



LIFE'S MANTRA

Actor Sanjana Sanghi says the policy of 'live and let live' has been her funda in life

LEISURE P2



HYD'S COMEUPPANCE

Experts say disrupting the chain of lakes and storm water drains led to flooding of the city

TWO STATES P7



RCB BEAT ROYALS

AB de Villiers's blinder helps RCB seal a seven-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Can't we put someone inspiring here like Romesh Bhandari, Buta Singh or Koshyar? You see, I am a governor now.

SHORT TAKES

Ardern's mammoth win in NZ elections

Wellington: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won a landslide victory in New Zealand's general election Saturday as voters rewarded her for a decisive response to Covid-19. The mandate means Ardern, 40, could form the first single-party government in decades, and faces the challenge of delivering on the progressive transformation she promised but failed to deliver in her first term, where Labour shared power with a nationalist party. "This is a historic shift," said political commentator Bryce Edwards of Victoria University, describing the vote as one of the biggest swings in New Zealand's history.

Raja Acharya held on extortion charges

Bhubaneswar: Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested gangster Raja Acharya and two of his associates on charges of extorting money from traders in Unit-I market here. According to Twin City police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi, ACP Manas Ranjan Garnaik interrogated Raja at Capital police station in Bhubaneswar earlier in the day following reports of extortion against him. Sources claimed that Raja used to collect around ₹20,000 every month from traders through extortion. Commissionerate Police recently set up an 'anti-extortion task force' to make Bhubaneswar and Cuttack free from extortion menace. It may be mentioned here that Raja was the prime accused in murder of Judo coach Biranchi Das which took place April 13, 2008.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	32.2°C	34.2°C
	MIN	24.8°C	23.0°C
	Humidity	91%	88%
	Rainfall	Nil	Nil
	Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

Credit still a worry for 'self-reliant' India

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission, implementing agency for the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' programme, receives a flurry of complaints from prospective entrepreneurs alleging non-cooperation from banks on their loan applications

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Modi government's ambitious 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' programme faces a major hurdle in the form of non-cooperation from banks in granting loans for small manufacturing units under the flagship scheme Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP).

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the implementing agency, has received a flurry of such complaints from prospective entrepreneurs alleging inaction or non-cooperation from banks on their loan applications.

Following the complaints, KVIC Chairman Vinai Saxena has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying "such apathy by the banks could derail Centre's efforts to create sustainable employment in the country."

Saxena's comments came after Sunaina Mathur, proprietor of Shiva Udyog in Jaipur, Rajasthan, wrote to him October 7 highlighting the apathy of bank officials in providing short term working capital loan of ₹50 lakh to her unit despite of a confirmed order from the government with a guarantee of time-bound payment.

The Jaipur-based Shiva Udyog got the



orders from the KVIC to provide 40,000 kgs of mustard oil to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) August 27 this year.

August 27, the KVIC announced that it has received the first order from ITBP for supplying 1,200 quintals of kacchi ghani mustard oil worth Rs1.73 crore.

The ITBP is the nodal agency appointed by Ministry of Home Affairs

for the procurement of provisions on behalf of all paramilitary forces. The KVIC and ITBP have signed an MoU for one year which will be renewed further.

Speaking to IANS about the apathy shown by Punjab National Bank (PNB), Jaipur, where Mathur has her loan account, she said, "After receiving an order worth ₹57.6 lakh from the KVIC to provide 40,000 kgs of mustard oil to ITBP, we approached our PNB branch, which was earlier United Bank of India where we have our bank account August 31 for a short-term working loan for the purchase of raw material."

She said that on the instructions

from branch manager Arun Rachhova, she even got a letter issued from KVIC September 2 that the payment for the government-to-government order would be transmitted directly into the PNB loan account.

She said that she also met KC Mangal, Assistant General Manager at the Jhalana Institutional Area September 7, who said that her loan request needed to be sent to the Head Office for approval. She further alleged that the loan request of her firm was never shared with the Head Office.

"As this was a government-to-government order, there was pressure of getting blacklisted if the order was not met on time. So, I had to arrange money from friends and relatives to purchase the raw materials for the order," the Shiva Udyog proprietor said.

IANS tried to contact Mangal, who asked us to get in touch with Deshraj Meena, the General Manager of the PNB in Jaipur.

When asked about the loan request from Shiva Udyog, Meena told IANS, "I will check the details of the said loan request."

Commenting on the complaint of Jaipur-based mustard oil manufacturing unit, KVIC Chairman Vinai Saxena said, "The first-ever supply of mustard oil to ITBP by KVIC was a prestigious order and timely supply of high-quality oil to the jawans was the key concern of KVIC."

Such non-cooperation by banks in granting loans to our small units is unfortunate. These small PMEGP units not only contribute to local production but also create employment

VINAI SAXENA | KVIC CHAIRMAN

Jalan & Kalrock new owners of Jet Airways

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: Jet Airways Saturday said that the resolution plan submitted by Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch has won the bid to acquire the airline.

The announcement was made by the resolution professional (RP) of Jet Airways, which is under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process via a regulatory filing.

Ashish Chhawchharia, RP for Jet Airways, said that the committee of creditors has concluded e-voting on the final resolution plans submitted by the two short-listed bidders.

"The e-voting concluded today, October 17, and the resolution plan submitted by Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch has been duly approved by the CoC..." is the filing said.

"The 'Resolution Professional' is in the process of filing an application in accordance with Section 30(6) of the Code for approval of the said resolution plan by the NCLT and intimation of the same shall be given to the members as required."

CM reviews Puri Heritage Corridor

Naveen takes stock of ABHADA scheme, asks officials to complete land acquisition in three months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday visited Puri after a long gap and reviewed progress of various development projects being taken up under ABADHA scheme.

After reaching the Srimandir, Naveen first offered prayer to Patitapabana from Singhadwar, had darshan of Neelchakra and prayed to Lord Jagannath. He also made 'sampurna parikrama' of the temple.

He reviewed all aspects of Puri Heritage Corridor project. On south east side, from erstwhile Emaar Math site, he reviewed the arrangements that are being planned for queue management system. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and Secretary to CM (ST), VK Pandian.

Patnaik advised the officials concerned to ensure that devotees have hassle-free entry through Singhadwar and adequate arrangements are made for their comfort when they are waiting in queue for darshan.

He advised senior officials of the temple administration to use tech-



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik (C) accompanied by ST Secretary and Secretary to CM, VK Pandian (R) and Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in Puri, Saturday

nology for ensuring safety and security so that arrangements made are not very obtrusive.

While reviewing from southern side of the Meghanada Wall, he advised the officials to create tree shaded spaces so that 'Parikrama' is comfortable with special emphasis on universal access.

"The heritage corridor should

be designed in such a manner that persons with disabilities should be able to go around 'Parikrama' on their own," Patnaik said.

The officials were directed not to put utilities like electric substation or control in master plan next to Meghanada Wall. The present Cesu control room will be shifted. Devotees doing 'Parikrama'

Patnaik advises officials to ensure that devotees have hassle-free entry through Singhadwar and adequate arrangements are made for their comfort when they would be waiting for darshan

should have unhindered view of the majesty of Meghanada Wall. For devotees coming from faraway places, adequate arrangements for keeping their belongings should be made, he directed.

Reviewing the work progress in northern side, he advised the officials to make adequate arrangements for serving Mahaprasad to large number of devotees at one go. For elderly devotees, adequate arrangements for electric carts should be made so that they do not face any issue even if they are to park their vehicles at a distance, he said.

He directed to complete land acquisition by January 1, 2021 to start the work for Shree Jaganatha Heritage Corridor project.

The Chief Minister again thanked the people who have donated land for the project and appreciated the officials and employees of various departments and the district administration for their work.

DCGI nod to Phases 2,3 human trial of Russia's Sputnik V



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted approval to Dr Reddy's, a global pharmaceutical company headquartered in India, to conduct phase 2 and 3 clinical human trials of the Sputnik V, a Covid-19 vaccine made by Russia.

September 16, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and Dr Reddy's Laboratories Limited agreed to cooperate on clinical trials and distribution of Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine in India.

Sputnik V, an adenovirus vector-based vaccine, was developed by the Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, along with the Russian Direct Investment Fund and registered August 11.

Co-chairman and managing director of Dr Reddy's Laboratories GV Prasad in a statement said, "This is a significant development that allows us to commence the clinical trials in India and we are committed to bringing in a safe and efficacious vaccine to combat the pandemic."

"On regulatory approval in India, RDIF shall supply to Dr Reddy's 100 million doses of the vaccine. The Sputnik V vaccine, which is based on well-studied human adenoviral vector platform with proven safety, is undergoing clinical trials for the coronavirus pandemic," a statement from the Russian fund had earlier stated.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund had also said that the deliveries could potentially begin in late 2020 subject to completion of successful trials and registration of the vaccine by regulatory authorities in India.

"The agreement between RDIF and Dr Reddy's reflects the growing awareness of countries and organisations to have a diversified anti-Covid vaccine portfolio to protect their populations," RDIF added.

India fares poorer than neighbours in Hunger Index

LAST YEAR, OUT OF 117 COUNTRIES INDIA HAD RANKED 102 AND THIS YEAR, OUT OF 107 NATIONS WE ARE PLACED AT 94

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: India ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and was in the 'serious' hunger category. Experts have blamed poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring, siloed approach in tackling malnutrition and poor performance by large states behind the low ranking.

Last year, India's rank was 102 out of 117 countries. Neighbouring Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too were in the 'serious' category but ranked higher than India in this year's Hunger Index. While Bangladesh ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan were in the 78th and 88th position respectively.

Nepal in 73rd and Sri Lanka in 64th position were in 'moderate' hunger category, the report showed.

Seventeen nations, including China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores of less than five, the website of the Global Hunger Index, that tracks hunger and malnutrition, said Friday.

According to the report released Friday, 14 per cent of India's population was undernourished.

It also showed the country recorded a 37.4 per cent stunting rate among children under five and a wasting rate of 17.3 per cent. The under-five mortality rate stood at 3.7 per cent. Wasting is children who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under-nutrition. Stunting is children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic under-nutrition.

Data from 1991 through 2014 for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan showed that stunting was



concentrated among children from households facing multiple forms of deprivation, including poor dietary diversity, low levels of maternal education, and household poverty.

During this period, India experienced a decline in under-five mortality driven largely by a decrease in deaths from birth asphyxia or

- India is categorised in the 'serious' hunger category
- While Bangladesh is ranked 75, Myanmar and Pakistan are in the 78th and 88th positions respectively
- Nepal in 73rd and Sri Lanka in 64th positions were in 'moderate' hunger category

mortality in India, through actions such as better antenatal care, education, and nutrition as well as reductions in anaemia and oral tobacco use," it said.

Experts think that poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring and siloed approaches to tackling malnutrition often result in poor nutrition indices.

Purnima Menon, a senior research fellow at the International

Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi, said the performance of large states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh need to be improved to see an overall change of India's ranking.

"The national average is affected a lot by the states like UP and Bihar... the states which actually have a combination of high levels of malnutrition and they contribute a lot to the population of the country."

"Every fifth child born in India is in Uttar Pradesh. So, if you have a high level of malnutrition in a state that has a high population, it contributes a lot to India's average. Obviously, then, India's average will be slow to move," she told PTI.

"So, if we want a change in India then we would also need a change in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar," she said.



50 CENT SIGNS 3-FILM DEAL WITH ELI ROTH, 3BLACKDOT

Rapper-producer 50 Cent has struck a 3-film deal with filmmaker Eli Roth and indie studio 3BlackDot. The 45-year-old will be collaborating with Arts District Entertainment, headed by Roger Birnbaum, Roth and Michael Besman, to develop the films.

TEIGEN SHARES UPDATE ON HER FAMILY AFTER LOSING BABY

Model Chrissy Teigen has updated fans with information on how her family is coping with the loss of her baby last month. "We are quiet but okay. Love you all," Teigen wrote on Instagram. She also shared a screen-grab of recent tweets from husband and singer John Legend.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will share wonderful moments with your beloved today. Go ahead and learn some musical instrument, suggests Ganesh. It's a beautiful way to convey emotions. And it provides a perfect means to woo someone anew.

TAURUS
Today, you are likely to pay attention to your health issues and eating habits. Fortune may not favour your efforts. However hard you may try, you may still find yourself back to square one at the end of the day.

GEMINI
If you have children, they will be a pampered lot today, says Ganesh. Your affection, however, may not have its desired impact. Children are known to be unpredictable, but keep an eye on their activities, especially today.

CANCER
Today, you will need to rise above your emotional leanings and will have to choose between doing the right thing and keeping your loved ones happy. So far, you have managed to strike a balance. It is about time that you learn to deal with your fears, suggests Ganesh.

LEO
Friendships are supposed to last forever. But it all depends on whether or not the friend is around when most needed. Today, your pals may turn to you for help, and sure enough, you will be there to extend all the support you can, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You are the banner carrier for those around you today, giving hope and inspiring. Clad yourself in robes of the perfect family man. This should spread warmth and love, and will work wonders in improving relationships.

LIBRA
Call it two sides of the same coin, but today, you shall have the uncanny desire to be your own master and servant. But this day is all set to be animated and eventful and full of life. Expect a few run-ins with the opposite sex, as you are bound to attract quite a few of them, mainly because of your killer good looks.

SCORPIO
You may find yourself sulking in your shell today, feels Ganesh. One event or another may lead you to shut out work. Hindsight and bitterness will not lead you anywhere, so Ganesh advises that you must steer clear of negativity.

SAGITTARIUS
A nice, easy and pleasant day is on the cards. Your professional approach will bring you much appreciation, especially in the way you handle complicated problems. The way you balance people's opinions will help you make many friends.

CAPRICORN
Memories of the bygone days will flash through your mind, creating a wave of nostalgia and compelling you to get in touch with old pals. On the other hand, there may be a feeling that your loved ones are demanding more than you can give, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom, checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative ways to spend a leisurely day.

PISCES
In spite of the hardships that you will encounter on your way, your high spirits, enthusiasm and innate confidence will overcome all obstacles. And no matter how troubled the day starts, it ought to end on a cheerful note, says Ganesh.

DISHA'S WEEKEND GIFT FOR FANS

Mumbai: Actress and fitness enthusiast Disha Patani posted a stunning picture flaunting her well-sculpted washboard abs.

In a new Instagram picture, Disha wears a grey sports bra and black basketball shorts. She is seen taking a mirror selfie.

For caption, Disha simply left a blue butterfly emoji. In many cultures, the blue butterfly is a symbol of acceptance, honour, and energy.

Recently the actress has posted a video performing the butterfly kick that left her rumoured beau Tiger Shroff gushing. In the Instagram video, Disha flawlessly pulls off the butterfly kick without any aid.

Disha is currently busy shooting for the upcoming film *Radhe*, which features superstar Salman Khan in the starring role, along with Randeep Hooda. The film is directed by Prabhudeva. Salman recently shared his happiness on resuming shoot for the film after almost seven months.

The actress also has the starring role in *KTina*, produced by Ekta Kapoor. The film also features Akshay Oberoi and Sunny Singh.

IAN S



'Smita, an artiste of incomparable genius'

Mumbai: Veteran actress Shabana Azmi paid tribute to the late Smita Patil Saturday, on the occasion of her birth anniversary. Smita's husband, actor Raj Babbar also took to social media to share emotional posts for the phenomenal actress, who passed away at the age of 31.

"Remembering #Smita Patil on her birth anniversary. She went away 34 years ago but resides firmly in the hearts of cinemafiles," tweeted Azmi who, along with Smita, became prominent faces of arthouse cinema circuit of the 1970s.

Veteran actor-politician Babbar shared a throwback photo of the late actress on his verified Twitter account and wrote: "An artiste of incomparable genius, a person with such an emotional soul - fondly remembering Smita today on her birthday. You had such a short journey and yet your captivating presence is felt by all whose life you touched."

Born on October 17, 1955, Smita Patil was honoured with multiple awards including two National Awards as Best Actress (for *Bhumika* and *Chakra*), besides the Padma Shri in 1985. IAN S

Sanjana reveals her 'simple funda' in life

Mumbai: Actress Sanjana Sanghi Saturday shared a simple mantra of life that she follows with fans and followers on social media.

"Life ka funda simple hai. Live and Let Live," she wrote on Instagram, tagging her post as #LandL.

Along with her assertion, Sanjana shared three mid-shot images where she strikes a candid pose in a green T-shirt and chunky hoop earrings with minimal make-up.

Sanjana was recently seen opposite Sushant Singh Rajput in the late actor's last release, *Dil Bechara*. Directed by Mukesh Chhabra, the film is a remake of the 2014 Hollywood hit *The Fault In Our Stars*, which is based on John Green's 2012 bestseller of the same name.

The actress had earlier made an appearance in the 2017 film *Fukrey Returns*, as Katty. IAN S



Myriad designs mark Day 4 of Lotus India Fashion Week

It feels good and positive to take fashion to an edge even in these tough times, says fashionista Shivani Jain

New Delhi: The digital edition of the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2021 opened Day 4 with designer Nikhita Tandon of Mynah Designs launching her collection *Enchanted* through a film presentation.

The clip was streamed on various social media handles of the Fashion Design Council of India.

Tandon showcased the line-up of 12 ensembles which are inspired by wild flowers, trees, leaves and other elements of nature.

It comprised body fitted gowns with deep plunging necklines in brown and beige with multi-colour hand work, gowns in metallic, earthy colours with hand embroideries and sequin work.

Tandon said: "Nature is a perfect way to recharge one's soul. I wanted to explore the planet's habitats. Taking inspiration from nature has given me a fresh perspective on design. Observing



Models showcasing a design on Day 4

nature enabled me to incorporate new elements into my designs."

Designer Shivani Jain of label Tisharth presented her collection 'Connected' which she said inspired

women who have emerged connected to themselves in these testing times.

The collection includes dresses, gowns, tops with interesting neckline, cuts and slits. Jain has used metallic and pop colours like neon green, pink, blue and orange to give the line-up a 'feel good' vibe.

"People feel good about themselves even in these tough times. It can be uplifting, it can improve self-confidence and infuse a positive attitude towards life. 'Connected' is about celebrating ourselves as winners in these unprecedented times. We have taken fashion to an edge using pop and metallic colours. So we can feel good and positive," Jain said.

Nidhi Yasha's label 'Take me to the water' included silhouettes inspired by the fluidity of water. The collection comprised free-flowing, printed multi-colour maxi dresses with ruffles and frills, glittery tasseled gowns, skirts

and off-shoulder tops with balloon sleeves in colours like silver, pink, black and gold.

Designer Samant Chauhan's collection is an ode to colours. He has redefined old structure silhouette with cold shoulder and low necklines in silk fabric to make dresses and tailoring gowns in palette of whites, blue, silver, yellow and neutral. The detailing has been done with silver and metal embroidery.

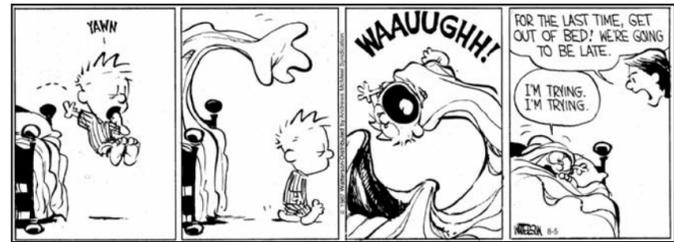
Fashion label Virtues 'Indian High' focuses on monochromes and gypsy vibes. There has been use of ancient handloom technique of Mashru from Patan in black and white ensembles.

Robes, jackets and Anarkalis in Chanderi are coordinated with skirts, jump suits and comfort trousers. Mirror work from Kutch, digital prints inspired by Raja Ravi Verma Prints find place in the collection. The outfits are embellished with bead detailing, mirror and thread work on the edges. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

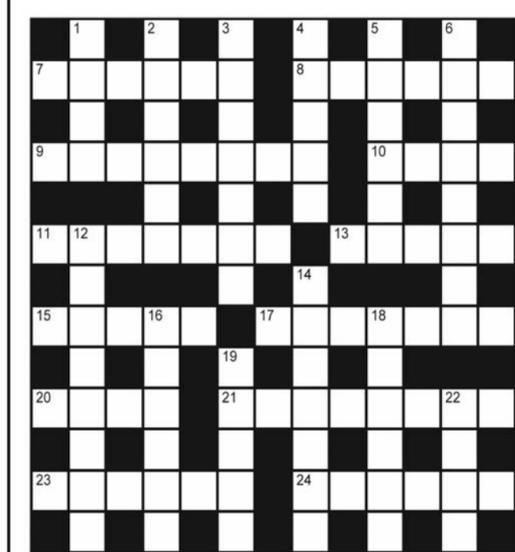


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Platitude
 - 8 Director's cry
 - 9 Caffè latte
 - 10 Rapsallions
 - 11 Bewildered (5-2)
 - 13 Colorful parrot
 - 15 Permit
 - 17 Perfume
 - 20 Tropical root
- Down**
- 21 Armchair
 - 23 Oceanic bird
 - 24 Puzzle
 - 1 Swiss peaks
 - 2 Meager
 - 3 Dense fog (3,4)
 - 4 Birchbark
 - 5 Number one Hun
 - 6 Bellyache
 - 12 Like Romeo and Juliet's romance (3-5)
 - 14 Marsupial features
 - 16 Fragrances
 - 18 Beginning
 - 19 Baleen whale food
 - 22 Stately trees

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

E					B			D	
1	B				3			A	7
		C	0		7	9			E
		3			7	8			0
7				3	6		4	8	5
A	5			4	9	E	1		2
			4		A	B	C	6	1
9	8	6	5	2	A	B	7		
	E	6	7		C	1			0
			1	2				6	
3	8	E				5		B	D
	5			6	D	C	7		E
D		A				2	5		
			C				A	9	
	C	1			2				4

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

D	5	3	1	7	C	B	8	9	4	0	E	A	6	2
7	9	E	D	0	3	5	4	6	2	A	8	B	1	C
0	4	8	A	5	B	3	2	C	1	D	6	9	E	7
6	C	B	E	2	4	A	7	1	9	3	5	0	D	8
2	1	A	8	9	6	0	D	E	B	7	C	5	3	4
A	B	5	7	3	1	4	E	0	8	2	D	C	9	6
1	2	7	5	C	9	8	6	D	3	4	B	E	A	0
4	0	6	B	E	D	C	9	3	7	5	A	2	8	1
C	8	9	0	4	2	7	5	A	E	6	1	3	B	D
E	3	D	6	8	A	1	9	C	9	4	7	5	0	2
B	6	0	3	0	7	1	C	5	A	9	4	8	2	6
5	E	1	9	0	8	0	A	2	C	8	7	D	4	3
3	7	C	4	A	E	0	8	D	1	2	6	5	B	0
9	D	4	2	6	8	E	3	7	5	B	0	1	C	A
8	A	2	C	1	5	D	4	6	E	3	7	0	9	8

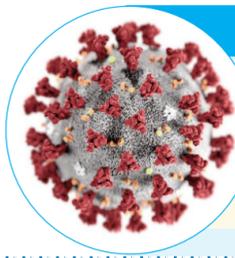
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



SAFETY NORMS IGNORED

Workers carry out repair work atop an electricity tower near Biju Patnaik Square in Cuttack without proper safety measures, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,97,88,341	2,97,76,344	11,11,942
India	74,32,680	65,24,595	1,12,998
Odisha	2,66,345	2,44,227	1,121

Odia University in Puri a non-starter

NOTHING RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS PENDING WITH DIST ADMINISTRATION, SAYS PURI COLLECTOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 17: Construction work for the proposed Odia University at Satyabadi is yet to begin even though the foundation stone for the educational institution was laid around two years ago.



The inordinate delay in the establishment of the Odia University has invited criticism from social activists as well as intellectuals.

The heretofore cabinet of the state government, formed to propagate and preserve the heritage and culture of Odisha and enrich Odia language in 2017, had decided to set up the university at Satyabadi where Satyabadi Vana Vidyalaya had been established by the famous Panchasakha - Pandit Gopabandhu

Das, Acharya Harihar Das, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Krupasindhu Mishra and Godavarish Mishra.

The proposed university would offer postgraduate courses in Odia language and promote research.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the proposed university at Satyabadi 'Bakulabana' on the occasion of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das's 141st birth anniversary October 9, 2018.

It was then decided that the university would be set up on the land of Satyabadi Gopinath Deb for which 28.74 acre land at Phula Alasha mouza was earmarked.

Since the owner of the land is Satyabadi Gopinath Deb, the state government had applied before the Endowment Commission to buy the land. The application was made in accordance with Section-19 of Odisha Hindu Endowments Act. But the residents of Satyabadi opposed the move as Bakulabana has been deeply associated with rituals of Sakhi Gopal temple and Srimandir in Puri. They had requested the Puri Collector to save Bakulabana.

Subsequently, a meeting was convened and it was decided that Bakulabana would be excluded from the original layout and the university would be set up on the



THE STORY SO FAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the proposed university at Satyabadi October 9, 2018

The Higher Education dept had purchased the land from Satyabadi Gopinath Dev temple trust at a cost of ₹11, 33, 58,000

The dept had urged the Chief Engineer (buildings) October 14 last year to provide an architectural plan and design for the university

However, the construction work for the project is yet to be started by the state government

remaining 9.60 acres of land.

Last year, the Higher Education department had purchased the land from Satyabadi Gopinath Dev temple trust at a cost of Rs 11, 33, 58,000, sources said. The state government had also appointed an officer on

special duty (OSD) for the proposed university. However, the construction work for the project is yet to be started by the state government.

It is learnt that Higher Education department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Saswat Mishra has re-

cently written to his Works department counterpart seeking the latter's intervention in providing an architectural plan for the proposed Odia University.

In his letter to the Works department Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Mishra pointed out that the Higher Education department had urged the Chief Engineer (buildings) October 14 last year to provide an architectural plan and design for the university. However, the Higher Education department is yet to receive the architectural plan, said the letter.

"We had thought that the Odia University at Satyabadi would work to promote our language and culture. Now, we are very much skeptical about the proposed university. We are unable to understand the reason behind delay in the construction of the institute. The state government should look into the issue and take immediate step to begin work for the proposed Odia University," said retired teacher and former student of Satyabadi Vana Vidyalaya Banamali Behera.

Puri Collector Balwant Singh said the required land for the proposed university has been acquired after settlement of all issues in this regard. "Nothing related to the construction work for the Odia University is pending with us," he clarified.

Probe plaint against Kangana: Bandra court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 17: In a significant development, a Mumbai court has ordered the city police to investigate a complaint against Hindi film actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel for spreading communal hatred and falsehoods, officials said here Saturday.

The order by Bandra 12th Court Magistrate Jaidev Ghule came in a plea by Munawwarali alias Sahil A Sayyed, a casting director, said his lawyer Ravish F Zamindar.

"The court directed the Bandra police to probe the matter under Section 156 (3) of the CrPC and take necessary action," advocate Zamindar told this news agency.

Among other things, Sayyed accused Kangana and Rangoli of defaming Hindi film industry, portraying people working in it in a bad light with claims of nepotism, drug addiction, communal bias, attempting to create a rift between artists of different communities, insulting religions, calling them murderers etc on social media and through public statements.



may call us Nazis, who cares" remarks.

When he tried to complain to the Bandra police September 16, Sayyed claimed, police refused to entertain his complaint after which he sent another one to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone XI) a fortnight later, pointing out alleged lapses of the Bandra police.

Moving the Bandra court Thursday, Sayyed prayed for appropriate directions under Section 156 (3) of the CrPC to the Bandra police to register a first information report against the two sisters under the IPC.

Ex-minister's son among three killed in mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack Sadar, Oct 17: Three persons, including the son of former minister Amar Pradhan, died when a car in which they were travelling in skidded off the National Highway 16 and plunged into a canal near Telangapentha here in the wee hours of Saturday, police said. The deceased were identified as Pradhan's son Ankur Pradhan, 37, and his two friends—Goutam Das and Madhu Pati.

According to sources, Ankur and his friends met with the mishap around 3am while they were on their way to Bhubaneswar.

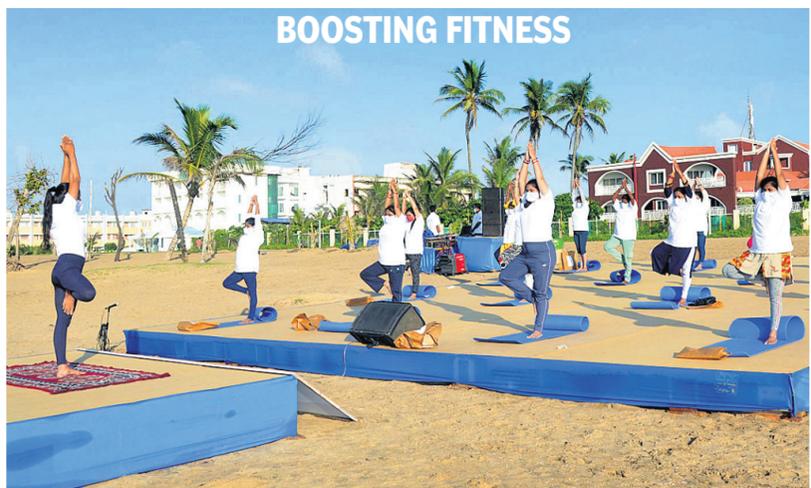


THE INJURED TRIO WAS RUSHED TO SCB MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL IN CRITICAL CONDITION

HOWEVER, THE DOCTORS DECLARED THEM DEAD ON ARRIVAL AND SENT THE BODIES FOR POSTMORTEM

On being informed, officials of Cuttack Sadar police reached the spot and rescued the trio.

The trio was rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital in critical condition. However, the doctors declared them dead on arrival and sent the bodies for post-mortem, police said. The car has been seized, added the police.



BOOSTING FITNESS

People who have recovered from Covid-19 infection attend a yoga camp on the Blue Flag beach in Puri, Saturday

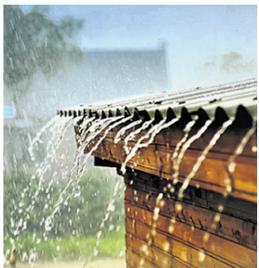
Southern districts on rain alert

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The state government has directed the Collectors of southern districts of Odisha to remain alert in the wake of heavy rainfall forecast for the region from October 19 to 22.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena Saturday held a meeting with the collectors of districts concern through videoconferencing and directed them to remain highly prepared to meet possible flood like situation and land sliding in hilly areas.

As per the forecast made by the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, a fresh low pressure area is likely to form over the central Bay of Bengal around October 19. Under



its impact, heavy rainfall would occur from October 19 to 22.

Some places of Ganjam, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada are likely to experience heavy rain, October 19. Similarly,

heavy downpour would occur in Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Puri districts October 20 while heavy rainfall warning has been issued for Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Bhadrak district October 22.

Meanwhile, thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the state for next two days.

Due to the likely formation of the low pressure area over Central Bay of Bengal, squally weather with wind speed reaching up to 40-50 kmph is likely to occur over Central Bay of Bengal from October 19 to 21. During the period, fishermen are advised to not venture into the deep sea.

OTV journo in soup over Chandrani's viral video

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Keonjhar police probing the alleged 'obscene' video issue involving Lok Sabha MP Chandrani Murmu has asked Ramesh Rath, a journalist of OTV, to appear before it October 21.

Rath was earlier picked up by Keonjhar police from his office Thursday. The police left him after initial interrogation in connection with the viral video incident late night.

Keonjhar police with the help of Commissionerate Police Friday tried to seize Rath's computer from the office of the media house. However, it returned empty-handed waiting outside the office for several hours.

MURMU, WHO IS THE YOUNGEST MP IN THE PARLIAMENT AND A TRIBAL LADY, ACCUSED THE CHANNEL OF DEFAMING HER

THE KEONJHAR MP SOUGHT JUSTICE IN THIS CASE THROUGH A LETTER TO THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC AND A VIDEO MESSAGE FRIDAY

The Keonjhar MP sought justice in this case through a letter to the media and the public and a video message Friday. Murmu, who is the youngest MP in the Parliament and a tribal lady, accused the channel of defaming her.

Notably, police had arrested a journalist identified as Simanchal Patra along several others after the video went viral during general elections in 2019.

Police claimed that Patra had taken the name of Rath during interrogation in the case.

The issue has caught the attention of national media too.

BMC withdraws sealing order of BJP MP's office

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday withdrew its order for sealing the office of Bhubaneswar MP and BJP's national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi with immediate effect.

Sarangi's office was sealed by the civic body October 10, on charge of violation of Covid-19 guidelines as the MP celebrated her birthday with many people at the office.

The BMC's action was based on a viral video that showed the parliamentarian celebrating her birthday violating Covid-19 guidelines.

Though the sealing was meant to be enforced for 15 days, the new order said: "in pursuance of decision taken by the BMC to open all closed down shops, commercial establishments and institutions in view of the ensuing puja celebration, the sealing order for the MP's office functioning at Plot no A/56, Palaspalli is hereby withdrawn with immediate effect."

The order also asked the office head to make the premises available for sanitisation immediately upon de-sealing. The office head has also been asked to ensure adherence to all Covid-19 guidelines, including social distancing, mask-wearing and frequent hand washing by all concerned.

Earlier, Sarangi had written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while protesting the BMC order of sealing of her office. She also alleged that actions were not taken against many ruling BJD leaders even though they violated the Covid-19 guidelines.



Many frontline workers in state anaemic: Experts

The disease is mostly found in lactating mothers, followed by women of reproductive age, pregnant women and adolescent girls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Public health and community medicine experts from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar and other premier institutions, Saturday said that several frontline workers in Odisha are anaemic and need attention.

This was revealed by Dr Vikas Bhatia, former head of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar Community Medicine department in a brainstorming session. He said that in one of the surveys conducted by AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, several categories of frontline workers were found to be anaemic after their examination of Hemoglobin (Hb) levels.

"Anaemia is not only prevalent

among common people; it is there among frontline health workers. Among the frontline workers, anaemia is most common among ASHA workers

(69 per cent), followed by Anganwadi workers (62%) and auxiliary nurses and midwives (ANMs) (53 per cent)," Bhatia said.

He also said that the occurrence of severe anaemia is low (at 1-3 per cent), but the prevalence of moderate anaemia (at 7-20 per cent) and of mild anaemia (39-58 per cent) is very high in the state.

The disease is mostly found in lactating mothers (77 per cent), followed by women of reproductive age (71 per cent), pregnant women (69 per cent) and adolescent girls (68 per cent), the central government



institution said.

Other experts said that several lactating women are also found to be anaemic and batted for better screening and timely medical interven-

tion for the same. "We need to think of better and effective therapeutic options such as intravenous Ferric Carboxy Maltose (FCM) for improving hemoglobin

level among postpartum women with moderate to severe anaemia. Multi pronged approach must be adopted to deal with the condition," said Shashi Kant, Senior Professor & Head, Centre for Community Medicine, New Delhi.

Debasish Hota, head of Pharmacology department at Bhubaneswar AIIMS, said that over 50 per cent population in Odisha is anaemic and women and children are the worst sufferers.

"If a child is anaemic, there will be problem in its growth and development, whereas in adult, we find depression and reduction of life span, if the adult is anaemic. We as medical personnel need to deal with anaemia with a holistic approach."

The session was organized by the Resource Center for Advancement of Public Health Nutrition, AIIMS Bhubaneswar in collaborations with Unicef, Odisha.

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BMC shuts down 2 Covid care centres as cases drop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Observing the drop in COVID cases in the state capital, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) here said it has decided to shut down two Covid Care Centres (CCCs) at Jamujhari and Jatani.

Briefing media, Friday, the BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary said they have decided to close down two CCCs having a combined capacity of 750 beds. The commissioner added that bed load in Bhubaneswar has also reduced substantially and almost 100 ICU beds are lying vacant in government facilities.

"We are at declining phase as about 250 to 300 new cases are being detected per day in the capital city over last four-five days. As opposed to about 300-400 cases a few weeks ago the cases have reduced substantially. As projected and confirmed by the RMRC (Regional Medical Research Council) in its report, the city is experiencing a decline after the peak," Chaudhary said.

Stating that with a capacity of 400 to 500 ICU beds available in government facilities, he said only 305



have been occupied until now. With most of the cases in home quarantine, the distribution of Favipiravir tablets to mild symptomatic patients is also going on. "So far we have distributed the drug to 712 patients."

Meanwhile, experts have pointed that the civic authority is claiming the decline on back of reduced testing. As per sources, the BMC over past 10 days had conducted about 3 lakh tests. While 4059 tests were conducted October 2, it dropped to only 2574 October 11.

However, denying any intended drop in tests, the BMC commissioner said that citizens cannot af-

ford to drop their vigil against the infection. Citing examples of other states that had recorded a surge after festive seasons, he said people need to be extra-vigilant ahead of Durga Puja and should not leave any room for complacency.

"The upcoming Durga Puja is the next challenge for us. Evidence from other cities in India and cases in certain foreign countries show that cases have surged after festivities or other celebrations. We have planned to raise awareness in coordination with the commissionerate police and will ensure strict enforcement of COVID norms," he added.

Another cop succumbs to Covid-19 in city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Another official of the Commissionerate Police succumbed to covid-19 infection Friday night here. The deceased cop identified as Braja Kishore Dalai, 54, was deployed as Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) at Shree Lingaraj police station since March in 2019. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Umashankar Dash informed about the death of Dalai through his official twitter handle Saturday. "With a heavy heart we bid farewell to one of our corona warriors, ASI Braja Kishore Dalai of Shree Lingaraj PS, and BBSR UPD to covid19 infection acquired in line of duty. He is survived by his wife & two sons. We salute him for his sacrifice," tweeted DCP Dash.

Notably, the minister of state for the home, Dibya Shankar Mishra, while answering a question, has revealed that as many as 33 infected cops of Odisha Police succumbed to the virus till September end. Four cops have died of covid infection in Bhubaneswar alone till now.

Patients, kin allege non-receipt of quality food in SCB isolation ward

Supply agency has reduced the drinking water quota for patients

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 17: Covid suspect patients admitted to the isolation ward of SCB Medical College and Hospital here are allegedly not getting nutritious and good quality food over last couple of days, a report said.

Patients and their kin have alleged that the agency supplying food to them has also reduced the quota of drinking water from three litre per patient to two. This has sparked resentment among patients and their kin. Observers alleged that this might hit the treatment of patients in the isolation ward and delay their recovery.

Sources said the isolation ward was opened in March for treatment of Covid suspects visiting the hospital. The number of patients in the ward was less in the first two months. Later the number reached around 300 to 400 daily

and drinking water to the patients without violating the agreement. However, things have changed for worse for last couple of days. The agency is no more supplying good quality and nutritious food and 3 litre quota of drinking water bottles, some kin of the patients have alleged on condition of anonymity. When contacted, Debendra Sahu, the proprietor of the supply agency, denied compromising on quality of food. He said he has not received any payment from the hospital authorities towards his arrear. The number of patients during first two months was



The isolation ward was opened in March for treatment of Covid suspects visiting the hospital. The number of patients in the ward was less in the first two months. Later the number reached around 300 to 400 daily

The agency has to supply food for breakfast, lunch, evening snacks like biscuits and tea and dinner along with drinking water bottles of three litre to each patient. The agency after opening of the ward went on supplying food and drinking water to the patients without violating the agreement

2,196 new cases, 17 fresh deaths in state

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The state's Covid-19 tally mounted to 2,66,345 Saturday as 2,196 more people, including a ruling BJD MP, tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

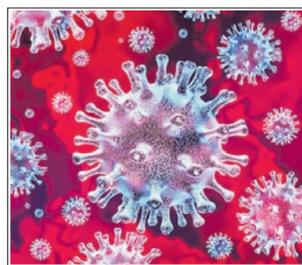
Seventeen more patients succumbed to the infection, pushing the state's coronavirus death toll to 1,121, he said. As many as 1,274 new cases were reported from quarantine centres, while 922 infections were detected during contact tracing, the official said.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 259, followed by Cuttack (175) and Sundergarh (140), he said.

BJD's Rajya Sabha MP Prasanna Acharya tested positive for the infection. He has been admitted to a hospital in Bargarh district. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wished him a speedy recovery.

Five fresh fatalities were reported in Khurda, two in Cuttack, and one each in Angul, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Puri, Sundargarh and Sambalpur, the official said.

Ganjam has so far reported the



17 patients succumb to infection, pushing the state's corona toll to 1,121

1,274 cases were reported from quarantine centres while 922 were local contacts

5 deaths were reported in Khurda, 2 in Cuttack, and 1 each in Angul, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Puri, Sundargarh and Sambalpur

highest number of coronavirus fatalities at 225, followed by Khurda (191) and Cuttack (98), he said. Fifty-three COVID-19 patients have died due to other ailments so far, the official said. The state has so far tested over 40 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 41,353 Friday, he added.

216 new cases in Bhubaneswar

As many as 216 new COVID-19 cases were detected under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits over last 24 hours, BMC said Saturday.

While 55 of them are quarantine cases, 161 are local contact ones. Meanwhile, 307 persons who earlier tested positive for the disease have recovered.

According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Saturday, 26,995 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 23,830 have recovered. While there are 3,011 active cases, 133 persons succumbed to the disease.

Cuttack records 85 new cases

As many as 85 new COVID-19 cases were detected under Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) limits over last 24 hours, CMC said Saturday.

While eight of them were home quarantine cases, 27 were from institutional quarantine centres and the remaining 50 were local contact ones. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of

Saturday, 14,031 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Cuttack out of which 13,082 have recovered. There are 886 active cases and 63 persons have succumbed to the disease.

2,842 Covid-19 patients recover

Odisha health department Saturday said that 2,842 persons who earlier tested positive for Covid-19 have recovered and are being discharged.

Out of the 2,842 persons, 434 are from Khordha, 237 from Cuttack, 161 from Nuapada, 148 from Puri, 136 from Sambalpur, 119 from Angul, 117 from Kalahandi, 108 from Jharsuguda, 100 from Jajpur, 94 from Bhadrak, 93 from Bargarh, 92 from Mayurbhanj, 91 from Sundargarh, 85 from Jagatsinghpur, 78 from Nayagarh, 76 from Kendrapara, 68 from Keonjhar, 60 from Dhenkanal, 58 from Bolangir, 53 from Nabarangpur, 50 from Kandhamal, 48 from Sonepur, 41 from Koraput, 41 from Malkangiri, 30 from Ganjam, 27 from Balasore, 21 from Boudh, 18 from Rayagada, 17 from Deogarh, 13 from Gajapati and 128 from State Pool.

With this, the number of total recoveries in the state stands at 2,44,227.

TAKING TO THE STREET



Members of the Organisation of Parent Associations' Forum staging a demonstration at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar demanding waiver of school fees, Saturday

'KALLOLA 2020'- A toast to kids' creativity during Covid

Norms have been revised to promote excellence not only in academics but in other fields also

POST NEWS NETWORK

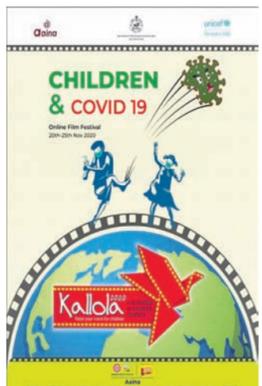
Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: UNICEF Odisha in collaboration with Aaina, an Odisha-based voluntary organization, launched Season 6 of KALLOLA, a celebration of children's creativity, here Saturday on the theme of children & Covid-19.

The launch was attended by Sushmita Bagchi, chairperson, Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangathan, Rega Geetarani Patnaik, Joint Secretary, Department of WCD, Monika O. Nielsen, Chief, UNICEF Odisha, Radhika Srivastava, communication, advocacy and partnership specialist, UNICEF Odisha.

The festival this year is in collaboration with the Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangathan, government of Odisha, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha.

Kallola 2020 will focus on creativity of children and will organize a series of script-writing workshops for kids which will be converted into short films (30, 60 and 90 seconds) and radio spots/ radio jingles on the theme of children & covid-19.

Speaking at the function, Bagchi



said, "In today's world of globalization, it is not enough for a student to concentrate on formal education. He or she has to be aware of what is happening all around and should be knowledgeable about things beyond academics. I am so happy that Aaina is going ahead with the Kallola festival like previous years despite the pandemic. We, at Mo School, are delighted to be part of this endeavour. I wish the trainers and participants all the very best."

Rega Geetarani Patnaik said "Unlike adults, children often don't get an opportunity to share their views but we need to create platforms and hear their voices. Kallola 2020 has taken an initiative to give such a platform to children. The WCD department has undertaken several initiatives to explore the talents of children of CCI within the state. Guidelines have been revised to promote excellence not only in academics but in other fields too. More encouragement to children through Kallola is welcome and we will extend all support to make the initiative successful."

Monika O Nielsen, chief, UNICEF Odisha, said, "UNICEF believes in keeping children in front and center for initiatives that aim to reach out to them. We believe through Kallola 2020 and the series of script-writing workshops for children we will involve them in every step of the process. They will interact, learn and create. We are happy to partner with the Women and Child Development, Mo School, Odisha State Child Protection Society. We are also glad to partner with Aaina for the 6th version of Kallola which has been designed to overcome the barriers set by the pandemic."

Eco retreat rekindles hope for travel & tourism

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Odisha Tourism in association with Mayfair Hotels & Resorts Ltd recently hosted a delegation of six leading tour operators of India who arrived in Bhubaneswar.

Their campaign under #VocalForLocal to conduct an 18,000 km across 29 states and 5 UTs during 34 days aims to encourage tourists to "travel with caution, not with fear".

Director, Tourism Sachin Jadhav welcomed the "Vocal for Local" team at a small programme at



Mayfair, Lagoon, Bhubaneswar wherein important stakeholders of hospitality and travel industry participated.

The six leading tour operators travelling across the country with

the said mission are Thomas Koshy (Synergy Hotels and Resorts, Ahmedabad), Pawan Dubey (Travel Lounge, Mumbai), Rajiv Shah (Network Tours and Travels, Surat), Nitin Gupta (Salazar Holidays, Surat), Rites Parekh (Ez Holidays, Surat) and Sanjay Patel (Travel Comfort, Surat). Commissioner secretary tourism, Vishal Dev made a detailed presentation on the opportunities in Odisha, including the road itineraries under the Odisha by road campaign, and the highly anticipated eco retreat which will now be organised at five locations - Bhitarkanika,

Ramchandi, Satkosia, Daringbadi and Hirakud Reservoir.

The delegation was highly appreciative of Odia hospitality and applauded the flagship initiatives of Odisha Tourism. "It is first time that we have visited Odisha with a focused intent. The hospitality we have received has been unprecedented and the prospects of business with Odisha are very bright, especially in view of its exciting itineraries which offer diverse experiences and the celebrated eco retreat model. Our mission has received a major fillip," said one of the delegates.

SPCB orders closure of non-compliant plant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has ordered closure of a non-compliant stone quarry plant in Dhenkanal district.

This comes after a complaint against the erring unit was filed before the SPCB. The board after its own inspection found non-compliance of environmental laws and after issuing a show cause notice, ordered closure of the plant situated at Jhilli in Kankadahad teshil of the district.

The SPCB claimed that the plant

in question failed to satisfy the board about their compliance with the established laws in the matter. The board found activities of the plant in gross violation of the consent order and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981.

"Now therefore by the virtue of the power conferred under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and rules framed under consent to operate in favour of your stone quarry is hereby re-



voked and you are directed to close down operation of the stone quarry forthwith," the board said.

The SPCB had earlier said that the firm was allowed for production of 6500 m3 but as per government documents the production was

found to be 92,930 m3. It had claimed that the overproduction without approval was in violation of Section 25/26 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Section 21 of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981.

The board claimed that there were air pollution measures that were needed to prevent fugitive dust emission during the loading and unloading process.

The board also said that dust suppression mechanism was not chipped in for the plant to provide relief from dust emanating out of the process.

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FOCUS INDO-PACIFIC

QUAD SHARPENS ITS EDGES



The Quad once merely symbolised an emerging international effort to establish a discreet check on Chinese power. If Xi's increasing threats toward Taiwan lead to military action, then a grand international coalition, with the Quad at its core, will become inevitable

The Quad, a loose strategic coalition of the Indo-Pacific region's four leading democracies, is rapidly solidifying this year in response to China's aggressive foreign policy. Following a recent meeting of their top foreign-policy officials in Tokyo, Australia, India, Japan, and the United States are now actively working toward establishing a new multilateral security structure for the region. The idea is not to create an Asian version of NATO, but rather to develop a close security partnership founded on shared values and interests, including the rule of law, freedom of navigation, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, peaceful dispute resolution, free markets, and free trade.

China represents a growing challenge to all these principles. At a time when the world is struggling with a pandemic that originated in China, that country's expansionism and rogue behaviour have lent new momentum to the Quad's evolution toward a concrete formal security arrangement. Of course, the Quad's focus also extends beyond China, with the goal being to ensure a stable balance of power within a "free and open Indo-Pacific." That concept was first articulated in 2016 by then-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and has quickly become the linchpin of America's regional strategy.

While all of the Quad partners agree in principle on the need for a free and open Indo-Pacific, it is Chinese expansionism that has catalysed their recent actions. China is forcing even distant powers like the United Kingdom, France, and Germany to view a rules-based Indo-Pacific as central to international peace and security. France, for example, has just appointed an ambassador for the Indo-Pacific, after unveiling a new strategy affirming the region's importance in any stable, law-based, multi-polar global order. And Germany, which currently holds the European Council presidency, has sought to develop an Indo-Pacific strategy for the European Union. In its own recently released policy guidelines, it calls for measures to ensure that

rules prevail over a 'might-makes-right' approach in the Indo-Pacific. These developments suggest that in the coming years, Quad members will increasingly work with European partners to establish a strategic constellation of democracies capable of providing stability and an equilibrium of power in the Indo-Pacific.

After lying dormant for nine years, the Quad was resurrected in late 2017, but really only gained momentum over the last year, when its consultations were elevated to the foreign-minister level. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said this month that, "once we've institutionalised what we're doing, the four of us together, we can begin to build out a true security framework, a fabric that can counter the challenge that the Chinese Communist Party presents to all of us." The Quad's future, however, hinges on India, because the other three powers in the group are already tied by bilateral and trilateral security alliances among themselves. Australia and Japan are both under the US security (and nuclear) umbrella, whereas India not only shares a large land border with China, but also must confront Chinese territorial aggression on its own, as it is currently doing. China's stealth land grabs in the northernmost Indian borderlands of Ladakh earlier

this year have led to a major military standoff, raising the risks of further localised battles or another 1962-style frontier war. It is precisely this aggression that has changed the strategic equation. Chinese President Xi Jinping's authorisation of the People's Liberation Army incursions into the Himalayas has forced India itself to take a more confrontational position. It is now more likely than ever that the Quad will shift gears from consultation and coordination to become a de facto strategic alliance that plays a central role in a new multilateral security arrangement for the region. This new architecture will bear little resemblance to America's Cold War-era system, which rested on a patron-client framework, with the US as the 'hub' and its allies as the 'spokes.' No such arrangement would work nowadays, for the simple reason that a country as large as India cannot become just another Japan to the US. That is why the US is working to coax India into a 'soft alliance' devoid of any treaty obligations. This effort will be on full display on October 26-27, when Pompeo and US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper visit New Delhi for joint consultations with their Indian counterparts. Most likely, this meeting will conclude with India signing on to the last of the four foundational agreements

that the US maintains with its other close defense partners. Under these accords, both countries will be committed to providing reciprocal access to each other's military facilities, securing military communications, and sharing geospatial data from airborne and satellite sensors.

Moreover, having held multiple bilateral and trilateral military exercises with its Quad partners, India is likely to invite Australia to this year's 'Malabar' naval war games with the US and Japan. This would mark the first-ever Quad military exercise; or, as the Chinese communist mouthpiece Global Times, put it, "it would signal that the Quad military alliance is officially formed."

US foreign policy has always been most effective when it leverages cooperation with other countries to advance shared strategic objectives. Despite President Trump's undermining of US alliances, his administration has built the Quad into a promising coalition, and has upgraded security ties with key Indo-Pacific partners, including Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand, and India.

More fundamentally, the Quad's consolidation is further evidence that the Xi regime's aggressive policies are starting to backfire. International views of China have reached new lows this year. Yet the Chinese foreign ministry - doubling down on its 'wolf warrior' diplomacy - recently dismissed as 'nonsense' Pompeo's plan to forge an international coalition against China. "He won't see that day," the ministry declared. "And his successors won't see that day either, because that day will never, ever come." But that day is coming. The Quad once merely symbolised an emerging international effort to establish a discreet check on Chinese power. If Xi's increasing threats toward Taiwan lead to military action, then a grand international coalition, with the Quad at its core, will become inevitable.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy, Berlin.

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Brahma Chellaney

AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD IS STRUGGLING WITH A PANDEMIC THAT ORIGINATED IN CHINA, THAT COUNTRY'S EXPANSIONISM AND ROGUE BEHAVIOUR HAVE LENT NEW MOMENTUM TO THE QUAD'S EVOLUTION TOWARD A CONCRETE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT

Slide will continue

Complex problems require many minds. Leadership is important but mostly in terms of directionality. The solutions need to be produced by those implementing, not the person directing. If this is reversed, progress will not be made and generally what results is retardation.

For solutions to be produced below the level of leadership, it is necessary that there be some devolution of authority and power. Such is not the case in India of our times. The leadership of this large and complex nation is centralised in a way that it has never been in our history. There are some parallels with Indira Gandhi but the 1970s was another world.

Some of the most important positions in the Cabinet are filled by those who have never won an election. The finance minister, foreign minister, railways and commerce and industry minister are none of them elected. The previous finance minister was also unelected. They owe their position not to personal political popularity but to the patronage of Modi. They cannot defy him and they will do what he says. That is why they have in fact been chosen and placed there. The moment they defy or question, they will be replaced by someone who will keep their mouth shut but keep their job. There is no devolution of authority and none of accountability.

When things begin to go wrong in such a place, the leader cannot be blamed or even named. It will be assumed that he is right and the solution lies not in correcting his behaviour but in something else.

A few weeks ago there was this headline in the online publication The Print: "Modi govt plans media blitz for 'image correction' to boost India rank on global lists." It reported that the government was trying to improve India's ranking on some 30 global indices by "building a massive publicity campaign" which was a "planned perception-overhaul exercise."

These indices are those which monitor religious, economic, political, media freedoms, the rule of law, innovation, terrorism and other things. Either data is compiled or global experts are asked for their perceptions and then countries given a score or rating.

Many of these are compiled by bodies that are multilateral, such as the World Bank or the United Nations. It is not clear how India will get its poor ratings improved through a media campaign when it comes to such bodies or when it comes to hard data.

For instance India is ranked 142 on the World Press Freedom Index, falling from 140 in 2019 and 138 in 2018. The main reason for its falling is the violence against journalists and the number of internet shutdowns in Kashmir. These are objective things that are measurable. They cannot be corrected by publicity campaigns. This year India has introduced a new media policy in Kashmir that has more or less throttled all freedom of media in that state.

The government's response in the instance of the media index was to set up its own 'Index Monitoring Cell' which would have journalists Rajat Sharma (of Aap ki Adalat fame) and P Sainath. Not much has been heard from this cell since and it will not affect the global rating. India's ranking in press freedom is not going to improve globally next year either and spending money on marketing an image that is removed from reality is neither wise nor will it be effective.

India's numbers on Covid are self-declared. These are government numbers. They can and they will be compared to how India is doing versus the rest of the world and particularly the rest of South Asia with which an honest comparison can be made. On infections and fatalities, our performance is below the rest. A media blitz will not correct the perception that India has been the least competent at addressing the issue because the perception is based on reality.

This week news has come that in the current financial year, Bangladesh will overtake India in terms of per capita income. Meaning the average Bangladeshi's income will be more than the average Indian's. Even to those who are referred to as Modi haters, this was shocking. It was not expected because India was far ahead of Bangladesh in terms of per capita income in 2014. One reason for their overtaking us is that that the Bangladeshi leadership handled the Covid hit to their economy better. The other reason is that in the last six years, Bangladesh has been growing much faster than India. It would have overtaken us anyway in time. The Covid just made it sooner. It has been a long slide that has not been in the public realm because the leader does not acknowledge it and the minions cannot speak.

It seems like we were talking about competing with China and the US only a few years ago. Now we must first compete with Bangladesh. This is not what we had been promised. How will this be corrected by a media blitz? It will not. But it is what the great man has ordered so it will be done. The slide will continue, the noise about achche din will also continue.

WISDOM CORNER

- “If I had no sense of humour, I would long ago have committed suicide.” — MAHATMA GANDHI
- “One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other.” — JANE AUSTEN
- “Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form.” — RUMI

WORDSWORTH

Ugsome

If this reminds you of the inarticulate cry of disgust that most often appears as ugh! then you're on the mark. The conventional spelling of ugh! was probably influenced by that of ugsome, something loathsome or horrible. In a case of linguistic turn-and-turn-about, ugsome derives from the ancient and long defunct word ug, which about a millennium ago came into English from the Old Norse uggia, to dread. That Old Norse word is also the source of ugly (which meant frightful or horrible before it weakened to refer to something merely unpleasing in appearance). You could argue that ugsome is the opposite of handsome. In the centuries before Shakespeare, ugsome was common enough, mostly in Scotland and northern England, but then almost completely died out except in dialect. It was resurrected in the eighteenth century by writers seeking an archaic word to help set a historical scene. The following century, popular authors such as Sir Walter Scott ("Like an auld dog that trails its useless ugsome carcass into some bush or bracken"), Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton ("'Tis an ugsome bit of road!" said the Corporal, looking round him") and Charles Dickens ("One very ugsome devil with goggling eyes, seems to hold up frightful claws, to bar the traveller's way") regained it some small exposure, though it was never very popular. Today, ugsome is unknown to most English-speaking people.

LOL

Paying in advance

A motorist, driving by a Texas ranch, hit and killed a calf that was crossing the road. The driver went to the owner of the calf and explained what had happened. He then asked what the animal was worth.



"Oh, about \$200 today," said the rancher. "But in six years it would have been worth \$900. So \$900 is what I'm out." The motorist sat down and wrote out a check and handed it to the farmer. "Here," he said, "is the check for \$900. It's post-dated six years from now."

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Time bomb at top of the world



Mario Molina & Durwood Zaelke

THERE IS LESS ICE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARCTIC THAN EVER BEFORE

It is hard to imagine more devastating effects of climate change than the fires that have been raging in California, Oregon, and Washington, or the procession of hurricanes that have approached - and, at times, ravaged - the Gulf Coast. There have been deadly heat waves in India, Pakistan, and Europe, and devastating flooding in Southeast Asia. But there is far worse ahead, with one risk, in particular, so great that it alone threatens humanity itself: the rapid depletion of Arctic sea ice. Recalling an Alfred Hitchcock movie, this climate 'bomb' - which, at a certain point, could more than double the rate of global warming - has a timer that is being watched with growing anxiety. Each September, the extent of Arctic sea ice reaches its lowest level, before the lengthening darkness and falling temperatures cause it to begin to expand again. At this point, scientists compare its extent to previous years. The results should frighten us all. This year, measurements from the National Snow and Ice Data Centre in Boulder, Colorado show that there is less ice in the middle of the Arctic than ever before, and just-published research shows that win-

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Indian cities & 'smartness'

Sir, How well a citizen perceives the impact of technology on his daily routine in terms of governance, safety, medicare and opportunities are parameters of the 'smart city index.' Infrastructure development - institutional, social, economic and physical - has to be more inclusive and sustainable. Ultimately a citizen expects to have efficient housing, good sanitation, effective communication methods and a smooth transport system. The Institute of Management Development, in collaboration with the Singapore University for Technology and Design, which ranks top cities of the world for their 'smartness', has come out with its annual rankings. Singapore is on top of the list. Helsinki, Zurich, Auckland and Oslo follow. But major Indian cities have seen a slump in their rankings. Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad have struggled to maintain their rankings. All of them have plummeted by nearly twenty places. This year's rankings took into account technological uses, vis-a-vis the Covid-19 pandemic. The countries which maximised their technological prowess to tackle the pandemic have come out on top. The ranking also indicates that a city that is already developed, or is in a developmental mode, starts off with a huge advantage. Prolonged lockdown has affected all segments including information technology. Cities of India were all at sea in maintaining the quality of people's lives. Places mentioned in the rankings were found wanting in areas of clean air, decongestion of roads, and basic amenities. Technological tools, cultural comfort, boosted by leadership skills, go a long way in times of crisis.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

State of lawlessness

Sir, I am very sorry to express my deep concern over the lawlessness in the country. In every nook and corner of the country we see indiscipline. While electing Modi people had great hope that some sort of changes will be brought in by him. But every day we come across rape, murder and lawlessness in the country. In the latest incident, an 18-year-old Dalit girl in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh was found dead in a farm land. She was assaulted and allegedly gangraped. Last month, the Hathras incident triggered outrage across the country. About four months have passed, but the CBI, ED and NCB are yet to crack the Sushant Singh Rajput case even as the government of Maharashtra is hiding facts. People have lost faith in the ideology of the BJP. Gradually people of the country are losing confidence in this government.

Naresh Mandal, BHADRAK

Hyd pays price for destroying flood control system

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 17: The devastation caused by torrential rains and flash floods in and around Hyderabad this week is another grim reminder of the havoc played with the chain of lakes and storm water drains that were working as a natural flood control system.

This is not the first time the city has witnessed flooding but every time in the recent period, it faced nature's fury, it failed to learn a lesson.

Flooding of roads and inundation of low-lying areas are a common sight in the city whenever it rains heavily. Every time it is brushed aside either as a natural occurrence or inevitable consequence of the rapid development the tech hub is witnessing.

Whenever the city faced flash floods, those in power form committees comprising officials and experts to suggest measures to prevent recurrence. However, reports of these panels, containing almost similar suggestions, are gathering dust.

The extremely heavy rainfall of October 13 triggered a deluge in not just the outskirts but also in the heart of the city. More than 30 people lost their lives and about 2,000 colonies were inundated.

The last time the city had witnessed such massive floods was some 20 years ago. Rainfall of 24.5 cm August 24, 2000 had caused the deluge.

As the city has expanded by leaps and bounds to become Greater Hyderabad, the rainfall at some Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) installed by the Telangana State Development Planning Society was much higher than 24.5 cm. The AWS at Hayathnagar, for instance,



LESSONS FROM HISTORY

Historians say Hyderabad's founder Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah and subsequent Qutb Shahi and Asaf Jahi rulers with their foresight had developed and promoted a system to prevent flooding even in the highest rainfall

The city was founded on the banks of Musi river, which was the lifeline of the city. After devastating floods in Musi killed thousands of people in 1908, the government of then Nizam built new reservoirs upstream and developed a new drainage system to prevent recurrence of floods

The system comprised a chain of lakes, channels connecting lakes to the river, open spaces and swamp areas to suck in rain water and storm water drains

The city was home to 3,000 to 7,000 natural and manmade water bodies such as lakes, ponds, tanks and other reservoirs. Over the years, however, most of these water bodies have disappeared

recorded over 29 cm rainfall in 24 hours ending 5 a.m. October 14.

India Meteorological Department (IMD), however, maintained that the city recorded an average 19.2 cm rainfall. Irrespective of the rainfall amount, the scale of flooding and devastation caused by the latest

flooding is unprecedented.

Many of the colonies submerged had either come up on lake beds or close to the lakes. Heavy rainfall led to breach and overflow of the lakes, which shrunk in size over the last 23 due to encroachments and construction activity.

Appa cheruvu, for instance, was spread over six acres. Now the lake has shrunk to two acres. Its embankment collapsed following heavy rains of October 13 and caused massive flooding in Gaganpahad area, inundating houses and the Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway.

"The city had a very good drainage system. Whenever it used to rain, the inflow and outflow channels drain down north and south basins into Musi river. Since those channels have been destroyed, water can't drain into the river. So water is there everywhere," explained Lubna Sarwat, an activist fighting for preservation of lakes.

She pointed out that lakes supposed to hold water were severely restricted in terms of both surface area and holding capacity due to both official and private encroachments.

"Dumping of waste including construction material has further curtailed the holding capacity. Since the lakes can no longer hold water,

it is on roads and colonies," said Sarwat, who earlier worked as convenor of Save Our Urban Lakes.

According to the Forum for a Better Hyderabad, a group comprising environmentally conscious individuals and organisations, the city was home to 3,000 to 7,000 natural and manmade water bodies such as lakes, ponds, tanks and other reservoirs.

Over the years, however, most of these water bodies have disappeared. According to the Forum, studies have suggested that since the 1990s, Hyderabad has lost over 3,000 lakes.

"Even till 1970, we had the balance. Post 1970, there was a frightening imbalance in the planning as people from all over the state started coming to the city. People started moving into the city knowingly or unknowingly and converted water bodies into buildings," says heritage activist P Anuradha Reddy, who earlier headed Society for Preservation of Environment and Quality of Life (SPEQL).

After the floods of 2000, the then government had constituted a committee to suggest measures to improve nalas. The committee, in its report, identified 28,000 encroachments and estimated that removing them and improving the nala system required Rs 10,000 crore. The report was kept aside as its implementation was perceived impossible.

Another committee for expansion and modernization of nalas was formed in 2007. It gave a report which was similar to the previous panel and met the same fate.

Subsequently, another panel of experts suggested various measures to improve nala and restoration of lakes but its report too is gathering dust.

AIMPLB to build consensus against uniform civil code

THE BODY SAYS IN A COUNTRY LIKE INDIA WITH DIFFERENT CULTURES AND CIVILISATIONS SUCH A MOVE WILL NOT BE JUSTIFIED



The board members are of the view that in the agenda of the ruling BJP, now only common civil code is left, and they will proceed in this direction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 17: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) will work towards building public opinion against a uniform civil code, saying in a country like India with different cultures and civilisations such a move "will not be justified."

A decision to this effect was taken in the executive meeting of the board held virtually a few days ago. AIMPLB member Zafaryab Jilani told PTI Saturday that "important decisions pertaining to common civil code and the Babri mosque demolition case" were taken in the meeting October 11 and October 13. "The board members are of the view that in the agenda of the ruling BJP, now only common civil code is left, and they will proceed in this direction," he said.

Jilani said that the board will establish contact with different sec-

tions of the society, which could be affected in case the common civil code is implemented, and try to build a consensus and public opinion against it. "India is a country of different cultures and civilisations, hence implementing this code will not be justified," he said.

The AIMPLB member also said the board will challenge the special CBI court judgement in the Babri mosque demolition. "Representatives of the board will appeal against the judgement in the high court," he said. The special court acquitted all 32 accused including BJP veterans LK Advani, MM Joshi and Uma Bharti of involvement in the destruction of Babri Masjid 28 years ago.

In a 2,300-page judgment, the CBI court said there was no conclusive evidence against the accused of being part of any conspiracy to bring down the disputed structure in Ayodhya.

Under fire for soaring crimes against women, Yogi launches 'mission shakti'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balrampur, Oct 17: Facing flak over a string of rape incidents in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Saturday launched 'Mission Shakti' campaign focusing on ensuring the safety and dignity of women and girls, with a stern warning that perpetrators of crimes against females will be dealt with an iron hand.

The chief minister said the campaign, whose start coincided with the commencement of the Navratri festival dedicated to Goddess Durga, is a tribute to the woman who died after being allegedly raped by two men in Balrampur and asserted that his government has 'zero tolerance' towards crime against women and girls.

The 22-year-old Dalit woman died after being allegedly raped by two men, who were later arrested, in the district. The incident came close on the heels of the gangrape-murder of another Dalit woman in Hathras that had drawn intense outrage after alleged apathy of the administration. "Those who cast an evil eye on the dignity and self-respect of women will find no place in the state. Perpetrators of such crimes are a blot on the society and the government will deal with them



Protection of the girl child and giving respect to women should start from home

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

with an iron hand," Adityanath asserted. The campaign will continue for the next six months till Basant Navratri, the chief minister said. "The first phase of 'Mission Shakti' will focus on spreading awareness towards ensuring the safety and dignity of women and girl-child. In the second phase, 'Operation Shakti' will target eve-teasers and put them on the path of punishment or reform. If such elements do not mend their ways, they will have to face social-boy-

cott and their pictures will be displayed publicly," Adityanath said.

The chief minister said that this year Ram Lila and Durga Puja pandals will also spread the message of 'Mission Shakti', which will have the involvement of 24 departments.

Various events are lined up during the campaign for which 100 role models among women will be identified in each district to help spread the message of women safety, self-respect and self-reliance.

Adityanath described women as a symbol of 'Shakti' and said gender equality and protection of the girl child should start from home itself. "Women are venerable in our eternal tradition and Navratri signifies this. In these changing times, the new generation should become the carrier of our eternal tradition, which always professes the cause of women as the prime duty of mankind. 'Mission Shakti' is a reminder of our duty towards women and girls," he said.

Terming female foeticide as a curse, the chief minister said, "Protection of the girl child and giving respect to women should start from home."

Adityanath also expressed his strong views against child marriage, saying such practices should be publicly condemned.

POLLUTION IN DELHI-NCR

NGT asks UP to keep vigil on brick kilns

BRICK KILN INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTES ABOUT 5 TO 7 PER CENT OF PM10 EMISSIONS IN WINTER AND SUMMER, RESPECTIVELY, TO AMBIENT AIR OF DELHI AND NCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The National Green Tribunal has directed the Uttar Pradesh administration to keep a vigil on illegal operation of brick kilns to protect the air quality in the National Capital Region.

A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice A K Goel noted that brick kiln industry contributed about 5 to 7 per cent of PM10 emissions in winter and summer, respectively, to ambient air of Delhi and NCR.

"The concerned authorities in the state of Uttar Pradesh may keep a vigil against illegal operation of brick kilns so as to protect the air quality in the NCR," the bench, also comprising Justice S P Wangdi, said.

It also dismissed an application seeking permission to operate brick kiln. The NGT had earlier slammed the Uttar Pradesh chief secretary for allowing brick kilns to operate in the state despite its prohibition during the coronavirus-triggered lockdown.

The NGT said it was surprised how the chief secretary could have



passed a contrary order in violation of the order of this tribunal which amounts to a criminal offence.

The order came after the Ghaziabad district magistrate told the bench that in March, due to the

lockdown situation in the district with respect to COVID-19, inspections at kilns could not be carried out.

He told the tribunal that during the lockdown period, the chief sec-

retary issued directions to all the district magistrates of Uttar Pradesh to allow the brick kilns to operate in the state.

The NGT had earlier directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to conduct a carrying capacity study of brick kilns in NCR and other regions and its impact on ambient air quality.

The tribunal was hearing a bunch of pleas filed by journalist Shailesh Singh and others seeking action against brick kilns, which are operating without complying to pollution norms and causing immense air and water pollution. It alleged that 600 brick kilns are illegally operating in Baghpat district without obtaining necessary clearances from statutory authorities concerned.

The plea, filed through advocate Preeti Singh, listed seven districts of Uttar Pradesh, including Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar, Baghpat, Meerut, Hapur and Muzaffarnagar, 13 districts of Haryana, including Gurgaon, and two districts (Alwar and Bharatpur) of Rajasthan, besides Delhi in the petition.

Hyd metro runs special train to ferry pregnant woman



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 17: In a rare gesture, the Hyderabad Metro Rail arranged a special train service to ferry a pregnant woman to her destination during the recent downpour, which pounded the city and left several areas inundated.

According to a top Metro Rail official, the lady reached the Victoria Memorial station October 14 night and told the metro rail personnel that she had to get to Miyapur and that there was no other transport available.

Moved by the plight of the

woman, the officials decided to operate an exclusive service.

"We were shutting down services by 9 PM as per rules...the woman entered the station at around 10 PM and requested us to take her to Miyapur as she had no other option...so our people arranged a special train and transported her safely to her destination," NVS Reddy, Managing Director of HMRL told PTI.

Torrential rains battered the city and neighbouring parts October 13 and 14 disrupting normal life including public transportation.

The official noted that the train has the capacity to ferry 1,000 people. However, due to COVID-19 protocols, the coaches were running with only 60 per cent capacity.

Reddy said as of now the total network of metro rail, which resumed operations September 7 after remaining suspended for over four months as part of nationwide lockdown, is presently carrying one lakh passengers per day in the city.

DEVOTION WITH CAUTION



Devotees get their hands sanitised as they visit Ma Durga temple on the first day of the Navaratri festival in Varanasi, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

Covid-19: Telangana sees more recoveries than fresh infections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

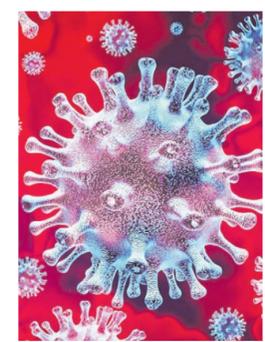
Hyderabad, Oct 17: Telangana registered 1,451 new coronavirus cases, taking the state's tally to 2.2 lakh, even as 1,983 more patients recovered from the infection, officials said Saturday.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area accounted for the highest 235 new cases in the past 24 hours, followed by Rangareddy district at 104, Medchal Malkajgiri at 101, Bhadrachalam Kothagudem at 92, Nalgonda at 84 and Khammam at 71.

Other districts where new cases were reported include Karimnagar (65), Siddipet (64), Warangal Urban (55), Suryapet (37), Nizamabad (32), Rajanna Sircilla (30), Jagityal (29), Peddapalli (28), Medak (25), Nirmal and Wanaparty (24 each), Vikarabad and Nagarkurnool (22 each).

However, nine more patients died, raising the statewide COVID death toll to 1,265.

In all, 55 per cent patients died



due to comorbidities and 45 per cent due to Covid alone.

The southern state tested 42,497 samples in the past 24 hours, increasing the number of Covid-19 tests to 37.8 lakh.

The total recoveries in Telangana are 1.9 lakh. Of the 2.2 lakh cases in Telangana, 22,774 are active. Nearly 70 per cent of the cases are asymptomatic and 30 per cent symptomatic.

national



(Chief Minister)
Nitish Kumar has been governing the state for the last 15 years but the state has not been accorded special category status yet. US President Donald Trump will not come and accord that

TEJASHWI YADAV | RJD LEADER

CRPF WITH IIT-DELHI, DRDO TO CREATE POOL OF HIGH-TECH EXPERTS

Facing emerging challenges in conflict-torn and insurgency hit J&K and Maoist-affected states, the CRPF has planned to create a pool of high technology xperts "from among its officers" to update their skills in handling unprecedented situations



of the day quote

Punjab is the only state in the country where the ruling party (Congress) is trying to misguide, create confusion and mislead farmers

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER OF STATE

The Prime Minister lives in my heart...I am like his Hanuman. If they (his critics) want, they can open my heart and see that. I don't need to use the Prime Minister's photograph

CHIRAG PASWAN | LOK JANSHAKTI PARTY PRESIDENT

During 15 years of RJD rule in Bihar except for anointing wife on the chief ministerial chair did the government do anything for the upliftment of women?

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER

AIBA seeks contempt action against Andhra CM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 17: The All India Bar Association (AIBA) Saturday urged the Chief Justice of India to initiate contempt of court proceedings against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for making scandalous allegations against Justice NV Ramana, senior most judge of the Supreme Court and the judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

This came after Jagan, in a letter to Chief Justice of India SA Bobde October 6, alleged that Justice Ramana has been influencing the sittings of the High Court, including the roster of a few judges.

The Chairman of AIBA Adish C Aggarwala, while condemning the Chief Minister for his October 6 letter to the Chief Justice of India, said the scurrilous and scandalous remarks against Justice Ramana, the next in line to become the Chief Justice of India and the judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, has shaken the independence of the judiciary. Expressing serious concern over the issue, Aggarwala said the letter from a Chief Minister facing various corruption and money laundering charges in the courts, is un-



warranted and clearly an attempt to obstruct the courts by vilifying judges and intimidating them for obtaining favourable orders.

"It is completely an abuse of the process of rule of law that the Chief Minister instead of resorting to appeals and other mechanisms provided under the Constitution, has resorted to level serious allegations against judges, who have dealt with certain cases," the All India Bar Association added.

It is a dangerous and callous act undertaken by the Chief Minister, which may have consequences for

democracy in the state and may lead to serious consequences, it said, adding that the letter is rife with mala fides as the same appears to have been intended to bench hunt for securing favourable orders.

"The tone, tenor and timing clearly establish the vested interests and hidden agenda of the Chief Minister. In this context, it would be important to note that Justice NV Ramana is dealing with a public interest litigation for decriminalizing politics and fast tracking pending criminal cases against corrupt politicians. There is no gain saying

AIBA chairman Adish C Aggarwala said the scurrilous and scandalous remarks against Justice Ramana, the next in line to become the Chief Justice of India and the judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, has shaken the independence of the judiciary

Expressing serious concern over the issue, Aggarwala said the letter from a Chief Minister facing various corruption and money laundering charges in the courts, is unwarranted and clearly an attempt to obstruct the courts by vilifying judges

that the Chief Minister has numerous pending criminal and money laundering cases."

The bar association said that it is a matter of pain and anguish that the state government has foisted a false FIR against his kin on a baseless, fabricated and fictitious basis to intimidate the judge and scandalise the court. On October 15, the Bar Council of India (BCI) had said that Jagan Mohan Reddy targeted Supreme Court judge Justice N.V. Ramana in a bid to pressurise him, to tarnish his image and scandalize the institution.

BJP, AAP in war of words over Delhi pollution

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 17: The politics over stubble burning and subsequent air pollution in Delhi has heated up with the BJP hitting back at the Aam Aadmi party on Saturday, a day after the AAP blamed the Centre for it. The BJP claimed that it has been 'proven' that there is more pollution due to local factors inside Delhi.

"Day before yesterday, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told you that the daily data of stubble burning changes. He told you an overall average of 4%. In response to that, the Delhi government gave a figure of 1st November, 2019," said BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma at a press conference.

Sharma quoted a newspaper report to bolster her point of variation of such data on a daily basis. Sharma claimed that the share of pollution caused by stubble burning in Delhi-NCR's air pollution PM 2.5, on Wednesday was 1%. The same was 6 per cent Thursday and 18 per cent Friday.

The BJP's counter charge comes after the AAP's attack Friday. The



Aap had hit out at both the Congress and the BJP while it welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to appoint retired judge Justice Madan B Lokur to monitor stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Up amid rising pollution in Delhi and its surrounding areas.

Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are ruled by the BJP, while Punjab is ruled by the Congress. "These two parties are forming an alliance to allow stubble burning," the AAP charged. Sharma alleged that "The Delhi government has announced a budget of ₹65,000 crore this year and has allocated only ₹52 crore to the Environment Department."

SHORT TAKES

Militant killed in J&K encounter

Srinagar: A militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, the Army said. Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Larnoo area of Anantnag district in south Kashmir Saturday morning following inputs about the presence of militants there, an Army official said. He said the search operation turned into a gunfight after the militants fired upon the search team, drawing retaliation.

Woman beaten to death in Bengal

Canning (WB): A group of people beat a 41-year-old woman to death and injured her husband in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on suspicion that they were thieves, police said Saturday. Four persons were arrested in connection with the incident which happened at Chinepukur village under the jurisdiction of Kashipur police station Friday. According to the complaint lodged by the deceased woman's husband, Ali Hossein Molla, a total of 14 people beat him up with sticks and rods accusing him of stealing something from the house of one of them.

Close shave for Union Law Minister

Patna: The rotor blade of the helicopter that flew Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad to a poll rally in Bihar was damaged at the Patna airport Saturday after he disembarked from the aircraft, his office said. The incident occurred after Prasad returned to Patna from Madhubani, where he had gone for campaigning for the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). "News reports about accident of helicopter carrying Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad are not correct. He is safe and sound," the minister's office said in a tweet

Gold biscuits worth ₹37L seized

Kalyani (WB): BSF personnel have arrested a man and seized six gold biscuits, weighing a total of 720 gm, from his possession near the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, an officer of the paramilitary force said Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, BSF personnel of Hakimpur border outpost nabbed a local person moving on a bicycle and seized the gold biscuits worth over ₹37 lakh.

Bengal gears to host Ganga-Sagar Mela

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baruipur, Oct 17: Several safety arrangements are being made to host the Ganga-Sagar Mela amid the Covid-19 pandemic, besides the authorities are also planning to send the holy water to the devotees by post and live-stream the rituals, a senior official said Saturday.

Every year on Makar Sankranti, lakhs of Hindus flock the Sagar Island in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district to take the holy dip and offer prayers at the Kapil Muni temple.

This January, around 50 lakh people visited the mela, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic the authorities expect the number of devotees to go down drastically, said P

Ulaganathan, the district magistrate of South 24 Parganas.

The administration has decided to live-stream the rituals on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube so that the devotees can witness them from home, he said. Also, the devotees can get the holy water delivered to their homes if they book in advance, he said. Several arrangements are also being made for those who will visit the mela, Ulaganathan said.

Covid safety protocols will be put in place, he said.

Thermal scanners will be put up in railway stations, bus stands and ferry ghats to check the temperature of devotees on arrival, he said. They will also have to undergo sanitisation, he said, adding that masks will be distributed

among the devotees.

Different NGOs and organisations will be roped in for assisting the district administration, he said.

In addition to the existing Covid hospitals, planning is underway for setting up a designated facility in Kakkdwip or Sagar Island, the official said. Also, quarantine centres, safe homes and testing facilities will be set up, he said. Dedicated ambulances will also be deployed for dealing with Covid cases, Ulaganathan said. The number of buses, vessels, barges will be increased to ensure social distancing, he said.

Devotees from different parts of the country, and neighbouring Bangladesh and Nepal, visit the Sagar Island to take holy dip at the confluence of the sacred Ganga.

'Rain can 'move mountains'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Rainfall can contribute in moving mountains, findings by researchers from the University of Bristol shows. These findings can not only enable geologists to effectively study the impact rain has on mountains, but also the process that has led to the development of peaks and valleys over a period of hundreds of years.

Published in the peer-reviewed journal Science Advances, the study, titled 'Climate controls on erosion in tectonically active landscapes', was conducted by a team of researchers led by Dr Byron Adams. For its research, the team from the University of Bristol conducted a study in the central and eastern part of the Himalayas falling in Bhutan and Nepal.

A Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin fellow at the University of Bristol's Cabot Institute for the Environment, Dr Byron Adams collaborated with researchers from the Arizona State University (ASU) and Louisiana State

University for the study. They used cosmic clocks within sand grains to measure the speed at which rivers erode the rocks underneath them.

The objective of the study was to study the impact of the climate on tectonics. "This study complements and improves upon previous work by combining the range of relief, rainfall, and erosion rates usually found only in a global study with the careful curation of data to ensure that only truly comparable, quasi-equilibrium catchments are considered that is usually only possible in local studies," the study says.

The lead author of this study, Dr Byron Adams said the team tested a number of numerical models to reproduce the observed "erosion rate patten" across Bhutan and Nepal. Once they managed to identify the one model that could accurately predict the measured erosion rates, researchers used this model to quantify how rainfall affects "erosion rates in rugged terrain".



Charge sheet against former AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday filed a charge sheet in a Delhi court against former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain in a money laundering case related to the communal violence in northeast Delhi in February.

The ED was probing the allegation that Hussain and his linked persons laundered about ₹1.10 crore by using purported shell or dummy companies to fuel protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the riots.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat took cognisance of the offences under section 3 (money laundering) read with section 70 (offences by companies) punishable under Section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 against Hussain and co-accused Amit Gupta.

The judge directed that Hussain and Gupta be produced in court October 19.

"There is prima facie sufficient incriminating material about the



involvement of the accused persons. Thus, cognizance of the offence under section 3 read with Section 70, punishable under Section 4 of PMLA, 2002 is taken against accused Tahir Hussain and accused Amit Gupta," the court said.

The ED said in its charge sheet that investigation in the case was in progress and a supplementary complaint may be filed later.

"The Enforcement Directorate may proceed with further investigation, as per law," the court said.

Hussain is in judicial custody in the case. The ED's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta had earlier told the court that Hussain was allegedly involved in money laundering and various other acts of cheating, falsification and forgery of documents, and criminal conspiracy.

Matta had said the ED had seized several incriminating documents and digital devices after conducting searches at various premises.

The ED also alleged that Hussain had entered into a criminal conspiracy by fraudulently transferring money from the accounts of many companies.

This money, which was allegedly proceeds of crime, was used for committing various other scheduled offences, the agency had claimed.

Cops probe rape allegation against Mithun's son Mimoh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 17: A woman has lodged a police complaint of rape against veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty's son and actor Mahaakshay alias Mimoh at the Oshiwara police station here, an official said Saturday.

"We have lodged the complaint and are investigating the matter," Senior Police Inspector Dayanand H Bangar told this news agency, but declined to elaborate. The complainant has also named Mimoh's mother (Mithun's wife) and former actress Yogeta Bali as co-accused.

The complainant claimed that she was in a relationship with Mimoh since 2015 and he had promised to marry her but backtracked. She alleged that Mimoh called her home at that point in time and spiked her drink, before forcibly making physical relations with her. She alleged that when she became pregnant, Mimoh forced her to abort.

The woman also claimed that she was threatened by Mimoh's mother when she was to lodge a police complaint.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 17: The BJP needed it and the Congress provided it - not one but three electoral issues to attack the Opposition.

The BJP has decided to mount its attack on the opposition on three issues - Pakistan, Article 370 and Jinnah during the first phase of the Bihar election, say sources within the party. While the top leaders will raise Rahul Gandhi's apparent comparison between Pakistan and India and P Chidambaram's call to reinstate Article 370, state BJP leaders will drum up the issue of Congress fielding controversial former Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) student leader Maskoor Usmani.

BJP's trinity in armoury: Pak, Article 370, Jinnah

Sources say, if the response is good, it will be the party's campaign strategy in the other two phases as well. However, one source added that its star campaigners like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief JP Nadda, and Rajnath Singh will also raise issues like BJP's free ration scheme for 80 crore families, the National Education Policy and India's 'successful handling' of the Covid pandemic.

A Delhi-based senior BJP functionary said, "Rahul Gandhi taking Pakistan's side has become a regular thing. It no longer surprises us. But a former Finance Minister promising to reinstate Article 370 is shocking. People of Bihar need to know their stand on Kashmir." It became clearer when Information and Broadcasting



Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "They (Congress) are saying that the decision to abrogate Article 370 was wrong and the Congress will bring it back. Will the Congress say the same thing in the Bihar election? Will they say in their man-

ifesto?" Javadekar went a step further to liken the Congress' position to that of "a few remaining insurgents". Nadda showed the way by hitting back hard against the Congress immediately on Twitter, calling it Congress' "dirty tricks"

allegedly aimed at "breaking India". Nadda also commented on Congress "praising Pakistan" which was a reference to a sarcastic tweet by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi where he posted a GDP growth chart that said: "Another solid achievement by the BJP government. Even Pakistan and Afghanistan handled Covid better than India."

Javadekar also said, "Rahul Gandhi is praising Pakistan. Be it any issue, he likes to praise Pakistan and China. This is the face of Congress." Javadekar also highlighted how abrogation of Article 370 helped bring social justice for the Dalits in the two Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Incidentally, scheduled castes constitute 15 per cent of

Bihar's population, according to the 2011 Census.

The third issue that will be strongly raised in the next few weeks by the BJP is Congress fielding former Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) student leader Maskoor Usmani as a candidate. Already, Union minister from Bihar Giriraj Singh has raised it and BJP sources indicate, state leaders, particularly those campaigning in Darbhanga district, where Usmani is fighting from Jale constituency, will follow suit.

Giriraj Singh said Friday, "Congress and the Mahagathabandhan leaders have to answer the nation that if the Jale candidate supports Jinnah, Congress and Mahagathabandhan have to say if they also support Jinnah?"



When I was in school, I learnt that the pen is mightier than the sword. Today, I have seen our country, its politics and its discourse. I am no longer convinced it is

SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS MP

SABARIMALA TEMPLE OPENS FOR DEVOTEES

The famed Lord Ayyappa temple here opened to devotees Saturday morning after remaining closed for over six months due to the coronavirus pandemic, with a few worshippers wearing masks and carrying Covid-19 negative certificate offering prayers



of the day quote

We are here to stay, as inhabitants of the state. We are not tourists. National governments come and go. We should resist any national government decisions for which our children will have to face consequences



SAJAD LONE | KASHMIRI POLITICIAN

The violent clashes on the India-China border in June had a very deep public and political impact and has left the relationship "profoundly disturbed"



S JAISHANKAR | MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Thackeray government should declare wet drought so that farmers, who have suffered heavily due to loss of crops, can get relief



DEVENDRA FADNIS | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Man ends life after losing job

Aligarh (UP): A 22-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison in Aligarh district in Uttar Pradesh after he lost his job in a private firm amid the coronavirus pandemic, police said Saturday. Vijnesh Yadav of Labhedra village in the Dadon police station area returned home a few days ago after he lost his job in Ghaziabad and failed to find a new employment, the police.

Two killed in Kolkata fire

Kolkata: Two persons, including a 12-year-old boy, were killed in a fire that broke out in a five-storeyed residential building at Ganesh Chandra Avenue here Friday night, officials said. All the other residents of the building have been rescued and the fire is, at present, under control, State Fire Services Minister Sujit Bose said. The 12-year-old boy and an old lady died in the incident, according to officials.

Woman kills kids, hangs self

Jalaun (UP): A woman allegedly hanged herself to death after killing her 15-year-old mentally-challenged son and daughter here, police said Saturday. On Friday evening around 7.00 pm, the 39-year-old woman's body was found hanging in her house in Ait town.

U'khand schools to reopen Nov 1

Dehradun: With schools set to reopen in Uttarakhand for Classes X and XII November 1 after a gap of more than seven months, most parents are feeling insecure as Covid-19 cases are still rising in the state. School managements have said that they are prepared to resume classes while ensuring strict adherence to Covid-19 protocol including limiting attendance in the classes to 50 per cent per day for the sake of social distancing.

Rly staff threaten stir for bonus

New Delhi: The Railway workers' union has threatened of 'direct action' if their productivity linked bonus, which is usually paid before the onset of Durga Puja, is not released by October 20. This was decided in a virtual standing committee meeting of the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF). AIRF said railwaymen worked 24x7 during the COVID-19 pandemic but the government was ignoring their "legitimate" demand.

Process to select people for priority Covid vax begins

AGENCIES

Mumbai/ New Delhi, Oct 17: India's coronavirus infections rose by another 62,212 cases over the previous day and a local media report said Saturday that the government had begun identifying about 300 million people who would be given the vaccine first when it is ready.

A media report said that frontline health and sanitation workers, police officials and elderly people with co-morbidities will get the vaccine on priority.

The plan, which is still in the draft stage, aims to cover 23 per cent of the population in the first phase. The final plan is likely to be ready by end October-November, the report said. The selected individuals will be given an estimated 600 million doses.

National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) in consultation with state governments and all relevant stakeholders have prepared and presented a detailed blueprint of vaccine storage, distribution and administration.

The Expert Group in consultation with the states is working actively on vaccine prioritisation and distribution of vaccines.

Earlier this month, health minister Harsh Vardhan had said that India hopes to receive up to 500 million doses of coronavirus vaccines by July next year to inoculate about 250 million people.

Officials have said that giving



The plan, which is still in the draft stage, aims to cover 23 per cent of the population in the first phase

Frontline health and sanitation workers, police officials and elderly people with co-morbidities will get the vaccine on priority

Three vaccines are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which 2 are in Phase II and one is in Phase-III

the vaccine to India's 1.3 billion people will be a mammoth exercise, likely to stretch well into 2022.

India's cumulative tally of coronavirus infections stood at 7.43 million Saturday, having risen by 62,212 in the last 24 hours, health ministry data showed.

But the number of active infections slipped below 800,000 for the first time in 1.5 months, which the ministry called a significant achievement.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reviewed the Covid-19 pandemic situation in the country and the preparedness of vaccine delivery, distribution, and administration.

The Prime Minister noted the steady decline in the daily Covid cases and growth rate. He further directed that the country should make use of experience gained in successful conduct of elections and disaster management for the vaccine delivery system.

Modi said that in a similar manner the vaccine delivery and administration systems should be put in place.

Three vaccines are in advanced stages of development in India, out of which 2 are in Phase II and one is in Phase-III. Indian scientists and research teams are collaborating and strengthening the research capacities in neighbouring countries - Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

There are further requests from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Qatar and Bhutan for clinical trials in their countries. In an effort to help the global community, Modi further directed that we should not limit our efforts to our immediate neighbourhood but also reach out to the wider world in providing vaccines, medicines and IT platforms for vaccine delivery systems.

He stressed that every step in the logistics, delivery, and administration should be put in place rigorously. It must include advanced planning of cold storage chains, distribution network, monitoring mechanism, advance assessment, and preparation of ancillary equipment required, such as vials, syringes etc.

ASSASSINATION OF SHAURYA CHAKRA AWARDEE

Widow says killing linked to 'Referendum 2020'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 17: A day after Shaurya Chakra awardee Balwinder Singh Sandhu, who fought Sikh militants in Punjab in the 1980s, was shot dead by two assailants in Punjab's Tarn Taran district, his widow Saturday blamed the militants for the killing.

The killing was linked to those who were advocating 'Referendum 2020', she said.

"It is the handiwork of the Khalistani terrorists as my family did not have any personal enmity with anyone," Sandhu's wife Jagdish Kaur told the media.

"His killing is the first step of the onset of 'Referendum 2020' in Punjab," she added.

'Referendum 2020', propagated globally by the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), is a pro-Khalistan movement to 'liberate' Punjab as a 'nation' state.

Sandhu was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen almost a year after the government withdrew his security cover. He was cremated at his native place.

"We have lost a family member but that doesn't mean that we are afraid of militants. We are still strong enough to fight with them," Jagdish Kaur said.

A diehard Communist and 1993 Shaurya Chakra awardee, Balwinder Singh was shot at point blank range around 7 a.m. at his hometown Bhikhiwind, some 35 km from Tarn Taran town, once a



Balwinder Singh Sandhu

hub of militancy in the 80s and early 90s.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital with five bullet injuries, but doctors declared him dead.

Balwinder, 62, had survived several attacks when Sikh militancy was at its peak in the state.

Balwinder, a Revolutionary Marxist Party of India (RMP) district committee member, rose to fame internationally for his bravery and once featured in a National Geographic documentary.

His wife, Jagdish Kaur, is also a district committee member of the RMP, led by Mangat Ram Pasla.

Balwinder was awarded the Shaurya Chakra for his exemplary courage.

7 killed, over 30 hurt in Pilibhit road mishap



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 17: Seven persons were killed and more than 30 others injured when a bus collided with a van in Purnapur area of Pilibhit district in Uttar Pradesh, police said Saturday.

"The roadways bus was heading to Pilibhit from Lucknow while the van was proceeding from Purnapur when the two collided on the Purnapur-Khutar highway. The bus overturned in the fields, due to which seven persons were killed," Superintendent of Police (SP) Jai Prakash told the media here.

The injured persons were evacuated to nearby hospital for treatment. Most of the victims belonged to Pilibhit, said police officials.

Expressing grief over the accident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and gave instructions to officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured.

SP Jai Prakash reached the spot with policemen and helped rescue the injured trapped in the two vehicles.

BJP leader shot dead in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Firozabad (UP), Oct 17: A local BJP leader was shot dead by bike-borne assailants in Ferozabad district of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the November 3 Assembly by-poll in the area, following which police have detained three people for questioning, an officer said Saturday.



DK Gupta, 46, was shot at in the Nagla Beech area Friday evening when he was returning home after closing his shop. He was rushed to a hospital where he died. The police said three people have been detained for questioning based on a complaint filed by Gupta's family.

Among those detained is Viresh Tomar with whom Gupta had some rivalry, they said, adding that the duo even had an exchange of words on Facebook recently.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sachindra Patel said, "All the angles are being thoroughly examined." "Yesterday night itself, police teams were formed and Viresh Tomar and two others were detained for questioning," he added.

After Gupta's killing, local residents staged a road blockade in protest. Senior police officers reached the spot and a large number of security personnel were deployed in the area which falls under the Tundla assembly constituency, where by-election will be held November 3.

MP Police find unique way to curb gun violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 17: Ahead of the Assembly by-election in Madhya Pradesh, police in Bhind district have launched an initiative, under which bullets are being stamped with Quick Response (QR) codes to easily trace the shooter and to keep the use of guns in check, an official said.

Out of the 28 state Assembly seats where by-elections would be held November 3, Bhind district has two constituencies among the 16 in the Gwalior-Chambal region.

The winding ravines of Chambal were once a den of trigger-happy dacoits like Malkhan Singh and Paan Singh Tomar. "Bandit Queen" Phoolan Devi had also found refuge in these areas.

Even now, the region is infamous for being known to have trigger-happy people.

Speaking to news agency Press Trust of India, District Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar Singh said, "Bhind has witnessed around 150 murders in the last five years with most of them



being committed using illegal weapons."

During the last assembly elections, the district had witnessed violence and rigging attempts which were thwarted, police sources told this news agency.

MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN BIOPIC

AIADMK JOINS CHORUS AGAINST VIJAY SETHUPATHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 17: Senior AIADMK leader and Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar Saturday said it would be good if Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi reconsidered his decision to play the lead role in the biopic '800' on Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan.

Jayakumar alleged that Muralitharan had been a "voice" of former Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa and the cricketer supported the leader, who was "responsible" for the killings of the Tamil people during the 2009 civil war.

"Muralitharan had been the voice of his master (Mahinda) Rajapaksa. How will the Tamil people accept him?" he asked.



"It will be a good thing for Vijay Sethupathi to reconsider his decision to play the lead role in the movie," he said adding if he reversed his decision to act in the film, it would earn him respect.

The actor's fans themselves have not accepted his move to recreate the career of the cricketer on screen, the Minister claimed. Muralitharan had Friday said

the proposed biopic '800' on him was only about his sports accomplishments despite the challenge of decades-long conflict in his country and his humble beginnings.

He expressed anguish over him being accused as against the Tamils and asserted that it was for "political reasons" and out of "ignorance."

"I know the pain of war and the loss it causes. I have never supported the killings of innocent people and will never support that," he said.

MDMK, PMK and Naam Tamizhar Katchi and veteran Tamil filmmaker Bharathirajaa were among those who have opposed Sethupathi being a part of the movie.

They had alleged that the cricketer was a "betrayer" of the Tamils.

Centre mulls surrender policy for J&K youth taking up guns

THE INDIAN ARMY IS PUSHING THE YOUTH WHO HAVE TAKEN TO ARMS TO SURRENDER SO THAT THEY CAN BE REHABILITATED PROPERLY IN THE SOCIETY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 17: India is coming up with a surrender and rehabilitation policy for the youth who want to give up militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. The Union Defence Ministry is deliberating over the issue with the Home Ministry in New Delhi.

The Indian Army is pushing the youth who have taken to arms to surrender so that they can be rehabilitated properly in the society, said 15 Corps GOC Lieutenant General BS Raju during an interaction at the Chinari Corps headquarters here. He said: "We will be doing more

work to ensure that more surrenders take place."

The officer pointed out that it gives no pleasure to the forces to kill young boys who have picked up arms. The men on the ground during counter-terror operations risk their lives to convince these youth to shun their guns and surrender.

He also said that the government is working on a surrender and rehabilitation policy. The matter is currently deliberated between the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry.

"There are a lot of issues involved," said Lieutenant General Raju, adding that he has directed



those engaged in counter terror operations to ensure that no out-of-proportion force is used.

"Whenever a local terrorist is involved, we offer him to surrender

first. Just because someone has held a gun and taken a picture doesn't mean that he has to die," said the officer.

The Lieutenant General also said

that the forces have intensified the youth outreach programme and are ensuring that they are engaged in positive things.

This year three youth who had taken arms have surrendered while 50 have been apprehended so far.

On Friday itself, a special police officer who had run away with 2 AK rifles three days ago surrendered following an encounter after his family members were called in to convince him. On October 13, the SPO had decamped with two AK 47 rifles. He was identified as Jahangir Bhat from Chadoora.

Indian Army continues to make efforts to prevent terror recruit-

ment and in case of youth joining terror outfits, they provide them with options to return to normalcy.

Earlier, the administration had three surrender policies. However, the reintegration of militants was missing from them. The first surrender policy was made in 1995. The second rehabilitation policy was made in 2004 and the third was made in 2010 on return of ex-militants to the state.

The 2010 policy touched upon psychological rehabilitation by establishing counselling centres for the returnees and their families, but rehabilitation centres were never set up.



We will continue our search for hydrocarbon resources in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

HINDU TEMPLE SITE INSPECTED IN UAE

UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan inspected the site of Abu Dhabi's first ever Hindu temple and reviewed its construction progress. The foundation stone of the temple was laid in April last year and work started from December



of the day quote

We have to do everything to prevent the virus from spreading out of control. Every day counts



ANGELA MERKEL | CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY

PM Suga is working on policies that are easy to understand and popular to many people, as his administration apparently aims to maintain high support ratings. He is boldly tackling reforms one after another, and that's his strategy to make his government look as if it is achieving results



RYOSUKE NISHIDA | SOCIOLOGIST, TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

I am fighting for the businesses that had been destroyed during the incumbent government's tenure and journalists who were censored. Journalists who stood with the truth were fired from their jobs



MARYAM NAWAZ | VICE PRESIDENT, PML-N

SHORT TAKES

Pope removes Polish bishop

Rome: Pope Francis Saturday permanently removed a Polish bishop who was kicked out of his diocese a few months ago pending a Vatican investigation into allegations he covered up cases of sexual abuse by his priests. The resignation of Edward Janiak as bishop of Kalisz suggests the Vatican was able to substantiate at least some elements of the accusations made in a documentary about sex abuse in Poland that has undermined the country's influential Catholic hierarchy.

Pak PM slams Nawaz Sharif

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Saturday lashed out at three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif for accusing the army chief of rigging elections and installing a "puppet government" in Islamabad. Sharif, who was ousted from power in 2017 by the apex court on graft charges, Friday for the first time directly named Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI head Lt Gen Faiz Hameed for interfering in the elections of 2018 to ensure victory of Imran Khan.

Shutdowns fail to deter protests

Bangkok: Pro-democracy activists in Thailand staged a fourth straight day of high-profile protests in the capital on Saturday, thwarting efforts by the authorities to stop them, including a shutdown of the city's mass transit systems. Unlike protests a day earlier, which saw police using water cannons to keep the protesters at bay, Saturday's demonstrations were peaceful, with no reports of any clashes by the time participants started heading home in the evening.

Iran's virus death toll passes 30,000

Tehran: Iran announced Saturday that its death toll from the coronavirus has passed the milestone of 30,000 killed. The announcement by Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari saw Iran put its total death toll from the outbreak at 30,123 killed, with 253 new deaths being added to the official count. Iran has been struggling with the coronavirus since announcing its first cases in February. Iran has seen the worst outbreak in the Middle East, with more than 526,000 confirmed cases.

US ELECTIONS

Biden is a disaster, corrupt politician, says Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Macon, Oct 17: US President Donald Trump attacked his Democratic challenger Joe Biden saying he is a "disaster" and a "corrupt" politician, and urged his supporters in Florida and Georgia to give him a thumping victory in the November 3 presidential elections.

He also alleged that left-controlled media and big tech companies are siding with Biden in this poll campaign

"Joe Biden is disaster. Let's face it," Trump told thousands of his supporters in similar speeches in Ocala in Florida and Macon in Georgia, two battleground states. The president also said that he cannot think about



losing to such an "incompetent" person. Recently released documents and e-mails published by The New York Post has proved that Biden is a "cor-

rupt" politician, Trump said.

"The Biden family is a criminal enterprise, and you know it, and so do I. In fact, they sort of make Crooked Hillary Clinton look like amateur, if you think about it. Yet all of this is being covered up by the media and big tech (companies). You saw that you see that," he alleged.

Referring to the Twitter account of White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany being shutdown for some time by the micro-blogging site, the president said that

Obama to campaign for Biden, Harris

New York: Former US President Barack Obama will campaign for Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden in Pennsylvania next week, the Biden campaign has said. President Donald Trump, however, told his supporters here that Obama was an "ineffective" campaigner and this was good news for him as in 2016 "they did a lousy job and that's why I'm your president". Biden, 77, was the vice president during Obama's two terms. While Obama has endorsed Biden and his running mate and India-origin Senator Kamala Harris by making online campaigns for them, this would be the first time that the 59-year-old former president would be campaigning in person.



Divided world is failing COVID-19 test: Guterres



REUTERS

Lisbon, Oct 17: A divided world has failed to rise to the challenge of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Saturday and warned concerted action was needed to prevent millions of people being pushed into poverty and hunger.

The former Portuguese prime minister said far more could have been done if countries had worked together to combat the disease, which has killed more than one million people.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is a major global challenge for the entire international community, for multilateralism and for me, as secretary-general of the United Nations," Guterres told Portuguese news agency Lusa.

"Unfortunately it is a test that, so far, the international community is failing."

He said that if coordinated measures were not taken, "a microscopic virus could push millions of people into poverty and hunger, with devastating economic effects in the years to come".

Guterres also criticised countries for a lack of unity in trying to solve other global challenges including the conflicts in Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria.

"It is a source of enormous frustration," he said.

More than 39 million people have been infected by COVID-19, according to a Reuters tally based on official disclosures.

Infections have been reported in more than 210 countries and territories since the first cases were identified in China in December 2019.

'Trump revels in division, chaos'

Macon: US President Donald Trump "revels" in division and chaos, and he will do anything to distract people from his failures to deal with the COVID-19 situation, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has alleged. Speaking at a restricted election campaign event on Friday at Southfield in Michigan, a battleground state, Biden said the country is paying a heavy price for Trump's policies on COVID-19.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

Armenian missile kills 13



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baku (Azerbaijan), Oct 17: Azerbaijan Saturday accused Armenia of striking its second-largest city with a ballistic missile that killed at least 13 civilians and wounded 50 others in a new escalation of their conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Armenian Defence Ministry denied launching the strike, but the separatist authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh put out a statement listing alleged "legitimate" military facilities in the city of Ganja, although they stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attack.

Azerbaijani officials said the Soviet-made Scud missile destroyed or damaged about 20 residential buildings in Ganja overnight, and emergency workers spent hours searching in the rubble for victims and survivors. Scud missiles date back to the 1960s and carry a big load of explosives but are known for their lack of precision.

In a televised address to the nation, Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, denounced the missile strike as a war crime and warned the leadership of Armenia that it would face responsibility for that.

"Azerbaijan will give its response and it will do so exclusively on the battlefield," Aliyev said. While authorities in both Azerbaijan and Armenia have denied targeting civilians, residential areas have increasingly come under shelling amid the hostilities that have raged for three weeks despite Russia's attempt to broker a cease-fire.

MONITORING THE VIRUS



Auxiliary police officers wearing 'smart helmets', a portable thermoscanner that can measure the temperature of passengers at a distance, patrol inside a commuter train in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

REUTERS PHOTO

SOUTH CHINA SEA

China on friendship drive after US flexes muscles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 17: Rattled by the strengthened US naval presence in the region, China has gone in for a fresh round of gunboat diplomacy with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries as it sees these nations looking at Washington for support to keep the dragon at bay.

The recent meeting in Tokyo of foreign ministers of the Indo-Pacific quad countries comprising the US, India, Japan and Australia also seems to have been factored into China's stepped up diplomatic drive with Foreign Minister Wang Yi undertaking a whirlwind tour to the ASEAN neighbours.

The ASEAN grouping includes countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore,



and Thailand while some partner countries like Vietnam also have close ties with the group.

China has been continuously bullying these countries by staking ownership claims over their outlying islands and sending warships into their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) to intimidate them.

However, in the context of the changed geopolitical situation,

"external disruption" in the South China Sea, Wang said during a joint news conference with Malaysia's FM in Kuala Lumpur.

Wang claimed America's Indo-Pacific strategy was a "security risk" for East Asia, saying: "I believe all parties see this clearly and will stay vigilant against it. The South China Sea should not be a ground for major power wrestling teaming with warships."

"China and ASEAN have full capacity and wisdom, as well as responsibility, to maintain peace and tranquility in the South China Sea," Wang added. As an economic sop to Malaysia, China committed to purchase 1.7 MT of palm oil until 2023 and agreed to encourage increased shipments of the product which is crucial for the development of the ASEAN member's economy.

Beijing and members of ASEAN should work together to remove

9 ARRESTED OVER FRANCE TEACHER BEHEADING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, Oct 17: French police have arrested nine people over the beheading of a teacher near his school in a Paris suburb, a judicial source said Saturday, in what President Emmanuel Macron labelled an Islamist terror attack.

The source said the killing was carried out by an 18-year-old Chechen, who was then shot and killed by police near the scene in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, northwest of Paris. Police said the victim was 47-year-old history teacher Samuel Paty, who had shown his pupils some cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed as part of a class discussion on freedom of expression -- a lesson that had prompted complaints from parents.

Two of the suspect's brothers

and his grandparents were initially detained by police for questioning. The judicial source told AFP Saturday that five more people had been detained, including the parents of a child at the school and friends of the suspect.

According to the source, the parents had signalled their disagreement with the teacher's decision to show the cartoons.

The attack came as a trial is in progress over the January 2015 massacre at the offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine, which had published caricatures of the prophet Mohammed that unleashed a wave of anger across the Islamic world.

The magazine republished the cartoons in the run-up to the trial in September and last month a young Pakistani man wounded two people with a meat cleaver outside its former offices.

'Being couch potato actually sharpens your brain'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Oct 17: It is often advised not to sit for prolonged hours, but a new study has challenged the 'couch potato' belief, saying when it comes to the brain and cognition abilities, some sedentariness are not all that bad so long as basic physical activity benchmarks are met.

The study could be a bit of good news for a population that spend a significant amount of time sitting for work and for leisure, streaming their favourite movies and TV shows in these times of social distancing.

The research from assistant professor Aga Burzynska in the Colorado State University examined the association between sensor-measured physical activity and cognitive performance in a sample

of 228 healthy older adults, aged 60 to 80.

Published in the journal 'Psychology and Aging', the results showed that as expected, adults who engaged in more moderate-to-vigorous activity had better speed, memory and reasoning abilities. However, the data also revealed that adults who spent more time sedentary performed better on vocabulary and reasoning tasks.

The association between increased physical activity and improved cardiovascular and metabolic health is one that's well documented, according to Burzynska.

But the link between different intensities of daily physical activity and cognitive health is less understood, especially in older adults. "We know that as we grow older,



even if we do not have any cognitive impairments, people aged 60 and up already show some decreases in speed, executive functioning, and memory.

"Those decreases are totally within a normal range, but this study was looking to understand how our behaviors and habits may correlate with cognitive outcomes in older age," said Burzynska.

What differentiates this study

from others is the way the researchers measured daily physical activity, using scientifically validated sensors that are more accurate than the average, consumer-based activity tracker.

"If you ask, 'How long did you sit today?' people will perhaps say 2 to 3 hours when the reality is more like 6 to 8 hours," Burzynska said.

The study employed a broad assessment that tested 16 cognitive

The study could be a bit of good news for a population that spend a significant amount of time sitting for work and for leisure, streaming their favourite movies and TV shows

tasks.

In addition, they measured and controlled for socioeconomic and health factors, such as employment status, income level, aerobic fitness, blood pressure, and mobility issues.

Older adults who participated in the study wore the sensor on their hip for a span of seven days,

during which the sensor captured the daily time they spent sitting or in light versus moderate-to-vigorous physical activity.

"Our study has pretty high-quality measures that cannot be done 'quick and dirty'," Burzynska added.

There's this big push within health and wellness that sitting is always bad for your body, that being a couch potato is not good.

"While earlier studies indicated that the brains of those who spend more time sitting may age faster, it seems that on the cognitive level, sitting time may also be meaningful," the authors wrote.

However, future studies are needed to determine how exactly the participants spent their time sitting before any definitive conclusions can be made about sedentary activity and cognitive health.

business

of the day quote

We feel privileged to be announcing the initiative (Girl Child Development Programme) along with our 1,50,000 network partners. It is just a small step towards making the next generation an independent

The Virtual IJES 2020 was very important for our industry, as the COVID-19 lockdown from March to September has been extremely difficult for business, both exports as well as domestic, manufacturing and retail

Our 'Big Fashion Festival' has had a fantastic start, with customers shopping for 1.2 million products in the first 12 hours, making it the biggest festive event at Myntara to date. We feel elated with the phenomenal opening response with over 2 lakh new customers participating in the Big Fashion Festival so far

SHORT TAKES

Direct Create to promote handicrafts

Mumbai: Direct Create, an online-offline technology platform for handicrafts, is planning to launch an awareness campaign 'Empowerment through Craft' to enroll entrepreneurs and more craftsmen, it said in a release Saturday. The campaign will be rolled out in several small towns and villages through NGOs and with government collaboration, it said. The platform is already connected with a community of 15,000 makers and designers with 2,500 artisans and designers.

HDFC Bank's Q2 profit rises 16%

New Delhi: HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 16% rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹7,703 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2020. The private sector lender had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹6,638 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Total consolidated income during the quarter under review rose to ₹38,438.47 crore from ₹36,130.96 crore in July-September 2019, the bank said.

Nair appointed MD, CEO of Shopper Stop

New Delhi: Retailing firm Shoppers Stop Saturday announced the appointment of Trent's Venugopal G Nair as its MD & CEO. Nair, whose appointment is effective from November 6, 2020, would take over the role from Rajiv Suri who had resigned earlier. "He (Nair) has also been appointed as a MD, designated as 'MD & CEO' of the company for a period of three years effective November 6, 2020," Shopper Stop said.

Prestige group to sell retail assets

New Delhi: Realty firm Prestige Estates Projects Ltd on Saturday said it has agreed to sell certain office, retail and hotel properties to global investment firm Blackstone -- in a big ticket real estate deal estimated at around ₹12,000 crore. Prestige group did not disclose the deal size, but sources said that the Bangalore-based firm has signed term sheets with Blackstone to sell commercial properties for an enterprise value of around ₹12,000 crore.



My government will offer a red carpet welcome to US firms investing in Goa through 100% FDI route. Our Investment Promotion Board will facilitate such investment on a priority basis, offering all clearances through a single-window system

PRAMOD SAWANT | CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

PAYTM USERS TO PAY 2% CHARGE

Paytm users will have to pay a 2% fee on the amount added to their e-wallet using a credit card. Until now, users had to pay 2% fee if they loaded more than ₹10,000 in their e-wallets via credit card in a month



'B'desh has not surpassed India on economic metric'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: On 'more appropriate' economic metric, Bangladesh has not surpassed India and is unlikely to be in future, former chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian said on Saturday, asserting that GDP per capita is an estimate for one indicator of the average standard of welfare in a country.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had taken a dig at the government over IMF growth projections showing Bangladesh closing in on India in terms of per capita GDP this year and described it as a "solid achievement" of six years of the BJP's "hate-filled cultural nationalism".

Government sources had em-



No, on more appropriate metric, India has not been surpassed and, according to IMF, unlikely to be in near future

ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN | FORMER CEA

phasised that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of purchasing power parity was 11 times more than that of Bangladesh in 2019. "The India-vs-Bangladesh GDP per capita comparison (post IMF WEO) has sparked anxiety & acrimony. But wrong numbers being compared..."

"NO, on more appropriate metric, India has not been surpassed and, according to IMF, unlikely to be in

near future," Subramanian said in a series of tweets.

He said all the focus has been on comparisons based on GDP measured at current, market exchange rates and this yields "conclusion" of Bangladesh eclipsing India. But market exchange rates are not appropriate for welfare comparisons across time and countries, Subramanian said, adding that GDP

per capita is an estimate for one indicator of the average standard of living/welfare in a country.

The former CEA said there is need to measure real GDP in local currency after taking out effects of inflation and then, convert all local currency estimates of real GDP into comparable dollars.

He noted that more appropriate basis is GDP at constant, purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates. Noting that India has no room for complacency, Subramanian said, "India will return to pre-COVID *LEVEL* of real per capita GDP only in 2022, 3 lost years."

According to the IMF, India is set to drop below Bangladesh in terms of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the economy is projected

to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year.

IMF's forecast for India -- a huge downward revision from its previous prediction in June -- is also the biggest contraction projected among major emerging markets amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report.

Released ahead of the annual meetings of IMF and the World Bank, the report said global growth would contract by 4.4 per cent this year and bounce back to 5.2 per cent in 2021.

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail reaches out to underprivileged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: A unique Village Development Project in Odisha taken up by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL), reaches out to the underprivileged and helps raise 'empowered communities'. The pathway is through a holistic programme, inclusive of skills training to ensure self-reliant communities.



Chairperson of Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development Rajashree Birla said, "Our vision is to actively contribute to the social and economic development of the underserved communities, lifting the burden of poverty and helping bring in inclusive growth.

In so doing, build a better, sustainable way of life for the weaker sections of society and raise the country's Human Development Index. Our goals are aligned with the UNSDGs. Odisha is among our priority state".

ABFRL is engaged in three villages of Janla panchayat in Odisha. The project, in sync with the Centre's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna (SAGY), is in operation for over 2 years and reaches out to 20,000 people in Ogalapada, Dhakinamundhamunha and Uttaramundamunha villages. Its avowed objective is holistic development. Hence it factors social, environment and economic aspects.

Furthermore, it is aligned to the UNSDGs. Among the notable programmes afoot are mushroom cultivation, which assures sustainable livelihoods, watershed management towards bolstering farm productivity and setting up of academic support centres, including the Ama Library.

Moody's downgrades UK as Covid, Brexit hit debt outlook



The world's sixth-biggest economy shrank by the most among Group of Seven nations in the second quarter and its public debt has topped \$2.6 trillion, surpassing 100% of the GDP

REUTERS

London, Oct 17: Ratings agency Moody's cut the United Kingdom's debt rating on Friday over the huge economic hit from the coronavirus crisis, Brexit and the lack of clear budget plans from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government.

Moody's lowered the rating to "Aa3" from "Aa2," putting Britain on the same level as Belgium and the Czech Republic.

The world's sixth-biggest economy shrank by the most among Group of Seven nations in the second quarter and its public debt has topped 2 trillion pounds (\$2.6 trillion), surpassing 100% of gross domestic product.

Moody's said Britain's growth had been "meaningfully weaker than expected and is likely to remain so in the future."

Britain faced a sharper peak-to-trough contraction than any other Group of 20 economy due to the severity of its COVID-19 outbreak, the size of its services sector, hampered by social-distancing rules, and

the risk of further outbreaks, it said. The downgrade was another blow for Johnson who is under fire from opposition parties and lawmakers in his Conservative Party for his handling of the pandemic, which has killed more people in Britain than anywhere in Europe.

Moody's said Britain's failure to reach a broad trade deal with the EU would compound the damage caused by COVID-19.

Johnson said earlier on Friday there was currently no point in continuing the trade negotiations.

"Even if there is a trade deal between the UK and EU by the end of 2020, it will likely be narrow in scope," Moody's said.

It also said Britain has lost budgetary discipline and its high debt levels were unlikely to come down quickly. "The UK effectively has no fiscal policy anchor," it said.

Spending cuts were likely to be politically difficult and tax increases could choke off the economic recovery, Britain's government responded by saying it had no choice other than to ramp up spending to soften the pandemic's impact.

"Over time and as the economy recovers, the government will take the necessary steps to ensure the long-term health of the public finances," a finance ministry spokesman said.

Moody's revised the outlook on the country's sovereign debt to "stable" from "negative." The downgrade puts the Moody's rating on the same level as Fitch's while Standard & Poor's rates the country one notch higher.

Dr Reddy's, RDIF get DCGI nod for clinical trial

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Saturday said it along with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) has received approval from the Drug Control General of India (DCGI) to conduct phase 2/3 human clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V in India.

This will be a multi-centre and randomised controlled study, which will include safety and immunogenicity check, the Hyderabad-based drug major said in a statement.

"This is a significant development that allows us to commence the clinical trial in India and we are committed to bringing in a safe and efficacious vaccine to combat the pandemic," Dr Reddy's Laboratories Co-chairman and Managing Director GV Prasad said.

RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev said the entity was pleased to collaborate with the Indian regulators.

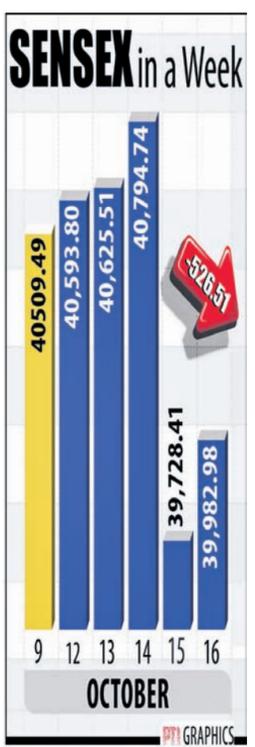
"In addition to Indian clinical



This is a significant development that allows us to commence the clinical trial in India and we are committed to bringing in a safe and efficacious vaccine to combat the pandemic

GV PRASAD | CO-CHAIRMAN AND MD, DR REDDY'S LABORATORIES

trial data, we will provide safety and immunogenicity study from the Russian phase 3 clinical trial. This data will further strengthen the



Esplanade One all set for safe puja, shopping spree

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Esplanade One has been the favorite and most popular destination for the people of Odisha. Over the last two years, people not just from Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, but from other cities around have also come to Esplanade One to cater to their needs of fashion, food and entertainment. In the current pandemic as well, Esplanade One has left no stone unturned in ensuring the safety of the patrons, retailers and staff.

There is no bigger festivity in Odisha than Durga Puja and Esplanade One is all set to amplify the entire shopping experience for them. To ensure that the shopping experience at Esplanade One is not just safe, but also rewarding, they have rolled out a 'Jitna Bag, Utma Swag' contest, where people who walk out of the mall with more shopping bags, would stand a chance to claim a higher reward.

Speaking about the Puja festi-



ties, Centre Director at Esplanade One Parth Nayak said, "These times are unusual times and therefore, we have taken measures to ensure the safety of all our stakeholders at Esplanade One.

During the 14 days of our Happiness Wali Puja campaign, we will step up on ensuring all the safety measures are in place, but we have also made the shopping experience more rewarding than it has ever been. Every day, the highest shopper takes home gifts worth

INR 10,000 from the mall for their Puja shopping with us."

Esplanade One is the first mall in the state of Odisha to join hands with Bureau Veritas and ICMR to ensure the SOPs set by the Shopping Centres Association of India and the local administration are followed without any deviation. They are also making the dining option at the foodcourt a touchless one, by joining hands with DOTPe, a QR code based food ordering service which is rolled out at Esplanade One.

Apple likely to see 15% iPhone growth next fiscal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Oct 17: Apple is expected to witness 15 per cent iPhone growth next fiscal year and the primary wave of Apple 5G telephones has placed the ball in carriers and builders court, research-driven US venture capital firm Loup Ventures has forecast.

"While we believe it will take carriers years to build a compelling 5G infrastructure, Apple is ready today with a lineup of phones that should enjoy a three-year upgrade cycle, compared to a typical one-year duration," wrote Gene Munster and David Stokman.

"Additionally, the company continues to advance augmented reality. We see the combination of AR and a 5G iPhone as the basis for why Apple is the best way to invest in 5G".

According to a report in DigiTimes, Apple iPhone 12 series



RIDING ON 5G
ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN DIGITIMES, APPLE IPHONE 12 SERIES SHIPMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH AS MANY AS 80 MILLION UNITS BY THE END OF THE YEAR OWING TO MORE AFFORDABLE PRICING STRATEGY

APPLE THIS WEEK LAUNCHED FOUR NEW IPHONE 12 MODELS WITH 5G CAPABILITY

shipments are expected to reach as many as 80 million units by the end of the year owing to more affordable pricing strategy.

Shipments of the new iPhone lineup, including the iPhone 12,

iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max, will at least top 70 million units by the end 2020, with the possibility of hitting 80 million barring a further escalation of the US-China trade con-

flicts, it reported.

According to Munster and Stokman from Loup Ventures, "We imagine the variety of iPhones which are three years or older has elevated by 90 million items over the previous year, which supplies a tailwind for iPhone demand within the coming year".

"We stay snug with our 15 per cent iPhone unit development estimates for FY21, which might be a rise from 1 per cent in FY20," the duo predicted. Apple this week launched four new iPhone 12 models with 5G capability.

Foxconn remains Apple's main iPhone assembler, and has secured the bulk of orders for the new iPhone 12 series through the first quarter of 2021.

Foxconn is also the sole supplier of the 6.7-inch iPhone 12 Pro Max and is estimated to be handling over 70 per cent of the orders for the 6.1-inch iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Pro.

₹1.08Lcr OKAYED UNDER DISCOM LIQUIDITY PLAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: As much as ₹1.08 lakh crore worth of loans under the liquidity package for stressed power distribution utilities have been sanctioned so far, REC said Saturday.

In May, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced ₹90,000 crore liquidity infusion into cash-strapped discoms, facing demand slump due to the lockdown to contain COVID-19.

This package was later increased to ₹1.2 lakh crore by the Ministry of Power. "Till date, REC and PFC (Power Finance Corporation) have sanctioned ₹1.08 lakh crore and released nearly ₹30,000 crore to discoms under the scheme," REC said in a statement.

The loans under the package will be co-funded by PFC and REC



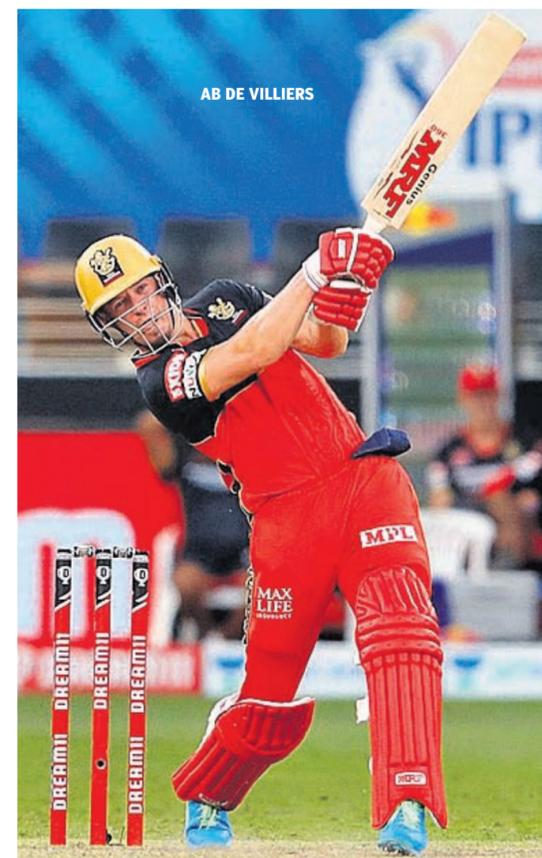
in equal proportion. The loans would be sanctioned in two equal tranches.

REC also said it has sanctioned ₹2,790 crore to Jammu Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd (JKPCL) under the scheme.

The agreement was signed between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, JKPCL, REC and PFC.

Under the liquidity infusion scheme of the Centre, REC and PFC are extending financial assistance at a concessional rate of interest, it added.

AB BLINDER, MORRIS LIFT RCB



AB DE VILLIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 17: AB de Villiers' (55 n o, 22b, 1x4, 6x6) swashbuckling half century and a splendid spell of fast bowling by Chris Morris (4/26) fashioned an incredible seven-wicket victory for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in an IPL match here Saturday.

Chasing 178, De Villiers played an innings, he has been known for, to help RCB win the game after all seemed lost for them following the dismissal of Virat Kohli (43, 32b, 1x4, 2x6) with the team struggling at 102/3 in the 14th over.

The seasoned South African launched into Jaydev Unadkat for three successive sixes in the 19th over to swing the match in his team's favour. He finished the game in style, hitting Jofra Archer for a maximum with two balls still to go.

RCB lost Aaron Finch (14) after Australia's limited overs captain had hit two sixes. Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal (35) stitched a 79-run partnership for the second wicket but consumed too many deliveries in doing so, failing to keep pace with the required run rate.

Padikkal, while trying to break the shackles after struggling his way to 35 off 37 balls, got out when his pull shot failed to clear Ben Stokes in the deep.

And then came the big wicket of Kohli, thanks to a brilliant piece of fielding by Tewatia, who pulled off a catch inches from the line at deep midwicket on the rebound after the



CHRIS MORRIS

BRIEF SCORES

Rajasthan Royals 177/6
(Steve Smith 57, Robin Uthappa 41; Chris Morris 4/26) lost to **Royal Challengers Bangalore 179/3**
(AB de Villiers 55 n o, Virat Kohli 43) by 7 wickets.

batsman whipped it off his pads.

The ball travelled at a great speed but Tewatia, coming off a wicket in his previous ball, balanced himself after nearly falling over the line to complete a fine catch. The required run-rate rose rapidly as RCB struggled to find the big overs, but de Villiers had other ideas.

Earlier, skipper Steve Smith's (57, 36b, 6x4, 1x6) counterattacking half century guided Rajasthan to 177/6. Morris bowled a brilliant final over, conceding only four runs while taking two wickets to check RR from going past 180.

Batting first, Rajasthan were off to a brisk start as opener Robin Uthappa

(41, 22b, 7x4, 1x6) launched into the RCB attack with a flurry of boundaries. Morris gave RCB their first breakthrough when he had the subdued Stokes caught down the leg side.

Uthappa's slow sweep went into the hands of the deep mid-wicket fielder off the bowling of leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (2/34). Sanju Samson also fell to Chahal, taken at long-off by Morris as RR slipped to 69/3.

On the lookout for quick runs, Smith found an ally in Jos Buttler (24) and the two added 55 runs while steadying the ship. Smith and Tewatia (19 n o) then took RR to a competitive 177/6.



SRH test ahead of KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 17: A new captain in the saddle, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) would look to sort out their batting woes and strive for consistency when they face Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in an intriguing mid-table IPL clash here Sunday.

After a string of below par performances, Dinesh Karthik handed over the reins to his deputy Eoin Morgan hours before KKR's match against Mumbai Indians Friday. But the World Cup-winning England captain's campaign as leader was off to a disappointing start with MI handing KKR an eight-wicket mauling.

KKR are still in the top four of IPL points table behind Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore with four wins and as many defeats. But if the two-time champions want to seal a play-off spot, their batsmen need to step up, shrug off their inconsistencies and win matches for the team.

After a massive 82-run loss to RCB, the KKR batsmen failed yet again against MI bowlers as they were reduced to 61/5 in the 11th over. An 87-run unbroken stand for the sixth wicket between Morgan (39 not out) and pacer Pat Cummins (53 not out)

took them to 148/5. But MI needed just 16.5 overs to overhaul the target, losing two wickets in the process. At the top, Shubman Gill has failed to capitalise on his starts, while Rahul Tripathi has not gone past the 20-run mark after his brilliant 81 against the Chennai Super Kings.

Nitish Rana has been profligate and Karthik's batting slot has been experimented with throughout the tournament. Andre Russell and Morgan have also not been able to make the kind of impact expected from players of their calibre.

The KKR bowlers did well to fashion narrow victories against Kings XI Punjab and CSK, but leaked runs against RCB and MI. To add to their woes, star spinner Sunil Narine has been reported for suspect bowling action and he has missed two matches since then.

The Sunrisers, who occupy the fifth spot on the points table with just three wins from eight outings, are also struggling. With the injuries ruling out pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, the Orange Army is facing a conundrum of whether to strengthen their batting or their bowling unit, a fact that skipper David Warner conceded.

TODAY'S MATCHES

SRH VS KKR AT 3:30 PM

MI VS KXIP AT 7:30 PM

TELECAST: STAR SPORTS

Mbappe brace helps PSG win at Nimes 4-0

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 17: Star striker Kylian Mbappe scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) won at 10-man Nimes 4-0 to move to the top of the French league for the first time this season. Mbappe netted late to give France a 2-1 win at Croatia two days ago in the Nations League.

Nimes center half Loick Landre was sent off after 12 minutes for a chest-high tackle on midfielder Rafinha. The speedy Mbappe made a typical run behind the defense and beat goalkeeper Baptiste Reynet in the 32nd. Right back Alessandro Florenzi's header made it 2-0 in the 78th and Mbappe pounced five minutes later after being set up by winger Pablo Sarabia, who completed the rout. PSG's fifth straight win took them above Rennes on goal difference with

both sides on 15 points after a below-strength Rennes drew at last-place Dijon 1-1 earlier Friday.

But PSG were even more depleted for the trip south. Marquinhos, Layvin Kurzawa and Angel Di Maria were suspended, Marco Verratti and Julian Draxler came back injured from international duty, and Mauro Icardi injured his knee in training.

Also, with Manchester United coming to Paris in the Champions League next week, PSG coach Thomas Tuchel rested Neymar after he scored a hat-trick for Brazil in Peru Tuesday.

But midfielder Leandro Paredes started despite playing for Argentina this week and limped off early on against Nimes with a hamstring injury. Forward Moise Kean and Rafinha made their PSG debuts after signing recently.



Kylian Mbappe (L) is congratulated by one of his teammates after scoring

Fortunate Dhawan's maiden IPL ton fashions DC victory

AGENCIES



Shikhar Dhawan celebrates after DC's win over CSK

Sharjah, Oct 17: Shikhar Dhawan (101 n o, 58b, 14x4, 1x6) made the most of his drop-chances and scored his maiden IPL century guiding Delhi Capitals (DC) to a splendid five-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) here, Saturday.

Chasing 180, DC were needed 17 runs off the final over. In spite of having an option in experienced Dwayne Bravo, MS Dhoni went with Ravindra Jadeja for the crucial over and it cost dearly. Axar Patel, who scored 5-ball 21, struck three sixes in four balls to complete the chase with a ball to spare.

Delhi were struggling initially, losing Prithvi Shaw and Ajinkya Rahane to be reduced to 26/2 in 4.1 overs as Deepak Chahar (2/18) got

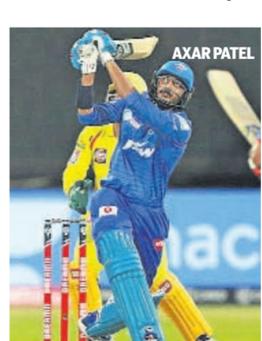
both the wickets. Dhawan slowly built up momentum with occasional boundaries. He got his first lifeline in the seventh over when on 25.

He got another lifeline in the 10th over; dropped by Dhoni, a tough chance though. He was on 50. Rayudu was the next culprit who dropped a sitter of the left-hander. Dhawan, then, was on 79.

In spite of missing out on partners at the other hand, he made the most of his opportunity to guide his side home comfortably.

Earlier, a combined late onslaught from Ambati Rayudu (45 n o, 25b, 1x4, 4x6) and Ravindra Jadeja (33 n o, 13b, 4x6) powered CSK to 179/4.

Faf Du Plessis (58, 47b, 6x4, 2x6) hit his fourth half century of the season as a collective batting effort propelled CSK to a competi-



AXAR PATEL

tive total. Du Plessis added 87 runs with Shane Watson (36, 28b, 6x4) after early fall of Sam Curran (0), setting it up nicely for the CSK.

CSK collected 67 runs in the last five overs. Rayudu and Jadeja added 50 runs in 3.3 overs during their unbeaten fifth wicket partnership.

Young pacer Tushar Deshpande bowled a tight line with decent speed and was rewarded when Sam Curran, without measuring the bowler, swung his arms but just managed a top-edge that was taken by Anrich Nortje (2/44).

CSK were going good until Watson was castled by Nortje. Rabada sent back Du Plessis while Nortje got rid of rival skipper MS Dhoni (3) but Rayudu and Jadeja helped the side reach a competitive total.

BRIEF SCORES: CSK 179/4 (Faf de Plessis 58, Ambati Rayudu 45 n o, Ravindra Jadeja 33 n o, Shane Watson 36; Anrich Nortje 2/44) lost to DC 185/5 (Shikhar Dhawan 101 n o; Deepak Chahar 2/18) by 5 wickets.

MI up against KXIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 17: They have been in rampaging form with five straight wins but Mumbai Indians (MI) can ill afford to be complacent against a Chris Gayle-inspired Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) side in their IPL game here Sunday.

A win for Mumbai Indians will virtually seal them a spot in the play-offs while a loss for KXIP could send them out of contention.

Mumbai Indians have steamrolled opposition teams with an explosive batting line-up complemented by a lethal bowling attack and the latest side to bear their brunt were the Kolkata Knight Riders who suffered an eight-wicket defeat Friday.

Table-toppers MI boast of top batsmen such as captain Rohit Sharma (251 runs) and his opening partner Quinton de Kock (269) and both are in good touch, while the middle-order is manned by the likes of Suryakumar Yadav (243 runs) and Ishan Kishan (186 runs).

Rohit played second fiddle to De Kock in MI's win against KKR, with the South African hitting 78 not out from 44 balls. In the bowling front, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult have formed the most successful pair this IPL with 12 wickets apiece from eight

matches so far. Spinner Rahul Chahar chipped in against KKR with two wickets for 18 runs.

On the other hand, KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper KL Rahul (387 runs at a strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner, Mayank Agarwal (337 runs).

KXIP's problem has been that their batting and bowling have not fired in unison on most occasions even though their confidence has been boosted by the return of Gayle.

The self-proclaimed 'Universe Boss' made his first appearance this IPL with a bang, hitting a 45-ball 53, a knock that was laced with five sixes and a four in KXIP's win over RCB.

A captivating duel may be in store between Gayle on one side and Bumrah and Boult on the other. KXIP have other in-form batsmen in Rahul and Agarwal, with both or at least one of them scoring big in almost every match.

But their bowling has been the weakest link. Barring Mohammad Shami and Ravi Bishnoi, none of the bowlers have inspired confidence, especially in the death overs. Not being able to find the right balance despite trying out many options has also contributed to KXIP's rapid slide.



OFC's Indian players begin training

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Indian contingent of Odisha FC (OFC) started training in groups adhering to all the health and safety norms laid out by the League Saturday. The players under the guidance of Indian assistant coach and former international midfielder Steven Dias started training at their designated training pitch at Betalbatim, Goa.

Meanwhile, the foreign players have also started arriving at the team hotel. Experienced defender Steven Taylor and forward Diego Mauricio have already checked in earlier while ISL star Marcelinho and goalkeeping coach Rogerio Ramos arrived, Saturday.

"I am very excited and delighted that finally we have started training on field and I am sure that the players must have been waiting for the same as well. They have worked hard in their respective rooms following the fitness training guidelines by our Strength and Conditioning Coach Joan

(Casanova). We all are looking forward to it," said Dias, expressing his delight after getting on to the field.

OFC's head of football operations Abhik Chatterjee said, "This training session was a very spe-

cial one for all the players and the staff because everybody set foot on the pitch after a long period of time. The joy and the enthusiasm of the players was very visible and it showed in the training session."



Odisha star Shubham Sarangi during OFC's training session, Saturday

Merseyside derby ends in thrilling draw

AGENCIES

London, Oct 17: Liverpool were controversially denied a Merseyside derby victory as Jordan Henderson saw a late winner ruled out by VAR in a 2-2 draw with 10-man Everton.

Premier League leaders Everton twice came from behind to level in an absorbing contest at Goodison Park. Michael Keane cancelled out Sadio Mane's third-minute opener and Dominic Calvert-Lewin did the same after Mohamed Salah scored his 100th goal for Liverpool.

Richardson was sent off for a rash challenge on Thiago Alcantara and that indiscretion looked to have been doubly punished in injury time by Henderson, only for VAR to intervene and keep Everton three points ahead of Liverpool at the top of the table.

Liverpool needed only two minutes and 15 seconds to break the deadlock as a well-worked move saw the ball shifted out to Andy Robertson, whose low left-wing cross was side-footed into the roof of the net by Mane.



Dominic Calvert-Lewin (No.9) watches the ball going past a diving goalie Adrian as Liverpool players wear a dejected look at Goodison Park, Saturday

Everton were then extremely fortunate not to concede a penalty and go down to 10 men. Goalkeeper Jordan Pickford clattered into Virgil van Dijk after Fabinho lofted the ball back into the box from a corner and was rescued by the offside flag against the Liverpool centre-back.

Van Dijk subsequently limped off to be replaced by Joe Gomez, and his absence proved key as Keane rose

highest to meet a corner from James Rodriguez and powerfully head home the equaliser.

The hosts were left to rue that miss as a poor clearance from Yerry Mina presented the ball to Salah, who lashed a first-time effort beyond Pickford.

Pickford had to be at his best to prevent Joel Matip and Salah from extending Liverpool's lead.

Pickford denied Mane, who then headed Diogo Jota's rebound wide, but Liverpool's hopes were boosted by Richardson's ill-advised tackle on Thiago.

Henderson appeared to have decisively capitalised on Liverpool's numerical advantage when Pickford inexplicably failed to keep his tame close-range effort out, but VAR adjudged Mane to have strayed marginally offside as he latched on to Thiago's telling ball down the left.

In the other game, Jannik Vestergaard struck a stoppage time equaliser to help Southampton steal a point from Chelsea. The match ended 3-3.

New signing Timo Werner put Chelsea ahead in the 15th minute before doubling the advantage in the 28th minute. Danny Ings pulled one back for Southampton just before the break.

Che Adams then restored parity in the 57th before Kai Havertz again put Chelsea ahead two minutes later. It was looking like Chelsea will return home with three points, but Vestergaard dashed their hopes.