



GENEROUS DEEPIKA

Acid attack survivor Bala finds new hope as actor Deepika Padukone donates ₹15 lakh to the 'Save Bala' campaign

LEISURE P2



TERROR ATTACK IN NZ

Jacinda Ardern says the attack in Auckland was an act of terror by a Lankan national who was later shot dead

INTERNATIONAL P10



DJOKOVIC ADVANCES

Novak Djokovic continues his quest for 'Calendar Slam' with 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 win over Tallon Griekspoor at US Open

SPORTS P12



MARUTI RECALLS OVER 1.8 L UNITS

NEW DELHI: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Friday said it is recalling 1,81,754 units of petrol trims of various models, including Ciaz, Vitara Brezza and XL6, to replace faulty motor generator unit. As a responsible corporate, keeping in mind customer safety, the company has announced to proactively undertake a recall of some petrol variants of Ciaz, Ertiga, Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and XL6, MSI said in a regulatory filing. This is to inspect for a possible defect in these units manufactured between May 4, 2018 and October 27, 2020.



SUGA TO QUIT, PAVE WAY FOR NEW PM

TOKYO: Amid growing criticism of his handling of the pandemic, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said Friday he won't run for the leadership of the governing party later this month, paving the way for a new Japanese leader after just a year in office. Suga told reporters that heading Japan's pandemic response and campaigning to lead his governing Liberal Democratic Party at the same time divided his energies. "I have decided not to run for the party leadership elections, as I would like to focus on coronavirus measures," Suga told reporters.

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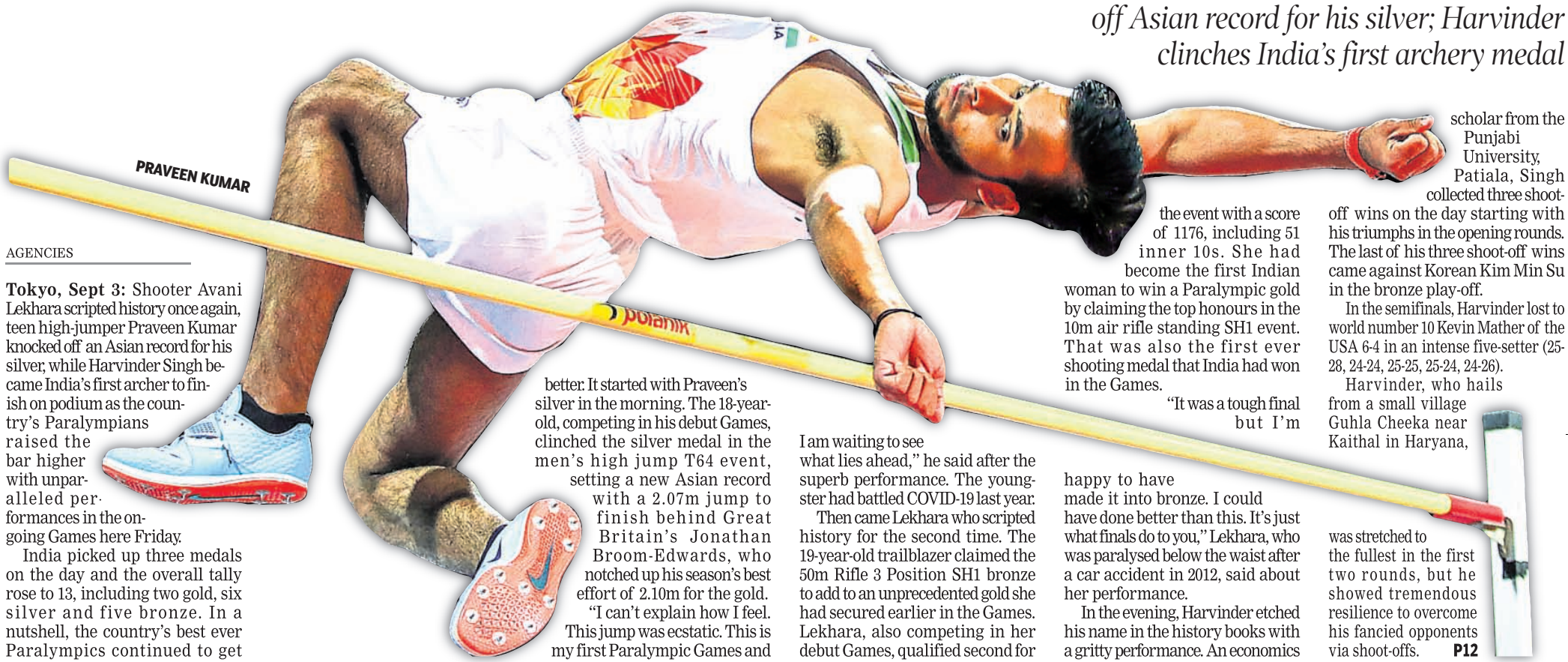
IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Well, not a word against those uncivilized, barbaric terrorists! Our govt has started talking to them!

INDIA'S DAY OF FIRSTS AT TOKYO

Shooter Avani Lekhara bags second podium finish; high-jumper Praveen Kumar knocks off Asian record for his silver; Harvinder Singh clinches India's first archery medal



Tokyo, Sept 3: Shooter Avani Lekhara scripted history once again, teen high-jumper Praveen Kumar knocked off an Asian record for his silver, while Harvinder Singh became India's first archer to finish on podium as the country's Paralympians raised the bar higher with unparalleled performances in the on-going Games here Friday.

India picked up three medals on the day and the overall tally rose to 13, including two gold, six silver and five bronze. In a nutshell, the country's best ever Paralympics continued to get

better. It started with Praveen's silver in the morning. The 18-year-old, competing in his debut Games, clinched the silver medal in the men's high jump T64 event, setting a new Asian record with a 2.07m jump to finish behind Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards, who notched up his season's best effort of 2.10m for the gold. "I can't explain how I feel. This jump was ecstatic. This is my first Paralympic Games and

I am waiting to see what lies ahead," he said after the superb performance. The youngster had battled COVID-19 last year. Then came Lekhara who scripted history for the second time. The 19-year-old trailblazer claimed the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 bronze to add to an unprecedented gold she had secured earlier in the Games. Lekhara, also competing in her debut Games, qualified second for

the event with a score of 1176, including 51 inner 10s. She had become the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold by claiming the top honours in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event. That was also the first ever shooting medal that India had won in the Games. "It was a tough final but I'm

happy to have made it into bronze. I could have done better than this. It's just what finals do to you," Lekhara, who was paralysed below the waist after a car accident in 2012, said about her performance. In the evening, Harvinder etched his name in the history books with a gritty performance. An economics

Bolangir farmer dies by suicide over crop failure

Bolangir, Sept 3: With drought situation looming across the state, a farmer allegedly committed suicide over loss of paddy and cotton crops in Tureikela block of Bolangir district. The deceased was identified as Rechaka Banchor, 60, of Kadobera village under Tureikela block. He had gone to his farmland Thursday. On returning from the farmland, he allegedly consumed poison, his family members claimed.



After he drank the poison, Banchor's family members rushed him to the Kantabanji hospital. However, as his condition deteriorated he was shifted to the Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir. Banchor died while undergoing treatment at the hospital late Thursday night. His family members said that Banchor consumed poison because he was mentally disturbed over the crop failure on account of scanty rain. The family members alleged that the bulk of their cotton and paddy crops got damaged due to less rainfall this monsoon season. The farmer is a landless one. He is survived by his wife and two sons. His family members said that Banchor used to migrate to other states in search of work. This year, he had cultivated paddy and cotton on two acres of land on a share-cropping basis. When contacted, District Collector Chanchal Rana said that he can tell about the incident only after an investigation.

Taliban talk Kashmir

In a possible indication that the recent talks between India and the Taliban at Doha were unproductive, the latter have claimed their right to speak out in favour of Muslims in Kashmir

'CHINA OUR MOST IMPORTANT ALLY'

PESHAWAR: Describing China as their "most important partner," the Taliban said they look to Beijing to rebuild Afghanistan and exploit its rich copper deposits as the war-ravaged country faces widespread hunger and fears of an economic collapse. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said the group supports China's One Belt, One Road initiative that seeks to link China with Africa, Asia and Europe through an enormous network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks. "China is our most important partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us because it is ready to invest and rebuild our country," Geo News quoted Mujahid as saying in an interview to an Italian newspaper.

Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, the head of the Taliban's Political Office in Doha, at the request of the group. In the meeting, Mittal conveyed to Stanekzai that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism. It was the first publicly acknowledged formal diplomatic engagement that came two weeks after the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. Shaheen's remarks came after Al-Qaeda through its Al-Sahab media asked the Muslim community to 'free' other Muslim lands after the liberation of Afghanistan, putting Kashmir on the list of targets of jihad. Besides Kashmir, it shortlisted the Levant, comprising Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon; Maghreb, or the region in northwest Africa consisting of Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and Somalia; and Yemen on its priorities.

country, Shaheen said while speaking from Doha. While recalling the terms of the Doha agreement with the US, he said they had "no policy of conducting armed operations against any country." Shaheen's remarks came days after the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi said Indian envoy to Qatar Deepak Mittal met Sher

Speaker adjourns House within seconds

For third consecutive day Question Hour and Zero Hour were washed out as Opposition parties tried to rake up several issues

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro Friday adjourned the Odisha Legislative Assembly till 4pm within seconds of its commencement after Congress leader Narasingha Mishra raked up the issue of rampant corruption in the Odisha Public Service Commission. Mishra stood at his seat and started speaking on the issue. "There is massive corruption in the Odisha Public Service Commission..." he said. Soon the Speaker interrupted and adjourned the House till 4pm. This was the third consecutive day when the Question Hour and Zero Hour of the Assembly were washed out as the Opposition parties tried to raise several issues. The main Opposition BJP, however, alleged that the House was deliberately adjourned to avoid a dis-

41% growth in state's August GST collection

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Odisha has recorded 41.32 per cent growth in GST collection in August 2021 compared to the corresponding period of 2020, GST officials said here Friday. The state's GST collections stood at ₹3,316.55 crore in August 2021 as compared to ₹2,348.28 crore collected in August 2020. This was the second highest growth rate of GST among all major states in the country, said the Odisha Commercial Tax and GST Commissioner's office. The progressive GST collection till August during the current financial year is ₹16,977.92 crore while ₹9,888.99 crore was collected till August during last fiscal, thereby registering a growth of 71.69 per cent, it said. Similarly the collection of Odisha GST has recorded a growth of 39.40 per cent. The OGS (Odisha Goods and Services Tax) collection during August 2021 is ₹566.47 crore while ₹686.15 crore was collected in August 2020. The progressive collection of OGS upto August is ₹4836.75 crore while the state had collected ₹3040.37 crore during the same period in 2020. The progressive OGS collection has recorded a growth of 59.08 per cent till August 2021. Similarly, there is a collection of ₹792.93 crore in Central Goods and Services Tax, ₹948.21 crore in Integrated Goods and Services Tax and ₹618.94 crore in cess during August 2021. This growth during August is a result of better compliance by dealers having turnover of more than ₹5 crore as well as follow-up action of non-filer assessment and return scrutiny in case of wrong return filers, said an official. The increase in the GST collection is due to rise in commodity prices of iron and steel as well as the mining sector and collection from matured GST demand made by tax officers after return scrutiny, the official informed.

Secret funeral plans for Queen Elizabeth II leaked

London, Sept 3: Leaked documents have revealed for the first time Friday the extent of the huge operation that will be launched in the hours and days after Britain's Queen Elizabeth II dies. Details of what will happen under the codename 'Operation London Bridge' were leaked to US-headquartered news organisation 'Politico', which reports that officials will refer to the day the Queen dies as 'D Day'. The 95-year-old monarch, the longest-serving in British history, is to be buried 10 days after she dies and her son and heir, Prince Charles, will embark on a tour of

the UK before the burial is held. According to the plans, the late sovereign's coffin will lie in state for three days at the Houses of Parliament, with authorities anticipating hundreds of thousands of people to descend on London - sparking fears over gridlock, policing and even food shortages. A vast security operation has been planned to manage the unprecedented crowds and travel chaos that are expected in the lead-up to her funeral. One memo warns that London could be stretched to breaking point as hundreds of thousands of people make their way to the UK capital. There will be a supposedly 'spontaneous' service at St Paul's

Cathedral, according to Politico, and the new King Charles will tour the four nations of the United Kingdom in the days after her death. The British prime minister and the monarch are said to be in agreement that the day of her state funeral will be a day of national mourning. It will effectively be a holiday, although not described as such. Buckingham Palace officials have declined to comment, either on the leak or the plans. In 2017, 'The Guardian' published an article revealing details of Operation London Bridge, which covered how the new King - Charles - will be proclaimed at St James's Palace amid visiting royalty.



| MARKET WATCH | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| INDEX | VARIATION |
| SENSEX | 58129.95 ↑ 277.41 |
| NIFTY | 17323.60 ↑ 89.40 |
| DOLLAR | 73.19 ↓ ₹0.01 |
| EURO | 86.60 ↑ ₹0.10 |
| GOLD | ₹47,341 ↑ ₹350 |
| SILVER | ₹64,565 ↑ ₹1280 |

| WEATHER | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| | BHUB | CTK |
| TEMP. MAX | 34.4°C | 34.0°C |
| TEMP. MIN | 25.5°C | 23.4°C |
| Humidity | 81% | 72% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |

Forecast: Light rains likely

leisure



LEGENDARY GREEK COMPOSER MIKIS THEODORAKIS PASSES AWAY

Serpico and Zorba the Greek music composer Mikis Theodorakis died at 96. The Greek flag was lowered to half-staff at the Acropolis as three days of national mourning were declared. He had a prolific career that began at the age of 17.

DRAKE'S CERTIFIED LOVER BOY ALBUM RELEASED

Drake's much-awaited album *Certified Lover Boy* was released Friday. *Certified Lover Boy* is the Canadian rap star's sixth studio effort and the follow-up to 2018's *Scorpion*, which hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and on charts around the globe.



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ARIES
Today you will have to give in to your spouse's demands for improving the environment at home. In your own interest it will be advisable, says Ganesh, to hasten the measures needed to be taken and stay focussed on them as you are the one who is guilty of neglect.

TAURUS
Be prepared for taking instant decisions and acting promptly on them. Today you are likely to meet several such situations Ganesh is pleased to see that you have the acumen and experience to deal with such contingencies.

GEMINI
You will be faced with a slew of demands from various people today, and you will find it difficult to meet all of them. However, you will be able to meet the requirements that need to be met to salvage the day. People will praise your intelligence and creativity, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Minor ailments like cough and cold may bother you, warns Ganesh. So avoid cold or sweet items. People admire your helpful nature. Take special care of your health, says Ganesh.

LEO
You are advised to be more attentive to your work today. You will try to do the best work possible by putting in your maximum efforts. However, the results might turn out to be lower than your expectations. You need to be wary of excessive expenses or financial loss today.

VIRGO
In all likelihood you will indulge in some writing or artistic work, which will bring about wonderful results. As you are passionate about these things, you may convert them into your hobbies, if you are not involved in them as a professional. Ganesh gives you the green signal to enjoy the clout that you wield over others with your sweet words.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will give more importance to your family and there may be concerns about the health of a family member. There may be news from abroad regarding the health of a close family member, which may disturb you today.

SCORPIO
A cloud of emotions surrounds you today and you would like to spend the entire day in introspection and self-analysis. You will try to raise your bar at professional level. Your far sightedness and capability to understand human psychology promises a leader in you, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You are all set to groom your skills as a professional. Talking about work, determination and dedication are likely to rule you today. Putting your heart and soul, your work speaks volumes about your efforts. Appreciation, though slow in pace, is on its way to encourage you.

CAPRICORN
New projects and partnership will keep you busy today, says Ganesh. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time.

AQUARIUS
You know how to examine the nuts and bolts of every assignment or project, and it consumes your resources to a great extent. But, like a stitch in time saves nine, your meticulous planning minimises the chances of a loss or a failure, feels Ganesh. Not many are good at this, and such efficient planning gives you an upper hand over others when the competition is tight.

PISCES
You could find yourself re-establishing contact with long lost friends abroad, possibly on matters of business. You will also likely find yourself attending social events. There is a possibility that those who are unmarried, may find their match in these social settings.

Binodini Debi to be honoured with Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Award

Arushi Mudgal of Odissi dance and Ramachandra Behera of Odissi music (Mardala) will be conferred with Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman at the five-day event to be kicked off from September 5

Award Festival here from September 5 to 9, 2021. The event, to be conducted with strict adherence to all the government mandated Covid-19 safety guidelines and in the virtual presence of several luminaries of the art world, will be streamed live on Srjan's Facebook page and YouTube channel, at 7.30 pm every day. The main objective of presenting the GKCM Award, which carries a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a citation, is to recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals in the field of dance, music, cinema and theatre. Additionally, the Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha (GKCMYP) Samman, with a cash



prize of Rs. 25,000/- and a citation is presented to exceptionally talented performing artistes below the age of 40 years. This year the GKCM Award will



be conferred on veteran theatre artist Binodini Debi for her lifetime contribution to Odia theatre. The GKCMYP Samman will be presented to Arushi Mudgal for



Odissi dance and to Ramachandra Behera for Odissi music (Mardala) acknowledging their dedication to the art forms and in recognition of their soulful recitals.

Srjan has dedicated this year's festival in memory of Guruma, late Laxmipriya Mohapatra, the first ever dancer to perform Odissi on stage and the fountain of inspiration for many doyennes of Odissi dance. This year, the dance presentations scheduled for the event include Odissi by Sharmila Mukerjee, Bharatanatyam by Anita Mallick, Sattriya by Anwesa Mahanta, and Kathak by Sushree Nikkita Banawalikar. The festival will also feature recitals by world-renowned violinist, Sangeeta Shankar, popular Odissi vocalist Rupak Kumar Parida, acclaimed Hindustani vocalist Manjusha Patil, and reputed flautist Abhiram Nanda.

Deepika donates ₹15 lakh to acid survivor

Agra: Struggling for life, acid attack survivor Bala has found a new hope as star actor Deepika Padukone has extended a helping hand to save her life. The acid attack survivor, who is suffering from a life-threatening kidney ailment, urgently needs a kidney transplant to survive. After the word reached Deepika, she donated a generous amount of Rs 15 lakh to the 'Save Bala' campaign. Bala is a real-life star who was also featured in the Deepika Padukone-starrer movie *Chhapaak*, directed by Meghna Gulzar. Her condition is deteriorating every day due to the failure of both her kidneys and she's somehow surviving on dialysis. Being an acid attack survivor, her weakened immunity is already a threat to her life. Bala still requires further monetary help to come out of this tragedy and hence an NGO is seeking as much support as possible. The fundraising campaign called 'Save Bala' has been started on a crowd-funding platform. Meanwhile, on the work front, Deepika is one of the busiest actors we have in Hindi film industry with some very interesting projects in her kitty. She has Shakun Batra's untitled next film where she will be seen sharing the screen space with Ananya Panday and Siddhant Chaturvedi in lead roles.



Urmila recalls writing Aamir a fan letter

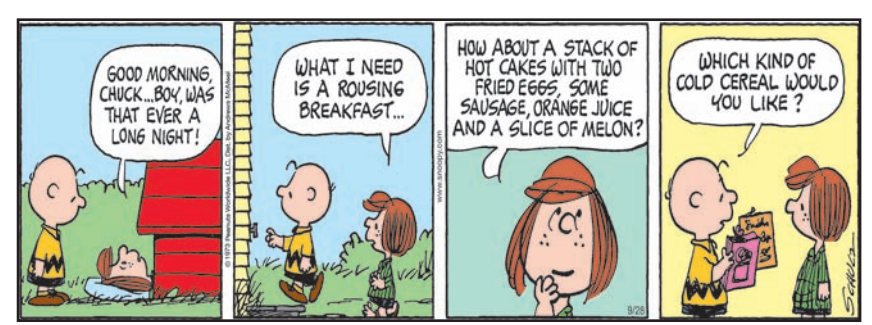
Mumbai: Recently, actress Urmila Matondkar heaped praises for actor Aamir Khan's performance in the 1995 film *Rangeela*, which made her write him a fan letter. Urmila made a confession during her appearance on a dance reality show. The actress who had starred alongside Aamir Khan in *Rangeela* shared that she was fond of her co-star's performance so much that she ended up writing him a 'fan' letter. "Very few people know that when I was dubbing for *Rangeela*, I watched Aamir's performance and I was stunned. I wrote him a letter in which I wrote, 'You'll get many letters after this performance and you'll get awards as well. But this will be the first fan letter you'll get'", shared Urmila revealing the anecdote at the reality show. In the classic film, *Rangeela*, Urmila Matondkar played the female lead sharing screen space with Aamir Khan. The film also starred Jackie Shroff in a pivotal role. The film, which was also a major box office success, was A. R. Rahman's debut Hindi film with an original score and soundtrack.

Rasika finds short film format challenging

Mumbai: After several rounds of international festivals, *The Miniaturist of Junagadh*, a short film starring Naseeruddin Shah and Rasika Dugal, is being screened at the Bangalore International Short Film Festival, which concludes on September 5. Talking about the film, Rasika said, "I've always found the medium of short films interestingly challenging. To be able to tell a story in a short time requires cinematic acumen and a strong sense of detail. As an actor, I thrive on those tiny details which don't attract attention to themselves and might even seem inconsequential but go a long way in creating the world of the story. Kaushal has told a riveting story in a beautifully gentle way. This is a special film for me as it gave me the opportunity to act alongside Naseer Saab, who was my teacher at FTII. So, I got to be a student again!" The film is directed by Kaushal Oza. The film has travelled the world with its nomination as Best Short



PEANUTS



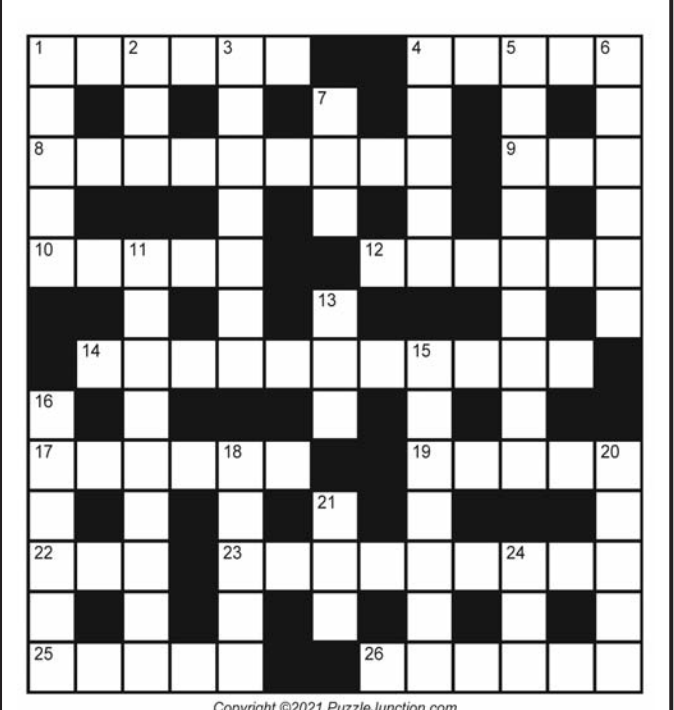
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



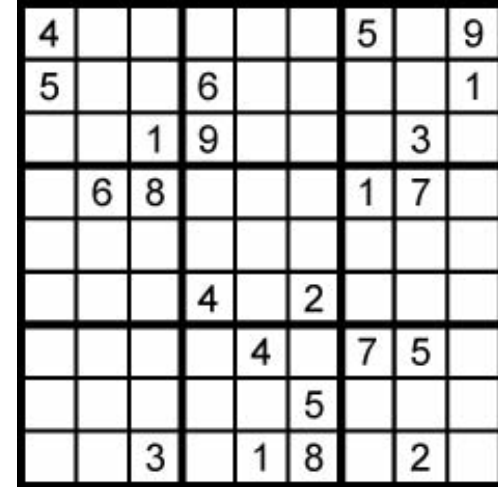
FUN post CROSSWORD



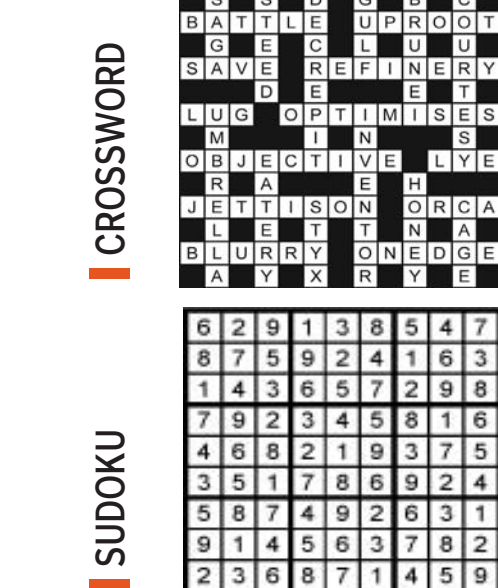
- Across**
1 Feeling a bit ill
4 Kingdom
8 Winging it (2-7)
9 Hit the slopes
10 Neapolitan song,
Santa _____
12 Formal order
14 *The Prince* author
17 Ready to retire
19 Type of necklace or diver
- Down**
1 Game bird
2 Aquatic shocker
3 Day of rest
4 Scalawag
5 Moreton Bay locale
- 6** Type of voyage
7 18-wheeler
11 Madagascar lizard
13 Pathetic
15 Detonate
16 Tear into
18 Someone you pay?
20 Vanquished
21 Fairy tale
24 Harem room

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.



SOLUTIONS

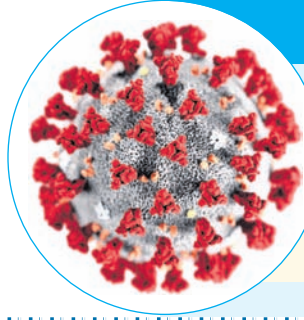


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



FARM WORK

Farmhands removing weeds from a paddy field at OUAT in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 22,02,74,811 | 19,69,08,786 | 45,61,487 |
| India | 3,29,03,289 | 3,20,63,616 | 4,39,895 |
| Odisha | 10,10,072 | 9,95,474 | 8,035 |

Pandemic shut down 3,207 MSME units: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: As many as 3,207 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state have been shut owing to Covid-19 pandemic till April 21, 2020, MSME Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra told the Assembly Friday.

Replying to a question by Congress MLA from Jeypore Taraprasad Bahinipati, Mishra said, "As per available information, 3,207 MSME units have been closed in the state till April 21, 2020."

However, data related to loss of jobs due to closure of these MSME



IN THE HOUSE

units for the pandemic is currently not available, he said, adding, MSME Census-2021 is in progress in the state which would reveal the details of the closed units.

Mishra further said that the Chief Minister has announced special Covid package for the sector. As per the package, the gov-



ernment has earmarked ₹108.29 crore to provide interest subvention of 5 per cent for women-owned MSMEs and 2 per cent for men-owned ones to lessen the burden of interest on additional loan extended under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

Accordingly, the MSME department has so far sanctioned ₹99.87 crore in favour of various such units of which ₹7,54,932 have been disbursed to 473 entrepreneurs, the minister told the Assembly.

As per statistics presented by

1,621 lightning deaths in 4 yrs

The Revenue and Disaster Management department Friday revealed before the House that the state witnessed 1,621 lightning deaths during the last four years. Responding to a question posed in the Assembly, Revenue Minister Sudam Marndi put forth a written statement which said between 2017-18 and 2021-22, a total of 1,621 persons succumbed to the injuries caused by lightning. The highest deaths were reported in 2017-18 at 472, followed by 2019-20 at 357.

Mishra, 567 MSMEs units in Balasore were closed during Covid-19 pandemic while 484 and 321 such units witnessed the closure in Ganjam and Samabpur respectively during the pandemic.

Similarly, 288 MSME units have been closed in Bolangir district, followed by 284 in Bhubaneswar, 272 in Sundargarh, 187 in Kalahandi, 185 in Boudh, 171 in Rayagada, 170 in Jharsuguda, 157 in Bhadrak, 50 in Nabarangpur, 45 in Gajapati and 26 in Deogarh.

'Nimantran' to serve lip-smacking Odia dish

THE CHIEF MINISTER ALSO FLAGGED OFF 110 NEW OSRTC BUSES THAT WOULD HAVE CCTVs, COMFORTABLE SEATS, EMERGENCY BUTTONS AND OTHER AMENITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated 'Nimantran' restaurant of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) which would serve visitors a variety of Odia dish. He also flagged off 110 new buses of Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) here.

The buses are equipped with the state-of-the-art amenities to provide passengers a comfortable journey experience.

The buses have CCTVs, comfortable seats, emergency buttons, vehicle tracking system, fire extinguishing system and other

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the State Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, which was constructed at a cost of ₹19 crore

amenities. Besides, these buses have an Intelligent Transport Management System (ITMS) to provide security related information to passengers while traveling.

These buses will also be used for interstate transportation of passengers. The OSRTC has procured 180 new buses, of which 110



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates 'Nimantran' restaurant in the presence of Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi and OTDC chairperson Shreemayee Mishra

have been rolled out Friday, while another 70 will be made operational soon, sources said.

At present, 398 OSRTC buses are plying to 28 districts and 43 interstate routes connecting Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. These buses include Volvo, AC Ultra Delux, Non-AC Delux and Non-AC High Comfort categories.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated 'Nimantran' restaurant of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) near RD Women's University on the occasion of the foundation day of the corporation. A variety of authentic

Odia dish will be served to tourists and visitors at the restaurant.

After inaugurating the restaurant, Naveen went to Patia and inaugurated two depots of Mo Bus at Patia and Bhagwanpur.

"This depot will enable the Mo Bus team to cut down the dependency on external agencies for maintenance and fueling to make the bus operations holistic and sustainable," said Dipti Mohapatra, General Manager, CRUT.

Later, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the State Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, which was constructed at a cost of ₹19 crore. The institute has accommodation facility for 100 differently-abled children below 18 years.



A view of the newly-inaugurated restaurant

Plus III admission timeline revised

The applicants will have to report at the allotted institutions for the first selection merit list from September 13 to 16

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Higher Education (HE) department Friday revised the Plus III admission timeline for 2021-22 academic session.

In a letter to principals of all government and non-government degree colleges, deputy director of the department's Performance Tracking Cell Rajesh Kumar Sahoo said that some minor modifications have been made to the UG admission timeline. As per the revised timeline, applicants will have to report at the allotted institutions for taking admission for the first selection merit list from September 13 to 16 (5 pm). Earlier, it was between September 11 and 15.

Update of slide-up option form online by the admitted students during first round of admission will also be conducted from September 13 to 16 (11.45 pm).

Moreover, the respective institutions can update data of admitted students including error reporting in the e-space (for first round admission) from September 13 to 16 (7 pm).

"Accordingly, intimation letters will be issued to the selected applicants, mentioning the date and time of reporting for taking admission at the respective institutions," Sahoo stated in the letter.

The HE department had August 17 released the timeline for admissions to Plus III courses for 2021-22 academic session.

As per the timeline and official



The second merit list would be published September 21 and admission fees would be deposited between September 21 and 24

notification, online common application form (CAF) would be made available on the department's websites www.dhe.odisha.gov.in and www.samsodisha.gov.in from 11am of August 20.

The last date for applying online through the websites was September 4 (11:45pm). As per the timeline, students would deposit admission fees online through SAMS portal.

The second merit list would be published September 21 and admission fees would be deposited between September 21 and 24.

The applicants have to report to the allotted institutions for taking admission for the second merit list from September 22 to 25.

SC bars state from taking action against Sarda Mines

STATE GOVT HAS ASKED SARDA MINES TO PAY AROUND ₹299 CRORE TOWARDS DMF AND ₹19.98 CRORE TOWARDS NMET

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 3: The Supreme Court (SC) Friday asked the Odisha government to file an affidavit giving details on the imposition of statutory royalties of around ₹319 crore on Sarda Mines Private Limited (SMPL) towards District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund and National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).

A three-judge bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana asked the state government to file its response within two weeks and barred it from taking any coercive action against SMPL.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and AS Bopanna, asked the state government why it had not raised the issue of additional royalty deposit in DMF fund and NMET when the matter was decided in January 2020.

During the hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for the mining firm said that the state government cannot compel his client to pay DMF amount on mining activities done till 2014 as the DMF rules were notified in September 2015. Sibal also cited a Supreme Court order of 2017 wherein the apex court had held that the DMF rules cannot have retrospective effect.

Significantly, the state government has asked Sarda Mines to pay around ₹299 crore towards DMF fund and ₹19.98 crore as contribution towards NMET (total ₹319 crore approx).

"We paid the royalty. The state



ROYALTY IMBROGLIO

The SC asked the state govt why it had not raised the issue of additional royalty deposit in DMF and NMET when the matter was decided in January 2020

Earlier in January 2020, the SC had ordered the SMPL to deposit ₹933 crore as royalty and allowed the Jindal Steel and Power Limited to lift iron ore from the site after the former deposited the royalty amount

didn't point out that these two statutory royalties are also required to be paid by the company. We cannot deposit over ₹300 crore now. We don't have money. The mine is closed now," Sibal argued in the court.

Earlier in January 2020, the SC had ordered SMPL to deposit ₹933 crore as royalty and allowed Jindal Steel and Power Limited to lift iron ore from the site after the former deposited the royalty amount. The SMPL had paid the amount in February 2020.

It is to be mentioned here that a petition was earlier filed by the mining firm in Orissa High Court (HC)

against the state government's decision to impose a differential royalty of ₹317 crore upon it and also to impose additional amount (statutory royalties) towards DMF and NMET funds. The HC had granted partial relief to SMPL by staying the decision of state government of collecting differential royalty of ₹317 crore. This amount was in addition to the royalty of ₹933 crore imposed on Sarda Mines.

The HC, however, did not grant any relief in terms of DMF and NMET funds. Sarda Mines filed a petition in the SC in May this year against the decision of the HC.

Web portal chief detained on Dutee's defamation plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The editor of an online news channel was detained in Bhubaneswar Friday over allegations by noted sprinter Dutee Chand that he had published obscene photos of her, besides attempting extortion, police said.

The editor was picked up from his office in Jharpada area, Deputy Commissioner of Police US Dash told reporters. He is accused of publishing defamatory and obscene content against the athlete, he said.

"Police have detained web channel editor Sudhanshu Sekhar Raut. We have also seized computers and other material from the accused. We are investigating the complaint. The accused editor is being questioned," the officer said.

A case was registered under various IPC sections, including 292-2 (obscene and indecent publication), 354-A (assault or crim-

inal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation), 385 (putting person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy), he said.

"The false and obscene portrayal of me on social media and web portal have tarnished my image which ultimately impacted my performance in the Olympics. I do not know what harm I have done to these people," Chand, who too recorded her statement with the police, said.

The ace sprinter has also accused Pradip Pradhan, an RTI activist, of mental harassment and criminal intimidation.

"Pradhan will also be questioned as his name also figured in the FIR," the police officer said. Raut and Pradhan could not immediately be reached for comments. The name of another journalist of the channel was also included in the FIR.

Sero survey begins in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 3: The Health department in association with the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, Friday, launched the serological survey in Puri district to assess the prevalence of Covid antibodies among people.

The survey will continue for three days. On the first day of the survey, health officials collected blood samples randomly from the residents of ward no. 8, 20 and 29 of the Holy city.

The officials will collect samples from the people of Satapada in Krushnaprasad, Kapileswarpur in Brahmagiri, Balapur in Satyabadi and Erabang in Gop, Saturday.

Blood samples will be collected from the residents of Suhanpur in Kakatpur; Beraboi in Delang and Badamachhapur in Nimapara as part of the serological survey, Sunday.

"The surveyors will also col-



lect samples from the health staff of a few hospitals in Puri district to know about the prevalence of Covid antibodies in them," said an official of the RMRC, Bhubaneswar.

Puri district public health officer Biraja Shankar Rath said the Health department has planned to collect 500 blood samples during the survey.

"The samples would be collected from cross sections of people. The findings of the survey will help the Health department to make arrangements for the possible third wave of the pandemic," he added.

121 CRUT buses go under the hammer

The buses were auctioned through Union government's scrap auction portal Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has disposed of around 121 of its buses through auctioning, which were lying defunct for the last three years at various depots on the outskirts of the Capital city, sources said Friday.

The Bhubaneswar-Puri Transport Services (BPTS), now known as CRUT, was launched in 2010 on public-private partnership (PPP) mode. About 185 buses were procured by the state government between 2010 and 2014. However, the project failed to take off and about 180 of its buses were left to

rot in different bus depots of the twin city.

"The buses were decided to be sold off after their agreement period with the DTS (Dream Team Sahara) was over in 2017. The CRUT bought 125 buses in 2010 under JN-NURM programme to facilitate city bus service in Bhubaneswar and Puri. An agreement was signed with DTS to operate them for seven years - till 2017. Later, the agreement was extended for another year, till 2018," CRUT General Manager, Dipti Mohapatra said.

It can be mentioned here that an RTI enquiry with the CRUT had revealed that the state government's procurement of 185 buses

- THE BHUBANESWAR-PURI TRANSPORT SERVICES (BPTS) WAS LAUNCHED IN 2010 ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) MODE
- ABOUT 185 BUSES WERE PROCURED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN 2010 AND 2014



HOWEVER, THE PROJECT FAILED TO TAKE OFF AND ABOUT 180 OF ITS BUSES WERE LEFT TO ROT IN DIFFERENT BUS DEPOTS OF THE TWIN CITY

between 2010 and 2014 cost about ₹185 crore. However, until inception of CRUT in 2018, the BPTS

was able to generate only ₹8.5 crore in seven years. After the expiry of agreement between the DTS and the

BPTS, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was given four buses for their 'Toilet On Wheels' programme and the rest of the buses (121) were decided to be sold off through auction.

"As both the life and licence to ply these buses have expired, an inspection was carried out by the RTO which recommended scrapping them. We followed the necessary procedure and auctioned them through the Central government scrap auction portal Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC). We have auctioned them at a higher rate slab which was decided by the RTO after inspection," said Mohapatra.

BJEM felicitates 291 star achievers

Bhubaneswar: The Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium (BJEM) School felicitated the toppers of Class X and XII examinations (2020 and 2021) in a three-day programme while following all Covid guidelines. In the programme, which concluded Friday, altogether 291 achievers were felicitated with certificates and mementos by chairman of the School Managing Committee Raghunath Mishra who graced the occasion as the chief guest. Mishra advised the students to become able citizens following the footsteps of eminent personalities. He also advised the students to understand the importance of time management in life.

Iconic Model School at Andharua soon

Bhubaneswar: The state government will establish an iconic Model School (Adarsha Vidyalaya) at Andharua here. The foundation stone for the mega project will be laid September 5 on the occasion of Teachers' Day, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Friday.

One injured in fight over parking issue

Bhubaneswar: One person sustained injuries as members of two families clashed over petty parking issue at Jagamara in Khandagiri area here Friday afternoon. Khandagiri police have been investigating into the matter by detaining three persons.

EOW arrests bizman for swindling ₹6cr subsidy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) has arrested a businessman on charges of misappropriating government subsidy on the purchase of agricultural equipment between 2017 and 2021.

FARM EQUIPMENT SCAM. The state govt has been paying between ₹93,320 and ₹1.50 lakh as subsidy against the purchase of transplanters while the equipment costs between ₹2.33 lakh and ₹3 lakh in the market. Prime accused Rana, in collusion with others, misappropriated the subsidy amount to the tune of ₹6 crore released by the govt into the accounts of fake farmers.

uploaded the details of more than 500 paddy transplanters with fake engine and chassis numbers, and names and photos of the equal numbers of beneficiaries from 18 districts of Odisha, purportedly showing the issuance or supply of those transplanters to the said farmers on the portal of Agriculture department," EOW sources claimed.

larger chunk with him. Sources also revealed that the state government has been paying between Rs 93,320 to Rs 1.50 lakh as subsidy against the purchase of the transplanters. The equipment costs between Rs 2.33 lakh to 3 lakh in the market.

City crosses 1K mark in Covid-19 fatalities

As many as 120 children tested positive for the infection Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



The H&FW department informed that at least 7 patients, including a 6-year-old girl from Balasore, succumbed to the infection

With this, the second wave of the pandemic has so far claimed lives of at least 39 children and adolescents in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Odisha's Covid-19 caseload surged to 10,10,072 Friday as 849 more people including 120 children tested positive for the infection while seven fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,035, a Health department official said.

the pandemic has so far claimed lives of at least 39 children and adolescents in Odisha. This apart 53 other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities. The state Capital has crossed 1,000 marks in Covid-19 fatalities.

Odisha currently has 7,345 active Covid-19 cases, while 9,94,639 patients including 738 Thursday recovered from the highly infectious disease. The test positivity rate (TPR) is 1.19 per cent as 849 patients tested positive out of 71,247 samples.

CHORUS GROWS LOUDER FOR OUAT ONLINE EXAMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The students of College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry at OUAT here Friday staged a demonstration in front of the Vice Chancellor's office seeking all pending exams in online mode in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

The students of College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry locked the Vice-Chancellor's office to press for their demands

Earlier, the Plus III second year and PG first year students of College of Basic Science and Humanities at OUAT staged a protest September 1 demanding online examinations in view of the pandemic.

HITTING THE STREETS. People under the banner of 'Sahara Jamakari Mancha' stage a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Friday, demanding return of their deposits with Sahara. The banner reads: 'ସାହାରା ଜମାକାରୀ ମଞ୍ଚା' and 'ସାହାରା ଜମାକାରୀ ମଞ୍ଚା SAHARA JAMAKARI MANCHA'.

Ornamental fish breeding training held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar organised a two-day long training programme on ornamental fish breeding and culture for capacity building of members of women self-help groups (SHGs) at its Kausalyaganga campus.

IITs to hold R&D fair in Nov

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will hold a research and development fair in November; Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced Friday.

understanding and awareness among Indian industries on the capabilities and the high technology readiness levels in the IITs. "The fair will create an enabling environment for cutting-edge research across the areas envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP)."

Two nabbed with 80gm brown sugar

CUTTACK: Jagatpur police here Friday claimed to have taken two persons, including a notorious drug peddler, into custody after recovering around 80 gram of brown sugar from their possession.

IITTM holds seminar on career in tourism, travel

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), Bhubaneswar organised a seminar here Friday on booming career opportunities in the tourism and travel industries.

industry that can never have an alternative like others. The human touch in this sector can never vanish which is why this sector always has ample career opportunities. Although travel and tourism have been badly hit during the pandemic, these are going to be the most desirable things as soon as the restrictions are over because people want to go out and feel the touch of nature.

Lecturers told to register for refresher courses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Higher Education (HE) department Friday directed government college lecturers to register themselves for online refresher courses by September 15.

University for conducting UGC approved online refresher courses for government college lecturers in different subjects for career enhancement and upgradation of knowledge and skills.

initiative works well, it would be extended to the lecturers of aided colleges too, sources said. The department will bear the course fees.



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Kharasrota project will harm Bhitarkanika: Green activists



for endangered saltwater crocodiles. The Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, which forms the boundary in the east, attracts the world's largest population of Olive ridley sea turtles for nesting.

Without the mangroves, the Gahirmatha sanctuary will become a "marine desert" and lose its richness and diversity, Mohanty said. Hemant Kumar Rout, secretary of Gahirmatha Marine Turtle and Mangrove Conservation Society said mangrove is the protective barrier of the region against cyclones and tidal surges.

Rout asserted that the diversion of water would definitely lead to depletion of water table. It will affect mangrove ecosystem of Bhitarkanika and its flora and fauna, the activist told PTL.

Mohanty, meanwhile, underlined that after Farakka Barrage in West Bengal was commissioned, the Sundarbans mangrove forests were drastically affected. In Bhitarkanika, the situation will be catastrophic for the mangroves in a bad year of monsoon, according to Mohanty.

Lack of normal flow of fresh water will increase the saline ingress upstream, affecting the local flora and fauna, as well as the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk dependent upon the Brahmani and Kharasrota river systems, he said.

Mohanty expressed apprehension of a quantum jump in man-crocodile conflict since the estuarine crocodiles would leave the core sanctuary area and migrate upstream once the salinity increases.

The state government is yet to reveal how it plans to ensure adequate flow of fresh water in the Kharasrota and Brahmani rivers that feed Bhitarkanika once the Rengali canals start drawing water.

Mohanty suggested that the state government should consider Hadgarh reservoir on the Salandi river or the newly-built Kanpur barrage on Baitarani river as potential sources to meet the requirements of Bhadrak. The "ecological flow" of fresh water to ensure the health of mangroves of Bhitarkanika should be maintained, the activist said.

Officials of the Rural Water and Sanitation Scheme insist that the project, which requires 105 million litres of water per day, would only result in the diversion of less than four per cent of the water inflow of the river

depletion of water level in Kharasrota and a severe shortage of water for agrarian requirements in the region, where people are entirely dependent on agriculture. Officials of the Rural Water and Sanitation Scheme, however, insist that the project, which requires 105 million litres of water per day, would only result in diversion of less than four per cent of the water inflow of the river.

Kendrapara sub-collector Niranjan Behera dismissed the apprehensions as "unfounded". Mohanty pointed out that the water diversion from the Rengali canals continued to pose a perceptible threat to the Bhitarkanika mangroves, adding that the diversion of water from Kharasrota would trigger irreversible damage.

The mangrove forests, spread over 195 sq km, have a high level of biodiversity since 62 of the world's 73 mangrove species are found there. It is also the breeding place



Devotees offering earthen lights at Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur as a mark of protest against evictions around the temple, Friday

Govt's affidavit at NGT under cloud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 3: The state government's affidavit at the National Green Tribunal (NGT) about the diversion of the Kharasrota river water to Bhadrak has come under cloud.

According to reports, Sanjay Behrua, a resident of Rajkanika, had filed a petition at the National Green Tribunal on the controversial mega drinking water project that envisages diversion of water to 91 villages in Bhadrak.

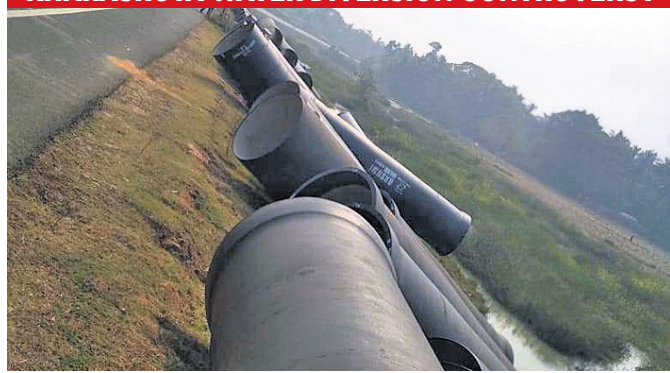
The NGT had asked the government to report about the socio-environmental impacts of the drinking water project.

The state government had filed its affidavit at the NGT on the basis of the report prepared by Prof Dr Sashidhar of IIT-Hyderabad.

The affidavit has now come into question after Dr Sashidhar denied via email that he had conducted any special survey about the impacts of the mega drinking water project on the Bhitarkanika National Park.

Various outfits have demanded a survey by a technical team about the impacts of the drinking water

KHARASROTA WATER DIVERSION CONTROVERSY



project on the environment and agriculture. Despite opposition by the locals, the government has started construction of an intake well of the project at Barunadiha panchayat. To ward off troubles by locals, the administration has clamped Sec-144 around the project area before its construction.

The project entails supply of Kharasrota water to 91 panchayats and three urban areas under Basudevpur, Tihidi, Dhamnagar and Chandbali blocks in Bhadrak.

Sanjay Behrua of Rajkanika alleged that diversion of the

Kharasrota water would have an adverse impact on fresh water, agriculture and environment in Aul and Rajkanika areas. He filed a case (23/20) in 2020 at the NGT.

Secretary of the water resources department Anu Garg filed an affidavit at the NGT. In the affidavit, it was stated that there was no negative take by Dr Sashidhar of IIT Hyderabad in his report about the impacts of the drinking water on socio-environmental spheres.

Though the intake well at Barunadiha and the treatment plant at Nuahat are well within the

Bhitarkanika Eco Sensitive Zone, the project was given a go-ahead. Rakesh Mohanty wanted to know of the veracity of the report given by Dr Sashidhar. Mohanty had both telephonic and email communication with Dr Sashidhar August 26 about the socio-environmental impacts of the mega drinking water project.

It was claimed that Dr Sashidhar had not done any special survey on Bhitarkanika biodiversity and had not even visited the project site.

Sanjay Behrua, Khitish Kumar Singh, Pradip Kumar Tarai, Duryodhan Mohanty (president of Kharasrota Nadi Bachao Sangram Samiti) and Bhuban Mohan Jena (Jana Adhikar Manch) said the water of Kharasrota is vital for sustenance of Bhitarkanika mangroves, which has been in the list of World Heritage sites. They alleged that the state government has been carrying out the mega drinking water project on the basis of a wrong report. They said, "A technical team should conduct a survey on the impacts of the drinking water on Bhitarkanika biodiversity. Or else, we will take to legal recourse in this matter."

RALLY FOR JUSTICE



Women stage protests over gangrape of a woman in Gaisilet area of Bargarh seeking action against culprits

Australian team visits Kalinga Stadium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: An Australian delegation, led by its High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell, recently visited the Kalinga Stadium here to oversee the existing sports facilities.

O'Farrell, accompanied by Australian Consul-General in Kolkata Rowan Ainsworth and First Secretary of the Australian High Commission Amy Keough, visited the stadium. They were received by Dilip Tirkey, Chairman of Odisha Hockey Promotion Council, and Sports and Youth Affairs department Secretary R Vineel Krishna.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Australian High Commissioner to India had agreed on better co-ordination on mining exploration and sports infrastructure development in the state.

The Australian delegation also visited the Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre



head Pradeep Pillay demonstrated the bio mechanics and the assessment techniques used to assist athletes to better their performance.

O'Farrell also visited the sports science and rehabilitation centre - the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance Centre, where cen-

tre head Pradeep Pillay demonstrated the bio mechanics and the assessment techniques used to assist athletes to better their performance.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM TO
E-Tender No. PCEECOR2122TP01, Dt.: 27.08.2021

The IRS Specification of the tendered item has been revised and date of closing postponed to 22.09.2021 in the above tender in <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. All concerned to visit the website to take note of the changes.

Dy. Chief Engineer/TP/
PR-338/M/21-22 Bhubaneswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. eT-M-KUR-MUV-SL-156-2021

NAME OF WORK: HIRING OF ONE MULTI UTILITY VEHICLES LIKE TATA 207-DI OR EQUIVALENT WITH CONTRACTOR'S DRIVER, FUEL AND MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS ETC. FOR SICK LINE AND BREAKDOWN MAINTENANCE WORK FOR CARRIAGE & WAGON DEPOT/ KHURDA ROAD OF MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS.

Advertised Value: ₹ 21,00,610.71, Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 3,540/-, Period of Completion: 36 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 01.09.2021.
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 15.09.2021.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer,
PR-329/M/21-22 Khurda Road

Form No. INC-25A
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of public company into a private company

Before the Regional Director, Eastern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Kolkata

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s DKJ PROJECTS & SERVICES LIMITED having its registered office at - REMUNA BALASORE, ODISHA, 756019, Applicant

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 09th Aug 2021 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director, Eastern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Nizam Palace, II MSO Building, 3rd Floor, 23/4A, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the Applicant
M/s DKJ PROJECTS AND SERVICES LIMITED
AKANKSHA BEHERA
Director
DIN: 08312025
AT/PO- REMUNA BALASORE, ODISHA 756019
Date: 04 / 09 / 2021
Place: Balasore

1 KILLED, 21 HURT AS TRUCK HITS BUS IN MAYURBHANJ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 3: A 40-year-old man died and 21 passengers were injured when a bus was hit by a truck in Mayurbhanj district Friday, police said.

The bus, which was going to Keonjhar from Baripada, was hit by a West Bengal-bound iron-ore-laden truck on the Kolkata-Mumbai national highway near Bangriposi, police said.

Fire brigade personnel rescued the injured. Six critically injured people were shifted to a hospital in Baripada where one of them succumbed to his injuries. Bangriposi police station inspector Sanjay Parida said.

The deceased was identified as Bhusan Rana, a resident of Gopiballapur in West Bengal's Jhargram district. The rest of the injured persons were treated at the Bangriposi community health centre, Parida added.

Hirakhand Express to run with modern LHB coaches

POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: To provide better comfort and jerk-free journey to passengers, the Indian Railways has decided to run Bhubaneswar-Jagadalpur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express with modern Linke-Hofmann-Busch (LHB) coaches from this month. This will replace conventional coaches running at present.

08445/08446 Bhubaneswar-Jagadalpur-Bhubaneswar Special Hirakhand Express will run from September 10, 2021 from both Bhubaneswar and Jagadalpur

September 11, 2021 with LHB coaches.

Special Hirakhand Express will now run with a load combination of 12 coaches as earlier, i.e. 01 AC 2 Tier, 02 AC 3 Tier, 04 Sleeper Class, three Second Class seating and 02 guard cum luggage & Divyangjan coaches. Only conventional coaches will be replaced by LHB coaches.

LHB coaches are anti-telescopic, that means they do not flip in case of a collision, safer, lighter, more comfortable and jerk free. Replacement of ICF conventional coaches with LHB coaches is being done phase wise from safety point of view.

Lifer for couple for mother's murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 3: A local court sentenced the son and daughter-in-law of a woman to life imprisonment after convicting them of her murder.

District and sessions judge, Srikant Mishra, heard the matter and handed down the punishment on the couple for the murder. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹1000 on each of them apart from the sentence. In default, the convicts have to undergo an additional one month of imprisonment.

According to the case diary, the convicts, Rajendra Jena, 32, and his wife Manjulata Jena, 27, of Akuli Sahi village under Bari Ramachandrapur police limits in Jajpur district hacked the former's mother Meghi Dei to death with a sharp-edged weapon following domestic dispute.

The woman's daughter lodged a complaint at the police station against her brother and sister-in-law while some people playing cards near their house at the time of the crime were eye-witnesses to the incident. Police registered a case, arrested the couple and produced them in court.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PANIKOILI (R&B) DIVISION, PANIKOILI
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Email: eepwd.pki@rediffmail.com
1st Corrigendum to e-Procurement Notice No. 06/2021-22
Letter No. 5148 dt. 01.09.21

No. B-368:- The last date of availability of tender and receipt online extended to 5.00 P.M. of dt.15.09.2021 and date of opening shifted to dt.16.09.2021 at 11.30 A.M. due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sd./ Executive Engineer
Panikoili (R&B) Division

OIPR-34067/11/0009/2122

No.B-370

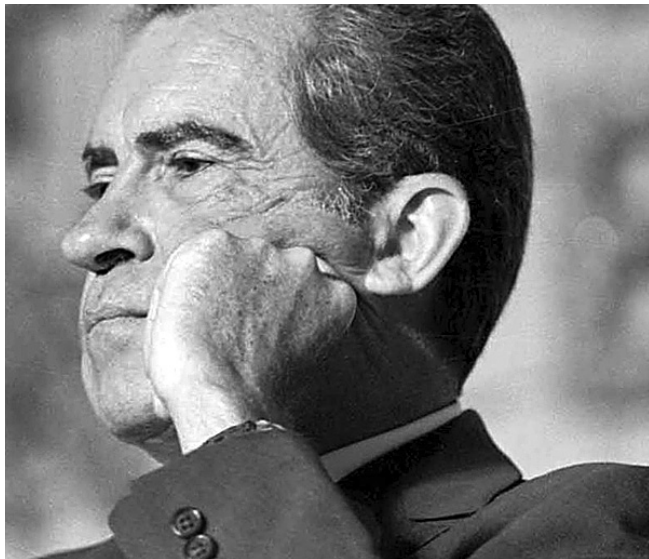
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BALASORE (ROADS & BUILDINGS) DIVISION-II
AT/PO- BHASKARGANJ, BALASORE
CONTACT NO.:- 06782-263149; E Mail ID:- eepwdbls2@gmail.com
SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE
BID INVITATION NO. EE (R and B) BLS-II-19/2021-22
No. 6012 dt. 02.09.2021

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|---|---|
| 1 | The Executive Engineer, Balasore (R&B) Division-II, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids to be received in ONLINE MODE only for Roads & Buildings works. |
| 2 | No. of Work : 8 Nos. |
| 3 | Nature of work : Building works of Balasore (R&B) Division-II |
| 4 | Class of Contractor : D, C & B Class of Contractor |
| 5 | Approx. value of work : Rs. 10.67 Lakhs to 36.61 Lakhs |
| 6 | Tender Cost : 6000.00 as per work |
| 7 | Availability of Bid : From 10.00 Hours of dt.08.09.2021 to 16.00 hours of dt.16.09.2021 |
| 8 | Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.17.09.2021 at 11.00 Hours. |
| 9 | Other details can be seen in the Bidding documents from the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in |

Sd./ Executive Engineer, Balasore (R&B) Division-II
OIPR-34078/11/0016/2122

FOCUS ECONOMY

BACK TO THE SEVENTIES?



Many economists seem to view inflation as a purely technocratic problem, and most central bankers would like to believe that. In fact, the roots of sustained inflation mainly stem from political economy problems, and here the long list of similarities between the 1970s and today is unsettling

tal threats will almost certainly put additional pressure on budgets and slow growth.

Sharply rising government debts will inevitably make it more politically painful for central banks to raise nominal interest rates if global real rates start turning upward. High debts are already a reason why some central banks today will hesitate to raise interest rates if and when post-pandemic normalisation occurs. Private debt, which has also soared during the pandemic, is perhaps an even bigger problem. Widespread private defaults would eventually have a huge fiscal impact via lower tax collection and higher social safety net costs.

Before we get too pessimistic, let's remember that the 1970s were followed by the 1980s and 1990s, and a big revival in advanced-economy growth, even if it was not as inclusive as policymakers would like to achieve. Then again, the 2030s are a long way off.

Today's economic challenges are certainly solvable, and there is no reason why inflation should have to spike. Leading central bankers today such as Jay Powell of the US Federal Reserve and Christine Lagarde of the European Central Bank are a far cry from pliable Fed Chair Arthur Burns in the 1970s. They both have superb staffs to support them. Yet all central banks still face constant pressures, and it is hard for them to stand alone indefinitely, especially if politicians become weak and desperate.

America's humbling defeat in Afghanistan is a big step toward recreating the perfect storm that led to slow growth and very high inflation of the 1970s. A few weeks ago, a little inflation seemed like a manageable problem. Now, the risks and the stakes are higher.

The writer, a Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University and recipient of the 2011 Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economics, was the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund from 2001 to 2003.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

With the United States' disastrous exit from Afghanistan, the parallels between the 2020s and the 1970s just keep growing. Has a sustained period of high inflation just become much more likely? Until recently, I would have said the odds were clearly against it. Now, I am not so sure, especially looking ahead a few years.

Many economists seem to view inflation as a purely technocratic problem, and most central bankers would like to believe that. In fact, the roots of sustained inflation mainly stem from political economy problems, and here the long list of similarities between the 1970s and today is unsettling.

At home, following a period in which the US President challenges institutional norms (Richard Nixon was the 1970s version), a thoroughly decent person takes office (back then, Jimmy Carter). Abroad, the US suffers a humiliating defeat at the hands of a much weaker, but much more determined adversary (North Vietnam in the 1970s, the Taliban today).

On the economic front, the global economy suffers a lingering productivity slowdown. According to the Northwestern University economist Robert Gordon's magisterial account of innovation and growth, 'The Rise and Fall of American Growth', the 1970s marks a turning point in US economic history, thanks to a sharp slowdown in meaningful economic innovation. Today, even if productivity pessimists grossly underestimate the phenomenal gains the next generation of biotech and artificial intelligence will bring, a large body of work finds that productivity growth has been slowing in the twenty-first century, and now the pandemic looks to be inflicting another heavy blow.

The global economy suffered a massive supply shock in the 1970s, as Middle East countries massively hiked the price of oil they charged the rest of the world. Today, protectionism and a retreat from global supply chains constitute an equally consequential negative supply shock.

Finally, in the late 1960s and 1970s, huge increases in govern-

ment spending were not matched by higher taxes on the wealthy. The spending increases stemmed in part from US President Lyndon B Johnson's 'Great Society' programmes in the 1960s, later amplified by the soaring cost of the Vietnam War. First Johnson and then Nixon were reluctant to raise taxes to pay for these costs, fearing a loss of political support. In recent years, first the Trump tax cuts, then pandemic-related catastrophe relief, and now progressive plans to expand the social safety net have hit the federal budget hard. Plans to fund these costs by raising taxes only on the rich are likely to fall far short.

It is true that despite all these similarities, today's independent central banks stand as a bulwark against inflation, ready to raise interest rates if inflation pressures seem to be getting out of hand. In the 1970s, only a few countries had independent central banks, and in the case of the US,

it did not act like one, fueling inflation with massive monetary expansion. Today, relatively independent central banks are the norm across much of the world. It is also true that today's ultra-low global real interest rates provide rich-country governments a lot more room to run deficits than they had in the 1970s.

On the other hand, the challenges of providing for aging populations have become vastly more difficult over the past five decades (at least in advanced economies and China). Underfunded public pension schemes arguably are a much larger threat quantitatively to government budget solvency than debt. At the same time, social pressures to increase government spending and transfers have exploded across the world, as inequality becomes more politically salient for many countries, and improving growth less so. And confronting climate change and other environmen-



Kenneth Rogoff

SHARPLY RISING GOVERNMENT DEBTS WILL INEVITABLY MAKE IT MORE POLITICALLY PAINFUL FOR CENTRAL BANKS TO RAISE NOMINAL INTEREST RATES IF GLOBAL REAL RATES START TURNING UPWARD

The whole world yearns for freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature.
SRI AUROBINDO



It's not game over, yet

Gujarat has got a new Chief Secretary in 1986-batch IAS officer Pankaj Kumar, but within *babu* circles, there is more curiosity about Kumar's predecessor Anil Gopishankar Mukim, who completed his extended tenure. It's not game over yet for Mukim.

The word is that Mukim is nowhere near hanging up his boots. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had also hinted during a recent Cabinet meet that Gujarat was still keen to avail of his advice and services. Observers, however, are unsure whether Mukim will stay in the state or move to Delhi where he seems to enjoy a good rapport with the power centres. It's possible; DKB has learnt that Mukim may be retained in some post-retirement official position – either in Gujarat or Delhi.

Some *babus* believe that Rupani could make Mukim the head of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Authority or Director of the prestigious Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIIFT).

There is also talk that given Mukim's standing with the Centre, he could well be named the next Chief Vigilance Commissioner or even be inducted into the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). There are vacancies arising soon and the handpicked will be sought.

Given Modi's soft corner for Gujarat *babus*, it would not be surprising. Either way many believe that Mukim will be rewarded for his blemish-less service.

SC deplores 'vindictive' actions against babus

The Supreme Court has frowned on the trend of suspension of *babus* for political reasons. It has directed Chhattisgarh Police not to arrest its own suspended senior IPS officer Gurjinder Pal Singh, against whom the state government has slapped two criminal cases for sedition and amassing disproportionate assets.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

While the court allowed the state government to continue with its ongoing investigation against the senior cop, it noted the "disturbing trend" where governments in power initiate action against officers seen by them to have supported the previous dispensation.

This is not something new. The trend was normalised years ago. It is even seen as the "right" of the incoming government to bring in its favourites and "punish" those who are perceived as such. In fact, rare is the instance when a government does not engage in vindictive politics with the senior *babus*.

Yet, it is heartening that the apex court has chosen to comment on this, not that it would necessarily mean that Singh is out of the woods. The cases against him will continue, but it may be a relief to some others to know that the Supreme Court is on to errant governments and is watching closely.

Delay in key MPSC appointments holds up recruitment

Though the chairman of the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) Satish Gavai retires this week, the state government has started the hunt for his successor only now. *Babus* are blaming the flood situation in Maharashtra for having missed the deadline for filling the vacant posts in MPSC. Besides the outgoing chairman Gavai, four posts of members are vacant.

Sources have told DKB that Gavai had flagged the issue to the government several times. The government's dilly-dallying has resulted in holding up the filling of some 2,000 posts, including engineers and Deputy Collectors.

The MPSC plays an important role in staff recruitment. It is supposed to have six members but, for the longest, it has had only Gavai and another member Dayanand Meshram running the ship. Gavai was an Additional Chief Secretary in the Environment department when he retired two years ago from the IAS.

Looks like recruitments in the state may be delayed even further.

Share a *babu* experience! Follow [diliptherchian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/diliptherchian). Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.
HELEN KELLER

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add colour to my sunset sky.
RABINDRANATH TAGORE

WORDSWORTH

Café Scientifique

It sounds a dauntingly highbrow term, but the intention is just the opposite – to demystify science and help people engage with it. The technique is based on the discussion of topical scientific ideas with interested people in determinedly non-academic surroundings. The Cafés sum up their intentions with a maxim, too long to be considered a slogan, "We want people to be as opinionated about science as they are about football". Informal meetings are usually held in cafés or bars; a guest speaker talks briefly on a topic and then leads a discussion. The first Café Scientifique was held in Leeds in 1998, with its name invented by the man who started it, Duncan Dallas. "I was reading the paper's obituary of Marc Sautet, the man who founded the cafés philosophiques in France," he recalls, "and I thought 'I'd like to do that'. But the British don't think philosophy is a real subject, so I opted for science instead."

LOL

Not a member of church

During an impassioned sermon about death and final judgement, the pastor said forcefully, "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement." Glancing down at the front pew, he noticed a man with a big smile on his face. The minister repeated his point louder. "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement!" The man nodded and smiled even more. This really got the preacher wound up. He pounded the pulpit emphatically when he came to the ultimatum: "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement!!!" Though everyone else in the congregation was looking somber, the man in front continued to smile. Finally the preacher stepped off the platform, stood in front of the man and shouted, "I said each member of this church is going to die!!" The man grinned from ear to ear. After the service was over, the preacher made a beeline for the man. "I don't get it," the preacher said in frustration. "Whenever I said, 'Each member of this church is going to die,' your smile got bigger. Why?" "I'm not a member of this church," the man replied.



SPECTRUM KASHMIR ROW

Taliban's rise, ISI and Kashmir

The Taliban's rise in Afghanistan has given certain elements in Pakistan an opportunity to portray the Taliban victory as a gateway to Kashmir also. Their imaginations may be running riot, but the reality is that the happenings in Afghanistan may not be as helpful to Pakistan as it is claiming. But it may use the Taliban rise to stir up the 'Islamic sentiments' in Kashmir to fuel the separatist agenda.

Deepika Bhan

THE TALIBAN'S RISE IN AFGHANISTAN IS FODDER FOR PAKISTAN'S ISI TO AGAIN WORK ON THE RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES OF KASHMIRI MUSLIMS

The Taliban has too many challenges at hand. Its struggles to form a government, run it, sustain it and save it from many other virulent groups are too many for it to export its help to Pakistan in its Kashmir mission. The Taliban have brought the whole of Afghanistan under its control except the Panjshir province. But it is the Islamic State-Khorasan and the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) which have the potential of keeping it engaged.

The IS-K has already thrown a challenge to the Taliban by launching several attacks since the Taliban takeover, including the two at Kabul airport. The IS-K has refused to acknowledge Taliban's

supremacy and is prepared to engage in a long-drawn battle that could result in civil war in Afghanistan and cause problems in neighbouring nations. Khorasan involves parts of Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia. Now that the US is not there, IS-K feels that it has an opportunity to take on the Taliban.

The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) or Pakistan Taliban has had an off-on relationship with the Taliban depending upon the situation and the timing. Pakistan also regards it as one of the most dangerous terror outfits in the region. As the Taliban was launching its offensive in Afghanistan, the TTP was carrying out attacks in north Waziristan. It wants an independent state comprising Pakistan's tribal areas, which have faced subjugation for decades from those at the helm in Pakistan. The TTP also has ties with Uyghur groups and has targeted Chinese workers associated with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Since China is supporting the Taliban, controlling and containing the TTP will be a hard task.

What Taliban had been for the erstwhile Afghan governments,

the IS-K and TTP could be the headaches for the new Taliban dispensation.

Keeping Afghanistan intact and running the country in an orderly manner are the two foremost challenges of the Taliban. And the challenges are too engulfing for it to spare its men for 'jihad' in Kashmir.

However, the feeling that terror activities may get a new push in Kashmir is not totally unfounded. Pakistan will try and increase activities along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, including infiltration and drone attacks. But, more dangerous is the fanning of the Muslim sentiments regarding the Taliban's resurrection and its 'successful' fight against the 'invader' US. The radicalisation of the youth in Kashmir over the decades has been a major worry for the security forces. And this is what comes in handy for the elements which are working round-the-clock to fan the separatist agenda.

Al-Qaeda has given a call for the 'liberation' of Kashmir and other so-called Islamic lands. This might pose more security challenges in the Valley in the sense that Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba

may increase terror activities in the region to cash in on the rising sentiments of a Taliban win over the superpower US. "If Taliban could overthrow the US, why can't a similar thing happen in Kashmir" – this sentiment will probably become the new weapon for these terror outfits and their mentor, as has been flagged by Al Qaeda.

One of the conditions of the peace deal signed by the US and the Taliban in 2020 was that it should sever ties with all terror groups and not let its land be used for carrying out terror activities. And whether the Taliban will stick to this is a million dollar question.

After the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the Indian government took J&K's administration directly in its hands and a number of promises were made. Although political activity has been restored with by conducting the local body polls, the feeling of alienation has not ebbed.

The Taliban's rise in Afghanistan is fodder for Pakistan's ISI to again work on the religious sensitivities of Kashmiri Muslims and that is the challenge for the Indian security agencies now.

IANs

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

ORISSA POST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Last hope

Sir, After Prashant Kishor's huge contribution to TMC's win in West Bengal, the Congress party showed its inclination to hire the poll tactician. But the Congress is in a dilemma after Kishor asked for party membership. Apparently the party high command, the Gandhis, is in favour of inducting the poll analyst into the party. However, some 'senior' leaders are reluctant to see Kishor hog the limelight in the party. Kishor has demanded a "free-hand" to plan his strategy for the Congress in future elections. He reportedly has sought a full-fledged role with no interference from anyone in the party. Well, that is asking for moon in a party full of loyalists – loyalists to the name 'Gandhi'. Expectedly, Kishor's baptism into the party has run into rough weather. Senior Congressmen are averse to Kishor being given complete freedom, including candidate selection for obvious reasons. Evidently, if a newcomer gets a major say in the all-important elections, where will they go? Sonia Gandhi knows that in the grand old party, that is neither here nor there. Kishor may be a stabilising factor. Sonia must be desperate for a sharp electoral brain that can advise her on political matters as well, and Kishor fits the bill. The Congress president has to look for a middle course by placating both Kishor and party veterans.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Reduced life expectancy

Sir, According to a report prepared by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), air pollution is likely to reduce the life expectancy of about 40% of Indians by more than nine years. The report said that over 480 million people living in the central, eastern and northern India, including New Delhi, endure high pollution levels. The EPIC report said that air quality has consistently worsened in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The EPIC report is indeed a wake-up call to us to change. Long-term exposure to outdoor and household air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million deaths annually from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases and neonatal diseases in India in 2019. In fact, air pollution has now become the largest risk factor for death among all health risks. Worsening air pollution has been amongst India's most pressing problems in recent years. There is a need for better and more effective ways to combat air pollution. It is important to ramp up technology. Private sector must be engaged to tackle the problem.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

2 youths found dead in Jajpur, families suspect murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 4: Two youths' mortal bodies were discovered on a service road near NH-16 in Jajpur district's Panikoili police limits Friday.

Bijaya Kumar Sahoo and Manas Ranjan Das were the two people that died. The two were from the district's neighbouring Janha village. Manas worked in a cosmetics manufacturing company while Bijaya was an auto-rickshaw driver.

Early in the morning, the bodies were spotted by locals while lying on the road which was closed due to ongoing construction work. Later, the locals informed Panikoili police about the incident.

Both Bijaya and Manas had been to the same spot to meet a girl from nearby village Thursday night, an eyewitness said.



Family members of the two deceased youths alleged that it is a case of pre-planned murder and family of the girl is involved in it.

On being informed, Panikoili police immediately reached the spot. Police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe. A tiffin box containing make-up items and a motorcycle have been seized from the spot, a senior police official informed. Bodies of the youths were recovered and sent for post-mortem.

Man gets 10-yr jail term for raping girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 3: A court in Kandhamal district Friday sentenced a man to 10 years in prison for raping a girl five years ago. Balliguda POCSE judge Bhaskar Chandra Sahu also imposed a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict.

He will have to undergo another six months of imprisonment if he fails to pay the penalty, which will be given as compensation to the survivor, the public prosecutor said.

According to the case diary, the man had followed the girl, he grabbed hold of her and forcibly took her to a deserted place in Phiringia police station area where he raped her May 21, 2016 when she had gone to the outskirts of her village to relieve herself. The incident had created public outcry in the Phiringia area.

TRAINING ON TSUNAMI MANAGEMENT



Teachers of five Tsunami-prone blocks in Balasore district taking part in a training programme on disaster management, Friday

OP PHOTO

Illegal termination of foetus in Nayagarh again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 3: Illegal termination of foetus has become a huge money spinning business for a handful of persons in Nayagarh district. Alleged apathy of the district administration and a poor implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC and PNDT) Act have emboldened the wrong-doers, a report said.

The involvement of a racket comprising people has brought a bad name to the district. Reports said the district advisory committee on the PC & PNDT Act has not had its sitting for last two years. As a result, raids and search operations of medical establishments suspected to be involved in illegal termination of foetus have stopped in the district.

It is alleged that this has come as an opportunity for the racket involved in the illegal business as they carry out illegal termination of pregnancy with impunity.

Sources said several ultrasound and diagnostic centres are allegedly involved in illegal sex determination tests. Even many ASHA workers, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs), homeopathy doctors, retired doctors and quacks are allegedly involved in illegal termination of foetus in the district. Locals have claimed that illegal termination of foetus can never be checked if the district administration does not tighten the PC and PNDT Act



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Sources said this is an isolated case but is rampant in all over the district. The arrest of an ASHA worker of Bhadikila in the district

who was later jailed for illegal termination of pregnancy, three years back is a case in this point.

A doctor of Sunakhalha was also arrested on similar charge. However, they have failed to have any effect as illegal termination of pregnancy is carried out with impunity in Bhadikila and Sunakhalha regions of the district.

At present, a retired doctor of

Sunakhalha is reported to be involved in illegal abortions. Not only doctors, but many chemists in the district sell abortion pills to anybody without proper medical prescriptions. As a result, women consuming the pills have abortions. However, these pills have disastrous side-effects on the health of women consuming these pills.

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A woman wishing to remain anonymous said illegal determination of sex is rampant in Nayagarh town. She claimed one of her relatives underwent a sex determination test of her pregnancy at Nayagarh and later in Ganjam. Both test reports claimed the unborn foetus as female.

A youth of Gania area claimed that illegal sex determination and abortion was a statewide problem and can be found in even in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Ganjam. However, one has to have some acquaintances in those clinics and diagnostic centre in Nayagarh to get the test and abortion done. One can know the sex of the unborn child by paying money to the staff of the ultrasound clinics as per their demand.

Usha Patnaik, president of Gania Unnayan Parishad, said abortion of unborn foetus in Nayagarh district had created shockwaves all over the country in 2007. However, the administration has failed to check the problem despite passage of 14 years. She said sustained efforts are required to stem the rot. Collector Poma Tudu said illegal action will be taken against those involved in the wrongdoings.

Inmate accuses jailor of torture in Soro



POST NEWS NETWORK

Soro, Sept 3: An inmate of Soro sub-jail in Balasore district has accused the jailor of torturing and threatening inmates.

A video purportedly made on a mobile phone by an inmate making allegations against jailor Priyambada Panda has gone viral on social media.

In the video, the inmate is seen showing his injuries after allegedly being beaten up by the jailor and other staff. Besides, he has alleged that substandard food is being provided in the sub-jail.

It is unclear how the inmate managed to gain access to a mobile phone inside the jail. Meanwhile, jailor Panda refuted

the allegations levelled by the inmate against her claiming them to be false and baseless.

"No inmate has been beaten either by me or my staff. The prisoners are absolutely safe inside the jail premises. There is no death threat whatsoever to their lives," Panda said.

The jailor added that good quality foods are served to the prisoners in the sub-jail as per provisions made by the state government.

Responding to a question on the death of an undertrial prisoner (UTP) in the jail premises in June this year, Panda said, "During the probe, it was ascertained that the inmate had committed suicide. The postmortem report also confirmed that he had scars around his neck."

Admin set for leasing out stone mines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 3: Mining in six black stone-bearing mines and a sand mine will start in Dharmashala tehsil of Jajpur district. The administration is bracing up to hold public hearing on them. Stones will be mined from over several hectares of land. The executive summary of its environmental assessment has been prepared.

However, the district administration has not yet finalised the date, timing, and venues for public hearings. This has caused resentment among people who are interested to take the stone and sand mines on lease.

According to reports, there is a huge reserve of black stone in Bichhakhandi hills spreading over 36.65 hectares. In the past, the hill has been in media focus for rampant plundering of minor minerals like black stone that have a huge demand for infrastructure development.

Regular media reports spoke about the loot of black stones from the hill. Following media reports, the district administration had



made attempts to check the stone loot. Even Section 144 of the IPC has been clamped in the area to keep off the stone mafia. The stone quarries had been shut. Despite this, stone mining was happening occasionally.

The administration is preparing to lease out five stone mines in Bichhakhandi hill. Stones will be mined in 8.08 hectares in Cluster-4, 10.52 hectares in Cluster-4(B), 6.70 hectares in Cluster-4(C), 6.29 hectares in Cluster-4(D) and 5.06 hectares of Cluster-4(E).

A private agency named as

Kalyani Laboratories Pvt Ltd has conducted the impact assessment survey. The survey has focused the impact of stone mining on air and earth around the hills. It has suggested ways on how it can compensate losses in environmental, human, social sectors.

The survey also suggested that the stone mines would create scope of employment for 325 people.

However, experts said that excessive stone mining may happen in the absence of regular monitoring by officials. Excessive stone mining has taken place in case of

Aruha hill under the same tehsil.

Besides, the administration is preparing stone mining in Rahadpur hill. Stone mining will be carried out in 42.40 hectares in Cluster-7. This mine has a reserve of 1,14,65,933 cubic metre of stone. In next ten years, 1,10,00,000 cubic metre stone will be excavated. This stone mine will create scope of employment for 733 people. Experts however are skeptical about how far such employment scope will be implemented.

The cases of illegal mining at Dankari and Aruha hills are still pending. Due to excessive stone mining in Aruha hill, the state government has lost revenues worth over ₹100 crore. A case in this connection is sub judice at the Lokayukta.

Moreover, the administration is to lease out a sand mine spreading over 8.093 hectares near Kabatabandh bridge. The administration has decided to obtain environmental clearance for it through a public hearing.

Illegal sand mining allegedly takes place at this sand mine regularly, it was alleged.

Illegal prawn gheries killing bio-diversity in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Sept 3: Even as prawn farming has led to destruction of bio-diversity under this block in Kendrapara district due to discharge of toxic water from the prawn gheries, the state government has failed to act against the wrongdoers, a report said.

Reports said illegal prawn gheries have mushroomed in various coastal pockets of Kendrapara district due to high profit margins in the business. However, mushrooming of the gheries has led to destruction of wildlife, green cover and aggravated soil erosion in the region due to discharge of toxic effluents from the gheries.

Keeping these things in mind, the Orissa High Court had directed the district administration to intensify the eviction of illegal prawn gheries in coastal pockets of the district. However, the district administration except for demolishing a few gheries in Suniti panchayat four months back, has not done much in this regard.

It was alleged that the district administration had launched an eviction drive of prawn gheries but abandoned it midway after big prawn farmers opposed the move. Speculations are rife that the district administration abandoned its move after political leaders intervened in the matter due to upcoming panchayat elections.

Locals alleged that demolition of prawn gheries at a time when panchayat elections were round the corner might result in adverse results. They will also rob them of donations they get from prawn gheries owners. They allegedly intervened in the matter and stopped the demolition of gheries.

Sources said the High Court in a special order had directed the district administration to prepare a video of the demolition of gheries on government lands and seizure of all equipment used in the gheries and store them in a separate place under the custody of officials.

However, it has done much in im-



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demolition of prawn gheries at a time when panchayat elections were round the corner might result in adverse results. They will also rob them of donations they get from prawn gheries owners. They allegedly intervened in the matter and stopped the demolition of gheries

The High Court in a special order had directed the district administration to prepare a video of the demolition of gheries on government lands and seizure of all equipment used in the gheries and store them in a separate place under the custody of officials

It has done much in implementation of the order. Reports said hundreds of prawn gheries have mushroomed in remote regions of Batighara, Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Baulakani, Petachhela Jambu, Suniti, Nanjura, Badidhi, Kansargad, Dandua, Gagua panchayats of the block by encroaching upon government and forest lands. The prawn farmers after harvesting the prawns transport them in large commercial vehicles to Paradip, Bhubaneswar, Balasore and Kolkata and export them outside the country

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Toxic effluents discharged from these gheries flow into the rivers and sea and result in destruction of wildlife and green cover in forests. Toxic chemicals have also speeded up the soil erosion in the area and turned them barren leading to loss of livelihood by farmers. Farmlands adjoining the prawn gheries are the worst-hit, alleged farmers Babaji Behera, Sarat Samal, Aniruddha Swain and Basant Behera. They are facing loss of livelihood and crops. As a result, many of the farmers are forced to migrate in search of alternative livelihood. When contacted, Mahakalapara tehsildar Soubhagya Ranjan Panda said demolition of illegal prawn gheries would be intensified.



AWARENESS DRIVE

A van meant to create awareness on nutrition being flagged off at Daringbadi in Kandhamal district

OP PHOTO

400 cases of mystery fever reported in Lucknow

ACCORDING TO A REPORT, AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 40 CHILDREN, HAVE DIED IN FIROZABAD DISTRICT IN THE LAST 10 DAYS FROM DENGUE

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 3: More than 400 viral patients, including 40 children, have been admitted to various government hospitals in the state capital in the past two days. More than 20 per cent of patients in the OPD are complaining of fever, cold and congestion. According to another report, at least 50 people, including 40 children, have died in western Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad district in the last 10 days from dengue. The state government said the deaths were due to "Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever," which is a severe form of the disease. Other districts in western UP like Mathura and Agra have also reported a rise in dengue, with hospitals teeming with children who are suffering from viral fever and dehydration. "A team of the WHO has told me this is Haemorrhagic Dengue which is a very dangerous form of dengue. The platelet count of children collapses suddenly and there is a lot of bleeding," Chandra Vijay Singh, the district Magistrate of Firozabad said in a video state-



ment. While doctors term these cases as seasonal flu due to changing weather conditions, there is panic among the patients who fear that this may be the beginning of the third wave of the Covid pandemic. There are instructions in the hospitals to not take patients in the OPD section without conducting a Covid antigen test. As per the hospitals, the number of viral patients has increased by about 15 per cent in the last week.

In the third week of August, the number of fever victims was about 5 per cent. Hospitals like Balrampur Hospital, Civil Hospital and Lohia Institute have seen a surge in recent viral cases. More than 300 patients have come to OPD with fever problems. In Mahanagar Bhaurao Deoras, Rani Laxmibai, Lokbandhu, Ram Sagar Mishra and Community Health Centres, the number of fever victims has been increasing

continuously. In the paediatrics department, 12 children suffering from fever have been admitted. Of these, seven are from Lucknow. The number of people getting tested for dengue, malaria, typhoid is also more than normal. According to the medical superintendent of the Bhaurao Deoras hospital, Dr Manish, 10 to 15 children with fever are coming daily. Dr SK Nanda, director of Civil Hospital, said, "The weather is changing rapidly. Humidity has increased in the atmosphere. In such a situation, viruses are present on the lower surface of the atmosphere. There has been an increase in the number of viral fever cases and three dengue patients are admitted in the hospital. There has also been an increase of 20 per cent in cases of viral fever and other related diseases." Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered that sanitation and hygiene operations should be taken up on war footing. He has also asked hospitals to brace up to meet the situation which is being closely monitored by health officials.

KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

Yogi deploys cops on highways, drones in sky

The organisers have claimed that the event will be the largest ever congregation of farmers at one place

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 3: Ahead of the Kisan Mahapanchayat in Muzzafarnagar September 5, the administration has deployed eight companies of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) comprising over a thousand personnel, and around a thousand more police personnel from all districts of the Meerut zone. "Nearly one thousand police personnel from Saharanpur, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Shamli and Bagpat districts besides those from Muzzafarnagar will be manning the highways and link road leading to the venue September 5," said Senior Superintendent of Police (Muzzafarnagar) Abhishek Yadav. "Specialised drones equipped with digital cameras will be sending live images of the event every second to ensure that nothing untoward happens during the mahapanchayat. CCTVs will be installed at all the crossings of Muzzafarnagar as a security measure," the SSP added. The Kisan Mahapanchayat, called by Bharatiya Kisan Union



Farmers stage a protest as security personnel look on, in Noida, Friday PTI PHOTO

(BKU) and backed by several outfits against the Centre's new farm laws will be held on the ground of State Government Inter College in Muzzafarnagar. The organisers have claimed that the event will be the largest ever congregation of farmers at one place where they will "chart out the strategy to resurrect the West Bengal model to ensure the defeat of BJP in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhnd Assembly elections". "The Narendra Modi government is not ready to listen to our grievances regarding the three draconian farm laws that are set to sound the death knell for the farmers and are designed only to benefit a select lot of capitalists. It is high time for the farmers to begin operation decimation for the BJP from Muzzafarnagar because it was from this place that the BJP reaped political harvest

and grabbed power at the Centre and in the state by sowing seeds of communalism," said Dharmendra Malik, the media in charge of the Bharatiya Kisan Union. Besides all the local khaps and farmer's unions, all non-BJP parties have extended their support to the mahapanchayat. The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) claimed that it will make arrangements for the stay of at least 10,000 farmers in Muzzafarnagar from September 4 to 5. "We are expecting a huge number of disgruntled farmers from UP, Haryana and Punjab, who are fighting for the repeal of the three farm laws, to assemble in Muzzafarnagar. We have decided to serve them to ensure they don't face hassles for participating in the mahapanchayat," said Prabhat Tomar, chief of RLD's Muzzafarnagar unit.

STANDSTILL LIFE



Flooded Indane LPG bottling plant in Gorakhpur

PTI PHOTO

Owaisi to launch UP poll campaign from Ayodhya

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 3: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Asaduddin Owaisi has decided to launch the 2022 Assembly election campaign from Ayodhya district from September 7. Owaisi will address a conference in Rudauli in Ayodhya on this day to which Muslims, Dalits, backwards and upper caste Hindus have also been invited. AIMIM state president Shaukat Ali, said, "Not only Muslims but other communities too have been harassed and exploited by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh. The AIMIM has decided to fight for the rights of the people suppressed by the BJP government by organising a series of 'vanchit-shoshit samaj' conferences across Uttar Pradesh." On September 8, Owaisi will address a similar conference in Sultanpur and in Barabanki. Shaukat Ali said, "These communities are looking for an alternative and the AIMIM emerged as a hope and voice of the deprived communities. The AIMIM will call upon the people to support it in the 2022 Assembly elections to form a government that works for the welfare and development of all the communities."

Tigress spotted with 3 cubs at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

The recent births have also become a concern for the Forest department as the increase in numbers of the big cat will squeeze the area for tiger territory in the reserve

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Sept 3: There's some good news from the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan where trap cameras have captured images of a tigress known as T-105 with three cubs in the Sultanpur area under Sawaimadhapur district of the state. A senior official of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve told the media that this is the first litter of the tigress. "The national park now houses a total of 74 tigers, including 20 males, 30 females and 24 sub-adults or cubs," added the officer. Chief Wildlife Warden of Rajasthan, Arindam Tomar, said, "We learnt about the development through our surveillance cameras placed in different locations of the park."



The officer further said that earlier, a tigress T-84 alias Arrowhead also known as junior fish was also seen with three cubs. Ranthambore field director TC Verma said, "In the last few months, several tigresses in the park have given birth to cubs and we are expecting that shortly a few more will be giving birth to their cubs. A few more tigresses are pregnant."

The officer further said that since several tigresses have given birth to cubs in the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, extra precautions are being taken to protect the cubs and their mothers. "Additional surveillance cameras are being installed in the forest. Special teams have been formed to keep an eye on every mother who has given birth in the last few months," said Verma. State Forest Force Chief Dr DN Pandey said, "Rajasthan is doing great work in tiger conservation. The recent birth of cubs in large numbers is due to the continuous efforts and initiatives being taken by the forest department." The recent births have also become a concern for the Rajasthan Forest department officials. With the increase in numbers of the big cat, the area will get squeezed for tiger territory in the reserve. A proposal has been sent by the officials of the park to relocate at least six tigers and tigresses in different localities to protect them.

Nutrition gardens change eating habits in rural Raj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 3: More than 1.45 lakh "nutrition gardens" developed by women self-help groups in Rajasthan are bringing about a change in eating habits and nutrition level of families in rural areas, a senior state government official has said. Unlike affluent families that do gardening as a hobby, most of these rural women have taken up the concept of "nutrition gardening" to supplement their income, use vacant land and save on kitchen expenses, the official said. The primary objective of the nutrition garden programme is to ensure nutrition for SHG members," said Suchi Tyagi, State Mission Director, Livelihood Projects and Self Help Groups (SHG). The concept is being promoted by the Rajasthan Grameen Ajiveeka Vikas Parishad (Rajiveeka). Organic seasonal vegetables are grown in the gardens. The women have acquired formal training and produce their own organic manure and pesticides. The programme has drawn immense success, especially in the tribal areas of Dungarpur, Banswara and Udaipur districts. Using traditional skills and formal training, these women are making productive use of the otherwise vacant land.

With only 81 Covid cases, Raj becomes least active state

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Sept 3: With just 81 active Covid cases, Rajasthan became the least active state in the country. Expressing pleasure over the development, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said, "It is a matter of great happiness that in the last one month, no one has died due to Covid in the state." However, he urged people to remain cautious. "If there is a slight carelessness, Covid cases can increase again. Therefore, it is very important to follow the Covid protocol such as wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing etc," he urged. "So far, more than 4.55 crore vaccines have been administered to people of the state, (including 1.10 crore people being administered two doses)," Gehlot added. Everyone must get vaccinated on time, he appealed. Gehlot also stressed on ensuring strict adherence of the standard operating procedures (SOP) related to the pandemic in educational institutions. If the SOP and protocol were not followed then there would be a danger of infection among youths, he said. Studies in schools for Classes IX to XII resumed Wednesday.



Government and private schools have opened after more than four months for these classes. "Educational institutions have opened in the state. The education of children has affected due to the closure of educational institutions for a long time. It is the responsibility of everyone to strictly follow the SOPs issued for the operation of educational institutions," Gehlot tweeted. He further said, "If SOP and corona protocol are not followed, then there is a risk of infection. So along with studies, take proper care of health and ensure strict adherence to protocol and SOP. Best wishes to all the students and teachers!"

Breaking stereotypes, these Raj girls opt for unusual careers

RAJASTHAN, ONCE KNOWN FOR ITS LOW SEX RATIO AND LOWER LITERACY RATE FOR WOMEN, IS NOW MAKING NEWS WITH ITS GIRLS WINNING LAURELS FOR THE STATE BY EARNING NAME AND FAME WHILE CHOOSING THE MOST UNCONVENTIONAL CAREERS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 3: Rajasthan, which was once known for its low sex ratio and lower literacy rate for women, is now making news with its girls winning laurels for the state by earning name and fame while choosing the most unconventional careers, irrespective of whether they were brought up in rural or urban areas of the state. Avani Lekhara (19) is the latest example. She won the gold medal in women's 10m air rifle standing event in the SH 1 category at the Tokyo Paralympics. She was brought up in a small town Dholpur

and had met with an accident due to which her spinal cord was injured. Avani, wanting to do something different, chose shooting. The accident left her demotivated but the biography of Olympic gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra instilled fresh hope in her and she worked hard to add a feather in her cap. In the same series, 10-year-old athlete Pooja Vishnoi from Guda Vishnoiyan village of Jodhpur was in the news for her six packs which she developed when she was 7. Besides being an athlete, she is a cricketer too and is the only member from Rajasthan in



the Virat Kohli Foundation. Pooja recently shot an ad with cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Presently, she is working hard to bring a

medal for India in the next youth Olympics to be held in 2024. The Virat Kohli Foundation manages her sport and diet plan too. She is

the youngest member among 16 kids selected by the Foundation. Another young woman Megha Kapoor is hitting the headlines by being a certified health coach and has clients from Delhi, Mumbai, USA and even Africa while being located at Jaipur. When young, she was irritated with comments related to body shaming which inspired her to take up this unconventional profession. After somebody at her sister's wedding asked her if she was eating for two people, it hurt her and her self-esteem and gave birth to a whole lot of body image issues. She then chose this ca-

reer and went to London to pursue the course. "Being a female fitness coach means competing in a very male dominated industry in India - not easy but that should never stop us," says this founder of Megha Squad adding, "Unfortunately in India, not many people know about being a certified health coach. However, the COVID pandemic has taught us to take health awareness seriously and act upon it. So, people have started being more conscious of their lifestyle choices when it comes to health and hence the career is now drawing more credence."

national

of the day quote

India-Russia energy partnership can help bring stability to the global energy market. We envisage an energy and trade bridge

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Unfortunately, in rural areas, some people are becoming lax. They are not scared of coronavirus. They don't use masks, don't follow physical distancing, and they have assumed that everything (Covid-19 pandemic) is over. This has led to rise in infections

AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

What the Modi government plans is a day-light robbery of assets which took years to build

P CHIDAMBARAM | FORMER UNION FINANCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

MLA spotted in underwear

Patna: Facing criticism for roaming in undergarments in a train, Janata Dal (United) MLA Gopal Mandal Friday admitted that he was in the Patna-Delhi Tejas Rajdhani Express Friday. "I admit that I was in the train and was in the undergarments but that is not a crime. Would you give me death penalty for it?" Mandal queried. "I was suffering from stomach issues, had loose motion. When I boarded the train from Patna, I went to the washroom wearing a hosiery vest and underwear. I cannot tell lies. I always tell the truth," he clarified.

SpiceJet staff go on strike at Delhi airport

New Delhi: A section of employees of SpiceJet went on strike at the Delhi airport Friday morning over issues related to reduced salaries and their irregular disbursement, sources said. The employees, most of whom work at the carrier's security department, later returned to work following talks with the airline management, they said. When asked about the matter, a SpiceJet spokesperson earlier clarified that the carrier's flight operations at the Delhi airport are functioning normally.

Infiltration bid foiled in J&K

Jammu: An infiltration bid by a group of heavily-armed Pakistani terrorists on the line of control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district Friday was foiled by alert Indian troops, officials said. "On the intervening night of September 2 and 3, a group of heavily-armed Pakistani terrorists attempted to infiltrate in Poonch sector (J&K)." The infiltration attempt of Pakistani terrorists was detected by alert troops of Indian Army. The infiltrators were challenged and heavy firing ensued.

2 Gangetic dolphins found dead in Assam

Guwahati: The carcasses of two Gangetic dolphins, suspected to have been killed by poachers, have been recovered from Kamrup Rural district in Assam, a forest official said Friday.

35 IEDs recovered

Serikela: Thirty-five improvised explosive devices (IEDs), suspected to be planted by Naxal outfits to target security forces, were found in Jharkhand's Serikela-Kharswan district, police said Friday.



The Modi government is harmful for employment. It does not promote or support any kind of business or employment not belonging to friends and instead is trying to snatch jobs from those who have them

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

HONEY SINGH SEEKS IN-CAMERA HEARING

Punjabi singer Yo Yo Honey Singh Friday moved an application seeking that the domestic violence case filed against him by his wife be heard in-camera. Metropolitan Magistrate Tania Singh called Honey Singh and his wife Shalini Talwar to her chamber and they are still being counselled



R-value rises sharply

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 3: The R-value which reflects how rapidly coronavirus pandemic is spreading, has sharply risen close to 1.2 over the last fortnight, mainly driven by cases in states like Kerala and Maharashtra, say researchers.

The R-value calculated between August 24-29 stood at 1.17 as against 0.89 between August 14-17, according to the researchers at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. The rise in the R-value comes after a steady decline in cases in the first half of August in the country.

"Up to that date (August 30), the situation looked pretty bad. India's R-value had shot up close to 1.2. Not only is it greater than one, it is much higher than the last time there was a scare of a third wave (it was 1.03 at that time). "This is driven by several states having their R-value go over 1 in the last few days of August - most notably Kerala and Maharashtra, but also Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir," Sitabhra Sinha, who is leading the team of researchers at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, told PTI. The R-value of Kerala stood at 1.33, which is the highest number of active cases in the country. Similarly, the R-value of Mizoram was 1.36, Jammu and Kashmir (1.25), Maharashtra (1.06) and Andhra



Biological E gets nod for further trials

Biological E has received approval for conducting phase II/III human clinical trial of Covid-19 vaccine candidate Corbevax on children above five years and adolescents, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) said Friday. Corbevax, an RBD protein sub-unit vaccine, has been developed with supported from the Department of Biotechnology and its PSU Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), it said. PTI had first reported the grant of approval to Biological E for trial of its vaccine candidate Wednesday.

Pradesh (1.09). The Reproduction number or R refers to how many people an infected person infects, on average. In other words, it tells how 'efficiently' a virus is spreading. A smaller R indicates the disease is on a decline. Conversely, if R is greater than 1, the number of infected people is increasing in each round - this is what is called the epidemic phase. After the devastating second wave that saw hospitals and health infrastructure being overwhelmed by patients infected by SARS-CoV2 coronavirus, the R-value started to decline.

During the March-May period, thousands of people died due to the infection while lakhs were infected. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Friday stayed for a week Kerala government's decision to conduct offline exams for Class XI commencing from September 6 amid the rising cases of Covid saying "there is an alarming situation in the state."

The top court observed that "cases in Kerala are about 70 per cent cases of the country and children of this age cannot be exposed to this risk." A day after Kerala's

SC EXPRESSES DISPLEASURE

The Supreme Court Friday expressed displeasure over delay in framing guidelines for issuance of death certificates to the families of those who died of Covid-19 and directed the Centre to file compliance report by September 11. "We passed the order a long time back. We have already extended the time once. By the time you frame the guidelines, the third phase will also be over", a bench comprising Justices M R Shah and Aniruddha Bose observed. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, assured the court that everything is under consideration.

overall Covid-19 cases crossed the 41 lakh mark, state Health Minister Veena George Friday said the state is facing vaccine shortage and the Covishield stock is completely over in at least six districts, following which the government has asked for more vaccine doses from the Centre.

The districts-Kollam, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode and Kannur- are facing the shortage of Covishield and only 1.4 lakh doses are remaining in the state's reserve but all districts have limited stock of Covaxin, she said.

ANTILIA BOMB SCARE CASE

NIA slaps terror, murder charges on 10 accused



Sachin Vaze being taken to a court by National Investigation Agency (NIA), in Mumbai (FILE PHOTO: PTI)

In a breaking development, Sachin Vaze, and his aide and fellow encounter specialist Pradeep Sharma have been charged with murder

both of Andheri, Satish T. Mothkuri of Goregaon, said the NIA.

Taking a serious view of the twin cases which triggered a massive political row, all the accused have been slapped with Indian Penal Code sections pertaining to murder, cheating, conspiracy, besides various sections of the Arms Act, the Explosive Substance Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"The NIA has taken a very strong cognizance of the case given its ramifications. Besides the serious charges under IPC, they have also invoked terror charges against the accused," prominent criminal lawyer J.P. Mishra told IANS.

On the likely punishment, Mishra said that if proven guilty, the accused could face a maximum of life imprisonment since there was no explosion, and a minimum of life term or death sentence in the Hiran murder case.

The IPC sections span criminal conspiracy, destroying evidence to escape the consequences, negligence with explosives, abduction with intent to kill, extortion with threats of death or physical harm, grabbing property, criminal breach of trust by public servant, forgery and forging documents of electronic evidence to pass them off as genuine, possession of a fake seal to commit forgery, common intentions, etc.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 3: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday slapped terror and murder charges against 10 accused in the sensational planting of a SUV with gelatin sticks near the house of industrialist Mukesh Ambani and the subsequent death of the vehicle owner Mansukh Hiran, officials said here.

The voluminous charge sheet, filed with the Special NIA Court in Mumbai, has named the 10 accused in the twin cases that rocked the nation after they came to light in February-March this year.

They accused are dismissed police officials Sachin H. Vaze and Vinayak B. Shinde, both from Thane, and Mumbaiikars - Naresh R. Gor of Grant Road, Hisamuddin Kazi of Jogeshwari, Sunil D. Mane, Santosh A. Shelar and Manish V. Soni, all from Malad, Anand P. Jadhav and Pradeep R. Sharma.

A RAINY DAY WALK



People walk under umbrellas during heavy rainfall in Shimla (PTI PHOTO)

No signs of unnatural death in Sidharth's case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 3: TV and film actor Sidharth Shukla, whose sudden death at the age of 40 stunned the showbiz industry and TV fandom, was cremated here Friday in the presence of his family, friends and colleagues.

There were no external injuries on Shukla's body and initial reports did not reveal any signs of unnatural death, police and hospital sources said.

The actor, who became a household name with his role in the long-running TV show "Balika Vadhu" and as the winner of "Bigg Boss 13", was declared dead on arrival around



10.20 am Thursday when he was taken to the Cooper Hospital in suburban Juhu.

"On the face of it, there were no signs of unnatural death but the opinion has been reserved," a police officer said as several reports suggested that a heart attack took the life of the actor on the cusp of fame. The mortal remains of the actor, who death sparked fresh debate on the stresses of showbiz and also some speculation, left Cooper Hospital around 1.20 pm in a hearse decorated with marigold flowers.

Later in the afternoon too, as close family and friends attended the last rites inside the Oshiwara crematorium, scores of people gathered outside. Curious fans jostled with media crews and mourners, shocked that the actor had gone so soon and so suddenly.

SC declines interim bail to Sajjan Kumar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 3: The Supreme Court Friday junked the plea filed by 1984 anti-Sikh riots convict and former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar seeking bail on medical grounds.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul told Kumar's counsel: "He is accused of heinous crimes. You want him to be treated like some super VIP patient... we won't permit."

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, representing Sajjan Kumar, contended before the bench that his client's health was deteriorating, and he had also lost a lot of weight. He also cited a report on his health by a doctor. Kumar claimed that he had

recently collapsed in jail, and he was undergoing treatment in the emergency ICU at Safdarjung Hospital. In its response to the bail plea, the CBI said his medical condition was stable and it was improving. The bench noted that medical report shows Sajjan Kumar is being fully attended to and his medical condition is stable.

The bench, also comprising Justice M.M. Sundresh, declined to entertain the plea by Sajjan Kumar to get him transferred to the Medanta hospital for the treatment of his health issues, despite submitting that he would bear the cost on his own.

"We are not willing to grant medical bail or bail otherwise," said the bench.

'Right to protest fundamental stature'

DELHI RIOTS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Right to protest and express dissent occupies a fundamental stature in a democratic polity and therefore sole act of protesting should not be employed as a weapon to justify the incarceration of those exercising it, said the Delhi High Court Friday while granting bail to five accused including a woman in a north-east Delhi riots case.

The high court said it is the

Justice Subramonium Prasad granted bail to accused Mohd Arif, Shadab Ahmad, Furkan, Suveleen and Tabassum, who are facing prosecution for the murder of Delhi Police head constable Ratan Lal during the north-east Delhi riots in 2020

constitutional duty of the court to ensure that there is no arbitrary deprivation of personal liberty in the face of excess state power.

"It is to be noted that the right to protest and express dissent is a right which occupies a fundamental stature in a democratic polity; and therefore, the sole act of protesting should not be employed as a weapon to justify the incarceration of those who are exercising this right," the judge observed.

It said while the definitiveness and veracity of the statements of public witnesses and police offi-

cial is not to be delved into at this juncture and is a matter of trial, this court is of the opinion that the same is not sufficient to justify the continued incarceration of the petitioners.

The high court said the issue which arose for consideration was whether when an offence of murder was committed by an unlawful assembly, then should each person in the unlawful assembly be denied the benefit of bail, regardless of their role in the unlawful assembly or the object of the unlawful assembly.

Full vaccination a must for buying liquor in Nilgiris

AADHAAR CARDS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE VACCINATION CERTIFICATES TO PURCHASE LIQUOR

AGENCIES

Udhagamandalam, Sept 3: Amid vaccine hesitancy and tourist influx, the Nilgiris district collector has announced that people who wish to buy alcohol should be vaccinated. They must show the vaccine certificate at the counter to buy alcohol, the district collector said.

Being a prominent tourist area, the Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu has witnessed an influx of tourists in the last two days.

Moreover, authorities noted that several people in Nilgiris are



Representational images

This move is part of a drive to vaccinate all residents, District Collector Innocent Divya said

hesitant towards getting vaccinated, fearing rumours that they might face negative effects of the vaccine because they consume alcohol.

District authorities have tried several times to educate these people by dismissing these claims

and telling them that they are false. However, authorities found it difficult to get most of them vaccinated.

Keeping the situation in view, Nilgiris Collector Innocent Divya announced that only vaccinated people are now allowed to buy alcohol and they must show their vaccine certificate at the counter at the time of buying alcohol.

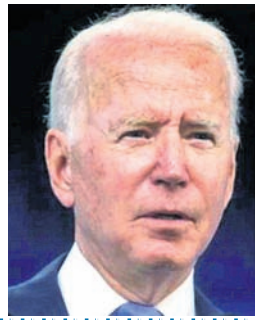
"In the Nilgiris district, we have vaccinated 97 per cent of the residents and are updating the Covid portal. We found that a few have said that they consume alcohol

and therefore, are not willing to take the Covid-19 vaccine. To cover them under the vaccine program, it was decided that anyone who wishes to buy alcohol should show his/her vaccine certificate at the counter or else alcohol will not be sold to them," said Nilgiris Collector Innocent Divya.

Almost 97 per cent of the population in the district was administered vaccine doses, either first or second.

The administration wanted all the citizens to take the second jab also and this step was part of the drive to vaccinate the residents.

international



These extreme storms, and the climate crisis, are here. We must be better prepared. We need to act. It's a matter of life and death and we're all in this together
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

REBUILDING DAMAGES

India and Nepal Friday signed memorandum of understandings for the reconstruction of 14 cultural heritage and 103 health sector projects damaged by the devastating 2015 earthquake in the country. These projects will be reconstructed at a cost of 420 crore Nepalese Rupees, India's Embassy said in a statement



of the day quote

The approach we are taking is that we don't recognise the Taliban as a government but we do see the importance of being able to engage and have a direct line of communication
DOMINIC RAAB | FOREIGN SECRETARY, UK

With less than a month to go, this looming goal must concentrate minds in Africa and globally. Vaccine hoarding has held Africa back and we urgently need more vaccines
MATSHIDISO MOETI | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, WHO

There will be inflation. The prices in Afghanistan will rise further. The poverty level will rise. You will then have a refugee crisis which is exactly what the West is afraid of
MUNIR AKRAM | PAKISTAN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

EU outlines terms for relations with Taliban

According to Borrell, the EU aims to coordinate its contacts with the Taliban through a joint EU presence in Kabul, should security conditions make it safe to do so



AGENCIES

Slovenia, Sept 3: The European Union is ready to engage with the new Taliban government in Kabul but the Islamist group must respect human rights, including those of women, and not let Afghanistan become a base for terrorism, the EU foreign policy chief said Friday. "In order to support the Afghan population, we will have to engage with the new government in Afghanistan," Josep Borrell said during a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Slovenia. He described an "operational engagement", which would not by itself constitute the formal recognition of the Taliban government, and would "increase depending on the behaviour of this government". The Taliban have yet to name a

government more than two weeks since they swept back into power. Their 1996-2001 rule was marked by violent punishments and a ban on schooling or work for women and girls, and many Afghans and foreign governments fear a re-

'Operational engagement'
The new government must prevent the country from again becoming a breeding ground for militants
It must respect human rights, the rule of law and freedom of the media, and should negotiate with other political forces
The new government must also grant free access to humanitarian aid, respecting EU procedures and conditions for delivery

turn to such practices. The militants say they have changed but have yet to spell out the rules they will enforce.

"We will increase humanitarian aid, but we will judge them according to the access they provide," Borrell said. Aid agencies have said Afghanistan is facing a humanitarian catastrophe amid an economic crisis brought on by the conflict, a drought and the Covid-19 pandemic. About 18 million Afghans - roughly half the population - are already in need of humanitarian help, according to EU experts. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Friday that the alliance would seek to evacuate more vulnerable Afghans and maintain contact with the Taliban, but that Afghanistan's new rulers would have to show themselves worthy of aid and recognition.

Baradar likely to lead Afghan govt

KABUL: Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar will lead a new Afghan government set to be announced soon, sources in the group said Friday, as its fighters battled forces loyal to the vanquished republic in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul. Baradar, who heads the Taliban's political office, will be joined by Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of late Taliban co-founder Mullah Omar, and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, in senior positions in the government, three sources said. Haibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's supreme religious leader, will focus on religious matters and governance within the framework of Islam, another Taliban source said. While the Taliban have spoken of their desire to form a consensus government, a source close to the Islamist militant movement said the interim government now being formed would consist solely of Taliban members. It would comprise 25 ministries, with a consultative council, or shura, of 12 Muslim scholars, the source added.



Japan PM Suga steps down

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tokyo, Sept 3: At an extraordinary meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) executives Friday, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced his decision not to run in the upcoming leadership election for the ruling party, effectively giving up the premiership. Suga said that since taking office last September, he had put full efforts to solve problems that Japan faced, especially the pandemic. The LDP is slated to start campaigning September 17 and hold its presidential election September 29, with Suga not to run in the race, party officials said. Suga's successor needs to be chosen before a general election ahead of the expiration of the House of Representatives members' term in October.



I thought I should choose to either campaign for the election or concentrate on the anti-Covid-19 measures as I can't handle both enormously energy-consuming tasks. So I decided to focus on Covid-19 to prevent a further spread of the virus
YOSHIIHIDE SUGA | PM, JAPAN

The Prime Minister Wednesday ruled out dissolving the House of Representatives for a general election anytime soon, given the cur-

rent severe Covid-19 situation, and said that the LDP leadership election scheduled for September 29 will not be postponed. The current term of the lower house members will run through October 21, but the Prime Minister has the power to dissolve the chamber early and call a general election. Some LDP lawmakers had thought that Suga would dissolve the lower house in mid-September in order to win at least a modest general election victory before facing off against rivals including former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in the party leadership race. I have said Covid-19 countermeasures are my top priority, and that has not changed at all. Considering the severity of the current situation, dissolving (the House of Representatives) isn't possible right now, Suga said.

SL commends UK's decision to proscribe LTTE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 3: Sri Lanka Friday appreciated the UK government's continued partnership in the fight against global terrorism, as it noted the British Home Secretary's decision to keep the LTTE in its list of banned terrorist organisations. In a communique, the government of Sri Lanka was notified that the UK Home Secretary (Priti Patel) has decided to maintain the proscription of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a terrorist organisation under the UK Terrorism Act No 7 of 2000. "The government of Sri Lanka is appreciative of the partnership with the UK and all governments



in the global fight against terrorism and remain committed to working with the UK in all efforts to mitigate terrorism and violent extremism that threaten the lives of citizens and endanger global and regional peace and security", the

Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said, reacting to the development. The UK Home Secretary's decision, which was taken following the judgement of the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission (POAC), rejects the application of a LTTE front organisation to de-proscribe the LTTE in the UK. The LTTE now remains a proscribed organisation in the UK, as in over 30 other countries worldwide, including in the European Union region. The continuity of the proscription is indicative of the continued threat posed by the remnant of the LTTE group working through its international network, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said. The LTTE, which led an armed rebellion for over three decades against the Sri Lankan government to set up a separate Tamil homeland in northern and eastern regions of the island nation, was defeated by the Sri Lankan Army in May 2009.

Extremist stabs 6 in NZ, shot dead

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Auckland, Sept 3: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern Friday confirmed that the violent attack that took place at the New Lynn supermarket in Auckland was a terrorist attack carried out by a Sri Lankan national who was shot dead by the police. A spokesperson of ambulance service St Johns said at least six people were injured during the attack that occurred at around 2.40 pm, including three in critical conditions, reports Xinhua news agency. A violent extremist undertook a terrorist attack on innocent New Zealanders at a New Lynn Countdown in Auckland, Ardern told a press conference in Wellington. This was a violent attack. It was senseless and I'm sorry it happened, she said, adding that the police shot the offender within roughly a minute of the attack happening. New Zealand Police Commissioner Andrew Coster also confirmed at the press conference that the individual behind the attack was under heavy surveillance over concerns about his ideology. The offender was acting alone and there was no further threat to the public, said Coster. The person travelled from where he lived in Glen Eden to Countdown at Lynn Mall in Western Auckland, and was closely watched by sur-



The attacker was a Lankan national who arrived in NZ in 2011 and has been closely monitored for his IS-inspired ideology

veillance teams. Surveillance teams were as close as they could be, and when the commotion began they acted, according to Coster. When the man approached them with the knife, he was shot and killed, said Coster. Armed police have blocked off the roads nearby and at least 10 police vehicles were currently around the mall, where the supermarket is located. Friday's attack comes two years after New Zealand saw its worst terror attack when a white supremacist gunman murdered 51 Muslim worshippers across two mosques in Christchurch in 2019.

SHORT TAKES

Hurricane Ida toll rises to 46

New York: A stunned United States East Coast faced a rising death toll, surging rivers and tornado damage Thursday after the remnants of Hurricane Ida walloped the region with record-breaking rain, drowning at least 46 people in their homes and cars. In a region that had been warned about potentially deadly flash flooding but hadn't braced for such a blow from the no-longer-hurricane, the storm killed people from Maryland to Connecticut Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Israel missile strike targets Damascus

Damascus: A fresh Israeli missile strike targeted sites in Damascus Friday, state news agency SANA reported. The Syrian air defenses intercepted missiles over the southwestern countryside of Damascus as the sound of the interception was clearly heard in the capital, reports Xinhua news agency. The Israeli strike was carried out from inside the Lebanese airspace, SANA reported, citing a military source. And the air defenses intercepted most of the missiles.

SL extends Covid curbs till Sept 13

Colombo: Sri Lanka Friday extended its nationwide lockdown till September 13, amidst a surge in the number of Covid-19 deaths and mounting pressure on the healthcare system during the third wave of coronavirus. Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had ordered a 10-day lockdown August 20. The decision to extend the lockdown was taken following the Covid taskforce meeting with President Gotabaya Friday, officials said. The lockdown extended from August 30 was due to end September 6.

Large-scale Houthi attacks claim 58

Sanaa: The Houthi militia have launched large-scale attacks against Yemen's government forces stationed in the country's oil-rich province of Marib, which killed 58 people from both sides, a military official said. "Several areas and positions controlled by the government forces were heavily attacked by the Houthis who are expanding their military operations aimed at capturing Marib," the official told Xinhua news agency Thursday. Ferocious battles are still taking place between the two warring sides in various areas of Marib amid intensified airstrikes, the source said.

FIGHT FOR RIGHTS



Indigenous protesters shout "Bolsonaro Get out!", referring to President Jair Bolsonaro, during march to the Supreme Court in Brasilia, Brazil. Indigenous people are demanding the SC to protect their land rights and reserves

EU, ASTRA SETTLE VAX DISPUTE OUT OF COURT

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Brussels, Sept 3: The European Union and UK-based drugs giant AstraZeneca announced Friday that they had reached a settlement in a dispute over a shortfall in coronavirus vaccine deliveries. The agreement will see the firm deliver the rest of the 300 million doses it promised under contracts with the EU before the end of March 2022, and brings to an end a battle in the Belgian courts. Brussels was furious when the British-Swedish pharmaceuti-

cal outfit fell far short of its delivery promises, undermining the early stages of the EU Covid-19 vaccine rollout. Officials accused AstraZeneca of prioritising UK vaccine deliveries over the EU order, and European Commission lawyers went to court to demand deliveries or see huge daily fines imposed for any ongoing shortfall. But the firm argued that its contract with the bloc only obliged it to make "best efforts" to meet its delivery target, and that production bottlenecks in its European plants had been unavoidable.

US FAA grounds Virgin Galactic after flight mishap

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Sept 3: The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Thursday said it was grounding space flights by Virgin Galactic while it investigates why the company's July 11 voyage carrying Richard Branson deviated from its planned trajectory. The move represents a blow to the private space company as it prepares to carry paying customers following its first fully-crewed test flight. It is now unclear whether Virgin's next test flight, involving members of the Italian Air Force, will take place as scheduled in late September or early October. "The FAA is overseeing the Virgin Galactic investigation of

its July 11 SpaceShipTwo mishap that occurred over Spaceport America, New Mexico," the agency said in a short statement. "Virgin Galactic may not return the SpaceShipTwo vehicle to flight until the FAA approves the final mishap investigation report or determines the issues related to the mishap do not affect public safety," it added. The news came after a report said the flight experienced cockpit warnings about its rocket-powered ascent that could have jeopardized the mission. The article, by investigative journalist Nicholas Schmidle, said the pilots encountered first a yellow then a red light, indicating the spaceplane's climb was too shallow and the nose was insuffi-



ficiently vertical. Without corrective action, the vessel would not have had enough energy to glide back to its runway. "According to multiple sources in the company, the safest way to

Course of events

The pilots encountered first a yellow then a red light, indicating the spaceplane's climb was too shallow and the nose was insufficiently vertical
The pilots did not abort and instead attempted to correct for the trajectory problem, flying at Mach 3 with a red light on
The vessel went on to reach 85 kilometers in altitude above the US definition of space -- and landed safely, but data showed it had flown outside its designated path
hopes of beating rival Jeff Bezos, whose own flight to space was scheduled a few days later.

"Whether or not (the pilots') decision was motivated by programmatic pressures and the hopes of their billionaire bankroller sitting in the back remains unclear," wrote Schmidle. Virgin Galactic told AFP it disputed the "misleading characterizations and conclusions in the New Yorker article." The company acknowledged the flight had diverged from the initial plan, but characterized the deviation as a short period of one minute and 43 seconds when it flew below its prescribed altitude, rather than a change in the areas it flew over. Schmidle also wrote that key personnel who were critical of the company's safety culture had resigned or been sacked.

business

of the day quote

Auction of 5G spectrum is likely to happen sometime early next year, and by H2 of 2022-2023, we will start to see 5G services coming in key cities of India

SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL | CHAIRMAN, AIRTEL

Though the recovery in revenue receipts of states was led by non-tax revenues, their own taxes and Central tax devolution trailed the level witnessed in Q1 FY20. Moreover, the revenue spending of the 19 state governments increased by a sharper 14% in Q1

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

Innovation, collaboration and voluntary commitments contextualised for India and led by Indian companies will help the transition to a circular economy for plastics. The Plastics Pact model offers this solution

JAMSHYD N GODREJ | CHAIRMAN AND MD, GODREJ & BOYCE

SHORT TAKES

JSPAL shareholders approve 96% stake

New Delhi: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPAL) Friday said over 97% shareholders have approved the proposal to sell 96.42% stake the company holds in its arm Jindal Power for ₹7,401 crore to its promoters owned firm Worldone. Jindal Power Ltd (JPL) stake sale to Worldone was approved by the JSPAL shareholders at the company's EGM held September 3, 2021, JSPAL said in a regulatory filing. It had proposed to sell 96.42% stake in Jindal Power to promoter owned company Worldone.

Investor wealth jumps ₹4L crore

New Delhi: Investors' wealth rose by ₹4 lakh crore in two days of market rally, with the BSE benchmark Sensex scaling the 58,000-mark for the first time Friday. Rising for the second straight day, the 30-share index jumped 277.41 points or 0.48 per cent to its all-time closing peak of 58,129.95. During the day, it zoomed 342.25 points to its record high of 58,194.79.

BLR airport handles highest-ever cargo

Mumbai: Bangalore's Kempegowda International Airport handled 37,319 tonnes of cargo in August, which is the highest since the facility started operations in 2008, mainly driven by the international consignments. International cargo (both imports and exports) continued to be growth drivers and stood at 24,304 tonnes during the previous month, also the highest ever, with exports cargo accounting for more than half at 15,224 tonnes, Bangalore International Airport Ltd, said in a statement.

RIL-arm acquires stake in Strand Life

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Friday said its subsidiary has acquired majority stake in genomic testing firm Strand Life Sciences Pvt Ltd for ₹393 crore. The acquisition by Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBV) is part of Reliance's digital health initiatives, the firm said in a stock exchange filing. "RSBV, a wholly owned subsidiary of RIL, has acquired 2.28 crore equity shares of ₹10 each of Strand Life Sciences Private Limited for a cash consideration of ₹393 crore only," it said.



We're hiring for machine learning applied sciences. We are also hiring in support functions like HR, finance, legal...quite a lot of them. The company aims for 20 lakh job openings by 2025, and has already created 10 lakh direct and indirect jobs in India

DEEPTI VARMA | HR LEADER (CORPORATE, APAC, AND MENA), AMAZON

SEBI REMINDS INVESTORS TO LINK PAN WITH AADHAAR

Capital market regulator SEBI has reminded investors to link their permanent account number (PAN) with Aadhaar number before September 30 to continue smooth transactions in the securities market



'US has no plans to release billions in Afghan assets'

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 3: The Biden administration has no plans to release billions in Afghan gold, investments and foreign currency reserves parked in the United States that it froze after the Taliban's takeover, despite pressure from humanitarian groups and others who say the cost may be the collapse of Afghanistan's economy.

Much of the Afghan central bank's \$10 billion in assets are parked overseas, where they are considered a key instrument for the West to pressure the Taliban to respect women's rights and the rule of law. Any unfreezing of these assets may be months away, financial experts said.

Officials from the US State Department, US Treasury, White

House National Security Council and other agencies have been in regular discussions about Afghanistan's finances since the Taliban took over in mid-August, ahead of what the United Nations and others see as a looming humanitarian crisis.

Any decision to release the funds would likely involve top US officials from several departments but will ultimately be up to President Joe Biden, the experts said.

Food and fuel prices are soaring across Afghanistan, amid a shortage of cash triggered by a halt in foreign aid, a halt in dollar shipments and a drought.

The US Treasury this week said it had granted a license authorizing the US government and its partners to continue to facilitate humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. It



also gave Western Union, the world's largest money transfer firm, and other financial institutions a green light to resume processing personal remittances to Afghanistan

from migrants overseas.

The Treasury Department is not easing sanctions on the Taliban or loosening restrictions on their access to the global financial sys-

tem, a spokesperson told Reuters.

"The United States government has been in touch with humanitarian partners in Afghanistan, both regarding security conditions on the ground and about their ability to continue their humanitarian work," the spokesperson said.

"As we maintain our commitment to the Afghan people, we have not reduced sanctions pressure on Taliban leaders or the significant restrictions on their access to the international financial system."

Shah Mehrabi, an economics professor in Maryland and long-time member of the Afghan central bank's board, a senior Russian official and humanitarian groups are among those urging the US Treasury to also unfreeze the Afghan assets, saying that lives are at stake.

Sensex touches 58,000 for first time in history



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 3: The Indian stock market continued to scale new highs Friday with the BSE Sensex rising above the landmark 58,000 mark. Sensex touched a record high of 58,194.79 points during the day.

It closed at 58,129.95, higher by 277.41 points, or 0.48 per cent, from its previous close of 57,852.54. It had opened at 57,983.45 and touched an intra-day low of 57,764.07 points.

The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange closed at 17,323.60, higher by 89.45 points or 0.52 per cent from its previous close. The rise in the domestic indices was led by the surge in the shares of index-heavy weight Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). RIL shares on the BSE closed at ₹2,388.25, higher by ₹94.60 points, or 4.12 per cent, from its previous close. They touched a 52-week high of ₹2,394.30 during the session. RIL's market capitalisation at the end of the day's trade was at ₹15.14 lakh crore.

Aug services PMI surges to 18-month high of 56.7

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 3: India's services sector expanded in August at the fastest pace in one-and-a-half years amid strong inflows of new work and improved demand conditions, a monthly survey said Friday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index rose from 45.4 in July to 56.7 in August, as the reopening of several establishments and increased consumer footfall boosted sales.

The services sector witnessed the first expansion in output in four months and a rebound in business confidence. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The Indian service sector bounced back in August, led by the reopening of several establishments and improved client confidence due to growing vaccine coverage," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.

New orders placed with service providers rose in August, ending a three-month sequence of reduction. Moreover, the pace of expansion was marked and the quick-



The Indian service sector bounced back in August, led by the reopening of several establishments and improved client confidence due to growing vaccine coverage

POLLYANNA DE LIMA | ECONOMICS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, IHS MARKIT

est in over eight-and-a-half years. However, firms saw a further decline in new export orders. The downturn was often associated with the pandemic and travel restrictions. Going ahead, Lima said "ser-

vice providers foresee a brighter outlook, with firms indicating that the economic recovery could be sustained if restrictions continue to be lifted and further waves of contamination can be avoided".

Despite signalling upbeat growth projections, service providers again lowered headcounts in August. However, the rate of job shedding was marginal and the weakest since January. Several firms indicated having sufficient workers to meet demand needs.

On the prices front, service providers indicated that higher fuel, retail and transport prices pushed up their expenses in August.

Housing prices to rise on increasing input cost: Industry players

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: India's residential market will witness growth in the coming years on rising demand while housing prices are expected to appreciate on account of increased input costs, according to industry experts.

Participating in a CII-Anarock webinar Friday, real estate developers and consultants said they were surprised with strong recovery in housing sales both after the first and the second wave of Covid. Overall housing market shrunk during the pandemic but large-branded developers have gained market shares, they added. The session was being moderated by Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri.

Replying to a query on housing price outlook, Oberoi Realty Chairman and Managing Director Vikas Oberoi said price rise in housing market was "inevitable" as "there is clear cost escalation taking place". He also said the prices would be driven by rise in input costs and supply crunch.

According to him, developers, big or small and listed or unlisted, who have better execution track record, would continue to do better. "I clearly see consolidation and growth," he said, adding that the



Participating in a CII-Anarock webinar Friday, real estate developers and consultants said they were surprised with strong recovery in housing sales

Replying to a query on housing price outlook, Oberoi Realty Chairman and MD Vikas Oberoi said price rise in housing market was inevitable as there is clear cost escalation taking place

consumption of real estate has started going up. Asked whether his company would enter affordable housing projects, Oberoi said the government needs to come up with a strong policy and initiatives to boost this segment. The affordable housing segment would require the government subsidies, if it has to take off in a big way, he added.

Bangalore-based Sriram Properties MD M Murali also felt that housing prices could rise by up to 15% in the next one year because of rising input costs.

Must aim for \$100bn textiles export target: Goyal



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 3: Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal Friday said the sector will achieve USD 44 billion exports target in 2021-22, and in the next five years, both the ministry and the industry have agreed to aim for USD 100 billion out-bound shipments.

He also said the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for technical textiles and man-made fibre segment will be approved soon by the Union Cabinet, a move which would give a boost to domestic manufacturing and exports.

The proposed Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme, under which seven such parks will be set up in the country over the next three years, is at an advanced stage of approval, the minister told reporters here.

This scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2021-22.

"Delighted at the way the textiles sector has engaged with the idea of achieving bigger targets. We must aim for a USD 100 billion export target in the next five years," he said. He added that export has to stand on its own feet and has to be independently viable as demand for subsidies would not always help.

On free trade pacts, he said India is interacting with different nations to expedite FTAs or PTAs (preferential trade agreements).

This engagement has been going with the UK, EU, UAE, Australia, among others.

BIZ BUZZ

UCO Bank observes 'Swachhata Pakhwada'

Balalore: Uco Bank, Zonal Office, Balalore organised Swachhata Pakhwada in the banner of "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav". The bank organised different kinds of programme to spread awareness among the people amid the declining Covid cases. All the staffs of OT road participated in cleanliness mission and made people aware about the importance of 'swachhata'. Zonal Head of the bank, Lalatendu Behera said, "It is our first duty to keep our environment clean so that we can lead a healthy and a happy life".

GOING GREEN



New Divisional Railway Manager of East Coast Railway, Khurda Division Rinkesh Roy, paid a visit to JSLS Railway siding along with Khurda Divisional senior officials.

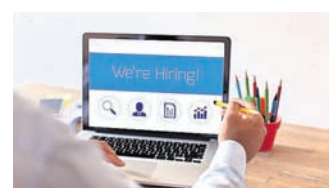
EXPECT FY22 TO BE BETTER ON JOB FRONT AS COS PUSH HIRING: REPORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 3: Economists at the country's largest lender SBI believe that labour market activity will improve in FY22, saying companies are continuing with their hiring plans as the pandemic wanes.

They pointed to payroll data from Employees Provident Fund Organisation and New Pension Scheme, showing an uptick in new additions to support their optimistic view.

"We expect labour market activity to remain better in the current fiscal as companies will continue with their hiring plans to



get ahead of the pandemic," its chief economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a note. "The expectation comes at a time when concerns are being raised about joblessness and the dip in labour participation in the economy coming back to normalcy after the second wave of the pandemic. As per an estimate by the Centre

Smaller fund houses outpace major players in 2021

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 3: The mutual fund space has grown over the pandemic and interestingly so far in 2021, several smaller companies have gained momentum and outpaced the growth of established major players. In tandem with the rise in the equity market, small players made giant strides during the year. Equity schemes of fund houses like Quant Mutual Fund, ITI Mutual Fund, PPFAS Mutual have been among the best performing schemes so far in the year.

The assets under management of Quant witnessed over five-fold rise during January-July 2021. Its AUM in December 2020 stood at ₹521 crore and by July-end it reached ₹2,842 crore, showed data from primemfdatabase.com.

The AUM of ITI Mutual Fund

rose over 100% to ₹1,879 crore and PPFAS Mutual Fund's AUM also nearly doubled to ₹14,318 crore.

Some of the schemes of relatively new fund houses have given blockbuster returns with several of them coming from Quant Mutual Fund. As per the market estimates, ICICI Prudential Technology Fund, Quant Tax Plan Fund, PGIM India Midcap Opportunities Fund, Quant Infrastructure Fund and Quant Active Fund are the top five equity funds giving best returns ranging from 80% to over 100%.

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund, a major player in the segment, has the highest AUM of over ₹2.58 lakh crore as of July 2021, 13% higher than ₹2.27 lakh crore, the Prime Database data showed.

According to Pranav Haldea, Managing Director of Prime Database Group, the higher growth



rate of AUM of smaller fund houses is due to low base effect along with their identification of specialised offerings.

"One reason is low base effect, and second I think smaller fund houses have done a commendable job in terms of identifying niches where

they have specialised," he said. He further said that performance of these mutual funds along with the incumbent giants will continue to be robust.

"The sort of AUM growth which you have seen in the mutual fund industry in the five odd years,

Equity schemes of fund houses like Quant Mutual Fund, ITI Mutual Fund, PPFAS Mutual have been among the best performing schemes so far in the year

the AUM now stands at close to 35-36 lakh crores. So the growth of these smaller fund houses will also extract a fair share of that growth," he said.

Haldea said that the growth will continue because there will be more channelling of retail savings into mutual funds going forward.

More and more retail investors in the last one and half years have

come to the capital market as various other kinds of investment markets are not providing the investment returns that they are used to.

"So retail investors are increasingly looking at equity and the markets obviously are supportive and the markets are doing really well," he said.

NS Venkatesh, Chief Executive, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) said: "Mutual Funds have emerged as the preferred savings-cum-investment avenue over the last few years, and the pandemic has actually triggered this shift towards Mutual Funds in a more pronounced way."

This shift will continue in 2021 and beyond, accentuated by Sebi-driven initiatives towards transparency and disclosures, he said.

INDIANS' DAY OUT IN TOKYO

Harvinder bags bronze for India's first archery medal in Paralympics

TOKYO: Harvinder Singh Friday notched up India's first ever archery medal in the Paralympics, holding his nerves to down Kim Min Su of Korea in a thrilling shoot-off for the men's individual recurve bronze in the ongoing Games here.

World No.23 Singh was the first athlete from India to win a gold medal at a major para competition in the 2018 Asian Games. Singh collected three shoot-off wins on the day starting with his triumphs in the opening rounds.

In the bronze playoff, the 31-year-old was leading 5-3 before the Korean clinched the fifth set shooting a perfect 10 to force a shoot-off where the Indian responded in style shooting a perfect 10 against Kim's 8 for a 6-5 (26-24, 27-29, 28-25, 25-25, 26-27) (10-8) win.

In the semifinals, Singh lost to World No.10 Kevin Mather of the USA 6-4 in an intense five-setter (25-28, 24-24, 25-25, 25-24, 24-26).

In the last 16, Singh pipped former World No.1 Bato Tsydendorzhiev of Russia, once again by the thinnest of margins 6-5 (8-7). Singh effected a spectacular turnaround from 0-4 down to bring the match on an even keel 5-5 (26-28, 23-26, 29-26, 23-21, 28-28) and force a shoot-off where he edged out his Russian opponent 8-7.

In the quarters, Singh swept aside 49-year-old three-time Paralympian Maik Szarszewski of Germany 6-2 (25-21, 28-23, 25-28, 26-23) dropping just one set.

Hailing from a middle-class farming family, Singh had dengue when he was just one-and-a-half years old and a local doctor administered him an injection that had an adverse effect and his legs stopped working properly.



Lekhara becomes first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals



IT IS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE TO WIN TWO MEDALS IN MY FIRST PARALYMPIC GAMES. THESE TWO ARE MY PET EVENTS. I WAS REALLY WORKING HARD FOR THESE TWO FOR SO MANY MONTHS. I GAVE MY 100 PER CENT IN THE LAST SHOT

AVANI LEKHARA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Sept 3: Trailblazing shooter Avani Lekhara Friday became the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic medals by claiming

the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 bronze to add to an unprecedented gold she had secured earlier in the ongoing Games here.

The 19-year-old Lekhara, competing in her debut Games, quali-

fied second for the event with a score of 1176, including 51 inner 10s.

In the fiercely contested finals, Lekhara totalled 445.9 to finish ahead of Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik, who let slip her grip on the medal

spot with a poor third shot of 9.9 in the elimination.

Lekhara had become the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold by claiming the top honours in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event. That was also the first ever shooting medal that India had won in the Games.

The Jaipur-based shooter, who sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012 rendering her immobile, had fired a world record equalling total of 249.6, which was also a new Paralympic record.

Prior to her, Joginder Singh Sodhi was the lone Indian to win multiple medals in the same edition of the Games when he fetched one silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics. His silver came in shot put, while the two bronze medals were won in discus and javelin throw.

Javelin thrower Devendra Jhaharia is the other multiple Paralympic medalist but all his three medals (two gold and a silver) have come in different editions of the Games.

The gold in Friday's event was claimed by China's Zhang Cuiping with a new Games record of 457.9, while German Natascha Hiltrop took the silver with a 457.1 in the final.

Athletes in SH1 Rifle have an impairment in their legs, for example amputations or paraplegia. Some athletes compete in a seated position, while others compete in a standing position.

Lekhara is not done yet and will next be seen in the mixed 50m rifle prone SH1 event also featuring Deepak and Siddhartha Babu.

Debutant Praveen Kumar clinches silver in men's T64 high jump at Paralympics



TOKYO: India's Praveen Kumar clinched the silver medal in the men's high jump T64 event of the Paralympics, taking the country's haul to 11 in the ongoing Games here Friday.

The 18-year-old Kumar, competing in his debut Paralympics, set a new Asian record with a 2.07m jump to finish behind Great Britain's Jonathan Broom-Edwards, who notched up his season's best effort of 2.10m for the gold.

This was also Kumar's personal best performance and his first major medal since taking up the sport in 2019. The teenager is a Noida resident and is now the youngest medal winner in the Indian contingent here.

The bronze went to Rio Games champion Maciej Lepiato of Poland who produced an effort of 2.04m. T64 classification is for athletes with a

I was a bit low in confidence when I cleared 1.97m in my second attempt but I regained confidence after jumping 2.01m. I told myself I will give my best whatever it takes. There was pressure while trying to jump 2.10m

PRAVEEN KUMAR

leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing position.

T44, the disability classification that Kumar belongs to but is eligible to compete in T64, is for athletes with a leg deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in the legs.

His impairment, which is congenital, affects the bones that connect his hip to his left leg.

Kumar had earlier won a silver medal junior para world championship in 2019, his debut year. He is currently ranked world No.3 in T44 classification. He has always trained under national coach Satyapal Singh after coming to know of para-sports while competing in the high jump event for able-bodied athletes as a child.

The ongoing Games are turning out to be India's best ever and the nation has so far claimed two gold, six silver and three bronze medals. Kumar is the second teenager in the Indian contingent after the 19-year-old shooter Avani Lekhara, who won two medals - a gold and a bronze, to win a medal at the Games.

PRAMOD-PALAK PAIR IN SEMIS

TOKYO: India's Pramod Bhagat and his partner Palak Kohli qualified for the mixed doubles semifinals, while three singles players, including Noida District Magistrate Suhas Yathiraj, also made the last-four stage to continue a rampaging run at the Paralympics badminton competition here Friday.

Bhagat, who had qualified for the men's singles SL3 event Thursday, and Kohli beat Thailand's Siripong teamarom and Nipada Saensupa 21-15, 21-19 in a 29-minute clash to finish second in group B. The Indian duo will clash with Indonesian pair of Hary Susanto and Leani Ratri in the semifinals Saturday.

In men's singles, Suhas, Tarun Dhillon and Manoj Sarkar also made it to the semifinals on a fruit-

This was a difficult game and I am happy to be on the winning side, Palak and me were focused and managed to execute our plans. I find myself very lucky to have qualified for two semifinals. All my focus now is winning medals for India

PRAMOD BHAGAT

ful day for India.

In SL4 class, Suhas, a World No.3, took 19 minutes to get rid of Indonesia's Hary Susanto 21-6, 21-12 in group A, while Tarun, seeded second, recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit Korea's Shin Kyung Hwan 21-18, 15-21 21-17 in a group B match.

However, Suhas suffered a 15-



21 17-21 loss against France's top seed Lucas Mazur and Tarun went down 19-21 9-21 to Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan in their final group matches later in the day.

In the semifinals, Suhas has been pitted against Setiawan, while Tarun will lock horns with Mazur, a two-time World Champion.

In SL3 class, Manoj secured a 21-16, 21-9 victory over Ukraine's Oleksandr Chyrkov to make it to the knockout stage after finishing at the second spot in group A behind World No.1 Bhagat. In the semifinals, Manoj will face Great Britain's Daniel Bethell, while Bhagat will take on Japan's Daisuke Fujihara

Saturday.

In SH6 class, Krishna Nagar, seeded second, prevailed 21-17, 21-14 over Brazil's Vitor Goncalves Tavares in 27 minutes for his second win in as many matches to top group B. Krishna will meet Great Britain's Krysten Coombs in the knockout stage.

| MEDAL TALLY | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----|----|---------|
| Rank | Country | G | S | B Total |
| 1 | China | 85 | 53 | 46 184 |
| 2 | Great Britain | 37 | 34 | 40 111 |
| 3 | USA | 34 | 34 | 24 92 |
| 4 | RPC | 34 | 29 | 44 107 |
| 5 | Ukraine | 24 | 44 | 26 94 |
| 37 | India | 2 | 6 | 5 13 |

Djoko on course for 'Calendar Slam'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 3: Novak Djokovic missed an overhead and stared over toward a section of the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands.

After taking the next game, Djokovic glared in that direction again. Later, he spoke to the chair umpire about someone making noise in the middle of points, considered a no-no in tennis.

That, then, is pretty much what provided some intrigue and interest for Djokovic's second-round match at the US Open, because the ultimate outcome seemed fairly obvious after all of about 15 minutes Thursday. Or maybe even before he and his 121st-ranked opponent stepped on court on a cool, breezy evening.

And that, surely pleased Djokovic as he took another step toward completing the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969 and claiming a 21st major championship to eclipse the mark he shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

What Djokovic wasn't thrilled by a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Tallon Griekspoor was some of the distractions arriving during the run of play.

Here's what matters the most: Djokovic is 2-0 at Flushing Meadows this week and 23-0 in Grand Slam tournaments this year, with five more wins standing between him and history.

This was only the fourth Slam match for Griekspoor, a 25-year-old Dutchman who tends to appear on the lower-level ATP Challenger Tour. And he never really stood much of a chance against Djokovic.



About the only problems No.1 Ash Barty and other top women encountered earlier Thursday came in the delays trying to get to Flushing Meadows in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida's remnants blowing through the Northeast a night earlier.

Barty, a two-time major champion including at Wimbledon in July, three-time Grand Slam champ Angelique Kerber, Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic, double Wimbledon title winner Petra Kvitova and other seeded women including No. 14 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, No. 17 Maria Sakkari, No. 23 Jessica Pegula and No. 28 Anett Kontaveit all won in two sets during the afternoon to reach the third round.

At night, 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu improved her tournament record to 9-0 by defeating Lauren Davis 6-4, 6-4.

Among the men's winners were Summer Games gold medalist and 2020 US Open runner-up Alexander Zverev, 2021 Wimbledon finalist Matteo Berrettini, No. 17 Gael Monfils and No. 22 seed Reilly Opelka of the US.

With the sun out and nary a cloud around, play in second-round matches on the outer courts was pushed back from 11 am. To noon to allow the US Tennis Association time to clean up downed tree branches and other scattered debris and make sure everything was ready for competition on Day 4 of the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Once all was ready to go, it was just a matter of players' transportation navigating traffic delays caused by road closures and vehicles that were abandoned overnight, a trip from Manhattan to Queens that normally might take 30-45 minutes took 1 1/2 hours or longer for some.

Italy share spoils, Spain suffer loss in WC qualifying

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, Sept 3: Italy finally came back down to earth a bit in its first game as European champion. Less than two months after winning the European Championship at Wembley, Italy were held to a 1-1 draw by Bulgaria in World Cup qualifying Thursday.

That ended Italy's perfect start to the qualifying campaign but nevertheless matched Spain's record run of 35 matches unbeaten, set between 2007 and 2009.

Spain lost 1-2 away to Sweden to drop to second in Group B, while England and Belgium earned big wins to consolidate their group leads.

Federico Chiesa gave Italy the lead after a dominant start but the Azzurri conceded their first goal in the qualifiers when Atanas Iliev leveled at the end of the first half.

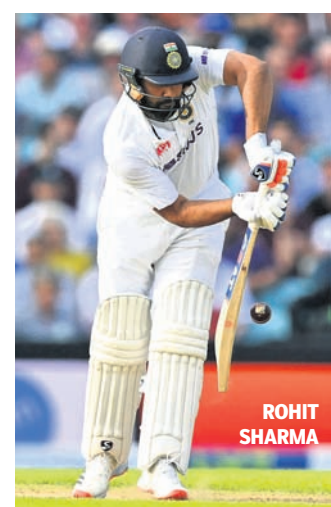
Sweden came from behind to beat Spain and leapfrog the visitors for first place. Carlos Soler scored five minutes into his debut for Spain, but Aleksander Isak leveled seconds later. Viktor Claesson found Sweden's winner in the 57th.

In Group E, Romelu Lukaku scored twice as top-ranked Belgium came from an early goal down to beat Estonia 5-2 and stay atop Group E.

In Group I, England weathered a hostile atmosphere to beat Hungary 4-0 in their first game since losing the Euro 2020 final.

In Group J, Germany beat Liechtenstein 2-0 to move into second in the group, a point behind surprise leader Armenia.

Openers keep India in hunt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 2: Openers KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma managed to keep India in the game adding 43 runs at stumps after the bowlers allowed Ollie Pope (81, 159b, 6x4) and Chris Woakes (50, 60b, 11x4) to earn a substantial 99-run first innings lead for England on day two of the fourth Test here, leaving their star-studded batting line-up to rise to the occasion in the second essay after a string of indifferent performances.

The Indian pace attack did not seem potent enough and was unable to put sustained pressure on the batsmen. From a precarious 62/5, England staged a remarkable recovery to score 290 on a pitch getting better for batting with each session.

But despite losing the initiative, India are still in the match after restricting the English lead to less than 100. The men responsible for giving England the upper hand in



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the game were Pope and Woakes whose attacking innings in the final session could well prove to be the difference in the match.

Rohit and Rahul made a promising start, taking India to 43 for no loss in 16 overs at stumps on day two. They still trail England by 56 runs.

India's third and fourth choice pacers - especially Mohammad Siraj and Shardul Thakur, were not able to maintain pressure put by Umesh Yadav (3/76) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/67) early in the England innings. Ravindra Jadeja (2/36) played his role well, taking two wickets and keeping things tight from his end. England were bowled out after tea with Woakes getting run out.

England led India by 36 runs at the tea break. The first wicket of the session came through Siraj, who trapped Jonny Bairstow (37) after lunch. That also brought an end to an entertaining 89-run stand between Bairstow and Pope. Pope

'Jarvo69' arrested

LONDON: YouTuber Daniel Jarvis, who has gained notoriety for breaching security at will during the ongoing India-England series, was Friday arrested by the South London Police after he entered the Oval arena during the pre-lunch session on the second day of the fourth Test. Jarvis, who goes by the name 'Jarvo69', has been constantly impersonating as India cricketer and Friday was the third time in three games that he took the advantage of the poor security arrangement by the ECB which has not taken transgressions seriously. It is learnt that he has been arrested on suspicions of assault as he barged into English batsman Jonny Bairstow during the day. After trying to set field at Lord's and taking stance at Leeds, Jarvo was seen sprinting just when Umesh Yadav was on top of his bowling mark. He did collide with the non-striker Bairstow.

then got together with Moeen Ali (35) for a 71-run stand before Moeen played a poor shot off Jadeja to throw his wicket away.

In the morning session, Umesh struck twice in the first hour of play as England reached 139/5 at lunch. Umesh got his 150th Test wicket in his first over of the day after nightwatchman Craig Overton slashed one hard only to edge it to Virat Kohli at first slip.

BRIEF SCORES

India 191 and 43 for no loss; England 290 (Ollie Pope 81, Chris Woakes 50; Umesh Yadav 3/76, Ravindra Jadeja 2/36, Jasprit Bumrah 2/67). Match to continue.