Echo of Arunachal

First News Paper From The State

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State records 8th Covid casualty, single day new high of 214 cases

ITANAGAR, Sep 3: The State on Thursday recorded its eighth Covid casualty following the death of a septuagenarian, who was a positive patient with comorbidity.

State Surveillance Officer Dr L Jampa informed that the 70-year-old non-APST man, who tested positive for COVID-19, was admitted at the Dedicated Covid Hospital-Chimpu yesterday and expired at 1.18 pm today.

He was an old case of Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) with Myocardial Infarction (MI) and Chronic Obstructive Pilmonary Disease (COPD), added Dr Jampa.

Meanwhile, the State, in a single day highest spike, today registered a whopping 214 fresh Corona cases spread over 18 districts with Itanagar Capital Complex (ICC) being the most affected with 46 infections. With this, the tally of confirmed cases has gone up to 4574, which included 1399 active, 3167 discharged and eight death cases.

While Tirap recorded 37 cases and West Siang just behind with 36, Changlang registered 28, Papum Pare 19 and Lower Dibang Valley 10. Longding detected eight cases, West Kameng seven and East Siang six. Three cases each were found in Lower Subansiri, Upper Siang and Tawang; two each in Shi-Yomi and Lohit; and one each in Upper Subansiri, Leparada, Pakke-Kessang and East Kameng.

Of the ICC cases, 11 were reported from TRIHMS (Nlg), 10 from Paid Quarantine testing centre (Ita), nine from Banderdewa check gate, six from RKMH (Ita), five from SQF, Lekhi, two each from CCC-SOA, Zoo area (Ita) and from Kra-Daadi check gate, and one from Kurung Kumey check gate.

31 of Tirap cases are military personnel detected in QF (Quarantine Facility), two are APP personnel and four were detected from check gate. In West Siang, 34 are primary contacts of positive case detected earlier and two are returnees from ICR.

The Changlang cases comprised 20 APP personnel returnees from ICR, six Assam Rifles personnel, one IRBn personnel one shopkeeper. In Papum Pare, seven are ITBP personnel detected in QF, five were detected from Hollongi and six from Gumto check gates, and one from QF, Kukarjan, Hollongi.

Of LDV cases, four are returnees from ICR, four were reported from Flu Clinic, DH-Roing, and two were detected from check gate. In Longding, *(Contd. on page-2)*

Section 144 CrPC promulgated at Aalo, FIR lodged post detection of 62 COVID-19 cases

ITANAGAR/AALO, Sep 3: In the wake of detection of 62 fresh COVID-19 cases, including 49 cases on Thursday alone, in Aalo area following the recent 'DJ night' episode, West Siang District Magistrate Moki Loyi has promulgated prohibitory order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), restricting movement of people and vehicles to enable doctors and health workers carry out contact tracing to prevent spread of the virus.

The DC said that the 'Humgo Rigo Resort', where the alleged 'DJ night' event was held on last Saturday in violation of COVID-19 protocols, has been banned and another resort namely, 'Cozy Resort' has been declared as 'containment zone' after five of its workers have tested positive for COVID-19.

Further, an FIR has been lodged against the event organizers, the DC informed, adding that a thorough magisterial and police inquiry will be made and accordingly, action will be initiated (against them) as per the inquiry report.

District Surveillance Officer (DSO) Dr Jumbom Kato disclosed that 49 positive cases have been found out of a total of 218 people tested so far today.

District Medical Officer Dr Moli Riba also stressed on restricting movement of people and vehicles enabling his team to conduct the contact tracing as soon as possible.

The DMO insisted on taking appropriate measures on war footing to check the spread of the disease. He also appealed to the Sector Committees to help the medical team in contact tracing.

The district administration, in the meantime, clarified that *(Contd. on page-2)*

Mossang takes stock of ongoing IMC projects



ITANAGAR, Sep 3: UD and ULBs Minister Kamlung Mossang while making surprise inspection of the projects being undertaken by the Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) today inspected under construction slaughter house, burial ground and solid waste management plant all located along Chimpu-Hollongi national highway-415.

The Minister assured to provide necessary fund for construction of retaining walls and security fencing of the slaughter house. While expressing dissatisfaction over slow progress of the project, he directed the IMC site engineer and contractor to set target to complete the work within the current financial year.

He also directed the IMC executive engineer Kame Bengia and others to explore more land for the burial ground as the present location does not have much scope for future expansion to meet the requirement of ever-growing population of the State Capital Region.

While instructing the officers of UD and IMC to reactivate the defunct solid waste management plant for proper disposal of garbage, Mossang advocated for exploration and adoption of best practices of solid waste management in other parts of the country. He asked the field functionaries of UD & ULBs to work hard to improve the cleanliness status of urban towns, especially the State Capital Region.

(Contd. on page-2)

CMO reviews 4-lane highway project work

72.46% work progress achieved as on Sept 1, 2020

ITANAGAR, Sep 3: Despite all odds, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chandranagar (Itanagar)-Papu Nallah section of four-lane highway is reported to have achieved 72.46 per cent work progress as on September 1, 2020.

This was revealed at a review meeting held in the Chief Minister's Office here today with the officers of Highway department in connection to the progress and status of work of construction of 4-lane Itanagar - Banderdewa section of NH-415 (Package-A) and to plan out a way forward for early completion of the project.

The project, started in September 2017, was targeted to be completed by September 2020 but due to COVID-19 pandemic and long drawn out monsoon, the progress of work suffered. "However, despite all odds, the physical achievement reported, as on 01.09.2020 is 72.46%," stated a communiqué from the CMO here.

It said, the formation cutting of earthwork has been completed throughout the stretch of road except for a small patch near Shiv Mandir for filling up the culvert/bridge in between Shiv Mandir and Dree ground.

(Contd. on page-2)

Govt quarter reduced to ashes at Pasighat



Staff REPORTER

ITANAGAR, Sep 3: A type-II Govt quarter allotted to a health personnel at Kali Mandir Colony, Pasighat was gutted in a fire accident this morning.

The fire that broke out around 8.30 am engulfed everything that the dwellers had. According to Banik Tayeng, the occupant of the house, he along with his wife was away at Mebo at the time of mishap. He got to know about this at around 8.40 am from his daughter over the phone.

Their three children were asleep when the fire broke out. "By the time we returned, we just stood there on the corner and saw the flame blazing. We could not do anything and couldn't even save a thread," he said.

The quarter was allotted in the name of Tayeng's wife Aroty Pertin, a nursing officer at Bakin Pertin General Hospital, Pasighat.

It was suspected that the fire started due to an electric short circuit in the extended local kitchen which engulfed the entire quarter and also spread to the adjacent quarter damaging it partially.

"The fire only partially damaged the other quarter as by that time the fire tender had already reached which doused the flame," Tayeng said.

Tirap's 'first' drug addict recovers, discharged

KHONSA, Sep 3: The recovery/discharge of "first" drug addict of Tirap district namely Kumthok Khocha from Care Me Home Welfare De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre at Charju, may turn out as a ray of hope for the generation next of the district.

Gracing the felicitation programme, Khonsa ADC Kretkam Tikhak congratulated Care Me Home Welfare Society and all the inmates, especially the recovered inmate said that opium addicted people of Tirap are fortunate to have such de-addiction centre within the district which offers free treatment whereas there is no such de-addiction cum rehabilitation centre in other parts in the State.

He urged upon all seven inmates to complete their rehabilitation and treatment course.

Chief functionary of CMHWS, Sontung L Bangsia said that today is a happy moment for the entire team of *(Contd. on page-2)*

Cancel allotment order or face Chakka bandh: AITMCTWA

Staff REPORTER

ITANAGAR, Sep 3: The All Itanagar Tata Mobile & Carriage Tempo Welfare Association (AITMCTWA) demanded immediate cancelation of allotment order issued to one Rimo Gyadi against the 'temporarily' allotted parking place for Tata mobiles near the D-sector IG Park gate here, failing which it has threatened to launch 'chakka bandh' (total stoppage of commercial vehicles plying) in and around Capital Complex.

AITMCTWA president Deke Raju told reporters that in view of traffic congestions and after repeated requests for parking place in Itanagar, the then Capital DC Prince Dhawan had August 25, 2017, vide an order, notified 600 sq mtr of land near the IG Park Tennis Court here as temporary parking zone for commercial Tata mobiles.

(Contd. on page-2)

Maj Gen Gamlin retires, urges AMASA chief to carry on dev activities



GUWAHATI/BOMDILA, Sep 3: Maj Gen Jarken Gamlin, the first and the only officer from Arunachal Pradesh to reach the high rank of Major General in Indian army, the highly decorated General Officer Commanding retired today and handed over the charge to the incumbent Maj Gen Vikas Saini.

Meanwhile, Arunachal Mountaineering & Adventure Sports Association (AMASA) president Tsering Wange, accompanied by Tenzin Nyiddon, called on Maj Gen *(Contd. on page-2)*

INFORMATION

24X7 State Control Room COVID-19 numbers: 104/ 0360-2292777 / 75 / 74
State Task Force Control Room at DHS No. 0360-2350407
MoHFW, GoI 24x7 Control Room Number:+91-11-23978046

Dy CM hands over first Corona Warriors insurance benefit



ITANAGAR, Sep 3: Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein on Thursday handed over the first Corona Warriors insurance amount of Rs 50 lakh to the family of a Corona warrior, who lost his life while on COVID-19 duty.

Sangpuia Tayo, a contingency driver attached with the Zonal General Hospital, Tezu in Lohit district, had died in a road accident at Lathao near Tengapani reserve forest on July 4 last while in the line of COVID-19 duty.

Mein while handing over the insurance amount through a virtual meeting at NIC Tezu today paid his tribute to the late Corona warrior. He also consoled the family members of late Tayo and assured to extend all possible assistance to them.

Health Minister Alo Libang, who also attended the virtual meeting, applauded Corona warrior team of Lohit for successfully treating and discharging the 1st COVID-19 patient of Arunachal Pradesh which has paved the way and encouraged the rest of the State to take up COVID-19 cases in the right earnest.

The Health Minister stated that Arunachal Pradesh is 2nd highest in the country in terms of Corona cure rate and that there is no need to panic. He appealed to the people to remain alert and maintain the social distancing norms and SOPs.

While releasing the insurance amount to the family, Libang informed that this is the 1st Corona warrior insurance in the whole of the North East region that has been provided to the next of kin of the corona warrior who had lost life in the line of COVID-19 duty.

The insurance amount has been transferred by the New India Insurance Company to the bank account of the late driver's wife Radhika Chetry Tayo. Siam Thanggi, mother of late Tayo, thanked all concerned for helping the family in this hour of distress.

Lohit Deputy Commissioner Prince Dhawan, DMO Dr S Chai Pul and District Informatics Officer of NIC Tezu, June Kadu were also present among others.

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
NAHARLAGUN

NOTICE

No. IPR(PUB) 21/2020 Dated, Naharlagun, the, 2nd September 2020

It is hereby informed to all the head of offices within the capital complex that the Department of Information & Public Relations is proposing to publish the annual Government Diary for the year 2021 **in online digital manner**. Therefore all the heads of offices are hereby requested to furnish the **Name, designation, telephone numbers, fax numbers (both office and residence) mobile numbers of all Group A & B officers of the department and E-Mail Ids, Web-site address etc. of the departments** to incorporate in the **Government Diary 2021** through messenger or **in the E-Mail** given below, latest by **September 30, 2020** for timely uploading.

diprarunpub@gmail.com

The department will not be held responsible if the information is not received within the stipulated time and not published in the **Govt. Diary 2021**.

Sd/- OBANG TAYENG
Director,
Information & Public Relations
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh,
Naharlagun

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Three new autonomous councils for Moran, Matak, Koch-Rajbonshis in Assam

GUWAHATI, Sep 3: As the Assam Assembly today paved the way for formation of three autonomous councils, the Opposition parties raised apprehension of legitimising demand for separate state as one of the council is named after a geographical area instead of the community it is intended for.

While 'The Moran Autonomous Council Bill, 2020' and 'The Matak Autonomous Council Bill, 2020' had the names of the beneficiary communities in the title, the one for Koch-Rajbonshi community has been named 'The Kamatapur Autonomous Council Bill, 2020' indicating a geographical area.

All the three Bills were passed by voice vote on the last day of the four-day state Assembly.

Opposing the inclusion of the word 'Kamatapur', Opposition AIUDF legislator Mamun Imdadul Haque Chawdhury said, "In the other Bills, the name of the communities has been included. But on the Bill for the Kock-Rajbonshi community, the title of the Bill has name of a geographical area instead of the community."

"It could once again lead to a demand for 'divide Assam 50:50' as the name is open to interpretation and those raising the demand could point that the government has recognised a geographical area. We support the autonomous council but the nomenclature should change," he added.

Another Opposition MLA Wazed Ali Choudhury of the Congress too opposed the nomenclature and said, "There will be a confusion over the name. We support the autonomous council so long as it for the Koch-Rajbonshi community. But if it is to legitimise the 'Kamatapur' state demand, we oppose it."

Abdur Rashid Mandal of the Congress placed the demand for implementation of the autonomous council in a 'satellite' format as Koch-Rajbonshi community people were scattered across the state and they should not be left out from the provisions for their development.

Responding to the objections, Minister for Welfare of Plain Tribes and Backward Classes Chandan Brahma maintained that the Bill does not seek to legitimise any demand for a separate state.

He said, "There is a need to work for the development of the Koch-Rajbonshi community and that is the basic principle behind the Bill. As mentioned in the Bill, the council will be formed under areas of undivided Goalpara district, excluding Bodoland Territorial Council and Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council areas."

On demand for such councils for other communities, the minister said the six communities, Moran, Matak, Koch-Rajbonshi, Ahom, Chutia and Tea Tribes, were a priority for the state, and all other communities would be benefited in gradual course of time. (*UNI*)

Tawang MLA, BJYM donate N-95 face masks, hand sanitizer to frontline health warriors



TAWANG, Sep 3: Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, local MLA Tsering Tashi and BJYM Tawang unit today donated 3,500 nos of N-95 face masks and 1,000 nos of 500Ml hand wash/sanitizer bottles meant for the frontline health warriors of Khandro Drowa Tsangmu District Hospital, Tawang.

The donated materials were received by Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr N Namshum in presence of Deputy Commissioner Sang Phuntsok, DMO Dr Wangdi Lama, BJYM's district unit president Phurpa Lama, doctors, officers and others.

The MLA later had an informal discussion with the DC, DMO, DSO (IDSP) and other medical officers on the management of Covid Care Centre, and Isolation centres in view of the increasing number of COVID-19 positive cases.

He then along with the DC, DMO, and other officers inspected the under construction IPD ward and nursing hostel, and asked the department concerned to expedite the works. He also inspected the swab collection centre and the ICU ward, which was made operational recently.

The Medical Superintendent informed the MLA and the DC about receiving of some essential medical equipment for Eye OPD and other OPDs under Mukhya Mantri Rogi Kalyan Kosh. (*DIPRO*)

DC launches LLIN distribution program

LEMMI (Pakke Kessang), Sep 3: Pakke Kessang Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman, District Health Society Gautam Hazarika launched the long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN) distribution programme in the presence of DMO Pakke Kessang, NVBDCPO East Kameng, State Finance Consultant, NVBDCP (Naharlagun), district consultant, NVBDCP East Kameng, GBs, ASHAs and public at general ground here today.

Distributing the LLIN to the beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner, in his brief speech, told them to use the mosquito nets as per norms. He also gave emphasis on keeping one's surroundings clean and free from VBDs (vector borne diseases).

The DMO also encouraged the gathering to use the LLINs judiciously and not to use them for other purposes like catching fish, gardening, etc. He also instructed the ASHAs to distribute LLIN to each and every household of their respective areas. The DPO (NVBDCP) also gave awareness on the vector borne diseases during the occasion.

RGU holds national webinar on 'women issues'

RONO HILLS, Sep 3: A one day national webinar on 'Women's Right as Human Rights: Vulnerability and Gender Justice amid COVID Crisis' was organized by the Department of Social Work in collaboration with Department of Psychology, Rajiv Gandhi University, today.

Chairing the inaugural session, RGU VC Prof Saket Kushwaha pointed out that in the downfall of economy and raising challenges due to COVID-19, the ultimate challenges are faced by the women section. He emphasized on the role of family members and grooming of a child from the root to eradicate gender discrimination, violence against the vulnerable section and creating better society as a whole.

RGU Pro-VC Prof Amitava Mitra highlighted the relevance of gender and women issues in the present scenario. He emphasized that gender equality has long way to be established and appreciated the relatively younger departments of the university namely Social Work and Psychology for taking up such issue.

Chaphiak Lowang, Coordinator of the program highlighted on the importance of the webinar and reported on the increasing number of reported cases on domestic violence against women since the lockdown according to National Commission for Women (NCW).

Dr Kakali Goswami, HoD (in-charge) Psychology and Dr Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Convener of the national webinar and HoD (in-charge) Social work (RGU) also spoke.

3-day ICAMST concludes at RGU

RONO HILLS, Sep 3: A three-day online International Conference on Advances in Mathematics, Science and Technology (ICAMST) concluded at Rajiv Gandhi University premises today.

The international conference, organized by the Department of Mathematics (RGU), aimed to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on various aspects of mathematics, science and technology. It also discussed the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of mathematics and allied sciences.

The valedictory session of the international conference was graced by Prof Taher Armaghani of Shashrood University, Iran; Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences (RGU), Prof P K Kalita, and head, department of Mathematics (RGU), Prof Sahin Ahmed.

Many great mathematicians from various parts of India, Iran, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Pakistan also attended the three-day conference.

Altogether, 165 participants attended 14 technical sessions, which were addressed by 15 renowned invited speakers from different parts of the world.

DC fetes brave watchman

KHONSA, Sep 3: Tirap Deputy Commissioner Bhanu Prabha has feted night a brave chowkidar Bawang Aboh and his accompanier of FCI/FSD Deomali by rewarding them with a sum of Rs 5000 and a commendation certificate at her office chamber in presence of DF&CSO N Songthing.

They have been rewarded for their bravery shown on the night of 26th August last wherein a hungry wild elephant came to attack the FCI godown but due to the alertness and bravery of the watchmen the elephants were driven away and lot of precious food stuff worth Rs 4-5 lakh could be saved.

While felicitating the brave watchmen, the DC urged all government employees to take inspiration from brave watchman Bawang Aboh and his friend. (*DIPRO*)

COVID 19 positivity rate on the rise in Assam

GUWAHATI, Sep 3: The COVID 19 positivity rate has been mounting in Assam after showing signs of declining, pushing up the overall tally in the state.

The state has been recording more than 7% positivity rate over the last couple of days with 7.44% recorded in the last 24 hours.

Out of 47,744 tests conducted yesterday, 3555 were found to be COVID 19 positive, which has taken the overall COVID 19 count in the state to 1,15,279.

Kamrup (Metro), under which main city Guwahati comes, recorded its highest single day spike with 924 cases confirmed in the last 24 hours.

It was also the highest number of positive cases reported from one district in the state so far.

Among other districts, Nagaon, Dibrugarh and Baksa reported over 200 new cases in the last 24 hours.

The death toll has also continued to increase and now stands at 323.

The number of recovered patients has crossed 88,000, while the number of active COVID 19 positive cases currently over 26,000. (*UNI*)

Mizoram CM meets DG Assam Rifles to resolve standoff

AIZWAL, Sep 3: Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has met the Director-General Assam Rifles (DGAR) Lt. General Sukhdeep Sangwan to resolve the differences between the state government and the country's oldest paramilitary force over the entry of security personnel in the state during COVID-19 pandemic.

A statement said that both the chief minister and the director-general held interaction on the issue related to the recent standoff and also re-allocation of Assam Rifles from the heart of Aizawl city to Zokhawsang on the outskirts of the city.

Zoramthnga asked Sangwan to avoid a mass interstate movement of troopers amid Covid-19 spread.

He also urged Sangwan to shift their base to Zokhawsang at the earliest possible.

Expressing concern over the increasing movement of people and drugs smuggling across the border, the chief minister also urged the Assam Rifles chief to step up vigil along the Mizoram-Myanmar border.

Mizoram shares 404 km long international border with Myanmar.

The standoff between Mizoram government and Assam Rifles began in the mid of August, when 15 personnel of 46 Battalion of Assam Rifles allegedly barged into the state without complying with entry and safety protocols laid down by the state government to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The state home department had alleged that the person refused to undergo mandatory screening and that 25 personnel from Aizawl were sent to Vairengte on that day to intimidate civil administration.

The state government also accused Assam Rifles of skipping Independence Day celebrations.

Assam Rifles denied the allegations and said that they were denied medical screening though they had insisted on the officials.

The force also said that the 15 personnel were denied entry to the state against the Union Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) directive, which exempted security personnel from the restriction of inter-state movement during Covid-19 period. (*UNI*)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

State records 8th Covid...

five are primary contacts of positive case detected earlier and three are HCWs (health care workers).

The West Kameng cases included four primary contacts of positive case detected earlier from Dirang and three primary contacts of positive case detected earlier from GH-Bomdila. In East Siang, three were reported from Ruksin check gate, two are APP personnel returnees from ICR and one is a military personnel detected in QF.

Two of Lower Subansiri cases are returnees from Assam & ICR, and one is a primary contact of positive case detected earlier; In Upper Siang, two are APP Fire Service personnel and one is a GREF personnel detected in QF, and all three Tawang cases are APP personnel.

Both Shi Yomi cases are driver returnees from Assam and the two Lohit cases were detected from check gate.

The lone Upper Subansiri case was reported from Flu Clinic, DH-Daporijo; the Leparada case is an ITBP personnel detected in QF; the Pakke Kessang case was detected from check gate, and the East Kameng case is a returnee from ICR.

Of the total cases, 201 are asymptomatic and 13 are symptomatic.

In the meantime, on a positive note, 92 patients were also discharged today following their recovery from the virus.

Of the 92 discharged cases in 13 districts, ICC was on top with 39 recoveries, followed by Changlang with 14 and Pakke-Kessang at 11. Six were discharged in Upper Subansiri, five in Lower Siang, four in Namsai, three each in West Kameng and Leparada, two each in Tirap and Lohit, and one discharged case each was recorded in Tawang, Upper Siang and Dibang Valley.

Section 144 CrPC promulgated...

it did not give any kind of permission nor organizers of the DJ Nite event sought any permission to conduct such an event at Humgo Rigo Resort on August 29 last.

"The DJ Nite issue is surfacing only after revelation by a person tested COVID-19 positive on inquiry of his whereabouts prior to his testing. This DJ night was held in the outskirts, three-and-a-half-km away from the Aalo town, and administration and police were kept in darkness about the show," it said.

When the tests were carried out on suspected persons on the first day, 13 persons were tested positive for the virus. Meanwhile, the senior citizens of the Aalo township expressed deep anguish over the reported organization of such an event in a pandemic time. They appealed to the DC to permanently ban such types of DJ nites in normal hours also as it ruins the young minds. (*With DIPRO inputs*)

Mossang takes stock of...

Mosang appealed the citizens of twin capital to cooperate with the sanitation workers in segregating the biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes. He said that sanitary workers alone cannot keep our city clean unless the citizens extend full cooperation and maintain high degree of civic sense.

Further, the Minister also made site visit to some of the monsoon damaged drains, retaining walls and roads of various sectors/colonies of Itanagar Capital Region and directed all concerned to speed up restoration work.

Mossang was accompanied by UD Chief Engineer Taring Darang, SE Marcony Potom and team of IMC engineers.

CMO reviews 4-lane...

Other works like protection walls, drains and cover drains, culverts and carpeting of roads will be taken up and completed during the coming working season.

With the relaxation of SOPs (standard operating procedures), the concessionaire is bringing in more labourers from nearby states to increase the pace of the execution of the project.

The department has been directed to take up the work on a mission mode and strictly adhere to the timeline as planned for early completion of the project. It was further stated that review of the work progress would be taken in every fortnight. The departmental officers were advised that "timely maintenance of the highway must be done so that the commuters have better riding experience".

The communique also stated that the state government had sanctioned Rs 82.85 Cr for improvement of capital roads and for repair and maintenance of roads, bridges in and around the capital region for which tender process has been completed and the work will commence soon.

Tirap's 'first' drug addict...

CMHWS in particular and the people of Tirap district as a whole because one of its inmate has been fully recovered after 45 days of treatment and counseling.

While congratulating the outgoing recovered inmate, Sontung appealed the recovered inmate to motivate the youths of Lazu circle to shun opium addiction and to get admitted in De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Center for treatment.

While interacting with the inmates, DNO cum GDMO Dr Sompha Sumpa said that mindset need to be changed after recovery from drug addiction. He suggested the recovered patient Khocha to avoid bad companies who are addicted with kaani and drug and instead, make a new beginning with good company.

Attending as resource person, Dr Palash Rakshit, District Surveillance Officer congratulated CMHWS and recovered inmate, and said that running of NGO is a tough task unlike any other departmental works.

He urged all the inmates to undergo physical exercise like Yoga to keep their mind fresh.

Dr Montu Lowang, medical officer suggested the recovered inmate to be role model in his village and to keep himself busy in certain works so as divert his mind. He added that people will be watching on his performances after reaching his home at Noglo.

Later, the ADC Tikhak felicitated the recovered inmate with gifts, as a token of love and also handed over fitness cum recovery certificate.

In an interaction, Kumthok Khocha said that he was badly addicted with Kaani since last more than seven years and expressed his gratitude to CMHWS for taking trouble and pain to rehabilitating the poor drug/opium addicts. He added that he spent a valuable time at de-addiction center in which he played various games and did gardening.

He assured that he would motivate the misguided youths who are addicted with drug and Kaani in the Lazu area, while adding he would be busy in cultivation in his village Noglo. (*DIPRO*)

Cancel allotment order...

However, the said location is now being occupied by Rimo Gyadi, who also constructed the structure, obstructing proper use of the parking lot. When inquired about the matter at Itanagar DC office through an RTI application, it was found that the Capital district administration has 'illegally' issued an allotment order to Rimo Gyadi in 2019 against the same plot measuring 165 sq mtr of land, he claimed.

The Tata mobile drivers are now facing problems and are compelled to park their vehicles on both sides of NH-415 which is also creating lots of inconvenience to the commuters, Raju said.

He requested the state government to cancel the land allotment order issued to Rimo Gyadi and allow the Tata mobiles drivers to park their vehicles at the said location or notify a new location for Tata mobiles parking within one month.

"If the government fails to meet our demand in the given time frame, we would be compelled to resort to democratic movement in the form of Chakka bandh and total stoppage of commercial vehicles in and around Capital Complex," he added.

Maj Gen Gamlin retires...

Gamlin at the Flag House Army headquarters and discussed adventure, tourism and new innovations in education system.

He also wished the retired Maj Gen all the best for his second innings in life.

Maj Gen Gamlin, who knows every nook and corner of North East like the back of his palm, asked Wange and the team to continue with the adventure and tourism development activities especially in Arunachal Pradesh which has over 1000 km of unexplored Himalayas.

He also congratulated Tenzin Nyiddon, who is the first and the youngest in India to do plogging trek at 16000 ft. Her adventurous Plogging Trek in Arunachal Himalayas drew the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who mentioned about it in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.

'Negotiation' is way ahead: MEA on India-China border standoff

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Amid the heightened border tensions with China in eastern Ladakh, India on Thursday said that the way ahead is negotiations through diplomatic and military channels.

"We strongly urge the Chinese side to sincerely engage the Indian side with the objective of expeditiously restoring the peace and tranquility in the border areas through complete disengagement and de-escalation in accordance with the bilateral agreements and protocols," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said during virtual weekly press briefing here on Thursday.

"The Indian side is firmly committed to resolving all outstanding issues through peaceful dialogue," he added.

India and China engaged into fresh faceoff on August 29-30 night at southern bank of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh after Chinese troops tried to unilaterally change the status quo.

Since then, everyday a brigade commander-level meeting is taking place to resolve the ongoing issue but it has not yielded any outcomes.

"I can say that the ground commanders are still holding discussions to resolve the situation. We reiterate the consensus reached between the two Foreign Ministers and SRs that the situation in the border should be handled in a responsible manner and either side should not take any provocative action or escalate matters," Srivastava said.

"It is clear that the situation we witness over the past four months is a direct result of the actions taken by the Chinese side that sought to effect unilateral change of status quo," he added.

These actions resulted in violation of the bilateral agreements and protocol which ensured peace and tranquility in the border areas for close to three decades, the spokesperson said.

IAF Chief visits frontline airbases under Eastern Command

Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria has visited frontline air bases in Eastern Air Command (EAC) on Wednesday.

His visit assumes significant amid the rising border standoff with China's PLA in eastern Ladakh.

"On arrival at the bases in Eastern Air Command the Chief was received by respective Air Officers Commanding who apprised him of the readiness state and operational preparedness of the combat units under their command," IAF spokesperson Wing Commander Indranil Nandi said.

Among the airbases under the eastern command, the chief also visited Hasimara airbas in West Bengal, where the second batch of French-made Rafale fighter jets to be deployed next year.

India and China engaged into fresh faceoff at southern bank of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh on August 29-30 night. The Chinese troops unilaterally wanted to change the Line of Actual Control (LAC) but the Indian Army thwarted them.

ACM Bhadauria also met and interacted with air warriors serving in these units during the course of his visit.

He lauded the focussed efforts by the station personnel towards maintaining proficiency in all roles envisaged and urged them to continue performing their duty with due diligence. (*UNI*)

Twitter account of PM Modi's personal website, mobile app hacked; Twitter investigating situation

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Twitter account of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal website and mobile app was briefly hacked on Thursday morning, a Twitter spokesperson said. The Twitter handle 'narendramodi_in' on the microblogging website was hacked by some cyber criminals.

Several tweets were posted from the account asking the followers to donate to the PM National Relief Fund through cryptocurrency, which have now been deleted.

Confirming this in a statement, a Twitter spokesperson said it is actively investigating the situation and efforts are being made to secure the account.

"We are aware of this activity and have taken steps to secure the compromised account. We are actively investigating the situation. At this time, we are not aware of additional accounts being impacted," the Twitter spokesperson said. This twitter account of Modi was created in May 2011 and is his oldest personal Twitter account. Modi also uses the NarendraModi_IN Twitter account for the Narendra Modi.IN website and app. (*UNI*)

PM to interact with IPS Probationers today

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact, through video-conference, with IPS Probationers during the Dikshant Parade Event at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVP NPA) on Friday, the Prime Minister's office said on Thursday.

131 IPS probationers, including 28 Lady Probationers, have completed 42 weeks of Basic Course Phase-I training at the Academy.

They joined the Academy on December 17, 2018 after completing their Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie and at Dr Marri Channa Reddy HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad with other services like IAS, IFS etc.

During the Basic Course Training at SVP NPA, probationers are imparted training in various indoor and outdoor subjects like law, investigation, forensics, leadership and management, criminology, public order and internal security, ethics and human rights, modern Indian policing, field craft and tactics, weapon training and firing. (*UNI*)

Facebook acknowledged concerns on interference in India's affairs, promised corrective measures: Cong

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: The Congress on Thursday said that the Facebook international has acknowledged and responded to concerns expressed by it on interference in India's affairs and promised corrective measures.

In response to a letter by the Congress to Facebook Inc. in Menlo Park, USA, on August 18, expressing concern and asking them to acknowledge the issue and take corrective action, we have today received a response from Facebook Inc.

Facebook has thanked the Congress party for raising this concern and acknowledged its seriousness while not refuting any of the charges made against individuals of the Facebook India leadership team in the media articles. They have also expressed their desire to be non-partisan and continue to engage with the Congress party on these matters, Chairman AICC Data Analytics, Praveen Chakravarty said in a statement.

He said that the Congress party will await further concrete action from the global leadership of Facebook and demonstration of specific corrective measures being undertaken in Facebook and WhatsApp India.

'The Congress notes the response from Facebook Inc and their wish to be non-partisan and non-interfering in India's affairs. The Congress party will await further concrete action from the global leadership of Facebook and demonstration of specific corrective measures being undertaken in Facebook and WhatsApp India.

It must be reiterated that the media revelations on this issue were based on solid documentary evidence of internal communication and are hence incontrovertible,' Chakravarty said.

Over the past few weeks, there have been significant revelations made by international media publications about the dubious conduct of Facebook and WhatsApp India's leadership team. (*UNI*)

Finance Minister exhorts lenders to proactively respond to needs of companies & businesses



NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday exhorted the lenders to proactively respond to needs of companies and businesses, as well as those of individual borrowers, and to spearhead the efforts for rebuilding businesses desperate for help owing to Covid-19 related distress.

Sitharaman held a review meeting with the heads of Scheduled Commercial Banks and NBFCs through Video Conferencing to review their state of preparedness for implementation of the loans resolution framework for COVID-19 related stress.

During the meeting, Sitharaman impressed upon the lenders that as and when moratorium on loan repayments is lifted, borrowers must be given support and COVID-19 related distress must not impact the lenders' assessment of their creditworthiness.

During her interaction, the Finance Minister focused on various issues including that lenders immediately putting in place Board-approved policy for resolution, identifying eligible borrowers and reaching out to them.

She also batted for quick implementation of a sustained resolution plan by lenders for revival of every viable business.

The Finance Minister also emphasised that Resolution schemes must be rolled out by lenders by September 15 and a sustained media campaign to create awareness be carried out thereafter.

She advised lenders to ensure that regularly updated FAQs on the resolution framework are uploaded on their websites in Hindi, English and regional languages, and also circulated to their offices and branches.

The lenders assured that they are ready with their resolution policies, have started the process of identifying and reaching out to eligible borrowers, and that they will comply with the timelines stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Ministry of Finance has also been engaging with RBI to ensure that the lenders are assisted by RBI in the resolution process.

The Finance Minister also reviewed the progress made by various lenders under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0 and Sub-ordinate Debt Schemes announced as part of the 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan', and advised lenders to try and extend the maximum possible relief to borrowers before the festive season.

An amount of Rs 1.58 lakh crore has been sanctioned as on August 31 under the ECLGS, including more Rs 1.11 lakh crore which has also been disbursed.

Under PCGS 2.0, Bonds and CPs of Rs 25,055.5 crore have been approved for purchase by Public Sector Banks so far, out of which Rs 13,318.5 crore amounting to more than 53 per cent of the portfolio pertains to Bonds rated below AA-.

The Scheme has thus been a crucial intervention for lower rated Bonds.

Sitharaman appreciated the efforts of banks and NBFCs during the lockdown in effective implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana and the Aatmnirbhar Bharat related measures. (*UNI*)

National Teachers' awards to be given through video conferencing

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: This year's National Awards for teachers given every year on the occasion of Teacher's Day, will be given through video conferencing due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' gave this information by tweeting here on Thursday.

Dr Pokhriyal met President Ram Nath Kovind today and invited him in connection with the ceremony and award distribution on the occasion of Teacher's Day.

Dr Pokhriyal tweeted, "Today, I paid a courtesy call on President Ram Nath Kovind ji and invited him for a virtual-event to be held on the occasion of 'Teacher's Day' on September 5, 2020 and National Teacher Awards and discussed the outline of the programme."

Teachers' Day is organised every year on September 5 to commemorate the birth anniversary of philospher-President S Radhakrishnan and a function is organised at Vigyan Bhavan to award National Awards to the outstanding teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Navodaya Vidyalaya and other schools. (*UNI*)

New-age entrepreneurs are going to change fortune of India: Goyal

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday that new age ideas will help India to contribute in a much bigger way to global supply chains and the new-age entrepreneurs are going to change the fortune of the country.

Addressing CII's event on 'Launch of India's Future Business Group', he said,'it is the youngsters, who are going to change the fortune of India, create jobs & bring prosperity to the people. We have a huge start-up ecosystem in India. It's more about recognizing our capabilities, uplifting our entrepreneurs. Some of the ideas that youngsters have come up with are truly revolutionary.'

He said, 'We need to build a platform with like-minded countries and trusted partners to promote new-age businesses in India.'

India can engage with other countries and build up a platform with trusted partners to promote new-age businesses, he added.

He suggested that Colleges should look at entrepreneurship or other courses around new-age businesses.' We can also look at more vocational training & assessment process to see what is in the young person's mind,' he added.

Talking about the improvement in India's rank from 52 to 48 in the Global Innovation Index, Mr Goyal said,'Let us all work together to truly make India the innovation hub. We have a huge start-up ecosystem. I have no doubt that the spirit of the industry will even encourage even Government to proactively go forward with new ideas & processes to make it easier & simpler to do business in India.No power on earth can stop us from succeeding'.

Speaking about the innovation in Railways, Mr Goyal said that 'In the last six years, our Indian coach making factories have not only stopped making old coaches, we are now making better LHB coaches.As a result of this, in the last 17 months, not even a single Railway passenger has died because of Railway accident.'

Goyal, who also holds the Railway portfolio, said that the real startup entrepreneur with ideas is Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Narrating an anecdote, Goyal said that while discussing the need of fencing the railway tracks for the high-speed trains, Modi suggested bidding solar projects along Railway tracks, which will bring in Low-cost power, Private investment, make the track secure and also Railways eco-friendly.

Goyal called upon the senior business leaders to become mentors, not only to their own family or businesses but also to the new age & young entrepreneurs. He said "I would appeal to them to allocate quality time for this. It will really encourage the youngsters."

The Minister referred to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat as only the beginning of India's self-realization of its own potential to grow which will contribute to the global economy from a position of strength and trusted partner in resilient global supply chains.

He said that India has tremendous potential for new businesses. He said "The objective is to get growth back in India. We will all have to work collectively to achieve that. Prime Minister had once said 'We have a million problems but at the same time, we have a billion minds'. Our industry has truly demonstrated the capabilities of the intelligent Indian entrepreneur and the ability to surpass traditional businesses to promote new age businesses. "

India has immense capability and strength to grab the future, he said and expressed hope that the country will overcome the pandemic faster than anybody imagines. (*UNI*)

38 coal mines to be offered for auction for commercial mining

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: As many as 38 mines will be offered for auction for commercial mining after the amendment of the list of coal mines for sale, the Coal Ministry said on Thursday.

'As many as 38 coal mines are offered for auction for commercial mining under 11th Tranche of Auction under CM(SP) Act, 2015 and 1st Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957,' according the ministry statement.

Ministry of Coal launched the auction process for 41 coal mines under 11th Tranche of Auction under CM(SP) Act, 2015 and 1st Tranche of Auction under MMDR Act, 1957.

The auction process for coal mines for commercial mining was launched on June 18. Following revisions have been made by the Coal Ministry in the list of coal mines offered in the process of opening up of coal sector and introduction of coal mining.

There has been addition of Dolesara, Jarekela and Jharpalam-Tangarghat Coal Mines to the 1st Tranche of Auction and Withdrawal of Morga South Coal Mine from the 1st Tranche of Auction under the MMDR Act, 1957.

There was withdrawal of Fatehpur East,Madanpur (North), Morga-II, and SayangCoal Mines from the 11th Tranche of Auction under the CM(SP) Act, 2015. (*UNI*)

Research by TRIs should focus on future development of tribals: Arjun Munda

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda on Thursday said the research by Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) should help to draw road map for future development of tribals, and help to achieve the goal 'Mera Van, Mera Dhan, Mera Udhyam'.

Addressing at the inaugural session of "National Tribal Research Conclave" organised by Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), here today, he said,"we have to use technology to create path towards progress for tribals. Research by TRIs should become the base to take our tribal developments programs forward. He said that TRIs have a very important role to play and their Research should help to draw road map for future development."

He emphasised that 'Research for Policy' should be guiding principle to help identify the gaps between policy and actual implementation.

"Tribal Research should focus not only on the anthropological aspects of tribal life and culture but should also focus on the progress made by them. Research by TRIs should help to achieve the goal "Mera Van, Mera Dhan, Mera Udhyam" since forests are not only important for environment but play a major role in tribal livelihoods," said the minister.

Munda said that the Ministry of Tribal affairs is funding 26 TRIs for research under Grant to TRIs and is engaged in quality research in collaboration with reputed Government and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) spread over the country.

National Institute for Tribal Research (NITR) is being set up in partnership with IIPA at the IIPA premises in Delhi, the Minister said. These partner organizations are designated as Centres of Excellence.

Munda said that his Ministry along with such partner organisations design workable models which provide end to end solution, like problem identification, finding solution and execution of the project as part of Action research which can be implemented by policy initiatives.



Munda opined that our tribal development schemes are very dynamic. "We have passed through many hurdles in the past but now with the help of new technology, we are moving ahead. How to proceed on Development Plan for tribals, it has to be Research based. Estimation of beneficiaries is the most important aspect and all the benefits should reach to all."

Munda expressed concern that there is a mismatch between Research for Policy and the Constitutional concept of Tribal administration.

"We could not do tribal research keeping in view the development plans. We have missed the intervention of Research in policy," the Minister added.

Munda suggested that the proposed NITR should also have an educational wing to educate students on the tribal development.

In his address, Deepak Khandekar, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs said that earlier Tribal Research work was being done as a sponsored programme in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs but now it is being run in a mission mode.

"There are around 700 Scheduled Tribe Communities and 75 PVTGs in our country. We have been focusing on what they have done in the past, but now our focus is on what they aspire to do. Ministry of Tribal Affairs wants to do and promote research on all aspects of their lives and cultures," Khandekar said.

"Ministry is not short of Budget but it wants committed persons and organizations to carry out research. IIPA is one of such committed organization, which has willingly come forward to do research on tribal lives," he said.

Khandekar said,"today's Conclave has more than 100 participants from all over the country including Tribal Affairs Ministers from many States and I thank IIPA for such arrangement." (*UNI*)

Echo of Arunachal
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

Need to resolve impasse

Three years after India's new indirect tax regime was introduced with a slogan of 'One Nation, One Tax', it faces an existential crisis. Despite its patchy structure with too many rates, complex compliance requirements and multiple mid-course changes, the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), overseen together by the Centre and the States, had begun to almost serve as an exemplar of co-operative federalism. All of those gains have quickly unravelled as the slowdown in the economy, exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdowns, has thrown all revenue calculations to the wind. The Centre is obliged to pay to the States, for a period of five years, compensation for revenue shortfalls in return for their having ceded the power to levy the multiple taxes that were subsumed into the GST. Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted, at what may have been the most tenuous GST Council meeting so far, that the Centre will not be able to meet the compensation shortfall. With GST collections sharply undershooting all targets this year, the Centre estimates compensation payable for the full year at Rs 3-lakh crore. But just Rs 65,000 crore is expected in the cess kitty used to pay out the compensation.

In July, the Centre paid out the last instalment of compensation for the last fiscal and is, so far, yet to pay anything for this year. States have now been given two options, both requiring them to borrow from the market. The Centre contends that only Rs 97,000 crore of the revenue shortfall is from implementation of the GST, while Rs 1.38-lakh crore is due to extraordinary circumstances posed by an 'Act of God' (the pandemic). States can either borrow Rs 97,000 crore, without having it added to their debt and with the principal and interest paid out from future cess collections, or they can borrow the entire Rs 2.35-lakh crore shortfall, but will have to provide for interest payments themselves. The Finance Ministry has argued that higher borrowing by the Centre will push up interest rates and dent India's fiscal parameters. At best, this is specious — total government debt, including States', is what rating agencies look at. Several States have rejected both options and some, including Tamil Nadu, have urged the Centre to rethink in view of their essential and urgent spending needs to curb the pandemic and spur growth. A staring match is in the offing. It is up to the Centre to resolve this impasse in a way that future GST reforms do not fall victim to the trust deficit engendered by this standoff, the pandemic response is strengthened and all-round government capital spending to bolster sagging demand not derailed. For now, the only certainty is that the compensation cess levied on demerit goods will stay on beyond 2022, and may even be raised, affecting several businesses, including the jobs-intensive auto sector.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

The members of Arunachal Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) and the Arunachal Press Club (APC) have unanimously taken the following decisions applicable for newspapers published from Arunachal Pradesh:

In view of too many appointment orders, formation of unions and forums beginning from colony, village level to state level, congratulatory and thank you notes clogging up various newspapers offices published from the state, the APC and APUWJ unanimously deem it fit to set a standard for accepting such releases for printing.

Henceforth, releases pertaining to appointments and resignation of various office bearers of any organisation, formation of organisations, **congratulatory and thank you notes** and intimation of programme would not be entertained.

Press releases containing demands not addressed to the state government/authorities concerned; bandh announcements not addressed to the Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate; demands made to the state government but not addressed to the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary or the Minister concerned; and payment demands addressed to the editor instead of the HoDs concerned will not be entertained under any circumstances from any quarter.

In light of the constant menace of bandh calls given by various organisations/unions, it will be mandatory for such bodies to convene a press conference in Itanagar to answer questions from media persons before declaring any bandh at Capital Complex. Failure to do so will result in non-publication of their 'news'.

Condolences will not be entertained anymore unless the person in question was a prominent personality **at the state level** or was in a position not less than 'A' Grade officers. Anything else can go as obituary/paid news.

Regarding the conduct of press conference at APC - Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (4 days in week) - has been fixed for holding such PC. However, this isn't mandatory for those PCs which come under the scope of emergency cases.

Also, considering the paucity of time for journalists, it is also decided that once the PC slot/period is elapsed, according to its allotted time, won't be accepted, unless a fresh date is issued, with fresh fee, by the PC holders.

The PC fee, once paid, shall be non-refundable in nature.

NOTE: Unsolicited telephonic or personal enquiries shall not be entertained. Any attempt to influence the above rules shall tantamount to interference and may invite legal actions. Therefore, the newspapers request all sections of society to co-operate for independent functioning of the media in the state in their own interest.

Assam Assembly passes slew of laws to facilitate investment

GUWAHATI, Sep 3: In order to create an investor friendly atmosphere for MSME sector in the state, 'The Assam Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) Bill, 2020' was passed on the last day of the four-day autumn session of the Assam Assembly here today.

The Bill, which was passed with a voice vote, seeks to provide exemption from certain approvals and inspections for establishment and operation of MSMEs in the state and to provide relief to the entrepreneurs from the 'clumsy process of procuring license and approvals' for their projects.

In the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons', the government has mentioned that the Bill is in line with the slew of measures taken by it during the past few years to promote investment and make Assam investor friendly.

"It is further considered necessary to have a law which shall provide for exemption from certain approvals and inspections initially for 3 years in respect of Pollution Certificate, Factory License, Labour License, Urban Development Department clearance and other statutory authorities for establishment and operations of the MSMEs in the state of Assam except NOC for Fire safety and Electrification," it stated.

The new provision is also expected to help generate employment, promote entrepreneurship and accelerate economic growth.

The Factories (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2020, was also passed in the Assembly today which allows to raise the threshold limit of number of workers in a factory from 10 to 20 (with aid of power) and 20 to 40 (without aid of power).

This is to facilitate 'ease of doing business' which will encourage setting up of more industries in the state and also boost organized labour employment in the state.

'The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2020' was also passed in the House to increase threshold of number of workers in certain Sections under the principal Act.

Further, through 'The Factors (Assam Second Amendment) Bill, 2020', a new Section was inserted which gives power to the state government to exempt certain provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, for a period of 1,000 days from the date on which such commercial production starts.

A similar amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, was also made through 'The Industrial Disputes (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2020' with the insertion of a new Section which will give power to the state government to exempt certain provisions of the Act for a period of 1,000 days from the date of establishment of new industrial establishment or new undertaking or class of new establishments or new undertakings. (*UNI*)

Three more die of Covid, local transmission continues in Manipur

IMPHAL, Sep 3: In the last 24 hours, three males aged 35 yrs (Bishnupur District), 61 yrs (Thoubal District) and 63 yrs (Imphal East) expired at Shija, JNIMS and RIMS respectively from Covid 19 and other co-morbid conditions. The cumulative number of deaths is 32.

In the past twenty-four hours, 75 persons (49M, 26F) from general population and 27 personnel from Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) were confirmed as new COVID-19 positive cases.

The positive cases are from VRDL, RIMS - 24: VRDL, JNIMS — 27; RIMS RAT - 2; JNIMS TrueNat — 1; Tengnoupal — 1; Jeevan Hospital —1; Raj Medicity — 6; Thoubal — 15; Babina Diagnostics — 4; Kakching -1; Churachandpur — 6; Bishnupur — 3; Imphal East RAT — 11. They were from Imphal West - 14; Imphal East - 11; Chandel — 1; Bishnupur -4; Thoubal — 20; Churachandpur - 6; Kakching -2; Tengnoupal — 17. All were locals without any significant travel history. They were being shifted to the Covid Care facilities. All necessary medical precautionary measures like containment and contact tracing were in place.

In the past twenty-four hours, 167 persons were discharged. They were from CAPF (88),CCC Lamboikhongnangkhong (32), UNACCO (18), RIMS (5), RD Wing (14), CCC INV Chandel (6) and CCC Jiribam (4) after they were found COVID-19 free on RT PCR test.

The cumulative number of positive cases is 6609 (General Population -4980 and Central Security Personnel -1629). The cumulative number of recovered cases is 4774 (General Population-3739 and Central Security Personne! - 1035). The number of active cases is 1803 (General Population -1211 and Central Security Personne! - 592).The recovery rate is 72.23% said Dr. Khoirom Sasheekumar Mangang, Spokesperson Health Department, Manipur. (*UNI*)

Conrad Sangma govt transfers 16 officials including four DMs in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, Sep 3: The Meghalaya government has transferred 16 senior government officials, including four District Magistrates, an official said on Thursday.

In a notification issued here today, Deputy Commissioner East Khasi Hills Matsiewdor War Nongbri has been posted as Secretary Information & Public Relations, while the Deputy Commissioner of South West Khasi Hills, Isawanda Laloo was appointed as new deputy commissioner of East Khasi Hills, which includes state capital Shillong.

Nongbri had served as District Magistrate since December, 2018.

Secretary of Social Welfare department Caramai Kharkongor will take over from Laloo as Deputy Commissioner of South West Khasi Hills district.

Secretary Meghalaya Urban Development Authority (MUDA), Ethelbert Kharmalki, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner of East Jaintia Hills district.

Kharmalki replaces Frederick M. Dopth, who is now appointed as Secretary, Textiles.

Deputy Commissioner of North Garo Hills district, Sibhi Chakravarthy Sadhu has been transferred and posted as Director of Community and Rural Development, Shillong.

R.P.Marak, who is the incumbent additional Chief Electoral Officer, is posted as Deputy Commissioner of North Garo Hills district, subject to clearance by the Election Commission of India.

Chief Electoral Officer of Shillong Municipal Board, Batlang Samuel Sohliya, who is Director of Information & Public Relations, will also function as secretary MUDA.

Joint Secretary Urban Affairs, Gideon Kharmawphlang will additionally function as Director of Urban Affairs department.

The notification also transferred and posted Additional Deputy Commissioner Nongpoh D. Phawa and Additional Deputy Commissioner West Jaintia Hills RS Manners as Additional Deputy Commissioners in Shillong.

On the other hand, Additional Deputy Commissioner East Khasi Hills MB Tongper has been posted at Nongpoh, while Extra Assistant Commissioner Shillong, MA Challam has been posted at Jowai in the same capacity. (*UNI*)

Three additions to Kaziranga National Park approved

GUWAHATI, Sep 3: Preliminary notifications for three more additions to Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve of Assam have been issued, which will increase the total area to 915.53 sq km.

"The government has approved the 7th, 8th and 9th Additions to Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve and published the preliminary notifications," an official source informed here today.

The additions include encroachment evicted areas and suitable wildlife habitat at riverine islands (chaporis) which were also vulnerable to encroachment.

It is a move to consolidate the wildlife areas anticipating better wildlife conservation and reduction in human wildlife negative interactions in future.

The 7th addition is of 176 hectares in Deosur, Palkhowa, and Deosur Hill PRF in Nagaon district, 8th addition is of 307 hectares in Banderdubi, also in Nagaon district, and 9th addition is of 2570 hectares in Mokua chapori in Sonitpur district. (*UNI*)

Assam min accepts apprehensions on EIA not 'unfounded'

GUWAHATI, Sep 3: With Opposition AIUDF urging for a resolution in the Assam Assembly to ask the Centre to reconsider the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification, 2020, state Agriculture Minister Atul Bora conceded that the concerns are not 'unfounded'.

During a discussion on 'The Assam Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020' in the Assembly, AIUDF legislator Rafikul Islam pointed that though Assam is an agriculture-based state, land was being lost to erosion annually.

If the draft EIA comes into force, more agriculture land will be lost, along with environment degradation, Islam maintained.

He said, "People and organisations are opposing the draft EIA. We can market the agricultural produce only if we have land for cultivation."

Islam urged the Assembly to take a resolution to ask the Central government to reconsider the draft EIA.

Responding to the points raised, Agriculture Minister Bora said, "The point stated by honourable member Rakibul Islam is not unfounded. But this issue is not related to the Bill under consideration."

" The matter (of draft EIA) should be brought separately," he added.

The House later passed the Bill through a voice vote. As mentioned in the 'statement of Objects and Reasons', the Bill intends to separate operating and managing of markets from regulating markets.

It provides for establishment of markets through private initiative that would supplement regulated markets and markets managed by local authorities in the state.

The Bill has been prepared taking into consideration the Model Act recommended by the government of India and the recent policy for creation of a nationwide market for agricultural produce.

It will also encourage the use of Informational Technology in markets to provide for an efficient market at the local level, making the state to be a part of the National Market.

The Assam Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1972, stands repealed, with the new Bill replacing it. (*UNI*)

Assam amends municipal bill to allow administrator due to COVID 19 situation

GUWAHATI, Sep 3: As the elections for the municipal boards of the state could not be conducted within six months of expiry of term due to the COVID 19 situation, an amendment to the Assam Municipal Act, 1956, was made on Thursday to authorise a government official to take over the charge of the municipal boards till new members are elected.

MoS (independent charge)for Urban Development Department Pijush Hazarika, moving the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2020, in the state Assembly, said the need for an administrator of the municipal boards was due to the prevailing exceptional circumstances.

He said, "We had to bring this amendment due to the COVID 19 situation. The election commission is not allowing holding of elections under the current circumstances."

"The government is not against holding elections, but the situation is not conducive at present," Hazarika said, responding to criticism from Opposition Congress legislators that the government was shying away from conducting the polls.

Under the amendment, after the expiry of the term of the commissioners of the municipal boards, the deputy commissioners / subdivisional officer (civil) or any other government official will be authorised to take over the charge of the municipal board.

The State Election Commission is to conduct the election of the municipal boards on the expiry of the term of five years.

The terms of municipal boards in general areas, except Goalpara Municipal Board and those in the Sixth Schedule Districts, were over by March 2020, but the elections to these boards could not be held due to the COVID 19 situation, thus necessitating the amendment.

The Bill, which was passed by a voice vote, has been deemed to come into force from April 1, 2020. (*UNI*)

Manipur: CM Biren chairs meeting to formulate plan to develop agri sector

IMPHAL, Sep 3: Chief Minister N Biren Singh today chaired a meeting on the formulation of a Composite Plan for Development of Agriculture & Allied Sector today in the CM's Secretariat.

The meeting discussed the issues pertaining to Manipur State with the objective of targeting self-sufficiency in agriculture and horticulture production of selected products where the State has huge potentials and to concentrate our limited resources on achieving the maximum output by way of adopting systematic and scientific approach in an organised manner.

After a power-point presentation and minute discussions, the meeting decided on setting up six Committees focus specifically on enhancing the productivity, increasing the area of cultivation, improving the varieties of seeds and ensuring proper back up of financing through appropriate Schemes, State support and credit facilities, processing infrastructure and marketing on the following identified agriculture and horticulture products.

The Committees will prepare Action Plans for enhancing the productivity of Rice and other produces in Manipur, increasing the area of cultivation, improving the varieties of seeds and ensuring proper back up of financing through appropriate Schemes, State support and credit facilities. (*UNI*)

India creates world record by registering 83,883 COVID-19 cases in one-day

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: India on Thursday created a new world record by recording highest single-day spike of 83,883 COVID-19 cases, as per the data updated by Union Health Ministry.

The United States, world's most infected, has till yet seen the biggest spike of over 77,000 cases while Brazil has not recorded more than 67,860 cases in a single day so far.

The rising number of cases in India attributes more to enhance testing with till highest 11.72 lakh tests conducted in just one day. This is also third highest in the world.

The other reason for growing numbers is more movement of the masses as the country has reopened almost all of its sectors and services to bring battling economy back on track.

As per latest update from the health ministry, the total number of cases have now reached 38,53,406. Also, as many as 1,043 more people died from the virus in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 67,376.

The active caseload in the country at present stands at 8,15,538 while the recovered at 29,70,492, clocking a recovery rate of 77.09 per cent. The fatality rate stands at 1.75 per cent.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the dry run of the metro will be done before the service starts, so that it can be ensured that Covid-19 protocols are followed.

The national capital recorded a total of 2,509 new Covid-19 cases in 24 hours, taking the tally to over 1.79 lakh, while the death toll mounted to 4,481.

Southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana are registering a sharp rise in their Covid-19 tally while Maharashtra remains the worst hit state with a cumulative tally of 5,98,496 cases.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament Rita Bahuguna Joshi has tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Congress headquarters on Moulana Azad road in Srinagar was closed on Thursday due to worsening COVID-19 situation in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Globally, the United States remains the worst-infected, with more than 62 lakh cases, followed by Brazil, recording over 40 lakh infections. The US also registered the highest 1.90 lakh fatalities, while 1.23 lakh deaths were recorded in Brazil.

India, at the third spot in terms of infections and fourth in fatalities, registered the first case and death on January 31 and March 13, respectively. (*UNI*)

China cries foul after India bans 118 Apps

BEIJING, Sep 3: Unnerved by India's digital onslaught, China on Thursday objected to India's latest move of banning 118 mobile applications, terming the action as discriminatory.

"India is imposing discriminatory restrictions on Chinese companies and India's action violates relevant WTO rules", Commerce Ministry spokesperson Gao Feng said.

India had on Wednesday banned 118 Chinese mobile apps, including the popular PUBG, for being involved in activities prejudicial to country's sovereignty and security. Till now 224 Chinese apps have been banned. A total of 59 apps were banned on June 29 and 47 on July 28.

'We hope that the Indian side will work with the Chinese side to maintain hard-won bilateral cooperation and development so as to build an open and fair business environment for international investors and services providers including Chinese companies," he said and added that China-India economic and trade cooperation yields mutual benefits. (*UNI*)

UNSC blocks Pak move to ban two Indian nationals & politicize 1267 special procedure

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has blocked Pakistan's attempt to proscribe two Indian nationals and politicize the 1267 special procedure on counter-terrorism by giving it a religious colour.

"Pakistan's blatant attempt to politicize 1267 special procedure on terrorism by giving it a religious colour, has been thwarted by UN Security Council," India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, T S Tirumurti, tweeted on Wednesday. He also thanked the Security Council members who had blocked Pakistan's move. (*UNI*)

At least 11 dead, 36 missing in Nepal flood

KATHMANDU, Sep 3: At least 11 people died and 36 went missing in a massive flood on Bhuji stream at Dhorpatan Municipality in western Baglung district of Nepal on Wednesday night, government officials said on Thursday.

"The flood caused by incessant rainfalls on the stream swept several settlements away along the stream, causing loss of several lives and properties," Suresh Neupane, chief district officer at the District Administration Office, Baglung, said on Thursday.

According to him, the local people and security personnel are searching for the missing ones even though continued rainfalls till Thursday afternoon made it difficult to carry out rescue operation.

The flood on the stream also damaged private and public properties.

"The flood swept away 130 houses in several locations along the stream," Dev Kumar Nepali, Mayor at Dhorpatan Municipality said on Thursday.

According to the officials, several roads, bridges, small hydropower projects and drinking water spouts in the area were badly damaged by the floods and landslides. As a result, transportation service in the area, which is around 130 km away from district headquarters of Baglung, has been completely disrupted, they said.

Neupane who was on an observation mission to the incident site, said that he had to walk several hours to reach the site due to the damages on the road. (*Xinhua*)

A look at Covid status across world

COVID-19: Global tally surpasses 26 Million

WASHINGTON, Sep 3: Global tally of the confirmed COVID-19 cases has surpassed 26 million, confirmed the Baltimore based Johns Hopkins University on Thursday. The total number of coronavirus cases till now stands at 26,031,410 as of 0450 GMT today.

The virus has so far claimed 863,000 lives globally, added the university.

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization(WHO) on March 11. The highest number of cases so far have been registered in the United States, Brazil and India.

Russia's COVID-19 cases up 4,995 to 1,009,995

MOSCOW: Russia registered 4,995 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking its caseload to 1,009,995, the country's COVID-19 response center said in a statement Thursday.

Meanwhile, 114 new deaths were reported, taking the death toll to 17,528.

Moscow, the country's worst-hit region, reported 690 new cases, bringing its tally of infections to 264,374, the center said.

According to the statement, 826,935 patients have recovered so far, including 5,766 over the past day.

As of Wednesday, 210,057 people were still under medical observation, while over 37.4 million tests have been conducted across the country.

Nepal's COVID-19 tally mounts to 42,877 with 1,228 new cases

KATHMANDU: Nepal's Health Ministry on Thursday reported 1,228 new cases of novel coronavirus from across the country, taking the tally to 42,877, The Himalayan Times reported.

Among the new cases of infection, 394 are females while 834 are males.

A fair amount of recoveries were also reported in the last 24 hours, with as many as 917 people testing negative for the virus. So far, 24,207 people have recovered from the disease in the country. Among the new cases, 445 were reported from within Kathmandu Valley.

As of today, there are 18,413 active cases of COVD-19 in the country, while 6,749 people are currently under quarantine.

Likewise, six fatalities were also registered on Thursday taking the tally in the country to 257. Nepal has so far carried out more than 731,852 PCR tests in the country.

Thailand to report 1st local COVID-19 infection since May if inmate retested positive

BANGKOK: Thai authorities said Thursday's discovery of an inmate who tested positive for COVID-19, if verified, could end the country's record of 100 days with no local infections.

A male inmate has tested positive for the coronavirus and has been moved from the prison to a hospital run by the Thai Corrections Department, said the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA).

It was the first test on the inmate conducted by Mahidol University on Wednesday. He was found infected with the virus and was immediately transferred to the hospital that night, confirmed CCSA spokesman Taweesin Visanuyothin.

The Ministry of Public Health's Disease Control Department collected a sample from the patient on Thursday for a second test.

Wednesday marked Thailand's 100th day free from local COVID-19 infection.

The 37-year-old inmate was imprisoned at the Central Special Correctional Institution on drug charges on August 26 with around 30 other prisoners, whose results turned negative, according to a report by the disease control department.

Bangladesh reports 2158 new COVID-19 cases, 32 fatalities

DHAKA: With the detection of 2158 fresh COVID-19 cases on Thursday, the total tally in the country has surged to 3,19,686.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services statement, the country also witnessed 32 more deaths, mounting the death toll to 4,383.

The statement said 14,422 samples were tested in the past day. With this, the number of total sample tests reached 15,92,038.

However, 2,964 more COVID-19 patients made recovery, bringing the total recovery to 2,13,980.

Bangladesh first reported its COVID-19 cases on March 8. Since then the country has been struggling to limit spread of the highly contagious virus.

Coronavirus first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December last year, and then spread to newer countries and territories.

As of Thursday, the epidemic infected 26,199,981 people and killed 867,788 across the globe, according to Worldometer, a website which compiles number of new coronavirus cases and deaths from it.

Vietnam records no new COVID-19 cases, 1 more death

HANOI: Vietnam reported no new cases of COVID-19 infection on Thursday, with its total confirmed cases standing at 1,046 while confirming one more death from the disease, according to its Ministry of Health.

The latest COVID-19 death raised the death toll in the country to 35, said the ministry, noting that the 83-year-old woman had underlying medical conditions.

Meanwhile, nine more COVID-19 patients have been given all-clear, raising the total cured cases in the country to 755, the ministry said, noting that nearly 63,700 people are being quarantined and monitored in the country.

Vietnam's Civil Aviation Authority has proposed the reopening of international flight routes with countries and regions including Cambodia, Chinese mainland and China's Taiwan region, Japan, Laos and South Korea from September 15, Vietnam News Agency reported on Thursday, noting that each week there will be an estimate of about 5,000 passengers entering Vietnam from these proposed routes. (*Agency*)

Jaishankar to attend SCO foreign ministers meet in Russia

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be visiting Moscow for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers Meet, scheduled to take place on September 10 in Russia.

During the virtual weekly press briefing, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "EAM will be visiting Moscow for SCO FMs meet."

This will be his first visit outside the country since Covid-19 lockdown imposed in India on March 24.

Russia is the host of the BRICS and SCO groupings and sent the invitation.

India, Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are part of the SCO grouping.

Earlier this year in April, the minister was part of BRICS Covid foreign ministers virtual meet and will be again part of another BRICS meeting on Friday. Asked if the minister will meet his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, the MEA spokesperson said, "once his engagements are finalized, we will let you know." (*UNI*)

WORD PUZZLE

B	M	A	J	I	N	B	O	O	E	Y	N	G	I
G	A	A	A	S	E	Y	O	E	T	U	A	O	R
G	U	M	L	O	I	S	R	G	O	K	U	T	N
T	B	L	B	O	P	O	P	R	S	N	A	E	R
E	A	U	I	F	R	E	E	Z	A	E	R	N	E
Y	O	B	T	A	T	E	G	E	V	I	O	N	L
E	L	R	H	K	B	E	N	I	O	O	E	B	O
O	I	O	Z	O	E	U	B	U	U	A	D	A	O
A	B	E	R	I	K	A	M	I	L	L	N	B	C
O	R	N	E	B	O	R	I	J	A	Y	E	I	I
N	A	H	N	I	H	S	N	E	T	H	D	D	H
Y	E	U	R	A	N	D	R	O	I	D	S	I	G
N	L	A	B	A	B	U	O	S	A	T	A	N	G
B	N	I	L	L	I	R	K	T	R	U	N	K	S

BROLY
TENSHINHAN
VEGETA
KRILLIN
DENDE
ANDROIDS
FREEZA
POPO
KAMI
BABIDI
COOLER
GOKU
YAJIROBE
MAJINBOO
SATAN
BABA
GOTEN
BULMA
TRUNKS
UUB

PREVIOUS ISSUE'S SOLUTION

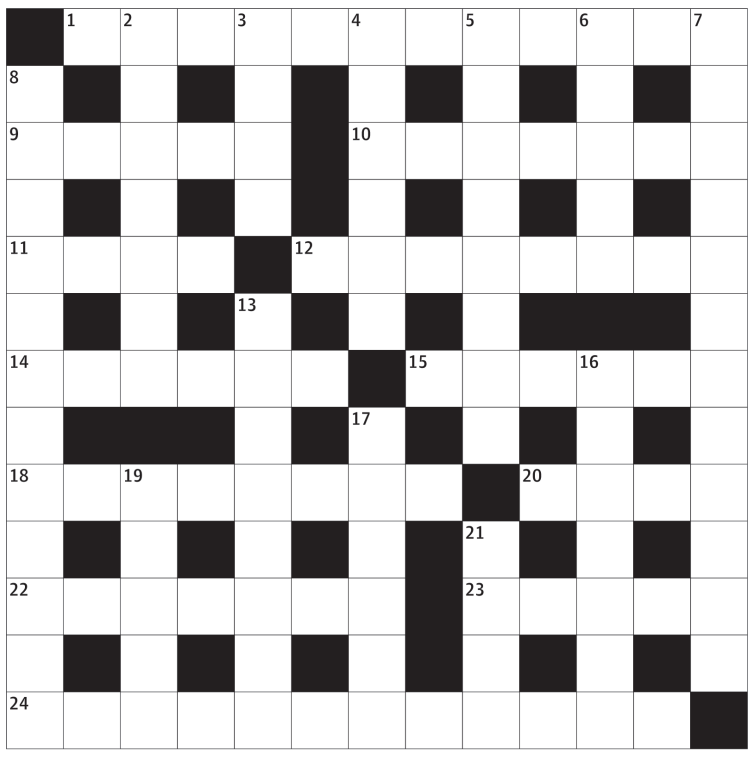
4	7	2	9	1	3	8	5	6
9	1	6	2	5	8	4	3	7
5	3	8	6	7	4	1	9	2
8	9	5	4	6	1	7	2	3
6	4	3	8	2	7	5	1	9
1	2	7	3	9	5	6	4	8
2	5	1	7	8	9	3	6	4
3	8	9	5	4	6	2	7	1
7	6	4	1	3	2	9	8	5

TODAY'S SUDOKU

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

SUDOKU, is a Japanese, fun puzzle game. It requires the player to fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. A single error in a Sudoku throws the whole game out.

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across
1 Snowdonia, for example (8,4)
9 Assume (5)
10 Unjust treatment (3,4)
11 Icelandic yoghurt (4)
12 Extremely lazy-lie on bed (anag)(4-4)
14 Old Volkswagen (6)
15 Swing wildly (6)
18 Chosen (8)
20 That's funny! (2,2)
22 Fit (7)
23 Exclusive (5)
24 Childish verse (7,5)

Down
2 Bland and inoffensive (7)
3 Scrap (4)
4 Drug dealers (6)
5 Not intense (3-5)
6 Per person (1,4)
7 Orcas (6,6)
8 Resort city in the Basque Country(3,9)
13 Obstruction (8)
16 Sports ground (7)
17 Distribute according to plan (6)
19 Failure (5)
21 Netting (4)

PREVIOUS CROSSWORD SOLUTION

G	R	E	E	D	Y	■	D	R	Y	O	U	T
A	■	R	■	R	■	S	■	A	■	N	■	O
M	A	R	T	I	N	I	■	B	R	E	A	K
B	■	E	■	V	■	D	■	B	■	T	■	E
I	N	D	I	E	■	E	D	I	T	I	O	N
T	■	■	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	M	■	S
■	F	R	A	N	K	F	U	R	T	E	R	■
F	■	A	■	■	■	F	■	E	■	■	■	J
A	P	P	R	I	S	E	■	S	A	M	B	A
L	■	H	■	D	■	C	■	T	■	O	■	S
L	E	A	S	E	■	T	W	O	S	T	E	P
O	■	E	■	A	■	S	■	R	■	E	■	E
W	I	L	D	L	Y	■	P	E	D	L	A	R

Fifth BIMSTEC Summit proposed for Jan 2021

KATHMANDU, Sep 3: Sri Lanka, which is currently chairing the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), has suggested to host the fifth summit of the grouping in January 2021, subject to an improvement in the Covid-19 scenario.

Sri Lanka made this proposal during the 21st Session of Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on Wednesday. The fifth edition of the BIMSTEC summit was initially scheduled to be held in this month, but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member states would finalise the summit dates and other agendas like holding the ministerial level meeting in Colombo ahead of the Summit, Kathmandu Post quoted Nepal's Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi claiming that the member states have agreed to Sri Lanka's proposal to host the Summit and the ministerial level meeting next year, though the dates of these two events will be confirmed later.

The SOM which took place at the foreign secretary level of all seven member states, also discussed the much-awaited BIMSTEC charter, reviewed the progress made in the last two years and discussed issues of legal instruments of the regional grouping. (*UNI*)

Israel, Italy launch joint nanosatellite for scientific experiments in space

TELAVIV, Sep 3: Israel and Italy launched a joint nanosatellite for scientific-medical experiments in space, Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology and the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion) said on Thursday.

The satellite launch is a joint project of both countries' space agencies.

The nanosatellite includes a tiny 2.3-kg laboratory, at a size of a milk carton, manufactured by the Israeli start-up company Space Pharma.

The lab, called DIDO-3, will conduct four experiments in the fields of medicine, biology and chemistry, to gain findings that are not possible to get under Earth's gravitation.

The innovative lab satellite allows scientists to conduct experiments remotely in complete control and in an independent, accessible, and safe way.

The first experiment will be carried out by Israel's Sheba Medical Center, in collaboration with the University of Naples Federico II, and is expected to examine the development of bacterial resistance against antibiotics without gravity.

The second experiment, to be held by the Technion and the University of Bologna, will monitor the speed at which enzymes break up bacterial residues that cause diseases, as part of an effort to prevent infections, mainly in hospitals.

Another experiment by the Technion, in collaboration with Roma Tre University, will examine how drugs are absorbed by albumin, a major protein in the blood.

The fourth experiment will be conducted by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tor Vergata University of Rome, examining the phenomenon of "folding" DNA molecules, which may shed light on the aging of human cells.

The results, expected within weeks, will be transmitted to Earth, and then they will be analyzed by the scientists.

Based on the results, the scientists will transmit additional commands for further experiments to the satellite lab, in an interactive and real-time manner. At the same time, the researchers will perform the same experiments on Earth, to compare results under the different conditions. (*Xinhua*)

B.C. by Johnny Hart



Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz



Garfield by Jim Davis



Mumbai Police forced Sushant's family to sign statement written in Marathi despite their objection

MUMBAI, Sep 3: Mumbai Police had forced Sushant Singh Rajput's family members to sign a statement written in Marathi language despite their objection and did not even give a copy of the statement they had signed to the family, the actor's family lawyer Vikas Singh has said.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Singh also said the family had never given any statement that Sushant Singh had died after committing suicide.

'The family has never given any statement of Sushant dying by suicide. These statements were recorded by Mumbai Police in Marathi. The family also objected, 'Please don't write in Marathi if you want us to sign. They were forced to sign a statement written in Marathi. They had no clue of what was being written," Singh said and added that none of the family members was given a copy of that statement and no one knows what was made to be written in that statement out of whatever the family told Mumbai Police.

He said several questions were raised on Sushant Singh's sister Meetu Singh leaving her brother on June 12 despite knowing that he had not been feeling well. Meetu had stayed with Sushant from June 8 to June 12 and took care of him. She left the place because Sushant had started feeling better.

The lawyer said Meetu has a young daughter and she had left her with a friend. She thought it was the right time to check on her daughter as her brother was feeling better.

"Aisi sithti kabhi samajh mein nahi aayi kyunki andar-andar kiske mann mein kya chal raha hai Lekin saamne se usko nahi lag raha tha ki aisi koi baat hai. Agar aisi baat hoti toh poora parivaar udd ke wahaan pohunch gaya hota," Singh said. (One could never fathom what was running in one's mind. She didn't sense anything wrong with him at that time. If she had, the entire family would have flown to be with the actor to help him stay good.)

Vikas Singh also dismissed the claim that the family knew about the history of Sushant's alleged depression. He said the family members have clearly stated that they had no idea if Sushant was suffering from depression but they could see that his health deteriorated after Rhea Chakraborty entered his life.

Issuing a clarification on the WhatsApp chats that allegedly showed Sushant's sisters were aware of his psychological problem, the lawyer said they prescribed him the medicines for anxiety and showed him their own prescriptions. "The family never accepted that he was suffering from depression. His mental health deteriorated after Rhea Chakraborty entered his life," he said.

Singh said some media reports had mentioned that Sushant Singh's alleged suicide was being converted into murder because the family wants to claim the insurance money in the name of the late actor. Dismissing all such reports, as "fake news" Singh said Sushant never had any insurance policy.

"Sushant had no life insurance policy. It is an effort to spread false news. If this doesn't stop after today, we will take legal action against the channels that run these stories."

Singh narrated a clear stand of the family on all the 'inspired' recreations of Sushant's life that are being made or have been announced by various filmmakers in the media. "No film, no TV series, no book can be made without the written approval of Sushant's family. The family has decided that if anyone wants to pursue such projects even after today, then they will be given legal notices."

Sushant died on June 14. Earlier, the case was being investigated by the Mumbai Police which didn't file an FIR. After Sushant's father K K Singh registered an FIR with the Bihar Police on July 25 accusing Rhea and a few others of abetting his son's alleged suicide, the Bihar police took over the charge that led to a tussle between the police force of the two states.

The matter went to the Supreme Court that handed over the entire probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation on August 3.

Two separate cases in the same matter are being investigated by Enforcement Directorate and the Narcotics Control Bureau. (*UNI*)

SSR case: Former IPS officers move Bombay HC to save city police image

MUMBAI, Sep 3: Eight former officers – who held top positions in the Maharashtra Police – have filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Bombay High Court, seeking directions to halt the "unfair, malicious and false media campaign" against the Mumbai Police in the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

The petitioners are M N Singh, Dr. P S Pasricha, D N Jadhav, D Shivanandan, Sanjeev Dayal, K. Subramaniam, S C Mathur and K P Raghuvanshi - all Directors-General level at the time of their retirement.

Filed through a prominent law firm, Crawford, Bayley & Company's senior Advocate Milind Sathe, the PIL has named the Union and State Governments, Press Council of India and News Broadcasters Association, and is expected to come up for hearing in its due course.

Lauding the initiative taken by these erstwhile top brass officials, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh remarked, "Maharashtra and Mumbai Police have a reputation. They are compared to the Scotland Yard. The manner in which Mumbai Police was targeted in the case, I welcome the PIL."

Petitioners have sought guidelines or instructions for the media houses, whether print, electronic, radio, internet or television or any other form, to refrain from publishing and circulating any false, derogatory and scandalous comments, social media posts, news stories, among others, that could jeopardise the police's reputation and may cause the people to lose faith in the system and the police administration, or hinder the cause of administration of justice.

They have also urged for instructions on "ethical reporting" and responsible journalism, constant monitoring by the relevant authorities, and action in case any media house violates the same.

The PIL referred to some TV channels attempting to influence the course of investigations carried out by the central agencies through their biased reporting and false propaganda, which has created "an air of suspicion" in the minds of the people both on the facts of the case and also about the Mumbai Police, the health services and other support services in the state.

They pointed out that the Mumbai Police is one of the oldest forces in India which has always enjoyed "a very high reputation for professional competence and public service," and any malicious or irresponsible attempts to run it down are not in the public interest.

While the PIL fully supported the role of freedom of press, speech and expression as an important ingredient of democracy and rule of law, they expressed grave concern over the trend in media reporting, especially TV channels and felt it needed to be checked through suitable court directives or comprehensive guidelines. (*UNI*)

Ranveer Singh launches online education App, Eduauraa

MUMBAI, Sep 3: Ranveer Singh on Thursday launched online Education App 'Eduauraa' for quality education in every corner of India.

Eduauraa has brought on Ranveer Singh as the brand ambassador in a bid to empower over 310 million students in India. Founded and led by CEO Akanksha Chaturvedi, Eduauraa aims to democratise the online education sector in India.

Eduauraa's educational content accurately follows the syllabus for each of their nine boards in both Hindi and English for not only for video lectures but also Value Added Services (VAS) content like e-books, test papers, MCQ's, mind maps and past papers, a statement said.

This association would redefine education and entertainment with a reach of 75 million households countrywide. In India, 85 per cent of people earn below eight lakhs a year, yet private school expenses of a single child have risen from INR 55,000 in 2005 to INR 1,25,000 in 2015.

Limited access to good education in India has led to a surge in tuition culture with tuitions accounting for 15 per cent of the total expenditure on private education and about 11-12 per cent of the average family income is dedicated to tuitions. These factors contribute towards making education a privilege and not a right. However, Eduauraa aims to close this gap by providing the best quality education at affordable rates for students of class 6 to 10 in 4 subjects – Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

The app is now available on Android, iOS, ZEE5 and web browsers, the statement added. (*UNI*)

Bombay HC asks media to report SSR case cautiously

MUMBAI, Sep 3: The Bombay High Court on Thursday ordered media to exercise restraint in covering the Sushant Singh Rajput death case and asked not to report anything which could hamper the probe by Central Bureau of Investigation.

"We expect the media outlets to exercise restraint while reporting any information pertaining to the Sushant Singh Rajput case. Do not report anything that could hamper the investigations in the case," a division bench consisting of Justices A A Sayed and S P Tavade stated.

The order from the High Court came while hearing two Public Interest Litigation(PIL)s, including the one filed by the eight former top brass officials of the Maharashtra Police, seeking directions to halt the "unfair, malicious and false media campaign" against the Mumbai Police.

It claimed that certain media channels have aired reports alleging that the city police was hand in glove with the high-profile accused of the case.

The Court has also sought responses from the CBI as well as the Centre before proceeding further into the matter. The next hearing is scheduled on September 10, Thursday. (*UNI*)

Jacqueline, Yami join cast of 'Bhoot Police'



NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez and Yami Gautam join the cast of horror-comedy 'Bhoot Police', starring Saif Ali Khan and Arjun Kapoor.

Directed by Pavan Kirpalani, the spooky adventure comedy is Produced by Ramesh Taurani and Akshai Puri.Making the announcement on Thursday, Tips Films and Music tweeted, "@Asli_Jacqueline & @yamigautam join the cast of spooky adventure comedy 'Bhoot Police' with #SaifAliKhan & @arjunk26 in lead. @tipsofficial in association with #12thStreetEntertainment presents #BhootPolice, Produced by @RameshTaurani & @puriakshai; Directed by #PavanKirpalani."

The movie which is presented by Tips in association with 12th Street Entertainment, will go on floors by the year-end. The flick will be filmed in Dharamshala, Dalhousie and Palampur. (*UNI*)

Today's Zodiac

ARIES

There may be some tension today as you try to stabilize your emotions, Aries. There could be a force at work out there that's rather impersonal and detached. More than likely, this force doesn't relate as much to how you feel as it does to how well you've done the job. Stick to your tasks in a practical, grounded manner.

TAURUS

The tricky things to balance today are your emotions and sense of duty, Taurus. Try not to let the stress of having to complete a task leak into your state of mind. The problem is that your emotions may be running away more quickly than you can handle. Meanwhile, there's a bit of a slowdown when it comes to your sense of duty and responsibility.

GEMINI

There's a practical grounding today that may cramp your style, Gemini. More than likely you'll be aware of the time restrictions that point up your own limits. Maybe you aren't being realistic about certain areas of your life. These things will become clear today as things progress. Push through this blockage. You'll be a much stronger person once you've moved past this point.

CANCER

Your mood should be good today, Cancer, although you should be careful not to rub it in others' faces. If people don't feel like being cheerful, don't force it on them. An important sense of duty is prominent and should be obeyed at all costs. Give your adventurous nature some sort of practical grounding that you can use to be more effective regarding whatever it is you do.

LEO

It isn't a good idea to talk behind other people's backs today, Leo. If you have an issue with someone in particular, bring it up to that person directly. This isn't a good time to gossip. Maintaining trust is extremely important right now. This attitude will open many doors for you. Believe that the more you love others, the more love will be returned to you.

VIRGO

Put some of your fantastic ideas to good use today, Virgo. It's one thing to be a genius with plenty of masterpieces floating around in your head. It's quite another to actually put things into motion. You may be full of talk, but today it's important to be full of action. Restriction and limitation are creeping in, so do what you can to get things in place before it's too late.

LIBRA

This is a good day to follow through on projects, Libra. Leaving many unfinished matters in your life only creates clutter that keeps other things from entering the picture. Either dismiss the project entirely or finish it and move on to something else. Don't leave things hanging, including people. Tell others what's going on and you'll be more successful in the long run.

SCORPIO

There could be some restrictions on your emotions today, Scorpio. You'll find that a practical, grounded force is working against your intuitive understanding of whatever issue concerns you. Do your best to anchor yourself in the truth before you scatter seeds of erratic emotions all over the place. It's important for you to maintain stability at all times.

SAGITTARIUS

Feel free to take care of any restructuring in your life that needs to be done now, Sagittarius. Change may be a bit scary at first, but realize that it's a necessary variable in order to make progress. You may not have to change your focus or destination too much, but it's possible that you'll need to adjust your course to get there.

CAPRICORN

Your mood may be a bit detached and scattered today, Capricorn. This attitude could get you into trouble if you aren't careful. Make sure you keep at least one foot on the ground. It's important to stay strongly connected with reality or you could find yourself up a creek without a paddle. Feel free to get more deeply involved in a project that you might otherwise leave to others.

ACQUARIUS

Seek the counsel of someone older and wiser today, Aquarius. Whether you want to or not, you may encounter someone with authority who's likely to tell you what he or she thinks. Heed the advice that comes from others. There is a whole other perspective out there that you need to consider in order to bring things back to equilibrium.

PISCES

Flamboyant shows of emotions may not be as welcome as usual today, Pisces. Realize that you may need to put a damper on things in order to earn the respect of the people around you. Tone it down and understand the importance of grounding and stability. Strong forces could bring you down to this level whether you want them to or not, so why bother trying to resist?

HELICOPTER SERVICE

ARUNACHAL PRADESH HELICOPTER NON-SCHEDULE FLIGHT PROGRAMME OF MI-172 (SKYONE) HELICOPTER FOR NAHARLAGUN - GUWAHATI - TAWANG SECTOR W.E.F - 18.02.2017

DAY	STATION	DEPT. TIME	STATION	ARR. TIME
MON	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15
TUE	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15
WED	Naharlagun	10:00	Guwahati	11:20
	Guwahati	13:30	Naharlagun	14:50
THU	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15
FRI	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15
SAT	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15

SUNDAY — OFF /MAINTANCE

Flight Schedule of Alliance Air - ATR-42 to Pasighat from Calcutta/Guwahati
Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Arrival Time at Pasighat Airport - 09:05 A.M. Departure Time - 09:25 A.M.

NB:- 1. CONDITIONS APPLY (VIP MOVEMENT/ BAD WEATHER/ PATIENT EVACUATION/ TECHNICAL SNAG/PASSENGER AVAILABILITY AND EMERGENCY ETC).
2. THE PASSENGER SERVICE WILL BE OPERATED TO ALL SECTORS SUBJECT TO FULFILMENT OF SAFETY NORMS & OTHER MEASURES DULY CONFIRMED BY THE CONCERNED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

HOSPITALS

General Hospital
0360-2246677 (Casuality Wing) / 0360-2244293 (O) CMO 0360-2244156 (O) Med. Supdtt. / Ambulance General Hospital 0360-2244479

R.K. Mission Hospital:
9485231263 & 2212263 Admission & Enquiry/Ambulance: (8:00 am to 8:00 pm), 9485231263 Emergency/Ambulance: (8:00 pm to 8:00 am) 9485231259 NICU & Dialysis unit 9436631237 Office

Y.J Ambulance Service 9402073264, 8131820481

Heema Hospital: 8794236321, 2291094

NIBA HOSPITAL, PAPUNALLAH:
0360-2244574, 2351200

ASSA Diagnostics & Nursing Home,
Pasighat : 0368 - 2223015/2224509

Raj Bhawan Dispensary:
0360-22122402

Hospitals in Guwahati:
GNRC Hospital - 0361-2227701, 2227702, 2227703
Down Town Hospital - 9864101111, 9864102222
GMC Hospital - 0361-2528417, 2529457
International Hospital - 0361-2347700, 2347701
B. Barooah Cancer Institute - 0361-2472364

POWER HOUSE ENQUIRY
ITANAGAR: C Sector- 2212241, Central Power House- 2212251, MOWB-II- 2212260, RK Mission- 2212269, Chandra Nagar- 2290409
NAHARLAGUN
Power House- 2244173, 22440038, **Nirjuli**- 2257577, 2257546, **Banderdewa**- 2266246, **Doimukh**- 2277243

APST BUS SERVICE

ITANAGAR: (9774034571/8729868842)
NAHARLAGUN: (03602351490)

A	**NIGHT SERVICES**		
1	Itanagar-Shillong	4.00 pm	Daily
2	Ita/Nlg-Daporijo	12 noon	Daily
3	Itanagar-Khonsa	1.00 pm	Monday &Thursday
4	Itanagar-Namsai	1.00 pm	Daily
5	Itanagar-Bomdila	4.30 pm	Daily
6	Itanagar-Aalo	2.30 pm	Daily
7	Itanagar-Dimapur	3.00 pm	Daily
8	Itanagar-Liromoba/Kamba	1.00 pm	Daily
B	**DAY SERVICE**		
1	Itanagar-Guwahati	6.00 am	Daily
2	Itanagar-Pasighat	6.00 am	Daily
3	Itanagar-Pasighat	11.00 am	Daily
4	Itanagar-Aalo	6.00 am	Daily
5	Itanagar-Lilabari	3.30 pm	Daily (Except Sunday)
6	Itanagar-Bomdila	6.00 am	Alternate day (Except Thursday)
7	Itanagar-Jote	6 am & 12 noon	Daily (Except Sunday)
8	Naharlagun-Leporiang	7.00 am	Alternate day (Except Saturday)
9	Nlg-Pakke-Kessang	6.00 am	Alternate day (Except Sunday)
10	Naharlagun-Sonajuli	11.00 am	Daily (Except Sunday)
11	Naharlagun-Balijan	1.00 pm	Daily (Except Sunday)
12	Naharlagun-Hawa camp	12 noon	Daily (Except Saturday)
13	Naharlagun-Kakoi	1.00 pm	Daily (Except Sunday)
14	Naharlagun-Gohamukh	1.00 pm	Daily(Except Friday)
15	Itanagar-Roing (Sumo)	6 AM	Daily
16	Itanagar-Koloriang(Sumo)	6 AM	Daily
17.	Seppa-Itanagar	6 AM	Daily

POLICE STATION

Itanagar- 0360-2212233, **Naharlagun**- 0360-2244329, **Banderdewa**- 0360-2266236, **Nirjuli (OP)-** 0360-2257220, **Doimukh**- 0360-2277220. **FIRE SERVICE: Itanagar**- 0360-2212640|**Naharlagun**- 0360-2244399

CHILDLINE 1098

Players adapting quickly to UAE conditions: Nayar



KOLKATA, Sep 3: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) assistant coach Abhishek Nayar has said players are adapting quickly to UAE conditions.

With the preparations for the 13th edition of the Dream 11 Indian Premier League in full swing, the KKR players have switched to an open-net session, after three days of net-practice at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium training facility in Abu Dhabi.

Nayar said, " The thought process behind the open-net session was that a lot of our guys were coming back to action after 4-5 months where they haven't actually practised a lot of cricket. For the first couple of days, we tried to get a lot of quantity, made sure they hit a lot of balls in the nets and spent a lot of time middling the ball."

"We thought we would do it slightly differently now that we've got the option of open-net sessions available. We wanted to simulate what they may face in a game. We are trying to make sure that the intensity is a lot higher, to give them a feel of an open ground. We have the breeze here, the pitch, the outfield. So, just letting them get a better feel, more similar to what they may face in the game. So, we are just trying to build up slowly and from here we are going to take the intensity up close to the tournament," Nayar said in an interview on kkr.in."

He said, "Most of the guys are looking good. Some of them are middling it well, and the consistency will only get better. But the great part of it is everyone is in a great frame of mind. The last 4-5 months though they didn't get to practise, they trained really hard.

So, everyone is looking really fit and they are moving really well, which kind of helps in the batting and you see the transition happen quite quickly. So, in four days, they have gone really fast in terms of how they progressed. I am pretty sure in another 3-4 days and a couple of practice-games down the line, they will all be match-ready."

Nayar said, "We have a lot of evening games coming up. So we are keeping that in mind - the fact that the games here will start at 6 O'clock, which is 7.30PM IST. We will play in that twilight period which is quite difficult in cricket because there is shadow and you sight the ball differently. So, we are just trying to get used to both conditions - afternoon and evening. There may be a few-day games as well. "

"We know the temperature here is pretty high and it goes up to 40-44 degrees. In the evening, there is a good breeze going around. It's an open ground and the ball moves a bit. So, we are just getting used to the conditions. Especially because everyone has been indoors for so long, spending time in different conditions at different times of the day is important. It's a different territory. A lot of guys have never played here. So, for them it's just to get acclimatised and feel what it's like playing in different times of the day, what the recovery pattern is and have a better understanding," the KKR assistant coach said.

He said, "Our Indian boys have been shaping up well but even our foreign players are doing great, be it Banton, Morgan, Narine or Russell. "

Nayar said, " It's great. Every time when you see these guys coming into a tournament with good form and rhythm, it always gives you a great feeling. You know that they are playing top oppositions and they are doing exceedingly well. So, everyone is doing really well. Russ, the big man, is always threatening. So, I think just knowing that guys like Cummins are going to play competitive cricket and then come into IPL, just gives us an edge. We know that their bodies will be used to playing high intensity cricket, which is really important going into such a big tournament as the IPL. It's always good news when our big guns are firing. They will come here and spread their positivity. "

"I am pretty sure that Knight Riders family there will pick the Cup this time," the KKR assistant coach added. (*UNI*)

No agreement as Messi's father and Bartomeu meet

MADRID, Sep 3: The meeting between Jorge Messi and FC Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu to try to resolve the future of Lionel Messi ended without agreement late on Wednesday night.

The meeting finally took place at the end of a day in which Messi's father and representative replaced his son as the focus of attention after flying to Barcelona in the early hours of the morning.

He was greeted at the airport by the press, while there were also reporters and cameramen waiting at the offices of the Leo Messi Foundation, where he went after leaving the airport.

Dozens of reporters waited at the entrance to the Camp Nou stadium and Jorge was even followed to the restaurant where he had lunch.

All Messi Sr told the press was that he knew "nothing" but that he believed it would be "difficult" for his son to remain at Barcelona, where he has spent the last 20 years.

That was apparently the posture he maintained in his meeting of approximately an hour and a half with Bartomeu, who according the El Mundo Deportivo newspaper offered to extend Messi's contract (which is due to expire in June 2021) until the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

That offer was rejected, with Jorge Messi insisting that his son's current contract means Lionel can leave Barcelona for free during the current transfer window. Barcelona continue to reject that interpretation and they and La Liga insist that Messi's release clause of 700 million euros must be met if the player is to leave the club.

As if to underline its position, Barca launched its new first team kit for the 2020-21 season on Wednesday, with Messi taking pride of place in publicity photos and the club shop filled with Barcelona shirts with 'Messi 10' printed on the back.

The new La Liga season is due to kick off in Spain in nine days' time, but this saga looks set to run for longer than that. (*Xinhua*)

Hyderabad FC sign Australian attacker Joel Chianese

HYDERABAD, Sep 3: Hyderabad FC on Thursday announced that it has completed the signing of attacker Joel Chianese ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Super League.

The 30-year-old Australian signs from A-League side Perth Glory after helping them to the semifinals in the recently concluded play-offs of the 2019-20 season.

In a statement, Chianese said "I'm excited to join Hyderabad FC . I'm most looking forward to meeting my teammates and working together with everyone at the club.

All the messages I have received have been so positive, and so I feel welcome already," said Chianese who became the first Australian to sign for Hyderabad.

Hyderabad FC co-owner Varun Tripuraneni said, "Joel Chianese is an exciting player and we have followed him for quite some time now.

He (Chainese) has been one of the consistent performers in the A-League, and we are sure that his experience of playing in Asia will be a value added, he said.

Chianese began his professional career with Blacktown City FC before making the move up to the A-League with Sydney FC in 2011.

Following a three-year stint with Sydney FC, he turned out for Sydney United and Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the National Premier Leagues before making the move abroad.

During a one-year stay in Malaysia, Chianese would turn out for Sabah FA (2015) and Negeri Sembilan FA (2016) netting a staggering 17 goals in 29 league appearances in the Super League.

He returned to Australia in late 2016 to join Perth and became a crucial part of the side over the next four seasons, guiding them to the top of the league in 2018-19 as his side finished runners-up in the play-offs.

"Hopefully my previous experience of playing in Asia can help me embrace the culture on and off the field, which helps ensure that I enjoy my football and help the team create success. The current world situation means we may not have fans at the games, but we need to work hard as a group to give the fans watching from home something to be excited about," added Chianese who has penned a one-year deal.

Apart from scoring 25 goals in his seven seasons in the A-League, he has also experienced the AFC Champions League with Sydney FC and Perth Glory. (*UNI*)

TV9 Network bets big on Cricket with key sponsorship of IPL and CPL Teams

KOLKATA, Sep 3: TV9 Network, India's No. 1 News Network, is betting big on Cricket, with TV9 Bharatvarsh, the Hindi news channel from the network, picking up key sponsorship in Kolkata Knight Riders for Indian Premier League (IPL 2020) and in Trinbago Knight Riders, a Caribbean Premier League (CPL) franchisee owned by Kolkata Knight Riders.

TV9 Bharatvarsh, India's No. 2 Hindi News Channel, is the Lead Arm Sponsor of Kolkata Knight Riders and the Upper Chest Sponsor of Trinbago Knight Riders.

With these sponsorships, TV9 Bharatvarsh is set to bat on a new pitch as the channel races towards the final frontier in the Hindi news genre.

Speaking on the association, Barun Das, CEO, TV9 Network said, "Cricket is not just a sport in India. It's a religion. That's why the TV9 Network, India's largest news network, has partnered with one of the most exciting teams, Kolkata Knight Riders, for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL)."

"With this tie up, we intend to offer exclusive IPL experience to our viewers. The meteoric rise of our national Hindi news channel TV9 Bharatvarsh to the No. 2 position is proof that viewers value innovation in their daily news experience," Mr Das said.

Venky Mysore, CEO and MD, Knight Riders, said, "We are very excited to partner with TV9 Bharatvarsh. We hope this partnership will emerge to be a game changer for both TV9 Bharatvarsh and our teams, as we provide a platform to reach out to cricket lovers, while TV9 Bharatvarsh brings their content and news expertise".

Cricket lovers have waited for months, and the interest around the matches is expected to reach

feverish pitch as cricket fans get to see their stars in action after a very long hiatus.

CPL which commenced on August 18, 2020 will conclude on September 10, 2020 in Trinidad and features three time champions, Trinbago Knight Riders (TKR) and five other teams. (*UNI*)

Bale: Real Madrid block my attempts to move

LONDON, Sep 3: Real Madrid's Welsh international forward Gareth Bale says he would be open to returning to the Premier League but insists that so far Real Madrid have blocked his attempts to leave.

Speaking to Sky Sports while on international duty with Wales, Bale was asked about his future at the La Liga champions.

The 31-year-old's poor relationship with Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is well documented and was made clear when Zidane only used him in two of the 12 games his side played when Spanish football resumed in June after lockdown.

Photos of Bale in the stands in those games showed the forward looking bored and willing to show that boredom by appearing to be half asleep at times, knowing he would not play.

Asked whether he would be willing to return to England in the future, Bale replied, "If those options arise, it is something I'd look at for sure."

His contract with Real Madrid runs to June 2022, but Bale has refused to rule out a move, either this summer or in January.

"We'll see what happens; we have plenty of time in this transfer window and a couple of others as well. Time will tell," commented the forward, who added "the decision is in Real Madrid's hands."

Bale added that despite apparently not being in Zidane's plans, Madrid had stopped him moving last season.

"I tried to leave last year, but they blocked everything at the last second. It was a project I was excited for but it didn't materialize."

"There have been other instances where we have tried to go but the club won't allow it, or they've done something. I want to play football, I am still motivated to play football, so I guess it's on the club. They are in control of everything. I have a contract, all I can do is carry on what I am doing and hopefully something comes up," said Bale. (*Xinhua*)

Inaugural SLPL to start on Nov 14

COLOMBO, Sep 3: The inaugural edition of the Sri Lanka Premier League (SLPL) T20 tournament will be held from November 14 to December 6 this year, the island nation's cricket board (SLC) said.

The SLPL was initially scheduled to take place between August 28 to September 20, but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Sri Lanka Cricket expects to officially launch the eagerly awaited Sri Lanka Premier League T20 cricket tournament in early November," the SLC said in a statement.

The tournament will be played at three international venues — Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium, Pallekele International Cricket Stadium and Suriyawewa Mahinda Rajapakse International Cricket Stadium.

Five teams will compete in 23 matches over a 15-day period. The five teams are named after Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Dambulla and Jaffna districts.

"The tournament will not only create a platform for local players to develop their skills by playing side by side with world-class players, but will also provide an opportunity for Sri Lankan cricket fans to watch a quality cricket tournament," the organisers said. (*Agency*)

Defending was important, but scoring goals gave me confidence, says Gouramangi Singh

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Former Indian National Team captain Gouramangi Singh Moirangthem stressed on the "importance of utilising the little opportunities that central defenders get" to go bombing forward on set-pieces, stating that his International goals gave him "a lot of confidence."

In a chat with AIFF TV, the former India defender reminisced about occasions when he put the ball in the back of the opposition net in International football.

It was during the live chat that Indian National Team skipper Sunil Chhetri commented: "I still tell our national team defenders and some other midfielders and attackers too, that Mangi bhai has more goals for the country than all of them. #legend."

Mangi smiled, and added: "I remember my goals for India, of course. And some of them were very important goals," said Gouramangi. "As a central defender my primary job is in defence. So in the entire 90 minutes, I would get perhaps not more than 2-3 opportunities to go up," he averred.

"When you go forward as a defender, you hope, you pray that you score – especially because I am not a natural goal-scorer," Gouramangi, who is fondly known as 'Mangi,' added. "So it gives you a lot of confidence when you score."

Though Gouramangi couldn't pick up his favourite goal, Chhetri again took to the comments section and promptly pointed out his favourite 'Mangi' strikes. "Against Cameroon and Bahrain…my picks!" Chhetri opined.

However, the former India number 19 did agree on pinpointing a couple of goals that he felt were important in the context of their respective matches.

"We were in Male (Maldives) playing the SAFF Cup (2008) semi-final against Bhutan. Sunil had put us level in the first half, and then we could not break them for a long time. We were almost at the end of extra time, with about a minute left, when we got a free-kick," said Mangi.

"Samir-bhai(Nayak) took the free-kick, and Abhishekbhai (Yadav) headed it on to me. Somehow I was there and managed to put it in. I generally do not consider scoring as important as defending for me, but in that match, I was relieved that we did not have to take the game to penalties," Mangi recalled, to which Chhetri again commented: "Reason was -- we were bad and missed plenty of chances and yes Mangi saved us the match and also some heat from Sir Bob."

Having captained India at the U-19 level, Gouramangi Singh proceeded to make his senior National Team debut in 2006. As a regular member of the Blue Tigers side, the youngster slowly began to transition from a defensive midfield position to being a solid central defender.

"I think (former India Head Coach) Bob (Houghton) turned me into a central defender. One evening he told me about playing in that position. At that point I was looking forward to becoming a regular, so I took up the challenge," informed Mangi. "So the credit for turning me into a centre-back certainly goes to Bob." (*UNI*)

LOST

I, Sri Balo Kimen, S/o Shri Balo Dachak of Chandranagar, PO/PS- Itanagar, Papum Pare dist, have lost my Class X (CBSE) pass certificate and marksheet bearing Roll no. 3102960 and Class XII (AHSEC) pass certificate and marksheet bearing Roll no. 0559, Regn. No. 11-A-154520/05-06, somewhere in Itanagar on 27.08.2020. Finder may please contact at 9436082747.

REQUIRED

Dealers/Distributors/ Channel partner required for Ribica Business Centre for opening showroom and wholesale outlet. Job seekers may apply for job.

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Visit- www.myribica.com

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH: PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
CPWD-6
PRESS NOTICE

N.I.T. No: SEPD/W-114/2020-21 Date:____/____/2020

1. The Executive Engineer, Seppa, A.P.P.W Division, invites Item Rates Tender in Single Bid System in PWD Form-8, on behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh from all registered contractors of Class-IV & V Category domiciled within the territorial jurisdiction of 10-Seppa East Assembly Constituency, Arunachal Pradesh for the work as stated below:

Sl.	Name of Work & Location	Estimated Cost put to Tender	Earnest Money	Performance Guarantee	Cost of Tender documents	Time of Completion	Last Date and Time		Time, Date & Place of Submission, Opening of Tender
							Receipt of Application	Issue of Tender Document	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	C/o Strengthening of District Pig Breeding Farm at Wessang AP.	Rs. 41,04,000.00	Rs. 41,040/- (APST)	Rs. 205,200/-	3,000/-	6 Months	04/09/2020 to 11/09/2020 during office hours	04/09/2020 to 10/09/2020 during office hours	14/09/2020 to 3.00 pm and Opening at 3.30 pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Seppa Division

2. Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, Seppa PWD Division from 04/09/2020 to 11/09/2020 during office hours on payment of cost of bid document and will be issued to eligible contractors on production of appropriate proof of registration/ enlistment to the satisfaction of competent authority.
3. CPWD-6, Schedules A to F, Special conditions & Amendments, Specifications and Drawings only will be issued to intending bidders. The Standard CPWD General Conditions of Contract 2019 will not be issued along with the Tender documents but the same shall form part of the agreement to be drawn and signed by both parties after acceptance of tender.
4. The eligibility and rejection criteria are mentioned in special conditions and amendments. All intending tenderers should read carefully and abide strictly by terms and conditions in Standard CPWD General Condition of Contract 2019 and the special conditions and amendments before bidding.
5. The accepting authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any or all the application without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Seppa Division
Seppa, AP

DIPR/ARN/13075-76/2020

Djokovic, Kvitova, Osaka advance, Pliskova shocked



Serbia's Novak Djokovic serves the ball during his second round match against Kyle Edmund of Great Britain.



Petra Kvitova in action during her second round match against Kateryna Kozlova of Ukraine at the 2020 US Open.

WASHINGTON, Sep 3: World number one Novak Djokovic brushed aside Briton Kyle Edmund 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 on Wednesday after a sluggish start to remain unbeaten in 2020 and move into the third round of the US Open.

On a hot, humid day at Flushing Meadows, Edmund was left bathed in sweat while a cool and collected Djokovic stayed on course for his 18th Grand Slam title and improved his 2020 match record to 25-0.

It stands as the second best start to a season since the Serb went 41-0 in 2011.

With the two other members of the sport's Big Three — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal — absent from the tournament, Djokovic is heavy favourite to hoist the trophy and the Serb overcame a slow start to show why.

No sign of slowdown as Osaka beats second-round challenger

Former champion Naomi Osaka made quick work of second-round opponent Camila Giorgi 6-1, 6-2 at the US Open on Wednesday, in a lopsided matchup at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in which she showed no sign of slowing down.

A dominant Osaka came roaring out of the gate, winning the first five straight games in near-pristine form, committing just four unforced errors in the first set and winning 10 of her 12 first-serve points.

Top seed Pliskova humbled by inspired Garcia

Top seed Karolina Pliskova suffered a shock 6-1, 7-6(2) loss to Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia in the second round of the US Open to blow the women's draw wide open.

Pliskova, a former world number one, had no answer to Garcia's power and precision as the Frenchwoman raced out of the blocks to open up a 5-0 lead in the opening set.

The Czech was helpless in the face of her unseeded opponent's relentless onslaught and her exit marked the worst performance by a women's top seed in New York since Simona Halep's opening round defeat in 2018.

Kvitova overcomes tough start to advance

Sixth seed Kvitova was off her game early on, committing 20 unforced errors during the first set - twice as many as her Ukrainian opponent - as she struggled with her serve.

The twice Wimbledon champion committed a fifth double fault to hand Kozlova a break point and a 3-2 lead but recovered to save set point at 5-4 and eventually took the set on a tiebreak.

She got back on track in the second set to break Kozlova's serve in the first game before firing off consecutive aces and a pair of winners en route to a 2-0 lead.

A relieved Kvitova wrapped up victory with a powerful serve that a beleaguered Kozlova was unable to return.

"I couldn't move well, I couldn't swing as I wanted," the 30-year-old Czech said. "I'm really happy that I found the way. I really had to fight."

Kerber battles to reach third round

Former champion Angelique Kerber came through a fierce all-German tussle against Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-3, 7-6(6) on Wednesday to book her place in the third round of the US Open.

Kerber, seeded 17th, was fast out of the blocks as she moved into a 3-0 lead but 109th-ranked Friedsam settled down and made her more illustrious compatriot work hard for victory.

Friedsam broke back but surrendered her own serve in the sixth game from 40-0 to allow 2016 winner Kerber to regain control with another break.

Tsitsipas grinds down Cressy to reach third round

Stefanos Tsitsipas weathered a serve-volleying storm from Maxime Cressy before grinding the American wildcard down 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4 to reach the third round.

In a slow-burning contest of short, sharp points, fourth seed Tsitsipas had to fight off a set point against the French-born Cressy, who thrashed down 21 aces and chipped-and-charged relentlessly on a muggy night at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Impressing in his main draw debut at a Grand Slam, Cressy dragged the Greek deep into the final set but was broken in the ninth game as fatigue set in, allowing Tsitsipas to close out a tough win on serve.

Tsitsipas will next play Croatia's Borna Coric for a place in the last 16.

Shapovalov comes through Kwon scare to reach third round

Denis Shapovalov blew hot and cold as he was twice forced to come from behind to beat Kwon Soon-woo 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 and secure a place in the third round of the US Open for a fourth straight year.

The 12th seed was in all sorts of trouble against the unheralded South Korean at the Louis Armstrong Stadium, losing the first set in a tiebreak and going 4-2 down in the third after leveling up the contest.

The 21-year-old Canadian broke back for 4-3 and called a medical timeout to have some treatment on his hip area before storming to victory by winning 10 of the last 12 games.

Sloppy Martic leads way into round three

Eighth seed Petra Martic sailed into the third round with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko.

Unforced errors from Martic allowed her 349th-ranked opponent to stay in the match but the Croatian compensated for some sloppy play by hammering down eight aces.

Martic had Bondarenko under almost constant pressure, creating 16 break chances but converting just four. (*Agency*)

IPL schedule to be released on Friday: Sourav Ganguly



NEW DELHI, Sep 3: The much awaited Indian Premier League (IPL) match scheduled would be released on Friday, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly said on Thursday.

"We understand schedules are delayed. It is almost on the verge of getting final and should be released by Friday," Ganguly was quoted as saying by a TV channel.

It is likely that the opening game would be between champions Mumbai Indians and runners-up Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on September 19.

On Wednesday, BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal had told that the lucrative league would begin as scheduled. Doubts about the 13th edition had arisen after 13 members of the Chennai Super Kings tested positive for Coronavirus last month, and that led to speculation about the start of the tournament on time, depending on the COVID-19 situation in the UAE.

However, Dhumal had said that everything was fine now in the UAE and the event would take place as planned. The 56-day tournament will be played across three venues -- Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. (*Agency*)

Deepak Punia, Navin and Krishan test positive for COVID-19

NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Silver medallist winner at world championship Deepak Punia, and two other grapplers have tested positive for COVID-19, the Sports Authority of India confirmed on Thursday.

Apart from Punia (86kg) two wrestlers who have tested positive are Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg).

All three are part of a national camp at the SAI Centre in Sonepat ahead of which the wrestlers are in quarantine.

"Three senior men's wrestlers, who had reported to the National Wrestling Camp at SAI Centre in Sonepat, have tested positive for COVID -19 virus," the nodal sports body said in a statement.

Punia has already qualified for Tokyo Olympics next year. They have been moved to a SAI empanelled hospital as a precautionary measure for further monitoring.

All wrestlers were tested, upon arrival, as per the SAI SOP for resumption of sports activities. As per protocol, all wrestlers along with the coaches and support staff underwent the mandatory RT-PCR test to detect COVID-19 on arrival. (*UNI*)

Harbhajan Singh likely to miss IPL 13



NEW DELHI, Sep 3: Chennai Super Kings after releasing Suresh Raina due to personal reasons could now also miss out on the services of senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh as the latter is yet to join the team in the UAE for the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League.

Speaking to a news channel, sources in the know of developments said that while he is yet to officially inform the franchise about his availability, the team is preparing for life minus Harbhajan in this edition of the cash-rich league.

"He has not sent in any official communication and that is expected by today evening or tomorrow. But the team management has been told to prepare for the scenario wherein they may miss his services," the source said.

Last week, news of Raina leaving the team and returning home came as a big jolt as he has been an integral part of the franchise from the first season. While he did play for Gujarat Lions when CSK was suspended, he returned to the fold when CSK made a return to the league in 2018.

While there have been a lot of things said about Raina's sudden departure, the former India batsman has made it clear that it was a personal decision and he came back for his family. While he has gone on to add that one might see him back in the team this season itself, CSK as a cricketing unit has not reacted to the same.

Earlier, it came to light that two Chennai Super Kings players along with 11 support staff members had tested positive for coronavirus and that led to the BCCI issuing a statement that strict protocols were being followed and there was no reason to worry.

"13 personnel have tested positive of which 2 are players. All the affected personnel as well as their close contacts are asymptomatic and have been isolated from other team members. They are being monitored by the IPL Medical Team," the BCCI had said in an official release.

On September 1, CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan had confirmed that there are no fresh coronavirus cases in the contingent. He also said that the ones who tested positive earlier will be tested once again only after their 14-day quarantine period is over.

The CEO had said that there has been no fresh case and the contingent is negative except for the ones who had tested positive earlier. "Those who tested positive earlier will be tested again only after 14 days," he had said. (*Agency*)

Very keen to become the best finishers in the world, says Navjot Kaur



BENGALURU, Sep 3: Indian Women's Hockey Team Forward Navjot Kaur has been part of many memorable victories for the national side since making her debut in December 2012 against New Zealand believes of being the best finisher in the world.

The striker from Haryana has become a key member of the Indian side in the last few years and has been given the vital job of finding the back of the net every time she is presented with an opportunity to do so during matches. Navjot expressed that she is enjoying the finisher's role for the Indian team.

"The finisher's role is very crucial for any hockey side and I am delighted that I have been given the opportunity to execute the chances created by my teammates. There is certainly a lot of pressure that comes with the job, but I have certainly enjoyed the challenge so far. I want to keep working hard on the techniques of finishing and hopefully, I will become the best finisher in the world one day. It's amazing to be in a position to convert goal-scoring opportunities for the team," said the 25-year-old.

Navjot, who has played 172 matches for the Indian team, spoke about some of the best moments in her career so far.

"Being part of the Bronze Medal and Silver Medal-winning teams at the Asian Games 2014 and 2018 respectively has to be on the top of the list, however, 2019 was one of the most crucial years for us. It was absolutely brilliant to be part of the victorious team at the FIH Women's Series Finals and then we followed it up by booking a place in the Tokyo Olympics after defeating USA in the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers later in the year. It was an amazing year for us and hopefully, we will go on to win the biggest of tournaments in the upcoming years," said the Forward. (*UNI*)

E/Bengal have enough time to build team for ISL: Bhutia



KOLKATA, Sep 3: Former India captain and East Bengal great Bhaichung Bhutia feels the club will not be playing catch up and have enough time to get their house in order if they eventually manage to hop on to the Indian Super League (ISL) bus this season.

"I am very happy that finally East Bengal got an investor and are hopeful of playing ISL this year. I am really happy for the fans. They have been praying to see East Bengal play in the top league," Bhutia told reporters on Thursday.

East Bengal were without a sponsor for a long time after their former investors Quess Corp, who had a 70 percent stake in the club, terminated their tie-up on May 31 despite having a three-year deal. On Wednesday, East Bengal announced that they had sold a majority stake to city-based Shree Cement and would now appeal to the ISL organisers in a bid to make a dramatic late entry into the country's top tier club competition.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made the announcement on Wednesday, saying "all problems are solved, East Bengal will now play in the ISL".

The seventh edition of the ISL is set to start in Goa in the third week of November. Asked if East Bengal have enough time to build a team and at the same time fulfil all formalities, Bhutia said "I think they have enough time. Other teams have also not really started training and some, like Chennaiyin FC and NorthEast United, have just appointed their coaches. Even Hyderabad FC had to change.

"East Bengal have already signed quite a few players, I think. So I don't think there should be any problem," said Bhutia, who began his career with East Bengal in 1992 and went on to win every single trophy with the club, including one National Football League title and the ASEAN Cup in 2003. The iconic former striker had five different stints donning red-and-gold starting between 1993 and 2011.

The player transfer window closes on October 20 and the registration deadline is October 23. East Bengal are yet to appoint a head coach and are still in talks with Spaniard Mario Rivera who guided the red-and-gold brigade to a second place finish in the truncated I-League.

Bhutia said his advice to East Bengal would be to forget everything and go and win the 'trophy'. "I think they have learnt their lessons from the past [with former investors Quess]. I am sure everybody will become more mature now," he hoped.

Bhutia also said if East Bengal do play the ISL this season, he would be eagerly waiting to see them and arch-rivals ATK-Mohun Bagan lock horns. "I am very excited to see the derby in the ISL. I can assure you that East Bengal and Mohun Bagan coming to the ISL will bring more charm. It will lift the tournament."

Talking about the I-League, Bhutia stressed it will continue to do well despite missing Mohun Bagan -- and possibly East Bengal, if they join the ISL bandwagon. "I-League will continue to do well. They will still have ambition that clubs could qualify for the ISL in a few years time when relegation and promotion starts." (*Agency*)

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