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ANTIM ARDAAS



With profound grief we regret the sad demise of our beloved
Shri Kamaljeet Singh Ahluwalia

(Chairman, KJS Group)

A caring brother, a loving father and doting grandfather, Shri Ahluwalia was a visionary and a pioneer who leaves behind an everlasting legacy. A larger than life personality who had touched the hearts and lives of many with his kindness.

We have been blessed to have shared his life with him. He will be truly missed and our memories of him will last forever.

Date: 18th October, 2021
Time: 04:00 PM to 05:00 PM

IN GRIEF:

Manjula Ahluwalia (Wife)

Himangini & Karanpal Singh (Daughter & Son-in-Law), Naman and Mehaan (Grandsons), Promilla Ahluwalia (Sister-in-law), Santosh Ahluwalia (Sister-in-law), Indu and Pavan Ahluwalia (Sister-in-law and brother) Gopa and Prashant Ahluwalia (sister-in law and brother), Rekha Walia (Sister) Sudha & DK Mehta (Sister and Brother-in-law) and entire family

Please scan this QR for
live on Youtube



<https://qr.w69b.com/g/sw7BvQtJS>

Please scan this QR to join
on zoom



Meeting ID: 817 8725 3103
Passcode: 1234





EZRA TO PLAY 'THE FLASH' IN MOVIE SLATED FOR NOV 2022 RELEASE

After being a super-success on television and OTT platforms, 'The Flash' from the 'Extended Universe' of DC Comics, creators of Batman and Superman, will return to movie theatres November 4, 2022, as a full-length feature film. DC Films unveiled the movie trailer featuring Ezra Miller playing 'The Flash'.

MEGAN FOX, AUSTIN GREEN REACH DIVORCE SETTLEMENT

Hollywood couple Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green have reached a divorce settlement, with the pair agreeing to share joint legal and physical custody of their three children - Noah Shannon, 9, Bodhi Ransom, 7, and Journey River, 5.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You have your hands full today. There will be planning, meetings and a lot of work to do. You may feel tired and dejected due to insufficient inputs from others. However, Ganesh says things will become clear slowly as matters come to a conclusion.

TAURUS
Ganesh is happy to say that you will acquire yourself well in whatever you do or undertake today. You will show outstanding caliber in handling the responsibilities given to you. If you are participating in a competition, you are likely to be way ahead of others.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to rack your brains to get things done. But your modesty will not do you any good. You will have to show that you are the boss, even if you are not. Your extraordinary brilliance will translate into exceptional performance and will save the day.

CANCER
Today, you may focus your entire attention on your relationships - your ties with your parents, spouse, children, siblings and even neighbours. However, all that effort and energy may not get its due, and you may get a cold response from one or more of your relatives. Still there is no reason to lose heart.

LEO
Working hard, or hardly working - there is a vast difference between the two. You would be wiser to be working hard today, especially if it is success that you desire, says Ganesh. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work, and the sooner you realise this, the better.

VIRGO
Today, your soul mate will both give and demand pleasant surprises, says Ganesh. Your business partners may bring in some good news. Take responsibility of your past mistakes and make plans for the days to come. Do not be shy of the advice of loved ones, as it will help you more than hinder.

LIBRA
Today, you will be in a mish-mash of emotions and feelings. Also, there are chances of accumulated feelings finding an outlet. Your capacity for emotional display may take people by surprise. However, you will also enjoy the higher responsibilities reposed on you, predicts Ganesh.

SCORPIO
It is very likely that the moment of victory is often preceded by a moment of peril; but that is not where the danger ends. In the heat of victory, arrogance and over-confidence can push you away from what you aimed for. So, it is important for you to learn when to stop in victory. Set a goal and stop when you reach there, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Today will be a day for introspection, says Ganesh, as you try and find the root causes of your problems. But the job is only half-done: the rest will depend on the initiatives you may take to implement possible solutions to your problems. Overall, a day spent pondering. But act fast, advises Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You will find the day to be taxing, mostly because of the amount of work delegated to you, says Ganesh. But it will take trouble quite an effort to dampen your spirit. You will be in the fray in the latter part of the day, but will leave your rivals trailing behind in terms of business strategies. Success will be yours if you ensure to be mindful of your moves.

AQUARIUS
Ganesh says it's okay to cry on somebody's shoulders. In fact, sharing problems lightens the load, and if nothing else, your friends will think you're as human as them. You will feel much better by evening and will even smile a little, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You are likely to be grinding yourself under at the workplace today. A turning point will arise in romantic liaisons, though if the evening awaiting you is anything to go by, it is something you should welcome wholeheartedly, says Ganesh.

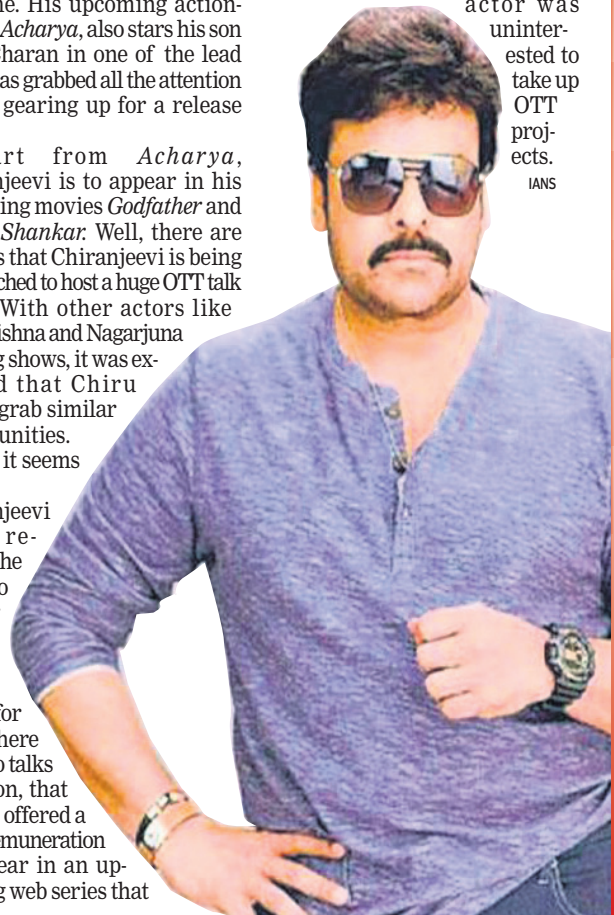
Chiranjeevi dislikes appearing on OTT platforms

Hyderabad: Megastar Chiranjeevi has been busy with a few upcoming interesting projects in the pipeline. His upcoming action-drama *Acharya*, also stars his son Ram Charan in one of the lead roles, has grabbed all the attention and is gearing up for a release soon.

Apart from *Acharya*, Chiranjeevi is to appear in his upcoming movies *Godfather* and *Bhola Shankar*. Well, there are reports that Chiranjeevi is being approached to host a huge OTT talk show. With other actors like Balakrishna and Nagarjuna hosting shows, it was expected that Chiru would grab similar opportunities.

But, it seems like Chiranjeevi has rejected the offer to appear on OTT platforms for now. There are also talks going on, that he was offered a huge remuneration to appear in an upcoming web series that

would be streamed on a streaming platform. But the producers had to back off with these trials, as the actor was uninterested to take up OTT projects.



'Indian TV has always stood the test of time'

New Delhi: As someone who has been a prominent face of Indian television for decades now, she feels that the industry has witnessed multiple changes at both technical and the thematic levels.

Actor Rupali Ganguly, who played the character of Dr. Simran Chopra in the Star Plus serial *Sanjivani* and later, the role of Monisha Sarabhai in *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai*, feels Indian television has constantly evolved over time. "Look at powerful content and the way it is being shot in high-definition. Television has not only managed to introduce every generation with the ethos of Indian culture but

also reflected the aspirations of young Indians," says the actress who did her debut in Hindi film opposite senior actor Mithun Chakraborty in *Angaar*.

Stressing that in contemporary times, content sits on the highest throne, the actor feels that people are constantly hunting for good stories. "And Indian TV has always stood the test of time and delivered cutting edge stories. It has also made sure that newer generations find the content relatable," says the actor who is currently playing the main role in TV series *Anupamaa* on Star Plus.



Sofia Hayat's self-shot film selected for Cult Movies Fest

Mumbai: Ex-Big Boss contestant and actress Sofia Hayat has filmed a short film during her visit to France titled *Portals of Truth*. Interestingly it has been selected for the Cult Movies International Film Festival.

Sofia says: "The movie is about how I travel through time using portals to go back to the past from evil entities called the Annunaki that landed on the earth at the beginning of time from planet Nibiru. The movie wasn't really planned. I was in France and I was in a beautiful hotel, and I started to daydream about what this place could have been. The hotel is called Negresco in Nice, France, and it is very artistic. I was inspired by its surroundings and took my phone and bought a ring light to make the movie! Hopefully I will get to show it in India."

Talking in detail about her character she adds: "My character is a Goddess and Queen of the heavenly realm, who becomes a human to find out who the evil ones are. I live like a human and trick the evil ones to give back what they stole from the children of earth."

The actress enjoys producing along with acting. "I am beyond excited to say that the short movie I made on my regular phone has been selected for the official Cult Movies Film Festival. I love acting and producing so I starred in the movie and filmed it. So the scenes I am in I filmed with my ring light," she wraps up.

Rashmika tops Forbes India's most influential actors' list

Hyderabad: Bangalore-based actress Rashmika Mandana, who has been busy with back-to-back movies in multiple languages, is one of the most happening heroines in the South.

With her upcoming entry, Rashmika becomes quite famous in the North too. Topping the most influential actors' list by Forbes India, Rashmika has beaten Samantha, Vijay Deverakonda and Yash.

Recording a high growth rate in the number of followers on her social media pages,

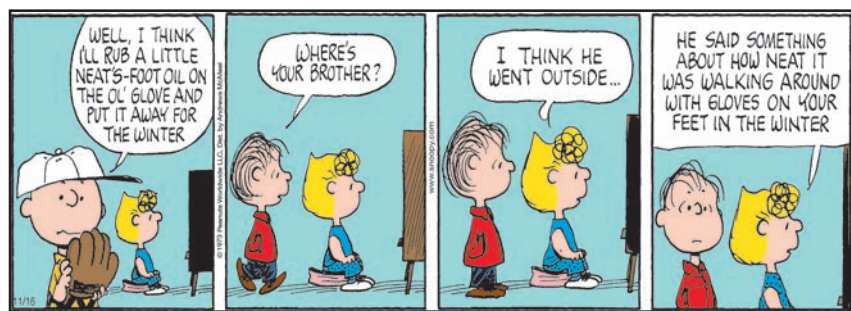
Rashmika Mandanna, who stars in Telugu and Kannada movies occupies the top spot on the list of the 'most influential actors'.

Vijay Deverakonda, who shot to fame with his movies *Pelli Choopulu* and *Arjun Reddy*, is second on the list, followed by Kannada's most happening handsome hunk Yash. Samantha Ruth Prabhu occupies a fourth place on this list, followed by Allu Arjun.

The metrics considered are the average likes, average comments, engagement rate, average video views, and the follower count on the social media profiles of the celebrities. This influence is calculated and represented through 'Qoruz Score', which is out of 10. Rashmika scores 9.88, while Vijay Deverakonda earned 9.67. Yash's score is 9.54, while Samantha's score is 9.49, followed by 9.46 scored by Allu Arjun.



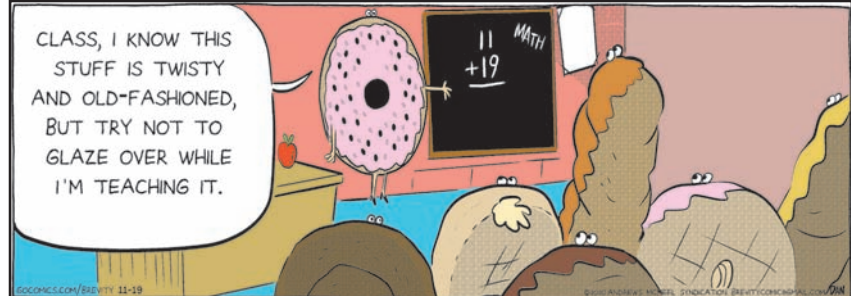
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

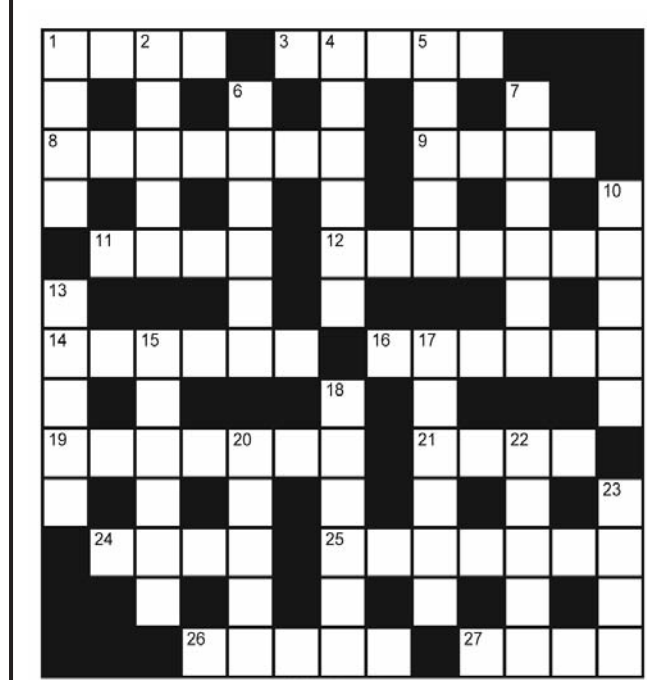


BREVITY



FUN post

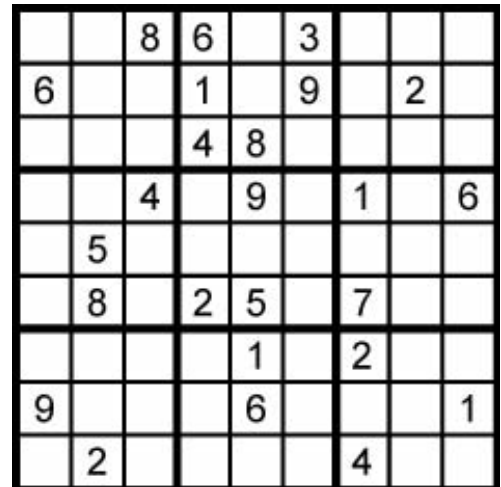
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Unexciting
 - 3 Songbird's call
 - 8 Origin of the universe theory (3,4)
 - 9 Emanation
 - 11 Trifling
 - 12 Without weapons
 - 14 Respectful greeting
 - 16 Sock pattern
 - 19 Ill will
 - 21 Cajole
 - 24 Mostel of Fiddler fame
 - 25 One in the dock
 - 26 Shade of green
 - 27 Buck the odds
 - Down**
 - 1 Balance sheet item
 - 2 Vantage point
 - 4 Hardship
 - 5 Wool producer
 - 6 Up-to-the-minute
 - 7 Cross
 - 10 Venomous snake
 - 13 Loan shark's interest rate
 - 15 Cavalry member
 - 17 Like Chippendale furniture
 - 18 Compact
 - 20 Kind of layer
 - 22 Seating request
 - 23 Jittery

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ENVIABLE FEAT

Actor Rashmika Mandana has topped the most influential actors' list by Forbes India

LEISURE



MURDER ACCUSED IN POLICE REMAND

The JMFC court has allowed the police to take Manish Anurag murder accused on a four-day remand

DOWNTOWN P2



HURDLE FOR CHINA

Pakistan's National Transmission and Despatch Company has blacklisted a Chinese firm for submitting fake documents

INTERNATIONAL P8

BERHAMPUR SLUM BOY CRACKS JEE(A)

BERHAMPUR: A student from a slum in this southern Odisha town has cleared Joint Entrance Examination (Advance) this year and has secured the 367th rank in the Economical Weaker Section (EWS) category making the 18-year-old eligible for a seat in one of the IITs in the country. In the general category the student, P Manoj Kumar's position is 3,899, according to the JEE(A) result declared October 15. Though Manoj, who is a resident of a slum at Prem Nagar here, belongs to the other backward class (OBC) category but he does not have a certificate as his family has no land patta. **(More P5)**



SKM TO HOLD 'RAIL ROKO' TODAY

NEW DELHI: The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) Sunday said 'rail roko' protests will be held across the country October 18 to demand the dismissal and arrest Union Minister Ajay Mishra in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. In a statement, the umbrella body of farmer unions spearheading the farmers' agitation against the Centre's three agri laws, said "protests will only be intensified until justice is secured" in the Lakhimpur Kheri case. The SKM said during the 'rail roko' protest, all train traffic will be stopped for six hours from 10 am till 4 pm Monday.

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UNSEASONAL SHOWERS: A motorcyclist rides through heavy rain in New Delhi, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Just imagine, if a tea seller can become PM, where can you reach selling pakodas!

Fuel shocker: Flying now cheaper than driving

The fourth straight day of 35 paise per litre hike sent petrol and diesel rates to record highs across the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Petrol and diesel prices Sunday were hiked again by 35 paise a litre and the auto fuels now cost a third more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines. The fourth straight day of 35 paise per litre hike sent petrol and diesel rates to record highs across the country. The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹105.84 a litre and ₹111.77 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹102.52 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs ₹94.57.

With this rise, petrol is now at ₹100-a-litre mark or more in all state capitals while diesel has touched the 100-mark in over a dozen states. Diesel crossed the ₹100-a-litre mark in Bangalore, Daman and Silvassa. Petrol used in two-wheelers and cars now costs 33 per cent more than the price at which aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is sold to airlines. ATF in Delhi costs ₹79,020.16 per kilolitre or ₹79 per litre.

CITY PRICES
Petrol: ₹106.77 (+0.35)
Diesel: ₹103.17 (+0.39)

The costliest fuel is in the border town of Ganganagar in Rajasthan where petrol comes for ₹117.86 a litre and diesel for ₹105.95. Since ending of a three-week long hiatus in rate revision in the last week of September, this is the 16th increase in petrol price and the 19th time that diesel rates have gone up. While petrol price in most of the country is already above ₹100-a-litre mark, diesel rates have crossed that level in over a dozen states/UT including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka and Ladakh. **OIL ALARM** Meanwhile, the sharp economic recovery and rising demand post the second wave of Covid coupled with a spike in global oil prices may pose a challenge for the government in FY22 to maintain fiscal discipline amid good growth in tax revenue. Country's crude oil import bill that fell drastically last year in the absence of demand and soft oil prices, has risen by over 138 per cent in April-August of FY22 to \$42 billion, up from close to \$18 billion the same period of last year. During the period, crude has jumped by about 40 per cent from \$60 a barrel to more than \$85 a barrel now. This price pressure has come when demand for petroleum products is on a rise in the country already reaching pre-Covid levels and rising. All this has meant that India is not only importing more to meet additional demand, but is doing it at premium prices ballooning its import bill.

Property worth lakhs gutted

CUTTACK: A major fire broke out at an incense sticks factory at the New Industrial Estate in Jagatpur area here Sunday evening. Although no casualty was reported, valuables worth lakhs of rupees were reduced to cinders in the fire that raged on for more than three hours at SS Enterprises, the ill-fated factory at Phase-I of Jagatpur New Industrial Estate here, sources said. Sources said that it was around 5.30pm when thick smoke was seen emanating out of the factory which was shut for Sunday. Assistant Fire officer Abani Kumar Swain said that nine fire tenders have been pressed into service. Till the last report came in, firemen were unable to douse the inferno despite over three hours of efforts.

Two more migrants shot dead in J&K

SRINAGAR: Terrorists shot dead two non-local labourers and injured another Sunday in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, the latest in the series of attacks targeting civilians. "Terrorists fired indiscriminately upon #NonLocal labourers at Wanpoh area of #Kulgam. In this #terror incident, two non-locals were killed and one injured." Kashmir zone Police said on its Twitter handle. It said police and security forces have cordoned off the area. According to officials, the militants barged into the rented accommodation of the labourers and fired on them indiscriminately. This is the third attack on non-local labourers in less than 24 hours. A street vendor from Bihar and a carpenter from Uttar Pradesh were shot dead by the ultras Saturday evening.

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.6°C	28.5°C
TEMP MIN	23.7°C	24.0°C
Humidity	98%	100%
Rainfall	20.7mm	32.2mm

Forecast: Light rain very likely

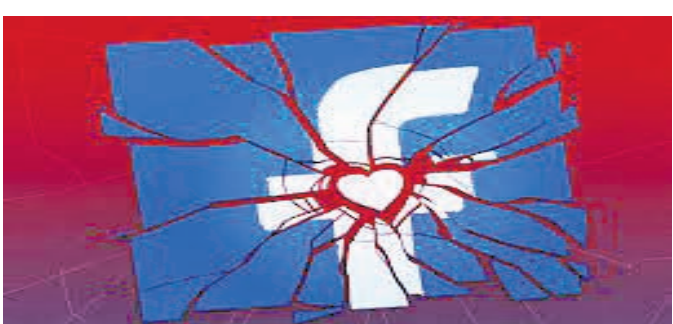
What happens to your life stories if you delete your FB account?

Facebook is obsessed with memories. It likes to make you nostalgic, and remind you of just how long you've used social media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colorado, Oct 17: If the latest deluge of Facebook controversies has you ready to kick the app to the digital curb, you are not alone. There are plenty of good guides out there on how to do it right. Even Facebook makes it pretty easy to understand the nuances of saying "see ya later" (deactivating) or "never speak to me again" (deleting). But before you go, you might want to consider this: What happens to your life stories? For many people, a decade or more of updates, comments, photos, messages, tags, pokes, groups and reactions reside inside that particular digital sphere. And Facebook wants you to remember that. As one writer put it, "Facebook is obsessed with memories. It likes to make you nostalgic, and remind you of just how long you've used social media."

This strategy drove Facebook to build a powerful and unique life narrative tool. Millions of people have invested billions of collective hours building what scholars call a networked life narrative, in which people "co-construct" their social identities through their interactions with one another. Perhaps you've never thought about how archiving the small moments of your life would eventually amass into a large narrative of yourself or how interactions from your family, friends, colleagues and strangers would create meaningful dimensions of that story. **Deactivating vs deleting** What happens if you decide to be done with all of that? If you deactivate Facebook, it is like putting that story into suspended animation. Much of what you did and said will either be removed or grayed out.



If you reactivate it someday, most of it will be restored and on you go. Delete the account, on the other hand, and "Your profile, photos, posts, videos, and everything else you've added will be permanently deleted. You won't be able to retrieve anything you've added," according to Facebook. If all those memories you have stored mean anything to you, your last chance to keep it before deleting is to download your information. I suggest you do this once in

a while anyway, because it reveals a lot about how you are tracked, how you consume media on the app and how you have acted on the site over the years. **Losing connections** But to a surprisingly large degree, your downloaded narrative gets "de-networked." What does one mean by that? Your posts are listed by date and time, but have none of the reactions and comments that followed. This is also true of photos and videos you have posted. The same happens to the comments you made on other people's posts. There is no reference to what you were commenting on because technically that is not your data.

Nabarangpur minor abducted, raped for 3 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Papdahandi, Oct 17: Coming close on the heels of the gangrape of two ladies in Mayurbhanj district last week, a minor girl was allegedly abducted and raped under this police limits in Nabarangpur district. The accused have been identified as Santosh Takri and Umesh Harijan, both natives of Semla village. Police detained them and launched an investigation after the girl's mother lodged a complaint at Moidalpur police outpost, Saturday. When the 13-year-old girl went to a nearby field to relieve herself both the accused, Santosh Takri and Umesh Harijan allegedly kidnapped her in a car to Sunabeda in Koraput, October 10. There they kept her as hostage in a house for three days while Santosh raped her. Family members rescued the girl after Santosh and Umesh returned with her to Semla village, October 14. On her return, the survivor narrated her ordeal before her mother. On being apprised, the girl's mother lodged a complaint at the Moidalpur police outpost. The family members of the victim have demanded stringent action against the accused. Police have launched an investigation into the incident and assured that both the accused will be arrested soon.

At least 26 die in Kerala rain-related incidents

The toll in Kerala floods mounted Sunday as the state witnessed incessant rainfall from Friday onwards

AGENCIES

Kottayam/Idukki, Oct 17: The National Disaster Rescue Force (NDRF) and Army have been pressed into rescue and relief operations in Kerala, where heavy rains since Friday triggered landslides and floods, killing at least 26 people. Of the 26 deaths, 13 were reported from Kottayam, nine from Idukki and four from Alappuzha district. The Army, NDRF, police and the Fire Force along with the locals began rescue operations Sunday morning at Kootickal in Kottayam district and Kakkayar in Idukki district, where over a dozen people have been reported missing due to landslides accompanied by heavy downpour. Search operations are underway for the missing persons in the debris. Among the bodies recovered were those of three children, aged eight, seven and four, who were found holding on to each other, officials said. Officials said rescue operators on Sunday morning recovered five more bodies from Kootickal. The bodies have not been identified yet. The Madras Regiment from Pangode military station commenced the rescue operation at Kavali village, 4 km away from Kootickal. The rescue team consisted of about 40 personnel. Kottayam District Collector PK Jayasree said at around 4 pm Sunday, "Presently, the situation is under control. If it rains heavily at night, it'll create problems... (Apart from the 13 deaths) No other missing persons reported."



Officials said rescue operators on Sunday morning recovered five more bodies from Kootickal. The bodies have not been identified yet. The Madras Regiment from Pangode military station commenced the rescue operation at Kavali village, 4 km away from Kootickal. The rescue team consisted of about 40 personnel. Kottayam District Collector PK Jayasree said at around 4 pm Sunday, "Presently, the situation is under control. If it rains heavily at night, it'll create problems... (Apart from the 13 deaths) No other missing persons reported."

Schools asked to follow SOP ahead of Class XI reopening

STUDENTS, ON THE FIRST DAY, WILL BE INFORMED ABOUT THE STATE CAREER PORTAL [HTTP://ODISHACAREERPORTAL.COM](http://ODISHACAREERPORTAL.COM) WHICH CONTAINS DETAILS REGARDING MORE THAN 550 CAREER OPTIONS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Sunday wrote to the principals of all Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) to strictly follow standard operating procedures and guidelines laid down for reopening of Class XI for the academic year 2021-22.

In the letter, S&ME Secretary Satyabrata Sahu wrote that students coming to HSS from far off places for the first time after admission need to be welcomed and counselled regarding the academic, curricular and co-curricular activities. Also, every HSS has to arrange an induction session for orientation of the freshers on the opening day by following the instructions.

The stream wise separate induction classes should be conducted October 21 for freshers. One guardian/parent shall be allowed to accompany the fresher to the induction hall. Induction class must be conducted by the concerned principal/senior teacher.

The fresher shall be informed about the brief history of the institution, its rules and regulations, and the importance of higher secondary classes in a student's career.

This apart, students will be informed about the state career portal <http://odishacareerportal.com> which contains details regarding more than 550 career options from the first day. The students will also be informed about the CHSE, Odisha syllabus available in

www.chseodisha.nic.in.

Students should also be introduced to proctor. A proctor is a teacher who will be in liaison between the student and the institution. The proctor will let the students know about their subject combination, section, group and time table.

All textbooks as per the CHSE syllabus for Plus II Arts, Science and Commerce are available in the website of Textbook Bureau, Odisha <https://www.textbookbureauodisha.in> in PDF form.

The YouTube live streaming classes in Arts, Science and Commerce will be conducted for students of Class-XI on Friday as per the time table provided by CHSE.

The teachers should also plan to cover the link concepts of Class-X for easy understanding of the contents to be taught in Class-XI as normal schooling could not take place due to pandemic. Also, the parent/guardian shall be intimated to attend the parent-teacher meetings to know the progress of their ward.

The cleaning activity will start from 17 October 2021. Report on cleaning will be submitted to respective District Education Officers before reopening of schools.

HOME MATTERS



People buying bambooware from roadside vendors at Purighat in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Khurda accounts for 54.85 per cent of fresh cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Odisha Sunday registered 443 new Covid-19 cases, 85 more than the previous day, which took the state's tally to 10,35,077, a Health department official said.

Three fresh fatalities – one each in Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Sundargarh -- pushed the toll to 8,285, the official added.

Of the 443 new patients, 75 are children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years. The rate of infection among children and adolescents stands at 16.93 per cent.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of new cases at 243, accounting for 54.85 per cent of the total infections logged during the day.

Khurda was followed by Cuttack, which recorded 27 new cases. Eleven districts, including Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kandhamal and Keonjhar, did not register any fresh case, the official said.

Odisha currently has 4,997 active cases, while as many as 10,21,742 people, including 562 Saturday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. The state's cumulative positivity rate stands at 4.91 per cent. Over 2.10 crore sample tests have been conducted thus far, including 55,115 of them Saturday. As many as 99,15,546 people have been inoculated with two doses of Covid-19 vaccine, the Health department official added.

e-Shram portal witnesses highest registrations from Odisha, WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The number registrations on e-Shram portal has crossed the 4-crore mark in less than two months of its launch with states like Odisha, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh being at the forefront of the initiative by contributing the highest number of registrations, the Ministry of Labour and Employment said Sunday.

According to a Labour Ministry statement, workers in diverse occupations such as construction, apparel manufacturing, fishing, gig and platform work, street vending, domestic work, transport, and agriculture and allied sectors have registered on the portal. In some of these sectors, an overwhelming proportion of migrant workers are also engaged, it stated.

All workers in the unorganised sector, including migrant ones, can now avail the benefits of various social security and employment-based schemes through registration on the e-Shram portal.

As per latest data, 4.09 crore workers have registered on the portal. Of these, around 50.02 per cent beneficiaries are female and 49.98 per cent are male. It is encouraging that an equivalent proportion of men and women have been part of this drive, it stated.

There has been weekly improvement in registrations by gender, with men and women workers registering at comparable proportions. However, putting this number into perspective must be with caution. Smaller states and union territories (UTs) understandably have lesser number of registered workforce, it explained.

This registration would facilitate delivery and accessibility to crucial welfare programmes and



various entitlements meant for the workers in the unorganised sector and employment. For online registrations, individual workers can use e-Shram's mobile application or the website. They can also visit the Common Service Centres (CSCs), State Seva Kendra, Labour Facilitation Centres, select post offices of the Department of Posts, Digital Seva Kendras, to register themselves.

After registration at e-SHRAM portal, the unorganised workers shall receive a digital e-SHRAM card and they can update their profiles/particulars through portal or mobile app. They will have a Universal Account Number (on eSHRAM card) that will be acceptable across the country and now they will not be required to register at different places for obtaining social security benefits.

If a worker is registered at the e-Shram portal and meets with an accident, he/she will be eligible for ₹2 lakh on death or permanent disability and ₹one lakh on partial disability. The largest number of workers registered is from agriculture and construction, given the sheer volume of these two sectors in employment generation in India.

Besides, workers from diverse and different occupations like domestic and household workers, apparel sector workers, automobile

Burglars steal gold worth ₹25L in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Unknown burglars decamped with gold ornaments worth around ₹25 lakh and ₹50,000 in cash from the residence of a person at Bairaginganar area under Laxmisagar police limits here during the wee hours Monday.

Sources revealed that the thieves took advantage of the absence of the house owner Jitendra Jena, an LIC agent, who is out of the state along with family for vacation. His elder brother's family has been staying on the ground floor.

The burglars allegedly entered the house through balcony and ran way with gold weighing around 500 gram worth ₹25 lakh. They also stole ₹50,000 cash from Jena's house. The neighbours rushed to the victim's house upon hearing noises but by then the thieves had left the spot. Police Sunday collected CCTV footage of the place and carried out raids at different places to nab the accused. Police has launched a probe after registering a case (329/21) in this regard.

4-day police remand for accused in Manish murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The JMFC court here has allowed the Commissionerate Police to take the accused in the murder case of Manish Anurag, son of senior journalist Navin Das, on remand for four days for further probe.

The police will take accused Amrit Pritam Biswal, Dinesh Kumar Mohapatra and Mrutyunjaya Mishra on remand Monday morning. "Our officials will interrogate the accused and try to collect information regarding the involvement of any other person in the case. They will also try to know the details regarding Manish's death during a scuffle on the wee hours of October 10," said a police officer.

The police had claimed that the accused trio and Manish were reportedly engaged in a tussle over the payment of bill at hotel in Patrapada area. Manish became senseless in the tussle and died later, they said.

The trio was arrested as they were present at the hotel with Manish and also engaged in an altercation with the latter before his death. Later, they threw Manish into the water to conceal the body and destroy the evidence.

Chandrasekhar Hota receives Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Young writer and critic Chandrasekhar Hota was felicitated with the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for the year 2020 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan auditorium in Bhubaneswar Sunday.

Sahitya Akademi president Chandrasekhar Kambara and Hindi poet Arun Kamal felicitated Hota for his essay compilation 'Chetanara Anwesana'. Altogether 24 writers and poets of 24 languages were also felicitated at the event. The recipients of the award were provided with a citation and ₹50,000 cash prize each.

Hota was selected for the prestigious award March 12 this year.

Born at Gurujibhatta village under Loisingha block in Bolangir district, he is presently working as a DSP in Nabarangpur district.

Besides writing thought-provoking columns in several vernacular dailies for the last 12 years, he has taught students of University of Delhi and has been felicitated by several literary and cultural organisations with honours like Gokarnika Samman, Saraswata Samman, Mahuri Samman, Akhila Jagannath Das Samman and Krushendu Smriti Samman.

Speaking to **Orissa POST** over telephone from Bangalore, an elated Hota said, "I am overwhelmed with the honour and I hope that the compilation will continue to get the required patronage of the readers."

The district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of new cases at 243

Underground cables to ensure uninterrupted power supply

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 17: If things go well, residents of the Pilgrim City here will soon enjoy uninterrupted power supply with the authorities laying underground cables for the ambitious initiative.

According to sources, around 10 kilometre long network of underground cables will be laid in the Holy City in phases at an expenditure of ₹45 crore. The project is expected to be completed by March 2023.

"In the first phase, underground cables have been laid between Grand Road and beach. In the second phase, underground cables will be laid between Grand Road and lanes connecting to it," said Shiva Swain, a senior electricity official.

Sources said that the underground cabling will not only ensure that there is no power outage, but

Around 10 kilometre long network of underground cables will be laid in the Holy City in phases at an expenditure of ₹45cr

will go a long way helping road expansion and facilitate hassle-free transportation of vehicles.

Senior servitor Binayak Das Mahapatra, a resident of Puri as well, welcomed the initiative. "It's definitely a welcome move. However, the authorities must also look into other issues related to electricity in the Pilgrim City," he added.

Notably, a few residents of the city had recently approached the district Collector against the private electricity distributing company. A core committee was formed and a few reforms were introduced.

Pradhan for inclusion of Odisha in Buddhist Circuit

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Union Minister of Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan Sunday urged the Union Ministry of Culture to include Odisha in the Buddhist Circuit declared under the Swadesh Darshan scheme (SDS).

Pradhan, in a letter to Union Minister of Culture G Krishna Reddy, said under SDS, the Tourism Ministry has sanctioned five projects of ₹325.53 crore for Buddhist Circuit development in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

It is unfortunate that though Odisha has a rich Buddhist tradition, the state has neither been included in the Buddhist Circuit nor any projects under the scheme had been allocated to Buddhist shrines in Odisha, Pradhan said.



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It is unfortunate that though Odisha has a rich Buddhist tradition, the state has neither been included in the Buddhist Circuit nor any projects under the scheme had been allocated to Buddhist shrines in Odisha, he added

He said during 8th-10th century AD under Bhaumakara dynasty rule, Buddhism was considered as a state religion of Odisha. It is believed that the first disciples of Lord Buddha such as Tapasu and Bhalika were from the modern-day Jajpur.

Though Buddhism entered Odisha long before the Kalinga war, it took wings in the region under the patronage of emperor Ashoka. Jaydev, a renowned Odia poet, described Lord Buddha as one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu in 12th century AD.

The Chinese traveller Hieun Tsang reinforces the glory of Buddhism in Odisha.

The influence of Buddhism could be found in the socio-cultural life of people of the state and the rich depository of history is reflected in Buddhist monuments of the state, Pradhan said.

Various Buddhist shrines and monuments in Odisha like Dhauligiri, Lalitgiri, Udaygiri, Ratnagiri and Jirang drew huge international tourists especially from East and South-East Asia and national tourists from the North East, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

Pradhan said, however, these Buddhist holy places lack essential tourist facilities such as connectivity, accommodation and utilities.

He said Buddhist tourism in India has a tremendous potential.

Pradhan sought the personal intervention of Reddy for inclusion of Odisha in the proposed Buddhist Circuit under the SDS keeping in mind the massive potential for increasing development of tourism in the holy Buddhist places, increasing tourist footfalls to the state and boosting the livelihood of Odia people.

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Coal smuggling rampant in Bhitarkanika

Explosives, Maoist articles seized during combing ops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 17: The Bhitarkanika National Park has been declared a prohibited zone for protection of the wildlife and biological diversity in the wetland. However, this has created plenty of opportunity for the miscreants to smuggle coal through the wildlife sanctuary.

Defying the patrolling by forest officials and district police, the miscreants are smuggling coal brought from Dhamra port outside of the district. The miscreants are not the only ones involved in coal smuggling. They are also engaging the poor villagers in loading and unloading works in exchange of a few bucks. Observers pointed out that the illegal business of coal transportation has given rise to criminal activities in the area.

Speaking on coal smuggling, a resident Srikanth Kumar Mahalik of Rajnagar said that the coal lifted from Dhamra port is smuggled through the Bhitarkanika wetland till Cuttack.

The members of the racket have been carrying out this illegal business since a long period. Everyday coal loaded in two to five trucks leave for their destination. The business is mostly carried out at night to



■ Defying the patrolling by forest officials and district police, the miscreants are smuggling coal brought from Dhamra outside of the district

■ The Brahmani river bank near Paramanandapur village under Khamar panchayat is the hub of this illegal trade. A villager requesting anonymity said that everybody is aware of this illegal business

■ Coal smuggling has given rise to drug smuggling and illegal migrations in the area. The illegal migrants are encroaching upon large tracts of forest lands and setting up prawn gheries without requisite permission

avoid getting caught by the police and other law enforcement agencies, he said.

The Brahmani river bank near Paramanandapur village under Khamar panchayat is the hub of this illegal trade.

He said that coal reaches in ships to Dhamra port. Later, the miscreants and their workers steal the coal from the ships, load them in boats and bring it to Bhitarkanika ferrying across the water bodies.

The coal is then unloaded at Nalitapatia and Khola under the

prohibited zone of the wetland and is packed in sacks to smuggle them outside, he said.

The local residents are increasingly getting involved in this business due to their poverty. It has been observed that this illegal business has led to spurt in crimes at a later stage, he said. He apprehended that the Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary will turn into a paradise for the coal smugglers if this illegal business is left unchecked.

A villager requesting anonymity said that everybody is aware of

this illegal business. He wondered how coal smuggling could take place inside the wildlife sanctuary when the Talachua Marine Police Station is at just 1.5 kilometre distance from this place. Moreover, forest and district police officials are conducting round the clock patrolling and various toll gates also fall on the route.

Coal smuggling has given rise to drug smuggling and illegal migrations in the area. The illegal migrants are encroaching upon large tracts of forest lands and setting up prawn gheries without requi-

sition permission. The effluents discharged from these gheries are destroying the crops grown by the farmers and the flora and fauna of the area.

When contacted, Jagnyadatt Pati, divisional forest officer (DFO), Rajnagar said that he is not aware of the development.

Tapan Kumar Nayak, IIC of Rajnagar police station said that action is being taken against illegal coal business as in past two drivers were arrested and coal from two trucks seized while being smuggled to Cuttack.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 17: The district voluntary force (DVF), special operations group (SOG) and Border Security Force (BSF) were engaged in a fierce area domination exercise in Malkangiri's Tulasi Pahad area over the past four days.

Superintendent of Police Prahlad Sahai Meena ordered the combing following a tip-off on presence of armed cadres of CPI (Maoist) in the region under Mathili police limits.

During the wee hours of October

15, when operational parties were combing the jungle near Daldali village, unprovoked firing was started by the Maoists. The forces retaliated with counter fire in self defence, the police said.

The SP said that the Maoists managed to flee into the jungle taking advantage of the mountainous terrain. A thorough search operation began after the combing ended. The police spotted and seized a huge cache of detonators, explosives, Maoist kits, uniform and other incriminating articles, he added.



1971 war tank shifted to Kendrapara Auto College



WAR TROPHY

Kendrapara, Oct 17: To motivate students and youths to join Defence forces and promote patriotic spirit among them, a battle tank used by the Indian Army in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War was shifted to Kendrapara Autonomous College here Saturday for display as 'War Trophy' memorabilia.

The T-55 Russian made battle tank bearing the legacy of the Bangla liberation war was obtained from the Directorate of Ordnance Services, Master General Branch, Army Headquarters in New Delhi with approval and recommendation of the then Chief of Army Staff and present Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat.

The war trophy has been issued for display purposes at the college campus to motivate the students and NCC cadets to join defence forces to serve the country and promote patriotic spirit among the students.

"The War Trophy T-55 Russian Tank fought the India Pakistan war of 1971 and gave victory to the country as a symbol of pride and prestige of the nation. The college paid only ₹1.14 lakh to procure the tank. A concrete pedestal will be constructed at the college cam-

The War Trophy T-55 Russian Tank fought the India Pakistan war of 1971 and gave victory to the country as a symbol of pride and prestige of the nation. The college paid only ₹1.14 lakh to procure the tank. A concrete pedestal will be constructed at the college campus to display the tank. Our two year long efforts have finally paid dividends

RAJENDRA TRIPATHY | PRINCIPAL, KENDRAPARA AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE

pus to display the tank. Our two year long efforts have finally paid dividends," said Rajendra Tripathy, the principal of the college. The tank would motivate students and youths to join the Indian Army. The tank of the Indian Army will become a major attraction point in the college, added the principal.

The ex-servicemen from these parts expressed their delight after the college authorities obtained the tank.

T-55 tanks destroyed 58 Pakistani tanks in the 1971 war. Between 1960 and 1980, these tanks had caused a great deal of panic in the Pakistani army on the border. The battle tank was used in the Battle of Basantar during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. It was reportedly inducted into the Indian Army in 1968 and was in service until 2011, said retired army personnel.

Seventy-three-year-old war veteran Duryodhana Mohanty of the riverside Barunadiha village is among the few lucky soldiers to be still alive who participated in the Bangladesh Liberation war. Mohanty was delighted after the arrival of the tank in the college.

The Indian army and Mukti Bahini fought with Pakistanis and destroyed many tanks and killed many Pakistanis with the help of T-55 tanks. It is a great day for me as a tank reached the college, said Mohanty.

Bhubaneswar-based veteran journalist Dulal Misra (73), who covered the Bangladesh War for an Odia daily published from Cuttack said I was a young reporter then. For the first time, we saw the battle tank and its ferocity. One T-55 tank is apparently equivalent to 100 soldiers. Then in 70s, there was no missile or rocket, tanks were the main ammunition against the enemies.

HIRAKUD DAM ANOTHER SPILLWAY ON THE CARDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Oct 17: Odisha government has decided to float a fresh tender for the construction of an additional spillway to enhance the flood water discharge capacity of Hirakud Dam, a senior official said Sunday.

The bid document for floating the fresh tender with revised estimate for the World Bank funded additional spillway project has already got the administrative approval.

The documents have been sent to the government and a fresh tender for the construction of the additional spillway will be floated after getting the nod from the government, he said. Currently, there are 98 gates, including 64 sluice and 34 crest gates, to release the flood water from Hirakud dam. Around 15 lakh cusec water is released through the 98 gates at a time now.

With the construction of the additional spillway the water discharge capacity of the Hirakud Dam will increase to 18 lakh cusec, the official said. The length of the proposed additional spillway dam will be 91 metre and there will be five sluice gates, the officials said.

Currently, there are 98 gates, including 64 sluice and 34 crest gates, to release the flood water from Hirakud dam

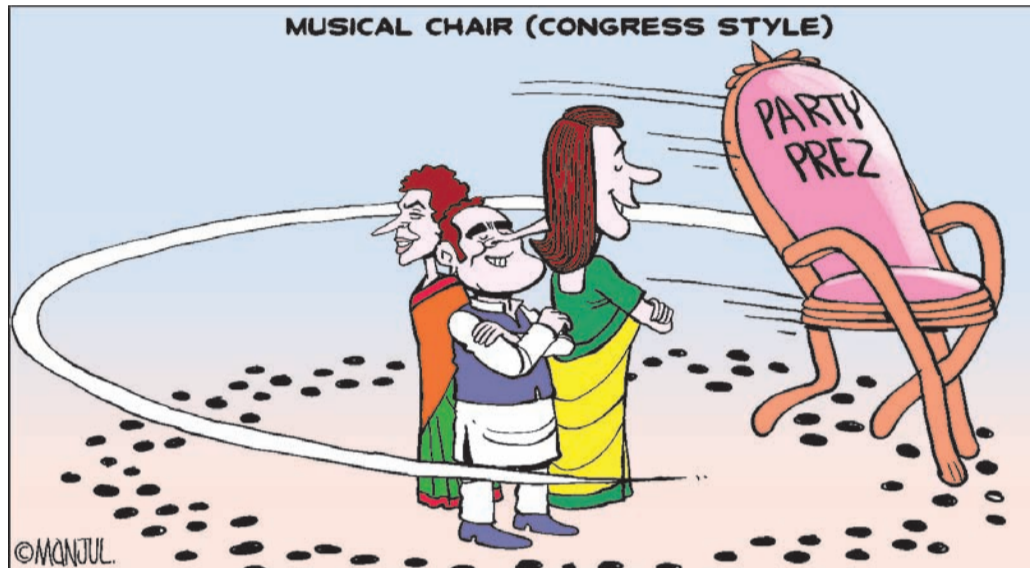
"The estimate of the project was revised for floating fresh tender. The revised estimate of the project is ₹634.21 crore and the work has also been divided into four parts now," he said.

The Central Water Commission has already recommended enhancing the flood water discharge capacity of the dam. The additional spillway for the Hirakud Dam was proposed thereafter.

The meteorological and climate changes and probable maximum flood were considered while taking the decision to enhance the flood water discharge capacity.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

MUSICAL CHAIR (CONGRESS STYLE)



5 cops hurt as piloting vehicle overturns

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Oct 17: As many as five police personnel were rendered hurt after a pilot vehicle escorting the state ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka lost balance and overturned near Uliapadar under Adava police limits in Gajapati district, Sunday. The injured police personnel in-

cluded an ASI, one havildar and four constables.

The incident occurred when the minister was returning to Bhubaneswar after visiting Rayagada Sunday.

Source said that a police vehicle was escorting the minister's vehicle from Taptapani to Raipanga. It overturned at Uliapadar under Adava police station area after the driver lost control over the vehicle when a biker suddenly came in

front of the vehicle midway. Five police personnel were injured in the incident.

On being informed, Adava police rushed to the spot and rescued the injured police personnel with the help of the locals. They were rushed to the local health centre for treatment. The injured policemen are recovering after treatment. Another vehicle was provided to escort the minister's vehicle to Rayagada.

Farm ponds under MGNREGS make farmers self-sufficient

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, Oct 17: Construction of farm ponds in farmlands under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has helped farmers under this block in Kalahandi district in achieving self-sufficiency through better output from their cultivation, a report said.

The success achieved by Murali Sahu, a native of Balsi village under this block, through construction of farm ponds under the rural job scheme, is a case in point. Sahu, a small farmer of Balsi village, has dug a small farm pond in the size of 15X12X3 cubic meters on his 20 decimals of land.

During kharif season of 2021, the block witnessed erratic rainfall due to abnormal climatic conditions. Most of the crop area in the block suffered loss as there was no rain at the time of beushening.

However, Sahu did not suffer much as he had dug a farm pond in his farmlands with the help of SC and WD Department. The farm pond rendered great help to Sahu in irrigating his paddy field.

Sahu saved his crop by irrigating with water available in his farm pond. He used a 1.5 HP motor pump to supply water to his farmland. Not only Sahu, more than 200 farmers have been able to save their crops by utilising the water of the farm ponds.

This year the agriculture department has launched a plan called 'Farm Pond Plus', Satya Narayan Achary, ASCO of Kesinga said.

He said 'Farm Pond Plus' is not



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This year the agriculture department has launched a plan called 'Farm Pond Plus', Satya Narayan Achary, ASCO of Kesinga said

a scheme but an approach which helps farmers in doubling their income from farm ponds by converging activities of agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry departments.

Reports said over 55 projects are covered with integrated farming system under this block. The horticulture department helps with vegetable mini kits, papaya, drumsticks and lime seeds to plant on the bunds of the farm ponds while the fishery department supplies fingerlings at sub-

sidised rates.

Similarly, the agriculture department supplies pulses seeds, agriculture kits, mustard kits and pump sets to beneficiaries at subsidised rates while the animal husbandry department supplies training and assistance for establishment of duck farming units as well as poultry units and other permissible activities. As a result, farm pond and 'Farm Pond Plus' have proved to be a boon for the farmers who have doubled their income.

STRAY CATTLE MENACE



Stray cattle lay siege to the main road in Ganjam. Cattle menace has led to rise in road mishaps and frequent disruptions in vehicular movement

OP PHOTO



To smile at an enemy is to disarm him.

THE MOTHER



Xi in 'Trouble'

Reports emerging from China suggest a fierce power struggle is being waged at the top of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Trouble is brewing as the wily President Xi Jinping plays his cards to get a controversial and unprecedented third term as General Secretary of the CCP in 2022. But, attempts are believed to be afoot to challenge his leadership. There cannot be any official version of the ongoing tussle in the top echelons of the CCP. But, there are tell-tale signs and developments that call for connecting the dots to get a clear picture of what is happening inside. Analysts and China-watchers across the world point to the fact that Xi has not stepped out of the country for the past one year and nine months and will skip even the Rome G-20 summit. Biden sought an in-person bilateral summit with Xi, but the latter has agreed to just an online meeting. This has triggered speculation about his paranoia that his absence from the domestic scene may give handle to his detractors to mobilise opposition to him and even stage a coup. His last overseas trip was to Myanmar January 17-18, 2020, just days before his regime broke the news of a COVID outbreak and lockdown of Hubei province.

In fact, resentment against Xi is rising for his actions to get entrenched in power for life and purge and silence top leaders, academics and entrepreneurs who have openly questioned his policies and resolve to keep in virtual suspended animation the practice of nominating or grooming his successor. Already, he has thwarted the ambition of many top party leaders to step into his shoes as per the rule being followed since Deng Xiaoping allowing a President a maximum of two terms. Xi has piloted the structural change that he can remain at the top position for life.

Xi, regarded as the most powerful President China has had since Mao Zedong, got the National People's Congress, the country's parliament, in March 2018 to vote to remove the two-term limit for the post of President. The move meant that Xi could remain in power for life, instead of retiring after his second term ending in 2022.

Reports indicate Xi's rivals, including Premier Li Keqiang and influential Politburo Standing Committee member Wang Yang, could take the lead in opposing Xi's policies and force him to retire next year. Since becoming chairman of the CCP, Xi has effected changes in the Politburo Standing Committee consisting of the senior-most Communist Party leaders and reduced its strength from nine to seven people. He made sure majority of these members are his camp followers. Li and Wang Yang are held to be the only opposition to Xi. Sensing there would be opposition to his plan to capture power perpetually, he began a crackdown since 2017 when seven high-ranking officials of the Communist Party were arrested for allegedly plotting to "usurp the party's leadership and seize state power."

The power struggle within the CCP began after Xi made it clear that he was not going to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, Hu Jintao, and prepare to step down as head of the CCP, the military and as President at the Party Congress - held every five years - in late 2022. With the hazy picture at the moment, it can be surmised that the further he delays the process of finding a successor, the greater is the risk of him eliminating all dissent and continue staying in power or the power struggle breaking out in the open. This would be neither good for China nor the world at large since an unstable China that is fast shaping into the world's number one economic power, would affect world economy and geopolitics.

Undoubtedly, Xi has made enemies at home with the ruthless persecution through his anti-corruption campaign, attack on legal and media reformers and his disdain for economic liberals. What has angered his critics most is overturning the power sharing arrangement evolved over four decades that ensured peaceful transfer of power at the end of maximum two Presidential terms. That he has manipulated the constitutional change to give himself life-long tenure as President becomes clear from the complaint made by a former professor at the Central Party School in Beijing, Cai Xia, who revealed last May that Xi had forced everyone at the meeting of the Central Committee to swallow the revision. Cai's speech on this issue was widely circulated. It is Cai who has coined the term "exquisite totalitarianism" to characterise Xi's style of functioning. She was stripped of her powers immediately thereafter and had to flee China. Now she lives in exile overseas.

The latest instance of Xi's intolerance of criticism of his rule is the 18-year prison term served on 69-year-old real estate mogul and social media commentator Ren Zhiqiang. The harshness of the punishment has sent shockwaves both inside and outside China. Ren Zhiqiang is an influential tycoon and veteran CCP member. He first spoke against Xi in 2016 for tightening party control over the media. Within days his microblogging account was blocked. After the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, he criticised the media curb which in his opinion exacerbated the crisis. In July, he was stripped of his CCP membership and his assets were seized.

All these point to the fact that all's not well in Xi's China. He may have a smooth sailing for a third term in office next year. But, a bitter internal strife in CCP seems to be on the cards.

WISDOM CORNER

There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.

MARK TWAIN

Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

OPRAH WINFREY

Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

WORDSWORTH

■ Piepowder

This ancient word was originally the Anglo-French pied-poudreux, meaning someone with dusty feet. In Scotland the term was sometimes translated into the delightfully Tolkienesque dustyfoot. This was a graphic description of the state of someone travelling about on the unmade roads of medieval England. Piepowder was most often applied to itinerant merchants who toured the country to buy and sell at fairs. Many of these fairs had been established by royal charters that gave rights to lords of the manor or religious houses to charge taxes and tolls and to enforce them. The enforcement was carried out in a rough-and-ready way through courts of piepowder (in Scotland they were sometimes known as courts of dusty feet). These courts usually had jurisdiction over such matters as contracts, trespass and debts, and they sorted out trading disputes, punished theft and violence and did their best to keep order. Because few such fairs lasted more than three days, justice had to be swift and summary. The piepowder courts died out during the course of the nineteenth century along with the fairs that had brought them into being; the last is said to have been that in Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, which last met in 1898.

LOL

Policeman joke

A man was recently flying to New York. He decided to strike up a conversation with his seat mate. "I've got a great policeman joke.



Would you like to hear it?" "I should let you know first that I am a policeman." "That's OK. I'll tell it really slow!"

FOCUS IDEOLOGY

CONSERVATIVE SANS QUALITIES

The satirist Karl Kraus observed about his native Austria in 1899: "When the constitution is violated, the people just yawn." How upset Austrians really were last week when Chancellor Sebastian Kurz was accused of corruption is unclear. But the charges – and the public leaks of vulgar chats involving Kurz and his colleagues – were serious enough to prompt his always somewhat unlikely coalition partner, the Greens, to bring him down.

Kurz's fall is widely seen as having consequences beyond Austria: his approach had been touted as a model for center-right parties across Europe, especially in Germany, where the Christian Democrats are currently in disarray after their dramatic election loss last month. But 'Kurzism' has been all about style and tactics, not new political ideas or, for that matter, a sustainable alliance of social forces. Worse, Kurz's model is downright dangerous for democracy.

Just 35 years old, Kurz has the distinction of having been chancellor twice already. He was always the youngest and fastest: foreign minister at 27, chancellor at 31. He was also fast when it came to switching political positions: initially liberal, he turned hardliner on matters of immigration and refugee policy, in effect copying and mainstreaming the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ). In 2017, he entered a coalition with the FPÖ. When a similar government had been formed in Austria in 2000, it set off alarm bells across Europe. This time, with Hungary and Poland having since pioneered the autocratisation of EU member states, the creation of the Kurz coalition elicited only yawns.

Mainstreaming the far right has been a general trend across Europe, owing partly to the fact that center-right parties are bereft of ideas. For many years, the conventional wisdom has been that social democracy is in a terminal crisis. But the fact is that the proverbial man (or woman) on the street will be able to indicate roughly what it is about. The same has not been true of center-right forces: Christian Democrats, in particular, no longer push for European integration or offer a dis-



Following the downfall of Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, Europe's center-right parties need to rethink what they stand for, beyond a claim to technocratic competence. The alternative, as Kurz's example shows, is a quasi-authoritarian politics that regards democratic institutions as pesky obstacles for a charismatic leader

tinutive model, in line with Catholic social doctrine, for mediating conflicts between capital and labour. Even after the fall of the Berlin Wall, they relied on a Cold War strategy of being the moderate center that served as a bulwark against communism. As Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) discovered a few weeks ago, because warnings about a red menace are so implausible, reliance on them is widely perceived as a sign of desperation and intellectual bankruptcy.

Kurz did not solve the problem of a conservatism without qualities. But he was a master of public relations: rebranding the staid Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) as a 'movement' suggested youthful dynamism. A 'movement' connotes grassroots enthusiasm and participation. But the reality was the opposite: what Kurz sold as a 'new style' consisted of the ÖVP having to accept his total dominance. Party elders agreed that Kurz alone would decide on can-

didates and set the programmatic direction of what was rebranded as the 'Sebastian Kurz List.' The latter was not a people's party reinvented for a new age; it was and is a single person's party.

Plenty of people both inside and outside the ÖVP probably liked Kurz's post-2017 leadership. After all, it contrasted with the squabbling in the grand coalitions between Social and Christian Democrats that had dominated postwar Austrian politics. And, whereas the ÖVP had long been divided by rivalries between old male barons in control of individual federal states, Kurz's team was disciplined, remained on message, and was excellent at dominating coalition partners, be it on the far right or the left. If the anti-corruption authorities' accusations are true, they were also good at manipulating the press and fanning the flames of political conflict, as long as it served the ambitions of their man.

Legal and democratic theorists

are right to say that an internally autocratic party is likely to exhibit autocratic tendencies in government. Kurz in effect took a page from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's playbook, with frequent attacks on independent news organisations and the judiciary (and, like Silvio Berlusconi, portraying himself as the innocent victim of a vast conspiracy by a nefarious left-wing establishment).

Kurz has not succeeded the way Orbán has, but it would be premature to conclude that, west of the former Iron Curtain, the center will always hold. Kurz himself, promising to step aside (but not down), has just been elected as leader of his party's parliamentary group, receiving 98.7 per cent support in a secret vote – just what one would expect when anything resembling intra-party democracy has been killed (even former US President Donald Trump, who has reshaped the Republican Party into a personality cult, has not managed such a feat).

In Germany, Markus Söder, the leader of the CDU's Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, is likely to dominate the center-right in the coming years; he is at least as ruthless as Kurz and just as opportunistic. The venerable Christian Democrat Wolfgang Schäuble did his utmost to prevent Söder from becoming the party's candidate for German Chancellor this past spring, fearing that Söder, following Kurz's template, would hollow out and in effect destroy his party.

Christian Democrats and center-right forces more broadly need to rethink what they stand for, beyond a claim to technocratic competence. They also must decide where to draw the line vis-à-vis the far right. The alternative, as Kurz's example demonstrates all too clearly, is a quasi-authoritarian politics that regards democratic institutions like the judiciary and the free press as pesky obstacles for a charismatic and popular leader.

The writer, Professor of Politics at Princeton University, is a fellow at The New Institute, Hamburg.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Switch to green energy for power generation



Narvijay Yadav

AT PRESENT, COAL IS THE FUEL THAT MEETS 70 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY NEEDS

Several countries in the world are experiencing an acute energy crunch. After the second wave of COVID-19, life is returning to normal and factories have started work. This has resulted in a sudden increase in demand for energy. Amid this global crisis, a shortage of coal and electricity is brewing in India. The situation was critical, but the quick response of the Coal Ministry has made things better. The coal shortage last week impacted power generation in many states including Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

Coal-fired power plants are grappling with a surge in demand from industries as India's economic activities are picking up. Power consumption in August-September increased by 17 per cent compared to the same period last year. The coal shortage emerged at a time when India has been trying to cut short coal consumption in a bid to sustain the climate. In 2016, India committed to reduce emissions by 33 per cent before 2030 and to ensure that 40 per cent of its power generation depends on renewable energy. This is the time when

India must increase investment in green energy resources. At present, coal is the fuel that meets 70 per cent of the country's energy needs.

The coal stock in 110 thermal power stations of the country reached a critical level last week. India's 135 power stations are still under pressure to fulfill the domestic power demand. The power production needs to be increased, but from where to get the coal, that was the puzzle. Domestic coal production cannot be increased overnight, while the prices of the black gold have gone up four times in the global markets.

The state-run Coal India Limited (CIL) has a monopoly on Indian coal mines, which meet about 75 per cent of the coal demand of thermal power plants. In the last six months, power demand grew by 16 per cent, but CIL's production remained the same as in 2020, when the country was under lockdown and power consumption was at the lowest in the past three decades. Meanwhile, worldwide coal prices have skyrocketed. The government considers the increase in electricity demand as a positive

sign, "indicating that the economy is growing."

In the first week of October, the price of high-quality Australian coal rose to \$203, four times higher than in August, 2020. Like India, China's demand for power has also increased. But China's coal production has decreased due to strict regulations to reduce air pollution, forcing power producers to import coal. China used to import coal from Australia. When Australia insisted on the coronavirus origin probe, China backed down. Therefore, coal imports from Australia stopped. This led to a jump in global coal prices. China and India are the two largest consumers of thermal coal globally.

India has been importing around 300-400 million tonnes of coal every year from Indonesia, Australia and South Africa. CIL produces over 600 million tonnes of coal for domestic consumption. Now, with the low domestic availability, India's dependence on Indonesia for coal imports has increased.

The CIL instructs power stations to stock up required coal before the start of the monsoon season, as both production and freight

movement face problems during the rainy season. This time, the rainy season lasted longer, leading to a reduction in coal production. On the other hand, importing coal became expensive, due to which the power companies could not keep enough stock. Now everyone needs coal from CIL. Obviously, the magic cannot happen overnight. Even imports to require a lot of paperwork before a deal is finalised. All the coal mines have been working on a war footing now to fill the gap between demand and supply.

It is expected that coal will continue to be a major source of energy in the years to come. It is an easily combustible, black or brown rock, composed mainly of carbon. Coal is formed by geological pressure on plants buried under the soil millions of years ago. Burning coal produces CO₂, which adds to climate change. Now, scientists are busy developing methods by which CO₂ from the smoke from power plants can be separated and buried deep in the ground.

The writer is a senior journalist.

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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Truly deserving

Sir, Late Huriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani's grandson Anees-ul-Islam who was working as Research Officer in Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar, has been dismissed from the government job for his anti-national activities. The service conditions in government do not permit any employee to work for others even outside the office hours. Doing part-time work without the consent of the head of the department has been strictly prohibited. When such is the case, dismissal of a person from job for indulging in anti-national activities is just a prick. Punishment for employees indulging in anti-national activities is a must besides dismissal from service.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

Age is just a number

Sir, They were called 'the senior citizens'. Some ridiculed them as 'daddy's team' and some called them 'the fathers' club' and all this due to their age but Chennai Super Kings have shown the world that age is just a number and it is finally the mindset and rich experience that steer anybody - individual or team - to victory and make the impossible possible! An analysis of the triumphant victory of the team lead by MS Dhoni in the IPL tells us this and more. The captain and his team members have beautifully shown that those who are fearless, never grow old. Their consistency, maturity, perseverance, unity and that wonderful mindset of rising to the occasion with a smile are beautiful lessons for those in sports or in any other field. Definitely this 'fathers' club' has become a model of a team that truly shows us that age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Congress saga

Sir, The Gandhis would continue to lord over the Congress with Rahul Gandhi indicating he would be ready to lead again. Besides, several senior leaders, including Chief Ministers of three Congress-ruled states, urged Rahul to become the president. Rahul said the party was ready to give voice to women, SCs, minorities and the poor and he was ready to work for them. Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi also ticked off G23 netas for talking to the media rather than to her directly. It appears that the Gandhis are in no mood to cede ground to anybody outside the family just yet.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Slum boy cracks JEE Advanced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

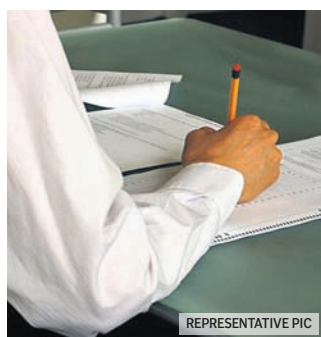
Berhampur, Oct 17: A student from a slum in the Silk City has cleared Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) this year and has secured the 367th rank in the Economical Weaker Section (EWS) category making the 18-year-old eligible for a seat in one of the IITs in the country.

In the general category the student, P Manoj Kumar's position is 3,899, according to the JEE(A) result declared October 15.

Though Manoj, who is a resident of a slum at Prem Nagar here, belongs to the other backward class category he does not have a certificate as his family has no land patta (land right).

He was helped by a private institute in the town, which provided him coaching free of cost for the last two years. It has also assured him of the much needed financial help for his admission to an IIT.

Manoj's father Nagaraju said his son had been a student of the nearby government-run primary



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

for him for admission after securing a good rank," he said.

His mother had purchased an android phone for him in a monthly installment scheme so that his on-line classes are not affected when the coaching center closed due to the pandemic situation.

"The dues of the phone are yet to be cleared," Nagaraju said.

Asked about his inspiration, Manoj pointed to his father and thanked the teachers of the coaching institute for helping him.

Rout said one of his former students who now works abroad had assured him of financial help for Manoj's admission to a college.

Besides, some members of the coaching institute too came forward for providing financial help to the student. "For the past several years we are providing free coaching and financial support for higher studies of poor but brilliant students," said Rout.

At least 11 students of the institute cleared JEE-Advanced this year with highest rank of 1065 in general category, he added.

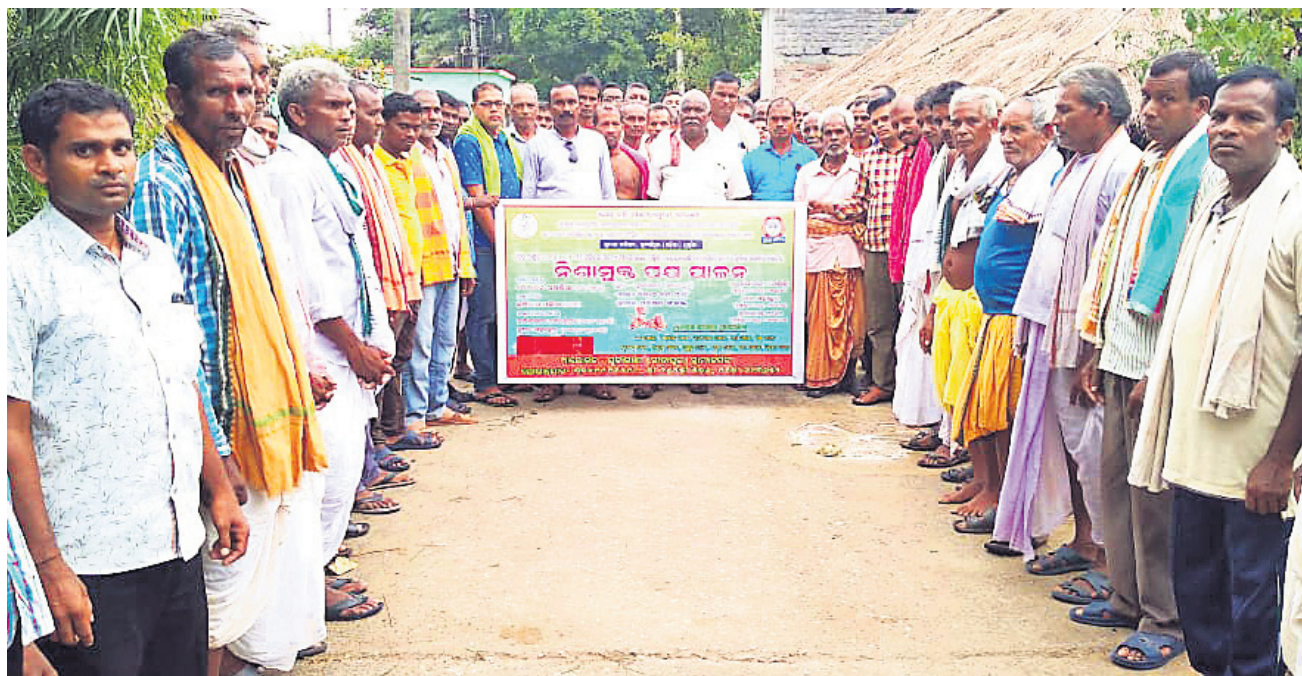
and high schools and had been good in academics throughout.

I am an electrician and earn on a daily basis by attending to calls from various residences for my services. Despite severe financial constraints, I always gave priority to my son's education" he said.

Nagaraju said he was very worried after his son completed his Class 10 and had approached the institute's director Sudhir Rout, requesting him for free coaching.

"He (Rout) not only agreed to provide free coaching to Manoj, but also assured to arrange funds

TOTAL PROHIBITION CAMPAIGN



Residents observing Total Prohibition Fortnight at Yuvarani Sitapur village under Birmaharajpur block in Subarnapur district. Guests attending the programme urged the residents to shun consumption of intoxicants in social functions like marriages and festivals

OP PHOTO

PADDY MILLING SCAM IN GANJAM DISTRICT

No action against errant millers, officials

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 17: Rice worth ₹1.58 crore has been misappropriated by millers in Ganjam district. This was revealed by a special audit report of the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCS). Some millers have allegedly been favoured in this matter while it has been alleged that the Civil Supplies department has not taken any action against eight errant officials.

According to reports, some millers had taken paddy from the Civil Supplies department in 2012-13 for milling and providing rice in return.

However, 10 millers had not deposited the rice obtained after milling the paddy. They had not done so in spite of repeated reminders from the OSCS from 2014 to 2018. The defaulting rice millers have not also provided money in-



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

turn. It has been alleged that some officials had not taken steps to collect rice or recover the money from them.

Upset over inaction against the defaulting millers, the OSCS had decided to frame draft charge against eight officials including then district Civil Supplies Officer (CSO) and marketing inspector in 2018.

Sources said charges should have been framed against a CSO,

three marketing inspectors and four authorised officers for showing favouritism to the millers. However, as things stand, now many of these officers have retired.

It should be stated here that recently the MD of OSCS, Biswajit Keshari Das has sent another letter (14344) to the district CSO to frame draft charges against the errant officials.

Some millers had taken paddy from the Civil Supplies department in 2012-13 for milling and providing rice in return

However, 10 millers had not provided the rice obtained after milling the paddy. They had not done so in spite of repeated reminders from the Civil Supplies Corporation from 2014 to 2018

The errant millers had been asked to pay ₹1.58 crore against the pending rice that was yet to be recovered from them. However, the department has not specified the total amount of paddy the millers had taken

In 2012-13, the errant millers had been asked to pay ₹1.58 crore against the pending rice. However, the department has not specified the total amount of paddy the millers had taken.

Mafia extracts stone, strips Sarisua's greenery

Taking serious note of the threat to ecology in the region, two voluntary organisations had moved the NGT in October 2019 over mining in hills and the resultant environment degradation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, Oct 17: The administration has allegedly failed to contain illegal stone mining in Sarisua hills under this block of Balasore district. Locals and environmentalists have expressed concern over such illegal mining by the stone mafia despite prohibitory orders in the area. They have blamed the administrative apathy for the unscrupulous looting of minerals.

The brazenness of the stone mafia is at times shocking to say the least. They use heavy machinery and explosives to achieve their objective. They also employ local people for illegal mining and use some of them to clamour for stone mining on the pretext that it will provide them with job opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Tourism Department has made provision of water conservation for wildlife and is trying to conserve a waterfall in the hills.

Some outfits, social activists, and environmentalists alleged that stone mafia has formed an unholy nexus with officials to carry on rampant loot on Sarisua hills. They threatened agitations if the illegal mining is not stopped immediately.

It has been said that blasts of explosives have killed a number of wild animals as well as people in the area in the last 20 years. Others al-



leged that the whole ecology of the locality has changed due to the blasts. More and more animals are invading human habitats.

Earlier, 96 mines lying in elephant corridors in the region had been leased out. As a result, it affected the lives of the wild pachyderms.

Taking serious note of the threat to ecology, two voluntary organisations had moved the NGT in October 2019 over mining in the hills and the resultant environment degradation.

Following an NGT order, the administration has imposed Sec 144 on several mines. Even though prohibitory orders under Section 144 of IPC have been put in place at Sarisua hills, it has not deterred the stone mafia from carrying out their illegal operations.

A Crime Branch STF team from Cuttack had raided the area last year and started an investigation on illegal mining of stones.

The team had then arrested five mafia members and seized a truck and two tractors.

Sources said that Section 144 has been imposed in 100 mines in Khaira and Kaptipada localities.

However, as police have not been deployed in proper numbers, the mining mafia is continuing its operations at mines in Bandhanata mouza under Khaira tehsil and at Sukhuapata mouza under Kaptipada tehsil in Mayurbhanj district.

Locals alleged that large quantities of stone are being transported to various parts of West Bengal. They pointed out the huge stocks of stone have been kept on forestland and alleged that the district administration is not taking any action.

Sarpanch Gajendra Parida informed that if the Tourism Department completes its proposed waterfall project, it will be beneficial for both wild animals and local people. He demanded action against the stone mafia.

Balasore DFO Bimal Prasanna Acharya said that action will be taken against people involved in illegal mining and using forest land. He said that he would direct the Soro ranger to take proper action.

Tehsildar Mahendra Parasad Behera said that illegal stone mining will be investigated.

Closed schools turn den for miscreants



POST NEWS NETWORK

Naugan, Oct 17: After closure and merger of schools in Jagatsinghpur districts, many buildings have turned defunct. Some of these structures of closed educational institutions have be-

come a haven for anti-social elements in Naugan locality, a report said.

Earlier the government had decided to shut down schools having less than 25 students. Thirty such schools were merged with other educational institutions in

Naugan block. These closed buildings have allegedly become safe havens for drug addicts, alcoholics and anti-socials, be it night or day.

Various outfits and social activists have expressed concern over the development. They alleged that buildings worth lakhs have been left abandoned without care and maintenance. They have blamed the district administration for such a development.

Among the buildings that have become a safe haven for anti-socials are the Deopara School in Dabara panchayat, Parisikhar Primary School in Sikharpur panchayat, Angeswarpada School in Osakana panchayat, Chandipura School in Naugan panchayat, Gothada School in Nahangi pan-

chayat, Kanipada Primary School in Jamugan panchayat, Chakuli school in Rohia panchayat and the Gangada school in Deriki panchayat. Locals have expressed displeasure and alleged that public properties developed at huge costs are lying unused with miscreants taking control of them.

The buildings of closed schools have been handed over to the Panchayati Raj department.

Block Education Officer Baidhar Tripathy informed that schools that have been closed down will not be reopened unless the number of students increases. "These school buildings have been officially handed over to the Panchayati Raj department," he stated.

Villages languish on shores of dying Sukapaika

ONCE AT THE CENTRE OF THE PROSPERITY AND RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE RIVER HAS TURNED INTO A CURSE FOR ITS RIPARIAN VILLAGES, THANKS TO THE RECKLESS HUMAN ACTIONS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Until the 70s, Bainsi Chandra Behera (65) had lived well off fishing in Bodhapur in Cuttack district. He would ply his trade on Sukapaika, a distributary of Mahanadi. As Sukapaika began to die an unnatural death, Behera's sole source of livelihood also dried up. He now works as a labourer for a Paradip-based fish trader.

Once at the centre of the prosperity and rich cultural heritage of around 10 lakh people living along its 27-km stretch, the river has turned into a curse for its riparian villages, thanks to the imprudent human actions, said Nrusingha Prasad Das (63), a resident of the same village.

The river passes through 425 villages under 26 panchayats in three blocks - Cuttack Sadar, Nischintakoli and Raghunathpur, said Dr PC Rath (67), a renowned cardiologist and a native of Bodhapur. He talks about the decline of the fortunes of the people living there as if it were the "death of a civilisation".

"When a river dies, a civilisation dies with it, and these 400-odd villages meet the same fate. The encroachers took the opportunity of



the dry river bed where they began their illegal constructions leading to its siltation and complete death in the next couple of decades," Dr Rath lamented.

Sukapaika originates and terminates within Cuttack district, running from Ayatapur village to Tarapur, said Smita Nayak, who has done extensive research on natural resources of the region. In 1952, the government constructed, as a flood control measure, an embankment at Ayatapur. Five years

later, around 290 km upstream of it, the Hirakud dam in Sambalpur district and then, around 25 km upstream of it a barrage at Naraj in Cuttack district came up, said Nayak.

These structures together were meant to control floods but they considerably reduced the water flowing into Sukapaika. Priya Ranjan Sahu, a senior journalist and an environmental activist, said, "According to studies, large dams tend to alter geography and hydrological regimes and they in-



volve issues of control, power and political relations, social justice and equity. While Farakka, Baglihar, Almatti, Narmada are some examples, Hirakud dam is a fresh addition. While it has already altered the local environment and badly impacted the riparian communities, it is also instrumental in killing river Sukapaika around 290 km downstream."

Rivers like Sukapaika, which originate from a river and rejoin the same river, have a natural rhythm that drains out excessive water. Unfortunately, the river that could have evacuated the flood water naturally became the victim of the shortsightedness of the government officials.

Elephants on rampage in Lanjigarh block



POST NEWS NETWORK

Lanjigarh, Oct 17: For the last one month, elephants have been on a rampage in various parts of Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district. A herd of 25 elephants have damaged crops, vegetables and demolished houses of some residents of Kumakhil, Bandhapari, Biswanathpur and Champadeipur villages. The rampaging herd has created panic among people living in the different localities.

The jumbos have also destroyed maize crops, tube wells, village toilets and other valuable items.

Locals said, "We have lost our sleep over last few weeks as elephants keep on frequenting the villages at night and cause mayhem. The forest department should en-

gage a patrol team to scare away the animals."

Musanali Forester Chintamani Majhi took stock of the damages suffered by these villages, Sunday. The block administration has provided relief to the affected people who have demanded compensation for the losses they have suffered.

The Forest department also said that assistance will be provided to the affected people soon.

Last chance for resurrection: Sidhu writes to Sonia

Chandigarh, Oct 17: Days after sharing his concerns with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Punjab state president Navjot Sidhu Sunday made public a letter he has written to party chief Sonia Gandhi, saying this is Punjab's last chance for resurrection and redemption.

In the letter dated October 15, Sidhu talked about mainly on justice in sacrilege cases, state's drugs menace, agricultural issues, employment opportunities, sand mining, and welfare of backward classes.

"Request you to kindly give me a personal audience to present to you the Punjab Model with a 13-Point Agenda to be part of the Congress Manifesto for the 2022 Assembly elections, which is separate from this by means of its long-term vision to be implemented over a longer period of time. Have crafted it through years of con-



sultations with academics, civil society, party workers and feedback from the people of Punjab," Sidhu wrote.

"I express with a lot of pain in my heart that this is Punjab's last chance for resurrection and redemption. The issues at Punjab's heart as understood very well by you, and signified by the 18-point

ment over the last 25 years and diversion of public resources making a few powerful people rich and having left the state debt-distressed, he said it has been supplemented by seven years of BJP rule discriminating against Punjab while paying its financial dues such as GST payments, rural development fund payments, post-matric scholarship for Scheduled Castes payments, etc.

Sidhu said, "Subsequently, the increasing debt overhead of Punjab has led to our financial resources being used for merely paying-off the old debt and interest upon it. While, every year we have to take new debt to support basic development works, to invest in 60:40 shared Central development schemes, providing healthcare, education and infrastructure needs of the State."

"Punjab has nearly one lakh government posts vacant. Due to lack of resources, government hirings are at lowest wages and con-

tractual, school teachers have to work on probation for four years on minimum wages. Delays in implementation of the 6th Pay Commission by five years are all due to state not having enough resources."

"Today, I further write to your esteemed self with priority areas among the 18-point agenda, 2017 campaign and manifesto promises that the state government must deliver upon. Beginning with the issues for justice of the soul of Punjab, whose torch-bearer was our leader Rahul Gandhi Ji, having left no stone unturned in fight for justice to Punjab," he added.

Last week Sidhu met Rahul Gandhi in Delhi along with senior party leaders KC Venugopal and Harish Rawat.

Sidhu resigned as Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president last month. However, his resignation was not accepted by the party high command.

SAD chief targets Pb govt over extension of BSF's jurisdiction

The Central government has amended the BSF Act to authorise the force to undertake search, seizure and arrest within a larger 50 km stretch, instead of the existing 15 km, from the international border in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, Oct 17: Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal Sunday targeted the Punjab government over the extension of the BSF's jurisdiction, saying the chief minister should tell 'why he had acquiesced' to the Centre's move.

"Chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi should come clean and tell Punjabis why he had acquiesced to extending the jurisdiction of the BSF to cover nearly half of the state during his meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently," Badal told reporters here after paying obeisance at Bhagwan Valmiki Tirath Sthal.

"It is a fact that the chief minister met the Union home minister October 5 following which the jurisdiction of BSF to search, recover and arrest was extended over 10 districts in the state," he said.

Punjabis expect decisive action from Channi "to defeat the conspiracy to establish Central rule over Punjab through this decision which is also against the principles of federalism as well as the very ethos of democracy," said Badal.

He said it was condemnable that "Channi had not reacted to the development with any concrete action till now."

The Punjab government had taken strong exception to the

Centre's move over on the issue of extension of the Border Security Force's jurisdiction dubbing it as an 'attack on federalism'.

"I strongly condemn the GoI's (government of India) unilateral decision to give additional powers to BSF within the 50 km belt running along the international borders, which is a direct attack on federalism. I urge the Union Home Minister @AmitShah to immediately rollback this irrational decision," Channi had tweeted Wednesday.

Badal, meanwhile, also targeted the Congress party "for going in for symbolism alone in appointing a scheduled caste leader as the chief minister".

"The leader should have intent to work and the Congress should allow him to work also. At present both these things are missing," he said.

Replying to a question, Badal termed the recent lynching incident near Singhu border as a barbaric act, having no place in a civilised society.

He sought a free, fair and speedy investigation into the entire incident. Badal said if the SAD-BSP government is formed in the state after the 2022 assembly polls, it would establish a university in the memory of Maharishi Valmiki in Doaba region of the state.

Govt bound to fulfill promises despite limited time: Channi



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

All basic amenities will be provided to the people in the urban areas keeping in view their future needs, said Channi, adding there was no dearth of funds for the same.

Announcing ₹10 crore for Hoshiarpur to be given within next few days, he said that the government was already making best use of available time so as to touch new heights of success and glory as per peoples' aspirations.

The Chief Minister also announced Hoshiarpur would get state-of-the-art biodiversity and sports park at a cost of ₹5 crore. He said that the foundation stone of the park and the upcoming medical college would be laid shortly.

The classes of the medical college would commence from the next session. All necessary directions have already been issued to expedite the process for tender floating so that its construction could be started at the earliest, he added. He also announced a fund of ₹1 crore for the District Bar Association for construction of advocates' chambers.

Citing that the government has announced a major relief to waive off arrears of electricity bills to more than 52 lakh consumers up to 2KW of all sections of society, Channi said ₹1,200 crore had been set aside, of which ₹11 crore was of only for Hoshiarpur consumers.

Priyanka to be face of Cong campaign in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be the face of the Congress' election campaign in Uttar Pradesh, party's newly-appointed campaign committee chief PL Punia said Sunday, asserting the AICC general secretary is the most popular political figure in the state at present.

Punia, who Friday was named as the head of the key 20-member election campaign committee of the Congress for the UP polls next year, noted that very rarely has the Congress announced a chief ministerial face and said that not having declared one till now will not hamper the party's chances as it already has a personality like Priyanka Gandhi to lead the charge against the BJP.

It is a direct contest between the Congress and the BJP in the UP polls as both the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have 'fallen behind' and were 'not in the fight anymore', Punia told PTT.

Punia said Priyanka Gandhi has fought for truth on all issues and when the Lakhimpur Kheri incident happened, she immediately left



to meet the family of the victims, and was detained in Sitapur, but remained determined in her quest for justice. He said she was 'successful' in her struggle and went to Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich to meet the families of the victims.

Punia said earlier also - be it Sonbhadra, Unnao or Hathras incidents - Priyanka Gandhi had fought for justice.

"So, the people are impressed by her and currently in the entire state, no politician is more popular than Priyanka Gandhi. As far as around whom the campaign will be centred, we are fortunate that Priyanka Gandhi is available for

(campaigning) all the time," he said. There are always demands from other states for Priyanka Gandhi to campaign and hold one or two meetings, but in UP she is available 24x7, Punia said.

"Priyanka Gandhi ji hi humara ek chehra hong jinke ird-gird poora election campaign chalega (the election campaign will be revolve around Priyanka Gandhi)," he said. Punia also said the Lakhimpur Kheri incident and justice for farmers would be important issues in the elections, asserting that the way the farmers were 'trampled upon', was a condemnable incident.

EXODUS FROM BSP CONTINUES IN UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 17: The exodus from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Uttar Pradesh continues unabated. Former state BSP president R.S. Kushwaha, Sunday, joined the Samajwadi Party in the presence of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Former BSP MP Qadir Rama also joined the party Sunday.

Two senior BSP leaders Lalji Varma and Ram Achal Rajbhar, who were expelled by Mayawati in June this year, are also set to join the SP later this month at a rally in Ambedkar Nagar. The BSP has already lost seven legislators to the

Two senior BSP leaders who were expelled by Mayawati are also set to join the SP this month

Samajwadi Party last year during the Rajya Sabha biennial elections when the party took support from the BJP to get its candidate elected.

Former MLA Sigbatullah Ansari, brother of jailed don and legislator Mukhtar Ansari has already joined the SP and the indication is that Mukhtar and his elder brother Azfal Ansari, who is presently a BSP MP, will also follow him into the SP.

Air quality in UP nosedives, Ghaziabad records the worst

INDI-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 17: Cities in Uttar Pradesh are experiencing a sharp drop in the air quality, caused by a spike in activity due to the festive season and drop in average day temperatures as winter sets in. Ghaziabad continued to be recording the worst air quality.

Asthma and bronchial patients are experiencing an increased discomfort and hospitals across the state are witnessing a surge of patients with respiratory problems.

According to the data published Saturday evening, the AQI in Agra turned to 274 from 214 within 24 hours, in Baghat district of Western Uttar Pradesh the AQI moved to 307 from 176, in Bulandshahr, it went from 202 to 299. Ghaziabad in the NCR recorded AQI of 349 from 235 within 24 hours.

The higher the AQI value, the more polluted the air. An AQI above 200 is considered poor while that above 300 is categorised as very poor by the CPCB.

Very poor air can have a very severe adverse impact on health if exposed to it for long.

Particulate matter 2.5 and 10 formed the major air pollutants in most Uttar Pradesh cities that can be caused by increase in human activity that occurs during festivities. Burning of effigies also impacts the air quality but the impact is local, according to experts.



The depleting air quality signals towards setting winters where the environment gets dense limiting pollutants to disperse. This results in higher AQI.

The average day temperature according to the India Meteorological Department has dropped by 2.1 degrees Celsius in a week.

Ajay Kumar Sharma, member secretary of the UP Pollution Control Board, said, "We are closely monitoring the AQI numbers of Uttar Pradesh cities. Several measures, including fines on polluting industries have been taken to reduce pollution. We have also set in place several strict measures to curb air pollution in the coming days."

Ram temple design will be inspired by Konark Sun temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Ram temple in Ayodhya will be built in such a way that the sun rays will fall on the idol of Ram Lalla and illuminate its sanctum sanctorum on every Ram Navami, said a member of the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Trust.

The design will be inspired by the 13th century Sun temple at Konark in Odisha, he said.

Work is underway on a proposal to design the temple in a way that the sun rays beautify Ram Lalla's idol in the sanctum sanctorum on every Ram Navami and consultation with scientists, astronomers and technologists is going on in this regard, Kameshwar Choupal, member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust told PTT.

Choupal said, "The Sun temple at Konark in Odisha is an example where the sun rays reach inside the temple. In such a situation, all the



technical aspects and state-of-the-art technology are being considered regarding how the rays of the sun reach the sanctum (of Ram temple)."

The member said a committee consisting of experts from the National Institute of Building Construction, including Indian



Commuters wade through a water-logged road amid heavy rain in Moradabad, Sunday.

PTI PHOTO

Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, IIT Mumbai, and IIT Roorkee, has been formed to focus on the technical aspects related to the construction of the temple.

Another senior official of the trust said, "The construction work of Shri Ram temple is going on at a fast pace. Efforts are being made

(to ensure) that by December 2023, the construction of the sanctum sanctorum should be completed and people can have darshan."

He informed that the first phase of foundation has been completed, while the second phase will be over by mid-November.

During the construction of Ram

temple in Ayodhya, several aspects, including geological, geographical and ecological conditions, are being taken into consideration, he said. Chaupal said according to the geological classification, Uttar Pradesh is prone to earthquakes and there is a river near the temple complex while the entire area comes under the Himalayan region.

"From November 15, the work of construction of the plinth (the base part of the pillar) will also start. The construction of pillars and overhead structure on the plinth is expected to start from April 2022," he said.

Some changes have been made in the earlier model regarding the construction of the temple, Chaupal said, adding that three floors would be constructed now instead of the two planned initially.

Chaupal informed that the temple will have a museum, archives room, research centre, auditorium, gaushala, tourist centre, administrative building, yoga centre and other facilities.

national

of the day quote

The Centre will provide all possible assistance to the people of Kerala who have been affected by heavy rains and resulting floods

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Such incidents, wherever in the world it might be, is matter of great sorrow. I have full confidence on the Bangladesh government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. I am sure she will take appropriate action against such acts of fundamentalism

BIPLAB KUMAR DEB | TRIPURA CM

Ensuring happiness and prosperity in the life of every needy person is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Four babies die

Raipur: Four newborn babies died at a government medical college and hospital in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district in the last two days, prompting the state government to call an emergency meeting of officials. Hospital authorities, however, said there was nothing "unusual" about these deaths and that these babies died due to birth-related complications. The deaths occurred at the Government Medical College Affiliated Hospital (GMCH), Ambikapur, the district headquarter of the Surguja district, located around 300 km away from Raipur, officials said.

Girl rescued

New Delhi: A minor girl, who was sold for Rs 60,000, was rescued by Delhi Police from Sikar in Rajasthan. The 15-year-old girl, resident of Haidar Pur, Delhi, was reported missing since September 16 and a complaint was registered in this regard, police said Sunday. As the cops began probe, it was found that the minor girl was in regular contact with a local boy named Neeraj Sonkar. Further probe revealed that Neeraj and one Muskan, resident of Rohini had taken the victim to the house of their third associate, Sheetal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

Elephant found dead in Assam

Guwahati: An elephant has been found dead in a paddy field in Assam's Goalpara district. The six-year-old elephant was found dead in a paddy field at Shantipara under the jurisdiction of Kanyakuchi Reserve Forest on Friday, a forest department release said. Observing that the elephant might have succumbed to a natural cause, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Jitendra Kumar, said the exact reason behind the animal's death can be ascertained after post-mortem examination.

Pilot's body recovered

Jammu: The body of a co-pilot of an Army helicopter that crashed and sank into Ranjit Sagar Dam in August was recovered from the water body in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday, ending nearly two-and-a-half-month-long search for him, officials said. The mortal remains of Captain Jayant Joshi were fished out from the dam around 2 pm in one of the longest search operations in recent history and were later taken to Pathankot military station, a police official said. The Army aviation squadron's Rudra helicopter had taken off from Mamun military station near Pathankot and crashed into the lake during a routine sortie on August 3.



The party high command will decide on its chief minister after winning the 2023 assembly polls in Karnataka and whoever they name, everyone will abide by it

SIDDARAMAIAH | CONGRESS LEADER

DASARA BEATS COVID FEARS

The recently concluded Dasara festivities followed by the weekend have proved to be a boost for the tourism sector in Karnataka. Amid the fears of Covid-19, a record number of people have visited Mysuru to witness historical Dasara festivities in the last 10 days



Vaccine decision to be based on scientific rationale: Paul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The government will take a final decision on vaccinating children and adolescents against coronavirus on the basis of overall scientific rationale as well as the supply situation of vaccines available for those below 18 years old, COVID Task Force chief V K Paul said Sunday.

Paul, who has been playing a key role in the government's efforts in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, also cautioned that even though infections are coming down and the second wave is subsiding, it will not be fair now to say that the worst is over since many countries have seen more than two waves.

Currently, three vaccines -- Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V -- being administered in the country are only for those above 18 years of age. All of them are two-dose vaccines.



Zydus Cadila's indigenously developed needle-free COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D is set to become the first vaccine that will be available in India for those in the age group of 12-18 years. It has received Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA).

"We do know that several countries have introduced vaccination for adolescents (people) and children.

We will take a final decision based on the overall scientific rationale and the supply situation of the child licenced vaccines, going forward," Paul said in an interview.

An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended granting EUA to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children and adolescents in the 2-18 years age group with certain conditions.

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An expert panel of India's central drug authority has recommended granting EUA to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children and adolescents in the 2-18 years age group with certain conditions.

If approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), it will be the second vaccine after ZyCoV-D to get EUA for use among those below 18 years. The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) is looking at how ZyCoV-D should be positioned for optimum use.

According to Paul, Covaxin is a part of the adult vaccination programme and how to provision the vaccine, if at all for children, has to be also examined in the totality of the requirements of the vaccination programme. "A pragmatic decision (on vaccination of children and adolescents) can be taken (only) by balancing the supply and the potential eligibility," he said.

While noting it will not be possible now to give a particular timeline on when COVID vaccination will start for children, Paul said, "The preparation for incorporation of Zydus Cadila's vaccine into the vaccination programme is proceeding well, training is already being held. NTAGI advice for the best use of the vaccine is explored. So soon, this will be rolled out".

According to Paul, children are part and parcel of the chains of COVID transmission and are infected in large numbers.

Car drives into crowd, 4 hurt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 17: A speeding car rrammed into a Durga idol immersion procession in the Madhya Pradesh capital, leaving four persons, including a head constable, injured, police said Sunday.

Police have arrested the driver and seized the car, a senior officer said. The incident occurred on the road outside the Bhopal railway station on late Saturday night when the procession was moving forward, Bajaria police station in-charge Umesh Yadav said.

Three persons were injured and one of them sustained serious injuries and undergoing treatment at a hospital, he said. The car also hit an on-duty police head constable, who sustained minor injuries to his leg, he said.

Yadav said after the car rrammed into the procession people started shouting to get hold of the car driver, who panicked and fled by reversing the car speedily. He said a case was registered.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Irshad Wali said Sunday afternoon that the car involved in the incident was seized and its driver arrested. The driver's interrogation is underway, he said but refused to elaborate.

Wali said the injured person, undergoing treatment at a hospital, is out of danger and stable.

He sustained injuries that are not serious, Wali said citing a hospital doctor.

INDIA RAMPS UP SURVEILLANCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Misamari (Tezpur), Oct 17: India has significantly cranked up its day and night surveillance at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Arunachal Pradesh sector using a fleet of remotely piloted aircraft and other assets as part of a broad strategy to strengthen overall military preparedness to deal with any Chinese misadventure, people familiar with the developments said Sunday.

As tensions boiled over between the two countries following the Galwan Valley clashes last year, India ramped up its overall deployment along the nearly 3,400-km-long LAC besides speeding up infrastructure development to gain a tactical advantage.

The people cited above said a sizeable fleet of Israeli-made Heron medium-altitude long-endurance drones is carrying out round-the-clock surveillance over the LAC in the mountainous terrain and sending crucial data and images to command and control centres.

Along with the drones, the Indian Army's aviation wing has also been deploying the Weapon System Integrated (WSI) variant of the Advanced Light Helicopter Rudra in the region, adding more teeth to its tactical missions in the region,

they said. In an expansion of its aviation wing in the region, the Army has come out with an independent aviation brigade in the region this year to bolster its overall operational preparedness in the sensitive region, they said.

They said though the Heron drones were first deployed in the region around four-five years back, now the integration of surveillance has been significantly enhanced under the 'sensor to shooter' concept to employ military forces at short notice for any possible operational objectives.

The deployment of the WSI version of the ALH helicopters has also provided the Army an added advantage to carry out various missions in the high-altitude areas. Asked about the weapons package of the ALH helicopters, they refused to divulge the details but said it is one of the best and would be very effective against the adversary.

"Overall, our day and night surveillance capability has seen massive upgrades since last year and we are in a much better position to deal with any eventualities in the region," said one of the people cited above. The Indian Army is also procuring a fleet of Heron TP drones on lease from Israel that are capable of operating for nearly 45 hours at an altitude of up to 35,000 feet.

Singhu border lynching: 3 sent to police remand

CHANDIGARH: Three people allegedly involved in the lynching of a labourer at a farmers' protest site near Singhu border were remanded to six days in police custody Sunday as the Haryana Police set up two Special Investigation Teams to probe the incident. So far, four people have been arrested in connection with the gruesome killing. Narain Singh, a member of the Sikhs' Nihang order, was arrested Saturday from near Amritsar. Two more Nihangs, Govindpreet Singh and Bhagwant Singh from Fatehgarh Sahib, "surrendered" on the same day before the Sonapat Police in connection with the lynching. The three accused were produced before a court in Sonapat which remanded them to six days in police custody. The police sought remand of the accused on the ground that they have to reconstruct the scene of the crime, recover weapons and clothes of the accused, besides interrogating them in detail about the entire incident. One SIT headed by IPS officer Mayank Gupta, who is the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Kharkhoda, Sonapat, will investigate the videos of the incident which were circulating on social media.

ADITYA PRATAP SWAIN

For the last few days there is unprecedented anger among the farmers of India which is manifested at Lakhimpur Kheri, an obscure part of Uttar Pradesh, where four farmers were mowed down allegedly by the son of the current BJP MP of the area, who is also Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, and subsequent retributive justice in which four more people were killed. The matter is being investigated and is sub-judice, so it will be improper to comment on the case itself. But this event has sparked off a bitter face off of the farmers against the BJP governments at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh. It is understandable that all the non-BJP parties have jumped into the bandwagon to make it an election agenda for the UP election, to be held in a few months hence.

The farmers' agitation has been on for more than ten months now. One should ponder why so many

farmers are on the streets and what are they protesting against. Many may also wonder why the government has suspended talks with them for the last eight months. In order to understand all these, one should understand the new BJP brand of politics helmed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The farmers' protest took off in Punjab almost immediately when three farm ordinances were promulgated in June 2020 at the peak of the pandemic and later written into law. Without going into the merits and demerits of these laws, we should understand how the government reacted to the farmers' protest initially and why it almost abandoned the talks.

Started by the farmers of Punjab, the protest moved to the Delhi border in late November 2020 with hoards braving police batons and water cannons during peak winter. When they were not allowed to enter Delhi or the government did not agree to their demand to allow

Mumbai reports no Covid death

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 17: Notching an achievement, Mumbai Sunday reported zero Covid-19 deaths, for the first time since March 26, 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the city in a big way.

Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray, who is one of the Guardian Ministers of Mumbai, hailed the development as "good news" after nearly 20 months. "Keep the mask on the face and get yourself vaccinated if you haven't yet! Help us keep Mumbai safe. We are here to serve you!" he exhorted Mumbaiers in tweets Sunday evening.

The city also recorded 367 new cases, while 518 fully recovered patients went home Sunday, heartening the city health authorities. Presently, 5,030 active cases still remain in the city as the harried health authorities have a sigh of relief over the nil fatalities.

However, Covid-19 scarred the



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city's commercial capital considerably with 751,293 total infections till date and 16,180 deaths,

the highest in the country. Presently, the city's doubling rate has increased to 1.214 days, with a recovery rate as high as 97 per cent now.

Currently, there are no containment zones in the city's chawls or slums, but only 50 residential buildings remain under seal now, a major improvement over the tense days during the deadly first and second waves of Covid when these figures ran into thousands.

WHY FARMERS ARE SO ANGRY?

The farmers' protest took off in Punjab almost immediately when three farm ordinances were promulgated in June 2020 at the peak of the pandemic and later written into law

them to protest in either Ramlila Maidan or Jantar Mantar; the farmers made the borders their new protest sites and sat on roads surrounding Delhi. Later, many farmers from Rajasthan, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other states joined the earlier group of agitating farmers.

Clearly, farmers are a huge constituency for any political party and no party worth its salt can ignore them. So the government entered into several rounds of negotiations but both sides stuck to their ground. Then the nation wit-

nessed the chaos at Red Fort on Republic Day, 26 January of 2021. After that there was no word from the government for talks and there is also no sign of farmers relenting.

Now everybody is asking why the government is not talking to the farmers for more than eight months. Is the party in power not scared of the farmers' vote bank? Here it is important to understand the brand of politics that BJP has mastered under the current dispensation. First, the government panicked with the scene of huge protest splashed on TV screens and took some effort to have negotiations. But by Republic Day, they realised that the protest is limited mainly to Punjab where they don't have a stake, in parts of Haryana and a small part of Western Uttar Pradesh. There was not much murmur from farmers in other parts of the country. Encouraged by this, the BJP government did what it does best. Defame the farmers by calling them 'muthibhar kisan',

'Khalistanis', terrorists and such words through their propaganda machinery. Another strategy of the current leadership was to pit people against farmers and hoped that anger from the people who are inconvenienced will rise against the agitating farmers surrounding Delhi.

The farmers have stood against a recalcitrant weather and they are still going strong. If not for anything else, one should acknowledge the resilience of the farmers. Never in Independent India have so many people agitated for so long continuously.

Irrespective of what lies ahead for the agitating farmers, one can safely say that the present government is not kind to agitation of any kind, in any form, by anyone. This can be seen from the sheer number of cases hoisted upon agitators ranging from students to politicians and even performing artists under the stringent UAPA. Perhaps, the farmers are fortunate enough

to have escaped this draconian law till now. Speaking at an event commemorating the 109th birth anniversary of late Viswanath Pasayat 10 October, 2021 retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Rohinton Nariman implored the Supreme Court to rescind IPC Section 124A (Sedition) and the offending portions of the contentious Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). In his words: "There is a chilling effect on free speech. If you are booking persons, including journalists, under these laws that come with large sentences and no anticipatory bail, people would not speak their mind."

But realistically, nobody expects that the current dispensation will let go the draconian provisions in the law. The ongoing farmers' agitation and the apathy of the Central government towards them can be understood in this light.

The writer is a Supreme Court advocate. Views are personal

international



I implore you, please, to abandon the path of violence, which is always a losing one, is a defeat for all
POPE FRANCIS

SHOCKING REPORT

China's National Health Commission has warned of a potential "twindemic" this winter and it stresses influenza prevention as flu activity in the southern provinces has increased since September with the flu season approaching and the remaining high risk of imported Covid-19 infections, Global Times reported



of the day quote

Imran Khan wants to save the person, who was stealing elections and ballot boxes for him; who was oppressing his opponents; blackmailing judges to get favourable decisions; abducting journalists; and pulling the plug on (TV) channels

MARYAM NAWAZ | VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PML-N

The chief of the UN nuclear watchdog has vowed to continue close consultations with South Korea and other nations over Japan's plan to discharge radioactive water from its crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean

RAFAEL GROSSI | DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

The judiciary should be free of political interference and sectarian activism amid tensions over a probe into last year's blast at Beirut port

BECHARA BOUTROS AL-RAI | LEBANON'S TOP CHRISTIAN CLERIC

SHORT TAKES

Bill Clinton released from hospital

Orange (US): Bill Clinton was released Sunday from the Southern California hospital where he had been treated for an infection. The ex-President was released around 8 a.m. From the University of California Irvine Medical Center, Clinton, 75, was admitted Tuesday to the hospital southeast of Los Angeles with an infection unrelated to Covid-19, officials said. Clinton spokesman Angel Ureña had said that Clinton would remain hospitalised one more night to receive further intravenous antibiotics.

Russia sees highest daily Covid-19 cases

Moscow: Russia is reporting its largest daily number of new coronavirus infections, more than 70% up on the number a month ago as the country faces a sustained rise in cases. The national coronavirus task force Sunday said 34,303 new infections were recorded in the previous day, compared with the 20,174 reported September 19.

China launches N-capable missile

Beijing: China has tested a new space capability with a hypersonic missile, report said. The report, citing multiple sources familiar with the test, said Beijing in August launched a nuclear-capable missile that circled the Earth at low orbit before descending toward its target, which three sources said it missed by over 32 kilometers. FT sources said the hypersonic glide vehicle was carried by a Long March rocket, launches of which it usually announces, though the August test was kept under wraps.

17 missionaries kidnapped in Haiti

San Juan (US): A group of 17 US missionaries, including children, were kidnapped by a gang in Haiti Saturday, according to a voice message sent to various religious missions by an organization with direct knowledge of the incident. The missionaries were on their way home from building an orphanage, according to a message from Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries.

7 killed in house fire

Lahore: Seven members of a family were killed in a fire that erupted in their house located in Muzaffargarh district of Pakistan's Punjab province Sunday, local officials said.

JAISHANKAR IN ISRAEL

New chapter begins in India-Israel relations

AGENCIES

Tel Aviv, Oct 17: Describing Israel as one of India's "most trusted and innovative partners", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Sunday urged Israeli business, including from the defence sector, to invest in the country and take advantage of its business-friendly policies.

Speaking at the India-Israel Business Roundtable soon after his arrival in Israel on his maiden visit, Jaishankar said there is an enormous effort of change happening in India since Narendra Modi took office and people have heard bits and pieces of that change. "If you were to connect all those dots, I think, you get a picture of an India that is moving towards acquiring those deeper strengths which will make it more competi-



Jaishankar visited the Indian Cemetery at Talpiot in Jerusalem. Paid homage to the brave Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during World War I

speaking about some of them," he told the gathering. While this change has been going on for a few years and during the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic when people have not been in touch physically, interestingly the change process has accelerated, he said.

"We have had some really big reforms, some of them might be of interest to you. One is called 'production linked incentive', which is to attract manufacturing to India from the birth so that anybody who is bringing in new production capacities and delivering on it is incentivised appropriately. Now this has covered 13 sectors so far. And many of them are exactly the sectors which some of you are interested in including batteries, electronics et al," he said. Later, he tweeted that a "productive meeting with Israeli chambers of commerce and the innovation ecosystem." During his visit, Jaishankar

would call on President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid. He will also be holding talks with leading academics from all over Israel, business community leaders and interacting with the Indian Jewish community. Jaishankar will also be visiting places of historical significance to India, demonstrating its long-term presence in the region and constructive role played in shaping the history of the region. India and Israel elevated bilateral relations to a strategic partnership during the historic visit of PM Narendra Modi to Israel in July 2017. Since then, the relationship between the two countries has focused on expanding knowledge-based partnership, which includes collaboration in innovation and research, including boosting the 'Make in India' initiative, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

THIS IS JAISHANKAR'S FIRST VISIT TO THE COUNTRY AS THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

JAISHANKAR BEGAN HIS VISIT BY LAYING WREATH AT A CEMETERY FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE REGION DURING THE WORLD WAR I IN TALPIOT, JERUSALEM

ABOUT 900 INDIAN SOLDIERS ARE INTERRED IN CEMETERIES ACROSS ISRAEL IN JERUSALEM, RAMLE AND HAIFA

tive in terms of the world economy. And that to you is of interest because from those deeper strengths will come new opportunities and I'll

BANGLA DURGA PUJA VIOLENCE

Minorities call for countrywide strike



Police clash with Muslim devotees during protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 17: A Hindu temple has been vandalised in Bangladesh in a fresh case of communal unrest amidst days of violence unleashed by unidentified Muslim bigots who attacked the minority community's places of worship during the Durga Puja celebrations over alleged blasphemy, prompting a minority group to announce a countrywide hunger strike, media reports said Sunday.

Hindu-owned temples and shops in Feni, about 157 kms from the country's capital, have been vandalised and robbed during fresh clashes Saturday which broke out after an attack on demonstrators who were protesting against the attacks on Durga Puja venues in several places in Bangladesh, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper re-

ported. The clashes left at least 40 people, including the Officer In-charge Nizamuddin of Feni Model Police Station, injured in the clashes, it said. On Saturday night, authorities deployed additional police forces and the paramilitary force - Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), after several temples and businesses owned by Hindus were vandalised and robbed during clashes that lasted from 4:30 PM (local time) to midnight, the report said. The report said that some miscreants Saturday vandalised six idols at the Daniapara Maha Shoshan Kali Mandir in Rashunia union of Sirajdikhan upazila in Munshiganj, about 40 kms from here. It said that protests against attacks and vandalism on Hindu temples during the Durga Puja celebrations continued across the country Saturday, as did the vandalism that led to the public outcry. Meanwhile in the country's southern port city of Chittagong, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council announced a sit-in and hunger strike from October 23 in protest against the attacks during the Durga Puja celebrations.



Planes perform aerobatics during Hammond Northshore Regional Airshow, Hammond, Louisiana, the United States. Hammond Northshore Regional Airshow, which was canceled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, kicked off again in Hammond October 16

UNI PHOTO

Russian filmmakers back after space shoot

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Oct 17: A Soyuz space capsule carrying a cosmonaut and two Russian filmmakers has landed after a 3 1/2-hour trip from the International Space Station.

The capsule, descending under a red-and-white striped parachute after entering Earth's atmosphere,

landed upright in the steppes of Kazakhstan on schedule at 0435 GMT Sunday with Oleg Novitskiy, Yulia Peresild and Klim Shipenko aboard. Actress Peresild and film director Shipenko rocketed to the space station October 5 for a 12-day stint to film segments of a movie titled "Challenge," in which a surgeon played by Peresild rushes



to the space station to save a crew member who needs an urgent operation in orbit. Novitskiy, who

spent more than six months aboard the space station, is to star as the ailing cosmonaut in the movie.

After the landing, which sent plumes of dust flying high in the air, ground crews extracted the three space flyers from the capsule and placed them in seats set up nearby as they adjusted to the pull of gravity.

Afghan girls want to return to school amid Taliban rule

THE VAST MAJORITY OF AFGHAN GIRLS CONTINUE TO BE BARRED FROM ATTENDING SECONDARY SCHOOL FOLLOWING THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF AFGHANISTAN, LEADING SEVERAL TEENAGE GIRLS TO FEEL THEIR DREAMS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE HAVE BEEN "BURIED"

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kabul, Oct 17: Afghan teenager Amena saw dozens of classmates killed when her girls' school was targeted by an ISIS bomb attack in May, but she was determined to continue her education.

Now, like most secondary school girls in the country, she is banned from lessons altogether after the Taliban's hardline regime excluded them from returning to class one month ago.

"I wanted to study, see my friends and have a bright future, but now I am not allowed," 16-year-old Amena told AFP at her home in western Kabul.

"This situation makes me feel awful. Since the Taliban arrived, I am very sad and angry."

On September 18, Afghanistan's new Islamist rulers ordered male teachers and boys aged 13 and over back to secondary schools, picking up an academic year already cut short by violence and the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, there was no mention of women teachers or girl pupils. The Taliban later said older girls can return to secondary schools, which were already mostly split by gender, but only once security and stricter segregation under their interpretation of Islamic law could be ensured.



Afghan girls attend a class

REUTERS FILE PHOTO

Reports have emerged of girls going back to a few high schools - such as in Kunduz province where the Taliban promoted the return with a stage-managed rally.

A Taliban leader told the UN children's body that a framework to allow all girls to go to secondary school will be announced soon, a senior UNICEF executive said Friday.

But for now, the vast majority are barred from lessons across the country of about 39 million people, including in the capital Kabul. Primary schools, meanwhile, have reopened for all children and women can go to private universities, though with tough restrictions on their

clothes and movement.

'NO HOPE'

Amena lives just a short walk from her Sayed Al-Shuhada High School, where 85 people - mainly young girls - perished in the May bomb attack. "Innocent girls were killed," Amena said, her eyes welling up. "I saw with my own eyes the dying and wounded girls. However, I still wanted to go to school again." Amena would be in Grade 10 studying her favourite subjects such as biology, but instead is stuck inside with a handful of books doing "nothing special".

The teenager said she dreamt of becoming a journalist, but now has "no hope in Afghanistan".

business

of the day quote

We are setting up a (battery) factory now in Greater Noida. This would be a one gigawatt hour capacity plant...with this about 4 lakh batteries would be rolled out from this factory per annum

PANKAJ DUBEY | CEO, POWER GLOBAL

Now, we plan to open as many outlets as quickly as possible. We are introducing more made-in-India products and setting our factories by January-end. We have already identified suppliers and few other companies, which would produce our products also

ROHIT SAHNI | MD, WK LIFE

We are moving from no ownership model to ownership, but it will be through leasing which means assets will still not be on our books. So, we will try and keep our books as light as possible

MANDEEP SANDHU | CEO, AIRLUXIS

SHORT TAKES

Bol deducts home, vehicle loan rates

Mumbai: State-run Bank of India Sunday announced a cut in its interest rates on home and vehicle loans by 35 basis point and 50 basis points, respectively. With this cut, the interest rate on home loans starts at 6.50 per cent against earlier 6.85 per cent, and at 6.85 per cent against 7.35 per cent prior on vehicle loans, the bank said in a release. This special rate, which is effective from October 18, 2021, till December 31, 2021, is available for customers applying for fresh loans and also for those seeking transfer of loans, it said. The lender said it has also waived processing charges for both home and vehicle loans till December 31, 2021.

Coal import drops by 2.7% in August

New Delhi: India's coal import registered a decline of 2.7 per cent to 15.22 million tonnes (MT) in August this year amid the country's power plants grappling with fuel shortages. The country imported 15.64 MT of coal in the corresponding month last year. According to data compiled by mjunction services, "Imports in August 2021 stood at around 15.22 million tonnes...Imports in August 2021 were also down by 2.7 percent over August 2020."

Power consumption up 3% in Oct 1-15

New Delhi: India's power consumption grew 3.35 per cent in the first half of October to 57.22 billion units (BU), showing recovery amid coal shortage at electricity generation plants, according to power ministry data. Last year during October 1-15, power consumption stood at 55.36 BU, which was higher than 49.66 BU in the same period in 2019. Amid the coal shortage at power plants in the country, the peak power shortage moderated to 986 MW October 15 in sharp contrast to 11,626 MW October 7.

Dixon Tech to export 5G mm phone to US

New Delhi: Domestic electronics manufacturing firm Dixon Technology has started manufacturing 5G millimetre waves smartphones which will be the first set of devices in the segment to be exported from India, a top company official said Sunday. Dixon has set up a manufacturing unit with an annual capacity of 7 million 5G millimetre (mm) phones and is setting up another factory with annual capacity of 30 million smartphones in Noida.



We are talking about a company which will be there for many years, which will specialise in handling surplus land and non-core asset monetisation. We are expecting it shortly. As soon as we get Cabinet approval

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | DIPAM SECRETARY

AVIATION MINISTER FLAGS OFF SPICEJET'S DELHI-TIRUPATI FLIGHT

Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually flagged off SpiceJet's flight on the Delhi-Tirupati route Sunday, the airline said. The airline will operate the flight three times a week till October 31, according to its statement



Industry-led policies in space sector soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dubai, Oct 17: India is revising its existing policies and is also in the process of bringing in new ones to increase industry participation in the space sector, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr said Sunday.

Sivan, who is Secretary, Department of Space, said this, via a video message during the inaugural session on 'Future of Space-International Participations and Collaborations' at The India



India is focussing on international collaborations, including bilateral and multilateral partnerships

K SIVAN | CHAIRMAN, ISRO

Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai.

He emphasised that the recent reforms in the sector has ensured that the role of the private sector has evolved from being just suppliers to partners in the process. He

also highlighted that space is one of the significant areas that India is looking at for international cooperation. "I hope space cooperation will fur-

ther strengthen with commercial and technological collaborations," said Sivan, adding that Indian industry has to play a big role in the space sector globally.

India is planning to boost the space sector in the global market. With an aim to make the country an economic space hub in the future, it also recently launched a new industry body, the Indian Space Association (ISPA). Sivan said that the government

is open to inviting private players in the space sector and ISRO is tying up with start-ups and industries. In the recent past, the ISRO has also joined hands with Niti Aayog, and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to encourage space start-ups in the country.

However, Sivan emphasised on the need to make outer space safe and that it is a collective responsibility of the government and non-government agencies to ensure that.

FPIs pull out net ₹1,472cr in Oct



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have turned net sellers in the capital markets in October so far, reversing the trend of net investments in the previous two months, due to depreciation in the rupee and global factors, experts said.

According to the depositories' data, FPIs have pulled out ₹1,472 crore from capital markets on a net basis in the current month so far. A trend reversal was witnessed in the debt segment in October from the big buying in the previous two months when FPIs had invested ₹13,363 crore in September and ₹14,376.2 crore in August. In October so far, they pulled out ₹1,698 crore. "This trend reversal in debt investment is due to the INR depreciation in October," said VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

In equities, FPIs invested ₹226 crore on a net basis. FPIs who were sellers in banking stocks in the first half of September turned buyers in the second half. But they were sellers in software services throughout September. The strong performance by IT companies like Wipro, Infosys and Mindtree is likely to attract more flows into the segment, going forward, he added.

Himanshu Srivastava, associate director - manager research, Morningstar India said that as markets touched all-time highs and valuations soar, FPI would have preferred to stay on the sidelines, adopt a wait and watch approach and continue to book profits along the way.

On the future of FPI flows, Shrikant Chouhan, head - equity research (retail), Kotak Securities said that Brent crude oil prices are trading at elevated levels and a sharp increase in energy prices can be a key headwind for the equity markets.

In addition, any increase in the rate by the US Fed Reserve in the near future, would also act a key headwind for overall flow in the emerging markets. Hence, FPI flows are expected to remain volatile in the emerging markets.

US-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM

Opportunities galore for investors, says FM

Sitharaman met Mastercard Executive Chairman Ajay Banga and Mastercard CEO Michael Miebach, FedEx Corporation President and Chief Operating Officer Raj Subramaniam, Citi CEO Jane Fraser and IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna



All the business leaders talked about the positive impact India's reforms, in particular the PLI schemes, will have on labour intensive sectors in the country

IBM indicated its interest in India in the areas of hybrid cloud, automation, 5G, cybersecurity, data, and AI

SHE SAID THE DIGITISATION THAT INDIA HAS DONE IS "TRULY IMPRESSIVE" AND "IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MAJOR HUBS OF DIGITAL TRADE AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN THE WORLD AND A STANDARD-BEARER GOING FORWARD"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's meetings with US businesses and institutions continued at a feverish pitch, including talks with two key investors asking them to broaden their world view and look at India for investment.

Opportunities galore are there in India for all investors and industry stakeholders with the current reset in the global supply chain and clear headed and committed leadership in the country, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said. "With the current reset in the

global supply chain and clear headed and committed leadership in India, I see opportunities galore in India for all investors and industry stakeholders," Ms Sitharaman said during her address to global business leaders and investors at a roundtable organised here by industry chamber FICCI and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Saturday.

Startups in India have grown tremendously and many are now raising money through capital markets, she said.

The role of technology in the financial sector is enabling pushing the frontier of financial inclusion and fintechs are playing a key role in this area, she said at the roundtable, the Finance Ministry tweeted.

Following his meeting with Ms Sitharaman, Mr Banga said India is on a "great pathway and trajectory"

with its continuing reforms and he can see great momentum. "I am particularly impressed by the production linked incentives that have been put into place," he said, adding that they can make a big difference to the way that labour intensive industries in India can develop.

Subramaniam said FedEx business in India is growing strong. "We are looking forward, we are very bullish on where potential for India is, the fastest growing large economy and growing trade environment."

Fraser said Citi has a "very proud and very long history" in India. "We are delighted to see the strength of the recovery that's happening on the ground there. Obviously there's a lot of concerns around supply chain disruption at the moment" but it's around the world.

GOLD IMPORTS JUMP MULTI-FOLD TO \$24 BN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, zoomed to about \$24 billion during April-September 2021 due to higher demand in the country, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

Imports of the yellow metal was \$6.8 billion in the corresponding period last year, the data showed. Gold imports during September this year too rose to \$5.11 billion as against \$601.4 million in the same month last year.

A significant jump in the gold imports has led to record widening of the country's trade deficit, difference between imports and exports, to \$22.6 billion during September



this fiscal as against \$2.96 billion in the year-ago period.

India is the largest importer of gold, which mainly caters to the demand of the jewellery industry. In volume terms, the country imports 800-900 tonne of gold annually.

Sharing similar views, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that the demand primarily is pushing gold imports.

Coal crisis to hit domestic sponge iron sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The domestic sponge iron industry might report a negative growth in the ongoing December quarter if the shortage of coal is allowed to continue, according to apex industry body SIMA.

Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association (SIMA) Executive Director Deependra Kashiva said India is expected to report a 60 per cent quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) fall in its sponge iron output during the July-September 2021 period, amid the ongoing coal crisis.

As per the JPC data, the sponge iron production growth in April-June 2021 was 70 per cent, compared with January-March 2021. This is expected to come down by 60 per cent to a level of 10 per cent



in the second quarter ended September 30, 2021, due to the coal crisis, he said without providing any figures.

If the situation is allowed to continue...If the shortage of coal is allowed to continue then I am expecting that in Q3 (October-December), the growth will be neg-

ative, Kashiva told PTI in a telephonic interaction.

The Joint Plant Committee (JPC), under the Ministry of Steel, is the only institution that collects and maintains data on the Indian steel and iron sector. Speaking further on the situation, he said Coal India Ltd (CIL) re-

cently announced to give coal to only thermal power plants. They have said that except for the power sector, we are stopping supply to all industry users, and sponge iron and cement are the two big consumers after the power sector, the Kashiva said. He added that the industry consumes about 40 million tonnes of coal annually and has provided three lakh direct and indirect jobs.

All you need to know about Bharat Griha Raksha policy

THE UNIQUE ATTRIBUTE OF THE BHARAT GRIHA RAKSHA POLICY IS THAT IT COVERS YOUR VERANDAH, PARKING SPACE, WATER TANK, INTERNAL ROADS, GARAGE, OUTHOUSE, PERMANENT FITTINGS, AND FIXTURES

A few months ago, IRDA launched Bharat Griha Raksha, which is basically a standardized home insurance policy that offers wide coverage for your home. Let's spare a few minutes to understand about this product.

Bharat Griha Raksha provides coverage to the building, that is the structure of your home along with the contents inside your home. The unique element of the policy is that structures like verandah, parking space, water tank, internal roads, garage, outhouse, permanent fittings, and fixtures are also covered in the policy.

The general contents inside your home are automatically covered up to 20% of the sum insured by the home's building, this is sub-

ject to a maximum limit of INR 10 lakh. So, to give you an example, if your home building is insured for INR 40 lakh, your home content will be covered till the limit of INR 8 lakh. You have the option to increase this sum by declaring the particulars, and this amount will become Sum Insured for contents.

Personal Accident provides cover in the unfortunate situation of the death of the insured or their spouse due to the insured risks that have damaged the building or content of

your home. The compensation amount is INR 5,00,000 per person. Under the cover for valuable contents, you can insure precious belongings like jewellery, work of art, silverware,

The policy offers two optional covers: Personal accident cover and Cover for valuable contents on an agreed value basis.

One of the highlights of the product is that you can buy the policy for up to 10 years

Another unique feature of the policy is that underinsurance does not apply in this policy

besides other things. The policy provides default cover against following unforeseen events: Fire, explosion or implosion, natural calamities (earthquake, floods and others), impact damage, malicious damages,

TA Ramalingam, Chief Technical Officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

fires, missile testing operations, terrorism, leakage from automatic sprinkler installations, bursting or overflowing of water tanks, apparatus and pipes and theft (within 7 days of and caused due to the occurrence of aforementioned events).

Who can buy the cover? If you are the owner, landlord, or tenant and the building is used for residential purpose you are eligible to buy the policy.

Please note, if you are using the said property for a purpose other than residing, you are not eligible to buy Griha Raksha, in that scenario you are advised to look for the appropriate cover as per the purpose for which the property is being used.

Considering the inflation into account, the policy also

has a feature of auto-escalation for long-term policies. The escalation will apply at the rate of 10% per annum on the straight-line method for a maximum to 100% of the initial sum insured. For example, if the initial sum insured is INR 20 lakh, it will increase to INR 22 lakh after the first year; to INR 24 lakh in the second year; and so on without any additional premium. Even under annual policy, the sum insured shall automatically increase each day by an amount representing 1/365th of 10% of Sum Insured at the policy commencement date.

Overall, Bharat Griha Raksha is a comprehensive and simplified product; the regulator has encouraged insurers to enhance the product with help of add-ons.



SHORT TAKES

Indians shine

Hobart: India's Shafali Verma (57, 50b, 6x4) struck a half century and Radha Yadav dismissed two batters in Sydney Sixers' five-wicket win in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) but Poonam Yadav's effort did not yield a desired result as her team Brisbane Heat lost their match Sunday. Shafali's innings helped Sydney chase down the victory target after Hobart made 125 for nine. Sydney scored 129 for five in 19.3 overs. Richa Ghosh (46) batted well for Hurricanes, but failed to prevent the Sixers from winning.

Lakshya loses

Almere (The Netherlands): Defending champion Lakshya Sen of India lost to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew in the men's singles final of the Dutch Open 2021 here Sunday. The World No 25 and tournament top seed Sen went down to the 41st-ranked Yew 12-21, 16-21 in the final, which lasted for just 36 minutes. Sen looked completely jaded and made a number of unforced errors to go down tamely in straight games.

Yuvi arrested

Hisar: The Haryana Police said Sunday that cricketer Yuvraj Singh was arrested and released on bail in an alleged casteist remarks case in compliance with a high court order. Yuvraj was accused of making casteist remarks against another cricketer during an Instagram chat last year for which he had immediately apologised. SP (Hansi) Nitika Gahlaut said over the phone, "We only made a formal arrest and he was released on bail bond in compliance of the orders of the Punjab and Haryana High Court." The complaint was filed by lawyer Rajat Kalsan at the Hansi police station. AGENCIES

Chhetri lauds youngsters

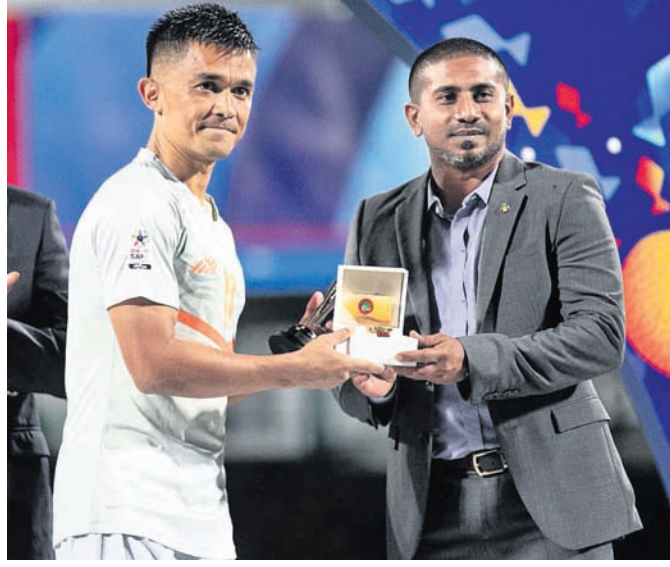
Skipper says winning SAFF title was special after 2 back-to-back drawn games

AGENCIES:

Male, Oct 17: Talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri played a pivotal role in India's eighth SAFF Championships title triumph by scoring five goals in the tournament. However, he credited the young brigade for team's title triumph. The goals also helped Chhetri become the second joint highest international goalscorer in the world with Lionel Messi.

"Look at the youngsters - it feels good for all of them. It's all due to their hard work. We were here for 20 days till the final, staying on an island, riding the waves every day for practice sessions and matches," Chhetri said in a release from the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

"We made it special as we were not so good in the first two games. It was tough from there to come up and play the way we did," added Chhetri after his third triumph in the SAFF Championship as a player. He



STILL GOING STRONG: Sunil Chhetri accepts the man of the match trophy from a dignitary Saturday after the final against Nepal

was referring to the matches against Bangladesh (1-1) and Sri Lanka (0-0) in the group stage.

"We didn't start like we should have, but ended exactly how we wanted to. Proud of this bunch

Youngsters motivate me and that keeps me going. I still have something left in the tank for Team India

SUNIL CHHETRI

and the way we got things on track," Chhetri later said in a tweet.

India beat Nepal 3-0 in the final Saturday. Chhetri got one, but was all praise of the other two Indian goal-getters - Suresh Singh and Sahal Abdul Samad. He asserted that the two youngsters should make it a habit of scoring goals in every game they play. "It is not always possible, but even then they should try for goals in every match. Make it a habit," said the captain.

Head coach Igor Stimac, who was banned from the dugout in the summit clash after being red carded in the earlier league match against Maldives, let the players take centre stage. "The boys have been magnificent," Stimac stated.

Spurs beat Newcastle in thrilling encounter

AGENCIES

London, Oct 17: Harry Kane scored as Tottenham Hotspur defeated Newcastle United in a thrilling encounter Sunday. The other goals for the Spurs were scored by Tanguy Ndombele and Son Heung-min. Callum Wilson score the only Newcastle goal while the other came from an own strike by Eric Dier.

Earlier Saturday manager Thomas Tuchel saluted Edouard Mendy as the Chelsea goalkeeper's superb display sealed a hard-fought 1-0 win Saturday at Brentford. The win enabled Chelsea to regain their top spot in the points table and



Edouard Mendy

Ben Chilwell's fiercely-struck goal in first half added on time was enough to give Chelsea their sixth win in eight league games.

But Chelsea had to rely on a series of fine saves from Mendy to get all the three points.

LOT TO PLAY FOR

TEAM INDIA EYE PROPER COMBINATION AHEAD OF PAK GAME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 17: All-rounder Hardik Pandya's form and few batting slots will be foremost on captain Virat Kohli's mind as India look to make the most of the two T20 World Cup warm-up matches here. The first of the two will played Monday against England.

All the Indian players are coming straight from the recently-concluded IPL-2021. So match practice isn't a problem for Kohli and his men but getting the perfect combination on the park before the high-profile opening game against Pakistan October 24 is a priority.

Against England and Wednesday's game versus Australia, the Indian team management would look to give the players who are still not automatic choices in the playing XI, more overs to bat or bowl to get a better idea about their current form.

Vice-captain Rohit Sharma is a certainty at the top but it would be a tough choice between Ishan Kishan and KL Rahul as his opening partner. However, chances are that India would go in with Rahul because he is in good nick at present. He has scored 626 runs in the IPL.

The other question doing the

BCCI seeks head coach, support staff

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Amid reports that Rahul Dravid is set to take over as the coach of the Indian men's cricket team, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) invited Sunday applications for the role of head coach, batting coach, bowling coach, fielding coach with Team India. The post of Head Sports Science/Medicine with the National Cricket Academy (NCA) was also advertised.

The BCCI issued a release Sunday in which it said that applications for the position of head coach should be submitted by 5pm (IST) October 26. Applications for all the other roles will have to be submitted by November 3.

In the media release, the BCCI said that it has invited applications for the following posts. They are head coach (Team India - Senior Men), batting coach (senior men), bowling coach (senior men), fielding coach (senior men) and Head, Sports Science/Medicine with NCA.

There had been reports a couple of days back that Dravid had agreed to become the next India coach after Ravi Shastri's tenure ends following the upcoming T20 World Cup. However, BCCI wants to go about the selection of the coach in a professional manner. That is the reason why applications have been invited. Dravid will also have to appear in front of a special committee for an interview.

Kohli in the dark

India skipper Virat Kohli however, is still in the dark about Dravid's appointment as head coach of the Indian team. Kohli was Saturday asked about the appointment of Dravid. "No idea exactly what's happening on that front. No detailed discussion with anyone yet," he had said.

It should also be stated here that Dravid's annual salary will be more than Kohli's annual contract with the BCCI. As a Grade A player, Kohli gets ₹7 crore annually Dravid's annual salary will be ₹10 crore, sources said.

Scotland stun listless Bangla

AGENCIES

Al Amerat (Oman), Oct 17: Scotland sprung a huge surprise in their inaugural match of the T20 World Cup defeating Bangladesh by six runs here Sunday. Chris Greaves (45 and 2/19) was the star of the show as he inspired a Scottish triumph. Scotland after being put in, scored 140 for nine and then restricted the opposition to 134 for seven.

In an earlier match played in the day, Oman thrashed Papua New Guinea (PNG) by 10 wickets after restricting the latter to 129 for nine. Ludhiana-born Jatinder Singh smashed an unbeaten 73 (42b, 7x4, 4x6) to take his side to victory.




ACTIVA

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