EMPOWERING WOMEN

Actor Richa Chadha wants to have an all-female crew for her maiden production venture Girls Will Be Girls

LEISURE



VAX CHAMP HP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the Himachal government for vaccinating 100% of its eligible population TWO STATES P8



NDIA BEAT ENGLAND

India take a 2-1 lead in the 5-match series beating England in the fourth Test by 157 runs at the Oval

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | 2021



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 158 | www.orissapost.com

Another farmer dies due to crop loss

Bolangir: Yet another farmer committed suicide by consuming poison over alleged crop loss due to drought like condition at Bhalujuri village under Patnagarh block in this district. The deceased was identified as Yudhistir Bhoi, 40, in the village. He was a share-cropper and grew paddy and cotton on 6.5 acres of land on lease. He was pushed into distress after his crops wilted due to lack of rainfall. The incident comes four days after the suicide of a farmer under Turekela police limits in the district.



Ex-UP Guv Qureshi booked for sedition

Lucknow: Former Uttar Pradesh Governor Aziz Qureshi has been booked for sedition over his alleged derogatory remarks against the Yogi Adityanath government in the state, police said Monday. The FIR was lodged following a complaint by BJP leader Akash Kumar Saxena at the Civil Lines Police Station in Rampur district Sunday. In his complaint, Saxena alleged that after visiting Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's house and meeting his wife Tazeen Fatma, Qureshi made derogatory statements against the Yogi Adityanath government.



Dry spell affects



Protesters are not farmers. They

don't resemble farmers. Look carefully, they look just like us!

SC refuses to defer **NEET-UG exam**

Monday refused to defer the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-UG examination, scheduled for September 12, saying it does not want to interfere with the process and it will be "very unfair" to reschedule it. A bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar said if students want to appear in multiple exams, then they need to prioritise and make a choice as there may never be a situation where everyone is satisfied with the date of exams. The petitioners, however, can make a representation before the competent authorities on the issue.



WEATHER			
	BHUB	СТК	-111
MAX	31.6°C	31.2°C	1777
≅ MIN	25.2°C	24.0°€	Forecast
Humidity	92%	97%	Moderate
Rainfall	10mm		ains likely

Centre has no respect for our judgments: SC

■ The apex court takes strong exception to the *enactment of the Tribunals* Reforms Act that reduces the tenures of chairmen and members of various tribunals

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Supreme Court Monday said the Centre was "emasculating" tribunals by not appointing official to the quasi-judicial bodies which are facing severe crunch of presiding officers as well as judicial and technical members and sought action on the matter by September 13.

Asserting that it did not want any confrontation with the government, a special bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said it wanted the Centre to make some appointments to the tribunals facing huge vacancies. There are around 250 posts lying vacant at various key tribunals and appellate tribunals such as NCLT, DRT, TDSAT, NCLT



and NCLAT. "You are emasculating the tribunals by not making the appointments," said the bench, also comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and L Nageswara Rao.

The court took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, and adjourned the hearing on a batch of pleas pertaining to the vacancies at the tribunals and a new law related to them for further hearing on September 13 saying, "We hope the appointments will be made by then".

"It is clear that you do not want to respect the judgments of this court. Now, we have the option to stay the Tribunal Reforms Act or close down the tribunals or we ourselves appoint the people or the next option is to initiate the contempt of courts proceedings..," the bench said. "We do not want confrontation with the government and we are happy with the way the nine Supreme Court judges were appointed. The entire legal fraternity appreciated this...These tribunals are collapsing with no members or chairperson. Tell us about your alternative plans," it observed.

Mehta said the government does not want any confrontation either and sought time on the grounds that Attorney General KK Venugopal, who has been assisting the bench in these matters, has been facing some personal difficulties. The top court also issued notices on several fresh pleas including the one filed by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh challenging the Constitutional validity of various provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.

STATE WITNESSES **SURGE IN CRIMES**

■ 1,34,230 crimes were registered across Odisha in 2020 compared to 1,21,525 cases in 2019 which works out to a rise of 10.45 per cent

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Despite lockdown imposed in view of Covid-19 infection, Odisha witnessed an increase of 12,705 crime cases in 2020 as compared to 2019, said Home Minister in State Assembly Monday.

In a written reply before the Assembly, Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra said 1,34,230 criminal cases have been registered in various police stations across Odisha during 2020 as compared to 1,21,525 cases in 2019. It means the crime cases have increased by 10.45 per cent in the state during 2020.

As per Mishra's reply, the highest cases at 7,858 were registered in Ganjam district while 1,235 cases in the Deogarh district during 2020. The Odisha Crime Branch has registered 149 cased in 2020 whereas 474 and 255 cases were registered by railway Cuttack and railway Rourkela police wings in the same year, respectively. Similarly, 13,297 cases were registered by the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police a jump of 272 cases in comparison to the cases lodged in 2019. As many as 7,024 cases were filed in Angul district, 6591 in Jajpur, 6216 in Sambalpur, 6154 in Puri, 5848 in Mayurbhanj, 5578 in Balasore and 5401 in Bolangir. All other remaining police districts have recorded below 5,000 cases during 2020, as per the statement of the home minister.

Mishra further said 11,456 posts are lying vacant in the police department, of which 3 are IG posts, 13 DIG, 15 SP and 16 Additional SP posts. Similarly, 248 inspectors. 1327 sub-inspectors, 693 ASIs, 449 havildars, 3489 constables and 2115 sepoy posts remain vacant in the state, the minister added.

MLAs across party lines have raised questions related to setting up of new police stations, outposts and police beat houses in their respective areas. Congress leader Narasingha Mishra said 60 MLAs had proposed the state government to set up 68 new police stations, 103 police outposts and upgrade three police stations. Although, the Speaker had given a ruling on this, the BJD government is yet to take any steps, he added.

farming in 20 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The state government Monday said farming in the ongoing kharif season was hit in 102 blocks spread over 20 districts due to deficient rainfall.

The opposition BJP and the Congress demanded that the government declare the entire state as drought-hit and provide immediate assistance to the affected cultivators. The issue was debated in the State Assembly here after the government Chief Whip Pramila Mallick moved a motion on the prevailing dry spell.

Both the opposition parties were demanding a threadbare discussion on the dry spell which is gradually taking the shape of an acute drought. Participating in the debate, BJP chief Whip Mohan Majhi said the state's BJD dispensation has completely failed to address the drought-like situation even as the party is ruling Odisha for over two long term action plan to overcome the dry spell situation even as drought hit the state frequently. The BJD government also failed to keep its promises and provide 35 per cent irrigation facilities to agricultural land in each district," Majhi said. Congress member Adhiraj Panigrahi said the farmers should be provided with input subsidy of Rs 20,000 by the Centre and an equal amount by the state government. Farmers have been hit by the drought-like situation and the government has failed to meet the requirement of the cultivators during this crisis period, he said.

However, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marandi rejected the allegation levelled by the opposition, claiming that the state government was very sensitive towards the situation faced by the farmers. The District Collectors have been asked to monitor the situation and inform the government about the changing dry spell situation, he said.

Infections among children in state up to over 20 pc



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The daily coronavirus infection rate among children and adolescents reached the all-time high of 20 per cent in Odisha Monday as 122 of 609 fresh patients are below 18 years of age, a health department official said.

The single-day positivity ratio among people below 18 years of age was at 16.27 per cent on Sunday and 17.32 per cent Saturday, he said. "The daily Covid infection rate among children and adolescents rose to 20.3 per cent, which is a matter of concern as they have not been inoculated," the official said. However, the daily positivity ratio was at 0.93 per cent as the new cases were detected from 65.268 sample tests, he said.

The fresh infections raised the COVID-19 tally in the coastal state to 10,12,167. Of the new cases, 354 were reported from quarantine centres and 255 detected during contact tracing, he said.

Khurda district, which comprises the state capital Bhubaneswar, registered the highest number of fresh cases at 188, followed by Cuttack (113). Boudh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Nuapada did not report any new case in the last 24 hours.

The death toll rose to 8,055 as eight more people succumbed to the infection, the official said. Of the fresh fatalities, three were reported from Khurda district, two each from Puri and Ganjam and one from Balasore, he said. Fifty-three other Covid patients have died due to comorbidities. Odisha now has 6,996 active cases, and 763 people were cured of the disease on Sunday, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,97,063. The state has so far conducted over 1.84 crore sample tests for Covid-19, and the overall positivity

Taliban confirm meet between ISI chief, Baradar

■ The Taliban Monday confirmed that Pakistan's powerful intelligence chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has met its de-facto leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, amidst efforts by the insurgent group to finalise a govt in Afghanistan

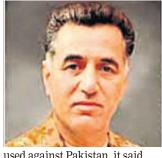
AGENCIES

Islamabad, Sept 6: The Taliban Monday confirmed that Pakistan's powerful intelligence chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed has met its de-facto

leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar amidst efforts by the insurgent group to finalise a government in Afghanistan.

Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lt Gen Hameed dashed to Kabul on an unannounced visit last week, becoming the only high-ranking foreign official to visit Kabul since the Taliban seized the Afghan capital in mid-August.

During a press conference in Kabul on Monday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that the ISI chief had met with Mullah Baradar during his visit to Kabul, BBC Urdu reported. The Taliban has assured Islamabad that Afghan territory will not be



used against Pakistan, it said. Earlier, Pakistani media reported that a delegation of senior officials led by Lt Gen Hameed was in Kabul at the invitation of the Taliban, but the insurgent group said that Islamabad had proposed



his visit to Kabul. On Sunday, the Taliban said that the top Pakistani spy was in Afghanistan to improve bilateral relations between Kabul and Islamabad.

Ahmadullah Wasiq, deputy head of the Taliban's Cultural Commission, said that the Taliban leaders talked with Lt Gen Hameed about bilateral relations and the problems of Afghan passengers at the Torkham and Spin Boldak passes between Afghanistan and Pakistan. "This Pakistani official has come to solve Afghan passengers' problems at the border areas, especially in Torkham and Spin Boldak. They wanted (his visit to Kabul) and we accepted," Wasiq was quoted as saying by TOLO news.

Pakistan Thursday temporarily closed the Chaman border crossing - the second-largest commercial border point with Afghanistan after the Torkham commercial town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa -

due to security threats.

At the press conference, Mujahid noted that the recent delegation to Kabul said the crossings had been closed due to security concerns linked to release of prisoners inside Afghanistan, and requested checks for those seeking to enter or leave the country.

Citing sources close to Hizb-e-Islami party leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the channel said Pakistan's intelligence chief also met him and discussed the current situation in the country. In a short video clip circulated in the media last week, Lt Gen Hameed was seen trying to respond to questions by journalists.

rate now stands at 5.47 per cent.



leisure



BLACK OAK ARKANSAS GUITARIST RICKIE LEE REYNOLDS DIES AT 72

Rickie Lee Reynolds, the guitarist for rock band Black Oak Arkansas, has died at 72. Reynolds' daughter, Amber Lee, confirmed the news of his death on Facebook, as did current Black Oak Arkansas member Sammy Seauphine Sunday.

PENELOPE CRUZ TACKLES STRESS WITH MEDITATION

Oscar winning actress Penelope Cruz uses transcendental meditation to minimise stress and face life struggles. The Spanish star first experimented with meditation when she was a teenager but she started taking it seriously to decompress from her film sets and to ease any worries she may have, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



If you have children, it's likely you'll spoil them today. After all, it's for days like these that you work hard, says Ganesha. You will also complete pending assignments and it's a productive day for those in medical professions and public services.

TAURUS

You may feel frustrated and stranded in family matters today, says Ganesha. Shower your warmth and care to make up for past mistakes. Your spouse will be supportive and lend you a helping hand to regain your mental composure Reciprocate with intimacy and go with the flow, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI

Today, a strong emotional link with someone special may get established, predicts Ganesha. So you will remain delighted and elated for most part of the day. Still, some petty problems may spoil your happy mood later in the day. Diffuse tension with a light-hearted approach.

CANCER

Today, you will realise that everything is judged by its appearance, and what is unseen counts for nothing. You will work hard to be seen and will crave for attention. Though Ganesha strongly suggests that this will only bring you grief as the most beautiful of flowers shrivel and your appearance will not help you beyond a point, you are there is not denying that outward appear ance does have its advantages.

LEO

Though God is benevolent, it is but necessary that we reciprocate the magnanimi ty of the Almighty through our actions. So wake up today with a little prayer on your lips. Make it a point to visit a temple for some peace of mind. The other alternative is to do a small pooja at home. Connect with your spiritual side through meditation and find peace with yourself

If curiosity killed the cat, it is going to inspire you to go to exotic places and meet new people, says Ganesha. Enriching experiences enter enthusiastically today. But hold on, don't unpack, as you may set off on yet another adventure. Ganesha sees you being crack ductile and malleable.

Ganesha says today you may be able to undertake travel for business or pleasyou work wise and you may not be able to completely focus on your family or family issues. Try your luck in the stock market today, as it may prove beneficial to you. If there are certain issues or problems they will be sorted out today because of your varied skills and past experiences Ganesha wishes you a day full of happiness and joy today.

SCORPIO You've been keeping things

within for too long now, and today may just be the day when you vent it all out, says Ganesha. This overwhelming pressure may have an effect on your health. Ganesha counsels you to spend quality time with your loved ones to ease up a bit.

SAGITTARIUS

Skilled at multi-tasking as you are, today you may just take things one by one. Instincts will rule the roost for most of the time. And govern your actions too. But as peculiar as the day may be, you shall find yourself back to being your own assured self.

CAPRICORN

If trouble happens to knock at your door today, your guardian angel will come to your rescue, foresees Ganesha, Unlike many others who waste life running after impossible goals, you will be content with your achievements. But that does not, by any means, imply that you aren't ambitious. Just like yourself, your ambitions will be simple in nature, to the extent that it may elicit awe among people.

AQUARIUS You will seek spirituality as you feel thoroughly dejected by your present situation.

Ganesha says that even struggling courageously with circumstances requires a spiritual endeavour. These trying times give you the patience to deal intelligently with challenges and setbacks.

PISCES

calm, says Ganesha

Your spiritual and religious streak comes to the fore. You will likely visit a place of worship to soothe your troubled soul. Meditative techniques may also be resorted to in your quest for peace and

Kim makes relationship with Leander official

MUMBAI: Kim Sharma and tennis ace Leander Paes are officially dating, according to a social media post shared by the actress. The rumours about Kim and Paes' relationship

have been doing the rounds for a long time and the actress put an end to the speculations by confirming her relationship status with a picture she shared on Instagram. In the image, Kim

and Paes are seen posing. The tennis player is lovingly looking at her while the Mohabbatein actress is smiling at the camera. For the caption, the

41-year-old actress dropped an evil eye and girl heart boy emoji. Kim was earlier in a relationship with actor Harshvardhan Rane, Paes was previously married to model Rhea

Richa wants all-female

ing of age of a 16-year-

old girl and her rela-

tionship with her

Richa added: "Ours

is an effort in that di-

rection. It has become

increasingly important

today to acknowledge

women's representation

in the business of films,

and I feel great over the years

to have known some amazing

talent across filmmaking de-

partments and am looking for-

ward to working with many

more through the course

mother.

of this

crew for her venture

MUMBAI: Actress Richa

Chadha aspires to have an all-

female crew with her maiden

production venture Girls Will

Be Girls, where women can

showcase the best of their abil-

ities in front of and behind the

Richa said: "It's always re-

freshing that a story centred

around a feminist story is told

by the voices of women. It's al-

ways exciting and we have seen

so many such examples in films

and it's always refreshing when

these stories are told by a female

Girls Will Be Girls, directed

by Shuchi Talati, will be pro-

duced through the banner

Pushing Button Studios,

Crawling Angel Films, Dolce

Set in a Himalayan board-

ing school in a hill station in

northern India, the plot of the

film revolves around the com-

Vita Films, France,

Anita, Rupak's brilliance keeps audience engaged

page and YouTube channel at 7.30 pm, Monday. Ranjan Kumar Das, Director-

cum-Additional Secretary, Dept. of Odia Literature Language and Culture, Govt. of Odisha, was the chief guest of the evening.

Mallick, also a choreographer and founder of Saraswat Sanskriti Kendra commenced her recital with Ambika Pallavi, the LalithaSahasranamam, in praise of the omnipotent Devi Ambika. This was followed

by *Krishna Anubhavam*, in Raga Malika, and Adi Talam, presenting a reflection of Lord Krishna's ma-

Odissi vocalist Guru Rupak Parida presents a traditional song

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Famous Bharatanatvam dancer Anita Mallick from Kolkata and Odissi ocalist Guru Rupak Parida spellbound the virtual audience on the second evening of the 27th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival. The event was streamed live on *Srjan*'s Facebook jestic and captivating nature.

In her third presentation, she performed a Keertanam in Revati Raagam and Adi Talam, in obeisance to Lord Shiva. She concluded her recital with the popular Rama Bhajan Thumaka Chalata Rama Chandra, composed by Sant Tulasidas, set

mridangam by MS

to Raag Yamuna Kalyani and

Adi (Tisra Nadai) Taal.

She was ably ac-

companied on vocals by OS Arun and Vasudha Ravi, Sukhi and NK Festival: Day 2 Keshavan, flute by Navinkumar and Palghat Sairam, violin

Srilakshmi Venkata Ramani, and nattuvangam by MS Sukhi and Sudharani Raghupati.

by T Sivaganesan and

This was followed by an Odissi vocal recital by versatile Guru Rupak Kumar Parida. With crisp, pleas-

ing, mel-

voice, and

lifluous

Kelucharan medley of beautiful renditions, begin-Mohapatra Award ning with a song composed by poet

Guru

inherent ability to quickly pick

up and retain intricate pas-

sages of compositions,

Parida presented a

Gopala Krishna

Pattnaik, set to Raag Kirwani and Ekatali. He then moved on to present an Ashtapadi, Virachita Chatu Vachana, from Shri Jayadeva's Geeta Govinda, set to the music composition of the legendary Pt. Raghunath Panigrahi in Raag

Bihag and Ekatali, before moving on to five back-to-back renditions of traditional Odia songs and Bhajans.

The third evening features a Sattriya performance by Anwesa Mahanta, followed by a Hindustani Vocal recital by Manjusha

Jagadish, Jayant to be conferred with Ila-Banshidhar Panda Kala Samman POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Senior artist Jagadish Chandra Kanungo and renowned Ghumura artist Javant Kumar Behera will be honoured with Ila-Banshidhar Panda Kala Samman-2021, instituted by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT), for their excellence and life time achievements in the field of Art and Music. The two will receive citations along with a cash award of Rs 1.5 lakh each.

The Sarala Puraskar for the year 2021 has also been announced Renowned narrator Paramita Satpathy will receive the award this year for her novel Abhipret Kaal. Jagadish and Jayant will get the honour at the Sarala Puraskar Awards ceremony in October, of-

The annual Sarala Pura stituted by eminent Odia industrialist late Dr Bansidhar Panda and late Mrs. Ila Panda in the year 1980,

ficials of the Trust said.

FUN

905



Painter Jagadish Chandra Kanungo

has been given by Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT). IMPaCT is the charitable wing of IMFA Ltd., the leading fully integrated producer of Ferro Alloys in India. Considered as the foremost literary award of the state, Sarala

SUDOKU

3

5

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

2

3

4

5

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

2 6

6

9

5

2

3

8

9

2

5

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any



Ghumura artist Jayant Behera

Puraskar is one of the finest contributions of IMPaCT to promote Odia literature.

been instituted by IMPaCT to encourage promising sports talents of Odisha.

PEANUTS



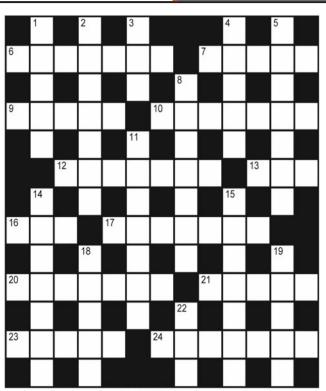
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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conferrals

21 Skeleton part

20 College

23 Comical

24 Detectives

Across

- 6 Narratives 7 Saltpetre
- 9 Lively
- 10 Undertake
- 12 Cargo
- 13 Do film work
- gold?

17 Pipe type

- 16 Go for the
 - 2 Get ready
- **Down**
 - 1 Loft
 - 18 Pilotless plane
 - 3 Checkers colour
- 22 Pub order

4 Musk

producer

5 Hot spots

8 Engraving

11 Pirouetted

14 Cautious

15 Exercise

- 19 Luau greeting

SUDOKU

6 5 7 9 4 2

9 8 4 1 3 6 3 6 8 2 5 8 3 2 1 4 5 5 9 3 2 1 8 6 9 7 3 4 1 6 2 5 8

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



LORD OF WISDOM

An artist gives finishing touches to idols of Lord Ganesh in Unit-I area of Bhubaneswar, Monday

222.2	COVID-19 TRACKER				
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD	
	World	22,17,71,844	19,83,00,235	45,85,433	
	India	3,30,27,621	3,21,81,995	4,40,752	
	Odisha	10,12,167	9,97,790	8,055	
			: 	: 	

Sundargarh MCH to start functioning from 2022-23 Thrust on space in

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The proposed Medical College and Hospital (MCH) in Sundargarh district will start functioning from 2022-23 academic session, Health Minister Naba Kishore Das informed the Assembly, Monday.

Making a statement in the House, Das said that the medical college being set up with support from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) will function with 100 MBBS seats while the hospital will have 500 beds.

The state government had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the NTPC in December 2013 to set up the medical college with a preliminary estimate of ₹350 crore. For this, the state has provided 21 acres of land free of cost, he

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: The state wit-

nessed a significant rise in crimes

against women during Covid-hit

year 2020. Minister of state for

Home department Dibya Shankar

Mishra, while responding to a

question by Congress leader

Santosh Singh Saluja in the

Assembly, revealed that the state

police registered 2,984 rape cases

Meanwhile, as many as 1,563

rape cases have been reported at

different police stations in the

state during the first half of 2021.

minor girls also increased in 2020.

As many as 1,646 minor rape cases

were reported last year while po-

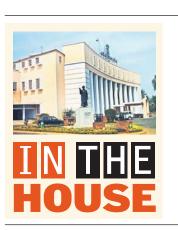
lice registered 1,635 such cases in

2019. The state has recorded 786 in-

cidents of rape against minor till

Similarly, incidents of rape of

in 2020 as against 2,950 in 2019.



The state government has also created 160 teaching posts, 85 nonteaching posts, 10 posts for the office of the Dean and Principal, and 16 posts for the office of Superintendent for the medicinal

2,984 RAPES IN 2020: MIN

ASSERTION IN ASSEMBLY



he state government had signed an MoU with the NTPC in December 2013 to set up the medical college with a preliminary estimate of ₹350 crore and provided 21 acres of land free of cost

he medical college will function The medical college will raise with 100 MBBS seats while the hospital will have 500 beds

60 teaching posts, 85 non-teaching posts, 10 posts for the office of the Dean and Principal, and 16 posts for the office of Superintendent for the medicinal college have been created

college, Das said.

In the meantime, politicians, intellectuals, lawyers and the general public of western Odisha have demanded a second All India Institute of Medical Sciences

In 311 of the total 1,470 mur-

der cases in 2020, relatives of the

victims alleged dowry related tor-

ture. The number of such cases is

184 out of the total 782 murder

cases recorded during the first

and molestation also increased

during 2020. As many as 6,848

cases were registered on mo-

lestation of women in 2019 which

recorded a significant rise in mo-

lestation incidents till the end of

June this year. Similarly, as many

as 1,460 women lodged sexual ha-

rassment cases at different police

stations in 2020 as against 1,305 in

2019. Till June end, 792 sexual ha-

rassment cases have been regis-

With 4,949 cases, the state

Incidents of sexual harassment

half of the 2021.

rose to 7,937 in 2020.

(AIIMS) in Sundargarh. At present, the state has one AIIMS in Bhubaneswar.

Accordingly, the state Chief Secretary had written a letter to the Union Health secretary in November last year requesting for establishment of a second AIIMS at the infrastructure developed by NTPC for the proposed medical college, the minister informed the

Later in March, 2021, Das himself requested the Union Health Minister to set up the second AIIMS of Odisha at the proposed infrastructure in Sundargarh district.

A six-member central team in April had made a field visit to assess the ground situation and expressed satisfaction. After the visit the team during a discussion with Sundargarh Collector said that 200 acres of land would be needed for the AIIMS. The Collector told the team that besides land, funds from District Mineral Fund would be provided for setting up the institute.

The state Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) had also written to a member of the team for the setting up the institute in Sundargarh but the state government has not received any response from the Union government even after five months. "If the Centre decides to set up AIIMS

at Sundargarh, the state government will provide all necessary support for it," Das assured.

Meanwhile, Sundargarh MLA Kusum Tete (BJP) said there was no synergy between state government's announcement and its action. She demanded that the Chief Minister should write to the Government of India over the proposed AIIMS. Tete also demanded withdrawal of the MoU signed with NTPC for the medical college.

Per capita loan burden ₹23,761.83

 $T^{\text{he total loan burden of the}}_{\text{state is expected to be}}$ ₹1,22,917.25 crore by the end of the current financial year while the per capita load burden by the end of 2020-21 was ₹23761.83 against ₹9144.40 during 2011-12, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari told the Assembly Monday.

Replying to a question of Soumya Ranjan Patnaik (BJD), the minister said an estimation in this regard has been made in 2021-22 state financial budget.

He said the per capita loan burden in the state has almost doubled during the last 10 years.

Pujari said the per capita load burden by the end of 2020-21 was ₹23761.83 against ₹9144.40 during 2011-12.

As per the preliminary assessment made by Odisha CAG, the loan burden of the state by the end of July this year was ₹1,04,312.12 crore which is 17.80 per cent of the GSDP.

BDA housing units

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: With Covid-19 transforming the life and lifestyle of people, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) is stated to have shifted its focus on building housing projects that will promote healthier living environments.

Taking stock of several BDA projects, vice chairman of the development authority Sanjay Kumar Singh has instructed the architects and engineers to ensure that every home buyer gets a safer indoor environment than earlier with special focus on children and senior citizens, apart from providing basic amenities.

"The pandemic has completely changed our lives and will continue to impact us further. Thus, new housing projects should now have open space such as children's play area, walking tracks, community halls and club houses. Besides, wide corridors should also be provided to ensure that social distancing is maintained at recreational and wellness centres. Dedicated space should also be provided for those working from home and attending online classes," Singh said.

Reviewing the progress of BDA's projects at Kharavela Complex (K9A), Daya Enclave (K9B) in Kalinga Nagar and Ekamra Enclave at Subudhipur during a visit Saturday, Singh expressed satisfaction over the pace of projects. He verified the status of the projects, including construction quality, pace of the construction and available amenities. He asked the construction companies and BDA engineers to ensure that the construction quality is maintained and the work completed within the deadline.

"Special attention is being given to ensure that homebuyers get 'pro-

Covid-appropriate structures

The BDA has instructed that the new housing projects should have open space such as children's play area, walking tracks, community halls and club houses

Besides, wide corridors should also be provided to ensure that social distancing is maintained at recreational and wellness centres

ikewise, dedicated space should also be provided for those working from home and attending online classes

tection and comfort' that come with intelligent breathable architecture in well-connected locations of the city," said LP Mohapatra, BDA's Division-II superintending engineer.

The Kharavela Complex which includes a commercial space of 60,000 sq ft is a B+S+9 residentialcum-commercial tower located at Kalinga Nagar (K9A). It has 56 3BHK flats and 144BHK flats. With a project cost of around ₹70 crore, the BDA aims to complete it by March 2022

Similarly, Daya Enclave at K9B at Kalinga Nagar is a G+4 residential complex spread over an area of 1.59 acre. It has 128 units of 2BHK flats. The cost of the project is about ₹36 crore and is expected to be completed by December 2021.

Meanwhile, the residential complex 'Ekamra Residency' at Subudhipur is a B+S+12 tower in an area of 7.34 acre. With an investment of around ₹270 crore, the BDA has set December 2022 as its completion deadline. There are 416 units of 2BHK and 288 units of 3BHK flats in the project.

WEB PORTAL CEO NABBED FOR BIZMAN'S ABDUCTION

Only three acid attack cases

were registered across the state in

2019. However, the number rose to

six in 2020. Only one acid attack

case has been recorded till June

the end of June 2021.

Kalinga Live CEO Raj along with his colleagues had assaulted the Kendrapara businessman before calling his home for ₹10 lakh ransom

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Commissionerate Police Monday claimed to have arrested the chief executive officer (CEO) of a web portal from Kolkata late Sunday night on the charge of abducting a Kendrapara businessman Purnchandra Sahoo, 32, and his partner Bhigunath Singh in August this year.

Nandankanan police along with special squad of the Commissionerate Police has arrested Raghunath Sahoo alias Raj, the CEO of Raghunathpur-based Kalinga Live, an official said, adding that he was being interrogated in



connection with the incident. Purnchandra in his complaint

alleged that the accused persons inflicted inhuman torture on him and his business partner Singh, a resident of Asansol in West Bengal. Singh is currently staying at Barbil in Keonjhar. On August 2, Singh reached Bhubaneswar and sought the help of Sahoo to arrange a financier in the city to invest in his mining business.

Meanwhile, a friend of Singh, Ramanuja Mishra advised them to contact Rai, the owner of Kalinga Live. On August 5, they met Raj

who assured them that he would help them to get ₹50 lakh from noted a City-based businessman.

Later, he told them to come to the portal's office at Raghunathpur in atia area where an employee of the City-based businessman would come to discuss the issue. When the duo reached the office, the security guard deployed at the entrance took their mobile phones away. However, within a few hours, the duo realised that they have been trapped by Raj. The accused demanded ₹10 lakh from both Singh and Sahoo.

Raj along with other staffers of the portal locked them in the office and thrashed them with plastic pipes and belts. They allegedly inflicted injuries on different parts of their body, including the private parts, with cigarette butts.

On August 7, Ramanuja came to know about extortion and contacted Rai and asked him to immediately release the duo or else he would inform the police.





Artistes perform at a cultural outreach programme organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Infosys Foundation at Unit-III Kharavela Nagar in

OJEE-2021 BEGINS AT 57 CENTRES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE)-2021 began at 57 centres across the state Monday. The entrance exam is scheduled to conclude September 18.

Around 55,500 candidates have registered themselves for the test, which is being held in computerbased test (CBT) mode.

Apart from Odisha, exam centres have been arranged in Kolkata, Ranchi and Patna. The test is being conducted in three shifts-9am to 11am, 12:30pm to 2:30pm and 4pm to 6pm. Monday's examination was held for B Pharm course in

The dates of the much awaited OJEE-2021 were announced August 13. The exam, which was originally scheduled for June, had to be postponed due to Covid–19.

Nat'l recognition for Odisha's Manda buffalo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: In what has come as a shot in the arm for Odisha's indigenous livestock, 'Manda buffalo' of the state has been accorded national recognition by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR). It has been declared as the 19th recognised buffalo breed in the country.

This buffalo germplasm was first identified by the Fisheries Animal Resources Development (FARD) department in collaboration with the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), under the leadership of Bishnupada Sethi (IAS) and Susanta Kumar Dash, an animal geneticist. After conducting a detailed survey, the findings were sent to NBAGR for national recognition of the unique indigenous buffalo 'Manda'.

Manda buffaloes are native to Odisha and have ash grey and grey coloured coat with copper-coloured hair. The lower part of their legs



These sturdy buffaloes are relatively small in size

is light-coloured up to the elbows, with copper-coloured hair at the knee. Some Mandas are silver-

white in colour. These sturdy buffaloes are relatively small in size. People use

both male and female buffaloes in agricultural practices in the native tract of Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts. These animals are resistant to parasitic infection, less prone to diseases,

INDIGENOUS BREED

ANDA BUFFALOES ARE NATIVE TO ODISHA AND HAVE ASH GREY AND GREY COLOURED COAT WITH COPPER-COLOURED HAIR

PEOPLE USE BOTH MALE AND FEMALE BUFFALOES IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE NATIVE TRACT OF KORAPUT, MALKANGIRI AND NABARANGPUR DISTRICTS

ROM ODISHA, TWO BUFFALO BREEDS (CHILIKA AND KALAHANDI), FOUR CATTLE BREEDS (BINJHARPURI, MOTU, GHUMUSARI AND KHARIAR), AND ONE SHEEP BREED (KENDRAPADA SHEEP) HAVE ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

and can live, produce and reproduce at low/nil input systems.

Around one lakh buffaloes of

this breed are there in the native tract, mostly contributing to agricultural operations and family nutrition of households in the undulated landscaping of the hilly terrain for generations. The aver age milk yield of these buffaloes is 2 to 2.5 litre in single milking with more than eight percent fat. However, a few of those yield up to

four litre. These buffaloes mature at around three years of age and drop the first calf at around four years. The female can give birth in every 1.5 to 2 years, throughout its life span-

ning around 20 years. From Odisha, two buffalo breeds (Chilika and Kalahandi), four cattle breeds (Binjharpuri, Motu, Ghumusari and Khariar), and one sheep breed (Kendrapada sheep) have already been registered at the national level. Binjharpuri cattle semen production and use through artificial insemination is a remarkable achievement for the country in the field of the conservation process.

OFFLINE CLASSES RESUME AT TECH INSTITUTIONS



Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: After a long gap, the state technical institutions universities, engineering and professional colleges, polytechnics, diploma institutions and ITIs were opened for physical classes Monday.

The state government had August 31 decided to reopen all the insti-

tutions from September 6. The decision was taken due to "improvement in Covid-19 situation in the state," an official notification reads. Skill Development and Technical Education department has directed all the institutions to reopen physical classes following all Covid-19 protocols such as sanitisation and disinfection of all classrooms, hostels, and laboratories as the

government guidelines.

Fresh bout of rain may end dry spell

Under the influence of the low-pressure area formed off the south Odisha coast, heavy rainfall, coupled with thunderstorms and lightning, is very likely to occur in most of the districts till September 8

during the next two-three days,

most parts of the state, includ-

ing Bhubaneswar. "We hope that

this low pressure will help over-

come the prevailing dry spell in

27 of the state's 30 districts," a

senior officer of the Agriculture

In the last 24 hours, 29 districts

have received some amount of

rainfall. Jagatsinghpur received the

most amount of rainfall at 42.9mm,

followed by Koraput (36.2mm),

Rains have already started in

the weather office said.

department said.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Odisha government Monday put several districts on alert as the weather office predicted that a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal may trigger heavy rainfall across the state, officials said.

District Collectors were asked to monitor the emerging situation closely, they said.

A low-pressure area has been formed over northwest and adjoining the westcentral Bay of Bengal off the south Odisha coast.

BJP calls for **Cuttack bandh** September 13

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 6: Expressing strong resentment over the state government's decision to cap the height of Goddess Durga's idol at 4ft and other restrictions on puja, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders here Monday decided to call a bandh in the Silver City September 13.

Addressing the media here, senior BJP leader Samir Dey urged the state government to revisit the decision. He said, "Keeping in view the falling Covid" graph, the government has eased restrictions and reopened religious institutions, though with riders. Durga Puia is one of the major festivities in the Millennium City Under such circumstances, the government should revisit its decision," Dey added.

n the last 24 hours, 29 districts have received some amount of

agatsinghpur received the most amount of rainfall at 42.9mm, followed by Koraput (36.2mm), Gajapati (34.9mm), Cuttack (29.1mm), Malkangiri (26.1mm), Bhadrak (26mm) and Puri (25mm)

Boudh was the only district where no rainfall was recorded in the last 24 hours

Gajapati (34.9mm), Cuttack (29.1mm), Malkangiri (26.1mm), Bhadrak (26mm) and Puri (25mm). Boudh was the only district where no rainfall was recorded in the last 24 hours.

Under the influence of the lowpressure area, heavy rainfall, coupled with thunderstorms and lightning, is very likely to occur in most of the districts till September 8, the weather officer predicted.

Alert for heavy rain has been issued for Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput and Puri. Similarly, heavy rainfall is very likely in Malkangiri, Rayagada, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Mayurbhanj and Nabarangpur districts.

Fishermen have been asked not to venture into the sea Monday

Bills to amend PR laws tabled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Moving a step ahead towards conduct of the long-awaited Panchayati Raj and urban elections in the state, the state government Monday introduced two bills to amend the Panchayati Raj and munici-

Minister Pratap Jena, who is incharge of both the departments, introduced the Bills in the house Monday evening. The bills are-Odisha Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill. 2021 and the Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

These two bills have been brou by the state government to make necessary provisions in the existing five laws. Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has

been tabled to amend three Panchayat laws—the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act-1964, the Orissa Panchayat Samiti Act-1959 and the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act-1991 to make suitable provisions for reservation of seats for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, women, and Other Backward Castes with a ceiling of 50 per cent, as per the Supreme Court order.

Similarly, the minister also tabled the Odisha Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to make such provisions in the Orissa Municipal Act-1950 and Orissa Municipal Corporation Act-2003.

The amendments in the laws are necessarv for reservation of seats for SC, ST and OBCs in the upcoming Panchayati Raj election and ULB polls which is due for over two years now.

AT LORD'S ABODE



Union Minister Bishweswar Tudu poses for a photo op after paying obeisance to Lord Lingaraj in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Students flay Plus II evaluation

THE STUDENTS' WING OF CONGRESS PARTY ALSO BACKED THE PROTEST SAYING THAT THE FATE OF THE STUDENTS NOW HANGS IN BALANCE DUE TO THE APATHY OF THE GOVT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Hundreds of ex-regular and dropout students Monday attempted to march towards Naveen Niwas alleging disparity in Plus II evaluation process. Their attempt to gherao the Chief Minister's residence was foiled by the police at the demonstration venue near Master Canteen Square.

The students' wing of the Congress party also backed the protest saying that the fate of the students now hangs in balance due to the 'apathy of the state government and Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE)'.

Students alleged that as per the assessment formula devised for Plus II students, regular students have been awarded scores in theory papers on the basis of their performances in Class X board exam. However, in case of ex-regular students, marks have been awarded in theory papers based



on their performances in previous CHSE examinations which is unacceptable.

An ex-regular student said, "We want marks to be awarded as per the performance in Class X since we were not told in advance that an offline exam will be conducted. We have been neglected and cheated. Regular students, who had passed Class X with 70 per cent marks, were awarded similar marks in Plus II. But many of us who scored good marks in the matriculation exams have been marked failed.

Congress MLA Suresh Routray too urged the state government to look into the grievances of the dropouts and ex-regular students. "Due to the wrong process adopted by the council, only 26 per cent exregular students passed Plus II exams while the pass percentage of regular students stood at 99 per cent. We demand that the results of ex-regular and dropout students be announced by taking into consideration their Class X scores. The government should not play with the lives of the students, Routray said.

The pass percentage of ex-regular students in Arts stream was 26 per cent as only 7,161 students passed the exam while 27, 595 had appeared for it. In commerce, 2,530 ex-regular students were assessed. A total of 1,386 students passed and the pass percentage is 54.78 per cent.

"We faced difficulties in assessing ex-regular students as many of them did not appear any examination under the CHSE in the last few years. The council searched for the marks they had secured in their last examinations," said School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash. The unsatisfied or unsuccessful ex-regular students can also apply for the offline examination, the minister said.

HE dept seeks hostel info through e-Space

BHUBANESWAR: Higher Education department Monday directed all the government and aided colleges under the department to provide complete hostel information in e-Space, Higher Education deputy director Raiesh Kumar Sahoo said that in order to provide accommodation for SC/ST/OBC students and poor students of general category pursuing higher education, it is necessary to gather complete information on availability of hostels and its related information. The institutions have been asked to provide complete information in their respect within two days starting from September 7."You must login to the e-Space using your credentials after that click on the college profile, then click on hostel information and fill up the form before submitting it," the directive reads.

KVK opens 'Maheera'

BHUBANESWAR: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Khurda in association with NIGAM, a voluntary outfit, launched a Farmer Producer Company (FPC) 'MAHEERA' at Balipatna block in the district Monday. Padma Shri Batakrushna Sahoo, the chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the FPC. He applauded the coordinated members, FPC chairman Kumudini Swain and the Board of Directors for establishing the FPC for increasing income of the farmers of the district.

ITI Bhub students train SHG women

BHUBANESWAR: ITI Bhubaneswar and Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Meadows organised a training session for the women of self-help groups (SHGs) of Kalyanpur panchayat, Khurda district recently. In this event, students of food trade of ITI Bhubaneswar imparted skill training to the SHG members on easy way of preparation of processed food like mixed chhattua, lia papad, arisha pitha and lemon pickle. More than 25 women took part in the training initially. This session employable and become small entrepreneurs in their local areas as well as freelance. An MoU is going to be signed between ITI Bhubaneswar & Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Meadows to continue the initiative.

AIRING GRIEVANCES



Congress workers stage a demonstration near CMC office in Cuttack, Monday, highlighting the civic issues in the Millennium City

SCPD releases book on inspiring accounts of PwDs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: State Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has come up with inspiring accounts of 18 specially-abled persons who possess unique skills, talents and capabilities, and State's visually-challenged women's cricket team, through a coffee table book.

Releasing the coffee table book 'Inspire...Empower', Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SSEPD) Minister Ashok Chandra Panda said, "A number of Persons With Disabilities (PwDs) in Odisha have extraordinary exposure in various fields, even fighting against all odds with their will power, practice and fortitude."

SCPD chairperson Sulochana Das said that the commission has made a humble attempt to recognise these special individuals by highlighting their achievements through photography and text.

The coffee table book illustrates amazing stories of success, forti-

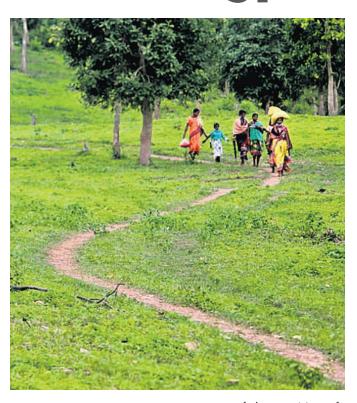
tude and victory scripted by the differently-abled in Odisha. These successful individuals have not let their disability come in their way to achieve different feats in their lives. "Who can be a better example of the achievers than Pramod Bhagat? Bhagat has made the country proud by winning gold medal in the recently concluded Tokyo-Paralympics," said Das.

The book also features Sriharsa and Sidhartha Sukla (painting), Prachurya Kumar Pradhan and Soundarya Kumar Pradhan (chess), V Ramesh Rao and Rakhal Kumar Sethy (wheelchair fencers), Rasmi Rekha Sahu (Odissi dance), Tapaswini Das (OFS officer), Baraj Das (student topper), Sabita Rana (Asha worker), Jayanti Behera (para athlete), Pankaj Bhue and Sukharam Majhi (cricketers), Srinivas Rao (singer), Abhijit Kundu (corporate executive), Niranjan Behera (disability right activist), Dillip Sahu (singer) and visually challenged women's cricket team.

OR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMEN

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store-8763711714, Net Square-Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)-7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Nabarangpur: 77 villages yet to see roads



POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

in check, a report said.

going treatment.

Nabarangpur, Sept 6: Rural connectivity has been one of the focus areas of the both the Centre and

Berhampur, Sept 6: Dengue is

spreading its tentacles in Ganjam

district despite the health admin-

istration's tall claims of putting in

enough efforts to keep the disease

Four more persons have tested

positive for the disease, Monday.

With this, the total number of

persons testing positive for the

disease has gone up to 39. All the

affected persons have been ad-

mitted to the MKCG Medical

College and Hospital and under-

One of them is a young woman

from Chhatrapur, another is a

youth from Rangeilunda while the

rest two are two minors from

Berhampur city, the district health

OrissaPOST

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 7 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

rupees are being spent towards improving basic infrastructure like roads and drinking water. However, despite the efforts of the government, 77 villages in the tribal-dominated Nabarangpur

department said.

the disease, Monday.

The 26-year-old woman from

Chhatrapur was suffering from

fever following which she under-

went a test and tested positive for

Similarly, a seven-year-old boy

from Ramakrushna Nagar and a

ERLOGGED

Dengue cases on the rise in Ganjam

district have remained almost inaccessible in the absence of proper roads, a report said.

According to sources, 29 years have passed since Nabarangpur was carved out as a separate district. Even after three decades, these villages have been reeling under backwardness due to lack of proper connectivity.

People in these villages have been suffering inconvenience in every field as communication is the key to facilitate availability of any other benefit.

Various outfits have decried the underdevelopment of these villages cut-off from the road network, pointing out publicity of the government about its development

Reports said, 38 villages under Chandahandi block had foot tracks for communication in 2016-17; sim-



Four more persons

for the disease

total number of

affected persons

nine-year-old girl from Kamapali

under Berhampur Municipal

Corporation have tested positive

for the disease. The affected per-

son from Rangeilunda is a 19-year-

old youth, the district health of-

ficials said. Two separate teams

from the district and block health

to 39 in the district

have tested positive

Monday, taking the



ilar was the condition in 64 villages under Jharigaon block; 24 in Umerkote block. It was learnt that a total of 122 villages had only foot tracks for communication in the same fiscal.

The state government had sought report from the district administration about the status of road connectivity in rural pockets.

The administration in its letter to the government dated August 1, 2016 stated that 122 villages are in need of proper road connectivity. In the last five years, DRDA sources said that 45 of those villages

have been connected with roads. Commuting woes have been persistent in scores of villages in these three blocks where there

departments visited the affected

areas and took stock of the situ-

A team from the district ad-

ministration visited the affected

areas in Berhampur and sensi-

tised the residents. Similar aware-

ness and cleanliness drives are

also being conducted in the rural

areas of Ganjam district, officials

from the district health depart-

Dengue spreads through the

bite of the female mosquito (Aedes

aegypti) during the rainy sea-

son. The virus is thriving and

spreading rapidly in the district

and has shown no sign of abate-

ment despite tall claims by the

health department of taking nec-

essary steps to check the spread

Malkangiri, Sept 6: Satish Chandra

Border Security Force (BSF) visited

interior areas of Malkangiri district

and reviewed the Maoist activities

and security situation on the Odisha-

Chhattisgarh and Odisha-Andhra

Budakoti toured various BSF

camps in Malkangiri district for the

last two days and reviewed the Maoist

activities and security situation in

the areas. He was accompanied by

Sanjay Kumar Singh, DIG,

Malkangiri Sector and other BSF

The senior officers visited general

area of COB Janbai and COB Dyke-

III in the Swabhiman Anchal of

Malkangiri district on the fringes of

The senior officer also visited gen-

eral area of COB Mathili and vil-

lages on the fringes of Chhattisgarh.

He appreciated the troops, over their

strong domination in the region and

for their close coordination with the

Officials during the visit.

Andhra Pradesh border.

Pradesh border, Sunday.

of the disease

ation, Monday.

38 villages under Chandahand block had foot tracks for communication in 2016-17: similar was the condition in 64 villages under Jharigaon block: 24 in Umerkote block. It was learnt that a total of 122 villages had only foot tracks for communication in the same fiscal

DRDA sources said that 45 of those villages have been connected with roads in the last 5 years

This year, 5 pregnant women were reported to have been carried on cots to hospitals in Umerkote owing to absence

have been instances of patients and pregnant women being carried on cots even across rivers to reach the nearest hospital.

17 villages under Chandahandi. 33 villages under Jharigaon block and 27 villages under Umerkote blocks have been deprived of roads.

been carried on cots to hospitals in Umerkote owing to absence of road connectivity.

Some social activists say, BDOs are supposed to monitor development and record basic shortcomings in a panchayat every month. But this is not happening, they said.

They pointed out that people will continue to suffer from all kinds of problems - in availing benefits of food security, pension, healthcare, education etc as long as roads have not been laid in these 77 villages.

"Roads hold the key to socioeconomic development of these rural pockets," they observed.

am 2 months pregnant," said

Jena. The woman has filed a

complaint with the chief district

medical officer, demanding action

against the doctor who had con-

ducted the surgery and sought

Ambulance catches fire in Kendrapara 🗦

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 6: A 108 ambulance suddenly caught fire near Mahipal in Kendrapara town, Monday.

Reportedly, the ambulance (OD-02BQ-2298) was returning to the district headquarters hospital in

the town after dropping a patient

at Cuttack. The vehicle had reached Mahipal when the driver noticed smoke coming out from under his seat. The driver and the ambulance staff got down immediately and raised

an alarm. All of them have been reported safe, ADMO Dr Sachidananda Mishra said. A preliminary inquiry suggested short circuit to

be the reason behind the fire. Locals and fire personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

at Bhubaneswar, for advancing No- 74/515/842,

Address for Communication Branch-LICHFL, N.C. Pattnaik, Advocate



Notice is hereby given on behalf of

construction loan to Sri.Mrutyunjaya Maharana on his property at Plot 1072, Area- Ac 0.080 decimals at Mouza-Borapada Khamar, Tahasil -Dhenkanal, Dist-Dhenkanal. But it was found that, he has lost the Original link deed bearing no-3039 dtd.24.06.2005 in favour of Suresh coming from court to his residence in his motor cycle on 16.08.2021 Therefore notice is hereby given has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing document, they have to claim before the LICHFL, within 15 days from the date of publication. And after that the documents will lose its legal force and LICHFL will not be responsible for any claim. What-so-ever on the property after

IPICOL HOUSE, Bhubaneswar Mob.: 9853311189

Woman gets pregnant after 'faulty' sterilisation surgery There, they confirmed that I

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Sept 6: A 31-year-old woman got pregnant even after undergoing a sterilisation operation at a government hospital in Jajpur district.

A district health official Monday said she will be given financial assistance as per the compensation rule of the government. Rina Jena, a resident of Markandpur village in Jajpur block, said she underwent tubectomy, a permanent method of contraception in women, by a gynaecologist in a community health centre in the district in March.

The mother of three children said she menstruated for 3 months after the tubectomy, but then missed her period for two consecutive months.

"I realised something was amiss and went to the hospital for a check-up.

Budakoti also interacted with

Vishal Singh, District Magistrate

of Malkangiri and PS Meena. Superintendent of Police and dis-

cussed with them the latest security

The visiting officers also took

stock of the latest Covid-19 situa-

tion in the camps of the para-mili-

tary force. He encouraged the troops

and asked them to follow Covid ap-

Reports said that BSF has been

successfully countering the Maoist

strategy for the safety and security of

the people in the interiors and re-

mote localities of Malkangiri and

Koraput districts, since its inception

ordinated effort of state machinery

that brings the development proj-

ects in full swing in the Swabhiman

Anchal. He assured that BSF takes

it as a privilege to be part of such

projects by giving security cover-

age and making it a success for the

The BSF IG appreciated the co-

scenario of the region.

propriate behavior.

in the state in 2010.

people of the state.

BSF IG reviews security

scenario in Malkangiri



adequate compensation.

EAST COAST RAILWAY E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER-2021 FOR DEPOT & DIVISIONS SCHEDULE OF E-AUCTION HQ/DIVISION

Depot Mancheswar 05.10.21, 12.10.21, 20.10.21 & 29.10.21 Khurda Road Division 07.10.21, 13.10.21, 22.10.21 & 30.10.21 Waltair Division 05.10.21, 12.10.21, 20.10.21 & 29.10.21 Sambalpur Division 06.10.21, 12.10.21, 21.10.21 & 28.10.21

nned rolling stocks (Loco, Coach, Wagon), Scrap rail, Miscellaneous P.Way fittings (switches, crossings, fish plates, sleepers, fish bolt etc.) miscellaneous workshop scrap (drums, bogie frame, buffer casing, buffer plunger, turning and boring etc), Miscellaneous ferrous, Non-ferrous, Non metallic scrap, condemned machinery and plants, condemned vehicles condemned office equipments of Sambalpur, Khurda Road & Waltair divisions and scrap materials of Railway Electrifications are expected to be offered or "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. Railway administration shall be at liberty to include other items too in the e-auction and the complete details of materials and term and conditions will be as per Auction Catalogue, which shall be available with the respective auction conducting authority of East Coast Railway or from ou website, www.ireps.gov.in within 07 (seven) days prior to the date of auction.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Bhubaneswar



Ph.: (06852)-252421 (Off), Email:- dpckoraputssa.opepa@nic.in **INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)** e-Procurement Notice INDENTIFICATION NO. IFB-DPC, SS, KORAPUT

No. 2491 Date. 04.09.21 No. n-45: The District Project Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha, Koraput on behalf of Collector-cum-Chairman, Koraput invites Percentage Rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the construction

of Building Works of Multipurpose Hall as details in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N.) from the eligible class of contractors. Cost of Tender Paper Rs.5,000/-"C" & "D" Class Class of Contractor Date & Time of available 16.00 PM of 07.09.2021 to 5.00 PM in website & receipt of of 28.09.2021 Date of Opening of 29.09.2021 at 11.30 AM

Technical Bid The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details car be seen from the State Gov. Portal website http://tendersodisha.gov.in http://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- (Rama Chandra Nahak) OIPR-27035/11/0005/2122 District Project Coordinator, RTE-SS, Koraput



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepur**

E-mail: eetelirrdivn@gmail.com E-procurement Notice No - EE, TID, SNP - 06/2021-22

No. A-426:- The Executive Engineer, Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepur

03 Nos.

on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online Percentage rate tenders in Single Cover system to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed below. Name of the work Flood Protection Embankment Works

Class of Contractor

No. of Works

Bid Identification No.

Estimated Cost

Period of Completion Date & time of availability of

bid documents in the Portal

bids in the Portal Date of Opening of Bid

10 Name of the Officer inviting

onwards in the Office of the undersigned) Executive Engineer, Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepur (Dist.-Subarnapur)

OIPR-32362/11/0003/2122

'D', 'C', 'B' & 'A' Class (Odisha

PWD or relevant class of other licensing Authority.) EE, TID, SNP-06/2021-22

As per mentioned in NIT From 08.09.2021 (10.00 AM) to

In portal -20.09.2021 from 10.00

On Date 21.09.2021 (11.00 AM

Varies from Rs 19.24 to

20.09.2021 (05.30 PM)

A.M up to 05.30 P.M.

Rs 47.76 Lakhs

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement porta https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepu

their homage to the departed free-

MLA from Erasama and established Sangrami Bhawan Gandhi Pitha at Erasama and a memorial pillar for the freedom fighters According to a book 'Sangrami written

Subhanarayan Swain, many eminent persons strengthened the freedom movement and led the agitation from front. Baishnab Patnaik and

Shaymsundar Kanungo from Hajipur village, Hadibandhu Swain from Dihasahi and Adikanda Sethi of Goudsahi led the freedom fighters from the block and from neighbouring Kujang area.

Nayak organised them and led them to the block headquarters where they torched the British police station as a mark of protest and their deep running anger against the British rule.

Remembering Erasama's legacy of Quit India Movement Gandhi had set ablaze the then British police station at Erasama dom fighters. block headquarters. After the country got independ-The incident shook the British

POST NEWS NETWORK

low-pressure, Sunday

Erasama, Sept 6: Erasama revolution is a vivid reminder of the deep seated anger of the people against the British rule in India and the supreme sacrifice of locals in the freedom movement as residents observed Erasama Diwas commemorating the occasion, Monday

Residents in Erasama torched a British police station on this day. September 6, 1942 as they responded to the Quit India Movement call of Mahatma Gandhi in equal note.

Eminent freedom fighter and Erasama's first MLA late Gouri Shyam Navak had led the agitation September 6, 1942. Nayak had formed a youth outfit named Shanti Sevak Samiti and had united all likeminded people against the British government under its umbrella.

The freedom fighters responding to the do or die call and Quit India Movement by Mahatma government but it acted promptly and arrested hundreds of freedom fighters and lodged them at Narsinghpur Kothi where they were meted out inhuman treatment.

A biker negotiating through a waterlogged road in Berhampur following heavy rainfall triggered by

The daring act by the locals in 1942 against the then British govern-

RESIDENTS IN ERASAMA TORCHED A BRITISH POLICE STATION SEPTEMBER 6, 1942 AS THEY RESPONDED TO THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT CALL OF MAHATMA GANDHI IN EQUAL NOTE

THE DARING ACT BY THE LOCALS IN 1942 AGAINST THE THEN BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS COMMEMORATED EVERY YEAR AS ERASAMA DIWAS



Freedom fighters' memorial at Erasama

ment is commemorated every year as Erasama Diwas. The residents in remembrance of the freedom

fighters had built a memorial at Erasama Gandhi Square where they gather on this day and pay

ОР РНОТО

ence, Nayak had become the first



In sincerity is the certitude of victory. Sincerity! Sincerity! How sweet is the purity of thy

THE MOTHER



COVID Trips Suga

he surprise announcement by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga September 3 that he would step down and would not run in the ruling party's leadership election September 29 makes him the first world leader to become a political casualty for his inept handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is also paying the price for removing scholars critical of his performance from a government panel which did not go down well with the people. Many heads of state have miserably failed to rise to the occasion and saw thousands die and millions affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Obviously, Suga has shown the honesty to concede he found it too difficult to run his government and at the same time lead the fight against the pandemic from the front. He has told his people that from now on he would concentrate only on tackling Covid-19. Harking back to news reports, Japan seemed to have fared well in its battle against Covid-19. It is unlikely that, like India, Japan was distorting its figures of infections and deaths. Those who observe the Japanese establishment's behavior, that is one country which has a reputation of being honest with its data. However, Suga's major goof-up could have been not only permitting but pushing for the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Again, to look back to the recent past, news reports clearly indicated a huge increase in Covid-19 infections during the Olympics. Reports of infections within the Olympics village in the early days came as no surprise to anyone.

Japan PM Suga stepping down is an indication of honesty that is inherent in Japanese society. On the other hand, the behavior of most other world leaders in countries ravaged by the coronavirus and the abject failure due to mismanagement has demonstrated how, globally, politicians cling to power without concern for the citizens. Suga stands head and shoulders above the rest

WISDOM CORNER

Don't wait for the perfect time to start making changes to your life;



The more you like yourself, the less you are like anyone else, which makes you unique

WORDS**WORTH**

Paparazzo

he inspiration for the original paparazzo, Tazio Secchiaroli, has died (24 July 1998) at the age of 73. The story of how the word came into the English language (almost always as the plural form paparazzi, for intrusive freelance photographers who pursue celebrities) encompasses not only Secchiaroli's career, but also the making of a classic film and a journal of travels by a nineteenth-century English author around southern Italy. It began with the discovery by Tazio Secchiaroli and some young colleagues in the late 1950s, whose beat was the bars and clubs of the Via Veneto in Rome, that magazines were becoming bored with staged photographs of the famous, and were prepared to pay good money for candid or "surprise" shots. He became famous on a single night in 1958 when he snapped the enraged former King Farouk of Egypt overturning a restaurant table, and the actor Anthony Steele reacting in fury while Anita Ekberg waited for him in a car. The context is now hugely familiar, but at that time Secchiaroli and his comrades and rivals would have been known only as street photographers. By chance, the Italian film producer Federico Fellini was at the time thinking about the plot of a film that would focus on Rome's new status as a decadent haunt of high society, a film which was to become La Dolce Vita of 1960 (an Italian phrase that itself has become a catchphrase). Fellini got in touch with Secchiaroli, who gave him a lot of help in researching the story, and so the photographer in the film was modelled on him. Several conflicting stories exist to explain how the character was given the name Paparazzo. Fellini said at one point that it was taken from an opera libretto and also that it had suggested to him "a buzzing insect, hovering, darting, stinging". On the other hand, there is evidence to suggest that the real source was a work by the English author George Gissing, a writer of the late nineteenth-century perhaps best remembered for New Grub Street and The Odd Women. He died young, in 1903, and his works sank into obscurity during the first half of the century, but in the late 1950s were beginning to be revived and appreciated. Gissing went on a tour of southern Italy at the end of the century, recording his impressions in a travel book called By the Ionian Sea, published in 1901. His descriptions are revealing of social conditions in this very poor area and remain valuable as a historical record. At one point during the latter part of his journey, he stopped briefly at a hotel in Catanzaro, the Albergo Centrale, which was run by a man named Coriolano Paparazzo. A commemorative plaque on the building records Gissing's stay and notes that it was due to a scriptwriter on Fellini's film, Ennio Flaiano, that the name was borrowed from the book for the character. Flaiano recorded in his diary for June 1958, while he was working on the screenplay, that he had read Sulla riva dello Ionio, the Italian translation of Gissing's book, and found the name. The film was a considerable success, even notorious, though it would now be considered very tame.

■ Paraphernalia

We're most familiar with this word to describe the equipment or materials that are used in some activity or craft. But it also has a negative meaning: of things that are unnecessary or superfluous, the trappings and impedimenta that have accreted around something as blown sand might collect around a pebble. Just look round your garden shed, or your kitchen, and work out quite how much of the paraphernalia you have there is essential, and the light may begin to dawn (Sunday Times, 26 June 2000). That makes the origin of the word deeply galling to those who are passionate about the rights of women. It derives from a term in Greek and Roman law: the root is the Greek parapherna, from para, distinct from, plus pherna, a dowry, so it referred to the bride's personal property, things other than her dowry. All other goods became the property of her husband, as they did, for example, in England until the first Married Women's Property Act was passed in 1870. The legal sense was the first one that appeared in English, in medieval times; the senses of personal possessions or items of equipment or accessories only arose in the eighteenth century.

He is extremely drunk

ate one Friday night a policeman spotted a man driving very erratically through the streets. He pulled the man over and asked him if he had been drinking that evening. "Aye, so I have. 'Tis Friday, you know, so me and the lads stopped by the pub where I had six or seven pints. And then there was something called 'Happy Hour' and they served these mar-gar-itos which are quite good. I had four or five o' those. Then I had to

drive my friend Mike home and O' course I had to go in for a couple of Guinness - couldn't be rude, ye know. Then I stopped on the way home to get another bottle for later ... ' And the man fumbled around in his coat until he located his bottle of whiskey, which he held up for

The officer sighed, and said, "Sir, I'm afraid I'll need you to step out of the car and take a breathalyser test." Indignantly, the man said, "Why? Don't ye believe me?!"

FOCUS INDIA INC.

HERD INSTINCT

fter a firestorm over the article in the RSS-aligned Panchjanya magazine that called Infosys anti-national, the RSS has come out to formally disassociate itself from the remarks and added for good measure that the magazine is not its organ. Political messaging works best when it is straightforward and simple, so a blunt attack and a tactical retreat are as much in good stead as is the equally blunt counter from the Congress that calling Infosys anti-national (for delays and breakdowns in the income tax portal executed by the company) is in itself an anti-national act

While this sparring goes on, no one need miss the silence, even surrender, of what is euphemistically called India Inc., the one on whose shoulders the RSS and BJP have placed much hope to take the nation forward - from a would-be revolutionising of farmlands through the massive privatisation enabled by the new farm laws to the big 'asset monetisation' that is now in the headlines. These corporate biggies, the government appears to believe, have the muscle, the money, the drive and the belief to put India on a bold new path, with the added advantage of having neither any political ambition nor a protestor's voice. They are safe bets to rely on. They prefer, it seems, backrooms where deals are done, accommodation is provided and business

This is the not-so-pretty picture of business in India three decades after liberalisation, the so-called new dawn for a nation that broke away, at last, from the license-permit-quota Raj in 1991. How much really has changed, we may ask, from the time Nehru talked of the 'jhoot' press because it was largely linked to the then jute magnets and their narrow interests, to the time when Indira Gandhi perfected the art of collecting money and also putting businessmen in their place, to today when no one will dare speak-up even when an iconic company and its iconic



While the target this time is Infosys, let there be no doubt that they are in the same boat as others - silence is golden and the rest is business as usual!

founders have been linked, well almost, to the so-called 'tukde-tukde gang.' The story then is Infosys is out to break the nation that other businesses have wowed to build. While the target this time is Infosys, let there be no doubt that they are in the same boat as others - silence is golden and the rest is business as usual!

The question is can such a business sector provide the vigour, the vibrancy and the innovation required to make India a private sector-led powerhouse of the future. Surely, one important ingredient is developing the art and skill and courage of asking tough questions, and this is a package that is either encouraged or discouraged In India, it is the latter, as much in business as it is in the Indian way of life, and this puts its own brakes on what business models so fashioned can deliver at a time of intense, even unprecedented, change. If this is the central make up of a leadership, then the entire ecosystem is being led by not business leaders who can stand upright but a bunch of interests and money bags that are entrenched, familiar

and familial, all equipped to play safe in their personal interests, not bold in the public interest.

In fact, while there are many honourable exceptions, the bulk of business is feared to be of the kind that actively discourages questioning within the business itself. Like it or not, many still run internally like the BJP of today! It is not surprising then that India with its largest supply of engineers in the world is (largely) a nation of testers and coders, world class even if they are, moving up the value chain only slowly, not a nation of innovators who can dazzle with their dream products and

services This isn't the stuff tomorrow's businesses will be built of. It isn't the path to sustainable growth, to new models or to meeting the needs of India's vast majority, many of them still living in poor conditions and with meagre incomes. Not asking questions is but one side of the story of subservience. The other side is the bribery and chicanery we saw when controls went loose and deals of all manner were signed leading

to short-term growth and a long term crunch that left the banks with a pile of non-performing assets (NPAs) that at one point crossed ₹10 lakh crore. For comparison, the current 'asset monetisation' plan is touted to fetch ₹6 lakh crore. So, all in all, this paints a dismal picture of the state of our businesses. Not all are of this variety but the big picture would paint the entire class in some unfavourable light.

This unfavourable image of business is seeped into the Indian mindset as well. Consider that farmers are protesting not to privatise mandis, among other things, saying they have no faith in the private operator who is slated to take over. It is the same thinking that drives a section of Indians even today to prefer the safety of a government job, and the agitation for more caste-based reservations in government jobs, which, on the whole, should be declining if government is to hire less, become more efficient and the private sector is to truly blossom.

There is no doubt that the business class has played a part in the building of India. It will be required to play an even bigger part tomorrow. For this, we do not need businesses that dabble in politics or oppose elected governments but we do need businesses that stand up for something larger than self-aggrandisement.

It is also true that we need the firing of 'animal spirits' that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke of earlier in the year, inviting investments to drive India back to the path of high growth. Her call was for marching ahead, exploring and investing boldly based on intuition, optimism and the belief in India's destiny. But can bold moves come from someone with a bent spine? That is one reason why we may continue to live with herd instinct, not animal spirits.

The writer is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM BIG TECH

Jagdish Rattanani

MOVES COME

WITH A BENT

ONE REASON

WHY WE MAY

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SPINE? THAT IS

FROM SOMEONE

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Data privacy Chinese-style



Angela Huyue Zhang

CHINA'S NEW PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION LAW REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF CITIZENS, AND IT WILL INCREASE THE COMPLIANCE **BURDEN FOR MAJOR TECH FIRMS**

China's Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) comprises a far-reaching set of rules governing how tech companies handle user data. And, on the surface, it seems pretty tough: in fact, The Wall Street Journal hailed the PIPL as "one of the world's strictest data-privacy laws." But it will probably do less to protect Chinese users than many believe, and it might even entrench further the dominance of China's incumbent tech giants.

To be sure, the PIPL represents an important first step toward protecting the privacy of Chinese citizens. It gives regulators a new set of weapons to use in their fight against China's mighty tech firms: limits companies' ability to engage in algorithmic price discrimination; tightens rules on cross-border data transfers; and imposes additional compliance burdens for large tech firms that are deemed 'gatekeepers.

But a close look at the PIPL reveals its major weaknesses. For starters, although it requires businesses and government agencies to obtain individual consent before processing personal information, it exempts them from doing so when

hina has just passed a major there is a 'statutory basis' – while sonal data to state-controlled stordata-privacy law. Inspired failing to specify which statutes by the European Union's qualify. Because many Chinese General Data Protection Regulation, government authorities, including central ministries and local governments, possess some degree of legislative power, a vast array of lower-level rules and regulations could potentially be used to circumvent the PIPL

Notably, exemptions could be granted on the basis of statutes that facilitate China's controversial social-credit system. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) has been drafting credit-information guidelines that will bring an abundance of online consumer data - covering, for example, transportation, communication, property, and payments - under the purview of its credit system.

This goes far beyond the existing social-credit system, which mostly collects negative credit information, such as personal debt defaults and legal violations. Not surprisingly, it has fuelled heated debate in China, with many arguing that the new guidelines amount to a serious violation of personal privacy. For the PBOC, however, they are central to an ambitious plan to create a nationwide credit database - a step that will significantly boost the state's ability to pressure fintech giants such as Ant Group to transfer their vast troves of perage infrastructure. Such companies previously re-

sisted such official pressure on grounds of consumer privacy. But China's regulatory war on the country's tech giants – especially its suspension of Ant Group's initial public offering - has strengthened the PBOC's hand considerably. Now, the central bank is aggressively pushing its credit-database plan, purportedly in the name of financial stability.

The PIPL also fails on another front: it does not create a new independent data-protection agency. The Cyberspace Administration of China will manage coordination, leaving enforcement to a patchwork of national- and local-level regulators, which tend to be thinly staffed.

This probably explains why legal sanctions are not the only form of enforcement envisaged by the PIPL. Instead, the law allows for soft legal measures, such as administrative interviews with firms to request that they rectify their behaviour. While these soft measures could offer a flexible and efficient alternative to legal sanctions, they may leave too much to the discretion of bureaucrats and weaken deterrence.

Moreover, the new law is unlikely to rein in Chinese tech giants' market power. After all, these companies have deep coffers and strong legal support - resources that put them in a strong position to shoulder PIPL compliance costs. The same cannot be said of their smaller rivals.

The law's data-portability requirement - which allows consumers to move their personal data more easily between platforms - is a case in point. The rule is intended to encourage multihoming (wherein consumers patronise multiple platforms), and to reduce platform-switching costs for consumers. But studies suggest that it could discourage new entrants, as smaller businesses often cannot afford the costs of

forced data transfers. Similarly, strict privacy protections may place smaller firms and new entrants at a competitive dis-

advantage. China's new data-privacy law will undoubtedly increase the compliance burden for China's Big Tech firms, which have faced regulatory onslaughts over the past ten months. But, in the end, the PIPL may turn out to be a blessing in disguise for them.

The writer, a law professor, is Director of the Center for Chinese Law at the University of Hong Kong.

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Today's gain, tomorrow's cost

Sir, This refers to the article, 'Will monetisation go the DeMo way,' Orissa POST, September 5. Since privatisation and disinvestment of government undertakings have been a failure, the apparent government thinking is that if you cannot sell PSUs or if there are no takers for them, then let's raise funds against the assets of the PSUs. This monetisation plan confirms the fact that the government has been bad at managing public wealth and must thus handover that responsibility to some others. The cash-strapped Indian government has identified six trillion rupees (\$81 billion) in existing revenue-generating assets, which it will monetise over four years to fund an ambitious \$1.5 trillion pipeline of new infrastructure. But while New Delhi aims to replicate the fundraising success overseas, it can't overlook the flipside of the so-called ambitious asset monetisation policy. Going forward, reports suggest, to maximise their profit over a limited time frame, investors would naturally want to raise prices, limit competition or cut back on upkeep. In New South Wales, where electricity prices doubled in five years after poles and wires were privatised, the government had to step in with an Energy Affordability Package to lower the burden on consumers. Singapore had to nationalise its suburban trains and signaling systems because the main private operator had underinvested in maintenance, leading to frequent breakdowns and stranded, angry passengers. The Indian taxpayer, already struggling under extortionate levies on energy, simply can't afford such largesse. Hence, it's important to prevent today's lump-sum gains to the government from becoming a cost tomorrow. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

'Paraphenomenal' achievers

 $\boldsymbol{Sir},$ Our Paralympians have made the whole country proud. With 19 podium finishes they have lit up the Tokyo sky. With five gold, eight silver and six bronze medals the contingent had a dream run in the Paralympics 2020. The media coverage for the Paralympics seems a notch down from the Summer Olympics and this pains me. The congratulatory messages from political leaders also seem a rung lower in excitement as compared to the Summer Olympics. I urge the government and the Sports Authority of India to give the same love to the Paralympians that they gave to the Summer Olympic medallists. They deserve more but an equal amount would do. The para-athletes proved that disability only makes you stronger. More power to them. The whole country is proud of them.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Parlous boat rides endanger tourists as admin sits pretty

taken while travelling through the

water routes. However, the local

boatmen and even tourists over-

look these aspects and endanger their lives while traveling to vari-

Fourteen years back, 13 members

of a local cricket team had drowned

when the overcrowded boat sank in

the Mahanadi near Bahakuda Ghat.

ular affair here. This has happened

as the district administration has

failed to implement the 2004 boat

rules of the state government.

Locals alleged that mishaps in

these water routes have become a

frequent occurrence due to apa-

thetic attitude of the district ad-

A social activist Amitabh Chand

alleged that most of the boats ply-

ing these water routes and their

oarsmen are vet to be included in the

insurance scheme on the basis of the

boat rules of the state government.

these rivers in Bhitarkanika National Park without a proper

fitness certificate and without life

jackets for any of their travelers.

Due to absence of fitness certificate,

if the boat sinks then people trav-

elling in them will not be entitled

to any compensation.

Sources said, over 60 boats ply in

Mishaps and loss of life is a reg-

ous tourist sites.

ministration



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 6: Unsafe country boats without having adequate safety measures continue to ferry hundreds of tourists and locals across the water bodies to visit Bhitarkanika National Park, Hukitola island, Habelikothi, Batighara (Lighthouse) island, Barunei river mouth, Rangani, Talachua and other places in Kendrapara district

People are being fetched in a perilous ride to various tourist sites by country and tourist boats despite a ban in place for country boat after the Chilika boat tragedy claimed six lives.

These tourist sites witness heavy footfall during peak tourist season every year and around 60 unsafe boats are endangering the lives of the tourists visiting these sites. As many as 27 persons have drowned in boat mishaps since 2003.

Kendrapara district lies in the river delta formed by the Brahmani and the Baitarani rivers and the distributaries of the Mahanadi. The main medium of communication in 17 panchayats is water route as the district has several river networks.

A lot of precaution has to be

People are being ferried on perilous boat rides to various tourist sites despite a ban in place for country boats after the Chilika tragedy

As many as 27 persons have drowned in boat mishaps since 2003. Due to absence of fitness certificate, if the boat sinks then people travelling in it will not be entitled to any compensation

Many of these boatmen are minors and lack any skill or experience. Overloading of boats is attributed as the main reason behind

Rajendra Sahu of Gupti panchayat under Rajnagar block said there are over 1700 saltwater crocodiles in the Bhitarkanika National Park adding to the risks in case of a capsize.

People from Gupti, Chandbali, Khola, Jainagar, Kharinasi Bahakuda and Jambu often travel to Bhitarkanika in boats. Moreover, many of these boatmen are minors and lack any skill or experience for which there is every possibility of boat mishaps in these rivers during risky weather conditions. Overloading of boats is attributed as the main reason behind such mishaps.

The residents have drawn the attention of political representatives and senior district officials towards the problem but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

When contacted, Basant Kumar Rout, ADM said that the district administration has directed all the boat owners to include their boatmen and boats in the insurance schemes. Action will be taken if anybody is found violating norms, he said.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhawanipatna, Sept 6: Farmers in Kalahandi marched from a village to the district headquarters here Monday to seek compensation over the drought-like situation in the region due to deficient rainfall.

The peasants, around 100 in number, handed over a memorandum to Additional District Magistrate Sarat Chandra Srichandan, demanding that the entire Bhawanipatna block be declared drought-affected and incentives given to the affected farmers, an official said.





DELAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Farmers demanding payment of crop insurance of 2020 and irrigation facilities to their farmlands staging a road blockade and sit-in on NH-16 in Khariar

DEMO FOR IRRIGATION

ଞା ଅବରୋଧ ଓ ଗଣଧାରଣ

Officials have been alleged to be working hand-in-glove with plunderers by delaying the official formalities and providing window for the illegal act

of Nuapada district, Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Sept 6: Delay in environmental clearance and execution of lease deeds has allegedly let loose the illegal sand mining at various river ghats in Jagatsinghpur district

The whopping Rs48 lakh collected as penalty from the errant people is indicative of the extent of illegality in sand mining in the district. But the administration is allegedly sitting idle as sand mafia and some revenue officials have forged an unholy nexus to loot the minor mineral, a report said.

The administration has so far recovered penalties worth Rs 48 lakh from the errant.

In last four months, most sand mines in the district have been auctioned, but public hearings have not been conducted while environmental clearances are still pending.

Taking advantage of the situation, lease holders have been plundering sand even though they are yet to meet all prerequisite formalities

for sand mining. The administration was accused of delaying the official formalities to provide window for looters to steal sand.

As a result, the state government is losing crores of rupees as revenue. It is alleged that all such illegalities have been going on due to rackets.

Last year, the administration had leased out 18 sand quarries while this year. 29 sand mines were leased out including six in Naugaon tehsil, three each in Raghunathpur and Jagatsinghpur, two in Kujang and 10 in Tirtol.

It was learnt that though lease process has been over, the lease holders have not yet signed any agreements with the administration to carry on their work.

As per the rule, public hearing will be held for the mines which are spread over 12 acres or more. The tehsil authorities will have to seek permission of the state **Environment Impact Assessment** Authority. Meanwhile, public hearings for six sand mines have been held in Biridi, Raghunathpur and

The delay in completing all official formalities has encouraged the lease holders to loot sand. The illegal mining has gone to such an extent that the revenue authorities have collected Rs 48 lakh as fine from violators in last eight months, it was learnt. As construction activities and infrastructure development projects are in full swing in various parts of the district, sand is in high demand in the area.

It was alleged that the enforcement squads at sub-divisional and district levels have failed to take action against those indulging in illegal sand mining.

Contacted, Jagatsinghpur deputy Collector Ajay Mohanty said that lease deeds are not being executed as environment clearances are pending. However, action will be taken if they are alerted about

Woman hacked to death; 4 including 3 minors detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairakhol, Sept 6: A 30-year-old woman, identified as Banita Mirdha, was allegedly killed in the courtyard of her house at Laindamal village under Rairakhol police limits in Sambalpur district, Sunday night.

According to a source, some neighbours found the body of Banita lying in a pool of blood Monday morning.

On being informed, Rairakhol SDPO Prashant Kumar Meher, along with IIC Surubabu Chhatria and some police personnel, immediately reached the spot. Exact reason behind the incident is yet to be ascertained. A case has been registered in this connection and probe is underway.



tion, police have detained four persons including three juveniles for interrogation. They are Shantanu Mirdha, Sahadev Mirdha, Hari Mirdha and his son Kalia Sanjit Mirdha. As it appears, the murder has been committed due to past enmity, the SDPO said.

Police have sent Banita's body to the nearby hospital for post-mortem. A scientific team from Sambalpur Sadar will help reveal the reason behind murder, the SDPO added.

Unlicensed clinics thrive in Nayagarh due to 'administrative ignorance'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 6: Locals of Nayagarh district demanded stringent action against the unqualified doctors, owners of unregistered clinics and persons involved in activities like illegal abortion. Officials have been apathetic towards such sensitive issues, many local residents alleged Monday. A number of unregistered clin-

ics have been operating in Nayagarh district, in the absence of timely administrative action, they said.

One such health facility named Balaii Clinic. located near the community health centre (CHC) at Khandapada town in Nayagarh, had been providing healthcare services sans valid registration certificate.

According to a source, the owner of the clinic Trinath Barik died eight months ago. The registration obtained earlier became invalid following his demise. However, the clinic continued to operate as before, which was sealed Saturday after two consecutive cases of illegal abortion surfaced in Nayagarh town.

Contacted, the Additional District



for stringent action against ille-

ips will take appropriate steps at their ends, as they deem fit and

with proper certificate.





The Health department highernecessary, Nayak further said.

Notably, 14 private hospitals and clinics were accorded permission to provide healthcare services in Nayagarh district. After Anand Bhawan Aditya Hospital & Clinic, and Balaji Clinic were recently sealed on charges of carrying out illegal abortion and not having valid registration respectively, only 12 other facilities are operating



According to the weekly-crop assessment by the Agriculture Department, paddy fields have been affected in non-irrigated pockets till August as 10 out of 13 blocks experienced erratic rain.

POLITICAL STIR



Congress workers taking out a rally in support of Boudh bandh demanding inclusion of Boudh district under Sambalpur RDC division and other demands at Baunsuni, Monday

70-yr-old school sees poor student turnout owing to teachers' crunch

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 6: A sevendecades-old high school in the Silk City is witnessing poor turnout of students, allegedly due to the lack of adequate number of teachers, a report said. One may blame parents' interest in sending their kids to private schools. However, one also has to keep in mind the government's apathy and negligence towards improving the situation.

The Government Queen of the Mission High School was established in 1947. In spite of its comparatively better infrastructure like a mini stadium, basketball court and a science laboratory, the student turnout is not satisfactory. One of the primary reasons is the inadequate number of teachers in the school. It has been alleged that more than 50 per cent of the posi-

tions lie vacant till date. Guardians have alleged that it has affected classroom teaching in the school. The school has many eminent alumni to boast of like Odisha Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro, Upendra Tripathy (IAS), M Akshaya (IPS), Dr Sanak Kumar Mishra (scientist) and Professor

Dr Chittaranjan Kar. Reports said that the school re-



quires a minimum of 23 teachers to function smoothly, but at present there are only nine. This has been the case for the last two years. For example there are three positions for mathematics teachers, but only two have been appointed.

Similarly, there is no teacher for science subjects. Nine teachers are required for general subjects, but currently there are only four. All the three posts of teachers for IACT and MCT are lying vacant. The physical education teacher retired in March this year, but no new appointment has been made till date. There is only one teacher for Hindi and Sanskrit.

Guardians and students have alleged that if the problem continues then teaching of students from Class-VI to Class-X will be severely affected.

The school admitted 240 students for the 2020-21 academic session and 271 for the 2021-22 session. However, less than the 50 per cent of the total admissions are

attending school on a regular basis. Contacted, Headmaster Harekrushna Panda said that the process of transfer and appointment of teachers will start soon. He informed that new teachers will be appointed in the school within a month.

When asked about poor turnout of students, Panda pointed out that Covid-19 also has a part to play. He also blamed the present location of the school as one of the reasons leading to the poor turnout. He, however, expressed hope that the situation will improve and more students will start attending classes after improvement in the Covid situation in state.



TWO STATES





TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 7 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

HP emerges as vax champion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Sept 6: With authorities now gearing up to complete the coronavirus vaccination of all above 18 by November 30, tough Himalayan terrain and inclement weather conditions in Himachal Pradesh didn't deter healthcare workers and local authorities to become country's first state of giving the first dose of vaccine to all eligible people.

Even authorities had to face an uphill task in the naturally secluded Malana village, known for Malana cream, the most soughtafter forms of hashish across the globe in the far end of Parvati Valley in Kullu district, where locals had not been allowing the 'outsiders' to enter their area since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Elsewhere, Tribals, mainly Buddhists, settled in the Spiti Valley spread over the Himalayan peaks, have set an example for others in the country by demonstrating that vaccination is the only route out of this pandemic. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday virtually interacted with healthcare workers and beneficiaries of the state's vaccination programme.

He complemented the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Jairam Thakur for setting a benchmark in the fight against Covid-19 by giving the first dose of vaccine to all eligible people.

Interacting with Prime Minister Modi, Dr. Rahul, who is posted in



the Shimla district's remotest Civil Hospital in Dodra Kwar, said the area comprising small, scattered villages, remains cut off owing to heavy snow accumulation for fivesix months in a year.

"The communication network in the entire Dodra Kwar area was a major challenge, resulting in much delay in registering the beneficiaries on the Co-WIN app. An advance team of accredited social health activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi workers were sent to rope in the locals for the next day's vaccination. This helps minimising vaccine wastage," he said.

Health staff had to traverse at

the nearest road heads to the remotest hamlet for the vaccination programme. Sometimes they had to register the beneficiaries on the Co-WIN app the next day of the vaccination.

least eight to 10 hours on foot from

cine. Interestingly, the locals in the landlocked Dodra Kwar have never used pesticides and fertilisers for growing crops. They are largely shepherds and keep on migrating for pasture of livestock.

ASHA worker Nirmal Devi apprised the Prime Minister about the challenges they faced in convincing the people of Malana, where the banned cannabis is the source of

prime livelihood.

Also the health workers were barred from entering the village as the locals consider outsiders untouchable. Nirmal Devi said with the permission from the local deity, Lord Jamlu, they were allowed to meet the locals and to convince them to go for inoculation.

Malana village, surrounded by snow-capped mountains, is located 45 km from Kullu town. Its nearest road is seven km down the hill that was constructed in 2007.

Before the road, the village, nestled at 2,700 meters (8,859 feet), is accessible only through three passes -- Jari, Rashol and

India is creating a record by administering 1.25 crore vaccines every day. The number of vaccines administered in a single day by India is more than the entire population of several countries. Himachal Pradesh has become a champion by being the first state to administer the first dose of Covid vaccine to all

NARENDRA MODI I PRIME MINISTER

eligible people

Chandrakhani -- which can be traversed only on foot with at least three overnight stays through breathtaking snow-capped mountains, lush forests and the rugged landscapes.

During the vaccination drive, the health workers had to trudge at least six hours to reach Malana.

A senior doctor, requesting anonymity, told IANS that since the locals don't interact freely with outsiders, even with the inhabitants living in the nearby areas, it was somehow difficult to access the exact situation there regarding the viral epidemiology. Modi in his address talked about the Malana inhabitants, who proclaim themselves as descendants of Alexander the Great, and have their own democratic 'government'

'No coercive action against Adhikari'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 6: In a big relief to BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, the Calcutta High Court Monday not only stayed three of the five cases against him, but also told the police that no coercive action should be taken against Adhikari without the permission of the court.

The court also asked the police to interrogate Adhikari according to his convenience.

Justice Rajasekhar Mantha directed the police and the CID that no coercive action should be taken against Adhikari without the permission of the court. The court also stayed the investigation proceedings into the death of his bodyguard Subhabrata Chakraborty. Chakraborty allegedly shot himself at the Contai police station in 2018.

The death of Chakraborty took a significant turn when in July this year his wife Suparna Chakraborty lodged a complaint with the Contai police station demanding a probe into her hushand's death

band's death.

Taking a strong stance against the reopening of the case, Justice Mantha said, "Why did she lodge a complaint three years after her husband's death? Was she sleeping? And why suddenly claim it to be a murder and name Adhikari."

The court is worried if it becomes an arrest only to harass Adhikari."

Along with this case, the single judge bench also stayed the inves-



tigation related to the political clash in Nandigram and a gold chain snatching case in Panskura, both in East Midnapore district.

However, the court allowed the cases pertaining to the threat to a Superintendent of Police when disaster management action was in place and another case of job scam at the Maniktala police station in Kolkata. The court also directed the police that keeping in mind Adhikari is the Leader of the Opposition, they will have to interrogate him as per his convenience. Meanwhile, Adhiakri, who was summoned by the CID on Monday in connection with the death of his bodyguard, told the probe agency via e-mail that he would not be able to be present because of his pre-scheduled political programmes. "This is part of the state government's plan. They are harassing Suvendu Adhikari for no reason. The court verdict is enough to prove this," state BJP President

Dilip Ghosh said.

Bengal Cong decides to field candidate against Mamata

Congress had earlier announced that as a "courtesy" the party would not be fielding any candidate opposite Mamata Banerjee

BHABANIPUR BY-POLL



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 6: Changing its earlier stance, the West Bengal Congress Monday announced it has decided to field a candidate against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the September 30 by-poll in the

Bhabanipur assembly seat and the name of the party nominee will be sent to AICC for consent.

The decision made at a Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) meeting to contest the by-election came at a time when the party and the Mamata Banerjee-headed

Trinamool Congress are maintaining a bonhomie at the national level since July.

"Majority of our members were in favour of contesting against Trinamool and we have decided to field our candidate from that seat (Bhabanipur). We will fight the elections with Left Front and announce candidates after discussion with them," state Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told a press conference.

During the assembly elections held earlier this year, TMC nominee Sovandeb Chattopadhyay won from Bhabanipur in south Kolkata and he has vacated the seat later necessitating the by-poll.

The Congress, which fought the polls in alliance with the Left parties, fielded a candidate from there

Chowdhury, who had earlier advocated not to put up any candidate against Banerjee in Bhabanipur as a matter of courtesy, said the ruling party is not showing political courtesy.

PROTEST TURNS UGLY



Police detain West Bengal State Chhatra Parishad activists for protesting against Central government in front of Raj Bhavan, Kolkata

UNI PHOTO

British-era police post renovated

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Sept 6: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur Sunday inaugurated the renovated 134-year-old police assistance room built by the British India at the historic Mall Road here.

He said the importance of this police assistance room functional for the last 134 years exists even today. The state is doing efforts for the preservation of its heritage buildings. The Chief Minister urged corporate organisations to assist in developmental works under corporate social responsibilities. He said even during the coronavirus period many organisations helped in strengthening

the health infrastructure in the state. Thakur appreciated the efforts of police department to renovate the heritage police assistance room. He said that people, especially tourists would get police assistance through this assistance room.

Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj also appreciated the efforts of police department for renovating the police assistance room and said Shimla is a tourist place of historical importance. Therefore, the government is doing all efforts for the preservation of heritage buildings of Shimla. Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said Rs 25 lakh were spent on the renovation of the assistance room.



DURGA PUJA COMMITTEES CUT COSTS TO SUPPORT ORPHANS, POOR

THE POPULAR
COLLEGE SQUARE
DURGA PUJA
COMMITTEE WILL BE
DISTRIBUTING
BOOKS AND TOYS
AMONG CHILDREN IN
THE SUNDARBANS
REGION, WHERE TWO
CYCLONES HAVE
WREAKED HAVOC
IN THE COURSE
OF A YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 6: With West Bengal still recovering from the ravages of the Covid-19 second wave and cyclone Yaas, several Durga puja committees here have decided to allot a portion of this year's budget for humanitarian causes

for humanitarian causes.

Samajsebi Sangha Durga Puja, one of the big-ticket pujas in the city, said it would bear a year's educational and medical expenses of 10 children orphaned due to Covid-19,



Women devotees wearing PPE kits perform rituals during 'Bijoya Dashami' celebrations at a community Durga Puja pandal, in Kolkata

as part of its project 'Sneho'.

"Puja is all about serving humanity. We have decided to shun all pomp and show this Durga puja. In our locality, a child lost both his parents to the second wave. "Our members have unanimously decided to chip in for 10 such children. Those deprived of 'sneho' (affection) by a sudden cruel blow of fate," Arijit Maiten true have provided to several coid.

Moitra, the committee's general said. Lauding the initiative, Rasbehari MLA Debashis Kumar said Goddess Durga will be happier, if the puja organisers reach out to the poor and the needy. He promised to extend all possible support to the Samajsebi puja committee. The popular College Square Durga Puja committee will be distributing books and toys among children in the Sundarbans region, where two cyclones have wreaked havoc in the course of a year. "Our team will visit Chhoto Mollakhali area in Sundarbans on October 3 to hand over books and games to children. We will give extravagant illumination a miss this year," one of the organisers said. The Bhawanipore 75

Pally has decided to come to the aid of 'Chhau' artistes of Purulia district, who have been badly hit by the lockdown. 'Chhau', a traditional dance form, has performers retelling episodes of Ramayana, Mahabharata and the puranas, donning colourful costumes and masks. "Many artistes, craftsmen are facing financial hardships as festivals and fairs have been called off across the country. We will do our bit to help at least some of them," Subir Das, the secretary of Bhawanipore 75 Pally, said.

Tap water at Tashigang village

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Sept 6: Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Himachal Pradesh government under the Jal Jeevan Mission has managed to provide potable water to Tashigang, a remote village located at an altitude of 15,256 feet in Lahaul-Spiti district, officials said Sunday.

Tashigang is a remote village located at an altitude of 15,256 feet in Lahaul-Spiti district

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the government is implementing 'Har Char Nal Voina' at grassmots layed

Ghar Nal Yojna' at grassroots level.

About 17 lakh households in the state would be provided tap water supply, out of which 14.50 lakh households have been provided with water connections. With the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, in a short span of about 18 months, about 6.05 lakh water connections have been provided. The Jal Shakti Department aims to provide tap water connection in every rural

household by August 15, 2022.

A sum of Rs 2,260 crore has been allocated for work to be done under the Jal Jeevan Mission, out of which Rs 1,107 crore has been spent-by the Jal Shakti Department, an official statement said.

national

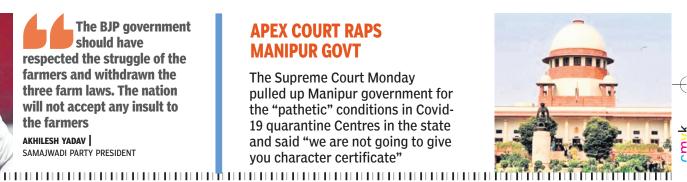


The BJP government should have respected the struggle of the farmers and withdrawn the three farm laws. The nation will not accept any insult to

AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

APEX COURT RAPS MANIPUR GOVT

The Supreme Court Monday pulled up Manipur government for the "pathetic" conditions in Covid-19 guarantine Centres in the state and said "we are not going to give you character certificate"





The Karnataka government is target to fully vaccinate the entire adult population against Covid-19 by the end of November



K SUDHAKAR KARNATAKA HEALTH MINISTER

If we want to be able to tell the world that not a single child in India suffers from malnutrition, then it is important for members from all communities to come forward

SMRITI IRANI UNION MINISTER

We can celebrate festivals later. Let us prioritise the our citizens. The situation can go out

of hand in view of the spike in daily

UDDHAV THACKERAY

SHORT TAKES

Khalid files fresh appeal

New Delhi: Former JNU student leader Umar Khalid. arrested under stringent antiterror law UAPA in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case, has withdrawn his bail application and filed a fresh one after the city police objected to its maintainability. Senior advocate Trideep Pais, appearing for Khalid, told Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat that the application seeking bail under section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) has been substituted with the one under section 437 after the police objected to it.

3 women shot at by jawan

Patna: An Indian Army soldier opened fire at three women, including his wife in Bihar's west Champaran district, Monday morning. The accused Naresh Shah was posted in Delhi Cantonment and had come to Bihar on leave. He was in an inebriated state at the time of the incident.

20 dogs found poisoned in UP

Mahoba (UP): In a shocking incident, about 20 dogs were poisoned by some unidentified persons in a village in the Shrinagar area in Uttar Pradesh's Mahoba, police said. An FIR has been lodged against unidentified persons based on a complaint filed by Basaura village head Sukh Nandan Prajapati. Station House Officer (SHO) Anil Kumar said that the dead dogs had been buried. All the dogs were stravs.

Ants found in business class

New Delhi: Air India's Delhi-London flight, which was to depart from the IGI airport here at 2 pm Monday, got delayed for more than three hours after a swarm of ants was found in the business class, sources said. The AI-111 flight departed from the Delhi airport at around 5.20 pm instead of its scheduled departure time of 2 pm, they said.

Ruckus in J'khand Assembly

Ranchi: Ruckus by the opposition BJP over allotment of a room for offering namaz and protests over the state's employment policy stoppped Jharkhand Assembly from transacting any substantial business for the second day of its monsoon session Monday. Opposition BJP demanded adjournment motion to discuss the

Govt plans to ramp up O₂ production

The target implies a 50% jump from the maximum output of almost 10,000 tonnes reached earlier this year during the peak of the second Covid-19 wave



Bangalore, Sept 6: India aims to ramp up its medical oxygen production capacity to 15,000 tonnes per day before a potential third wave of coronavirus infections that is expected to hit the country as soon as mid-September, an industry executive said.

The target implies a 50% jump from the maximum output of almost 10,000 tonnes reached earlier this year during the peak of the second COVID-19 wave, when hospitals ran short of the gas and relatives of patients had to search out oxygen cylinders.

Linde India supplied nearly onethird of the total oxygen demand during the peak.

Moloy Banerjee, head of Linde South Asia, said that while the government is targeting 15,000 tonnes of medical oxygen per day, Linde and other manufacturers were hoping to hit production of at least 13,500 tonnes per day ahead of the third wave. As of Monday,

Lowest daily fatalities

India logged 38,948 new coronavirus infections and 219 fresh fatalities, the lowest in 167 days, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Monday. With the fresh cases, the total tally of Covid-19 cases has climbed to 3,30,27,621, while the death toll has climbed to 4,40,752. The case fatality rate has declined to 1.33 per cent after 48 days, according to the data updated at 8 am. India had reported 199 deaths in a single day March 23.

India's total COVID-19 cases had reached 33.03 million, with deaths at 4.40.752, according to health ministry data. While demand for medical oxygen in India has considerably reduced since the peak, reaching near pre-COVID levels, gas companies along with the government are gearing up for a sce-

nario where the third wave could be worse than the previous one.

The Delhi government said last month it will increase oxygen production by setting up new manufacturing units or expanding the production capacity of existing units for uninterrupted oxygen

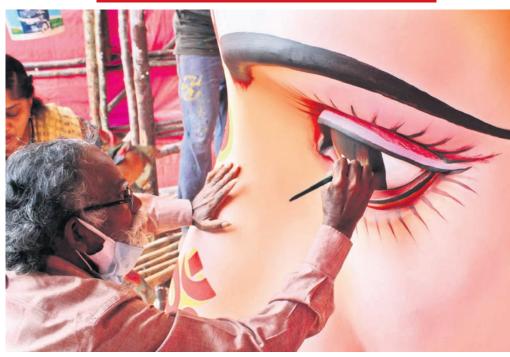
supply during a health crisis. Shares of Linde India rose to record levels in the days following the Delhi government's notification and have more than doubled for the year as of Monday's closing price.

There have been discussions with the Delhi government since the second wave of COVID-19. We are still reviewing the policy and trying to see if it is workable for Linde," Mr Banerjee added.

The company has not entered any formal agreement with the government. Linde has also been in touch with the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh states to support setting up of additional oxygen storage capacities and manufacturing units. For a third time in the last 11 days, India administered more than one crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine in a day on Monday taking the total number of doses given in the country to over 69.68 crore, the Union Health Ministry said.

"September has started on a high note as India touches 1 crore COVID-19 vaccinations today. Under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, world's largest vaccination drive is scaling massive heights." Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted. A total of 1,05,76,911 doses were administered on Monday, officials said, adding that the figure is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late night.

TOUCH OF ELEGANCE



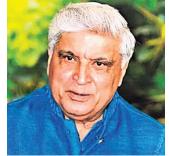
An artist applying finishing touches to a 30 feet tall Lord Ganesha idol in Hyderabad

Shiv Sena backs RSS over Javed Akhtar's Taliban remark

Mumbai, Sept 6: The Shiv Sena Monday said lyricist Javed Akhtar was "completely wrong" in comparing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh with the Taliban.

"How can you say those who favour the concept of a Hindu Rashtra are of Talibani mindset? We don't agree with this," an editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' said. Akhtar recently told a news channel that right wing all over the world has an uncanny

"The Taliban want an Islamic country. These people want to make a Hindu Rashtra." the lyricist said without naming the RSS. Referring to his remarks, the editorial in 'Saamana' said, "Even though Javed Akhtar is a secular man and speaks against fundamentalism, he is completely wrong in comparing the



RSS with the Taliban. The Marathi publication further said the stand of those who propagate a Hindu nation is moderate. "The partition which led to the creation of Pakistan was based on religion. Those who support a Hindu nation only want that the majority Hindus shouldn't be sidelined. Hindutva is a culture and people of the community demand the right to stop those who attack this culture," it said. The

Hindutva with the Taliban is an "insult" of the Hindu culture. "Despite being a Hindu majority country, we have raised the flag of secularism. The proponents of Hindutva only want that Hindus shouldn't be sidelined," it said. "You can have differences with the RSS, but to call their philosophy Talibani is completely wrong," it added.

"The Taliban is a terrorist organisation which believes in violence and is anti-women. Comparing such organisations with the RSS, VHP and Bajrang Dal.....I condemn his statement. All these three organisations do not believe in violence and do not work against anyone. They do social service. Strict action should be taken against him," VHP national general secretary Milind Parande told reporters when asked about Akhtar's statement.

More contacts of Sec 144 imposed in Karnal child identified ahead of farmers' protest

AGENCIES

Kozhikode, Sept 6: The Kerala health department has identified 251 persons who have come in contact with the 12-year-old boy, who succumbed to Nipah virus infection, out of which 38 are in isolation at the Kozhikode Medical College hospital and of which 11 have shown symptoms, Health Minister Veena George said Monday.

NIPAH DEATH CASE

George, in a press meet here, said of the 251 contacts, 129 are healthcare workers. "There are 38 persons in isolation at the Kozhikode Medical College hospital of which 11 have shown symptoms. Samples of eight persons have been sent to Pune NIV for testing," the minister said, adding that the health condition of all those who have shown symptoms are stable. She said of the 251 contacts, 54 are high risk contacts out of which 30 are healthcare workers. This includes parents and few close relatives

of the child too. "These contacts were identified following strict protocol," she said.

She said the special laboratory set up at the medical college hospital here by the Pune NIV team, which reached the state in the afternoon, will start testing the samples from tonight. A medical expert team has visited the house and locality of the child. Another team from the

Animal Husbandry Department also inspected the locality. "The blood and serum samples of the two goats, owned by the child's family, will be tested at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal," the Minister said, adding that a team from Bhopal NIV will reach Kozhikode on Wednesday. However, testing and other related activities will continue. Special teams have been formed for a detailed collection of information from the locality of the child's house.

Karnal (Haryana), Sept 6: Central forces were deployed, mobile Internet services suspended and prohibitory orders banning gathering of people were imposed here Monday, a day ahead of the gherao planned by farmers at the mini-secretariat over the August 28 lathicharge.

The Haryana government ordered suspension of mobile Internet services from 12:30 pm Monday to Tuesday midnight to "stop the spread of misinformation and rumours" on social media, according to an order of the Home Department. Forty companies of security personnel, including 10 companies of central paramilitary forces, have been deployed in the district where local authorities have also imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC, officials said. Harvana BKU chief Gurnam Singh Chaduni said that they had given a deadline of September 6 to the administration to meet their demands. He said a



meeting with district administration officials was held here on Monday, but after failing to get any satisfactory response about their demands they decided to hold a big panchayat Tuesday morning before proceeding to the mini-secre-

tariat to gherao it. "We will hold a peaceful protest, but if the administration stops us, then we will break barricades,' Chaduni told reporters here, adding that farmers have no plan to block the national highway. The order suspending mobile Internet services stated that "to prevent any distur-

bance of peace and public order" here, mobile Internet services (2G/3G/4G/CDMA/GPRS), SMS services, including bulk SMS (excluding banking and mobile recharge) and all dongle services etc, except voice calling, will remain suspended with effect from 12:30 pm Monday till 11:59 pm Tuesday. Earlier, the district administration issued prohibitory orders under section 144 of the CrPC, banning the assembly of five or more people, and a traffic advisory with planned route diversions, the officials said.

K'taka local polls: +**BJP wins Belagavi**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

ing BJP has managed to wrestle Belagavi City Corporation by winning a clear majority in local body elections, but fell short of a majority in Hubballi-Dharwad, whereas Congress suffered a setback in Kalburgi.

However, the BJP is all set to elect its mayoral candidates in all three major city corporations. The AIMIM of Asaduddin Owaisi marked its arrival in Karnataka by winning one seat in Belagavi and three seats in Hubballi-Dharwad.

The BJP won 36 seats in the 58member Belagavi City Corporation as both Kannadigas and Marathispeaking people came together to vote for it.

The Congress won 10 seats, while the Maharashtra Ekikarana Samithi (MES), which had wielded influence in local elections for decades, was reduced to two seats. The AIMIM won one of the six seats it contested.

In the 82-member Hubballi-Dharwad city corporation, the BJP won 39, while the Congress bagged 33 seats.

THE CHANDRAYAAN-2 IS INDIA'S SECOND MOON MISSION

ISRO commemorates 2 yrs of Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter

AGENCIES

Chennai, Sept 6: Commemorating the completion of two years of operation of Chandrayaan-2 orbiter around the moon, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space K. Sivan inaugurated two day Lunar Science Workshop 2021 Monday.

He also released Chandrayaan-2 data product and science documents, along with data from Chandrayaan-2 orbiter payloads.

The eight payloads onboard Chandrayaan-2 are conducting scientific observations of the Moon by remote sensing and in-

According to ISRO, the science data are being made available for analysis by academia and institutes, for a greater participation to bring out more science from Chandrayaan-2 mission.

The two-day Lunar Science Workshop, is live-streamed on ISRO's website and Facebook page, for effectively reaching the students, academia and institutes, to engage the wisdom of the scientific Chandrayaan-2 data. In his inaugural address, ISRO Chairman, K Sivan said the eight payloads on board the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft are conducting remote sens-



ing and in-situ observations of the Moon at around 100 km altitude from the lunar surface

"Till date, the Chandrayaan-2

has completed more than 9,000 orbits around the Moon," added Sivan, also Secretary in the Department of Space (DoS).

According to the Bengaluruheadquartered ISRO, data product and science documents were released by Sivan, along with data from Chandrayaan-2 orbiter payloads.

"The science data are being made available for analysis by academia and institutes, for a greater participation to bring out more science from Chandrayaan-2 mission," ISRO said.

Sivan said he has reviewed the science results, and found them to be "very much encouraging".

Chairman of Apex Science Board, ISRO, A S Kiran Kumar said the imaging and scientific instruments on board the Chandrayaan-2 satellite have been providing excellent data.

The science results from the eight payloads will be presented by the scientists in this workshop.

In addition to the science results, during September 6-7, there will be lectures on the Chandrayaan-2 mission, tracking, operations, and data archival aspects as well. Along with the scientists from ISRO/DOS, there will also be lectures on lunar science to be delivered by scientists from Indian Institutes of Science Education Research, Kolkata, IISc, Bengaluru and IIT Roorkee.

The Chandrayaan-2 is India's second moon mission.

international



govern together with the Greens OLAF SCHOLZ GERMAN CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE

BITCOIN BRINGS HOPES, DOUBTS

El Salvador is betting that this week's pioneering adoption of Bitcoin will spur its economy, especially one of its most crucial sources of revenue: money sent home by Salvadorans in the US. President Nayib Bukele has asked over 2 million Salvadorans who live overseas to send their remittances in Bitcoin





believes not only in Islamism - the turning of the religion into a political doctrine - but in the

justification of struggle if necessary armed struggle to achieve it. Other Islamists agree with the ends but

TONY BLAIR FORMER UK PM

We do not

expect a tensions on the days the biggest



Community safety is not up for negotiation with the gun lobby. And you certainly don't hand them the





SHORT TAKES

6 militants escape from Israeli prison

Tel Aviv: Israeli forces Monday launched a massive manhunt in northern Israel and the occupied West Bank after six Palestinian prisoners escaped overnight from a high-security facility in an extremely rare breakout. Officials said they have erected roadblocks and are conducting patrols in the area. Israel's Army Radio also said 400 prisoners are being moved as a protective measure against any additional escape attempts. The radio said the prisoners escaped through a tunnel from the Gilboa prison, which is supposed to be one of Israel's most secure facilities. The men reportedly appeared to have received some outside help.

Guinea coup leaders tighten their grip

Conakry: Guinea's new military leaders sought to tighten their grip on power Monday after overthrowing President Alpha Conde, ordering the soldiers from his presidential guard to join the junta forces now in charge of the West African nation. After putting the country back under military rule for the first time in over a decade, the junta also said Guinea's provincial governors would be replaced by regional commanders. A nightly curfew was put in place, and the country's constitution and National Assembly were both dissolved. The military junta has refused to issue a timeline for releasing Conde, saying the 83-year-old deposed leader still had access to medical care and his doctors. The West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS, though, called for his immediate release and threatened to impose sanctions if the demand was not met.

Floods inundate houses in Nepal

Kathmandu: Flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall have inundated over 380 houses and damaged several residential areas in

Kathmandu, police said Monday, Heavy rainfall Sunday night inundated more than 100 places in Kathmandu, Teams of Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and the Nepal Army have rescued more than 138 people last night, said Sushil Singh Rathore, spokesperson at the Metropolitan Police Office. "Rescue work was carried out at Mulpani settlements on the bank of Manohara River. Kadagari, Teku and Balkhu areas," Rathore said, Most of the human settlements on the river banks in Kathmandu have been inundated by the flash floods. Kathmandu witnessed 105 mm of rainfall within four hours, according to officials.

Taliban claim control of Panjshir

REUTERS

Kabul. Sept 6: The Taliban claimed victory Monday over opposition forces in the Panjshir valley northeast of Kabul, declaring that it completed the Islamist group's takeover of Afghanistan and promising to announce a new government soon.

Pictures on social media showed Taliban members standing in front of the gate of the Panjshir provincial governor's compound after fighting over the weekend with the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan (NRFA), led by Panjshiri leader Ahmad Massoud.

"Panjshir, which was the last hideout of the escapee enemy, is captured," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a news conference.

Earlier, he had said: "With this victory and latest efforts our country has come out of the whirlpool of the war and our people will have a happy life in peace, liberty and freedom.

The Taliban assured the people of Panjshir, who are ethnically distinct from the Pashtun-dominated Taliban and fought against the Islamists during their rule from 1996 to 2001, that there would be no "discriminatory act against them."



would work together for a joint purpose and welfare of the country," Mujahid said.

Massoud, who leads a force drawn from remnants of regular Afghan army and special forces units as well as local militia fighters, said in a Twitter message he was safe, but gave no details.

Mujahid said he had been told that Massoud and former vice president Amrullah Saleh had escaped to neighbouring Tajikistan.

Ali Maisam Nazary, head of foreign relations at NRFA, said the Taliban's claim of victory was false and opposition forces continued

to fight. "The NRF forces are present in all strategic positions across the valley to continue the fight," he said on his Facebook page.

Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, denied there were any disagreements within the movement about the formation of a new government and said it would be announced soon, but he did not set a date.

He also said women were back at work in the health and education sectors and "other fields will be provided, one by one, once the system has been established for them."

LAST POCKET OF RESISTANCE The militants, who swept to

Resistance leader calls for 'national uprising' losses and called for a ceasefire. Kabul: The leader of the

resistance movement in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley Monday called for a 'national uprising' against the Taliban. In an audio message sent to media, **National Resistance Front** (NRF) commander Ahmad Massoud said: "Wherever you are, inside or outside, I call on you to begin a national uprising for the dignity, freedom and prosperity of our country." The NRF in Panjshir -- made up of anti-Taliban militia and former Afghan security forces -- Sunday acknowledged suffering major battlefield

power last month as the United States withdrew its troops after a 20-year war, banned girls and women from schools and most work when they last ruled the country, from 1996 to 2001.

The group has now said women would be allowed to work across important sectors of society, in line

tweet that its fighters were still present in "strategic positions" in the valley. The NRF includes local fighters loyal to Ahmad Massoud -- the son of

But Monday the group said in a

the famous anti-Soviet and anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud -- as well as remnants of the Afghan military that retreated to the Panjshir Valley.

with Islamic law, and their rights

would be protected. The Taliban seized control of most of Afghanistan three weeks ago, taking power in Kabul August 15 after the Western-

backed government collapsed

and President Ashraf Ghani fled

the country.

Florida gunman kills mom holding baby among four

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Lauderdale (US), Sept 6: A man wearing full body armour fatally shot four people, including a mother and the 3-month-old baby she was cradling, and engaged in a massive gunfight with police and deputies before he was wounded and surrendered, a Florida sheriff said Sunday. An 11year-old girl who was shot seven times survived.

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said during a press conference that even after 33-year-old Bryan Riley was arrested Sunday morning, he was so aggressive that he tried to wrestle a gun from police as he lay on his hospital gurney.

Judd said Riley, a former Marine who served as a sharpshooter in both Iraq and Afghanistan, seemed to have targeted his victims at random and appeared to be suffering from mental health issues. Judd said Riley's girlfriend told authorities Riley had been slowly unravelling for weeks and repeatedly told her that he could communicate directly with God.

"They begged for their lives and I killed them anyway," Judd said Riley told them during an interrogation.

Kono gains popular support to become next Japanese PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 6: Japan's outspoken Cabinet minister in charge of vaccinations, Taro Kono, has the most popular support to become the country's next leader, according to opinion polls released Monday. as potential candidates jockey to replace outgoing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

Kono, 58, a graduate of Georgetown University and fluent in English, is a rarity in Japanese politics, which are dominated by elderly men. He has many fans among younger people, with whom he communicates via social media. He has also served as foreign and defense ministers Suga's sudden announcement

Friday that he will not seek another term as head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party in a Sept. 29 vote opened the way for an array of candidates.

The head of the governing party is normally elected prime minister by parliament because the party and



its coalition partner hold a maiority of seats.

Suga, who took office a year ago, has faced nosediving popularity over his government's coronavirus response, which many saw as slow and limited, and for insisting on hosting the Olympics despite widespread opposition over health concerns.

Having a fresh leader is important for the Liberal Democrats ahead of an upcoming general election that must be held by late November.

A telephone survey conducted Sept. 4-5 and released Monday by Japan's Kyodo News agency

showed nearly 32% of the 1,071 respondents said they preferred Kono as the next prime minister, with former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba trailing with 27%. Former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, the only person who has announced their candidacy, was third with 19%

Both Kono and Ishiba have expressed interest in running but have not announced their candidacies as they continue to seek support from party lawmakers.

As is customary in Japan, the survey did not provide a margin of error. Polls of that size normally have a margin of error of about 3 percentage points.

Two other weekend surveys, by the Yomiuri newspaper and TBS television, also ranked the top three potential contenders in the same order.

Public popularity does not directly affect the choice of prime minister, who is elected by parliament from candidates presented by various parties.

BRAVING THE ODDS



A migrant woman carries her baby as members of the National Guard block the street during an operation to dissolve a caravan of migrants and asylum seekers from Central America and the Caribbean as they try to make their way to the US, in Huixtla, Chiapas, Mexico.

Life expectancy drops in pandemic-struck Italy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Sept 6: Life expectancy for men in some of Italy's worst-hit provinces in the pandemic dropped by more than four years.

ISTAT, Italy's national statistics bureau, in a report Monday said that compared with 2019, nationwide life expectancy for those born in 2020 dropped by 1.2 years.

"In 2020, the spread of the $\overline{\text{COVID-19}}$ pandemic and the sharp increase in the risk of mortality that derived from it abruptly interrupted the increase of life expectancy at birth that had marked a trend up to 2019," ISTAT said. The pandemic first erupted out-

side Asia in northern Italy, and much of the north reeled with confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the initial wave of cases. In the northern provinces of Bergamo, Cremona and Lodi, life

expectancy for men decreased by some 4.3 to 4.5 years. For women in those provinces, the reduced expectancy ranged from 3.2 to 2.9 years. For a child born in 2020, male life

expectancy nationwide is 79.7 and female life expectancy is 84.4,

West cries foul as Belarus protest leader sentenced to 11 yrs

Kyiv, Sept 6: Maria Kolesnikova, one of the leaders of mass street protests against Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko last year, was sentenced to 11 years in prison Monday, leading to an outcry from Western countries.

Kolesnikova, 39, had been detained after ripping up her passport to prevent Belarusian security forces from deporting her in a standoff at the Ukrainian border in September.

The musician-turned-politician became one of the faces of the mass opposition movement during the August 2020 presidential election, which the protesters say



The musicianturned-politician became one of the faces of the mass opposition movement during the 2020 presidential election

was rigged to extend Lukashenko's grip on power.

Lukashenko, who has denied electoral fraud, has been in office in the former Soviet republic since 1994 and has faced fresh Western

sanctions since launching a violent crackdown on his opponents.

Kolesnikova and another senior opposition figure, Maxim Znak, were charged with extremism and trying to seize power illegally. Both

denied wrongdoing and Kolesnikova called the charges absurd. Znak was sentenced to 10 years

in prison. Both prisoners will appeal the verdict, Znak's lawyer told reporters. The European Union denounced

the verdict, while Britain's foreign minister called it an assault on de fenders of democracy. "The EU deplores the continuous blatant disrespect by the Minsk regime of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Belarus," the European Union's spokesperson said in a statement.

Belarus has denied committing human rights abuses and portrayed the protesters as bent on violent revolution, backed by foreign powers.

No cashiers, please: Futuristic supermarket opens in Mideast

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Sept 6: The Middle East Monday got its first completely automated cashier-less store, as retail giant Carrefour rolled out its vision for the future of the industry in a cavernous Dubai mall.

Like Amazon's breakthrough unmanned grocery stores that opened in 2018, the Carrefour mini-market looks like any ordinary convenience store, brimming with sodas and snacks, tucked between sprawling storefronts of this city-state.

But hidden among the familiar fare lies a sophisticated system that tracks shoppers' movements, eliminating the checkout line and allowing people to grab the products they'll walk out with. Only those with the store's smartphone app may enter.

Nearly a hundred small surveillance cameras blanket the ceiling. Countless sensors line the shelves. Five minutes after shoppers leave, their phones ping with receipts for whatever they put in their bags.

"This is how the future will look," Hani Weiss, CEO of retail at Majid Al Futtaim, the franchise that operates Carrefour in the Middle East, told The Associated Press. "We do believe in physical stores in the future. However, we believe the experience will change. The experimental shop, called

Carrefour City+, is the latest ad-

retail automation. Major retailers



dition to the burgeoning field of

worldwide are combining machine learning software and artificial

intelligence in a push to cut labour costs, do away with the irritation of long lines and gather critical data about shopping behaviour.

"We use (the data) to provide a better experience in the future ... Whereby customers don't have to think about the next products they want," Weiss said. "All the insights are being utilised internally in order to provide a better shopping experience.

Customers must give Carrefour permission to collect their information, Weiss said, which the company promises not to share. But the idea of a vast retail seller collecting reams of data about shoppers' habits already has raised privacy concerns in the United States,

where Amazon now operates several such futuristic stores, known as Amazon Go.

It's less likely to become a public debate in the autocratic United Arab Emirates, home to one of the world's highest per capita con-

centrations of surveillance cameras. With the pandemic forcing major retailers to reassess the future, many are increasingly investing in automation — a vision that threatens severe job losses across the industry. But Carrefour stressed that human workers, at least in the short-term, would still be needed to "support customers" and assist the machines.

"There is no future without humans," Weiss said.

business



general tightness of the supply chains will continue in the next 6 to 12 months OLIVER ZIPSE | CEO, BMW

NALCO SHARES HIT 10-YEAR HIGH

Shares of the National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) surged to a decade high Monday due to a military coup and political unrest in Guinea, a major supplier of bauxite. The political instability in Guinea has fuelled supply concerns for the raw material used in production of the metal. which may eventually hike aluminium prices





travel with an focus on safety and customers today. The uptick in VAYD (Visa at your doorstep) services is another great indication of changing customer preferences. With the evolving rapidly, we foresee a higher demand for such premium services that enable our customers to

VINAY MALHOTRA REGIONAL GROUP COO (SOUTH ASIA), VFS GLOBAL

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi road infrastructure is being developed faster, safer and



NITIN GADKARI UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER



recommendations) will go a long way in boosting India's 4G

central government

services and infrastructure, and in paving the way for the smooth roll out of 5G services in India in the near future. We are confident that the suggestions provided by TRAI will be duly considered and implemented by the

SP KOCHHAR DIRECTOR GENERAL, COAL

SHORT **TAKES**

MSI hikes vehicle prices

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Monday said it has increased prices of its entire product range, except Celerio, by up to 1.9% with immediate effect. The company noted that it has taken the decision to hike prices due to an increase in various input costs. The weighted average price rise in ex-showroom prices (New Delhi) across select models is 1.9%, it added. This is MSI's third price hike this year. The auto major has already raised prices in January and April.

Amazon Pay UPI reaches 5cr users

New Delhi: Amazon Pay said that around 5 crore customers are the users of Amazon Pay UPI. To celebrate this milestone, Amazon Pay is offering daily rewards through the month of September to all customers using Amazon Pay UPI for shopping, paying bills, paying at online merchants and sending money to their contacts. Customers are using the Amazon app to pay at 2 crore local shops by simply scanning any UPI QR code.

Byju's FY20 profit grows over 2-fold

New Delhi: Byju's, India's most valuable education tech startup, has seen profit more than double to ₹50.76 crore in FY20 with the sale of tablets, SD cards and books getting it the bulk of its revenues. Byju's standalone income from operations of ₹2,110 crore came from three major businesses - tuition fee (Rs 144 crore), sale of education tablets and SD cards (Rs 1,675 crore) and sale of reference books (₹560 crore).

Sebi bans 85 entities

New Delhi: Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Monday barred total 85 entities, including Sunrise Asian Ltd, from the capital markets for up to one year for manipulating the company's share price. In its order, the regulator restrained Sunrise Asian and its then five directors from the capital markets for one year and the 79 connected entities for six months.

Aug gold imports nearly double as prices dip

Mumbai, Sept 6: India's gold imports in August nearly doubled from a year earlier to the highest in five months on strong demand and as weaker prices prompted jewellers to ramp up purchases for the festive season, a government source said.

Higher imports by the world's second-biggest bullion consumer could support benchmark gold prices, which have corrected nearly 12% from an all-time high of \$2,072 in August 2020. The surge in imports could increase India's trade deficit and pressure the rupee.

India imported 121 tonnes of gold in August, compared to 63 tonnes a vear earlier, the source said on Monday on condition of



anonymity as he is not authorised to speak to media.

In value terms, August imports surged to \$6.7 billion from \$3.7 billion a vear ago, he said.

A price correction in the first half of the month gave an ideal oppor-

tunity for jewellers who wanted to build inventories for the upcoming festive season, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a gold importing bank, Local gold futures fell to 45.662 rupees per 10 grams on Aug. 10, the lowest in four

igher imports by the world's second-biggest bullion consumer could support benchmark gold prices, which have corrected nearly 12% from an all-

> n value terms, August imports surged to \$6.7 billion from \$3.7 billion a year ago

time high of \$2.072 in August 2020

Indian authorities had imposed localised lockdowns in the June quarter as Covid-19 infections surged to a record high, but allowed businesses to reopen in a phased manner as cases fell

months. "Retail demand was good in August as coronavirus cases fell

and people stepped out to shop," said Harshad Aimera, a gold wholesaler in Kolkata.

Indian authorities had imposed localised lockdowns in the June quarter as Covid-19 infections surged to a record high, but allowed businesses to reopen in a phased manner as cases fell.

India's gold imports in the first eight months of 2021 tripled to 687 tonnes from the lower base of 2020, when the coronavirus outbreak forced authorities to impose a nationwide lockdown, the government official said.

The country's gold imports in September could rise above 80 tonnes from 12 tonnes a year earlier if prices remain stable ahead of festivals, said a Chennai-based

Volvo Buses, OSRTC sign MoU, state receives 10 coaches



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik dedicated 10 Volvo B8R 12-metre coaches to the state. Volvo Buses India, a part of VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV) had earlier delivered these buses to the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC).

"We look forward to deploying these premium buses on a range of long-haul inter-state routes radiating from Odisha to adjacent states. Our objective is to leverage Odisha's strategic location to provide connectivity to the whole region," said Diptesh Kumar Pattanayak, IPS, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, OSRTC. The state transport undertaking currently has a fleet of over 600 buses.

"The class-defining coach is a proven performer on a diverse array of routes and duty cycles across the globe. We are confident that the bus will provide the highest level of comforts and safety that Odisha's discerning passengers deserve," said Akash Passey, President of Bus Division,

The fully built Euro-VI compliant coach is powered by Volvo's proven 300HP, D8K six-cylinder, direct injection diesel engine. This assures customers of best-in-class power to weight ratio. Ride quality is optimised through the Electronically Controlled Suspension (ECS) System, while safety is bolstered by the Electronic Braking System (EBS).

A MoU on Skill Development was signed with the OSRTC. "OSRTC invests heavily in skill development of the public transport landscape in Odisha. Access to VECV's knowledge-base and facilities will help to broad base our in-house programmes,' OSRTC CMD said.

BPCL's privatisation may get delayed, says Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Fitch Ratings Monday said uncertainty over the bidder consortiums and process complexity, including valuation, may lead to potential delays in privatisation of India's second-largest fuel retailer, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).

 $Affirming\,BPCL's\,rating\,at\,'BBB$ with a negative outlook, Fitch said it continues to treat the potential divestment of the company by the Indian government as an event risk. "Bidders are conducting due dili-

gence, but uncertainty over the bidder consortiums and process complexity, including valuation, may lead to potential delays.
"We believe the risks of further

COVID-19 waves and global oil and gas companies' increased focus on energy transition lead to additional uncertainty over the timing and valuation of potentially large acquisitions in the sector." it said.

The rating agency said it will review the ratings once significant progress is achieved.

The government is selling its entire 52.98 per cent stake in BPCL for which three expressions of interest (EoIs) including one from billionaire Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Group have been received. Financial bids are yet to be called.

Fitch expected BPCL's marketing sales to improve to 43 million

73.00 (+29p)

RUPEE **vs** Dollar



Affirming BPCL's rating at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook, Fitch said it continues to treat the potential divestment of the company by the Indian government as an event risk

tonnes (MT) in FY22 from 41 MT in FY21, still 6 per cent below the FY20 level. "This reflects the impact on India's petroleum product demand from the pandemic's second wave in 1QFY22 and the risks of further waves.

"We expect the demand fall in FY22 to be less severe than FY21 as

business and societal behaviour has adjusted, supporting activity, and the vaccination programme may prevent a severe recurrence in infections," it said. BPCL's gross refining margins

(GRM) are expected to improve to USD 3.5 per barrel in FY22 from core GRM of USD 1.9 in FY21. 'We expect the OMCs, includ-

ing BPCL, to maintain steady base marketing margins (MM) in FY22, including price increases to recoup capex on making their refineries compliant with new emission norms

However, MM will be below the record highs of FY21 when the decline in oil prices was not fully passed through to consumers," it said.

India's July-Sept GDP growth seen at 7-8%

According to the EcoScope report of MOFSL, there would be some moderation in Economic Activity Index-Gross Value Added (EAI-GVA) growth in July 2021, largely on account of weaker fiscal spending

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 6: The growth rate of India's GDP for the July-September quarter is likely to remain in the range of 7-8 per cent. In the first quarter of financial year 2021-22, India's GDP witnessed a growth of 20.1 per cent compared to the same period of the last fiscal.

According to the EcoScope report of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL), there would be some moderation in Economic Activity Index-Gross Value Added (EAI-GVA) growth in July 2021, largely on account of weaker fiscal spending.

It, however, noted that private spending, consumption and investments, on the other hand, has grown decently.

"Although there is no one-toone correlation between our EAIs and the official GDP/GVA due to the underlying differences, our composite indices move in sync with the official real GDP (ex-discrepancies) and real GVA estimates," it said.

"Accordingly, we expect real GVA growth of 7-8 per cent Y-o-Y in 2QFY22 v/s 20.1 per cent Y-o-Y growth in 1QFY22."

As per Motilal Oswal's estimates. total consumption grew 5.1 per



cent Y-o-Y in July 2021 against 2.7 per cent in June 2021 and '-12.1' per cent in July 2020. Within consumption, private

consumption grew at a three-month high of 6.9 per cent Y-o-Y, though government consumption fell 31 per cent Y-o-Y in July 2021. Excluding government consumption, EAI-GVA grew faster

at 7.1 per cent Y-o-Y in July 2021, faster than 3.2 per cent Y-o-Y in June 2021, but slower from March-May 2021. Further, faster growth in im-

ports compared to exports led to negative contribution from external trade to EAI-GDP in July 2021.

Total investments grew at fivemonth lows of 12.1 per cent Y-o-Y in July 2021 against 18.5 per cent in June 2021 and 21 per cent decline in July 2020.

ODISHA-BASED STEEL INDUSTRIES

'Only pre-emption policy can save MSMEs'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) and Orissa Sponge Iron Manufacturers' Association here have jointly urged the state government to reserve at least 50 per cent iron ore for Odisha-based steel industries under its pre-emption policy as it would go a long way to save the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in steel sector and livelihood of lakhs of people in the state.

Amid the alleged acute crunch of iron ore and reports of closure of several MSMEs in the state, the UCCI and Odisha Sponge Iron Manufacturers' Association said



that 60 per cent iron ores are diverted outside state despite protest from local industry

"Merchant mines are profiteering as iron ore prices skyrocket in Odisha, while several sponge units have been closed due the scarcity of iron ore, because of which thousands of jobs are in peril," said the UCCI and Sponge

Iron Manufacturers' Association. Only pre-emption can save the industry by doing real value ad-

dition in the state and will gen-

ployment for local youths, they suggested. There are around 100 small and big plants in the state. As we are fac-

eral more state revenues and em-

ing an acute crunch of iron ore now, we request the state government to redirect the mines owners to channelise only 50 per cent of their products outside Odisha while they have to reserve the rest for the state-based industries," they pointed out.

UCCI president Brahmananda Mishra said that the state government had defended the pre-emption policy where the mines owners in Odisha had to reserve 50 per cent of their raw materials for state-based plants

Ola Electric ties up with banks for loans to customers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Ola Electric Monday said it has tied up with leading banks and financial institutions, including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime and TATA Capital, for providing loans to customers for its S1 electric scooter that will be available for purchase from September 8.

The company, which had last month launched the Ola S1 electric scooter in two variants - S1 and S1 Pro - at prices ₹99,999 and ₹1,29,999, respectively (ex-showroom including FAME II subsidy and excluding state subsidies), said it will

start deliveries in October. "We have tied up with all the

major banks and (financial) institutions...We will have many of them live starting September 8 and then others will be live soon after," Ola Electric Chief Marketing Officer Varun Dubey told PTI.

Inverted Scale

The banks and financial institutions that Ola Electric has tied up include Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank, IndusInd Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, Jana Small Finance Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime, TATA Capital and YES

Dubey said as consumers will be buying online the entire process is going to be "very seamless" and all those who choose financing should be able to avail of the option.

We have tied up with all the major banks and (financial) institutions...We will have many of them live starting September 8 (tomorrow) and then others will be live soon after VARUN DUBEY I CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER, OLA ELECTRIC

"They will be able to also get all the details in terms of what is the loan approval amount they have, what they need to do...Also, we have got very attractive financing options, with the EMI starting at

just ₹2.999 for S1...." he added. When asked about the delivery

plans for the scooters, Dubey said from September 8 onwards, people who have reserved can convert that to a purchase by paying the remaining amount and finalise vehicle variant and colour options.

"Then we will start deliveries for them from October onwards. We will be doing home delivery and we will actually take the scooters to

their doorsteps," Dubey added. When asked about the impact of the current semiconductor shortage on the company's ability to meet demand, he said, "It's definitely an evolving situation. Currently the timelines that we have given out factor in the various

constraints. As people keep converting orders into purchases, he said Ola Electric will update its customers about the waiting period on the basis of "where they are in the queue or when they have exactly purchased how many people purchased before them"

Ola Electric had opened prelaunch bookings of its electric scooters in July for ₹499 and had received 1 lakh orders in just 24 hours but it has not disclosed how many orders it has received so far. The company, August 15, announced its foray into the green mobility space with the launch of its first electric scooter, Ola S1.

The scooter comes in 10 colours with in-house development 8.5 KW motor and 3.97 kWh battery packs.









LONDON CONQUERED

India without coaches for final England Test

BOWLERS HELP VISITORS BEAT ENGLAND AT THE OVAL AFTER 50 YEARS AS VIRAT & CO TRIUMPH IN BOTH TESTS IN LONDON, INCLUDING LORD'S, TAKING AN UNBEATABLE 2-1 LEAD IN THE FIVE-TEST SERIES WITH A 157-RUN WIN IN THE FOURTH MATCH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 6: A determined India, after losing the third Test, returned here where they took the series lead winning the second Test at the Lord's - 'The home of cricket'. Then it was time for the other historic ground - The Kennington Oval, where they last won 50 years ago in 1971 and the bowlers completed the job amicably.

A menacing Jasprit Bumrah (2/27) joined forces with a canny Ravindra Jadeja (2/50) to decimate the hosts by 157 runs in the fourth Test as India took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series, here Monday.

The Indian bowling attack was without two of its senior pacers Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami but was still potent enough to bowl out England for 210 in 92.1

overs. The hosts were chasing a tough target of 368.

Bumrah and Jadeja hit England with such ferocity that a batsman of Joe Root's (36) stature looked dumbfounded at the other end with the kind of distress that his fellow batters were in.

Perhaps that was the reason that India's man-of-the-moment Shardul Thakur's (2/22) off-cutter was dragged back onto the stumps by Root, signalling the end of English resistance. Umesh Yadav (3/60) then completed the formalities with the second new ball as India won two Test matches in a single series in England after a gap of 35 years.

Virat Kohli had said after the third Test that a win at Lord's didn't guarantee a win at Leeds and a humbling defeat at Leeds didn't mean that tables could not be turned

at the Oval.

The skipper's thoughts were vindicated by his team with an allround performance-Rohit Sharma showing steely temperament, Shardul giving it his all knowing that chances may be far and few. Umesh showing that he is no less effective than team management's first choice quartet of pacers.

As far as Jadeja was concerned, he answered all the pro-Ashwin backers on his and Kohli's behalf. He hit the rough created outside the left-hander's off-stump as his skipper had assessed at the toss.

He started the slide making Haseeb Hameed (63) pay for his ultra-defensive tactic with a classic left-arm spinner's dismissal.

Using the rough outside the legstump of the right hander, he landed one on the spot as the opener prod-



CRUCIAL SCALP: Shardul Thakur reacts after dismissing Joe Root, Monday

ded forward for a defensive stroke but the ball turned enough to evade the bat and hit the top of the off-stump.

Then it was Bumrah's turn to unleash his sharp incoming reverse swinging deliveries with a lethal mix of yorkers for Ollie Pope (2) and Jonny Bairstow (0), who couldn't stop their defence from being breached.

Pope got one that came in sharply at a brisk pace which also ensured the quickest 100th Test wicket for India's most prolific all-format fast

bowler in the last decade. But the ball that got Bairstow was even special as it would have made some one like Waqar Younis proud.

From 141/2, it was 147/6 in a space of six overs. England in that hour after lunch lost four wickets for 19 runs in 14 overs.

BRIEF SCORES: India 191 & 466 beat England 290 & 210 (Haseeb Hameed 63, Rory Burns 50, Joe Root 36; Umesh Yadav 3/60, Shardul Thakur 2/22, Jasprit Bumrah 2/27, Ravindra Jadeja 2/50) by 157 runs.



London, Sept 6: India head coach Ravi Shastri has tested positive for COVID-19 along with two members of the support staff in the confirmatory RT-PCR tests, ruling them out of the team's fifth and final Test against England in Manchester this week.

The 59-year-old Shastri returned positive in a lateral flow test (Rapid Antigen Test) Sunday and Monday, his RT-PCR test report confirmed the infection. Three support staff members - Bharath Arun, fielding coach R Sridhar and physiotherapist Nitin Patel - were also isolated after being deemed his close contacts.

It is learnt that Arun and Sridhar have tested positive among the three and will remain in isolation for at least the next 10 days. The fifth and final Test is scheduled to start September 10.

"After testing positive in two lateral flow test. Shastri has also returned a positive result in RT-PCR test. He has mild symptoms like sore throat. He will undergo 10 days of isolation," a BCCI source informed PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Since the Test match starts on

September 10, Shastri will not be accompanying the team as his isolation period will only get over after the last Test gets over," the source said.

Even Patel won't be travelling to Manchester for the final game but that was pre-decided. "Look, being close contacts, Arun, Sri and Nitin will have to undergo five-day isolation. But in any case, they were not travelling to Manchester for

"In Manchester, the BCCI is creating a separate IPL bubble for the cricketers as there will be bubble to bubble transfer September 15. It was pre-decided," a senior BCCI source added. It is expected that all the three coaches will be in touch with captain Virat Kohli and batting coach Vikram Rathour, who will be in charge of the team during this period.

"As far as physio is concerned, the team has back-up in Yogesh Parmar with the two trainers Nick (Webb) and Soham (Desai). Three masseurs (Negi, Kanade, Dayanand, also a throwdown specialist) are there for recovery," he informed. "There is Raghu and Nuwan and also Vikram doubles up as a throwdown specialist," he added.

Brazil-Argentina tie suspended Spain back to form, rout Georgia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, Sept 6: A World Cup qualifier between Brazil and Argentina was suspended amid chaotic scenes after local health officials walked onto the pitch in a bid to remove three players who didn't comply with coronavirus restrictions.

The match featuring Argentina's Lionel Messi and Brazil's Neymar was stopped in the seventh minute because of the extraordinary interruption Sunday. The referee eventually suspended the game with the score at 0-0 after players, coaches, football officials and local authorities argued for several minutes on the field at NeoQuimica

Brazil's health agency said three of Argentina's England-based players should have been in quarantine instead of playing in the match. FIFA will have to determine what happens next with the qualifier.

Antonio Barra Torres, the president of Brazil's health agency. Anvisa, said four Argentina players would be fined and deported for breaching Brazil's COVID-19 protocols. The four had been ordered to quarantine by Brazil's health agency ahead of the match. Despite that order, three of the four started for Argentina.

Aston Villa's Emiliano Martinez and Emiliano Buendia and Tottenham's Giovanni Lo Celso and Cristian Romero joined the



Players of Argentina and Brazil involve in an argument with officials, Sunday

Argentina squad despite the Premier League not wanting players to be released for international duty because of the need to quarantine for 10 days in a hotel on their return. Brazil's quarantine restrictions have added another complicating factor

The Argentina football federation on Sunday night tweeted the message "We are going home!" along with a picture of the squad, including Emiliano Martinez and Buendia, boarding a flight for Buenos Aires

TV Globo reported that the four England-based players told Brazilian police at the airport they did not fill their entry forms upon arrival. The report said the footballers were not deported and received permission to fly back with their team.

Brazil's health agency said all four allegedly told immigration officers that in the previous 14 days they hadn't been to Britain or anywhere else that Brazil puts on its own red list for COVID-19 risks. Those who have been in countries on the so-called red list face a 14-day quarantine in Brazil.

Brazilian TV showed several exchanges between players and coaches during the chaos. Brazil coach Tite seemed to be the most upset. Lionel Messi also sounded irritated. "They did not talk to us before this," the Argentine captain repeated.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Badajoz (Spain), Sept 6: Luis Enrique shook up his team and got the result he wanted as Spain beat Georgia 4-0 in World Cup qual-

The game against the modest rival had become an almost mustwin affair for Spain after its disappointing loss at Sweden Thursday that cost it first place in Europe's Group B. Only the top team automatically qualifies for the tournament in Qatar in November 2022 with the group runners-up having to go through playoffs.

The victory in Badajoz Sunday left Spain with 10 points in the group. Sweden has nine, but also has two more games to play. Upset by his team's 1-2 loss in Stockholm, Luis Enrique made several changes to his starting 11.

Out went veterans Alvaro Morata, Sergio Busquets, Jordi Alba, and Koke. In came Jose Gaya in defense, and Rodri and Marcos Llorente in midfield. Pablo Sarabia took the place of injured Gerard Moreno in attack.

The biggest surprise was in the inclusion of 21-year-old Abel Ruiz, a Braga forward who made his debut for Spain in June in a game that youth players played while its top squad was quarantined due to a COVID-19 outbreak scare before the European Championship.

The moves paid off against the



Spain players celebrate a goal against Georgia, Sunday

overmatched Georgia. Gaya opened the scoring in the 14th minute before Llorente set up Carlos Soler and Ferran Torres to decide the game before halftime. Sarabia added a goal in the second half.

Greece held

A stoppage-time goal by Vedat Muriqi snatched Kosovo a 1-1 draw at home to Greece. The Greeks took the lead in first-half injury time through Anastasios Douvikas. They were moments away from their first win in the group before Muriqi struck. Kosovo is third in Group B with four points. Greece has three points and Georgia one. **Germany thrash Armenia**

Germany clicked in coach Hansi Flick's second game in charge to beat Armenia 6-0 in a World Cup qualifier and take top spot in its

Serge Gnabry scored twice and Salzburg forward Karim Adeyemi completed the scoring after coming on a substitute for his Germany debut, Marco Reus, Timo Werner and Jonas Hofmann also scored as Germany produced a much-improved performance in comparison to the jaded 2-0 win over Liechtenstein Thursday in Europe's Group J.

Lukaku lifts Belgium

Romelu Lukaku celebrated his 100th international with a goal as Belgium opened up a six-point lead after a 3-0 win against the Czech Republic in World Cup qualifying.

Lukaku scored in the eighth minute at King Baudouin Stadium, his 67th goal for the national team. Eden Hazard doubled the lead shortly before halftime and Alexis Saelemaekers put the result be-

yond doubt with a goal in the 65th. Gareth Bale earlier scored a hat trick — including two penalties and a last-minute winner — as Wales beat Belarus 3-2 in Europe's Group E Sunday.

Belgium lead the group with 13 points. The Czechs are second with seven, a point ahead of third-place Wales which has played two fewer

Saka seals England win

The cheers of the Wembley rowd made clear the affection for Bukavo Saka the moment the England lineup was announced. There were even louder roars to come when the birthday boy headed in the final goal in a 4-0 World Cup qualifying win over Andorra Sunday.

How different from 56 days earlier when England last played at Wembley when Saka missed England's last penalty in the European Championship final shootout loss to Italy, when the voungster was targeted with a torrent of racist abuse on social media, leading to police investigations

Saka set up Jesse Lingard to score England's first goal. Lingard doubled his tally for the evening by scoring the third for the hosts. England's second in the 72nd minute saw captain Harry Kane net his 40th international goal from a penalty after Mason Mount was

Teen Leylah upsets Kerber at US Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 6: Leylah Fernandez is a self-described "happy-go-lucky girl" having the time of her life at Flushing Meadows, raising her fists, pumping her arms and riling up crowds while beating two past US Open champions to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

A day before her 19th birthday, the unseeded left-hander from Canada grabbed the last five games to eliminate 2016 title winner Angelique Kerber 4-6, 7-6(7-5), 6-2 Sunday, demonstrating that an earlier upset of defending champion Naomi Osaka was certainly no fluke.

With grit and guile, plus a veteran's poise in the face of big deficits against much more accomplished opponents, Fernandez is displaying strokes and a demeanor that left Kerber offering this assessment:



"She can go really far in the next

How about over the next week? There's no time like the present for the teens in tennis: Also into the quarterfinals with a win Sunday was Carlos Alcaraz, an 18-year-old from Spain who became the

youngest man to get that far at the US Open since 1963 by outlasting his 32-year-old foe, 141st-ranked qualifier Peter Gojowczyk of

Germany, 5-7, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, 6-0. Alcaraz now plays No.12 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, a 21-year-old from Canada who reached his second straight major quarterfinal by defeating Frances Tiafoe of the U.S. 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(8-6), 6-4 with the help of 24 aces.

The 55th-ranked Alcaraz got past No.3 Stefanos Tsitsipas in his previous match and is the youngest player with two five-set Grand Slam wins in a row since Michael Chang was 16 at the 1988 US Open.

There's yet another 18-year-old in fourth-round action Monday: Emma Raducanu of Britain, who plays Shelby Rogers of the US.

As it is, only nine seeded men made it to Week 2, the fewest at the US Open since 2005, and van de Zandschulp reduced the total by one with a 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 5-7, 6-1 victory over No.11 Diego Schwartzman in 4 hours, 20 minutes.

Next for van de Zandschulp comes No.2 Daniil Medvedev, while Alcaraz will go up against No. 12 Felix Auger-Aliassime or Frances Tiafoe

Max downs Lewis to clinch Dutch GP ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zandvoort (Netherlands), Sept 6: Max Verstappen thrilled his home crowd by winning the Dutch Grand Prix in style Sunday to reclaim the Formula One championship lead from Lewis Hamilton.

The Red Bull driver's leading seventh win of the season and 17th of his career moved him three points ahead of the defending champion, who finished second but softened the blow with a bonus point for fastest lap. Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas

Verstappen's winning margin of 21 seconds over Hamilton was exaggerated because the British driver had to pit again to wrestle back the bonus point from Bottas. A rare blip by Mercedes saw Bottas told to abort his bid for fastest lap, but it was too late and forced Hamilton to retrieve it.



A jubilant Verstappen grabbed a Dutch flag and lifted it high toward his adoring fans as they celebrated together. Verstappen's devoted home fans created a brilliant atmosphere during the race, turning the stands by the seaside town

into an orange sea of bodies Orange flares were lit and feet

were stamped as Verstappen turned to the crowd with a clenched fist after a clinical drive.

AlphaTauri driver Pierre Gasly placed fourth ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Alpine driver

Fernando Alonso Verstappen started from pole position for a season-leading seventh time, and sixth in the past seven races, courtesy of a brilliant qualifying session. Hamilton and Bottas were just behind. Verstappen made a great start to pull clear of them on the speedy 4.3-kilometer (2.7-mile) Zandvoort with its highbanking corners.

Verstappen will look to carry his momentum into the Italian GP at Monza next weekend, where Hamilton again seeks a record-extending 100th win after being thwarted for three races since winning the British GP.

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