



UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

Manike Mage Hithe singer Yohani says she never even imagined that the song would become popular beyond Sri Lanka

LEISURE P2



SARKOZY CONVICTED

French ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy sentenced to a year's house arrest for illegal campaign financing in 2012

INTERNATIONAL P10



MANDHANA SHINES

Smriti Mandhana's unbeaten 80 helps India reach 132/1 on rain-hit Day 1 in D/N Test against Australia Women

SPORTS P12

USHA TRAVELS
OFFER PRICE
BHUBANESWAR

KOLKATA	2533/-*
HYDERABAD	3533/-*
BENGALURU	3533/-*
DELHI	3633/-*
MUMBAI	3733/-*
DUBAI	10,333/-*

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PROMOTING FITNESS



Sportspersons and officials working in ECoR take part in a walkathon in Bhubaneswar to build awareness on having a fit body and mind

OP PHOTO

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The Leaders' Choice
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Fuel prices skyrocket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CITY FUEL PRICES

PETROL	₹102.52 (+0.25)
DIESEL	₹98.01 (+0.33)

New Delhi, Sept 30: Petrol and diesel prices Thursday neared record levels across India after rates were hiked by 25 paise and 30 paise a litre respectively.

The price of petrol was hiked to ₹101.64 a litre in Delhi and to ₹107.71 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Diesel rates increased to ₹89.87 a litre in Delhi and ₹97.52 in Mumbai.

This is the second price increase in petrol since the ending of a three-week-long hiatus in rate revision and the fifth in the case of diesel.

The hike took the retail price of petrol to a near-record high. Petrol had hit a record high of ₹101.84 a litre in Delhi in July and ₹107.83 in Mumbai. For diesel, the increase led to rates equalling the all-time high of ₹89.87 a litre touched in Delhi in the same month.

This spurt in global rates has led state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) in resuming daily price revisions.

LAKRA HANGS UP HIS HOCKEY STICK

New Delhi: Olympic bronze medal-winning hockey player Birendra Lakra announced Thursday he is quitting the game with immediate effect. Lakra's retirement was announced by Hockey India (HI) on its official Twitter handle. "A solid defender and one of the most influential Indian men's hockey team figures, the Odisha star has announced his retirement from the Indian national team. Happy retirement, Birendra Lakra," HI tweeted. The 31-year-old Lakra's career had been plagued with injury in the last few years. He was also part of the 2014 gold medal-winning Incheon Asian Games team, but missed out on Rio Olympics in 2016.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We just abused, threatened and manhandled him in a very democratic manner!

AMARINDER SET TO FLOAT NEW PARTY

Putting all speculation about his future to rest, Amarinder Singh asserted he will not join the BJP but will certainly leave the Congress after being 'humiliated'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 30: Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said Thursday he will definitely not join the BJP, but will quit the Congress. Sources close to the veteran politician however said that Amarinder is planning to float a new party as he still has the support of 25-30 MLAs in the Punjab Assembly. Once he forms the new party, he will take a plunge in the Assembly elections with the tacit support of the BJP.

"So far I am in the Congress but I will not remain. I have already made my position very clear. I will not be treated in this manner," the 'Captain' said Thursday. His comments came after he met Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday and also had a meeting Thursday morning with NSA Ajit Doval. Soon after, Amarinder removed the word 'Congress' from his Twitter bio.

People close to Amarinder said that the BJP wants to end the ongoing farmers' protests with the help of the former Punjab CM, as



SIDHU MAY CONTINUE

CHANDIGARH: Navjot Singh Sidhu who resigned as the president of the Congress in Punjab, may continue in the position, an aide of the cricketer-turned-politician said Thursday. His comments came after Sidhu had a meeting with Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. Mohammed Mustafa an associate of Sidhu said that all 'issues will be resolved soon' and 'he will stay Punjab Congress chief and lead the party in next year's election'.

it may hamper the saffron party's poll prospects in the UP. That was one of the main reasons why Shah decided to meet Amarinder. If

Amarinder can offer a solution, the BJP will be glad to help him in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Amarinder also said that there is no reason to stay in a party where he is not trusted. "If you doubt me after 50 years and my credibility is at stake, what is the point staying in the party?" Amarinder asked.

"I have made my stand very clear to the Congress that I will not be treated in this manner. I will not stand for it. I have not resigned from the Congress yet, but how can one continue in a place where there is a trust deficit? When there is no trust, one cannot continue. But one thing is for sure, I am not joining the BJP," asserted Amarinder.

Twin city curfew timings revised

As Durga Puja is celebrated in a big way in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, restrictions have been imposed in the two cities during the days of festival

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: With an aim to prevent mass gatherings during Durga Puja and the Dussehra festival, the Odisha government decided Thursday to increase night curfew timings in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar from October 11 to 20. Night curfew during this period for the two cities will be from 8.00pm (20.00 hours) to 5.00am (05.00 hours). However, for other urban areas in the state, the curfew timing will remain the same - from 10.00pm to 5.00am.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena gave this informa-



- Sale and use of firecrackers prohibited during entire October
- Night curfew timings in other urban areas to remain the same, from 10.00pm to 5.00am

tion while announcing the Covid-19 guidelines from October 1 to 31. He also said that there will not be any weekend shutdowns in Odisha. All emergency services will continue to operate as before during the night curfew, informed Jena.

The government has also prohibited use and sale of firecrackers in the month of October. This is the second year in a row that

the rule has been implemented.

"With a view to protecting the health of general public and to curb the spread of infection, sale and use of firecrackers shall remain prohibited during this festive month," the government said in its order. This year, Diwali will be celebrated November 4. So, it is likely that the sale of firecrackers will start from mid-October onwards. To prevent the situation from getting out of hand, the government has implemented the ban on sale of firecrackers from October onwards, sources said.

As per the guidelines, all other restrictions and instructions issued August 31 for the month of September will continue to remain in force through the State during October also. All religious festivals and functions will be celebrated as per the government order issued August 9.

4 new judges for Orissa HC

Currently the Orissa HC has been functioning with 13 judges, less than half of its sanctioned strength of 27

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Supreme Court Collegium has approved the appointment of two advocates and two judicial officers as judges in the Orissa High Court. The three-member Collegium headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, in its meeting September 29, approved the proposal for elevation of advocates Aditya Kumar Mohapatra and

Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo and Judicial Officers Radha Krishna Pattanayak and Sashikanta Mishra as judges in the Orissa High Court.

Earlier, the Supreme Court Collegium had also recommended transfer of three judges to Orissa High court. They are Justice Jaswant Singh from Punjab and Haryana High Court and Justices Arindam Sinha and Soumen Sen from the Calcutta High Court. The Collegium had also recommended the transfer of Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra from Orissa High Court to Uttarakhand High Court.

Passenger dies after emergency landing of flight at BPIA

The IndiGo aircraft made an emergency landing after a passenger complained of acute breathing problems

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: An IndiGo Airliner flight from Kolkata to Hyderabad (6E-946) made an emergency landing at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here Thursday due to a medical exigency, airport sources informed. The flight was diverted to the Odisha capital after a 59-year-old man complained of breathing problems.

The flight landed around 6.00pm at BPIA. The patient, identified as Jayabrata Ghosh, was travelling along with three family members, sources said.

Ghosh was attended by a doctor in the flight itself who detected cardiac problems and suggested that the patient be immediately admitted to a hospital for further medical assistance. By the time Ghosh was deboarded from the flight he was unconscious. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

A similar incident had occurred in 2018 also when a flight en route from Kolkata to Bangalore was diverted to the BPIA following a medical emergency. A 32-year-old man needed immediate medical attention for which Indigo flight (6E-822) made an emergency landing at the BPIA. However, then also the passenger had breathed his last.

Murder mystery solved

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Commissionerate Police solved Thursday the mystery behind the murder of a 26-year-old woman, Sandhyarani Sethi whose decomposed body was recovered from a house at Mahavir slum in Baramunda locality here September 7. A team of twin city police team arrested the alleged paramour of the victim from Kolkata. He has been charged with strangulating the woman to death.

The accused identified as SK Farid alias Kartika Jena, 35, is a native of Nijkasba under Talapatghat coastal police station in East Medinipur district of West Bengal. He was produced in court Thursday and sent to judicial custody.

Farid initially came to Cuttack 22 years ago, but left soon after. Few years later he came here and

started working as a mason. He shifted to Baideswar locality area in Cuttack district where he married a girl of Chadeibandha village under Baideswar police limits in 2008.

However, things changed for the worst when Farid met Sandhyarani at Barmunda in 2017. She as a widow sought Farid's help to get some work to support her family. Subsequently, they entered into a live-in relationship.

When Farid's wife came to know about the development, she lodged a complaint with the police. In spite of that, Sandhyarani would frequently engage in arguments with Farid and his wife. So Farid decided to get rid of her.

Farid strangled Sandhyarani to death September 3 and fled to Kolkata. However, he failed to evade the police, who tracked him down to Kolkata and arrested him.

PIPLI BYPOLL ENDS PEACEFULLY

Pipli bypoll had been deferred thrice for various reasons since it was fixed for April 17 this year after the demise of sitting MLA Pradeep Maharathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The much-awaited bypoll to the Pipli Assembly constituency went off peacefully Thursday with a voter turnout of over 68.40 per cent. Voting was conducted in 348 booths of the constituency from 7.00am till 6.00pm. There was no report of any untoward incident from the Assembly segment, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), SK Lohani after the completion of the polls.

"Polling has been peaceful with 68.40 per cent of the people casting



Voters display their Aadhaar cards at a polling booth in Pipli, Thursday

their votes while adhering to Covid-19 guidelines. Security personnel were present in all polling booths to ensure free and fair voting," Lohani told mediapersons, Thursday evening. He informed that final percentage of the votes

cast will only be available Friday morning. Polling in some booths, however, got delayed due to technical glitches in the electronic voting machines (EVM), some officials informed.

Many people were seen standing

in queues outside polling centres, where markings had been drawn on the ground to enable voters to maintain social distancing.

The fate of 10 candidates in fray including the ruling BJD's Rudrapratap Maharathy, Ashrit Pattanayak of the BJP and Congress nominee Bishwokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra have been sealed in the EVMs. All the candidates cast their votes at their respective polling booths and exuded confidence. Their fate will be known October 3.

The administration deployed around 2,000 security personnel to ensure peaceful voting in Pipli, which has a history of poll violence. While webcasting was done in 175 of the 201 sensitive booths, video recording arrangements were made in 12 booths. Twenty-three micro-observers were also appointed to monitor the voting process.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will achieve things today, not by the sleight of your hand but by your communication skills, says Ganesha. Your eloquence shall win many hearts. The stars suggest monetary benefits, but you need to guard against injury and minor ailments.

TAURUS
You are likely to confront a turning point in relationships today, foresees Ganesha. Because you are in need of some compassion and support, you will feel the need to spend time with friends and relatives. Your beloved or better half may bring a change in mood by helping you shed your negative frame of mind, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Today is a crucial and fascinating day for you, predicts Ganesha. You will learn and gain from your bosses and elders. Peers and siblings may extend their full support to you. Your chances of winning legal battles are remote, so an out-of-court settlement may be your best bet.

LEO
You need to curb down on your expenses. You need to moderate the risks you take on in the share market. It is a good day for financial gains though. You need to understand the value of compromise, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse shall run through you today. Yet, by the mid-day, expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you. Government officials and other professionals will have an inspiringly assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through, and you may be in for some serious praise from the superiors.

LIBRA
Your concern for your family surmounts all else, that much Ganesha knows. Today, you will fulfil your filial duties in all that you undertake. As Ganesha rightly points out: All good things begin at home, including your fortune and good luck.

SCORPIO
A healthy and hectic day is in store for you today. You are likely to finish your pending tasks with new zeal. But the chaotic day will blossom into a fabulous evening when you hang out with your sweetheart, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
You are in a mood to spend money of home décor, paintings or artefacts. Go ahead, and decorate your home. Ganesha foresees success on your cards today. Workplace has never been such an interesting place before. Planning and implementation will make your day easier.

CAPRICORN
Today, you will remain unfrustrated by the commotion around you, says Ganesha. However, the emotions locked up inside you will probably cloud your power of reasoning and may leave you feeling a little lost. But this will only be a passing phase, and you will come out of the bewilderment in no time. You will promptly get back to pursuing your goals and your reputation with seniors will play a crucial role in bagging you tangible rewards.

AQUARIUS
You will prove yourself today by staying ahead of your rivals in all ways. You will conquer your frustrations, and will soon be raring to go. Your pleasing demeanour endears you to others and you win admiration from all quarters, says Ganesha.

PISCES
An action-packed day awaits you, busy as you will be corresponding with old contacts, telephonic interviews, organising meetings and scheduling tasks, says Ganesha. Do not forget to breathe!



BEN WHISHAW WANTS TO WATCH A GAY BOND

Actor Ben Whishaw has weighed in on the future of the fictional British spy James Bond on the big screen. He said he would like to see 'real progress' when it comes to Hollywood star Daniel Craig's successor, with either Jonathan Bailey or Luke Evans playing a gay Bond.

'I NEVER KNEW ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE'

Singer Katy Perry, who welcomed her daughter Daisy with fiancée Orlando Bloom last year, says parenthood has given her a new perspective on life. Perry told *Variety*: "I never really truly knew about unconditional love. I didn't really experience it in the first-person until I had my child."



Buxi's heroics to be retold in Vidrohi

Mumbai: Well-known TV face Sharad Malhotra has been roped in to play the lead role in an upcoming show *Vidrohi*, a show based on the life of freedom fighter Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara of Odisha.

Malhotra says: "It's a monumental character. When the character has huge potential, automatically the job of the actor becomes a huge responsibility. An actor is always greedy for good content and a show like *Vidrohi* doesn't happen every day. But what drew me towards the story was the selflessness of the character Buxi Jagabandhu and I wanted the nation to know about this legendary hero from the lands of Orissa."

Jagabandhu Bidyadhara Mohapatra Bhramarbaraya popularly known as Buxi Jagabandhu was the commander of the king of Khurda, Odisha. The Paika rebellion in 1817 against British rule was fought under his leadership. His story was downplayed by the Britishers while rewriting history.

The historical drama will start from October on Star Plus.

Natia Comedy to be aired on nat'l TV



BHUBANESWAR: Utkal Gaurab, the YouTube sensation from Odisha with over five million subscribers following the unprecedented success of his show *Natia Comedy*, has signed an agreement with Hindi entertainment channel Q TV. As per the agreements, the channel will telecast *Natia Comedy*, dubbed in Hindi, for one and half years. The channel in a release said it is for the first time

that an Odia serial will be aired on national TV networks. Talking about the development, Utkal says, "The Q TV has signed an agreement with Utkal Cartoon World to telecast the *Natia Comedy* on its channel from November 1 and for half an hour every week. Earlier other channels also made similar approaches but we zeroed in on the Q TV due to its popularity. The channel approached

us about three months ago but it was only after making the contents ready for telecast, we made the agreement. If the episodes achieve the desired popularity, I have plans to approach Pogo to telecast *Natia Comedy*."

Natia Comedy is an extremely popular cartoon show on YouTube which has become a rage among the kids as well as the adults.

Music has a universal language: Yohani



New Delhi: Sri Lankan singing sensation Yohani is in India, all set to perform her trending Sinhalese song *Manike Mage Hithe* live at different venues.

She will be seen in action at the Supermoon #NowTrending concert Thursday in Gurugram, and then in Hyderabad October 3.

In an interview on the eve of her live concert, Yohani shared her excitement of touring India for the first time and the immense popularity her song gained. "This is my first trip to India. I am

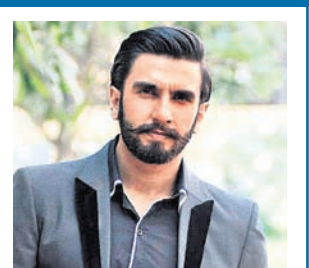
really excited to see how it's going to turn out and what the reaction is going to be like," she said.

The young singer is basking in the glory of her success, as she is getting constant calls for singing offers in India. "There are so many opportunities and offers coming from India," she said.

Yohani shared that she did not foresee *Manike Mage Hithe* trending all over when she created the song.

"Absolutely not. I never thought it would go so far. We didn't even think that it will go out of Sri Lanka, because that's never happened in our country. So, it's really a cool thing to see this happening," she said, adding, the song once again proved that music has a universal language, as people gave so much love to a foreign language song.

Ranveer named NBA brand ambassador



Mumbai: Ranveer Singh Thursday was named as the National Basketball Association (NBA) brand ambassador for India. The star says he has loved basketball and the NBA since childhood.

"I have loved basketball and the NBA since my childhood and have always been fascinated with its influence on popular culture including music, fashion and entertainment," said Ranveer.

In this capacity, Ranveer will work with the NBA to help grow the league's profile in India throughout its landmark 75th Anniversary Season in 2021-22.

"With the NBA tipping off its 75th season celebrations, there couldn't have been a better time to join forces with the league and support their efforts to grow basketball in the country."

The Gully Boy star will attend NBA All-Star 2022 in Cleveland, where he will post behind-the-scenes social media content and meet NBA players and legends. Ranveer previously attended NBA All-Star 2016 in Toronto, where he sat courtside at the NBA All-Star Game.

NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer Mark Tatum said: "We're excited to work with Ranveer to engage with fans in India and around the world on a variety of platforms."



No Time To Die, a convoluted narrative

Director Cary Joji Fukunaga's *No Time To Die* is the franchise's twenty-fifth film and marks Daniel Craig's fifth and final turn as the secret agent, James Bond.

Visually, the film is a brilliant piece of action drama that takes place in a generic but convoluted spy narrative where Bond is pulled into action to save the world, the love of his life Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), his daughter Mathilde (Lisa-Dorah Sonnet), and himself.

The world is under threat after a scientist, Valdo Obruchev (David Dencik), is kidnapped. Obruchev had developed Project Heracles - a weapon of mass destruction where the bio weapon contains nanobots that spread like a virus upon touch

Cast:
Daniel Craig, Lea Seydoux, Rami Malek, Lashana Lynch, Ralph Fiennes, Ben Whishaw
Direction:
Cary Joji Fukunaga

and are coded to specific DNA strands.

Bond, who is in both hiding and retirement on a remote tropical island, is drawn back into action. He joins forces with the CIA, and heads to Santiago de Cuba, where SPECTRE (Special Executive for Counterintelligence, Terrorism, Revenge, and Extortion) is holding a kind of underworld convention. Soon, Bond realises that the task is not as simple

as it seems, especially after he accidentally kills Blofeld (Christoph Waltz), his arch-enemy and foster brother, and is made to believe that he was infected by Madeleine.

When he tracks down Madeleine, he realises that she is being hounded by Lyutsifer Safin (Rami Malek), an adversary of Bond and Madeleine, and a terrorist leader on a revenge mission.

How he lands up in Lyutsifer's remote island to battle him and devolves into a sideshow of resigned fate, forms the crux of the narrative.



Daniel Craig as James Bond is suave, stylised and brilliant in a way that outshines everything else around him.

Lea Seydoux as James Bond's love interest, Madeleine Swann, has more to offer than many leading ladies in the franchise have ever been able to.

Safin with his facial disfigurement is played to the brutal hilt by Rami Malek.

There are many returning characters in this edition too, but Ben Whishaw as the gadget guy 'Q', with his hairless cat on his home turf, is prominent and noticeable.

The stars of any Bond film are the exquisite locations. This time they stretch from Jamaica to Norway, Italy and London.

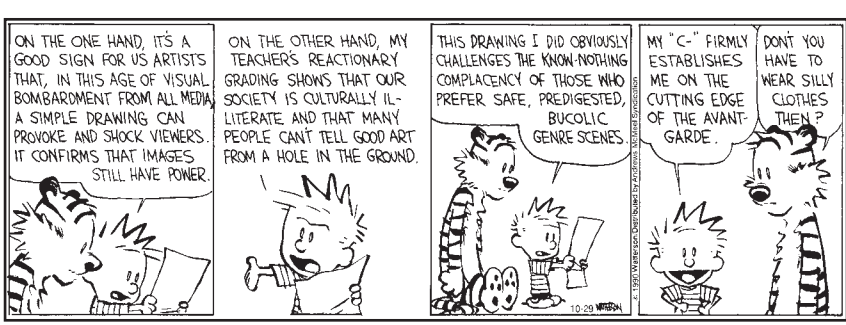
With a run time of two hours and 43 minutes, it is the lengthiest Bond film.

FILM REVIEW

PEANUTS



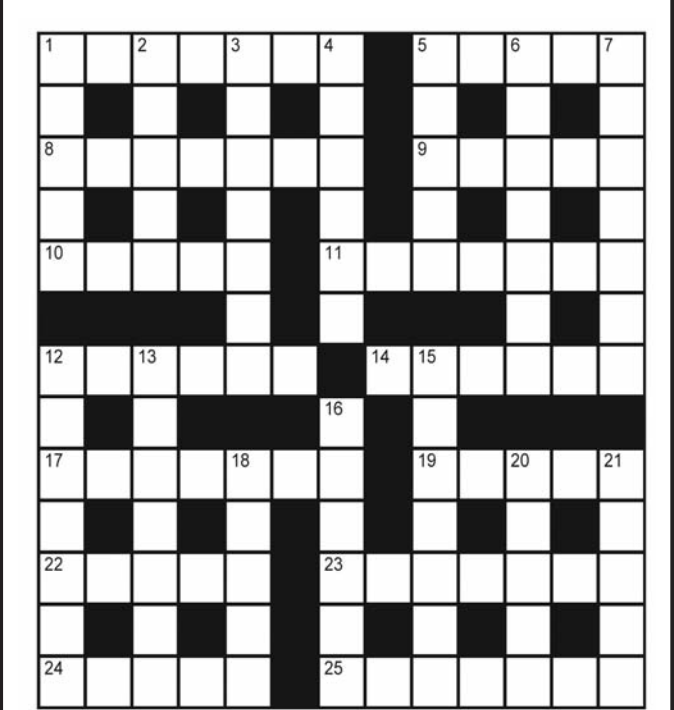
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



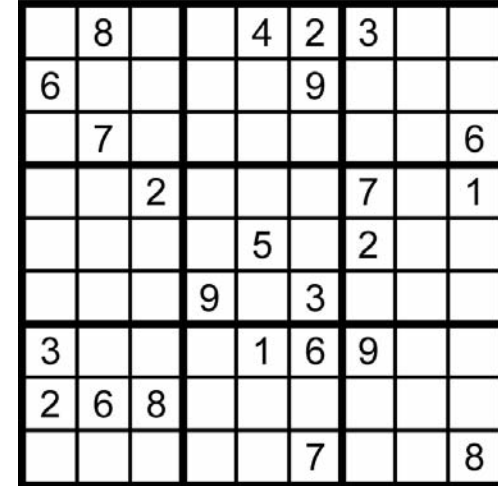
FUN post CROSSWORD



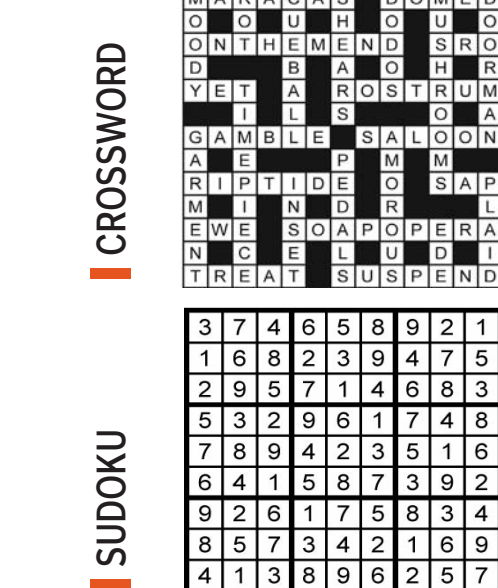
- Across**
- 1 Bewitch
 - 5 Exercise unit (3,2)
 - 8 Chopper's spot
 - 9 Cuban dance
 - 10 Scrub
 - 11 Salve
 - 12 Tractable
 - 14 Sheen
 - 17 Salad ingredient
 - 19 Bridges
 - 22 Exploits
 - 23 Simple wind instrument
 - 24 Brief tussle (3-2)
 - 25 Holds on to
- Down**
- 1 Community spirit
 - 2 Quartet member
 - 3 Garments
 - 4 Ennui
 - 5 Shoulder motion
 - 6 Teapot resident?
 - 7 Gab
 - 12 Separates
 - 13 Spelling bee, e.g.
 - 15 Social climber
 - 16 Pergola
 - 18 Oomph
 - 20 Cover story?
 - 21 Some trumpeters

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

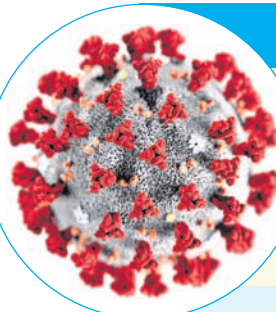


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



IN MEMORIAM
DRIEMS chairman Pramod Chandra Rath felicitates Brahmananda Saraswati on the occasion of 27th death anniversary of the premier institution's founder Dhaneswar Rath in Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,41,96,286	21,10,14,490	47,90,805
India	3,37,39,980	3,30,14,898	4,48,062
Odisha	10,26,476	10,13,142	8,198

Purchasable babus & politicians

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tikiri (Rayagada), Sept 30: There is palpable anger among people in the tribal-dominated Kashipur block of Rayagada district in south Odisha against Utkal Alumina. A visit to Tikiri, home to the company's plant, revealed people continue to live in acute distress and deprivations. Poverty, a signature of Kashipur block, is everywhere. Tribals, even 17 years after Utkal Alumina commenced production, feel cheated and rue their decision of ceding their lands to the corporate in the hope of an Eldorado. The company is an anathema to locals, for it seems to have failed to honour its initial promises.

Betrayal by the company that bought their land at cheap rates with the promise that they would get company jobs, non-payment of land dues, its empty promise to relocate land losers and above all, non-realisation of other simple commitments such as good roads, education for kids and providing healthcare facilities have all added up to alienate the innocent tribals. The district administration, even though it is aware of the people's miseries, has done precious little to mitigate them. Worse, the administration has turned away from them whenever they looked to it to protect their interest and get justice. And to cap it all, the government machinery was prompt in branding the innocent tribals as Maoists whenever they rose to demand their justified rights. Records show two villagers were shot dead by police because they were demanding justice. Their crime was they believed the words of the authorities and the company and when they expressed displeasure at being cheated, they had to pay the ultimate price.

Recently, people took heart when local MP Saptagiri Ulaka met the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC), Berhampur, to discuss about local issues and exploitation. This

UTKAL ALUMINA



Vast tracts of land acquired by Utkal Alumina

OP SPECIAL

seems to have followed last week's reports on these issues by this newspaper. Calls by this correspondent to the RDC to know about the outcome of their meeting went unanswered. However, sources said the RDC has promised to call a meeting of all the stakeholders within three months.

Massive protests had taken place when the Aditya Birla Group decided to set up its plant in Tikiri. People outright denied to part with their land. However, they relented when promises of fast-paced development of the region and availability of facilities at par with those in developed urban areas were made to them. Locals were promised they will see a complete turnaround in their life in 10 years. However, 17 years have since passed. None of the promises have been delivered. Most of the villages around the plant have not received power connections. Doragada village, where the plant is situated, got power supply four years ago after strong protests continued for very long. However, most of the time, there is no power supply in the village. Till today, there are no hard topped roads nor drinking water facilities in that village.

Tripati Jhodia of Bagirijhola village, where large chunks of private land had been acquired by the company, says Utkal Alumina took five acres from his family.

While they received an initial Rs 21,000 per acre, the balance is yet to come. "The company insisted on full handover of land after which they would get jobs. Our lands have long gone to the company's record, but we are still waiting for the jobs. Some were even given false appointment letters," Tripati said, adding, when people protested they were suppressed by force. The two who were shot down by police were from this village.

Kabir Nayak, a co-villager, said they had given a memorandum to District Collector on 1 May, 2010 as the company failed to carry out its promises. However, the Collector refused to talk to the company authorities. After visiting the Collector's office several times, the villagers kept quiet. Such stories of unkept promises, deceit and exploitation were heard in most of the nearby villages like Kochejpadar. Bhagaban Majhi, a resident of this village, said the company took over 100 acres of their land without even their knowledge. How is this possible without the help of the administration, he asked. They met several people including the National SC/ST Commission at Delhi, but to no avail. The villagers allege that no matter who comes as Collector cum District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police or their junior officials, somehow all get into the payroll of the company at the blink of an eye. They feel the district administration has been play-

ing the role of the Guardian Angel for this Birla plant and suppressing the locals for financial benefits derived in lieu of those acts.

Many times there have been widespread protests against the company in the locality and each time the Police seemed to be siding with the company and acting against the people. Hundreds of protesters were arrested, beaten and cases lodged to suppress and demoralise them. Many have been dubbed as Maoists and serious judicial proceedings have been started against them. The government has been constantly acting as an agent of the company, Bahagaban said.

People in nearby Karol village are no lucky either. Satyanarayan Nayak of Karol said many in his village have lost land but there is not so much as a road to the village, let alone electricity, drinking water and healthcare facilities. "We have no jobs even though a big plant has come up on our land. We have lost everything to the company. It promised us everything, but delivered nothing," Krishna Bag, another villager, said.

The company has taken away 400 acres in Karol village alone without people's knowledge. Locals have been waging their unending battle, all by themselves. They have approached every authority, gone up to High Court, met company higher-ups, senior officials and politicians. But there is none to pay heed to their plight. On 16 September this year, the company organised a function to celebrate its capacity augmentation. There was a large gathering of people comprising political leaders and senior officials. The locals met them to draw their attention but no one among the worthies had time to listen to them. These islands of injustice are nurtured by the administration and supported by political heavy weights who think of nothing but their personal aggrandizement.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



2 Odisha hosps top NITI ranking

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 30: Although Odisha has fared poorly in terms of health facilities in district hospitals, Bolangir and Mayurbhanj districts have secured the top ranks in mid-sized hospitals category in NITI Aayog's performance assessment report released Thursday.

The report titled 'Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals' states that the hospitals in Bolangir and Baripada have 2.26 and 2.14 times the requisite staff of doctors in position as prescribed under Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms.

The report revealed that the national average stands at 0.86 times the requisite staff while the state average is 0.94 times. Around 18

to 37 per cent district hospitals in Odisha meet the doctors to bed ratio. However, the state does not meet the required number of nurses in the district hospitals and its average availability of nurses and paramedical staffers in district hospitals is below the national average. The report also stated that most of the district hospitals in the state do not have all 14 core services. On an average the hospitals have been providing only 11 core services to people.

Bolangir is the only district hospital in the state that has been providing all 14 identified core healthcare services, the report revealed. The ancillary services of the hospital are also very good like the hospital provides mechanised housekeeping services, smart se-

curity services with CCTV cameras, mechanised laundry services, help desk services, free diet services, proper waste management services, central registration services, free drug services, free investigation services, free high-end diagnostic services like CT scan, dialysis among other facilities. In terms of availability of beds in the district hospitals, Odisha's position remains below the national average of 24 as the state has 22 beds per 1 lakh population in the district hospitals.

Only 15 district hospitals in the state have a bed occupancy rate of 90 per cent or higher. Deogarh and Gajapati district hospitals have 100 per cent bed occupancy in small-sized hospitals category, while Bolangir hospital has 100 per cent occupancy in mid-sized hospitals category.

सेंट्रल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ पेट्रोकेमिकल्स इंजीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट) सेंटर फॉर स्किलिंग एंड टेक्निकल सपोर्ट (सी.एस.टी.एस) - भुवनेश्वर
(सहायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
एस-3/79, सेक्टर-ए, ज़ोन-बी, मणेश्वर इण्डियल एस्टेट, भुवनेश्वर - 10
फोन नं. : +91 0674-2588203/2587874, फैक्स: 0674-2588087,
ईमेल: cipetsat@gmail.com / mcti@cipet.gov.in / Website: www.cipet.gov.in

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET) CENTRE FOR SKILLING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (CSTS) - BHUBANESWAR
(Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India)
S-3/79, Sector - A, Zone - B, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar - 10
Phone No.: +91-0674-2588203/2587874, FAX: 0674-2588087
Email: cipetsat@gmail.com / mcti@cipet.gov.in / Website: www.cipet.gov.in

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (आनलाइन) सं. : CIPET-CSTS/BBSR/MACHINERY/2021-22/08
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Online) No.: CIPET-CSTS/BBSR/MACHINERY/2021-22/08
बिड्स का आमंत्रण INVITATION OF BIDS

सिपेट, सीएसटीएस, भुवनेश्वर के द्वारा अपने सिपेट बीपीयूटी-कैम्पस, छेद, राउरकेला के लिए मशीनों को आपूर्ति और स्थापना के लिए, प्रतिष्ठित आपूर्तिकर्ता/निर्माताओं से पृथक-पृथक वस्तु के अनुसार तकनीकी और वाणिज्यिक निविदा आमंत्रित करता है। इच्छुक तथा सक्षम विदेश से अनुरोध है कि कि वे ई-टेंडर (आनलाइन) वेबसाइट www.tenderwizard.com/CIPET के द्वारा ही आवेदन करें। तकनीकी विवरण तथा कार्यालय शांती की पूरी जानकारी के लिए भी CIPET वेबसाइट पर विजिट करें। CIPET के पास बिना कोई कारण बताए भी संपूर्ण निविदाओं को आंशिक रूप से या पूर्णतः स्वीकृत या निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

CIPET-CSTS, Bhubaneswar invites technical & commercial bids separately item-wise from the reputed suppliers/manufacturers for the supply & installation of machinery at CIPET:BPUT-Campus, Chhend, Rourkela. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to apply through e-tender (online) website www.tenderwizard.com/CIPET, also visit CIPET website for complete details on technical specification and commercial terms. CIPET reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders either in part or in full without assigning any reasons thereof.

बिड के आनलाइन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि : 25.10.2021 शाम 05.00 बजे
टेक्निकल बिड्स का खुलना : 26.10.2021, 11.00 बजे पूर्वाह्न
कार्यालय बिड्स का खुलना : टेक्निकल बिड्स के मुल्यांकन के बाद
आगे की तकनीकी स्पष्टीकरण के लिए कृपया संपर्क करें : 9090968453, 7978968870, 9937632279
Last date for the online submission of the bid : 25.10.2021, 05.00 p.m.
Opening of Technical bids : 26.10.2021, 11.00 a.m.
Opening of Commercial bids : After Evaluation of Technical Bids
For further technical clarification, please contact : 9090968453, 7978968870, 9937632279
प्रधान निदेशक व प्रमुख
Principal Director & Head

Two get life term in 2010 murder case

BARIPADA: A court in Mayurbhanj district Thursday sentenced two persons to life imprisonment for murdering a man over a dispute on the construction of a school building 11 years ago. Additional District and Sessions Judge Prabir Kumar Chowdhury awarded the punishment to Anadi Giri and Sanjib Giri after finding them guilty of murder. Following a quarrel during a meeting of a school committee at Sakua in Barasahi, the duo attacked Niranjan Mohapatra with sharp weapons seriously injuring him June 25, 2010. He died at a hospital later. Mohapatra and the two had some dispute over constructing the school building. Seven people were arrested in this connection, out of which the court acquitted four for want of evidence. One of the accused died during trial.

ଜାତୀୟ ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ଦିବସ
୧ ଅକ୍ଟୋବର, ୨୦୨୧

DSPL - 160

ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରି ଅନ୍ୟର ଜୀବନର ସ୍ଵନ୍ଦନକୁ ଜାରି ରଖିବାରେ ଥାଏ ଅପୂର୍ବ ଆନନ୍ଦ, ଏମିତି ଅନେକ ଜୀବନର ସ୍ଵନ୍ଦନ ମିଶି ବିଶ୍ଵ ଆଜି ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଛି ।

ଆପଣ ବି ଜଣେ ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ହୋଇପାରିବେ ଯଦି ଆପଣଙ୍କର:

- ବୟସ ୧୮ ରୁ ୬୫ ବର୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ
- ଶରୀରର ଓଜନ ୪୫ କି.ଗ୍ରା.ରୁ ଅଧିକ
- ନାଡିର ଗତି ପ୍ରତି ମିନିଟ୍ ୬୦ରୁ ୧୦୦ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅଛି ଓ ନିୟମିତ ଅଛି
- ରକ୍ତଗ୍ରାହ ସିଷ୍ଟେଲିକ୍ ୧୦୦ରୁ ୧୪୦ ମି.ମି. ଓ ଡାଇଲୋଲିକ ୬୦ରୁ ୯୦ ମି.ମି. ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅଛି
- ହିମୋଗ୍ଲୋବିନ୍ର ସ୍ତର ଅତି କମରେ ୧୨.୫ ଗ୍ରା.ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଅଛି
- ପାଟିର ତାପମାତ୍ରା ୩୭ ଡିଗ୍ରି ସେଲସିୟସରୁ ଅଧିକ ନାହିଁ

ଆଲାସେମିଆ ରୋଗୀଙ୍କୁ ରକ୍ତ ସଞ୍ଚାରଣ ପାଇଁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ଲିକୋସାଲ୍ ଫିଲ୍ଡର ସରକାରୀ ରକ୍ତ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ବିନାମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଅଛି ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରି ଆମ ବିଶ୍ଵର ସ୍ଵନ୍ଦନକୁ ଜାରି ରଖିବା ଆଉ ରକ୍ତ ଲାଗି ଅକାଳରେ ଝରି ପଡୁଥିବା ଜୀବନକୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବା ।

- ସର୍ବଦା ମାଝ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ନିୟମିତ ବାରମ୍ବାର ସ୍ଵାଚ୍ଛନ୍ଦରେ ହାତ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ
- ୨ମିନିଟ ଶାରୀରୀକ ଦୂରତା ବଜାୟ ରଖନ୍ତୁ
- ସୋରାସ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି କରୋନା ଟାକା ନିଶ୍ଚୟ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।

ଅଧିକ ସୂଚନା ପାଇଁ କିଲ୍ଲା/ରମେଶ୍ଵର ସ୍ତରୀୟ ରକ୍ତ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର କିମ୍ବା ରାଜ୍ୟ ରକ୍ତ ସଞ୍ଚାରଣ ପରିଷଦ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ସହ ପରାମର୍ଶ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), Plot No.: 778, First Floor, Maharshi College Road, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Ph.No.: 0674-2549663, 2549621, Fax No.: 0674-2549713, E-mail ID: sbi.05174@sbi.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO BANK UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, has taken over Possession of the following property/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-Auction (Under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 18.10.2021 and on the terms & conditions specified hereunder.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 18.10.2021 from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Property Details & Name of the property	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which property/ies is/are being Sold / Demand Notice Date	Reserve Price EMD	
				BID Increment	Amount
1.	Borrower : M/s. Auro Ispat (India) Private Limited, Regd. Office: 209, A/J Bose Road, 2nd Floor, Room No.: 67 BC, Kolkata (West Bengal)-700020, Administrative Office: At-Plot No.: M-72, Samanta Vihar, Kalinga Hospital Square, Bhubaneswar-751023, Managing Director and Guarantor : Shri Abinash Mohanty, Plot No.: 556, Lewis Road, BJB Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751014, Directors and Guarantors : 1) Shri Kaushik Mohanty, Plot No.: 252/3318, Tapaswinee Complex, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Bhubaneswar-751024, 2) Shri Anshuman Samantaray, Plot No.: 4912 (P), EA-50, Badagada Brit Colony, Bhubaneswar-751018, 3) Shri Bidhubusan Nayak, Duplex-15, Ratna Niwas, Brahmeswar Patna, Bhubaneswar-751018.	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Factory Shed situated at Ramnagar, Mouza : Khuntuni, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.: 234/297, standing in the name of Auro Ispat India (Pvt.) Ltd.	₹7,26,67,317/- including interest upto 19.01.2014 with Further interest & incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. / 20.01.2014	₹17,92,353/-	₹1,79,235/-

Date & Time of inspection of the property : 11.10.2021, Between 11.00 AM to 04.00PM

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER/GUARANTORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

For detailed Terms & Conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor Website: www.sbi.co.in, <https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/auktion-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>, <https://ibapi.in> For further detailed any query please contact: Suresh Chandra Panda (Authorised Officer) : Mob.: 9810562803

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 30.09.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

CB issues circular post Balanga blast

The CB directed the officials not to keep any explosive material in the Malkhanas of police stations if there is no need for the same

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Following the embarrassment over the massive explosion at the depository of Balanga police station, the state Crime Branch (CB) issued a circular Thursday, directing all district Superintendents of Police (SPs) to ensure inspection of Malkhanas at the police stations by Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) and Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs). The SPs have been asked to ensure the inspection carried out by October 5.



The Crime Branch directed the officials to not keep any explosive material in the Malkhanas of police station if there was no need for the same. It also instructed the cops to seek the help of bomb disposal squad of the state police to store explosive

items in the Malkhanas. "Explosive materials, corrosive substances, highly inflammable materials should not be kept ordinarily in the Police Station Malkhana. In extreme cases, if it is necessary to keep those articles in the Malkhana, the same shall be

done only after due examination by Bomb Disposal Squad/other specialised agencies with necessary precautions," instructed the Crime Branch.

The officials have been asked to keep the explosive materials in open space outside the Malkhana till the examination is conducted by experts.

Cops have been directed to diffuse or destroy dangerous explosives with the help of Bomb Disposal Squad and other specialised agencies by seeking the permission of respective courts.

Notably, a massive explosion inside the Balanga police station in Puri district damaged the building severely Monday night. A Sub-Inspector Tapoi Nayak, who was in charge of the Malkhana (store-room), was placed under suspension for dereliction of duty.

NALCO holds 40th AGM meet

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Thursday, declared a final dividend of 20 per cent i.e. 1 per equity share, during the 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in the City.

The total dividend pay-out for financial year 2020-21 comes to ₹644.27 crore, as against ₹279.84 crore declared and paid during the previous financial year 2019-20.

Despite challenging business environment due to the pandemic, the year 2020-21 has been a year of accomplishments for NALCO. Sharing future plans, NALCO CMD Sridhar Patra said that the focus is now on early commissioning of the expansion activities. "With steady progress in the ongoing expansion activities, we are optimistic for commissioning of the proposed 1 MTPA 5th Stream of Alumina Refinery expansion by 2023-24," he said.

Student leader remembered

Cuttack: The 28th death anniversary of Christ College's former student union president Sripati Jena has been observed at Gagadeswar Mahadeb Temple here recently. Several members of Sripati Smriti Sansad paid homage to the departed soul September 28. A Tila Tarpan ritual on Mahanadi river ghat and recitation of Geeta was performed on the occasion. Notably, Jena had succumbed to a road mishap in Bhubaneswar at the age of 25.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Satyavama Mahapatra, D/o Gangadhar Behera, R/o Mining Road Keonjhar, P.O./P.S.-Keonjhar Town, Dist.-Keonjhar, Odisha have changed my name to Satyavama Mohapatra for all future purposes.

LOST

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Secondary Examination of year 2010-12 and Roll No. 6101570 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Raghunath Dash, At- Chandipur, Mitrapur, Balasore, Odisha, 756020.

State logs 602 fresh Covid cases

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Odisha's Covid-19 caseload Thursday surged to 10,26,476 as 602 people, including 96 children and adolescents, tested positive for the virus while six new fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,198, a Health department official said.

The state Wednesday, Tuesday and Monday had reported 565, 545 and 585 cases respectively.

The rate of infection among children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years now is 15.94 per cent, he said.

With detection of 602 new cases from 68,254 samples tested Wednesday, the test positivity rate (TPR) dropped to 0.88 per cent from 0.96 per cent the previous day. The TPR was 1.03 per cent Tuesday.

While 353 cases were reported from quarantine centres, the remaining 249 were local contacts.

Khurda district reported the highest 283 cases followed by Cuttack at 54. These two districts accounted for 50.33 per cent of the fresh infections. Six districts re-



ported zero cases. The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said of six new deaths, Khurda and Kendrapara reported two fatalities each while Angul and Jagatsinghpur reported one each.

This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died in the state due to comorbidities.

Odisha currently has 5,642 active Covid-19 cases while 10,12,583 patients including 467 Wednesday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease.

Odisha has thus far conducted over 1.99 crore sample tests including 68,254 Wednesday. The state's positivity rate stands at 5.14 per cent, he said.

As the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to continue for some more time, the Odisha government has planned to develop 6, 20 and 50-bed prefabricated structure at different health care facilities across the state under the Emergency Covid Response Plan-II, to deal with future exigencies, official sources said.

The state's Works department has written to Chief Engineer (Buildings) to take immediate steps for execution of the project in consultation with National Health Mission (NHM) Odisha and Health and Family Welfare Department.

NHM, Odisha Director Shalini Pandit has maintained that the project should be completed well before March 31, 2022.

DEMOLITION DRIVE



An excavator engaged by the civic authorities pulls down an illegal structure in Patia area of Bhubaneswar, Thursday

HITTING THE STREETS



Youth Congress activists hold a rally near Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar demanding extension of age limit for government jobs, Thursday

DL, PERMIT, FITNESS CERTIFICATE VALIDITY EXTENDED TILL OCT 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The State Transport Authority (STA), on the request of the Union government, Thursday extended the validity of fitness, permits (all types), driving licence (DL) and registration certificates till October 31, 2021 for the convenience of citizens.

As per the advisory issued September 30, 2021, the Centre has requested state governments to extend the validity of fitness, permits (all types), driving licence and registration certificates till October 31.

Considering the advisory issued by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), "the validity of following documents has been extended up to 31.10.2021 including Fitness Certificate, Registration Certificate of Non-transport vehicles, Driving License, Learner's License and Goods Carriage, Contract Carriage, Private Service Vehicle, Educational Institution

Bus Permits, Reservation of fancy numbers, etc," said the STA notification.

Fitness certificates of all the motor vehicles which had expired February 1, 2020 will be treated as valid till October 31, 2021.

Similarly, the registration certificates of non-transport vehicles which had expired February 1, 2020 will also be treated valid till October 31, 2021.

Similarly, the DLs that had expired February 1, 2020 or would expire by October 31, 2021 will be treated as valid till October last.

However, no extension has been allowed on documents that include insurance certificates as the same is issued by insurance companies and it is not under the purview of this office, said the STA advisory.

Likewise, no extension has been granted to Pollution Under Control certificates as these are issued only on examination of vehicle by authorised testing centres, it added.

CB seeks forfeiture of drug mafia's property

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: In a significant development, the state Crime Branch (CB) has written to the Competent Authority (CA) established under NDPS Act at Kolkata to forfeit the illegally acquired properties of Taklu Raju alias SK Raju, one of the most dreaded drug mafia in Odisha. Raju is a resident of Jaleswar area in Balasore district.

The sleuths have reportedly unearthed properties worth over ₹1.50 crore acquired by Raju through profit from drug peddling within a span of six years. Sources claimed that he has properties outside the state too. Raju has a network of around 100 associates in Odisha and adjoining states.

Raju used to buy brown sugar from West Bengal and later supply the same to local peddlers in different parts of Odisha. He was arrested by the STF and 2.402 kg brown sugar was seized from his possession August 28.

ECoR Special trains reheduled

Bhubaneswar: As many as 11 trains originating from East Coast Railway (ECoR) jurisdiction will now run on revised timings at various stations falling under South Eastern Railway jurisdiction from October 1 onwards. The (02801) Puri-New Delhi Purusottam Special from Puri will have revised timings at Hijli and Ghatsila. It will arrive at Hijli at 03:50hrs instead of 03:45hrs and will leave at 03:55hrs instead of 03:50hrs. Similarly, this will arrive at Ghatsila at 05:16hrs and will depart at 05:18hrs instead of its previous timings. Similarly, (02802) New Delhi-Puri Purusottam Special will arrive at Hijli at 22:50hrs and leave at 22:55hrs towards Puri instead of its earlier scheduled timings. The (02875) Puri-Anand Vihar Neelachal Special will have revised timings at Balasore, Hijli and Ghatsila. This train will arrive at Balasore at 15:32hrs and will leave at 15:37hrs. It will arrive at Hijli at 17:15hrs and will leave at 17:20hrs. The (02815) Puri-Anand Vihar Nandankanan Special will arrive at Hijli at 17:15hrs and will depart at 17:20hrs, as per the revised timing. The (02492) Visakhapatnam-Shalimar Special from Visakhapatnam will arrive at Shalimar at 06:05hrs instead of previous scheduled timings at 06:00hrs. The (08476) Puri-Shalimar Special from Puri will have revised timings at Balasore, Kharagpur and Santragachhi.

Science & Environment Congress at Ravenshaw in Nov

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The 22nd Odisha Bigyan 'O' Paribesh Congress will be organised at Ravenshaw University in Cuttack from November 20 to 21 this year.

The Odisha Science and Environment Congress is being organised under the joint auspices of Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and Ravenshaw University on the theme 'Overcoming the Challenges: Role of Science and Technology'.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Congress has been playing a crucial role in bringing to a common platform the scientists, researchers, professors and students working in the fields of science and technology in Odisha and beyond.



Convener Jayakrushna Panigrahi said, "The key focus of the conference has been to discuss the advancements made in various frontiers of science and encourage the new generation of re-

searchers by discussing their research findings and the success they have scripted."

Launched under the initiative of the OES in 1997, the Congress is held annually at an established uni-

The programme will be organised under the joint auspices of Orissa Environmental Society and Ravenshaw University on the theme 'Overcoming the Challenges: Role of Science and Technology'

Senior scientists of the state will be felicitated for their lifetime contributions to the field of science

sions of the Congress.

Researchers and students from various research centres and higher education institutions will register their names and present their research papers, both oral and poster, in the technical sessions of the Congress.

On this occasion, some senior scientists of the state will be felicitated for their lifetime contributions to the field of science. Best paper presenters will also be awarded in the valedictory function.

Organising Secretary Luna Samanta requested the researchers and students from different parts of the state to participate in large numbers to make the Congress a grand success. The details of the Congress are available in the website of the organising institutions, he said.

versity or research institute of the state. Eminent scientists have been invited to speak at various ses-

Pandemic disrupted access to women's healthcare: Expert

Bhubaneswar: Health experts Thursday stated that Covid-19 pandemic has brought significant disruptions in women's access to vital healthcare like family planning and contraception. Cuttack-based Gynaecologist Dr Lilabati Guru said, "Unplanned pregnancies in Cuttack are most common among the 15-25 year age group. Women are hesitant to seek care, especially when sexual health is considered a taboo. However, when access to family planning is disrupted, the entire family struggles to cope with the situation. So, it is essential to facilitate informed family planning, uninterrupted access to contraceptives and increased knowledge on protection from sexually transmitted diseases. By filling knowledge gaps, digital advancements can play a crucial role in shaping an empowered future for women's health."

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COUNTERING AP'S NEREDI PROJECT

ACF DEATH

Bidyabharati appears for her final exams



FILE PHOTO
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Sept 30: Bidyabharati Panda, wife of the deceased Paralakhemundi Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, appeared for the first paper of her final examination Wednesday afternoon at Livestock Inspectors' Training Centre (LITC) in this town.

The first paper of her final exam (Animal Health Management and First-aid Care) started at around 10.00am. The exams will continue till October 8, an official in the LITC informed.

Bidyabharati is now staying elsewhere. She left the campus at around 12.30pm after her first-day's exam was over. During the exam, she remained silent and did not talk with her classmates. She had wrapped her face throughout, the official added.

It is pertinent to mention that Bidyabharati is pursuing her higher studies in the institute. She has been to Bolangir for her final exams.

A team of Paralakhemundi police had visited LITC in Bolangir to probe alleged murder of the ACF in July. Police had sealed a room of the ladies' hostel where Bidyabharati was accommodated earlier.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No.: 29-KUR-TRD-OT-2021-22
Dt.: 25.09.2021

Name of the Work: HIRING OF A MULTITILITY ROAD VEHICLE LIKE TATA-207 DI OR EQUIVALENT ALONG WITH DRIVER FOR PSI DEPOT AT CUTTACK (CTC) FOR THREE YEARS WITH 24 HOURS AVAILABILITY.

Approximate Value: ₹ 19,48,807.20

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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),
PR-429/M/21-22
Khurda Road

CARNIVAL WAREHOUSE PRIVATE LIMITED
Registered Office: Barampore, Plot No. 588/97-79 & 586 (P), Baharasinagar, Unit No. 32/Ward No. 29, Opp Madhupatna P.S. Cuttack Orissa 753010 | Email id: roc@groupcarnival.com Telephone Number: 9167391568 (CN: U74100OR2016PTC026046)

Form No INC-26
(Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another

NOTICE
Before the Central Government Regional Director, Eastern Region
ROC-cum-Official Liquidator, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Corporate Bhawan,
2nd & 3rd Floor, Plot No-9(P), Sector-1, CDA, Cuttack-753014, Odisha
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 And
In the matter of Carnival Warehouse Private Limited having its registered office at Barampore, Plot No. 588/97-79 & 586 (P), Baharasinagar, Unit No. 32, Ward No. 29, Opp Madhupatna P.S. Cuttack Orissa 753010 India, Petitioner.
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General meeting held on 23/09/2021 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Odisha" to "State of Maharashtra".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections, supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Office of Regional Director Eastern Region, ROC-cum-Official Liquidator, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Corporate Bhawan, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Plot No-9(P), Sector-1, CDA, Cuttack-753014, Odisha India within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the application company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: Address: Barampore, Plot No. 588/97-79 & 586 (P), Baharasinagar, Unit No. 32, Ward No. 29, Opp Madhupatna P.S. Cuttack Orissa 753010 India
For and on behalf of the Applicant
For Carnival Warehouse Private Limited
Sd/-
Sanjeev Dubey, Director (DIN: 03256335)
Cuttack, September 29, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sri Artatrana Sahoo, S/o Late Bhima Sahoo, At- Odapada, P.O.-Hindol Road, P.S.- Motanga, Dist.- Dhenkanal, do hereby state that I have applied for loan from Punjab National Bank, Buxibazar Branch, Pension Lane, Cuttack and proposed to be mortgage the schedule of property which is my name and hereby state that on 16.09.2021 while I was going on a Motor Cycle from my Residence at 10.30 A.M. to Hindol Road Market, I lost my Original Regd. Sale Deed bearing 3784, dated 21.09.2002 executed by Kamala Bhutia & others in favour of me before the Dist. Sub Registrar, Dhenkanal, in between my residence to Hindol Raod Market and I could not trace out the same in spite of my best efforts. If any person found the same inform my above noted address (Mob.- 8917444492) & also inform the Branch Manager, Punjab National Bank, Buxibazar Branch, At- Pension Lane, Cuttack (Mob.- 9937158279) within 15 days.

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
e-mail ID- rw_sonepur@yahoo.co.in
No. 4290 Dated: 28.09.2021
Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SNPR-07 OF 2021-22
No. O-782-
1. Name of the work : Building Works as per DTCN available in the website. www.tendersodisha.gov.in
2. Total No. of Work : 2(Two)Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs 9.75 lakhs to Rs.33.70 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) to 06 (Six) Calendar months
5. Period and time of availability of bid : 5.10.2021 at 11.00AM to document in the portal for bidding 25.10.2021 up to 5.00 PM
6. Date and time of opening of Tender : 26.10.2021 at 11.00AM
7. Name and address of the officer : E.E.R.V.Divn. Sonepur inviting bid
(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodishagov.in
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sonepur
OIPR-25054/11/0007/2122

People in Rayagada, Gajapati await river linking project

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, Sept 30: A river-linking project in the upstream area of the Vamsadhara river was proposed in 2005 near Gudari in Rayagada district. However, the project has allegedly been shelved into cold storage.

The project assumes significance in the region for irrigation and drinking water purposes while Andhra Pradesh has been carrying out construction of Neredi barrage in the downstream of the river to utilise its water. People of five blocks in Rayagada and Gajapati districts have long been waiting for the project, but their dream has still remained unrealised.

According to reports, Vamsadhara water tribunal has given green signal to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh to carry on construction of Neredi barrage June 21.

The verdict of the tribunal triggered waves of protests in five blocks of Rayagada and Gajapati. Locals united under various outfits had slammed the state government and demanded that the state government take steps to prevent the Andhra government from



FILE PHOTO

constructing the Neredi project. The Vamsadhara Ababahika Surakhya Samiti started a padayatra, rally and staged demonstrations against the Andhra govern-

ment and apathy of the state government from August 1 to August 31. A number of organisations had supported the agitation. They also submitted a memo-

Vamsadhara Ababahika Surakhya Samiti held a padayatra, rally and staged demonstrations against the Andhra government and apathy of the state government from August 1 to August 31. A number of organisations had supported the agitation

Protesters also submitted a memorandum to the Gunupur sub-collector August 31, appealing to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to prevent the bid by Andhra government

The delegation was assured that a number of small barrages and a mega lift irrigation project will be implemented in upper catchment area. As per the verdict of the tribunal, 50 per cent of the Vamsadhara water will be shared by Odisha

egation from the Samiti left for Bhubaneswar. It was said that a delegation of the government had announced at a presser that surveys would be conducted for some small projects which will be constructed in the upstream area of Vamsadhara.

However, there has been no survey for projects till date, locals alleged. The delegation of the Samiti had talks with Water Resources Minister Raghunandan Das, SC/ST Welfare Minister Jagannath Sarka, Gunupur MLA Raghunath Gamang, advisor of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana Sudhir Kumar Das, MLAs Pranab Prakash Das, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, special secretary to the Chief Minister, R Vineel Krishna, and chief engineer of the water resources department Dhiren Samal at the Chief Minister's chamber regarding the river linking project in the upstream areas.

The delegation told the government that the people of upstream areas in Odisha will face a number of difficulties like floods and waterlogging if Andhra executes the Neredi project in the downstream.

They pointed out that after the neighbouring state commissioned

Gota barrage, the upstream areas had to face massive floods in 1980.

The river-linking project in the upstream area will help in controlling floods and irrigating land.

The delegation was assured that a number of small barrages and a mega lift irrigation project will be implemented in upper catchment area. As per the verdict of the tribunal, 50 per cent of the Vamsadhara water will be shared by Odisha.

The delegation was assured that a survey will be started within 15 days while a detailed project report (DPR) will be prepared in two months.

Convenor of the Samiti Ranjit Padhi said the chief engineer of the water resources department attributed the delay in survey to ongoing frequent floods.

Notably former water resources minister Rabinarayan Nanda laid the foundation stone for the river linking project propsoed at the confluence of Vamsadhara and Rusikulya rivers near Gudari in 2005. This project was said to be a counter to Andhra Pradesh. At that time, two top officials visited the Vamsadhar river basin area.

VSSUT students rusticated for ragging, assault

Two students were also suspended for two years by the authorities of the premier institute for such misconduct

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 30: Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) authorities have taken disciplinary action against 12 students for ragging and attacking a third year B Tech student.

While two students have been suspended for two years, another 10 students have been rusticated for one year, an official said.

Over the ragging complaint lodged by the victim student and his father, the disciplinary committee of the VSSUT convened a meeting Wednesday through video conference. The Registrar, the Vice-chancellor, 31 Professors and the student attended the meeting. In this meeting, the punishments handed out to the students were decided.

Later, the students involved in the ragging were asked to leave the campus immediately with a warning that their studentship would be terminated permanently if they involve in any such activities in future.

Notably, the incident took place

The incident took place in midnight of September 22. The victim and his father lodged a complaint at the anti-ragging cell

in midnight of September 22. The incident came to the fore after the victim and his father lodged a complaint with the anti-ragging cell of the university and Dean Students Welfare. Acting on the complaint, the disciplinary committee and anti-ragging cell of VSSUT did an investigation into the allegation. All the 12 students involved in the incident confessed to have attacked the third year B Tech student.

They had called the victim student to a room of the university's hostel to settle a dispute between him and a fellow student. There he was asked to show his mobile phone. They attacked him after he refused to follow their orders.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICE



A farmer at Upar Nuagaon village under M Rampur block in Kalahandi district harvesting paddy in traditional method, Thursday

OP PHOTO

North Balasore flooded; houses cave in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Sept 30: Following heavy rains due to deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, several parts of northern Balasore have been flooded and waterlogged again. Heavy rains lashed upstream areas of the Subarnarekha river for two days. Several houses have reportedly collapsed while 50 panchayats in Bhograi block were marooned due to floodwater.

According to reports, several low-lying villages under Jaleswar, Bhograi, Baliapal and Basta were flooded. A number of villages in Bhograi block were marooned, too.

As communication got disrupted in many villages, people commuted on boats. Roads in this block were submerged under floodwater.

Situation in 50 panchayats under Bhograi block has worsened due to floods while 20 villages in five pan-



chayats under Baliapal block have been suffering the same condition.

Over 25 villages in eight panchayats under Jaleswar block were affected by floods from the Subarnarekha and the Jalaka rivers. Reports said, walls of several houses have caved in due to floodwater.

Locals alleged that paddy crop in

hectares of farmland has been washed away by floods. Paddy plants have decomposed. Miseries of the people have compounded. Safe drinking water is unavailable in flood-hit areas as hundreds of tube wells in four blocks have been under water. Cases of infection and gastroenteritis are on the rise in the flood-affected areas.

GI TAG FOR KUCHINDA RED CHILLI LIKELY

As local farmers faced frequent droughts owing to scanty rainfall and water scarcity, the erstwhile ruler of Bamanda, Basudev Sudhal Deo had thought of an alternative crop for sustainable farming in 1901. Then he provided quality chilli seeds to farmers and motivated them to adopt chilli farming as a means of livelihood

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 30: The district administration has launched efforts to get the geographical indication tag for the famous red chilli of Kuchinda region in this district.

The matter came to the fore after Ashutosh Kulkarni, IAS probationer and the executive officer of Rairakhol notified area council (NAC) in the dis-

trict, applied for geographical indication (GI) tag for the popular red chilli of Kuchinda region recently. The chilli has earned a distinct identity of its own as traders from across the country visit Kuchinda to procure the chilli.

However, due to lack of promotion and marketing facilities many farmers were forced to opt out of its cultivation. It is hoped that GI tag will definitely help in sustaining the local farmers in chilli cultivation and help them get better market prices for their produce.

According to the official, traders from Kuchinda and outside buy huge quantities of red and green chilli produced in the sub-division for its good quality. "If GI tag is accorded, then the demand for the local produce would go up, which will help fetch a fair price," the official said.

Reports said farmers of Kuchinda primarily grow chilli. It is now cultivated on 7,845 hectares of farmlands in both kharif and rabi seasons. Nearly 12,000 local farmers earn their livelihood from chilli cultivation.

The harvested chilli is sold for ₹3,000 to ₹3,500 per quintal. In order



to make the farmers self-sufficient, a chilli powder manufacturing plant has been set up in Kuchinda. Members of women self-help groups (SHGs) after receiving training have been managing the plant and manufacturing chilli powder. ORMAS district coordinator Srimanta Hota said. They are selling the chilli powder for ₹15,000 per quintal, he said.

To ensure better marketing facilities, attempts were made to obtain GI tag for the chilli. A private

agency has been appointed to prepare a detailed project report(DPR) on the quality of chilli, number of farmers cultivating the crop, demand-supply analysis, farming procedures, its period of inception, demand timing in the market and other factors. The farmers can trade outside the country if GI tag is available to the chilli.

Notably, Kuchinda sub-division is a non-irrigated region. As local farmers faced frequent droughts

Farmers of Kuchinda primarily grow chilli and it is now cultivated on 7,845 hectares of farmlands in both kharif and rabi seasons

Nearly 12,000 local farmers earn their livelihood from chilli cultivation

The chilli has earned a distinct identity of its own as traders from across the country visit Kuchinda to procure the chilli

owing to scanty rainfall and water scarcity, the erstwhile ruler of Bamanda, Basudev Sudhal Deo thought of an alternative crop for sustainable farming in 1901. Then he provided quality chilli seeds to farmers and motivated them to adopt chilli farming as a means of livelihood.

The farmers were initially apprehensive but subsequently, chilli farming was widely adopted by them.

The efforts of the farmers paid off and 120 years have passed since then as Kuchinda has earned a name for itself for chilli cultivation.

FOCUS INT'L DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS

DIGITAL EQUITY FOR ALL

The theme for International Day for Older Persons (IDOP), October 1, 2021 is digital equity for all ages.

Demographic transition is rapid and evident. All over the world, the population proportion of older people is rising. Supported by advances in medical sciences and technologies, an extended life expectancy is great news but comes with social and economic challenges and with serious public health implications.

Between now and 2050, the number of people above 60 years will rise from about 900 million to over 2 billion, from about 12% to about 22% of the global population. For the first time in history, the number of older people above 60 years will be higher than those below 15 years. The number of people above 60 years is already higher than those below 5 years. A large number of these older people live in lower and middle income countries and many are based in rural and remote areas, amid poverty and scarcely available health facilities. The pandemic has further widened the inequities when it comes to availability of healthcare for older people.

In India too, the population projections foresee a rapid rise in senior citizens' number and the transition has been taking place at a rapid pace. It is estimated that the 104 million older people from the 2011 national census will be tripled by 2050. An interesting comparison suggests that while for a county like France, it took about 150 years for the aged population proportion to rise from 10% to 20%, a similar rise in India would occur much quicker, in about 20 years. Over two thirds of India's older people live in rural areas where healthcare services are scarcely available.

Pre-existing inequities in access to healthcare for older people are growing rapidly as the COVID pandemic continues its spread across the world. These inequities are starker in older women, in older people with disabilities and in older people living in remote and rural areas.

The current issues surrounding



Between now and 2050, the number of people above 60 years globally will rise from about 900 million to over 2 billion, from about 12% to about 22% of the world population. For the first time in history, the number of older people above 60 years will be higher than younger people under 15

inequities are at multiple levels and are mainly caused by attitudinal and behavioural reasons such as ageism and stigma, as well as by physical factors, mainly remoteness of rural settlements and limited outreach of services in those areas. As the battle against coronavirus continues, the digital divide across the population, particularly impacting older people, is proving to be a critical issue.

The UN International Day for Older Persons (IDOP) is being observed every year for over 30 years after the UN General Assembly passed a resolution in this context on December 14, 1990. The IDOP is observed around the world to raise awareness on ageing population, related public health priorities and to build and strengthen solidarity on actions towards healthy ageing.

It is well understood that digital technologies been playing a crucial role in health programmes worldwide, particularly in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. The digital divide is isolating older people and leaving them behind vis-à-vis progress of health and well-being programmes. Hence, IDOP 2021, with its theme, emphasises

on the need to access and meaningful participation of older people in digital world.

IDOP 2021 is also the first important event under the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing which was endorsed by the UN General Assembly on December 14, 2020 through a resolution, spanning 2021 to 2030. The decade of healthy ageing is led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and is a global collaboration that will bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector, and will continue its interventions in alignment with the last 10 years of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.

To foster healthy ageing and to improve the lives of older people, the decade of healthy ageing will focus on four action areas. The first is to create and strengthen age-friendly environments by removing physical and social barriers and by converting environments into better places to live and age. The second is to combat ageism. The third is to provide integrated care. All older people should have non-

discriminatory access to integrated care which should include prevention, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative, and "end of life" care. The fourth is to support long-term care.

Moving forward, it may be worthwhile to focus on key needs in the context of healthy ageing. The first need is to design a comprehensive communication mechanism and to deliver the decade of healthy ageing messages to all stakeholders, most importantly to older people themselves. The second key need is to develop a strategy for partnerships which are going to be crucial in engagement of key groups, delivery of services and for research and advocacy. Civil society, government agencies and private sector are three important constituents of the partnerships spectrum, and a clear plan for their engagement must be developed at both macro and micro levels. The third need would be to create some form of guiding groups at national levels or sub-national levels in the case of larger countries comprising representatives from different sectors ensuring dynamic planning, implementation and monitoring of actions.

COVID-related challenges are already an obstacle and will continue to hamper the progress probably for long in future. Mitigation strategies will have to be worked out in advance in the context of community education and delivery of care services using digital education, telemedicine and following COVID guidelines, keeping the local context and situation in view.

Let this IDOP be an important reminder of digital inequities and its impact on public health particularly on old people's health. Ensuring digital equity for older people will need to be a key priority in the future of healthy ageing interventions. Researchers and policy makers have observed that free services are not valued, and hence suggested providing such services recovering at least the operational cost.

The writer is Executive Director, GRAVIS. Views expressed are personal.

Dr Prakash Tyagi

IDOP 2021 IS ALSO THE FIRST IMPORTANT EVENT UNDER THE UN DECADE OF HEALTHY AGEING WHICH WAS ENDORSED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DECEMBER 14, 2020 THROUGH A RESOLUTION, SPANNING 2021 TO 2030



To be young is to be always ready to give up what we are in order to become what we must be. To be young is never to accept the irreparable.

THE MOTHER

Greening the hardest sectors

World leaders are making increasingly ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and limit the catastrophic effects of climate change. But to convert commitments into results, more must be done to decarbonise all sectors of the global economy rapidly.

This process will be relatively easier for sectors like electricity and passenger cars, where clean-energy solutions are ready for deployment at scale. But it will be much more difficult for aviation, cement, shipping, steel, and other "hard-to-abate" sectors.

Achieving net-zero emissions in these sectors requires the rapid commercialisation of technologies that are not yet quite ready for deployment at scale; and commercialisation, in turn, will require coordination across industries. Companies supplying products such as steel need to align with their customers, financial partners, policymakers and other stakeholders to agree on a decarbonisation pathway for their industries.

Such a consensus is necessary to ensure that everyone understands which technologies are progressing and at what pace. With that knowledge, everyone can align on the process of investing in low-carbon assets with long life cycles, such as steel mills, cement factories, ships, and airplanes.

Achieving this level of alignment across global industries is not easy, but it can be done. Consider the shipping industry, which has already developed a global decarbonisation pathway under the leadership of the Global Maritime Forum's Getting to Zero Coalition. This four-step alignment process, enshrined in the Poseidon Principles, is now being replicated across other hard-to-abate sectors under the leadership of the Mission Possible Partnership.

The MPP is a global coalition of industrial and climate leaders focused on supercharging efforts to decarbonise some of the world's highest-emitting industries in the next ten years. Its immediate priority this year is to shine a spotlight on the leading hard-to-abate sectors at the COP26 climate-change conference in Glasgow this November.

While the previous United Nations climate change conferences have focused primarily on national commitments and policymaking, additional mechanisms need to be activated to accelerate the pace of emissions reductions. Ambitious climate targets will not be within reach until the leaders of the industries that produce the most emissions have decarbonised their entire global supply chains. As my former colleague Paul Bodnar of BlackRock likes to say, "The real economy is not a side show." Elevating industry to the same level of importance as national governments is critical.

A few key technologies will be essential to decarbonisation efforts across all hard-to-abate sectors. Chief among these is green hydrogen produced with renewable electricity and electrolyzers. Efforts to scale up green hydrogen production are already underway with programs such as the Green Hydrogen Catapult and the US Department of Energy's recently announced Hydrogen Shot, which is modeled after the successful SunShot program that rapidly brought down solar-panel costs. Moreover, there are early signs of rising industrial demand for the low-emissions products that green hydrogen enables. The automaker Volvo, for example, has announced that it will source fossil-fuel-free steel from the Swedish green-steel venture HYBRIT.

Technologies to improve efficiency are another key (though less exciting) ingredient in decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors. Whether it means deploying lightweight aircraft or constructing buildings with less steel, the less energy an industry uses overall, the easier the process becomes. A recent analysis from the Energy Transitions Commission (ETC) shows that the first step to building a net-zero global economy by 2050 is simply to use less energy, followed by scaling up and universalising clean-energy sources.

The ETC also highlights the importance of carbon capture and sequestration, which will be needed not only to offset industrial processes that cannot be fully decarbonised, but also to reduce the level of carbon dioxide already emitted into the atmosphere. Accounting for historic emissions is a complex process that most industrial leaders have yet to consider fully. But they had better start thinking about it now, because any realistic pathway to keep global warming within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels will have to include reducing atmospheric CO₂.

Not only do we need to remove massive quantities of CO₂ from the atmosphere; we also must find long-term storage solutions to keep it locked away for hundreds or even thousands of years. This is where the gap between the net-zero objective and existing technologies is the largest.

Who should bear the costs of tackling this problem? Certainly, many argue that the countries and companies responsible for the largest share of historic global emissions should assume a corresponding responsibility for CO₂ removal. In an upcoming article, the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Net-Zero Transition will explore this issue and describe different approaches for how we might reach a consensus on responsibility for historic emissions.

As we look toward COP26, we must pay ample attention to all these challenges. National governments and global industries alike need to act immediately to reduce emissions; merely committing to act in the future is no longer acceptable. The longer we fail to lock in more sustainable development pathways, the harder it will be to keep global temperatures at a safe level. Even if we do reduce annual emissions somewhat, it is the cumulative amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere that matters. If that is still growing, the problem will not be solved.

We need global leaders everywhere to understand the scale and urgency of the crisis we face. Radical collaboration and coordinated action are required right now, from everyone. It is not just future generations that are depending on us. Even tens of millions of people are already suffering in terrible heatwaves, fires, floods, droughts, and storms. From California and Texas to entire regions of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, the catastrophic consequences of the climate crisis are compounding. While the costs of reducing emissions are significant, they are negligible compared to the costs of failing to do so.

The writer is CEO of RMI. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Jules Kortenhorst

While the previous United Nations climate change conferences have focused primarily on national commitments and policymaking, additional mechanisms need to be activated to accelerate the pace of emissions reductions

SPECTRUM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Service delivery standards of panchayat



Pradeep Kumar Panda

THOUGH THE 73RD AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION LISTS 29 SUBJECTS THAT NEED INVOLVEMENT OF PANCHAYAT, WIDE VARIATIONS EXIST ACROSS STATES IN THE LEVEL OF POWERS AND FUNCTIONS DEVOLVED TO PANCHAYATS

The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution has institutionalised the panchayats to function as units of local self-government enabling inclusiveness both in participation and decision-making process. The Act recognises panchayat as the most accessible and approachable form of government for people living in rural India, and the delivery of basic services required by them.

The 73rd amendment to the Constitution, in the Eleventh Schedule, also lists 29 subjects that need involvement of panchayats. More than 27 years have lapsed after the constitutional amendment, but wide variations exist across states in the level of powers and functions devolved to panchayats.

The 15th Finance Commission award has created an enormous opportunity for responsive local governance at the cutting edge institutional level of the panchayats by assuring fiscal transfers to (₹2,36,805 crore) during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The grant is intended to be used to improve delivery of basic civic services, including drinking water supply, sanitation including sewerage and solid waste management,

storm water drainage, maintenance of community assets, maintenance of roads, footpaths, street-lights, burial and cremation grounds and other basic functions assigned to them under their respective statutes. The Commission also strongly recommended that the panchayats need to improve the quality of services they deliver and strengthen accounting, record keeping and accountability mechanisms.

However, delivery of public services at all levels of panchayats continues to be a focus issue for improving efficiencies and effectiveness as they are unable to deliver quality and timely services. Host of constraints such as lack of adequate staff and, hence, inability to provide frontline workers, insufficient funds in terms of allocation, inability to raise adequate own sources of revenue, lack of technical expertise, etc. are haunting a majority of panchayats in the country. However, seriousness of these constraints varies not only across states, but also panchayats within a state.

It is imperative that panchayats must provide quality services to the citizens at an affordable price, and ensure equal access for all. The issue of setting service de-

livery standards becomes paramount. Service delivery standards can be described as the minimum level of expected services the service provider commits to deliver to the community in terms of quality, process, time and cost.

Setting up of such service benchmarks will help the states and panchayats to set their performance requirements and targets related to service delivery and design institutional strengthening and other capacity building initiatives to attain those benchmarks.

Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat along with a few other states have already enacted Public Services Delivery Acts or Right to Public Services Acts and notified list of public services to ensure delivery of time bound public services to citizens. However, prominence of panchayats and their respective roles in delivery of specific services featured in those Acts may vary across states.

Many states are yet to enact 'Public Service Delivery Act'. Quality Standards for services delivery as citizens charter is yet to be made in most panchayats.

Financial resources should consider ensuring minimum per capita allocation and incentives and disincentives for panchayat staff have to be included in Acts.

Creation of Grievance Redressal System in panchayats, adequate human resources, synchronising services, upgradation and adoption of technology, and establishment of e-seva or Common Service Centres closer to panchayats will address the issue.

There are large variations in terms of cost and time for delivery of services across India. These variations may be due to the local conditions for sourcing and providing services like drinking water. There are some services which are free in some states and charged in other states. All the charges need to be revised from time to time using cost of living index. The standards suggested are to be considered as desirable standards, which may be included in the Citizens Charter. There are some states which exceed these standards, and many which are far below from these standards.

The writer is an economist with IIPA, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

Old is still gold

Sir, October 1 is recognised as the International Day for Older Persons. The theme this year is 'Digital equity for all ages'. Recent reports by the International Telecommunications Union indicate that women and older persons experience digital inequity to a greater extent than other groups in the society. They either lack access to technologies or are often not benefitting fully from the opportunities provided by technological progress. This difference must be eradicated. Gerontologists and geriatricians have claimed that ageing comes with many challenges along with the physical ones. There is loss of independence, financial insecurity, physical disabilities and many more. People have started taking ageing as an ignominy. There is hesitancy in telling their age wishing they will devalue their presence in the society. 'Old-age homes' is a western concept but it is gaining popularity in our country too. It is welcome that older people find families of their own kind in their difficult times, but children often abandon parents for their own comfort which is disheartening. Older people were considered as rulers of the family but now, the one who earns rules. People need to understand that ageing is an inevitable part of life and older people do not belong to 'no more useful' category in our community. No matter what their age is, older people are the learned individuals of our society and must be verily revered.

Anushka Jaiswal, UJJAIN

Concern over AUKUS

Sir, The formation of a new defence agreement known as AUKUS with no precedent in diplomatic world has created confusion among observers. As the regional power of the new alliance is already covered by an old alliance, Quad, the formation of AUKUS raises doubts. AUKUS reveals that the US views the Chinese activities in the South China Sea and adjoining islands very seriously. China expressed its displeasure at the formation of AUKUS. Chinese President Xi Jinping has warned against "interference from external forces" in the region. AUKUS has caused consternation in France and EU as they have been kept out of the new military partnership. As for India, AUKUS is not good news. It raises questions about the significance of the Quad. AUKUS creates an impression that the US is concerned only with pushing back against China. India's concerns about Pakistan and the Western Indian Ocean remain unaddressed. It is apparently obvious that Quad will act as a socio-economic organisation and the region's defence will be led by AUKUS.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

LOL

I AM THIRSTY

A small boy is sent to bed by his father...

Five minutes later: "Da-ad..." "What?" "I'm thirsty. Can you bring me a drink of water?" "No. You had your chance. Lights out." Five minutes later: "Da-aaaa..."



"WHAT?" "I'm THIRSTY... Can I have a drink of water?" "I told you NO! If you ask again I'll have to spank you!" Five minutes later: "Daaaad..." "WHAT?" "When you come in to spank me, can you bring me a drink of water?"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Dengue sees a 12-fold rise in Ganjam than last year



come to such a pass that each day one or two persons test positive.

This year, 106 persons have tested positive for the disease while only nine tested positive last year. This is a 12-fold rise in the spread of the disease compared to last year, health officials said.

When contacted, chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Uma Shankar Mishra said Ganjam, Jagannathprasad, Buguda, Kodala and Belguntha blocks have remained untouched by the disease as not a single person in these areas was identified with it. However, the silver lining is that not a single person has died in last nine years, he said.

Notably, dengue had acquired epidemic proportions in Ganjam district in 2012 when a maximum of 533 persons had tested positive. Health officials said stagnation of dirty water is giving rise to birth of Aedes mosquitoes—the carrier of the disease. They said people are being sensitised not to allow water to stagnate around their houses.

They said health officials are visiting spots where dengue patients have been detected and destroying the mosquito larvae.

Similarly, sanitary workers clean the areas of coconut shells, broken buckets and unused tyres as water might stagnate in them and lead to birth of dengue mosquitoes. The BeMC authorities also conduct fogging in vulnerable areas of the city.

The disease has acquired alarming proportions in the district as 106 persons tested positive by September 30 in 17 blocks and in BeMC area

of Sana Aryapalli village. In Berhampur, 30 persons including six children have tested positive for the disease so far.

Health officials and residents suspect that the disease might have come from outside of the district. Reports said affected persons, who first tested positive for the disease, had come from outside of the district or from other states. Since then, the disease has been spreading fast in the district. Things have

Berhampur, Sept 30: There has been a 12-fold rise in the spread of dengue in Ganjam district compared to last year when only nine persons had tested positive for the disease, a report said.

The disease has acquired alarming proportions in the district as 106 persons tested positive by September 30 in 17 blocks and in Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) areas, district health officials said.

The rapid spread of the disease has sparked concern among policymakers and residents alike. Meanwhile, 106 persons have tested positive with two more testing positive in Chhatrapur block, Thursday.

Among the affected persons, one is a 12-year-old boy from Chhatrapur while another is a 42-year-old man

Kid ends life as mom stops mobile game



Anandapur, Sept 30: In a tragic incident, a student reportedly died by suicide after his mother stopped him from playing a mobile game at Anandapur village under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district, Thursday evening. A pall of gloom descended on the area.

The deceased was identified as Soumya Ranjan Jena. He was studying in Class IX at Ghasipura Adrasa Vidyalaya. After his return from school, Soumya Ranjan started playing FreeFire Game on a smartphone at home. His mother admonished him for playing the mobile game and asked him to concentrate on the ongoing exam. She then took away the smartphone. Infuriated, the child went up on the terrace and hanged himself.

Centre's officer dies in mishap

Anandapur, Sept 30: A senior officer of the Central government died in a road accident near Anandapur in Keonjhar district Wednesday night. He was identified as Guhar Chandra Panwar.

The mishap occurred late night when Panwar was returning from Keonjhar to Bhubaneswar in a rented car. He was sleeping on the rear seat when the vehicle collided with a stationary truck.

While the driver escaped uninjured, Panwar, who was not wearing a seat belt, suffered head injuries

and fracture in his legs. Ghasipura police rushed to the spot and shifted the Central Government official to Anandapur hospital. He was referred to SCB MCH in Cuttack but Panwar succumbed on the way. Police have seized the vehicle and informed the family of Panwar. Police said, the body will be handed over to the family after post mortem.

Dhenkanal, Sept 30: A herd of elephants has been frequent visitors at the National Highway-55 near Haladiabahal under Sadar range in Dhenkanal district. The wild herd has been frequenting the NH twice a day over last couple of days, drawing huge crowds and offering spectacular views for the locals there.

Locals are not leaving any opportunity to take pictures of their activities and shoot videos on their mobile phones.

As many as 29 elephants have made Nimidha and jungles nearby Haladiabahal their habitat, locals said. In search of food, these jumbos come out of the jungle and cross the NH-55 in the morning. After having food they roam around the Brahmani river bank.

Most of the time, they divide themselves into groups. One herd crosses the river to reach Mahabirod range under Parjang block on the other side while another herd heads towards Hindol range. Yet the third herd roams around the river bank.

NH-55 at Haladiabahal jumbos' fav haunt



In the afternoon, they again return to their habitat, the jungle near Haladiabahal.

According to animal lovers and environmentalists, the absence of underpass forces the elephants to cross the National Highway. At the same time, people of nearby villages and commuters throng to watch the pachyderms cross the road. They said their playful activities attract them the most.

At the same time, since the possibility of untoward incident is al-

MEET ON POCSO ACT



A district-level conference of stakeholders on prevention of child sexual abuse and implementation of POCSO and JJ Act is in progress in Sambalpur OP PHOTO

Woman sets kid, self on fire, succumbs

Naugaon, Sept 30: A woman died and her one-and-half-year-old son sustained grievous burn injuries after she poured kerosene on both of them and set fire. The incident took place at Tentoi village under Tirua panchayat in Naugaon police limits of Jagatsinghpur district Thursday.

The deceased woman has been identified as Lipi Sethi. Family dispute is said to be the reason behind the woman taking to the ex-



treme step. The injured toddler is battling for life at a hospital. According to sources, Tapan

Sethi from Tentoi village was in love with Lipi from Guapur village under Banamalipur area in Khurda district. They had married five years ago. The couple had a fight Thursday morning over some family issues. Later, Lipi's mother-in-law and husband went to their ancestral village, leaving Lipi and her son alone in the house.

Later, Lipi poured kerosene on her son and herself and set fire. Neighbours rushed to the spot after seeing the fire and rescued both the mother and son.

They were immediately rushed to a nearby government hospital in an ambulance. The doctor there declared that Lipi was brought dead.

On being informed, a team from Naugaon police station reached the hospital and recovered the body for post mortem. While Lipi's parents were yet to lodge an FIR, the police have launched an investigation into the incident. The deceased's husband and mother-in-law have been arrested in this connection.

Bargarh 'custodial' death: BJP seeks high-level probe

Sambalpur, Sept 30: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Sambalpur has demanded a high level investigation into the alleged custodial death of a youth in Bargarh.

A delegation of the BJP submitted a memorandum addressed to the Governor through the secretary of the RDC here Thursday.

The delegation comprising Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari, Rengali legislator Nauri Nayak, BJP leaders Aswini Sarangi, Girish Patel, Mukta Sahu, Usha Kumari and Ramchandra Meher condemned the high-handedness of the Bargarh police amid allegations that the police beat Dalit youth Gobinda Kumbhar to death.

"The body had multiple injury marks. They carry evidence of police atrocity on him," the BJP leaders alleged.

They demanded registration of cases against the police officials involved in the case and there is need for an impartial probe into the incident.

They demanded compensations to the bereaved family and a job for a member of his family.

Notably, five policemen have been shunted while Bargarh SP Rahul Jain has started an investigation into it. In a letter to the Additional DGP (Human Rights Protection Cell), the SP has requested an inquiry into the matter based on the petition filed by deceased Gobinda Kumbhar's wife Rubi Kumbhar.

Notably, Gobinda of Tora village was picked up by Town police a few days ago in a case. However, his health condition deteriorated all of a sudden. He reportedly died while being taken to Bargarh district headquarters hospital (DHH).

Following the death of Gobinda, irate villagers had ransacked the DHH. Subsequently, while the mob was moving towards Bargarh Town police station with Gobinda's body, police stopped them, leading the situation to turn ugly. The agitators clashed with the police who had resorted to lathi-charge.

Siblings fall asleep while stealing at hosp

Rajgangpur, Sept 30: Two persons were arrested on charge of theft after they fell asleep while committing the crime at the ESI hospital at IT Colony here in Sundargarh district, police said Thursday.

The accused were identified as David Kerketta and Peter Kerketta, both siblings of Barupada in the area. They had come drunk and fell asleep while committing the crime. Police registered a case and produced them in court which re-



manded them to judicial custody. The miscreants strayed into

the hospital premises and stole fans and other things late Tuesday night. Later, they kept the stolen goods in a room and decided to escape in the wee hours when they fell asleep.

The matter came to the fore when the hospital employees arrived in the morning to join their duty. They found the two sleeping in a room with the stolen goods and informed the police. Police reached the spot and conducted an investigation which confirmed their involvement in the theft. Later, they were arrested.



PROMOTING NUTRITION



Anganwadi workers along with women observe a block-level nutrition month in Krushnaprasad area of Puri district OP PHOTO

Jhumpura: Plant releases effluents into creek

Jhumpura, Sept 30: A beneficiation plant operating at Debuna under Jhumpura block of Keonjhar has allegedly been polluting water bodies in remote hilly and tribal-dominated villages like Malda, Basantpur, Nayagada and Kutugaon, a report said.

Locals alleged the company has been releasing effluents and sewer water into Jalapa creek. The Jalapa creek carries such waste and effluents into the Baitarani river.

Thousands of tribals of Nayagad, Kutugaon and Malda panchayats depend on Jalapa creek and Baitarani river for bathing and cooking purposes.

Safe drinking water has been a problem in the tribal pockets. The tribals have dug up pits along the riverbeds of Jalapa and the Baitarani to collect water for drinking purpose. The water is contaminated and



the contaminated water is also used for farming.

Locals alleged they have drawn attention of the plant management and the district administration to water contamination issue several times in the past, but the issue has not been sorted out till date.

As per reports of the health department, these tribal pockets are malaria-prone. Water contamination of Jalapa creek has added to

their problem.

"By using the creek's contaminated water, people have been affected by various diseases like diarrhea. If people go to police station against the company about the water contamination, police are allegedly threatening them," they lamented. They also pointed out that some people have been implicated in false cases. The officials of the water re-

Tribal residents alleged the company has been releasing effluents and sewer water into Jalapa creek. The Jalapa creek carries such waste and effluents into the Baitarani river

Tribals of Nayagad, Kutugaon and Malda panchayats depend on Jalapa creek and Baitarani river for bathing and cooking purposes

Safe drinking water is scarce in the hilly pockets. Tribals have dug up pits along the riverbeds of Jalapa and the Baitarani to collect water

sources department could not be contacted.

Contacted, KK Sharma, a staffer of the plant, said that toilet water is not being released into the creek. "I will check if the toilet water might have entered the creek by chance during the monsoon," he added.

Subjected to banned finger test: Woman IAF officer

THE RAPE VICTIM ALLEGED THAT THE TWO-FINGER TEST, WHICH IS AN ILLEGAL PRELIMINARY, UNSCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION OF RAPE VICTIMS TO ASCERTAIN SEXUAL ABUSE, WAS CONDUCTED ON HER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS NETWORK

Chennai, Sept 30: An Indian Air Force (IAF) woman officer, who had complained of rape at the IAF academy at Coimbatore by a fellow officer, has stated that she was subjected to two-finger test by the IAF medical officers.

In the complaint, the woman officer said that the two-finger test which is an illegal preliminary, unscientific examination of rape victims to ascertain sexual abuse was conducted on her. The woman officer, in the complaint before the All-Woman police, said that the attitude of some of the officers of the IAF, who were made aware of the incident, was to force her to withdraw the complaint.

This clearly shows the lack of empathy on the part of the IAF as well as conducting the illegal two-finger test which was a violation of human rights and dignity of a woman, the complaint states.

In the FIR, the woman IAF officer alleged that she was raped



RAPE CASE PROBE

THE WOMAN OFFICER ALLEGED THAT THE ATTITUDE OF SOME OF THE OFFICERS OF THE IAF, WHO WERE MADE AWARE OF THE INCIDENT, WAS TO FORCE HER TO WITHDRAW THE COMPLAINT

SHE SAID THAT SHE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE TWO-FINGER TEST WAS BANNED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA IN 2013 AND SAID THAT THE TEST MADE HER NAUSEOUS TO RELIEVE THE TRAUMA

September 9. She said that she had an ankle injury September 9 and she took a rest and in the evening went to the Officers Mess Bar and had two drinks with her course-mates.

The woman officer said that she was with one male officer and another woman officer who were both her course-mates. She said that she vomited in between and her course-mates took her to the room (the male course-mate and the woman

course-mate) and they latched the room from outside and left.

Later according to her version in the FIR, the accused came to the room and tried to wake her up and kissed her and she tried to resist and pushed him away but could not do so due to her ankle injury.

She said that the next she remembered was a female friend asking her whether the accused was in the room with her consent. The

next morning, according to the FIR, she confronted the accused who expressed regret for having invaded her privacy but her female colleague pointed out semen in her bed.

The woman officer then met two faculty members at the Air Force staff college September 11. The faculty members, according to the FIR gave her two options, either to file a complaint, or give a written statement that everything was consensual,

and was directed to the Air Force hospital. In the FIR she said that the doctors at the Air Force hospital then subjected her to Two-Finger Test which was illegal and unethical, and questioned her sexual history.

The woman officer, in the FIR, alleged that senior officers including those in charge of administration were pressuring her to withdraw her complaint.

She later filed a complaint at the All-Women Police Station at Coimbatore after mustering courage September 20 and the accused, Amitesh was arrested.

The Air Force contended that the accused was handed over to them, when he was produced before the Mahila Court in Coimbatore but as the victim and police objected to it, his judicial custody was extended till September 30.

The woman said that she did not know that the two-finger test was banned by the Supreme Court of India in 2013 and said that the test made her nauseous to relieve the trauma, according to the FIR.

ANTILIA BOMB-SCARE CASE

Probe agencies suspect Param Bir Singh has fled country

Apart from the NIA, the Maharashtra government, which is looking for their missing Home Guard senior officer, Singh's colleagues, too, have been looking for him



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 30: Most of the agencies that are associated with the investigation around cases that involve former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh feel he has fled India.

Singh had appeared before the National Investigation Agency (NIA) April 7. Summons had been issued to him in the Antilia bomb-scare case, which had taken place February 25.

After the February incident, Singh was transferred to the Home Guards department March 17. He took charge of his office March 22 and is said to have attended office till May 4.

He cited health issues and went on leave from May 5. Sources mention he was in Chandigarh, his home town. Between May and August, Singh communicated with the Maharashtra government seeking extension after extension, citing health issues. Singh claimed he underwent surgery and was bedridden.

Later, around the second week of August, he sought another extension saying he was still unwell and this time sought leave till August 29. However, since then, there has been no communication from him at all. NIA officials, too, summoned Singh in the second week of August but they could not find him anywhere.

In the meantime, the one-man committee of retired Justice KU Chandiwal, which was set up in

March summoned Singh at least four times to come and depose. The commission is conducting an enquiry against former home minister Anil Deshmukh on the allegations levelled by Singh himself.

Singh filed a few affidavits through his lawyers. His lawyers had also submitted that Singh could appear through video conferencing but that was objected by the lawyers.

The commission has levied heavy fines on Singh and has twice issued bail-able warrants against him. Officials from various investigating agencies have visited Singh's residence in Mumbai, Chandigarh and Rohtak in Haryana multiple times but could not find him. His phones still remain switched off.

Apart from the NIA, the commission and the Maharashtra government, which is looking for their missing Home Guard senior officer, Singh's colleagues, too, have been looking for him.

There are five cases registered against Singh. The first case was registered in Thane and the last one in Mumbai. With regards to the Thane cases, a look out circular (LOC) was issued in the middle of August. A look out circular is a notice, which prevents a person from leaving the country.

Singh's lawyers cite client-advocate privilege and refused to talk on the issue. But in the meantime, the Maharashtra government is mulling suspension of its officer, who has been MIA.

30 medical students test Covid positive

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 30: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) administration has ordered RT-PCR tests for medical students of the civic-run GS Medical College in the KEM hospital and their relatives after 30 students were tested positive for Covid-19.

"We have asked KEM hospital administration to do Covid test for 1,100 persons - the fellow students and also relatives of affected students," said additional municipal commissioner Kakani.

"In the last three days, we found 30 students to be positive for Covid-19. They are quarantined and some of them are shifted to Seven Hills Hospital - a dedicated

Covid facility at Marol. Some of them have mild symptoms and we have kept them under observation. Most of them are vaccinated," he said.

A head of department from KEM hospital said, "Those affected are in the first and second year of MBBS. We have been telling the students to be careful. But they have been working together and eating together. They also stay in the RMO quarters where all of them are studying together till late hours. We fear that the numbers may increase."

KEM hospital dean Dr Hemant Deshmukh said, "We had vaccinated almost all of them treating them as healthcare workers. We are taking utmost care now."

COVID PRECAUTION



A health worker checks body temperature of a traveller as a precaution against the coronavirus before allowing her to proceed at a railway station in Mumbai, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Experts blame 'unscientific' works done under Jalyukta Shivar scheme

Two days back, heavy water discharge from the Manjara dam in Marathwada following heavy rains caused flooding in some villages of Beed, Latur and Osmanabad districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 30: Environment and water management experts have claimed that "unscientific" works done under Jalyukta Shivar, a flagship water conservation scheme of the previous BJP-led Maharashtra government, led to flooding after recent heavy rains in the state's Marathwada region.

The scheme was launched by the then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis for the construction of check dams, rejuvenation of old check dams, repair of Kolhapur Type (KT) weirs and storage tanks and removal of encroachments from river beds so as to increase water percolation.



Two days back, heavy water discharge from the Manjara dam in Marathwada following heavy rains caused flooding in some villages of Beed, Latur and Osmanabad districts.

Talking to this news agency, Pradeep Purandare, former associate professor at the Water and Land Management Institute in Aurangabad region of Marathwada, claimed that "rampant and unsci-

entific" deepening and widening of river beds in Marathwada and the construction of KT weirs led to the recent floods in the region.

"I had raised concerns over the issue from time-to-time, but they were ignored by the then state government," he claimed.

Purandare said as a first step under the scheme, continuous contour trenches were supposed to be made on hill slopes. The deepening and widening of river beds was not a priority, but, during the Fadnis government, this work was given preference, he said.

"Hence, unscientific deepening and widening of river beds led to an increase in the water flow," he claimed.

Liquor sale restricted in TN for polls, festivals

AGENCIES

Chennai, Sept 30: The Tamil Nadu government has announced that sale and transport of liquor and opening of bars will be restricted in the nine districts due for rural local body polls soon. The restrictions are also applicable to 23 districts where casual elections (to fill vacant posts) are to take place October 9.

Rural local body polls are set to take place in Kancheepuram, Chengalpet, Vellore, Tirupattur, Ranipet, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi in two phases October 6 and October 9.

As per the release by the Tamil Nadu Election Commission, in view of the first phase of polls October 6, the sale of liquor, opening of bars or transporting of liquors into poll-bound areas or into those within a 5-km radius of them will be prohibited from 10 am on October 4 till midnight of October 6.

In areas where the second phase



of rural local body election is set to take place October 9, the same restrictions will be in place from 10 am October 7 till midnight of October 9. The restriction on liquor would be in force on the day of counting of votes (October 12) as well. Police have been instructed to initiate strict action against the violators.

According to the data released

by the state election commission, 79,433 candidates are contesting for the 23,998 rural local body posts. As far as casual elections are concerned, 1,386 candidates will be contesting for the vacant 418 posts.

The state election commission has directed district collectors to form flying squads for the elections. The squads are to include

Rural local body polls are set to take place in nine districts in two phases, October 6 and October 9

one executive magistrate in the rank of tahsildar and revenue divisional officers beside police personnel. They are to act on complaints of violation of model code of conduct, anti-social activities, threat, intimidation, and of bribing voters with liquor and cash.

"The district collectors should constitute the flying squads in a way that they operate 24 hours. The squads with an eight-hour duty on a shift basis should be constituted," a release read.

Meanwhile, the state government has declared October 2 and October 19 as 'dry days' on the account of Gandhi Jayanti and Eid Milad-un-Nabi.

Terror case: Maha ATS arrests one more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 30: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested one more suspect in a case of criminal conspiracy to commit a terror act registered by it, after the Delhi Police recently busted a Pakistan-supported terror module by nabbing six people, a police official said Thursday.

This is third arrest by the state ATS in the case registered by it earlier this month under Section 18 (criminal conspiracy to commit a terror act) of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), he said.

The suspect, identified as Irfan Rahmat Ali Shaikh, a resident of Kherwadi in Mumbai's Bandra area who worked as a tailor, was placed under arrest on Wednesday night, the official said.

Some incriminating documents were also recovered from him, he said.

Tamil parties begin campaign for panchayat polls

THE DMK HAS A LOT AT STAKE AS IT HAS TO PROVE THAT ITS 2021 ASSEMBLY ELECTION WIN WAS DUE TO THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT TOWARDS THE PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 30: Political parties in Tamil Nadu are campaigning extensively for the rural local body polls to be held in two phases October 6 and October 9.

The polls are to be held in nine districts of the state - Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu,

Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi.

The DMK has a lot at stake as it has to prove that its 2021 Assembly election win was due to the people's support towards the programmes and policies put forward by the party. Chief Minister MK Stalin is directly leading the campaign, which is being executed at the grassroots levels by the district office-bearers of the party.

The AIADMK is also active in the fight and with reports coming up of a power feud within the party between Panneerselvam and K Palanisami. The party, which is in a political alliance with the BJP, is facing tough times following the minority communities coming out against it in several areas of the state.

Recently Congress leader Karti Chidambaram said that unless the AIADMK snaps ties with the BJP, the party will face defeats in the elections



The PMK has already announced that it will contest the elections on its own indicating that all is not well on the AIADMK alliance front.

The DMK is also cautiously moving in the Northern parts of Tamil Nadu, where the PMK and the

Vanniyar community have a sizeable presence. The DMK government has already issued the Government Order (GO) for the 10.5 per cent reservation for the Vanniyar community within the Most Backward Caste (MBC) quota. The PMK has, however, come

out with the statement that it has not snapped its ties with the NDA and that as the time was short for the rural local body elections after the announcements, it could not reach a consensus on seat-sharing with the allies.

The local leaders and state leaders of the DMK, AIADMK, BJP, PMK, and other parties are actively campaigning at the grassroots level in the nine districts.

The Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), led by Superstar turned politician, Kamal Haasan will also have to prove the party's standing in the state politics. The actor-politician himself campaigned in several constituencies. The party is also going it alone in the polls.

The Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) leader and actor turned politician Vijayakanth has also announced that his party would contest alone in the local body elections. This has made the contest wide open as in certain

pockets these parties have their strongholds and matinee idols have always been a major vote catchers in Tamil Nadu.

R Padmanabhan, Director, Socio-Economic Development Foundation, a think tank based out of Madurai said, "The rural local body polls in the nine districts of Tamil Nadu will find the interesting and tough contest and almost all the main political parties, as well as splinter groups, are actively campaigning as there are huge developments taking place at the panchayat level and the parties do not want to be left out from these.

"The recent announcement of PMK that it would go alone in the polls has upset the AIADMK calculations in North Tamil Nadu. The DMK seems to have an edge as the party in power in the state will definitely have a clear edge in rural and panchayat elections," said Padmanabhan.

of the day quote

The state government has announced hike of Rs 25 per quintal in cane price after which its price is Rs 350 per quintal. It should be raised to minimum Rs 400 per quintal

DEPENDER SINGH HOODA | CONGRESS RAJYA SABHA MP

Congratulations Delhi. No change in the electricity tariff of Delhi for the consecutive 7th year. Where on one side electricity rates are touching sky (sky rocketing prices), the Delhiites are getting not only 24 hours electricity at cheaper rates but also getting 200 units for free

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Didi (West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) told me. Goans love football. I will get all three teams from WB to Goa to meet Goans

LUZINHO FALEIRO | TMC INDUCTEE

SHORT TAKES

5 held in gangrape of student in hosp

Hyderabad: Six accused in the gang-rape of an 18-year-old student in Telangana's Nizamabad town have been arrested, police said Thursday. Addressing a press conference, Nizamabad Police Commissioner Kartikeya Sharma said that three of the accused were involved in the sexual assault while three others helped them in the offence on the intervening night of September 28-29.

Drone spotted in Taj no flying zone

Agra: A drone was spotted in the no flying zone of the Taj Mahal here, police said Thursday adding that it was flown by three tourists who were released after a warning. The incident had taken place around 9 pm Wednesday night and the tourists belonged to Hyderabad, police added.

Deaf, mute girl gangraped

Shahdol: A 13-year-old hearing and speech-impaired girl was allegedly raped by six persons, including four minors, at a village in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh, police said Thursday. The incident occurred September 25 and the accused were caught after the victim's mother lodged a complaint Thursday, Shahdol zone's additional director general (ADG) of police Dinesh Chandra Sagar said.

Bus falls into river, 5 dead

Shillong: At least five persons died and several others were injured after a bus fell into a river in East Garo Hills district in the early hours of Thursday, police said. Many people are feared trapped inside the vehicle, police said, adding, the cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained.

Normal rainfall during June-Sept

New Delhi: The country received "normal" rainfall this year during the four-month rainfall season from June to September, the India Meteorological Department said Thursday. "Quantitatively, the 2021 all India monsoon seasonal rainfall during June 1 to September 30 has been 87 cm against the Long Period Average of 88 cm of 1961-2010 (99 per cent of its LPA)," IMD Director General M Mohapatra said.



The BJP government at the centre had promised to provide two crore jobs, but has created a large crisis of unemployment. The BJP government in the state has completely neglected the decision taken by the 14-months Congress-JD(S) coalition government led by me to set up industrial clusters in nine districts

H D KUMARASWAMY | JD(S) LEADER

NEW ROLE

Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari Thursday took over as the new chief of the Indian Air Force Chief as Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria dimitted the post on superannuation



Army chief harps on boundary pact

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long LAC. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 30: Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said Thursday that developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh add to the ongoing legacy challenges on India's "active and disputed borders" on the Western and Eastern Front.

Speaking at the 116th annual session of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHD-CCI), General Naravane said as far as Northern

Concurrently, there was also a need to reinforce the efforts of the government in mitigating the ongoing health crisis.

He said that the Armed Forces contributed during this highly challenging and sensitive period towards the making of a resilient India. "You would appreciate that each of the three Services - the Army, Navy and the Air Force - has its own set of challenges. Because of our peculiar environment of contested borders and an ongoing proxy war in the hinterland, the Indian Army is in active operations throughout the year, safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our Nation," General Naravane said.

Maintaining high levels of readiness and operational preparedness to meet contingencies, is therefore part of the Army's culture, he stated.

However, a challenge like the Covid pandemic was unique and unprecedented. "We had to protect ourselves, only then could we discharge our duties and help others," he said.

Strict Force Preservation measures were undertaken in the initial days of the pandemic, even as there was no dilution to the ongoing operational commitments.

LAC ROW
concerned India has an outstanding border issue. Responding to continued Chinese aggression at the border, he said: "We are well prepared to meet any misadventure that may occur as we have demonstrated in the past. Such kinds of incidents will continue to occur till such time a long term solution is reached, that is to have a boundary agreement. That should be the thrust of our efforts so that we have lasting peace along our northern borders." He also said that the unprecedented developments at the Northern Borders necessitated large scale resource mobilisation, orchestration of forces and immediate response, and all this in a Covid infested environment.



Ch'garh MLAs' Delhi visit sparks leadership crisis buzz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Raipur, Sept 30: Amid speculation over the possibility of a leadership change in Chhattisgarh, a group of Congress MLAs known to be close to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel are camping in Delhi but the CM and cabinet minister T S Singhdeo both downplayed the development Thursday.

However, one of the MLAs camping in Delhi, Brihaspat Singh, asserted that there was no question of a change at the top in the state and Baghel would complete his full term.

Around 15 party MLAs are in Delhi and they want to meet AICC in-charge of Chhattisgarh P L Punia to convey that Rahul Gandhi should extend the duration of his proposed tour to the state so that all MLAs can get benefit of it, said Singh, the party MLA from the

Ramanujan seat of the state. When contacted, Punia said he was in Lucknow and had no information about the MLAs being in Delhi as none of them had contacted him.

The AICC in-charge of the state said he had no plans to return to Delhi at least for a week.

Singh, however, insisted that they are waiting for Punia and will speak with him when he returns.

Asked about the MLAs' visit, Baghel told reporters in Raipur, "Tell me one thing - can't legislators go anywhere. Every step should not be seen as politics. Anybody can go anywhere. Even you (media-persons) tour with your friends and it doesn't mean every time the purpose is getting news."

Similarly, if anyone has gone to Delhi it should not be seen through political prism, said the CM.

Downplaying the development, Singhdeo said in Raipur, "All 70

RISKY JOURNEY



Commuters travel by an overcrowded train during office-hour rush in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

FARMERS' PROTEST

Roads can't be blocked 'perpetually': Top court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Supreme Court Thursday emphasised that roads cannot remain blocked perpetually and asked the Centre what steps has it taken to remove the road blockade by farmers, protesting against three agriculture laws at Delhi borders. A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul told the Centre's counsel: "We have already laid down the law and you have to implement it. If we encroach, then you may say that we have trespassed on your domain."

The bench further added, "How to implement the law is your business. The court has no means to implement it". The top court said there are grievances, which need to be addressed and queried, "How can highways be blocked perpetually? Where does it end". The bench emphasised the problem could be solved through either ju-



dicial forum or parliamentary debates, but highways can't be blocked perpetually. The bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj: What was the government doing in the matter? Mehta, on his part, submitted that a high-level committee was formed

where farmers were invited, but they refused to join. He added that certain farmers' representatives have to be made parties in the matter, so that they are informed about the government plans. However, the bench said the Centre will have to implement them as parties, as the petitioner may not know about the

leaders representing the farmers.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Monica Agarwal seeking directions to remove road blockades, which impedes free movement of traffic between Delhi and Noida.

The bench told the Centre's counsel to move an application, pointing out steps taken and how implementation of some parties will help in resolution of dispute.

The top court has posted the matter for further hearing October 4.

The top court August 23 had asked the Centre to find a solution to the blockade of roads by farmers groups protesting against the three agriculture laws. Earlier, the top court had observed that protesters have a right to protest at a designated space, but can't block public roads. The petitioner had alleged that instead of the normal 20 minutes, she ended up spending two hours for her travel from Noida to Delhi.

POLLING 'PEACEFUL' IN BHABANIPUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 30: Voting has largely been peaceful in Bhabanipur assembly seat, where West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is contesting, with 53.32 per cent turnout till 5 PM Thursday, officials said.

A high voting rate at 78.60 per cent and 76.12 per cent was recorded in Murshidabad's Samsanganj and Jangipur seats respectively, where polls had to be countermanded during the April-May assembly elections following the death of two candidates.

A total of 6,97,164 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the three constituencies. Voting will continue till 6 PM.

Banerjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress supremo, is pitted against BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal and CPI(M)'s Srijib Biswas in Bhabanipur.

Banerjee, a voter of the constituency, cast her vote at Mitra Institution school in the area.

G-23 leaders condemn protest outside Kapil Sibal's house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Several Congress leaders of the 'Group of 23', which had last year written to party chief Sonia Gandhi demanding an organisational overhaul, Thursday strongly condemned the attack on their colleague Kapil Sibal's house and termed it as "orchestrated hooliganism".

Congress workers protested outside Sibal's house and reportedly damaged a car, after he raised questions over the party's functioning and attacked its leadership.

Senior leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, P Chidambaram, Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Vivek Tankha and Raj Babbar were among those who rallied behind Sibal, with Sharma asking Gandhi to take strong action against those involved. Former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh also criticised what he said was an "attack" at the house of Sibal by Congress workers only because he "chose to express views that were



not palatable to the party leadership'.

This does not augur well for the party, Singh said, adding that it was unfortunate that the seniors are being "completely sidelined", which is not good for the party. Terming the senior Congressmen as "thinkers", who were important to the future of the party, the former chief minister in a statement said the younger leadership should be promoted to implement the plans, which the senior leaders are best equipped to formulate.

Azad, former leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, also strongly condemned the "orchestrated hooliganism" at Sibal's residence.

'Unemployment, Covid top most worries for urban Indians'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 30: According to the Ipsos 'What Worries the World' global monthly survey, unemployment (42 per cent) and coronavirus (42 per cent) have emerged as the biggest worries of urban Indians - both tied at the top spot.

Compared to the previous month, coronavirus has declined by 5 per cent in worry levels, unemployment has increased in worry levels by 2 per cent.

According to the survey, urban Indians are most worried about unemployment (42 per cent), coronavirus (42 per cent), financial/political corruption (28 per cent), crime and violence (25 per cent), poverty and social inequality (24 per cent) and education (21 per cent). Elaborating on the findings,

Amit Adarkar, CEO, Ipsos India said, "We see uptick in worry levels for unemployment by 2 per cent, while worry levels for Covid-19 has seen a slight dip of 5 per cent - but now both are placed neck to neck - Covid impacted the job market considerably due to the shut-down and restrictions - now with the cautious reopening, worry levels around jobs have not abated - demand far outstrips supply - and those who have lost their jobs, many are still struggling to gain a foothold. Covid-19 too is far from over. It is a case of cause and effect."

The survey showed that global citizens worry about coronavirus (36 per cent), unemployment (31 per cent), poverty and social inequality (31 per cent), financial and political corruption (27 per cent) and crime and violence (26 per cent).



India is the 2nd most optimistic market with at least 65 per cent urban Indians believing the country is moving in the right direction. Saudi Arabia retains its title as the most optimistic market, with at least 90 per cent citizens believing their country is moving in

the right direction. Global citizens on the contrary continue to remain pessimistic with at least 65 per cent believing their country is on the wrong track. The gloomiest markets that felt their country was on the wrong track were Columbia (89 per cent), South Africa (85 per cent)

ELDERLY MORE PRONE TO DEPRESSION

Lucknow: In the post-Covid era, elderly persons are suffering from loneliness and depression along with rapid memory loss. According to Kauser Usman, HoD, geriatric medicine, at the King George's Medical University, "Loss of one of the partners, prolonged post-Covid troubles like weak chest and memory loss are some of the key factors that the virus leaves the elderly with. They are facing troubles even today, although as the peak second wave is gone and new cases in the state are less than 10 per day." "Many elderly patients come to the OPD. Some do not have anyone at home, as their children live in other cities. Loneliness is the biggest risk for the elderly," said Usman. The health department data says that of the total 2.38 lakh cases in Lucknow, 33 per cent (79,099) were people above 50 years of age.

and Peru (81 per cent). Ipsos' What Worries the World survey is conducted in 28 countries around the world. It is based on 20,012 interviews conducted between August 20 and

September 3, 2021 among adults aged 18-74 in the US, South Africa, Turkey, Israel and Canada and age 16-74 in all other countries. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

international

of the day quote

Washington has no hostile intent toward Pyongyang and supports humanitarian aid to the country

SUNG KIM | US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR NORTH KOREA

We will not hold back our capabilities, we'll respond with all we can for our brothers in Lebanon

BISHER KHASAWNEH | PRIME MINISTER OF JORDAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a very successful visit to the US during which he held his maiden bilateral meeting with President Joe Biden and had a good candid and substantial exchange with like-minded Quad leaders at their first in-person summit

TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU | INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US

SHORT TAKES

Vietnam to end lockdown

Vung Tau (Vietnam): Vietnam will lift the lockdown in its largest city on Friday, ending nearly three months of restrictions on movement to curb a coronavirus surge. People in Ho Chi Minh City, a metropolis of 10 million, will be able to leave their homes, restaurants can serve take-away meals and other essential businesses can open, the city said on its website Thursday. A social distancing order, however, will still be enforced. Schools are closed, public transport remains suspended, travel in and out of the city will be controlled and public gatherings of more than 10 people outside is banned.

NZ criminalises terror plotting

Wellington: New Zealand politicians on Thursday passed a law that makes plotting a terrorist attack a crime, fixing a legal loophole that was exposed earlier this month by a violent knife attack. The new law had been months in the planning but was hurried through Parliament after an extremist inspired by the Islamic State group grabbed a knife at an Auckland supermarket on Sept. 3 and began stabbing shoppers.

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupts

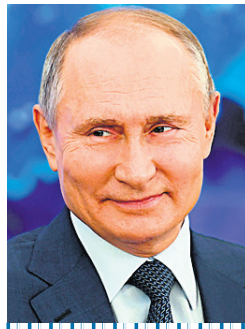
Honolulu: Hawaii's Kilauea volcano is erupting. Officials with the U.S. Geological Survey confirmed Wednesday that an eruption has begun in Kilauea's Halemaumau crater at the volcano's summit. The eruption is not in an area with homes and is contained within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Four killed

Dhaka: At least four persons were killed and 11 others went missing when a boat carrying around 50 passengers capsized in the middle of Padma river in Bangladesh. The incident took place in Shilganj Upazila of Chapainawabganj of Bangladesh Wednesday noon.

Eight injured

Dallas: Eight people, including four firefighters, were injured Wednesday morning in an explosion at an apartment complex in south Dallas, authorities said. Three of the firefighters were critically injured. Firefighters were investigating a report of a natural gas leak at the two-story complex and had reported smelling gas just before the explosion partially collapsed the building, Dallas Fire-Rescue said in a statement.



I discussed cooperation on international issues and bilateral ties with Recep Tayyip Erdogan

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

STUDY REVELATION

Machine learning, a type of artificial intelligence, may predict the likelihood that any animal-infecting virus will jump to humans, according to a study



'US deal hastened Afghan collapse'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 30: Top US defence officials have said the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan can be traced back to a deal between the group and the Trump administration, BBC reported.

The so-called Doha agreement was signed in February 2020 and set a date for the US to withdraw its troops. Gen Frank McKenzie said the deal had a "really pernicious effect" on the Afghan government and military.

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin agreed, saying the agreement had helped the Taliban get "stronger". Gen McKenzie told the committee the Doha agreement had a strong psychological effect on the Afghan government because it set a date for "when they could expect all assistance to end", the report said.

He said he had believed "for quite a while" that if the US reduced the number of its military advisers



in Afghanistan below 2,500, the Afghan government and military would inevitably collapse. After the Doha agreement, he said the troop reduction ordered by President Biden in April was "the other nail in the coffin".

Austin said that by committing

the US to ending air strikes against the Taliban, the Doha agreement meant the Islamist group "got stronger; they increased their offensive operations against Afghan security forces, and the Afghans were losing a lot of people on a weekly basis".

THE SO-CALLED DOHA AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 2020 AND SET A DATE FOR THE US TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS

GEN FRANK MCKENZIE SAID THE DEAL HAD A "REALLY PERNICIOUS EFFECT" ON THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY

The defence officials previously spoke to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, where Gen Milley and Gen McKenzie said they had recommended keeping a force of 2,500 troops in Afghanistan, ahead of the full US withdrawal in August, BBC reported.

Gen Milley also said the Taliban takeover would make it harder to protect Americans from terrorist attacks, as he described the group as a terrorist organisation that "still has not broken ties with al-Qaeda".

WORST BLOODBATH

116 dead in Ecuador prison violence



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quito (Ecuador), Sept 30: Ecuador's President has declared a state of emergency in the prison system following a battle among gang members in a coastal lockup that killed at least 116 people and injured 80 in what authorities say was the worst prison bloodbath ever in the country.

Officials said at least five of the dead were found to have been beheaded. President Guillermo Lasso decreed a state of emergency Wednesday, which will give the government powers that include deploying police and soldiers inside prisons. The order came a day after bloodshed at the Litoral penitentiary in Guayaquil that officials blamed on gangs linked to international drug cartels fighting for control of the facility. Lasso, visibly moved by the carnage, said at a news conference that what had happened in the prison was "bad and sad." He also said he could not guarantee that authorities had regained control of the lockup.

"It is regrettable that the prisons are being turned into territories for power disputes by criminal gangs," he said, adding that he would act with "absolute firmness" to regain control of the Litoral prison and prevent the violence from spreading to other penitentiaries.

Images circulating on social media showed dozens of bodies in the prison's Pavilions 9 and 10 and scenes that looked like battlefields. The fighting was with firearms, knives and bombs, officials said.

Images circulating on social media showed dozens of bodies in the prison's Pavilions 9 and 10 and scenes that looked like battlefields

The fighting was with firearms, knives and bombs, officials said

Earlier, regional police commander Fausto Buenaño had said that bodies were being found in the prison's pipelines.

Outside the prison morgue, the relatives of inmates wept, with some describing to reporters the cruelty with which their loved ones were killed, decapitated and dismembered. "In the history of the country, there has not been an incident similar or close to this one," said Ledy Zúñiga, the former president of Ecuador's National Rehabilitation Council.

Zúñiga, who was also the country's minister of justice in 2016, said she regretted that steps had not been taken to prevent another massacre following deadly prison riots last February.

Earlier, officials said the violence erupted from a dispute between the "Los Lobos" and "Los Choneros" prison gangs. Col. Mario Pazmiño, the former director of Ecuador's military intelligence, said the bloody fighting shows that "transnational organized crime has permeated the structure" of Ecuador's prisons, adding that Mexico's Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels operate through local gangs.

CLOSE WATCH



Israeli police stand guard at the scene of stabbing attack in Jerusalem's Old City, Thursday. Israeli police say an alleged Palestinian attacker has been shot and killed after a stabbing attack in Jerusalem's Old City

Sarkozy convicted for campaign spending

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 30: French ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy was convicted and sentenced to a year of house arrest Thursday for illegal campaign financing of his unsuccessful 2012 reelection bid.

The court will allow him to serve the sentence at home by wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet. Sarkozy, France's president from 2007 to 2012, had vigorously denied wrongdoing during the trial in May and June. He can appeal the decision, which would suspend the sentence.

Sarkozy wasn't present at the Paris court for the ruling. He was accused of having spent almost twice the maximum legal amount of 22.5 million euros (\$27.5 million) on the reelection bid that he lost to Socialist Francois Hollande.

The court stated that Sarkozy

The court stated that Sarkozy "knew" the legal limit was at stake and "voluntarily" failed to supervise additional expenses



prosecutors concluded that Sarkozy knew weeks before the 2012 election that his expenses — which are strictly limited under French law — were getting close to the legal maximum. They accused him of having ignored two notes from his accountants warning about the money issue.

Prosecutors argued Sarkozy is

"the only person responsible for his campaign financing" and that he chose to exceed the limit by organizing many rallies, including giant ones.

During his hearing, Sarkozy told the court the extra money didn't go into his campaign, but instead helped make other people richer. He denied any "fraudulent intent." He also insisted he didn't handle the day-to-day organisation because he had a team to do that and therefore couldn't be blamed for the amount of spending.

In addition to the former president, 13 other people went on trial, including members of his conservative Republicans party, accountants and heads of the communication group in charge of organizing the rallies, Bygmalion. They face charges including forgery, breach of trust, fraud and complicity in illegal campaign financing.

ALARM BELLS

Lava flowing into sea creates delta, expands Spanish island

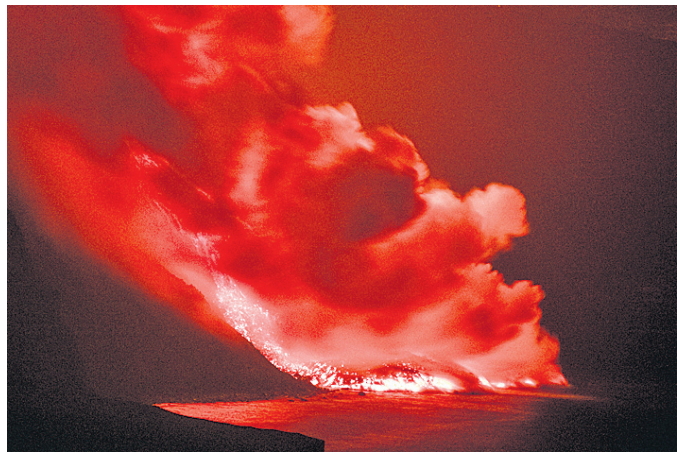
THE HYDROCHLORIC ACID AND TINY PARTICLES OF VOLCANIC GLASS RELEASED INTO THE AIR CAN CAUSE SKIN, EYE AND RESPIRATORY TRACT IRRITATION

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 30: The surface of Spain's La Palma Island is continuing to expand as lava from a volcano flows into the Atlantic Ocean and hardens when it comes into contact with the water, European Union scientists said Thursday.

Copernicus, the European Union's Earth observation program, said Thursday that its satellite imagery showed a D-shaped tongue of molten rock building up on the island's western shore measured 338 hectares (835 acres) by the end of Wednesday.

Trade winds typical of Spain's Canary Islands were helping disperse the plumes of water vapour and toxic gases that result when the



lava with a temperature of over 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,800 F) meets the ocean, where the water is 22 de-

grees Celsius (71.6 F). But authorities were on alert because Spain's weather forecaster,

AEMET, indicated the wind's direction could change later Thursday and bring the toxic plumes toward the shore and farther inland.

The hydrochloric acid and tiny particles of volcanic glass released into the air can cause skin, eye and respiratory tract irritation. The direction the lava flow could take was also a source of concern. Molten fluid emanating from the volcano that first erupted on September 19 was still running downhill like a river and then tumbling over a cliff into the Atlantic. But uneven terrain could make the lava overflow its current path, spread to other areas, and destroy more houses and farmland.

At least 855 buildings and 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) of roads, as well

as other key infrastructure, have been wiped out so far. Banana plantations that are the source of income for many islanders have also been either destroyed or damaged by volcanic ash.

Over 6,000 residents have been evacuated so far, and hundreds more were advised to stay home to avoid the possible inhalation of toxic gases. No casualties or injuries have been reported among La Palma residents since the eruption began.

La Palma, home to about 85,000 people, is part of the volcanic Canary Islands, an archipelago off northwest Africa. The island is roughly 35 kilometres (22 miles) long and 20 kilometres (12 miles) wide at its broadest point.

Heavy rains swept across 31 provinces of the Southeast Asian country, so far affecting more than 220,000 households, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM).

The DDPM also noted that the situation in 13 of the affected provinces has improved, but it remained critical in the other 18 provinces.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) warned Thursday that the water level of the Chao Phraya River is forecast to rise over the next few days, asking people in seven districts along the river to be prepared for potential floods.

Local media quoted Bangkok Governor Aswin Kwanmuang as saying that the level of the Chao Phraya River is currently well below the top of the flood embankment across the capital, without any damage to nearby residences.



Today, India is one of the fastest growing markets with over 2,100 fintechs operational. The non-financial services sectors are also proactive in adopting fintech solutions. With expansion of their value chains, the demand for fintech services will grow exponentially

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

GOVT EXEMPTS CUSTOMS DUTY FROM COVID-19 VAX

The government has exempted customs duty on Covid-19 vaccines for three months till December 31, which will boost domestic availability and make them cheaper. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said the exemption would come into force Oct 1, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021



of the day quote

India is the fourth-largest producer of agrochemicals. Seeing the potential of this sector, the government has included the agrochemical sector among the 12 champion sectors where India can play an important role in the global supply chain

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

I think the most important sector that we need to deal with is really the agriculture value chains. And to that I would also add the wood-based value chains as an opportunity

SANJIV PURI | CHAIRMAN, ITC

Sustainability is at the heart of Hitachi ABB Power Grids' growth strategy. Hence, our agreement with IIT Roorkee advances our mission to harness technology to power good

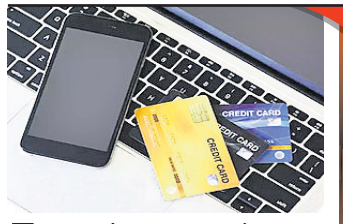
VENU NUGURI | MD AND CEO, HITACHI ABB POWER GRIDS

NEW AUTO DEBIT RULES OF RBI FROM TODAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: With the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) extended deadline coming to an end, there will be no automatic recurring payment for various services including recharge and utility bill as the additional factor of authentication (AFA) will become mandatory from Friday.

December 4, RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that the processing of recurring transac-



For recurring payments above ₹5,000, banks are required to send a one-time password to customers

tions (domestic or cross-border) using cards or Prepaid Payment

UNDER THE NEW NORMS

Banks will be required to inform customers in advance about recurring payment due and transaction would be carried following nod from the customer

The transaction would not be automatic but would be done after authentication from the customer

Instruments (PPIs) or Unified Payments Interface (UPI) under

arrangements practices not compliant with AFA would not be continued beyond March 31, 2021.

As part of risk mitigation measures, RBI announced this step to bolster safety and security of card transactions.

However, non-readiness of some of the players forced the RBI to extend the deadline on recurring payment such as utility bills, recharge of phone, DTH and OTT, among others, till September 30.

Most of the banks including State Bank of India (SBI) have in-

formed their customers about the new rules.

HDFC Bank in a bulk message to customers said as per RBI guidelines on e-Mandate on cards, the bank will decline non-compliant recurring transaction at merchant web or app on your Credit/Debit Card from October 1, 2021.

In August 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued a framework for processing of e-mandates on recurring online transactions.

Ambani Asia's richest, Adani follows: Report

According to the Hurun India-IIFL Wealth rich list published Thursday, there are 1,007 people -- 13 of them with more than ₹1 lakh crore of wealth -- in the country with over ₹1,000 crore wealth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 30: India produced 179 more super-rich people this year led by Adani Group's Gautam Adani who amassed a whopping wealth of ₹3,65,700 crore or more than ₹1,000 crore daily, and the number of such individuals has crossed the 1,000-mark.

The tenth Hurun India rich list has Mukesh Ambani topping it for the 10th year in a row with ₹7,18,000 crore wealth -- only 9% up over 2020 -- followed by the Adani family with ₹5,05,900 crore, up 261% from ₹1,40,200 crore, making him also the second richest Asian, earning ₹1,000 crore a day over the last year or ₹3,65,700 crore in the year.

Third in the list is Shiv Nadar & family of HCL with ₹2,36,600 crore, up 67 per cent, followed by the SP Hinduja & family with ₹2,20,000 crore up 53%, LN Mittal & Family of ArcelorMittal with ₹1,74,400 crore up 187% and Cyrus Poonawalla & family at the sixth slot with ₹1,63,700 crore, which is up 74%.

Anas Rahman Junaid, man-



Of the 1,007, rich, 237 are dollar billionaires, up 59 from last year, and four times in the past decade

Sectorally, pharma topped the list with 40 super-rich, led by the Poonawallas, followed by chemicals and petrochemicals with 27 and software minting 22 dollar billionaires

Mumbai justifies its name as the financial capital being home to 255 of the 1,007 super-rich, followed by the national capital by adding 39 and Bengaluru with 85

aging director of Hurun India, said the wealth calculation is up to September 15, 2021. He also said the last decade saw the number of the rich jumping 10 times from just under 100 in 2011 to 1,007 this year.

At this rate, over the next five years, I expect the list to grow to 3,000 individuals and the country adding another 250 dollar billionaires over the next five years and rival the US within a decade, he added.

The top ten list has four new faces, led by steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal of ArcelorMittal, Kumar Mangalam Birla of the Aditya Birla Group, along with California based Jay Chaudhry of cloud comput-

ing and cyber security firm Zscaler.

Among the women, the third generation Godrej family member Smita V Crishna is the richest woman in the list with ₹31,300 crore (down 3%), followed by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (who is also the richest self-made woman in the list) with ₹28,200 crore, down 11%.

According to Junaid, over the past decade, the rich-listers have cumulatively added ₹2,020 crore per day-- making it the fastest wealth creation in the country. More interestingly, 13 individuals are worth more than ₹1 lakh crore each and eight of them were made in the reporting year only.

AGEL acquires 40 MW solar project in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Adani Renewable Energy (MH) has acquired a 40 MW operating solar project in Odisha.

"Adani Renewable Energy (MH) Energy Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited, has completed acquisition of 100% of the share capital and all the securities of Vento Energy Infra Private Limited from Essel Green Energy Limited," as per a regulatory filing.

According to report, the project has a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for ₹4.235 per unit, with remaining PPA life of about 22 years.

The closing of the transaction is

subject to customary conditions. The acquisition of the project is at an enterprise valuation of ₹219 crore.

With this acquisition, AGEL will achieve a total renewable capacity of 19.8 GW. The total portfolio includes 5.4 GW operational assets, 5.7 GW assets under construction and 8.7 GW near construction assets.

Vneet Jaan, Managing Director & CEO of Adani Green Energy Ltd, said, "We remain focused on opportunities that help us create value for shareholders, as well as facilitate the growth of environment-friendly green power in India. With the acquisition of this project in Odisha, AGEL will now have its footprint across 12 states in India. We are on an expansion path that will make us the world's largest renewable player by 2030."

China manufacturing shrinks first time since Feb '20

China's economy rapidly recovered from a pandemic-induced slump last year, but momentum has weakened in recent months, with its sprawling manufacturing sector hit by rising costs, production bottlenecks and electricity rationing

AGENCIES

Beijing, Sept 30: China's factory activity unexpectedly shrank in September due to wider curbs on electricity use and elevated input prices, while services returned to expansion as Covid-19 outbreaks receded, offering some relief to the world's second-biggest economy.

The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager Index (PMI) was at 49.6 in September versus 50.1 in August, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed Thursday, slipping into contraction for the first time since February 2020.

Rising Covid-19 cases in tens of cities over the summer also dis-



rupted the manufacturing and the services sectors, though the latter is starting to bounce back as the outbreaks receded.

A sub-index for factory output contracted in September for the

'NXTRA BY AIRTEL' AIRTEL TO INVEST ₹5K CR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 30: Communications solutions provider Bharti Airtel Thursday said it plans to invest ₹5,000 crore to scale up its data centre network.

Accordingly, the investment will include setting up new data centre parks in key metro cities.

Besides, the company unveiled a refreshed brand identity for its data centre business 'Nxtra by Airtel'.

"With 5G around the corner, a fast growing digital economy, enterprises transitioning to cloud and local data storage regulations, India is witnessing a strong demand for reliable data centre solutions," the company said in a statement.

The Indian data centre industry is expected to more than

double its installed capacity from an approximate 450 MW to 1,074 MW by 2023.

According to Ajay Chitkara, Director and CEO, Airtel Business: "Airtel has built the largest data centre network in India and we are now doubling down on this business to scale up our network that will be at the core of 5G and Digital India."

"Our experience of operating secure data centres, deep brand trust in the enterprise segment and the ability to deliver end-to-end digital transformation solutions positions us well to serve the emerging requirements of India's connected economy. The new brand identity embodies this vision and ambition."

At present, 'Nxtra' by Airtel has the largest network of data centres in India. Currently, it operates 10 large and 120 edge data centres located across India and manages critical submarine landing stations.

It offers secure and scalable integrated solutions to global hyperscalers, large Indian enterprises, startups, SMEs and governments.

Shyam Metals aims four-fold expansion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Shyam Metals, a leading integrated metal producing company, has set plans to make fourfold expansion in metal capacity comprising intermediate and final product in Odisha and West Bengal plants.

The company in a statement said that from the sale of 1.07 lakh tons of long steel products in FY 2016-17 it has grown to sale 6.37 lakh tons in FY 2020-21 and after the proposed expansion it targets to ramp up this capacity to 20 lakh tons of branded value added products.

Shyam Metals also plans to increase the integrated production capacities of steel making and ferro alloys from existing 5.71 MTPA to 11.54 MTPA.

"By Fiscal 2023, mostly 75% of the expansion shall be completed and the remaining 25% shall be implemented by fiscal 2025. The total capex cost would be aggregating to ₹2960 crore. The company has already invested ₹736 crore till fiscal 2021. The company plans to incur Capex of ₹850 crore during the FY'22 itself," the statement said.

Shyam Metals operates three manufacturing plants -- one in Sambalpur in Odisha and other two plants in Jamuria and Mangalpur in West Bengal.

This expansion plan also includes Shyam Metals foray into another metal business of producing Aluminum foils involving metal rolling expertise.

Sanjay Agarwal, Joint Managing Director said, "Our continued focus on making high quality products and ensuring it reaches the last mile lets us participate in building a modern India."

Ola Electric raises over \$200 million

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Ola Electric Thursday said it has raised over \$200 million (about ₹1,484.7 crore) in funding from Falcon Edge, SoftBank and others, valuing the electric vehicle maker at \$3 billion (about ₹22,272 crore).

Ola will accelerate development of other vehicle platforms including electric motorbike, mass market scooter and its electric car, a statement said.

The funding will further strengthen Ola's 'Mission Electric' that urges the industry and consumers to commit to electric and ensure that no petrol two-wheelers be sold in India after 2025, it added.

"We're proud to lead the EV revolution from India to the world. India has the talent and the capability to build technologies of the future for the industries of the future for the entire world. I thank our existing investors and welcome new ones to Ola," Ola Chairman and Group CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said.

In July, Ola Electric had announced signing a \$100 million (about ₹744.5 crore) 10-year-term debt financing agreement with Bank of Baroda.

In the past, Ola Electric has raised funding from investors, including Tiger Global and Matrix India.

Earlier this month, Ola had stated that the sales of its S1 electric scooters crossed ₹1,100 crore in two days. The two e-scooters - Ola S1 and S1 Pro - were unveiled in August this year. The purchase window will re-open in November.

pecially of metals and semiconductors, have also pressured profits of manufacturers. Earnings at China's industrial firms in August slowed for the sixth straight month.

A sub-index for raw material costs rose to 63.5 in September from 61.3 a month earlier, while a gauge of new orders came in at 49.3 compared with 49.6 in August, shrinking for the second straight month. A sub-index for employment remained in contraction, at 47.8 versus 47.0 a month earlier.

A separate private survey also released Thursday that focuses on small and export-oriented businesses showed that factory activity in September neither expanded nor contracted.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: A late goal helps Manchester United edge past Villarreal, while Barcelona humbled at Benfica whereas Juventus had to toil hard to get past Chelsea, and Bayern cruise past Dynamo Kyiv

CR7 SAVES UNITED'S NIGHT

Benfica pile misery on Barca

Manchester, Sept 30: Cristiano Ronaldo removed his Manchester United jersey, flexed his muscular physique and soaked in the acclaim of the fans after his winning goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

Not a bad way for the Portugal superstar to mark another record-breaking night in the Champions League. On his record 178th appearance in the competition, Ronaldo made his most decisive intervention with virtually the last kick of the game at Old Trafford to complete United's dramatic comeback in a 2-1 victory over Villarreal Wednesday.

After winning a header from a hopeful cross into the area, Ronaldo showed his sprightliness at the age of 36 by then reacting to a loose ball after a touch by substitute Jesse Lingard and shooting underneath Villarreal goalkeeper Gerónimo Rulli from a narrow angle.

Old Trafford erupted, with sprint great Usain Bolt — draped in a red-and-white United scarf — among the home supporters celebrating as chants of "Viva Ronaldo" swept around the stadium.

It was Ronaldo's fifth goal in five games since joining from Juventus for a second spell at United, and definitely his most important. Oh, and make that 136 goals in the Champions League — a record,

naturally.

That Ronaldo had a quiet game, by his standards, might get overlooked because of his late goal. Where would Solskjaer be without Ronaldo?

It was looking like another chastening result for the Norwegian coach, who was starting to come under pressure with United having started Group F with a shocking 1-2 loss at Swiss outsider Young Boys and then losing back-to-back games at Old Trafford on the domestic front — one in the Premier League and another to get eliminated from the English League Cup.

Villarreal looked like handing United a second straight group loss by going in front in the 53rd through Paco Alcacer, who poked in a finish through the legs of United goalkeeper David De Gea following a cross by Arnaut Danjuma.

United had been outplayed by that point. Danjuma had the beating of right back Diogo Dalot time and again down Villarreal's left, and it was only the brilliance of De Gea — who produced acrobatic saves to deny Alcacer and Danjuba in the first half — that kept the Spanish team at bay.

It needed an outrageous strike by Alex Telles to bring United level seven minutes after Villarreal's goal. Picked out by a pinpoint cross from Bruno Fernandes at a free kick, the Brazilian left back took a

step back at the edge of the area and struck a first-time volley that swerved inside the far post.

Away from the drama surrounding Ronaldo's winning goal, it was another below-par performance from United. The result broke a run of four straight 0-0s between the teams in Champions League play, dating back to pairs of group matches in both 2005 and 2008. The teams also met in the Europa League final in May, with Villarreal winning a penalty shootout following a 1-1 draw.



Darwin Nunez celebrates one of his goals against Barcelona; visiting players look dejected during the match, Wednesday

LISBON: After yet another demoralising loss, struggling Barcelona faces a grim future in the Champions League. The Catalan club followed their 0-3 opening loss against Bayern Munich with another 0-3 defeat at Benfica Wednesday.

Bottom of their group, Barcelona suddenly see themselves in danger of not reaching the knockout stage for the first time since 2000-01.

Darwin Nunez scored twice — including three minutes into the match — and Rafa Silva added another goal at the Stadium of Light to help Benfica end a 60-year winless streak against Barcelona. It was their second victory in eight matches against the Catalan club.

Bayern cruised past Dynamo Kyiv in Germany in the other Group E match to reach six points from two matches. Benfica, which had opened with a draw at Dynamo, has four points, three more than Dynamo. Barcelona stayed on zero points ahead of consecutive matches against Dynamo.

The loss added more pressure on Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman, who hasn't been able to make the team perform and has been at odds

with club president Joan Laporta and even some of the players. The Dutch coach has said Barcelona has no significant chances of winning any titles this season.

Last season, Barcelona failed to reach the quarterfinals for the first time since 2006-07, losing to Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16 and ending their record run of 13 consecutive last-eight appearances.

Without Lionel Messi for the first time in nearly two decades, Barcelona have won only one of their last five games in all competitions, a disappointing run that started with the loss to Bayern at the Camp Nou Stadium. It has won only three times in eight matches in all competitions this season.

It was Barcelona's fifth straight Champions League match without a win, having conceded 14 goals during that run. It didn't have a single shot on target from eight attempts on Wednesday.

Benfica's only other victory against Barcelona had come in the 1961 European Cup final the first time the clubs met. Benfica, which started its Champions League campaign in the third qualifying round, is unbeaten in 13 matches overall this season, with 11 wins.

Benfica opened the scoring in the game's first shot on goal, with Nunez finding the net from inside the area after easily getting past Barcelona defender Eric Garcia, who was sent off with a second yellow card in the 87th. Silva scored the second in the 69th from close range after a failed attempt by Joao Mario, and Nunez sealed the victory by converting a 79th-minute penalty kick after a handball by Barcelona defender Sergino Dest.

LEWANDOWSKI LIFTS BAYERN

MUNICH: A 5-0 victory in the Champions League with two goals from Robert Lewandowski... just another evening's work for Bayern Munich. The win Wednesday over Dynamo Kyiv marked the ninth game in succession that Bayern scored three or more goals across all competitions. Lewandowski has been crucial to the impressive attacking output under new coach Julian Nagelsmann, with 13 goals in nine games. Bayern is already dominating Group E after just two games, following their opening 3-0 win over Barcelona in their opener. Next up are two games against Benfica.

Lewandowski put the hosts 2-0 in the 27th minute after opening the scoring from the spot on 12 minutes. After the change of ends, Serge Gnabry (68th minute), Leroy Sane (74th) and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting (87th) completed the rout.



CHIESA STRIKE ENOUGH FOR JUVENTUS TO DOWN CHELSEA



TURIN: Italy forwards Federico Chiesa and Federico Bernardeschi ran consistently through the heart of Chelsea's defense, Romelu Lukaku was held in check, and Juventus convincingly beat the injury-depleted trophy defender 1-0 in the Champions League.

Ten seconds into the second half on Wednesday, Chiesa sprinted onto a through ball from Bernardeschi and beat defender Antonio Rudiger to score from a difficult angle. Bernardeschi nearly made it 2-0 when he tripped just as he was about to redirect a cross from Juan Cuadrado.

It wasn't until the 75th minute that a decent cross found its way to Lukaku, who Chelsea bought for a club record USD 135 million in August. But the Belgium striker's ensuing header went well wide.

Lukaku had a close chance in the 83rd but again missed the target.

Juventus took control of Group H with a full six points. Chelsea and Zenit St. Petersburg have three points each and Malmo has zero. Earlier, Zenit cruised to a 4-0 win over 10-man Malmo.

It marked a second consecutive defeat for Chelsea, which was beaten 1-0 at home by Manchester City Saturday. It was also Chelsea's first loss in 12 Champions League group matches.

RUPINDER, BIRENDRA BID ADIEU TO INT'L HOCKEY

New Delhi, Sept 30: Drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh and defender Birendra Lakra, who played starring roles in the Indian hockey team's historic bronze medal-winning Tokyo Olympics campaign, on Thursday announced their international retirements within hours of each other, creating quite a flutter.

While Rupinder quit "to make way for youngsters" and announced his decision by posting a statement on his twitter page, Lakra's retirement was confirmed by Hockey India.

It has been learnt from reliable sources that both the players decided to quit after they were informed that they will not find a place in India's scheme of things going forward and will be ignored for the national camp that starts in Bangalore next week.

The 30-year-old, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers of the country, Rupinder represented India in 223 matches. Nicknamed 'Bob', Rupinder scored four crucial goals, including a penalty stroke in the third-place match against Germany, during India's bronze-medal winning campaign in Tokyo.

"The past couple of months have undoubtedly been the best days of my life. Standing on the podium in Tokyo along with my teammates with whom I have shared some of the most incredible experiences of my life was a feeling I will cherish forever," Rupinder wrote in a statement on his official twitter handle.

"I believe it is time for me to make way for young and talented players to experience every great joy that I have felt in these last 13 years of representing India."

Hours later, Lakra followed suit with Hockey India officially announcing his retirement. The player is, however, yet to make a statement of his own on the matter.

"A solid defender and one of the most influential Indian Men's Hockey Team figures, the Odisha star has announced his retirement from the Indian national team. Happy Retirement, Birendra Lakra," HI tweeted.

The 31-year-old Lakra was one of the vice captains of India's bronze medal-winning side in Tokyo. He was also a part of the 2014 gold medal-winning Incheon Asian Games team and the side that claimed bronze in 2018 Jakarta.

Lakra, who was born February 3, 1990 in Lachhada village in the Sundargarh district, played 201 matches for India. A reliable centre-back known for his calm and composed attitude when put under pressure, Lakra made his debut in 2012 in a Test series against South Africa and was part of the Indian team that finished last in the 2012 London Games.

Rupinder's decision was also motivated by his injury breakdowns. According to sources, Rupinder wanted to continue till next year's Asian Games but once he was told that he won't be selected in the national camp, the player decided to make way for youngsters.

CSK storm into IPL playoffs



Josh Hazlewood (L) and Dwayne Bravo bowled well to keep CSK in a commanding position, Thursday

Sharjah, Sept 30: Chennai Super Kings produced a convincing performance against Sunrisers Hyderabad to maintain their remarkable consistency this season and sail into the IPL playoffs here Thursday.

The bowlers, led by Josh Hazlewood (3/24) and Dwayne Bravo (2/17), restricted SRH to 134/7 after MS Dhoni opted to bowl first on a slow surface.

Chasing the total, in-form openers Ruturaj Gaikwad (45, 38b, 4x4, 2x6) and Faf du Plessis (41, 36b, 3x4, 2x6) shared a sublime 75-run stand to give CSK an ideal start.

A mini collapse in the middle overs made the chase interesting before CSK got the job done in 19.4

overs with Dhoni (14 n o) hitting the winning six and bringing back memories of his heydays. The three-time former champions thus ended the chase, scoring 139/4, for a convincing six-wicket win.

With their fourth win in as many games since the tournament's resumption, CSK showed not making the playoffs last season was just a blip in their successful IPL history.

The Sharjah pitch, which produced high-scoring games last year, has been a complete contrast this season with its slow nature making stroke making difficult.

Batting, in the second innings, got easier with the fast-rising Gaikwad displaying supreme skills. Du Plessis too hit some cracking boundaries before falling to a tired shot.

From a commanding 103/1, CSK

slumped to 108/4, making the dressing room slightly nervous. However, Ambati Rayudu (17 n o) avoided a tense finish for his team with a six and four off Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the 19th over. Dhoni remained unbeaten at the other end.

Earlier, SRH innings never got the momentum it needed. Wriddhiman Saha played some delightful shots in his 46-ball 44 but the majority of the SRH batsmen struggled to get going.

His opening partner Jason Roy fell cheaply, caught behind off Hazlewood as he went for a wild slog. Skipper Kane Williamson was trapped in front by Bravo with a full ball that swung away slightly to thud into the New Zealander's pads.

SRH were left reeling at 74/4 after a well-set Saha top-edged one off Ravindra Jadeja to be caught by Dhoni. SRH. Abdul Samad (18) and Abhishek Sharma (18) hit a few sensational shots before Hazlewood removed them in the 17th over. CSK were brilliant in the death overs conceding only 37 runs.

BRIEF SCORES
SRH 134/7 (Wriddhiman Saha 44; Josh Hazlewood 3/24, Dwayne Bravo 2/17, Ravindra Jadeja 1/24) lost to CSK 139/4 (Ruturaj Gaikwad 45, Faf du Plessis 41; Jason Holder 3/27, Rashid Khan 1/27) by 6 wickets.

TODAY'S MATCHES
KKR v PBKS
Time: 07:30 pm
TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

D/N Test: Mandhana props India to 132/1



SMRITI MANDHANA

Gold Coast, Sept 30: Smriti Mandhana headlined a rain-hit opening day with a career-best unbeaten 80 (14b, 15x4, 1x6) which had elegance written all over it as the Indian women's cricket team finished on 132/1 in the one-off Day/Night Test against Australia here.

Mandhana added 93 for the opening stand with Shafali Verma (31, 64b, 4x4), who played the second fiddle during their partnership. Most of the second session's play was washed out but Mandhana added another 16 runs to surpass her previous best of 78.

Giving her company is Punam Raut (16 batting, 57 balls) and they added 39 runs for the unbroken second wicket stand before rain stopped play in the 45th over and didn't start again.

The Australian team's decision to field first after laying a green strip for the visitors did seem to have backfired as Mandhana attacked

them straightaway during the first hour of play.

There were an astounding 16 boundaries hit in the first 16 overs, mostly by Mandhana and few by Shafali as Meg Lanning did shuffle around with his bowlers without much success.

In fact, it was a case of role reversal which perhaps caught the Australians off-guard as Shafali was more intent on playing a defensive game while her senior partner attacked with great gusto.

Shafali was gone trying to hit left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux against the turn and offered a sifter to McGrath at mid-off. In fact once spinners Molineux (1/18) and Ashleigh Gardner (0/14) bowled with the semi-new pink Kookaburra, Australia finally found a way to check the run flow.

BRIEF SCORES: India Women 132/1 (Smriti Mandhana 80 n o, Shafali Verma 31, Punam Raut 16 n o; Sophie Molineux 1/18) v Australia Women. Match to continue.