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ICONIC ROLE

Odisha-born actor Sulagna Panigrahi will be playing one of the leads in a period drama titled *Vidrohi*

LEISURE | P2



NARROW ESCAPE FOR MLA

Keonjhar Sadar BJP MLA Mohan Charan Majhi had a narrow escape Sunday after miscreants hurled bombs at his car

STATE | P5



CSK ENTER FINAL

A vintage MS Dhoni scores an unbeaten 18 in just 6 balls to prop Kings

SPORTS | P12

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'FATHER OF PAKISTAN'S BOMB' AQ KHAN DIES

ISLAMABAD: Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, revered as the "father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb", has died at 85, the authorities said Sunday. He had been hospitalised with Covid-19. The atomic scientist was hailed as a national hero for transforming his country into the world's first Islamic nuclear power, but regarded by the West as a dangerous renegade responsible for smuggling technology to rogue states. He died after being transferred to the KRL Hospital in Islamabad with lung problems, state-run broadcaster PTV reported.



P10

16 KILLED AFTER PLANE CRASHES IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW: Sixteen people were killed after an aircraft carrying parachutists crashed in central Russia Sunday, the emergencies ministry said. The L-410 plane carrying 22 people crashed around 9:23 a.m. local time (0623 GMT) during a flight over the republic of Tatarstan, the ministry said on its Telegram channel. "Six people were rescued, 16 were taken out without signs of life," the ministry said. The ministry had earlier said that 15 people died and that the aircraft was carrying 23 people. Images published by the ministry showed the aircraft broken in half with a severely dented nose.



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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We've arrested the minister's son! It took 12 hours of intense interrogation to convince him that nothing will happen to him!



ECSTASY: Children hold balloons as they run in celebration of an idol of Goddess Durga being transported to a pandal ahead of the Durga Puja in Nadia district, West Bengal

Energy crisis worsens

■ 135-odd thermal plants in the country are sitting on just four days of coal stocks at the end of Sept, down from 13 days coal stocks at the beginning of August

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 10: The build-up to power crisis in the country worsened this month as acute fuel shortages at power plants threaten outages in coming days stalling the revival wheels of world's fastest growing major economy.

As per official data, country's 135-odd thermal plants on an average are sitting on just four days of coal stocks at the end of September, down from 13 days coal stocks at the beginning of August. Regulations mandate 22 days of stock at thermal plants.

Several plants in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are on alert for outages. In Delhi, state Power Minister Satyendar Jain has said that if coal supply doesn't improve, there will be a blackout in Delhi in two days.

Odisha is also among the critical states. The Utkal Chamber Of Commerce & Industry Ltd has urged the state government to ensure adequate supply of coal to state-based industries which are facing an acute shortage of dry fuel



Thermal power stations in Odisha	Required stocks (in '000 tonnes)	Actual stocks (in '000 tonnes)	Coal stock remaining (in days)
Kamalanga TPS	256	24.0	1
IB VALLEY TPS	369	67.8	3
Darlipali STPS	234	95.8	6
Sterlite TPP	94	35.3	6
Talcher STPS	683	475.1	10

to run their units.

The coal shortages at power plants had come at a time when production from Coal India, which meets almost 80 per cent of fuel needs of the country, had fallen owing to long monsoon this year. Though CIL maintains, its supplies are nowhere at a lower level this year compared to the last year; power sector sources said that the problem is also compounding due to lower interest shown by debt-ridden state utilities to buy more coal to run power plants at optimal levels.

To meet the domestic shortages, the option is to buy coal from abroad, but the post COVID surge in electricity demand worldwide has created added interest securing fuel

sources that had shot up global coal prices. Imported coal price of Indonesian coal has jumped from \$60/tonne in March 2021 to \$160/tonne (in September/October 2021) of 5,000 GAR (Gross as Received) coal. The import of coal has decreased in comparison to 2019-20 due to import substitution and rising prices of imported coal. "Global developments are now having a play in Indian markets too. Sharp upturn in economic activity with easing of COVID pandemic has pushed up power demand with major industrial states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu seeing demand rising between 14-20 per cent in last three months," said a power sector analyst from one of the four big audit firms.

In the national capital, petrol price rose by 30 paise per litre and diesel was hiked by 35 paise per litre. The prices of petrol and diesel have crossed the ₹100 per litre mark in many states, pinching the common man's pocket.

CITY PRICES

Petrol: ₹105.05 (+0.30)

Diesel: ₹101.25 (+0.41)

In Delhi, petrol is retailing at ₹104.14 per litre and diesel is available at ₹92.82 per litre after the latest price revision. On the other hand, in India's financial capital, Mumbai, petrol became costlier by 29 paise per litre and its rate stands at ₹110.12 per litre, the highest across all four metro cities. Diesel costs ₹100.66 for one litre in Mumbai, a hike of 37 paise.

There has been a constant rise in the prices of petrol and diesel for the past six days and the rates are soaring all-time high. The prices of petrol and diesel remained steady October 4, 2021 but saw a daily hike after that.

Why men still dominate STEM award winning

■ The rarity of female Nobel laureates raises questions about women's exclusion from education and careers in science and the undervaluing of women's contributions on science teams

Tucson (USA), Oct 10: All of the 2021 Nobel Prizes in science were awarded to men. That's a return to business as usual after a couple of good years for female laureates. In 2020, Emmanuelle Charpentier



I do live in a world of mostly men, so seeing mostly men doesn't really ever surprise me either."

The rarity of female Nobel laureates raises questions about women's exclusion from education and careers in science and the undervaluing of women's contributions on science teams.

Women researchers have come a long way over the past century, but there's overwhelming evidence that women remain under-represented in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Studies have shown that those women who persist in these careers face explicit and implicit barriers to advancement. Bias is most intense in fields that are dominated by men, where women lack a critical mass of representation and are often viewed as tokens or outsiders.

As things are getting better in terms of equal representation, what still holds women back in the lab, in leadership and as award winners? Women face a number of structural and institutional barriers in academic STEM careers.

In addition to issues related to the gender pay gap, the structure of academic science often makes it difficult for women to get ahead in the workplace and to balance work and life commitments. Bench science can require years of dedicated time in a laboratory. The strictures of the tenure-track process can make maintaining work-life balance, responding to family obligations and having children or taking family leave difficult, if not impossible.



■ Ashish Mishra's inability to respond to pointed questions about the sequence of events Oct 3 landed him in jail

AGENCIES

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Oct 10: Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra, was produced before a court here late Saturday night, which sent him to 14-day judicial custody in connection with the October 3 Lakhimpur violence.

After around 12 hours of questioning in connection with the violence in which eight persons including four farmers were killed, a medical team examined Ashish Mishra in the crime branch office, after which he was taken for production before a judicial magistrate, who sent him to custody, senior prosecution officer SP Yadav said.

He said an application for police remand of Ashish Mishra was submitted to the judicial magistrate who fixed it for hearing at 11 am Monday.

Meanwhile, reports said that Ashish's inability to respond to

pointed questions about the sequence of events October 3 landed him in jail. According to a senior official in the investigation team, Ashish Mishra was not able to explain his location between 2.30 pm and 3.30 pm October 3 when the incident took place. Witnesses have said he was missing from the event between 2 pm and 4 pm, his phone location showed him closer to the crime scene.

Though the minister's son admitted the SUV that ran over farmers belongs to him, but he maintained that he was not in it. His team said he had produced around 150 images of the wrestling match where he was present on the day of the incident.

"To every question, he had one answer - I was not present at the spot where the incident took place. We asked him who drove his SUV, how many people were sitting in it, how many cars were there in the convoy and for every question he said he was not present," said the police officer. When asked why the vehicle did not stop after hitting the people and why there was a crowd on the road, Ashish Mishra had one reply - "I was not there".

At times, he even lost his cool and said, "Even if you ask me one lakh times, my answer will be the same."

leisure



BRIDGERTON CHANGED MY LIFE: PHOEBE DYNEVOR

Bridgerton star Phoebe Dynevor has said that starring in the period drama has 'changed her life'. The 26-year-old actress shot to fame when it was released Christmas Day 2020 and quickly became the most-watched series of all time on the streaming platform.

KIM JOKES SHE DIVORCED KANYE BECAUSE OF HIS 'PERSONALITY'

Kim Kardashian joked about her divorce from Kanye West during her opening monologue on *Saturday Night Live*. "I married the richest black American who gave me four incredible kids. So when I divorced him, it came down to just one thing: his personality," she said.



FORTUNE FORECAST



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ARIES

You will be very short-tempered today. Your temper is ready to burst at the drop of a hat, but, Ganesh says, it will be of no avail. It would be better to exhaust all that energy in some vigorous swimming or any sort of physical activity. Ganesh suggests that you actually run your way back to home.

TAURUS

There is a strong prospect that an ordinary day will blossom into an extraordinary evening, predicts Ganesh. The afternoon may be filled with stress and tension. However, evening will be totally different when you will bask in the love and affection of your beloved.

GEMINI

It is possible that your emotional nature is the cause of many of the problems currently plaguing you. Therefore you need to curb your emotions when reacting to any situation. You will concentrate on family matters today, and spend time with your family. It is a progressive day overall, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Today you will be forced to make quick decisions, foretells Ganesh. At workplace, you will probably refuse to yield to any kind of pressure. You will ace every test that your boss will throw at you. Your quest for fame will restart in the evening, says Ganesh.

LEO

Self-belief and self-confidence are the two wheels of the bike on which you shall ride to success, says Ganesh. Add to that self-assurance, and you have a turbo boost that makes you unstoppable. Your dedication and devotion to your task is something that mystifies everyone at the workplace.

VIRGO

Today will be an unusually lucky day full of unexpected things, but you will manage to tackle them all with great maturity. If someone takes you for granted, they will later regret their lack of good judgement as you don't like being pushed around. Ganesh says persistence in your attempt to find answers to long-pending issues will bear results before the end of the day.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that today you should think before spending your money because you know and understand the importance of money. You will not hesitate to spend money on family members and on entertainment. You will be able to meet like-minded people with whom you will be able to share your experiences and knowledge.

SCORPIO

Today, you may think with your brain and not with your heart. As a result, your decisions are likely to be practical and reasonable. Be careful while conversing with your seniors, as there are chances of you being misunderstood. When it comes to relationships, communication is the base of it.

SAGITTARIUS

Your genial nature and charming smile will capture many of the opposite sex. Your colleagues will employ your skills to their benefit. Later in the evening, a stroll with your sweetheart will sugar your mood and fill your heart with ecstasy.

CAPRICORN

You are in for an exciting ride, today. Happiness and contentment will fall in you lap and you'll be delighted with this positive energy, feels Ganesh. Job requirements will keep you occupied as you need to find answers to some complicated questions at the earliest.

AQUARIUS

Mark this day on the calendar as it is going to turn out to be an important day in your life. You will experience some cash inflow and get the adequate finances for your education or business. You are in a joyous mood and everyone who interacts with you will experience your happiness as well, says Ganesh.

PISCES

You are blessed with exceptional grasping power today, and will be able to easily imbibe whatever you see or hear today. You will also be able to speed through your routine tasks. You will be able to concentrate on the tasks you have taken up.

SULAGNA plays Buxi's wife in *Vidrohi*

Mumbai: TV and film actress Sulagna Panigrahi is all set to make her comeback on television after a gap of 10 years. The actress will be playing one of the leads in a period drama titled *Vidrohi*.

She shares about her role in the daily soap: "I am playing the character of Radhamani on the show who was freedom fighter Jagbandhu's wife. She is extremely calm, sweet, and caring yet strong and ambitious. Radhamani is extremely supportive of her husband and would help him achieve his goals through and through. It's a beautiful marriage based on immense love and trust."

The show revolves around Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bhramarbar Raya popularly known as Buxi. Jagabandhu was the commander of the king of Khurda, Odisha. The actress says she belongs to Odisha as her father was in the Army so has travelled and lived in every corner of the country. But she is familiar with the language and culture. It helped her also to bring this character on screen in a realistic way.



IANS

Rakul, Jackky make their relationship official

Mumbai: Producer-actor Jackky Bhagnani has confirmed that he is dating Rakul Preet Singh on social media. He wished his 'love' happy birthday along with a loved-up picture.

Jackky shared a birthday wish for Rakul and posted the picture on Instagram, where the two are seen holding hands and walking.

"Without you, days don't seem like days. Without you, eating the most delicious food is no fun. Sending Birthday wishes to the most beautiful soul who means the world to me!!! May your day be as sunny as your smile, and as beautiful as you are. Happy Birthday my (heart emoji)@rakulpreet," posted Jackky.

Rakul shared the same picture on Instagram and wrote a loved up message for Jackky.

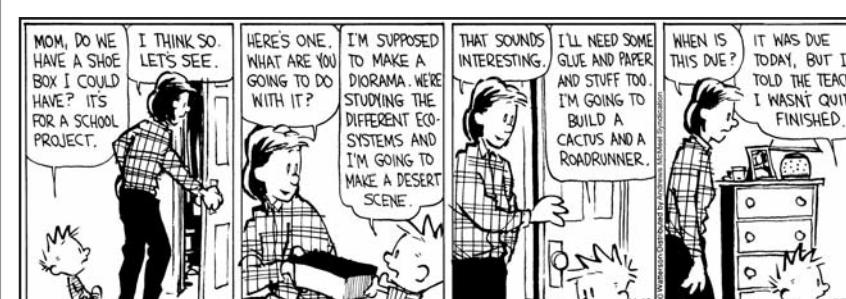
"Thankyouuu my ! You have been my biggest gift this year! Thank you for adding colour to my life , thank you for making me laugh nonstop , thank you for being you !! Here is to making more memories together @jackkybhagnani," Rakul wrote.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



'There is no limit to creativity'

Fashion is a competitive industry and one of the most sought-after careers at the moment. To create an identity in this industry, one not only needs to put in a lot of hard work, it is also important to identify what is cool or fashionable. Minnati Sabat, one of the emerging fashion designers of the state, has managed to ace both of them in a very short span. The fashionista showcased her sleek designs at Season 5 of Bhubaneswar Runway Week held in the city, Sunday. A devoted follower of fashion, Minnati spoke to **Orissa POST** about her works and future plans.

Excerpts:

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

- What made you join the fashion sector?
- From the beginning I had an obsession towards good clothes. After the birth of my baby, I thought of channelising it for something better. Meanwhile, I stumbled upon a multi designer store called GRISA, which was quite unique by nature because of its personalised approach. I took the franchise and launched it in Bhubaneswar.
- How much support do you get from your family to pursue your dream?
- Had it not been for their understanding and support, I would not have been able to reach where I am today.
- What made you join the fashion sector?
- Located at a quiet residential locality, GRISA makes my clients feel totally at home offering them all the personalised attention they deserve.
- How far has the fashion sector been affected by the pandemic?
- Covid-19 has affected almost all forms of businesses and the fashion sector is no exception. It came to a standstill for at least a year. Loss of life and livelihood of artisans and weavers, regular shutdowns and lockdowns led to the closure of many fashion outlets. Though online shopping brought some relief at times, that was not enough. As things are now opening up, it's time to reboot and revive the industry.
- In recent years, what are the changes you have noticed in the fashion industry in Odisha?
- There are significant changes in the last 10 years but there is still a huge gap to be filled and a lot of catching up to be done compared to other states and metropolises.
- Tell us about your latest works and collaborations.
- We are doing some exclusive work for the brand and looking forward to collaborating with a few globally known influencers and celebrities.

OP TALKS

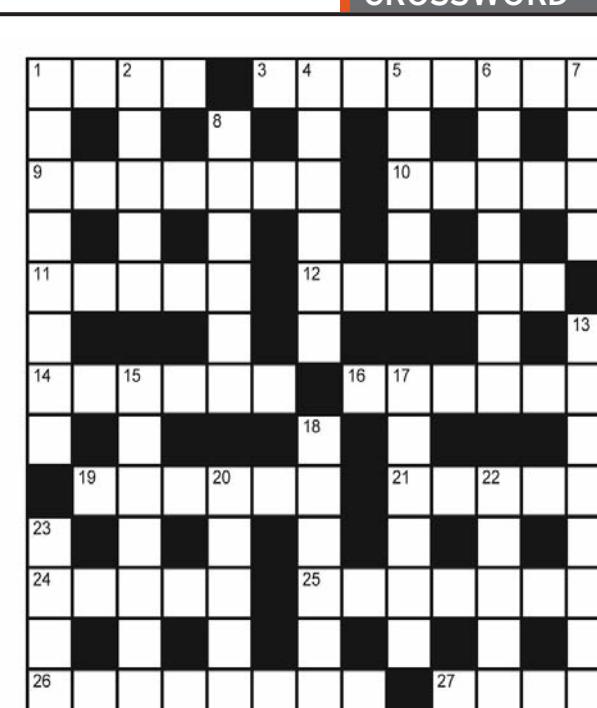


SUDOKU

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.

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

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Kennel cry
- 3 Academic types
- 9 Tough guy
- 10 Bisect
- 11 Utopian
- 12 Vow
- 14 Vacation spot
- 16 Hound dog
- 19 Error
- 21 Eagle's claw
- 24 Vacuum tube filler

Down

- 25 Embroidery frame
- 26 Suspenseful adventure story
- 27 Notice
- 1 Roadblocks
- 2 Firearm
- 4 Appetiser
- 5 Earthy colour
- 6 Claims

7

- Lawn starter
- Farm machine
- Venomous sea creature
- Disrespectful laugh
- Fall
- Hub
- Waterway
- Crazy birds
- Hostilities ender

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

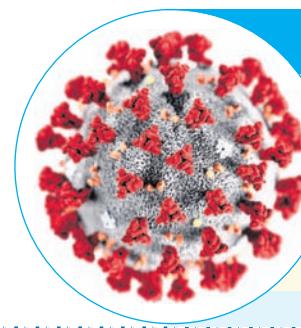
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



UPHOLDING TRADITION

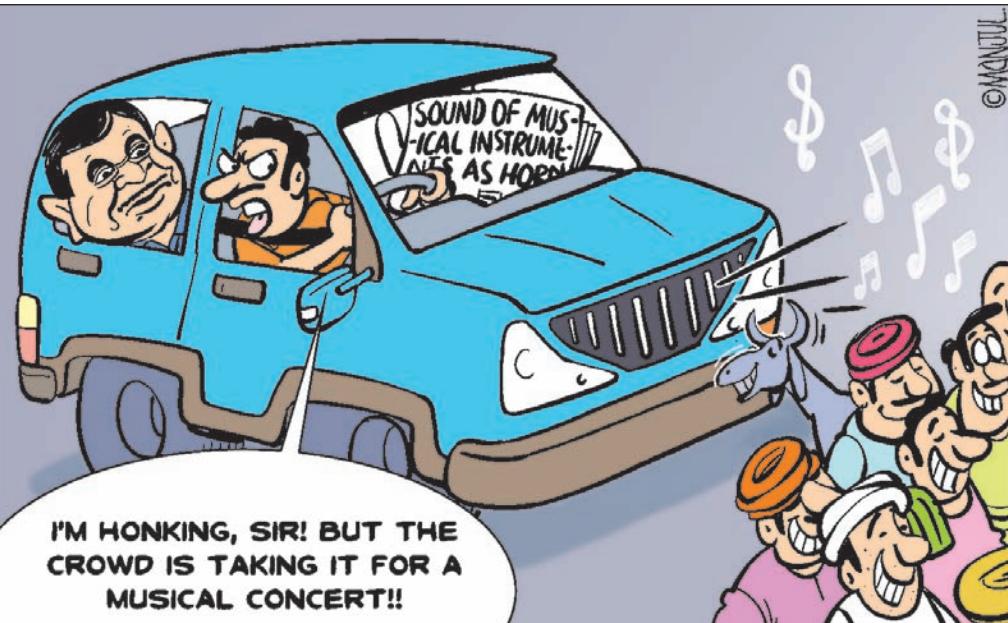
Young girls of Srimandir servitors' families offer Bali Bamana puja at the Markanda pond in Puri, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,84,42,522	21,55,60,326	48,64,737
India	3,39,53,475	3,32,71,915	4,50,589
Odisha	10,31,696	10,18,749	8,249

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Marital discord: Khurda man kills wife by slitting her throat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Oct 10: Marital discord between a couple turned tragic with the man killing his wife by slitting her throat at Gurujanga Patitapabana Square under Town police limits here late Saturday night, a police official said Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Indira Priyadarshini Mohanty, 37, while her husband was Kartik Pradhan, 40.

According to family sources, a differently-abled Indira had married Kartik, a small time businessman, in 2005 and the couple has a son, aged around 15.

Following frequent quarrels between the couple, Indira, along with her son, had been staying at her parents' place at Gurujanga Patitapabana Square for a few months now. And Kartik had been staying at a rented accommodation near Gurujanga Melana Ground, around 300metre from Gurujanga Patitapabana Square, until a week ago when he relocated to Indira's parents' place," they said.

According to Town police sources, it was a pre-planned murder. "After having dinner, the couple went to bed. It was around



Police probing the incident at Khurda

she was declared dead-on-arrival," said an official of Town police.

Later in the day, Sadar sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Sushil Kumar Mishra, Town police inspector in-charge (IIC) Sanjay Pathak along with a forensic team reached the spot and carried out investigation.

"On the basis of a complaint lodged by Indira's maternal uncle, Kailash Harichandan, a case has been registered under Section 302 of the IPC. Two police teams are searching for Kartik," the Town police IIC said, adding that Indira's body has been handed over to her family after an autopsy.

A suspicious Ganesh rushed to Indira's place. "Upon reaching, Ganesh and others at the house found Indira lying in a pool of blood. They informed the police which reached the spot and rushed Indira to a nearby hospital where

1:30am when Kartik found Indira asleep and slit her throat with a sharp-edged weapon before fleeing the scene. He went straight to his home at Gurujanga Melana Ground and asked his younger brother, Ganesh, for motorcycle keys. On being asked as to why he needed the bike at that point of time, a panic-stricken Kartik fled the spot even without taking the motorbike," sources said.

According to family sources, it was a pre-planned murder. "After having dinner, the couple went to bed. It was around

20 minutes past 11 when Kartik found Indira sleeping and slit her throat with a sharp-edged weapon before fleeing the scene. He went straight to his home at Gurujanga Melana Ground and asked his younger brother, Ganesh, for motorcycle keys. On being asked as to why he needed the bike at that point of time, a panic-stricken Kartik fled the spot even without taking the motorbike," sources said.

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"On the basis of a complaint lodged by Indira's maternal uncle, Kailash Harichandan, a case has been registered under Section 302 of the IPC. Two police teams are searching for Kartik," the Town police IIC said, adding that Indira's body has been handed over to her family after an autopsy.

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downtown

Slight rise in daily cases before puja



PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Ahead of Durga Puja festival, Odisha witnessed a slight rise in daily Covid-19 cases, as the state reported 652 fresh infections Sunday, 126 more than the previous day, a Health department official said.

The coronavirus tally rose to 10,31,696 in the coastal state, while the death toll also climbed to 8,249 with seven new fatalities, five of which were in Khurda and one each in Angul and Nabarangpur, the official added.

Odisha had logged 526 fresh cases Saturday, 524 Friday, 582 Thursday and 593 Wednesday.

Among the new infections reported Sunday, 92 or 14.11 per cent are children and adolescents in the age group of 0-18 years. Khurda district registered the highest of 331 single-day cases followed by Cuttack at 70, the official said.

Six districts - Boudh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri - did not report any fresh case in the

last 24 hours.

The state currently has 5,083 active cases, and 10,18,311 patients have recovered from the disease, including 597 since Saturday. It has thus far conducted over 2.06 crore sample tests. The cumulative positivity rate stands at 5 per cent. The official said a total of 93,73,608 people have been inoculated with double doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

Meanwhile, the state government has extended the night curfew by two hours in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack from October 11 to October 20. The night curfew will be imposed from 8 pm to 5 am, said Commissioner of Police S K Priyadarshi.

"We will take stern action against people who violate the guidelines and night curfew restrictions during the period. If need arises, arrests will be made following review of the extent of violation," he said. Cuttack and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporations have already issued guidelines for Durga Puja celebrations.

"The breaches in the water supply pipes have occurred during the trial run. There was nothing unusual in it. We are analysing the issue and soon steps would be taken to rectify it," said Watco general manager Debabrata Mohanty.

Breach in water supply pipe creates crater at Badambadi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 10: Several commuters had a narrow escape when a huge crater was created at the busy Badambadi square here due to a breach in the water supply pipe Sunday evening.

A few days ago, there was a similar incident on the Ring Road in the Rajabagicha area of the Silver City. The breach in the water supply pipe threw traffic out of gear at Badambadi for quite some time, sources said.

The locals, meanwhile, blamed sub-standard work of the drinking water project under the AMRUT Mission for the breach in the water supply line.

The locals also alleged lack of coordination between the officials of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and the Public Health department on the issue.

"There was no one to discontinue the water supply soon after the breach in the pipe. The incident interrupted traffic at Badambadi for quite some time," said a local.

Notably, a drinking water project is being implemented in the city under the AMRUT Mission to supply surface water to the residents. A water treatment plant has been set up and pipes have been laid for the project, sources said.

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A breach in the water supply pipe creates a huge crater on the busy Badambadi road in Cuttack, Sunday

CIVIC ISSUE



OP PHOTO

Virtual tour showcases Gadaba house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: A virtual tour of the Odisha State Tribal Museum here Sunday showcased the house of Gadaba tribe.



THE GADABA PEOPLE BUILD THEIR HOUSES IN TWO ROWS FACING EACH OTHER, WITH A BROAD GAP LEFT BETWEEN THEM

usually live in Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur districts of Odisha. The Gadaba people build their houses in two rows facing each other, with a broad gap left between them, said AB Ota, Director SCSTRTI.

The Gadaba house is called

Chhendi Dien. The house is circular in construction with a conical roof. The roof is supported by a central wooden pole. Internally, the house is divided into a main living space, a kitchen with a hearth and an inner room. This inner room is reserved for the family deities and has its own hearth, Ota added. Earlier, the museum had showcased the indigenous knowledge system and traditional medicinal practices of Kutia Kondh.

Members of Kutia Kondh tribe live in Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts of Odisha. Broom making, mat making and basketry are their primary occupations.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Cases soared in state during pandemic: Health director

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Odisha Health Director, Sunday, said cases of depression and anxiety soared during pandemic, which took a toll on the mental health of a large number of people in state.

Speaking to media, state Health Director Niranjan Mishra said that many people lost their jobs and family members, and went through serious financial crisis during the pandemic which gradually led to a spike in depression and anxiety cases in state.

"The state government had taken several measures to address the issue amid the pandemic. Mobile mental health units were set up in all the districts. The officials used to visit various quarantine, isolation and health centres to spread awareness on mental health. Call centres were also set up to enable the people to take advice from professionals regarding the mental issues," Mishra said.

"Despite formidable challenges, we have ably dealt with the situation and the Union government has also awarded us this year for our efforts to address the mental health during pandemic," he added.

When asked about the probability of a third wave of Covid, Mishra said that the virus is not going anywhere.

However, the transmission outbreak will transform from pandemic to endemic. Cases and deaths due to the virus will eventually come down.

"With festive season around, the next three months are going to be crucial for us. We need to be more cautious. Similarly, we must follow basic Covid norms like use of mask, avoiding crowd and washing hands in regular intervals to check the spread of the virus during the period," he stated.

'Negativity towards illness still lurks'



The Psychology department of Utkal University organised a webinar on World Mental Health Day Sunday.

On the occasion, experts attending the webinar said that for a healthy nation, mental health is very important and people with mental health issue must be protected like patients with other illness.

Sushma Mehrotra, a clinical psychologist, said that the theme for the World Mental Health Day, 2021 is 'Mental Health In An Unequal World'. She said that people still lack awareness and knowledge about mental health issues and terms such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

EDMR is a therapy for treating trauma and other symptoms by reconnecting the traumatised person to the images, self-thoughts,

emotions and body sensations associated with the trauma in a safe and measured way, and allowing the natural healing powers of the brain to play the part.

While PTSD is a psychiatric disorder that may occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event such as a natural disaster, a serious accident, a terrorist act, war/combat or rape, or who have been threatened with death, sexual violence or serious injury.

Bhaswati Patnaik, HoD, Department of Psychology, said that the day aims to raise awareness regarding mental health issues and mobilise efforts to support mental health among the students.

On world mental health day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked people to work towards spreading mental health education & awareness.

Haren Sahoo re-elected ONS President

POST NEWS NETWORK

meeting, participated by 233 members of drama groups, was held to elect the office bearers of ONS.

The others who were elected include - Shubhakanta Padhi (Secretary), Satya Jena (Cashier), Sibashankar Tripathy (Joint Secretary-East), Pradip D Majhi (Joint Secretary-West), Ashis Bardhan (Joint Secretary-North),

Ramchandra Samal (Joint Secretary-South).

This apart, Jitendra Kumar Pattaik, Nalini Nihar Nayak, Ratikanta Behera and Manoj Dampati were elected Vice-Presidents for East, West, North and South regions respectively. The election was officiated by Samar Mudali.

FLOATING RESTAURANT



OTDC chairperson Shreemayee Mishra inaugurates a floating restaurant (Bottom) at the Silver City Boat Club in Cuttack, Sunday.

OP PHOTOS

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Berhampur on 07.10.2021, I, Kattula Kiran Kumar, S/o late Kattula Appala Swamy permanent resident of Jyotinagar, 7th Lane, Berhampur, Odisha, presently residing at Chikkalapeta, Pendurthi Road, P.O.- Sarapalli, Visakhapatnam, A.P., do hereby declare that, my name is wrongly spelt as Korai Kiran Kumar instead of Kattula Kiran Kumar in my Certificates. Henceforth, I will be known as Kattula Kiran Kumar. Sd/- Kattula Kiran Kumar

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, **Aurobindo Market**-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, **Airport Road**-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, **Anish Infotech**-Tankapani Road-9861341488, **Bapuji Nagar**- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, **Baramunda Rental Colony**-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, **Baramunda Housing Board Colony**-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, **Cuttack Road**-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, **District Center (Chandrasekharpur)**-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, **Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)**-7381024156, **IRC Village-Bapi Xerox**-9090090404, **Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)**-9954781084, **Pruthvi Medicine**-9853314816, **Janpath-Krupajal Book Store**-9798646669, **Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises**-7978116618, **Subam Sai Books Store**-8895550649, **Swain Graphics**- 9337121249, **Jagannath Mobile Point**- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, **Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics**-8260697560, **Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre**- 7992914045, **World Solution**- 9938317559, **KIIT Road-Jugad Jn**-9338545031, **Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile**-9438191836, **Lewis Road-Spider Web**-7809186415, **Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra**-943941273, **Nayapalli-The Cake Room**-7873660137, **Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieme**-943941273, **Nigamananda-Omni Sai Travels**-9668284823, **Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication**-9124466664, **Maa Santoshi travels-Gajapati Nagar**-97776575867, **Nayapalli**- The Cake Room- 7873660137, **Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieme**-943941273, **Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point**-9938134346, **R.N. General Store**-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, **Sahid Nagar**- Maa Communication-9437353424, **Sahini General Store**- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937568626, **Satya Nagar-Baisnavi Mixture & Sweets**-7894821764, **Samantapur**- Download Point-7504557743, **Sailashree Vihar-Harsa Book Store**-8093449515, **Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics**-7978652670, **Photo World**-7978468191, **Sainath Photo Studio**-8984436129, **Shanti & Co**-9937071063, **Siripur-Omni Maa Sarala Communication**-9777682449, **Sushree fashion**-Jagmara-9938714347, **Shree Vision-Sailashree Vihar**-9861476678, **Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point**-9337780780, **Unit-7- LIC Premium Point**- 9338227422, **VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake**-8658200930, **Jeet Infoworld**-7205195782, **XIMB Square-LD Books**-9658061373.

Bombs hurled at Keonjhar MLA's car

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Keonjhar, Oct 10: BJP's chief whip in the Odisha Assembly Mohan Charan Majhi had a narrow escape Sunday when two unidentified miscreants hurled bombs at his car in Keonjhar district, police said.

Majhi and his security officer were not injured in the incident but the lawmaker's vehicle was partially damaged, a senior officer said.

The blast occurred near Mandua area under the Keonjhar Town Police limits when the saffron party's legislator was returning home after attending a labour union



meeting, he said.

Majhi lodged an FIR and alleged that the motorcycle-borne miscreants hurled two handmade bombs at his vehicle.

The legislator along with his security officer chased the two persons but they managed to escape from there, the officer said.

"I was returning after attend-

BJP workers blocked the NH-49 demanding immediate arrest of those who are involved in it

ing a meeting when two persons riding a motorcycle overtook my car and hurled two bombs at my vehicle. It happened around 11.50 am. I might have developed political enmity in my career spanning over 20 years. But I don't have any enemy in my personal life," Majhi, a tribal MLA from Keonjhar, said.

He alleged that local leaders of the ruling BJD orchestrated the attack. Meanwhile, BJP workers blocked the National Highway-49 that connects Raipur in Chhattisgarh with Kolkata in West Bengal, demanding immediate arrest of those who are involved in it.

An investigation into the bomb attack on the saffron camp legislator has been initiated, the police officer said. Odisha Congress president Nirjan Patnaik was also attacked by a group of miscreants near Kashipur under the Keonjhar Town Police Station limits in January this year.

AWARENESS DRIVE



Police personnel carry out an awareness drive on Covid-19 among the motorists ahead of the start of the festive season at Chitrakonda in Malkangiri district, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Villagers risk lives to collect coal from river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapada, Oct 10: Earning a few bucks to keep the hearth burning is no mean business for the residents of Pitapatia village under this block in Kendrapara district as they risk their lives and dive deep into the Ghanagalia river to collect coal dust for a living, a report said.

The residents were identified as members of Bengali community in Pitapatia village under Ramnagar panchayat of Mahakalapada block.

Coal is transported to Paradip through trains and later exported to various countries by ships from Paradip Port. A substantial part of the coal gets washed away in rain and flows into the sea as well as into nearby Ghanagalia river and creeks. The sediments after flowing into rivers and creeks get deposited in the water.

These men and women go inside the river on a boat and dive around 5 to 10 feet deep to collect coal dust in a strainer. They prepare coal blocks for use as fuel in kitchen and sell the rest of the blocks in hotels and eateries to earn a few bucks for a living. The daily grinding of the people poses serious threats to their lives and it is fraught with



various health hazards.

Villagers Thakur Sardar, Pushpa Sardar, Pabitra Sardar said when it rains more, the coal dust flows into Ghanagalia river from Paradip. The coal dust gets deposited in water and flows into the seas during tides. They said that they take a boat into the river and collect the coal deposits.

The coal dust often gets inside their mouth and nose while collecting it in a strainer after diving inside the river water. The work is life threatening and is fraught with serious health hazards but they have to do it to earn a livelihood for their family.

This is not an isolated case but poor villagers of Kharinasi,

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Batighar, Jambu and Ramnagar panchayats also go inside the Ghanagalia river to collect the coal dust, said Namita Mandal, Saraswati Mandal, Kabita Mandal and Biswanath Mandal in the area.

The villagers after collecting the coal dust pack it in sacks and bring it to the river ghat and take it for domestic use and sale.

Trader murdered

Koraput: A trader was reportedly murdered near Sunabeda Women's College in this town late Saturday night. The body of the deceased was found with his throat slit. Sources identified the victim as Daya Bagh (52). He was a flour mill owner. He was murdered by unknown assailants while he was returning home from his flour mill at HAL Milan Market here on his scooter. Police have seized the body and sent it to the hospital for post-mortem and have launched an investigation. Police are also checking the CCTV footage on the route followed by Bagh while returning home.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 10: A woman was robbed of her gold chain after she was attacked by miscreants with a blade inside her house at Patharapalli village under Belaguntha police limits near here, Sunday.

OP PHOTO

The victim woman was identified as Sulochana Dalai of the area. She was selling some guavas in her roadside house when two unidentified youths arrived on a scooter and stopped in front of her house on the pretext of buying guavas. However, they barged into the house and looted her gold chain. They even attacked her with the blade when she resisted. Later, they fled from the spot. Hearing her screams, locals rushed to the spot and rushed Dalai to Bhanjanagar hospital.

On being informed, Belaguntha police arrived at the spot and launched a probe into the matter.

OP PHOTO

The Collector also assessed damages caused by cyclone Gulab. He inspected a dilapidated bridge at Madkar and another at Tadibalsa which were washed away in the cyclone-triggered rains.

OP PHOTO

The Collector also visited a British-era road in a remote village of Kotia panchayat.

OP PHOTO

Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy seeking his urgent intervention to hold bilateral talks with Odisha for an amicable resolution of the border disputes between the two states.

OP PHOTO

In the letter to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Pradhan suggested measures such as withdrawal of cases, retreat of armed police forces, and putting on hold non-essential structural construction in the disputed areas, to create an environment conducive for talks.

OP PHOTO

The dispute over the ownership of 21 of the 28 villages under Kotia panchayat had first reached the Supreme Court in 1968. In 2006, the apex court held that inter-state boundaries did not fall within its jurisdiction and only the Parliament could resolve them, as it imposed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

OP PHOTO

In August, the Odisha government deployed police and erected barricades at Kotia after the Andhra Pradesh administration attempted to launch several schemes in the area claimed by both states. The southern state had recently announced the results of the panchayat polls it held in Kotia.

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The dispute over the ownership of 21 of the 28 villages under Kotia panchayat had first reached the Supreme Court in 1968. In 2006, the apex court held that inter-state boundaries did not fall within its jurisdiction and only the Parliament could resolve them, as it imposed a permanent injunction on the disputed area.

OP PHOTO

In August, the Odisha government deployed police and erected barricades at Kotia after the Andhra Pradesh administration attempted to launch several schemes in the area claimed by both states. The southern state had recently announced the results of the panchayat polls it held in Kotia.

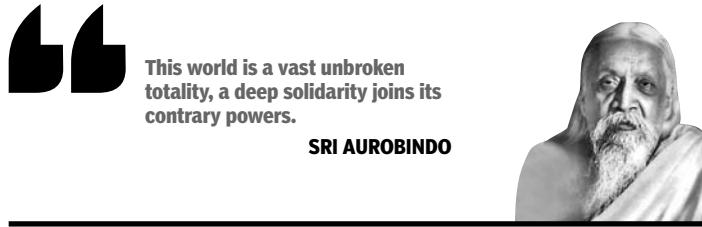
OP PHOTO

Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy seeking his urgent intervention to hold bilateral talks with Odisha for an amicable resolution of the border disputes between the two states.

OP PHOTO

In the letter to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Pradhan suggested measures such as withdrawal of cases, retreat of armed police forces, and putting on hold non-essential structural construction in the disputed areas, to create an environment conducive for talks.

OP PHOTO



Nobel & Journalism

It is interesting to note that in the first place, there never was no Nobel Prize for Journalism or Freedom of Expression. Yet, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded November 8 two journalists – Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia – the Nobel Peace Prize. Free speech is not only a key element of democracy, it is integrally connected with a tolerant society. The choice this time is unlike several other previous winners of this segment of Nobel Prize that were mired in controversy. The selection of some of the earlier winners raised eyebrows as their credentials for advancing the cause of peace were called into question by many. But, this time, there has been no opposition to the selection since the threat to freedom of speech and expression has assumed serious proportions across the world. This is the biggest danger to peace. No wonder the Nobel Committee Chairwoman Berit Reiss-Anderson, while announcing the names of the winners, said the two journalists represent all journalists who stand up for freedom of the Press in a world "in which democracy and freedom of the Press face increasingly adverse conditions." Peace becomes threatened in the absence of free, independent and fact-based journalism that act as a bulwark against abuse of power, lies and false propaganda by a repressive regime.

Conscientious journalists and social activists all over the world have been championing the cause of freedom and democracy for years. Scores of them have been persecuted and murdered for their unflinching devotion to truth, justice and fairness. The brutal murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi is the most prominent example of recent times, while many others lost their lives defending their right to tell the truth about repression by the Taliban in Afghanistan during the past two decades. Such journalists try to remain steadfast to their lofty goals even when the odds are heavily stacked against them. Authoritarian regimes put up insurmountable obstacles before them in the form of threats, false cases, abuse of the laws and torture in the lock-up. This has been the modus operandi used by enemies of peace and democracy over the years. Indian journalists and civil rights activists have a good measure of such experience, especially, in recent times. The most recent example is of Raman Kashyap, a journalist who lost his life in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident where the car of Union minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra drove through a gathering of mostly farmers and allegedly killed Kashyap along with farmers.

Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov have been chosen for the Nobel Peace Prize for having braved the fury of leaders of the Philippines and Russia after exposing corruption and misrule in their respective countries. To underscore the need for journalists closing ranks in the cause of peace and democracy, Muratov dedicated his award to six contributors to his Novaya Gazeta newspaper who had been murdered for their work of exposing human rights violations and corruption. He recited the names of the slain reporters and activists whose portraits hang in the newspaper's Moscow headquarters. Interestingly, the only other Russian who had won the Nobel Peace Prize before Muratov was the former President of the erstwhile Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev who contributed some of his Nobel Prize money to help Muratov launch his newspaper in the early post-Soviet days.

Ressa, who shares the prize with Muratov, is the first individual winner of a Nobel in any field from the Philippines. She is the co-founder of the Rappler which has grown into a prominent voice through investigating journalism against large scale killings during a campaign against drugs. As is the pattern autocrats have been following in different countries, the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte filed several cases against her because of her writings against the President. She was named Time Magazine Person of the Year in 2018 for standing up against media intimidation. Her legal battles have caused global concern about the harassment of the media in the Philippines which was once a standard bearer for Press freedom in Asia. To put the perspective most emphatically, she told the media the Nobel Prize she has won is "a global recognition of the journalist's role in repairing, fixing our broken world."

Likewise, Muratov has announced he and his paper will leverage the prize in the interests of Russian journalism which "(the authorities) are now trying to repress." Strengthened further by the recognition, he has decided he would try to help his countrymen who have been branded as agents of foreign powers, treated like dirt and exiled from the country. Curiously, the Russian government has lauded Muratov for winning the prize.

The Nobel Peace Prize for the two journalists will surely boost the morale of fearless critics of abuse of power. Reiss-Anderson said the Nobel committee intended the award to send a message about the importance of rigorous journalism at a time when technology has made it easier than ever to spread falsehood. It is common knowledge how the media can influence people for which the Press and fact-based, high-quality journalism are more and more restricted. The last time a journalist got the prize was eight decades back in 1935 when the German Carl von Ossietzky received it for revealing his country's secret post-war rearmament programme. Incidentally, it was an expose on a fascist regime and now fascism is rearing its ugly head in many countries in different garbs.

WISDOM CORNER

- Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.** SUN TZU
- The fragrance of flowers spreads only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions.** CHANAKYA
- All differences in this world are of degree, and not of kind, because oneness is the secret of everything.** SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

WORDSWORTH

■ Phenology

Recording the dates each year when plants flowered or birds nested was a popular hobby in Victorian times. It continued the tradition of close observation of natural phenomena that had been pioneered by eighteenth century British naturalists such as Gilbert White at Selborne in Hampshire. But he never knew the word phenology that describes his methodical recording, as it was not invented until almost a century after his death; it's based on phenomenon plus -logy, the suffix denoting the study of some subject. Someone who makes such observations is a phenologist. Although the vogue for recording died out among amateurs at the end of the nineteenth century, scientists continued to use the word for the recording of such seasonal happenings, especially in areas like crop research. Both the word and the concept have recently gained new popularity and significance because global warming is causing plants to come into flower and crops to ripen earlier than before.

■ Philanthropreneur

This turned up in an article in the New York Times as a term to describe "young billionaires who have reaped the benefits of capitalism and believe that it can be applied in the service of charity". It turns out not to be a neologism, but one that has had a few earlier outings. It is claimed that the difference between old-style philanthropists like Carnegie or Rockefeller and the new philanthropreneurs is that the latter combine active money-making with a willingness to tackle social problems of the kind that have previously been thought to require governmental action. It is in essence capitalism that aims to do good at the same time, a hybrid activity that is causing some classically trained economists to scratch their heads in disbelief. Cases quoted in the New York Times article include Jeffrey Skoll, the former president of eBay, who has invested in a firm that makes waterless urinals to save water in arid countries; Stephen Case, the founder of America Online, whose charitable foundation pays to install water pumps in African villages but also operates a for-profit firm that ensures that they continue to be maintained; and Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin brand, who is investing in a scheme to combine mine-disposal in Mozambique with opportunities for Africans to grow sugar cane to make ethanol for fuel.

FOCUS HUMANITY THE HINGE OF HISTORY

Twelve years ago, during the International Year of Astronomy that marked the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of a telescope, I wrote "The Value of a Pale Blue Dot" – a reflection on how astronomy has revealed a vast universe filled with an unimaginable number of stars, thus shrinking the significance of our sun and our planet. The "pale blue dot" refers to how the Earth appears in a 1990 photograph taken by the Voyager spacecraft as it reached the outer limits of our solar system. The essay suggests that the knowledge gained from astronomy "forces us to acknowledge that our place in the universe is not particularly significant."

A recent blog post by Holden Karnofsky has led me to reconsider that thought. Karnofsky is co-CEO of Open Philanthropy, a foundation that researches the best opportunities for philanthropic grant-making, and publishes the reasons for its decisions. Thinking about the long-term significance of today's philanthropic decisions is therefore part of Karnofsky's role. He is thinking very long term indeed.

Karnofsky points out that we could be living "at the very beginning of the tiny sliver of time during which the galaxy goes from nearly lifeless to largely populated." That "tiny sliver of time" began, we might say, with the first use of tools by our ancestors, around three million years ago. It will end when our descendants – who might be digital minds, rather than biological organisms – inhabit the entire galaxy, perhaps ushering in a civilisation consisting of an enormous number of conscious beings that would last for tens of billions of years. There is a good chance, Karnofsky argues, that this process of populating the galaxy will begin during this century. By 2100, we could develop the technology to construct self-sufficient settlements



Marx's vision of communism as the goal of all human history provided Lenin and Stalin with a justification for their crimes, and the goal of a 'Thousand-Year Reich' was, in the eyes of the Nazis, sufficient reason for exterminating or enslaving those deemed racially inferior

on other planets.

This thought echoes one expressed in 2011 by the late philosopher Derek Parfit, who wrote, near the end of the second volume of *On What Matters*: "We live during the hinge of history." Like Karnofsky, Parfit was thinking of the arrival of technologies that, if used wisely, would enable our species to survive "its most dangerous and decisive period," and our descendants to spread through our galaxy. Parfit refers to "the next few centuries," rather than just this one, as the time it may take before humans can live independently on other planets, but even that will be only a sliver of time compared to what is to come. Our most significant contribution to this development would be to ensure the survival of intelligent life on our planet.

Perhaps, though, the idea that we are essential to this process is merely the latest version of the self-important delusion that humans are the center of existence. Surely, in this vast universe, there must be other forms of intelligent life,

and if we don't populate the Milky Way galaxy, someone else will.

Yet, as the physicist Enrico Fermi once asked fellow scientists over lunch at Los Alamos National Laboratory, "Where is everybody?" He wasn't commenting on empty tables in the lab's dining room, but on the absence of any evidence of the existence of extraterrestrials. The thought behind that question is now known as the Fermi Paradox: if the universe is so stupendous, and has existed for 13.7 billion years, why haven't other intelligent forms of life made contact?

Karnofsky draws on a 2018 paper by researchers at the University of Oxford's Future of Humanity Institute to suggest that the most likely answer is that intelligent life is extremely rare. It is so rare that that we may be the only intelligent beings in our galaxy, and perhaps in the much larger Virgo supercluster to which our galaxy belongs.

This is what Karnofsky means when he says that the future of humanity is 'wild.' The idea that

we, the inhabitants of this pale blue dot at this particular moment, are making choices that will determine whether billions of stars are populated, for billions of years, does seem wild. But it could be true. Granting that, however, what should we do about it?

Karnofsky does not draw any ethical conclusions from his speculations, other than advocating "seriousness about the enormous potential stakes." But, as Phil Torres has pointed out, viewing current problems – other than our species' extinction – through the lens of 'longtermism' and 'existential risk' can shrink those problems to almost nothing, while providing a rationale for doing almost anything to increase our odds of surviving long enough to spread beyond Earth. Marx's vision of communism as the goal of all human history provided Lenin and Stalin with a justification for their crimes, and the goal of a 'Thousand-Year Reich' was, in the eyes of the Nazis, sufficient reason for exterminating or enslaving those deemed racially inferior.

I am not suggesting that any present exponents of the hinge of history idea would countenance atrocities. But then, Marx, too, never contemplated that a regime governing in his name would terrorise its people. When taking steps to reduce the risk that we will become extinct, we should focus on means that also further the interests of present and near-future people. If we are at the hinge of history, enabling people to escape poverty and get an education is as likely to move things in the right direction as almost anything else we might do; and if we are not at that critical point, it will have been a good thing to do anyway.

The writer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the non-profit organisation The Life You Can Save.

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THE DANGERS OF TREATING EXTINCTION RISK AS HUMANITY'S OVERRIDING CONCERN SHOULD BE OBVIOUS

Peter Singer

SPECTRUM WORLD BANK

After 'Doing Business'



SETTING ASIDE THE DEBATE OVER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN THE PAST, THE END OF 'DOING BUSINESS' HAS IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES

Mauricio Cárdenas

Earlier this year, the World Bank commissioned me and five fellow academics to develop recommendations on how to improve the methodology behind its annual Doing Business report, which ranked countries on the quality of their business regulations and their overall business environment. The report had been a lightning rod for controversy since its inception in 2003. While it generated glowing coverage in the global business media, it was also subject to constant criticism for its perceived anti-regulation, anti-union, and anti-tax slant.

September 1, we submitted our final recommendations, calling for a major overhaul of Doing Business including ending the practice of ranking countries. Two weeks later, the World Bank announced that it was scrapping the report entirely after a separate investigation by an outside law firm concluded that data had been deliberately manipulated in order to alter some countries' rankings, notably those of China and Saudi Arabia.

Setting aside the debate over what really happened in the past, the end of Doing Business has important consequences. We have no doubt that the world needs a tool to measure countries' conditions for business development and attractiveness for foreign direct investment, and that the data from such a project are highly relevant to

both researchers and business and government leaders.

The World Bank has already declared its intention to keep working on business-climate issues. But to re-establish itself in this domain, it will have to overcome a deep trust deficit and take drastic steps to restore public confidence in its data. Our ideas about how to fix Doing Business could now serve as minimum criteria that any new effort in this area should meet.

First, the World Bank should not build a new index to rank countries, as Doing Business did. Such aggregate indices are inevitably arbitrary, and the rankings invoke normative judgments that go far beyond the available evidence. Even prior to the recent data manipulation scandal, it was clear that the methodology behind many of the individual Doing Business indicators needed to be overhauled.

The core problem was that Doing Business did not actually survey businesses, or measure the real-world costs of doing business for a representative set of small and medium-size enterprises. Instead, it relied on subjective judgments from a small group of experts, who were invited to assess the costs of regulation for a hypothetical firm that was often quite unrepresentative in many of the countries the Bank evaluated.

As luck would have it, separate World Bank surveys have periodically asked actual firms' man-

agers some of the same questions posed by Doing Business: about the time required to register a business, get a construction permit, clear goods through customs, and so on. Firms' own answers, it turned out, bore no relation to those of the Doing Business experts. If there is a successor to Doing Business, it has to start from real data, not hypotheticals.

A second set of issues concerns assumptions about the right policies or regulations, which are implicit in any business-environment ranking. For some indicators, such as delays in registering a business, less is clearly better. But for others, like the corporate tax rate, the optimal policy is the subject of vigorous academic debate.

The tax issue became increasingly awkward for the Doing Business report in recent years. As 130 countries finalised plans this year for a global minimum corporate tax rate, the index continued to encourage a race to the bottom in corporate taxation.

Third, any serious attempt to measure a country's business environment must consider government efforts to fix market failures and provide essential public goods. But the World Bank's broad vision of how to promote a good business climate, as embodied in the Doing Business index, suffered from some severe blind spots. For the private sector to flourish, apparently, government mostly needed to get

out of the way. This view made no allowance for public investments in basic infrastructure such as roads, telecommunications networks, and power grids, all of which are fundamental to doing business but were entirely absent from the report. Absent, too, was any reference to crime prevention and public order, a skilled workforce, or investments in research and development.

Finally, there is the question of data credibility. Greater transparency would be a good start. The raw data underlying the Doing Business report were never publicly available, so the analysis could not be independently replicated. Excessive focus on rankings and lack of access to the data resulted in a product that was vulnerable to political pressures and data haggling.

Arguing that the scandal was unfortunate but that the methodology was right won't cut it. The Doing Business rankings – that result from the aggregation of indexes – were always dubious, because they did not provide an accurate picture of conditions on the ground and left no place for crucial public investments, sensible taxes, or necessary regulations. Any future effort to assess the business environment in member countries must address these shortcomings.

The writer is a former finance minister of Colombia.

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Validity of will

Sir, There are many occasions where the validity of the will executed by the deceased has been contested in courts by the heirs of the deceased. Cases are dragged in courts to determine whether the will executed by the person is genuine or fake. The Supreme Court has held "mere exclusion of a sibling per se from the will would not create a suspicion against it." Disputes on the authenticity of the will are adding to the fleet of cases in courts. It is strange that in some cases even the registered wills have been found to be false. If the registered wills are found to be the ones in which the signature of the executor is found to be false, registered deeds like sale deeds, partition deeds, gift deeds, release deeds may also be vulnerable for doubts. When the registered wills give room for suspicion in some cases, the unregistered will should not be recognised as a will. This would prevent cases of unregistered will coming into courts. Genealogy tree is prepared which the Notary Public attests. The Notary will sign for the information relating to the name of family members given by the applicant for the 'prescribed' fee given to him. Unless the applicant is honest in providing the names of all the concerned members, the genealogy tree with the attestation of the Notary cannot be always correct. No Notary Public has been held guilty for the false information provided by the applicants. If the Notary Public cannot be held responsible for the false information given by the applicants, the very purpose of signature of the Notary Public stands defeated. The rule making the signature of the Notary Public mandatory for genealogy trees would be redundant and does not serve any purpose beyond making it another source of earnings to the Notary Public. Implementation of some laws is just ritualistic.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

Power crisis

Sir, India faces a huge power crisis. NTPC's coal reserves are at lowest, only one-day reserve available. This is opposite of the general norm of having 30 days stocks. There are several reasons for this – the economy is bouncing back, international coal prices are soaring, there are heavy rains in coal mines. The situation seems bleak, but it can improve easily, if all the power producing plants work with 100 per cent efficiency. PM Modi needs to personally take stock of this crisis and do the needful to resolve it.

Manisha Panwar, UJJAIN

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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UPCOMING PANCHAYAT POLLS IN GANJAM DISTRICT

BJD banking on women votes



The blocks where chairman posts have been reserved for women are Aska, Beguniapada, Chhatrapur, Hinjilicut, Jagannathprasad, Kabisuryanagar, Kukudakhandi, Patrapur, Polsara, Rangeilunda, Sanakhemundi and Sorada. Besides, blocks like Khalikote, Dharakote and Ganjam have been reserved for OBC candidates while Chikiti and Digapahandi blocks have been reserved for people from the Scheduled Caste (SC).

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 10: After the draft list of reservation for the panchayat polls was declared, political activities have increased in rural pockets of Ganjam district. There are 22 panchayat samitis in the district while 12 posts of chairpersons have been reserved for women of different categories.

However, many leaders of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) aspiring for the posts have expressed their unhappiness since the list was declared. They have met their re-

Besides, blocks like Khalikote, Dharakote and Ganjam have been reserved for OBC candidates while Chikiti and Digapahandi blocks have been reserved for people from the Scheduled Caste (SC).

The Hinjilicut Assembly constituency is represented by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Two blocks of the constituency has come under the reservation policy. The Hinjilicut block is reserved for women while Sheragad is for the non-reserved category.

In Digapahandi constituency represented by Speaker Surya Narayan Patro, the Sadar block has been reserved for SC (male) and Kukudakhandi block for SC (women).

Many local frontline leaders from different segments have expressed their unhappiness, as their political aspirations have gone awry.

On the other hand, the ruling BJD has emphasised on Mission Shakti programme in the district, keeping in view the three-tier panchayat elections. The party has formulated strategies to increase the women's vote bank. SHGs are being given loans to take up various income-generating activities. Hence, more women leaders will be fielded for various posts in the coming panchayat elections, sources said. The Congress and BJP have also made their strategies to counter that of the BJD. Hence the upcoming polls can see tough triangular contests at many places.

Five blocks have been named in the non-reserve segment. They are Bhanjanagar, Belaguntha, Buguda, Purusottampur and Sheragad.

spective MLAs at their residences and voiced their resentment over reservation of chairman posts for women.

The blocks where chairman posts have been reserved for women are Aska, Beguniapada, Chhatrapur, Hinjilicut, Jagannathprasad, Kabisuryanagar, Kukudakhandi, Patrapur, Polsara, Rangeilunda, Sanakhemundi and Sorada.

Five blocks have been named in the non-reserve segment. They are Bhanjanagar, Belaguntha, Buguda, Purusottampur and Sheragad.

Police nab three robbers in Bolangir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 10: Police have arrested three inter-state robbers involved in 22 cases of dacoity in Bolangir district, informed Sadar SDPO Topan Bag here Sunday. The three have been identified as D Raja, Dayasagar Chhatria and Sarathi Bag. While Raja is a native of Ganjam, the other two are from Subarnapur district.



Police have seized nine number plates, nine mobile phones, gold ornaments worth around ₹3.5 lakh, 10 SIM cards, purses, and equipment used to change vehicle number plates from their possession. Efforts are on to find out the places where the robbers have carried out criminal acts. According to police, the robbers were staying in a rented house near Rajendra College Chhak. Police said, over 22 cases are pending against them at Bolangir, Sonepur, Baripali, Ullunda, Loisingha, Patnagarh, Deogarh, Kantabani, Binika and Belapada police stations.

Bhograi, Oct 10: The Coast Canal passing through Balasore district was once a major route for Odisha's maritime trade. It was also a lifeline for agriculture in the district as it was source of irrigation to large tracts of farmlands. A total of 110 wind-driven lift irrigation points was set up along its route. Sadly, the historic canal has lost its existence for lack of renovation, sources said.

Odisha was hit by a great famine in 1866. The situation was horrible. However, the construction of the canal started in 1880 to prevent famines in future. The canal work was completed in 1885.

At that time, the canal proved to be a boon for undivided Balasore district as it opened up maritime trade, transport and communication routes in Bhograi, Baliahal and Basta. The canal passes through 13 km in Bhograi, 14 km in Jamkunda in Baliahal and 13 km from Jamkunda to Madhata. Overall, the canal stretches from Geonkhali in West Bengal up to Cuttack.

When the English ruled India, the East India Company conducted maritime trade through the canal from Odisha to Kolkata.

A 214 km-stretch of the Coast Canal passes through Balasore,

EPILOGUE OF BRITISH ERA MARITIME TRADE



Bhadrak, Jajpur and Cuttack. It was said that due to flourishing maritime trade on this water route, several industrial units had mushroomed along banks of the canal.

However, after Independence, trade on this route lost its relevance. Both the Odisha and central governments neglected the waterway. At different places, the canal has lost its existence as silt has deposited over with the passage of time. At some places, it has been choked with weeds and hyacinths.

In 1974-75, the Odisha govern-

ment took up renovation of the canal in some areas.

In 2015, with effort of the Bhograi MLA Ananta Das, ₹1.12 lakh was sanctioned for renovation for the stretch from Mankund to Bhograi Lock. But the work was allegedly botched up. The irregularities were probed by the Irrigation department.

People of Bhograi observed that if the Coast Canal is renovated, it would be helpful in the progress of the state's agriculture and economy.

People have encroached upon parts of canal banks at many places. Locals lamented that unless proper maintenance is carried out the canal will vanish into oblivion. They said the canal is slowly dying because of lack of maintenance and dredging.

Revival of the British era canal has been a major demand of the coastal people. But, no steps have been taken so far to renovate the water channel, which would be of great help in boosting irrigation, flood control and pisciculture in

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



Officials and local people take part in a programme marking World Mental Health Day at Chitrakonda in Malkangiri district, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Floods wash away farmers' hope

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balipal, Oct 10: Floodwater from the Subarnarekha river has receded in parts of north Balasore district. However, it has dealt a blow to agriculture. The floodwater has washed away paddy and vegetables in hundreds of hectares of land in low-lying areas. Farmers have lost their harvest for the year.

Reports said, floods triggered by heavy rainfall in August and September had submerged thousands of hectares of agricultural land in northern parts of Balasore district, ruining paddy and vegetable crops in the region.

Though the floodwater from the Subarnarekha, Budhabalanga and Jalaka rivers has receded in Bhograi, Jaleswar, Basta, Balipal,

Remuna and Sadar blocks, the damage to the crops is irreparable, locals said. The district administration has carried out damage assessment in the affected areas. Still some farmlands in Balipal locality are submerged under water.

Farmers said the paddy plants and vegetable have rotted after remaining inundated under water for long stretches of time.

Eight migrant workers rescued from Telangana

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Oct 10: Acting on complaints, the Labour department rescued eight migrant workers from Nabarangpur district from Himayat Sagar area under Shamshabad police limits in Telangana. The rescued labourers have been sent to their respective homes, said ADM Bhaskar Raito here Sunday.

Reports said 11 people from various parts of the district were working at a brick-making unit in Shamshabad area of Telangana. Among them, three were from BS Padar, two each from Tanginiguda, Batiguda, and Turunkia and one from Umerkote.

They had left for their work destination eight months ago, but did not return. Unable to trace them, their families had filed complaints with the Labour department.

It has been alleged that the brick kiln owner did not allow the workers to contact their families. This created a lot of apprehension in the minds of their families. The Nabarangpur district administration talked to its counterparts in Himayat Sagar area under Shamshabad police limits and managed to trace the workers.

Additional Labour Officer Gopalkrushna Mangaraj, Labour Officer Bulu Srihari and Dabugan ASI Chandrabhanu Mohanty reached Himayat Sagar October 7 and rescued the workers. They were brought back here Sunday. It should be also stated here that three of the labourers had earlier managed to escape from

the brick kiln. Various outfits alleged that middlemen are luring rural people promising them good wages in other states, on most occasions, they end up being exploited and tortured in many cases.

Coast Canal loses sheen in Balasore

EPILOGUE OF BRITISH ERA MARITIME TRADE



■ Odisha was hit by a great famine in 1866. The situation was horrible. However, the construction of the canal started in 1880 to prevent famines in future. It was completed in 1885.

■ The opened up maritime trade, transport and communication routes in Bhograi, Baliahal and Basta. The canal passes through 13 km in Bhograi, 14 km in Jamkunda in Baliahal and 13 km from Jamkunda to Madhata.

coastal parts of the district.

Locals said if the canal is revived and connected with Kansabansa river at Baumsadia in Kharasahapur panchayat, over 2,000 hectares of farmlands at Abhana, Kharasahapur, Aruhabada, Baripada, Bishnupur and Chittal would get the benefit of irrigation. Drought-like situations could be avoided in coastal parts, they added.

Farmer said that the renovation of the Coast Canal assumes importance as it can be used for irrigation in coastal pockets. Farmers then will be able to raise crops twice a year by using its water.

Others observed that the Odisha government should think of linking the coast canal with Kansabansa river to end droughts in the area which happen annually.

Pratulika Behera, the executive engineer of the Drainage Division said that ₹25 lakh had been sanctioned from the FDR fund last year for de-weeding the canal. However, work is yet to be completed.

In the current year, ₹20 lakh was sanctioned for cleaning of 14-km stretch of the canal. Block additional agriculture officer Ranganath Patra said that the Agriculture department has already written to the government for renovation of the canal to boost irrigation.

Engineering student arrested for rape in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 10: Police arrested Sunday a youth for kidnapping and raping a girl belonging to a locality of Khurda district under Sadar police limits. The accused had befriended the girl on Facebook 10 months back and developed a relationship with her.

Police registered a case and produced Gobind in court, July 26. With the girl missing for a substantial amount of time,

tody after his bail plea was rejected. Police also recorded the statements of the survivor in the court and handed over to her family members.

Police said that Gobind kidnapped the girl in a hired a car, July 26. With the girl missing for a substantial amount of time,

the girl's father lodged a complaint with the police. The police finally managed to trace Gobind by tracking his mobile number. He was finally traced to a house in Khurda town which the police raided. They arrested Gobind from the house and rescued the girl.

People have encroached upon parts of canal banks at many places. Locals lamented that unless proper maintenance is carried out the canal will vanish into oblivion. They said the canal is slowly dying because of lack of maintenance and dredging.

Revival of the British era canal has been a major demand of the coastal people. But, no steps have been taken so far to renovate the water channel, which would be of great help in boosting irrigation, flood control and pisciculture in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Binika, Oct 10: A mega drinking water project worth ₹199 crore to ensure clean and hygienic water in Binika and Dunguripalli blocks of Subarnarpur district has hit a stumbling block. After the laying of pipes, work hasn't progressed much.

Locals alleged that though work of the project was started one-and-a-half years back, no information plaque has been put up at the project site. They said that work is progressing at a snail's pace and will not meet the deadline for completion.

20 months have passed since its construction, but the work has not gone beyond pit digging and laying of pipes, locals alleged

Reports said, the project aims at providing clean and hygienic drinking water to 199 villages under the two blocks. A total of 1.59 lakh people will benefit from the project.

Under Basudha Yojana, the govt

Delay in mega drinking water project irks locals

UNDER BASUDHA YOJANA, THE GOVT HAS SANCTIONED ₹199.77 CRORE FOR THE PROJECT TO PROVIDE POTABLE WATER TO 1.59 LAKH PEOPLE

HONOURING THE SACRIFICE



overnment has sanctioned ₹199.77 crore for the project. A Rajasthan-based engineering and construction company was awarded the work in 2020. "Though 20 months have passed since construction began, the work has not gone beyond pit digging and laying of pipes," locals alleged.

Road sides have been dug up to lay pipes in many villages. However, with work yet to be completed, residents of Bankighardi, Kukudjholi, Bagadia, Denupadar and Jampalligan are facing prob-

lems, they added. Ramgopal Khandari of Maniganj, said that the company dug pits for laying pipes, but it is least concerned about filling the pits properly. Dasrath Suna, a native of Balasranga village accused the construction company of not doing the work in a proper manner.

Executive engineer of RWSS, Bibhu Prasad Panda said that due to Covid situation, the work has got delayed. He added that the information plaque of the project will be put up soon.



TWO STATES



Priyanka begins UP campaign with attack on BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

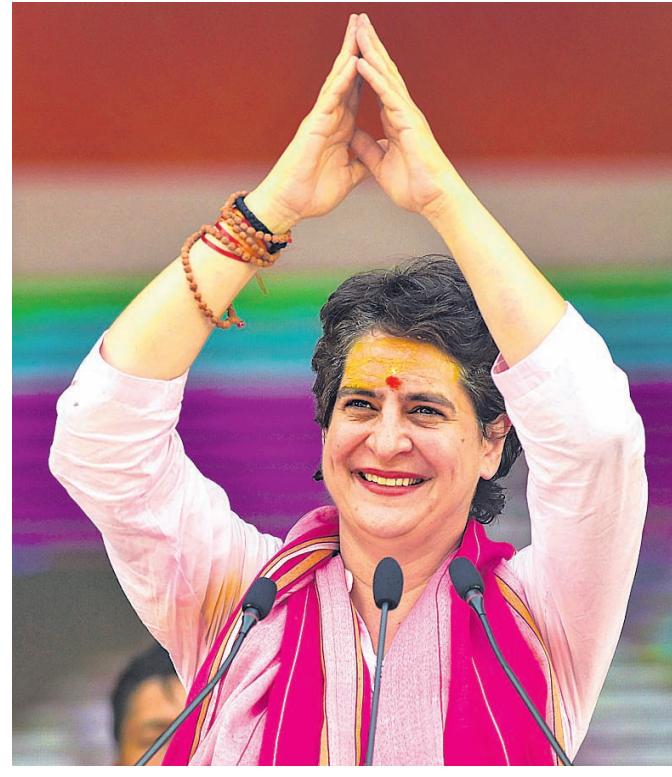
Varanasi, Oct 10: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Sunday kicked off her party's campaign for the upcoming UP assembly elections by mounting a blistering attack on the ruling BJP.

Addressing a mammoth rally in Varanasi, Priyanka took on the Centre and state governments on the issue of farmers and injustice to the poor.

"In the past two years, I have been working in UP. Two years ago, 13 adivasis were killed in a land dispute in Sonbhadra. Some leaders of the ruling BJP were involved and the people said that they had no hope for justice. I went there and each of the victims' families said that they wanted justice," she said.

Priyanka said that then came the pandemic and we saw people dying without oxygen, without medicines. People had hoped that the government would help but no help came and so many died in this hope.

"After this, Hathras happened and the government shielded the accused and there was no justice for the victim's family. The same has happened in Lakhimpur where



farmers were mowed down by a minister's son and the government is shielding the accused," she said.

Priyanka Gandhi announced

that the Congress would continue to fight on the Lakhimpur issue until Union minister Ajay Mishra Teni submits his resignation to

allow an impartial probe into the incident.

She said that nowhere in the world, does the police send an invitation to the accused to record his statement. "But in Lakhimpur, the minister's son was invited to give his statement. Is this how justice is done?" she asked.

In an attack on UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath, she said that he insulted Dalits who work as safai karamcharis.

"I went to a Valmiki temple in Lucknow and swept the floor. I met the residents of the Dalit basti and every family told me that though their children were educated, they had no employment. Today the Prime Minister's cronies are earning thousands of crores every day but the people of this country are facing unemployment," she said.

The Congress leader said that the Prime Minister had bought two aircraft for himself, each costing Rs 8,000 crore. "The two aircraft cost

the country Rs 16,000 crore but Air India has been sold for Rs 18,000 crore to benefit his friends," she stated.

She said that farmers were the real 'Ganga putra' of the country but the Prime Minister, who travels across the globe, has not found time to even talk to those who are sitting on Delhi borders.

Priyanka said that it was the sons of farmers who are protecting our borders, who ensure our safety and freedom.

"This country is a hope. Gandhiji had hope for freedom and justice for the poor but today, justice and hope are only for those who are with the BJP, its leaders and their friends. The country is being destroyed and the media is being used to create a campaign that shows all is well. We will fight against injustice and force them to give us justice just like we fought for Independence," she said.

Earlier, Priyanka visited the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Durga temple where she offered prayers. She began her speech with a Sanskrit hymn on Navratri.

Sisodia blames Centre for Delhi's coal crisis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICES

New Delhi, Oct 10: Blaming the Centre over the ongoing coal crisis row, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the Centre is running away from the issue of shortage of power production.

Referring to the oxygen crisis during the peak of second wave of Covid-19, the Deputy Chief Minister alleged that the Central government always neglects real issues.

"The coal situation is similar to the Oxygen crisis. However, the Centre won't accept it," he said.

Criticising Union Power Minister RK Singh, Sisodia said he is sad on the 'irresponsible approach' of the Minister.

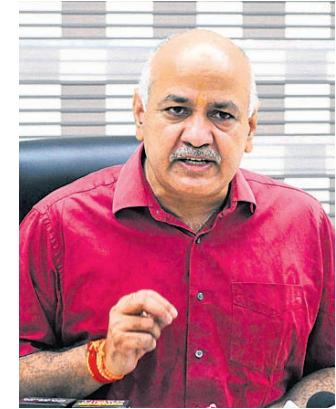
Several states, including Rajasthan, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh, have been raising concerns over the power shortage, Sisodia said.

He said that Chief Ministers including Arvind Kejriwal of Delhi and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh, have already written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue.

With the country running low on coal, power plants in Uttar Pradesh have stopped functioning, but the Central government is turning a blind eye towards it, he slammed.

Notably, Kejriwal Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the prevailing coal shortage situation that has struck the national capital for the third month in a row, affecting power generation in the city.

The problem that has been continuing since August "has affected the power generation from the



The coal situation is similar to the Oxygen crisis. However, the Centre won't accept it

MANISH SISODIA | DEPUTY CM

major Central Generating Plants supplying power to NCT of Delhi," the chief minister wrote.

However, R.K. Singh had stated Sunday that Delhi will not face any energy crisis as sufficient fuel is being provided to power plants supplying the national capital, after reviewing the coal stock position in all thermal power plants.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has said it is strange that the AAP government is repeatedly spreading fear of ensuing power cuts in Delhi but is not telling what alternate arrangements it has made to ensure proper power supply in the national capital.

This is despite the Union Power Minister's assurance that there is no shortage of fuel for power plants and the Centre will ensure proper power supply for Delhi, he added.

Du yet to fill posts of permanent principals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 10: While University of Delhi (DU) has set a record 100 per cent cut-off for admissions in several undergraduate courses across various colleges, there are more than 20 colleges where posts of permanent principals are lying vacant for a long time.

All these colleges are completely funded by the Delhi government. These colleges do not even have a governing body.

Colleges affiliated to DU which do not have a permanent principal include - Sri Aurobindo College, Sri Aurobindo College (evening),

ended September 13, 2021. The varsity gave them a three-month extension twice and there is no provision of giving extension for the third time. Now these colleges have started forming truncated governing bodies from September 17 this



There are more than 20 colleges where posts of permanent principals are lying vacant for a long time. These colleges do not even have a governing body

Motilal Nehru College, Motilal Nehru College (evening), Satyawati College, Satyawati College (evening), Bhagat Singh College, Bhagat Singh College (evening), Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, Vivekanand College, Bharati College, Indira Gandhi Sports College, Maharastra Agrasen College, Rajdhani College, Deendayal Upadhyay College, Acharya Narendra Dev College, Bhagini Nivedita College, Maharsi Valmiki College of Education, Gargi College, Kamala Nehru College, Maitreyi College etc.

In some of these colleges there are acting officers on special duty working for five or more years. Under the University Grant Commission (UGC) regulations, tenure of principals in the varsity is fixed for five years but they are holding their position even after their term is over.

Hansraj Suman, teacher and DU's former Academic Council member, said the varsity administration is repeatedly giving extensions to the governing body in these 20 colleges while most of these colleges had put out advertisements to fill the principals post, but they don't have a proper governing body to do that.

The term of the governing body in all 20 colleges affiliated to DU

year. Now to fill these posts of principals, the varsity administration will have to send a circular to all 20 colleges through advertisements seeking appointments. The various DU teachers associations have demanded from Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to fill the vacant posts of Principals and assistant professors in all 20 colleges as soon as possible.

They said the time limit of the advertisements for the interview for the posts of principals in these colleges has expired. These teachers bodies say permanent teachers and principals can be appointed by means of advertisements only if there is a governing body in these colleges. Due to non-permanent appointment for the post of principals, the appointment of assistant professors is also not taking place in these colleges while appointments and promotions on non-academic posts are going on unabated.

The salaries of teachers in 12 out of 20 these colleges are still pending. Delhi University Teachers' Association President, Rajib Ray has raised this issue with the UGC. After meeting with the UGC authorities, Ray said a demand has been made before the statutory body to take over the control of these colleges.

BSP takes right turn

AGENCIES



Lucknow, Oct 10: BSP supremo Mayawati at a recent rally promised not to derail the ongoing work of the BJP government in "Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura and other religious places", if voted to power.

Claiming that the BJP's government's works in the three holy cities are only the follow-ups of her government's initiatives, Mayawati went on to promise, in what is being seen as a subtle shift towards soft Hindutva ahead of the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, to complete all those work on time.

She made the promise while addressing the 15th death anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram here and asserting that if voted to power, she will not indulge in misappropriating the credit for work done by the preceding governments like the SP and the BJP regimes.

"The BSP, if voted to power, will not stop the developmental work of the current BJP government, which followed the footstep of the BSP, in Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura and other religious places," said Mayawati.

"The unfinished works will not be stopped with a feeling of vengeance but will be completed," she promised.

"The drama of changing names of the work done by other governments will not be done by the BSP like the Samajwadi Party and the Bhartiya Janata Party did," she said.

"All the works of their governments will be honestly reviewed. The work which is appropriate and in the public interest will definitely be taken ahead and finished on time," she added.

Apart from the construction of

10-yr-old diesel, 15-yr-old petrol vehicles to be impounded in Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Noida, Oct 10: In a measure to prevent air pollution, the Gautam Buddha Nagar administration has asked the district police to impound diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years in compliance with a Supreme Court order.

Police have also been asked to ensure that vehicles not destined for Noida or Greater Noida use bypasses or peripheral expressways, according to the 'winter action plan' issued by the Gautam Buddha Nagar district administration.

It stated that police have been asked to keep a strict vigil and show no tolerance for visible emissions by stopping 'visibly polluting vehicles' from plying by impounding or issuing fines to offenders.

The administration on October 6 released the 'winter action plan' to check pollution to various government agencies and authorities ahead of winters, during which air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR), including Noida and Greater Noida, spikes to severe levels affecting human health.

The administration asked the police to list traffic hot-spots in the district and release it and an advisory accordingly.

"Deploy additional man power and civil defence volunteers to ensure smooth traffic flow at identified traffic hot-spots and impound diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years in compliance of the Supreme Court's order," the plan stated.

"Despite trumpeting about making a Dalit the Punjab chief minister and dramatics to woo the Sikhs, people of that community cannot forget the pain of the anti-Sikh riots under its rule," she said.

In the run-up to the Punjab assembly elections, which the BSP has decided to fight in alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal, Mayawati also took a dig at the Congress over the appointment of a Dalit chief minister in the state.

"Despite trumpeting about

ensuring that non-destined vehicles use bypasses or peripheral expressways, keep strict vigilance and no tolerance for visible emissions - stop plying of visibly polluting vehicles by impounding or issuing fines/fine," it said.

The police have also been asked to keep strict vigilance and enforcement of pollution under control (PUC) norms besides ensuring stoppage of encroachment on footpaths. "Check and resolve issues such as congestion and unusual dust emission due to traffic or parking, and ensure compliance of action plans on the identified pollution hotspots in the city," according to the plan.

The police have also been asked to ensure implementation of orders of the Supreme Court regarding prohibition or restriction in the sale and use of fire crackers in NCR.

"Ensure immediate redressal of complaints received on Sameer, Swachh Vayu, Twitter etc," it added.

Earlier the Uttar Pradesh

Pollution Control Board identified eight key air pollution hot spots in Noida and Greater Noida, according to the Gautam Buddha Nagar district administration, which has directed local authorities to ensure implementation of the action plan to check pollution during winters.

The hot spots identified are Sector 7X (a collective of group housing societies in sector 73 to 78 of Noida), Sector 150, the Yamuna Pusta area, the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, the Dadri road, the underpass and building construction along Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, Greater Noida West and UPSIDC industrial areas, it said.

The major air pollution sources have been identified as road dust, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, industrial dust emissions, unpaved roads and traffic congestion.

"In some of these colleges there are acting officers on special duty working for five or more years. Under the University Grant Commission (UGC) regulations, tenure of principals in the varsity is fixed for five years but they are holding their position even after their term is over.

Hansraj Suman, teacher and DU's former Academic Council member, said the varsity administration is repeatedly giving extensions to the governing body in these 20 colleges while most of these colleges had put out advertisements to fill the principals post, but they don't have a proper governing body to do that.

The officials said that tenders have been issued for improving greenery and beautification of a number of flyovers.

Officials said that greenery beneath these flyovers will be improved and road footpaths will also be made encroachment free.

"A variety of flowering plants

such as Bougainvillea, Clerodendrum Inerne, Ipomea, Tradescantia, Tasmanian Flax-Lily (Dianella Variegated) Kamal Cactus along with hedge plants will be used to beautify roads and flyovers. We will also use creepers on the flyover walls and pillars to enhance greenery and beautification of the structure," another PWD official said.

Major arterial roads of the national capital are under the jurisdiction of the PWD. The department manages around 1,260 km-long roads in the city. The officials said that at least 42,000 plants saplings, hedges and shrubs will be used to beautify roads and flyovers in PWD's south sub-division.

The term of the governing body in all 20 colleges affiliated to DU



Central and side verges of roads and flyovers and walls of overbridges will be spruced up with seasonal flowering plants and shrubs on a number of identified road stretches and flyovers

pollution due to open spaces and dirt patches on roads. No dry and vacant space will be left on roads for the dust to fly, the official said.

The move comes after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal last month directed PWD officials to improve greenery to reduce dust pol-

lution in the city.

According to PWD officials privy to the development, tenders have been issued for improving greenery and beautification of a number of flyovers.

These overbridges include IIT flyover, Munirka flyover, Africa

"A variety of flowering plants

such as Bougainvillea, Clerodendrum Inerne, Ipomea, Tradescantia, Tasmanian Flax-Lily (Dianella Variegated) Kamal Cactus along with hedge plants will be used to beautify roads and flyovers. We will also use creepers on the flyover walls and pillars to enhance greenery and beautification of the structure," another PWD official said.

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The term of the governing body in all 20 colleges affiliated to DU

national

of the day quote

Today, I am sorry to say this, lots of modern women in India want to stay single. Even if they get married, they don't want to give birth. They want surrogacy. So there is a paradigm shift in our thinking, which is not good.

DR K SUDHAKAR | KARNATAKA HEALTH MINISTER

Indian civilisation has never been defined by religion, all other civilisations were defined either by religion, mostly by religion, and also before that by race and language.

ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN | KERALA GOVERNOR

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh is effectively implementing developmental programmes in the state and its people will vote for BJP in the Assembly election due early next year.

J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Three drown

Godda (Jharkhand): Three children of a family drowned in a pond in Jharkhand's Godda district Sunday, police said. Superintendent of Police Y S Ramesh said the incident took place in Hopna Tola village in Pathargama police station area when the children, two aged 10 and one eight, went into the deep water of the pond while taking bath. The trio shouted for help, but by the time villagers reached the pond and pulled them out, all three had died, he said. The bodies were sent to Godda Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination, Pathargama police station in-charge Baliram Rawat said, adding that further investigation was underway.

Man dies

Bareilly (UP): A 65-year-old man died after a bullet hit him during celebratory firing in a village in Bareilly district. The deceased has been identified as Khetal Jatav, a resident of Ghilaura village. Station House Officer (SHO) of Bhamori police station Vikram Singh said Ram Swaroop, a resident of Ghilaura village, had purchased a new tractor on Friday and was distributing sweets after completing the rituals.

Four held

Dakshina Kannada (Karnataka): The Karnataka Police have arrested four persons in connection with the kidnapping and gang-rape of a 16-year school girl, police sources said Sunday. Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police Sonawane Rishikesh Bhagawan said one of the accused was known to the girl through Facebook. He, along with other accused, who are his friends, gangraped the girl, said police.

Several injured

Hazaribag (Jharkhand): Several people were injured Sunday in alleged pelting of stones at law enforcers and subsequent police action on demonstrators who were on dharna in Hazaribag district since last week in support of their 31-point charter of demands, including compensation for damaged crops due to pollution caused by coal dust. CPI leader B P Mehta claimed that over 24 villagers have been admitted to Hazaribag Medical College and Hospital after sustaining injuries in police lathi-charge while Superintendent of Police Manoj Ratan Chote said over 12 policemen were injured during heavy brick baton on the force.



We need to understand the traditional way of curing mental problems. I am thinking whether we can incorporate in our syllabus the role of our traditions in keeping good mental health

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

2 TRF 'operatives' held during raids in Kashmir

AGENCIES



Srinagar, Oct 10: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Sunday carried out raids at several places in Kashmir Valley and arrested two 'operatives' of The Resistance Front (TRF), considered a shadow outfit of the banned Lashker-e-Taiba terror group, which has claimed responsibility for a spate of targeted civilian killings.

A

n NIA spokesperson said that the searches were carried with the assistance of CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police at seven locations in Kulgam, Srinagar and Baramulla districts.

A case was initially registered at Bahu Fort police station relating to the recovery of an IED from a Lashker-e-Taiba terrorist in Bathinda, Jammu on June 27 for indulging in terrorist acts in the Union territory. The NIA had registered the case again and arrested three terrorists.

Investigation has revealed that Pakistan-based handlers of LeT and their associates based in Jammu and Kashmir had conspired to cause extensive terror activities for harming the public,

the spokesperson said.

They had planned that responsibility for the terrorist acts would be taken by the pseudo-acronym TRF to maintain plausible deniability and evade law enforcement agencies. During the searches, many digital devices, including mobiles, pen drives, data storage de-

vices and other incriminating materials were recovered, the spokesperson said.

During the course of the searches, two TRF operatives, Tauseef Ahmed Wani from Baramulla in North Kashmir and Faiz Ahmed Khan from Wampora in Anantnag of South Kashmir,

PROTESTS CONTINUE

SRINAGAR: Condemnation, condolences, and protests against the brutal murder of famous pharmacy owner, M.L. Bindroo continued Sunday in Srinagar city five days after the incident. Just three days back, a largely-attended candlelight protest was held at city centre Lal Chowk. The participants, including elected municipal councillors, called their protest "Akhir Kab Tak" (How long will such madness continue). Friends, well-wishers and even people who hardly knew him, continue to pour into Bindroo's residence to express grief and anger at his murder by the terrorists. Bindroo's killing sparked fear and consternation among scores of Kashmiri Pandits who had continued to live in the Valley even after the majority of their community members migrated out in early 1990s.

were arrested for their involvement in the conspiracy, the spokesperson added.

FESTIVE MUSIC



Drummers from a rural area with their instruments exhibit their skill outside Sealdah station, waiting to be hired for community puja pandal ahead of Durga Puja, in Kolkata

GOVT ALLOWS EXPORT OF SPUTNIK LIGHT VAX

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Controller General of India had granted permission for the conducting Phase 3 bridging trials of Sputnik Light on the Indian population.

The nod comes after a recent study published in the medical journal The Lancet said that Sputnik Light showed 78.6 to 83.7 per cent efficacy against Covid-19, significantly higher than most two-shot vaccines.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's Subject Expert Committee had, in July, denied grant of emergency use authorisation to Sputnik Light, stressing need to Phase 3 trial of the Russian vaccine in the country.

Lakhimpur violence being made into a Hindu-Sikh battle: Varun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: BJP MP Varun Gandhi Sunday warned against attempts to turn the Lakhimpur Kheri incident into a "Hindu vs Sikh battle", saying it is dangerous to create these fault lines and reopen wounds that have taken a generation to heal.

The Pilibhit MP, who was recently dropped from the BJP national executive, said the struggle for justice in Lakhimpur Kheri is about the "cruel massacre of poor farmers in the face of arrogant local power elite", and the issue has no religious connotations.

"To use the word Khalistani's lib-

Eastern Ladakh row: India, China hold talks



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a brief face-off near Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh around 10 days back and it was resolved within a few hours following talks between commanders of the two sides as per established protocols

sides as per established protocols.

Close to 100 soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) transgressed the LAC in the Barahoti sector of Uttarakhand on August 30 and returned from the area after spending a few hours.

The two sides held the 12th round of talks on July 31. Days later, the two armies completed the disengagement process in Gogra (Patrol Point 17A).

India has been insisting that the resolution of outstanding issues in all friction points including in Depsang is essential for an overall improvement in ties between the two countries. The Indian delegation is understood to have conveyed this view firmly at the 13th round of talks while pressing for bringing down tensions at Depsang.

The talks took place in the backdrop of two recent incidents of attempted transgressions by the Chinese troops - one in the Barahoti sector of Uttarakhand and another in the Tawang sector in Arunachal Pradesh. Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a brief face-off near Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh around 10 days back and it was resolved within a few hours following talks between commanders of the two

Corps Commander-level talks was to complete the stalled disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15). There was no official comment on the negotiations that took place on the Chinese side of the Chushul-Moldo border point in eastern Ladakh.

The talks, which started at 10:30 AM and ended at 7 PM, took place over two months after the last round of negotiations that resulted in the disengagement of troops from Gogra (Patrol Point 17A).

The Indian delegation at Sunday's talks was led by Lt Gen PGK Menon, the Commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps. On Saturday, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane had said if the Chinese military continues with its large-scale deployment in the eastern Ladakh region, then the Indian Army too will maintain its strength on its side which he said is "as good as what the PLA has done."

The border stand-off between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Hindu vs Sikh battle is being made. Not only is this an immoral & false narrative, it is dangerous to create these fault-lines & reopen wounds that have taken a generation to heal. We must not put petty political gains above national unity."

Police had arrested Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, in connection with the October 3 Lakhimpur violence. Farmer organisations have blamed the father-son duo for the incident and are alleging that the minister had made a provocative speech while his son was inside a vehicle that hit farmers. Both have denied the allegations.



erally to describe the protesting farmers is not only an insult to the generations of these proud sons of the Tarai who have fought and shed blood on our borders, it is also extremely dangerous for our national unity if this provokes the wrong kind of reaction," he said.

In a tweet, he said, "An attempt to turn Lakhimpur Kheri into a

that he be made a minister and given the Home portfolio. Obviously, the high command wanted that UP should also be run like other states such as Gujarat where K Kailashnath remains Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister in Gujarat even after Modi left the state seven years ago. But Yogi did not even make AK a minister and he remains one of the dozens vice presidents of the party.

Amarinder not quitting Congress

None of the 77 MLAs including those who won from Patiala, his home district, are willing to quit the Congress along with Capt. Amarinder Singh at least for now. Even his wife Preneet Kaur, Lok Sabha MP from Patiala and his son Raninder Singh are reluctant to leave the party. Captain Singh had told Amit Shah that he has adequate support of the Congress MLAs. But only three MLAs came to see him when he returned to Chandigarh. His supporters indicated that he may

float Punjab Vikas Party (PVP) soon. But his support base is dwindling by the day and they are worried about their own prospects in Assembly polls due next February.

How babus react

The PM has come a long way in dealing with the bureaucracy. There were days when he used to get angry with the "babus" and used to call them "file-pushers". It is no secret that the PM has been upset with the bureaucracy who has everything in life during service and even after retirement and still they don't move their finger. They have become merely file pushers. But more than seven years into the office, the PM has started looking the other way. Earlier, the bureaucrats had shunned going to the Golf Club. They had even stopped eating out at 5-star hotels. But all this is changing. Modi is now keen to bring the bureaucracy on board if he has to deliver in time. Secondly, he has also started to bring talent from outside the government.

Kuru Kolumn

How Modi runs his govt

If one wants to know how the Prime Minister runs his government, one will have to attend his classes. Before going to the US last month, the Prime Minister held his 6-hour-long class as a headmaster at the newly built mega hall at the Rashtrapati Bhawan to ensure that all 70-odd secretaries and PM's staff could be seated. Modi has started using this facility at the Rashtrapati Bhawan after 2017. During this period, Modi spoke to each one of the 70-plus secretaries who were invited to a special review meeting. Since it was the first in-

person meet with all of them together in two years, everyone was rattled. The PM had not held any meeting with them during the pandemic. Secondly, it was not a 'Chintan Shivir' (brain-storming session) either but an accountability session. All the secretaries heading ministries and departments were told to come prepared with their report card as to what they have done so far and what they plan to do during the next 100-days.

PM and his 70 secretaries

The Prime Minister had kept 70-plus sheets neatly typed on his right side and picked up one-by-one. Each sheet had every detail of the secretary concerned and his ministry. It gave a graphic account of how many ministries he had worked earlier and when he will superannuate. When a secretary knew, Modi interjected and said, "I know you have joined the ministry only three days ago." When another secretary tried to take shelter saying he had been taking

the directions of the minister concerned, Modi said that this meeting was about him and his ministry. "The ministers have many tasks to perform. You tell me what was the target set for your ministry in 2019 and how much has been achieved so far," Modi reported to have commented. "When a senior secretary pointed out that state governments were not cooperating in clearing certain files, the PM wondered as to why the PMO was not apprised of the problem. The PM issued instructions then and there that any project held up anywhere in the country, the PMO must be told in writing. He went on to say that he would talk to the concerned CM himself. This time, the PM did something unusual and asked them to send to the PMO a 'Daily Report'.

Yogi gives thumbs down to AK

It is no secret that Yogi Adityanath is on his own trip in UP. He is not like other BJP Chief Ministers in many states who pay obeisance to political masters in

Delhi. Insiders in the BJP say that Central leadership is rather scared to make any request directly to him or even issue any directions which he may disregard. While BJP Chief Ministers in three states in a row have been shown the door, Yogi is different. It is said that Yogi doesn't even take the calls of many senior leaders and prefers to call back later. The Central high command was also upset after Yogi Adityanath had cut Sunil Bansal, the unquestioned king of Lucknow to run the affairs, to size. Sunil Bansal is a general secretary (organisation) and his writ used to run in UP for the past several years. He drew more crowd at his residence than at the residence of Chief Minister. But times have changed since 2017. Now Sunil Bansal has been cut to size. There was a time when the BJP high command wanted to remove Yogi. But that did not happen. Therefore, high command sent A K Sharma who was in the PMO and Modi's trusted man. Sharma was sent to MSME as Secretary and took voluntary retirement and became an MLC. It was suggested

international

of the day quote



The role of the European Court of Justice in Northern Ireland and the consequent inability of the UK Government to implement the very sensitive arrangements in the protocol in a reasonable way has created a deep imbalance in the way the protocol operates

DAVID FROST | BRITISH NEGOTIATOR

However, since the question of my appointment has been raised, I have resigned from the post of the minister as it is not appropriate for me to remain as a minister amid such speculations

GAJENDRA BHADUR HAMAL | NEPAL'S INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND SUPPLIES MINISTER

I am optimistic that every German government, including the one that follows mine, will feel committed to Israel's security, and I think any successor who becomes German chancellor will see it that way

ANGELA MERKEL | GERMANY'S LAME-DUCK CHANCELLOR

SHORT TAKES

Iraqis vote for new Parl

Baghdad: Iraq closed its airspace and land border crossings Sunday as voters headed to the polls to elect a parliament that many hope will deliver much needed reforms after decades of conflict and mismanagement. The vote was scheduled to be held next year but was brought forward in response to a popular uprising in the capital Baghdad and southern provinces in late 2019.

Five killed in boat capsize

Dhaka: At least five bodies were recovered after a boat capsized in the Turag river in Savar, on the outskirts of Bangladesh capital Dhaka. Khaleda Yasin, a duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defense Headquarters, told Xinhua news agency that "the bodies of three boys, a woman and a girl have so far been retrieved".

Thousands march in Brussels

Brussels: Thousands of people young and old marched through Brussels Sunday to push world leaders to take bolder action to fight climate change at the UN climate summit in Glasgow starting this month.

Oz Chancellor Kurz resigns

Vienna: Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has announced his resignation, and proposed Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg as his successor. In a statement to the media on Saturday evening, Kurz said that he wanted to avoid months of chaos and stagnation, reports Xinhua news agency. "My country is more important to me than my person," he said. Kurz said that he would return to Parliament as the chairman of his conservative party and "use the opportunity to refute the allegations," which he claimed were "false".

Lebanon faces total blackout

Beirut: Lebanon's electricity grid has shut down all over the country as the two main power stations of al-Zahrani and Deir Ammar ran out of fuel, local news website Elashra reported. The thermoelectric plant stopped at Zahrani power station Saturday while the Deir Ammar plant stopped on Friday due to a fuel shortage, reports said.



I want to visit many different places and listen to voices (of the people) and work toward having that reflected in politics

FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

FOR A CHANGE

UK Home Secretary Priti Patel is said to be keen on introducing a specific law against the public sexual harassment of women and girls, in the wake of a series of recent attacks on the streets of London, according to a report



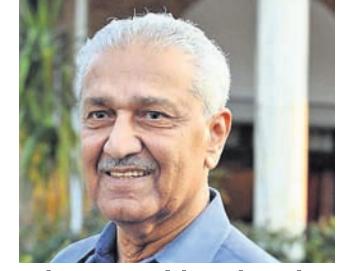
Father of Pak's nuclear bomb AQ Khan dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 10: Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced atomic scientist known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb' under the clandestine enrichment programme and infamous for his controversial role in nuclear proliferation, died here on Sunday after a brief illness. He was 85.

Khan, who was born in 1936 in Bhopal and migrated to Pakistan along with his family after the Partition in 1947, breathed his last at about 7.00 AM (local time) at the Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) Hospital – the medical facility named after him.

According to the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan, Khan had been admitted to the KRL Hospital August 26 after he tested positive for Covid-19. Later, he was shifted to a military hospital in



Khan, considered as the father of Pak's nuclear bomb, is revered at home as a hero. He was also called a man who built the Muslim world's first atomic bomb

Rawalpindi but was discharged after recovering from the virus.

Khan was brought to the KRL Hospital early in the morning after he faced difficulty in breathing, Geo News reported. Doctors said Khan's health deteriorated after bleeding in his lungs.

He could not survive after his lungs collapsed.

"Deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan. Had known him personally since 1982. He helped us develop nation-saving nuclear deterrence, and a grateful nation will never forget his services," President Arif Alvi said in a post on Twitter. Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he was "deeply saddened by the passing of Dr A Q Khan".

Funeral prayers for Khan were held at Islamabad's Faisal Mosque. A large number of people, including ministers and representatives of the armed forces, attended his funeral despite rain. He was buried at the H-8 graveyard, in accordance with his family's as well as his own wishes.

Why nCoV vaccines didn't win science Nobel this year



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

now," Hansson added.

According to Nature.com, some scientists expressed surprise and disappointment at the omission of Covid-19 vaccines, particularly those developed using messenger RNA technology, which has launched a new class of vaccines.

But Nobel prize insiders and watchers say that timing, technical details and politics meant that a nod this year was a long shot.

The timing didn't work in favour of a Covid-19 Nobel this year. Nominations for this year's prize had to be submitted by February 1.

This was more than two months after the first mRNA vaccines, and some others, proved their mettle in clinical trials, but before their impact on the pandemic was fully clear, said Goran Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, which selects the prize winners.

"Follow-up is really still happening

"The development of mRNA vaccines is a wonderful success story that has had enormous positive consequences for humankind. And we are all very grateful to the scientists," Hansson said. "This is a kind of discovery that will receive nominations. But we need to take time," Hansson added.

RAGING INFERNO



A volcano continues to spew out lava on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain in the early hours of Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Countries must spend more to protect nature: UN

The United Nations wants countries to commit to protecting 30% of their land by 2030, a pledge already agreed to by the United States and others

AGENCIES

China, Oct 10: The global community must invest much more and raise the scale and speed of its pledges to protect nature and prevent species loss, a senior UN official

said Sunday on the eve of a new round of global biodiversity talks.

The first part of the twice-postponed "COP15" biodiversity negotiations begin in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming on Monday, with the aim of generating

momentum for an ambitious post-2020 agreement to reverse decades of habitat destruction caused by human encroachment and climate change.

David Cooper, deputy executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, told a briefing that ministers attending virtual meetings this week needed to show more ambition and give "clear political direction" to negotiators,



who will thrash out a final deal in Kunming in May next year. Environmental groups say there is no time to lose when it comes to protecting habitats and slowing extinction rates, especially after governments failed to complete any of the 2020 biodiversity targets agreed in Aichi, Japan a decade earlier. However, Cooper said the level of urgency was still not enough.

Afghans flock to Iranian border, but few can cross

BEFORE THE TALIBAN CAME TO POWER IN AUGUST, AROUND 1,000 TO 2,000 PEOPLE CROSSED TO IRAN THROUGH THE ZARANJ BORDER STATION IN SOUTHWESTERN PROVINCE OF NIMROZ EVERY MONTH

AGENCIES

Zaranj, Afghanistan, Oct 10: The number of Afghans attempting to cross the border to Iran has soared since the Taliban swept to power almost two months ago, but few make it across, an official said. Before the Taliban came to power August 15, around 1,000 to 2,000 people crossed to Iran through the Zaranj border station in the southwestern province of Nimroz every month.

But the border commander for Nimroz province, Mohammad Hashem Hanzaleh, told AFP this week that the number of people attempting to cross has since soared to between 3,000 and 4,000

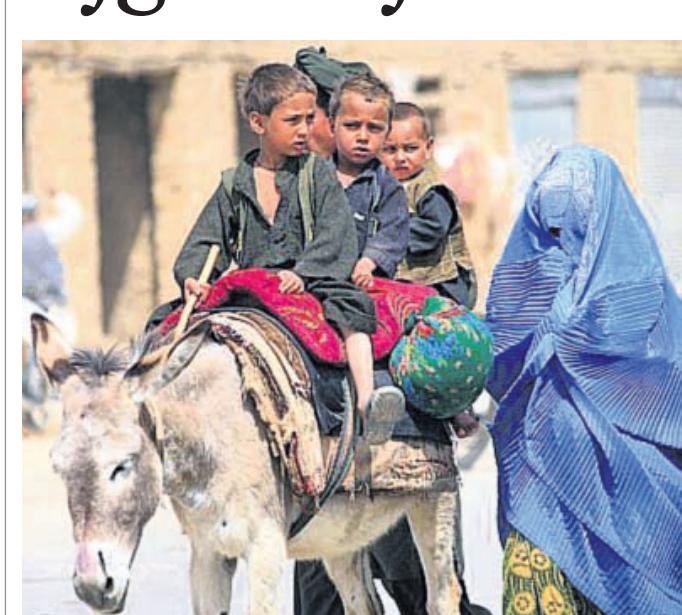
every day. The hike comes as devastating economic and humanitarian crises lash Afghanistan, with the UN warning that a third of the population faces the threat of famine.

But Hanzaleh said that very few had the papers required to cross. Traders and people holding residence visas, as well as those with visas to seek medical treatment, "are not prevented by Iranian forces," he said, adding that about 5-600 people were allowed across each day.

For those without their papers attempting to cross, the experience can be harrowing. Hayatullah, wearing a towel-like turban and a grey beard, showed off his in-

jured hand, with dark blood seeping through the bandage. "Iranian soldiers took our money. They hit our hands, they tore our hands," he said. Mohammad Nasim said he had been thwarted three times

after trying to scale over the border wall. Two nights earlier, he said Iranian border guards had opened fire and killed two people trying to get across, including one of his friends.



Representational image

INDIA CONCERNED | United Nations Security Council strongly condemned the "atrocious" ISIS terror attack on a mosque in Afghanistan and other recent attacks against religious institutions in the war-torn country, references that India categorically insisted on in a statement issued by the powerful UN body and rejected any attempts to dilute them. The 15-nation UNSC issued the press statement Saturday in which the members "condemned in the strongest terms the atrocious and cowardly terrorist attack in Kunduz, Afghanistan." October 8. An Islamic State suicide bomber struck inside the Shiite Mosque. Sources said that India stood firm on two aspects that eventually were noted in the press statement. Against this backdrop, India was very clear that both the aspects should be unequivocally condemned.

business

of the day quote



The domestic industry should use coal through the gasification process. Burning coal in open furnaces should be stopped. When we gasify coal, carbon emission are minimal

V R SHARMA | MD, JSPL



AFTER AIR INDIA, IT'S ALLIANCE AIR'S TURN

After the historic Air India privatisation, the government will now start work on monetising its four other subsidiaries, including Alliance Air, and over ₹14,700 crore worth non-core assets like land and building, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. The government October 8 had announced that salt-to-software conglomerate Tatas have won the bid to acquire debt-laden national carrier Air India for ₹18,000 crore

Maruti service bounced back very quickly after the Covid-19. Our service on wheels has become a huge hit. The customers today are preferring that

PARTHO BANERJEE | SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MSIL

We are looking to expand into the Middle East and Europe. Already conversations are happening. We are trying to partner with large technology corporations who would be happy to take us to the market and jointly offer our solutions

SANDIP KUMAR PANDA | CEO, INSTASAFE TECHNOLOGIES

With our IISc collaboration, we hope to enhance research and development in the use of GWP and natural refrigerants, as well as ensure that India's workforce is ready to engineer a sustainable tomorrow

RAVICHANDRAN PURUSHOTHAMAN | PRESIDENT, DANFOSS

SHORT TAKES

FPIs invest ₹1,997cr so far in October

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net buyers to the tune of ₹1,997 crore so far in October as India continues to be a competitive investment destination from a long-term perspective. As per depositaries data, ₹1,530 crore was invested by FPIs in equities and ₹467 crore into the debt segment between October 1-8. FPIs have been net buyers for two consecutive months and have invested ₹26,517 crore in September and ₹16,459 crore in August.

M-cap of 8 firms jump ₹2.32Lcr

New Delhi: Eight of the top-10 most valued companies together added a whopping ₹2,32,800.35 crore in market valuation last week in tandem with rally in the broader market, with Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark rallied 1,293.48 points or 2.20 per cent. The benchmark soared past the 60,000 level Friday. The market valuation of Reliance Industries zoomed ₹93,823.76 crore to reach ₹16,93,170.17 crore.

Dream11 suspends ops in Karnataka

New Delhi: Dream11, one of India's most popular gaming apps, has suspended operations in Karnataka after a complaint was registered against its founders claiming it was in violation of a new state gambling law. Police records Saturday showed a case has been registered in India's tech capital Bengaluru, in Karnataka, following a complaint by a 42-year-old cab driver who reported it as being operational after a ban on online games involving betting came into force.

Samsung declares mega TV offers

Bhubaneswar: Samsung has announced mega deals on a wide range of TVs and digital appliances for this Durga Puja festival. Samsung has introduced two special offers - Big TV Festival and Home Like Never Before on its TVs and digital appliances. These exciting product offers, coupled with attractive finance schemes including cash-back, assured gifts and easy EMIs, will be valid till November 10, 2021, at all leading consumer electronics retailers.

TELECOM SECRETARY ASKS C-DOT TO WORK ON 6G

SAMSUNG, HUAWEI, LG AND SOME OTHER COMPANIES HAVE STARTED WORKING ON 6G TECHNOLOGIES WHICH IS SAID TO BE 50 TIMES FASTER THAN 5G AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMMERCIALLY LAUNCHED BETWEEN 2028-2030

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman has asked state-owned telecom research and development organisation C-DoT to start working on 6G and other futuristic technologies in order to catch up with the market in time, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) said in the statement. According to Department of Telecom (DoT), 5G technology is expected to deliver ten times better download speed than that of 4G and up to three times greater spectrum efficiency.

Telecom Regulatory Authority



Govt imposes stock limits on edible oils

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Centre Sunday imposed stock limits on traders of edible oils and oilseeds, barring importers and exporters, till March 31, in a bid to check rising domestic prices and give relief to consumers.

Already, futures trading in mustard oil on NCDEX platform has been suspended from October 8, it said.

"The centre's decision will soften the prices of edible oils in the domestic market, thereby bringing great relief to consumers across the country," the Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

As per the order issued to all states, state governments and union territories will decide the stock limit to be imposed on edible oils and oilseeds after taking into account the available stock and consumption pattern of that particular state or UT. However, certain importers and exporters have been

The states have been asked to ensure stock details of edible oils and oilseeds are regularly declared and updated on the central government's portal

The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2021, has been issued with immediate effect

Edible oil prices in the domestic retail markets have shot up sharply by up to 46.15 per cent in the last one year due to global factors and local tight supply situation

exempted from the stock limit.

The exemption is given to those exporters (being a refiner, miller, extractor, wholesaler or retailer or dealer) who have an Importer-Exporter Code Number issued by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and are able to demonstrate that the whole or part of his stock are meant for exports

and to the extent of the stock meant for export.

The exemption is also given to those importers (being a refiner, miller, extractor, wholesaler or retailer or dealer) who are able to demonstrate that part of his stock in respect of edible oils and edible oilseeds are sourced from imports, the ministry said.

In case, the stocks held by respective legal entities are higher than the prescribed limits then they shall declare the same on the portal (<http://www.esofoil.nic.in/EOSLogin>) of Department of Food and Public Distribution and bring it to the prescribed stock limits as decided by the states where it is conducting its business within 30 days of the issue of such notification by the said authorities.

According to the ministry, high prices of edible oils in the international market have a substantial impact on the domestic edible oil prices. However, the government has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to ensure that prices of essential commodities like edible oils remain controlled.

Measures like rationalisation of import duty structure, launching of a web-portal for self-disclosure of stocks held by various stakeholders had already been taken, it said. India meets more than 60 per cent of its edible oil demands through imports.

FTAs to help exports touch \$500 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Aggressive marketing of products, timely implementation of free trade agreements that are under negotiations and affordable credit to MSME players would help in taking the coun-

try's merchandise exports to \$500 billion in the next financial year, according to exporters.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in a meeting with export promotion councils stated that the country's exports are growing at a healthy rate and now exporters



Odisha actors Archita Sahu and Subhasis Sharma inaugurate the biggest multi-utility outlet of Ruchi-Frozit at Mahanadi Vihar in Cuttack, Sunday. Ruchi MD Sarat Kumar Sahoo and Director Rashmi Sahoo are also seen

OP PHOTO

can aim for \$450-500 billion of outbound shipments during the next fiscal year.

Exporters also suggested exploiting the potential of e-commerce for inclusive exports and increasing its base by bringing new start-ups, artisans, weavers in exports.

Auto retailers staring at huge losses this fest season

WITH THE 42-DAY LONG PEAK SEASON HAVING COMMENCED WITH THE FIRST NAVRATRA, DEALERS ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE THE CUSTOMERS TO WAIT INDEFINITELY FOR THE VEHICLES OF THEIR CHOICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Automobile retailers are staring at huge losses this festive season as manufacturers struggle with vehicle dispatches to dealerships amid the ongoing semiconductor shortage crisis, according to a top Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) official.

With chip shortage continuing unabated, auto manufacturers are faced with production issues forcing them to curtail supplies to dealer partners. Amid robust demand for several models, dealers are witnessing booking cancellations and there is also a drop in on-the-spot buying due to dearth of inventory at their end.

"Festive season is the most important period in terms of sales for us. On an average, the two month period accounts for 40 per cent of our total sales during a year. This

is the time when we actually earn and save for operations for the rest of the year. This year we are not getting adequate vehicles and are staring at losses," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati told PTI.

He noted that in the passenger vehicle segment, the waiting period

on most of the models has gone up drastically from the earlier period of 1-3 months. Gulati said with lack of inventory at the dealerships, spot purchases are hampered as well.

As per our data, while 50-60 per cent buyers go for prior booking etc,



We are staring at big losses. During the festive period our retail sales used to be in the range of 4-4.5 lakh units in the 42-day period but this time around it is going to be just around the 3-3.5 lakh sales mark. We would be lucky if we are able to achieve even such a sales number

VINKESH GULATI | PRESIDENT, FADA

the rest 40 per cent are those who just come to the dealership and just buy a model. So this chapter is just closed for us as there are no extra units, he stated.

Gulati noted that while the PV segment suffers from robust de-

mand and poor supply, the situation is quite opposite in the two-wheeler segment where the inventory level is better but demand is uninspiring. There is an impact on the lower middle class and rural regions due to drop in income levels amid Covid related issues, which has impacted the demand. Also, the prices of two-wheelers have gone up by around 30 per cent in the last one year alone. Besides, high petrol prices are also an impediment. So there has been an impact, he stated.

Automobile retail sales in the country witnessed a 5 per cent year-on-year drop last month amid a decline in two-wheeler and tractor dispatches during the period. As per Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), total retail sales last month stood at 12,96,257 units, down 5.27 per cent, from 13,68,307 units in September 2020.

Paradeep Phosphates is in the process of increasing the annual granulation capacity of its non-urea fertilizers - di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and NPK - plant to 1.8 million tonne from 1.2 million tonne by May 2022.

The company also intends to retrofit a new phosphoric acid production plant to increase its annual production by 120,000 MT and plans to install a new evaporator to increase annual production of strong phosphoric acid by 116,000 MT.

"We are investing heavily in topline growth. We are moving from 1.2 million MT to 1.8 million MT and with the acquisition of Goa Plant, we will get another 1.2 million MT with us," Sabalee Nandy, President and Chief Operating Officer Paradeep Phosphates Ltd said.

PPL to raise annual granulation capacity of DAP, NPK plant

PNN / AGENCIES

Paradeep, Oct 10: Paradeep Phosphates is in the process of increasing the annual granulation capacity of its non-urea fertilizers - di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and NPK - plant to 1.8 million tonne from 1.2 million tonne by May 2022.

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Vintage Dhoni show

YELLOW ARMY RIDES ON SKIPPER'S KNOCK, ENTERS FINAL FOR THE 9TH TIME

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 10: When the going gets tough, the tough gets going... and who better to prove it than Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni. When Ruturaj Gaikwad (70, 50b, 5x4, 2x6) got out in the 19th over, CSK still needed 24 runs to win in 11 balls. In walked MSD, with not much to show for his efforts with the bat in the previous games. However, he turned back the clock and needed just six balls to score an unbeaten 18 runs (1x6, 3x4) to win the game for his side and seal CSK's place in the final with two balls to spare.

It was the vintage Dhoni of old and 'Captain Cool' once more demonstrated that he still remains one of the best finishers of the game. Chasing a score of 172 for five



on 110 runs for the second wicket to put CSK on a firm pedestal. Then they stuttered losing three quick wickets for just six runs. However, Moeen Ali (16) scored some vital runs and then Dhoni closed out the match.

The good thing for the Capitals is that they will have another chance to enter the summit clash round when they face the winners of the 'Eliminator' to be played Monday between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders.

After being put in by Dhoni, it was the turn of Prithvi Shaw (60, 34b, 7x4, 3x6) and skipper Rishabh Pant (51 n o, 35b, 3x4, 2x6) to take DC to a fighting total. Shimron Hetmyer (37, 24b, 3x4, 1x6) also contributed, but then they never thought that the vintage Dhoni

put up by Delhi Capitals, the Kings scampered over the line, just.

Earlier Gaikwad had set the ball rolling along with Robin Uthappa (63, 44b, 7x4, 2x6) and the two put

would bail out the Kings.

After Shaw gave DC the perfect start, it was Pant and Hetmyer who consolidated the innings with some thrilling stroke-play. In the process, they put on 83 runs for the fifth wicket.

Brief scores

DC 172 for 5 (Prithvi Shaw 60, Rishabh Pant, 51 n o, Josh Hazlewood 2/29) lost to CSK 173 for 6 in 19.4 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 70, Robin Uthappa 63, MS Dhoni 18 n o, Tom Curran 3/29) by four wickets.

For the Kings, pacer Josh Hazlewood (2/29) was the pick of the bowlers. All-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Ali picked up a wicket apiece.

Shuttlers sink Spanish armada

SAINA'S GROIN INJURY ONLY BLIP IN HARD-FOUGHT VICTORY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aarhus (Denmark), Oct 10: Ace shuttler Saina Nehwal was forced to retire midway through her opening match but India's young brigade produced a clinical display to notch up a fine 3-2 win over Spain and make a winning start to their campaign at the Uber Cup Final here Sunday.

Starting the proceedings for India, London Olympics bronze medallist Saina had to concede her match after losing the first game 20-22 against Spain's Clara Azurmendi and Corrales 18-21, 21-16, 17-21 in the second women's doubles match.

India will face Scotland in their second group B match on Tuesday.

"There was a certain catch in my groin. I was surprised at how it happened. I was trying to get back my rhythm and I couldn't get it and I had to give it up because it was hurting when I was taking long lunges," Saina said after the match.

At a glance

- Saina Nehwal (retd) lost to Clara Azurmendi 20-22
- Malvika Bansod bt Beatriz Corrales 21-13, 21-15
- Aditi Bhatt bt Ania Setien 21-16, 21-14
- Crasto & Rutaparna bt Paula & Lorena 21-10, 21-8
- Sikki Reddy & Ashwini lost to Azurmendi and Corrales 18-21, 21-14, 17-21

"I will monitor my injury. Let us see the next three, four days, how it is. There are two more matches, so I just want to see how it goes. I don't want to take any sudden decision at the moment because my body feels good but this groin issue has to go," Saina added.

EASY MATCHES FOR TOP SEEDS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Wells, Oct 10: Top seeds Daniil Medvedev and Karolina Pliskova rolled to straight-set victories at the BNP Paribas Open, when several lower-seeded players were knocked out.

Medvedev beat American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-2, extending his winning streak to eight matches dating to his US Open championship last month. Medvedev never faced a breakpoint against McDonald, who was broken three times. Pliskova advanced to the third round with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Magdalena Frech at the combined ATP and WTA event.

Fifth-seeded Garbine Muguruza was the highest-seeded woman to lose. Muguruza, who won last week's event in Chicago, lost to Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3, 1-6, 3-6 in a hard-fought encounter.

OZ EVES WIN T20 SERIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gold Coast, Oct 10: The Indian women's team committed batting harakiri despite a fine half century from opener Smriti Mandhana (52, 49b, 8x4) to lose



the third and final T20 International to Australia by 14 runs and the series 0-2 here Sunday.

However, all the other Indian batswomen failed to live up to the challenge with most of them having a strike rate less than 100. The Aussies scored 149/5 and then restricted India to 135/6.

The batters who failed in this simple chase were Sahafali Verma (1 off 3), Jemima Rodriguez (23 off 26) and Harmanpreet Kaur (13 off 16). Richa Ghosh (23 n o, 11b, 2x4, 2x6) made a valiant attempt at the bottom end of the innings, but then the game had already slipped out of India's grasp.

For Australia, right-arm pacer Nicola Carey (2/42) was the pick of the bowlers, while Ashleigh Gardner (1/22), Annabel Sutherland (1/13) and Georgia Wareham (1/15) scalped a wicket each.

Australia women thus finished the series with 11 points while India could manage only four. The first of the T20 game was washed out.

India thus ended their Australia

tour heartbroken, having already lost the three-match ODI series 1-2 before drawing the rain-marred lone historic day/night Test.

Brief scores

Australia 149 for 5 (Beth Mooney 61, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/37) beat India 135 for 6 (Smriti Mandhana 52, Nicola Carey 2/42) won by 14 runs.

Earlier Australia rode on fine knocks by Beth Mooney (61, 43b, 10x4) and Tahilia McGrath (44, 31b, 6x4, 1x6) to post a fighting total. Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/37) was the pick of the Indian bowlers, while Renuka Singh (1/23) and Pooja Vastrakar (1/24) picked up a wicket apiece. The Australians however, scored 40 runs in the last 19 balls and that helped them to win the game.

SHORT TAKE

Lots to play for

Dubai, Oct 10: The winner of the men's T20 World Cup 2021 will take home prize money of USD 1.6 million dollars (₹12 crore approximately) while the runners-up will get half of the winning amount, the International Cricket Council (ICC) informed Sunday. The ICC also said that the two losing semifinalists will receive USD 400,000 dollars each from the matches taking place November 10 and 11. All the 16 competing teams in the tournament will receive part of the 5.6 million dollars allocated as prize money for the tournament, which will be played in the UAE and Oman from October 17 to November 14. Also the Decision Review System (DRS) will make its debut in the T20 World Cup. Each team will get a maximum of two reviews per innings.

AGENCIES

AGENCIES