



KRITI PENS POEM

Kriti Sanon has defined a resilient streak about herself on social media with a touch of poetry

LEISURE P2



IMRAN SLAMS SHARIF

Pak PM Imran Khan slammed Nawaz Sharif, stating that he was playing a dangerous game at India's behest

INTERNATIONAL P10



BARCA PUT UP A SHOW

Teenager Ansu Fati on target again as a 10-man Barca overcome inclement weather, Celta Vigo

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I am an encounter specialist. He will handle your case. He is the cremation specialist.

H-1B visa ban blocked in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON: In a major relief to thousands of Indian IT professionals, a federal judge in the US blocked the enforcement of a temporary visa ban by the Trump administration on a large number of work permits, including the most sought after H-1B visas, ruling that the president exceeded his constitutional authority. The order issued by US District Judge Jeffrey White of Northern District of California applies to members of organisations that filed a lawsuit against the Department of Commerce and Department of Homeland Security -- the US Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, National Retail Federation, TechNet, a technology industry group, and Intrax Inc., which sponsors cultural exchanges. The ruling places an immediate hold on a series of damaging visa restrictions that prevent manufacturers from filling crucial, hard-to-fill jobs to support economic recovery, growth and innovation when most needed, the National Association of manufacturers said.

SHORT TAKES

Diesel price falls in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Diesel prices dropped by 8 paise here Friday on the back of subdued crude oil prices globally. With the deduction, diesel price stood at ₹76.73 while petrol prices remained unchanged at ₹81.66. Prices of diesel declined for the second consecutive day across the four metro cities too. In the national capital, diesel was priced at ₹70.46 per litre, down from ₹70.53 on Thursday. Similarly, in the other metros, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹76.86, ₹75.95 and ₹73.99 per litre, respectively.

Capital's COVID toll reaches 100

Bhubaneswar: The Capital city lost four more lives to novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours, taking the total Covid-19 fatalities in Bhubaneswar to 100, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Friday. Meanwhile, as many as 312 new Covid-19 cases were detected under BMC limits during the period, the civic body tweeted. While 58 of them were quarantine cases, remaining 254 were local contact ones. On the other hand, 329 persons who had earlier tested positive for the virus recovered Friday.

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 29.9°C	28.6°C
MIN 24.6°C	23.0°C
Humidity 98%	94%
Rainfall 1.6mm	1.0mm
Forecast: Light rain likely	

State's fingerprint bureau hamstrung

POOR SHOW

- Among 1,74,620 analysis requests at the bureau, SFPB Odisha managed to trace the past criminal record of the accused in 515 cases
- On the other hand, Gujarat SFPB traced the highest number of fingerprints in as many as 69,636 cases in 2019 across the country
- As many as 30 posts out of the total sanctioned strength of 65 at SFPB lie vacant



GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: With around 50 per cent vacant posts, the State Finger Print Bureau, which plays a vital role in assisting police officials in investigating crimes, has performed dismally over the last few years.

State Finger Print Bureau (SFPB) of Odisha, which had been operating since 1936 at Cuttack, was shifted to Bhubaneswar in 1970. Finger print experts assist police officials in their investigations by visiting the crime scene and matching the chance prints developed at the Scene of Crime (SoC) with FP database stored at the SFPB.

It also matches fingerprint impressions of suspects with the database to find out their past criminal antecedents. However, the recently published annual Finger Print in India report for 2019 by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has exposed the poor show of the bureau as compared to other states.

The report revealed that around 50 percent posts are lying vacant in SFPB and its districts-level boards. The NCRB report for 2018 too indicated glaring vacancies earlier. "States like Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, have recorded

tens of thousands of finger print slips. Karnataka, Bihar, Kerala Odisha, West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Telangana are underperformers," the NCRB stated in its 2018 report.

As per the report, there were 51, 678 Ten-digit finger print slips of convicted persons at SFPB here till December 31, 2019.

The SFPB received finger print impressions of 62 persons convicted under various crimes during 2019. Out of these, 3 were discarded as defective, while 59 were stored at the database for future reference.

The SFPB received 7,591 finger print marks of arrested persons from the investigating officers, who requested the bureau to search its database for past criminal antecedent of the arrestee.

The total number of search slip requests at bureau was 1,74,620 that includes 1,67,466 pending requests at the beginning of the year.

Meanwhile, SFPB Odisha managed to trace the past criminal record of the accused in 515 cases. On the other hand, Gujarat SFPB traced the highest number of fingerprints in as many as 69,636 cases in 2019 across the country.

Trump, first lady contract COVID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 2: US President Donald Trump said Friday that he and first lady Melania Trump have tested positive for the coronavirus, a development that is likely to affect his hectic election campaign.

Tonight, @FLOTUS and I tested positive for COVID-19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this TOGETHER!" 74-year-old Trump tweeted.

In a statement, Trump's physician Dr. Sean Conley said the president and the first lady are both well at

this time, and they plan to remain at home within the White House during their convalescence.

Rest assured I expect the President to continue carrying out his duties without disruption while recovering, Conley added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Trump and the first lady a quick recovery. Wishing my friend @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and @FLOTUS a quick recovery and good health, Modi tweeted.

The White House medical team and I will maintain a vigilant watch, and I appreciate the support pro-



vided by some of our country's greatest medical professionals and institutions, Conley said. Trump's all engagements outside of the White House were can-

celled. He was last seen in public on Thursday afternoon returning to the White House after a fundraising trip to New Jersey.

As too many Americans have done this year, @potus & I are quarantining at home after testing positive for COVID-19. We are feeling good & I have postponed all upcoming engagements. Please be sure you are staying safe & we will all get through this together, Melania tweeted.

Trump's diagnosis amounts to the most serious health threat to a sitting American president in decades, the CNN said. At 74 years old, Trump falls into the highest risk category for serious complications from the disease.

GIRAFFES' DAY OUT



Giraffes at Alipore Zoological Garden after it reopened, during Unlock 5, amid the coronavirus pandemic, in Kolkata, Friday

CM inaugurates power projects in Kalahandi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday inaugurated three power projects for Kalahandi through video conferencing on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and claimed that it would benefit around 30,000 people in the area.

He said that this will help farmers, women and school children from frequent power cuts and other issues. The projects would benefit the populations in Jaypatana, Koksara and Kalampur areas of Kalahandi district, he added.

The three projects included 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub Station at Baner in Jaypatana and two feeder lines of 33KV coming from the substation. "People will get better, more reliable and uninterrupted electricity services. Power cut problems will be eliminated and farmers, women and students will all benefit. Electricity services would be extended to other parts of the district in the coming days," the CM said.

5 UP policemen suspended

Hathras SP, other police officers to undergo narco polygraph test

AGENCIES

Hathras, Oct 2: Five policemen, including the Superintendent of Police, have been suspended in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district amid growing nationwide outrage over the death of a 20-year-old woman who was allegedly raped by a group of men from a so-called "upper caste" community.

An initial report by the Special Investigation Team tasked with probing the incident called for their suspension over allegations of mismanagement. The investigators have also asked for a narco-analysis, otherwise known as lie-detector tests, of all those involved including the arrested suspects and the family of the victim.

The 20-year-old victim, who was attacked September 14 in a field near her home in Hathras, died Tuesday. Her body was hastily cremated at 2:30 am by the police in an apparent effort to thwart long-

HATHRAS HORROR



drawn demonstrations.

However, protests flared in many cities across the country including one in Delhi Friday that was attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Chandrashekar Azad, chief of the Bhim Army which represents members of the Dalit community. While the family say the woman died as the result of a

brutal sexual assault, senior state police officer Prashant Kumar Thursday said the woman died due to a neck injury. "No sperm was found in samples," said Mr Kumar.

The ruling BJP has accused opposition parties, including the Congress which has played a key role in the protests of trying to politicise the issue, and assured that the family of the victim will get justice.

POLITICS OVER VIRUS HEATS UP IN STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: With Biju Janata Dal (BJD) beginning its month-long drive to create awareness on the pandemic among masses, Congress and BJP slammed the move as a face-saving exercise.

Several leaders of the party started distributing masks towards the outreach programme. The drive has been planned from October 2 to November 2.

As per the directions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, each MLA in their area would try to visit their constituencies and distribute masks while making people aware. "During the time, the BJD workers will visit their areas and create awareness on the disease. Special focus on mask wearing and prevention as suggested by the Chief Minister will be given during the drive. We will try to take the message to the people. This will be done across the state," a BJD MLA said.

The Congress, however, slammed the government and said that the party would soon launch a signature campaign to expose the ruling party. "There has been rampant mismanagement of the disease and misappropriation of funds," Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati said.

Tesla CEO Musk suggests India entry in 2021

REUTERS

Bangalore, Oct 2: Tesla Inc chief executive Elon Musk indicated Friday that the US electric carmaker will make a foray into India in 2021.

"Next year for sure," Musk said on Twitter in reply to a post with a photograph of a T-shirt with the message: "India wants Tesla". "Thanks for waiting," Musk said.

Tesla's entry could come at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is increasingly becoming focussed on promoting the use and manufacture of electric vehicles.

India's auto sector, already reeling from a slowdown in demand last year, has been further hit by the novel coronavirus pandemic and carmakers are

NEW FRONTIER

■ Tesla's entry could come at a time when Modi govt will increasingly focus on promoting the use and manufacture of electric vehicles

■ India will be the next automatic frontier for Tesla after it started rolling out cars from its factory in China, world's largest car market



seeking government support to push sales. Musk commented last year about coming to India, in response to someone on Twitter who asked "What about India sir?". "Would love to be there this year. If not, definitely next!" he said in March 2019.

India will be the next automatic frontier for Tesla after its Chinese foray. Recently, the US electric car maker had cut the starting price of its Chinese-made Model 3 sedans by about 8% to 249,900 yuan (\$36,805), once Chinese subsidies for electric vehicles are taken into account, according to its China website.

Previously, the starting price for Model 3 sedans made in Tesla's Shanghai factory with a standard driving range was 271,550 yuan, after state purchase subsidies. Tesla started to deliver cars from the Shanghai factory in December, helping it save on shipping costs and tariffs for imported models. Tesla sold more than 11,000 vehicles,

mostly Model 3s, in August in China, the world's biggest car market. It is also building new car manufacturing capacity for Model Y sports-utility vehicles in Shanghai and expects to start delivering them from next year.

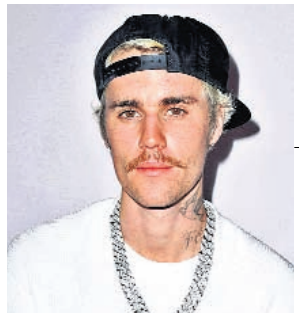
Tesla shares rose as much as 495% this year. The rally ballooned its market value to nearly \$400 billion, making it one of the largest companies listed on a US exchange.

Its dominance in the stock market has helped fuel the tech-heavy Nasdaq 100 nearly 30% higher year-to-date, besting the S&P 500's 4% gain in 2020. It's been a gut-wrenching run: the shares have swung an average of 4.4% a day in 2020, compared to 1.5% for the S&P 500, data compiled by Bloomberg show.



NICKI MINAJ IS NOW A MOM
Rapper Nicki Minaj has delivered her first child. Minaj and husband Kenneth Petty welcomed their baby Wednesday, a source told *people.com*. In July, Minaj had announced that she was pregnant. She had taken to Instagram where she posted a set of photos featuring her with a baby bump.

JUSTIN BIEBER PRAISES WIFE
Pop star Justin Bieber gave credit to his wife Hailey for making him a better man, in a wedding anniversary post. Justin and Hailey got married in 2018 and celebrated their two-year wedding anniversary in September, reports *metro.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today, you may wake up with your nose in the air. Though you may feel bossy and important, others may not feel that way about you. Avoid giving orders that sound like insults. Otherwise, the whole thing may fall flat on your face, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Getting through today will be like a cruise, says Ganesh. Business deals will kneel to the charm of your honey tongue and you will taste success. As the day progresses, you may lose interest in things. Beware of being too sentimental in the evening, warns Ganesh.

GEMINI
A marathon brainstorming session with your colleagues, a scamper for meeting deadlines, and a demanding spouse will leave you quite stressed out by the end of the day. You, however, are an expert in dividing time between business, home and pleasure.

CANCER
This is your big moment. You are going to deal with a huge amount of money — the kind of amount you would want to fill your swimming pool with and swim in it. Statutory warning issued by Ganesh: Don't dive in it, for you may hurt yourself as something or someone is likely to pull the plug, draining out most of the wealth that was amassed overnight.

LEO
Since when was a day complete without a little bit of a scuff and a small squabble? These are the annoying little situations that remind you just how better the alternative is. Ganesh portends a day in which you are jinxed with a propensity for quarrels. So, it is advisable to shun any open confrontation at work.

VIRGO
It is quite probable that today will be an action-packed day for you, feels Ganesh. It is going to be a progressive day for your business. Later in the day, you may retreat into your shell, and refuse company.

LIBRA
It's now or never for you, as today, you may finally take out time to do some sound thinking for your future goals and success. Things seem to go your way, and all your plans are beautifully executed towards the afternoon. Also, find time in the evening to be with the ones dear to you.

SCORPIO
Armed with a good sense of judgement, you will make a number of encouraging changes in your behaviour today, foretells Ganesh. Habits die hard, but all the effort that you put in to refine your routine will pay off brilliantly by the end of the day. Close friends and family will be pleasantly surprised by your efficiency and decisions.

SAGITTARIUS
Expect to be on the go for business related work. Money matters will be a pressing issue in the afternoon. Be the team player and catch all that comes your co-workers' way. Expect to relax and end the day on a cheerful, romantic note.

CAPRICORN
In all probability, you will be in a bizarre frame of mind. At work, there will be a sudden turn of events that shall suddenly create a tottering pile of tasks on your table. In financial matters, you are likely to remain very cautious. In the evening, you can relax and enjoy yourself with your sweetheart, suggests Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You are fully charged and raring to go! Your friends are supportive of your new schemes, and your bosses are pushing you to complete pending projects. This shouldn't be a problem, considering your current levels of energy and enthusiasm, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You will need to be as scheming as the proverbial fox if you hope to wriggle out of the tricky situations that you are likely to find yourself embroiled in today. Keep your temper in check if things don't go your way initially, for the answers to your troubles will come sooner rather than later, says Ganesh.

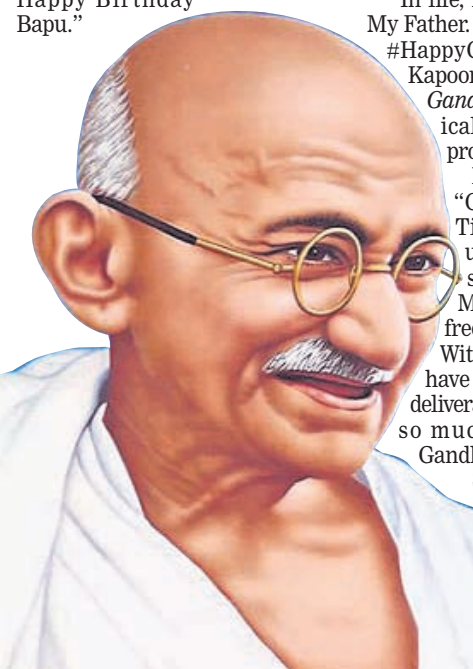
GANDHI JAYANTI

B-Town remembers the Mahatma

Mumbai: Bollywood stars remembered Mahatma Gandhi on his 151st birth anniversary Friday. Celebrities took to their verified Twitter and Instagram accounts to share valuable quotes and life lessons from the Father of the Nation as a way of paying tribute to him.

Anushka Sharma posted: "My humble tribute to the Father of our Nation, who inspired the entire world with his kindness and compassion. I sincerely hope that the lessons he taught us would live in everyone's heart. #GandhiJayanti."

Bhumi Pednekar shared: "Remembering and paying homage to Gandhi ji on his birth anniversary. May we continue to follow his teachings of simplicity, truth and Ahimsa. #GandhiJayanti"



Taapsee Pannu shared on her Instagram story: "An eye for an eye ends up making the whole world blind. We need you back again... Happy Birthday Babu."

Nimrat Kaur expressed: "Of all the evils for which man has made himself responsible, none is so degrading or so shocking or so brutal as his abuse of the better half of humanity; the female sex — Mahatma Gandhi. May Babu's guiding light reign and the daughters of the nation flourish. #GandhiJayanti."



Kriti pens poem defining her resilient streak

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon has defined a resilient streak about her on social media with a touch of poetry. "Every time she's fallen down, she's gotten up stronger! That's me. If you resonate with this too, swipe left," Kriti wrote on Instagram, with a monochrome mid-shot. She tagged the post with #BeMyPoetry and #JustScribbling.

She tried creating awareness on social media by reciting a poem based on domestic violence, and had also urged producers to clear the dues of daily wage earners using her poetic streak.



LESSER KNOWN FILMS ON THE MAHATMA

New Delhi: On the 151st anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on Friday, OTT platforms have laid out a spread of binge-worthy options based on the Father of the Nation.

GANDHIGIRI
The late Om Puri plays the NRI Rai Saheb, who strongly believes in the principles of Mahatma Gandhi. On returning to India, he comes across four troubled people who have made wrong choices in life. The film captures his efforts to reform them by following Gandhi's example. The 2016 film streams on Amazon Prime Video.

ROAD TO SANGAM
The 2009 movie directed by Amit Rai depicts the tale of Hasmat, a devout Muslim residing in Uttar Pradesh. A mechanic, Hasmat is asked to repair an old lorry, unaware that this was the vehicle

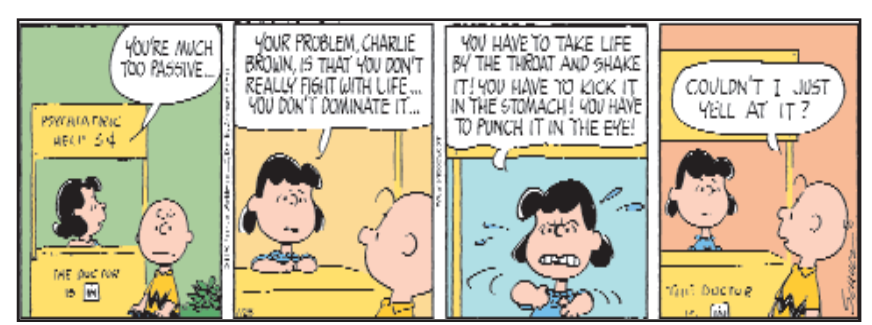
that once transported one of the 20 cremation urns with Gandhi's ashes. He takes up the job, but the situation gets complicated when he finds out the truth behind the urns and decides to transport the last remains of Gandhi. The film stars Paresh Rawal with the late Om Puri and Pavan Malhotra. It is available on ShemarooMe.

HAMNE GANDHI KO MAAR DIA
The 2018 movie, directed by Naem A Siddiqui, narrates the story of two strangers — Kailash and Divakar, whose paths cross during a train journey. The film is set against the turbulent backdrop of Partition, following the end of British Raj. The story traces the interactions of the two characters who have conflicting views about the Mahatma and his philosophy during the journey that coincides with the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. The film can be viewed

on ShemarooMe. **NANNU GANDHI**
The 2008 Kannada film by NR Nanjunde Gowda revolves around a group of children who inspire everyone around them by adhering to Gandhi's principles and opinions. It is streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

REBOOTING MAHATMA
The Gujarati film, released in 2019, is based on the concept of a humanoid version of Mahatma Gandhi. **ANS**

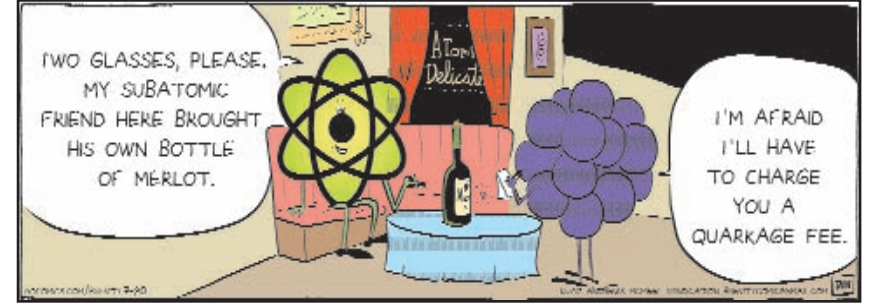
PEANUTS



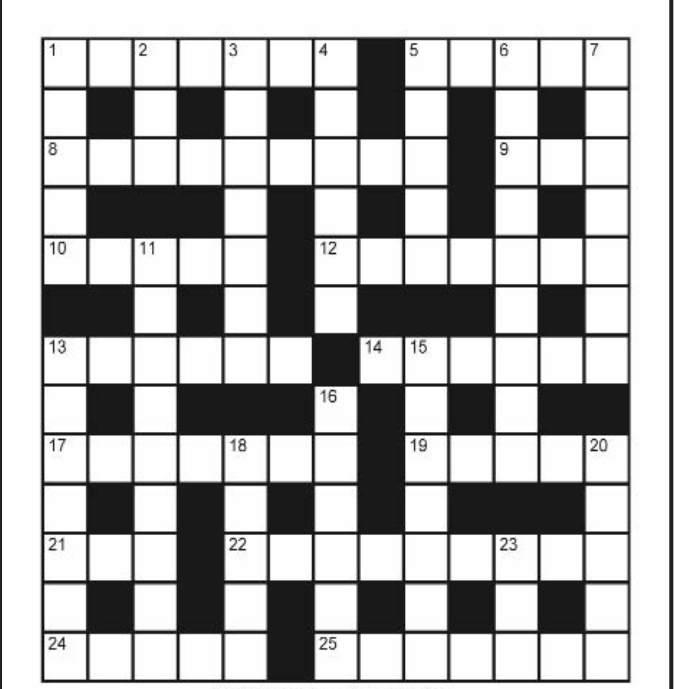
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Monotonous
 - 5 Slippery
 - 8 House
 - 9 Kind of poodle
 - 10 Bolivian capital
 - 12 Italian seaport
 - 13 Collar
 - 14 Word with big or blue
 - 17 It can be lunar or solar
 - 19 Flightless birds
 - 21 Female antelope
 - 22 Preach
 - 24 Uses a sieve
 - 25 Thievery
 - 3 Pirates
 - 4 Hair gel
 - 5 Odour
 - 6 Muddle
 - 7 Lock part
 - 11 Atoll (5,4)
 - 13 Dockets
 - 15 Seaport feature
 - 16 Auto necessity
 - 18 Royal pains
 - 20 Squidly
 - 23 Wrath
- Down**
- 1 Tests by lifting
 - 2 Calendar abbr.

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

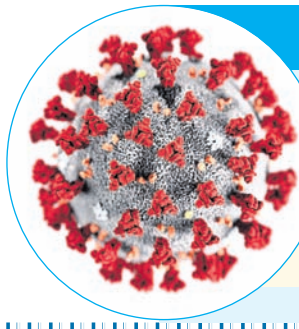
E	1	8	D	7	A	9	2	4	C	3	6	5	B	0
3	6	4	0	E	9	8	B	C	2	5	D	A	1	7
7	0	B	6	3	1	A	E	5	4	9	8	2	D	C
2	C	A	B	4	5	D	7	3	0	1	E	6	8	9
5	9	D	8	C	2	6	0	1	7	B	A	E	3	4
C	4	0	2	9	B	1	3	E	D	7	5	8	A	6
6	3	7	4	0	5	8	B	E	A	2	9	C	1	D
8	2	1	E	5	7	4	D	A	6	C	9	B	0	3
9	D	E	1	A	3	C	9	0	8	4	B	7	2	5
B	A	3	C	8	5	7	9	2	3	0	1	4	E	D
A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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DIRTY PICTURE

Sewage from nearby drains flows into Puri sea polluting the water on the coast, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,46,22,646	2,57,73,764	10,29,719
India	63,94,068	53,52,078	99,773
Odisha	2,26,334	1,94,128	875

A Srimandir ritual that was last held in 1905

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 2: Notwithstanding the fact that unique rituals are core to Srimandir tradition, some of these rituals have not been performed at the 12th century shrine for the last several decades. Raghunath Besha of Lord Jagannath is one such ritual which was last performed April 26, 1905.

Many researchers and scholars are of the opinion that Raghunath Besha is the most unique ritual of Srimandir. "Raghunath Besha of Lord Jagannath was performed nine times at Srimandir. The unique ritual was performed in 1577, 1739, 1809, 1833, 1842, 1850, 1893, 1896 and 1905. The temple authorities had started performing Raghunath Besha ritual at the behest of Ramanandacharya," said researcher Naresh Chandra Dash.

According to researchers, Raghunath Besha is performed at Srimandir in the Hindu month of Baishakha to mark the coronation of Lord Ram as the king of Ayodhya in Tretaya Yuga. "Raghunath Besha is not an annual ritual at Srimandir. The ritual was performed once in several years by taking into account the position and

RAGHUNATH BESHA



Raghunath Besha is performed at Srimandir in the Hindu month of Baishakha to mark the coronation of Lord Ram as the king of Ayodhya in Tretaya Yuga

Raghunath Besha was performed in 1577, 1739, 1809, 1833, 1842, 1850, 1893, 1896 and 1905

Lord Jagannath and his elder brother are decked up as Lord Ram and Laxman respectively for Raghunath Besha

movement of stars on Ram Navami, the birthday of Lord Ram. The unique ritual has not been performed at Srimandir since 1905 even though there were several suitable occasions for its conduct," Dash claimed.

As per tradition, Lord Jagannath

and his elder brother are decked up as Lord Ram and Laxman respectively for Raghunath Besha. This apart, the idols of several mythological characters including Bharat, Shatrughna, Brahma, Vashista, Angada, Jambavan, Hanuman, Nala, Neela, Sugriva and Sushena

Recently, the foundation stone was laid for a grand Ram Mandir at Ayodhya.

We all are happy for the historic occasion. But, no one has shown any interest to hold Raghunath Besha ritual at Srimandir

DILLIP BARAL | DEVOTEE

are placed at the sanctum sanctorum for performance of the ritual.

"Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are adorned with huge amounts of gold ornaments as part of the unique ritual. The entire area from the sanctum sanctorum of Srimandir to the Kalahata gate of the shrine resembles the court of Lord Ram, the king of Ayodhya," Dash said.

It is said that large number of devotees from across the country visit Puri to witness Raghunath Besha. So, the temple authorities will find it extremely difficult to manage the crowds at Srimandir if Raghunath Besha is held in near future, said a local.

"Crowd management will be the biggest issue if at all the unique rit-

ual is held in future. The temple authorities and the state government perhaps do not want to take any risk by organising Raghunath Besha at Srimandir," said a devotee.

However, some devotees blamed lack of administrative as well as political will for non-performance of Raghunath Besha of the deities. "Recently, the foundation stone was laid for a grand Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. We all are happy for the historic occasion. But, no one has shown any interest to hold Raghunath Besha ritual at Srimandir," rued devotee Dillip Baral.

Heritage expert Surendra Mishra said the state government and the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) can take steps to perform the rare ritual post Covid-19 pandemic. "It is not an impossible task. All we need is administrative will. Successful organisation of Raghunath Besha will bring laurels to Odisha," Mishra argued.

SJTA administrator (rituals) Jitendra Kumar Sahu said the temple administration has not held any discussion on holding Raghunath Besha. "This unique ritual has not been performed for over a hundred years," he added.

Politics hots up as BJD flags off drive on nCoV

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: With Biju Janata Dal (BJD) beginning its month-long drive to create awareness on the pandemic among masses, Congress and BJP slammed the move as a face-saving exercise.

Several leaders of the party started distributing masks towards the outreach programme. The drive has been planned from October 2 to November 2.

As per the directions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, each MLA in his/her area would try to visit the constituencies and distribute masks while making people aware on ways to fight the viral disease.

"During the time, the BJD workers will visit their areas and create awareness on the disease. Special focus on mask wearing and prevention as suggested by the Chief Minister will be given during the drive. We will try to take the message to the people. This will be done across the state," he said.

The Congress, however, slammed

the government and said that the party would soon launch a signature campaign to expose the ruling party.

"How can this be possible? The CM is sitting inside a glass enclosure. How can he as an MLA visit Hinjicut and spread awareness. There has been rampant mismanagement of the disease and misappropriation of funds," Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati said.

He said that the party would visit panchayats and launch a signature campaign to expose the government of the irregularities in COVID management. He claimed that the government has failed on this front.

The BJP claimed that the state has failed to utilise Central aid it got for COVID treatment. BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan said, "The Centre provided ventilators to the state for COVID patients but the latter are now struggling to get treatment. To save its own face, the BJD has planned to start this drive and convince people on their false claims. This is an insult to the people."

Dhenkanal stone quarry throws norms to the winds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) has issued show-cause notice to a private miner involved in alleged illegal stone quarry works in Dhenkanal district.

The OSPCB has sought the miner's response on the violation of environmental norms as shown on papers produced through RTI replies from the local administration.

The pollution watchdog conducted an inspection at Jhilli in Kankadhada tehsil in the district to enquire about the stone quarry. The board in the notice said that it found inadequate air pollution measures needed to prevent dust emission during loading and unloading process.

It also said that the mine had not provided any dust suppression arrangement to prevent the fugitive dust emission at the mine haul roads and other working areas inside the mining lease area. It was also reported that there was no green belt inside the mining area.

The board claimed that excessive quarrying was done in gross violation of environmental laws. OSPCB said that the firm was allowed for total production of 6,500 m3 but as per government documents the production was found to be 92,330 m3.

The board said that over production beyond approved quantity is a gross 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 respondent in the case has been asked to file its reply within 15 days.

Earlier, a case was filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the case where the local residents had alleged non-compliance of laws, threat to the local biodiversity, excess stone quarry in the area.

HOMAGE TO APOSTLE OF NON-VIOLENCE



Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 151st birth anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Friday. (Bottom) Speaker Surya Narayan Patro and other dignitaries pay homage to the Father of the Nation on the premises of Odisha Assembly

City schools remember Gandhiji, Shastri virtually

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Several city-based schools Friday celebrated virtually the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 116th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

BJEM School in collaboration with the Alumni Association of Government High School, Badagada, Bhubaneswar organised the 2nd edition of Students' Remember Mahatma Gandhi (SRMG) as an online interschool competition comprising of elocution & essay writing in both English and Odia and a "Surprise Competition" in English. Both English and Vernacular medium schools participated in the event. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the overall scale of the event has been reduced but the spirit of the competition stays undeterred.

Many students also performed Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram song in memory of Gandhiji.

On the occasion, BJEM school principal Sandhya Jena said, "Despite the pandemic, we decided to conduct this programme to remind our youth of the legacy of truth and non-violence propagated by Mahatma Gandhi during his arduous struggle for freedom."



Students observe Gandhi and Shastri Jayanti on virtual mode

Many students also performed Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram song in memory of Gandhiji

Similarly, SAI International School and SAI International Residential School here observed Gandhi Jayanti online. The school propagates the teachings of Gandhiji on the auspicious occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

The pandemic has not stopped the celebrations at SAI International School here. On the occasion, teachers and students discussed about the importance of Gandhi Jayanti, contribution of Gandhiji and Shastriji

through Power Point presentations, speeches and recitations. Both teachers and students sang 'Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram' a bhajan very close to the heart of Gandhiji at the concluding session of the special morning assembly.

Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, founder of SAI International Education Group, said, "Education is the realisation of one's body, mind and soul. Let's make a better India through education and lead the world with the power of non-violence, simplicity and brotherhood."

ODM Public School also organised the online event 'Rendezvous 2020' whose inaugural ceremony was scheduled on this auspicious day of Gandhi and Shastri Jayanti.

BSCL holds 'Fit India Freedom Run'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) Friday organised a cycle rally and yoga session under the flagship programme 'Fit India Freedom Run' to mark the 151st birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

While the cycle rally was flagged off from near the BSCL office and went up to near Master Canteen

Square along Janpath. The rally resumed from the plaza and ended at Smart Park in Saheed Nagar.

At the Smart Park, participants attended the yoga session. Along with the officials and staff of the Smart City, peer leaders under the Socially Smart Project also took part in the activities. Initiated by Ministry of Youth Affairs, Fit India Freedom Run is one of the key converging modules under ANGIKAAR. It's a movement to



take the nation on the path of fitness and wellness.

For this run, a mobile application was also made available for download by citizens. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports issued certificates to participants which can be downloaded from the Fit India Module mobile app.

Today's activities were organised by BSCL under the direction of Prem Chandra Chaudhary, Chief Executive Officer BSCL and Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

HC hearing via virtual mode till November 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 2: Suspension of normal functioning of Orissa High Court has been extended till November 20, a notification issued by the court said Friday.

"The normal functioning of Orissa High Court shall continue to remain suspended till 20.11.2020 and the arrangement made

vide this Office Order dated 21.08.2020 regarding the functioning of the High Court shall remain in force, till then," a letter issued by the Registrar General of Orissa High Court mentioned.

The court order added that the

functioning of subordinate courts and tribunals will continue as per the arrangements made vide office order issued August 21, until further orders.

The notification further mentioned that on all working Saturdays in the month of October 2020, the High Court and its offices, as well as the subordinate courts and tribunals and their offices, shall remain closed.

Previously, the normal functioning was suspended till October 9. However, necessary proceedings continued in the court and its subordinate courts and tribunals through videoconferencing.

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Oct 2: As many as 302 judgements have been translated into vernacular languages and uploaded on Supreme Court website by the Registry that includes 15 judgements in Odia.

The SC Registry has been uploading judgements in vernacular languages in the apex court website in Assamese, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Urdu and Bangla.

Significantly, as many as 153 vernacular judgements have been uploaded in Hindi language, followed by 36 judgements in Tamil. The Registry has translated 10 judgements in Punjabi, 22 in Marathi, 18 in Malayalam and around 46

BRIDGING COMMUNICATION GAP



153 vernacular judgements have been uploaded in Hindi language, followed by 36 judgements in Tamil

judgements have been uploaded in other languages like Bangla, Telugu, Kannada and Assamese etc till now.

The SC Registry has been uploading judgements in vernacular languages in the apex court website in Assamese, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Urdu and Bangla

The idea of translating the apex court's judgements into regional languages was mooted during a conference held in Kochi in 2017

The Registry also translated one judgement in Urdu language. The first such translation was

Books released at Sanskriti Bhawan

Bhubaneswar: Odia Language, Literature and Culture department Friday released books on Mahatma Gandhi at Sanskriti Bhawan here Friday. Department's principal secretary Bishunupada Sethi, former secretary Manoranjan Panigrahi, director Bijay Kumar Nayak and others were present. On the occasion, a special documentary film 'Odishare Gandhiji' was presented by Odisha Sahitya Academy. This apart, multiple books published by Odisha Sahitya Academy, Utkal Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Odisha Urdu Academy and one written by director Bijay Kumar Nayak were released.



in Bangla language which pertains to a civil appeal (Reshmi Dhanuk Dey vs The Branch Manager National Insurance Company). The apex court had passed the judgement in this August 1, 2018.

The court Registry had also translated a judgement in a criminal appeal (Kumar Ghimirey vs State of Sikkim) dated April 22, 2019 in Nepali language.

The idea of translating the apex court's judgements into regional languages was mooted during a conference held in Kochi in 2017.

According to sources, President Ram Nath Kovind had highlighted the need to render judgements in regional languages for the convenience of non-English speaking people during the conference.

In order to make translation of judgments into vernacular languages convenient, former chief justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had, reportedly, cleared a software developed by the apex court's 'in-house' electronic software wing in 2019.

The Registry officials had told the media that it was a long pending demand of the people belonging to various states, who do not speak English, to translate judgements in regional languages also.

The initiative was also taken to reduce the dependence of litigants on lawyers to understand the judgement.

The Registry has mainly translated judgements passed in civil and criminal cases.

Highest single-day nCoV deaths in Khurda

WITH 3,600 NEW INFECTIONS, ODISHA'S NOVEL CORONAVIRUS TALLY STANDS AT 2,26,334

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: At least 3,600 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Odisha Friday taking the tally to 2,26,334 while 16 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 875, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said. Of the 3,600 new cases, 2,109 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest were detected during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 766, followed by Cuttack at 358 and Mayurbhanj at 156. Similarly, Kendrapara reported 129 cases, Sonepur 129, Sambalpur 126, Nabarangpur 116, Puri 115, Balasore 107, Bargarh 106, Keonjhar 106 and Angul 100.

As many as 13 districts reported over 100 cases.

"Regret to inform the demise of sixteen #COVID19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals," the H&FW department said on Twitter.

Of the 16 fatalities, six were reg-



istered in Khurda, three in Nayagarh, two each in Balasore and Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh, Jagatsinghpur, and Kalahandi.

Ganjam district alone reported 220 of the 875 deaths in the state, followed by Khurda 144 and Cuttack 74.

On the other hand, 4,048 persons recovered from the disease, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to

1,94,128. Fifty-three people have died due to comorbidities, according to the official.

As many as 33.48 lakh tests have been conducted so far, including 48,217 Thursday.

The Chief Minister's Office, meanwhile, took to Twitter to congratulate 300 police personnel who have donated their plasma to save many critically ill COVID patients.

OF INFECTIONS & DEATHS

Khurda district reported the maximum number of new cases at 766, followed by Cuttack at 358 and Mayurbhanj at 156. As many as 13 districts reported over 100 cases

Ganjam district alone accounts for 220 of the 875 deaths in the state, followed by Khurda at 144 and Cuttack at 74

Director of Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, Sanghamitra Pati said that Odisha is one of the states in the country to carry on Sero Survey at regular intervals.

"Sero Survey will begin in Malkangiri district October 5. Then, the third phase survey will be undertaken in Bhubaneswar. The survey will be carried on in Cuttack as

well," she said.

The state had Thursday registered the highest single-day recovery of 4,380 COVID-19 patients, taking the number of cured people to 1,90,080. The recovery rate Odisha now stands at 85.33. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has praised the healthcare professionals and Covid warriors for achieving the feat.

With 312 fresh cases, City's case-load stands at 22,547

As many as 312 new COVID-19 cases were detected under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits in last 24 hours, the civic body tweeted Friday.

While 58 of them were quarantine cases, remaining 254 were local contact ones, according to BMC.

Meanwhile, 329 persons who earlier tested positive for the virus recovered, Friday. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Friday, 22,547 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 18,914 have recovered. While there are 3,514 active cases, 100 persons have so far succumbed to the disease.

Fake pan masala unit busted; two nabbed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch Friday busted a fake pan masala manufacturing industry running at different places in Jajpur district. The sleuths also succeeded in arresting two persons in this connection.

The accused have been identified as Gouranga Patra and Parsuram Patra of Bidyadharpur village under Bairo police station in Jajpur district.

Following a tip-off, the STF conducted raids at different spots in Chhatia and Bairo areas and seized

huge cache of duplicate Gopal Zarda, Suravi, Kanak Deluxe and Shivdatta Zarda from the spots. Many instruments and a huge quantity of raw materials used for the manufacturing of adulterated tobacco products were also seized by the STF sleuths from the possession of the accused. Two separate cases (131/20 and 132/20) under various sections of IPC, COPA, Copyrights and Trademarks Act have been lodged against the duo by Bairo Police.

The Commissionerate Police had busted a fake engine oil manufacturing unit at Chakeisiani here a few days back.

Coastal clean-up drive at Balukhand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Volunteers of Jungle Lore Foundation (JLF) along with forest watchers, NGO activists and locals participated in the beach and estuaries clean-up programme at Balukhand (Balukhand beach to Nuanai mouth) in Puri district Friday to observe the 66th wildlife week.

The main focus of the event was to clean up the marine debris which has a devastating and often lethal impact on aquatic and marine life, JLF sources said.

It may be noted that debris are human made pollution that cause harms to the limbs, fins & flippers of aquatic animals. Some cases debris cause the death of aquatic animals.

JLF sources said that the Ministry of Tourism has noted a significant fall in tourist footfall on beaches due to lack of cleanliness. Taking the issue seriously, the volunteers and locals launched a programme to clean up the beaches and estuaries, they added.

"The clean-up program engages people to remove trash and debris from Odisha's coastal region, river mouth, waterways with identifying the sources of debris. Through this programme, we will clean up coastal regions and make people aware of the need to keep the beaches debris-free," said a JLF member to Orissa POST.

ECoR sees 10.9% growth in freight load for Sept '20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Indian Railways has achieved another significant milestone of loading 102.12 million tonne freight in September 2020, which is 13.59 million tonne more than corresponding period of the previous year, registering a rise of 15.35 per cent.

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has contributed a major share in highest ever loading of 102.12 MT by Indian Railways. In September 2020, the ECoR has loaded 16.16 million tonne freight which is 1.58 MT more than September 2019 by registering a growth of 10.9 per cent. In September 2019, ECoR had carried 14.58 MT freight. This was achieved despite lockdowns, closure and less workforce in industries and in mineral units under ECoR jurisdiction.

The ECoR said in order to achieve this performance, it has utilised 8,114 wagons per day in September 2020 only which is 763 more wagons per day during the month with a growth of 10.4 per cent. In September 2019, ECoR had utilised 7,351 wagons per day.

Guided by the able leadership of ECoR General Manager Vidya Bhusan, there has been continuous review of freight performance through the Business Development Units, integrating innovative policy making with stability and certainty in the logistics sector, attracting new avenues for modal



ANOTHER MILESTONE

A major share in the highest ever loading of 102.12 MT by Indian Railways in any September

14.58 MT freight was carried in September 2019

15.11 MT of freight carried in August 2020

About 8,114 wagons were utilised per day for freight traffic in September 2020 as against 7,351 wagons in September 2019

transit from rail to road. ECoR also gives credit to its hard-working and dedicated staff in all its three divisions. Special mention to be made regarding the efforts and cooperation from collieries, ports, steel plants, cement, Alumina plants, petroleum companies and Food Corporation of India and other stakeholders.

Puri servitor's coconut shell mask catches many eyeballs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 2: You may have heard of a diamond trader in Surat making a face mask studded with the precious metal. Goldsmiths in different parts of India, including one from Cuttack, have also made masks completely made of gold amid the spread of novel coronavirus.

The story of this servitor of Puri Jagannath temple is different. He has become the talk of the town for wearing a unique face mask. Hajuri Bhimsen Khuntia wears a face mask made of coconut shell. Bhimsen said that he got the mask as a gift. The outer and inner sides of the coconut shell are well polished. It has two layers of cloth covering on its inner side.



"I have been using this mask since the day I received it. I am very comfortable when I wear it," he said. The look of the mask is so unique that it evokes curiosity from visitors who ask him various questions about it.

It is worth mentioning here that in some tribal pockets of Kandhamal district, people are using masks prepared from Sal leaves.

RAIN PAIN



Rainwater inundates Professorpada (top) and Badambadi areas in Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTOS

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Sasmita Pradhan, aged about 44 years, W/o Susant Kumar Pradhan, Plot-18, Lane-12, Aryabhata Colony, Bhubaneswar, Khordha-751025, by virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, do hereby state that before marriage I was known as Sasmita Kumari Nayak which is in my Board Certificate. After marriage I am known as Sasmita Pradhan which is written in my Aadhar card No. 706329558901. Sasmita Pradhan and Sasmita Kumari Nayak is one and same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sasmita Pradhan for all purposes.

14.83L pre-school kids get uniforms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: At least 14.83 lakh pre-school children have been provided with two sets of uniforms under 'Malati Devi Prak Vidyalaya Paridhan Yojana' at 61,040 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the state by October 2, an official said Friday.

As many as 1,344 self-help groups (SHGs) were engaged in stitching and supply of the uniforms as per the colour composition—blue pants and pink shirts, said the official.

Notably, Malati Devi Prak Vidyalaya Paridhan Yojana is an ambitious initiative of the state government to dispel absenteeism among the kids attending the AWCs by way of providing two pairs of pre-school uniforms to each of those children.

Baby sold by parents for ₹2K rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 2: COVID-19 pandemic has broken the financial backbone of many and people have become desperate to make both ends meet if a recent incident of a couple selling its son for a meagre Rs 2,000 is any indication.

According to sources, a couple from Asureswar Pachayat in Salipur under Nischintakoili police limit of Cuttack district had sold the baby to Raghunath Mallick in Sridharpur village of the district for Rs 2,000, Sunday.

Acting on reliable information, District Child Protection Unit authorities with the help of Nischintakoili police rescued the baby from the house of Mallick in Sridharpur village Friday morning. Police detained the father of the boy Ajay Kumar Singh, his wife Lata Singh and Mallick.

District Child Protection Unit authorities with the help of Nischintakoili police rescued the baby from Sridharpur village Friday morning

Mallick during interrogation revealed that Ajay is one of his close relatives.

"I have two daughters while Ajay has three sons. So, I talked to him about adopting one of his sons. He also agreed because his financial condition is not well. We mutually agreed on the deal even though we did not put it on pen and paper, said Mallick.

Ajay, meanwhile, denied of having sold his son. "I have sent my son to Mallick to observe some rituals. Once that is done I will take my son back home."

Child Line coordinator Narayan Shukla, however, said that it is a clear case of selling of a minor. "Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) informed us about the incident and we acted upon the order of CWC (Child Welfare Committee) and CDPO to trace the baby," said Shukla.

"The statements of the baby's parents and Mallick do not match. Also we have reliable information that it is a case of selling a minor," added Shukla.

Nischintakoili CDPO Lilabati Sethi stated that parents are not accepting the charge that they have sold their baby.

"We are conducting our investigations. Hope the truth will emerge soon," stated Sethi.

"If the accused are found to be involved in child selling and buying legal action will be taken against them," she added.

Accused in Hadia murder case still at large

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 2: One month after notorious criminal Prakash Behera alias Hadia was murdered in Cuttack, the accused involved in the incident are still roaming free.

Police said they have been keeping track of the prime suspect. They have so far raided his hiding place in a jungle thrice but each time he managed to give them a slip.

Cuttack DCP Prateek Singh said efforts are on to nab the suspects and they will soon be arrested.

Despite being a native of Bhutia Sahi area near Alisha Bazaar, Hadia used to live with his family in a rented accommodation at Sibaji Nagar under Bidanasi police lim-

its. He was involved in various criminal activities including murder, ransom, bomb hurling among others, police said.

Some miscreants had attacked Hadia with sharp weapons at

College Gada area September 2 over past enmity. They had severed his left hand from the body following which Hadia died owing to excess blood loss.

Hadia's widow had time he managed to give them a slip.

the investigation, however, revealed that he was murdered over country liquor trade. According to a police officer who is privy to the investigation, a man from Athagarh area living in Satichaura area in Cuttack had hacked Hadia to death.



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SHOWCAUSE ISSUED TO ARCELLORMITTAL

VIOLATION OF MC RULES



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 2: A show cause notice was issued to Arcellor Mittal for violating Mineral Concession Rules-2016, a report said.

The company was ambitious to set up a mega steel plant in Keonjhar and had initiated the process for land acquisition, but later it abandoned the project.

Now, the same company has got Thakurani iron mine on a lease through auction, but it has no plan to set up a big steel plant in the district. It has started its mining operation, but not before violating rules. The directorate of mines has exposed chinks in mining.

When the company set its sights on minerals of the district, its hesitance to set up a plant here has caused resentment among people.

According to reports, the directorate of mines has issued a notice vide letter (6678/15 September 2020) to the company, pointing out that the firm has violated Rule 12A of Minerals Concession Rules while operating mine at Thakurani.

Experts apprehended that if its mining operation is not properly monitored, possibility of another mining scam can't be ruled out.

After getting the mine, the company had signed an agreement with Keonjhar Collector following the Mining Development and Production Agreement (MDPA)-2016.

As per the agreement, in the first two years of mining, the com-

As per the agreement, the company was supposed to transport 989,903.79 metric tonnes of iron ore by September 21, 2020, but, it has been able to transport only 106,845.59 metric tonnes of extracted iron ore

pany is bound to extract 80 per cent of the production target of the minerals. If the company fails to abide by the agreement, it is liable to imposition of penalty.

As per the agreement, the company was supposed to transport 989,903.79 metric tonnes of iron ore by September 21, 2020.

But, it has been able to transport only 106,845.59 metric tonnes. This means, the company has failed to achieve the target in mineral transportation. The shortfall in its transportation target is 883,058.20 metric tonnes.

In the letter issued by the directorate of mines, it was stated that the company has violated Rule-12A, para 8 and 1 of the Mineral Concessions Rule- 2016 and the schedule-D of the MDPA.

Meanwhile, the mines and steel department has issued a show cause notice to the company and sought a report within 15 days.

Riverine port in Kendrapara a pipedream

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 2: The first riverine port of the state was announced December 8, 2018 on the Mahanadi river at Akhadasi village under Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, during his visit to the district, had made the announcement.

However, two years later, the fate of the proposed port hangs in balance owing to administrative apathy. Some are considering it to be a gateway to prosperity and some others are opposing it as they fear it would spell doom for the Bhitarkanika ecosystem.

The state government had convened a meeting in July, 2018 where there were detailed discussions about the setting up of the port. Initially, it was estimated that the port would be established at a cost Rs 2,110 crore and it was then proposed that the port would handle 18.43 MT of cargo a year.

Meanwhile, one and a half years have passed but the proposed port is yet to see any progress. Worthy to note, some environmentalists oppose this riverine port.

"The port would have a detrimental impact on the ecosystem of Bhitarkanika. The identified spot for the proposed port is not far from Gahirmatha, the nesting beach for



Senior citizens say, the proposed port will give employment directly or indirectly to nearly 15,000 people. Once the port is established, several small and medium scale industries will come up in the locality that will help industries and result in employment

Olive Ridley turtles. They may not be seen on the beach. This apart, the mangrove forest, referred to as a natural barrier, will also suffer substantial damage," observed environmentalist Hemant Kumar Rout.

Echoing the same, honorary secretary of Wildlife Society of Odisha, Biswajit Mohanty said, "The Forest and Environment Department of the central government has identified 192 villages located around Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha as sensitive zones. The proposed port at Akhadasi will

only pose threat to the marine and wild animals of the locality."

Apart from wreaking havoc on the ecosystem, it will also deprive over 30,000 fishermen living in the locality of their source of earning. According to Arjun Mandal, a member of District Fishermen Association, fishermen get a huge quantity of fish of both fresh and saline water round the year. In the event of the port coming up, the fishermen will no longer get as much fish as they presently get. This will affect the financial con-

ditions of people living in about 20 villages.

However, Pratap Chandra Mohanty, convener, Mahakalpara Youth Club, has a different take on the proposed port. "The port would have created employment opportunities. The district's financial condition would have witnessed development. But the announcement was nothing but an election promise. Before every poll, people here are enticed with two promises: Setting up of industry and the second one is establishing a port,"

In July, 2018, the state government at a meeting discussed about the setting up of the port. Initially, its cost was estimated at Rs 2,110 crore. The port proposed was to handle 18.43 MT of cargo a year

One and a half years have passed since 2018, but the proposed port is yet to see any progress. Some consider it to be a gateway to prosperity and some others oppose it as they fear it would spell doom for the Bhitarkanika ecosystem

he said. The Barunei port was announced in 2009 and a thermal plant was declared in 2014. But they have not seen the light of the day. Akhadasi riverine port will also suffer a similar fate, there is no denying it, locals said.

According to senior citizens, the proposed port will give employment directly or indirectly to nearly 15,000 people. Once the port is established, several small and medium scale industries will come up in the locality that will help industries and result in employment.

Malkangiri: Gelatin sticks of 21kg seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 2: The Border Security Force (BSF) Thursday recovered 21 kg of gelatin sticks from Rajulkonda jungle under Klaimela block in Malkangiri district. Sources said by seizing the sticks a major tragedy has been averted.

During their routine combing operation, the jawans of 76 Battalion were tipped off regarding the storage of a huge quantity of gelatin sticks in Rajulkonda jungle. The jawans intensified their search operation and finally found the place where the gelatin sticks were hidden.

Since Malkangiri is a highly Maoist-infested area, the recovery of such a huge quantity of explosive material suggests that the Reds had plans to attack or blow up some prominent places, some local residents observed.

It should be stated here that the residents of Jodambo panchayat of Swabhimana area in the district had convened a village meeting at Daralabeda in the first week of September. Opposing the activities of the Maoists, they sent a strong message about deserting the rebels. They said they wanted development and peace in their locality.

To make their presence in the area, Maoists blew up a BSNL mobile tower at Erabor village under Sukma district near the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border Friday. Around 10-15 heavily-armed Naxals came to Erabor village and bombed the tower using explosives. The ultras then blocked the road with stones and pasted posters against the government and security forces. Later, CRPF jawans rushed to the spot and removed the blockade.

Fake tobacco-making units busted in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 2: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police Friday conducted simultaneous raids at different places of Chhatia and Byree locality in Jajpur district and unearthed two fake tobacco manufacturing units. Three persons were arrested in this connection.

Police seized a large number of tobacco packets and various forms of edible and chewing products when they raided a fake unit at a house in Bidyadharpur village in Bayree locality. Most of the packets had names of reputed branded companies like 'Gopal Zarda' and 'Suravi'. The police also seized a packaging unit from the spot. Police arrested Gauranga Patra and

Parsuram Patra from the house. During raids at another fake unit in Chhatia locality, large quantities of duplicate products were found. These were being sold as branded items, police said. Ramesh Bari was arrested for running the fake unit.

"The accused were involved in preparing and selling the fake tobacco products in the district. They used labels of popular companies to sell their products. The seized tobacco products are worth several lakhs of rupees," the police said. More than 1.4 quintals of fake/duplicate zarda and other tobacco products were seized during the raids. The three were being interrogated to find out whether others are involved in the racket.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR
INVITATION FOR BIDS
E-mail-eerwss_rai@nic.in, eerwss_rai@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

IDENTIFICATION No. 34 RWSS/RRPUR- 2020-2021 / Dated 01.10.2020
No. O-421- The Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids to be received in online mode for the following works from the eligible experienced contractors in similar nature of work, registered with State Govt. & contractor of equivalent Grade/class registered with Central Govt. / Railways.

- Nature of work :- Execution of Rural Piped Water Supply Project with 5-year O&M to Village Charupani, Barapanposi and Biunria (JJM) under RWSS&S Division, Rairangpur
- No. of work :- 03(three) nos.
- Period of completion : 09(nine) months
- Cost of tender :- Rs. 10000.00
- Estimated cost :- Rs. 87.90 lakhs to Rs. 95.97 lakhs
- Class of contractor :- (As mentioned in Tender Call Notice)
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in Portal: -From 9 hours of 09.10.2020 to 17.30 hours of 28.10.2020.
- Receipt of bid cost, bid security, documents: - Online only.
- Date & time of opening of technical bid: - Dt. 29.10.2020 at 11.00 hours onwards.
- Other documents: - (As mentioned in DTCN)
- The bidders have to participate in on-line bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
- Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
- Concession of 10 % will be considered to ST/SC contractors up to B class only on submission of an affidavit over the general category contractors failing which such concession will not be extended to him / her.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur, Dt.01.10.20
OIPR-25010/11/0010/2021

RARE FISH SOLD AT ₹1.43L IN BHADRAK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 2: A Ghol fish commonly called as Teleia was caught by a fisherman from Chandanipal of Dhamra in Bhadrak district Friday and sold it to a trader of Kolkata at a whopping Rs 1,43,000.

The fisherman went into the deep sea from Dhamra port two days back and returned with the rare fish. The weight of the fish is about 22 kilograms and each kilogram of the fish sold at Rs 6,500, sources said.

The Ghol fish (Protonibea diacanthus) is a type of croaker fish found mostly in Indian and Pacific Oceans along the coast of Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. The fish is exported to Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia for medicinal use. Also known as 'Sea Gold', the fish is prized for the medicinal value of its fins, which are used by pharmaceutical companies to make dissolvable stitches.

Last year, a group of fishermen had caught 10 such rare fishes, weighing over 30 kilograms each in Bhadrak. They had sold the fish to a trader at Chandinipal fishing centre in Dhamra.

MAYURBHANJ MAN CRAFTS SUCCESS ON COCONUT SHELL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 2: Amid COVID-19 outbreak in the state followed by a series of lockdowns, craftsman Samarendra Behera used his creativity and imagination to eke out a living and has become self-reliant.

After lockdowns started, Samarendra went back from his workplace in Kendrapara district to his native place Agada under Betanoti block in Mayurbhanj district and started making exquisite craft items with bamboo as well as coconut shells.

"People throw away the shells of coconuts after use. By recycling the wastes, I cut and polished those and gave different shapes. I carved out teacups from coconut shells and posted the pictures on social media. After seeing my pictures, people from several districts of the state demanded those items. Presently, I am getting orders from outside states such as Assam, Telangana and Karnataka. The teacups are good looking and environment-friendly," the man said.

Setting an example for young men and women who want to become self-reliant, the 26-year-old craftsman said, "We can recycle waste products in a creative way." Earlier, Samarendra had been



imparting training to art and craft students at a private college in Kendrapara district.

"I was not getting a good salary at the art college. My family also had been suffering financially over past six months owing to the lockdowns. I thought of doing something innovative at home. Then I started doing different designs of teacups and home decor products with the help of coconut shells and bamboo," Samarendra said.

"If unemployed youth get proper training on this craftwork, they can earn and become self-reliant. Thousands of youths can eke out

their living from this," he added.

Bamboos are available in plenty in Mayurbhanj district. "I wish to open a craft school of my own and teach on bamboo and coconut shell works. A piece of bamboo costs about Rs 150, whereas after being used it can fetch around Rs 2,500," Samarendra asserted.

Samarendra sells each bamboo-made cup for Rs 250 and coconut shell cup for Rs 200.

Notably, Samarendra did his degree in Balasore Art and Craft College on Visual Art. He has also done his PG in Utkal University of Culture.

Viral video: Youth being beaten to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 2: A day after a video featuring a youth being mercilessly beaten by a miscreant went viral his body was recovered from a bush at Bagamara Adibasi Sahi under rural police limits in Bhadrak district. The youth has been identified as Katia Murmu.

In the video that went viral Thursday night, Katia was being beaten mercilessly by a man with a heavy stick. Initially Katia tried to defend himself, but with the blows landing heavily on his head and body, he collapsed.

Upon seeing the video, Katia's family members identified him but could not recognise the place where the incident took place. So they lodged an FIR at Bhadrak rural police station Thursday night and alleged that Katia had been murdered.

Friday morning some villagers spotted Katia's body in a bush. They immediately conveyed the news to Katia's family members who in turn informed the police.

Later, police recovered the body "We are examining the video and efforts are on to trace the accused spotted in the video," a police official said. Katia's family members and other villagers said that the victim could have been saved had the police taken quick action Thursday night itself.

Lone Gandhi temple in Odisha needs repair

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 2: Like past years, this year too many visitors thronged the only Gandhi temple in Odisha at Bhatra area in Sambalpur district to offer tributes to the Father of the Nation, Friday.

Gandhi Jayanti is the only day when people throng the temple to offer flowers to the bronze idol of Mahatma Gandhi. Then, for the rest of the year, the temple is hardly visited by anyone except for a priest.

That said, Mahatma Gandhi along with several other freedom fighters get worshipped in this temple every day. From a distance, a visitor to the village is sure to mistake it for a temple of any god or goddess.

However, in sync with Gandhi's principle, the person engaged at the temple is not a Brahmin but a Dalit.



PROMOTING GANDHIAN VALUES

IN SYNC WITH GANDHI'S PRINCIPLE, THE PERSON ENGAGED AT THE TEMPLE IS NOT A BRAHMIN BUT A DALIT. AND INSIDE THE TEMPLE, THERE ARE SYMBOLS OF ALL RELIGIONS ON THE TEMPLE WALLS. AAT THE ENTRANCE, THERE IS NO 'ARUNA STAMBHA' OR 'GARUDA STAMBHA' BUT AN 'ASHOK STAMBHA'. SOUNDS OF GONGS AND 'RAM DHUN' AT THE TEMPLE DURING WORSHIP CAN BE HEARD FROM A DISTANCE.

LOCAL PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS TAKE PRIDE IN HAVING THE STATE'S LONE GANDHI TEMPLE IN THEIR AREA RUE OVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE APATHY IN MAINTAINING THE TEMPLE. THEY HAVE URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE STEPS FOR RESTORATION OF THIS PIECE OF HISTORY.

And inside the temple, there are symbols of all religions on the tem-

ple walls. Aat the entrance, there is no 'Aruna Stambha' or 'Garuda

Stambha' but an 'Ashok Stambha'. Sounds of gongs and 'Ram Dhun'

at the temple during worship can be heard from a distance.

In 1972, then Redhakhol MLA Abhimanyu Kumar took the initiative to construct this temple. Two years later, the temple was inaugurated by Nandini Satpathy in 1974.

Owing to lack of maintenance, this 45-year-old lone Gandhi temple of the state is in a state of despair with its plasters having come off at places, outer wall developing cracks and trees growing from the cracks. About the surrounding, the lesser said, the better.

Local people who always take pride in having the state's lone Gandhi temple in their area rue over the administrative apathy in maintaining the temple. They have urged the administration to take steps for restoration of this piece of history.

FOCUS ECONOMY

GOOD TURN, WRONG TRENDS



The government must reform the administrative machinery at the ground level so that the entrepreneur can focus on his core job of producing goods and services instead of worrying about managing the government officials. The reduction of exports and the fall in consumer confidence even before the Covid pandemic indicates that Indian economy is on a long-term decline

clined from 100 in March 2019 to 64 in March 2020 and further to 54 in July 2020. This means that consumer confidence was going downhill even before the Covid pandemic and has continued to slide. Therefore, the present Current Account Surplus should not be taken as an indicator of the strength of our economy. Rather, it is a short reprieve from the secular decline in our fortunes. This prognosis is supported by the decline in Consumer Confidence Index mentioned above and the decline in our total exports by 5 per cent between 2018-19 and 2019-20—before the Covid pandemic. Our present weaknesses are not due to Covid. They are structural.

The government must get out of the business-as-usual mode and take three steps. One, the education system should be turned towards English, which is the base of computer and Internet-based services, and foreign languages, which are the base of our global export of services. We are instead moving in the opposite direction of promoting local languages at the cost of English. The two should go together—local languages for our cultural empowerment and English for our economic empowerment.

Two, the government must come up with a huge scheme to upgrade our manufacturing and agriculture to the technological frontiers. A scheme to subsidize import of frontier technologies must be launched to reduce our cost of production and retrieve our global loss in competitiveness. Three, the government must reform the administrative machinery at the ground level so that the entrepreneur can focus on his core job of producing goods and services instead of worrying about managing the government officials. The reduction of exports and the fall in Consumer Confidence even before the Covid pandemic indicates that Indian economy is on a long-term decline. Hiding behind the pandemic will not do.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM, Bangalore.

Good news is that our exports were more than imports in the April-June of the current year 2020-21. The combined trade is known as “Trade Balance.” Excess of exports over imports is known as “trade surplus.” We have made such a trade surplus after 13 years. We are getting more dollars from exports and requiring fewer dollars for imports.

The trade balance is part of the “Current Account Balance.” We get dollars from the exports made by us and from the investments made in India by foreign investors. On the other hand, we send dollars to pay for the imports made by us and from the outward investments made in other countries by our investors. The combined receipts from exports and inward foreign investments are called current account receipts. The combined remittances made for imports and outward foreign investments are called current account remittances. The net difference between current account receipts and remittances is known as “Current Account Balance.”

As stated above, our current account balance has turned positive in tandem with the trade surplus. We had incurred a Current Account Deficit of \$15 billion in April-June 2019. This has become a Current Account Surplus of \$20 billion in 2020. This is good news. We are holding our fort in the global economy.

The second good news is that our exports of services have grown through marginally during the Covid pandemic. Our future lies in services and it is heartening that we are holding our ground in this difficult period. Further, we have secured an increase in the exports of chemicals and drugs in this period. The third good news is that there has been a steep reduction in our imports of fuel oil. This is partly due to the slowdown of the economy and reduced demand.

The challenge is to make this Current Account Surplus sustainable. A number of indicators suggest that the present Current Account Surplus may hide major weaknesses in our economy. The

first weakness is that the price of the rupee is declining against the dollar. A Current Account Surplus means that the country can manufacture goods at a cheap price and sell them to the world. It can earn dollars. This leads to greater availability of dollars in our foreign exchange market. This leads to a reduction in the price of the dollar just as the price of potatoes in the market decreases with increased supply of that vegetable.

The reduction in the price of dollars means that the value of rupee increases. One dollar available in ₹60 is “cheap”, while one dollar available in ₹70 is “expensive.” Thus, the present Current Account Surplus means that we are getting more dollars than we need. This should have led to a reduction in the price of dollar.

The simple formula is that the currency of a country rises with a Current Account Surplus. However, the opposite is taking place in India today. The price of dollar was ₹72 in September 2019; it has increased to ₹75 at present. The Current Account Surplus has

increased at the same time. The two movements are contradictory.

Perhaps, this is happening because the sentiment is negative. Although we are exporting more at present, the pundits reckon that Indian economy is going downhill, and the future is bleak.

The second weakness is that our exports of raw materials have been buoyant while those of manufactured goods have declined. According to a Press Information Bureau report, our exports of iron ore have increased by 63 per cent, oilseeds have increased by 50 per cent and rice by 33 per cent between June 2019 and June 2020. On the other hand, the exports of jewelry have declined by 50 per cent, leather products by 40 per cent and textiles by 35 per cent in the same period.

Instead of moving towards becoming a global manufacturing hub, we are losing ground in exports with the exception being that of chemicals and drugs. The third weakness is that a survey got done by RBI indicates that the Consumer Confidence Index de-



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

THE PRESENT CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATOR OF STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY. RATHER, IT IS A SHORT REPRIEVE FROM THE SECULAR DECLINE IN OUR FORTUNES

“If in work you meet with some difficulties, look sincerely into yourself and there you will discover their origin.”

THE MOTHER



Bending VRS for Pandey

The three-month mandatory cooling-off period has been waived for IPS officer Gupteshwar Pandey, who was DGP Bihar and who sought voluntary retirement from service (VRS). This was done to allow him join politics and possibly contest the upcoming state Assembly elections. Pandey, who shot into fame with his controversial comments on the investigation into actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s suicide, applied for VRS and received nod from the Bihar government within 24 hours!

Normally, an officer seeking VRS has to give notice three months in advance to the government before quitting. Sources say that it takes up to two months for the government to clear the paperwork before granting retirement. In Pandey’s case, however, there was an unseemly hurry to grant his request.

Few, however, were surprised at Pandey’s resignation from the IPS. His political ambitions had been the subject of much speculation weeks before he actually took the plunge. He has gone down this road in 2009 when he took VRS to fight the Lok Sabha elections. He lost and was reinstated into the IPS. It pays to be well-connected.

CHANGE IN HARYANA

With the retirement of Haryana chief secretary Keshni Anand Arora and the appointment of principal secretary to the Chief Minister Rajesh Khullar as executive director of the World Bank, observers expect a major administrative change in the state. Several senior IAS officers are in the succession race. Among them, Vijay Vardhan, a 1985-batch IAS officer and current home secretary is the strongest claimant for the post of chief secretary. Others in the fray are the 1986 batch IAS Sanjeev Kaushal, and the 1987 batch IAS Rajeev Arora. V Umashankar, a 1993 batch IAS and additional principal secretary to CM is reported to be very close to CM Manohar Lal Khattar. Apparently, being close to the CM makes one a good contender for a plum posting.

Some observers point out that the caste factor may play an important role. Both Keshni Anand Arora and Rajesh Khullar are Punjabis, as is Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. So, will he choose *babus* from the Punjabi community to fill the slots? Will the caste factor play a role? Any guesses?



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

VIP SQUATTERS

There is nothing new about the reluctance of public servants to move out of the residential accommodation allotted to them after retirement from service. It has been debated in public and private by citizens and VIPs, discussed in the courts who have issued directions to governments, but not much has changed. The latest effort to ensure that government accommodation is not misused by *babus* is a directive from Delhi high court to the Centre to ensure that it gets illegally occupied houses vacated and recover the rental dues for the period of the illegal occupation. Apparently, according to data submitted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the government has managed to wrest 565 government accommodations which were illegally occupied by retired public servants and recovered ₹3 crore in rental dues. However, it also stated that ₹9 crore was still outstanding from other illegal occupants and it has issued notices to the offenders.

For now, the dispensers of justice seem to have been appeased but this issue is not off the table. And won’t be until *babus*, and our worthy netas, learn to let go of their official trappings once they no longer have the privilege to enjoy them.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let’s multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- “Hate the sin, pardon the sinner.” **MAHATMA GANDHI**
- “A truth that’s told with bad intent beats all the lies you can invent.” **WILLIAM BLAKE**
- “My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness.” **THE DALAI LAMA**

WORDSWORTH

True blue

There are connections between the two usages, but Australian English has much modified the usual British English sense. In Britain (as it has for the past two centuries), the term means a staunch supporter of the Conservative Party, a person of right-wing views. In Canada, it also suggests conservative opinions. In Australia, however, it instead became associated with the working class and the Labor Party and has developed from there. The link is loyalty. In medieval Europe blue was the colour of faithfulness or constancy, whose opposite was green. A poem of about 1450, *Against Women Unconstant*—some claim it was written by Geoffrey Chaucer—criticises an unsteadfast woman for being like a weathercock, that turns its face with every wind; it says, “In stede of blew, thus may ye were al greene.” True blue starts to be recorded in the 1630s. The story used to be told that the city of Coventry in the English midlands was famous for dyeing a blue that would neither change colour nor fade in washing, and that true blue was coined to indicate a person who would likewise never alter their principles nor their allegiances. We may prefer to think that Coventry had nothing to do with the matter but that true blue was simply an almost inevitable rhyming extension whose meaning was based on the ancient associations of the colour. A proverb, first recorded around 1630, “True blue will never stain”, embodied the ideal of constancy in the figurative stain but that may have been prompted by the blue aprons traditionally worn by butchers in order not to show bloodstains. Blue began to be associated with politics in Scotland in the seventeenth century through Scottish Presbyterians who formed the Whig party, notably to oppose Charles II being succeeded by his brother James in 1688. Their equivalents in England were the Tories, originally a term for dispossessed Irish people who became outlaws but which became a nickname for English conservatives in the following century (and, of course, is still much used). The 1810 quotation you mention places it in this context. In Australia, the first meaning was the British one—many letters to newspapers in the nineteenth century advocating conservative views are signed True Blue.

LOL

BET

Santa noticed that his friend Ram Lal was very depressed. “What happened?” asked Santa. “Yaar, I lost ₹8,000 in a bet yesterday.” “How come?” “Well, yesterday, the one-day match between India and England was being



shown live on TV. I bet ₹5,000 saying India would win, but I lost the bet.” “But that’s only ₹5,000, where did the rest go?” “Yaar, I bet on the highlights too!”

SPECTRUM POPULATION

Malthus’ theory and what Upanishad says



Ratikanta Panda

“FROM JOY WE HAVE COME, IN JOY WE LIVE AND HAVE OUR BEING, AND IN THAT SACRED JOY WE WILL ONE DAY MELT AGAIN”

Thomas Robert Malthus in his essay on ‘Principle of Population’ argued that unquenchable urge to reproduce will be permanent; and that while resources will continue to grow in arithmetic progression, population shall grow in geometric progression. There are claims and counter-claims to the hypothesis he propounded in 1798.

However, there has been yawning differences between the need of the population for resources and the actual resources available. This difference is not at macro level. There might be enough grains in India to feed the entire population, yet people die of hunger and diseases caused by malnutrition. The inequality and inequitable distribution of resources accentuate the outcome of the hypothesis framed by Malthusian economists.

It is often said that resources are mere cultural appraisals. Essentially, people can create resources out of thin air. Wind energy was used to produce electricity in 1888 though wind was always there. Similarly, Marco Polo unveiled petroleum in the 13th Century, yet the preponderance of petroleum became prevalent in recent times.

The availability of resources which are said to be cultural appraisals to all within the human race is at best scanty and equitable distribution dubious. Both opulence and abject poverty are there for display. For example, there are countries like Iceland and Norway, which have per capita electric consumption of more than 2 KWh and there are Chad, Somalia, Burundi and other sub-Saharan African countries that have per capita electric consumption at 10 watts. So, if electric consumption is the sole basis of existence, then a person in Iceland consumes 5,777 times of this than a person in Chad.

The inequality is not only across different nations. Within a single-nation state, the differences could be more pronounced. In India, top 1 per cent of the population owns 77 per cent of wealth of the country.

Can a forced demographic transition as that of China be the panacea? No. One problem is inequality and inequitable distribution of resources, which make one individual to consume thousand times more than the individual with lowest availability of choice in economic ladder. Second

is the kind of polity such a forced demographic transition necessitates. A human being will abhor what is forced on him. He will intrinsically harmonise his choices with the choice of nature in the long run. So, the polity of China is not scalable.

Hence, any solution around the problems of population should be addressed directly. Do we have enough resources to sustain this 7.5 billion population in which every individual shall live to her fullest potential? This can be addressed at macro level and at an individual level. Earth Overshoot Day calculated by Global Footprint Network fell on August 22 this year which essentially means, we have exhausted our resources for this year in less than 9 months. This year, the Day was observed three weeks later due to the lull in economic activity. Our macro consumption should be less than 70 per cent in order to sustain the humanity as a whole for a longer term.

Do we ever care to ask about the carrying capacity of Earth pertaining to humans, i.e., how many people this Earth can sustain? With this extend of macro level consumption, Earth can sus-

tain only 70 per cent of the current population. However, if the inequality and inequitable distributions are addressed, then Earth can sustain 9 to 10 billion population, says Harvard University Sociologist Edward O. Wilson. Food and freshwater can quench the animal needs of the population, but what about the aesthetic and spiritual needs of such burgeoning population?

The solution clearly lies in the trusteeship model of Mahatma Gandhi, where the haves possess the wealth for the downtrodden, marginalised and vulnerable population. “Rivers do not drink their waters themselves, nor do trees eat their fruit, nor do the clouds eat the grains raised by them. The wealth of the noble is used solely for the benefit of others.” If we as a race use the trusteeship theory in its entirety, then we can truly fulfil the maxim from Taittiriya Upanishad, “From Joy we have come, in Joy we live and have our being, and in that sacred Joy we will one day melt again”.

The writer is an Officer on Special Duty, Government of Odisha.

Violators of law

Sir, “Things are falling apart... the Centre cannot hold,” so said the bard. India is today in such a scenario. Anything is fine with us. The special court has acquitted all the 32 accused in the case of Babri mosque demolition done in 1992. It would be meaningless to discuss all the truths because everybody knows what is what. There are four pillars to protect our democratic system meant to govern and protect the nation and its people. They are the judiciary, the executive, the legislature, and the media, and not to ignore the military in matters of defence. All these are controlled by the government in power. So, it is evident that everything will go in favour of the powers-that-be. When the system fails to solve the real problems of the people and the people start protesting against the government, the system uses all these tools to silence the masses. Secondly, the Manisha case. The policemen do what the government asks them to. This is how democracy works now. Things are going down to gutter level. This democracy is not the one “by the people, of the people and for the people”. It is the democracy of the vested interests. People cannot remain quiet to such aberrations. Resistance is the way forward.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Child porn and Odisha

Sir, It’s stunning to know the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data shows Odisha as the top state in the circulation of child pornography. Many youths are wasting their time in watching dirty films and not doing any work. Even the elected representatives of the people spend time watching porn in the midst of the session, as a report stated the other day, but the real surprise is the rise in the number of child porn watchers. This might be fine with the culture of the West, but there too watching or circulating child porn is a crime. This trend was earlier limited to big cities, but now even states like Odisha are coming up front. Such trends are evident more in city life and less in rural areas. Such obsessions may end up in situations like Hathras. It is time for the law-enforcing agencies to be more vigilant and for the society to promote the Sri Jagannath culture in this holy land blessed by the lords.

Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ

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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BJP, Cong play second fiddle to alliance partners in Bihar

THE BJP AND THE CONGRESS, HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CROSS THE 100-SEAT MARK IN ANY ASSEMBLY ELECTION IN BIHAR SINCE 1990

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 2: The filing of nomination papers for the Assembly elections in Bihar began Thursday though suspense continued over the seat-sharing formula among the two major alliances in the state - the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition Grand Alliance.

The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) which is part of the NDA is posing a hurdle to seat-sharing in the alliance. On the other hand the RJD, the major party in the Grand Alliance, is not able or is unwilling to fulfill the demand of the Congress in the distribution of seats in the Mahagathbandhan.

For the last three decades, the regional parties have been supporting the national parties to come to power in Bihar. In such a situation the national parties are ready to keep the smaller and regional parties in good humour.

According to official data both the national parties, the BJP and the Congress, have not been able to cross the 100-seat mark in any Assembly election in Bihar since 1990.

During the last Assembly election in 2015, the Congress could be part of the government only with the help of both the Janata Dal United and the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Following the JD-U's exit from the Grand Alliance, JD-U supremo Nitish Kumar formed the government with the help of the BJP.



In the 2015 Assembly polls, the Congress had to remain content with 27 seats while the BJP won only 53 seats.

Looking at the 2010 Bihar Assembly election results, the BJP had the support of the JD-U as an alliance partner with the JD-U bagging 115 seats and the BJP 91 to hold the reins of Bihar.

The same political scenario was there in the 2005 Assembly elections, too, where the BJP came to power with the support of the JD-U.

In the 2000 Bihar state polls, the RJD came to power by registering a win on more than half of the 243 assembly seats. In the 1995 Bihar Assembly elections, the Congress won only 29 seats while the BJP got 41. Earlier, in the 1990 Assembly polls both the national parties had to settle for less than 100 seats each.

Political critic Santosh Singh says it was during the 1989

Bhagalpur riots that the last nail was driven in the coffin of the Congress as the minorities were enraged by the riots. At that time, the BJP was just coming into its own in Bihar.

The Congress has since been on the 'back foot' while the BJP though in power at the Centre continues playing second fiddle to the JD-U in Bihar, adds Singh.

"Last year the NDA won 39 of 40 seats in the Lok Sabha elections from Bihar in which 17 BJP candidates were fielded and all emerged victorious. Despite this the BJP dare not contest the Bihar assembly elections on its own this year," Singh said.

If the NDA alliance partners - the JD-U and the BJP - contest on an equal number of seats in this election, it will be interesting to see if a national party like the BJP can consolidate its position in Bihar, Singh added.

Test of fire for Tejashwi amid hopes for change

Given the dispute in the Grand Alliance over seat-sharing, it won't be easy for Tejashwi to repeat the success of the last Assembly election

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 2: While the ruling party is engaged in turning the battle for Bihar Assembly elections 2020 as 15 years versus 15 years (15 years of NDA compared to 15 years of the RJD government), the main opposition party Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is targeting the Nitish government on the issues of corruption and law and order.

Riding on the success of the RJD as the largest party in the last assembly elections, party leaders are once again hopeful of emulating it. But the point to be noted is that in this election RJD president Lalu Prasad is missing and the entire responsibility lies on Tejashwi Yadav's shoulders.

In Lalu's absence, the controversy over the seat-sharing dispute in the Grand Alliance seems to be something that has left Tejashwi ap-

pearing clueless.

The Hindustani Awam Morcha and Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), two major constituents of the grand alliance, have already deserted the coalition. Also, differences with old ally Congress over seat-sharing are yet to be resolved.

Clearly the leaders of the Grand Alliance are missing Lalu Prasad. Congress in-charge of Bihar Shakti Singh Gohil raised a question mark over Tejashwi and said that if Lalu were here, it would not have taken so long in taking a decision on seat-sharing.

The Bihar Congress in-charge also said that Tejashwi is a young face. People tend to mislead those who are less experienced. "It is already too late to decide on seat-sharing. Now the ball is in RJD's court. Decisions should be made quickly."



The Congress is a political party and is ready for every situation, he added.

There is no doubt that Lalu Prasad's speech, style and charismatic personality had the ability to woo voters.

RJD spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwari agrees that Lalu Prasad's charismatic personality made him stand apart from most politicians. He was perceived as the messiah of the poor. However, he said that the Congress should give up its tendency to be stubborn.

He said if the Congress provokes it, the RJD would not hesitate to retaliate.

By the looks of it, the way the dispute is going on in the Grand Alliance about seat-sharing, it won't be easy for Tejashwi to repeat the success of the last Assembly election.

In the last election, the RJD, the Congress and the JDU had contested together. The situation has changed this time round. The JDU is with NDA and former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's party is also with the JDU.

However, RJD's opponents are now running down the Grand Alliance's chances of success.

BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand says that there is no party left in the Grand Alliance. "Now there is only RJD that remains. People in Bihar won't ever want the 15 years of RJD rule to return."

Out of the total 243 seats in the state in the last assembly elections, the RJD emerged as the single-largest party by winning 80 seats while its ally JDU had to settle for 71 seats.

KMSS floats political party

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Oct 2: The Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) along with 70 indigenous groups and a regional party Friday floated a political outfit to fight the Assam assembly elections due next year, outgoing president of the peasant body Bhasco De Saikia said.

The new party, named 'Rajior Dal' (People's Party) was launched on Gandhi Jayanti and the birthday of jailed KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi at a press conference here.

Gogoi, the founder of the KMSS, has been in jail since December last year on charges of inciting violence during the anti-CAA stir. He was granted bail by a National Investigation Agency (NIA) court Thursday but he is still in jail as his bail application in connection with another case filed by the agency is pending.

The 70 indigenous groups and the regional party, the 'Sanjukta Anchalik Dal, Asom', were together during the anti Citizenship (Amendment) Act agitation.

Saikia, who along with Gogoi will be the chief convenors of the 'Rajior Dal', said, "The new inclusive democratic political party with the slogan 'Think globally, act locally' would work for ushering in a new Assam with a new era of development taking everyone together.

"All ethnic communities will be cooperating and working unitedly for the greater good of the state."

National Award winning film director Jahnur Barua, prominent advocate and political leader Arup Borbora, Lachit Sena leader Sringkhal Chaliha, also addressed the press conference.

Assam police exam on new date after question paper leak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 2: The written examination for recruitment of sub-inspectors in the Assam Police, which was cancelled due to the leakage of question paper, will now be held November 22, a statement said Friday.

The State Level Police Recruitment Board (SLPRB) said a formal notification will be issued to provide procedural details to candidates.

The board assured all the candidates that the examination process will be transparent and they will get a fair opportunity to compete.

Examination to recruit 597 sub-inspectors was cancelled on September 20, minutes after it began, as the question paper was found to have been leaked on social media. Around 66,000 candidates had appeared for the written

test across 154 centres in all the districts.

SLPRB chairman Pradeep Kumar subsequently resigned September 27 taking "moral responsibility" for the leak.

Over 20 people have been arrested in this connection.

BJP leader and one of the prime accused in the recruitment scam, Diban Deka, was arrested after he surrendered Wednesday night.

Deka, along with former DIG PK Dutta, had been absconding since the scam came to light.

Police had issued lookout notices and announced an award of Rs 1 lakh each for any information which could lead to the arrest of Deka and Dutta.

The former DIG is yet to be traced and it is suspected that he was holed up somewhere near the India-Nepal border.

'BJP destroyed Gandhi's philosophy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 2: The Congress in Assam Friday organised special programmes in all 27,711 booths to highlight the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi and alleged that the ruling BJP has hijacked his ideology and destroyed his philosophy.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Ripun Bora said party workers also staged protests across the state against the "highhandedness" meted out to its leaders Rahul Gandhi and

Priyanka Gandhi when they tried to visit the family of the woman who died after being allegedly gang-raped in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh.

"We have held simultaneous meetings at almost all 27,711 booths in Assam on the occasion of the 121 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. We have highlighted the relevance of Gandhiji in present situation, how BJP hijacked his ideology and destroyed the history and philosophy of Gandhiji," he said.

Bora, a Rajya Sabha member, himself participated in one of these programmes at Gohpur in

Biswanath district where scores of people also took part.

The APCC president said people's response to the Congress event was "overwhelming" as all have realised the "hollow" promises made by the ruling BJP in Assam and at the Centre.

"People are fed up with the BJP rule and want to get rid of the party. Gandhi Jayanti is an occasion when people took vow to remove BJP from power in Assam next year," he said. The next Assam Assembly elections are likely to be held in March-April next year.

Over 2.41 lakh hit in Assam floods



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 2: Flood waters in Assam further receded Friday and remained in four districts affecting a population of over 2.41 lakh, though the deluge claimed one more life, a government bulletin said here.

With the death of one person in Morigaon district, the total number of people who lost their lives in flood-related incidents this year rose to 121, Assam State Disaster

Management Authority (ASDMA) said in the bulletin.

It said that 2,41,825 people of 379 villages in four districts are now affected, while the number of people hit by the calamity Thursday was 2.70 lakh in seven districts.

Flood waters receded from three districts since Thursday and the districts of Goalpara, Morigaon, Hojai and Nagaon remained submerged now.

ASDMA said that 22,802 hectare of crop areas are under water now.

Nagaon is the worst-hit district with more than 1.79 lakh people reeling under the flood, followed by Morigaon (34,424), Goalpara (26,127) and Hojai (2,067).

The Brahmaputra river is flowing above the danger level at Dhubri, while the Kopili is flowing above the red mark in Nagaon, the ASDMA said.

Relief centres have been opened in Nagaon and Morigaon districts where 117 people have taken shelter.

NDA or solo: LJP's meet today to decide



The LJP has been critical of the Nitish Kumar government in the state, including its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, migrant workers and flood issues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: Amid the discomfort over the number of seats offered to it by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan has called a meeting of the party's parliamentary board Saturday to decide whether to go solo or remain with the NDA for the Bihar Assembly polls.

The development comes a day after Paswan met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President JP Nadda here to discuss the seat-sharing formula.

An LJP leader said that the meeting at 5 pm. Saturday would discuss the seat-sharing formula and also whether the party should fight the elections on its own or in alliance.

According to party sources, the LJP has been demanding 36

Assembly and two MLC seats in the state. However, the Janata Dal-United is not keen to give more than 20 seats to the LJP.

Last month, during a parliamentary board meeting, the LJP had asked its leaders to prepare a list of candidates for 143 of the 243 seats going to the polls.

The LJP has been critical of the Nitish Kumar government in the state, including its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, migrant workers and flood issues.

LJP supremo Ram Vilas Paswan has on several occasions written to Nitish Kumar, with the Chief Minister not responding even once.

The Bihar Assembly elections are slated for October 28, November 3, and November 7. Counting of votes will take place November 10.

The LJP won only 2 seats in last Assembly polls.

Lost art of storytelling gets back to life in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The COVID-19 lockdown gave the century-old Assam Sahitya Sabha an opportunity to bring back to life the dying art of storytelling, particularly tales from the region's dwindling tribes, proving perhaps that even the darkest cloud can have a silver lining.

A brainchild of Kula Dhar Saikia, Assam's former police chief who now heads the Assam Sahitya Sabha, the campaign that started in July is aimed at popularising once again the art of storytelling and also ensuring that people learn about tribes whose very survival is at risk due to their declining population.

As part of Saikia's efforts, the Sabha has collaborated with the Guwahati division of All India Radio to broadcast a programme on storytelling for children twice a week since July this year.

The choice of stories is eclectic, some picked from famous grandmother tales and others from Aesop's Fables, Jataka's story, Panchatantra and the like. And also tales from various tribal groups.

"What is fascinating is that stories selected from different tribal groups are getting wide acclaim from listeners," Saikia, a 1985-batch IPS officer who retired as Assam's director general of police and is a

recipient of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award, told PTI.

The listenership is growing with each broadcast, he claimed.

Aimed at promoting the practice of storytelling as a primary tool for learning and teaching, the content and narrative have been chosen with care and with the special purpose of providing values, creative ideas and meaningful entertainment, he said.

Saikia, who has contributed to Assamese literature with over 25 books, said the initiative has attracted attention from all sections of people in the state

It has been widely recognised that listening to stories increases language skills and pride in speaking and love for own language. Listening to grandma's tales enhances the feeling of pride in their mother tongue among children

KULA DHAR SAIKIA | PRESIDENT OF ASSAM SAHITYA SABHA

at a time children are confined to their homes.

India imposed a nationwide lockdown March 25 to contain the spread of the contagious coronavirus that has infected almost 64 lakh people and killed 99,773, the Union health ministry said Friday.



Saikia, who took over as president of the Assam Sahitya Sabha in January this year, said it is his dream to save regional languages and culture from dying. It is vital, he added, to ensure that children are exposed to diverse cultures so they become more acceptable and open to different ways of life when they grow up.

During his tenure as police chief, Saikia got a book published both in English and vernacular languages. "The Little Sentinels", a collection of short stories, focuses on creating positive values and making the children aware of social menaces such as drug abuse and social prej-

udices. Saikia, who also holds a Phd from the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati, is one of the founders of Jatiya Vidyalaya, a chain of schools where education is provided in Assamese.

"It has been widely recognised that listening to stories increases language skills and pride in speaking and love for own language. Listening to grandma's tales enhances the feeling of pride in their mother tongue among children," he said.

"This aspect has acquired fresh importance as the New Education Policy has emphasised the need for imparting primary education in one's own lingua," Saikia added.

The Narendra Modi-led government recently announced the

The campaign that started in July is aimed at popularising once again the art of storytelling and also ensuring that people learn about tribes whose very survival is at risk due to their declining population

National Education Policy, which places emphasis on education in the mother tongue during the early phase of children's education.

"Storytelling is one of the greatest tools for empowering the young ones for growing up as alert and responsible citizens," Saikia said.

He has also used forms like traditional and modern puppetry for effective and entertaining storytelling and also to revive dying art forms. Saikia has plans for a post pandemic time as well - he wants to make small groups of "storyteller volunteers" who will visit residential localities and help parents in adding more meaning to weekends with their children.

Assam is home to dozens of tribes. Over the decades, migration, cross marriages and changing lifestyles have led to their numbers dwindling.

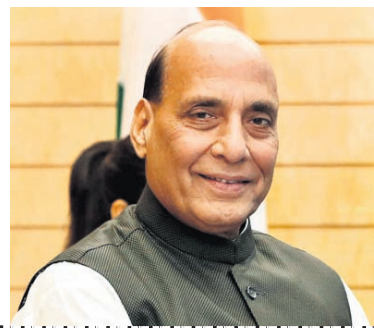
national



The UP authorities tried to hush up things and forcibly cremated the victim in the dead of night against Hindu rituals. This in itself was a painful incident
RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | CONGRESS LEADER

RAJNATH INSPECTS ATAL TUNNEL

A day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to inaugurate the strategic Atal Tunnel beneath the Rohtang Pass, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Friday inspected the tunnel to review the arrangements



of the day quote

Remembering former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary, 55 years ago, he gave us the inspirational slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' for our proud farmer brothers & sisters. Come what may, we will always firmly stand by them till our last breath
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Gandhiji actively promoted cleanliness movement across the country and his mission has been taken forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through schemes like 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the entire administration have left no stone unturned to suppress the voice of the opposition. The treatment given to Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi was indecent. It is condemnable. Rights of humanity, constitution and law were torn apart
SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

Congress ready to annul farm laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The Congress has prepared a draft model law that will be legislated by party-ruled states in order to annul the central farm laws.

Sources said Friday that the model law has been drafted and will soon be sent to Congress-ruled states to replicate it in their state assemblies. The move comes days after Congress chief Sonia Gandhi asked states under party's rule to enact legislations to bypass Centre's three farm-related laws that have triggered protests by farmers.

The move also comes ahead of the tractor rallies to be taken out by the Congress in Punjab and Haryana from October 4, in which party leader Rahul Gandhi will participate. The rallies are part of Congress agitations against the farm legislations.

The Congress is strongly opposing the three legislations and it has launched countrywide protests in each district and Vidhan Sabha on Gandhi Jayanti.

The Congress president had advised the Congress-ruled states to pass laws in their respective states under Article 254(2) of the Constitution which allows the state legislatures to pass a law to 'negate



SOURCES SAID FRIDAY THAT THE MODEL LAW HAS BEEN DRAFTED AND WILL SOON BE SENT TO CONGRESS-RULED STATES TO REPLICATE IT IN THEIR STATE ASSEMBLIES

THE CONGRESS IS STRONGLY OPPOSING THE THREE LEGISLATIONS AND IT HAS LAUNCHED COUNTRYWIDE PROTESTS

THE SOURCES SAID THAT WHILE CONGRESS-RULED STATES ARE SET TO PASS THE LAW, SOME OF THE NON-NDA RULED STATES ARE ALSO LIKELY TO PASS IT

anti-agriculture central laws" that "encroach" upon the state's jurisdiction under the Constitution.

The Congress claims that rules under Article 245(2) allow a state legislature to enforce laws "repugnant to the parliament law", a provision used by the BJP earlier against the central land acquisition act.

The sources said that while Congress-ruled states are set to pass the law, some of the non-NDA ruled states are also likely to pass it, as they are opposed to the central farm legislations.

Parliament had passed The Farmers' Produce Trade and

Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020 during the Monsoon Session and the President granted his assent for them.

The laws seek to liberalise the agriculture sector and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country they want at a better price.

The model law brought by the Congress will be called the Protection of Farmers Interest and Farm

Produce (Special Provisions) Bill that has been cleared by party MP and legal expert Abhishek Singhvi. The model law shall declare "null, void and inoperative" anything that is inconsistent in the three central legislations with the state law. It will also include a provision to ensure that no farmer shall be paid below the minimum support price for the price of the produce.

The draft model bill seeks to ensure safeguards for farmers including the minimum support price regime and the framework under the APMC Act to protect their interests.

CVC tightens grip on tainted officials

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: As part of the zero tolerance against corruption policy, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has tightened its grip on officials involved in corruption cases and facing disciplinary action.

The CVC has issued an order to all the ministries to submit the files of officers involved in cases of corruption to the Commission 30 days before the retirement of the officers so that appropriate action can be taken against them.

A directive was issued May 12, 2020 by the CVC saying that matters related to retirement should be submitted to its office by 5 p.m. on the 10th of every month but now it has to be submitted 30 days before the date of retirement of the officers, the letter read.

The Commission said in its letter, "If an officer is retiring on November 30, the report related to the investigation and action taken against him should be available on October 31, so that the CVC can take action against the officer."

The letter has been sent to all the ministries, Public Sector

The CVC has issued an order to all the ministries to submit the files of officers involved in cases of corruption to the Commission 30 days before the retirement of the officers

Undertakings (PSUs), all the government departments and institutions. The CVC has also given strict instructions to Vigilance Officers of all the ministries.

Sources said that despite the earlier instructions, the ministries used to send the files of the officers late due to which they used to retire and the cases against them were not settled properly.

Since the officers get pension and other benefits immediately after retirement, it is important to settle the cases against them. Therefore, the Commission has now decided to ask the ministries to submit the files in advance.

THREE HELD FOR GIRL'S MURDER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhadohi (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 2: Three persons have been arrested for the murder of a 14-year-old Dalit girl who was found dead in a field with her head smashed.

The three were arrested Thursday and have been identified as Kundan, Collector and Prince, all residents of Gopiganj in Bhadohi. They have confessed to their crime, as per the police. The Bhadohi police spokesperson said that there was enmity between the girl's family and the accused, and the latter had threatened the victim's family with dire consequences Monday.

The accused found the girl alone in the field Thursday and killed her. Her brother, who went out to look for her, found the body in the field. The police said her head was smashed with bricks.

Ram Badan Singh, superintendent of police, said, "The head of the girl was smashed with stones. Post-mortem report is awaited." The girl was a resident of Chakrajaram Tiwaripur village of Gopiganj police station area. The family has expressed suspicion that she was killed after sexual assault. However, rape can only be confirmed after the post-mortem report.

A team of forensic experts and crime branch officials has also reached the village to collect evidence and probe the matter. The murder of the 14-year-old comes after the Hathras incident where the 19-year-old was allegedly raped and strangled. The police have now denied that she was raped even though the victim said in a video message that she was sexually assaulted.

On Tuesday, hours after the Hathras victim died, a 22-year-old Dalit student was also raped and brutalized in Balrampur district. She died on the way to the hospital. On Thursday, two minor girls were raped in Bulandshahr and Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh.

According to reports, in Azamgarh, an 8-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her 20-year-old neighbour in Jyanpur area.

CHILLING OUT



People visit Charminar after the authorities eased restrictions in Hyderabad, Friday

PTI PHOTO

NIA files chargesheet against three men trained in Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The NIA has filed a chargesheet against three persons who allegedly underwent training in Pakistan to carry out terrorist attacks in India on the basis of instructions of Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkare-Taiba (LeT), an official said.

The chargesheet against Muneeb Hameed Bhat, Junaid Ahmad Mattoo and Umer Rashid Wani, all residents of Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, was filed before a special NIA court in Jammu Thursday. It was filed under sections of the Ranbir Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the official said. Mattoo and Wani were killed in separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir in 2017 and 2018, respectively, the NIA

official said. The case relates to subversive activities of the LeT in Kulgam. It was motivating youths such as Bhat to join the terror group and organised their travel to Pakistan for terrorist training on the basis of valid travel documents following the recommendation of separatist leaders, the NIA official said.

Investigations by the NIA, which took over the case on September 25, 2018, established that LeT terrorist Mattoo motivated Bhat to join the LeT and go to Pakistan for terrorist training, the NIA spokesperson said. He added that Wani, another LeT terrorist, gave him funds to meet the expenses of his visit to the neighbouring country. In July-August 2017, Bhat visited Pakistan on valid travel documents and was imparted training on using

weapons and secret social media chat platforms, the official of the premier investigation agency said.

After returning from Pakistan, he was in constant touch with LeT handlers in Pakistan and with active militants of Kulgam on secret messaging platforms to carry out subversive and terrorist activities in the Valley, the NIA spokesperson said. Bhat was working as a sleeper cell of the LeT and intended to join the banned terrorist organisation, the official said.

From 2016-2018, many Kashmiri youths were sent by separatist leaders to Pakistan, he added. They were trained in the camps for five to 15 days. After returning, they were initially used as sleeper cells by militant organisations and subsequently recruited for active militancy, the official said.

Woman who duped 200 people of crores nabbed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police after tracking the Instagram account of a woman arrested her from Surat in Gujarat where she had fled after duping at least 200 people of Rs 2 crores by luring them to invest in fictitious schemes in Delhi.

According to police a man named Parveen Kumar Singh along with his woman friend was operating a society named Jai Maa Laxmi Co-Operative Thrift & Credit Society Ltd. and running a shop called Arpit Cloth Store in Mandawali in Fajalpur, Delhi. Both cheated around 200 people from Mandawali on the pretext of

investing in different schemes to earn high profits. They induced people to invest in schemes like Interest Earning Scheme, Loan Scheme, Flat Booking Scheme and Lucky Draw Scheme.

During the investigation it came to light that neither "Jai Maa Laxmi Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society" was registered with the RBI as a NBFC nor any person called Parveen Kumar Singh and his woman friend were registered with the RBI.

They were not authorised to collect money from the public directly in any scheme.

Both the accused were absconding since the registration of the case. Efforts were made to trace them by the police.

SHORT TAKES

Two held

New Delhi: Two people have been arrested by the customs officials for smuggling gold, worth nearly Rs 52 lakh, by concealing it in their rectum at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, according to an official statement issued Friday. The accused, a man and a woman, were intercepted here after their arrival from Dubai Wednesday. The officials seized gold weighing 1.14 kg, amounting to Rs 51.8 lakh, from the two passengers concealed in rectum in paste form," the statement issued by the customs department said.

Jumbo kills man

Giridih (Jharkhand): A 55-year-old man has been trampled to death by an elephant in Jharkhand's Giridih district, a forest officer said Friday. The incident took place near Maheshpur village in Muffasil police station area Thursday, he said. The male elephant, which got separated from its herd, chased the man, lifted him with its trunk, slammed him on the ground and trampled him to death, Giridih Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Rajkumar said.

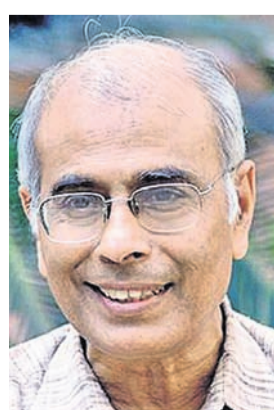
Soldier ends life

Srinagar: A soldier shot himself dead with his service rifle in Jammu and Kashmir's border town of Uri Friday, police said. The deceased was identified as Rakshet Kumar of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, and hailed from Samba district of the Union Territory. "An FIR has been registered in this incident and legal formalities are being completed," a police officer said.

Man arrested

Khunti: A 32-year-old man was arrested Friday in Jharkhand's Khunti district for allegedly raping his 12-year-old niece, a senior police officer here said. The accused, a resident of Gullu village in Murhu police station area of the district, had apparently taken the girl to an under-construction building and raped her, Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said. According to the complaint filed by the girl's mother, she was playing with her brother outside their uncle's house, when the accused approached them and took them to the building.

Dabholkar murder: CBI yet to get ballistic report of gun



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 2: Even six months after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), probing the murder case of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar, recovered the weapon suspected to be used in the crime from the Arabian Sea, the federal agency is yet to get the ballistic test report from the forensic team.

According to highly-placed CBI sources, the agency has asked the laboratory to expedite its testing on the weapon that was recovered by foreign divers from Thane creek in

Maharashtra's Thane district.

"We have asked the laboratory to submit the details of the ballistic report of the weapon that was recovered from the creek at the earliest," a source said, adding that once the laboratory reports come, it will ease the work of the agency as it will ascertain whether the weapon recovered from the creek was the one used in the crime.

The CBI team had recovered the weapon in March this year, after hiring a foreign sea explorer agency to search for and recover the firearm used in the killing of Dabholkar.

The CBI earlier claimed in a Pune court that one of the accused shooters, Sharad Kalaskar, dismantled the firearm used in the crime and threw it into the creek.

"A weapon has been recovered during the search operation, but whether it is related to the crime or not will only be confirmed after the ballistic report from the forensic laboratory," a CBI official had said in March. Dabholkar, 67, who was chief of the Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS), was gunned down near his Pune residence while on a morning walk on

August 20, 2013.

The CBI has registered a case on June 2, 2014, following the Bombay High Court's May 9, 2014 direction.

Five years after Dabholkar's killing, the agency made the first breakthrough through arrest of the alleged shooters - Sachin Andure on August 18, 2018 from Aurangabad and Kalaskar from Palghar on September 3, 2018.

Following their interrogation, the name of Virendrasingh Tawde, arrested earlier in another case, came to light as the conspirator in the Dabholkar murder.

The CBI also arrested advocate

Sanjeev Punalekar, who allegedly advised Kalaskar to destroy the firearms used in the crime.

Punalekar, before his arrest, had represented members of the Sanatan Sanstha and other activists in various cases in courts.

The CBI earlier claimed in the Pune court that during the investigation, it came to light that in June 2018, Kalaskar visited Punalekar's chamber in Mumbai where he revealed his role in the killing of Dabholkar, and was told to destroy the firearms used in the killings, including of journalist Gauri Lankesh in Bangalore.



Each and every woman of this country should raise her voice against what has happened to the woman in Hathras

PRİYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

FIGHT AGAINST PANDEMIC

Contract research and manufacturing services company Syngene International Ltd. said Friday that it has joined a global consortium of 19 organisations from the healthcare industry to help accelerate various aspects of COVID-19 testing, ranging from research to clinical diagnostic applications



of the day quote

Mahatma Gandhi is a thought and we cannot move ahead in time without remembering it. Gandhi's thoughts are a guiding force to implement his idea of freedom

UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

We may have differences with the Congress party. He (Rahul Gandhi) can be stopped from going to Hathras citing imposition of section 144, but the way police behaved with him holding his collar...the way he was pushed and then thrown on the ground was highly condemnable

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

October 2 is a date we remember for different reasons. Besides celebrating it as the birth anniversary of two great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri we also remember it for Rampur Tiraha firing incident which is a blot on the history of both undivided UP and Uttarakhand

TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT | UTTARAKHAND CM

REMEMBERING GANDHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 151st birth anniversary, at Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi, Friday

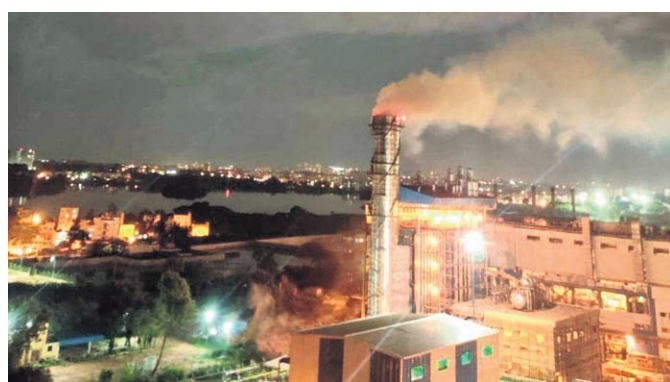
15 injured in B'lore KPTCL plant blast

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Oct 2: A "minor" explosion was reported at a 370 MW gas power plant of the state-run Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd in Bengaluru early Friday, leaving 15 persons injured, including two critically, an official said.

Speaking to IANS, Karnataka state Fire and Emergency Services Director K. Shiva Kumar said that the blast occurred in the KPCL's Combined Cycle Power Plant in Yelahanka at around 3 a.m. on Friday while engineers were carrying out tests in a gas turbine chamber.

"The plant was supposed to commence its operations in December. All day, they had tested. But when they were testing, variations in pressure were observed. This incident occurred when KPCL engineers were conducting several checks to test the turbine," he explained.



help of the Rail Wheel Factory, which has a foam tender there. Before the fire services reached the spot, they were taking precautionary steps to extinguish fire, he added. District Fire officer, Kishore, told IANS that they received a call

from the plant at 3.30 a.m., and fire fighters rushed to the spot. "Four fire tenders, two water pumps and two one foam tender were rushed to the spot, along with senior officials, including the Director. The Rail Wheel Factory had immediately rushed one foam tender from its side, but we did not use it," he said.

Kishore said that the department used foam tender to extinguish fire. "This was a medium range fire incident... had it not been controlled in time, it had the potential to cause a major loss," he said.

He added that the primary reason was an electric short circuit that resulted in the minor explosion where oil was stored. A highly-placed source, who was present at the scene, said that there was a snag in the functioning of the turbine due to high pressure,

BJP leader who wanted to give Mamata 'hug', tests +ve

A COMPLAINT WAS FILED AGAINST HIM AFTER HIS CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT OF 'COVID HUG'



Kolkata, Oct 2: BJP leader Anupam Hazra, who had threatened to hug West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee if he got infected with COVID-19, has tested positive for the disease, health officials said.

Hazra, who has recently been appointed as a national secretary of the saffron party, was admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata on Friday, they said. He had complained of uneasiness and his samples were tested for coronavirus, the

report of which returned as positive on Thursday night, the officials said. After his controversial statement, the Trinamool Congress had lodged a police complaint against Hazra for maligning a public figure, who is a woman, thus violating the Constitution.

BJP leaders in Bengal had distanced themselves from Mr Hazra's comment. "Those in positions of responsibility must be careful about what they speak," BJP's newly appointed Vice-President Mukul Roy had said.

India's Covid infections rise to 6.39 million

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Oct 2: India's coronavirus case tally climbed to 6.39 million after it reported 81,484 new infections in the last 24 hours, while related deaths were just shy of 100,000 mark, data from the health ministry showed on Friday.

Deaths from coronavirus infections rose by 1,095 in the last 24 hours to 99,773, the ministry said. The South Asian nation, which is second only to the United States in terms of total cases, has a scope for higher infections with a large chunk of the population still unexposed to the virus, a survey showed Tuesday.

For the eleventh successive day, India's active COVID-19 cases remained less than 10 lakh, while the country continued to maintain its global position of having the maximum number of recovered patients, the Union Health Ministry said Friday.

India's 1328th butterfly species found in Raj

After a nearly six-year-long research process, institute Director Peter Smetachouk announced that it is India's 1328th butterfly

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 2: India's 1328th butterfly species has been discovered in Rajasthan during the ongoing "Big Butterfly Month", which is being celebrated from September 5. Butterfly expert and teacher Mukesh Panwar, a resident of Sagwara in Dungarpur district, discovered this species named Spealia Zebra.

Panwar, a member of the Vagad Nature Club who has been researching butterflies for the last 15 years, saw the Spealia Zebra at Dhanraj Farm House in Sagwara on November 8, 2014. He clicked a photo and sent it to the Butterfly Research Institute in Bhimtal, Uttarakhand, for identification. After a nearly six-year-long re-



search process, institute Director Peter Smetachouk announced that it is India's 1328th butterfly. Smetachouk said that this butterfly, which flies at a high speed, has a width of 2.5 centimetres. The Spealia Zebra species is normally found in Pakistan. Panwar, who is doing research on butterflies of Rajasthan, has seen and identified around 111 species of butterflies.

Work on Smart City project continues in Srinagar amid nCoV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 2: Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Srinagar administration carried out the work on restoration of historic buildings and conservation of old shrines of all faiths under the Smart City Mission at a steady pace.

Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar Shahid Iqbal Choudhary reviews progress of the work on restoration of shrines, temples and churches of historic importance regularly in the middle of managing the pandemic and dealing with other important matters of the city. Quoting American conservationist Mollie H Beattie - "what a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself" - Choudhary says, "We owe this to our future generations. Due to militancy of nearly three decades the attention has drifted towards law and order. But at the end, the guns will fall silent and the historical heritage will speak for the city."

Restoration of shrines such as Khanqah-e-Moula and Khanqah Naqshband Saheb has also been taken up under the conservation and heritage revitalisation programme as part of the Smart City Mission, which aims to make cities citizen friendly and sustainable.

Located on the banks of the Jhelum in downtown city of Fathekadal, around 10 km from the city centre Lal Chowk, the temple was constructed by first Dogra ruler Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1835. The temple had remained abandoned for more than three decades before its restoration was started by Choudhury, who is also the CEO of the Smart City Project. Dedicated to Lord Rama, the temple, which was upgraded in 1875 by Maharaja Ranbir Singh, is also known as Ranbir Swami Temple.

Hyd's Bapu Ghat remains a deserted memorial

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

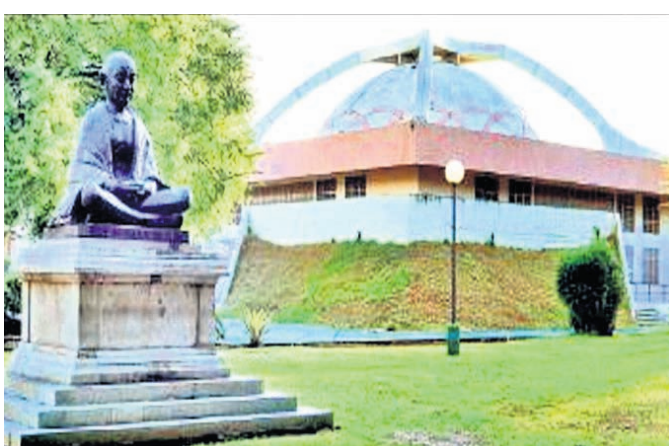
Hyderabad, Oct 2: Hyderabad has a special connection with the memory of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi as this historic city was one of the few places where his ashes were immersed.

The ashes were immersed at the confluence of Musi and Esi rivers, which have now dried up. Tucked away in Langer Houz in the western part of the city, Bapu Ghat, however, comes alive every year only on the birth and death anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi. The visit by the Governor and Chief Minister to pay homage brings the memorial into focus but the rest of the year it remains mostly deserted.

The plans of the Telangana government to develop Bapu Ghat on the lines of Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad have remained on paper for the last six years.

Earlier, there were efforts to ensure some activity at the place, which boasts of a memorial building, Gandhi's statue in a meditation position, a prayer hall, an interactive museum called Peace Truth Ahimsa museum and a 76-foot long collage wall featuring more than 400 pictures of Gandhi.

Also on display at Bapu Ghat is a Harley Davidson motorbike. Named Ahimsa Harley, it has signatures of 900 students from 26 countries as a symbol to announce that Gandhi has arrived in 21st century.



It was in 2012 that Mahatma Gandhi Digital Museums (MGDS) set up a digital museum at Bapu

Ghat in an effort to convey Gandhi's message through the language of technology.

However, the place continues to remain out of bounds for visitors. Employees say it is opened only for school students who are brought with prior permission from authorities.

Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Arun Gandhi, during his visit to the memorial last year, was all praise for use of modern technology to depict the life of the Mahatma. He described the collection of photographs as nice but said they were meaningless as they were neither arranged in chronological order nor tell the story. According to him, the photographs do not tell the story of life, the story of those times and the history of the Independence movement.

international



The US did not inform Pakistan about Osama bin Laden's location due to lack of trust and past experiences of terrorists being tipped off after information was shared with Islamabad
LEON PANETTA | FORMER US DEFENSE SECRETARY AND EX-CIA CHIEF

POTTY TRAINING: NASA TESTS NEW \$23M TITANIUM TOILET

NASA's first new space potty in decades – a \$23 million titanium toilet better suited for women – is getting a not-so-dry run at the International Space Station before flying to the moon



of the day quote

I condemn all white supremacists, I condemn the Proud Boys. I don't know much about the Proud Boys but I condemn that



DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

I believe that European leaders have a strategic role... (also in) stemming and rejecting the Islamic Republic of Iran, which still is the greatest force of destabilisation in the entire Middle Eastern region



MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

In my opinion, the chief physician at the hospital in Omsk is worse than the secret service agents who kill people. At least for them, killing is their profession



ALEXEI NAVALNY | RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER

Trump adds to election anxiety by pushing legal boundaries

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HAS FLOATED THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL IDEA OF DELAYING THE NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 2: President Donald Trump has floated the unconstitutional idea of delaying the November 3 election. His administration may have violated a judge's order on the 2020 census and could be held in contempt. Another court ruled that he illegally sidestepped Congress to find billions for his border wall.

In ways large and small, in multiple corners of the government, the president has demonstrated a willingness to push the boundaries of federal law, if not outright flout them. And in the heat of a presidential campaign, that track record only adds to anxiety about whether Trump will abide by the results of the election.

"When the president talks about being the law-and-order candidate, it's clear that when he says the word 'law' he means the laws he person-

ally cares about enforcing," said Liz Hempowicz, public policy director at the private Project On Government Oversight.

"That's not how a law-and-order system works. You can't pick and chose. It's just a complete breakdown of our democratic systems happening in front of our eyes."

Trump has already suggested the election will be rigged, and he has pointedly declined to promise a peaceful transfer of power if he loses. He jokes about staying in office beyond two terms, prompting supporters in Atlanta last week to chant "12 more years!" But it's no joke to critics who see a callous attitude toward the laws he claims to uphold.

"They point to a series of instances in which Trump or officials in his administration have violated the spirit of the law, ignored it or made end runs around statutes to implement his policies.



"We are used to Presidents bowing to a court determination, bowing to a finding by an inspector general... but if the President refuses to do that, what is the mechanism to hold him and his administration accountable?" asked Trevor Potter, president of the private Campaign Legal Center.

Trump's defenders say such concerns are overblown.

David Rivkin Jr., a constitutional lawyer who served in the White House counsel's office and the Justice Department in the Reagan and George HW Bush administrations, sees no cause for alarm when it comes to Trump abiding by the election results.

"There is every reason to believe that he would use only lawful means to contest the electoral outcome, if a

'Sharif playing games at behest of India'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Oct 2: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has lashed out at the fiery speeches made by former premier and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, stating that he was playing a dangerous game by targeting Islamabad's powerful military establishment at the behest of India.

In an interview to a private television channel, Khan accused his predecessor for creating a "huge mischief" by attacking the Pakistan army.

"Nawaz Sharif is playing a dangerous game against Pakistan and I am 100 per cent sure that India is supporting him." "Why Nawaz Sharif always had a dispute with army chiefs, because he was involved in corrupt practices and wanted to control them," he added.

Khan said Sharif is now playing the same game that was once

being played by former founder of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Altaf Hussain, who he said was also working on India's agenda and had his supporters chant 'Pakistan Murdabad' along with calling for India's help to what he called free Pakistan from oppression.

"He (Sharif) is becoming the next Altaf Hussain. He is a coward, I am sure he has support from India. India's interest was to weaken our army. India's think tanks say they want to break Pakistan. Some foolish liberals were agreeing with the narrative of Sharif, who is creating a huge 'fitna' (mischief) by attacking the army," he said.

The convicted former leader, who was allowed to fly to London for treatment late last year, broke his long silence last month, saying that the opposition was up not against "selected prime minister" but against those who had brought him into power in the 2018 elections.

Pentagon okays \$90mn sale of spares for India's Super Hercules fleet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 2: The Pentagon has approved India's request to buy \$90 million worth of equipment, spare parts and logistical support for its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft.

In its notification to the Congress, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said the proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the US by helping to strengthen the US-India strategic relationship and improve the security of a major defence partner, which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

The items ordered by India are aircraft consumable spares and repair/return parts; ground support and equipment; Cartridge Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) fire extinguisher cartridges; flare cartridges; BBU-35/B cartridge impulse squibs.

India has also ordered for one spare AN/ALR-56M Advanced Radar Warning Receiver shipset; spare AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispenser System shipset; ten Lightweight Night Vision Binocular (F5032); ten AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggle (NVG)(F4949); GPS and Electronic Warfare.

It is also seeking instruments



In a notification to the Congress, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said the proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the US by helping to strengthen the US-India strategic relationship

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and lab equipment support; joint mission planning system; cryptographic device spares and loaders; software and software support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training and training equipment; contractor engineering, technical and logistical support, and other related elements of programme support.

According to the notification, the proposed sale ensures that the previously procured aircraft operates effectively to serve the needs of the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy transport requirements, local and international humanitarian assis-

tance and regional disaster relief. This sale of spares and services will enable the Indian Air Force to sustain to sustain a higher mission-ready status fleet.

India will have no difficulty absorbing this additional sustainment support, it said, adding that the proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

Notification of such major sales is mandatory under the Arms Export Control Act. Lawmakers have 30 days to review the proposed sale. The sale would be executed by defence major Lockheed-Martin.

SHORT TAKES

13 dead in Chinese theme park fire

Beijing: A fire at a tourist site in China killed 13 people on the first day of an eight-day national holiday, authorities said. The fire engulfed an exhibition hall of ice lantern and snow sculptures Thursday at the Taitaishan theme park on the outskirts of Taiyuan city in Shanxi province, the Ministry of Emergency Management said. Another 15 people were injured and taken to hospitals, where they were in stable condition.

Biden creates new records

Washington: Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has again shattered fundraising records, topping his already gargantuan August cash haul during the month of September, according to two people with direct knowledge of the situation. An exact total for the month is not yet clear. But both people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to reveal internal details, said Thursday that he surpassed the \$365 million raised last month.

HK police arrest 86 for protests

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police arrested at least 86 people on suspicion of unauthorized assembly on China's National Day holiday after crowds gathered on the streets of a popular shopping district and other areas chanting pro-democracy slogans. Those arrested included four district councillors, police said in a statement posted on Facebook. They said the people were arrested after they ignored repeated warnings for them to disperse Thursday.

20K Amazon staff tested Covid +ve

San Francisco: Amazon Thursday said that slightly more than 19,800 of its employees have tested positive for Covid-19 since the start of March. Data on the e-commerce giant's 1.37 million frontline workers, including those at its Whole Foods Market grocery stores in the United States, showed a lower infection rate than expected, Amazon said. The release of the figure comes as some workers in logistics centers have criticised the company's safeguards to protect them from the pandemic.

REFLECTIONS



A reflection of two gas flaring furnaces and a woman walking on sand barriers is seen in the pool of oil-smear water at a flow station in Ughelli, Delta State, Nigeria

REUTERS PHOTO

'Over 6% Indian-Americans living below poverty line'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 2: An estimated 6.5 per cent of the 4.2 million Indian-Americans are living below the poverty line and the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to increase the poverty among members of the community, according to a latest research.

Results of the research "A Study of Poverty in the Indian American Population," conducted by Devesh Kapur and Jashan Bajwa of Johns Hopkins' Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies,

were released during the Indiaspora Philanthropy Summit 2020 Thursday.

The incident of poverty is greater among Bengali and Punjabi speaking Indian Americans, Kapoor said. About one-third is not in the labour force and about a fifth of them are not American citizens, Kapoor said.

"With this report, we wanted to draw attention to the plight of the most underprivileged Indian Americans," said MR Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora.

China responsible for 'murder of millions of baby girls': US

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned of a recent pushback against gender equality and women's rights and urged people to fight back

REUTERS

New York, Oct 2: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Thursday of a recent pushback against gender equality and women's rights and urged people to fight back as the United States slammed China and the world body for "the murder of millions of baby girls."

World leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, took part in a virtual UN General Assembly meeting Thursday on a landmark 1995 women's conference

in Beijing, where then-US first lady Hillary Clinton declared that "women's rights are human rights."

While Guterres did not specify who was wary of women's rights, he said: "Now is the time to push back against the pushback... Women's full human rights and freedoms are fundamental to peace and prosperity on a healthy planet."

At the 1995 conference in Beijing 189 countries agreed to make a priority the "full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication



of all forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex."

"Twenty-five years after the

Beijing Declaration, equality should be a given. But we still have a long way to go," Merkel said. "Get on board. Let's work together to really target the Beijing goals. The faster the better."

In a video statement broadcast after the meeting, US Education Secretary Betsy DeVos called out Venezuela, Cuba, Iran and China for their treatment of women.

"Since 1995 the Chinese Communist Party has been responsible for the murder of millions of baby girls through brutal population controls on industrial scale. Unfortunately, with the sup-

port from UN agencies," DeVos said. "We call on the UN to stop ignoring and enabling these atrocities."

The United Nations and China's UN mission did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the US statement.

"War zone" Many diplomats have lamented that the world would struggle now to agree a strong declaration on women. A main point of contention in recent years has been long-agreed international language on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

"In 2020, the Beijing Declaration would have no chance of being adopted," French President Emmanuel Macron said. "Progress achieved by great efforts is being undermined even in our democracies, starting with the freedom for women to control their own bodies, and in particular the right to abortion."

US President Donald Trump's administration has led a push at the United Nations against promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights for women because it sees that as code for abortion. It has opposed such language in UN resolutions.

Nepal to waive off 7-day quarantine for all tourists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Oct 2: In a bid to revive the hard-hit tourism industry, Nepal on Friday announced that foreign tourists having COVID-19 negative report will not be required to quarantine themselves for seven days from October 17.

The move came after mounting pressure from travel and tourism entrepreneurs to open up the country's tourism sector for international visitors, as the industry is passing through a difficult time due to months-long lockdown.

Earlier, seven-day hotel quarantine was mandatory for all the tourists coming to the country.

Foreign trekkers and mountaineers wishing to visit Nepal from October 17 may walk free without staying in quarantine if they produce a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) negative report, said an official at the Department of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

According to the official, the tourism ministry is working to carry out instant antigen test for Covid-19 for foreign tourists upon their arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport.

"If everything goes according to the plans, Nepal is fully opening up for tourism after October 17, when commercial flights will resume in international sector," said the official.

5 officers resign after Black man's death in custody

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlotte (US), Oct 2: Five North Carolina police officers have resigned amid accusations they failed to seek immediate medical attention for a Black man who died after fatally ingesting drugs before being taken into custody of officials announced.

The four Charlotte Mecklenburg police officers and one sergeant left their roles after Chief Johnny Jennings recommended them for dismissal, the official said at a news conference Thursday in which the department also released video of the January encounter.

Jennings had recommended their termination for not following department policy of seeking medical assistance for Harold Easter, a 41-year-old suspect who ingested crack cocaine at the scene of a drug investigation. The policy required that anyone suspected of ingesting drugs must be evaluated before being taken to jail. The Charlotte Observer reported.

"If they had followed policy, we would have had a chance," Jennings said Thursday.

Authorities have said that during a low-speed car chase, Easter ate a large amount of crack cocaine and he continued to eat, or try to eat, cocaine as he struggled during his arrest. Officers were aware Easter put drugs in his mouth, according to video of the arrest.

He suffered a medical emergency in a police interview room, where he had been left unattended for more than 40 minutes. At the time of his arrest, officers were required to visually check on people in custody every 15 minutes, The Observer said.

business



Businesses are considering investments in intelligent solutions to tackle issues associated with continuity, labour shortage, and workspace monitoring. Organisations are now realising that their plans must be closely aligned with their AI strategies

RISHU SHARMA | PRINCIPAL ANALYST
(CLOUD AND AI), IDC INDIA

SLUMP COULD PRESAGE MORE STIMULUS

Annual inflation in the 19-country eurozone sagged further below zero in September, bolstering expectations that the ECB will add to its emergency stimulus efforts aimed at cushioning the impact of pandemic



of the day quote

During these unprecedented times, it's reassuring to see that while our plans and priorities changed, our passion for travel has not. Whether it's the memories captured, relationships strengthened, the summer of 2020 proved that the happiness travel can bring is not simply measured in kilometres

RITU MEHROTRA | COUNTRY MANAGER (INDIA, SRI LANKA AND MALDIVES), BOOKING.COM

We at HDFC have seen demand coming back. In July 2020, HDFC achieved 81% of July 2019 disbursements, better than what we had expected given the lockdown and other restrictions and the subsequent months have been even better

RENU SUD KARNAD | MD, HDFC

With the current pandemic situation, it is imperative to reduce costs and at the same time also create a clean and eco-friendly manufacturing facility protecting the environment

VINOD KUMAR GUPTA | MD, DOLLAR INDUSTRIES

SHORT TAKES

₹1,000 cr loan disbursal on cards

New Delhi: Merchant payment facilitating network BharatPe Friday said it has disbursed ₹80 crore loan in September, and targets ₹1,000 crore disbursal in 2020-21. BharatPe has recorded disbursal of over ₹80 crore in September 2020 and facilitated loan disbursals to the tune of ₹150 crore through its partners in the September quarter, it said in a release. "BharatPe has ambitious plans of increasing the number of loan disbursals by 7x this year and would disburse loans worth ₹1,000 crore in FY21," the release added.

Warburg Pincus invests ₹700 cr

Mumbai: Home First Finance, True North-backed affordable housing finance firm, Friday said it has entered into an agreement with Warburg Pincus-affiliate Orange Clove Investments BV for an investment of about ₹700 crore. The investment is a combination of primary fund raise and secondary sales by existing shareholders, it said. Global private equity firm Warburg Pincus has bought a 25% stake in the housing finance company, according to a source.

S-Presso crosses 75,000 unit sales

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Friday said its entry-level small car S-Presso has crossed the 75,000 unit sales milestone in the first year of its launch. Launched in September last year, the car, which takes the shape of a sports utility vehicle, made its debut entry in the top-10 best selling cars in India within a month of hitting the market, the company said in a statement.

Royal Enfield sales fall 1%

New Delhi: Motorcycle maker Royal Enfield Friday reported a 1% increase in its total sales at 60,041 units in September. The company had sold a total of 59,500 units in the corresponding month last year, Royal Enfield said in a statement. Domestic sales were at 55,910 units last month as against 54,858 units in September 2019, a growth of two per cent, it said.

Exports rise 5.27% in September, trade deficit narrows to \$2.91bn

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 2: After contracting for six months in a row, the country's exports grew by 5.27% year-on-year to \$27.4 billion in September, and the trade deficit narrowed to a three-month low of \$2.91 billion, according to the commerce ministry data released Friday.

Imports declined by 19.6% to \$30.31 billion in September. The trade deficit in September 2019 stood at \$11.67 billion. In June, the country had recorded a trade surplus of \$0.79 billion.

Outbound shipments in September last year were \$26.02 billion. Exports during April-September this fiscal dipped by 21.43% to \$125.06 billion, the preliminary data showed. Imports during the period stood at \$148.69 billion, recording a negative growth of 40.06%.

Commodities that registered positive growth in exports in September include iron ore (109.52%), rice (92.44%), oil meals (43.9%), carpet (42.89%), pharmaceuticals (24.36%), Meat, dairy and poultry products (19.96%), Cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups, handloom products (14.82%), Tobacco (11.09%), Spices (10.07%), petroleum products (4.17%), Engineering goods (3.73%), chemicals (2.87%), and coffee (0.79%).

The ministry said that in September 2020, oil imports fell 35.92% to \$5.82 billion. During April-September 2020-21, it contracted



IMPORTS DECLINED BY 19.6% TO \$30.31 BILLION IN SEPTEMBER

Exports during April-September this fiscal dipped by 21.43% to \$125.06 billion

Going by the current trend, India's exports are likely to be in the range of \$290-300 billion by the end of the current fiscal

Commodities that registered positive growth in exports in September include iron ore, rice, pharmaceuticals, cotton yarn, handloom products, tobacco, petroleum products, engineering goods to name a few

51.14% to \$31.85 billion. Non-oil imports in September too fell 14.41% to \$24.48 billion. The imports during the first half of the current fiscal declined 36.12% to \$116.83 billion, the preliminary data showed.

Gold imports dipped by 52.85% during September this year.

Since March, the exports were recording negative growth due to COVID-19 pandemic and sluggish global demand.

Commenting on the numbers, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Sharad Kumar Saraf said that the monthly exports have grown for

the first time during 2020-21, showing signs of revival as a gradual lifting of lockdown have further improved the business sentiments.

"Anti-China sentiments across the globe has also been one of the reasons for the improved performance in exports. As business activities and economic sentiments are inching towards normalcy globally, exporters have started receiving a lot of enquiries and orders from across the globe helping many sectors," he said in a statement.

Going by the current trend, India's exports are likely to be in the range of \$290-300 billion by the end of the current fiscal, he added.

Trade unions call for nationwide strike November 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Trade unions Friday gave a call for a nationwide strike November 26 to protest against the government policies. The decision to go on strike was taken during an online or virtual National Convention of Workers October 2, 2020, as per a declaration adopted by ten central unions and their associates.

"The Convention calls upon all the working people, whether unionised or not, affiliated or independent, whether from organised sector or unorganised sector, to intensify the united struggle against the anti-people, anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national policies of the government and make the call for a countrywide general strike on 26th November 2020 a total success," it said.



The National Convention of Workers organised online jointly by the Central Trade Unions and independent Federations for the first time amid the pandemic.

While all indicators pointed to economy drastically slowing down due to lack of demand, the government continued to steer its policies in the name of "ease of doing business", aggravating widespread impoverishment and deepening the crisis further, the unions alleged.

Mobile phones to become dearer: ICEA

GOVERNMENT IMPOSES 10% DUTY ON DISPLAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Mobile phone prices are expected to rise about 3% as the government has imposed 10% duty on the import of displays, industry body ICEA said Friday.

The duty on display assembly and touch panel was proposed to be applied from October 1 under a phased manufacturing programme (PMP) announced in 2016 in consensus with the industry.

"There will be an impact on mobile phone prices between 1.5 and 3%," industry body ICEA National Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said in a statement.

India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) members include Apple, Huawei, Xiaomi, Vivo and Winstron.

The objective of the PMP was to facilitate manufacturing of components indigenously and discourage imports thereafter.

"In a rare miss, the industry could not ramp up display assembly production adequately because of COVID-19 and NGT embargo. We continue to be fully committed to domestic manufacturing of sub-assemblies and components. However, now, the focus is to take a lion's share of global markets and not just import substitution," Mohindroo said.

Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal-promoted Volcan Investments had proposed to set



In a rare miss, the industry could not ramp up display assembly production adequately because of COVID-19 and NGT embargo. We continue to be fully committed to domestic manufacturing of sub-assemblies and components

PANKAJ MOHINDROO, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, ICEA

up the country's first LCD manufacturing unit in 2016 with investment of around ₹68,000 crore in the name of Twinstar Display Technologies. However, the proposal did not get the government's approval and the project could not take off.

Mohindroo said ICEA will soon come up with a report on the display ecosystem which would focus on not merely assembly but complete display fabs.

BIZ BUZZ

SAIL supplied 9K tonnes of steel for Atal Tunnel

New Delhi: State-owned SAIL Friday said it has supplied over 9,000 tonnes of steel for the all-weather Atal Tunnel which reduces the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 kms and travel time by four to five hours. Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world. The 9.02 km long tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley, ensuring connectivity throughout the year. The valley was earlier cut off for about six months every year due to heavy snowfall. PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the tunnel on Saturday along with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. In a statement, the Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) said it has contributed to the mega project by supplying more than 9,000 tonnes of steel. Two-thirds of the total 15,000 tonnes of steel used in the project has been supplied by SAIL, it said.



Mahindra launches all-new 'Thar'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Mumbai, Oct 2: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, a part of the \$19.4 billion Mahindra Group, today launched the All-New Thar, the most eagerly awaited, legendary SUV, on the very day that the Mahindra Group celebrates its 75th anniversary. In its all-new avatar the Thar will be available in two trims, namely AX & LX, with prices starting at ₹9.80 lakh for AX series and ₹12.49 lakh for LX series (EX-showroom Price, All India).

The All-New Thar comes with all-new BS-VI compliant engine options equipped with the 2.0 litre mStallionTGD Petrol engine and the 2.2 litre mHawk Diesel engine. Latest SUV is offered with a choice of six Speed Automatic Transmission or a 6 Speed Manual Transmission both mated to an au-



thentic 4x4 Transfer case with Low Range.

In sitting facility, it has options of four front-facing seats and 2+4 side-facing seats. The new Thar will surely impress riders with its technology features. It has drizzle resistant 17.7 cm touch screen infotainment system, cruise control, adventure statistics display and a whole lot more.

In terms of safety, the company has provided with several safety measures with SUV. It has ABS and EBD facility, dual airbags, ESP with rollover mitigation, Hill-hold

and hill descent control and a whole lot more.

Booking for the All-New Thar starts from October 2, 2020. The All-New Thar can be booked with an initial payment of ₹21,000 and customers will have a plethora of options to choose from in terms of wide range variants, colours and customisation options.

Pawan Goenka, MD & CEO, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. said, "Over the years, the Thar has been a part of Mahindra's rich history and has found its way into the hearts of many as an object of desire. On the occasion of the Group's 75th anniversary, we have written another chapter in its glorious history. In its all new avatar, the Thar is a notch higher in its timeless appeal, owing to its ability of being as comfortable on paved roads, as it has always been off-road."

JSPL wins GreenTech CSR India 2020 Awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL) has been conferred with GreenTech CSR India 2020 Awards for its outstanding achievements in promoting healthcare under its CSR programmes. The Award was received by Chairperson of JSPL Foundation Shalu Jindal during the 7th CSR India Summit & Expo held virtually.

Former Chief Justice of India Dipak Mishra, Former CMD of Canara Bank RK Dubey, Former Director of ONGC AK Balyan, Former Director of ONGC VP Mahawar, Former Director of NTPC PK Mohapatra, Chairman and CEO of GreenTech Foundation K Sharan and CSR Functionaries and leaders were present at the function.



JSPL has been declared winner for this coveted award in the category of "Promotion of Health and Healthcare" after several rounds of assessment of its initiatives in the field of community health, spread across more than 700 villages in and around its operational areas in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand as well as in Haryana under aspiration district programme of Government of India.

Trump's diagnosis throws markets pre-election curveball

Major US stock indexes fell in early trading, with the benchmark S&P 500 off 0.8% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq down 1.1%, paring steeper initial losses

REUTERS

London, Oct 2: Investors, already skittish ahead of US elections in November, now have another thing to worry about: the president's health. President Donald Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis triggered a sell-off in stocks and oil as investors moved away from risk assets Friday. "The president of the United States has got a disease which kills people. People are de-risking because of that," said Chris Weston, head of research at brokerage Pepperstone Group in Melbourne. But where investors go from here depends, to a large degree, on how Trump copes with a disease which has killed more than a million people around the world. "This is a new uncertainty in a

world which is mixed-up already, which is not the best," said Chris Bailey, a European strategist at Raymond James.

Major US stock indexes fell in early trading, with the benchmark S&P 500 off 0.8% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq down 1.1%, paring steeper initial losses. Oil prices fell 5%.

Aside from the Trump news, investors were digesting a jobs report showing US employment growth slowed more than expected in September and back-and-forth negotiations over a US coronavirus relief plan.

If Trump's symptoms turn out to be mild and he recovers quickly, markets could stabilise and the Republican president could use the experience to project his image as a fighter in the campaign against



Democratic challenger Joe Biden. But if the 74-year-old gets very sick and has to be hospitalized, as British

Prime Minister Boris Johnson was earlier in the year, or the virus spreads to other members of his

administration, investors will be alarmed. The news prompted investors to prepare for a period of heightened volatility, with most agreed that markets will remain on edge for the foreseeable future.

Volatility gauges rose, with the widely watched Cboe Volatility Index up to just over 28 points after the US market opened, from around 27 points Thursday.

Although the moves were nowhere as large as seen during the depths of the market mayhem in March, Trump's news comes at a critical time with only a month left before the US election.

"It's one more insecurity heading into a tight, contentious election," said Oliver Pursche, president of Bronson Meadows Capital Management in Fairfield,

Connecticut.

In a sign of concerns regarding the impact of Trump's diagnosis on the election, the gap between October and November VIX futures narrowed. VIX futures reflect volatility expectations in the 30 days following their expiration, so October futures capture sentiment regarding the November 3 election date.

In currency markets, implied volatility gauges for the yen over the next month rose to a four-week high of 7.6 vols, signaling more choppy trading ahead. David Arnaud, a fixed-income fund manager at Canada Life Asset Management, said that he had positioned for uncertainty in the coming weeks by increasing exposure to safe-haven assets such as the US dollar, Japanese yen and US Treasuries.

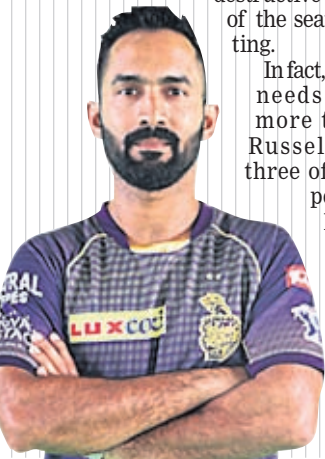
KKR CROSS PATH WITH DC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 2: Andre Russell's brute power will meet its match in Rishabh Pant's fearless approach when Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) face Delhi Capitals (DC) with an aim to light up the Sharjah skyline in what promises to be another six-hitting IPL contest here Saturday.

Russell gave a glimpse of what is in store with three sixes on a big Dubai ground against Rajasthan Royals while Pant will be itching to throw caution to the winds and play his natural game of destructive edge of the seat hitting.

In fact, Pant needs it more than Russell as three of his peers, KL



Rahul, Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson have all got runs under their belt, something that the beefy man from Roorkee so desperately needs.

This will be the first weekend of double headers in the IPL and there couldn't have been a better ground for that than Sharjah with ridiculously short boundaries promising another run-fest.

If there is Shubman Gill, Andre Russell and Eoin Morgan in one side, there is Pant, Marcus Stoinis and Shreyas Iyer on the other end, all capable big-hitters.

KKR have been slowly getting into the groove with some comprehensive performances while Capitals, after two fine victories, hit a roadblock against SRH in their last outing.

For the Knights, their young pace attack of Kamlesh Nagarkoti and Shivam Mavi will have their task cut out on a batting paradise where their temperament will be put to test.

In Sharjah, a bowler is destined to go for runs and how the two manage that and try subtle variations will be key to KKR's success. KKR is unlikely to tinker with their winning combination.

The problem with most of the Indian pacers in DC is either back of the length or length balls which is cannon fodder on Sharjah strip, something bowling

coach Ryan Harris would like to work on.

In their batting department, Shimron Hetmyer is yet to fire but again the same formula that applies to Narine in KKR is also applicable on the former West Indies U-19 World Cup winning captain, provided he can take on Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarty.

Hetmyer has had some degree of success against Kuldeep in the international games and it could be an engaging contest provided he gets a chance to bat on a track where history always favours the top four batters from either side.



IPL TODAY'S MATCH

RCB VS RR
AT 3:30 PM

KKR VS DC
AT 7:30 PM

TELECAST: STAR SPORTS



A ROYAL BATTLE ON CARDS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 2: The dew factor will go out of the window but the searing heat will be an issue when Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) take on a better prepared Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the first of the 10 IPL double-headers here Saturday.

Having played their first two games at Sharjah, the smallest of the three venues, Royals got their strategy wrong in the game against Kolkata Knight Riders in Dubai.

The ground here too is on the bigger side and Royals' experience of playing in Dubai will help them take more informed decisions. RCB will also be making their first appearance at

the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

With the batsmen unable to hit through the line as consistently as they could do in Sharjah, Royals failed to chase 175 against KKR Wednesday.

Since they have a settled overseas players' combination, one possible change in the eleven could be replacing pacer Ankit Rajpoot with Varun Aaron, who is yet to get a game.

The team has benched young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal after Jos Buttler's arrival but calls have been growing for his inclusion. With the top three picking themselves, the stylish south-paw can only play in the middle order.

Both Royals and the RCB go into Saturday's afternoon match with two wins in three games. RCB have made a promising start but need to improve their fielding and death bowling. Navdeep Saini bowled a tidy Super

Over against Mumbai Indians to get his team over the line after RCB leaked as many as 79 runs in the last four overs for the game to be tied.

The Bangalore franchise made three changes in the previous clash and are likely to give those players - Isuru Udana, Adam Zampa and Gurkeerat Mann - another go.

The move to open the bowling with Washington Sundar paid off as the off-spinner returned with figures of 12 for one in four overs in a game where more than 400 runs were scored.

Ab de Villiers has shown ominous touch and it must be heartening for the team management to see Shivam Dube providing the big hits towards the end against Mumbai Indians. Skipper Kohli is yet to set the tournament on fire and Saturday could be his day.

Garg, bowlers help SRH edge past CSK



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 2: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) edged past Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in a thrilling IPL contest here Friday as the David Warner-led side scripted a seven-run win to inflict third loss of this season on the three-time champions.

Chasing a challenging 165, CSK faltered from the start as they were reduced to 42/4 in 8.2 overs. However, CSK skipper MS Dhoni (47 n o, 36b, 4x4, 1x6) and Ravindra Jadeja (50, 35b, 5x4, 2x6) tried to make amends, forging a 72-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Jadeja was more aggressive while Dhoni played second fiddle to the left-hander, before T Natarajan (2/43) dismissed the all-rounder to reduce CSK to 114/5 in 17.4 overs. CSK were in need of 51 runs off the last 14 deliveries.

Dhoni and Sam Curran (15 n o) tried their best but fell short by seven runs. In between, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/20), who could bowl only one ball of the 19th

MSD most-capped player in IPL history

DUBAI: Former India captain MS Dhoni Friday became the most-capped player in the history of IPL with his 194th appearance in the popular tournament, surpassing Chennai Super Kings (CSK) teammate Suresh Raina. Dhoni, who has played every edition of the League since its inception, is into his 11th season with CSK, a side he has always captained apart from playing two seasons for Rising Pune Supergiants. Those were the seasons when CSK got suspended from the league for the 2013 spot-fixing scandal. As Dhoni took the field against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday, it was his 164th game for CSK. He had played 30 games for RPS.

over; went out of the field injured with Khaleel Ahmed finishing the over. Rashid Khan was excellent, despite being gone wicketless as he conceded only 12 runs in his four overs.

Earlier, a CSK controlled the innings for a large part before young-

sters Priyam Garg (51 n o, 26b, 6x4, 1x6) and Abhishek Sharma (31, 24b, 4x4, 1x6) lifted SRH to a competitive 164/5.

Their top guns not contributing much, Garg and Sharma raised a 77-run stand for the fifth wicket as SRH collected 53 runs in the last four overs to make it a contest. CSK's poor fielding towards the end helped SRH continue with the momentum as they dropped Sharma twice.

After struggling in their initial matches, CSK brought Ambati Rayudu, Dwayne Bravo and Shardul Tahakur for Friday's game.

That CSK came into the match rejuvenated following a one-week break was evident with the way Deepak Chahar (2/31) troubled the SRH batsmen with his swinging deliveries.

BRIEF SCORES: Sunrisers Hyderabad 164/5 (Priyam Garg 51 n o, Abhishek Sharma 31, Manish Pandey 29; Deepak Chahar 2/31) beat Chennai Super Kings 157/5 (Ravindra Jadeja 50, MS Dhoni 47 n o; T Natarajan 2/43) by 7 runs.

CL set for Messi-Ronaldo face-off

JUVENTUS SHARE GROUP WITH BARCELONA WHILE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS BAYERN & RUNNERS-UP PSG DRAW ATLETICO & MAN UNITED RESPECTIVELY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Oct 2: Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi will face each other in the Champions League group stage for the first time. Messi's Barcelona was drawn from the pot of second-seeded teams Thursday into the group where Ronaldo's Juventus team was already placed as a top seed. The group was later completed by Dynamo Kyiv and Ferencvaros.

The 35-year-old Ronaldo and the 33-year-old Messi had a nine-year rivalry in the Spanish league when the Portugal star was with Real Madrid. However, they could never face each other so early in the Champions League then because clubs from the same country are separated in the draw.

They did meet in the 2009 final, when Messi scored as Barcelona beat Ronaldo's Manchester United 2-0. Juventus and Barcelona were paired in the group stage of the 2017-18 season - Ronaldo's last in Madrid when he helped Real win a fourth Champions League title in five seasons. Messi scored twice in

GR. A	GR. B
BAYERN	REAL MADRID
ATLETICO	SHAKHTAR DONETSK
SALZBURG	INTERNAZIONALE
LOKOMOTIV MOSKVA	MONCHENGLADBACH
GR. C	GR. D
PORTO	LIVERPOOL
MAN. CITY	AJAX
OLYMPIACOS	ATALANTA
MARSEILLE	MIDTJYLLAND
GR. E	GR. F
SEVILLA	ZENIT
CHELSEA	DORTMUND
KRASNODAR	LAZIO
RENNES	CLUB BRUGGE
GR. G	GR. H
JUVENTUS	PARIS
BARCELONA	MAN. UNITED
DYNAMO KYIV	LEIPZIG
FERENCVAROS	ISTANBUL BASAKSEHIR

a 3-0 home win over Juventus, before the teams drew 0-0 in Italy.

Defending champion Bayern Munich was grouped with Atletico Madrid, Salzburg and Lokomotiv

Moscow. Paris Saint-Germain, the beaten finalists last season, was reunited with Manchester United -

which it lost to in the round of 16 in 2019 - and Leipzig, which it beat

in this year's semifinals. Newcomer Istanbul Basaksehir is also in that group.

Liverpool, the 2019 champion, is top-seeded in a group of teams with reputations for playing open attacking soccer - Ajax, Atalanta and Midtjylland of Denmark, another Champions League debutant.

Real Madrid, the record 13-time champion, heads a group with storied European histories including Shakhtar Donetsk, Inter Milan and Borussia Monchengladbach.

Sevilla and Chelsea, winners of the past two Europa League titles, will play two more Champions League newcomers, Krasnodar and Rennes.

Manchester City, seeking its first title, was second-seeded in a group with two former winners, Porto and Marseille, plus Olympiakos.

Zenit St. Petersburg, top-seeded as Russian league champion, will play Borussia Dortmund, Lazio and Club Brugge.

UEFA will publish a full match schedule Friday. The group stage starts October 20 and is scheduled to run through December 9.

Thiem advances to 4th round at French Open



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 2: Waking up early Friday for his third-round match at the French Open, Dominic Thiem was surprised to see that the morning skies were still dark.

Yup, Roland Garros in autumn, when the sun is slower to rouse itself than during the usual May-

June slot, takes some getting used to. But the US Open champion is adjusting just fine.

The runner-up last year and in 2018, both times to Rafa Nadal, advanced to the fourth round for the fifth consecutive time, with another straight-set victory at Roland Garros in this year's first encounter between seeded men.

The victim of the third-seeded Austrian's fierce backhand and super-quick court coverage was No.28 Casper Ruud, dispatched 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

In the women's draw, Polish teenager Iga Swiatek and third-seeded Elina Svitolina also advanced. The 19-year-old Swiatek beat Canadian wild-card entry Eugenie Bouchard 6-3, 6-2. Svitolina defeated Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-4, 7-5.

Fati shines as 10-man Barca sink Celta Vigo



MAKING HEADLINES: Ansu Fati (L) celebrates his goal with Jordi Alba; (inset) Fati did a 'Wakanda forever' gesture in celebration as a tribute to Marvel's 'Black Panther' late star Chadwick Boseman

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Oct 2: Teenager Ansu Fati scored again to help give Barcelona a second straight win to start the Spanish league season with a 3-0 victory at Celta Vigo.

Barcelona won comfortably despite playing more than half the game with 10 men after defender Clement Lenglet was sent off before the break Thursday.

Fati also scored twice to lead Barcelona to an opening win against Villarreal Sunday. The 17-year-old forward found the net against Celta with a neat touch with the outside of his foot from inside the area after a pass by Philippe Coutinho in the 11th minute.

Fati, who was added to the first-team squad this season, has quickly stepped up to take over the scoring role of striker Luis Suarez, who was let go by the club and joined rival Atletico Madrid.

It was the first loss for Celta, who had a win and two draws from its first three games. They hadn't lost to Barcelona at home in five years, with three wins and two draws in league matches.

Barcelona went a man down in

the 42nd after Lenglet was shown a second yellow card for hitting Denis Suarez in the face while opening his arm to keep the Celta player from getting past him.

Barcelona had almost gone a man down in the 35th when Gerard Pique held back Suarez to stop a breakaway, but an offside call prompted the card to be reversed.

Despite the man disadvantage under pouring rain in Vigo, Barcelona added to the lead in the 51st with an own-goal by defender Lucas Olaza, who redirected the ball into his own net after Lionel Messi got past two defenders and made a cross into the area.

Sergi Roberto closed the scoring with a shot from inside the area after more build-up play by Messi late in stoppage time. Messi had a goal disallowed by offside in the 59th off the rebound of a Coutinho shot that hit the post.

Sevilla, Barcelona's opponent in the next round, won their second match by defeating Levante 1-0 at home thanks to Youssef En-Nesyri's goal two minutes into stoppage time. En-Nesyri headed in a cross from Jesús Navas.

League Cup: Gunners shoot Reds down

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 2: Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno saved two penalties in a 5-4 shootout win over Liverpool to reach the League Cup quarterfinals, while Aston Villa and Fulham were knocked out by lower-division clubs.

Joe Willock scored Arsenal's winning penalty to set up a home match against defending champion Manchester City in the next round.

Leno, who also kept a clean sheet through 90 minutes as the game ended 0-0, blocked penalties from Divock Origi and Harry Wilson Thursday.

"It was a very tough game," the German told broadcaster 'Sky Sports'. "It is very good to save some penalties and see some laughing faces but I prefer next time to win the game before penalties. But the main thing is we won."

A first-half header from Sam Vokes gave second-tier side Stoke a 1-0 win at Aston Villa to set up a quarterfinal at home against Tottenham.

Villa manager Dean Smith made 11 changes from the team which beat Fulham 3-0 Monday. Fulham lost 3-0 again - this time against second-tier side Brentford.

Scott Parker's side has also lost all three Premier League games since gaining promotion in August, when it beat west London rival Brentford in the playoff final.

Algerian midfielder Said Benrahma scored twice after Finnish forward Marcus Forsberg opener as Brentford reached the League Cup quarterfinals for the first time. It will play at home against another Premier League side, Newcastle.

Manchester United will travel to Everton in the other quarter-final.



Bernd Leno is airborne while attempting a splendid save; (inset) Leno, winning penalty scorer Joe Willock (R) and Dani Ceballos rejoice after the match, Thursday