



OUTSTANDING PERFORMER

Actor Kristen Stewart's interpretation of Princess Diana in *Spencer* got a warm reception at Venice Film Fest

LEISURE P2



THAI PM WINS TRUST VOTE

Thai PM Prayuth Chan-ocha wins votes of confidence in Parliament, after being criticised for handling of pandemic

INTERNATIONAL P10



ROHIT PROPS INDIA

Rohit Sharma scores a century to help India reach 199/1 at tea on the third day of 4th Test against England

SPORTS P12

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'DFO visited Soumya's house at night'

PARALAKHEMUNDI: The mysterious death of assistant conservator of forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra has taken a new twist Saturday after a former night watchman claimed that he had once seen divisional forest officer (DFO) Sangram Keshari Behera visiting the residence of the former between 12 and 12.30am. This revelation has come at a time when the Crime Branch is yet to resolve the mystery behind the death of the ACF. Fifty days have elapsed since Mohapatra was found dead at his official residence. P5



Supertech to file review petition

NEW DELHI: Realty firm Supertech Ltd Saturday said it would file a review petition against the Supreme Court order to demolish the company's twin 40-storey towers in Noida while asserting that the buildings were constructed as per the bye-laws with approval of the competent authority. Last week, the apex court had ordered demolition of the twin towers, which are part of Supertech's Emerald Court project at Noida in Uttar Pradesh. P11

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Pipli vote Sept 30, results October 3

SCHEDULED FOR 3RD TIME

- There will be no fresh nomination filing for the byelection as all those processes have already been completed
- BJD has fielded Maharathy's son Rudra Pratap Maharathy while BJP has nominated Ashrit Pattanayak and Congress has nominated Bishwokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra for the MLA seat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced date for bypoll to Pipli Assembly constituency in Odisha for the third time, Saturday.

As per a notification of the ECI, the bypoll will be held September 30 and the counting of votes will be conducted October 3.

The bypoll, which was necessitated following the death of sitting BJD MLA Pradeep Maharathy, was initially scheduled for April 17 this year. However, it was countermanded in the aftermath of the death of Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj April 14 due to Covid-19.

Following the death of Mangaraj, the polling date was fixed May 13, which was again rescheduled to May 16 in view of Eid-ul-Fitr; a festival of Muslims. Again the bypoll was deferred in view of the second wave of Covid-19.

There will be no fresh nomination filing for the bypoll as all those processes have already been completed, said sources.

The BJD has fielded Maharathy's son Rudra Pratap Maharathy while the BJP has nominated Ashrit Pattanayak and the Congress has nominated Bishwokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra for the MLA seat.

As per the ECI, the model code of conduct will come into effect from Saturday itself and the campaigning will start from September 20. The silence period is 72 hours before the end of the poll. There will be no roadshow and motor/bike/cycle rallies, it said.

The number of star campaigners will be restricted to 20 for the national and state recognised parties and 10 for unrecognised registered parties in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. Maximum five persons including the candidate can participate in the door-to-door campaigning.

Celebratory gunfire by Taliban kills 17

KABUL: At least 17 people were killed in celebratory gunfire in Kabul, news agencies said Saturday, after Taliban sources said their fighters had seized control of Panjshir, the last province in Afghanistan holding out against the Islamist group. Leaders of opposition to the Taliban have denied that the province has fallen. The gunfire drew a rebuke from the main Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. P10

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	33.2°C	34.0°C
MIN	25.5°C	25.8°C
Humidity	82%	98%
Rainfall	1.0mm	26.2mm

Forecast: Light rain very likely

ODIA LAD BAGS GOLD AT TOKYO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Sept 4: Reigning world champion from Odisha Pramod Bhagat Saturday claimed a historic badminton gold medal in men's singles SL3 class after notching up a thrilling straight game win over Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the summit clash at the Tokyo Paralympics.

With badminton making its debut at the Paralympics this year, Bhagat, the current World No. 1, thus became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the sport.

The top seeded Indian, also an Asian champion, showed great mental fortitude as he prevailed 21-14 21-17 over second seeded Bethell in a thrilling final that lasted 45 minutes at the Yoyogi National Stadium.

Golden moment! Congratulations to Odisha's talent Pramod Bhagat who won the country's first gold medal in Para-Badminton

NAVEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

NARWAL CLINCHES GOLD

Shooter Manish Narwal smashed the Paralympic record to clinch India's third gold in the ongoing Tokyo Games, while compatriot Singhraj Adana bagged the silver to make it a sensational one-two finish for the country Saturday. The 19-year-old Narwal, who holds the world record in the category, shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, to claim the yellow metal in his debut Games. MORE P 12

He eventually emerged as one of the best para shuttlers in the country with 45 international medals under his belt, including four world championship gold medals and a gold and a bronze in 2018 Asian Para Games.

Bhagat and his partner Palak Kohli will square off against Japanese pair of Daisuke Fujihara and Akiko Sugino in the bronze medal play off Sunday.

They had lost the semifinals 3-21 15-21 to Indonesian combination of Hary Susanto and Leani Ratri Oktia earlier in the day.

Bhagat, who had contracted polio when he was four years old, picked up the



In what has brought immense pride to Odisha, Bhubaneswar-based shuttler Pramod Bhagat bags gold medal by defeating Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the summit clash at Tokyo Paralympics

THIS IS A VERY PROUD MOMENT FOR ME. I'M REPRESENTING THE INDIAN BADMINTON COMMUNITY AND INDIA AS A WHOLE

PRAMOD BHAGAT

CWC to share 9 Mahanadi docus

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Central Water Commission (CWC) has agreed to share as many as nine documents related to Mahanadi river basin, which have been sought by the riparian states for adjudication of Mahanadi river water disputes.

Following the meeting of the technical teams of Odisha and Chhattisgarh and the officials of CWC, the central agency Saturday agreed in the tribunal to share nine documents with the riparian states. However, the counsels of Odisha and Chhattisgarh submitted in the tribunal that they need more documents and studies conducted on Mahanadi river basin

Biden orders declassification of 9/11 probe reports

The push for more information is being driven by victims' families suing Saudi Arabia for alleged complicity in the horrific attacks

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 4: US President Joseph Robinette Biden has ordered declassification of still-secret documents from the government investigation into the 9/11 terrorist attacks during the next six months.

Biden is responding to pressure from families of some of the approximately 3,000 people killed by Al-Qaeda September 11, 2001.

They have long argued that the classified documents might contain evidence that the government of Saudi Arabia, a close US ally, had links to the hijackers who flew into the World Trade Centre (WTC) and Pentagon.

"Today, I signed an executive order directing the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to oversee a declassification review of documents related to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's September 11th investigations,"



- DOSSIER**
- Action Plan for reservoirs in Chhattisgarh monitored by CWC in Mahanadi basin
 - Danger levels and warning levels of flood/inflow forecasting sites in the upstream of Hirakud Dam
 - Design flood study of Minimata Bango
 - Pre and post monsoon river cross section at Gauge and Gauge & Discharge measurement sites maintained by CWC from inception till date in Mahanadi Basin
 - G-D curve of gauge sites of CWC
 - Meteorology Year Book of Mahanadi basin published by CWC

from various other central agencies and from CWC.

The technical teams of both states will hold meetings with the officers of Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Environment,

Forests & Climate Change, Central Ground Water Authority, Geological Survey of India, Nabard, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, National Remote Sensing Centre and Survey of India.



Biden said in a statement. Declassification must take place

Boost to research as CET gets unitary varsity tag

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Odisha Assembly Saturday passed three Bills including the one to accord unitary university status to government-run College of Engineering and Technology (CET) here.

The House passed the Odisha University of Technology and Research Bill, 2021 without any opposition. The CET, Bhubaneswar, will now be upgraded to a unitary university, said Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Premananda Nayak.

The technical institute would be renamed as Odisha University of Technology and Research. The

main objective of the university is to facilitate undergraduate and postgraduate education, and research in the field of engineering, science and technology, architecture and management, he said.

The Assembly also passed Odisha Town Planning and Improvement Trust (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Act was amended to achieve goals set under the 5T charter and guidelines of Business Reform Action Plan devised by the Centre.

The Odisha Appropriation Acts (Repeat) Bill, 2021 was also passed in the House. The Odisha Appropriation Acts passed between 1950 and 2011 are included in this Bill.

B TECH GRAD NABBED WITH 1KG CONTRABAND

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch Saturday claimed to have arrested a B Tech graduate after recovering around 1 kg brown sugar worth about ₹1 crore from his possession in Khurda town.

Based on an intelligence input, STF, Bhubaneswar conducted a raid near Kumarbasta fuel station in Khurda town against illegal trade of narcotics. The task force apprehended Manoranjan Das (a B Tech graduate) of Gurujanga area.

"During search, brown sugar weighing 1.034 kg and other incriminating materials were recovered and seized from Das's possession. The man could not produce any valid document to support the possession of the contraband, for which he was arrested," a senior STF official said.

Das was then produced before the Khurda Additional District and Sessions Judge Court and was remanded to judicial custody. Police are interrogating him to find out about his associates and buyers. In this connection, STF has also registered a case (31/21) under NDPS Act, 1985.

Since 2020, the STF, in its special drive against narcotic drugs, has seized more than 39 kg brown sugar/heroin and more than 86 quintals of ganja/marijuana and arrested more than 100 drug dealers/peddlers, the official said.

leisure



ELVIS PRESLEY'S WHITE JUMPSUIT UP FOR AUCTION

Late music legend Elvis Presley's iconic white jumpsuit and cape are up for auction reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. The *Jailhouse Rock* hitmaker donned the white eyelet jumpsuit and cape, which were designed by Bill Belew, for a string of shows at New York's Madison Square Garden in 1972.

WHEN ANGELINA FEARED FOR HER FAMILY'S SAFETY

Actress-filmmaker Angelina Jolie has claimed that she feared for the safety of her 'whole family' during her marriage to Hollywood star Brad Pitt. Jolie previously claimed that her former husband was verbally and physically abusive towards their six children - Maddox, 20, Pax, 17, Zahara, 16, Shiloh, 15, and 13-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Like a true man of words, today you will talk your way into whatever it is that you want! If you've been wooing someone, a tête-à-tête will work wonders for you. But make sure you don't shirk responsibilities and complete your pending projects before your boss comes asking for them.

TAURUS

There is every possibility that you will keep people around you in good humour, predicts Ganesh. A craving for food might overcome you today. Such a feeling might be because of subdued hunger. Kick back and enjoy as fun will top your priority list, feels Ganesh.

GEMINI

You are likely to work extra hard to assert your authority at the workplace. On the work front, your seniors and colleagues will appreciate your devotion and dedication to work. Monetary gains may be expected in the evening, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Your intellectual prowess in the of-office will bring you happy tidings. You may give a new look to work culture in office. Ganesh advises you to think twice before embarking on new deals in the afternoon. Remember it is always good to be cautious in every aspect.

LEO

Ganesh foresees a mixed day for you. Your peculiar problems may persist until later in the day, so your desire to see them sorted out is going to have to wait a little. However, chances are you may rake in money from various sources in the afternoon. Good thing is that you are likely to retain your independence at the workplace. After those long hours of ordeal, you can look forward to a wonderful time with your sweetheart in the evening, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Today you will be much more generous than most people realise that you can be, says Ganesh. Later on you will reap the benefits of the work you had carried out in partnership with some friends. The evening holds a promise of a mixture of work and pleasure. You will attend, possibly even host, a meeting with friends and colleagues.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that today you will pay more attention to your family and family matters, keeping aside all other things. You will want to change the décor of your home and for that you may buy antique artifacts or new furniture to decorate in your home. You may go to visit a religious place or temple today. You may also try to arrange for a short trip to a nearby place.

SCORPIO

Today, your confidence speaks a lot and makes you a self-reliant person. Whether it's home or work, you are capable enough to manage chores at both the places. You play an important role in maintaining harmony at both the places, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Interaction and exchange of ideas with like-minded people will rejuvenate you today, says Ganesh. You may express yourself better in front of them. Planning and execution of ideas at work may not be in sync today. Be practical and move on, look forward to a better tomorrow.

CAPRICORN

For your family comes first. Your family members are the pillars of your success, feels Ganesh. You'll kick start the day in high spirit and maintain it through out the day. Somebody may have more money than you have. But, prosperity is also measured in the number of hearts one conquers. And, today, you will be a rich man as you will win many of those, foretells Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

You will plan your day well. Good, says Ganesh, as it does away with the clutter in your schedule. That way, you will also get more time to do stuff you never came around doing it. So, bring out your old Cliff Richard records, and wipe clean your dusty LP player. You may finally get to revive old times!

PISCES

Dealings with foreign companies and organizations will translate into financial gains for you today. Today is a good day when it comes to realizing your financial goals. You will also be able to help others improve upon their footing in life. This will elevate your social status. Today is a day for receiving good-will and increasing the number of your well-wishers, says Ganesh.

Kristen Stewart wows Venice as Princess Diana

'Spencer' portrays Diana as a misfit, increasingly isolated and estranged from the rest of the royal family with the exception of William and Harry



Kristen Stewart as Princess Diana in *Spencer*

VENICE: American actress Kristen Stewart's interpretation of Princess Diana in *Spencer* got a warm reception at the Venice Film Festival, where it premiered Friday, with some critics already tipping her as an Oscar favourite.

Chilean director Pablo Larraín follows a transformative Stewart as the troubled princess reluctantly joining the royals for a three-day Christmas gathering at Sandringham House as her marriage to Prince Charles breaks down.

The film portrays Diana as a misfit, increasingly isolated and estranged from the rest of the royal family - with the exception of William and Harry - and longing to break free from rules and traditions she sees as hypocritical and suffocating.

In the film, Diana is constantly late for dinner, often leaves the table abruptly to vomit because of her eating disorder, and grows frustrated and erratic as maids and the palace equerry keep telling her what to do. In one scene she says she feels like an insect being dissected under the microscope, both referring to the paparazzi outside and her minders inside the palace.

Speaking after a press screening

about Diana's enduring legacy 24 years after her death, Stewart said: "I think it's just something she was born with. There are some people endowed with an undeniable penetrating energy. The really sad thing about her is that as normal and casual and disarming in her air (as she was), immediately she also felt so isolated and lonely."

Stewart drew critical acclaim for her intense performance, including a posh British accent, with the *Daily Mail* calling her 'spectacular.'

"Kristen Stewart is Oscar-deserving great - and Meghan Markle's going to love it," *Daily Telegraph* critic Robbie Collin tweeted.

The actress said that despite the sadness permeating the film she had very much enjoyed embodying Diana, her manners and demeanor, adding however that "the curtsy went out of the window as soon as I stepped off set."

Larraín, whose previous movies include *Jackie*, a biopic about Jackie Kennedy, said he had wanted to tell the story of Diana because it was an upside-down fairytale.

"This is the story of a princess who decided to move away from the idea of becoming a queen," said Larraín.



Focus on mental health is crucial for an actor: Rashmi

MUMBAI: Ever since the pandemic started, the entertainment industry has taken a big hit. Actress Rashmi Agdekar, known for her role in series *Dev DD*, feels that actors should focus on being healthy not just physically but mentally as well.

The actress feels that since artists have to immerse themselves in multiple characters, it is important for them to be in a strong, healthy mind space.

"Since I have to get into the psychology of a character while portraying a role, my personal mental health needs to be centered. It becomes relatively easier to oscillate to extreme emotions when an actor is mentally fit in my opinion. So yes it is crucial" she said.

Rashmi started her acting career with *Dev DD* and played the lead role in *I'm Mature* for the Me web series on MX player which was critically acclaimed. She was seen in the web series *Rasbhari* alongside Swara Bhaskar on Amazon Prime. She also made her debut in Hindi film industry with the film *Andhadhun* alongside Ayushmann Khurrana.

Kangana's Jayalalithaa biopic faces roadblock

Three multiplex chains have reportedly decided to not accommodate 'Thalaivii' which is set to release in theatres September 10



MUMBAI: Actress Kangana Ranaut is heartbroken that her forthcoming film *Thalaivii* is facing a roadblock as three national multiplex chains have reportedly decided to not accommodate the film, which is set to release in theatres on September 10.

Kangana took to her Instagram Story where she shared a news article, which talked about national multiplex chains in no mood to screen *Thalaivii*.

She captioned it, "This is heartbreaking." The actress then shared a note

for the multiplex owners. She wrote, "No films are choosing theatres, very few and very brave like my producers @vishnuinduri @shaalishsingh are compromising on huge profits and letting go off exclusive streaming options only for the love of cinema."

Thalaivii, based on the life of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and former actress J Jayalalithaa, is set to release in cinemas

September 10. It will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

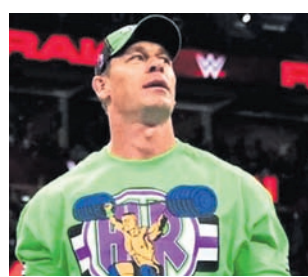
Based on the life of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and former actress J Jayalalithaa, *Thalaivii* showcases the varied aspects of her life, tracing her journey as an actress at a young age to becoming the face of Tamil cinema as well as the rise of the revolutionary leader that changed the course of Tamil Nadu politics.

John Cena's photo tribute to Sidharth Shukla goes viral

Los Angeles: Hollywood star and WWE champion John Cena paid tribute to late television star Sidharth Shukla Saturday after the 40-year-old passed away suddenly September 2.

Cena posted a black and white picture of Sidharth on his Instagram. The image garnered 357,396 likes in two hours and has gone viral on the photo-sharing website.

The post was also liked by



Sidharth's *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania* co-star Varun Dhawan

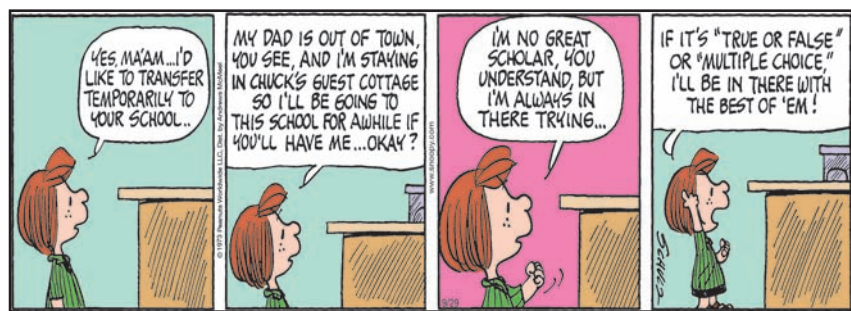


and actor Arjun Kapoor. The Hollywood star did not

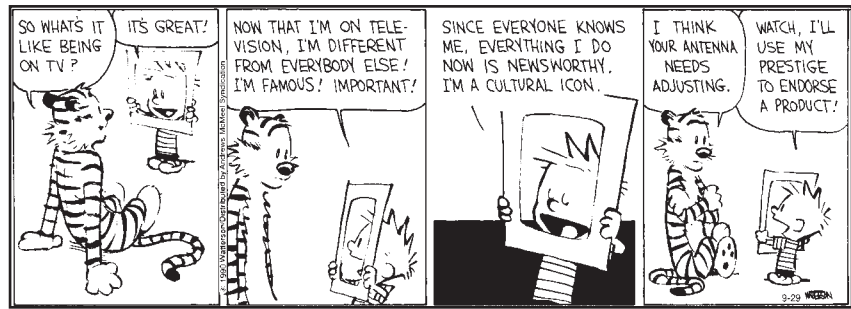
write anything alongside the image. Sidharth, a popular face on the Indian small-screen, passed away in Mumbai after suffering a massive cardiac arrest. His last rites took place Friday in the Oshiwara crematorium.

This is not the first time Cena has put up a picture of an Indian actor. Last year, he paid tributes to late stars Rishi Kapoor, Irrfan Khan and Sushant Singh Rajput on Instagram.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

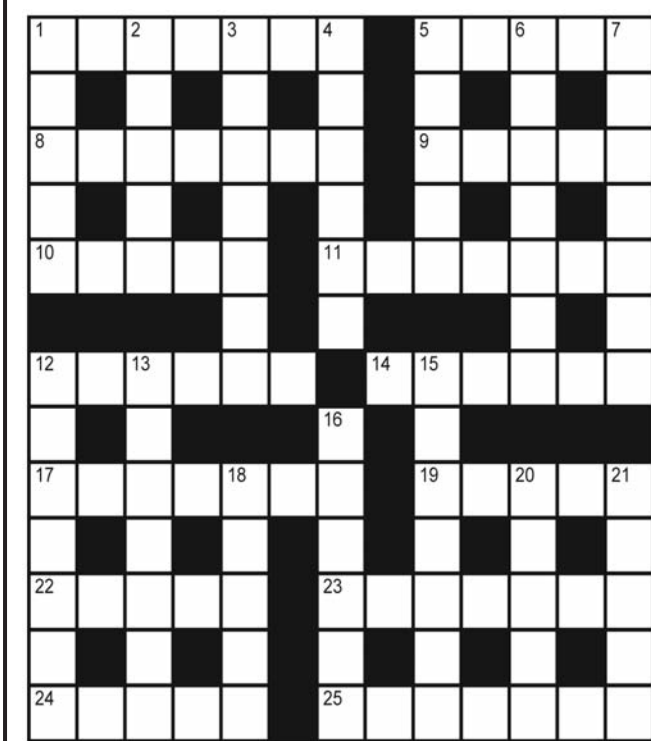


BREVITY



FUN post

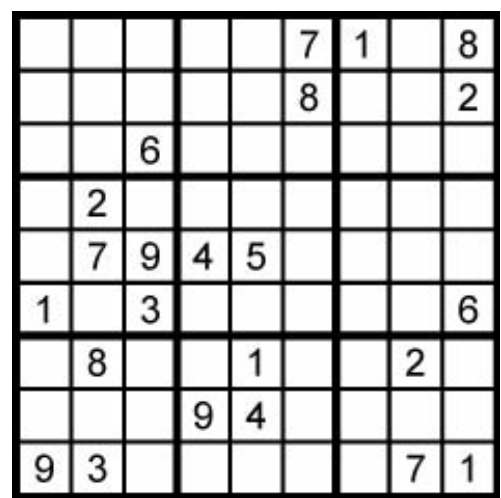
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Blow up
 - 5 Tartan
 - 8 Ritzy
 - 9 Kind of change
 - 10 Maze word
 - 11 Antennas
 - 12 Chafe
 - 14 Pink, for one
 - 17 Drifter
 - 19 Dabbling ducks
 - 22 Libertines
 - 23 Control group drug
 - 24 Come to pass
 - 25 Sterile
 - 5 Frigid
 - 6 Popular salad ingredient
 - 7 Bureau
 - 12 Unfavorable
 - 13 Hardships
 - 15 Indignation
 - 16 Bliss
 - 18 Grocery section
 - 20 Highly skilled
 - 21 Impassive

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

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

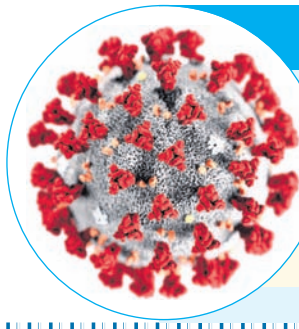


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



EVICION IN CITY

Civic authorities demolishing a slum in Satyanagar area of Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,08,88,083	19,74,15,640	45,71,309
India	3,29,45,907	3,21,00,001	4,40,225
Odisha	10,10,753	9,96,300	8,040

Session's first Question Hour held

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Members of all parties actively participated in the Question Hour in Odisha Assembly Saturday, the fourth day of the Monsoon Session.

The first three days of the session were washed away because of the ruckus created by the Opposition BJP and Congress members who demanded the resignation of Law minister Pratap Jena for his alleged involvement in a double murder case at Mahanga in Cuttack district, and declaration of the whole state as drought-hit due to scanty rainfall in the peak monsoon season.

However, the legislators Saturday participated in the proceeding following an all-party meeting convened by Speaker SN Patro Friday. The issues raised by the Opposition members will be taken up at appropriate time, one of the members attending the all party meeting said.

During the Question Hour, the House was informed that the state government was planning to set up 24 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Working Women's Hostel in five districts.

Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Premananda Nayak while replying to a question said that there are 49 government and 448 private ITIs across the state. As the government is focusing on the skill development of youths, plans are made to set up new ITIs in order to impart training for making them employable, Nayak said.

Congress MLA Suresh Routray said that the local industries are not employing the Odisha-trained manpower and hiring technical persons from states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. He urged the government to make it mandatory for industries to employ trained



The first three days of the session were washed away because of the ruckus created by the Opposition MLAs who demanded the resignation of Law minister Pratap Jena for his alleged involvement in a double murder case and declaration of the whole state as drought-hit

The legislators Saturday participated in the proceeding following an all-party meeting convened by Speaker SN Patro, Friday

BJP legislators stormed into the well of the House alleging allocation of inadequate time by the Speaker to speak on the irregularities in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

local youths.

Replying to another question, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda informed that Science Centres will be established in all 30 districts of Odisha. "Teachers dealing with the subject will be sent to Bangalore for training. The department has decided to send a group of science teachers to Bangalore September 24 for the training in first phase," he said.

In another reply, Women and Child Development and Mission

Women staff highest in industries of Khurda: Sahu

State Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu Saturday informed the Assembly about the number of women employees working in industries across the state.

According to the written statement of the minister tabled before the House, there are a total of 20,383 women employees working in industries in all 30 districts of the state currently.

The data given by the minister claimed that the highest of 5,479 women employees are working in industries in Khurda district, followed by Sundargarh with a total of 3,084 women employees.

Jharsuguda stood third with 1,731 working women.

The least number of women were reported from Subarnapur with only 18 women currently working in different industries in the district, followed by Bolangir

ment of rural housing scheme by the BJD government in the state.

Congress legislator Narasingha Mishra too raised issues related to the alleged irregularities in the scheme. Mishra also alleged that the Swachh Bharat Mission has failed in Odisha and sought an enquiry into the implementation of the mission.

However, the BJP legislators

(54) and Bhadrak (70).

In her oral reply during the Question Hour, the minister claimed that her department had been focusing on creating hostels for women with monthly income below 35,000.

The minister also said that Sundargarh (Rourkela), Jharsuguda, Jajpur and Khordha (Ganganagar) have completed the construction of 100-bed working women's shelters and steps are being taken operationalise those. "Two new 100-bed women's hostel is under construction in Dhenkanal and Sambalpur. Land acquisition is underway for the construction of such hostels in Berhampur and Rayagada," he said.

She also said that proposals have been sent to Collectors to build more such centres for working women with the DMF, OMBADC and CSR funds in mining areas.

She also said that in 11 industrial areas like Kalinganagar, Deras, Jharsuguda, Baleswar, Bolangir, and Rourkela among others, 300 new beds were setup in hostels for working women.



IN THE HOUSE

Repayments delayed but not denied: Sahara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Sahara India Pariwar has claimed it is facing troubles in repaying money to its investors due to holding up of funds by the SEBI and the restrictions imposed by the government in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a press statement, the Group claimed that it had been facing difficulties for last eight years due to imposition of embargoes by the Supreme Court (SC) in connection with a dispute with the SEBI.

Acting upon the SC order, the group has deposited around ₹25,000 crore with the SEBI by selling or mortgaging its moveable and immovable assets.

The SEBI has so far repaid only ₹129 crore to the investors of Sahara. The stock market watchdog had made it clear that it would not entertain any further claims received after July, 2018. However, the watchdog has held up funds deposited by the Sahara Group, said the press statement.

The Sahara Group has approached the SC urging it to instruct the SEBI to return the amounts to investors. However, the petitions could not be heard in the apex court due to Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Sahara Group, in association with some foreign companies, has been working on new business arrangements. The Group is expecting handsome amounts from its foreign arrangements. But, restrictions on international flights are preventing the group from finalising its business deals with foreign companies. Covid restrictions have affected the repayment schedule of Sahara," said the press



SAHARA GROUP HOPES THE SITUATION WILL IMPROVE IN NEXT 4-5 MONTHS AND IT WILL BE ABLE TO REGULARISE THE REPAYMENT SCHEDULE

THE GROUP CLAIMED A FEW OF ITS FORMER WORKERS ARE MISGUIDING INVESTORS AND PROVOKING THEM TO LODGE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE SAHARA INDIA PARIWAR

IT HAD BEEN FACING DIFFICULTIES FOR LAST EIGHT YEARS DUE TO IMPOSITION OF EMBARGOES BY THE SUPREME COURT IN CONNECTION WITH A DISPUTE WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

statement.

The group expects that the situation will improve in next 4-5 months and it will be able to regularise the repayment schedule. "The repayments are delayed but not denied. A few of our former workers are misguiding the investors and provoking them to lodge complaints against the Sahara India Pariwar," the group said.

ON AN INSPECTION



Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra along with Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena and Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department Secretary Shubha Sharma inspecting the renovation work at Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

CRUT buses auctioned at throwaway prices: BJP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: A day after the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) here disposed of 121 defunct buses, the Odisha unit of BJP Saturday held a demonstration alleging corruption in auctioning of the buses.

Hundreds of BJP workers took out a protest rally at Mahatma Gandhi Marg here. Accusing the state government of selling away the buses at throwaway prices, BJP leader Babu Singh said the move is betrayal of the people's interests.

"Is it possible for vehicles to become unworthy of road in just seven years? A vehicle can run for at least 15 years without any fitness issues and around 60 per cent buses in the state are plying even after 15 years. These buses have been sold away in the same manner in which the civic authorities disposed of the bicycles of the Mo Cycle fleet," Singh alleged.



The Capital Region Urban Transport Friday disposed of 121 defunct buses

It can be mentioned here that the Bhubaneswar-Puri Transport Services (BPTS), now known as CRUT, was initially launched in 2010 under the public-private partnership mode. Around 185 buses were procured by the state government in between 2010 and 2014. An RTI reply revealed that the procurement was done at an expenditure of around ₹185 crore. However, until the inception of CRUT in 2018, the BPTS was able to generate only ₹8.5 crore in seven years.

The BPTS had bought 125 buses in 2010 under the JNNURM pro-

gramme to facilitate city bus service in Bhubaneswar and Puri. An agreement was signed with the private operator Dream Team Sahara (DTS) to operate them for seven years-till 2017. Later, the agreement was extended for another year, till 2018.

"Some officials are involved in the irregularities in the auctioning of the buses. We dare the government to reveal the prices at which the city buses were purchased and later disposed of. The BJD government has deceived the people by selling off the buses at throwaway prices," said a BJP worker.

In 7 yrs, Madhyam registered 1,977 women-related cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: In the last seven years, Madhyam, a family counseling centre in the premises of DCP office at Vani Vihar square, has received as many as 1,977 cases related to various issues like domestic violence, eve teasing and sexual harassment against women at workplace. The counseling centre has witnessed around 200 per cent increase in cases related to incidents of violence against women in the City between 2014 and 2020.

As many as 127 cases were registered in 2014 which rose to 266 in 2020. Madhyam has received 71 cases till March 2021.

Meanwhile, counselors at the center managed to address the problems of around 40 per cent of the women victims who came to the center seeking help. Reconciliation



As many as 1,263 women sought the centre's intervention alleging domestic violence by husbands and their in-laws between 2014 and March 2021

was achieved in as many as 790 cases out of the total 1,977 registered cases. Many women sought help of the centre in cases related to molestation, eve teasing, sexual harassment at workplace, cyber crime, adultery and stalking.

Most of the cases filed before the counseling centre were related to domestic violence. As many as 1,263 women sought the centre's intervention alleging domestic violence

by husbands and their in-laws between 2014 and March 2021. Domestic violence cases registered at the center increased more than three times between 2014 and 2020. The counseling center received 56 such cases in 2014 which rose to 190 in 2020.

On the other hand, officials of different police stations in the city referred 859 cases to Madhyam for reconciliation in the aforesaid period.

GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA AWARD FESTIVAL

5th to 9th September 2021

<p>5th SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Odissi Sharmila Mukerjee</p> <p>Violin Sangeeta Shankar</p>	<p>6th SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Bharatanatyam Anita Mallick</p> <p>Odissi Vocal Rupak Kumar Parida</p>	<p>7th SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Sattriya Anwesa Mahanta</p> <p>Hindustani Vocal Manjusha Patil</p>	<p>8th SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Kathak Nikkita Banawalikar</p> <p>Flute Abhiram Nanda</p>
<p>9th SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Presentation of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2021 & GKCM Yuva Prativa Samman 2021</p> <p>Odissi (Group presentation) Srjan Ensemble</p>			

*Programme subject to change

on the digital Platforms

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5-star hotel in City among 10 projects gets state nod



Jetty at Udayabata in Jagatsinghpur with an investment of ₹150 crore.

The proposal to set up a 360 KLPD Ethanol, 120 KLPD Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA), 10 MW Cogeneration Plant along with a bottling unit for ENA by Mash Bio fuels Private Limited at an investment of ₹258.05 crore at Panimura, Tarabha in Sonepur also received the clearance.

The SLSWCA has also cleared the project of Vibrant Spirits Private Limited to set up 100 KLPD Ethanol along with 5 MW Cogeneration Plant in Bargarh at an investment of ₹100 crore.

The other projects cleared in the meeting are a Coal Tar Distillation Plant with a 1,00,000 TPA capacity at Kalinganagar in Jajpur at an investment of ₹210 crore by VCI Chemical Industries Private Limited.

A cement plant project by Ramco Cements Limited to expand its existing plant with the addition of a cement grinding capacity of 0.9 MTPA at Haridaspur in Jajpur with an investment of ₹190 crore also cleared.

Three luxury hotels including a 5-star Hotel by Luxurio Assets Private Limited against an investment of ₹181.60 crore at Bhubaneswar, a hotel-cum-luxury resort by Lalchand Resort Pvt Ltd at an investment of ₹119.67 crore in Khurda, and a 4-star hotel by Sailabala Infrastructure Pvt Ltd at an investment of ₹107.50 crore at Chandaka Industrial Estate in Khurda were also approved.

Notably, the state government has decided to extend financial incentives for the Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing industries, buyers, along with various tax waivers for the next five years.

The projects were from diverse sectors like steel, food processing, cement, chemical renewable energy and tourism

The committee approved the proposal of My Home Industries Private Limited to set up a 3 MTPA Cement Grinding unit at Badchana in Jajpur with an investment of ₹650 crore

The state government has decided to extend financial incentives for the Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing industries, buyers, along with various tax waivers for the next five years

0.112 MTPA MS/GI Pipe and 23 MW CPP against an investment of ₹205 crore at Sripura in Jharsuguda. The SLSWCA also approved the ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited proposal to set up a Riverine

CRYING OSSC IRREGULARITIES



NSUI workers hold a signature campaign near Maharishi College of Natural Law in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, alleging irregularities in OSSC

OP PHOTO

4 varsities sign MoU with PHDMA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by four universities in the state and the state Poverty and Human Development Monitoring Agency (PHDMA), with an aim to monitor and evaluate the output of the multifarious schemes taken up by the state government, with the help of scholars and faculties of the universities.

The universities signing the MoU are Central University of Odisha (CUO), Utkal University, Sambalpur University and North Orissa University, SK Palita, Vice-Chancellor in charge of CUO and Roopa Roshan

Sectors like agriculture and allied activities, skill training, livelihood, water harvesting, irrigation and penetration of health facilities are to be taken up for evidence-based analysis

Sahoo, Additional Secretary to CM and Member Secretary of PHDMA, signed the MoU. The agency PHDMA was cre-

ated as an autonomous organisation under the administrative control of Planning & Convergence Department, Government of Odisha. It was constituted under Fiscal and Administrative Reform Programme with a goal to monitor and strengthen human development and poverty indicators in Odisha.

In this programme, PHDMA has introduced 'Odisha Development Fellowship (ODEV Fellowship)' and provides a platform for the students and academics to substantially contribute in impact analysis and documentation of poverty reduction measures, innovative initiatives in securing

livelihood, and overall economic empowerment of people.

The fellows will be partners in scripting the transformation story of Odisha. Sectors like agriculture and allied activities, skill training, livelihood, water harvesting, irrigation and penetration of health facilities are to be taken up for evidence based analysis.

The faculty members and research scholars of the CUO will benefit from the ODEV Fellowship and submit study reports on the said areas. The reports would evaluate the output of the multifarious schemes taken up by the state government. This will contribute largely towards the development of the state.

Corteva protected 2 lakh acre farmland from plant hoppers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Corteva Agriscience, a global agriculture company, uses science-based solutions to proactively manage brown plant hoppers (BPH) menace in paddy farming. To help farmers mitigate the risk from BPH, the company has been directing efforts to study the trajectory of the pest over many years and across thousands of acres of land.

Rice in India is cultivated on 110 million acres of land, of which, two crore acres are infested heavily with hoppers. Due to lack of a proactive attitude towards hopper management, about three to four quintals of rice per acre is sabotaged each year. The extent of damage can range from 10 per cent in moderately infested fields to more than 70 per cent in highly infested fields.

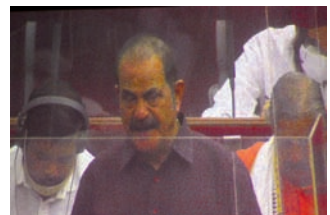
With its preventive approach, Corteva has protected over 2 lakh acres of agricultural land from BPH in Odisha in the last three years.

Bahinipati falls ill trying to climb Speaker's podium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Senior Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati Saturday suddenly fell ill while attempting to climb the Speaker's podium in Odisha assembly during a protest over a farmer's alleged suicide in Bolangir.

Another legislator, who is a doctor by profession, checked his condition and said that he is out of danger. Bahinipati, who recently recovered from Covid-19, was sent home where doctors visited him. The incident took place in the afternoon session when the House was passing the Odisha University of Technology and Research Bill, 2021. When the House started the process, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Leader Narasingha Mishra demanded a ruling from Speaker S N Patro to constitute a House Committee to probe into the alleged



suicide of farmer Rochak Banchhor of Koda village of Bolangir district.

However, the Speaker went ahead with the proceedings. Irate over the Speaker's "inaction and no response" to the CLP leader's demand, party MLAs, led by Bahinipati, rushed to well of the House and staged protests. After finding that the Speaker continued his work, Bahinipati with help of a chair attempted to climb the podium. However, he fell down and started suffering from breathing problem. Speaker Patro asked the Parliamentary Affairs Minister B

K Arukha to take care of Bahinipati. He also said that a doctor be called immediately to check the health condition of the ill MLA. Other Congress MLAs along with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister carried Bahinipati to the lobby.

Before the arrival of the doctor, another Congress MLA C S Razeen Ekka, who is also a doctor by profession, checked Bahinipati's condition and said that he is out of danger, but needs treatment by a cardiologist. The Arukha then accompanied Bahinipati to his official residence.

Two days ago, the Speaker had cautioned the MLA against climbing the podium to stage protest as the legislator has recently recovered from Covid-19.

Meanwhile, Annoyed over the Speaker's silence on the farmer's suicide case, Congress MLAs walked out of the House.

Odisha reports 681 fresh Covid cases, 5 fatalities



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Coronavirus infection among children continued to rise in state even as the total number of new cases dropped to 681 Saturday, a Health department official said. The state had reported 849 new cases Friday, he said.

Among the new patients diagnosed with Covid-19 in the last 24 hours, there were 118 children constituting 17.32 per cent of the total fresh cases detected. It was 14.13 per cent on the previous day, the official informed.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of new cases at 222. Four districts - Bolangir, Gajapati, Kandhamal and Nuapada - did not report any new case. Five more people died in the state, taking the toll to 8,040. Odisha has so far reported 10.1 lakh Covid-19 cases. There are 7,186 active cases in the state at present, while 9.95 lakh patients have recovered, including 835 Friday. The new cases were detected after testing 67,229 samples.

2 held for 'defamatory' posts against Dutee

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested two persons, including the editor-in-chief of a web channel, on charges of publishing obscene and indecent posts against ace sprinter Dutee Chand during the recently concluded Olympics game in Tokyo.

Speaking to media, DCP Umashankar Dash said that the editor of the web channel Sudhnashu Sekhar Rout and one of its reporters from Jajpur district Smruti Ranjan Behera were arrested by the Mahila police in the case.

The Commissionerate Police, meanwhile, took the accused on a day's remand for further probe.

Earlier, police picked up Rout from his office at Jharpada and detained him at the Mahila police station for interrogation. Meanwhile, the special police team, comprising four senior officials, has arrested Behera.

LPG PRICE HIKE FLAYED



CPI workers take out a rally in Rajmahal area of Bhubaneswar, Saturday, condemning the skyrocketing LPG prices

OP PHOTO

Sex racket busted on City outskirts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Commissionerate Police busted a sex racket being run in an Oyo hotel on the outskirts of the City under Bharatpur police limits Saturday evening.

Bharatpur police rescued seven victims who hail from different places in West Bengal

Police rescued seven victims who hail from different places in West Bengal. Two customers were arrested by the police. The accused were identified as Santosh Pradhan, 29, of Hinjilicut in Ganjam and Pramod Kumar Prusty of Baseli Sahi in Puri. The duo will be produced before court Sunday. Police have been investigating into the matter by registering a case (314/21) in this regard.

Branch head of NBFC among 3 nabbed in snatching case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested the branch head of a Non-Banking Financial Company engaged in offering gold loans on the charges of receiving booty from chain snatchers held recently as mortgage for gold loan. The accused person, identified as Ashish Kumar Gaya, heads a local branch of the Kerala-based NBFC at Chandrasekharpur area.

Police claimed that Gaya knew that the gold ornaments deposited by the accused persons had been looted from innocent people. Police succeeded in unearthing the misdeeds of Gaya after the snatchers revealed his name before the investigating officials.

Earlier, Kharavela Nagar police had arrested the looters Bibhuti Pradhan and Subhrajit



Debita on the basis of a complaint lodged by one Y Krishnabeni Achari August 25, 2021. The complainant, along with her daughter, was going towards PMG square when the accused persons came by a motor cycle and snatched away her vanity bag containing gold chain, earring, other gold ornaments and ₹3,000.

Later, the looters in collusion with Gaya encashed the gold ornaments by depositing the same as mortgage.

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PROPIITIATING THE RAIN GOD



Villagers participating in rituals for Indra puja to propitiate the rain god at Karanjakata village under Harbhanga block in Boudh district, Saturday

DEFUNCT LI POINTS TO BE FUNCTIONAL ON WAR FOOTING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 4: While most parts of the state are headed for drought, the state government has taken steps to operationalise the defunct lift irrigation (LI) points in Kandhamal district. The Collector and concerned officials have been directed to take steps in this regard.

According to reports, pani panchayats have been handed out responsibilities to look after the lift irrigation points. Due to alleged faulty management, farmers are unable to get benefits of lift irrigation points.

There are 588 lift irrigation points in the district. Given the drought situation, the government has set a target to make 482 of them functional on a war footing.

If these LI points are made functional, only 9820 hectares will be irrigated. However, many LI points have failed to deliver in Khajuripada, Chakapada, G Udaygiri and Raikia blocks due to lack of water in rivers.

According to reports, 11 out of 55 LI points in Phulbani block are defunct; 11 out of 97 in Phiringia; 16 out of 41 in Khajuripada, 10 out of 47 in Tikabali, five out of 33 in Chakapada, one out of 25 in Daringbadi; 11 out of 13 in G Udaygiri; five out of 31 in Raikia and eight out of 46 in K. Nuagaon.

A total of 93 LI points have been in disuse in the district. Farmers in



Phulbani, Phiringia, Baliguda, and Tumudibandh mainly make use of LI points to raise paddy, maize and vegetables.

Most LI points have been set up along Salki river in Phulbani, Khadgi river in Tumudibandh and Melaruni creek in K. Nuagaon.

For want of rainfall, water flow in these rivers has drastically come down. As a result, LI points are unable to draw water from rivers. In some cases, motors and other machineries have been stolen.

Pani panchayats have to look after payment of electricity dues and repair of LI points. For various factors, pani panchayats are unable to discharge their responsibilities.

■ If 482 LI points are made functional, only 9820 hectares will be irrigated. However, many LI points have failed to deliver in Khajuripada, Chakapada, G Udaygiri and Raikia blocks for want of water in rivers

■ According to reports, 11 out of 55 LI points in Phulbani block are defunct; 11 out of 97 in Phiringia; 16 out of 41 in Khajuripada, 10 out of 47 in Tikabali, five out of 33 in Chakapada, 1 out of 25 in Daringbadi; 11 out of 13 in G Udaygiri; 5 out of 31 in Raikia and 8 out of 46 in Ka Nuagaon

■ A total of 93 LI points have been lying defunct in the district. Farmers in Phulbani, Phiringia, Baliguda, and Tumudibandh mainly make use of LI points to raise paddy, maize and vegetables

■ Most LI points have been set up along Salki river in Phulbani, Khadgi river in Tumudibandh and Melaruni creek in K Nuagaon

As per government guidelines, officials of the agriculture department and horticulture department are supposed to make field visits and facilitate the smooth management of the LI points.

Executive engineer of the LI department, Rudra Prasad Mishra said the energy department has been asked to supply electricity to LI points even though electricity dues are pending for clearance.

TWO KILLED IN ANGUL DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher/Angul, Sept 4: Two persons were killed in separate incidents in Angul district. A man was allegedly killed by miscreants and his body was dumped near a church at FCI Township under Bikrampur police limits of Angul Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Jitendra Sathua, a native of Nayagarh district. He was residing at Baghamara in Angul and working as a contractual worker at NALCO. Police identified him through his identity card found in his purse.

Later, police informed his family members and came to know that he had left home for duty Friday, but failed to return home. Sathua sustained severe injuries on his head. His motorcycle and keys were found near his body.

In another case, a 32-year-old was killed following a quarrel with a co-villager at Karamangasahi in Purunagarh under Bantala police limits late Friday night.

Subhasish Mohapatra of Karamangasahi and Manoranjan Dora had a tiff over some issue Friday. Subsequently, Manoranjan attacked Subhasish with an iron rod on his head.

Subhasish fell down and became unconscious. Manoranjan fled the spot. On being informed, police reached the scene and rushed Subhasish to the district headquarters hospital where he was declared dead.

Drought spectre looms in Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 4: With monsoon having done a vanishing act across the state, farmers in most parts of Bargarh district have lost their hopes for a good paddy harvest. Farmlands are dry while farm activities have come to a halt.

According to reports from Padmapur, farmers have completed sapling transplantation in some areas, but post transplantation work and other farm activities have not progressed as farmlands are dry since July.

Given such condition, farmers of

Padmapur subdivision fear a possible drought in their areas. Their hopes of paddy harvest have been spoiled this kharif season.

According to reports, the amount of rainfall in June was 205.6 mm. But the farming work in June could not progress due to some problems, it was said. However, the amount of rainfall further came down in July.

In August, the rainfall was miserably low, leading to a possibility of drought. Farmers in these areas expressed concern over the scanty rainfall that has badly affected the farming activities.

“We apprehend a possible spectre of

a drought with the monsoon almost doing a vanishing act. Telltale signs of drought are found at several places. For long time, farmlands have been left dry due to want of rain,” farmers said.

“Paddy saplings have started wilting in farmlands. The situation has worsened in un-irrigated areas. Here, paddy cultivation solely depends on rains,” some farmers lamented.

At the current situation, saving paddy plants is a difficult task, they said. District agriculture officer Santosh Kumar Moharana said owing to poor rainfall, the farming situation in Padmapur has gone bad.

Scam in rural job scheme scuttles plantation projects

LOCALS DEMAND INVESTIGATION INTO IRREGULARITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, Sept 4: As Covid-19 pandemic rages, the state government has emphasised on proper execution of projects under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). However, irregularities have defeated the objective of the programme in Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara district. Locals have demanded investigation into the scam, a report said.

Large scale irregularities were committed in the name of road side plantation under the rural job scheme. As a result, rural people have been deprived of jobs during the pandemic difficulties.

According to reports, plantation was carried out in two road side projects in Baulabani panchayat while ₹9 lakh was sanctioned for it.

Locals alleged that the work was only shown in a plaque while in reality no saplings were planted.

Officially, it was stated that saplings were planted from Tangibolari village to Badamathagaon in one project while the other project was from Jambu Main canal to Canal embankment last year when Covid-19 was sweeping across the state.

It was stated that for lack of maintenance, saplings have failed to survive. Not a single sapling was found alive, locals said, alleging that the entire fund for the plantation projects has been

embezzled and plaques were installed to mislead people. They pointed out that these are just samples while many other projects are being executed in a similar manner. Some officials and contractors have been misappropriating MGNREGS funds.

Some locals have taken up the issue with the Collector. They have demanded an investigation into the irregularities in the rural job scheme. They also alleged that MGNREGS funds have been embezzled in other blocks too.

However, block assistant engineer Paramananda said saplings in two projects have got damaged. Panchayat officials have been ordered to carry out further plantation there, he added.

EX-WATCHMAN GIVES NEW TWIST TO ACF DEATH

‘DFO Sangram visited Soumya’s house at night’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Sept 4: The mysterious death of Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra has taken a new turn Saturday after a former night watchman claimed he saw Divisional Forest Office (DFO) Sangram Behera visit the residence of the ACF between 12 midnight and 12.30 am.

Such revelation has come at a time when the Crime Branch is still to resolve the mystery behind the death of the ACF. 50 days have passed since the ACF was found dead at his official residence.

The statement of the night watchman gives credence to the repeated allegations by the family members of the deceased ACF that the DFO had illicit relations with his wife Bidyabharati. It is expected that night watchman’s allegation against the DFO will force the Crime Branch to bring out the truth. DFO Sangram Behera is one of the accused in the case.

Former night watchman Ganga Pradhan alleged that he was sacked from his job after he saw DFO Sangram Behera visit the house of ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra at around 12.30 pm one night.

Pradhan also accused two other staff of the DFO - driver Prafulla and gardener Ajay - of hatching a conspiracy to remove him and four others from jobs.

He further said all the staff members in the DFO office will reveal the truth only after Sangram is transferred from there. The Crime Branch had earlier interrogated Sangram for nearly three hours where he denied the charge of his relationship with Bidyabharati Panda.



Former night watchman Ganga Pradhan alleged that he was sacked from his job after he saw DFO Sangram Behera visit the house of ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra at around 12.30 pm one night

The statement of the night watchman gives credence to the repeated allegations by the family members of the deceased ACF that the DFO had illicit relations with his wife Bidyabharati. It is expected that night watchman’s allegation against the DFO will force the Crime Branch to bring out the truth. DFO Sangram Behera is one of the accused in the case

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Former night watchman Ganga Pradhan

Notably, Soumya Ranjan had been rescued in a critical condition with severe burns from his official quarters in Paralakhemundi July 12. He succumbed to his injuries July 13 while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack.

The autopsy report of Soumya Ranjan’s body by the Department of Forensic

Medicine and Toxicology (FM&T), SCB Medical College and Hospital stated that the death of the officer was caused due to 95% burn injuries.

However, Soumya’s father Abhiram Mohapatra had filed a police complaint alleging his son was killed by his daughter-in-law Bidyabharati in connivance with DFO Behera and cook Manmath Kamba.

Behera had earlier been given a clean chit in connection with the case by the former Gajapati Superintendent of Police Tapan Kumar Patnaik.

As the mystery of ACF’s death could not be resolved even after a month, the state government handed over the case to the Crime Branch, which is yet to crack it.

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Dinalipi Bhawan, A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha (India) CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264
E mail: suryofoods.industries@gmail.com, Website: http://www.suryofoods.com

NOTICE is hereby given that the 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED will be held on Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 at 11.30 A.M. at the registered office of the company at Dinalipi Bhawan, A-54/1 & A-55/1, Nayapalli, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751003 to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of 32nd AGM. The Annual Report of the Company for the Financial year 2020-21 along with the Notice of AGM has been e-mailed on 04th September, 2021 to the Members whose e-mail address have been made available by the Register and Transfer Agent or are registered with the Company and sent by permitted mode on 04th September, 2021 to Members who have not registered their e-mail address.

Members are hereby informed that the notice of the 32nd Annual General Meeting and 32nd Annual Report of the Company are available on the website of the Company www.suryofoods.com and the Notice & Annual report can be viewed directly on the following links: <http://suryofoods.com/annual-report>

Click- Annual Report for the F.Y. 2020-21-SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED
The Notice & Annual Report are also available for inspection at the registered office of the Company on all working days during business hours of the Company.

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015 Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM using remote electronic voting system from a place other than the venue of the AGM ('remote e-voting'), provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. In order to enable its Members, who do not have access to e-voting facility, to send their assent or dissent in writing in respect of the resolutions as set out in the Notice of AGM; the Company has also enclosed a ballot form with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

Members can opt for only one mode of voting, i.e., e-voting or ballot form. In case members cast their votes through both the modes, voting done by e-voting shall prevail and votes cast through ballot form shall be treated as invalid.

The e-voting period commences on Sunday, 26th September, 2021 at 10.00 A.M and ends on Tuesday, 28th September, 2021 at 5.00 P.M. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter.

The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on 22nd September, 2021 ('cut-off date'). Any person, who is a Member of the Company as on the cut-off date is eligible to cast vote on all the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using remote e-voting or ballot form or voting at the AGM.

In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at www.evotingindia.com, under help section or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or may call on 18002005533.

The Company has appointed M/s. Saroj Ray & Associates, Company Secretaries, Bhubaneswar-751015, as the scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting process as well as voting at the AGM through ballot paper in a fair and transparent manner.

The facility for voting, either through electronic voting system or ballot or polling paper shall also be made available at the AGM and Members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

A person who has acquired shares and become a member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at www.evotingindia.com. However, if the person is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then the existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

Every member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of himself/herself and such proxy need not be a member. Proxies in order to be effective should be duly completed, stamped (if applicable) and signed and must be deposited at the registered office of the company not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Annual General Meeting.

Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Thursday, 23rd September, 2021 to Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 (Both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd/- Manisha Satapathy
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 04th September, 2021

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 20-KUR-TRD-OT-2021-22, Dated : 26.08.2021

NAME OF THE WORK : HIRING OF A MULTI UTILITY ROAD VEHICLE LIKE TATA-207 DI OR EQUIVALENT ALONG WITH DRIVER FOR PSI DEPOT AT KENDUJHARGARH (KDJR) FOR THREE YEARS WITH 24 HOURS AVAILABILITY.

Approximate Value ₹ 19,77,693.90
Tender Closing Date and Time : Upto 1300 Hrs. of Date 20.09.2021.

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.irops.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-336/M/21-22, Khurda Road

PUBLIC NOTICE TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to inform the General Public that following share certificate of (name of company) M/s. Multi Base India Limited having its Registered Office at 74/5-6, Daman Industrial Estate, Kadaiya Village, Nani Daman, Daman-396210, registered in the name of the following Shareholder/s have been lost by them.

1. Name of the Shareholder/s : SUBRAT PATRA, Folio No : S003206, Certificate No./s : 00008715, Distinctive Number/s : 41033701 to 4103800

The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificates. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate/s should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Private Limited 247 Park, C-101, 1st Floor, L.B.S Vihar, Vikroli (W), Mumbai-400083 within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate/s.
Place : Cuttack, Date : 04.09.2021
Name of Legal Claimant

boyanika Odisha State Handloom WCS Ltd. Bhubaneswar QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.1689 Dt.03.09.2021
Name of the work :- Supply of Computer Materials, Packing Materials, Printing Materials & Official Stationeries to Odisha State Handloom WCS Ltd, Boyan Bhawan at PUN Marg, Bhubaneswar. The last date and time of submission of quotation is 22.09.2021 at 2.00 P.M. Refer our website www.boyanika.com for details. All the information in connection with this Quotation Call Notice will be available in this website.
Sd/-
Secretary, Boyanika

Let nothing short of perfection be your ideal in work and you are sure to become a true instrument of the Divine.

THE MOTHER



Cultural Erosion

A couple of decades ago, the American musician Ry Cooder visited Cuba. His intent was to revisit the island nation's great musicians, who had been forgotten because the American embargo on their nation meant they could not perform. They included singer Ibrahim Ferrer, who was polishing shoes to make a living, the pianist Ruben Gonzalez, who could not afford a piano, and guitar player Compay Segundo. Cooder's interest brought these musicians back to prominence and a movie, *The Buena Vista Social Club*, was made on which became an international hit.

Two men in Delhi, Ashutosh Sharma and Ankur Malhotra, are doing something similar with the musicians of Rajasthan. The Manganiyars are a community based in the western parts of Rajasthan and the eastern parts of Sindh, who for centuries have been performing the folk music of that part of India. For many years now, Malhotra and Sharma (whom I have known for a quarter century) have been travelling and promoting the music of these extremely talented individuals whom even their own country may not be familiar with. And now the Aga Khan Museum has produced a three-part documentary series called 'Searching for the Blues' on the musicians with material shot and recorded by the two men's record firm, Amarrass.

I saw the documentary as it was being put together and then fully on the Aga Khan Museum's website and think it tells one of the most remarkable stories of our time, as important as the Buena Vista Social Club. One of the musicians they came across a decade ago, as they were driving from hamlet to hamlet was Lakha Khan, from Raneri village in Jodhpur. Lakha Khan had been playing and singing for half a century at that time, making a living by performing at local events like weddings and births (the patrons of the Manganiyars are the local feudal Rajput lords). Khan was playing for the same families that his father and grandfather and great-grandfather played for. Even his instrument was one that came down to him from his ancestors and on which he still plays.

This instrument was the Sindh Sarangi, whose sound imitates the human voice. Lakha Khan was the seventh generation of his family to be playing the instrument, and when he met the men from Delhi he played for them. He sang compositions including Hindu bhajans, Sufi kalaams, and folk songs in five languages: Seraiki, Sindh, Marwari, Punjabi and Hindi. Amazed by the quality of the music, which reminded them of the Blues, the American form which incorporates religious and spiritual themes in soulful, simple songs, the two men recorded and promoted Khan. He began playing widely again, including internationally (footage from these international concerts is there in the documentary). In 2021, Lakha Khan received the Padma Shri, coming into a prominence that was his by right. Lakha Khan is only one of the many men and women from Rajasthan that the documentary series exposes us to. And it is astonishing, even for many of us who may have wide exposure to music, to see how such world-class performers are so little known in their own land. The last episode of the documentary features Dane Khan, the son of Lakha Khan. Till some time ago, Dane Khan was driving a truck because there it was not possible to make a living from the family tradition. But happily, his father's growing prestige and frequent touring gave Dane Khan the opportunity to provide for his family while continuing the tradition for an eighth generation.

Of course this is great news for our culture, which has found a carrier who will take it forward for another few decades, but it also reminds us of how much needs to be done. How many thousands of individuals like Lakha Khan remain in near-anonymity, while possessing our collective treasure? How many like Dane Khan receive this treasure but are not able to pass it on to another generation? We should rejoice in one ending that has turned out to be happy, but should also consider what lessons we can learn from it.

The government's promotion of high culture, meaning classical and folk music and dance and theatre, is possibly at its lowest level in our history. One reason is that fewer people are connected to this culture and are more drawn to what is popular than what is classical and traditional. Secondly, the State itself has retreated from these areas. We had the three cultural institutions set up many decades ago including the Sangeet Natak Akademi (1953) for music and theatre, and the Sahitya Akademi for literature and the Lalit Kala Akademi for art established in 1954. But not enough has been done and is being done under them or by our general public, our corporates and our philanthropists and our higher educational institutions to stop the rapid erosion of traditional culture. Along with being reminded of the Buena Vista Social Club, this is also what came to mind on seeing the documentary on the Manganiyars.



Akkar Patel

The government's promotion of high culture, meaning classical and folk music and dance and theatre, is possibly at its lowest level in our history. One reason is that fewer people are connected to this culture and are more drawn to what is popular than what is classical and traditional.



Seth Berkley

IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT ONLY 1.8 PER CENT OF PEOPLE IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES HAVE RECEIVED THEIR FIRST DOSE OF A COVID-19 VACCINE, COMPARED TO 82 PER CENT IN HIGH- AND UPPER-MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

It is one year since the international community gave its backing to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to lead a worldwide effort to end the acute phase of the pandemic. The initiative aimed to ensure that every country, and not just those with sufficient money or resources, could access life-saving vaccines once they became available. As G20 health ministers prepare to meet in Rome September 5-6, they are in a position to ensure that COVAX fulfills its mission.

A year ago, no one knew when or even if it might be possible to develop a safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, let alone the 20 that are available today. But since making its first international deliveries in February, COVAX – a partnership established by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – has delivered more than 235 million vaccine doses to 139 countries, and expects to deliver another billion doses in the fourth quarter. Only China, India, and the United States have delivered more. This start to the largest and most complex vaccine rollout in history has given hope to millions of people and laid solid foundations for how we respond to future pandemics.

Yet, so much more could, and should, have been achieved by now. It is unacceptable that only 1.8 per cent of people in low-income countries have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, compared to 82 per cent in high- and upper-middle-income countries. This shocking inequality is as economically senseless as it is destructive to human life, with the latest estimate of the cost of the slow rollout amounting to \$2.3 trillion.

The world was woefully unprepared for a pandemic, and this is reflected in the challenges COVAX has faced. By the time initial funding arrived, wealthy countries had already locked up early vaccine supplies. Export bans affecting key suppliers, and difficulties experienced by many man-

FOCUS VACCINATION

COVAX ONUS ON G20



Additional G20 support can make the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility a success. Failure to achieve equitable access would mean more lives lost, broken healthcare systems, even deadlier and more transmissible variants, and a pandemic with no end in sight

ufacturers in scaling up production to the required level, also undermined COVAX's ability to access doses early.

Given increasing global vaccine inequity and the rise of new, more contagious coronavirus variants, we must put these challenges behind us. Thanks to the support of almost all G20 governments, alongside that of foundations and private businesses, COVAX has now raised nearly \$10 billion and secured more than 600 million donated doses. All the preparations are in place for the most comprehensive vaccination effort that the world has seen.

Based on the committed orders COVAX has placed with vaccine manufacturers and the additional donations, hundreds of millions of new doses should now be available each month. We need to make sure they reach poorer countries and get into people's arms. To avoid further delays, and for the facility to succeed, we need support from G20 leaders in four key areas.

First, we need doses, and we need them now. The premise of COVAX was always that the facility should be able to negotiate and buy its own doses. With our early vaccine access compromised, donations have played a vital role in maintaining our ability to keep doses flowing to those most in

need. Of the 600 million doses pledged to COVAX to date, 100 million have now been delivered. We need more, and soon, with longer shelf lives and greater certainty so that recipient countries have time to plan their rollout. This can be achieved without jeopardising high-income countries' national vaccination efforts.

We also need G20 leaders to support our call for transparency. COVAX has legally binding agreements with manufacturers for more than four billion doses, but has all too often faced delays in accessing them. Without greater clarity regarding firms' order books, it is impossible to know whether these holdups are due to production challenges or preferential treatment for bilateral arrangements. Insisting that manufacturers are transparent about their order timelines can ensure a level playing field where no one – particularly those living in developing countries – gets bumped to the back of the vaccine queue because of another bilateral deal.

In addition to ensuring that manufacturers keep their commitment to COVAX, governments should make global vaccine access their highest priority. Countries with pending orders for doses that they currently do not need should allow COVAX to take their place in

the queue so that we can get doses to needy countries now.

Finally, lower-income countries require continued financial and technical support for their COVID-19 vaccine rollouts. Strengthening national health systems will help these countries to ensure delivery of doses and mitigate the pandemic's secondary effects, and will leave in place infrastructure critical to future global health security.

By recommitting to COVAX, G20 leaders will recommit to a multilateral solution that builds on the astounding scientific progress of the past year. Based on COVAX's latest forthcoming supply forecast, when topped up with doses through bilateral deals, equitable COVID-19 vaccine access can protect up to 60 per cent of the adult population in 91 lower-income countries. This would represent a huge step toward the WHO target of 70 per cent, which is needed to suppress the coronavirus everywhere, and COVAX represents the best opportunity to achieve it.

Failure would mean more lives lost, broken healthcare systems, even deadlier and more transmissible variants, and a pandemic with no end in sight. The G20 must not allow that to be an option.

The writer is CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Will monetisation go the DeMo way?



DV Ramana

THE NOT SO POSITIVE MACRO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS CONVEY A MESSAGE THAT ASSET MONETISATION MAY BECOME A MEANS ONLY TO MANAGE LIQUIDITY PROBLEMS

Ajahn Brahm, a well-known physicist and a Buddhist monk, in his book: "Good? Bad? Who knows?" stressed the importance of accepting what is happening in our lives. Several things have been happening in India during the last few years: from demonetisation to monetisation. While demonetisation pushed some assets (currency notes) out of circulation, monetisation is expected to pull some idle assets back into circulation. Demonetisation created more problems than what it solved. Will monetisation go the demonetisation way?

The Union government plans to monetise assets worth of ₹6 lakh crore held by it and or PSUs by letting the private sector operate such assets in consideration of a lump sum payment, without transferring the ownership. Asset monetisation gives an opportunity for the government to raise funds for productive use. Hope the cash generated will be invested in assets that can create maximum returns. However, the apprehension of such huge sales being treated as another source of income to fill the budget gap is also lurking in the minds of citizens.

Such apprehensions are not fully unfounded. The fiscal deficit for

2020-21 was 9.3 per cent of the GDP, the total debt as percentage of GDP increased to 61.7 per cent (provisional) in 2021-22 from 60.5 per cent in the previous year, the external debt recorded an increase of \$11.5 billion over the last year and there was a fall in corporate tax collection. These not so positive macro-economic indicators convey a message that asset monetisation may become a means only to manage the liquidity problems.

Is the value of monetisation real? No one knows. The monetisation has been valued at ₹6 lakh crore. We should remember that this number is just an estimate which may be realised in the form of cash or by way of private sector investment. The actual money to be realised depends on the nature and the duration of the contracts. Moreover, the choice of contracts is determined by the sector, nature of asset, timing of transactions, target investor profile and the level of control to be retained by the asset owner. So, the value of the asset monetisation splashed all around is a mosaic of different estimated values: market value, cost value, book value, enterprise value. With so much uncertainty the reality gets more blurred.

Will the government get the money? Maybe no. Most of the assets identified for monetisation belong to PSUs. These PSUs are listed companies and are not fully owned by the government. So, when the assets are monetised, the cash released will first go to the respective PSU. The board of directors of those companies has the right to use the money for the benefit of the specific company. The only way that the government may get the proceeds of the monetisation is by forcing the board to declare dividends. We hope the government will not do so and allow the management of those companies to make the best use of the money collected.

Will monetisation improve productivity? Maybe no. The monetisation has been envisaged without transfer of asset ownership. Only the right to use (RTU) will be transferred to the private party for a consideration. The assets will continue to appear on the balance sheet of the respective PSUs and a corresponding value of RTU may appear on the balance sheet of the private party. Not having the ownership of the assets may lead to lesser interest on the maintenance and upkeep of the asset. So, asset monetisation may improve the productiv-

ity but may fail in creating sustainable infrastructure.

Will asset monetisation lead to private monopoly? Maybe yes. The recent transfer of airports to the Adani group, which is already having a large stake in ports, coal, power, gas and oil, sends some discomforting signals about the impending private monopoly in infrastructure. With the private monopoly in place one cannot rule out the possibility of increasing tariff to expedite recovery of its investment. High tariff may take many services beyond the reach of several consumers. Moreover, in the pursuit of increasing profit, the private operators may reduce costs, which may result in job losses and wage cuts. So, asset monetisation, if not regulated efficiently, may end up in creating private monopoly which may not be in the public interest.

With so many possible good and bad implications, the least that we could expect from the finance ministry is to be more honest in sharing the true intentions of the plan and be professional in making the asset monetisation work for the benefit of the country as a whole.

The writer is a Professor in XIMB. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. STEPHEN HAWKING

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance. ALAN WATTS

Notice that the stiffest tree is most easily cracked, while the bamboo or willow survives by bending with the wind. BRUCE LEE

WORDSWORTH

Panorama

The panorama was invented by an Irishman, Robert Barker, a painter of portraits and miniatures. He was sketching on the summit of Carlton Hill at Edinburgh in 1787 when he thought of the idea of reproducing the view on a large cylindrical painting that would encircle the viewer. After a lot of experimentation, he produced a work painted on paper stuck to canvas, which he took up to London to show to the famous painter Sir Joshua Reynolds, President of the Royal Academy. Sir Joshua said it was impracticable, because of the difficulties of getting the perspective right, and of mounting and lighting such large pictures, but added that he would cheerfully leave his bed at any time of night to inspect such a work of art if it could be made. Robert Barker persisted, and eventually produced a view of London that he exhibited in premises in Castle Street, off Leicester Square, in 1792. True to his word, Sir Joshua left his breakfast-table and walked in his dressing-gown and slippers to Castle Street to inspect it (he liked it). Barker patented his invention, calling it La Nature à coup d'Oeil at first, but he soon renamed it, taking the word from the Greek pan, all, and horama, a view (from horan, to see). The enterprise was a huge hit with the public and Robert Barker made a lot of money from it. Panoramas became very popular in the nineteenth century, sometimes being as much as 300 feet long and 50 feet high; they included some that advanced on rollers to give an illusion of movement. (They seem to have been more common in the US than they were in Britain, where they were often called cycloramas, a term which is first recorded from the 1840s.) These days, the word doesn't so much bring to mind a painting or photograph as the original view that Robert Barker so successfully simulated in his constructions.

Ruckus in House

Sir, The legislative assembly is the temple of democracy. It is the place where dialogues, debates, discussions and deliberations are held. MLAs represent the hopes and aspirations of the common man. They are the people's representatives because they have won the confidence of the voters in elections. Sadly, the functioning of the Odisha Legislative Assembly is being hampered by sloganeering, shouting, unnecessary walkouts and chaos. This doesn't augur well for a vibrant democracy. MLAs may air their grievances outside the Assembly in a peaceful and democratic manner. Such ruckus inside the House is unpleasant and unjustified. Demonstrations can be held in the Gandhian way sans shouting and sloganeering. Our MLAs should refrain from indulging in undemocratic behaviour inside the Assembly. The worst sufferers are the poor tax-payers, whose hard-earned money is wasted by disruptions in the Assembly.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Quicksand of technology

Sir, Sundays used to be a different feeling altogether. We were allowed to be out playing for as much time we want. We would invent new games. However, after 2010 we entered a different world altogether, leaving behind actual joys and fell into a quicksand created by technology. Now we are neck-deep in this quicksand counting our days till we are totally gulped by it. We have an antidote to this disease called technology and that's a Sunday. Let's all try to wake up early at least on a Sunday and ditch our gadgets for the day. We can read a book, cook something, plant a sapling, mop the floor or play a round of chess.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Taliban's task cut out

Sir, Afghanistan is all set to have a new government led by Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar even as its fighters battled forces loyal to the vanquished republic in the Panjshir Valley, north of Kabul. Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of late Taliban co-founder Mullah Omar, and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai will join Baradar in senior positions in the government. But the new government would have its task cut out in reviving the economy, undone by drought and decades of bitter conflict that killed about 2,40,000 Afghans. Moreover, the Taliban terming China as their most important partner and seeking Beijing's help for investments and reconstruction does not augur well for India.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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

TEACHER APPOINTMENT



Members of the Asayi Kanishtha Santhali Sikshyak Sangha staging a demonstration outside the district Collectorate in Baripada, Saturday demanding appointment of teachers in Ol Chiki language

Bribe demand by politico holds up VIMSAR expansion

The state government has given nod for establishment of super-specialty departments such as endocrinology, plastic surgery, paediatric surgery, gastroenterology and clinical haematology. However, demand of commission by a local leader has slowed down the expansion work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 4: Even as the state health department has given its approval for establishment of five super specialty departments at VSS Medical Sciences and Research at Burla, political interference in its works and alleged demand for kickbacks by a senior political leader in the district have slowed down its implementation, a report said.

The state health department in a letter-24568 dated September 2, 2021 has informed Director of the VIMSAR, Professor Lalit Meher on this development. Earlier, the premier healthcare institute had five super specialty departments like cardiology, neurology, neurosurgery, nephrology and urology.

At present, the state government has given its nod for establishment of super specialty departments such as endocrinology, plastic surgery, paediatric surgery, gastroenterology and clinical haematology.

The announcement has spread cheers in various quarters. However, the delay in its implementation has sparked sharp resentment among denizens. The greed for bribes by a senior political leader is alleged to have delayed the construction of the super specialty building on the VIMSAR premises.

It was alleged that the politico has openly threatened the consultancy agency to not allow it to unload the equipment for construction work and hospital units unless it pays him ₹20 lakh as cut money. The rest of the cut money has to be paid later. The consultancy agency fearing that it might lose the contract if it speaks out against the leader has chosen to remain silent.

Even VIMSAR authorities called the senior political leader over



Even VIMSAR authorities urged a senior political leader over phone to resolve the matter, but the latter refused to listen unless the consultancy firm pays him ₹20 lakh as cut money. The consultancy agency has made up its mind to settle the issue with the political leader

The work was scheduled to get completed by 2019 but has been delayed by two years due to interference by the politicians. The work of the building is going on after relaxation of Covid norms. The agency is now scheduled to bring necessary equipment for modular operation theatre, electrical fittings and modern medical equipment from Andhra Pradesh and install them here

phone and requested him to resolve the matter, but the latter has refused to listen unless the consultancy pays him ₹20 lakh as cut money. Left with no options, the consultancy firm has made up its mind to settle the issue with the political leader.

Reports said a tender was called for establishment of the super specialty departments in VIMSAR at a plan outlay of ₹150 crore. Later, the tender was finalised in favour of Hiatus Consultancy which by involving some sub-contractors started construction of the super specialty building.

The work was scheduled to get completed by 2019, but has been delayed by two years due to interference by the politicians. The work of the building is going on after re-

laxation of Covid norms. The agency is now scheduled to bring necessary equipment for modular operation theatre, electrical fittings and modern medical equipment from Andhra Pradesh and install them here.

However, the work has been stuck for four months due to the alleged threat made by the political leader. As the concerned political leader is an influential person and has good rapport with the power corridors, VIMSAR authorities and local police have expressed their inability to help the agency.

VIMSAR Director, Professor Lalit Meher said the delay was due to two sub-contractors. However, the problem has been resolved and construction of the building is going on smoothly.

Admin puts curbs on quartz stone mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 4: Mafia from the neighbouring Telangana had long been plundering valuable white quartz stones in Kunapalli village of Malkangiri district.

Though late, the district administration has woken up from its slumber and has taken steps to curb illegal mining of the valuable stones. Officials have put a red flag in the mining area Saturday, declaring it a prohibited place.

According to reports, the mafia transported huge blocks of quartz stones from a murrum mound near the Kunapalli village. They had dumped the stones at another place.

According to villagers, the mafia gave them an impression that they have got lease for stone extraction. Surprisingly, the administration had no idea about the illegal stone mining. Before extracting stones, the mafia has laid a murrum road to the mines.



TELANGANA MAFIA IN MALKANGIRI

Motu tehsildar came to know about the matter. He sent the MV-79 RI to the area and set up a red flag at the place. Officials have made local people aware of the illegal mining.

Illegal mining of minerals has always remained a major concern in several parts of the state.

Malkangiri district surrounded by mountains and hilly terrains is rich in natural resources.

Surprisingly, such illegal transportation and smuggling of the precious white quartz stones are being carried out right under the nose of the local administration which seems to have turned a blind

eye to such activities.

It is alleged that the mafia from the neighbouring state misleads the local tribals and engaged them in excavation work. They have also constructed a temporary road to the quarry. Locals said some people come and take away white stones in tractors. They have also constructed a road. They did not have information about what these stones are. They paid money to locals and organised a community feast. They claimed to have got the tender for the work.

Sub Collector Birasen Pradhan had earlier said that the mines department had been intimated about the need for a survey in the area having huge reserves of white quartz. "As we do not have any experts, we will again send a reminder" he said. He had assured that the tehsildar would conduct a detailed inquiry into it and the mining in the region would be halted at the earliest.

ECMO treatment fails to save Abhishek's life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, Sept 4: Abhishek Mohapatra of Bhadrak district, who was undergoing ECMO treatment in Kolkata for around three months, passed away Friday night.

Abhishek (28), a native of Basudevpur in Bhadrak district, was the single child of his parents and sole earner of his family. Barely a month after his marriage, he was infected with coronavirus and his condition deteriorated.

He was undergoing treatment at Kalinga Hospital Bhubaneswar with Covid-19 complications and later airlifted to Kolkata for ECMO treatment June 9. As the expenses for Abhishek's treatment were too much to bear, the family had sought financial help from generous people. His family had started a fundraiser on a crowd-funding site and has raised over ₹62 lakh till date. They were spending around ₹1.5 lakh per day on his treatment.

22 hurt after speeding truck hits bus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 4: In a road mishap Friday afternoon, 22 passengers who were travelling in a bus suffered grievous injuries after a speeding truck rammed the vehicle. The accident occurred at Dwarasuni ghat road under Bangiriposi police limits in Mayurbhanj district. The private bus was on its way from this town in the district to Keonjhar when it met with an accident.

Locals rescued the injured and rushed them to a nearby hospital in ambulances. The condition of five persons is stated to be critical. Police said the truck driver lost control over the vehicle leading to the mishap.

The Dwarasuni ghat road is part of NH-49 and passes through Bangiriposi area in Mayurbhanj district. It has turned into a death trap for commuters. Accidents frequently occur.

At least 52 persons have died over last seven years owing to accidents here, locals informed. They added that another 150 persons have suffered injuries.

BKJD in a limbo over farm issues



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 4: Two years and eight months have passed since the Biju Krushak Janata Dal(BKJD) Committee was constituted for Ganjam district.

But the farmer's wing of the BJD has not held a single meeting to discuss the issues of farmers. It is alleged that its work has been confined to committee constitution only since then. Sorada MLA Purna Chandra Swain is its president.

Locals pointed out that such a committee of the BJD assumes importance at a time when a

BJD's Ganjam unit chief Ramesh Chandra Chyapatnaik said after the Assembly session is over, the Biju Krushak Janata Dal will be activated and the farmers' wing will intensify stir against the central negligence

drought situation across the district has left the farmers worried. Poor rainfall, fertilizer shortage and poor irrigation networks have added to the woes of the farmers.

The committee was expected to raise the farmers' issues at this critical time. The members of the committee have been shying away from their responsibilities at this time, it was alleged.

The BJD has raised its voice against the centre over short supply of fertilizers, but the Ganjam unit of the party's farmers' wing is said to be inactive.

According to information avail-

able from the agriculture department, the district requires 72,500 tonnes of fertilizer while only 42,000 tones have been received.

Amid short supply of fertilizers, the Collector has directed the officials to ensure smooth distribution of fertilisers in all blocks. Tehsildars and block officials are said to be keeping a watch on private dealers and hoarders.

On the other hand, the BJP's farmers' wing, CPM's Krushak Sabha and CPI affiliated farmers' outfits have been staging protests over drought and fertilizer crunch.

Congress workers have staged protests at the district level and the district agriculture office against the state and the central governments.

However, the BJD's district unit president Ramesh Chandra Chyapatnaik said that after the Assembly session is over, the Biju Krushak Janata Dal will be activated and the farmers' wing will intensify agitation against the central negligence.

He also said that the party would raise voice on other issues such as high price of cooking gas and central negligence.



Villagers attending a gram sabha demanding a revenue village status to hamlet Sardhapur village under Muribahal block in Bolangir district, Saturday

Works dept's guest house in Balasore faces admin apathy



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 4: A guest house of the works department construction of which was started four years ago at Gandibeda locality under Khaira block in Balasore district is facing administrative apathy.

Its construction was left midway after a substantial amount of money had been spent, many locals alleged Saturday. They also demanded that the work be completed soon.

In order to provide temporary accommodation to officials coming from other districts, the construction of the guest house was taken up in 2018. Deadline for completion of the same was stated to be mid-2019. However, it looks like a haunted house.

Sources said the contractor handed over the work to another party on a sub-contract basis which gave rise to the crisis.

A local outfit named 'Baristha Nagarika Mancha' handed over a memorandum to local MLA and tourism minister Jyotiprakash Panigrahi. In it they said that the completion of the work at an estimated expenditure of ₹30 lakh must be completed soon.

On being contacted, the works department assistant engineer, Harish Chandra Dwari, said, "Steps are being taken to cancel the work order of the previous contractor and float a fresh tender instead."

From a migrant worker to fashion designer



After the death of his parents and no means to fall back on, Ajay Suna left for Chhattisgarh to work as a migrant worker. With severe odds stacked against him it was not easy for him to visit a fashion show and witness the programme, not to speak of becoming one in his life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Sept 4: An orphaned migrant worker from Chatikana village under Bissamkatak block in this district has brought a turnaround in his life by realizing his dream of becoming a fashion designer, a report said.

It is said that 'where there is a will there is a way'. And this has been proved true in case of Ajay Suna who, after a series of struggle, has managed to become a fashion designer.

After the death of his parents and no means to fall back on, Ajay left for Chhattisgarh to work as a migrant worker. With severe odds stacked against him it was not easy for Ajay to visit a fashion show and witness the programme, not to speak of becoming one in his life. However, he had not forgotten his dream and nursed it all the while despite struggles and hardship.

Soon fate smiled on him. He found a way of displaying his tal-

ent while working in Chhattisgarh. Ajay, while working as a migrant worker, happened to see a newspaper clipping inviting applications for 'Mr Chhattisgarh' competition organised at Raipur in 2020. Ajay applied for audition and after a series of rounds he was adjudged the winner.

Since then, there was no looking back for him as success motivated him to pursue his dream further. Time went by as Ajay with his seer grit and determination has established himself as a successful fashion designer. He is now officiating as a judge in various fashion and reality shows in Chhattisgarh.

He claims although he has a long way to go, he is currently planning to organise a fashion show where he will showcase his latest fashion on Sambalpur designs. This way he can not only showcase his talent, he can also present Odisha's traditional handicraft to the outside world.



Govt signs peace accord with 5 insurgent groups of Assam

The accord is significant as Karbi Anglong, which is the territory of ethnic Karbi tribals, has seen years of violence, killings and abduction in the rebels' fight for a separate homeland



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: A tripartite agreement among five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the state government was signed Saturday to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was present on the occasion, said the accord will bring lasting peace and all round development in Karbi Anglong. The insurgent groups which signed the peace accord are People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), Karbi Longri NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLFF), Karbi People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT),

Kuki Liberation Front (KLF) and United Peoples Liberation Army (UPLA). About 1,000 militants belonging to these groups have surrendered along with their arms and have joined the mainstream. Shah said the signing of the Karbi-Anglong Agreement is another milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of insurgency-free prosperous Northeast. "Over 1000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the main-

stream of society, which reflects their trust in Modi ji's leadership," he said. Shah said that a ₹1,000 crore development package will be given to Karbi Anglong. "I want to assure everyone that we will implement this accord in a time-bound manner," he said. The home minister said the central and state governments are committed to all round development of Karbi Anglong and there will be peace in the region.

We not only sign peace accords but implement them within our time too, he said, citing the example of similar peace pacts earlier signed with other insurgent groups of the Northeast - the NDFB, NLFT and Bru groups.

Shah said ever since the Modi government came to power, its focus in the Northeast is not only to ensure peace but also overall development. "We have ensured that there is all round peace, no violence, no blast, no firing in the Northeast," he said.

The accord is significant as Karbi Anglong, which is the territory of ethnic Karbi tribals, has seen years of violence, killings and abduction in the rebels' fight for a separate homeland. Union minister and former Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who was present on the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the prime minister and the home minister in bringing peace in Assam and the Northeast. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was a historic day as the militants of these five insurgent groups will now join mainstream and work for the development of Karbi Anglong.

In relief to Mamata, EC orders bypoll to Bhabanipur Sept 30



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 4: In a huge relief for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Election Commission Saturday announced holding of byelections to Bhabanipur Assembly seat, which she intends to contest after her defeat in Nandigram, September 30, prompting the ruling TMC to hail the decision and accuse the BJP of trying to derail the process. Banerjee, who led her party to a massive electoral triumph for a third successive term but lost to her former protegee-turned-rival Suwendu Adhikari in Nandigram, needed to win a seat in the state Assembly by November 5 in con-

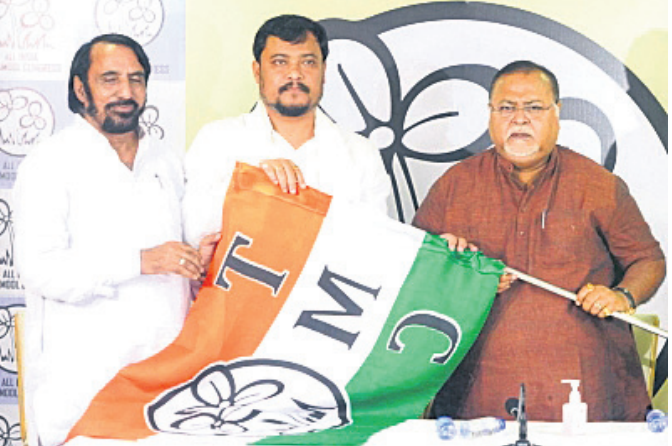
formity with the constitutional provisions in order to continue as the chief minister. The Constitution allows a non-member of state legislature or Parliament to continue in a ministerial position only for six months. Speculation was rife that the poll panel may not order byelections due to the COVID-19 situation. The EC has not announced byelections to four other Assembly constituencies of West Bengal. The bypolls were a necessity as per constitutional norms but BJP was trying to derail the process for narrow partisan interest. We hail the decision of EC. We will follow all Covid-19 guidelines, state minister Firhad Hakim said.

Suwendu Adhikari, who is now the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, said the EC's decision proved false the TMC's allegation that it was controlled by the BJP.

"We had always maintained that bypolls and polls to all the seats where they are pending should be held together when the Covid-19 situation improves. We don't know if holding by-elections to one seat and election to two seats is a practical decision since the pandemic is still raging and there is a lurking threat of a third wave," he told reporters.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh wondered why elections to urban civic bodies are being delayed while byelections are being held for the state assembly where the TMC enjoys absolute majority. CPI-M central committee member Sujan Chakraborty said while he welcomed the announcement for holding bypolls for three seats he wanted to know why four other seats were excluded. Congress Rajya Sabha MP Pradip Bhattacharya also welcomed the decision. Banerjee had moved out of Bhabanipur, a seat she had won twice in the past, and challenged Adhikari on his home turf.

Another BJP MLA, fourth so far, joins TMC



AGENCIES

Kolkata, Sept 4: BJP MLA from Kaliaganj Soumen Roy Saturday joined the ruling TMC, becoming the fourth saffron party legislator to do so since the West Bengal assembly poll results were declared in May. Roy is the third BJP legislator to join the ruling party within a week. Earlier this week, BJP MLAs from

Bagda and Bishnupur, Biswajit Das and Tanmoy Ghosh had joined Mamata Banerjee's party earlier this week. Soumen Roy, who had quit TMC to join BJP two years ago, said he was sorry about joining the saffron party. Roy, who was elected from Kaliaganj in Uttar Dinajpur district on a BJP ticket in the April-May assembly poll, joined TMC in the presence of its secretary gen-

eral Partha Chatterjee. The MLA said he had left TMC due to a misunderstanding but he was not comfortable in the saffron camp and wanted to take part in the development initiatives by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "Though I had quit TMC, my mind and soul had remained with it. I do not subscribe to the ideology of BJP and don't agree with its divisive politics. They (BJP) want to divide our state on the lines of religion, language, caste and creed and I will oppose it," he said. "There was some misunderstanding with the party (TMC) then. It would have been better had I not left the party. But now it is like homecoming for me," he said. Welcoming Sen to the party fold, Chatterjee said BJP has been trying to take "post-poll revenge" against TMC as it failed miserably in the assembly polls. "We will fight BJP politically. It is trying to belittle the people of West Bengal. The people of the state will not tolerate this," he said. Roy was absent from a meeting of BJP MLAs of north Bengal earlier this week.



BSF rescued 95 cattle heads from being smuggled from the border area of Coochbehar (WB), Dhubri and South Salmara Mankachar (Assam). PHOTO

Fresh trouble brews along Assam-Mizoram border

AGENCIES

Aizawl/Silchar, Sept 4: Fresh tension was reported along the Assam-Mizoram border as the two states accused each other of constructing roads, security camps, and bunkers and urged all such activity be stopped and new structures dismantled. Kolasib (Mizoram) Deputy Commissioner H. Lalhlangliana, in a letter to his Hailakandi (Assam) counterpart Rohan Jha, alleged that Assam Police personnel had, at gun point, kidnapped JCB operator Lalngaisanga Thursday while he was constructing a private road on the request of the 'Jhum' farmers (shifting cultivators). "The Assam Police went to disrupt their activity, damaged the door of the excavator, and snatched the keys from the JCB operator, who was blindfolded and kidnapped. He was then dragged by the river, his clothes ripped off, and life threatened. His mobile phone along with JCB keys was taken by the Assam Police," the Kolasib DC said in his letter. "Termining it a 'very serious issue' and a 'huge setback' towards the initiatives for peace until now, he said that it can further aggravate the situation. Meanwhile, Jha, in his letter to his Kolasib counterpart, sought the dismantling of two camps and a bunker, set up by the Mizoram Police August 26 in reserve forest at Kachurthal-Balicherra area along the border. "... but there was no action taken



from your end to de-escalate the issue. A new camp and a road were being built by Mizoram Police at the same Kachurthal-Balicherra area within the constitutional boundary of Assam. Such instances of construction and force deployment are in clear violation of the joint statement issued by both the governments on August 5 and are very detrimental to the peace keeping efforts along the inter-state border," he wrote. Dismissing the claims of his Mizoram counterpart, Jha said that Assam forest staff, along with the Assam Police, went to the Kachurthal-Balicherra area Thursday and noticed that a road was being constructed inside the constitutional boundary of Assam and instructed the JCB driver to stop the construction and immediately return to Mizoram. Police told the Mizoram resident that he has trespassed into Assam land and will be arrested,

if the construction is not stopped. "The JCB driver immediately stopped the construction and in fear of arrest, went back to Kolasib district," Jha said. He said that it is imperative that the 'Jhum' farmers residing along the inter-state border areas in Kolasib district should be counselled and instructed, not to start any new construction within the constitutional boundary of Assam. After several incidents and tension for several months over the border dispute, six Assam Police personnel and a civilian were killed and around 60 people injured in firing and clashes between the police and civilians of the two states July 26. The two northeastern states share a 164.6-km border between Assam's Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts, and Mizoram's Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts. Both states have officially had different interpretations of their territorial boundary lines.

BSF arrests B'deshi cop for illegally crossing border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Siliguri, Sept 4: The Border Security Force has apprehended a Bangladeshi policeman after he illegally crossed the India-Bangladesh international border in West Bengal, the BSF said Saturday. Mohammad Seikh Sohel Rana (46), an inspector with the Dhaka metropolitan police, was nabbed while he was moving suspiciously in Indian territory Friday. The BSF north Bengal frontier, in a statement, said the policeman crossed over the India-Bangladesh border with the help of a Bangladeshi tout by paying him Bangladeshi Taka 10,000. The north Bengal frontier guards over 932 kms of the total 4,096 kms of the India-Bangladesh border on the country's eastern flank and is headquartered at Kadamtala in West Bengal's Siliguri. The policeman told the BSF that he started his journey from Dhaka on a bus September 2 and reached Patgram in the bordering Lalmonirhat district of Bangladesh. He crossed the international border around 12.30 pm Friday, the BSF said. Rana had joined the Dhaka metropolitan police as a sub-inspector in 2003. "He was placed under suspension along with 21 other police personnel from 2003-2008 and his suspension was revoked in 2008," the BSF said. The inspector, who hails from Gopalganj district of Bangladesh, said he was planning to go to Kathmandu in Nepal. He has been handed over to the local police, the BSF said, adding that four debit cards, foreign currency, two smart phones with SIM cards and other items were seized from him.

Assam to amend policy to fix sports job quota



AGENCIES

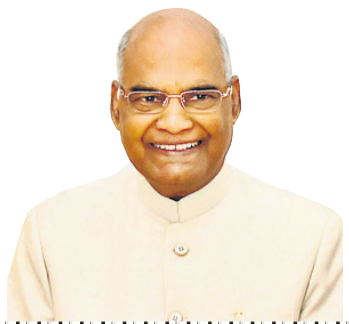
Guwahati, Sept 4: The Assam government will soon amend its sports policy to reserve a certain percentage of jobs for athletes, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Friday. Besides providing jobs, pension and one-time financial grants to the medal winners at different levels, the government has also made its 'highest-ever allocation' for sports infrastructure development this fiscal, he maintained. Speaking at a function here, Sarma said, "If we want to encourage more youngsters to take up sports, we have to provide them with jobs too. We will amend the existing sports policy in the state and have a definite percentage of government jobs reserved under the sports quota." The current policy had come into effect January 1, 2018, for a period of five years, when the first BJP-led state government under Sarbananda Sonowal was in power. The chief minister further said

If we want to encourage more youngsters to take up sports, we have to provide them with jobs too. We will amend the existing sports policy in the state and have a definite percentage of government jobs reserved under the sports quota
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER

₹1,000 crore has been sanctioned for developing sports infrastructure in this year's state budget and claimed that it is Assam's 'highest-ever allocation' in this sector. He stated that an international-level stadium will come up at the site of the now-closed Chandrapur Thermal Power Project, on the outskirts of Guwahati, while work was underway for setting up two sports complexes in Dibrugarh

and Lakhimpur districts. The CM also pointed out that stadiums were being built in as many as 52 remote locations across the state, and 40 more places will be added to that list this year. "We will try to introduce coaching facilities next... We shall encourage every stadium to take up at least one discipline and the government will pay the salary for two to three coaches in each place," he said. The chief minister, who doled out pension to National Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics medal winners - none of them government employees - at the function, said the government will provide such one-time help to players in the future too. Besides sports pension to 99 medal winners this year, one-time assistance of ₹50,000 each was given to 153 players who are in 'government engagement,' the CM noted. Under the sports policy of the state, appointment letters as inspectors in the excise department were handed over to 2014 World Cup silver medalist archer Sanjay Boro and 2019 Women World Boxing Championship bronze winner Jamuna Bora by the chief minister. He added that sports organisers of the state will also be given their due respect, though sports pension were only meant for the players. Wishing Bhogeshwar Baruah, the state's first Arjuna awardee and Asian Games gold medalist, on his birthday on Friday, Sarma said the success that he had achieved in the sixties inspires sportspersons to this day.

national



In Indian tradition, teachers are placed at the same pedestal as God. During lockdown, our teachers accepted every challenge associated with the introduction of online medium of education. They took effective steps to enable uninterrupted education of the students
RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

GOVT REVISES NLEM

Revising the 'National List of Essential Medicines' (NLEM), the Central government has slashed the prices of 39 commonly used drugs. The prices were slashed for the anti-cancer, anti-diabetes, antiviral, antibacterial, antiretroviral, anti-TB drugs, and also for some that are used in Covid treatment



of the day quote

Not because I am the home minister, but I have had this thinking since my childhood that to make democracy successful, the biggest contribution is of the beat constable
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MIN

If you are unable to run the airport, railways, then why are you in the government? Such people should leave the government. The central government is selling the nation
RAJEEV SHUKLA | FMR UNION MIN

The highly successful 'Jan Aashirwad Yatras' across the country has left the Opposition parties disturbed and nervous and they unsuccessfully tried to disturb and create hindrances in our Yatra
JP NADDA | PRESIDENT, BJP

CLIMATE CHANGE

Experts raise need of action for eastern states

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 4: A high-level dialogue would identify the futuristic climate scenario and challenges, long term vision for science, technology and policy integration and localisation for 100 most vulnerable districts from five states in eastern India.

The process would involve understanding financial mechanisms and governing tools for climate resilience and envision the impact of disruptive technology for effective models, a release from the Ministry of Science and Technology said here Friday.

Of the 612 districts across India studied that are vulnerable to climate change, there are 100 districts, mostly from eastern parts that are most vulnerable as per the Vulnerability Assessment Study carried out by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore along with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi and IIT Guwahati.

The Assessment Study, released in April 2021, was supported by the Department of Science & Technology.

Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, all in the eastern India, were found



to have higher vulnerability, Senior Adviser and Head, Policy Coordination & Programme Management (PCPM) Division, Dr Akhilesh Gupta, said.

Gupta, who is also a climate

Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, all in the eastern India, were found to have higher vulnerability

change expert at the Department of Science and Technology (DST), underlined at a policy dialogue, "Out of 100 most vulnerable districts in the country, 70 per cent of them are in five states of Eastern India

- Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha."

Dr Gupta said at the inaugural session of the two-day policy dialogue on 'Localizing Climate Resilience Agenda Vision 2050 and 2100' under CAP-RES DST-GOI Project.

As projected by the recent Working Group I report of the IPCC, the global temperature which has already increased to 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era level is likely to further increase to 1.5 degree Celsius in next two decades. India too is expected to experience greater impact of global warming in the time to come,

Dr Gupta pointed out at the programme organised by National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs and DST in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The sixth IPCC report has pushed the button to act now, and it is time to act locally. Good policies need to be translated into action. We are working with state governments for localising action plan. Head of Economic Cooperation & Development, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Christiane Hieronymus said.

Cong seeks SC-monitored probe into JEE paper leak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Congress Saturday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the alleged manipulation of JEE Mains examination after the CBI arrested seven persons in this connection.

The Congress also demanded answers from the BJP government, saying the Education Ministry and the National Testing Agency (NTA) are responsible for conducting examinations in a transparent manner and why they are not held accountable.

The party's students wing, NSUI, also announced protests across the country Monday on the issue.

Addressing a joint press conference, Congress spokesperson



Gourav Vallabh, Delhi Congress leader Alka Lamba and NSUI national president Neeraj Kundan said how students can be assured that such frauds have not happened in other exams conducted by the NTA. If one of the most prestigious entrance examinations of

the country (JEE) is not spared by these frauds, then what is the quality of future professionals generated, they asked.

We demand an inquiry into the entire fraud under the supervision of a sitting Supreme Court judge as this is an issue related to the future of our country, Vallabh told reporters.

Is it not the responsibility that the government should ensure that every student out of 22 lakh applicants who appeared for JEE Main exams 2021 to get a fair chance as their future is at stake, he said.

Citing the chronology of paper leaks, he mentioned Vyapam, SSC-2017, CBSE Class X and XII-2018, entrance exams in Haryana, JEE main 2020 and the latest case.

SHORT TAKES

Probe into 30 year old J&K cases on

Jammu: The cross-examination of witnesses in the three-decade-old cases of the gunning down of four IAF personnel and the abduction of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's daughter Rubaiya Sayeed in Jammu and Kashmir began at a special court here Saturday. Abdul Rehman Sofi, a prosecution witness in both the cases, and Saleem alias 'Nanaji', an accused in the killing of IAF personnel, were present in the court, officials said.

8 held in UP over illegal conversion

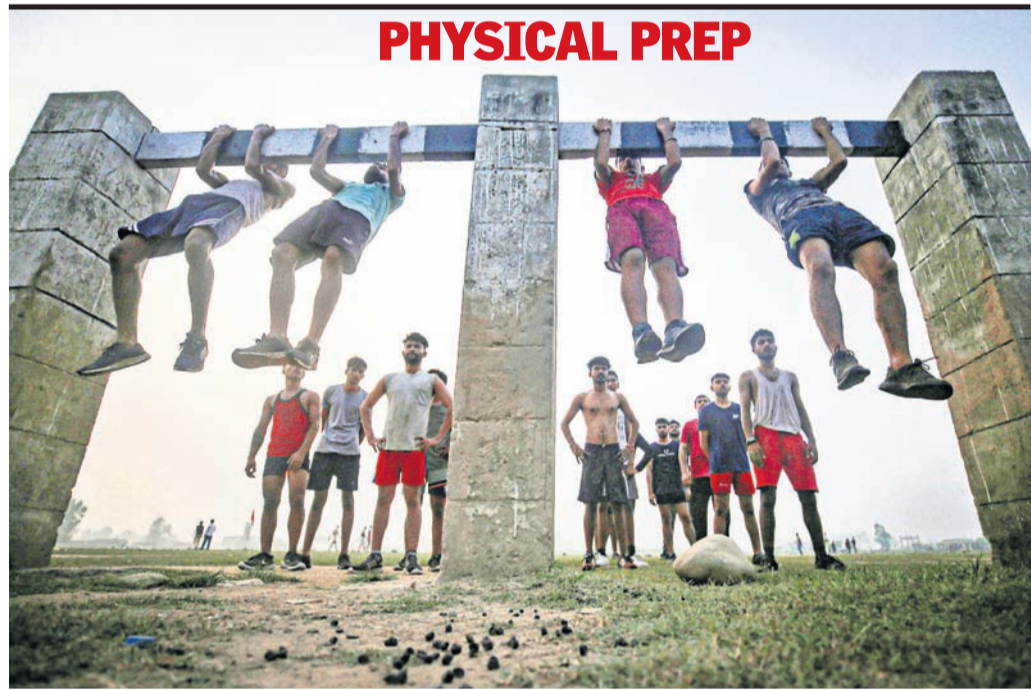
Lucknow: Eight people arrested over alleged illegal religious conversion in Uttar Pradesh have been charged with conspiring to wage war against the country. Special judge Ram Gupta allowed a plea by the anti-terrorist squad, which had arrested the eight in June, seeking the addition of sections 121 A (conspiring to wage war against the country) and 123 (concealing the existence of a design to wage war against the government) in the FIR.

Karnataka to ban online gambling

Bangalore: The Karnataka Cabinet Saturday decided to impose a ban on online gambling or betting. However, lottery and horse racing have not been prohibited. We are amending the Karnataka Police Act, with an intention to put an end to online gambling, on the basis of the High Court directions. The cabinet has approved the amendments, it will be placed before the assembly, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy said. Speaking to reporters after the cabinet meeting here, he said the government has decided to ban online gambling.

CBI seeks UAPA against 5 accused

Pune: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has argued in a court that the five accused in the 2013 murder case of rationalist Dr Narendra Dabholkar be tried under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for striking terror among a section of people. The arguments over framing of charges against the five accused - Dr Virendrasinh Tawde, Sharad Kalaskar, Sachin Andure, advocate Sanjeev Punalekar and Vikram Bhawe - began before additional sessions judge (special court judge) SR Navandar here Friday.



Youths perform physical exercises in preparations for recruitments in security forces, in Ranbir Singh Pura sector of Jammu
PTI PHOTO

Mobile service restored in Kashmir

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Sept 4: Mobile phone voice calling services and broadband facility was restored late Friday evening in Kashmir as the situation remained peaceful in the aftermath of senior separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's death Wednesday.

Voice calling services on mobile phones of all service providers and broadband facility on fixed line connections was restored late Friday evening in the Valley.

Officials have said that the Internet facility on mobile phones will be restored Sunday afternoon.

To maintain law and order in the aftermath of Geelani's death

FIR under UAPA over draping of Geelani's body in Pak flag

Police have registered a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act over the draping of the body of headline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani in a Pakistani flag and the alleged raising of anti-national slogans after his death Wednesday, officials said. The Budgam Police registered the FIR against unnamed people under various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Indian Penal Code, they said. Police took cognisance of a video which showed Geelani's body draped in a Pakistani flag.

Wednesday, Valley wide restrictions and suspension of mobile telephony was ordered Thursday.

Authorities reviewed the situation after the Friday prayers yesterday as no major untoward incident was reported from anywhere.

I'm not Tendulkar, entire team has to work together: CJI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana, Saturday thanked the Centre for clearing the names of nine judges in record six days after they were recommended for elevation to the top court by the collegium, and emphasised that he expects the names of judges for appointment at various high courts are also cleared in the same speed.

"You all gave credit to me for the appointments. But this is not my credit... I am not (Sachin)

Tendulkar, the entire team has to work together, only then we will win the match," Ramana said.

The CJI was speaking at a felicitation function organised here by the Bar Council of India. It was attended by Law Minister Kiran Rijju and several top court judges, days after the appointment of three women judges, including a future woman Chief Justice, and six other judges at one go in the top court.

Referring to the Law Minister for clearing the names for appointment to the top court, Ramana



said: "He cleared (the names) at a jet speed, all the nine names. I think in record six days' time without any murmur or anything."

SC pulls up CBI for 'low success rate'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Observing that the "success rate" in cases taken up by the CBI is perceived low, the Supreme Court has asked the premier central investigating agency to identify the bottlenecks and apprise it of the steps that have been taken to strengthen its prosecution unit.

A bench comprising justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh directed the CBI director to file an affidavit within six weeks before it stating the number of cases in which the agency was successful in getting accused convicted in trial courts and high courts.

It asked the CBI director to in-



form it about the steps taken or proposed to be taken to address the inadequacies in manpower, infrastructure facility and the quality of investigation.

"There is a common perception that the success rate of the cases taken on file is rather low. Thus, we call upon the petitioners to place the year-wise data on the cases under prosecution, the time period over which they are pending

before the trial courts and the percentage of conviction rendered by the courts at different-level," the bench said.

The top court's direction came while hearing an appeal by CBI against advocates Mohammad Altaf Mohand and Sheikh Mubarak challenging a 2018 order of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in a case of allegedly fabricating/creating false evidence by pressuring, inducing and threatening the eye-witnesses to make false depositions implicating the police/security personnel in the commission of offences of rape and murder of the two women in Shopian.

The appeal was filed after an inordinate delay of 542 days.

After 75 years of independence, one would expect at least 50 percent representation for women at all levels, but I must admit, with great difficulty we have now achieved a mere 11 percent representation of women on the bench of the Supreme Court
NV RAMANA | CJI

"I must thank the Prime Minister, the Law Minister and the Government of India for clearing the names. I expect the same

speed for the appointments in the high courts. In another one month's time, we expect 90 per cent of the vacancies (in high courts) to be filled in the country."

According to the latest data, there are 465 vacancies in the high courts across the country against a total strength of 1,098 judges.

On Friday night, the Supreme Court collegium sent as many as 68 names - the highest at one go - to the Centre for appointment as judges at 12 high courts. Out of the 68, there are 44 lawyers while 24 are judicial officers. Ten out of

the 68 are women.

The top court collegium has made the recommendations for the High Courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, Calcutta, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gauhati, Karnataka, Madras, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir. Maximum recommendations have been made for the Allahabad High Court.

The top court collegium has sent the name of Marli Vankung, the first woman judicial officer from Mizoram, for elevation to the Gauhati high court.

international

of the day quote

Supporters and merchants of sanctions, who see their sanctions tool box empty due to Iran's maximum resistance, are now resorting to Hollywood scenarios to keep the sanctions alive

SAEED KHATIBZADEH | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, IRAN

The international community must use unprecedented determination and action to promote the construction of a beautiful world in which humanity is in harmony with nature

LI KEQIANG | PREMIER, CHINA

We call on Washington to accelerate the implementation of what it has promised, mainly reopening the US Consulate in East Jerusalem and removing Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from the list of terrorism

MOHAMMED ISHTAYE | PM, PALESTINE



As we've said and as countries around the world have said, there is an expectation that any government that emerges now will have some real inclusivity, and that it will have non-Talibs in it

ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

BALI MONKEYS RAID HOMES

Deprived of their preferred food source – the bananas, peanuts and other goodies brought in by tourists now kept away by the coronavirus – hungry monkeys on the resort island of Bali have taken to raiding villagers' homes in their search for something tasty



Taliban, Oppn vie to control Panjshir

TALIBAN SOURCES SAID THE GROUP HAD SEIZED CONTROL OF THE VALLEY, ALTHOUGH THE RESISTANCE DENIED IT HAD FALLEN

AGENCIES

Kabul, Sept 4: Taliban and opposition forces were fighting Saturday for control of the Panjshir valley north of Kabul, the last province in Afghanistan holding out against the Islamist militia, according to reports.

A spokesman for the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, which groups opposition forces loyal to local leader Ahmad Massoud, said Taliban forces reached the Darband heights on the border between Kapisa province and Panjshir but were pushed back.

The defence of the stronghold of Afghanistan is unbreakable, Fahim Dashty said in a tweet.

A Taliban source said fighting was continuing in Panjshir but the advance had been slowed by landmines placed on the road to the capital Bazarak and the provincial governor's compound.

The Taliban fighters Friday night opened gunshots in the air across the country, which killed over 17 people around Afghanistan, and the numbers may be higher due to the absence of reports from the provinces.

An emergency hospital in Kabul has that confirmed that 17 bodies and 41 wounded people were rushed



to the hospital Friday night, Khaama News reported.

The firings which were extremely heavy and horrific were said to have been carried out on the celebration of the reported collapse of Panjshir province, the report said.

The Taliban officials, meanwhile, condemned the gunshots and warned of tough repercussions in case repeated. The head of the military commission and son of the founder of the Taliban, Mullah

Yaqoob Mujahid, said that Panjshir province has not been taken and no

- Landmines placed on the road to the capital Bazarak
- At least 17 people were killed and 41 injured in celebratory gunfire
- ISI chief lands in Kabul to help Taliban reorganise the Afghan military
- New government to be announced next week, Taliban member says
- UN to convene an international aid conference in Geneva Sept 13

one is allowed to shoot in the air. He added that the culprits will be arrested and disarmed if the aerial shots are repeated again.

Taliban crush women's stir

Taliban special forces in camouflage fired their weapons into the air Saturday, bringing an abrupt and frightening end to the latest protest march in the capital by Afghan women demanding equal rights from the new rulers.

The women's march – the second in as many days in Kabul – began peacefully. Demonstrators laid a wreath outside Afghanistan's Defense Ministry to honor Afghan soldiers who died fighting the Taliban before marching on to the presidential palace.

"We are here to gain human rights in Afghanistan," said 20-year-old protester Maryam Naiby. "I love my country. I will always be here."

As the protesters' shouts grew louder, several Taliban officials waded into the crowd to ask what they wanted to say.

As the demonstrators reached



the presidential palace, a dozen Taliban special forces ran into the crowd, firing in the air and sending demonstrators fleeing.

Meanwhile, the young women demonstrators said they have had to defy worried families to press ahead with their protests, even sneaking out of their homes to take their demands for equal rights to the new rulers.

NZ to toughen anti-terror laws

AGENCIES

Wellington, Sept 4: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern vowed Saturday to tighten counter-terrorism laws this month after a knife-wielding militant known to the authorities stabbed and wounded seven people in a supermarket.

Police shot dead the 32-year-old attacker, a Sri Lankan national who had been convicted and imprisoned for about three years before being released in July, moments after he launched his stabbing spree Friday.

Ardern said earlier the man was inspired by the Islamic State militant group and was being monitored constantly but could not be kept in prison by law any longer.



I am committing, that as soon as Parliament resumes, we will complete that work – that means working to pass the law as soon as possible, and no later than by the end of this month, Ardern told a news conference.

The Counter Terror Legislation Bill criminalises planning and preparation that might lead to terror attack, closing what critics have said has been a loophole allowing plotters to stay free.

But Ardern said it would not be fair to assume that the tighter law would have made a difference in this case.

This was a highly motivated individual who used a supermarket visit as a shield for an attack. That is an incredibly tough set of circumstances, she said.

Ardern said the attacker came to the attention of the police in 2016 because of his support for a violent ideology inspired by Islamic State.

Police were following the man when he went into the Countdown supermarket in New Lynn mall in Auckland. They said they had thought he had gone in to do some shopping but he picked up a knife from a display and started stabbing people.

SHORT TAKES

India sends 150 tonne O₂ to SL

Colombo: India has sent about 150 tonnes more oxygen to Sri Lanka to help the island nation combat the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. 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. "Lifeline from India to Sri Lanka close to 150 tonnes of oxygen from Vizag and Chennai reached the shores of Colombo," the Indian High Commission in Colombo tweeted Saturday.

NZ reports first death by Delta

Wellington: New Zealand reported the first death in the latest Covid-19 Delta variant outbreak in the local community, the Ministry of Health said in a statement Saturday. In addition, 20 new community cases of Delta variant were reported in Auckland Saturday, reports Xinhua news agency. The victim, who was an Auckland woman in her 90's, had a number of underlying health conditions. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern expressed her condolences to the family and loved ones of the woman who passed away Friday night.

Iraq's influential Shiite cleric dies

Baghdad: Grand Ayatollah Sayyed Mohammed Saeed al-Hakim, one of Iraq's most senior and influential Muslim Shiite clerics, has died of a heart attack, members of his family said. He was 85. A relative, Mohsen al-Hakim, told agencies that al-Hakim died at the Al Hayat hospital in the southern holy city of Najaf Friday where he was taken after suffering a sudden heart attack. Al-Hakim holds the highest theological title in Shiite Islam - Ayatollah al-Uzma, which means Grand or Supreme Ayatollah. He was seen as the top contender to succeed Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who is in his early nineties.

Philippines to lift travel ban on India

Manila: The Philippines Saturday decided to welcome travellers from India and nine other countries from September 6, according to a Presidential Palace announcement. The announcement came even as the country recorded its second highest number of Covid-19 cases with 20,310 infections Friday, pushing the national tally to 2.04 million,

US presses Pak to fight terror groups

The messages show that Washington sees Pakistan as a nation with links to the Afghan Taliban whose cooperation on fighting terrorism can be helpful

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 4: The Biden administration is quietly pressing Pakistan to cooperate on combating terrorist groups such as the IS-K and Al Qaeda following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, according to a set of leaked documents and diplomatic cables to a prominent US media outlet.

The news report published Friday on a slew of diplomatic messages exchanged between Washington and Islamabad recently after the Taliban terrorists seized power in Afghanistan.

The messages show that "the Biden administration is quietly pressing Pakistan to cooperate on fighting terrorist groups such as IS-Khorasan and Al Qaeda in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan," the Politico, reported. In response, Pakistan "has hinted

that Islamabad deserves more public recognition of its role in helping people now fleeing Afghanistan, even as it has downplayed fears of what Taliban rule of the country could mean," according to the report.

"It's also a nuclear-armed country American officials would prefer not to lose entirely to the Chinese influence," the report said.

The meeting between US State Department official, Ervin Massinga and Pakistan's Ambassador to Washington Asad Majeed Khan took place August 26, the day over 170 Afghans and 13 US troops were killed in a suicide bombing at the Kabul airport by the IS.

The US official, suggested that Pakistan could help on other fronts. "Acknowledging the tragedy, Mr Massinga underscored the mutual interest Pakistan and the United States have in targeting IS and Al Qaeda."

In response, Ambassador Khan "acknowledged IS was a common enemy for the Taliban as well."

"The exchanges between the US and Pakistan "suggest that the two governments are far from lock-step on the road ahead, even now that the US has pulled its troops from Afghanistan," the Politico report observed.



HURRICANE WRATH



Ida leveled Grand Isle, a town of 740 on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico, where officials said virtually every structure sustained damage and about 40% were destroyed

REUTERS

Russian Opposition candidates rally media

AGENCIES

Moscow, Sept 4: A dozen opposition candidates for Russia's September parliamentary election met scores of journalists in Moscow Saturday with a message of resistance against the Kremlin's squeezing of independent media. Authorities have designated nearly 50 journalists and media "foreign agents."

"Putin set up a goal for himself: all media have to be destroyed because they are bothering him," Marina Litvinovich, one of the opposition candidates, told a crowd of about 200 people, mostly journalists.

The candidates promised journalists to campaign for overturning the legislation if elected.

Thai PM wins confidence vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Sept 4: Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha won votes of confidence in Parliament Saturday, helping to steady his government after it had come under intense criticism from street protests that have been demanding he step down. Pro-democracy activists opposing his policies have been seeking his resignation since last year and stepped up their efforts in recent weeks.

Major, though not huge, rallies were held this past week in defiance of limits on public gatherings



as a virus-fighting measure, and another was scheduled for later Saturday, with organizers vowing to continue until he gets out of office. Arriving at Parliament ahead

of the voting on the censure motions against him and five members of his Cabinet, Prayuth had declared to reporters "I am confident every day." Asked if there will be a Cabinet reshuffle soon, he said, "It's not time yet."

Prayuth prevailed by a comfortable margin in the House of Representatives, with support from 264 lawmakers showing only a few defections from the 271 members of his ruling coalition, despite intense rumors of a plot among them to force him out.

There were 208 votes in support of the motion, 34 short of the 242 simple majority of the 482 total members the Opposition needed to succeed.

Komodo dragons, 2 in 5 shark species face extinction

BY NOT SUFFICIENTLY LIMITING CATCH, WE'RE JEOPARDISING OCEAN HEALTH AND SQUANDERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHING, TOURISM, TRADITIONS AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE LONG TERM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Marseille, Sept 4: Trapped on island habitats made smaller by rising seas, Indonesia's Komodo dragons were listed as endangered Saturday, in an update of the wildlife Red List that also warned over-fishing threatens nearly two-in-five sharks with extinction.

About 28 percent of the 138,000 species assessed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its survival watchlist are now at risk of vanishing in the wild forever, as the destructive impact of human activity on the natural world deepens.

But the latest update of the Red List for Threatened Species also highlights the potential for restoration,

with four commercially fished tuna species pulling back from a slide towards extinction after a decade of efforts to curb over-exploitation.

These Red List assessments demonstrate just how closely our lives and livelihoods are intertwined with biodiversity, IUCN Director General Bruno Oberle said in a statement.

Komodo dragons -- the world's largest living lizards -- are found only in the World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park and neighbouring Flores.

The species is increasingly threatened by the impacts of climate change said the IUCN rising sea levels are expected to shrink its tiny habitat at least 30 percent over the



next 45 years.

The idea that these prehistoric animals have moved one step closer to extinction due in part to climate

change is terrifying, said Andrew Terry, Conservation Director at the Zoological Society of London. The most comprehensive sur-

The red list status shows that we're on the cusp of the sixth extinction event in 500 million years

vey of sharks and rays ever undertaken, meanwhile, revealed that 37 percent of 1,200 species evaluated are now classified as directly threatened with extinction, falling into one of three categories vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered.

That's a third more species at risk than only seven years ago, said Simon Fraser University Professor Nicholas Dulvy. Five species of sawfish -- whose

serated snouts get tangled in cast off fishing gear -- and the iconic shortfin mako shark are among those most threatened.

The Food and Agriculture Organization reports some 800,000 tonnes of sharks caught -- intentionally or opportunistically -- each year, but research suggests the true figure is two to four times greater. The IUCN Saturday also officially launched its green status -- the first global standard for assessing species recovery and measuring conservation impacts.

In 2019 the UN's biodiversity experts warned that a million species are on the brink of extinction -- raising the spectre that the planet is on the verge of its sixth mass extinction event in 500 million years.

of the day quote

The India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai will showcase resurgent India's march to becoming a \$5tn economy. India's exceptional fightback against Covid and her emergence as a global business hub presenting huge opportunities for the world will be the overarching theme of India's participation

The investor-friendly ecosystem has allowed the Punjab government to receive more than \$12 billion of investments that are under various stages of implementation

Southern India contributes to 28% of the total industry volumes and hence, it is very critical for us to be strategically present in the emerging markets. With a 12.1% market share in southern India, we are committed to our customers and want to make our 'New Forever' range of passenger cars easily accessible

SHORT TAKES

I-T refunds over ₹67K cr issued

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department Saturday said it has issued over ₹67,400 crore worth refunds in five months of the current fiscal. "CBDT issues refunds of over ₹67,401 crore to more than 23.99 lakh taxpayers between April 1, 2021 and August 30, 2021," the I-T department tweeted. Of this, I-T refunds of ₹16,373 crore have been issued in over 22.61 lakh cases and corporate tax refunds of ₹51,029 crore have been issued in over 1.37 lakh cases.

Barbeque Nation raises ₹100 cr

New Delhi: Restaurants chain Barbeque Nation Hospitality Ltd Saturday said it has raised nearly ₹100 crore through preferential issue of equity shares to three different investors, including MIT. The company's stakeholders' relationship committee in its meeting Saturday approved an allotment of 11,77,855 fully paid-up equity shares of a face value of ₹5 each at a premium of ₹844 by preferential allotment, the company said.

Dr Reddy's inks pact with Citius Pharma

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Saturday said it has inked a pact with US-based Citius Pharmaceuticals to sell its rights to an anti-cancer agent. The drug firm said it has entered into a definitive agreement with Citius to sell all of its rights to E7777 (an engineered IL-2-diphtheria toxin fusion protein) and certain related assets.

Katrina roped in as brand ambassador

New Delhi: Zydus Wellness Saturday said it has roped in Bollywood actor Katrina Kaif as brand ambassador of its low calorie sweetener brand 'Sugar Free'. "Bringing Katrina Kaif on board as Sugar Free's new brand ambassador is a step toward accelerating this growth and strengthening our position as the market leader," Zydus Wellness COO and Director Tarun Arora said. Katrina's passion towards health and fitness resonates strongly with the company's brand values, he added.



India is one of the fastest-growing consumer electronics markets on the global roadmap and research reports show that there is a great inclination from Indians towards personal audio products

AJAY MEHTA | MD, AIWA INDIA

PGCIL BEGINS WORK

State-run Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) Saturday said it has started work to set up the first electric vehicle charging station in Meghalaya. The company said it has laid down the foundation stone for first ever electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) at its office complex at Lapalang, Shillong Friday



Govt looks at revising coal stock rules

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: In an attempt to address the issue of coal shortage being faced by certain thermal power stations, the government is looking at easing coal stock rules to allow diversion of fuel to stations having critical level of stocks. At a review meeting of thermal power plants, Union Power Minister RK Singh asked the power secretary to look at the possibility of reducing the benchmark of 14 days of coal stocks to 10 days for identifying and diverting coal to plants with extremely depleted stocks.

Once implemented, this could address the issues of a number of thermal plants having critical level of coal supplies while others func-

tioning with adequate or excess coal stocks. Lower coal stocks at certain plants had impacted power generation in the last few months.

The Power Minister also desired the ministry to hold a separate review of power plants with captive mines to ensure maximum use of these mines by the power plants.

He also urged the ministry officials to look more into blending imported and indigenous coal for better economics for the plants, in case importing was the requirement for such plants.

The minister pointed out that rising demand for energy augurs well for the economy. He told the officials that energy demand is likely to rise, which will need to be factored in as they address the

ADDRESSING FUEL SHORTAGE



current constraints.

The issues came up during the minister's review meeting on Friday with the representatives from the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Railways and power PSUs.

Taking a detailed review of the coal stock position at the individual thermal power plants, Singh directed the officials to work in a coordinated manner to streamline the stock and supply of coal, in anticipation of the rising energy

■ Union Power Minister has asked the power secretary to look at the possibility of reducing the benchmark of 14 days of coal stocks to 10 days for identifying and diverting coal to plants with extremely depleted stocks

■ The Power Minister also desired the ministry to hold a separate review of power plants with captive mines to ensure maximum use of these mines by the power plants

demand. Singh also reviewed the day-wise status of power requirement and withdrawal from the grid state-wise. He also reviewed the status of coal stocks and hydro power generation.

Flipkart co-founder challenges ED probe

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 4: Sachin Bansal, co-founder of e-commerce giant Flipkart, has mounted a court challenge against India's financial crime-fighting agency, which has accused him and others of violation of foreign investment laws, court records showed.

The agency, the Enforcement Directorate, had in July issued a so-called show cause notice to Flipkart, its founders and some investors asking them to explain why they should not face a penalty of \$1.35 billion for alleged violation of foreign investment laws between 2009 and 2015, Reuters reported last month.



Court records and media reports Saturday showed Sachin Bansal has urged a state court in the southern state of Tamil Nadu to quash the agency's notice, arguing that it was issued after an inordinate delay.

The judge in the case, R Mahadevan, heard the matter Friday and asked the Enforcement Agency to file a response, reports said.

Sachin Bansal, the Enforcement Directorate and Flipkart did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Flipkart has previously said it was "in compliance with Indian laws and regulations" and would cooperate with authorities.

The Enforcement Directorate has been investigating e-commerce giants Flipkart and Amazon.com Inc for years for allegedly bypassing foreign investment laws that strictly regulate multi-brand retail and restrict such companies to operating a marketplace for sellers. Walmart took a majority stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion in 2018, its biggest deal ever.

No revision in fuel prices for third consecutive day

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have kept pump prices of auto fuels petrol and diesel unchanged on Saturday, the third consecutive day of no revision as companies decided to wait and watch the global oil situation.

Accordingly, the price of petrol and diesel remained unchanged at ₹101.34 and ₹88.77 per litre in Delhi, as per the Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest fuel retailer.

In Mumbai, the petrol price is stable at ₹107.39 per litre, while diesel rates also remain unchanged at ₹96.33 a litre.

Across the country as well, the prices remained static on Saturday but their retail rates varied depending on the level of local taxes in a particular state.

Under the pricing formula adopted by oil companies, rates of petrol and diesel are to be reviewed and revised by them on a daily basis. The new prices becomes effective from morning at 6 a.m.

Supertech to file review petition against SC order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Realty firm Supertech Ltd on Saturday said it will file a review petition against the Supreme Court order to demolish the company's twin 40-storey towers in Noida while asserting that the buildings were constructed as per the bye-laws with approval of the competent authority.

Last week, the apex court had ordered to demolish the twin 40-storey towers, which are part of the Supertech's Emerald Court project in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. "While we respect the Hon'ble Supreme Court order, we have decided to re-present the matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a review application as the towers were constructed as per the approval of the competent authority conforming to the Building bye-laws," Supertech Chairman RK Arora said.

He said in a statement that the Apex and Ceyane towers are not linked to or part of any ongoing project of the company.

Supertech group is developing 10 crore sq ft across its projects, while Apex and Ceyane towers only constitute a mere 6 lakh sq ft which is 0.6 per cent of the total portfolio, he added.



The bench had said the construction of Supertech's twin 40-storey towers having 915 flats and shops was done in collusion with Noida authority and the high court was correct in holding that view

"While we have already refunded most of the customers in this project after the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad decision passed in 2014 - we will further comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court directions as per the order passed," Arora said.

Supertech's chairman exuded confidence that the order will not have any adverse impact on the company as every project has its own independent RERA Account and cost centre.

"Supertech is a financially stable and strong group. Work is going on at all our project sites as scheduled.

"We would like to reassure all our customers, bankers, vendors and other stake-holders that we will deliver all our projects in the scheduled time frame," Arora said.

In its order, the Supreme Court directed that the entire amount of homebuyers be refunded with 12 per cent interest from the time of the booking.

The Residents Welfare Association be paid ₹2 crore for the harassment caused due to the construction of the twin towers.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and MR Shah said that the April 11, 2014, verdict of the Allahabad High Court, which directed demolition of twin towers, does not deserve any interference.

The bench had said the construction of Supertech's twin 40-storey towers having 915 flats and shops was done in collusion with Noida authority and the high court was correct in holding that view.

IndianOil launches two new lubricants to reduce emissions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: IndianOil launched two new premium lubricants - SERVO Greenmile and SERVO Raftaar, specifically designed for BS-VI vehicles to help reduce emissions and improve engine performance.

These novel and eco-friendly lubricants will help reduce carbon footprint and meet the stringent specifications for the most advanced petrol & diesel vehicles. SERVO Greenmile meets SAE 5W-30 & API SN requirements and helps reduce carbon dioxide by up to 10 %, while SERVO Raftaar meets SAE 15W-40 & API CK-4 requirements, and also helps reduce carbon footprint by 10 %.

IndianOil Chairman SM Vaidya said, "The newly launched SERVO Greenmile and SERVO Raftaar reflect IndianOil's strong environmental conscience and our focus on innovation. The two new eco-friendly engine oils will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of vehicle users. SERVO Greenmile is premium engine oil for new generation petrol cars and SUVs, whereas SERVO Raftaar will enhance the driving experience for diesel vehicles while meeting the latest national and international standards," added Vaidya.

SERVO Greenmile is premium engine oil for new generation petrol cars & SUVs, meeting the latest national and international standards.

Equities likely to rise further but valuations cast a concern

LAST WEEK, INDIA'S BENCHMARK INDICES REGISTERED STRONG GAINS AIDED BY POSITIVE GLOBAL CUES, ENCOURAGING MACRO DATA AND FPI INFLOWS. CONSEQUENTLY, BOTH THE NSE NIFTY50 AND S&P BSE SENSEX CLOSED THE WEEK AT RECORD HIGH LEVELS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 4: Persistent foreign capital inflows on the back of buoyant global cues as well as domestic macros are expected to further accelerate the rise of India's key stock indices in the upcoming week. Accordingly, FPIs expect an accelerated economic recovery in India based on healthy macro numbers and monsoon rains.

They now await July industrial production figures slated to be released next Friday. However, market observers cited high valuations along with chances of profit bookings as key factors that can cap gains and flare up volatility.

Last week, India's benchmark in-

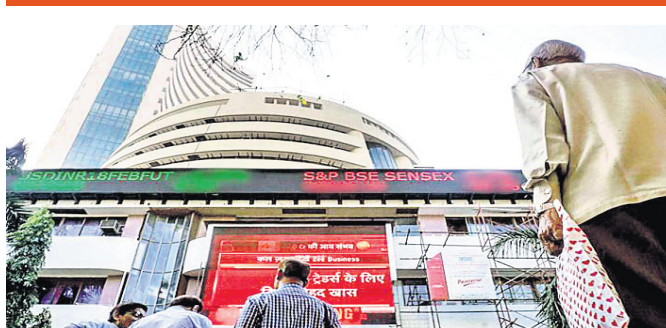
stances registered strong gains aided by positive global cues, encouraging macro data and FPI inflows. Consequently, both the NSE Nifty50 and S&P BSE Sensex closed the week at record high levels.

The Sensex rose 3.6 per cent and the Nifty gained 3.7 per cent over last week, its second consecutive weekly gain and the largest in seven months.

"US payrolls data has come in much below expectations, fuelling anticipations that the US Fed will keep providing enough stimulus to revive the US economy," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

"This could support FPI inflows into the emerging markets, in-

MARKET FORECAST



cluding India. Nifty could take support from 17,153 while 17,480 could act as a resistance in the near term," he added.

Lately, strong liquidity has boosted the domestic market with FPIs pumping in ₹6,800 crore in the last few sessions.

BIZ BUZZ

Haier India announces S8 Series LED TVs

Bhubaneswar: Haier, the global leader in home appliances & consumer electronics announced the expansion of its Google-certified Android LED TV S8 series. The new additions to the S8 series flaunt a stunning 4K HDR picture quality on screen sizes - 139cm (55" inch) and 165cm (65" inch) respectively. It's unique and one of its kinds in the industry front speaker system delivers a life-like crystal-clear surround sound experience with 6 front 30W speakers. The reinvented TV design by Haier ensures an even more immersive viewing experience while adding a dash of style and finesse to consumers' homes. The new Haier S8 Series TV models will now be available across India at the price of ₹1,10,990 and ₹1,39,990 respectively.

Samsung launches Galaxy M32 5G

Bhubaneswar: Samsung announced the future ready Galaxy M32 5G with 12 band-support for 5G experience and the promise of two-year OS upgrades. Powered by MediaTek Dimensity 720 processor, Galaxy M32 5G is designed for tech-savvy millennials and Gen Z consumers who live fast-paced lives. Galaxy M32 5G is also India's first smartphone to host a Dimensity 720 processor in addition to Samsung's Defense Grade Knox Security. With massive 5000mAh battery and in-box 15W USB-C fast charger, Galaxy M32 5G will help you sail through your tasks without worry. The phone delivers up to 106 hours of music playback, 36 hours of talk time, 19 hours of internet usage time and 20 hours of video playback on a single charge. Galaxy M32 5G is priced at ₹20,999 for 6GB+128GB variant and ₹22,999 for 8GB+128GB variant.



dedicated a healthy economic recovery

"Strong domestic economic numbers are supporting the upward movement in the market even in these high levels of valuation. The domestic front is awaiting the release of a major economic data - the industrial production data for July," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

According to Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management: "The developments around the US economy, the revival of activity in Europe - both in the face of rising number of fresh infections - would also be factors that would matter in the coming week."

BHAGAT SCRIPTS HISTORY WINNING FIRST GOLD IN BADMINTON AT PARALYMPICS

'A moment to cherish'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Sept 4: It was a "moment to cherish" for Pramod Bhagat who Saturday clinched India's first badminton gold in Paralympics and he attributed his win against Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the finals to a strategy that he devised after losing to the same opponent in the past.

Reigning World Champion Bhagat beat Bethell 21-14, 21-17 in the summit clash. Another Indian, Manoj Kumar won the bronze after beating Daisuke Fujihara in the third place play-off.

With badminton making its debut at the Paralympics this year, Bhagat, the current World No.1, thus became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the sport.

"This is a very proud moment for me. I'm representing the Indian badminton community and India as a whole," Bhagat said after winning the gold.

"This is the first time that para badminton is appearing in the Paralympics and winning the first gold medal for India is a moment to cherish for me," said 33-year-old from Odisha.

Bhagat, who had contracted polio when he was 4 years old, thus avenged his loss to Bethell at the Japan Para Badminton International in November 2019.

"I played the same opponent in Japan two years ago and I lost. That was a learning opportunity for

me. Today it was the same stadium and the same environment, and I devised a strategy to win. I was very determined."

On his strategy, Bhagat said, "I just focused on playing the shuttle on each and every point rather than on winning the whole game. Every point was precious."

Bhagat also remains in contention for a bronze medal in mixed doubles SL3-SU5 class. He and his partner Palak Kohli will square off against Japanese pair of Daisuke Fujihara and Akiko Sugino in the bronze medal play off Sunday.

They had lost the semifinals 3-21, 15-21 to Indonesian combination of Hary Susanto and Leani Ratri Oktilla earlier in the day.

Bhagat, who had contracted polio when he was four years old,

picked up the sports after watching his neighbours play. Initially, he competed against able-bodied players before getting into competitive para badminton in 2006.

He eventually emerged as one of the best para shuttlers in the country with 45 international medals under his belt, including four world championship gold medals and a gold and a bronze in 2018 Asian Para Games.

He also had started his career as a badminton coach but took a break in 2019 to focus on Tokyo Paralympics qualification. In 2019, he received the Arjuna Award and Biju Patnaik Award for Excellence in Sports in India.

"I played the same opponent in Japan two years ago and I lost. That was a learning opportunity for

MANOJ CLAIMS BRONZE

TOKYO: Manoj Sarkar bagged a bronze in SL3 category as Indian badminton players dished out an impressive performance to continue country's medal rush at the Tokyo Paralympics, here Saturday. Sarkar defeated Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the third place play-off. In SL3 classification, athletes with lower limb impairment compete. The 31-year-old Sarkar, whose right leg was affected after he contracted polio at age one, displayed great resilience during his 22-20, 21-13 win over Fujihara. Sarkar had lost his semifinals against second seeded Bethell, going down 8-21, 10-21. But he re-

covered quickly from the defeat to produce a superb show to claim the bronze. Sarkar had taken up badminton at age five but it was the passion to win against his elder brother's which led him to play the sport seriously. He played inter-school competition against able-bodied players till the 11th grade before starting to compete in para badminton in 2011. He won a gold medal in the SL3 singles at the 2016 Asian Championships in Beijing. In 2018, he received the Arjuna Award and a year later, he was named Para Sportsman of the Year at the Sportstar Aces Awards.



Bhagat, who had contracted polio when he was four years old, picked up the sports after watching his neighbours play. Initially, he competed against able-bodied players before getting into competitive para badminton in 2006. He eventually emerged as one of the best para shuttlers in the country with 45 international medals under his belt, including four world championship gold medals and a gold and a bronze in 2018 Asian Para Games. He also had started his career as a badminton coach but took a break in 2019 to focus on Tokyo Paralympics qualification. In 2019, he received the Arjuna Award and Biju Patnaik Award for Excellence in Sports in India.

SIBA PRASAD DAS (Pramod's coach): Pramod claiming gold made the day a memorable one for Odisha para sports. As each, I've no words to describe this feeling. We were waiting for the day - when badminton will be a part of Paralympics and Pramod will play. Then the time came and our next goal was to qualify for the Games. However, the major test was to overcome pressure and to give 100 percent. Anyway, Pramod gifted us a historic success. This will definitely push state para sports forward.

RAKHAL KUMAR SETHI (former international para athlete): Pramod's feat will be an evolution for state para sports. This will encourage the state para athletes to work even harder. We are happy for him. More than 40 athletes and even myself celebrated his achievement in Nayapalli (Bhubaneswar). Hopefully, he will do better in his mixed doubles event (along with his partner Palak Kohli). We will give him a grand welcome once he returns.

SUNIL PRADHAN (para shuttler): A para athlete has to be fortunate enough to participate in the Paralympics. So Pramod is very lucky to get this opportunity. He made lot of sacrifices to achieve this. For his preparations, he had to live separately from his family - first in Bhubaneswar and then Lucknow. I remember, in 2011 it was announced that badminton will be a part of 2020 Paralympics. Me and Pramod were staying together and I said him that his chance has finally come. He, however, had said that 2016 Rio would have been better. Anyway, his gold win is the fruit of our hardwork.

Record-breaker Manish bags gold

Shooting medal rush continues as silver winner Adana completes one-two with Manish on podium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Sept 4: Shooter Manish Narwal smashed the Paralympic record to clinch India's third gold in the ongoing Tokyo Games, while compatriot Singhraj Adana bagged the silver to make it a sensational one-two finish for the country here Saturday.

The 19-year-old Narwal, who holds the world record in the category, shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, to claim the yellow metal in P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event in his debut Games.

Narwal had a keen interest in sports from childhood and grew up wanting to become a football player. Unfortunately he could not fulfill his footballing dreams due to a congenital ailment in his right hand.

His wrestler father Dilbagh tried doing anything to make sure that his son's deformity did not hold him back.

In 2016, on the suggestion of a family friend, Dilbagh took Narwal to a nearby shooting range at Ballabgarh run by coach Rakesh Thakur. That changed Narwal's life and he instantly developed a keen interest in the sport and started doing practice regularly.

But at that time he did not know about Paralympic Games and he was practising and competing with other athletes for fun.

His talent was spotted by coach Jai Prakash Nautiyal and Narwal won an individual gold in P1 Air Pistol SH1 event in the 2017 Bangkok World Cup. Before that, he won gold medal in P1 and silver in P4 in 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta.

The 39-year-old Adana, who had won the bronze in the P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event Tuesday, added a silver to his kitty with an

LEKHARA TO BE INDIA'S FLAG BEARER

TOKYO: Shooter Avani Lekhara will be the flag bearer of country's contingent during the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics, here Sunday. The 19-year-old trailblazer Lekhara had won a gold in R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event on Monday before claiming the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 bronze Friday. "Avani will be the flag bearer and there will be 11 participants from the Indian contingent during the closing ceremony," an official of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) said. Lekhara, who was paralysed below the waist after a car accident in 2012, is only the Indian to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Games. Before Lekhara, Joginder Singh Sodhi had won a silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics.

MEDALS TALLY

RANK	COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
1	China	93	57	50	200
2	Great Britain	41	38	43	122
3	RPC	36	32	49	117
4	USA	35	36	30	101
5	Netherlands	25	17	16	58
26	India	4	7	6	17

effort of 216.7 as India continued its medal rush in the sport.

With his feat, Adana, who competes with polio-impaired lower limbs, joins the elite list of Indians who have won multiple medals in the same edition of the Games.

Shooter Avani Lekhara, who won a gold and bronze in the ongoing Games and Joginder Singh Sodhi, who fetched one silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics, are the other two Indians who have achieved the feat.

Narwal has also won gold medal with world record in P4 and silver in P4 team event in 2021 Para Shooting World Cup in the UAE. He also won three bronze medals in P1 and P4 (individual and team) in

2019 Sydney Para Shooting World Championships.

His other achievements include gold in P1, P4 and P6 team events and silver in P1 in 2019 Osijek World Cup in Croatia.

Indian shooters have claimed a haul of five medals, including two gold, in the ongoing Games.

As the pistol is held with one hand only, athletes in SH1 category have an impairment affecting one arm and/or the legs, for example resulting from amputations or spinal cord injuries.

P4 is a classification for the mixed 50m air pistol competition. Some shooters compete in a seated position, while others take aim in a standing position as defined in the rules.



SINGHRAJ ADANA

MANISH NARWAL

Teen Alcaraz upends Tsitsipas Splendid Rohit century propels India

ASSOCIATED PRESS

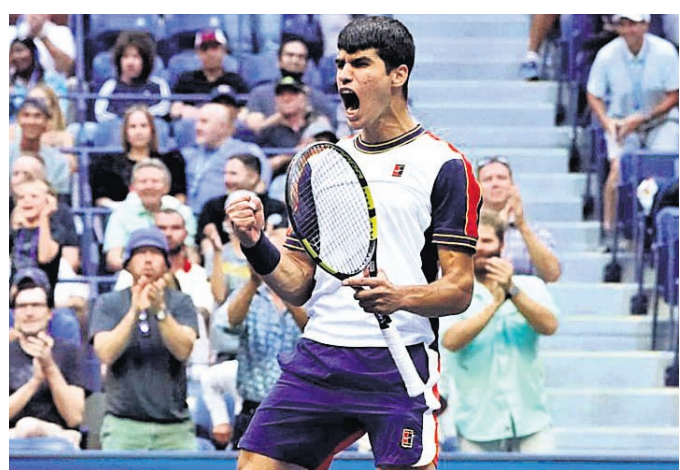
New York, Sept 4: Until now, 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz has exhibited enough promise and precociousness to make people think he eventually could succeed Rafael Nadal as Spain's top tennis player.

Friday at the US Open, with a dramatic five-set victory over No.3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, Alcaraz showed why he's been getting so much attention already.

With a tenacity to match his talent, and boosted by a rowdy Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd a tad tired of Tsitsipas' penchant for taking lengthy breaks between sets, Alcaraz won 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(7-2), 0-6, 7-6(7-5) in just over four hours to become the youngest man in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows since a couple of guys named Pete Sampras and Michael Chang in 1989.

He made sure during his on-court interview at Arthur Ashe Stadium to thank the fans, who are making up for last year's absence - no spectators were allowed because of the coronavirus pandemic then, but it's full capacity now - with plenty of noise.

They chanted "Let's go, Carlos!" They rose to their feet for ovations at various points, including right before the concluding tiebreaker, with



Alcaraz waving his arms to request, and receive, even more support.

At night in Ashe, four-time major champion Naomi Osaka was scheduled to face 18-year-old Canadian Leylah Fernandez.

In earlier action, three women with multiple major titles each - Garbiñe Muguruza, Simona Halep and Angelique Kerber - pulled out three-set victories to advance.

Muguruza got past Victoria Azarenka, a three-time US Open runner-up including a year ago, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 and next faces French Open champion Barbora Krejickova. Kerber defeated 2017

champ Sloane Stephens 5-7, 6-2, 6-3. And Halep was a 7-6(13-11), 4-6, 6-3 winner over Elena Rybakina.

Alcaraz was the youngest man to make two third-round runs at a major since Novak Djokovic in 2005. And the youngest to win at least one match at each Slam in a year since 1989, when that was done by Goran Ivanisevic, the 2001 Wimbledon champion who now is one of Djokovic's coaches.

Now add this: Alcaraz is the youngest man to beat a top-three player at a Grand Slam tournament since the ATP computerized rankings started in 1973.

Mumbaikar hits first overseas ton as India reach 270/3 at stumps on Day 3 of 4th Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 4: A determined Rohit Sharma (127, 256b, 14x4, 1x6) showed exceptionally steady temperament to score the eighth and most significant century of his Test career that propelled India to a fighting position with an overall lead of 171 runs after third day's play in the fourth Test against England here Saturday.

Having displayed incredibly gorgeous defensive technique throughout the series with unflinching determination, the innings of in India's day-end score of 270/3 was the culmination of all the hardwork put in over the past two years.

The 153-run second wicket stand with a confident Cheteshwar Pujara (61, 127b, 9x4) had put India in a position of command at 236/1 before Ollie Robinson (2/67) got quick breakthroughs with the second new ball saw to sent packing two set batsmen.

While Rohit misjudged a slower delivery as he couldn't keep his pull shot down, Robinson bowled an in-cutter that took the inside edge off Pujara's bat into the pads and flew towards slip for an easy catch.



Cheteshwar Pujara congratulates Rohit Sharma after his century, Saturday

At stumps, Indian captain Virat Kohli (22 batting) looked in good nick in the company of Ravindra Jadeja (9 batting), who was once again promoted ahead of Ajinkya Rahane.

The Test may not go the distance but what one can surely guarantee is an engrossing fourth day. Any target in excess of 225 and closer to 250 will be challenging on this track and especially with a batting line-up where Joe Root is the only consistent performer.

One of the more elegant among modern day batsmen, Rohit during the series curbed all his ego to present a solid defence but brought his 'Hit-Man' instincts to the fore with a straight six off Moeen Ali.

It took eight years and 43 Test matches to get an overseas hundred and that too in England in tough conditions.

Earlier, there was a lot of restraint at the start when KL Rahul (46, 101b, 6x4, 1x6) was attacking the bowlers before James Anderson (1/49) got rid of the Karnataka man.

BRIEF SCORES: India 191 & 270/3 (Rohit Sharma 127, Cheteshwar Pujara 61, KL Rahul 46; Ollie Robinson 2/67); England 290. Match to continue.