the Hawk-Eye Live electronic line-call-

Carreno Busta, was a surprise first-round loser on Tuesday. He was eliminated 5-7, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6(9-7) by Maxime Cressy, a Paris-born American ranked 151st. Cressy played college tennis at UCLA, as did Mackie McDonald, the American who defeated No.27 seed David Goffin in straight sets.

In other action, the two Olympic tennis singles gold medalists won: Germany's Alexander Zverev extended his winning streak to 12 matches with a 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Sam Querrey, and Switzerland's Belinda Bencic beat Arantxa Rus 6-4, 6-4.

Bhagat-Kohli goes down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Sept 1: India's mixed team pair of Pramod Bhagat and Palak Kohli went down fighting against second seeds Lucas Mazur and Faustine Noel in the group B opener of the badminton event at the Tokyo Paralympics, here Wednesday.

Odisha star Bhagat and Kohli, competing in SL3-SU5 class, went down 9-21, 21-15, 19-21 against the French team in 43 minutes at the Yoyogi national stadium.

The Indian pair found the going tough initially as it lagged 5-11 at the interval. Things didn't change much after the breather as the French duo zoomed ahead and quickly pocketed the opening game.

In the second game, the Indian duo gave a better account of themselves as they fought tooth and nail and earned a slender two-point lead at 13-11.

Mazur and Noel grabbed a point but the Indian pair reeled off seven straight points to reach the game points. Their opponent saved two points before Bhagat and Kohli roared back into the contest.

In the decider, the second seeds opened up a 13-9 lead but Bhagat and Kohli fought their way back to take a 15-14 lead. However, Mazur and Noel soon grabbed lead and eventually edged out the Indian pair. Thailand pair of Siripong Teamarrom and Saensupa Nipada is the third team in the group B.



Bhagat, who is the reigning world champion, will compete in men's singles (SL3) as well, while Kohli will be participating in women's doubles (SL3-SU5) with Parul Parmar and women's singles (SU5).

DISAPPOINTING DAY FOR INDIANS **AT TOKYO PARALYMPICS**

Suyahsh disqualified

Indian para swimmer Suyash Jadhav endured a disappointing outing in the men's 100m breaststroke SB7 final of the ongoing Paralympic Games as he was disqualified for a rule violation here. Jadhay, who won a gold in Asian Para Games in 2018 along with two bronze medals and a silver in the 2016 German Swimming Championship, was disqualified as he didn't com-

ply with World Para Swimming's rule number 11.4.1, which states that "at any time prior to the first breaststroke kick after the start and after each turn, a single butterfly kick is permitted"

The 27-year-old Jadhay, whose two hands were amputated below the elbow at the age of 11 due to electrocution, was found to have "performed more than one fly kick after the turn"

Lekhara fails to qualify

Shooter Avani Lekhara, who became India's first female gold medallist in Paralympic Games two days ago, failed to replicate her success as she crashed out in the qualification round of the mixed 10m Air Rifle Prone SH1 event here Wednesday.

The SH1 (Rifle) allows individuals with no impairment in the upper limbs but an impairment in either/both the lower limbs to compete. Lekhara was not at her usual best as she she finished a disappointing 27th with a score of 629.7, crashing out in the third round







