



MAKING RIGHT NOISES

Actor Bhumi Pednekar feels that it is time for Hindi cinema to start showing sustainable ways of living in films

LEISURE P2



US BACKS INDIA

US President Joe Biden has reiterated America's support for India's permanent membership on a reformed UNSC

INTERNATIONAL P10



CAPITALS BEAT ROYALS

Bowlers help Delhi Capitals register a comfortable 33-run victory over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match

SPORTS P12

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LEGISLATURE NEEDS TO REVISIT LAWS: CJI

Cuttack: The Chief Justice of India, Justice NV Ramana Saturday said the Legislature needs to revisit laws and reform them to suit the needs of time and people so that they match "practical realities". The CJI, while inaugurating the new building of Odisha State Legal Service Authority here, said there is need for the executive and the legislature to work hand in hand in realising "constitutional aspirations". "I emphasise, our laws must match with our practical realities. The executive has to match these efforts by way of simplifying the corresponding rules," Justice Ramana said. He also emphasised that it was important for the Executive and Legislature to "function in unison in realising Constitutional aspirations."

MORE P3

I-T DETECTS ₹300CR UNDISCLOSED INCOME

Chennai: The Income Tax (I-T) department has detected ₹300 crore undisclosed income and seized ₹9 crore unaccounted cash during its search and seizure operations on two private syndicate financing groups here. The I-T officials carried out their search and seizure operations at 35 premises September 23. According to I-T Department, the searches, so far, have resulted in the detection of undisclosed income of more than ₹300 crore. Unaccounted cash of ₹9 crore has been seized so far. The evidence found in the premises of the financiers and their associates revealed that these groups have lent to various big corporate houses and businesses in Tamil Nadu, a substantial portion of which is in cash, the I-T Department said Saturday.

MORE P11

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UTKAL ALUMINA

The Aditya Birla Group firm has done much harm to the local populace. What it has achieved to state is of very little consequence compared to the sufferings of people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tikiri (Rayagada), Sept 25: The expansion of Utkal Alumina, a subsidiary of the Aditya Birla Group, at Tikiri under Kashiapur block in Rayagada district, from 1.5 Million Tonne (MT) per annum to 2 MT brought no cheers to the locals on whose land the plant has been set up. However, the Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik was seen congratulating the Aditya Birla Group while inaugurating the capacity addition, saying, the plant has played a crucial role in the state's progress. To understand this apparent contradiction between the claims and the ground reality, this correspondent visited Tikiri. From what is visible there, it can be concluded that the company has been rather too lucky in hard-selling its story to the state government which seems very willing to buy whatever is thrown at it. For instance, at Dimindi village which is 50 km from Rayagada town, it is shocking to see the pathetic condition of villagers. The

OP
SPECIAL

hamlet shared its borders with the alumina plant's boundary wall. The air is so very polluted here that from their shanties to each leaf on the trees to every movable and immovable object, all have a thick layer of dust on them. A talk with Suresh Behera, a villager, revealed that Utkal Alumina had taken away his land—the only source of livelihood—and paid some small money but had promised them jobs in the plant as the principal allotment way back in 2009. However, the company has not honoured its own promises till 2021. On the contrary, it has repeatedly used force of private strong arms along with the police to silence villagers whenever they sought an audience with the company higher-ups. Behera flashed a company provided appointment letter of 2009 which has reneged on. Rupen Naik, a co-villager, echoed Behera's reactions.

"Look at the appointment letter the company gave me in 2009. Since then I have been doing rounds of the plant. There is none to listen to my woes. At the time of acquiring our land, the company gave me money in two installments of Rs21,000 and Rs1 lakh. With this money can I buy one acre land here now?" Suresh asked. Private land in that locality was selling at four times the cost paid by the com-



pany. It was the job in return for land offer that was successfully used as bait by the company with these illiterate villagers. "At first, we were reluctant to part with our lands. A village meeting was held where political leaders of almost all major political parties assured us that everything in our village would turn into gold. The Collector, tehsildar and other officials also sang the same song to dupe us," Suresh said. The company has acquired nearly 500 acres from Dimindi alone, promising the villagers a better life. They were assured of schools, street lights, safe drinking water and a modern amenities filled life. "I have learnt welding and gas cutting. Yet, I am jobless. Whenever we approach the com-

pany authorities, they tell us to go to ministers and politicians instead. All this while workers from outside were getting jobs here, at the cost of locals" Rupen said. The villagers said they had gone to Bhubaneswar and had staged a sit-in last year to protest against Utkal Alumina's misdeeds and anti people policies in the backyards of this state. This act of agitating against the Birla company so unnerved the district administration that the Collector himself came over to their protest site at Bhubaneswar and called them back, promising their grievances would be immediately addressed. "Whenever we visited the company, asking for jobs, the company CEO and other officials drove us away, saying if we persist in our demand for

jobs, they would slap false cases on us," Rupen said. The villagers believed in these threats since they themselves observed how the district administration and especially the police worked as agents of Utkal Alumina. The company also reneged on its promise to shift the locals to a different location.

Sarojini, another resident of Dimindi village, said they have used up whatever little money they received from the company in lieu of their family assets (land). "We feed our families by doing menial jobs like sweeping and working as maids," she said biting from a cucumber with salt. They said, "We have sought the help of media. Reporters have visited our homes at different times. But, sadly, none has published our stories." The women emphatically stated that the company had paid and bought over these journalists in the same manner they have silenced the babus (government officials).

By the time this reporter left the village, the contradiction in the claims and reality had been unraveled. The Aditya Birla plant has done much harm to local people. What it has achieved for Odisha is of little consequence in comparison to the sufferings of people. Locals claim all the firm has done is use the minerals and manage the optics. They invited people from other parts of Odisha to visit their villages and see the truth with their own eyes. (To be continued)

Gulab landfall today; 7 dists on high alert

The cyclone is likely to make landfall between Gopalpur and Kalingapatnam at 5:30 pm Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

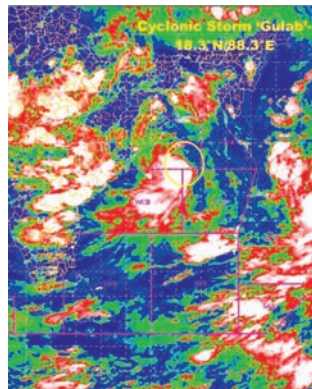
Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: Barely four months after 'Yaas' wreaked havoc in Odisha, the coastal state is bracing for another cyclone, 'Gulab', which is likely to make landfall Sunday evening between Gopalpur and Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday.

The deep depression over north-west & adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal has intensified into cyclonic storm Gulab and lay centered about 370 km east-southeast of Gopalpur and 440 km east of Kalingapatnam at 5:30 pm," the IMD said. The cyclone is likely to move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh - south Odisha coasts between Kalingapatnam & Gopalpur around Sunday evening, it said.

Squally wind speed reaching 75-85 kmph gusting to 95 kmph is likely along and off Odisha coasts from Sunday afternoon till midnight in Ganjam, Gajapati districts while 55-65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph is likely along & off Khurda, Puri, Rayagada & Koraput districts. Wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph over Nabarangpur and Malkangiri is also predicted. Similarly, squally wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely to prevail along & off remaining parts of Odisha Sunday. Under its impact, heavy rainfall would occur in some places of coastal and south Odisha districts in the next two days.

There may be damage to thatched huts, power and communication lines due to breaking of branches. Paddy crops, banana, papaya trees and orchards may also suffer damage.

As the sea condition would remain rough, fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea, along & off Odisha coasts north-west & adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal till September 27. Meanwhile, the state government has asked Collectors of seven likely affected districts to remain alert and take measures to counter



the cyclone.

Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said 42 ODRAF teams, 24 NDRF teams and 102 Fire Service teams will be deployed in seven districts likely to be most affected by the cyclonic storm.

He said the IMD predicted seven districts would experience less wind but heavy to very heavy rainfall Sunday and Monday. Due to heavy rainfall, flash flood may occur in Rushikulya, Nagavali and Vansadhara rivers and landslides in Gajapati and Rayagada districts while small trees may also be uprooted, Jena said.

The SRC said as per the forecast made by the IMD, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Gajapati districts in south Odisha will be most affected. In addition to these seven districts, relief and rescue teams would also be deployed in Nayagarh district.

As a precautionary measure, Gajapati district administration has cancelled the leave of all officers for two days.

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba Saturday reviewed the preparedness of central ministries/agencies and state governments to deal with the situation arising out of the cyclonic storm.

Meanwhile, the IMD said Kolkata and its adjoining areas should brace for heavy showers next Tuesday and Wednesday owing to the new weather system near the Myanmar coast. "The system is expected to move north-westwards and reach the West Bengal coast around September 29," it added.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Oh, he is like senser... crossed 60, but women are still mad about him!

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP		
MAX	33.2°C	35.0°C
MIN	25.0°C	25.2°C
Humidity	84%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast		Generally cloudy sky



TRIBUTE TO ANCESTORS

People perform Tarpan ritual in remembrance of their ancestors on the banks of Falgu river during Pitru Paksha at Dev Ghat in Gaya, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Modi's dig at Pak in UNGA

AGENCIES

United Nations, Sept 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said that countries with "regressive thinking" that are using terrorism as a "political tool" must understand that it is an "equally big threat" for them, in a veiled attack on Pakistan which is accused by its neighbours of providing safe havens to terrorists. "Today, the world is facing an increased threat of regressive thinking and extremism. In such a situation, the entire world must make science-based, rational and progressive thinking the basis for development. In order to strengthen a science-based approach, India is promoting exper-

ience-based learning," he told the UNGA meeting.

"On the other hand, countries with regressive thinking that are using terrorism as a political tool must understand that terrorism is an equally big threat for them," Modi said in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Pakistan's neighbours, including Afghanistan's previous government and India, and the US have long accused Islamabad of providing safe haven and support to militants.

Pakistan, specially its intelligence agencies, has close ties with the Afghan Taliban, including its dreaded faction the Haqqani Network, which has seized control of Kabul last month. P 10

BMC's 100% claim falls flat; 2.5L yet to get 2nd dose

The BMC's claim that Bhubaneswar is the 'first city to achieve 100% vaccination' has come in for criticism with experts terming it as 'distortion of data'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: Contrary to the tall claims by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) that it has achieved 100 per cent vaccination against Covid-19, data revealed that more than 2.55 lakh people in the Capital city are yet to be fully inoculated.

As per sources, the BMC has administered 23.67 lakh doses in the state capital till September 24. Out

of this, 13.16 lakh were given the first dose and only 10.6 lakh took both the doses. These figures suggest that about 10.8 per cent (2.55 lakh) people coming under BMC are yet to be fully vaccinated. In August, the number of people, whose second dose was due, stood at 80,602 (8 per cent).

The civic body's claim that Bhubaneswar became the 'first city to achieve 100% vaccination' has come in for criticism. Experts termed it as 'distortion of data'. The BMC, in August, had acclaimed the distinction by administering 18.35 lakh doses against the target of 18.14 lakh doses. Out of the 18.35 lakh, about 10.59 lakh people were given their first dose while only



7.7 lakh beneficiaries were given the final shots leaving more than 2.8 lakh people due for their second dose later in September.

"Bhubaneswar has a floating

population. We had estimated about 18 lakh doses for the city. However, since Bhubaneswar is one of the cities that provide Covaxin shots, a large number of people came

here for vaccination. We have even allowed operation of all health centres on Sundays to boost the coverage but people are forgetting their second dose dates," said a BMC official.

Residents, however, blamed the sluggish vaccination process at the UPHCs and serpentine queues for their reluctance to take the shots.

"The second dose of my 67-year-old mother was due earlier this month. We postponed it for serpentine queues. Besides, they are introducing rules without informing us. Last time, I was asked to get a Covid test done before vaccination," said Santilata Behera, a resident at Rasulgarh.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You may find yourself in a precarious position today, says Ganesha. You may feel challenged and swim against the current, which will be counterproductive. Nothing may seem to work out. Taking a break will ease the stress at such a time.

TAURUS

In all probability, it is a favourable day to begin financial planning, says Ganesha. You will focus on your relations and leave no stone unturned to make them prosper. You may yearn for a quiet getaway and end up spending a small fortune to get what you want.

GEMINI

Today, you may resume your quest for spirituality which you had aborted some time back. However, that doesn't mean you are on your way to sainthood. You are just trying to get close to your inner self. Though you will be frugal while spending on yourself, your lavish treatment to your beloved will stump everyone, including him/her, predicts Ganesha.

CANCER

You are likely to be a little over-zealous and over-analytical today, foretells Ganesha. You should not be too forceful or severe on others. This will help you save a few friendships and will make sure that your reputation remains intact.

LEO

When it comes to maintaining a balance in any relationship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light guides you towards joyful coexistence, though, at times, it may entail making certain acts of sacrifice, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Take up the gauntlet that promises to test your business acumen, especially those related to capital and finances. You are most likely to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to resolve issues, and Ganesha assures that this will work wonders.

LIBRA

Everyone has a dream, but only few have the fortune to realise them. Be among the lucky ones today as you see your dream project materialise and take its first steps towards a successful future. But all good things have humble beginnings. What matters is that you had a dream, and dreaming it was the hardest part, reminds Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Ganesha predicts that you shall work towards building a better future. But do not expect radical or dynamic changes. Cruise control is the best way to go for now, says Ganesha. Patience in itself will reap rich benefits.

SAGITTARIUS

Murmurs of discontent will reach your ears, especially from those very near. But if you go about pleasing one and all, you may not defuse the bomb completely. Exercise caution, and a lot of patience, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesha. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future.

AQUARIUS

Today is a day of communication and associations. While at a family gathering, you will enjoy chatting nineteen to the dozen! But at work, you may be left teaching, explaining, negotiating, co-ordinating and arranging meetings. A productive but draining day, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Compromise is the name of the game when it comes to relationships, and you are adept at it. You realise the importance of losing an argument to win over a heart, and do so with panache. Indeed, this is an area where others emulate you, says Ganesha.



DANIEL CRAIG: BOND ROLE WAS EVERYTHING TO ME

Actor Daniel Craig, who is stepping down from his role as the iconic spy 007 after the release of *No Time To Die*, says his role as James Bond is 'everything' to him. Craig added it is "very emotional" for him to call time on the iconic role.

GOULDING FEARED SHE'D DIE DURING SEVERE PANIC ATTACK

Singer Ellie Goulding feared it was the end of her life when she suffered a terrible panic attack while travelling on a train. She said: "I was on a train, going to my friend's dad's funeral. Then I thought my mind was completely crashed."



'Hindi films should show sustainable way of living'

New Delhi: Actress and climate activist Bhumi Pednekar feels that it is time for Hindi cinema to start showing a sustainable way of living in their films.

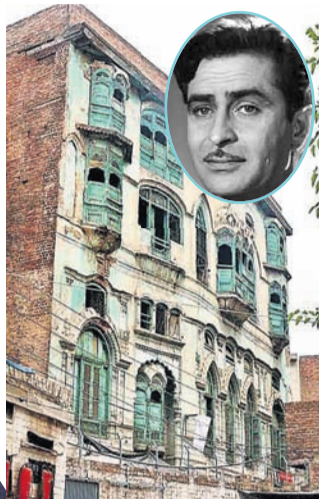
Bhumi, in an interview, said: "I definitely feel that it's high time that Hindi cinema starts showing a sustainable way of living in their films. I feel like as a fraternity we are woke and I personally would like to believe that we are more conscious than other industries, but I still feel like we aren't doing enough."

The actress, who has three films lined up Mr. Lele, Raksha Bandhan and Badhaai Do, feels that there is a need for narratives in films that provide communication.

"I do feel that we need narratives in films/ movies that provide the communication as it's the most powerful medium to get the message across to the masses," she added. IANS



RK, Dilip's Peshawar homes' restoration begins

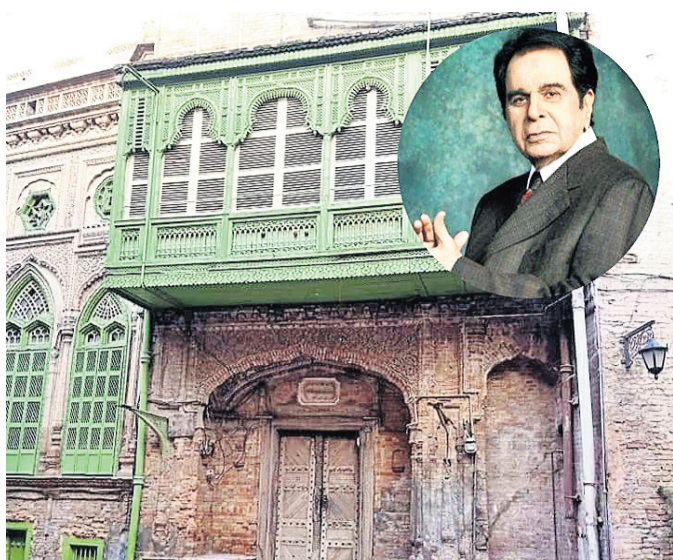


New Delhi: The restoration and renovation work of Hindi film legends Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor's ancestral homes in Peshawar has started after the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government got possession of the properties, The News reported.

Raj Kapoor's ancestral home, known as Kapoor Haveli, and Dilip Kumar's ancestral residence are situated in the Qissa Khwani Bazaar area of Peshawar.

As per government plans, the homes of both stars would be restored to their original state.

Initially, the debris from both houses was removed to begin the restoration work.



Meanwhile, Dilip Kumar's nephew Fawad Ishaq lauded the government's decision to restore his uncle and Raj Kapoor's an-

cestral home.

He further said Dilip Kumar's attachment to Peshawar never diminished. IANS

Musk, Grimes break up after three years of togetherness

San Francisco: SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Grimes have broken up after three years together, Page Six

reported. The SpaceX founder confirmed that he and the Canadian singer are 'semi-separated' but remain on good terms and continue to co-parent their one-year-old son, the epically named X A A-Xii Musk.

"We are semi-separated but still love each other, see each other frequently and are on great terms," Musk told Page Six Saturday.

"It's mostly that my work at SpaceX and Tesla requires me to be primarily in Texas or trav-

eling overseas and her work is primarily in L.A. She's staying with me now and Baby X is in the adjacent room," Musk said.

Page Six first revealed in May 2018 that Musk and Grimes were dating. They welcomed their son in May 2020.

They were last seen together at the Met Gala earlier this month, when Grimes, 33, walked the red carpet alone. Musk, 50, also attended the event but only joined

her inside, the report said.

He later threw a starry Met Gala after-party at hot private members club Zero Bond, where he was joined by Grimes, and the duo were photographed leaving New York together the following day.

But last weekend, Musk attended a party thrown by Google co-founder Sergey Brin's wife, Nicole

Shanahan, alone. IANS

Jagjit Singh lives on in our hearts: Sonu

Mumbai: As a group of celebrated musicians that includes Sonu Nigam, Hariharan, Ankit Tiwari, Talat Aziz, Ash King are all set to pay tribute to iconic ghazal singer, the late Jagjit Singh, with a new project, Sonu took a moment to recall the legend and his timeless contribution to the world of music.

The project will be launched on the platform - *Tips Rewind - A tribute to Jagjit Singh*.

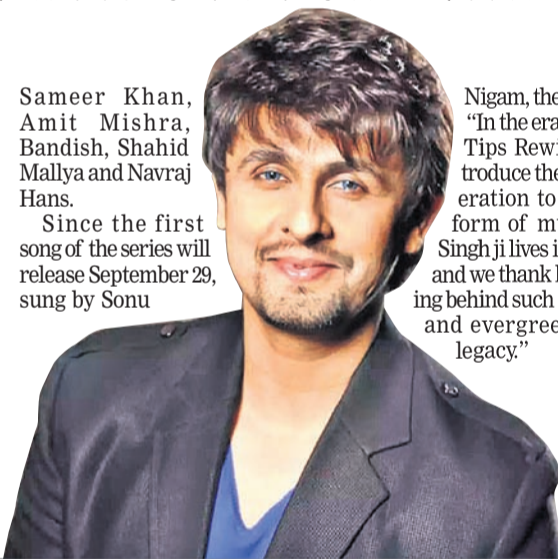
It will be a series of songs, Jagjit Singh's classic ghazals in a new-age reinterpretation.

The series will also feature singers like Babul Supriyo, Shaan,

Sameer Khan, Amit Mishra, Bandish, Shahid Mallya and Navraj Hans.

Since the first song of the series will release September 29, sung by Sonu

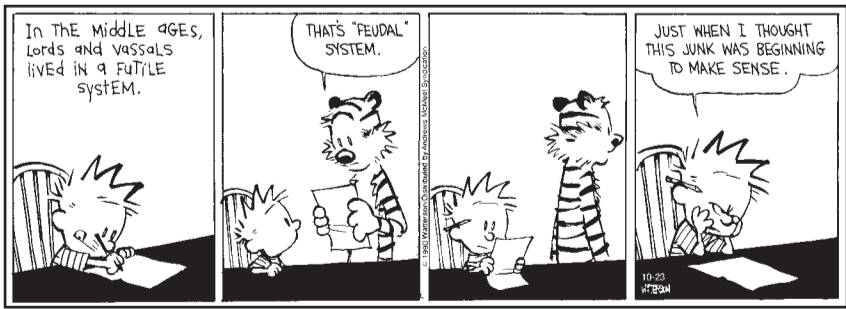
Nigam, the singer said, "In the era of remixes, Tips Rewind will introduce the young generation to the purest form of music. Jagjit Singh ji lives in our hearts and we thank him for leaving behind such a melodious and evergreen musical legacy." IANS



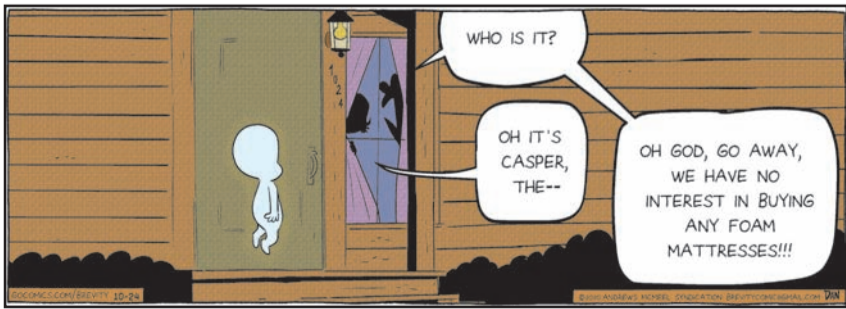
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

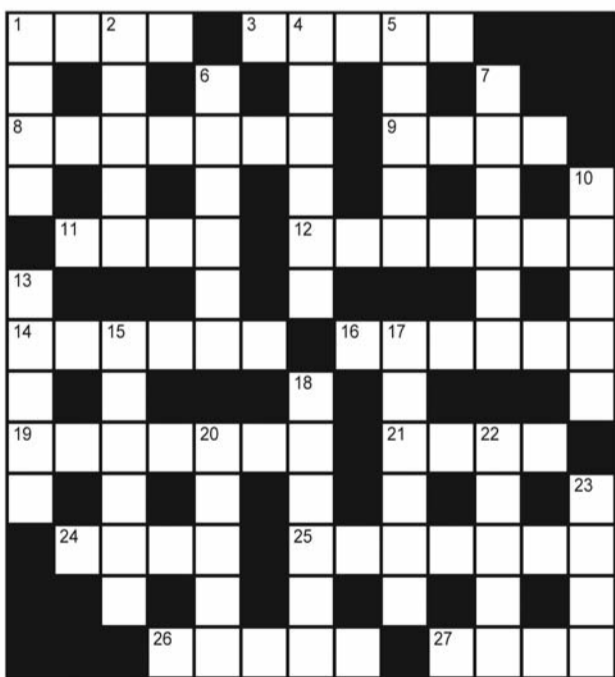


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Unexciting
- 3 Songbird's call
- 8 Origin of the universe theory (3,4)
- 9 Emanation
- 11 Trifling
- 12 Without weapons
- 14 Respectful greeting
- 16 Sock pattern
- 19 Ill will

Down

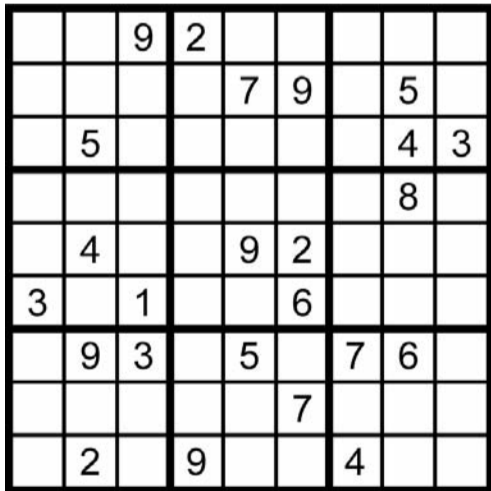
- 21 Cajole
- 24 Mostel of Fiddler fame
- 25 One in the dock
- 26 Shade of green
- 27 Buck the odds
- 1 Balance sheet item
- 2 Vantage point
- 4 Hardship
- 5 Wool producer

Across

- 6 Up-to-the-minute
- 7 Cross
- 10 Venomous snake
- 13 Loan shark's interest rate
- 15 Cavalry member
- 17 Like Chippendale furniture
- 18 Compact
- 20 Kind of layer
- 22 Seating request
- 23 Jittery

SUDOKU

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

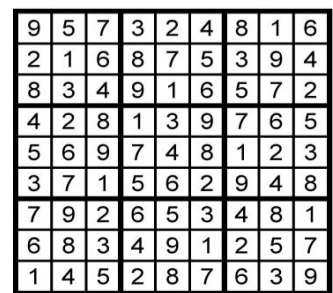


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

OPERATION GAJA

Body of missing ODRAF personnel recovered



The state government has declared a compensatory sum of ₹4 lakh for the kin of television journalist Arindam Das who died during an elephant rescue operation, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Sept 25: The death toll in the boat capsized incident, that occurred Friday during an elephant rescue operation in Mahanadi river, rose to two Saturday with the recovery of a rescue team member's body in Cuttack district, an official said.

The power boat, which was carrying six Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) personnel to rescue the pachyderm, capsized Friday at Mundali barrage near Cuttack city due to the strong current in the river, informed the official.

Television journalist Arindam Das, who was also in the boat along with a camera person, died in the incident, while the ODRAF personnel Sitaram

Murmu went missing. "Just now received the following message from ODRAF coordinator on the missing personnel, 'Sir Namaskar: Body of Sitaram Murmu just recovered at Kakhadi village near Dhabaleswar'," Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Jena tweeted.

Meanwhile, the government has declared a compensatory sum of ₹4 lakh for Das, who had gone to the bank of Mahanadi as part of his assignment.

There is no trace of the elephant which was part of a herd of about 11 jumbos that crossed the river Friday morning. It was the only one to be caught in the strong current. Locals spotted the animal after hearing its trumpets. The rescue operation was halted following the boat capsized.

DRDO ESPIONAGE CASE

CB may seek further remand of accused

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: Revealing more details about the DRDO espionage case, a senior official of Odisha Police Saturday said the suspected female operative had given marriage proposals to two of the arrested accused.

The Odisha Police September 14 had arrested five former contractual employees of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) unit at Chandipur on charges of sharing classified defence information with foreign agents, who were suspected to be from Pakistan.

"As per our investigation so far, the suspect woman was using a UK mobile phone number and chatting with the accused on social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram," said Additional Director General (ADG) of Odisha Police (Crime Branch) Sanjeeb Panda.

The 'mysterious' woman had made video calls to two of the accused in Hindi and she was in contact with the five accused through seven Facebook accounts under different names and profile pictures, Panda said.

The 'mysterious' woman had made video calls to two of the accused in Hindi and she was in contact with the five accused through seven Facebook accounts

He said the suspected woman operative had also given marriage proposals to two of the arrested accused and promised to visit the house of another accused located in Chandipur.

"Our efforts are also underway to find out details of the bank account of Dubai from which money was transferred to the bank account of one of the accused. Besides, we are inquiring whether they received money from any other sources," he said, adding, further investigation is also on to get details of the UK phone number.

The Crime Branch had taken the five accused on a seven-day remand. After detailed interrogation, they were produced in the court Friday. If required, the Crime Branch will seek further remand of the accused, he informed.

BeMC, Buguda NAC mop up highest revenue

INITIATED BY THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPT, THE MPL IS A UNIQUE COMPETITION TO MOTIVATE TAX OFFICIALS IN ULBs TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCES AND ENABLE MAXIMUM COLLECTIONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) and Buguda Notified Area Council (NAC) were adjudged the best Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) Saturday by the state government in terms of revenue collection for Municipal Premier League (MPL) edition.

Initiated by the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD), the MPL is a unique competition to motivate tax officials in ULBs to improve their performances and enable maximum collections through internal revenue sources. While the BeMC was adjudged as the 'Best ULB' in the Corporation category, Paradeep and Buguda were awarded best in the municipality and in the NAC categories, respectively, in the second edition of the competition.

Felicitating the winning ULBs and the individual best performers, H&UD Minister Pradeep Jena said, "When the ULBs are able to generate funds from their own revenue, it ensures that they are getting financially stronger to



Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena launches Municipal Premier League 3.0 in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

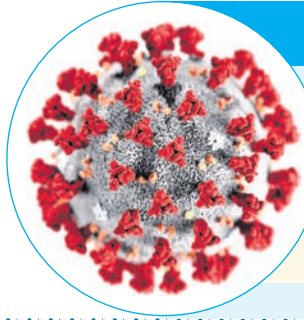
cater to the demands of citizens in providing them with more facilities like parks, play grounds, better roads etc."

The MPL 1.0 which was launched in Odisha in February 2020 included nine cities and 214 tax functionaries. It was later scaled up as MPL 2.0 to include all the 114 ULBs, including more than 655 tax functionaries. Furthermore, Jena



NOBLE DEED

A blood donation camp organised by the RPF in Cuttack to celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,21,09,886	20,87,32,029	47,54,379
India	3,36,24,419	3,28,76,319	4,46,658
Odisha	10,23,735	10,09,582	8,170

IN LORD'S COURT



Chief Justice of India NV Ramana comes out of Srimandir in Puri after paying obeisance to Lord Jagannath, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Legislature should revisit, reform laws: CJI

JUSTICE RAMANA ALSO EMPHASISED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE TO FUNCTION IN UNISON IN REALISING CONSTITUTIONAL ASPIRATIONS



Justice NV Ramana and other judges at the inauguration of Aain Seva Bhawan in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Sept 25: The Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana Saturday said that the Legislature needs to revisit and reform laws, to suit the needs of time and people so that they match "practical realities".

The CJI, while inaugurating the new building of the Odisha State Legal Service Authority here, also said that there is need for the Executive and the Legislature to work hand in hand in realising "constitutional aspirations."

"I emphasise, our laws must match with our practical realities. The executive has to match these efforts by way of simplifying the corresponding rules," Justice Ramana said.

He also emphasised that it was important for the Executive and Legislature to "function in unison in realising Constitutional aspirations."

The CJI also noted that it is only then the Judiciary would not be compelled to step in as a law-maker and would only be left with the duty of applying and interpreting laws.

At the end of the day it is the harmonious functioning of the three organs of the State that can remove procedural barriers to justice, he pointed out.

Stating that the Indian Judicial system is faced with twin challenges, the CJI pointed out that the first one is that of "Indianisation of Justice delivery system".

Even after 74 years of Independence, traditional and agrarian societies, which have been following customary ways of life, "feel hesitant to approach the courts," he noted.

"The practices, procedures, language of our courts feel alien to them," he said adding that between the complex language of the acts and the process of justice delivery, the common man seems to lose control over the fate of his grievance. Often in this trajectory, the justice-seeker feels like an outsider to the system, he pointed out.

He, however, said that although it is a harsh reality, the Indian legal system often fails to take into consideration the social realities and implications. He said, "Sadly, our

CJI HAILS LEGAL AID MOVEMENT IN STATE

CUTTACK/NEW DELHI: Acknowledging the work of legal service authorities in the society, Chief Justice NV Ramana Saturday said that the challenge of accessing justice gets magnified in states like Odisha which pose significant hurdles like regional and economic disparity.

Appraising the rich legal history of Odisha, the Chief Justice noted that the Cuttack Bar Association is one of the oldest bar associations in the country, dating back to 1859. "Many of its luminaries like Utkala Gourav Madhusudan Das, Utkala Mani Gopabandhu Das, Janakinath Bose and Utkala Ratna Biswanath Mishra played significant role in India's freedom struggle. I am extremely happy to be here to inaugurate the building of the Odisha Legal Services Authority. The cause and activities of legal

services are very close to my heart," the CJI said.

"I have been informed that, around 1,062 lawyers are empanelled with the Legal Services Authorities in Odisha to provide necessary legal services. Approximately 3,000 paralegal volunteers are tirelessly working throughout the pandemic to further the goals of justice. I have also been informed that in the past year, the state authorities, along with the district legal services authorities, have organised over 420 legal awareness and literacy programmes, and have been providing services in over 492 legal services clinics," Ramana noted. He was also surprised to note that around 36,500 cases have been settled through the national and state Lok Adalats in Odisha, even before the inauguration of the new building.

system is designed in such a way that by the time all the facts and laws are churned in the court of law, much gets lost." People might be

bringing their problems to the courts, but what remains at the end of a day is yet another "case", the CJI said.

SKM seeks people's support for Sept 27 Bharat Bandh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: Members of various farmers' outfits, trade unions and social organisations in Odisha have intensified their efforts to make country-wide strike called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) September 27 a huge success.

The SKM has called for Bharat Bandh from 6 am to 4 pm September 27 as part of its agitation seeking repeal of the three contentious farm laws enacted by the Centre. Members of several farmers' organisations, trade unions and social outfits have distributed leaflets and organised several small meetings and rallies across the state to drum up support for the strike call, said a press release of the SKM, Odisha, Saturday.

The activists have planned to organise torch rallies across Odisha September 26 (Sunday) seeking people's cooperation for the Bharat Bandh. The SKM also held a press conference at Lohia Academy here Saturday to garner support for its agitation against the three farm laws.



The SKM, meanwhile, made it clear that the strike would be organised in a peaceful manner and no emergency services would be disrupted during the Bharat Bandh. "The activists of SKM will picket before all offices of the Central government and close down markets, shopping malls, factories and educational institutions as part of their agitation. The activists will also disrupt vehicular and railway traffic," said the press release.

The SKM has urged women, students, youths, workers and members of Dalit and tribal communities to participate in the September 27 agitation.

"The country-wide bandh is being organised to press for our

21-point charter of demands for the welfare of farmers and common people. Many political parties opposing the anti-people and anti-farmer policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre have also expressed their solidarity with the SKM for its countrywide strike," added the release.

Several farmer leaders including Lingaraj, Suresh Panigrahi, Niranjan Mohanty, Khirod Singhdeo, Pramila Behera, Jyotiranjana Mahapatra, Mahendra Parida, Narendra Mohanty, Bansidhar Parida, Bhalachandra Sarangi, Shesadeb Nanda, Srikant Mohanty and Shankar Sahu were present at the presser at Lohia Academy.

Daya amongst 11 most polluted rivers in state



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: The historic Daya river on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar is among the 11 most polluted rivers in the state, a report released by the Odisha Forests and Environment department has said. Locals also alleged that dumping of waste water by several drains of the City, and chemicals released from clay-idols' immersion in the water body have largely contributed to the contamination of the river. Despite a ban on clay-idol immersion in natural water bodies, idols of Lord Ganesh, Lord

Vishwakarma, and Goddess Khudurukuni were recently immersed in the river. In addition, Daya was hit by flood five days ago due to low pressure-induced downpour. Dhauli police station chief Dayanidhi Nayak said, "A temporary pond was set up near the river in view of the puja season. On monitoring, police realised that initially, some people did dump the idols in the makeshift pond but later on idol immersion in the river resumed."

"People need to do their bit too, to keep the river clean,"

Despite a ban on clay-idol immersion in natural water bodies, idols of Lord Ganesh, Lord Vishwakarma, and Goddess Khudurukuni were recently immersed in the river

It has been noticed that nearby factories continue to release untreated water into the river, adding to the woes

The discharge of waste water along with other chemicals from industries have led to water pollution in Daya

Nayak added. Meanwhile, it has been noticed that nearby factories continue to release untreated water into the river, adding to the woes. In the past, people were dependent on the river for bathing, drinking water and irrigation purpose. However, the discharge of waste water along with other chemicals from industries has led to water pollution in Daya. There have been demands from various quarters to act against those polluting the river.

WORKERS' PLEA



Rural water supply workers stage a dharna at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, to press for their demands

OP PHOTO

Odisha logs 602 new nCoV cases, 7 deaths



PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: Odisha's Covid-19 tally surged to 10,23,735 Saturday as 602 more people, including 79 children, tested positive for the infection. Seven fresh fatalities pushed the state's death toll due to the viral infection to 8,170, a Health department official said. As many as 353 new cases were registered in quarantine centres, while the remaining 249 infections were detected during contact tracing, he said. Khurda district, under which state Capital Bhubaneswar falls, recorded the highest number of new cases at 266, followed by Cuttack (74). Bargarh, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Nuapada districts did not report any new infection. Two fresh fatalities were registered in Khurda, and one each in

Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Balasore and Angul. The state currently has 5,930 active cases, while 10,09,582 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 494 in the last 24 hours. Fifty-three patients have died due to comorbidities. The coastal state has tested over 1.96 crore samples for Covid-19 to date, including 72,228 Friday. The cumulative positivity rate stood at 5.21 per cent. The rate of infection among children stood at 13.12 per cent, while the daily test positivity rate was at 0.83 per cent. Khurda is again placed in red zone as the district currently observes more than 2,500 active cases at 2,668. The state has so far inoculated as many as 2,91,44,376 people. While 2,12,62,873 people have taken the first shot, a total of 78,81,503 people have been fully vaccinated.

Jail authorities asked to resume physical mulakat

The Prisons Directorate, in its letter, has stated that the physical meeting is being resumed keeping in view the mental health of the prisoners

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: The relatives of the prisoners lodged in various jails of the state can now meet their near and dear ones physically as the state Prisons Directorate recently instructed the officials to resume the physical mulakat system in their respective jails. Earlier, the Home department had given its nod for resuming of physical mulakat services in the jails following the easing of the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic in February this year. Physical mulakat at jails was again prohibited with the onset of second wave of the pandemic in May. Meanwhile, the family members managed to meet the inmates only through virtual mode following the launching of e-Mulakat system at different jails. However, the Prisons department recently sent a letter to all the jail superintendents in the state to start the physical meeting at their prisons by the strictly adhering to the Covid guidelines. The Directorate also directed the authorities to ensure the implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by it for the physical mulakat.



The officials have been asked to do thermal screening of visitors at the entry gate of the jails, while maximum of 10 visitors are allowed to gather at the mulakat place

The Directorate has asked the officials to ensure a minimum distance of two meters between the inmate and the visitor. The inmates and

their relatives have to use face masks and sanitizers during the physical mulakat to avoid getting infected. The officials have been asked to do thermal screening of visitors at the entry gate of the jails. Similarly, maximum of ten visitors are allowed to gather at the mulakat place and a prisoner can only meet one visitor. The Directorate has asked the authorities to follow the instructions issued by the respective district administrations. The Directorate, in its letter, has stated that the physical meeting is being resumed keeping in view the mental health of the prisoners.

TPWODL conducts mega enforcement drives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: Power distribution firm Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) carried out mega enforcement drives in all the five circles in western Odisha. According to a statement issued by the company, the drives revealed that around 4.15 MW of power was consumed through various illegal means. "Out of this, power theft was to the tune of 2.77 MW and 1.38 MW was used by other illegal means. The company engaged 139 teams to carry out surprise checks at about 6,295 installations and detected 1,300 theft cases. A sum of over ₹13 lakh was realised from the defaulting consumers during the drives. In this effort, the company had to face various resistances and, in some cases, they took the help of local police to curb power theft menace," the statement added.

It has always been the systematic approach of the TPWODL to ensure stable and reliable power supply. The planning of demand and supply is also an important element in electricity distribution. The success of the plan entirely depends on the pattern of consumption by various sectors such as agriculture, MSME, cottage industry and the domestic consumers. The accuracy of the plan depends on fair consumption of power by the consumers. The entire planning gets disturbed when there is unfair, irregular and illegal consumption, the statement read. The company has also started replacing defective meter boxes for all single-phase and three-phase supplies. TPWODL also prepared its ground-level maintenance team to expedite the routine maintenance services so that proactively defects can be rectified and break downs can attend with in shortest possible time.

Fisherman dies in jumbo attack

BARANG: A fisherman reportedly died in elephant attack in Naraj area Friday night. The deceased was identified as Sushant Kumar Behera of Kaibarta Sahl. A herd of elephants from the nearby forests attacked Behera while he was on his way to Mahanadi for fishing Friday night. Behera died on the spot, sources said. Some villagers spotted Behera's body Saturday morning. On being informed, Forest department officials reached the village and assured Behera's family of compensation as per the government rules. "The circumstantial evidences suggested that Behera was trampled to death by the elephants," said a Forest department official.

Pradhan hits campaign trail for Pipli byelection

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pipli, Sept 25: BJP leader and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday hit the campaign trail for Pipli byelection scheduled for September 30. Pradhan along with party leaders Sambit Patra, Prithviraj Harichandan, Golak Mahapatra, Lekhashree Samantasinghar and Pravati Parida participated in the road shows in support of BJP candidate Ashrit Pattnaik at several gram panchayats of Pipli and Delang block under the Assembly constituency. BJP MLAs Jayanta Sarangi and Mohan Majhi too accompanied Pradhan during his campaign for the bypoll. Workers of the saffron party gave a rousing welcome to the Union Minister upon his arrival at Uttara Square near Pipli. Accompanied by hundreds of BJP workers, Pradhan participated in road shows at Pubashasan, Laxminarayanpur, Gudia Pokhari,



Jagannathpur, Nuashasan, Satas, Dandamukundpur, Durgadashpur, Jashuapur, Chandradeipur and Birapurisottampur panchayats of Pipli block seeking votes for the party nominee for the bypoll. The Union Minister also participated in road shows at several panchayats in Delang block. "The people of Pipli Assembly segment have made up their mind to vote for BJP candidate Ashrit Pattnaik in the byelection and ensure all-round development for the region. The BJP government at the Centre had provided enough as

sistance to Odisha to carry out the relief and rehabilitation work after the state was battered by the cyclonic storm Fani in May, 2019. However, the assistance did not reach the cyclone-affected people due to the inefficiency of the BJD government in the state," Pradhan said during his campaign for the byelection. It is worth mentioning here that the campaigning for the byelection is scheduled to end 72 hours before the polling. The counting of votes will be held October 3. Though 10 candidates are in the fray, the contest is mostly confined among BJD candidate Rudra Pratap Maharathy, BJP nominee Ashrit Pattnaik and Congress candidate Bishwokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra. The bypoll to the Assembly constituency was necessary due to the death of sitting BJD MLA Pradeep Maharathy in October last year. Earlier, the byelection to the Pipli constituency was deferred thrice.

CONCH CALLING



BJD leaders including School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Das and MLA Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak campaign for party nominee in Pipli Assembly constituency, Saturday

OP PHOTO

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Ragging in VSSUT probed; 12 students leave campus



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 25: The disciplinary committee of the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) has investigated the alleged ragging of a third year student by his seniors in the institute. The VSSUT authorities found 12 students involved in the case and directed them to leave the campus.

Following this directive, these students have left their campus

The varsity authorities said if the direction is violated, the students will be taken to task. The next meeting of disciplinary panel will be held Tuesday

Friday evening with their guardians. They have been warned not to be seen at the college, hostels, or campus till any decision is taken on the issue in the next meeting.

The VSSUT authorities warned if the direction is violated, the students will be taken to task.

The next meeting of the VSSUT disciplinary committee will be held Tuesday.

The incident had taken place Wednesday night when a group of

senior students knocked on the door of the complainant's room. They asked him to show them his mobile phone. When the victim refused to comply with their demand, the seniors thrashed him. The student's father lodged a written complaint with the dean of the students' welfare of the institute.

At that time, Vice-Chancellor Banshidhar Majhi claimed it was a case of a tussle among students, but announced that the disciplinary committee of the university will hold a meeting over the issue.

In the past, the VSSUT has seen several cases of ragging. In August 2019, a video showing seniors ragging around 50 junior students had gone viral. In the video, senior students were seen tearing the shirts of their juniors, slapping them and forcing them to dance in their undergarments while holding their ears.

The institute had debarred 10 students from appearing for the university examinations for a year and slapped a fine of ₹2,000 each on 52 others for being involved in the incident. Ragging is banned in all campuses in the country.



A priest preparing to walk on burning embers in the Jhamu Yatra at famous Bhairabdev shrine of Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district, Saturday

OP PHOTO

'Custodial death' of youth rocks Bargarh

LIVID OVER THE INCIDENT, LOCALS RANSACK DHH; POLICE LATHI-CHARGE PROTESTORS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 25: A protest over alleged custodial death of a youth turned violent as police caned-charged unarmed protesters in Bargarh, Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Gobind Kumbhar, 25, a resident of ward no-21 of Tora panchayat on Bargarh town's outskirts. Family members, his wife Rubi Kumbhar and residents alleged that Town police picked up Gobind late Friday night and tortured him in the lock up. The deceased is survived by his widow and two minor children.

A youth sustained critical injuries on his head in the lathi-charge and was admitted to the new DHH for treatment. Meanwhile, DIG (North) Deepak Kumar reached Bargarh and held talks with SP Rahul Jain.

ASP Dillip Kumar Bag rejected the charges stating that Gobind was an accused in an assault case lodged with Town police station. Police, fearing that he might flee home, picked him up from his home late Friday night. He, however, fell



sick Saturday and was admitted to the old district headquarters hospital (DHH) and later shifted to the new DHH where he succumbed during treatment, it was alleged.

The face-off occurred when family members of the deceased along with others reached the new DHH and ransacked the hospital premises despite presence of po-

lice. The deceased's brother Jiten held police responsible for the death of his brother and rushed to the terrace of the seventh floor of new DHH building and threatened to end life if justice is not meted out to them. He climbed down only after people persuaded him not to take the extreme step.

Later, the protesters swarmed Gandhi Square and staged a road

blockade alleging that Gobind was tortured in police custody throughout the night that led to his death.

ASP Bag, SDPO Deepak Kumar Gochhayat and local MLA Debesh Acharya tried to placate the agitators. However, they refused to relent. Later, the protesters carrying the body staged a sit-in outside the SP office when police lathi-charged them.

Minor girl sexually assaulted; 6 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 25: Police arrested six persons and detained a juvenile in Malkangiri on charges of sexually assaulting a minor girl and circulating a video of the incident, Friday.

The accused were identified as Dambaru Madkani (28), Pritam Karasta (21), Trinath Karasta (21), Kanta Karasta (30), Samaru Karasta (24) and Deba Madhi (36). They were produced in court.

The victim's brother lodged a complaint at Malkangiri police station. It stated that she and her boyfriend had been to Sindrimal village about three weeks ago. She



and the boy were assaulted by the accused there.

The girl, during the investigation, stated that she and the boy had gone to Mathili on a motorcycle about 15 days ago.

On their way back home, they had parked the motorcycle near

Sindrimal village and discussed some issues. Later, she went to attend the nature's call. At that time six people from the village came there and forcefully took her to a place, some distance away.

Three among them identified as Dambaru, Trinath, and Samaru

undressed her. They also undressed the boy. They touched sensitive parts of her body and recorded the video of the incident on a cell phone.

They demanded ₹20,000 from the girl and the boy and threatened that they would viral the video. They also issued threat to their life.

The girl and the boy somehow managed to escape from their clutches. However, after some days, the accused made the video viral. The victim's brother came to know about the incident and lodged a police complaint. Police traced out her boyfriend, identified the accused and arrested them.



Fishermen parking their boats on the seashore ahead of the arrival of cyclonic storm 'Gulab' in Bhograi of Balasore district, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Illegal prawn gheries pose threat to Bhitarkanika, farming

HIGH COURT GIVES RESPITE TO PRAWN FARMERS TILL NOVEMBER 26

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 25: Prawn farmers in coastal pockets of Kendrapara have got a respite from the High Court till November 26 so far as removal of illegal prawn gheries is concerned. However, it was alleged that as the administration delays action against the illegal prawn gheries, it will be causing damage to Bhitarkanika sanctuary and paddy farming.

Prawn gheries have been made in over 20,000 acres in the district. According to reports, following an order from the High Court, the administration had started removing illegal prawn gheries. However, some owners of prawn gheries filed three cases in the High Court, stating that their prawn enclosures and ponds are not illegal.

Hearing their case, a division bench comprising Chief Justice S Muralidharan and Justice BP Mohapatra has stayed the eviction drive till November 26.

The court has asked the district administrations of Kendrapara, Khordha and Puri to identify illegal prawn gheries in their areas and submit reports to the court through affidavits within this period.

As per information available from amicus curiae Mohit Agrawal, there are nine complainants in one case. The petitioners have stated that they have been farming prawn in



their own farmlands for their livelihood while their farming has no issues related to pollution.

As many 17 people have filed another petition at the HC. They raised a similar issue. They asserted that they are doing prawn farming in their land with scientific methods.

As questions arose over legal and illegal prawn gheries, the administration of these three districts have been asked to report on illegal prawn gheries.

Social activist Biren Kumar Das said prawn gheries near Bhitarkanika have been posing serious threats to its biodiversity. Besides, farming near gheries is affected by it as saline water from gheries finds way into farmlands.

This scene is common in Mahakalpara, Rajnagar and Rakanika blocks. Paddy farmers and prawn farmers often get into conflicts over release of saline water to farmlands. This leads to

law and order in these areas.

It may be noted here that there was a violent confrontation between gheri owners and villages at Kurundi panchayat under Rajnagar block. Prawn gheries have come up over 39 acres of gramya jungle and pasture land.

The social activist pointed out that illegal prawn gheries have mushroomed in 20,000 acres across the district.

Environmentalist Hemanta Kumar Nayak said, the HC, taking serious note of threat to Bhitarkanika biodiversity, directed action against illegal prawn enclosures. He said there are several gheries near Jagatjora.

Sub-collector Niranjan Behera said removal of prawn gheries is going on following direction from the HC. Some prawn farmers have moved the HC.

Their cases will be investigated and reports submitted to the court, he added.

Marauding tusker destroys houses, crops in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rupsa, Sept 25: A tusker went on a rampage and destroyed at least 11 houses, food stocks and farmlands at Gadapada panchayat under Rupsa police limits in Balasore district after it strayed into the area Friday night.

The tusker pulled down houses of 11 people, destroyed their belongings, food stocks and standing crops. Forest officials rushed to the spot and stayed awake all night beating drums and bursting crackers to drive away the pachyderms. However, they had little effect on the animal as it unleashed a reign of terror by pulling down the houses.

The animal made its way into the area from Badaguma via Lachhmankhunta in Mayurbhanj.

The animal damaged the houses of Paintiri Singh, Kuni Singh, Gobind Singh, Adikanda Singh, Ram Singh, Anadi Mohanta and Rameswar Mohanta of Badaguma village, Akshya Palei of Jahata village, Simal Tudu and Chhuta Majhi of Hirapur Nagakhani village. Later, the animal crossed the rail track near Bakharabad railway gate of Rupsa station and strayed into Budhakhandi village where it destroyed the house of Babu Mallick.

After crossing the track, it was found near Bhagabanpur village in Mayurbhanj. Forest officials alerted railway officials to prevent threat to the animal. As a result, train services were stopped on the route for over one and half hours and power connections were also snapped to allow the animal safe passage on the track.

Female jumbo dies in Lanjigarh

Lanjigarh, Sept 25: A female elephant was found dead in Biswanathpur range under Lanjigarh block in Kalahandi district Saturday. Locals alleged that a herd of elephants was moving in villages and damaging crops and houses for last few days.

On being informed, a team of forest officials rushed to the spot and started an investigation. The cause of its death is yet to be ascertained.

Five elephant squads, five wildlife squads and four sections of officials have been patrolling the area. DFO



Lede Gajanan and ACF Anil Ray investigated the cause of its death. After post-mortem, the carcass was buried. The range has reported several such deaths in the past.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
Tender Notice No. 18/ET/DBPI/ENG/2021-22 Dtd.: 22.09.2021	
(1) e-Tender No. 17-eT-SDNE-SBP-21	
Name of work : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN JHARSUGUDA ROAD-SARLA (EX) AND IS BY PASS LINE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2022 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/RENGALI OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work ₹ 1,11,67,279/-	
(2) e-Tender No. 18-eT-SDNE-SBP-21	
Name of work : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN SASON (EX)-SARLA (IN), BY PASS LINE AND SAMBALPUR (EX)-JHUMMURA (IN) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2022 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/SAMBALPUR CITY OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work ₹ 1,11,28,975/-	
(3) e-Tender No. 19-eT-SDNE-SBP-21	
Name of work : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN SARAGIPALI (EX)-SARAGIPALI (IN) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2022 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/RAIRAKHOL OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work ₹ 1,11,25,940/-	
(4) e-Tender No. 20-eT-SDNE-SBP-21	
Name of work : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN SARAGIPALI (EX)-KEREJANGA (EX) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2022 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/BOINDA OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work ₹ 1,11,34,158/-	
Completion period of the work: 30.09.2022 (for all tenders).	
Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 18.10.2021 (for all tenders).	
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.reps.gov.in	
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), PR-413/M/21-22 Sambalpur	

While doing work if the mind continues to be active let it be so, but there must be at the same time a capacity for silence.

SRI AUROBINDO

Presumption of guilt

India follows the system of common law, introduced to it by Great Britain. However, it has introduced innovation in its law as an independent nation, and one of these is to reverse the burden of proof. In several criminal laws in India, and especially those legislated after 2014, there is a reversal of burden of proof. This means that there is presumption of guilt. The State assumes you have done something wrong and it is for you to demonstrate innocence.

This is the opposite of normal criminal law. For instance, if someone is found with a knife next to a corpse, it is for the State to prove that the person committed murder. However, there are laws in which the State begins with the assumption of guilt. The National Register of Citizens in Assam is one such instance. All individuals in Assam had to submit to the government documents which showed that their ancestors had been in Assam as citizens before 1971. Those who could not have to line up before government tribunals and prove that they were legitimate. If they could not, they were locked up. Hundreds of people are in jail today because of this and more jails are being constructed.

British law says that where a legal burden of proof is on a defendant, they need not prove the issue beyond reasonable doubt. The bar is low. But in India the bar is high as we can see in Assam and elsewhere.

India has enacted so-called 'freedom of religion laws' in several BJP states, reversing burden of proof for conversions. The law was first passed by Uttarakhand in 2018, and then came the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 2019, Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Viruddh Dharma Samparivartan Pratishedh Adhyadesh, 2020 (Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance), Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantraya Adhyadesh, 2020 (Freedom of Religion Ordinance) and Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021. These laws criminalise marriage between Hindus and Muslims. They say that if anyone converts before or after marriage, then the government will declare the marriage null and void, even if there are children.

The burden of proof to show that the conversion was not fraudulent, through undue influence, or coercion is on the spouse and the family that the person is marrying into. Those who change their faith without an application to the government are sent to jail. The other unique thing about these laws is that they do not apply to Hinduism. The original law in Himachal Pradesh says that 'if any person comes back to their ancestral religion' then this shall not be deemed conversion. The law does not define what 'ancestral religion' means but its meaning is clear: those who convert to Hinduism will not be punished.

The Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damage to Public and Private Property Act, 2020, was enacted after UP police shot dead 21 protesters during the anti-CAA protests last year. The law gives the state government the power to fine people it suspects of having damaged public property and seizing their homes and other property. Even if the accused is unable to appear before the tribunal, orders for attachment can be passed which cannot be appealed.

Another set of laws, also passed after 2014, reverse burden of proof on cow slaughter. These laws were also passed by BJP state governments. They are the Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2015, the Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act, 2015, the Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2017, and the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle

Act, 2020. The burden of proof is reversed and if one is accused of killing a cow or possessing beef, then it is for the individual to show that they did not kill the animal or that the meat in their fridge is not beef. Gujarat's punishment for cow slaughter, which is an economic crime in India because it aims to protect animal husbandry, is life in jail. No other economic offence draws this sentence. In 2019, under the new law, a Muslim man was sentenced to 10 years in jail after he was accused of serving beef at his daughter's wedding. The police could not prove that this had happened. In that case, the judge said, it was for the man to prove that he was innocent. Because it was not possible to test food that had already been eaten, the court sent him to jail.

Those who transport cattle except under strict conditions are also liable under the law to have their vehicles permanently seized and fined ₹5 lakh.

Other laws which have reversed burden of proof are the famous UAPA, which makes it difficult if not impossible for people to get bail once they are accused. All Indian states have preventive detention laws, through which the government can jail people without a crime on the presumption that they will commit a crime in future.

Interestingly, the BJP in its earlier form, the Jana Sangh, had opposed preventive detention laws, but today it is the champion of these laws. The other thing to note is that presumption of guilt laws have been creeping in since 2014 but there is no resistance or even debate on whether we should have them, apparently because the average Indian's faith in the system and its fairness is absolute.



Aakar Patel

In several criminal laws in India, and especially those legislated after 2014, there is a reversal of burden of proof. This means that there is presumption of guilt. The State assumes you have done something wrong and it is for you to demonstrate innocence

WISDOM CORNER

Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

MARK TWAIN

If you abandon the present moment, you cannot live the moments of your daily life deeply.

THICH NHAT HANH

That which is false troubles the heart, but truth brings joyous tranquillity.

RUMI

WORDSWORTH

Perissology

Perissology means using more words than necessary to explain one's meaning, a pleonasm. Since perissology is three letters longer than pleonasm but means the same, you may argue it's an example of the related habit of using long words when shorter ones will do. The word comes to us from the post-classical Latin of the fourth or fifth century AD. Romans of classical times knew it as a Greek word, perissologia, which came from perissos, beyond the usual number or size, redundant, superfluous. The prefix perisso- is known in two other very uncommon English words: perissosyllabic, a line of verse that has more syllables than normal, and perissodactyl, a grazing mammal with hooves made up of an odd number of toes, which sounds obscure but is a characteristic of horses as well as tapirs and rhinoceroses. Its opposite is artiodactyl, having an even number of toes, which refers to mammals such as pigs, deer, goats and cattle. Perissology came into English at the end of the sixteenth century but was never anything more than an obscure literary word. In recent centuries it has mainly been exploited for humorous effect. His inscience of avitious justicements, and of lexicology, his perissology and battology, imparted to his tractation of his cause, an imperspicuity which rendered it immomentous to the jurator audients (Letters to Squire Pedant, by Samuel Klinefelter Hoshour, 1856).

FOCUS WORLD BANK

IS DOING BUSINESS DEAD?

World Bank's recent decision to stop publishing its Doing Business report is an understandable reaction to revelations of data manipulation in favour of certain countries. But the Bank should use this interruption to develop a better report

Kaushik Basu

ACHIEVING A HIGH RANKING MUST NOT BE AN ALL-CONSUMING GOAL, BECAUSE THE HEALTH OF A COUNTRY'S ECONOMY ALSO DEPENDS ON FAIRNESS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Recent days have brought me a storm of emails and calls about the collapse of the World Bank's most widely watched annual report, Doing Business (DB), which ranks countries by how easily and efficiently small businesses can operate in them. September 16, the bank announced that it would discontinue the report after an independent investigation by the law firm WilmerHale revealed the Bank's sordid efforts, starting in 2017 (I left the Bank in 2016, I hasten to add), to manipulate data in order to improve China and Saudi Arabia's DB rankings. The Bank had suspended publication of the index last year, owing to 'irregularities' in its data.

As the head of the World Bank division that produced DB from 2012 to 2016, I found the WilmerHale report disturbing to read. Yes, countries have always lobbied and jostled to improve their rankings. But I never gave in to any of that pressure. Nor, to the best of my knowledge, did any of my predecessors. It was deeply disappointing to read about how this subsequently changed and what happened inside the Bank, including accounts of junior staff being 'publicly threatened' and feeling "powerless to object to carrying out the data improprieties being requested by senior bank management." This is the kind of behaviour one expects under an authoritarian government, not at a premier Bretton Woods institution.

The World Bank deserves credit for commissioning such a transparent investigation, and now it has an obligation to act on its findings. Some senior officials will no doubt be shown the door. But this is also the time to take stock of the entire business of Doing Business. The Bank's decision to stop publishing DB is an understandable initial reaction. But I would advise the organisation to use this interruption to develop a better report,

instead of ending it for good.

I have a long and complicated relationship with DB. Many progressive economists have railed against it because of its admittedly neoliberal bias. But the index also highlighted important shortcomings in many developing countries, where cronyism among big business and government, along with high bureaucratic costs, crush individual enterprise and cripple small businesses. When I was the Indian government's chief economic adviser, I found DB's data useful for pushing reforms that would help the small players.

At that time, I had no idea that I would one day be in charge of the division producing the report. During my transition, I felt like a restaurant patron who had suddenly been asked to run the kitchen. It was an eye-opening experience for me to discover how the DB economies were evaluated. I could see that there was room for improvement, but what truly impressed me was the transparency and integrity of the exercise. It was an expensive operation in which the Bank collected data meticulously from all the economies – 189 at the time – and then constructed the rankings without regard to who won or lost.

We improved some of the data and the selection of items that we included in the index. But any such change would alter some of the rankings, giving the impression that some countries were doing better or worse than before, when in fact the shifts were entirely due to the changes in our criteria. For that reason, we had to hold back on many planned improvements.

So, what might a new, improved DB look like? For starters, the bank should switch to collecting de facto data. Currently, the bulk of the DB ranking is based on countries' de jure laws – the rules and regulations in the books – rather than on what actually happens on the ground. My own back-of-the-envelope calculation was that two-thirds of the ranking depended on the de jure.

This causes an obvious problem. Properly devised cross-country rankings, like the pre-2017 DB, spur competition among governments. But authoritarian governments in particular can change their rule books through top-down orders – and thus improve their index score – even if this makes

SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

How to avert a global climate catastrophe

The hottest day on record in Jordan since 1960 was a staggering 49.3° Celsius, (120.7° Fahrenheit) in July 2018, one month after I became prime minister. Jordan is not unique: heat waves have been causing record-high temperatures in countries from Canada to Australia in recent years. The effects of climate change, while felt locally, demand a global response, which should set binding targets that take into account countries' contributions to the problem and to the solution.

Jordan has been actively pursuing policies and programmes to reduce CO2 emissions. Over the past 15 years, Jordan's annual emissions per capita fell from 3.5 tonne to 2.5 tonne. But Jordan, like the vast majority of countries, accounts for a negligible share of global CO2 emissions – just 0.04% annually. So even if Jordan was to turn its whole economy green overnight, it would hardly make a dent. This does not absolve us of responsibility, but we cannot overlook the fact that emissions are concentrated: the top 20 emitters account for almost 80% of the annual total, with the US and China alone accounting for 38%.

In many countries, the ramifications of climate change for water supply have been staggering. In the case of Jordan, it made an already tight constraint much more acute. Rainfall was previously the saviour for rural communities that engaged in seasonal rainfed agriculture and herding on semi-arid land. Over

the last decade, however, a steady decline in average annual rainfall and an increase in the frequency and severity of droughts have undermined these modes of agriculture, deepening the socioeconomic divide between rural and urban areas.

Jordan is by no means unique: the WHO estimates that half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas by 2025. In essence, what was previously a regional challenge has now become a serious global governance issue with environmental, political, and economic ramifications.

According to the recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, the world will not meet the 2015 Paris climate agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C unless it makes huge additional cuts in CO2 emissions. Quite simply, the results of the world's climate efforts are dangerously inadequate. According to the Climate Action Tracker, current policies put the world on course to be an alarming 2.7-3.1°C warmer by 2100, relative to pre-industrial levels. Yes, many emerging green technologies are promising and should be supported. But in the absence of a global approach, these innovations risk merely redistributing the impact of climate change among countries and regions.

Raising awareness and nudging (and shaming) policymakers is necessary, but not sufficient to avert what UN Secretary-General António Guterres has referred to as a 'climate

catastrophe.' Climate-change mitigation must be pursued as a global public good. The problem is that such goods are plagued by collective-action problems, because the costs tend to be spatially and temporally concentrated while the benefits are diffuse. These difficulties can be tackled only by global governance structures that reduce the cost of collective action, internalise externalities, and counter short-term biases in decision-making.

To address climate change more effectively, we need global governance arrangements that amount to a new global social contract.

For starters, we need a governance structure whose jurisdiction is limited to global public goods that cannot be provided adequately at the national level. Nation-states would be free to opt in and opt out, with the benefits of opting in outweighing those of opting out. Decisions would be taken on a majoritarian basis, with no single country having veto power. There would also be an appeals and adjudication process that allows decisions to be challenged.

Second, a custodial entity would keep track of global natural wealth accounts to address intergenerational equity issues. This entity should be able to place items on the global governance institution's agenda and to appeal decisions.

Lastly, a regime of incentives and disincentives would aim to preserve nature and biodiversity and tax those who consume it, tak-

ing wealth and income disparities across countries into account.

Establishing global governance mechanisms that focus on the public-goods and collective-action challenges of climate change will not be easy. Nevertheless, we are not starting from scratch. The WTO provides an example of a strong and successful global governance structure with binding rules. It is thus both ironic and sad that the WTO has failed to incorporate trade-related environmental and human-rights issues into its regulations in order to ensure a level international playing field. After all, with its sanctioning authority, the WTO is best positioned to link issues such as greenhouse-gas emissions and labour rights to trade rules.

Now that the world has become a village, the task facing the region is instead to agree with other countries – our fellow villagers – on how to mitigate our own excesses and avert an existential threat. The solution lies in establishing a global governance system that is based on the nation-state but has the capacity to sanction harmful behaviour.

Some might regard the idea of creating such a structure as far-fetched. But unless we do, there is scant hope of preventing the climate crisis – already apparent in Jordan and around the world – from continuing to destroy countless lives and livelihoods.

The writer is a former Prime Minister of Jordan.

Sensex at 60K

Sir, The Sensex mounted the 60,000 peak and showed no signs of faltering. Analysts believe a low-interest rate regime and the sustained flow of money of high net worth traders and retail investors will keep the flag flying. Amid the buoyant sentiment and increased activity, valuations have reached elevated levels. Given the rich valuations, one cannot ignore intermittent volatility. However, we expect the positive momentum to continue on the back of improving economic activity and recovery in corporate earnings and it is indeed a good sign. The market had been performing well over the last few quarters owing to huge liquidity, upward earnings cycle, and economic revival owing to fading COVID-19 effect. It took a little over 31 years for the Sensex to traverse from 1,000 points to the historic 60,000 level.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Tax portal glitches

Security breach

Sensex at 60K

Sir, The new income tax e-filing portal had a bumpy start from the day of its launch June 7, 2021. It continues to face technical glitches even after more than three months. Taxpayers and tax professionals have been criticising Infosys for launching the website without adequate testing. The approach for implementing a website of such importance should be parallel or phased, but the developers have opted for the cut-off approach – the erstwhile website was junked, even before the new website went live. The role of users (tax experts of the I-T department) involved with Infosys' developers should also be investigated as they didn't lay emphasis on user acceptance testing (UAT) sign off process. UAT is a major milestone and has pre-defined deliverables that are signed off between users and developers' team. It is still a mystery that the website has been launched without documenting any formal user acceptance sign off. Whatever it is, issues with the new I-T portal should be sorted out in a time-bound manner.

Sagar Gambhir, LUDHIANA

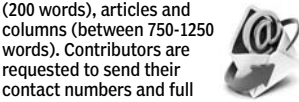
Letters

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

OrissaPOST

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2 dead, 8 injured in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Sept 25: Two persons were crushed to death while eight others sustained grievous injuries in a tragic road mishap after a private bus in which they were travelling hit a pedestrian and overturned near Rambahal under Rajgangpur block in Sundargarh Friday night.

Reports said, more than 15 devotees had gone to visit Dargah of Lal Shah Baba in Rajgangpur locality in the district. The incident occurred when the devotees were on their way back home after visiting the Dargah. An eyewitness claimed the mishap occurred at around 10.30pm in the night.

Due to callous driving, the driver of the bus lost control over the speeding vehicle and hit a pedestrian leading to the mishap. The pedestrian was crushed to death under the wheels of the vehicle while a woman passenger in the ill-fated bus died on the spot, the eyewitness added. Rajgangpur police have registered a case and launched a probe.

Samiti member killed, political link suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Sept 25: Unidentified people allegedly killed a samiti member late Friday night at Jamujhara village under Baruan panchayat in Tumusingha police limits of Dhenkanal district.



According to sources, the body of the deceased man was found in a pool of blood by locals near his damaged car early Saturday morning. He was sent to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) for treatment. Doctors at the health facility, however, declared him 'brought dead'.

The samiti member was identified as Deepak Mahunta. The exact

Deepak's family alleged it is a case of political violence. "My father was murdered over political and business enmity," his son Dibyadarshan said

cause behind the death has not been ascertained. However, circumstantial evidence suggests it is a case of murder.

Deepak's family alleged it is a case of political violence. "My father was murdered over political and business enmity," Deepak's son Dibyadarshan said. Deepak's wife is sarpanch of Baruan panchayat, Dibyadarshan added.

On being informed by the family, Kamakhyanagar police reached the spot and initiated a probe. Police have registered a case a detailed probe is underway, Kamakhyanagar SDPO Ranjan Kumar Dey informed.

FARM BOOST



As part of a programme under Odisha Livelihood Mission, high yielding seeds are distributed to tribal farmers at Rangiamunda in Sundargarh OP PHOTO

Satiguda dam oustees warn poll boycott 120 ponzi cases still under trial at spl court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 25: Villagers displaced for construction of Satiguda dam in this district have warned to boycott forthcoming polls over lack of basic facilities and road connectivity to their villages, a report said.

Reports said the Satiguda dam lies to the right of Malkangiri-Jeypore main road from the district headquarters of Malkangiri. The construction of the dam started in 1968. Over 500 families of Chamkhari, Talaguda, Simagudi, Tangiriguda, Maraguda, Munsha, Sorishmala, Sindhrimala villages which were inside the reservoir area were displaced and relocated elsewhere.

The villagers alleged that some of the villagers were rehabilitated at Munsha Colony in Boilapari where around 50 families were provided with a small house, three acres of land, two goats and pair of bullocks to earn their livelihood.

Ward members Arjun Madkami, Keshav Sisa, Saroj Matam, Chandra Madhi, Ratan Muduli, Chandrasekhar Mademi, Indra Madhi, Lakshman Padma, Madhav Madhi, Pitambar Bhumia of Munsha Colony alleged they gave up their farmlands for construction of the dam but what they received in exchange is only peanuts. The government doled out Rs 500 only

RESENTMENT BREWS OVER DEPRIVATION



Ward members Arjun Madkami, Keshav Sisa, Saroj Matam, Chandra Madhi, Ratan Muduli, Chandrasekhar Mademi, Indra Madhi, Lakshman Padma, Madhav Madhi, Pitambar Bhumia of Munsha Colony alleged they gave up their farmlands for construction of the dam but what they received in exchange is only peanuts. The government doled out Rs 500 only as compensation for acquisition of their farmlands for the dam

Munsha Colony alleged they gave up their farmlands for construction of the dam but what they received in exchange is only peanuts. The government doled out Rs 500 only

as compensation for acquisition of their farmlands for the dam.

The villagers alleged that they were rehabilitated at such places where there were no cultivable

As many as 16 families of Munsha Colony also paid the tax for the 3-4 acres which the government had given them. Later, they shifted to Bhimarangini and had been staying there for last 45 years. During the settlement works in 1980 they were given land pattas on their farmlands.

The villagers alleged they have been living the life of a nomad after being displaced from their ancestral lands for the dam. The state government acquired their land for the dam and rehabilitated them at various sites without resolving their basic problems like a good road and other benefits

land, crematorium, pasture or any forest land. As a result, the tribals abandoned those lands and came to settle at various forested areas.

As many as 16 families of

Munsha Colony also paid the tax for the 3-4 acres which the government had given them. Later, they shifted to Bhimarangini and had been staying there for last 45 years. During the settlement works in 1980 they were given land pattas on their farmlands.

However, what ails them is that villages like Bhimarangini and Munsha lacks a good road. The villagers and students had to commute on muddied road to reach their destination and schools.

The villagers alleged they have been living the life of a nomad after being displaced from their ancestral lands for the dam. The state government acquired their land for the dam and rehabilitated them at various sites without resolving their basic problems like a good road and other benefits.

They have been living anyhow but their anger surged when a survey was constructed for construction of a rail route which will pass on their farmlands.

They have demanded the state government intervene and resolve their problems failing which they will boycott the forthcoming polls.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 25: A special court functions at Berhampur to fast-track chit fund cases. It was set up under OPID Act-2011. However, trial of only 10 cases has been completed and their verdicts have been declared.



There are still 120 cases whose trial is still going on. Out of 10 chit fund cases, accused have been penalized in 9 cases. It was learnt that due to strong evidence and efficient management of public prosecutors, these 10 cases have been finalised.

Potato farming gets boost in Koraput Fissures open in Malkangiri Congress unit



POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Sept 25: With the state government giving focus on development of agriculture, potato cultivation is being promoted in a major way.

Potato has been cultivated over 1000 acres of land in the district with support of Pragati Koraput, an organization in collaboration with

MD of OSSC Jyoti Ranjan Mishra advised officials to provide high yielding paddy and potato seeds to farmers in Koraput

Dayanadhiguda.

Accompanied by agriculture officials of the district, Mishra inspected Krushak Khetra Vidyalay set up by an organization named as Pragati.

Visiting SriKrushak Seeds sales counter, he advised officials to provide high yielding paddy and potato seeds to farmers in Koraput.

Prabhakar Adhikari, an official of Pragati, said an initiative will be taken up for sale of paddy and non-paddy seeds with the help of Odisha State Seeds Corporation.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 25: The Congress party in Malkangiri district has reportedly been a divided house even as speculations are rife that former Nabarangpur MP Pradip Majhi is likely to leave the party along with his supporters.

Meanwhile, executive president of the Malkangiri district Congress Ram Prasad Patnaik resigned from the primary membership of the party.

His resignation has triggered discontent among party cadre in the district. Another development has also left many frontline leaders fuming in Padia block. In a press statement, district unit president Gobinda Chandra Patra has scrapped the Padia block Congress Committee. Scores of party func-



tionaries and workers in the block have expressed their unhappiness over such a development.

Senior Congress leader of Padia block Md Farooq stated the district unit president has no power to interfere in formation of the block committee or any programme of the party works. "The district unit

president has no power to scrap the block unit," he added.

Ahead of the panchayat polls, the Congress unit in the district has become faction-ridden. Resignation and factionalism will adversely affect the electoral performance of the party, political observers noted, saying if Pradip

In a press statement, district unit president Gobinda Chandra Patra scrapped the Padia block Congress Committee, leaving party functionaries and workers livid

Majhi leaves the Congress and join the BJD in coming days, it will deal a big blow to the party in both Malkangiri and Nabarangpur.

Pradip Majhi is said to have a huge following in the district. If he leaves the party, a huge chunk of Congress supporters may desert the party, it is said.

EMPOWERMENT DRIVE



Differently-abled people are given away tricycles at a programme in Balasore, Saturday

OP PHOTO

HUGE CRACKS DETECTED IN KICHAKESHWARI TEMPLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Karanjia, Sept 25: Several cracks have been detected on the pinnacle of the main structure at Kichakeshwari temple in Khiching of Mayurbhanj district. The century-old temple is in a state of dilapidation.

Rain water seeps deep into the wall and even falls on the shrine. As a result, the temple which was built of black marble is now covered with algae. Cracks have also been detected on the roofs and walls.

The state government needs to take the cracks into account. It is imperative that the temple be rebuilt by experienced artisans, said a priest



"It is not possible to sit and worship inside the temple as water keeps dripping," the servants revealed. "The temple needs to be repaired as soon as possible", said priest Subash Panigrahi.

A few days ago, the Department of Archaeology repaired the Kutei Tundi and Chandrasekhar temple in the vicinity of the main temple, however, the flow of water

has not stopped yet.

"The state government needs to take this into account. It is imperative that the temple be rebuilt by experienced artisans," said priest Dillip Panigrahi.

In this regard, the Karanjia sub-collector and the trustee of the temple Dr Rajinikanth Bishwal said he would write a letter to the Department of Archaeology and try to resolve the issue.

Rapid population rise causing demographic changes: U'khand



A BJP leader had recently wrote to CM Pushkar Singh Dhami alleging people of a particular community were not only building their places of worship but also buying land in bulk in certain areas of the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Sept 25: The Uttarakhand government has said the rapid rise in population is causing demographic changes in certain areas of the state, resulting in migration of several communities from those places besides posing a threat to communal peace.

Expressing concern over the development in an official release here Friday, the government directed the state DGP, all DMs and SSPs to take precautionary steps to resolve the problem.

It asked the officials to constitute committees in all districts that will offer suggestions to the administration for addressing the issue.

Besides, peace committees should

also be set up and their meetings held from time to time to review the situation, the release said.

Such areas in all districts should be identified and action should be taken against anti-social elements residing there, it said.

A list of people with criminal records coming from outside the state and living in these areas should also be prepared after verifying their original place of residence, the release said.

The district magistrates (DMs) have been asked to keep an eye on illegal land deals in such areas and see that people do not sell their lands out of fear or pressure.

Strict action should be taken against people of foreign origin who have obtained forged ID cards or voter ID cards.

Records of such people should be prepared and action taken against them as per the legal provisions, the release said.

The list of directions follows a letter written by BJP leader Ajendra Ajay to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami recently in which he had alleged that people of a particular community were not only building their places of worship but also buying land in bulk in certain areas of the state causing an exodus of the original inhabitants.

The home department had been asked to look into the matter after the BJP leader wrote to the chief minister.

Relics give glimpses of 6th century BC Tamil culture

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 25: The archaeological excavations being carried out at Keeladi and Thamirabarani in Tamil Nadu have given inputs to archaeologists and historians that there was a rich Tamil culture that thrived in 6th century BC in these parts of the world.

The archaeological evidence unearthed shows that those living during that period possessed good graffiti skills in Tamil, which they might have used for communication. The presence of certain Roman materials and coins with Roman engravings as also some other materials similar to the Gangetic and Indus valley artefacts support the theory that the community that lived in these areas had entered into trade with people in North India as well as Western Europe.

The carbon dating report provided by the Miami-based Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory August 27 has thrown up some startling findings about the Thamirabarani Civilisation that dates back to 3,200 years.

The Beta Analytic had done carbon dating analysis of rice with soil found in a burial urn at Sivakasi in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.

Immediately after the results were obtained, Chief Minister MK Stalin announced in the Assembly that a 'Pourunai Museum' would be set up in

STARTLING FINDINGS



Tirunelveli at a cost of Rs 15 crore.

The findings also emboldened the CM to state on the floor of the House that the task of the state government is to scientifically prove that the history of the Indian sub-continent must begin from the Tamil landscape.

The state government also announced the carrying out of excavations in other states and countries in search of Tamil roots and Tamil culture.

The CM announced that as a first step, research will be done with

Kerala archaeologists to establish the ancientness and culture of the Chera empire. The joint excavations are scheduled to be conducted at Pattanaam in Kerala, which was the ancient port of Muziris. Stalin is keen that similar studies are undertaken at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Thalaikadu in Karnataka, and Palur in Odisha.

The state archaeology department would also undertake joint studies and research at Quseir al-Quadim and Pernica Anekka in Egypt. These were part of the

The archaeological evidence unearthed shows that those living during that period possessed good graffiti skills in Tamil, which they might have used for communication

The presence of certain Roman materials and coins with Roman engravings as also some other materials similar to the Gangetic and Indus Valley artefacts support the theory that the community that lived in these areas had entered into trade with people in North India as well as Western Europe

Roman Empire. Stalin has also ordered to conduct excavation and research work at Khor Rori in Oman. These, according to the experts in Tamil archaeological studies, is to establish that the state had trade relations with the Roman Empire as well as with Oman.

Interestingly, potsherds with Tamil scripts have been found in Egypt and Oman and the Tamil Nadu government wants to establish that there was a rich Tamil culture with proper scripts as well as highly sophisticated utensils with artworks and that the Tamil landscape had a major role in the civilization of the Indian sub-continent.

According to Tamil historical and naval studies, King Rajendra

Chola had established supremacy in Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, and the state government would conduct studies and research in these countries to find a Tamil connection.

Other than the Thamirabarani Civilisation, the six-phase excavations in Keeladi or Keezhadi have also thrown up several information that a rich and vibrant culture was present in ancient time and Tamil was a supreme culture with rich knowledge of artefacts, literature and science.

The CM had said, "The Keezhadi excavations have proved that the Tamil society had achieved rich literacy even in 6th century BC, and Keezhadi had united Tamils across the world."

The seventh phase of the excavations in Keezhadi commenced February 13, 2021, when AIADMK leader EK Palaniswami was the CM.

It may be noted that during the sixth phase of excavations, the archaeologists had found human skeletons, precious stones, weighing measures, and ring well structures. The materials obtained from the site have revealed that people who had lived in the region 3,200 years ago had advanced knowledge and skills.

With the state government announcing a museum at Thamaribarani, and the seventh round of excavations underway in Keeladi, the Tamil Nadu government is keen to establish the rich cultural heritage of the Tamils.

'202 out of 505 poll promises fulfilled by DMK govt'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 25: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Saturday said his DMK government has fulfilled 202 of the 505 poll promises made during the run up to the elections.

Stalin said the DMK party will always do what it promised and would promise what it can do.

He said the DMK had made 505 poll promises in its manifesto and has fulfilled 202 of them during the four months since the party came to power in Tamil Nadu.

Stalin said hours after assuming office he had signed the files for issue of Rs 4,000 to 2.09 crore ration card holders who are eligible for rice as Covid-19 relief; reduced Aavin milk price by Rs 3/litre; free travel



for women in city buses; and inclusion of treatment given in private hospitals for Covid-19 under the government insurance scheme.

He also listed out presentation

of a separate budget for agriculture; reduction of petrol price by Rs 3/litre; writing off of cooperative bank loans to women self help groups to the tune of Rs 2,756 crore;

kick starting of organic farming scheme; withdrawal of 5,570 cases filed against journalists, protesters against the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant and other projects; passing of the resolutions in the state assembly urging the Central Government to withdraw the three farm laws; and exempting Tamil Nadu from NEET for medical college admissions and others.

He said the 202 DMK poll promises have been issued as government announcements. Stalin also said the government has implemented several other schemes that were not mentioned in the party's poll manifesto.

He said the fulfilment of the 202 promises is not just the starting speed but it will be like that for the full five years of the government.

Tehri dam achieves full potential of 830-metre capacity

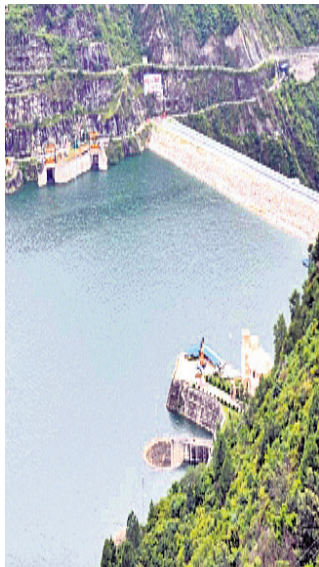
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Rishikesh, Sept 25: The Tehri Dam Project in Uttarakhand reached a milestone as it achieved full capacity of 830 metres, for the first time ever.

Though the project has been providing the much-needed 1000 MW power and other benefits such as drinking and irrigation water, flood moderation, fishing, tourism etc. for the past 15 years, yet its full potential had remained elusive.

The Tehri reservoir could not be raised to Full Reservoir Level (FRL), of EL 830 metres due to different issues. However, with the Centre and the state government's efforts, this mammoth task was achieved after the pending rehabilitation issues of the project were resolved by THDC India.

The Uttarakhand government permitted raising the Tehri reservoir level to EL 830 metre August 25, 2021. Prior to this permission, dam authorities were not allowed to raise it to full level and full potential as water and power were not getting fully utilized.



The Tehri Dam Project is a multipurpose hydro power scheme on the Bhagirathi river and is the third highest among earth fill dams and tenth highest among all dams. The project consists of a 260.5m high earth and rock fill dam, and four machines of 250 MW each in an underground power house. The project has a capacity to store about 2,615 MCM of surplus flood water during monsoon.

Post monsoon, the stored water provides irrigation support to 8.74 lakh hectares of land in the Gangetic plains of Uttar Pradesh; and also provides around 300 cusecs of drinking water to Delhi for about a 40 lakh population and 200 cusecs to Uttar Pradesh for some 30 lakh population. The project has also enabled the farmers of the Tehri command area to cultivate upto three crops a year.

As mountain springs dry up, women revive traditional pits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Uttarkashi, Sept 25: Over the last decade, it has become increasingly hard for Sartama Devi to source water around her Uttarkashi village home in Uttarakhand and same has been the story for the rest of her co-habitants.

"Our water sources had been drying up with the diminishing monsoons. It has affected our livestock. In our fields, the koda-jhangora (Indian barn millet) crop had been withering away," the 55-year-old said.

Water springs in small amounts in these mountain villages and exhausts quickly as the villagers use it for daily chores and to meet their livestock's needs. These natural springs have not been sufficient for the 300 families in Patara village that have about 275 animals.

Pooja Rana, 27, a farmer who is also Patara's panchayat chief, said that the water taps drawn from the springs in their hamlet are functional for barely an hour or two in the morning. In summers, the taps run completely dry.

It is ironic that river Bhagirathi runs down from its glacial origin at the foothills of Patara - just 2-3 km away. It later meets the Alaknanda and forms the Ganga. Despite being so close to India's most extensive river system, Patara has struggled.

"People over the decades have migrated, leaving behind their farms. Many have settled on the Delhi-Dehradun road," Devi said.

That is exactly why these Uttarkashi women are bringing chal-khals back to life. These percolation pits are saving women the time and effort it takes to find and carry water over long distances. In 2019, Patara ushered in change when Sartama Devi formed



the Him Patara self-help group to conserve water and revive water sources closer to the village.

With the men mostly absent, having migrated in search of better opportunities, the women became largely responsible for running the village. In their interactions with the local administration, they would constantly bring up the problems they were having with water.

It was then that the village development officer, Sunil Agnihotri, motivated them to set up an SHG and establish contact with NGOs that were working on water conservation in the area.

The women started learning more about chal-khals; these percolation pits used to be built and maintained by mountain communities but this traditional knowledge had been lost over the years. In Pauri, Garhwal, Kumaun and other regions of Uttarakhand, several NGOs have been working the past few decades toward reviving chal-khals.

WATER CONSERVATION

Chal-khals or percolation pits usually measuring eight metres in diameter and one metre deep, though the size varies, are dug on sloping grounds

They collect water from the rain which seeps into the ground, improving the quality of the soil and recharging the groundwater

On the surface, it meets the villages' everyday needs. A single water body can store up to 64,000 litre of water

However, the work often happens in isolation, with a few villages benefiting and some hearing about it through word-of-mouth while many others still removed the means to access and implement this traditional knowledge. A few years prior, there was some attempt to build chal-khals in Patara under MGNREGA but Sartama

Devi said they were done without much thought and the community didn't know how to maintain them. This time, the 100 or so women who had joined the initiative relied on hereditary knowledge to locate and revive old chal-khals that had fallen into disuse as well as scientifically evaluate ideal locations for new ones.

"For three years, the women from Patara relentlessly worked towards water conservation. Initially, all of our five chal-khals turned barren since we didn't know how to maintain them." They need to be routinely rid of the silt, mud and rocks that accumulate in the pits but due to lack of collectivism people stopped doing these traditional tasks and were dependent on the administration, she rued. "But we revived them and added new ones to the lot," Devi said. At Patara, there are now 11 chal-khals that have collected and stored an estimated seven lakh litres of water over the past three years, helped along by the unseasonal rains.

No more custody of jumbos: Madras HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 25: In a significant order, the Madras High Court has ruled that no more elephants can be captured and put under custody, both by the government and private persons.

The state should ensure that no further elephant is taken into captivity except for the purpose of treatment and no private person may capture any pachyderm or keep the same except those already existing, the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice PD Audikesavalu said, while passing further interim orders on a batch of PILs Friday.

Earlier, the state submitted there were 32 elephants in temples in the state and another 31 in private custody, in addition to the 64 under the Forest department.

According to Elsa Foundation, which has been permitted to intervene in the present proceedings, the State had furnished details of 86 captive elephants to the

Earlier, the state had submitted there were 32 elephants in temples in the state and another 31 in private custody, in addition to the 64 under the Forest department

Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2019, excluding those with the Forest department.

The bench noted that the figures indicated in court Friday revealed at least 23 elephants are no longer available between 2019 and now.

"Hence, the State should produce the statements, if any, furnished to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests over the last five years regarding the number of elephants and other material connected to the same," the bench said and posted the matter for further hearing October 21.



To those young friends who did not clear the UPSC examination, I would like to say- you are very talented individuals. There are more attempts waiting. At the same time, India is full of diverse opportunities waiting to be explored. Best wishes in whatever you decide to do

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

The BJP government has proved that it does not want the census of the OBC by rejecting the long-standing demand for enumeration of the backward castes as it does not want to give them their rights in proportion to their population.

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

The height of hypocrisy of pseudo secularists is that the Shiv Sena gets a communal stamp when it remains with the BJP and gets a certificate of secularism when it goes with the Congress

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Major reshuffle in Delhi Police

New Delhi: In a major reshuffle, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal Saturday transferred 40 senior Delhi Police officers, including 11 Special Commissioners and 28 DCPs and additional DCPs, an official order said. The move comes a day after a dramatic shootout took place inside a courtroom in Rohini court which left three people, including gangster Jitender Gogi, dead. Those transferred include 11 Special Commissioners of Police, one Additional Commissioner of Police and 28 DCPs and additional DCPs, the order said.

Maha to reopen cinemas, theatres

Mumbai: Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Friday announced that all cinemas and theatres in the state will be reopened from October 22 in full compliance with health norms, 18 months after the box-offices were shut in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and series of lockdowns from March 2020. The move came a day after the government permitted the reopening of most schools in the state from October 4 and all places of worship from October 7, with restrictions and protocols, as the Covid-19 situation appears to be easing in the state.

6 REET candidates die in road mishap

Jaipur: Six candidates of the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teacher (REET) test were killed in a road accident when the van they were travelling in collided with a truck on NH-12 Saturday. Five others were injured in the collision near Chaksu in Jaipur district. All 11 were in the van which was on its way to the examination centre.

Ex-Hizb militant arrested in J&K

Jammu: A former terrorist of Hizbul Mujahideen was arrested after a long hunt of 19 years in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Saturday. Dulla alias "Jameel", a resident of Arnas village in Reasi, was the third former militant turned absconder arrested by police in Kishtwar in the past 11 days, they said. A police spokesman said a special police party, on specific information, carried out raids at various suspected locations and arrested Dulla who was presently putting up at Kundwar village in Chatroo area.



The formidable fight India has put up against the pandemic is a testimony to the resilience of our people in general and the selfless service rendered by all the doctors, healthcare personnel and other frontline workers in particular

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

DIGITAL DE-ADDICTION CENTRES FOR CHILDREN

In a major child-friendly initiative, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Saturday announced setting up of 'digital de-addiction centres' in the state to bring children addicted to online games into the mainstream society



ROHINI COURTROOM SHOOTOUT, ASSAM POLICE FIRING

Cong questions Shah's silence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 25: The Congress Saturday questioned the silence of Home Minister Amit Shah on the open shootout inside a courtroom in the national capital and also the Assam firing incident.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh also asked whether Shah does not have the time to resolve the issue in Assam.

The country's law and order situation is worsening, with firing taking place inside a courtroom in the national capital, killing people. There are 10-20 rounds of firing inside a courtroom and where is the home minister. Where is his statement, he asked.

Who is responsible for this, Vallabh said, wondering whether the home minister is only supposed to give speeches.

When the law and order situation is so precarious and the country's home minister is silent and gives no statement or takes action, then it is an indication of a 'majboor' (helpless) government and not a strong government. The people of India have never tolerated 'majboor' (helpless) people, he told reporters. Vallabh said the BJP leadership made several tall promises ahead of Assam elections and asked where those promises are now.

He said never in the country's history has one police force fired upon the police force of another state and killed cops and the home minister is still silent, apparently referring to the Assam-Mizoram border row during which seven people



People take part in a protest demonstration against Assam government over Thursday's violence in an eviction drive in Assam, in Kolkata, Saturday PTI PHOTO

Poison of hatred being spread: Rahul

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday said freedom does not mean anything when it is not for everyone and asked what 'Amrit Mahotsav' meant when the "poison of hatred" is being spread in the country. His remarks come in the wake of clashes between police and alleged encroachers during an eviction drive in Assam's Darrang district Thursday that left two persons dead and 20 injured. A shocking video showing a man slinging a camera and hitting an

apparently dead person with a bullet wound on his chest also surfaced after the incident. The man was later arrested and a judicial probe has been ordered into the incident. "When the poison of hatred is being spread in the country then what is 'Amrit Mahotsav'? What does freedom mean if it is not for everyone," Gandhi asked in a tweet in Hindi, using the hashtag 'Assam'. Congress leaders have met Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi urging him to stop the eviction

ference on cooperatives.

Commenting on the Assam situation, the Congress spokesperson questioned why the home minister was not giving any statement when leaders of opposition, the principal opposition party leaders are asking that the central government should interfere.

Have you seen any statement by the home minister on that In the past also we had seen that a state police of one state is fighting against the state police of another state What is going on Everybody is silent; nobody is making any comment on that, what is the reason for these things, he asked.

An eviction drive in Gorukhuti

drive at Sipajhar in Darrang till a proper rehabilitation package is announced. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday asserted that discussions were held for over four months before an eviction drive was launched to clear the land at Gorukhuti village in Darrang district where police firing claimed two lives during the exercise. A 12-hour bandh called by various organisations to protest against the incident affected normal life in Darrang district Friday.

He does not have time to resolve this matter: Where is the country's home minister, has he also gone to America, Vallabh asked, alleging that he has come to know from the media that he is attending a con-

village in Assam's Darrang district Thursday turned ugly when clashes broke out between police and alleged encroachers resulting in the death of two persons and injuries to 20.

DOUSING DISSENT



Police personnel use water cannon on the members of Chandigarh Pradesh Congress Committee, during a dharma and protest against anti-people policies in Chandigarh, Saturday PTI PHOTO

Centre disallowed Rome visit out of jealousy: Mamata

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 25: Hours after the union ministry of external affairs disallowed Mamata Banerjee to go to Rome to attend a programme organised by a non-governmental organisation, the chief minister came down heavily on the central government saying that she was stopped only out of 'jealousy'.

The controversy cropped up after the state government received a letter from the ministry of external affairs mentioning that the

chief minister has been invited to an event in Rome which, the letter said was, "not conducive of participation for a state chief minister". The event is scheduled to take place in Rome October 6 and 7.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was invited to Rome by the Community of Sant' Egidio - a Catholic association dedicated to social service - to participate in the international event in Rome, the World Meeting for Peace "Peoples as Brothers, Future Earth", 6 and 7 October this year where Pope

The Prime Minister can go abroad. Why shall I be disallowed to attend a function abroad? I was stopped only out of jealousy

MAMATA BANERJEE | CM, WEST BENGAL

Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are likely to be present.

Mamata accepted the invitation. It was decided that she would visit

Rome after the by-election in Bhabanipur. Mamata was also preparing to go to Rome but this sudden letter from the central government has changed everything.

Previously the chief minister was also disallowed to go to Chicago where she was supposed to address a gathering at Belur Math, the global headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission, to mark 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic speech at the Parliament of Religion, Chicago.

Kanhaiya Kumar, Jignesh Mevani to join Cong Sept 28

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 25: Former JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar along with independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani will join Congress September 28, sources close to the CPI leader and Mevani have confirmed.

The Congress has decided to make it a high profile induction with presence of senior leader Rahul Gandhi during the joining of both the leaders. The day coincides with the birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

While both the leaders have switched off their cell phones and only phones of those close to them are working.

Both the leaders had met Rahul Gandhi recently and sources say that talks have been finalised between these leaders and the Congress party. The Congress wants to rope in these two leaders ahead of assembly polls and particularly Mevani before Gujarat polls for their oratory and crowd pulling

capabilities. Mevani is an independent MLA in Gujarat and has won election with the support of the Congress. The trio of Alpesh Thakor, Hardik Patel and Mevani was with the Congress in 2017 elections when Congress did put up a good show but could not win elections and now Congress wants to rope in Mevani ahead of polls while Alpesh has joined the BJP.

Sources in the Congress say that he has been meeting Rahul Gandhi in the past and the offer to join the party has been pending since the last Lok Sabha polls. Sources also said that during the talks in the past, Kanhaiya Kumar had emphasised on having his own team to work in Bihar in order to start a movement and then gradually take it to the national level. The Congress in Bihar in the recent Assembly polls was almost routed. It could manage to win just 19 seats out of 70 seats it contested in alliance with the RJD and its performance was considered one of the reasons for the defeat of the grand alliance.



PM to bring back 157 antiquities handed over by US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will bring home 157 artefacts and antiquities, which were handed over to India by the US during his visit, with both he and President Joe Biden expressing commitment to strengthening efforts to combat theft, illicit trade and trafficking of cultural objects.

While nearly half of the artefacts (71) are cultural, the other half consists of figurines related to Hinduism (60), Buddhism (16) and Jainism (9), an official statement said Saturday.

Modi conveyed his deep appreciation for the repatriation of antiq-

uities to India by the United States. The list of 157 artefacts includes a diverse set of items ranging from the one-and-a-half metre bas relief panel of Revanta in sandstone of the 10th CE to the 8.5 cm tall, exquisite bronze Nataraja from the 12th CE.

This continues the efforts by the Modi government to bring back India's antiquities and artefacts from across the world, it said.

Government sources said that only 13 antiquities were retrieved by India from different countries between 1976 and 2013.

However, between 2014, when Modi came to power, and 2021, over 200 antiquities have either returned or are in the process of



being returned, they added.

Referring to the items handed over to India by the US during Modi's ongoing trip, the official statement said they largely belong to the period of 11th CE to 14th CE as well as historic antiquities such as the copper anthropomorphic object of 2000 BC or the terracotta vase from the 2nd CE. Some 45 antiquities belong to Before Common Era, it said.

Their make spreads across metal, stone and terracotta, the statement said. The bronze collection primarily contains ornate figurines of the well-known postures of Lakshmi Narayana, Buddha, Vishnu, Siva Parvathi and the 24

Jain Tirthankaras and the less common Kankalamurti, Brahmi and Nandikesa besides other unnamed deities and divine figures.

The statement noted that the motifs include religious sculptures from Hinduism- three headed Brahma, chariot driving Surya, Vishnu and his consorts, Siva as Dakshinamurti and dancing Ganesha among others, Buddhism- standing Buddha, Bodhisattva Majushri, Tara, and Jainism- Jain Tirthankara, Padmasana Tirthankara, Jaina Choubisi, as well as secular motifs, including amorphous couple in Samabhanga and chowri-bearer female playing drum among others.

international

of the day quote

The negotiations to revive the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), should be "productive and fruitful"

HOSSEIN AMIR ABDOLLAHAN | IRANIAN FM

We will continue the development and stability. All the Libyans want to live in peace, and we have the means to enable us to live in dignity, freedom and peace

ABDUL HAMID DIBEIH | LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER

While humanity has been faced with immeasurable hardships, the Tokyo 2020 Games proved to be a symbol of global unity among people around the world

YOSHIHIDE SUGA | JAPAN PM

SHORT TAKES

Syrian dies

Beirut: A Syrian man has died after swallowing gasoline he was siphoning out of his vehicle's tank with a plastic tube, Lebanon's national news agency reported Saturday. Lebanon is witnessing a paralyzing fuel shortage that has driven the public to hoard gasoline and resort to black-market vendors, while many businesses have been forced to shut down. A diesel shortage has also caused extended blackouts, in a country dependent on private generators. People queuing for several kilometers (miles) to fill up their tanks are a daily occurrence at gas stations across the country. The long lines have often descended into chaos, and sometimes violence.

Bodies found

Panama City: Nine bodies of suspected migrants have been found near a remote community in the Panamanian jungle close to the border with Colombia, local prosecutors said Friday. The bodies, including one child, were found near the Tuqueza and Canaán Membrillo rivers in the Emberá Wounaan indigenous region, according to the Darien province prosecutor's office. Chief prosecutor Julio Vergara said he believes they may be immigrants because a Haitian woman told authorities that on the Tuqueza river heavy rains had produced high waters that had swept away about nine people, who had remained missing.

Icelanders vote

Reykjavik (Iceland): Icelanders were voting Saturday in a general election dominated by climate change, with an unprecedented number of political parties likely to win parliamentary seats. Polls suggest there won't be an outright winner, triggering complex negotiations to build a coalition government. A record nine parties could cross the 5 per cent threshold needed to qualify for seats in Iceland's parliament, the Althing. Upstart parties include the Socialist Party, which is promising to shorten the workweek and nationalize Iceland's fishing industry.

One hurt

Kabul: A Taliban official says a roadside bomb has hit a Taliban car in the capital of eastern Nangarhar province wounding at least one person. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing Saturday. The Islamic State group affiliate, which is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan, has said it was behind similar attacks in Jalalabad last week that killed 12 people.

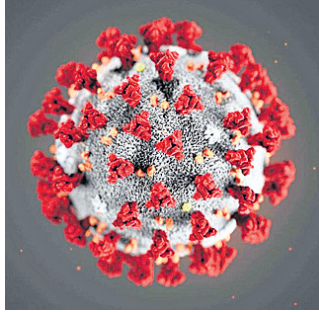


The informal Quad grouping of four democratic countries of Australia, India, Japan and the US is there to make the region stronger, more prosperous, and more stable

SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

STUDY INFO

Adults over 40 years of age with type 1 diabetes, if suffered from Covid-19 are seven times more likely to be hospitalised in comparison to children with same respiratory problem, according to a study



India slams Pak at UNGA

Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue have gained no traction from the international community and the Member States, who maintain that Kashmir is a bilateral matter between the two countries



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 25: Pakistan, where terrorists enjoy free pass, is an "arsonist" disguising itself as a "fire-fighter", and the entire world has suffered because of its policies as the country nurtures terrorists in its backyard, India has said in a blistering retort after Prime Minister Imran Khan raked up the issue of Kashmir in his address to the UN General Assembly. "We exercise our Right of Reply to one more attempt by the leader of Pakistan to tarnish the image of this august Forum by bringing in matters internal to my country, and going so far as to spew falsehoods on the world stage," First Secretary Sneha Dubey said in the UN General Assembly on Friday. "While such statements deserve our collective contempt and sympathy for the mindset of the person who utters falsehood repeatedly, I am taking the floor to set the record straight," the young Indian diplomat said, slamming the Pakistani leader for raking up the Kashmir issue in his video address to the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. "We keep hearing that Pakistan

is a 'victim of terrorism'. This is the country which is an arsonist disguising itself as a fire-fighter. Pakistan nurtures terrorists in their backyard in the hope that they will only harm their neighbours. Our region, and in fact the entire world, has suffered because of their policies. On the other hand, they are trying to cover up sectarian violence in their country as acts of terror," Dubey said.

Khan, in his nearly 25-minute address, had spoken about the August 5, 2019 decision of the Indian government on the abrogation of Article 370 as well as the death of pro-Pakistan separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

In the Right of Reply, Dubey strongly reiterated that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh "were, are and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India. This includes the areas that are under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. We call upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation."

Khan and other Pakistani leaders and diplomats have consistently raked up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and other in-

ternal matters of India in their addresses to the UN General Assembly and other forums of the world organisation.

Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue have gained no traction from the international community and the Member States, who maintain that Kashmir is a bilateral matter between the two countries.

Dubey said it is regrettable that this is not the first time the leader of Pakistan has "misused" platforms provided by the UN to "propagate false and malicious propaganda against my country, and seeking in vain to divert the world's attention from the sad state of his country where terrorists enjoy free pass while the lives of ordinary people, especially those belonging to the minority communities, are turned upside down."

With the international community marking this month the solemn occasion of the 20th anniversary of the "dastardly" 9/11 terror attacks, Dubey said the world has not forgotten that the "mastermind behind that dastardly event, Osama Bin Laden, got shelter in Pakistan. Even today, Pakistan leadership glorify him as a 'martyr'."

Taliban hang 4 bodies in Herat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 25: The Taliban reportedly hung the dead bodies of four alleged kidnappers in public in the western city of Herat in an apparent warning, the BBC reported.

The gruesome display came a day after a notorious Taliban official warned that extreme punishments such as execution and amputation would resume. The men were killed in a gun battle after allegedly kidnapping a businessman and his son, a local official said.

The deputy governor for Herat, Maulwai Shair Ahmad Emar, was quoted by the local media as saying that Taliban fighters had tracked the alleged kidnappers down and killed all of them in a firefight, the report said.

"We hanged their dead bodies on the Herat squares as a warning to the other kidnappers," the official was quoted as saying.



Since assuming power in Afghanistan on August 15, the Taliban have been promising a milder form of rule than in their previous tenure. But there have already been numerous reports of human rights abuses carried out across the country.

The Taliban's notorious former head of religious police, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, now in charge of prisons, said on Thursday that extreme punishments such as execution and amputation would resume in Afghanistan as they are "necessary for security".

US states to celebrate Oct as Hindu Heritage Month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Houston, Sept 25: Several US states, including Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts, have proclaimed October as the Hindu Heritage Month, noting that Hinduism has "contributed greatly" to America through its unique history and heritage.



The proclamations came after various Hindu organisations in the US announced the addition of another major festival, an entire month of festivals, in October as the Hindu Heritage Month. The respective declarations issued recently from the office of

the governors of various states, congressmen and Senators noted, "Communities of the faith have long served as beacons of hope, sharing their beliefs and bettering their communities through service; improving and inspiring the lives of thousands of followers around the world. Hinduism has contributed greatly to our state and nation through its unique history and heritage."

The Hindu groups in America are now campaigning and striving hard for the declaration of "Hindu Heritage Month" formally by the US government.

The organisers said they want President Joe Biden to formally declare by an Executive Order the month of October as the Hindu Heritage Month.

"Keeping in with aspirations of the three million strong Hindu-American community and in order to continue to harbour and maintain good relations with India, the motherland of millions of Hindu-Americans, we urge you (the president) to formally declare by an Executive Order the month of October as the Hindu Heritage Month," they said.



A Somali soldier secures the area after a car bomb attack at a Presidential Palace checkpoint in Mogadishu, Somalia, Saturday. Police said a vehicle laden with explosives rammed into cars and trucks at a checkpoint leading to the entrance of the Presidential Palace, killing at least eight people

AP/PTI PHOTO

STRICT VIGIL

China frees Canadians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 25: Two Canadians detained in China on spying charges were released from prison and flown out of the country on Friday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, just after a top executive of Chinese communications giant Huawei Technologies reached a deal with the US Justice Department over fraud charges and fled to China.

The frenetic chain of events involving the global powers brought an abrupt end to legal and geopolitical wrangling that for the past three years has roiled relations between Washington, Beijing and Ottawa.

The three-way deal enabled China and Canada to each bring home their own detained citizens while the US wrapped up a criminal case against a prominent tech executive that for months had been mired in an extradition fight.

The first activity came Friday afternoon when Meng Wanzhou, 49, Huawei's chief finance officer and the daughter of the company's founder, reached an agreement with federal prosecutors that called for fraud charges against her to be dismissed next year and allowed for her to return to China immediately.

As part of the deal, known as a deferred prosecution agreement, she accepted responsibility for misrepresenting the company's business dealings in Iran. About an hour after Meng's plane left Canada for China, Trudeau revealed that Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor were also on their way home.

The men were arrested in China in December 2018, shortly after Canada arrested Meng on a US extradition request. Many countries labelled China's action "hostage politics." "These two men have been through an unbelievably difficult ordeal. For the past 1,000 days, they have shown strength, perseverance and grace and we are all inspired by that," Trudeau said.

News of Meng's pending return was a top item on the Chinese internet and on state broadcaster CCTV's midday news report, with no mention made of the release of Kovrig and Spavor.

Over 1,600 firefighters battle new blaze in California

At least 25 structures have been destroyed by the wildfire, which started some 19 km north of Redding city on Wednesday evening and triggered multiple mandatory evacuation orders, reports Xinhua news agency

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles, Sept 25: Over 1,600 firefighters are battling a new fast-moving wildfire that has grown to over 6,800 acres in northern California, authorities said Saturday.

A total of 1,663 firefighters have been assigned to battle the wildfire, dubbed Fawn Fire, said Captain Chris Harvey of the Sacramento

Fire Department, who was serving as a public information officer for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) on the incident.

At least 25 structures have been destroyed by the wildfire, which started some 19 km north of Redding city on Wednesday evening and triggered multiple mandatory evacuation orders, reports Xinhua news agency.

Around 9,000 structures remain threatened by the wildfire, which was only 10 per cent contained, said Harvey. Harvey said that 169 engines, 45 dozers and 29 water tenders were also

sent there to help contain the wildfire.

Officials cautioned local residents to leave if fire activity increases. The wildfire has forced over 4,000 residents to evacuate

from Shasta County in northern California.

Multiple massive wildfires are currently burning across the US state, Dixie Fire, which started on July 13 and now the largest wildfire in the country, has burned 963,276 acres with 94 per cent contained.

Another explosive wildfire, now burning in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in central California, has engulfed more than 40,000 acres with zero containment to date. Statewide, more than 9,400 firefighters remain on the frontlines of 12 major wildfires in California as of Saturday, according to Cal Fire. It added that 7,641 wildfires have burned more than 2.38 million acres in the state so far this year.



The government has made Aadhaar authentication mandatory for a taxpayer to be able to claim refunds. The move will help in reducing cases of fraudulent refunds as only the verified taxpayers will obtain the refunds now

ABHISHEK JAIN | TAX PARTNER, EY

The NBWL Standing Committee recommended five road proposals under the PMGSY in order to promote first-time connectivity to villages in Jammu & Kashmir

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

At a time when climate change is increasingly posing a major threat to human life across the globe, cultivating seaweed, which is one of the natural methods to mitigate the global crisis, would help boost the economy

JATINDRA NATH SWAIN | FISHERIES UNION SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Microsoft launches Future Ready Talent

Bhubaneswar: In line with the Skill India vision, Microsoft launched the Future Ready Talent program, bringing together a strategic group of partners to empower India's youth with technology skills for employability. A collaborative internship program for students in their second year of college and upwards, the initiative aims to impact over 1.5 lakh higher education students who will join the workforce between the years of 2022-2024.

Sony launches Alpha ZV-E10

Bhubaneswar: Sony India announced a compact and portable mirror less camera the new Alpha ZV-E10. The new camera combines advanced imaging technology with extensive usability and a custom-built feature set that is optimized for creators. At its core, the Alpha ZV-E10 features a 24.2-megapixel, APS-C Exmor CMOS sensor and BIONZ X image processing engine to produce high-quality imagery with high-sensitivity and detailed texture depiction.

CBDT extends SHR for FY21

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes, through a notification has extended the applicability of Safe Harbour Rules (SHR) to 2020-21. As per the notification, the rates under SHR applicable from 2016-17 to 2018-19, and later extended to 2019-20, will continue to apply for 2020-21 as well. Nangia & Co LLP, Partner-Transfer Pricing, Nitin Narang said like last year, this year again, the rates have been prescribed for one year only, instead of 3-year and 5-year period earlier.



India has faced challenging times during the pandemic but is now on the path of recovery and rapid growth
PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

India, US to reconvene trade policy forum before year-end

PM Modi and US President Joe Biden discussed how the US and India will work together to set sustainable and transparent rules of the road that will lift economies throughout the Indo-Pacific

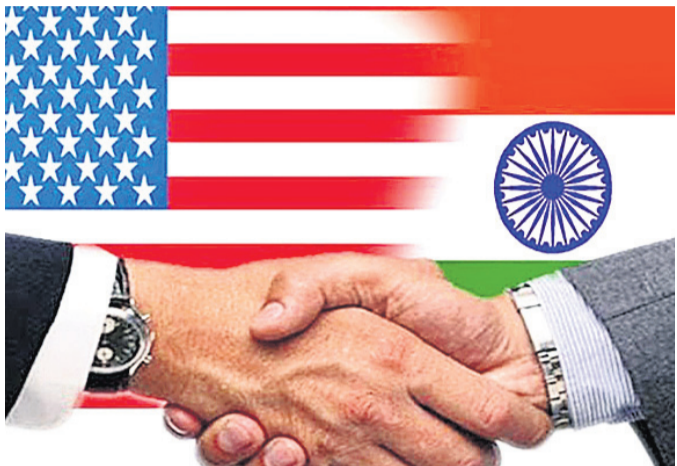
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 25: India and the US are looking "forward" to reconvening the 'India-US Trade Policy Forum' before the end of 2021 with an aim to enhance the bilateral relationship by addressing trade concerns, said an official joint statement.

US President Joe Biden welcomed India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the White House Friday for their first in-person Leaders' engagement, renewing their close relationship and charting a new course to advance the partnership between the world's largest democracies.

"They looked forward to reconvening the India-US Trade Policy Forum before the end of 2021, to enhance the bilateral trade relationship by addressing trade concerns, identifying specific areas for increased engagement and developing an ambitious, shared vision for the future of the trade relationship," said US-India Joint Leaders' statement issued after the meeting.

It further said the two leaders also looked forward to convening the US-India CEO Forum and the Commercial Dialogue in early 2022, leveraging the talents of the private sector. "The leaders noted ongoing negotiations on an Investment Incentive Agreement that facilitates investment in development projects and committed to an early



The two leaders welcomed increased collaboration through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the upcoming Indo-Pacific Business Forum

The leaders highlighted the importance of resilient and secure supply chains between the two countries

They also recognised the importance of critical and emerging technologies in delivering economic growth and achieving strategic priorities

conclusion," it added.

"The leaders noted that the movement of highly skilled professionals, students, investors and business travellers between their countries enhances their economic and technological partnership," the statement said. The leaders highlighted the importance of resilient and secure supply chains between the two countries, and welcomed the involvement of the private sector in both countries in building stronger linkages in critical sectors

such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, semiconductors, and information technology.

They also recognised the importance of critical and emerging technologies in delivering economic growth and achieving strategic priorities. They looked forward to reviving the High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) in early 2022, with the objective of accelerating high technology commerce in key areas, the joint statement said.

Import duty norm relaxed to improve containers vacancy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 25: The Centre has relaxed import duty norm on empty export cargo containers to improve their availability. At present, keeping containers beyond a period of six months attracts an import duty.

However, an official communique, cited that the policy has been reported to sometimes create perverse incentive among shipping lines to export empty containers to evade duty payment on containers which are lying empty.

The policy was designed to discourage long dwell time of containers and to promote faster turnaround

As per the communique, the problem was brought out in stakeholder consultations held by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Working on one of the action tracks identified by the government to ease the problem, the CBIC has issued a guidance to field offices



to extend this period by three months where the container is being taken out of the country in laden condition provided the 6 month period falls before the end of FY22. Extension is to be sought by the concerned importer.

Accordingly, the move is expected to reduce the export of empty containers from the country on ground of imposition of import duty, thus, increasing the availability of containers for the trade.

Lately, disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in high shipping freight rates and container shortages globally.

MCL Directors thrust to boost coal supply

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: The directors of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a leading subsidiary of Coal India Limited, Saturday visited operational teams involved in coal mining and dispatch in coalfields, to ensure providing support to maximise coal supply to the consumers.

OP Singh, Director of Technical/Operations, KR Vasudevan, Director of Finance and Keshav Rao, Director of Personnel visited various units and projects of company in Talcher coalfields. Interacting with field teams, the directors appreciated their contribution in maintaining a double digit growth of company in coal production and dispatch



during previous year.

MCL has produced 68.16 million tonne coal as on date, registering 10.68% growth over last year, and

supplied 78.03 million tonne to the consumers, recording a growth of 20% during same period last fiscal. Having produced 148 million

IT dept finds ₹300 cr black money

The IT officials carried out their search and seizure operation at 35 premises Sept 23

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 25: The Income Tax (IT) Department has detected Rs 300 crore of undisclosed income and seized Rs 9 crore unaccounted cash during it search and seizure operation on two private syndicate financing groups here.

The evidence found in the premises of the financiers and their as-



sociates revealed that these groups have lent to various big corporate houses and businesses in Tamil Nadu, a substantial portion of which is in cash, the IT Department said Saturday.

During the search, it was detected that they are charging high rate of interest, a part of which is not offered to tax.

The modus operandi adopted by the groups revealed that most of the interest payments by borrowers are received in dummy bank accounts and the same has not been disclosed for tax purposes.

Further, the unaccounted monies are disguised and brought into the books of account of the groups as unsecured loans, sundry creditors and others.

Other evidence found during the course of the search revealed numerous undisclosed property investments and other income suppression by these persons, the IT Department said.



FLIPKART SHIFTS TBBD DATES TO OCT 3-10

The competition in the Indian e-commerce space is set to heat up further as Walmart-owned Flipkart is advancing 'The Big Billion Days' (TBBD) sale to start from October 3, a day before rival Amazon kicks off its festive sale. Tuesday, Flipkart had announced that the eighth edition of TBBD will be held from October 7-12 this year

Dalmia Cement starts production of Line 2 at KCMW

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 25: Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, a leading Indian cement, started commercial production of Line 2, having a capacity of 2.25 million tonne at its Kapilas Cement Manufacturing Works(KCMW) Unit, near Cuttack.

The company has added this additional capacity with an investment of Rs 325 crore. With this addition, the company's overall capacity at the plant has now gone up to 3.95 million tonne per annum.

The Company's MD & CEO Mahendra Singhi said, "We are happy to announce that DCBL has commenced commercial production of Line 2 at our KCW plant. With this, we are a step closer to our goal of taking our capacity from 30.75 million tonne to 48.5 million tonne by FY'24. Odisha is an important market for us and the commercial production will enable us to cater to the demand for cement from both rural and urban centers in the region."

"Keeping in mind our philosophy of 'Clean and Green is sustainable', we have deployed the latest machinery and technology at the KCMW unit and will be aiming to produce 100% blended cement. This step is also in line with our commitment to become carbon negative by 2040," he added.

Ram Awtar Sharma, Unit Head of KCMW, said, "This capacity addition will enable us to ensure sufficient and timely supplies thereby adding to efficiencies of the supply chain."

Last month, Dalmia Bharat Limited had unveiled a long-term plan to grow its cement capacity in the country. It plans to raise its cement manufacturing capacity to 110-130 million tonnes per annum by 2031.

Mass vaccinations to help kick-start tourism sector



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 25: With the help of large-scale vaccination programmes and new norms rolling out, the tourism sector is inching its way back to recovery, and restart of tourism will help kick-start recovery and growth, the Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and Tourism Industry said Saturday.

It is also essential that the benefits this will bring are enjoyed widely and fairly, the industry body said in a statement.

The travel sector, especially domestic travel, appears to be heading for a comeback. Indian travellers are looking for quick getaways through road trips, weekend breaks and staycations that offer local stay experiences, Airbnb India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan General Manager, Amanpreet Bajaj said.

Travellers are also becoming increasingly aware of sustainable

travel and are making environment-friendly choices when travelling, he added.

"The pandemic has helped promote environmental awareness amongst travellers and today, it's encouraging to see people actively seeking sustainable travel choices," said MakeMyTrip Co-Founder & Group CEO Rajesh Magow.

In a similar vein, EaseMyTrip CEO and Co-Founder Nishant Pitti said, "We have noticed that Indian travellers have started making more sustainable travel decisions as the pandemic has made everyone think about the kind of impact they are creating while travelling."

The industry travel booking trends suggest that in a year from now we will be witnessing the best phase for the travel sector: The demand we are witnessing is fairly distributed and holiday patterns have changed tremendously, OYO India & South-East Asia CEO Rohit Kapoor said.

tonne in the last financial year 2020-21, company has a target to produce 163 million tonne coal and dispatch 182 million tonne to consumers during the current fiscal.

Carrying forward the vision of Sustainable Mining, MCL is implementing nine 'First Mile Connectivity' projects to provide pollution-free state-of-the-art rake loading system at a total expenditure of Rs 3,600 crore. This will also generate a dispatch capacity of 126 million tonne per year, expected to be achieved by year 2024.

MCL was the first coal company to introduce environment-friendly surface mining technology in 1999. The biggest fleet of 66 surface miners is contributing 95 per cent to the total coal production of the company.

New cooperative policy soon : Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 25: Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Centre will soon come out with a new cooperative policy and work in tandem with states to strengthen the co-operative movement.

Shah also announced that the number of primary agriculture co-operatives (PACs) will be increased to 3 lakh in the next five years. At present, there are about 65,000 PACs. He was speaking at the first Sehkarita Sammelan or National Cooperative Conference here. The Ministry of Cooperation was formed in July this year.

Shah said there could be a legal response to it, but he does not want to get into this argument. The Centre, he stressed, will cooperate with states and there will be no friction.

"We will work with all states to take forward the cooperative movement," he said, and added the Ministry of Cooperation has been formed to strengthen and modernise the sector. Stressing that the cooperative movement was more relevant today than ever, Shah said co-operatives can contribute a lot in the development of the country.

According to him, the cooperatives will play a crucial part in making India a \$5 trillion economy. Referring to the problems being faced by cooperatives on taxation front and other issues, Shah said he was aware of the concerns and assured that there would be no injustice towards them.

Semiconductor shortage to further impact PV sales in Sept

THE ELECTRONIC COMPONENT IS USED IN VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS WHICH PLAY A CRITICAL PART IN THE PRODUCTION OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES. BESIDES, THEY ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ALL KINDS OF SENSORS AND CONTROLS IN ANY VEHICLE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 25: Semiconductor supply shortage is expected to further impact passenger vehicles (PVs) sale volumes in September. Lately, a global supply chain shortage of semiconductors have badly impacted automobile production.

At present, these shortages have forced several Original equipment manufacturer (OEMs) to slow down production, thus, further extending the waiting periods of popular, feature-rich and high-end models. According to India Ratings and

Research (Ind-Ra) report, the semiconductor shortage will further impact PV volumes in September. Furthermore, it said that '2W' volumes may remain tepid in September, although sequential recovery is expected to continue in 2HFY22, aided by demand coming from the reopening of educational institutes and offices.

Last month, improvement in consumer sentiments on the back of Onam-led festive demand and a continued decline in daily Covid cases led to a sequential rise in domestic auto sales volumes in August.



Accordingly, the report cited that the growth was constrained by supply chain issues especially

shortage of semi-conductor chips. Sales volumes were 11 per cent lower YoY, mainly driven by a de-

cline in the '2W' segment. Domestic '3W' witnessed 60 per cent YoY sales growth due to the lower base, although volumes were 40 per cent lower than August 2019's, the report said.

The growth trend in exports volumes moderated in August 2021 due to the higher base in August 2020. Still, volumes were higher than the corresponding period in FY20, for the third consecutive month, indicating a recovery to pre-covid levels.

Domestic PV demand continued its shift towards utility vehi-

cles (UVs) with 38 per cent YoY sales growth; the segment accounted for 49 per cent of the domestic PV sales. The segment's share in PVs is likely to decline further in September, as Maruti Suzuki India Limited has announced around 60 per cent lower than normal production for the month.

Domestic original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) continue to calibrate their production as the global auto industry remains plagued by the semi-conductor chips shortage, worsened by lockdowns in east Asia.

Capitals subdue Royals



Anrich Nortje reacts after dismissing a Royals batter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sep 25: Delhi Capitals bowlers made up for the team's underwhelming display with the bat to hand Rajasthan Royals a 33-run defeat in their Indian Premier League match, here Saturday.

The Capitals bowling unit restricted the Royals to 121/6 after the team put on board 154/6 on the back of Shreyas Iyer's 43 and a late flourish provided by Shimron Hetmyer, who scored 28 runs off 16 balls.

Rajasthan skipper Sanju Samson looked in sublime touch, scoring an unbeaten 70 (53b, 8x4, 1x6), but with wickets tumbling at regular

intervals from the other end, the Royals innings failed to get the momentum it needed.

South African pacer Anrich Nortje (2/18) led the Delhi bowlers who performed as a cohesive unit. Avesh Khan (1/29), Kagiso Rabada (1/26), Axar Patel (1/27), Ravichandran Ashwin (1/20) snapped a wicket each.

With the win the Capitals returned to the top of the table while the Royals moved down to the sixth spot.

Defending a modest total, pacers Khan and Nortje provided the electric start that the Capitals needed, sending back both openers - Liam Livingstone (1) and Yashasvi

Jaiswal (5) in the first two overs.

Pant made a bowling change by bringing in Ashwin and the senior Indian spinner got rid of the dangerous David Miller (7) to leave the Royals tottering at 17/3.

With the required run rate increasing, Rajasthan needed 107 runs in the last 10 over: Samson and young Mahipal Lomror (19) seemed to be reviving the innings but the ever-reliant Rabada nipped the partnership in the bud.

Riyan Parag (2) and Rahul Tewatia (9) couldn't provide a valuable contribution either: Samson was going strong, hitting boundaries at will but the Delhi bowlers came

back strongly.

Earlier, the Royals pacers - led by Mustafizur Rahman (2/22), Chetan Sakariya (2/33) and Kartik Tyagi (1/40) - shared five wickets while spin all-rounder Rahul Tewatia (1/17) dismissed one batsman.

Tyagi, the star of the match against Punjab Kings, drew first blood with his very first delivery in the fourth over, cleaning up Orange Cap holder Shikhar Dhawan (8).

The Delhi opener looked to play a good length delivery but the ball rolled back to hit the timber: Prithvi Shaw (10) soon followed his opening partner back to the dugout, slicing the ball off Sakariya to Liam Livingstone at mid-off.

At the end of the powerplay, the Capitals were precariously placed at 36 runs for the loss of two wickets. With spin introduced in the seventh over Iyer and skipper Rishabh Pant (24) started to repair the damage caused by the loss of the openers.

The duo, who stitched a 62-run partnership, kept the scoreboard ticking, while also hitting the occasional boundaries at the huge Sheikh Zayed Stadium. The stylish Iyer then hit the first maximum of the match over long off in the 10th over off left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (0/34).

As the two Delhi batters found their footing, Rahman was brought back into the attack and the move immediately paid dividends as Pant, looking to hook the ball away, ended up getting an under edge.

Samson then showed his skills with gloves to stump Iyer, who failed to stretch his back foot inside the crease as wicket continued to tumble at regular intervals.

Hetmyer, who was striking the ball well, then upped the ante, hitting three boundaries off Tyagi to plunder 16 runs in the 16th over.

BRIEF SCORES: DC 154/6 (Shreyas Iyer 43, Shimron Hetmyer 28, Rishabh Pant 24; Mustafizur Rahman 2/22, Chetan Sakariya 2/33) beat RR 121/6 (Sanju Samson 70 n o; Anrich Nortje 2/18, R Ashwin 1/20) by 33 runs.

Bishnoi, Shami lift PBKS



Ravi Bishnoi is pumped up after dismissing a Sunrisers Hyderabad batter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Sept 25: Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/24) snared three wickets as Punjab Kings (PBKS) dished out a clinical bowling display to beat struggling Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by five runs in a low-scoring but entertaining IPL match here Saturday.

The 21-year-old Bishnoi ran through the SRH middle order after veteran India pacer Mohammed Shami (2/14) rocked the run chase early on by dismissing both David Warner (2) and captain Kane Williamson (1) cheaply in the first and third overs respectively.

Chasing 126 for a win on a slow



Mohammed Shami is mobbed by teammates after getting a wicket

the match to Super Over: But Holder could score just one run from the final ball.

SRH were 20/2 after powerplay and Bishnoi took the centre stage from then onwards as he removed the next three batsmen to stifle the SRH run chase. First, he had Manish Pandey (13) in the eighth over before dismissing Kedar Jadhav (12) and Abdul Samad (1). From 43/3 at the halfway mark, SRH were 60/5 in the 13th over.

SRH needed 35 from the final four overs and Wriddhiman Shah (31) was set at the other end but he got run out in the 17th over in a horrible mix-up.

Earlier, Holder's impressive spell of 3/19 helped SRH restrict Punjab to 125/7 after being sent in to bat. Punjab Kings batsmen struggled to get going on a slow wicket and failed to stitch any big partnership, the highest being the 30-run stand between Chris Gayle and Aiden Markram, who top-scored with a 32-ball 27, for the third wicket.

KL Rahul had scored 49 in the previous match but got dismissed early this time as he fell to Holder's first ball for a run-a-ball 21 in the fifth over.

BRIEF SCORES

PBKS 125/7 (Aiden Markram 27, KL Rahul 21; Jason Holder 3/19) beat **SRH 120/6** (Jason Holder 47 n o, Wriddhiman Saha 31; Ravi Bishnoi 3/24, Mohammed Shami 2/14) by 5 runs.

Eves seek consolation victory in dead rubber

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mackay (Australia), Sept 25: India's under-fire bowlers will need to put up a much-improved show as they face the ignominy of a clean sweep against an Australian team, which is looking for their 27th win on the trot, during the third and final women's ODI here Sunday.

A marginal no-ball call off the final delivery bowled by Jhulan Goswami found India won the wrong side of the result in the second WODI. The match indeed was a humdinger but not being able to defend a total as big as 274 after having the home team on the mat for the better part doesn't speak highly of Mithali Raj's outfit.

Generally, the sides that snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in close games like India did Friday, end up losing both momentum and confidence in their next few games.

The manner in which Beth Mooney, who opened in absence of

Rachel Haynes along with Tahlia McGrath and Nicola Carey, snatched the game away would hurt for a long time. And they could do it with ease without any contribution from Alyssa Healy and the captain Meg Lanning.

India's bowling attack barring Goswami, who is in a league of her own, hasn't delivered throughout 2021. A lot of it is due to the fact that the Indian cricket establishment failed to find a worthy new ball partner for Goswami once Amita Sharma left the scene a decade back.

The spin department was India's strength but stronger opposition teams have now measured up how to play Poonam Yadav's loopy leg breaks and thus she has largely become ineffective. Deepti Sharma, at least in bowling, has been consistent but is more of a restrictive bowler without skill-sets.

How Mithali, who herself is facing the heat because of her pedestrian strike-rate, would manage to lift the team is the big question.

Norris takes pole in rain-hit Russian GP F1 qualifying

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sochi, Sept 25: Lando Norris took pole position for the first time in a rain-hit qualifying session for the Russian Grand Prix Saturday after timing his final fast lap to perfection on a drying track.

The McLaren driver set the pace with a time of 1 minute, 41.993 seconds in the dying seconds of the session after switching to slick tires as the racing line dried.

He pushed Carlos Sainz of Ferrari into second place as George Russell took third for Williams, dropping Lewis Hamilton to fourth. Championship leader Max Verstappen has a penalty and starts at the back.

Hamilton will be chasing his 100th career win Sunday at a track where he has won four times in the past, and where Mercedes cars have won all seven races to date. Verstappen leads the championship standings by five points from Hamilton.

Knights stand in Super Kings' path

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 25: Varun Chakravarthy's extra bounce and unpredictable angles will keep the Chennai Super Kings batsmen on tenterhooks as they take on Kolkata Knight Riders in a high-octane Indian Premier League encounter here Sunday.

On a roll post IPL's resumption, both CSK and KKR would look to continue their winning streak when the two most impressive sides of the tournament's second phase lock horns against each other in the second double header.

Both CSK and KKR have registered two wins out of as many games post IPL's resumption in the UAE, and the two sides would be desperate to outwit each other in their bid to register a hat-trick of victories.

However Chakravarthy, who had tormented the CSK batters during last season in UAE will like to once again ask probing questions to the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Faf du



Plessis, Ambati Rayudu and MS Dhoni on tracks where the ball would occasionally grip and come onto the bat slower than expected.

Another common factor post the tournament's resumption is that CSK and KKR have registered both their thumping wins against RCB and defending champions Mumbai Indians.

While CSK beat MI and RCB by 20 runs and seven wickets respectively, KKR tamed RCB and MI by nine and seven wickets respectively.



CSK batters are in good form and contributing well in the past two games. But it is the performance of the bowling unit which should be lauded as the bowlers were up to their task for the second consecutive match to hand CSK their seventh win of the season.

Jesus brings back City out of Blues

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 25: Manchester City broke their run of losses to Chelsea by handing their Premier League title rival a first defeat of the season thanks to Gabriel Jesus' deflected goal in a 1-0 win Saturday.

In the latest match to highlight City's need for a striker, Pep Guardiola's team required a dose of fortune for the winner as Jesus took aim from just inside the area and the ball squirmed into the bottom corner off Chelsea midfielder Jorginho's heel in the 53rd minute.

Chelsea had beaten City in their last three meetings - most recently in the Champions League final in May - but was largely outplayed at Stamford Bridge. Indeed, it wasn't a bigger margin of victory only because of City's lack of an out-and-out center forward.

The result lifted City above the Blues in the standings, on goal difference after six games, but there was a greater significance to the victory.

After their strong start to the season - four wins, a draw at Liverpool and only one goal conceded - Chelsea had been anointed by increasing numbers as the title favorite this season.



Gabriel Jesus wheels away in celebration after scoring the winner at Stamford Bridge

UNITED GO DOWN AT OLD TRAFFORD

MANCHESTER: Bruno Fernandes missed an injury-time penalty as teammate Cristiano Ronaldo looked on in Manchester United's 0-1 home loss to Aston Villa in the Premier League Saturday. Villa defender Kortney Hause was the hero for the visitors after he flicked a header into the net off a corner in the 88th minute at the Old Trafford for his team's first victory over United since 2009. But Hause was then whistled for a handball to set up the dramatic spot-kick as United tried to rescue a point at Old Trafford. Fernandes adjusted the ball as Ronaldo stood nearby and then blasted it high over the crossbar.

But the way City dominated possession and reduced Chelsea to mostly long balls showed that Guardiola's team, the defending champion, might still be the team to beat.

It required a lucky break to make the breakthrough after Joao Cancelo's shot from the edge of the area landed at the feet of the Brazil forward, who was again used as a right winger at Stamford Bridge.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yankton (USA), Sept 25: The Indian women's and mixed pair compound archery teams signed off with silver medals after losses to Colombia at the World Championships here.

India were in pursuit of their first ever gold medal at the world event. For a country that doesn't have a gold yet, India have climbed the most podiums at the event - 10, appearing in eight finals and leaving with silver each time.

The star Indian mixed pair duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who stood fourth in the ranking round, started off with a one-point lead but thereafter it was a story of Colombian dominance. The Indians went down by a four-point margin (150-154).

The seventh seeded women's team of Jyothi, Muskan Kirar and Priya Gurjar, on the other hand, lost by a margin of five points (224-229) against the troika of Sara Lopez, Alejandra Usquiano and Nora Valdez. The Colombians, who topped the rankings, drilled in 15 perfect 10s with five Xs (closest to the centre). Locked 58-58 after the opening end,



the Indian women's team failed to snatch a lead shooting twice in the red circle as their opponents gained a one-point advantage.

There was no stopping the Colombians thereafter as they shot eight 10s from 12 arrows in the last two ends to win their third women's title, and first since 2017.

In the mixed pair event, India had a poor second end where they shot two 9s and one 8 to squander a one-point lead and lose the match by four points. The duo of Daniel Munoz and Sara, who stood second in the rankings, consolidated after the first end and shot a perfect 40/40 in the third end to win their first ever



mixed gold medal.

Overall, the Colombian pair shot 10 perfect 10s from 16 arrows while the Indians were no match with just eight 10s. For Colombia, it reasserted their supremacy in compound archery taking their all-time gold medal count at the World Championships to four.

India are also in contention for three medals in individual compound events with Verma and Jyothi slated to compete in their respective quarterfinals later Saturday. Ankita Bhakat is the lone archer in fray in the recurve competition and she will compete in her last-eight match Sunday.