



PLAYING AN ICON

Actor Parineeti Chopra says she didn't just want to act like Saina Nehwal, she wanted to be her in the film *Saina*

LEISURE P2



RAISING HOPES

South, North Koreans restore direct communication lines, raising hopes for the resumption of stalled dialogue

INTERNATIONAL P10



MUMBAI FACE ROYALS

Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai Indians look for a win against Rajasthan Royals to keep their IPL playoff hopes alive

SPORTS P12

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No relief for SRK's son in drugs case

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 4: A local court Monday extended the NCB custody of Aryan Khan, son of Hindi film superstar Shah Rukh Khan, and two others till October 7 in connection with the seizure of banned drugs onboard a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast. The trio was produced before the court after the end of their



one-day custody given to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sunday. The NCB had arrested them after raiding the Goa-bound ship. Hearing was still going on with regards to the custody of other accused. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate RM Nerlikar noted that the probe is of prime importance and considering this aspect, the presence of the accused before the NCB is necessary.

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Thief held after 500 burglaries in 35 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The commissionerate police Monday arrested a history-sheeter involved in more than 500 burglaries across the country including in Odisha. The accused, Hemanta Dash, 59, of Old Town area, popularly named as the 'Crow Bar Man' broke into the houses of his victims using a crow bar. Special squad of Commissionerate Police arrested Dash from Cuttack where he had gone to commit a crime, Umashankar Dash, DCP, Bhubaneswar, said.

The accused is currently wanted in three burglary cases registered at Badagada, Capital and Chandrasekharpur police stations involving loots.



DELUSION OF RIVER: People wade through a flooded area at Udaynarayanpur in Howrah district, Monday

PTI PHOTO

FB, WHATSAPP, INSTA FACE GLOBAL OUTAGE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 4: Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram faced a major global outage Monday evening with lakhs of users, including from India, not being able to use these digital platforms. Facebook owns photosharing platform Instagram and messaging platform WhatsApp. The outage is estimated to have started around 9pm IST. Users complained of not being able to use any of the three services. "We are aware that some people are having trouble accessing our apps and products. We are working to get things back to normal as quickly as possible, and we apologise for any inconvenience," a Facebook spokesperson said. The company did not specify the reason for the global outage. A



tweet shared by Instagram said: "Instagram and friends are having a little bit of a hard time right now, and you may be having issues using them. Bear with us, we're on it! #instagramdown". Microblogging platform Twitter was abuzz with tweets about the outage as netizens shared posts and memes about the outage. India has one of the highest number of users of Facebook as well as its other platforms. As per government data shared earlier this year, India has 53 crore WhatsApp users, 41 crore Facebook users and 21 crore Instagram users.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We meticulously planned this operation for weeks, bravely executed it and confiscated 13 grams of narcotics

MEDICINE NOBEL FOR 2 AMERICANS

AGENCIES

Stockholm, Oct 4: Two US-based scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine Monday for their discovery of the receptors that allow humans to feel temperature and touch. David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian focused their work on the field of somatosensation, that is the ability of specialized organs such as eyes, ears and skin to see, hear and feel. "This really unlocks one of the secrets of nature," said Thomas Perlmann, secretary-general of the Nobel panel. "It's actually something that is crucial for our survival, so it's a very important and profound discovery."

The committee said Julius, 65, used capsaicin, the active component in chili peppers, to identify the nerve sensors that allow the skin to respond to heat. Patapoutian found separate pressure-sensitive sensors in cells that respond to mechanical stimulation, it said. The pair shared the prestigious Kavli Award for Neuroscience last year. "Imagine that you're walking barefoot across a field on this summer's morning," said Patrik Ernfors of the Nobel Committee. "You can feel the warmth of the sun, the coolness of the morning dew, a caressing summer breeze and the fine texture of blades of grass underneath your feet. These impressions of temperature, touch and movement are feelings relying on somatosensation."

Govt buys truce with farmers

UP gov't lodges case against MoS's son, promises a probe by a retired HC judge and announces aid of ₹45L each to the kin of the dead farmers

AGENCIES

Lakhimpur Kheri/Lucknow, Oct 4: The UP government Monday carried out a multi-pronged fire-fighting exercise in the aftermath of violence during a farmers' protest in Lakhimpur Kheri Sunday. It lodged a case against Union minister Ajay Mishra's son, promised a probe by a retired high court judge and announced compensation of ₹45 lakh each to the farmers of the dead farmers.

The kin will also get a government job. The injured will get ₹10 lakh. The announcement in the presence of Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait seemed to

LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

end the standoff with the farmer unions, which then allowed the post-mortem of the four victims.

The government also stopped opposition leaders from reaching the trouble spot. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was detained in Sitapur on her way to Lakhimpur Kheri, where eight people died and several others were



Police detain Samajwadi Party workers during a protest over violence in Lakhimpur Kheri in Varanasi, Monday

PTI PHOTO

injured Sunday in the bloodiest clash since the farmers' protest over the Centre's farm laws began last year. Four of the dead were farmers, allegedly knocked down by vehicles driven by BJP workers travelling to

144 of the CrPC, which bans the assembly of more than four people, in the district. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, his Punjab counterpart Charanjit Singh Channi, BSP's SC Mishra and AAP's Sanjay Singh were among those prevented by the state authorities from reaching Lakhimpur. Protesters burnt a police jeep outside Gautam Pali police station near Akhilesh Yadav's home when he was stopped from going to Lakhimpur.

The violence briefly figured in the Supreme Court as a three-judge bench said it would examine if organisations which have challenged the validity of a law are allowed to

hold a protest on it when the matter is sub-judice. The bench said when such incidents happen, nobody takes responsibility. It was hearing a plea by a farmers' body which is seeking directions to authorities to allow it to stage a 'satyagrah' at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

In Lakhimpur Kheri, Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar announced that the government will order a probe headed by a retired high court judge and give compensation of ₹45 lakh each to the families of the dead farmers.

The kin will also get a government job. The injured will get ₹10 lakh. The announcement in the presence of Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait seemed to end the standoff with the farmer unions, which then allowed the post-mortem of the four victims.

Mishra said he has evidence to show that his son was at an event being held elsewhere. According to his version, a vehicle toppled after protesters pelted stones at it. It collapsed on two farmers.

Man, son drown, daughter missing in Sambalpur



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 4: Tragedy struck a family of Pensionpada in this town after a man and his son drowned in the Mahanadi while the daughter went missing at Daleipada ghat of the river, Monday

The deceased were identified as Md Altaf, 45, his son Md Aftab, 15. Altaf's daughter Rukshana Begum, 13, who was swept away in the river, is missing. The boy is a Class X student while the girl studied in Class VII.

The family members tried to save each other but were swept away in the swelling river. Fishermen first recovered the body of Aftab while the body of Altaf was recovered by the fire personnel later. A search operation is underway to trace the minor girl.

Reports said Altaf and his son and daughter were taking bath in the river at Daleipada ghat when they were swept away due to strong current in the river. Rukshana first entered the river but slipped her legs and was swept away. Altaf jumped into the water and tried to save his daughter but he was swept away. Aftab followed him but met with the same fate.

The women bathing nearby raised an alarm following which fishermen rescued Aftab from the river in their fishing net. Later, Altaf was rescued and the father and son were rushed to the district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

On being informed, a team of fire personnel rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation with the help of locals to trace the minor girl. A pall of gloom descended on the area after reports of the deaths spread. Fishermen said water level near the ghat is very high due to presence of the anicut above the Daleipada ghat. ASP Tapan Kumar Mohanty said a search operation is underway to recover the missing girl.

More than 300 Indians figure in Pandora Papers list

Anil Ambani, Vinod Adani, Jackie Shroff, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Niira Radia, Sachin Tendulkar and Satish Sharma, among others, find mention in the list of Indians revealed so far

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 4: Hundreds of wealthy Indians, including business people, figure in the 'Pandora Papers' that has uncovered financial assets of rich individuals across the world, and many of the Indians have rejected allegations of misdoings.

The 'Pandora Papers', leak of troves of financial records in offshore tax havens, has been ob-

tained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). More than 300 Indian names are part of the list.

Anil Ambani, Vinod Adani, Jackie Shroff, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Niira Radia, Sachin Tendulkar and Satish Sharma, among others, figure in the list of Indians in the 'Pandora Papers' revealed so far.

Rights group Oxfam India has called for immediate action by authorities and abolishing tax havens following the expose of the 'Pandora Papers'.

"Tax havens cost governments around the world USD 427 billion each year. Developing countries are being hardest hit, proportionately. Corporations and the wealth-



PANDORA PAPERS

iest individuals that use tax havens are outcompeting those who don't. Tax havens also help crime and corruption to flourish," Oxfam



India CEO Amitabh Behar said. Abolishing tax havens can go a long way towards ensuring that government actually has access

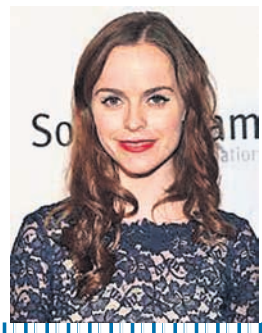
to tax revenue they need to fund quality public expenditure, he added. Many of the people whose names have come out in the 'Pandora Papers' have rejected financial misdoings.

Among others, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Monday said her husband's offshore trust was bonafide and legitimate. "Media stories reporting on Pandora Papers wrongly implicate my husband's offshore trust, which is a bonafide, legitimate trust and is managed by Independent Trustees. No Indian resident holds 'the key' to the trust as alleged in these stories," Mazumdar-Shaw, the executive chairperson of biotechnology major Biocon, said in a tweet.

MULTI AGENCY GROUP TO MONITOR PROBE

New Delhi: A Multi Agency Group headed by the CBDT chairman will monitor investigations into the Pandora Papers case, an official statement said Monday. Names of more than 300 wealthy Indians, including business people, figure in the 'Pandora Papers' that have uncovered financial assets of rich individuals across the world, and many of the Indians have rejected allegations of misdoings. The CBDT said the government has taken note of this and relevant investigative agencies would undertake investigation in these cases and appropriate action would be taken as per law.

leisure



MANNING FELT PRESSURE TO GET ENGAGED TO CLINE

American actress and singer Taryn Manning reportedly felt she had to get engaged due to Anne Cline's public proposal. She agreed to marry the 30-year-old singer in June but separated over the weekend. A source told *Us Weekly* magazine: "Taryn only said 'yes' because her ex, Anne, put her on the spot."

GRIMES STILL LIVING WITH ELON MUSK

Grimes, the 33-year-old musician – whose real name is Claire Boucher – and the billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk revealed last month they have 'semi-separated' after three years together, but the singer has revealed they are still living under the same roof with their 18-month-old son X Æ A-XII.



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ARIES
Okay, you feel like Midas, says Ganesh. But remember, all that glitters is not gold. You must spend some time with your loved ones to make them happy. Also, you need to acknowledge those who contributed to your success. If you have kids, it's time to be their Santa Claus!

TAURUS
This day, you're liable to act very harsh and assertive towards your subordinates. You will insist that they follow your orders and do exactly as you say. Your rough handling will not go down well with your workers, or colleagues. Be sure that you are going to suffer and pay for that in the long run. Ganesh urges you to be more open and amicable. Consulting others, making plans and agendas will help you get things done better, faster.

GEMINI
You will be caught up in your daily routine so much that you will begin to think of ways to break free and do something new for a change. You need to spend more time with your family members and children to unwind. The evening will see you attending a party or a dinner with your friends, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh predicts success for your efforts to strengthen your status or prestige through collective activities. Your kind and generous attribute will see you cross a new peak. You will spend resources for an entertainment or recreational pursuit. Get ready for a hectic and fun-filled day, says Ganesh.

LEO
Today, you will think with your heart, not with your mind, says Ganesh. While that is a good thing sometimes, it may blur your analytical logic. If you happen to be in the business of money-lending, you can be assured of a fantastic afternoon wherein you will rake in profits. Just remember that there is no substitute for hard work. Find relief from the daily humdrum by going on a vacation, suggests Ganesh.

VIRGO
Lady Luck is your date for the day today. Good tidings bear their way to you from distant lands, and may be across the seas too. Chances are you make take an initiative to let the cat of love out of the bag. Your outlook will be free of confusion today, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today will be spent in entertaining, throwing parties and in general having a good time. You will be able to plan a trip in the near future with your family members. You may be able to put your money into something that is safe or into a business and will also want to invest a good amount for future needs.

SCORPIO
Make it a point to believe only what you see and believe to avoid confusions and confrontations, says Ganesh. Keep your eyes and ears open, so you do not miss out on important happenings around you.

SAGITTARIUS
Your flexible, down-to-earth and optimistic attitude is likely to pay off well, personally and professionally, feels Ganesh. Celebrations and soiree during the lunch time demand for social exchanges. Evening will be more relaxed, with you and your beloved gazing at the setting sun and remembering good old days!

CAPRICORN
Hard-work never goes unnoticed and so will be yours. Your superiors will appreciate your talents and contribution to the progress of the company, predicts Ganesh. Supportive and cooperative, your colleagues will help you tread the path you have chosen. Though everything around you appears to be rosy, you may still feel bored and dissatisfied, and wish to change your present job.

AQUARIUS
You are at your best today. A perfect blend of commitment and competency, you will zap people by your persona. By afternoon, your adrenaline will be pumping fast, and you'll agree to complete others' work too. Hats off to you, says Ganesh.

PISCES
A mundane day filled with the boring ruts of routine awaits you. You will find yourself struggling to find the motivation to deal with repetitive tasks. Post afternoon should see you in a much more positive frame of mind, and better equipped to deal with the demands of the day. Do not negotiate new contracts or establish new partnerships today, says Ganesh.

'I WANTED TO BE SAINA'

MUMBAI: Actress Parineeti Chopra says she didn't just want to act like Saina Nehwal as she wanted to be her in the film based on the star badminton player's life titled *Saina*.

Talking about her experience, Parineeti said: "*Saina* is the most challenging and exciting film of my career so far. Saina's simplicity and determination encouraged me to be more meticulous and rigorous towards my goals."

She added: "*Mein maar dungi* has become my motto, not literally of course but being Full-On with whatever I do."

Parineeti feels that she shared a lot of similarities with Saina in the way they think.

The actress added: "While preparing for the role, I didn't want to act like Saina, I wanted to be Saina, and I am glad it translated on screen."

Saina is all set to premiere October 9 on & pictures. IANS

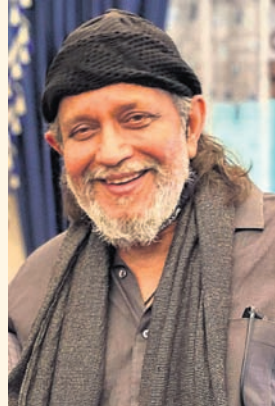


Smita Patil was my sister: Mithun

MUMBAI: Yesteryear dancing sensation Mithun Chakraborty will be seen as the special guest in the upcoming episode of *Dance+* 6. He will be challenging the contestants to dance on the songs chosen by him.

Contestant Dhananjay from captain Shakti Mohan's team, who performs on Mithun's given favourite song *Ke Pag Ghungaroo Bandh Meera Nache* from *Namak Halaal*. He praised the contestant and said: "My mind was blown the way you took off! If a dance act starts well, everything about it looks good. It was a paasa vasool performance."

Further expressing why the song is his favourite, he recalls the late actress Smita Patil who starred in the film. He said: "The reason this song is my favourite is because when the song was shot, the disco theme was a trend. Undoubtedly Amit Ji has aced it. But my favourite part about the song is Smita Patil. She was my sister and when she passed away, I was broken internally. Post that, I did not make anyone my sister in the film industry." *Dance+* Season 6 is streaming on Disney+ Hotstar. IANS



Divya is over the moon

MUMBAI: *Big Boss* OTT winner Divya Agarwal is on cloud nine as on one hand she became the winner of the show and on the other she got a lot of appreciation for her multiple avatars in *Cartel*.

She recently opened up about the adulation she has been getting.

"I am over the moon about the reaction I have been getting for *Cartel*," Divya shared. "It is a huge achievement for any actor to be appreciated for their performance. I have been

getting these good compliments right from the beginning, since the time I began shooting and everybody on set used to be so enthusiastic for my performance and different looks."

Divya also added that she got on a call post her victory on the reality show, from Ekta Kapoor who also produced *Cartel*. "It was a very short and sweet call by Ekta Ma'am," she recalled: "I

was naturally very thankful because she had the confidence in me, in terms of me being able to pull off the role efficiently," added Divya. *Cartel* is streaming on ALTBalaji and MX Player Gold. IANS



Odisha born filmmaker's movie to be screened at Berlin, NY festivals

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Just three days after its OTT release, *Someone*, a Hindi film made by Uday Kiran Podipeddi, Sid Bhagavatula and Vamshi Reddy has been nominated to be screened at the Berlin and New York film festivals. The movie has been shortlisted in the First-Time Filmmaker category.

On this feat, Uday, who was born and brought up in Bhubaneswar, says, "I have been a movie buff all my life and there was always this innate desire to make a movie one day. So one fine day I decided to quit my high paying job in Mumbai to follow my creative calling. The director of the movie Sid Bhagavatula who also happens to be my nephew and a genius himself collaborated with me and that's how the idea of *Someone* was born and executed."

An emotional drama, *Someone* focuses on the life of a married couple - Akanksha and Sebastian - and how their lives change after

Someone, having only five characters - all from theatre background, has been shot aesthetically with a minimalistic crew and budget, says film's producer Uday Kiran

a miscarriage. The emotions and the vulnerability they go through following the mishap form the crux of the movie.

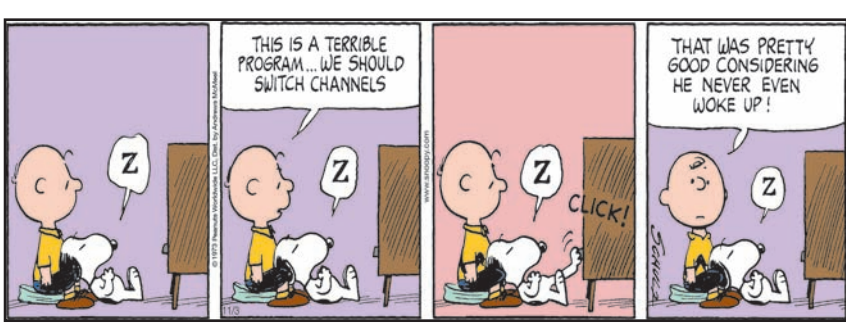
The film, having only five characters - all from theatre background, has been shot aesthetically with a minimalistic crew and budget. And most importantly, every member of the crew, be it the cast or the technician, is a first timer, informs Uday who also plays a role in the movie.

The entire movie has been shot on sync sound to give a realistic feel of the ambience and surroundings, he further says.

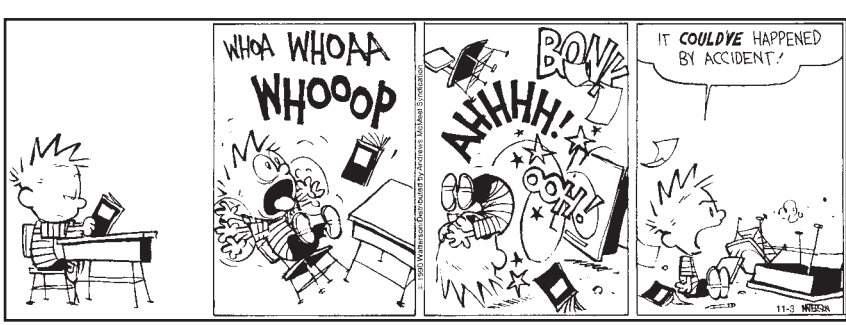


FUN post

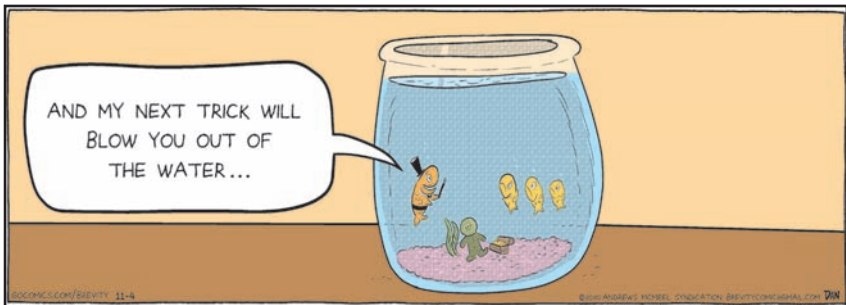
PEANUTS



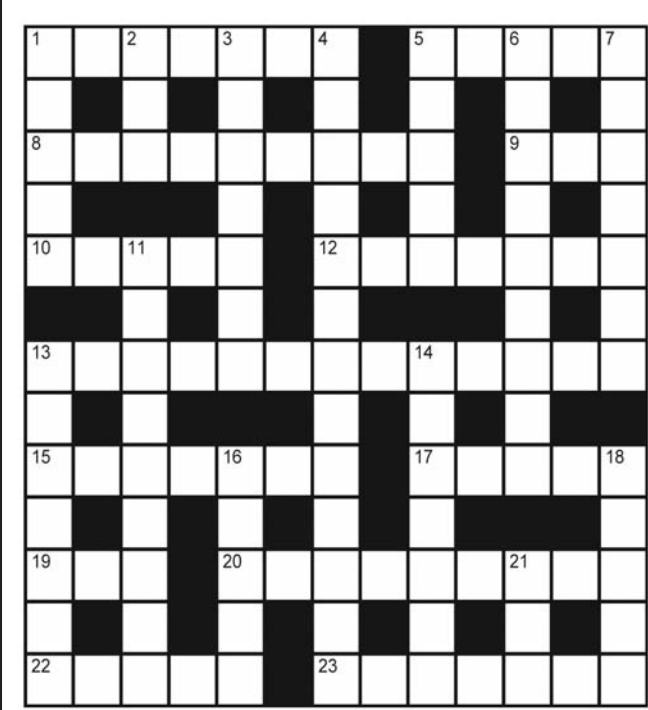
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



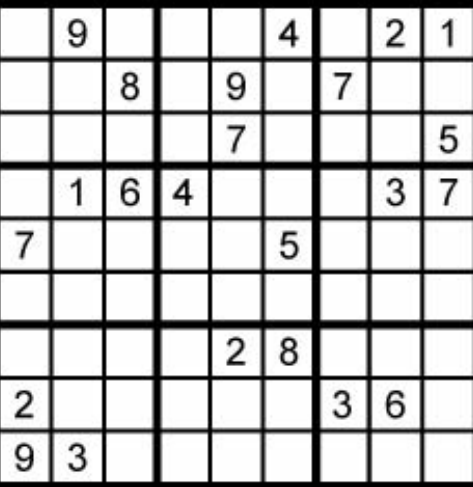
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Honorable
 - 5 An expensive vessel
 - 8 Blarney (5-4)
 - 9 Geological time
 - 10 Military dictatorship in northern Africa
 - 12 Colonist
 - 13 Queen, e.g. (5,8)
 - 15 Dizziness
 - 17 Pants
 - 19 Fasten
 - 20 Some memos
 - 22 Papa
 - 23 Arctic
 - 5 Bumpkin
 - 6 Depressing
 - 7 Injuries
 - 11 Beau
 - 13 Focused
 - 14 Early evening meal (4,3)
 - 16 Connote
 - 18 Plant fibre used for making rope
 - 21 Altdorf is its capital
- Down**
- 1 Artist's need
 - 2 Gardening tool
 - 3 Cry expressing disapproval
 - 4 Toxic condition (4,9)

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

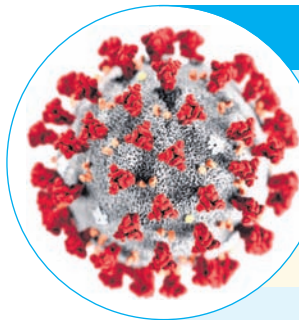


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SCINTILLATING SHOW

Artistes perform at a cultural programme organised by Indian Trust for Art and Culture at Annapurna Theatre in Puri, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| World | 235,846,317 | 212,751,246 | 4,818,348 |
| India | 3,38,34,243 | 3,31,13,644 | 4,49,029 |
| Odisha | 10,28,366 | 10,15,018 | 8,220 |

COVID DEATHS

Dig up medical records to give ₹50K ex-gratia: SC

The apex court says that on production of essential documents, the authorities concerned can modify death certificates, adding that if still aggrieved, the family members can approach the Grievance Redressal Committee



On production of essential documents like RT-PCR test reports, the concerned authorities can modify death certificates, the apex court said, adding that if still aggrieved, the members can approach the Grievance Redressal Committee.

"No state shall deny ex gratia on ground that in death certificate the cause of death does not mention 'died due to Covid'," the bench said. The apex court also ordered that the Grievance Redressal Committee can examine medical records of deceased patients and take a call within 30 days and order the compensation.

The NDMA had earlier recommended that ₹50,000 be given to the kin of those who died of Covid-19. It had said that ex gratia assistance will also be given to the kin of those who died of the virus due to involvement in Covid-19 relief operations or activities associated with the preparedness to deal with the pandemic.

The government had said that

Approving the NDMA guidelines, a bench of Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna said that in cases of death certificates already issued and a family member being aggrieved, it would be open for them to approach the appropriate authority

The apex court also ordered that the Grievance Redressal Committee can examine medical records of deceased patients and take a call within 30 days before ordering the compensation

The Supreme Court said that no state shall deny ex-gratia on ground that in death certificate the cause of death does not mention 'died due to Covid'

NDMA had issued the guidelines September 11, in compliance with the directions of the apex court given June 30 wherein it had directed the authority to recommend guidelines for ex gratia assistance.

In its affidavit, filed on a batch of pleas by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal and interveners represented by advocate Sumeer Sodhi seeking ex-gratia assistance to family members of Covid-19 victims, the Centre had said the NDMA has already started discussions/consultations on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission regarding insurance intervention.

Tanishq unveils Puja collection *Shaaj*

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Just before the Durga Puja fervor grips the state, Tanishq, Monday, introduced its exclusive Puja collection *Shaaj*. The Puja collection is deeply rooted in the traditional space with designs crafted in yellow gold and infuses a modern, more contemporary touch as well.

Shaaj is a special collection crafted with utmost love and dedication by Tanishq's master artisans to add more beauty to the Puja celebrations than ever before, said the showroom sources. This collection features quintessential Odia jewellery designs like Paatihaar, Shitahaar, Chandbaali, Jhumkas, Rani Har, Bala, Churi, Chur, Mantasa, Khadu, Sankhaand and more.



Shaaj starts at ₹10,000 and is available at Tanishq stores across Odisha. Customers can get up to 25 per cent off on making charges of gold and on diamond jewellery value.

Amit Dharap, Regional Business Head-East, Titan Company Limited said, "Like every year, this year too our Bengali and Odia Karigars are the ones who have put their heart and soul into crafting each piece of this exquisite collection to adorn every Odia woman this Puja. The collection features more than 150 stunning jewellery pieces for our customers to adorn and revel in the festive season as we offer our prayers to Maa Durga together."

RS proceedings see average daily attendance of 78 pc

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 4: Rajya Sabha proceedings registered an average daily attendance of 78 per cent members in the last seven sessions, a study conducted by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat revealed.

The analysis of attendance of Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament (MPs) reveals that around 30 per cent members had full presence in a session and only less than two per cent had zero attendance.

The first-ever quantitative analysis of the extent of participation of MPs in the House proceedings was undertaken after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu sought to know the pattern of attendance.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat analysed attendance data over the last seven sessions - from 248th to 254th session - having a total of 138 sittings.

With the ministers, Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition not required to sign the attendance register, about 225 members marked their attendance daily as required under the Members of Parliament (Salary and Allowances) Act, according to the study.

The highest daily attendance of 82.57 per cent was reported during the 254th Session (last monsoon session), while a low of 72.88 per cent was recorded during the preceding one, the study showed.

During this period, 29.14 per cent reported full attendance while only 1.90 per cent never attended the proceedings for various reasons and were granted leave of absence by the House, Rajya Sabha sources revealed.

The analysis further revealed



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The Rajya Sabha Secretariat analysed attendance data over the last seven sessions - from 248th to 254th session - having a total of 138 sittings

Under the statute, the members are required to sign the attendance register during every sitting of the House, failing which the daily allowance of ₹2,000 is not paid to them

that the Covid-19 pandemic did not impact the attendance during the last three sessions. During the 252nd session, the first to be held following Covid-19 protocol, 99 members, accounting for 44.19 per cent of the total, attended the proceedings during all the 10 sittings, while 98 members, accounting for 46 per cent, did so during the 17 sit-

tings of the 254th Session.

Session-wise, the number of members with full attendance ranged from 34 (15.27 per cent) during the 251st session to 98 (46 per cent) during the 254th Session, the sources said.

Two members did not attend the proceedings at all during the 248th session, and 21 remained absent during the 252nd session, the first to be held under Covid protocol.

Under the statute, the members are required to sign the attendance register during every sitting of the House, failing which the daily allowance of ₹2,000 is not paid to them. Among individual members' participation in the house proceedings, 75-year-old S R Balasubramanian attended all the 138 sittings of these seven sessions.

Five of the members - Ashok Bajpai, D P Vats, Neeraj Shekhar, Vikas Mahatme and Ramkumar Verma - fully attended six sessions, while seven members - Rakesh Sinha, Sudhanshu Trivedi, Kailash Soni, Naresh Gujral, Vishambar Prasad Nishad, Kumar Ketkar and Ameer Yagnik - had full attendance for five sessions, the sources said.

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Scheme launched to give wings to ST/SC students' dreams



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The ST and SC Development department Monday launched 'Chhatra Protshahan Yojana' (CPY) to provide free coaching for medical and engineering entrance examinations to 320 ST and SC students in the state every year.

At present, the department is running 62 higher secondary schools in 14 districts. Every year more than 30,000 ST/SC students appear for the annual HSC Examination. In order to encourage the students of higher secondary schools towards higher education and with an intent to identify and nurture the potential ST/SC students from a young age, seven Centres of Excellence have been set up in the SSD schools of the state where the coaching will be provided.

ACF Soumya's father demands CBI probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 4: Almost three months after the death of the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mahapatra, his father Abhiram Mahapatra moved Orissa High Court (HC) Monday seeking impartial probe into the matter by CBI or a Special Investigation Team (SIT), appointed by the court.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

ଫୁଲ୍ ଶ୍ରୀ ହେମନ୍ତ କୁମାର ନାଏକ, ପିତା: କମଳ ଲୋଚନ ନାଏକ ମୋର ବନ୍ଦୋବସ୍ତ କରି ପଞ୍ଚା ଯାହାର ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚିଆନ ନ. ୩୩୧, ମୋବା: ୯୬୫୫୫୫୫୫, ୨୬୦୧୮ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ପଞ୍ଚା କୋଳସରା ଚଉପଲ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟରୁ ଉତ୍ତରୁ ଆସୁଥିବା ସମୟରେ କେଉଁ ପାଖରେ ହଜିଯାଇଛି। ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଉତ୍ତର କରକ୍ଷା ଶ୍ରେଣୀରେ ତାରବାହାଳ ଶାଖାରେ ବନ୍ଦ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଯାଉଅଛି। ଏଣୁ କାହାର ଆପତ୍ତି ଶୁଣିଯୋଗ ଥିଲେ ଜଣାଇପାରିବି।

AFFIDAVIT

I, Pradeepta Jyoshnanajali, D/o. Pradeep Chandra Mallik, Plot No. 760/1/3179, Power House Colony, 3rd Lane, Jeypore, Koraput declare that my actual name is Pradeepta Jyoshnanajali in all other documents. But in my passport my name has been wrongly mentioned as Pradeepta Jyoshnanajali. Henceforth, both the name is one and same person.

FREE COACHING FOR MED & ENGG

7 Centres of Excellence have been set up in the SC/ST Development dept schools where the coaching will be provided

Students will be selected on the basis of Class X marks and a selection test from among the students who have passed HSC from SSD high schools

The students selected this year will prepare for the entrance exams for 2023

SC junks Panigrahi's plea against Lokayukta



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a writ petition filed by ex-Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA Pradeep Panigrahi seeking registration of a criminal case against Odisha Lokayukta on the charge of forgery.

Youth found dead on railway tracks



POST NEWS NETWORK

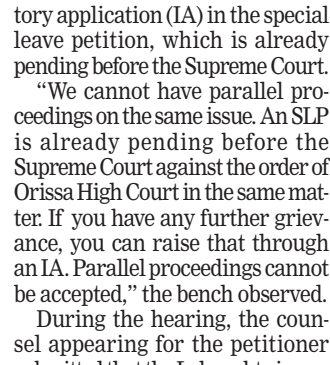
Barang, Oct 4: Mutilated body of a youth was found on the railway tracks near Padasahi level crossing here Monday.

Responsible travel paramount: Experts

NEW DELHI: Stressing on responsible travel, researchers have warned that a rise in population density driven by tourist arrivals or mass congregations due to social, religious or political events can lead to a surge in Covid infections, worsening an anticipated third wave scenario in selected states.

The opinion piece, based on mathematical models 'Responsible travel to and within India during the Covid-19 pandemic', by Balram Bhargava, Samiran Panda and Sandip Mandal from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and Nimalan Arinaminpathy from Imperial College, London, has been published in the Journal of Travel Medicine.

DISCOURSE ON FARM ISSUES



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar has developed a selectively bred, genetically improved and fast-growing strain of giant freshwater prawn called Macrobrachium rosenbergii registered as 'CIFA-GI Scampi TM'.

BMC's bid to curb manual scavenging



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Monday, began the process of felicitation and handing over of cesspool vehicles under Safaimitra Suraksha City (SSC) challenge aiming at minimising manual scavenging.

Daily recoveries outnumber new cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Single-day recoveries outnumbered fresh Covid-19 cases in Odisha as 606 patients recuperated from the highly infectious disease while 407 new infections pushed the tally to 10,28,366, a Health department official said Monday. A total of 10,15,018 people have recovered from Covid-19 so far, he added.

THE H&FW DEPARTMENT SAID THAT SIX MORE DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19 WERE REPORTED IN THE STATE WHICH PUSHED THE DEATH TOLL TO 8,220

KHURDA ALONE REPORTED FIVE FRESH FATALITIES WHILE CUTTACK REPORTED ONE

THESE TWO DISTRICTS ACCOUNT FOR 56.51 PER CENT OF THE STATE'S NEW INFECTIONS

est of 167 fresh cases followed by Cuttack (63). These two districts

account for 56.51 per cent of the state's new infections, the Health official said. The rate of infection among children and adolescents stood at 18.18 per cent against the previous day's 13.82 per cent. The daily test positivity rate (TPR) for Monday was 0.62 per cent as 407 new positive cases were detected from a total of 64,419 sample tests done Sunday.

five fresh fatalities while Cuttack reported one. The coastal state currently has 5,075 active Covid-19 cases. Odisha's cumulative positivity rate now stands at 5.08 per cent. So far, as many as 87,79,488 people have been fully inoculated with both the doses of the Covid vaccines, the data released by the H&FW department said.

BMC caps guests for ceremonies at 50

BHUBANESWAR: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), in an attempt to keep further spread of Covid-19 in check, imposed restrictions on marriage ceremonies and other functions like shradh rituals, bringing down the number of guests allowed from 250 to 50.

Responsible travel paramount: Experts

Illustrating a scenario where population density in India has a stronger effect on transmission than in the USA, researchers said that a holiday period can amplify a possible third wave peak by up to 103 per cent and cumulative incidence in that wave by 43 per cent. It can also hasten the timing of the epidemic peak by four weeks, compared to a scenario of easing restrictions in the absence of holiday travel, they said.

In their study, the researchers illustrated some possible scenarios in a hypothetical state in India, constructed to resemble Himachal Pradesh in the dynamics of its first and second waves, including the much lower seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 compared to the rest of the country. Data from Himachal Pradesh suggests that in a typical holiday season, tourism can increase the population by 40 per cent. A recent study in the USA suggests that an increase in one unit of log population density increased R0 (the basic reproduction number/rate) by 0.16.

Observing that no national guideline exists on restrictions about domestic travel, the researchers said it may be helpful for holiday-destination states to get guidance on how they can best mitigate travel-related risks.



Mines minister unveils XRD & XRF laboratory

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: In a bid to expedite and facilitate the mineral exploration in the state, the Steel and Mines department, Monday, inaugurated highly advanced and scientific XRD & XRF laboratory in the Directorate of Geology, Bhubaneswar. Minister of Steel & Mines Prafulla Kumar Mallik inaugurated the laboratory.

CIFA spearheads revival of scampi farming in country

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar has developed a selectively bred, genetically improved and fast-growing strain of giant freshwater prawn called Macrobrachium rosenbergii registered as 'CIFA-GI Scampi TM'.



Through a memorandum of understanding (MoU), Monday, the improved seeds were provided to three commercial hatcheries for broader development and further dissemination of the same to the farmers.

Dairying, through the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, sanctioned ICAR-CIFA with a central sector scheme on 'scaling up of genetic improvement programme of M Rosenbergi'. Under this project, ICAR-CIFA has selected three hatcheries in Andhra Pradesh as multiplier units of the improved breed of CIFA-GI scampi through expression of interest and on-site inspection of all hatcheries.

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WOMAN OF STRENGTH



A woman contestant displaying physical prowess as she pulls a car in the Western Odisha Power Lifting Championship held at Sambalpur, Monday
OP PHOTO

Gangster Hyder's son Munna gets lifer in 2013 murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 4: A local court has awarded life imprisonment to slain gangster Sheikh Hyder's son Sheikh Qadir alias Munna in the much-hyped murder case of a cement trader in Aul block of this district in 2013.

The court of the District & Sessions Judge Gopal Charan Behera of Kendrapara handed down the punishment to Munna while acquitting eight others for want of sufficient evidence.

Seikh Qadir was found guilty of murdering a cement trader Shah Nawaz Khan of Aul area in this district.

Judge Gopal Chandra Behera Monday convicted him in the case under Section 302 of IPC and on the basis of evidences and statements recorded by the witnesses. Eventually, he was sentenced to life imprisonment, informed Manas Ranjan Behera, Public Prosecutor, Kendrapara.

The court also slapped a fine of ₹10,000 on Seikh Qadir, failing



which he will have to undergo an additional imprisonment of one year.

In 2013, a case was registered against Munna charging him of killing a cement trader of Aul in the district after the latter failed to pay protection money. Munna is the elder son of slain gangster Hyder. He barged inside Sahanawaj's shop and shot him dead. A complaint was lodged in the local police station following which he was arrested and produced in the court.

More than 30 criminal cases including extortion, murder, threat to life, tender fixing, hurling bombs and loot have been registered against Munna at different police stations in the state.

Notably, his father Hyder was shot dead in a police encounter when he was being transferred from Choudwar jail in Cuttack to Baripada jail in Mayurbhanj district. Earlier, the court had rejected a plea by Munna to attend the post-death rituals of his father after the latter was killed in the police encounter.

MINOR GIRL'S GANGRAPE

Two youths awarded 25-year prison term

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Oct 4: A special POCSCO court here Monday sentenced two youths to 25 years of imprisonment after convicting them for the gangrape of a minor girl under Bonai police station limits in this district in 2014.

The convicts were identified as Hare Kishan, 25, and Prahlad Kishan, 30, both residing under the Bonai police limits. The additional district judge-cum-presiding officer of the special POCSCO court Parthasarathi Pattnayak also slapped a fine of ₹10,000 each on the two convicts.

In default, the two have to undergo an additional year of imprisonment, the judge observed while adjudicating the case. The judge also directed the district legal services authority to provide ₹7 lakh compensation to the minor rape survivor.

On the other hand, the trial of a woman accused in the case, namely Sabita Dhibar, will continue.

According to the case diary, the crime took place May 12, 2014 when



the girl had gone to attend a wedding ceremony to a relative's house in her village. The victim was accompanying the woman when the accused waylaid them and picked up the girl to the riverside after gagging her mouth.

There, they took turns to rape the girl on the riverside during the night and dropped the victim at her house the next morning.

While leaving, the accused had threatened the girl of dire consequences if she disclosed the matter before others. However, the victim narrated her ordeal before her parents, following which they lodged a police complaint.

Police registered a case on the basis of the complaint and arrested the two youths and produced them in court.

Naveen distributes smart health cards in Gajapati

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Paralakhemundi, Oct 4: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday started distribution of smart health cards to the beneficiaries covered under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in Gajapati district.

He had already launched the distribution of smart health cards in Malkangiri, Sundargarh and Bolangir in three phases. It seems

that Naveen will visit several other districts across the state to woo the voters ahead of the panchayat elections.

The smart health card will benefit about 1.35 lakh people in Gajapati district and it will help ease the treatment-related financial burden on people, he said.

Naveen said everyone knows about Biju Babu's relationship with Gajapati district. This district has a special significance for him.



THE SMART HEALTH CARD WILL BENEFIT ABOUT 1.35 LAKH PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT OF GAJAPATI

NOW, THE BENEFICIARIES CAN AVAIL HEALTH SERVICES BY USING THE SMART CARD IN MORE THAN 200 HOSPITAL CHAINS OF THE COUNTRY INCLUDING ODISHA

THE CHIEF MINISTER ALSO INAUGURATED VARIOUS PROJECTS SUCH AS MEGA PIPED WATER PROJECTS, ROADS, EDUCATION AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Although it is a small district, Gajapati's contribution to modern Odisha is significant, he said.

Stating that Gajapati Maharaja Krushna Chandra Dev was a symbol of development and self-esteem, Patnaik said, the state would never forget his contributions for formation of a separate province of Odisha.

One of the major concerns of

people today is the money they need for their as well as their family members' treatment. For this, some sell land, some sell gold and some others borrow. Now, the beneficiaries can avail health services by using the smart card in more than 200 hospital chains of the country including Odisha, the Chief Minister said.

"For me, every life is precious.



FAKE JOB FIRM DUPES ASPIRANTS, 5 NABBED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Oct 4: The Bhawanipatna Town police in Kalahandi district busted a fake employment firm Monday morning and arrested five persons belonging to the organisation for making false commitments to provide jobs to unemployed youths.

According to a Town police official, over 60 job aspirants from different districts alleged that they had been duped of lakhs of rupees by the firm on pretext of providing them jobs in renowned companies.

The firm officials had asked the youths to undergo training for 22

Over 60 job aspirants from different districts alleged that they had been duped of lakhs of rupees by the firm on the pretext of providing them jobs

days after which they would be offered jobs. However, the job aspirants subsequently paid ₹22,000 each against the firm's commitment to provide them jobs with a salary of ₹20,000 per month.

Some local youths lodged an FIR at the Town police station in this

connection, Sunday morning. The duped job aspirants alleged that they had deposited ₹22,000 each as security money with the firm for getting jobs.

It was also mentioned in the FIR that the youths were kept in house-arrest and not being allowed to speak even to their families.

Swinging into action, Town police conducted a raid at the firm's office leading to the arrest of five persons in connection with the fraud.

On the other hand, the firm's officials refuted all allegations clarifying that they were into marketing of products. A detailed investigation is underway, the police official informed.

CARCASS OF WHALE SHARK RECOVERED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Oct 4: Forest Department officials recovered the carcass of a whale shark near Ramatala on Stali beach under Erasama block of Jagatsinghpur district, a report said Monday.

According to the report, the carcass of the shark is about 20 feet long and 4 feet wide.

The matter came to the fore after locals noticed the carcass of a shark half-buried in sand. They immediately informed the matter to the local Forest Department officials. People thronged the area as the news spread.

On being informed, the officials of Kujang Forest Department rushed to the spot and sent the carcass to a local veterinarian for post-mortem.

Forest officials have launched an investigation to ascertain the cause behind the death of the largest known fish species, a whale shark.

3,500 kg cannabis seized at 2 places

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 4: In the biggest ever haul of cannabis in Gajapati district, police seized around 2,000kg of the contraband, valued at around ₹1 crore in the market and arrested two persons from Uttar Pradesh for allegedly smuggling the substance at Mandrabaju under the Adava police station limits in the district, Sunday.

"The contraband was concealed in a UP-registered truck laden with granite," said Gajapati SP Jayaram Satapathy. The vehicle, along with the ganja, has been seized, he added. After procuring the ganja from across the district, the smugglers were transporting the contraband to UP via Raipur in Chhattisgarh, when the police seized the truck.

Both the accused are residents of Aligarh and have been identified as Ravi Singh and Raju Singh, the driver and the helper of the truck, respectively. Further investigation into the case



is on, the police added. The seizure of such massive amount of the contraband has proved that the state still remains a major supplier of marijuana across the country. The police seized around 2,149kg ganja from four places August 23, while 700kg of the drug was seized from two places in the district August 27. The SP added that crackdown on illegal ganja transportation from the district is one of the priority areas of the Gajapati Police.

"Accordingly, we have instructed all the police stations to keep strict vigil

on the illegal transportation of ganja in their respective areas. The drive against illegal transportation of the contraband will continue," he added.

In a similar incident, the police seized around 306kg ganja from roadside at Salaguda under the Gochhapada police station limits in Kandhamal district Sunday. The accused persons fled the spot on seeing the police.

The intelligence wing of the Excise department arrested two persons of Rajasthan while smuggling ganja from Ganjam district to Nagpur, Maharashtra, in a truck via Berhampur

1,500 kg of ganja seized

Malkangiri: A 22-year-old man was arrested after around 1,500 kilograms of cannabis, estimated to be valued at over ₹60 lakh, was recovered from a mini-truck in Malkangiri district, police said Sunday. The vehicle, which was being driven by the man, was intercepted during patrolling on the Rekhapali-Darakonda road on the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border, Saturday night. During a search, 1,501 kg of cannabis was found in 50 packets in the vehicle, which was going to Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh, police said. Its driver, a resident of Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district, was arrested. A case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Saturday: Around 500kg of ganja, valued at around ₹50 lakh along with the truck, was seized from the duo.



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“ If you can always smile at life, life will always smile at you.

THE MOTHER



Khan(A)dani Game

It is a sad commentary on the country's drug investigating agencies that there is so much noise about the arrest of movie star Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan and seven others following a raid and seizure of a few grams of drugs during a rave party on board a cruise ship while the seizure of nearly 3,000 kg of heroin worth ₹21,000 crore at Adani's Mundra Port in Gujarat went completely unnoticed and uninvestigated. The two incidents, in the span of a few days, have given rise to several disturbing questions. Has the sensational seizure of the contraband brought from Afghanistan not been given due publicity because the Mundra port is owned by Gautam Adani, friend to a couple of the most powerful politicians of India? Is the rave party where a negligible quantity of drugs was found blown out of proportion to divert the country's attention from the disclosure of the bigger and most dangerous development of Adani's port being used as a conduit for drug smuggling of staggering proportions? Another question that is uppermost in the minds of the people is whether the rave party is being used to corner and demolish Shah Rukh Khan, known not to toeing the government's line, in particular and the Hindi film industry in general for its independence. A series of recent cases related to drug abuse in which some celebrities and their friends and acquaintances of the Mumbai film industry were allegedly involved witnessed motivated investigation and media publicity of staggering proportions. Such a backdrop makes these conclusions inescapable.

What makes the whole case involving Shah Rukh Khan's son suspect is the dramatic, almost filmy way, in which 22 Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) personnel disguised themselves as passengers to board the cruise ship to nab the drug abusers, who would have hardly made headlines, had Khan's son not been in it. The haul made by the NCB team says it all - 13 grams of cocaine, 21 grams of charas, 22 pills of MDMA and 5 grams of MD. Compared to that it defies understanding how the mind blowing quantity of nearly 3,000 kg of heroin could find easy passage to Adani's port with port officials, the NCB and other investigating agencies being in the dark. It calls for serious investigation how drug cartels could choose this port, while the consignment was for a company based in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. Other ports, including the Chennai port, could have been the obvious choice. The Adani port seems to have become a major hub of drug smuggling in recent times as the seizures indicate.

Aryan Khan's lawyer pleaded his client had been arrested only on the basis of chat messages and that he had no ticket, no cabin or seat on board the cruise. He didn't even have a boarding pass and nothing had been found on him. Whether he is a habitual drug abuser can be unearthed by investigators. But, the question is: Can a pickpocket operate in a rail station without police protection? Can organised crime survive without police-politician nexus? The pertinent point is the timing and manner of the raid that appears like making a mountain out of a molehill compared to the massive scale of drug smuggling taking place through ports and other facilities in Gujarat that are owned by powerful people.

In fact, a special court for Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Gujarat has directed the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) to investigate if the Mundra Adani Port, its management and its authority have gained any benefits from the import of nearly 3,000 kg of heroin in two containers that landed at the port from Afghanistan via Iran in the name of Aashi Trading Company of Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. Additional District Judge CM Pawar hearing the remand application of one of the key accused observed the role of the port authorities and officers need to be investigated. He wondered how the port authorities could be "oblivious" to the fact that such a huge consignment had landed unnoticed in the normal process. The court has also asked the DRI to investigate "the modalities and the process for scanning and checking of such containers and consignments at foreign nations and at Mundra port."

The court's reference to the fact that in the last two years, the sea in Gujarat, especially the sea area of Kutch district, has become a hub for "importing/smuggling of contraband in huge quantities from foreign countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan" points to the operations of drug cartels in the state. It cannot be possible that the government of Gujarat and the Centre are not aware of such activities. The Adani port's Press release claiming its role was "limited to running the port" and that it has no policing authority is also not believable.

No wonder the government's propensity to resort to theatrics to divert public attention from major issues appears once again to be the main reason for making the young Khan a scapegoat. While drug consumption may not be encouraged with the youth, yet it has to be admitted that drugs are a global problem. There is a need to differentiate between a consumer on the one hand and the criminal drug cartel on the other, whose last mile reach is through the pusher or peddler. A great damage will be caused to society if government puts everyone in the same bracket and punishes equally. As long as the drug lords are not silenced, substance abuse would always exist. Unfortunately it is these powerful drug rings that are in league with the police and politicians who assure them safety and unhindered business freedom. What we are observing in India today is simply political games to divert public attention from more serious issues.

WISDOM CORNER

Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will. **MAHATMA GANDHI**

When a thing is true, there is no need to use any arguments to substantiate it. **VINOBA BHAVE**

I had always been feeling uncomfortable in my mind about giving advice to others and not acting upon it myself. **LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI**

WORDSWORTH

Pettifogging

In the later middle ages, there was a class of lawyers who earned their livings making a great deal of fuss over minor legal cases. About 1560 they came to be called pettifoggers. They often had limited concern for scruples or conscience and the term was deeply contemptuous. Petty, then as now, meant something minor or trivial (from the French petit, small), so that part is obvious enough, but where does fogger come from? Theories abound. One of the better known, and quoted as fact in a few dictionaries, is that it originated in a German family named Fugger, who were successful merchants and financiers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, based in Augsburg. German, together with Dutch and other Germanic languages, also had variations on fugger as a word for people who were wealthy or grasping about money, or whose business methods were disreputable. Hence in English fogger, dating from the later sixteenth century but long obsolete, was a word for an underhand dealer. The German word might be the source. Another form used at the time was pettifactor, which could have come from an old sense of factor for a person who acts as an agent, so somebody who looks after small matters for others. However, most experts think that pettifactor actually came along later as a corrupted form of pettifogger. People were trying to make sense of this odd word fogger that didn't then exist in the language and converted it to one they knew. The lawyers called pettifoggers spent their time arguing about matters of small importance. The term became popular, and spawned derivatives like pettifogging. These survived the original term, which is now considered archaic, but we retain in the latter word the idea of somebody who places too much emphasis on trifles or who quibbles about minor matters.



Jagdish Rattanani

THE CONGRESS MUST MANAGE AND BUILD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THE SUCCESSFUL ALLIANCE WITH SHIV SENA IN MAHARASHTRA

Punjab has been a fiasco for the Congress. But it comes alongside one of the better things that has happened in recent years - the induction of Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mevani in the Grand Old Party, and the subsequent discomfort voiced by some of its senior leaders. This is just the kind of disturbance and change that the party needs as it is pushed to the wall, desperate in its attempt to prepare to stand up to the BJP and have a fighting chance in the elections, be they the coming Assembly polls or the later national round. When the chips are down, disturbance is better than peace; any change is better than no change.

In the Congress, the standard operating procedure for hopefuls to rise has been pretended reverence and visible obeisance to the first family of the party. Once done, it was always politics as usual under the banner of the party. What worked to keep this arrangement going was reward power and co-ercive power; marking the capacity of the Gandhi family to reward, punish and keep delinquents in check. It worked as long as there was a capacity to give something or take it away or hold the promise of doing so tomorrow. Now, when the party is no longer seen as a contender in that game of national politics, the framework has collapsed. Legitimacy and expertise of the 'high command' have also come into question.

While the family is the centre of a lot of criticism for getting it all wrong in Punjab, the curious case of the Congress is that the rest of its leadership is also a set of mini durbars. These second-line durbars represent in their own right a set of entrenched interests, privileged connections and power games without in any way delivering on the political arena. Some of them are highly educated, suave and savvy but they do not speak the language of the people, they cannot hold political meetings and they are more comfortable in clubs and TV studios, not in the hurly-burly of the grassroots where the

FOCUS CONGRESS

SIGNS OF CHANGE



If the 'hiring' of Kumar and Mevani indicates that the second level durbars of the Congress are being displaced, it is a good sign

issues are decided. The hard fact is that the Congress has been brought down as much by this list of mini leaders as it is by the fabled command and control of the Gandhis.

None of these Delhi-centric operators capture the imagination of the people; they cannot turn the burning issues before the nation, the crisis that threatens the very fabric of India, into crowds and votes. In fact, the party has not even been able to fire the imagination of the so-called intelligentsia. Who really in the Congress stands up as a credible voice on finance, external affairs, security, health, education? Hunt the names and all that emerges is the second round of durbars who have long sat in power, have lost credibility and are often, if not always, tainted in some way.

If the 'hiring' of Kumar and Mevani indicates that the second level durbars of the Congress are being displaced, it is a good sign. But that is only a beginning. Alongside comes the question on whether the two inductions are to be seen as an acquisition by the Congress or an assimilation and if this is to be read as a signal of bigger change within the Congress fold. The acquisition format would mean that the Kumar-Mewani duo, both highly ambitious young leaders, will become one more durbar within the Congress with their own set of

power claims as long as they begin to deliver what the Congress desperately wants - crowds and eventually votes. That would be a national replay of the regional drama seen in the ugly antics of the cricketer-soap artiste-turned Punjab PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu - give me this or I quit.

The other way would be for the Congress to allow the younger leaders coming from outside to grow, build their base and in due course challenge the entrenched interests within the party. This would demand a fundamental change in the way the party operates. But this kind of perestroika will carry the risk of going the full hog to destroy the very structure of command and control that has worked in the party for long years. It is never easy to change the operating system even if the eventual benefits are many. Yet, there is little choice the party has.

The change also signals that the Congress will have to move sharply to the Left and open new routes to catching the imagination of the people by focusing on the issues of the poor, the marginalised and the weaker sections. Under the BJP, the national frame has moved too far Right for the comfort of many key constituencies in India. The aggressive and naked push toward neo-liberal policies in the whole-

sale under Modi, the over-corporatisation of power structures, the new ways and means to push the transfer of public sector to private hands, the obstinacy on farm bills in the face of an agitation that has stood remarkably strong and peaceful one year down the line are all polices and indications that add to the strife and discomfort index of India.

The ambivalence of some in the Congress on issues like Article 370, the illegitimate fear that Kumar will be seen as part of the 'tukde-tukde' team which will open questions on nationalism of the Congress and indeed the thinking that seems to buy into the present-day economic policies and environmental plunder will not help the party. Indeed, the Congress has been as much guilty on these counts in the past, and it can be argued that the BJP has just upped the ante.

At the same time, the Congress must manage and build strategic partnerships like the successful alliance with Shiv Sena in Maharashtra. This taps into dissatisfaction of the ecosystem with the BJP's 'ogre-ish' style of gobbling up everything for itself. Strategic partnerships open new routes to alliances that can help reform the toxic political climate. This is a complex balancing act.

Therefore, the Kumar-Mewani entry to the Congress may indicate the coming of some big change. It is about time for the Congress to herald that change. There is a long road ahead. It is the Congress that gave us the Soviet-style five-year plans, the 'commanding heights of the economy' in the public sector and the approach of 'garibi hatao'. It is the Congress that put us on the path to neo-liberal policies as the treasury stood empty in 1991. It may well be the Congress that pushes back the agenda to the needs and aspirations of the marginalised sections. That would be a good route to a happy revival.

The writer is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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SPECTRUM BANKING

IBA as Niti Aayog for Indian banks

Banks in India have had a long and tumultuous journey. While there are many milestones that can be pointed out in the transformation of the banking sector in India, there are two events which hold substantial importance - the setting up of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 1935, and the nationalisation of 14 banks in 1969.

Over the years, banks, too, became more democratised, from being accessible to a privileged few to reaching out to the masses. Perhaps the 44 crore beneficiaries with over ₹1.45 lakh crore in basic banking (Jan Dhan) accounts reflect how far we have come to make banks and banking more universal and acceptable.

But as we move ahead banks will need to adopt modern technologies and processes while doing their basic job, which is to promote savings and provide opportunities to scale up businesses and make financial inclusion commercially viable. In this paradigm, comes in the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), which can find viable solutions in consultation with both the government and the sectoral regulator.

Indian banks still have a negligible presence in the top 100 banks globally in terms of asset size. The market capitalisation of the entire banking sector in India is

around ₹35 trillion, which is less than that of three foremost private sector companies in the country. Asset quality issues are far from over in the industry. Out of the 6.5 lakh villages in India, only about 50,000 have bank branches.

From the long-book, day-book era to the day-begin and day-end, core banking solution (CBS) era of banking, IBA has closely witnessed this journey. The setting up of what is popularly referred to as bad bank under the aegis of IBA indicates that the association on the lines of Niti Aayog can play a vital role in addressing challenges in the banking sector.

There has been phenomenal growth in the savings of people mobilised through the banking channel - from a meagre ₹4,338 crore as of December 1969 to a whopping ₹154.4 trillion by March 2021. Similarly, the credit deployed has also gone up astronomically, from ₹3,396 crore as of December 1969 to ₹110.35 trillion as of March 2021.

Set up in 1946 to develop and implement new ideas and innovations in banking services, IBA continues to play the role of a coordinator among banks, government and RBI.

This 75th anniversary of the association could not be a better opportunity for IBA to expand its role. Even the government is of

the view that IBA needs to evolve and not limit itself to just be an association that passes banking issues to the RBI. Instead, it must act as a key enabler in bolstering economic reforms for augmenting growth, among other things.

The IBA has been at the forefront of initiating reforms, be it in 1963 when, for the first time, a Comparative Statistical Analysis of 30 major banks was prepared or in 2005 when it came out with a Comprehensive Fair Practice Code for Banks and subsequent establishment of Banking Code and Standards Board of India. In the recent improvements in family pension IBA played a key role as facilitator.

Today, when governments and regulators across the world are facing challenges like cryptocurrencies, peer-to-peer lending and other non-conventional banking methods driven by fintech companies, IBA can not only aid policy-making but also train, equip and upskill banking professionals in the country to take various challenges head-on.

Besides the bad bank, the IBA has a major role to play in further strengthening the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and handling its real-time implications. A recent study by ASSOCHAM and CRISIL, states that bad loans are expected to rise to 8.5-9% by March 2022,

driven by slippages in retail and MSME accounts. IBA has the potential to come out with more engaging solutions, such as the pre-pack insolvency regime, and can further strengthen the IBC ecosystem.

A committee headed by PJ Nayak had in 2014 submitted a report, suggesting a series of reforms. While these suggestions may not get full acceptance, the process has kick-started, with the government announcing privatisation of two lenders. There have been suggestions to set up a bank investment committee. Under this structure, a company is constituted to which the government transfers its holdings in banks. In such a scenario, IBA can play a pivotal role in assisting the government to achieve such reforms.

Similarly, IBA can also engage with RBI to further strengthen risk-based supervision and annual financial inspections, which report on the asset quality of banks. It can also help banks to do holistic assessment of their branch network and help identify where branches can be rationalised using technology, and where more branches need to be opened.

The writer is a senior advisor at the IBA. Views are personal.

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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Punam's gesture

Sir, Cricket has come a long way from the 'true spirit' of the game. The cricket world has seen plenty of fiercely competitive players who played for themselves and for the team. When a batter is adjudicated 'out' by an umpire, and when no decision review system (DRS) is in place, he/she has no other alternative but to trudge back to the pavilion. Many Indian batters have shown pristine honesty in their ways on the field. Some of them were known to walk out of the field, not waiting for the umpire's fingers, if they knew they were out. Now, of course, the DRS system has taken over men's cricket, and there is every possibility that the third umpire would call a batsman's bluff. But Indian women's team player Punam Raut stood out by walking when she nicked an Australian bowler to the wicket-keeper, and the bowler's appeal was turned down by the on-field umpire in the second pink ball Test match between India and Australia at Queensland. Punam could have stayed put; she had scored a patient 36 of 165 deliveries. She may or may not have glanced at the umpire or the umpire might have taken time to arrive at a sagacious decision. Punam went by her conscience, and did not wait, much to the surprise of the Australian players. Even the commentators, and a couple of Australian cricket greats, were taken aback by Punam's gesture. Evidently, Australian cricketers are not known to believe in 'sportsmanship'. Walking out of the pitch, when given not-out is almost unheard of in cricket history. When the DRS was not in vogue, it was not unusual for Australian cricket greats to question the umpire. Perhaps, Adam Gilchrist was an exception. Punam's conscientious decision has won her admirers. It goes without saying that those who believe that cricket has to be played in the true spirit of the game will applaud the player's decision, others will not.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Save Odia

Sir, The Jharkhand government is withdrawing Odia, which is the second official language of the state, from school syllabus. Education in the mother tongue is a basic right. Studying in the mother tongue is same as drinking nectar from the mother's breast. Many students get educated in their mother tongue and take part in the nation's development process. Students should not be deprived of this right.

Chittaranjan Barik, JAGATSINGHPUR

JOB STIR

Neglected, Sindria community threatens to boycott elections



OP PHOTO

Despite the efforts of the government, it has not been able to identify and recognise some communities and provide them with their basic rights like caste identity certificates

The mother tongue that these people use is out of the grasp of the local school teachers, due to which the children belonging to this community are suffering from lack of proper education

The most serious issue here is that the members of this community have been deprived of any government certificate or identity proof of their caste and community

life devoid of a proper identity.

The mother tongue that these people use is out of the grasp of the local school teachers, due to which the children belonging to this community are suffering from lack of proper education. Shambhu Jhara, Ganga Jhara, Ranjit Jhara, Nirmal Jhara, Chaetu Jhara, Bikash Jhara, Brunda Jhara, Anita Jhara and Nandita Jhara are among more than 30 Sindria children who have dropped out of school after studying up to Class V. A total of only three youths of this community have got the opportunity to attend college.

Family planning scheme of the government has totally lost its way here. Similarly, essential health measure like two-child policy has lost its direction in this community. Women of this community, who have mothered four to five children, have become bed-ridden suffering from a number of health complexities.

The most serious issue here is that the members of this community have been deprived of any government certificate or identity proof of their caste and community. Nobody knows whether they belong to the Scheduled Caste, or the Scheduled Tribe, whether they are members of other backward castes

or general category, as the government has not recognised their community officially.

They have been running to the Binka tehsil from Singhijuba RI office, from the tehsil to the District Collectorate for a caste certificate or identity card, but to no avail. On January 18, 2020, Binka tehsildar Alekha Ghuta had reached the Sindria community of Jampali with a solution to their issues. He informed the local community members that in reality the Sindria caste is placed among the Scheduled Castes (SC) in the Odisha. He had advised them to take immediate steps to solve these issues.

Subsequently the community members had deposited their old pattas (record of rights) in the Singhijuba revenue office. But even after one-and-a-half years, the Sindrias have not received their caste certificates.

However, hundreds of Sindria community members living in these three padas of Jampali village have threatened that they will be forced to take to the highway to protest against the apathy of the government and will boycott the upcoming rural polls if they are not provided with caste certificates immediately.



Members of Multi-lingual Junior Teachers' Association demanding regularisation of Ho, Santhal and Juang language teachers staging a demonstration outside the Keonjhar Collectorate, Monday

OP PHOTO

Tension in Mayurbhanj village as elephant tramples man to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 4: An elderly man was trampled to death by a marauding elephant which strayed from Jharkhand to Bhaduasola village under Rasagobindpur forest range in Mayurbhanj district, Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Arjun Hansda, 65, of the village.

The matter came to the fore after villagers noticed the mutilated body of Hansda lying near his farmland and informed the Forest department officials, Monday. The villagers also noticed the footprints of two elephants near the body.

Hansda was killed by an elephant when he went to his farmland Sunday evening. He came face-to-face with the two pachyderms from Jharkhand. One of the animals picked him on its tusk and trampled him to death.

The incident sparked tension in the area. Villagers demanded that the kin of the deceased be adequately compensated for his death and staged a demonstration on the issue. They warned that if necessary steps are not taken they would be forced to take to the streets in coming days. However, the angry villagers relented after Forest ranger Prasant Behera reached the spot and assured to provide compensation to the kin of the deceased as per the government norms.

New bus terminal yet to be functional after inauguration

CM Naveen Patnaik had visited Bolangir September 22 and inaugurated the newly completed bus terminal which was the talk of the town



BOLANGIR TOWN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 4: Even as 12 days have passed after the inauguration of a new bus terminal in this town, it is yet to become functional with the premises lying vacant.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had visited Bolangir September 22, inaugurated and laid the founda-

tion stone of a slew of projects in the district along with the newly completed bus terminal in the town. Among the projects, the newly built bus terminal was the talk of the town.

The matter came to the fore after this correspondent visited the place and found that passenger bus services were yet to start from the

newly-built bus terminal with the premises lying vacant.

Reports said, an ultra-modern bus terminal has been constructed at the RTO office road in the town. The construction of the new bus stand had raised much hope among the residents on availing better bus services for which people thronged the place during its construction and on the day of its inauguration to get a glimpse of the place.

They hoped that the bus terminal will become functional soon after its inauguration. However, their hopes started waning as bus services have not been started with the premises lying vacant and deserted.

When contacted, some workers said that the construction work is yet to get finished. The office of the bus terminal has not started functioning as colouring and electrification works are going on, they said. The authorities will take a call on plying of passenger buses from the terminal only after the work gets completed, they added. Residents have demanded to make the bus terminal functional at the earliest so that it will ease the sufferings of the people travelling to various destinations.

FLAG MARCH



Police personnel taking out a flag march in Aska town of Ganjam district ahead of the Durga Puja festival, Monday

OP PHOTO

SSEPD notifies equal opportunity policy for transgender people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department Monday notified the equal opportunity policy for transgender persons.

The policy was notified as per the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and rules there under.

As per the policy, the department would provide equal employment opportunities, without any discrimination on the grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, colour, disability, marital status, nationality, race and religion, in its all offices.

The department will strive to maintain a work environment that is free from any harassment based on the above considerations. It will also ensure that the work environment is free from any discrimination against transgender persons.

Further, the department will take all actions to ensure that a conducive environment is provided to transgender persons to perform their role and excel in the same, the policy said. The SSEPD department will build systems and processes to ensure that the trans-

genders are not discriminated against in terms of any position, training, promotion or transferring level.

Necessary facilities and amenities will be provided to transgender persons to enable them to effectively discharge their duties in the department. One officer will be designated as complaint officer for redressal of complaints/grievances of such persons. The complaint officer will enquire into the complaints received within 15 days from the date of receipt of such complaints.

The head of department will take action on the enquiry report submitted by the complaint officer within 15 days. If action has not been taken in accordance with the time limits, the department will take action.

"That no opportunity is denied to transgender persons, merely on ground of sexual orientation. Transgender persons should contact the complaint officer in any given location. Any information obtained is voluntary, will be kept confidential, and will be used in accordance with applicable laws," the notification says.

Any employee who violates this policy, or in any manner discrimi-

nates with any transgender persons, or renders any harassment to such person, action will be taken under the code of ethics as prescribe in the service rules.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
The following tender has been uploaded on website www.reps.gov.in
No. MCS/Stores/E-Procurement Tender Notice/820 Dtd.: 27.09.2021
Sl. No. 01: TENDER NO. 92216034,
DESCRIPTION: (I) LT OUTDOOR FEEDER PILLAR PANEL (QUANTITY: 27 NOS.), (II) LT FLOOR MOUNTED ACB PANEL (QUANTITY: 01 NO.), (III) LT FLOOR MOUNTED ACB PANEL (QUANTITY: 01 NO.).
Tender Closing Date & Time: at 1500 hrs. of 27.10.2021.
Dy. Chief Materials Manager/CRW/PR-440/M/21-22
Mancheswar

OFFICE OF THE
JALESWAR MUNICIPALITY, JALESWAR
email:- jaleswaramunicipality@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice
No. 4446, Date: 01.10.2021
Tender Reference No. JLSM/04/2021-22
No. C-1063:- The Tender Bid Documents consisting of cost of tender papers, EMD, time of completion, set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the 'e' procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>
Name of the Work: Construction works for 1) Smart Park at Santia, Jaleswar 2) Smart Crematorium

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Total No. of Works | : 2 (Two) |
| 2. Period of Completion | : 03 (Three Calendar months) |
| 3. Date of availability of Bid documents in web portal | : 08.10.2021 at 12.00 hours |
| 4. Last date/Time for receipt of Bid in web portal | : 30.10.2021 upto 17.00 hours |
| 5. Date of submission of original Documents, EMD, Paper Cost | : 03.11.2021 upto 16.00 hours |
| 6. Date of opening of Technical Bid | : 05.11.2021 at 11.00 hours |
| 7. Name and address of the officer inviting bid | : Executive Officer, Jaleswar Municipality |

Further details can be seen from the 'e' Procurement Portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can be seen in the website mentioned above.
Sd/- Executive Officer,
Jaleswar Municipality
OIPR-13126/11/0010/2122

Youth scripts success through quail farming

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolagarh, Oct 4: Thirty-year-old Prafulla Mohapatra of Arikama under Bolagarh block in Khurda district was looking for something to eke out a comfortable living. He watched a video on quail farming on YouTube and that changed his life for good. Prafulla is now self-sufficient through quail farming and in the process has become an example for several youths of his locality.

"About four months ago, I watched a video on quail (locally

called 'gunduri') farming. I saw a good option of making a living from it," said Prafulla.

"I had only Rs 1.5 lakh, but decided to invest the entire amount in quail farming. Following the guidelines seen on the video, I purchased eggs of quail and hatched them through incubating machines," Prafulla added.

The hatchlings are nurtured till they achieve a particular size. It has become a regular source of income for Prafulla now.

The meat of quail is tastier than that of chicken. As it is a hybrid va-

riety of the wild species of quail bird, its farming is not illegal.

The demand of quail and its eggs are high in the market. Eating quail meat is healthy, according to many, as it supposedly is an antidote for various diseases like diabetes, arthritis and good for the heart, informed Prafulla.

Within months of investing money, Prafulla's business has grown manifold. Now he operates in Bhubaneswar, Dhenkanal and Nayagarh. Small traders purchase quails from his doorstep and he earns thousands of rupees every month.

Prafulla added that within a month of their birth, the birds are ready to be sold. Each bird (maximum 250 grams of meat) costs about Rs 60. Quails are usually fed the same things that are provided to other poultry birds.

Prafulla said that he is now concentrating on his business wholeheartedly as the returns have been good for him. He is hoping to expand his business to other parts of Odisha in future.



ORISSA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.
O/o. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PODAGADA DAM DIVISION, UPPER INDRAVATI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
AT/P.O.- KHATIGUDA, DIST.- NABARANGPUR, ODISHA, PIN - 764085, Tel. No. 06858-224255, E-mail: eeopdagadadam@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (NIFB)
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION No. EEPDD-05/2021-22
No. CAD-1402
No. CAD-1402
Dated: 29.09.2021

| Sl. No. | Bid Identification No. | Name of the Work | Value of Work (in Rs.) | Cost of Participation in Online Bid including GST @ 18% (Non-refundable) (in Rs.) | EMD (Bid Security) (in Rs.) | Period of Completion | Eligible Class of Contractor | Name & address of the Division under which the work will be executed |
|---------|------------------------|--|------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | EEPDD/05/21-22 | Painting to Downstream (D/S) face of Indravati Dam with priming & Painting with Jolly Holly Asian Paint (Plastic emulsion weather coat) UIHEP, Khatiguda | 45,50,349/- | 6000/- + GST @ 18% Rs.10800/- = Rs.70800/- | 45,600/- Declaration form for Exemption of EMD | 09 (Nine) Calendar Months | 'B' & 'A' Class Contractor | Executive Engineer, Podagada Dam Division, UIHEP, AVPO, Khatiguda, Dist. Nabarangpur, Odisha |

The Bid documents will be available in the Govt. website <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> & in the OHPCC Website: www.ohpccltd.com from 11.00 AM of dt. 08.10.2021 to dt. 22.10.2021 upto 4.00 P.M. The details of the Tender Documents terms and conditions please refer our Website <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> & www.ohpccltd.com.
OIPR-04012/11/0013/2122
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PODAGADA DAM DIVISION



LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

Impress upon UP govt to ensure justice: Channi to PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 4: Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to impress upon the Uttar Pradesh government to take firm steps in ensuring justice to the victim families of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

A memorandum in this regard was submitted to Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit here. Channi, while condemning the incident, told reporters that it should not have happened. Urging the governor to send the memorandum to the PM, Channi reiterated the need to urgently review and repeal the three farm laws, which has caused resentment among farmers.

Channi mentioned that he was constrained to bring in his (PM) notice that the recent incident of violence at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh has 'shaken the conscience of one and all'. Furthermore, it is all the more painful that our 'andattas' have lost lives in this unfortunate act while protesting peacefully against the farm laws, he said.

Seeking the prime minister's intervention, Channi said the real



Sir, it is high time that people's confidence and trust in the democratic system is restored so as to enable them to express their emotions and feelings freely by allowing them to exercise their fundamental right to expression. As of now, they are feeling suffocated to vent out their grievances fearlessly

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI | PUNJAB CM

culprits behind this 'barbarous act' should be exposed, howsoever, influential or well connected they may be. He urged the PM for expeditious justice to be delivered to the innocent farmers who have lost their lives in this unfortunate incident, according to an official statement.

The memorandum reads, "Moreover, the common people and farmers are feeling alienated from the present system, which has grad-

ually crumbled due to erosion of democratic values and ethics."

"Sir, it is high time that people's confidence and trust in the democratic system is restored so as to enable them to express their emotions and feelings freely by allowing them to exercise their fundamental right to expression. As of now, they are feeling suffocated to vent out their grievances fearlessly," he said.

The chief minister said there

is widespread resentment among farmers with regard to three farm laws enacted by the Centre.

He said several farmers have lost their lives during this ongoing stir against the farm laws, which has posed a major threat to their livelihoods, jeopardising the future of generations.

Channi said it is ironic that the farmers who have made the country self-reliant in food production are now forced to fight for safeguarding their rights.

"Notably, this agitation has ad-

versely impacted our economy and, therefore, a viable solution to this issue must be found by taking all the stakeholders into confidence. Needless to mention that the general public has also been badly hit and facing a lot of inconvenience due to this ongoing agitation," added Channi.

The CM was accompanied by Deputy CM OP Soni, ministers Brahm Mohindra, Manpreet Singh Badal, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Vijay Inder Singla, Randeep Singh Nabha, Raj Kumar Verka, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Pargat Singh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Gurkirat Singh Kotli.

Eight people were killed Sunday as violence erupted during a farmers' protest in Lakhimpur Kheri, claiming the lives of both farmers and BJP workers ahead of a visit by UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Four of the dead were people in the cars, apparently a part of a convoy of BJP workers who had come to welcome the UP minister. They were allegedly thrashed to death. The four others were farmers, officials said.

Farmers stage protests over Lakhimpur violence



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 4: Irate farmers in Punjab and Haryana held demonstrations at many places in both states Monday, demanding the arrest of Union minister Ajay Mishra's son in connection with the violence that broke out during a farmers' protest in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri.

The protesters burnt effigies of the Centre and the UP government at various places and raised slogans against the BJP.

Holding demonstrations outside the offices of deputy commissioners, the farmers demanded that Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra be sacked in connection with the violence.

The demonstrations were held

at Patiala, Mohali, Ferozepur, Amritsar, Rupnagar, Moga, Muktsar in Punjab, Ambala, Kurukshetra and Fatehabad in Haryana and UT Chandigarh.

The protesters also demanded action against Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for his remarks against farmers.

Khattar Sunday had talked about 'tit for tat' during a meeting of the BJP's Kisan Morcha in Chandigarh when he told the gathering to form groups of 500 to 1,000 and be prepared to even go to jail.

Eight people were killed Sunday as violence erupted during a farmers' protest in Lakhimpur Kheri, claiming the lives of both farmers and BJP workers ahead of a visit by UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Assam Cong forges alliance with local parties for bypolls



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 4: After dumping two of its old allies - AIUDF and BPF, the opposition Congress in Assam will now forge an alliance with the Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) and Rajgor Dal to take on the ruling BJP in the October 30 bypolls to the six Assembly seats.

Assam state Congress President Bhupen Kumar Borah said that of the six seats, Majuli will be left to the AJP while the Bhabanipur seat is likely to be given to Rajgor Dal even as a final decision was expected from the party President Akhil Gogoi.

By-election for the Majuli seat, which fell vacant after former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha September 27, might be announced soon and discussions were held on the election related issues for all the six constituencies at a party meet, Borah added.

The Election Commission September 28 announced the bypolls to Gossaigaon, Tamulpur, Bhabanipur, Mariani and Thowra which will take place October 30.

Borah and AJP President Lurinjyoti Gogoi emphasised the "need to defeat the divisive agenda of the BJP, which was dabbling in communal politics only for electoral gain".

Gogoi expressed the need for all like-minded opposition parties to come forward "to stem this destructive communal tide unleashed by BJP on the people of Assam".

"The systems of purchase of MLAs would keep democratic traditions in bondage and this is dangerous for all of us. The need of the hour is to create an environment in Assam which is free from communal politics and agenda of hate," the AJP President said.

The AJP and the Rajgor Dal together fought the March-April Assembly polls but only Akhil Gogoi was elected to the assembly.

The Congress, which ruled Assam for 15 years (2001-2016), managed to get 29 seats in the March-April Assembly elections, three more than the 2016 polls, when it lost power in the state to the BJP.

Of the other partners of the Congress led 10-party 'Mahajot' (grand alliance), the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF)

FACT FILE

Congress in Assam will now forge an alliance with the Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) and Rajgor Dal to take on the ruling BJP in the October 30 bypolls to the six Assembly seats

The Assam Congress last month announced that the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF and tribal-based party BPF would no longer be partners of the 'Mahajot' in the state

The Congress, which ruled Assam for 15 years (2001-2016), managed to get 29 seats in the March-April Assembly elections, three more than the 2016 polls, when it lost power in the state to the BJP

won 16 seats, the Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF) got four seats, and the Communist Party of India-Marxist won just one seat.

The Assam Congress last month announced that the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF and tribal-based party BPF would no longer be partners of the 'Mahajot' in the state.

In the March-April Assembly polls, the Congress had left the Bhabanipur seat to the AIUDF while the Gossaigaon seat was contested by the BPF.

Recently, four-time Congress MLA from Mariani, Rupiyoti Kurni and two-time party legislator from Thowra, Sushanta Borgohain resigned from the party and joined the BJP.

Phanidhar Talukdar, the lone Hindu MLA of the Muslim-based AIUDF from Bhabanipur, had resigned from the Assembly before recently joining the BJP.

Tamulpur MLA Leho Ram Boro of the UPPL and Gossaigaon legislator Majendra Narzary of the BPF died of Covid-19.

BJP sources said that the party would field candidates in four seats and leave the Tamulpur constituency for UPPL.

The party's state unit chief Bhabesh Kalita has claimed that the BJP would win all the five seats in the by-elections.

In the 126-member Assam Assembly, the BJP won 60 seats, which is similar to the number it won five years ago.

BJP allies Asom Gana Parishad won nine seats against 14 previous time, while the new alliance partner, UPPL, got six seats.

500 poachers, woodcutters lay down arms in Assam's Bodoland

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 4: In a significant development, as many as 500 poachers and woodcutters have surrendered their arms at Chirang in western Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), officials said.

Officials said that responding to the appeal of the Assam government and the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) administration, over 500 poachers and wood cutters deposited their arms and ammunition at a function at Bengtol.

BTC Executive Member Ranjit Basumtari said that the surrender of this large number of poachers and wood cutters, who are directly involved in felling of valuable trees, deforestation and killing of wild animals, is considered as a significant step in the protection of forests and wildlife in the region.

He said that a campaign would be launched to move away from the protected forests soon and before that all the people inhabiting inside the forest areas would be relocated.

Basumtari said that the poachers and woodcutters have deposited 254 hand-made guns, huge quantities of explosives and 82 pieces of wood and ammunition.

He announced that ₹50,000 would be provided to each poacher and wood cutter and skill development training would be imparted to them.



THE POACHERS AND WOODCUTTERS HAVE DEPOSITED 254 HAND-MADE GUNS, HUGE QUANTITIES OF EXPLOSIVES AND 82 PIECES OF WOOD AND AMMUNITION

"We have earlier appealed to the poachers and the wood cutter to surrender and deposit their arms and ammunition. Responding to our call they have laid down their arms and ammunition making a history

in protecting the forest and wildlife in the BTR."

Many other executive members and officials of the BTC were present in the surrender ceremony, first of its kind in Assam.

On the occasion of World Rhino Day September 22, as many as 57 poachers surrendered their arms and wildlife parts near the Raimona National Park in BTR, comprising the four western Assam districts of Chirang, Baksa, Udalguri and Kokrajhar, bordering Bhutan and West Bengal.

Pramod Boro, the chief executive member of the BTC that administers the BTR, also gave financial aid to the poachers who decided to give up poaching and take up alternate vocations.

A close-knit community inside a wildlife sanctuary

The sanctuary which begins from the Punjab village of Bazidpur Bhoma is home to over 30,000 people of the Bishnoi community

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Abohar, Oct 4: An unobservant traveller, driving from Rajasthan and entering Punjab through the city of Abohar in the Fazilka district, might completely miss the fact that they are passing through a wildlife sanctuary. The animals know to keep away from the open and busy roads criss-crossing the land. And there are no forests here, only farmlands.

The sanctuary is essentially a close-knit community of nearly a dozen densely populated villages where hundreds of the rare blackback roam fearlessly in the fields amidst the bustle of agrestic life. The forest department does not own any land in this area and yet there is a thriving wildlife sanctuary, home to thousands of wild animals.

The sanctuary, which begins from the Punjab village of Bazidpur Bhoma, is also home to over 30,000 people of the Bishnoi



community. The Bishnois are a Hindu sect founded in the late 15th century in Rajasthan and are well-known for their fierce love for the environment and all things living.

The Bishnois here in Abohar have solidified that legacy over the last century by allowing their private land to moonlight as a special reserve for the protection of the Krishna (blackback) and Chinkara deer (Indian gazelle).

Establishing a 'private' sanctuary

The person credited for the founding of the sanctuary is Chaudhary Sant Kumar Bishnoi of Dotaranwali village, born in the year 1915. Sant Kumar grew up in the tradition of wildlife preservation; his father

and grandfather were persistent in their patrols to drive poachers out of the area. Sant Kumar was more radical and started fining the poachers and handing them over to the police. He mobilised people in the surrounding villages to become more proactive in protecting the deer, eventually forming the All India Wildlife Defense Bishnoi Committee (AIWDBC).

At the request of the Bishnois, the Punjab Government issued a notification in the year 1975, declaring the villages of Raipura, Dotaranwali, Rajwali, Sardarpura, Khairpura, Sukhchian, Seetoguno, Maharana, Himmatpura, Rampura, Narainpura, Bishanpura and Bazidpur Bhoma as the Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary. Sant Kumar was felicitated with

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 4: The Congress Monday suspended its Assam MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed, who was arrested Saturday for his 'communally provocative' comments on the September 23 violence during an eviction drive in the state's Darrang district, which left two dead and 20 others injured.

State Congress General Secretary Bobbeeta Sharma said that state party president Bhupen Kumar Borah has suspended Ahmed with immediate effect for violating party discipline. Assam Police Saturday first detained and then arrested the MLA from his official residence in Guwahati for his 'communally provocative' controversial comments on martyrs of Assam agitation (1979-1985).

The 54-year-old three-time legislator justified the killing of eight people in Darrang in 1983 during the Assam agitation, triggering controversy across the state with various organisations lodging complaints at different police stations, leading to the police arresting him under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. Many parties and civil society organisations have been organising demonstrations during the past two weeks in many districts demanding action against him.

The Congress last week served Ahmed show-cause notice and asked him to reply within three days. Sharma said that the MLA's "provocative comments and statements" have damaged the reputa-



tion and credibility of the AICC and the state Congress.

"You are acting as an agent of the BJP due to your closeness to the Chief Minister (Himanta Biswa Sarma). You might have been sponsored to make such provocative and communal comments to cause harm to the Congress, especially ahead of the by-elections in the state," she had told Ahmed in the show-cause notice. Sharma, who is also the chief spokesperson of the Congress in Assam, in her notice, said: "As an MLA, your provocative comments in the media, reviving old wounds of the past incidents of Assam agitation when people of various communities had suffered, are totally insensitive and unwarranted."

Ruling BJP's ally the Asom Gana Parishad, born out of the Assam agitation, held demonstrations in different districts and burnt effigies of Ahmed.

the Indira Gandhi Environment Award in 1992, and he passed away six years later. In 2000, the 13 villages were legally declared a sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Ashok Bishnoi, the grandson of Chaudhary Sant Kumar and a retired forest range officer, is now the National Vice President of the AIWDC.

Guardians of the blackback

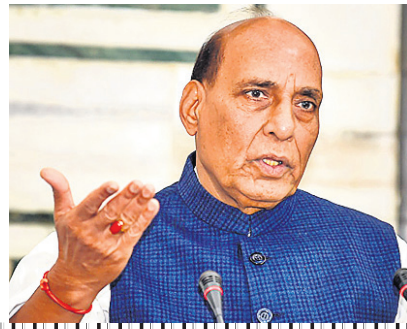
The Bishnois are zealous in their mission to protect the wildlife here and have been managing the sanctuary with the support of the forest department. The Forest Department has deployed 11 employees in the sanctuary and, together with 10 daily wage contract workers, they oversee the vast reserve spread over 46,513 acres.

But the real deterrent for hunters and poachers are the Bishnois who number in the thousands. The other communities living here, though small in number, have assimilated into the Bishnoi way of life and are just as committed to the cause. RD Bishnoi, head of the Punjab branch of the AIWDBC, said that many a time unarmed Bishnois have caught gun-wielding poachers and handed them over to the police. When the wildlife is in any perceivable danger, even women single-handedly take on the hunters, he said. For the last 26 years,

Rajendra Bishnoi has been guarding the sanctuary. He said: "The forest department and the villagers work day and night. We have no fixed work hours. As soon as there is information about a wild animal being injured, we immediately reach the spot. If it is a minor injury, the animal is treated on the spot and freed. If it is serious, it is taken to the rescue centre for treatment. Many times we have even taken injured animals to Ludhiana."

A dogged situation

The sanctuary also has its fair share of difficulties and a recent development has left the Bishnois between a rock and a hard place. Attacks by stray dogs on deer are increasing. Also, the barbed cobra wire that was installed around the fields to protect the crops from wandering animals has been causing fatal injuries to the deer during dog attacks. RD Bishnoi said: "When we raised our concerns, the administration banned cobra wire. So far, most of the cobra wires have been removed. But the dogs are still a threat as their number is increasing exponentially. These dogs attack the deer whenever they get the chance. In the last two years, about three dozen deer have died in dog attacks. Many nilgais have also been killed by dogs."



India needs to focus on developing dual-use technologies for both military and civilian agencies and special attention should be paid to research and development for manufacturing state-of-the-art defence platforms

WELCOME MOVE

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Monday launched an initiative to facilitate COVID vaccine delivery to tough and hard-to-reach terrains of the Northeast through drones



of the day quote

Seventy per cent of India's adult population has been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine



MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Congratulations and best wishes to the new Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Kishida Fumio. I look forward to working with him to further strengthen the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership and advance peace and prosperity in our region and beyond



NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

I strongly condemn the detention of AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi ji and other leaders by the Uttar Pradesh Police. She is a prominent opposition leader and was on her way to meet the families of farmers who were killed yesterday in Lakhimpur Kheri district... The unlawful detention of opposition leaders is against democratic values



ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

Oppn lashes out at UP govt

Lakhimpur KHERI VIOLENCE



Congress Youth activists burn an effigy of Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath during their protest over the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Lucknow, Oct 4: Opposition parties Monday lashed out at the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh for not allowing their leaders to visit Lakhimpur Kheri after eight people died in violence there during an anti-farm law protest, alleging it was an attempt to cover up and demanding the sacking of Union Minister Ajay Mishra and the arrest of his son, who have been named in an FIR.

Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged that "killing Raj is going on, instead of Ram Rajya" in Uttar Pradesh, while Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala compared the BJP government to "General Dyer" who ordered firing upon peaceful protesters in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in 1919.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury alleged that

democracy was being "throttled" while AAP's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj termed it the "Hathras model" and alleged that both state and central governments are attempting to cover up the incident of Lakhimpur Kheri. The opposition parties also accused some BJP leaders of making provocative statements and questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue. Several opposition parties and farmer leaders have alleged that Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish ran over the anti-farm protesters, though they both have denied the allegations.

"We demand that Union minister Ajay Mishra should be immediately dismissed from his post and his son arrested forthwith. We also demand that the minister should be booked for the same offence as his son as he

is trying to protect him," Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel told reporters.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, who was detained as he sat on a dharna outside his Vikramaditya Marg residence in Lucknow after he was not allowed to go to Lakhimpur, also hit out at the BJP, accusing it of "colluding" with killers.

"Vehicles are being run over those who raise their voices. We want the arrest of the minister and his son in the Lakhimpur incident," he told reporters. Baghel said the entire country is agitated over the Lakhimpur incident and alleged that "the BJP's thought process and politics is inspired by the British".

BSP chief Mayawati claimed that party general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP SC Mishra was "placed under house arrest" late last night so that the party delegation under his leadership could not go to Lakhimpur Kheri to get the correct report.

"This is very sad and condemnable," she tweeted while demanding a judicial inquiry. Yechury said the BJP and the Modi government "have no business to not allow political parties to reach victims of the barbarism inflicted on farmers yesterday".

Facing heat over the incident, the Uttar Pradesh government announced a probe by a retired High Court judge and a compensation of Rs 45 lakh to the families of four deceased farmers and Rs 10 lakh to those injured in the violence.

However, the Congress and other parties demanded that the compensation amount be increased to Rs one crore. "It is a shame that the prime minister and home minister, whom the minister directly reports to, have not uttered a word on this cold-blooded murder," Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee also launched a scathing attack on the BJP governments at the Centre and in the state and alleged that an attempt was being made to hide the truth.

ARTISTIC TOUCH



An artisan paints an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of Durga puja in Ranchi, Monday

PTI PHOTO

SC junks plea for CBI probe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Supreme Court Monday declined to entertain a plea seeking a CBI probe in connection with medical oxygen shortage during course of second wave of pandemic, and also constituting a commission of inquiry headed by either top court judge or chief justice of a high court.

A bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said: "We have set up a national task force... we cannot encroach upon the executive domain." It also remarked: "Sometimes P in the PIL goes beyond public interest to other interests. We don't want our court to be an instrument to pursue other Ps in a public interest litigation."

The bench also comprising Justice B.V. Nagarathna noted the responsibility of the task force has been formulated in broad terms, wherein one issue was ensuring ad-

OXYGEN CRISIS



equated supply of oxygen to meet requirement of patients.

The lawyer, representing the petitioner, submitted that his client had suffered due to lack of oxygen and pointed out that many citizens died during the second wave of the pandemic. To this, the bench replied that it is very easy to criticise the government, and even the court without being in the hot seat.

The bench emphasised that it has already set up a task force comprising of leading doctors, there-

The lawyer, representing the petitioner, submitted that his client had suffered due to lack of oxygen and pointed out that many citizens died during the second wave of the pandemic

The bench emphasised that it has already set up a task force comprising of leading doctors, therefore there is no need for other inquiry or a parallel investigation

fore there is no need for other inquiry or a parallel investigation. On the aspect of a CBI probe into the oxygen crisis, the bench said the allegation with regard to criminal wrong cannot be assumed nor can be levelled lightly without adequate material.

The bench noted that CBI is always matter of last recourse and asked the counsel, has his client filed an FIR? It also noted that even the most developed nations in the world with advanced health infrastructure have struggled during the pandemic.

SHORT TAKES

Girl killed

Meerut (UP): In a case of an "honour killing", four men in UP's Meerut city allegedly killed their sister for marrying a man from a different caste. The incident took place on Saturday when three brothers and cousins allegedly killed their 18-year-old sister for "maligning" the family name. The accused took help of their friends and the police have booked ten persons for murder. According to the police, the woman belonged to a different caste and her family was against the marriage.

Unitech founder arrested

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Monday arrested Unitech founder Ramesh Chandra, his daughter-in-law Preeti Chandra and an executive of a company in connection with a money-laundering probe against the real estate group and its promoters, officials said. They said the three were taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case against Ramesh Chandra's sons -- Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra. Preeti Chandra is the wife of jailed Unitech promoter Sanjay Chandra.

Shakti Sinha passes away

New Delhi: Shakti Sinha, former bureaucrat and academician who was private secretary to late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, passed away Monday. He was 64. According to sources, Sinha was suffering from high blood pressure and was rushed to RK Hospital in IP Extension when he complained of uneasiness. He collapsed at the hospital, the source said.

Youth's genitals chopped off

Unnao (UP): In a shocking incident, unidentified assailants chopped off the genitals of a 20-year-old youth while he was sleeping outside his house in Gauri Majra Para village in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao. The youth's screams alerted his family members and neighbours who rushed to the spot and then informed the police. The profusely bleeding youth was taken to a nearby hospital, from where doctors referred him to Trauma Centre in Lucknow in a critical condition.

NEET cancellation plea dismissed

The petitioner sought setting aside the NEET-UG exam and also a direction from top court to the National Testing Agency to conduct the exam afresh

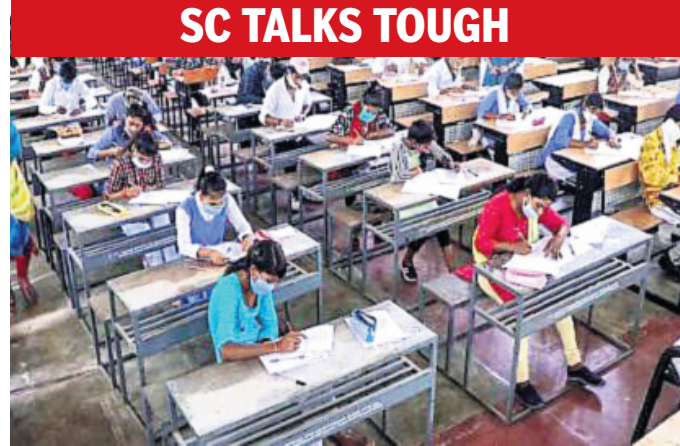
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Supreme Court Monday declined to entertain a plea seeking cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, undergraduate, (NEET-UG), which was held September 12, contending it was not a fair and transparent examination.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and B.R. Gavaai termed the petition frivolous. Querying counsel for the petitioner, the bench said: "What kind of writs is being filed? Lakhs of people have taken these exams."

Stressing that the court is not going to interfere with an exam on the basis of few FIRs, the bench said: "How can the exam be cancelled?" Counsel submitted that the CBI has registered three FIRs and examination papers were leaked on WhatsApp. The bench noted that in the FIRs, there has been impersonation of the candidates.

Warning it would impose costs for filing plea of this nature, the



SC TALKS TOUGH

bench told the petitioner's counsel: "Why should the Petitioner pay? It is the lawyer who gives suggestions of filing such petitions under Article 32." As counsel representing the petitioner prayed that costs should not be imposed, the bench, which seemed inclined to impose costs of Rs 5 Lakh, did not impose the cost in the matter. "Costs will not be imposed but we will remember you. Next time there

is such a case, we will definitely impose costs on you," it told counsel. The top court was hearing a plea filed by petitioner Saloni seeking cancellation of the NEET-UG exam held on September 12, 2021, citing alleged malpractices. The petitioner also sought setting aside the NEET-UG exam and also a direction from top court to the National Testing Agency to conduct the exam afresh.

Good Samaritans taking victims to hosp to get ₹5K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The road ministry Monday said it has launched a scheme for 'Good Samaritans' under which a cash award of Rs 5,000 will be given to those who save the life of a road accident victim by rushing him/her to hospital within the 'golden hour' of the mishap.

In a letter to principal and transport secretaries of all states and union territories, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said the scheme would be effective from October 15, 2021 till March 31, 2026.

The ministry Monday issued guidelines for the "scheme for grant of award to the Good Samaritan who has saved life of a victim of a fatal accident involving a motor vehicle by administering immediate assistance and rushing to hospital/trauma Care Centre within the Golden Hour of the accident to provide medical treatment."

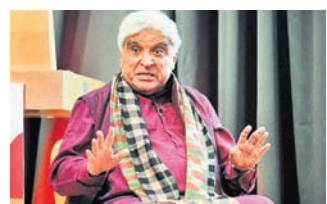
To motivate the general public to help the road accident victims

in an emergency situation, MoRTH said "the amount of award for each Good Samaritan would be Rs. 5,000 per incident." "Every cash award would be accompanied with a certification of appreciation," it added.

Besides award in each case, the ministry said there will be 10 national level awards for the most worthy Good Samaritans (to be selected from all those who have been awarded during the whole year) and they would be given an award of Rs 1,00,000 each.

According to the guidelines, if more than one Good Samaritan saves the life of more than one victim, the amount of award will be Rs 5,000 per victim saved, subject to maximum Rs 5,000 per Good Samaritan. 'Golden hour' refers to the 1-hour time period following a traumatic injury during which there is the highest likelihood of preventing death by providing prompt medical care. MoRTH said it will provide Rs 5 lakh as initial grant to the transport department of states and UTs for making payment to the Good Samaritans.

NC offence registered against Javed Akhtar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 4: Mumbai Police registered a non-cognisable (NC) offence against Bollywood lyricist Javed Akhtar Monday over his alleged remark against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on a complaint filed by a lawyer, a senior police officer said.

Earlier in the day, a Mumbai Police official and the complainant lawyer had said that an FIR (First Information Report) was registered against the veteran lyricist. Later in the day, Mulund police station senior inspector Avinash Bhise clarified that an NC was registered against Akhtar and not FIR as told by the official earlier.

Complainant Santosh Dubey has made and circulated a video of himself claiming that the police had registered an FIR against Akhtar (76) based on his complaint.

Govt may slap higher penalty for cruelty against animals

AT PRESENT, PERPETRATORS OF SUCH ACTS OFTEN GET AWAY UNSCATHED AS THE PENALTY FOR THE FIRST TIME OFFENDER IS JUST ₹50 UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (PCA) ACT, 1960

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The government plans to introduce a higher penalty and jail term for people perpetrating cruelty against animals and a draft bill to amend the existing law is likely to come up in the next Parliament session.

At present, perpetrators of such acts often get away unscathed as the penalty for the first time offender is just Rs 50 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.

"We are ready with the draft amendment bill. We are in the process of getting the Cabinet approval," Union Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Poultry Minister Parshottam Rupala said Monday. He was speaking on the side-



lines of an event organised to celebrate World Animal Day at Kamadhenu Goushala in Gurugram. At the event, Joint Secretary at the ministry and Chairman of Animal Welfare Board OP Choudhary said, we have sug-

gested an increase in penalty and even jail term under the draft amendment bill. Penalties have been suggested in a balanced way.

According to him, the ministry will take the Cabinet approval and place the draft bill in the next

Parliament session. On Monday, the Union minister launched a portal of the Animal Welfare Board that will provide online approval to those engaged in animal welfare as well as those using animals in film shooting.

The minister emphasised the need to adopt scientific methods to protect cattle and setting up of cow hostel outskirts of cities. In cities, people living in apartments have no space even if they want to keep cows. So, the concept of cow hostel will be of great help. Those interested in rearing cow can buy one and take care in a hostel, he said, adding that the government will promote such hostels by providing assistance.

Expressing concern over the fall in donations to goushalas (cow

sheds) in the last few years, Rupala said there is a need to make them viable by encouraging them make different products from milk and byproducts of cattle.

He also said the dairy sector is key for doubling farmers income and urged people to buy cow-based products like cow dung diyas during Diwali, thereby promoting 'vo-cal for local'.

The government is providing funds under central schemes to set up infrastructure, vaccine to animals and develop entrepreneurs, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Haryana Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Jai Prakash Dalal said the state government has come out with stringent rules to protect cattle and set up goushalas.

international



It is important for India and Sri Lanka to work together to strengthen economic partnership and deepen the time-tested bilateral ties founded on the principles of mutual benefit, mutual understanding and a common purpose defined by good neighbourly relations
HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA | FOREIGN SECRETARY

MATTER OF CONCERN

Excess body weight may be associated with significant rates of Covid-19 mortality among adult populations around the globe, according to a study



of the day quote

Myanmar may be excluded from a summit of Southeast Asian leaders this month if it refuses to cooperate with the bloc's special envoy in resolving the military-ruled country's deepening crisis

SAIFUDDIN ABDULLAH | MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Businesses, political parties, the institutions, and indeed all in Northern Ireland face instability and disruption

DAVID FROST | BREXIT MINISTER

COP26 represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations

POPE FRANCIS

Koreas restore cross-border hotlines

THE HOTLINES ARE PHONE AND FAX CHANNELS THAT THE KOREAS USE TO SET UP MEETINGS, ARRANGE BORDER CROSSINGS AND AVOID ACCIDENTAL CLASHES

AGENCIES

Seoul, Oct 4: South and North Korea restored their direct communication lines Monday, raising hopes for the resumption of stalled dialogue amid a deadlock in denuclearization talks.

The two sides had contact through a military hotline and a separate joint liaison office channel, Yonhap News Agency quoted South Korean officials as saying.

Last year, North Korea blew up a liaison office in its border town of Kaesong and unilaterally cut off all inter-Korean communication lines in anger over anti-Pyongyang leaflets sent from South Korea.

The hotlines were briefly back in operation in late July before being suspended by North Korea in protest of an annual combined military exercise of South Korea and the US.

The North has long denounced the allies' annual military exercise as a rehearsal for invasion.

On Monday, South Korea immediately expressed hope for the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue. The reconnection of the communication lines is viewed as having "laid the ground for bringing the relations between the two



A South Korean officer makes a test call with a North Korean officer at an undisclosed location Monday

HOPES ALIVE

Koreas back on track", the Unification Ministry said in a statement. "Through that stable management of the communication lines and swift resumption of dialogue, the government hopes to begin and advance substantive discussions on improving inter-Korean relations and making peace take root on the Korean Peninsula, along with implementing agreements between the two Koreas."

The South Korean Defence Ministry also expressed hope that the restoration of the hotlines would ease military tensions with

North Korea. The Ministry added that both of the two direct military communication lines - the western and eastern hotlines - operated normally but Pyongyang has not answered the South's calls via ship-to-ship radio links that use the global merchant marine communication.

Pyongyang's official South Central News Agency said South Korea "should make positive efforts to put the North-South ties on a right track and settle the important tasks bearing deep in mind the meaning of the restoration of

'FB chose profit over public safety'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Oct 4: A data scientist who was revealed Sunday as the Facebook whistleblower says that whenever there was a conflict between the public good and what benefited the company, the social media giant would choose its own interests.

Frances Haugen was identified in a "60 Minutes" interview Sunday as the woman who anonymously filed complaints with federal law enforcement that the company's own research shows how it magnifies hate and misinformation.

Haugen, who worked at Google and Pinterest before joining Facebook in 2019, said she had asked to work in an area of the company that fights misinformation, since she lost a friend to on-line conspiracy theories.

"Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety," she said. Haugen, who will testify before Congress this week, said she hopes that by coming forward the government will put regulations in place to govern the company's activities. She said Facebook prematurely turned off safeguards designed to thwart misinformation and rabble rousing



after Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump last year, alleging that contributed to the deadly January 6 invasion of the US Capitol.

Post-election, the company dissolved a unit on civic integrity where she had been working, which Haugen said was the moment she realized "I don't trust that they're willing to actually invest what needs to be invested to keep Facebook from being dangerous."

Facebook's annual revenue has more than doubled from \$56 billion in 2018 to a projected \$119 billion this year, based on the estimates of analysts surveyed by FactSet. Meanwhile, the company's market value has soared from \$375 billion at the end of 2018 to nearly \$1 trillion now.

SHORT TAKES

Heavy rain affects over 16K in China

Beijing: Over 16,000 residents in northeast China's Liaoning province have been affected by extensive heavy rainfall that began two days ago, the local flood control and drought relief headquarters said Monday. From 8 p.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Monday, most areas of Liaoning were battered by moderate to heavy downpours, with some areas hit by extreme rainstorms and hail, reports Xinhua news agency.

Abiy Ahmed sworn in as Ethiopia's PM

Addis Ababa: Ethiopia's incumbent Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was sworn in Monday for a new five-year term in office. The swearing-in ceremony was held as part of the first day of the Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR)'s new five-year term, reports Xinhua news agency. Abiy's ruling party Prosperity Party's won a landslide victory in national elections held in June.

Russia test-fires hypersonic missile

Moscow: A prospective Russian hypersonic missile has been successfully test-fired from a nuclear submarine for the first time, the military said Monday. The Russian Defense Ministry said that the Severodvinsk submarine performed two launches of the Zircon cruise missile at mock targets in the Barents Sea.

Beirut blast probe to resume

Beirut: Lebanon's appeals court Monday rejected lawsuits filed against the lead investigator of the Beirut port explosion in a decision that allows him to resume his work, the country's National News agency said. Monday's ruling came a week after three former Cabinet ministers, who are also defendants in the investigation, accused the judge of bias and filed lawsuits demanding he be dismissed.

EU backs Pfizer booster for adults

Amsterdam: The European Union's drug regulator gave its backing Monday to administering booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for people 18 and older. The European Medicines Agency said the booster doses "may be considered at least 6 months after the second dose for people aged 18 years and older."

Report says war crimes committed in Libya

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Oct 4: UN human rights experts said Monday they have found evidence of possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in Libya.

The first findings from a "fact-finding mission" commissioned by the Human Rights Council, which were released Monday, chronicle accounts of crimes like murder, torture, enslavement, extrajudicial killings and rape. The findings could send a potent signal to key international and regional powers amid violence and mistreatment that has wracked Libya since the fall of former autocrat Moammar Gadhafi a decade ago.

"The violence that has plagued Libya since 2011, and which has continued almost unabated since 2016, has enabled the commission of serious violations, abuses and crimes, including crimes against humanity and war crimes, against the most vulnerable," the three members who led the mission say

in their report.

The experts cite reports indicating that the Libyan Coast Guard - which has been trained and equipped by the European Union as part of efforts to stanch the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean - has mistreated migrants and handed some over to detention centres where torture and sexual violence are "prevalent". Amid concerns about foreign mercenaries operating in Libya, they experts say there are "reasonable grounds to believe" that personnel from a Russian private military company known as the Wagner Group, "may have committed the crime of murder" in connection with evidence that they had fired gunshots directly at people not taking direct part in the hostilities. The report also cites findings from "reliable organisations" that some 87,000 migrants have been intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard since 2016, including about 7,000 "currently" in centres run by the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration.

FOR A REASON



Greenpeace climate activists paddle ashore after Dutch police broke up a protest at a Shell refinery in Rotterdam, Netherlands. A coalition of environmental groups launched a campaign calling for a Europe-wide ban on fossil fuel advertising ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, which starts in Glasgow October 31

UK EASES TRAVEL RULES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 4: Simplified international travel rules took effect Monday in the UK, easing quarantine and testing requirements for fully vaccinated travelers from more than 50 countries, and the Conservative government vowed it will seek to regularly expand the rules to more nations.

Still, the rules have sparked anger from many nations in the developing world, particularly India, which have been excluded from the list of countries whose vaccination programs are accepted by UK Authorities. The New Delhi government Friday said British

UPSETS NATIONS NOT ON LIST

citizens traveling in India would have to undergo Covid-19 tests and 10 days of quarantine, similar to the measures imposed on Indian residents visiting the UK.

As part of the new regime, Britain eased entry requirements for fully vaccinated travelers from 18 countries, including Canada, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

It builds on a pilot phase with US and most European countries that began over the summer. The Department for Transport said it

would take a "phased approach" to recognizing vaccines administered by additional countries and territories.

"The UK Government is continuing to work with international partners as we seek to more regularly expand the policy to further countries and territories," the department said. Under the new rules, Britain scrapped its traffic light system for international travel, which applied different rules to travelers from countries in three different categories of Covid-19 risk. Now there are just two categories: a "red list," which bars most non-essential travel, and the rest of the world.

Fumio Kishida elected as new Japanese PM

Tokyo: Fumio Kishida, leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was elected Monday as the country's new Prime Minister to succeed Yoshihide Suga. As the ruling coalition led by the LDP controls both chambers, 64-year-old Kishida secured a majority of votes of both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors during a special Parliament session called to elect a new Prime Minister, reports Xinhua news agency. After naming his new Cabinet in the afternoon, Kishida will be formally inaugurated in a ceremony at the Imperial Palace and hold a press conference in the evening.

Release of Pandora Papers ruffles Pak politics

Islamabad/New Delhi: The Opposition leaders in Pakistan have slammed Prime Minister Imran Khan and demanded his resignation following the revelations made in the Pandora Papers, Geo TV reported. A huge tranche of leaked data on offshore companies that is larger in size and scope than the Panama Papers hit the global headlines Sunday night, laying bare the financial secrets of the global rich and powerful, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's cabinet members, financiers, retired generals, media owners and businessmen. The names of more than 700 Pakistanis were discovered in the data and the majority of them are tax residents in this country. The Pandora leaks have "opened a new Pandora's Box" against Imran Khan, said PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal. "The leader who used to present himself as 'sadiq' (honest) and 'ameen' (trustworthy) has two more offshore companies," PML-N's secretary-general Iqbal was quoted as saying by The News. The PML-N stalwart said that even before the Pandora Papers were released, government spokespersons had started defending PM Imran Khan, the report said.

'Catastrophic' Calif oil spill kills fish, damages wetlands

AGENCIES

Huntington Beach, Calif., Oct 4: A large oil spill off the southern California coast left fish dead, birds mired in petroleum and wetlands contaminated, in what local officials called an environmental catastrophe.

The US Coast Guard, heading a clean-up response involving federal, state and city agencies, Sunday announced an around-the-clock investigation into how the spill occurred.

An estimated 126,000 gallons, or 3,000 barrels, had spread into an oil slick covering about 13 square miles of the Pacific Ocean since it was first reported Saturday morning. Kim Carr, the mayor of Huntington Beach, told a news conference.

She called the spill an "environmental catastrophe" and a

"potential ecological disaster". The beachside city, about 40 miles (65 km) south of Los Angeles, was bearing the brunt of the spill. Carr added: "Our wetlands are being degraded and portions of our coastline are now covered in oil."

The closure will extend from Huntington Beach to Dana Point for the coastal areas, and it will extend up to six miles off the coastal points for the offshore area, the department said late Sunday.

Amplify Energy CEO Martyn Willsher said at a press conference in Long Beach that the pipeline had been shut off and remaining oil suctioned out. He said divers were still trying to determine where and why the spill occurred.

CLEAN-UP

US Representative Michelle Steel, a Republican representing



Oil slicks float on the water

REUTERS

part of the affected area, sent a letter to Democratic President Joe Biden requesting a major disaster declaration for Orange County, which would free up federal funds

to help with the clean-up efforts.

Oil production off California's coast has declined sharply since its peak in the 1990s, in part due to the state's strict environmental

Response time

Some residents, business owners and environmentalists questioned whether authorities reacted quickly enough to contain one of the largest oil spills in recent California history, caused by a suspected leak in an underwater pipeline that fouled the sands of famed Huntington Beach and could keep the beaches there closed for weeks or longer

The spill was caused by a breach connected to the Elly oil rig and stretched from the Huntington Beach Pier down to Newport Beach, an area popular with surfers and sunbathers

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ordered a fishery closure for coastal areas affected by the spill

rules. Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom said he wants to end oil drilling in the state by 2045.

Offshore drilling was restricted in the state after a devastating 1969 oil spill off Santa Barbara that dumped 80,000 barrels into the ocean. Another spill off Santa Barbara in 2015 sent as much as 2,400 barrels onto the shore and into the Pacific. Oceana, an ocean conservation group, also called for an end to offshore oil and gas drilling.

The spill occurred in federal waters. Officials said federal, state and city agencies were involved in a response headed by the US Coast Guard.

Beaches were closed to swimming and a local air show was canceled, although some people were undeterred from setting up chairs on the beach to enjoy a sunny Sunday or strolling along the pier. Officials said they were investigating the cause of the spill and the type of oil involved.



Clearly, cyber security management is not a one-time event but a continuous process - it is not a project but a journey
AJAY TYAGI | CHAIRMAN, SEBI

GOLD IMPORTS SURGE

India's gold imports in Sept soared 658% from last year's lower base as a correction in local prices to the lowest level in nearly six months prompted jewellers to step up purchases for the upcoming festive season. Higher imports by the world's second-biggest bullion consumer could support benchmark gold prices, which have fallen nearly 15 per cent from an all-time high of \$2,072 in August 2020



of the day quote

The current EV ecosystem in India is challenged and heavily reliant on imports. So, when we say 'Make-in India', it is not just about manufacturing in India, but most importantly engineering and designing

RAGHU KERAKATTY
FOUNDER-CEO, TOUTCHE ELECTRIC

ResultsCX serves mainly US clients. It has several centres spread across various geographies but not in India. We do intend to invest in India and grow India going forward but it will not be at the cost of jobs in US

AKSHAT BABBAR | DIRECTOR, CHRYSOCAPITAL

We are happy to announce the completion of the acquisition of 26% stake with Cleanwin Energy. We are very pleased to make this investment as it is another step towards our focus to reduce carbon footprint by 50% by 2030

KUMAR SUBBIAH
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, CEAT TYRES

RBI supersedes boards of Srei cos

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME RBI IS REFERRING ENTITIES FOR THE RESOLUTION PROCESS AFTER TAKING FIRST EVER SUCH STEP IN THE CASE OF DHFL BACK IN 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 4: The Reserve Bank Monday superseded the boards of Srei Infrastructure Finance as well as Srei Equipment Finance, citing concerns over governance and payment defaults, and decided to refer the two NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Company) for resolution under the insolvency law.

Superseding the boards of the crisis-hit Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), the RBI has appointed Rajneesh Sharma, former Chief General Manager of Bank of Baroda as the administrator to manage the affairs of the two companies.

In recent years, the central bank has been taking strict action against defaulting entities. Under the governorship of Shaktikanta Das, boards of lenders have been superseded on four occasions earlier. Those actions pertained to PMC Bank, Yes Bank, DHFL and Lakshmi Vilas Bank.

The Kolkata-based Srei group

The RBI has superseded the Board of Directors of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), owing to governance concerns and defaults by the companies in meeting their various payment obligations



The central bank intends to shortly initiate the process of resolution of the two NBFCs under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019

Further, the RBI will approach the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for appointing the administrator as the insolvency resolution professional

Srei group owes around ₹18,000 crore to around 15 lenders, including Axis Bank, UCO Bank and State Bank of India, and another nearly ₹10,000 crore of external commercial borrowings and bonds

has been battling a human resource crisis since December last year

with nearly 230-250 people leaving the group as the pandemic-induced

INVESTORS RICHER BY OVER ₹3.10L CR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: Investors' wealth grew by ₹3,10,851.75 crore Monday as markets made a comeback after falling for four days.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 533.74 points or 0.91 per cent to 59,299.32. During the day, it zoomed 783.24 points to 59,548.82. In four days (Tuesday-Friday) last week, the benchmark tumbled 1,312.3 points.

Following the rally, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies gained ₹3,10,851.75 crore to reach ₹2,62,71,347.10 crore Monday.



"Indian equities rebounded after witnessing selling pressure for last four days ahead of RBI MPC meet and earnings season that is due to start this week. The indices ended the session with handsome gains supported by broader markets and rose around 1 per cent," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

NTPC was the biggest gainer among the BSE 30-frontline companies pack, jumping 4.08 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, SBI, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra and Tata Steel. Bajaj Auto and HUL were among the laggards.

"The momentum is driven by the expectation of better Q2 earnings backed by recovery in economic activity, second wave fall-out not being severe and in anticipation of a better outlook from festival demand," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said

Goods trade surging past pre-pandemic level

Supply-side issues such as semiconductor scarcity and port backlogs may strain supply chains, but are unlikely to have large impacts on global aggregates, WTO experts said

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Oct 4: A resurgence of global economic activity has lifted merchandise trade above its pre-pandemic peak, the World Trade Organization said Monday as it upgraded its 2021 and 2022 trade forecasts.

"The WTO is now predicting global merchandise trade volume



growth of 10.8 percent in 2021 - up from 8.0 percent forecasted in March - followed by a 4.7 percent rise in 2022," up from four percent previously, the global trade body said.

The strong annual growth rate for merchandise trade in 2021 is mainly due to the collapse in 2020, when trade bottomed out in the second quarter. The rate of growth is expected to moderate as merchandise trade returns to the long-term trend it was on before pandemic.

"Trade has been a critical tool in combatting the pandemic, and this

strong growth underscores how important trade will be in underpinning the global economic recovery," said WTO director-general, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

"But inequitable access to vaccines is exacerbating economic divergence across regions. The longer vaccine inequity is allowed to persist, the greater the chance that even more dangerous variants of Covid-19 will emerge, setting back the health and economic progress we have made to date."

While regions with access to Covid-19 jobs and sufficient fiscal space were recovering strongly, poorer regions with mostly unvaccinated populations are lagging behind, she said.

The WTO's 12th ministerial conference is to be held in Geneva from November 30 to December 3.

OPEC+ continues to gradually hike output

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frankfurt, Oct 4: Oil prices jumped Monday after OPEC and allied oil producing countries stayed with their gradual approach to restoring output slashed during the pandemic, agreeing to add only 400,000 barrels per day in November.

The decision Monday by the Vienna-based oil cartel tracks with its established schedule of adding back that amount of oil every month until deep cuts made in 2020 to support prices during the depth of the pandemic recession are restored next year.

The situation has changed since then as the global economy recovers. The decision comes amid stronger demand for oil products like gasoline and jet fuel, as driving and flying pick up around the globe due to the easing of restric-

OIL AT 7-YEAR HIGH

tions aimed at containing the pandemic. On top of that, unusually high prices for natural gas are pushing some electricity producers in Asia to switch from natural gas to oil-based products, helping support prices.

The price of a barrel of crude jumped by 3%, or \$2.32, to \$78.17 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest since 2014. The Brent international benchmark hit a new 3-year high at \$81.48, up 2.8% on the day.

US national average gasoline prices have been holding steady at around \$3.20 per gallon in recent days, according to motor-club federation AAA, which foresaw stable short-term gas prices with supply and demand "largely in sync".

PRE-EMPTION SCHEME

State govt assures to protect interests of steel industries



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Responding to the pressing demand of the steel makers to ensure their allotment of iron ore under Pre-Emption scheme, the Odisha government has assured a delegation of the UCCI to take all possible steps to safeguard the interests of the industries based in Odisha.

The Industry Department had invited the members of Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) for a meeting with the concerned state government departments to address the grievances of the industries.

Brahma Mishra, UCCI President, met Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary Industry, Deoranjay Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary (Steel & Mines), Balwant Singh, MD of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC), BS Poonia, MD of IPICOL, DK Mohanty, Special Secretary to government (Steel & Mines), and other senior government officials.

"After this meeting, we are hopeful that the state government will enforce its own law of Pre-Emption and would allot the industry iron ore under the Pre-Emption scheme in next 2 to 3 days. However, if no allotment is given within a week, then we will be left with no choice

Earlier, the UCCI and Orissa Sponge Iron Manufacturers' Association had appealed to the CM for early allotment of iron ore for the state-based industries

but to increase our efforts to protect the interest of Odisha based steel industries," Mishra informed.

"We have reminded that the Pre-Emption scheme has already been defended by the state government in the High Court and Supreme Court against Federation of Indian Mineral Industries as a well meaning scheme of the government to let the state based steel industries grows. There is no reason of delay in favourable disposition of the government of the 18 applications of the Steel makers requesting for allocation of iron ore under the scheme," said Brahma Mishra.

According to the Pre-Emption policy, at least 50 per cent of iron ore produced in Odisha is required to be reserved for allocation to the state based industries and supplied at the prevailing IBM price.

SHORT TAKES

SBI, Indian Navy launch NAV-eCash

Mumbai: State Bank of India and Indian Navy Monday launched SBI's NAV-eCash card onboard the country's largest naval aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. The card will obviate the difficulties faced by personnel onboard in handling physical cash during deployment of the ship at high seas, the bank said in a release. The infrastructure at naval ships inhibits traditional payment solutions particularly when the ship is in high seas where there is no connectivity. NAV-eCash card, with its dual-chip technology, will facilitate both online as well as offline transactions, the release said.

Housing sales in Q3 jump over two-fold

New Delhi: Housing sales jumped over two-fold at 32,358 units during July-September period across seven major cities as demand bounced back with unlocking of economic activities and lower Covid infections, according to property consultant JLL India. Sales of residential properties stood at 14,415 units in the year-ago period and 19,635 units in the previous quarter. JLL India released its Residential Market Update - Q3 2021, that tracks housing sales data of seven cities -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

NITI Aayog to speed up digital shift

New Delhi: The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Intel have come together to establish a new experience studio at the NITI Aayog Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC). Located in NITI Aayog's New Delhi premises, the studio will be a hub for collaboration and experimentation to enable problem solving and innovation between government stakeholders, startups, enterprises and industry domain experts.

ICRA revises energy demand outlook

New Delhi: Rating agency ICRA Monday revised its energy demand growth outlook for 2021-22 upwards from 6 per cent to 8-8.5 per cent by ICRA. As per ICRA, low base last fiscal and faster-than-expected recovery in demand after the second wave of Covid-19 seen in April and May 2021 have supported this outlook upgrade.

BIZ BUZZ

AGEL acquires SB Energy India for \$3.5 bn

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) Monday said it has completed the acquisition of SB Energy India for \$3.5 billion (Rs 26,000 crore). "AGEL, the world's largest solar power developer, successfully completed the acquisition of SB Energy Holdings Ltd (SB Energy India) in an all-cash deal for which definitive agreements were signed May 18, 2021," a company statement said. With this deal, SB Energy India is now a 100 per cent subsidiary of AGEL. Earlier, it was 80:20 joint venture between Japan-based SoftBank Group Corp and Bharti Group. The transaction pegs SB Energy India at an enterprise valuation of \$3.5 billion (approximately ₹26,000 crore) and marks the largest acquisition in the renewable energy sector in India, it stated. Just last week, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani had announced that the group would invest over \$20 billion over the next 10 years in renewable energy generation.



HMSI crosses 5 cr cumulative sales mark

New Delhi: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Monday said it has crossed the 5 crore cumulative sales milestone in the domestic market. The company had initiated sales operations in the country with the Activa scooter in 2001. The two-wheeler major gained its first one crore customers in the initial 11 years. Growing 3 times this speed, the company achieved the 2-crore sales milestone in just three years. While the first 2.5 crore customers were added in 16 years, the next 2.5 crore customers were added in five years to breach the five crore customer milestone, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) said in a statement. "Serving Indian mobility needs for over two decades, we are honoured by the love and trust showcased by 5 crore customers in brand Honda. Since the beginning, along with its business partners and all stakeholders - Honda has remained focused to serve our customers with the best quality products and best after-sales support," HMSI President & CEO Atsushi Ogata noted.



YOUR TRAVEL GUIDE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICIES ARE DESIGNED TO COVER YOU AGAINST CONTINGENCIES THAT YOU CAN ENCOUNTER DURING YOUR TRIP

Many of us enjoy travelling and eagerly look forward to our trips; I personally find travelling an exhilarating experience, it is a great leisure activity and an even greater learning experience. The ongoing pandemic halted our travel plans, but as the vaccination drive is going on full flow and borders are opening up, many of you must have started planning

your next trip. As you plan your next trip, I suggest that to make the most of your trip and enjoy it without any worry you take a travel insurance cover. Let's talk about the few most important features of travel insurance which will help you understand the product.

Medical emergency and accident

The most important feature of travel insurance is that if you find yourself in a medical emergency, the policy will help you. If you require any kind of medical assistance during your travel, your travel insurance will provide the financial support you require. Apart from a medical emergency, your travel insurance plan will cover you if you meet with an accident during your trip. Meeting with an accident during travel is worse, it not only ruins

your trip, but being caught in the situation in an unknown place is outright scary.

Loss of baggage

Imagine the horror of losing all your belongings during your travel. In such case, travel insurance policies cover you against this unforeseen financial emergency by reimbursing you for the loss of the checked-in baggage.

Please note, the insurer will reimburse you only in case of a total loss of the baggage and not in a situation of partial loss or damage. Another important point to note, if your carrier pays you a certain amount for the loss, the insurer will pay the outstanding amount.

Baggage delay

Imagine you are just waiting for your luggage and to your utter distress your baggage has not arrived, panic kicks in, and on checking with the carrier, you get to

Sourabh Chatterjee, Head - IT, Web Sales & Travel, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

know that your baggage has reached a different destination. It may take from a few hours to a few days for the baggage to arrive, but you need not worry if you have travel insurance. The insurer will reimburse you for the money you spend on buying essentials you require while your luggage reaches you.

Trip cancellation and curtailment

Although we plan our trips and make sure everything is in place but there can be a situation where you have to cancel your trip at the last minute or cut short the trip. Travel insurance reimburses the cost of the non-refundable, pre-paid expenses like hotel bookings and flight tickets. Your insurance policy explicitly lists the situations under which it will reimburse you, should you cancel the trip.

Flight delay

If your flight is delayed beyond the minimum number of hours as per your policy, your insurer will reimburse you for the expenses you incur due to the delay, like meals, refreshments, necessary purchases, etc.

Apart from the mentioned covers, insurers offer various add-on covers like coverage for adventure sports, pre-existing diseases, loss of personal belongings like a laptop, mobile, documents, etc. Also, please note that it is mandatory to have travel insurance to visit few countries like Schengen countries; more countries might likely mandate the insurance due to the pandemic. Do read the mandatory requirements carefully while picking your next destination.

DC prevail over Super Kings

Mumbai take on upbeat Rajasthan



AXAR PATEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 4: Shimron Hetmyer (28 n o, 18b, 2x4, 1x6) kept his nerves and played some fine shots under pressure to guide Delhi Capitals to a three-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in a battle for top-two finish in the IPL here Monday.

Needing 28 from the last three overs to reach the target of 137, the Guyanese picked 12 runs against Dwayne Bravo (1/20) and then got 10 off pacer Josh Hazlewood (1/27) to bring down the equation to six runs from six balls. DC completed the job with two balls to spare despite losing Axar Patel.

A disciplined performance by Capitals bowlers restricted Chennai Super Kings to 136/5 despite a fighting half century from the seasoned Ambati Rayudu (55 n o, 43b, 5x4, 2x6).

The flashy Prithvi Shaw smashed three boundaries in seven balls to get the DC innings going but, while trying to go for one too many, the Mumbaier threw his wicket away when he failed to negotiate Deepak Chahar's extra bounce and Faf du Plessis ran backwards from mid-off to complete the catch.

Hazlewood bowled a tight fourth over, conceding just three runs, but Shikhar Dhawan (39) clobbered Chahar for two sixes and as many fours to get 21 in the fifth over.

However, Hazlewood cut short Shreyas Iyer's (2) brief stay in the middle when he could not execute a pull shot. Ravindra Jadeja sent back Rishabh Pant (15) when the DC skipper tried to sweep a quicker



SHIMRON HETMYER

delivery from the left-arm spinner. Debutant Rupal Patel hit two fours as DC required 53 from 54 balls, but Jadeja came back to get the better of the new man from Gujarat.

R Ashwin too followed suit and when Dhawan, three balls after getting a decision against him overturned through a review, played Shardul Thakur to cover in a soft dismissal, DC were in trouble at 99/6 at the end of the 15th over.

Thakur returned excellent figures of 2/13 in four overs, while Jadeja had 2/28. Substitute fielder K Gowtham dropped Hetmyer at a crucial stage of the game, the ball instead going past the ropes.

Earlier, Rayudu reached his fifty when he slashed Anrich Nortje

over point for a boundary, following a six over deep extra over in the innings' 19th over, from which CSK scored 14 runs.

However, Avesh Khan bowled a fantastic final over in which he conceded only four runs while taking the wicket of MS Dhoni (18).

A major part of DC's bowling effort was a far cry from pacer Nortje's horrendous first over when he conceded 16 runs, with nine off them coming off a leg bye and a bye that Pant couldn't get his hand to despite a diving attempt.

There was swing on offer but DC's bowlers were not able to get their act right until left-arm spinner Axar (2/18) struck when Faf Du Plessis' attempted pull shot was held by a diving Iyer in the deep mid-wicket region.

The in-form Rituraj Gaikwad welcomed Rabada with a drive straight down the ground, even as Robin Uthappa, playing this game in place of Suresh Raina, walked into the middle.

Nortje removed Gaikwad in the fifth over when the batsman failed to connect his pull shot for Ashwin to complete a neat catch.

BRIEF SCORES: CSK 136/5 (Ambati Rayudu 55; Axar Patel 2/18, Ravichandran Ashwin 1/20) lost to DC 139/7 (Shikhar Dhawan 39, Shimron Hetmyer 28 n o; Shardul Thakur 2/13, Ravindra Jadeja 2/28) by 3 wickets.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 4: Mumbai Indians' mega-stars will be making one last ditch effort to put their derailed Indian Premier League campaign back on track when they take on a confident Rajasthan Royals in their penultimate league match Tuesday.

The five-time champions were aiming for a hat-trick, which would be a first in the tournament's 14-year-history but poor show by their batsmen has led the team down. The wrinkles on Rohit Sharma's forehead and the grumpy look on his face are telling a tale that is unheard of in the MI contingent till now.

And in this backdrop, they are now facing Rajasthan Royals, who stunned Chennai Super Kings with a superlative batting performance from two Mumbai men - Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shivam Dube.

The equation is simple for both the teams. They have to not only win both their matches but also have to win big so that their poor net run-rates are taken care of.

Royals currently have a net run-rate of -0.337 and MI, after a poor batting show against Delhi Capitals, are seventh at -0.453. The loser Tuesday will be out of the tournament but then KKR are already on 14 points with a positive NRR of +0.294.

Therefore even if Mumbai win against Rajasthan and then happen to thrash laggards Sunrisers Hyderabad in their final match to reach 14 points, there's no guarantee that they would be able to go through.

KKR have won a very crucial

game against SRH and even if they lose against Royals on the final day of the league stage, Morgan and his men would like to limit the damages in order to make it to the play-offs.

Hence, Rohit (341 runs), Suryakumar Yadav (222 runs), Quinton de Kock (297 runs) and Kieron Pollard (232 runs) need to bring their 'A' game to the fore.

Hardik Pandya has just about found some form going his way. The Sharjah pitch showed signs of settling down during the Punjab Kings versus RCB game, something that will make the stroke players of MI happy.

The Royals bowling attack, with Mustafizur Rahman as their most experienced overseas signing, is a bit thin on experience.

It remains to be seen how the likes of Chetan Sakariya, Mustafizur and the rest of the bowlers stop the heavy artillery firing expected from the Mumbai ranks.

Similarly, Jasprit Bumrah, along with Trent Boult and Rahul Chahar, will have the job cut out against the opening pair of Jaiswal and Evin Lewis, who literally butchered the Chennai attack which didn't have Deepak Chahar and Dwayne Bravo in their ranks. MI v RR

TODAY'S MATCH

v

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

MORGAN 'CONFIDENT' OF FINDING FORM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 4: Kolkata Knight Riders captain Eoin Morgan is the first one to admit that he has been woefully short of runs throughout the IPL but is confident of finding some form with the tournament hitting the business end.

KKR are currently placed fourth with 12 points from 13 games and with a positive net run-rate will just need to win their final game to qualify for the play-offs along with

CSK, Delhi Capitals and RCB.

"Yeah, I am short of runs in this phase of the tournament, the whole tournament in general. I am very lucky to be in a position where I have been through stages like this in my career," Morgan said after his team's six wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"And I think the longer you go without contributing a significant score, the closer you are to actually contributing. And that's coming from experience," said Morgan,

who scored a total of 111 from 12 innings with a highest score of 47 not out.

Speaking about Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, who have had a key role in KKR, he said the team was very lucky to have them.

"I think they are the two big impact players for us (Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine). We are very lucky to have them, particularly Narine. He has been a huge part of the franchise for a long time, an integral part of KKR's success.

"Game on game basis, you have to look at where they can have the biggest impact in the game and you try to get them in that position," Morgan added.

Morgan was all praise for the bowling group, who restricted SRH to 115. "The match against SRH was a good example, we are fortunate enough that the other guys in our bowling group bowled extremely well and that allowed us to juggle things around," the KKR captain added.

India 'won' England series, thinks Rohit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 4: India's white-ball vice-captain and batting mainstay Rohit Sharma has no idea about the status of last month's abandoned fifth Test against England in Manchester but he is quite clear in his mind that his team "won" the hard-fought series 2-1.

The fifth Test in Manchester was abandoned after Team India's junior physio Yogesh Parmar tested positive for COVID-19 and was found to be in direct contact of players. This was after some senior members of the Indian support staff also found to be infected.

The BCCI has agreed to play the fifth Test in July, 2022. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has said that it will be an extension of this year's series and not a one-off game that England want.

"I don't know what's happening with the last Test match. Whether we are playing a one-off Test (next year) but in my mind we have won the series 2-1," Rohit said during sports apparel giant Adidas' cam-



aign 'Impossible Is Nothing' which also features Tokyo Olympic medalists weightlifter Mirabai Chanu and boxer Lovlina Borgohain among other sports stars.

Asked if the England series, where he scored more than 400

runs with a hundred and two fifties in four games is a milestone series for him, he replied: "It was a good one considering where I was standing in my Test career."

But the soon-to-be T20 captain refused to call it his best series. "It's not my best series. I feel my best is yet to come. I utilised the time before the World Test Championship final in Southampton (to figure) what sort of technique and mindset is required. I was pretty happy and would like to take it further."

Rohit has been actively involved with the 'Save the Rhinos' campaign and also for a plastic free sustainable planet. He spoke about his experience thus far.

"It was in 2014 when I went to Kenya and was really sad knowing about the condition of rhinos. India and Africa are two places where we have the maximum rhino population.

"I often thought that why don't I carry my cause on to the field," Rohit said about the company's specially designed cricket shoes which carry the message of saving the rhinos.

10-man Bangladesh hold Blue Tigers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Oct 4: India allowed a 10-man Bangladesh to come back and score a shock goal after talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri's 76th international strike to play out a 1-1 draw in their SAFF Championships opener here Monday.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, playing in his 121st match for India, struck in the 27th minute to place himself just a goal shy of legendary Brazilian Pele (77 goals from 92 matches).

He is now in the fourth spot in the list of highest scorers among active footballers, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (111), Lionel Messi (79) and UAE's Ali Mabkhout (77).

India were the better side in the first half and even though they lost possession quite often, they seemed to be cruising. They also had numerical advantage from 54th minute onwards after Bangladesh player Biswanath Ghosh was sent off for committing a foul on Liston Colaco. But Igor Stimac's men failed to



Udanta Singh (in blue) in action during their match against B'desh

stop the swift counter-attacking Bangladeshis on their tracks and conceded a goal in the 74th minute to share points, much to the dismay of the Indian camp.

India were in the attacking mode

right from the start but a swift counter-attack from Bangladesh almost caught them napping and central defender Chinglensana Singh made a crucial clearance after Ibrahim whipped in a low

cross from the left for Motin Mia. Manvir Singh had a feeble head-in from one such cross in the 24th minute but Chhetri was not the one to miss the other one three minutes later. Pritam Kotal released Udanta on the right flank who cut back the ball from near the by-line and a perfectly-placed Chhetri smashed it into the roof of the net.

India survived a scare in the 40th minute, this time also from a swift counter-attack from the Bangladeshis. But, goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu made a diving save against Biplo Ahmed's shot to keep India's lead intact.

Biswanath Ghosh was sent off in the 54th minute for bringing down Liston Colaco with only the goalkeeper in front. The Bangladeshis pulled one back in the 74th minute despite numerical inferiority. Yasir Arafat sent a diving header from a swinging corner kick into the Indian goal.

India play Sri Lanka in their second round-robin league match Thursday.

Rohit reaches bronze play-off; Pinki in semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Oslo (Norway), Oct 4: Indian wrestler Rohit pulled off a smart four-pointer en route to a technical superiority win over Turkey's Selahattin Kilicsallayan to progress to the 65kg bronze medal play-off while Pinki reached the women's 55kg semifinals at the World Championship here Monday.

Rohit took the mat for his repechage round and initially struggled to find an attacking move as he was largely busy defending and was trailing 1-2. However, towards the end of the first period, he employed a double-leg attack and converted that into a pointer to take a 5-2 lead.

His style changed dramatically in the second period as he made move after move to take a winning lead. He will face Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir in the bronze play-off in the evening session.

However, Satywart Kadian (97kg) and Sushil (70kg) lost their quali-

fication rounds to Korea's Minwon Seo and Georgia's Zurabi Iakobishvili, respectively.

Kadian scored all of his six points by pushing his opponent out while Seo also had six points but was declared winner on the criteria of having scored a bigger point move. He had two 2-pointers.

The only point Sushil scored in his 1-5 defeat was on the passivity of stronger-looking Iakobishvili, who gradually took control of the bout with his agility and strength.

In the women's competition, Pinki was confident in her 5-0 win over Korea's Kim Soyeon in the qualification round and later pinned Kazakhstan's Aisha Ualishan to progress to semifinals.

Sangeeta is making a comeback to competitive wrestling after three years following knee issues.

Struggling Real Madrid go down at Espanyol

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Oct 4: After their third stumble in a week, there's suddenly cause for concern at Real Madrid. Madrid lost 1-2 at Espanyol Sunday to see their 25-game unbeaten streak in the Spanish league come to an end. The defeat extended their winless run to three matches in all competitions after what had been a near-perfect start to the season.

Carlo Ancelotti's team was coming off a shock home loss to Moldovan club Sheriff in the Champions League and a scoreless home draw against Villarreal in the Spanish league.

Madrid had started the season with six victories in its first seven matches overall before being held by Villarreal and losing to Sheriff. It had thrived offensively, entering the weekend with the league's best attack with 21 goals in seven matches.

Madrid hadn't lost a league match since a 2-1 home defeat against Levante last season. It was beaten in 18 straight away games



in the competition, one short of its all-time record.

Ancelotti's squad has been marred by injuries recently and Sunday the coach couldn't count on

Gareth Bale, Marcelo, Dani Carvajal and Ferland Mendy.

Madrid still top the league thanks to a better goal difference than defending champion Atletico Madrid

and Real Sociedad. Atletico beat Barcelona 2-0 at home on Saturday while Sociedad were held 1-1 at last-placed Getafe on Sunday. The three top teams have 17 points from

eight matches. Sevilla later Sunday missed a chance to join them after losing 1-0 at Granada.

It was the second consecutive win for promoted Espanyol, which is 13th in the standings. They had won only once in their return to the first division, and only once against Madrid in the last 14 years.

De Tomas opened the scoring for the hosts from close range in the 17th minute and Alex Vidal added to the lead in the 60th from inside the area after a nice run past the Madrid defense.

Karim Benzema had a goal disallowed in the 67th for offside but found the net again in a break-away in the 71st after clearing two defenders and sending a low shot into the corner for his league-leading ninth goal. Eden Hazard had an 84th-minute goal disallowed because Benzema was offside.

Match-winner: Alex Vidal (L) wheels away in celebration after scoring Espanyol's second goal leaving Real custodian Thibaut Courtois and Eder Militao frustrated figures, Sunday