



IN A DIFFERENT LEAGUE

Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she wants to do films that portray women with a lot of dignity

LEISURE P2



GROWING CHALLENGE

People ate breakfast by the light of smartphones as cities across China enforced power cuts to meet conservation targets

INTERNATIONAL P10



RIVALRY RENEWS

India Women, Australia Women renew Test rivalry after 15 years with landmark day-night match, starting today

SPORTS P12

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SI SUSPENDED OVER BALANGA PS BLAST

Puri: A sub-inspector of police was Wednesday placed under suspension on the charge of dereliction of duty in the Balanga Police Station explosion case in Puri district, an officer said. Sub-Inspector Tapoi Nayak, who was in charge of the Malkhana (storeroom) of Balanga Police Station, has been suspended by Puri SP KV Singh after the preliminary inquiry conducted by Puri Additional Superintendent of Police Purnachandra Pradhan. "The investigation so far indicated that the explosive materials seized by police since 2018, were stored at the malkhana instead of being defused immediately," Pradhan said. The Monday night explosion caused severe damage to the Balanga police station building. Though many documents, computers and other essential items were damaged in the explosion, fortunately there was no report of human casualty.

LAXMANANANDA MURDER ACCUSED GETS BAIL



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Wednesday granted bail to Udaya, one of the accused in the murder case of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in Kandhamal district in 2008. A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar heard the bail application filed by Udaya and granted him bail. Earlier, a special leave petition (SLP) was filed by Udaya, a co-accused in the murder of Swami Laxmanananda, seeking suspension of his sentence and bail. The SLP was filed against the order of Orissa High Court dated January 28 this year wherein the High Court had dismissed a petition seeking suspension of his sentence.

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PIPLI GOES TO BYPOLL TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: The much awaited bypoll to Pipli Assembly constituency in Puri district will be conducted Thursday with strict adherence to the Covid-19 protocols. Over 2.29 lakh voters will exercise their franchise at 348 booths between 7 am and 6 pm.

"All polling parties with required voting machines and other documents have reached their polling stations and the booths have been sanitized today and will be sanitized tomorrow," said Puri Collector Samarth Verma.

There are 201 sensitive (critical) polling stations in the constituency where central armed police force, micro observers, and webcasting are being done, he said. This time, there are 20 model booths, where various initiatives are being taken to welcome the voters, Verma said.

To ensure smooth election, 25 platoons of state police force along with three companies of CAPF supervised by 35 senior officers in the rank of SP/Addl SP/ DSP/ Inspector have been made.

In addition to this, 163 SIs/DSIs/Dy Subedars/ASIs/HMs and 736 Havildars/Constables/APRs/HGs have been deployed.

A total of six flying squads/static surveillance teams have been formed for proper monitoring with a view to ensuring free and fair byelection, a police official said.

About 2200 polling personnel will be engaged for the bypoll including the staff deployed to ensure implementation of Covid-19 appropriate behaviours at polling booths, officials said.

The bypoll, necessitated by the death of sitting BJD MLA Pradeep Maharathy, was initially scheduled for April 17. However, it was countermanded in the aftermath of the death of Congress candidate Ajit Mangaraj April 14.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If you wanted to fight for truth, why did you join politics?

DRDO ESPIONAGE

Int'pol to help track down mystery female

The state crime branch has obtained the photograph of the woman operative along with her video footage from video calls with the accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: The Odisha Police, which is probing the espionage case at DRDO's Interim Test Range (ITR), Tuesday said it will take the help of Interpol through central agencies to reach the mysterious woman who had allegedly engaged five ITR employees in leaking defence information to a foreign agent.

The additional director general of Odisha Police crime branch, Sanjeev Panda said the photograph of the woman operative has been obtained along with her video footage from video calls with the accused persons. "We will establish contact with the Interpol to track down the mysterious lady handler who had been eliciting information from the five accused," he said.

Panda also informed media it is an established procedure to seek information from foreign countries and agencies outside India through Interpol.

The probe agency has obtained proof that the mysterious woman had managed to hack the mobile phone of one of the accused for around eight months and kept tab on his activities. She had also managed to steal vital information about the ITR, Chandipur, Panda said.

The Odisha government may seek further custody of the five

accused persons, who are now in judicial custody, after verification of certain documents, he added.

One of the accused has received ₹38,000 in two installments from Dubai. "However, we have to establish whether the money came from the bank account of the woman or from someone else," he said.

He claimed it is hard to tell to which country the mysterious lady belongs as the accused informed during interrogation that she used to speak in Hindi.

The woman had used a UK SIM card to contact the five employees of the Defense Research and Development Organisation who were arrested September 14 and 16 for allegedly passing on vital defense related information to foreign agencies in lieu of money and other promises, including that of marriage.

The woman posing as a resident of Balasore district spoke to the five accused, unknown to each other and stayed connected with them using seven Facebook accounts under different names, besides WhatsApp, Panda had said earlier.

She frequently video-called two of the accused and even gave marriage proposals to them. The woman had also invited one of them to 'her residence' in Chandipur; he had said on the alleged honey-trap angle to the espionage case.

Meanwhile, the intelligence wing of the Indian Air Force has interrogated the five accused persons during their police remand. Two National Investigating Agency officers had visited the ITR and discussed the issue of security at the DRDO establishment from where major missiles are test fired.



RESCUE MISSION



Indian Navy and Coast Guard men carry out a medical evacuation on the high seas using an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) from Merchant Vessel MV Lyric Poet off Kochi, Tuesday. A Phillipino male crew of the vessel was timely lifted and admitted to a hospital.

Punjab potboiler: Captain meets Shah, sets off buzz

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 29: Amid speculations, former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Wednesday evening called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The meeting is underway at Shah's official residence here.

Since Tuesday, there has been speculation going on about a likely meeting between the two leaders. Singh's media advisor Raveen Thukral, however, denied his meeting with Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda, saying he's on a personal visit to Delhi to meet some friends.

"Too much being read into @capt_amarinder's visit to Delhi. He's on a personal visit, during which he'll meet some friends and also vacate Kapurthala house for the new CM. No need for any unnecessary speculation," Thukral had said in a tweet.

Later in the evening, Singh also said he is on personal visit. There is also speculation that former Punjab Chief Minister, who was recently asked to resign, may join



the saffron party. The BJP leaders, however, are tightlipped about Singh joining the party. A party leader said that any decision will be taken only by the central leadership and it will be appropriately communicated to everyone, if it happens.

Sources said the main agenda of discussion is ongoing farmers' protest in Punjab and the political situation in the state.

"Singh can play an important role in placating the farmers, who are protesting against three farm laws for the last ten months, and also convince them to end the ongoing protest. Political situation in the state will also be discussed," sources said.

Channi reaches out to Sidhu

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi Wednesday reached out to a miffed Navjot Singh Sidhu and offered to resolve issues through talks, a day after the former cricketer resigned as the state Congress chief.

Meanwhile, efforts are on to placate Sidhu as several party leaders met him at his residence in Patiala. Channi also said the party is supreme and the government follows its ideology. Channi said, "The (state) president is a head of the party. The head is to sit in the family (party)." "I have spoken to Sidhu sahab over telephone today. The party is supreme and the government accepts the party's ideology and follows that. You come, sit and talk," he said.



ACF DEATH PROBE

Polygraph reports submitted to CB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: The state crime branch probing the mysterious death of Assistant Conservator of Forest of Paralakhemundi Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra has received the reports of the polygraph tests conducted on the accused, Sangram Keshari Behera, Divisional Forest Officer of Gajapati, the deceased's wife, Bidya Bharati and cook Manmath Kumbha at the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) here.

Speaking to the media, Crime Branch ADG Sanjeev Panda Wednesday revealed that the SFSL has already submitted the lie detection test reports to the CB.

The investigating officers examining the reports will match the statements during the polygraph test with the statements given to the police by the accused. Though the test reports are not admissible in courts as evidence, it can provide vital leads to the police who are still groping in dark even more than two months after the incident happened.

Earlier, the crime branch carried out polygraph tests on DFO Behera and Kumbha and Bharati at the forensic laboratory in Rasulgurh here September 18 and September 20 respectively. More than 100 questions were asked to Behera during the three-hour long polygraph test, the source added.

The deceased ACF's father, Abhiram Mohapatra, had earlier lodged an FIR against Bidya Bharati, Behera and the cook, alleging that the trio was involved in the alleged murder. As there was gross mismatch in statements of the three earlier recorded by Paralakhemundi police and more recently by the CB, the police conducted the lie detection tests on them.



CPEC in doldrums, no work done in last 3 years

Chinese upset with the present dispensation of Pakistan as out of 77 CPEC projects, just 15 could be completed since it was started in 2015

AGENCIES

Islamabad/New Delhi, Sept 29: Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Standing Committee on Planning Salim Mandviwala recently said the Chinese Ambassador and companies had complained about the slow pace of work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. "They are crying. Chinese Ambassador has complained to me that you (Pakistan) have destroyed the CPEC and no work was done in the past three years," he disclosed.

Chinese are very angry with the

present dispensation of Pakistan led by Imran Khan. Out of 77 CPEC projects in the country, just 15 could be completed since it was started in 2015, according to media reports. Even Pakistan's Planning and Development Minister Asad Omar accepted the fact that Pakistan could complete the only first phase of the CPEC and is entering into the second phase.

In a hurriedly-called press conference recently to dispel the impression of slowing down CPEC, the Minister claimed the major work on the corridor projects had been completed during the tenure of the current PTI government. However, Umar observed that security threats had increased in the country because of opposition by international powers to the CPEC and the latest situation in



Afghanistan.

"Security threat is elevated," he said adding that no doubt development on the CPEC was looked upon with aversion by big global powers who wanted to sow disension in the country. The challenges are also there because of the uncertain Afghan situation. "So there are not only security

challenges, but these are at an elevated level," he quipped.

The CPEC is a part of China's most ambitious project Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aimed at renewing the country's historic trade routes in the coastal countries of southeast Asia. In 2015, China announced the 'China Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC) proj-

ect which is worth over \$60 billion. With the CPEC, Beijing aims to expand its influence in Pakistan and across Central and South Asia to counter the influence of the US and India.

The CPEC would link Pakistan's southern Gwadar port (626 kilometres west of Karachi) in Balochistan on the Arabian Sea to China's western Xinjiang region. It also includes plans to create road, rail, and oil pipeline links to improve connectivity between China and the Middle East. The CPEC is part of the BRI initiative has been introduced as a geo-strategy of China to get control on the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), expand access to the Middle East and Central Asian Region, and most particularly to encircle India and its energy supplies.

MARKET WATCH

| INDEX | SENSEX | NIIFTY | DOLLAR | EURO | GOLD | SILVER | | | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|------|---------|-------|
| 59413.27 | 254.33 | 17711.30 | 37.30 | 74.47 | ₹0.15 | 86.32 | ₹0.34 | ₹45,628 | ₹225 | ₹58,324 | ₹2140 |

WEATHER

| | BHUB | CTK |
|----------|--------|--------|
| MAX | 31.0°C | 31.6°C |
| MIN | 24.7°C | 24.5°C |
| Humidity | 92% | 91% |
| Rainfall | 0.2mm | Nil |

Forecast: Light rain very likely

leisure



HELENA BONHAM CARTER TO RETURN FOR ENOLA HOLMES 2

Actress Helena Bonham Carter will rejoin stars Millie Bobby Brown and Henry Cavill for a new *Enola Holmes* mystery from Netflix. The films tell the story of Enola, the rebellious teen sister of Sherlock Holmes, a gifted super-sleuth in her own right who often outsmarts her famous siblings.

ROMANCE IS AT THE HEART OF NO TIME TO DIE: LEA

Actress Lea Seydoux, who plays the love interest of the suave spy James Bond in the upcoming film *No Time To Die*, has shared that romance plays a key role in the movie. "It's much more emotional this time. And it's the love story with James Bond that is in the centre of the film," Seydoux told *The I.*



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The day may start with a dilemma, but that's exactly how your skills will come into play. As evening approaches, you will be applauded for your outstanding performance. If Ganesha is particularly generous today, you may sign new agreements.

TAURUS
Priorities and money matters will line up impatiently to knock on your door (and desk). Your financial constraints will get an outburst today. People may be taken by surprise with the way you get poignant.

GEMINI
Today, you will get an opportunity to rejuvenate yourself with seamless energy. How? Ganesha's guess is that you will find — or at least you will believe that you have found — your purpose in life. It will keep you excited throughout the day, and maybe even for days to come.

CANCER
You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advantage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesha.

LEO
You are blessed with a visionary's creative streak. Perhaps, that's why, you see things differently from others. Today, thanks to the stars, your creative side will surge forth with renewed vigour. You will generate ideas effortlessly and continuously as you reach your creative peak.

VIRGO
Ganesha says today you will be highly motivated. Your creative talents and abilities set you apart as an excellent artist. Words will flow if you give vent to your creativity, and if you choose to sing or dance, you will be the focus of attention. Ganesha advises you to pursue the performing arts or writing as hobbies.

LIBRA
There are many kinds of worries that you must equip yourself to deal with. To do this, you may have to learn and follow the basic steps of problem-analysing techniques. The steps involve obtaining facts, analysing them and then arriving at a decision based upon your observations.

SCORPIO
Ganesha feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baffle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
A day of full of caution, warns Ganesha. There are chances that your heart will find its partner, forcing you to fall in love. You may be cupid's next prey. However, watch your steps, as the initial stages of a relationship may be fragile and need to be handled with care.

CAPRICORN
You are busy as a beaver. It is extremely difficult for you to think for yourself as you are all tied up by the demands of your work. You want to be creative, but again, the workload will not let you have that freedom, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
You will hit the bull's eye, today. From the smallest to the biggest, all of your plans will turn into reality. Don't get disheartened if there are some obstacles on your path; you are fully armed to face the challenges and come out triumphant. Get yourself in the top gear, you will surely succeed, says Ganesha.

PISCES
A reckless attitude is the root cause of any downfall. Ensure responsible behavior and actions at every step at your workplace, today, suggests Ganesha. Be alert and focused and you will be able to dodge any incoming trouble. Today is a day of materialization and the projects and other things that you have been working on since a long time will draw close to completion and begin to pay off.

Bhumi wants films that portray women correctly

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar says she wants to do films that portray women correctly and she is thankful to the directors she has collaborated with because they shared the same vision for societal change.

Bhumi started her journey in Hindi cinema with the hit film *Dum Laga Ke Haisha* in

2015. She was then seen in films such as *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*, *Son Chiriya*, *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*, *Bala*, and *Sandh Ki Aankh* among others.

The actress is now looking forward to her upcoming line up, which includes *Mr. Lele*, *Badhaai Do* and *Raksha Bandhan*. The actress said: "I have always been super confident of my film choices. I have always wanted them to be different and unique, preferably with a message and most importantly portray women correctly."

Bhumi added: "As a woman, I feel it is my duty to choose scripts that portray women with a lot of dignity. I'm happy that I have got the chance to play such characters due to the fantastic scripts that have come my way."

The actress feels 'hugely fortunate' that she has got directors who had an amazing vision of portraying women in a certain way that impacts society positively.



Big B shares what Anand did for him

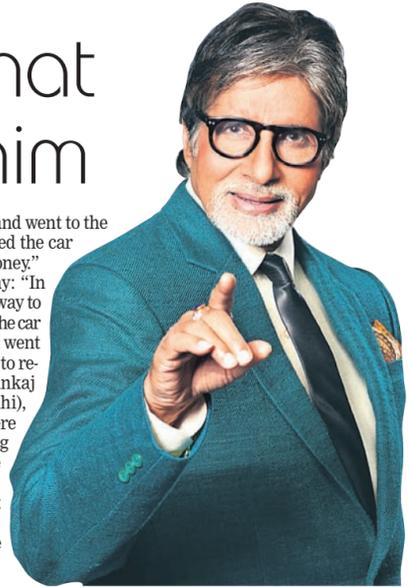
Mumbai: In the upcoming episode of *Kaun Banega Crorepati 13's Shaandaar Shukravaar*, host and megastar Amitabh Bachchan shares the turning point in his life and his road to success after which he was accepted as an actor in the industry.

He will be seen conversing with guests Pankaj Tripathi and Pratik Gandhi about the time when he saw people locking their eyes at him at a petrol pump.

He shares his experience when he first witnessed people gawking at him in awe because of his performance in films. He says: "I had finished working on the film *Anand* and it had been released. The day it was to be released, I'd taken my friend's car because I didn't have one and neither had the money to fill the petrol. I had to borrow 5 to

10 rupees from someone and went to the nearby petrol station, filled the car tank and paid him the money."

Amitabh goes on to say: "In the morning, I was on my way to shoot for another film and the car ran out of petrol. Again, I went to the same petrol station to refuel. Sir (referring to Pankaj Tripathi and Pratik Gandhi), when I came to refuel, there were 4 to 5 people standing and watching. Because the film, *Anand* was released. That's when I realised that people have started recognising me and that I've done something right."



Nushratt only Indian actress nominated at Busan Film Fest

Mumbai: Nushratt Bharuccha is the only Indian female actor to earn a nomination for Best Actress at the Asian Contents Awards (ACA) by the Busan Film International Festival, South Korea.

Nushratt, who starred in the short film titled *Khilauna*

directed by Raj Mehta, as part of the anthology *Ajeeb Daastaans* produced by Dharmatic Entertainment, garnered much praise for her performance when the film was released on Netflix worldwide earlier this year. Continuing the same graph, being recognised by the Asian

Contents Awards 2021 adds another feather to the cap. ACA is the commitment of Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) to encourage more original productions and better creatives by recognising outstanding content and talented professionals in the Asian region.



Songstress Amika Shail gears up for Intention

Mumbai: Singer-turned-actress Amika Shail has completed shooting for the first schedule of the web film titled *Intention*. As the actress is finding her space on OTT, she says such platforms are giving a chance to tell stories that are otherwise non-conventional and do not get visibility in mainstream feature films.

Talking about the film Amika said, "This film is an edge of the seat thriller that will keep the viewers hooked as to what may happen at the very next moment. The story is very fresh, and it's about three friends who have been contracted for theft - but end up getting trapped in the house they entered to rob, and get murdered one by one. I am sure that the viewers are going to enjoy every moment of it."

The actress who was last seen in Alt Balaji's show *Hai Taubba: Chapter 3* essaying a pivotal role said, "The best part of the OTT boom is that non-conventional stories are getting a great platform to be showcased."

Intention also features Ali Asgar, Rahul Dev, Brahma Mishra, and Ruslaan Mumtaa, among others.

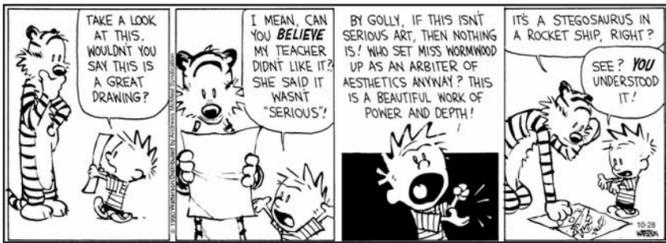


FUN post

PEANUTS



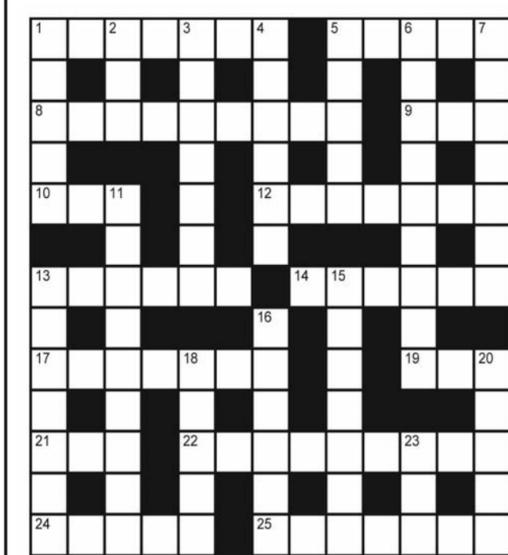
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



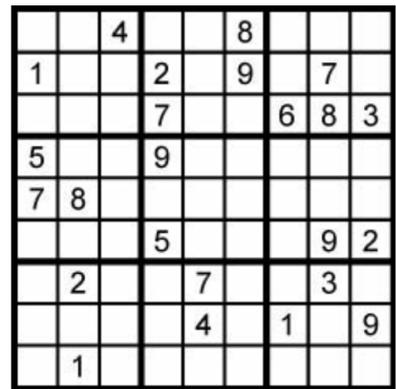
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Mexican band instruments
 - 5 Like a yurt
 - 8 Getting better (2,3,4)
 - 9 Theatre sign
 - 10 Even so
 - 12 Dais
 - 13 Take chances
 - 14 Pub
 - 17 Strong current
 - 19 Patsy
 - 21 Merino mother
 - 22 Never-ending story (4,5)
 - 24 Pick up the tab
 - 25 Postpone
 - 4 Gardener's tool
 - 5 Extinct flightless birds
 - 6 Salad ingredients
 - 7 Hotel employee
 - 11 Watch
 - 13 Bikini, e.g.
 - 15 Passionate
 - 16 Bicycle parts
 - 18 Atlas feature
 - 20 Tartan
 - 23 Dutch city
- Down**
- 1 Saturnine
 - 2 Decay
 - 3 Billiard item (3,4)

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

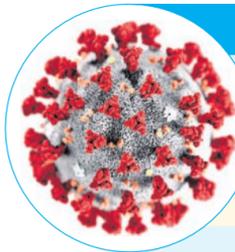


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



HONOURED

I-T Commissioner and former Culture Secretary Manoranjan Panigrahy being felicitated at an event organised by the State Archives in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 23,36,96,747 | 21,05,32,824 | 47,81,809 |
| India | 3,37,16,451 | 3,29,86,180 | 4,47,751 |
| Odisha | 10,25,874 | 10,12,583 | 8,192 |

Norms flouted at Balanga PS

PROBE REVEALED THAT THE EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS SEIZED BY POLICE SINCE 2018 WERE STORED AT THE MALKHANA INSTEAD OF BEING DEFUSED IMMEDIATELY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Sept 29: A sub-inspector of police was Wednesday placed under suspension on the charge of dereliction of duty in the Balanga police station explosion case in Puri district, an officer said.

Sub-Inspector Tapoi Nayak, who was in charge of the Malkhana (storeroom) of Balanga police station, has been suspended by Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) KV Singh after the preliminary inquiry conducted by Puri Additional Superintendent of Police Purnachandra Pradhan.

"The investigation so far indicated that the explosive materials seized by police since 2018, were stored at the Malkhana instead of being defused immediately," Pradhan said.

The Monday night explosion caused severe damage to the Balanga police station building. Though many documents, computers and other essential items were damaged in the explosion, fortunately



there was no report of human casualty as the police personnel were deployed on byelection duty in Pipli Assembly segment.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Central Range, Narasingha Bhola, who visited the mishap site, had ordered an inquiry headed by the Puri ASP. The IGP also directed

to set up a temporary camp police station at Balanga till the building is repaired. The incident also sparked a political row between the ruling BJD and the opposition BJP which alleged that the explosion was created to destabilise the ongoing byelection process in Pipli Assembly segment. At least four

gram panchayats (GPs) under Balanga police station jurisdiction come under Pipli Assembly segment where the bypoll is scheduled to take place Thursday.

The opposition party also demanded massive deployment of central forces in Pipli as BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra

Puri SP KV Singh suspended SI Tapoi Nayak, who was in charge of the Malkhana, following the preliminary inquiry conducted by Puri Additional SP Purnachandra Pradhan

alleged that the local police were in hand in gloves with the anti-social elements to disturb the election process in Pipli.

A delegation led by Patra also met Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) SK Lohani and lodged formal complaint demanding proper security for the polling stations and voters as they suspected violence by the ruling BJD supporters.

Meanwhile, the administration has deployed about 2,000 security personnel including three companies (300 jawans) of BSF for the smooth conduct of the bypoll at Pipli Assembly segment.

Prefab Covid hosps in state by March

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: In a bid to scale up health infrastructure for Covid-19, the state government has decided to construct 6-bed, 20-bed and 50-bed prefab structures at several public health facilities under Emergency Covid Response Plan-II (ECRP-II) in the state.

Following the request of the state Health department, the Works department has directed the chief engineer (buildings) to take immediate steps for execution of the projects.

The Works department would construct the 6, 20 and 50-bed prefab Covid care structures at different healthcare facilities at an investment of around Rs 140 crore in the state before March 2022.

In a letter to Works secretary Krishan Kumar, National Health Mission (NHM) director Shalini Pandit said, "Efforts should be made to ensure that there is no duplication in procurement being done by various agencies at state-level. All procurement should be undertaken through GeM using the resources under ECRP-II - a mandatory condition."

The Works department has been asked to construct prefab Covid care structures at an investment of around ₹140 crore before March 2022

The Union government has approved Rs 789.65 crore under ECRP-II for Odisha, of which the state will bear a matching share (40 per cent) of Rs 344.78 crore.

Along with the prefab structures, the government has approved Rs 74.14 crore under the plan for establishment of dedicated paediatric care units, Rs 5 crore for paediatric care units at medical college and hospitals, nearly Rs 95 crore for Covid tests and Rs 176 crore for setting up of field hospitals.

The Centre in July released 15 per cent of the total funds, which will be released in instalments.

The Centre has asked the state to submit a monthly physical and financial progress report on the utilisation of funds.

49,279 allotted ranks in OJEE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Minister of Skill Development and Technical Education Premananda Nayak Wednesday declared the results of Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE-2021) which revealed that 49,279 candidates have been allotted ranks.

The minister released the results booklet at 5:30pm in the presence of the Principal Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary of SDTE department, the Chairman and Secretary of OJEE and others.

This year, altogether 65,763 candidates had registered for the examination, while 49,360 (75%) appeared for the test. Out of these, 49,279 candidates have been allotted ranks in corresponding courses as per their performance in the examination.

Laxmi Priya Senapati has emerged as the topper in B.Pharm while Pinkinarani Sahoo allotted the highest rank in LE-TECH (Dip). Similarly Deepak Sa secured the top rank in LE-TECH (BSc), Gunakara Sahu in LE-Pharm, Piyush

Chanduka in B TECH (Special), Ashutosh Rath in MBA, Nishikanta Parida in MCA, Soumyaa Sahoo in Civil Engineering, Satyabrata Sahoo in Electrical Engineering, Malaya Kumar Ojha in Mechanical Engineering, Soumya Sanket Patra in Computer Sc Engg/IT.

This year, the OJEE - 2021 was held during September 6-18, with adherence to all Covid-19 guidelines.

The examination was held for various technical/professional courses like BTech, LE-Tech (Dip), LE-Tech (BSc), BPharm, MBA, MCA, Int MBA, LE-Pharm, MPharm, MArch, MPlan and MTech (11 specialisations) running in different government and private institutions/universities of the state for the academic year 2021-22.

The entrance test was conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for all the courses. This year, for the first time, test centres were set up in all the 30 districts of the state. Altogether 57 test centres had been opened in the state while three other centres were opened in cities outside Odisha - Kolkata, Ranchi and Patna.



CIVIC APATHY

Water from a standpost flows out in Mata Matha area of Cuttack even as the wall on its backdrop spreads awareness on saving every precious drop of the nature's greatest gift to the mankind

DERECOGNITION OF ODISIA AS SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Protect interest of Odias in J'khand: LoP to Naveen

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Odisha Assembly Pradipta Kumar Naik Wednesday urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to protect the interest of Odia speaking people in Jharkhand after the neighbouring state government's decided to withdraw Odia as its second language.

In his letter to Naveen, Naik said that a host of organisations in Saraikela, Kharsawan, and East as well as West Singhbhum districts of Jharkhand have protested after the Jharkhand government decided to withdraw the second language status to Odia.

They also highlighted the issue with the Jharkhand Governor, but to no avail.

In 2011, the Jharkhand government had accorded second language status to Odia language, the LoP added.

"Around 70 per cent of the people in these areas speak Odia and the decision of the Jharkhand government to withdraw the second language status to Odia will adversely affect the Odia speaking people living there," Naik said, urging Naveen to take early steps so as to protect the interest of the Odia people.

Every citizen of the country has a constitutional right to study in his/her mother tongue and the decision of the Jharkhand government to withdraw the second language status to Odia is unconstitutional and undemocratic, the BJP leader tweeted, describing the Jharkhand government's decision as a conspiracy to alienate

the Odias from their roots. Meanwhile, Odisha School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said that he



We will discuss and ensure that Odia students are taught in their mother tongue in Jharkhand. If need be, we will request our Chief Minister to take up the matter with his Jharkhand counterpart

SAMIR RANJAN DASH | ODISHA S&ME MINISTER

would interact with his counterpart in Jharkhand to safeguard the interests of the Odias there.

Dash said that Odisha government has cordial relationship with its Jharkhand counterpart.

"We will discuss and ensure that Odia students are taught in their mother tongue in Jharkhand. If need be, we will request our Chief Minister to take up the matter with his Jharkhand counterpart," the S&ME Minister said.

Roll back decision, says Utkal Sammilani



Members of Utkal Sammilani Wednesday staged a sit-in under the statue of Utkal Gourab Madhusudhan Das near Raj Bhawan here condemning Jharkhand government's move to abolish Odia, which was earlier accorded the second official language status of the neighbouring state.

Utkal Sammilani president Dillip Dashsharma said that the decision of abolish Odia language by Jharkhand government is a big disgrace for the state and for the all the Odias staying there.

He said that Jharkhand government should be requested to withdraw the decision as 90 per cent people of Saraikela and Kharsawan areas in Singhbhum district are Odias. Besides, Odias constitute a sizeable population in

Jharkhand. The decision can impact the Odia speaking people in Jharkhand and will have a bearing on the relationship between the two states.

"We urged Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemanta Soren, Union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to hold discussions on the issue and abort the move to abolish Odia as second official language.

Earlier, contrary to assurances from powers that be in Jharkhand to accord second language status to Odia, the School and Mass Education department of the state had decided to abolish the language from the curriculum much to the chagrin of Odia people living in the neighbouring state. Meanwhile, Yuva Odisha pres-

ident Tejeswar Parida had requested Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi to visit Ranchi and meet the ministers and officials apart from holding talks with several Odia outfits in that state to build pressure on the government to withdraw the move.

Earlier, the Jharkhand Cabinet had also dropped Hindi and Sanskrit from the list of mandatory languages that candidates appearing for exams conducted by the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) for Grade III and IV government jobs have to clear, the decision had sparked controversy in Jharkhand.

Odisha and Jharkhand had longstanding border disputes owing to change in course of River Baitarani.

Laxmanananda case: Accused gets SC bail

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 29: The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday granted bail to Udaya, one of the accused in the murder case of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in Kandhamal district in 2008.

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar heard the bail application filed by Udaya and granted him bail.

Earlier, a special leave petition (SLP) was filed by Udaya, a co-accused in the murder of Swami Laxmanananda, seeking suspension of his sentence and bail. The SLP was filed against the order of Orissa High Court dated January 28 this year wherein the High Court had dismissed a petition seeking suspension of his sentence.

The petitioner submitted that he has been in jail for 10 years without parole and pleaded the apex court to grant him bail. Earlier, the SC had granted bail to seven accused - Munda Badamanjhi, Bhaskar Sanamajhi, Durjyodhan Sunamajhi, Sanatan Badamanjhi, Budhadev Naik, Bijaya Kumar Sanaseth and Garnath Challanseth - in connection with the murder of Swamiji in 2019.

It was submitted in the petition that Udaya was wrongly framed in the case. The petitioner's counsel submitted that police couldn't prove the seizure of the pistol, which was used in the killings, from the possession of Udaya. It was further contended that the statements of witnesses, the trial court relied upon while passing the order of life imprisonment, are contradictory.



An SLP was filed by Udaya, a co-accused in the murder of Swami Laxmanananda, seeking suspension of his sentence and bail

It was submitted in the petition that Udaya was wrongly framed in the case

The petitioner's counsel submitted that police couldn't prove the seizure of the pistol, which was used in the killings, from the possession of Udaya

It is to be mentioned here that Saraswati and four of his aides were killed at his ashram at Jaleshpata in Kandhamal district August 23, 2008. The murders triggered communal violence in the state, in which at least 38 people were killed.

The state police had arrested seven people in connection with the incident and filed a chargesheet against them in 2009. The police had filed a supplementary chargesheet in 2011 accusing another seven people including Udaya in the murder case. A court in the state had in 2013 convicted seven persons in the murder case. In another order passed by the Phulbani court in October 2013, Udaya was convicted and imprisoned for life.

State administers 3cr vax doses

Three held for burgling lady OAS officer's house

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Odisha Wednesday registered 565 new Covid-19 cases taking the state's tally to 10,25,874, while five fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,192, a Health department official said.

Odisha also achieved another milestone in its fight against the pandemic as the state administered over 3 crore vaccine doses including over 82 lakh beneficiaries being fully inoculated.

Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "Glad to share that #Odisha has crossed yet another significant milestone in the fight against #COVID19 by administering 3 crore vaccines doses. Commend the hard work & commitment of our healthcare workers in ensuring a swift vaccination to save precious lives (sic)."

The state had launched the vaccination drive January 16 this year and targets to complete the inoculation programme by December 31. Of the state's 4.5 crore population, the government has set a target to inoculate 3.09 crore people in

OF COVID CASES, FATALITIES IN ODISHA

THE STATE'S DAILY TEST POSITIVITY RATE (TPR) WEDNESDAY STANDS AT 0.96 PER CENT AS 565 CASES GAVE POSITIVE RESULT OUT OF 58,635 SAMPLES TESTED IN TUESDAY



Khurda and Cuttack districts together accounted for 56 per cent of the new infections while five districts—Boudh, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Subarnapur—did not report any new cases in the last 24 hours. Odisha has reported 6,308 Covid deaths during the second wave against 1,876 the previous year. Odisha has thus far conducted over 1.99 crore sample tests while the state's positivity rate stands at 5.15 per cent

Glad to share that #Odisha has crossed yet another significant milestone in the fight against #COVID19 by administering 3 crore vaccines doses. Commend the hard work & commitment of our healthcare workers in ensuring a swift vaccination to save precious lives

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

the age of 18 years or above, an official said.

Meanwhile, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said that the new 565 fresh Covid-19 cases included 63 children and adolescents below 18 years of age in the last 24 hours. The

rate of infection in the age group of 0 to 18 years now stands at 11.15 per cent.

The state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) Wednesday stands at 0.96 per cent as 565 cases gave positive result out of 58,635 samples tested in Tuesday.

Khurda district, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest 256 fresh infections, followed by Cuttack (61), Balasore (28) and Jajpur (28). With this, the Covid-19 tally in the state reached 10,25,874.

Khurda and Cuttack districts

together accounted for 56 per cent of the new infections while five districts—Boudh, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Subarnapur—did not report any new cases in the last 24 hours.

The five fresh fatalities were reported from Khurda (two) and one each from Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur and Puri.

This took the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,192. The state has reported 6,308 Covid deaths during the second wave against 1,876 the previous year.

While an average of 66 deaths were reported in August, it was 61 in July and 42 in June.

As many as 2,056 fatalities were registered in August while it was 1,903 in July, 1,272 in June and 737 in May, H&FW department sources said.

The state now has 5,513 active Covid-19 cases while 10,12,116 patients including 634 Tuesday have so far recovered from the highly infectious disease.

Odisha has thus far conducted over 1.99 crore sample tests while the state's positivity rate stands at 5.15 per cent.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: The Commissionerate Police Wednesday arrested three persons on charges of burgling the house of a lady OAS officer at Delta Colony recently.

The accused were identified as Mantu Nayak, 25, and Pintan Nayak, 22, of Jhumpudia in Bhapur area of Dhenkanal district and Saban Nayak, 26, of Dasapalla area of Nayagarh district.

The accused are residing at Mundasahi slum of Nilakantha Nagar area under Nayapalli police limits.

According to police, complainant Sonali Subhadarshinee lodged a complaint with Khandagiri police alleging that she found the gate and windows of her residences open and many valuables stolen August 30 when she returned from the office.

The victim had earlier lodged another complaint regarding theft of cash and ornaments August 19,

The accused were identified as Mantu Nayak, 25, and Pintan Nayak, 22, of Jhumpudia in Bhapur area of Dhenkanal district and Saban Nayak, 26, of Dasapalla area of Nayagarh district

when she was away. Police later carried out investigations by registering a case (454/21) in this regard and arrested the accused Wednesday. The cops also seized one LED television set, gold earrings, chain and Rs 2,000 in cash from the possession of the accused.

The miscreants also reportedly confessed to have committed burglary at the victim's house twice.

The trio was sent to judicial custody by court after rejecting their bail pleas.

Railway Board's PAC takes stock of infra at rly stations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: The Passenger Amenity Committee (PAC) from Railway Board comprising seven members inspected various railway stations in Khurda Road Division from September 27 to 29.

The committee members were Dilip Mallick, Ajay Kumar Yadav, Abhijit Das, Ram Kumar Pahan, Abhilash Pandey, Bichitra Narayan Kalita and Sunil Ram.

The PAC Committee inspected 10 railway stations under the Khurda Road Division - Cuttack, Dhanmandal, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road, Bhadrak, Berhampur, Chhatrapur, Balugaon, Puri, Sakhi gopal and Khurda Road railway stations.

During the inspection, the focus

The cleanliness of the station areas and the food items available in catering stalls were examined by the committee members

areas were basic passenger amenities like availability of drinking water facilities, waiting hall facilities, platform shelter, foot over-bridge, sitting arrangements for passengers, working of lifts/escalators, scanners among others which were checked. The cleanliness of the station areas and the food items available in catering stalls were also examined by the committee members.

After completion of inspection

at all the railway stations, the committee presided over a meeting with Rinkesh Roy, Divisional Railway Manager, Khurda Road, Kalyan Pattanaik, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra), Ashok Kumar, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operation) and with other Branch officers in the conference hall of DRM building.

The committee suggested for some additional passenger amenities like extension of platform shelters, adequate number of ceiling fans, mobile charging points, levelling of tiles on platforms and beautification of station premises.

Rinkesh Roy, Divisional Railway Manager, Khurda Road, assured that the division is leaving no stone unturned to provide best service to the passengers.

IN MEMORIAM



An event to mark the death anniversary of noted orator Gourikumar Brahma in progress at Sanskruti Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Dignitaries, including Odisha Sahitya Akademi president Dr Hrushikesh Mallick, are seen

2 NABBED FOR FORCIBLY COLLECTING DONATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Two persons have been arrested for forcibly collecting money in the name of Durga Puja donation from a businessman in Cuttack, police said Wednesday.

"We have arrested Sarat Kumar Behera and Rakesh Kumar Behera, two members of the College Square Puja Committee in Cuttack, Tuesday, for forcefully asking for Rs 13,000 donation from a businessman for the Durga Puja," said Cuttack (Zone-I) ACP Amarendra Panda.

Panda said both the accused were allegedly forcing the businessman, Ratan Kumar Agrawal,



of College Square of the Silver City, to pay the donation for the upcoming Durga Puja.

Based on the complaint lodged by the businessman, the two accused were arrested and have been forwarded to court, the police official said. The urban police have kept a tight vigil to ensure that no one can extort money from anyone in the name of puja, added Panda.

KIMS claims its first successful kidney transplant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: Doctors of Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) successfully conducted its maiden kidney transplant recently, said the hospital sources.

A 23-year-old patient suffering from End-Stage Renal Disease underwent the transplant getting a new lease of life. His mother was the donor. Both the mother and the patient were discharged and both are doing well, said KIMS sources.

The operation was conducted by transplant team doctors of KIMS including Nikunj Kishore Rout, Aswini Prasad Patnaik, Rajesh Kumar Padhi, Kumar Avijet Dash and Prof Suresh Ch Dash from the nephrology team; Sumanta Kumar Mishra, Amresh Mishra, JB Jagdev,



Sumit Panda from the surgical team; and Sanjaya Behera, Laba Kumar Nayak, and GC Satpathy from the anaesthesia team.

Rout, who led the transplant team, said, "Chronic kidney disease (CKD) load in Odisha is quite high. Many patients in need of transplants are depending upon other states for the operation. This landmark step by KIMS will certainly reduce the outflow of such cases. Here, we would like to point out that kidney transplant is the gold stan-

dard of treatment in End-Stage Kidney Disease. Dialysis is not always the permanent solution. The quality of life is definitely better as compared to dialysis when a suitable kidney is made available. Relatives are preferred as donors."

Rout said there is a fear that if a person donates one kidney, he will be weak and face problems in life. "We would like to dispel this misconceived notion by affirming that this is not the fact. A kidney donor can lead a healthy and unencumbered life with one kidney remaining," he said.

While selecting a donor, maximum precaution is taken by conducting all types of tests - blood, chest X-Ray, ECG, ECHO, ultrasonography, renal angiography, HLA & cross-matching and others. All legal procedures are also followed.

'25% heart patients died during Covid pandemic'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: On the occasion of World Heart Day, Wednesday, several noted cardiologists revealed that around 25 per cent of heart patients died in the state during one year of Covid-19 pandemic.

The MD, DM (Cardiology) at Utkal Hospital Sanat Kumar Sahoo said, "The pandemic created a sense of fear among all. During the pandemic, patients with cardiac ailments find it difficult to have regular check-ups making the situation even worse. With fear, the heart patients didn't show interest to come to the hospitals for check-up. They are rushed to hospitals at the critical stage. Around 25 per cent

heart patients died in the state for this reason." Hospital admission of patients with acute Myocardial Infarction (MI) - Cardiovascular Disorders decreased during the lockdown due to lack of transportation and facility, as there was overload of Covid-19 cases.

"Since heart is the second most affected organ after lungs in Covid cases, 40-50 per cent of the patients with ventilator supports died having cardiac involvement, Sahoo added. On the occasion of World Heart Day, Utkal Hospital, Bhubaneswar organised a walkathon to create awareness about the disease. Dr Alok Lodh, COO, Utkal Hospital and Dr Sarvjeet Nayak, Deputy Medical Superintendent (DMS) were also present.

Excise supdt, ASI in Vig net

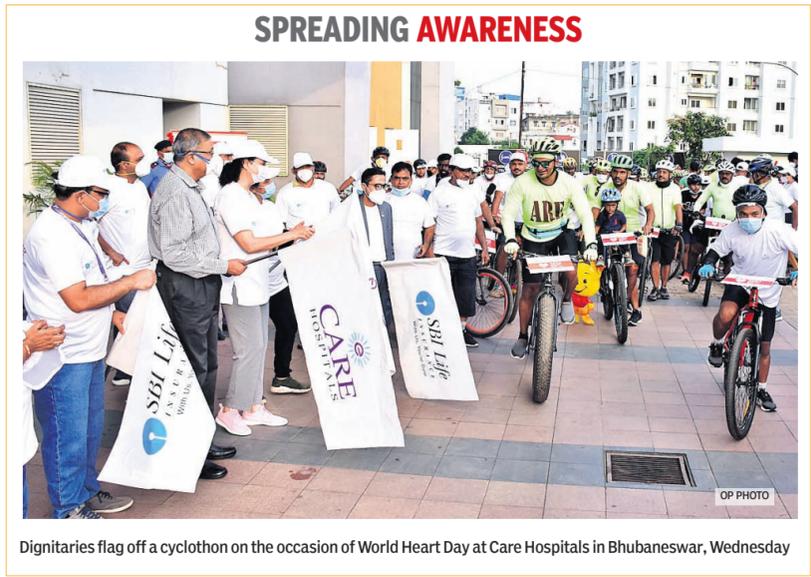
POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Sept 29: Vigilance sleuths nabbed the superintendent of excise (in-charge) Ajit Kumar Mohapatra, here for allegedly demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 1.5 Lakh from a liquor vendor, Rajendra Jaiswal Wednesday.

As per a complainant, Mohapatra was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe through Mathura Mohan Pradhan, ASI of Excise, Barkote in the district. The Vigilance officials laid a trap and caught Mohapatra red-handed while accepting the bribe amount.

A case in Rourkela Vigilance PS case no 9 dt 28.09.2021 U/s 7 Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered.

The Vigilance sleuths also conducted simultaneous search operations at his houses in Deogarh and Berhampur. Further investigations are on.



Dignitaries flag off a cyclothon on the occasion of World Heart Day at Care Hospitals in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

CYCLOTHON BY CARE HOSPITALS

Women more vulnerable to heart diseases: Tripathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 29: On the occasion of World Heart Day, Care Hospitals, Bhubaneswar organised a cyclothon to create awareness about the disease, Wednesday.

SBI Life Insurance, BMC Bhubaneswar Cycling and CVD Adventure Club joined hands to conduct the event.

The cyclothon was carried out from Care Hospitals to Nalco square on a length of 20 km in the City. Around 100 participants joined in the event.

Cardiologists of Care Hospitals

Dr Bipin Bihari Mohanty, Dr Giridhari Jena, Dr Manoranjan Mishra, Dr Kanhu Charan Mishra, Dr Subhankanta Biswal, Dr T Das, Dr Bikram Mohapatra and other experts participated in the cyclothon.

Clinical Director and HOD (Cardiology), Care Hospitals Dr Mahendra Prasad Tripathy said, "Several studies claimed that females are more vulnerable to heart disease and heart-related death rate of women is also high as compared to male. Heart disease has been a major concern and dangerous to the health of

women." "Out of 10 senior citizens, three have high blood pressure, 5.2 per cent have long-term heart disease and 2.7 per cent suffer heart-related diseases," Tripathy said.

Care Hospitals HCOO Kislay Anand highlighted that number of deaths due to heart disease in India is significant. "20 per cent pupation of whole world is in India and 60 per cent of them are heart patients. The calculated mean age for first Myocardial Infarction or first heart attack is 53 in India which is 10 years early compared to developed countries."

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BSF ADG reviews anti-Maoist ops



POST NEWS NETWORK
Malkangiri, Sept 29: Amid the ongoing operations against Left wing extremism in Malkangiri district, ADG of the Border Security Force (BSF) Rajwinder Singh Bhatti reviewed its operations and activities at the Mudulipada BSF camp in Bonda Ghati Wednesday.

gies to counter the Left wing extremists who have been increasingly trying to commit violence in the Bonda Ghati area. Notably, a few weeks ago, two BSF camps have been set up at Mudulipada and Andarabahal. The BSF ADG said that the state government has been carrying out development activities in road connectivity, drinking water, health and education sectors. He called upon the Maoists to join the mainstream of the society instead of opposing the develop-

mental works being executed by the government in the larger interest of the people. Bhatti also stated that BSF personnel have always been alert for the protection of the people in Bonda Ghati as well as in the entire district. BSF IG Satish Chandra Budakoti, DIG, Koraput BSF headquarters, Madan Lal and Malkangiri DIG Sanjay Kumar Singh were present at the review meeting. After the meeting, the BSF ADG and other officials left for Jantapai BSF camp in Swabhiman Anchal. There he held discussions with officials about Maoist activities in Tulasihill along the border with Chhattisgarh. While reviewing the BSF activities in the Maoist affected areas, Bhatti also discussed the challenges being faced by the jawans in tackling the ultras.



Officials verifying certificates at a camp to include children orphaned due to Covid-19 under Ashirwad Yojana at the CDO's office in Kaniha block of Angul district, Wednesday

LENDING A HAND

Mission Shakti Café opens at Chhatrapur DRDA



POST NEWS NETWORK
Chhatrapur, Sept 29: The state government has taken up a host of new measures for women empowerment in Ganjam district. Scope for income generation activities is being created to make women financially self-sufficient. The Mission Shakti Café is a glaring example. An SHG has opened the Mission Shakti Café on the premises of the DRDA office here. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was all praise for the initiative in a tweet. According to reports, Tumbeswar SHG of Chikalkhandi panchayat is managing this café. Patnaik in his tweet said, "To become self-sufficient and self-reliant, a group of women under

Mission Shakti ambit have opened a café in Ganjam. The innovative venture has offered a new platform for women to exhibit their entrepreneurial skills and boost earning." The DRDA authorities have spent ₹10 lakh for building the kitchen and toilet while Gruhini Utpadaka Company purchased kitchenware, utensils and other assets. The DRDA provided bank linkage for the Mission Shakti Café. The café is doing good business in selling tea and a variety of snacks as the official staff of various departments and people coming here for official works are having refreshments at the café. Besides, the café has been providing catering services for officials during review meetings and workshops being organised in different times. Women are preparing food, ensuring quality and hygiene in the café. Project Director of DRDA, Dattatreya Sindhe Bhusabhadra said that the women have become empowered and self-sufficient. In coming days, the café will be opened on the main road of Chhatrapur. In the second phase, Mission Shakti Choupati will be opened and SHGs will run 15 stalls to sell various cuisines, he added. Notably, many women in the district have become self-sufficient by taking up various farming.

MISSION SHAKTI SCAM Nayagarh admin starts probe

Lakhs of rupees allocated for construction of buildings under this programme have been misappropriated in 17 panchayats under Bhapur block; locals had apprised the commissioner of the Mission Shakti about the scam

POST NEWS NETWORK
Nayagarh, Sept 29: The district administration has started an investigation into the alleged misappropriation of ₹68 lakh allocated for Mission Shakti in Bhapur block of Nayagarh. According to reports, a five-member team started the investigation Tuesday. The officials visited the government residential quarters of the village level worker (VLW) of Fatehgarh. It was alleged that the quarters were whitewashed and shown as a building made with Mission Shakti funds. Five officials including ABDO Antaryami Mishra, Nayagarh Mission Shakti DPC Shamikhya Padhi and assistant engineer of Bhapur block Brundaban Baria talked to the local people about the re-whitewashing of the VLW quarters. Two contractors who had done the work told the investigators that they had coloured the quarters in 2018-19 at a cost of ₹6.50 lakh. After colouring it, the words 'Mission Shakti Gruha' were written on its wall. Later, it was defaced. Locals said that the building was whitewashed several times



Five officials including ABDO Antaryami Mishra, Nayagarh Mission Shakti DPC Shamikhya Padhi talked to local people about the re-whitewashing of the VLW quarters. Two contractors who had done the work told the investigators that they had coloured the quarters in 2018-19 at a cost of ₹6.50 lakh. After colouring, the words 'Mission Shakti Gruha' were written on its wall. Later, it was defaced. The state government had provided ₹4 lakh each for Mission Shakti Gruhas in 20 panchayats under Bhapur block

'Mission Shakti Gruhas' made under the programme. The commissioner-cum-secretary of the Mission Shakti had been apprised of the scam through complaints. The matter was investigated and some evidence was found. Following allegations from people, joint secretary of Mission Shakti Binod Kumar Jena had directed the district collector to submit an investigation report. Reports said, the government had provided ₹4 lakh each for Mission Shakti Gruhas in 20 panchayats under Bhapur block. It was alleged that funds had been bungled in 17 panchayats. Following a direction from the Collector August 24, a four-member investigating team led by Mission Shakti DPC Shamikhya Padhi had looked into the irregularities September 22. Besides, the sub-collector has already submitted his investigation report, pointing out irregularities in Mission Shakti Gruhas at Rakma and Golapohari panchayats. In Baghuapalli panchayat, a club house was shown as a Mission Shakti Gruha and funds were embezzled.

Family in Bhograi claims Narendra Giri belonged to it

AGENCIES
Balasure, Sept 29: A family of Panisandha village under Bhograi block of Balasure district Wednesday claimed that Mahanta Narendra Giri, the president of Akhil Bhartiya Amhara Parishad, who was found dead in his room at Baghambari Mutt at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh September 20 belonged to the family. Laxmikanta Giri and Purna Chandra Giri claimed that they were the younger brothers of Narendra Giri, the seer, and demanded a high-level probe into the death of Giri to unfold the mystery and stern action against the culprits. The Uttar Pradesh government has already recommended a CBI inquiry into his death and arrested three of his disciples. The Giri brothers who still reside in their native village Panisandha, claimed that they were six siblings - three brothers and three sisters. Their parents Sanatana Giri and Ramamani Giri have passed away. A few fellow villagers too supported their claim. The two brothers said that about 52 years ago Narendra, the eldest among all siblings, left house for unknown reasons and since then there was no trace of him. However, about 10 years ago he (Narendra) had returned to his native house and stated that he would become mahant and would not return to his village after assuming the charge of the mutt. During his stay he had attended several functions of the family and the village, they said. However, neither the brothers nor anyone in the village could show any documents in support of their claims.

HEALTHCARE UPGRADATION



Members of a local outfit stage a sit-in, demanding super specialty status to the district headquarters hospital in Rayagada, Wednesday

Collector miffed over 'shoddy' school work

POST NEWS NETWORK
Saraskana, Sept 29: Collector Vineet Bhardwaj expressed his displeasure over the ongoing work of transformation programme for high schools under the 5T Initiative in Saraskana block in Mayurbhanj district, Wednesday. The Collector visited some high schools under this block and took stock of the transformation work. While inspecting Sirsha High School, he found water sipping through ceiling and there was no drainage system on the school premises. He was visibly upset. For over three years, the government has not yet appointed a block education officer in this block. Sirsha High School does not have a regular headmaster while

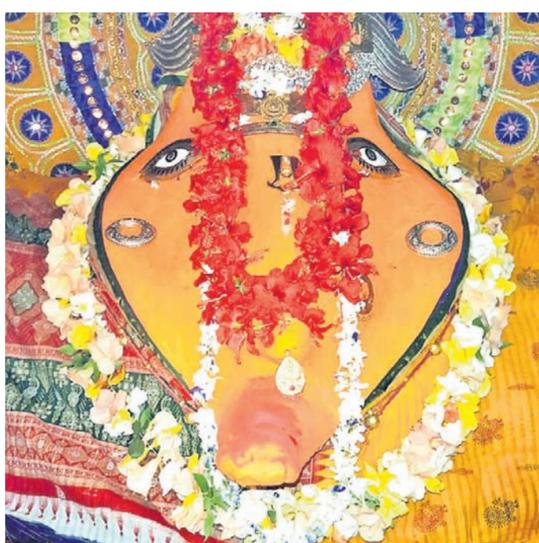
only one teacher has to look after teaching of Class-VI to VIII. Locals pointed out when such a miserable situation still prevails in the education sector in tribal-dominated areas, efficacy of the effort to transform the sector is in doubts. They alleged that with staff crunch, the model school initiative is only meant for playing with the lives of tribal children. Later, the Collector visited Jokeswar High School at Joka and Iswar Chandra High School at Kherana. Bhardwaj was unhappy to see the sub-standard work. He advised the school authorities to ensure proper utilisation of funds for quality infrastructure. He came to know that an attempt is being made to pull down some usable structures on Iswar Chandra High School premises.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. eT-M-BBS-Museum-157-2021
Name of Work : OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE AND REGULAR UP-KEEPMENT OF KALINGA RAIL MUSEUM, AT BHUBANESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.
Advertised Value : ₹ 51,38,359.41, Tender document cost : ₹ 3,540/-, Period of completion : 24 Months.
Bidding start date : 04.10.2021, Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 18.10.2021.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.irops.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ Khurda Road
PR-424/M/21-22

Sodasa puja of Maa Samaleswari kicks off

POST NEWS NETWORK
Sambalpur, Sept 29: Amid Covid protocols, the Sodasa puja of Maa Samaleswari in Sambalpur started in accordance with age-old rituals and traditions Wednesday, while the Dhabalmukhi Besa of the Goddess will be solemnised October 6. Pratah alati along with special puja was offered to the Goddess on the occasion of Aswina Krushna Pakhya Mulastami Tithi. After Sandhya alati, the Goddess was offered kakara pitha (a kind of fried cake prepared with pure ghee). Devotees had darshan of the Goddess till 7 pm. As per Covid protocols, the doors of the temple were closed thereafter. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the shrine missed all the hustle and bustle of the celebrations. During Sodasa puja, 16 earthen lamps were ignited at the shrine. From Mulastami Tithi to Mahalaya, Sodasa puja is performed. During this

period, Goddess Samaleswari is worshipped as Durga, Narayani, Isani, Bishnumaya, Shiva, Sati, Nitya, Bhagabati, Sarbani, Sarbamangala, Ambika, Baishnabi, Gouri, Parbati and Sanatani. According to historians, Sodasa puja for the Goddess was initiated during the rule of king Balaramdev of Chouhan dynasty. The king used to fast during the puja. Usually, the temple witnesses thousands of devotees who throng the shrine to have a glimpse of the Dhabalmukhi Besa of Goddess Samaleswari on Mahalaya. On the occasion, Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of Sambalpur; dons a white attire unlike the rest of the year when She is adorned with red costume. The deity is decked up in the Dhabalmukhi Besa for two and a half days and during the period the priests also perform the rituals in white costumes. Preparations for the Dhabalmukhi Besa start in the



AGE-OLD TRADITION
According to historians, Sodasa puja for the Goddess was initiated during the rule of king Balaramdev of Chouhan dynasty. The king used to fast during the puja. During this period, Goddess Samaleswari is worshipped as Durga, Narayani, Isani, Bishnumaya, Shiva, Sati, Nitya, Bhagabati, Sarbani, Sarbamangala, Ambika, Baishnabi, Gouri, Parbati and Sanatani. During Sodasa puja, 16 earthen lamps are ignited at the shrine. From Mulastami Tithi to Mahalaya, Sodasa puja is performed. During this night. It takes around four hours to deck up the deity in complete white attire. The rituals start from afternoon and the Goddess is offered the special bhog of 'mooga bara' made on the day of Mahalaya. The rituals continue till the offering of the anna bhog.

No.B-427
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION NO. 1, SAMBALPUR
e-procurement notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No. EE / R&B / SBP / 15 / 2021-22
E-mail - exeengsbp@rediffmail.com, Phone/Fax -0663-2548013
No.6343/ Dated 24.09.2021
1. The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.-1, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Civil/ Electrical Work as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
2. No. of works :- 07 (Seven)
3. Tender Cost :- Rs.6,000/-, Rs.4,000/-, Rs.600/- & Rs.400/- (On Line)
4. Class of Contractor :- 'C' & 'D' Class Contractor & 'HT' & 'MV' Class Contractor
5. Date and time available in Website & receipt of Bids :- 16.00 hrs. 01.10.2021 to 17.00 hrs. of 07.10.2021
6. Date of Opening of Tender :- 08.10.2021 at 11.30 hrs.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website
8. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.1
OIPR-34042/11/0038/2122

In our defeated hearts God's strength survives.

SRI AUROBINDO



German Lessons

First, the bad news. In Germany's federal election, the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) suffered losses, but still polled in excess of 10 per cent. Despite constant infighting and numerous scandals, the party seems set to be a lasting feature on the German political landscape. But the good news is that the election disproved various kinds of conventional wisdom about the far right: Western democracies are not fated to fight culture wars constantly; grand coalitions between center-left and center-right do not necessarily strengthen political extremes; and social democratic parties can do well without pandering to nativism and Islamophobia.

Many sophisticated observers have been saying that a struggle between cosmopolitan liberals and more 'rooted' communitarians (to use as neutral a phrase as possible) defines politics in the advanced economies nowadays. While some conflicts might be understood in the context of a more or less simplistic divide between 'anywheres' and 'somewheres,' there are plenty of other challenges that cannot be reduced to this binary. In Germany, immigration has receded as a major concern in recent years. In the run-up to this election, citizens instead cited pensions, the future of the welfare state, and climate as the issues that concerned them most. The main parties staked out different positions on these issues, and a classic contest between center-right and center-left proved to be bad news for the far-right.

The fact that citizens had a choice between two clear policy alternatives meant the typical populist complaint that all 'mainstream' parties are the same, and that supposedly corrupt elites pursue the same policies to harm 'the people,' hardly rang true. Nor did the grand coalition between the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) bear out the assumption that such arrangements provoke support for extremist parties. Instead, the Social Democrats signaled a clear leftward turn and a break with the era of Merkel.

There also was speculation that discontent with the government's handling of the pandemic would prompt citizens to vote for AfD simply because it seemed like the only consistent way to register protest. After all, AfD is the only party not in power anywhere in Germany's federal system, in which nine different coalitions govern the country's 16 states.

There are two reasons that did not happen. First, for many Germans, AfD is a party bent on historical revisionism, which is to say relativising the Nazi past. It seems that even some staunch conservatives who were deeply disappointed by the CDU's management of COVID-19 do not want to be associated with anything that smacks of neo-Nazism. AfD's inability to capture discontented voters shows that its strategy of trying to be both respectable and radical could work for only so long.

The other reason AfD failed to gain more support is less obvious. Like the Republicans in the United States, AfD tried to monopolise 'freedom' during the pandemic, but that attempt was foiled by the German liberals, who are liberals in the classical European sense. In a number of high-profile debates in the plenary, the Free Democratic Party provided a clear alternative to AfD. The FDP articulated credible opposition to pandemic-related restrictions in the name of liberty without going anywhere close to conspiracy theories or erasing the line between criticising policies and attacking the political system.

Finally, it mattered that both the SPD and the CDU resisted what has become a major trend across Europe: mainstreaming the far-right by adopting parts of its rhetoric and policies. Occasional attempts at dog-whistling during the campaign failed. The remark by the Christian Democrats' candidate to succeed Merkel, Armin Laschet, during the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan that "2015 [when Germany welcomed a million refugees] must not be repeated" was seen widely as a faux pas. And the CDU politician who most clearly tried to present himself as 'AfD-lite,' Hans-Georg Maaßen, was defeated soundly.

It would be wholly wrong to breathe a sigh of relief, though. There are only so many lessons that can be drawn from one election, and the CDU still might draw the wrong one. After the CDU's worst showing in its history, calls for an opening to the far-right may grow louder, even though the party lost most voters to the SPD and the Greens. The far-right itself now is entrenched firmly in parts of eastern Germany, and it is strongest in Saxony and Thuringia, where, unlike in other parts of Germany, it has support from the young and where its extremist wing has been setting the tone. That wing now will be further emboldened. And for local victims of the far-right's incitement of hatred, it is cold comfort that the election's overall result did not turn out to be as bad as some might have feared.

The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Jan-Werner Mueller

Many sophisticated observers have been saying that a struggle between cosmopolitan liberals and more 'rooted' communitarians (to use as neutral a phrase as possible) defines politics in the advanced economies nowadays



NC Bipindra

TO GAUGE THE EXTENT OF CHINA'S INCREASING STRANGLEHOLD ACROSS THE GLOBE, ONE ONLY NEEDS TO LOOK BEYOND ASIA AND AFRICA

China's latest investment of an estimated \$1.4 billion in Sri Lanka's Colombo Port City project is the largest single foreign investment in the island nation's history.

Dubbed as a public-private-partnership between the government of Sri Lanka (or its representative agencies) and the CHEC Port City Colombo (CPCC) Private Limited, the project has been much publicised for the employment opportunities and huge revenues, which it would generate for the Sri Lankans. What is seldom spoken about is the fact that of the 269 hectares of reclaimed land, 43 per cent will be controlled by the CPCC through a 99-year lease agreement. This is reminiscent of the not too long-ago takeover of the Hambantota port on a 99-year lease by China Merchant Port Holdings (CMPH). The port is now operated 'jointly' by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and CMPH, with the latter holding 80 per cent stake in the port and exercising near total control over its operations.

Even more interesting, however, is the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill passed by the Sri Lankan parliament in May this year. This law provides special overarching powers of taxation and new projects and investments to the 'Commission', which itself could possibly be composed of foreign nationals.

Recently, there were reports of Chinese personnel in military uniforms being employed in infrastructure work in Hambantota. Sri Lanka is just one example of how China uses its economic power to ensnare unsuspecting, and sometimes complicit governments, in an intricate web of debt and dependencies. The larger effort of China's debt-trap diplomacy is visible in Africa. It is reported that one in five infrastructure projects in Africa is funded by China and one in three is built by Chinese companies. Often these projects are taken up without appropriate studies on their socio-economic and environmental impact

FOCUS CHINA

DEBT DIPLOMACY



Sri Lanka is just one example of how China uses its economic power to ensnare unsuspecting, and sometimes complicit governments, in an intricate web of debt and dependencies

and even their commercial viability. One of the countries which is already reeling under its consequences is Angola, which is repaying multibillion-dollar debt to China with crude oil, creating major problems for its economy.

Another glaring example of this unviability is Kenya's 'railroad to nowhere', as captioned in a recent report. The Kenyan government, realising the enormity of the debt that was required to be serviced on account of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project from Mombasa to Nairobi and further inland, attempted to renegotiate the terms of loan repayments. The result was a 'freeze' on fresh instalments by China's Exim Bank for other infrastructure projects in Kenya. Worse, the threat of takeover of Mombasa's hugely profitable port is now looming large -- a la Hambantota -- given Nairobi's apparent inability to service the debt.

Similar stories emerge from Central Asia, where China has made economic inroads to hedge against its own political and security vulnerabilities. As of today, all Central Asian countries are economically dependent on China for both exports and imports of goods, especially medical equipment and pharmaceuticals where

Beijing is a world leader; and the debt is growing. Although, the Central Asian countries initially tried to balance their trade with Beijing by exporting gas -- Chinese imports from Central Asia grew 1,000 per cent over the last 10 years -- these measures have proven to be insufficient.

On the contrary, Beijing has seized several concessions from these nations, notably the ceding of 1,158 sq km of territory in the Pamir mountains by Tajikistan and the increasing presence of China's Private Military Companies to provide security to infrastructure projects in Central Asia.

To gauge the extent of China's increasing stranglehold across the globe, one only needs to look beyond Asia and Africa. In Europe, Montenegro is struggling to repay a multibillion-dollar loan to China for a highway constructed by China Road and Bridge Corporation from 'nowhere to nowhere'. Only the first 25-mile section of the proposed 270-mile road has been completed and the host country cannot afford to pay for the rest of project.

This, incidentally, is only a glimpse of what Chinese capital could do in the larger context of the Balkans, which is part of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In the Pacific, six countries

are currently debtors to China of which three small countries -- Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu -- are particularly heavily indebted.

In the Caribbean and South America, 19 governments have subscribed to the BRI. The Shanghai-based China Cosco Shipping is building a new \$3-billion port at Chancay in Peru, while there are ambitious proposals for a transcontinental railway linking South America's Atlantic and Pacific coasts from Brazil to Chile. It is perhaps a matter of time that China will unleash its debt diplomacy in this region.

All these, of course, are rooted deeply in the culture of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to hide the truth and portray an unrealistic picture of hope. Millions of poor and suffering Chinese have been fed such lies since the Revolution. The CCP has attempted to gloss over its failures in preserving human rights while depicting a semblance of prosperity.

In the aftermath of COVID-19, the CCP's censorship around the Wuhan anniversary sought to purge voices that questioned the official narrative. Activists were detained and outspoken relatives of people who died from the virus were harassed. Foreign media persons have been routinely prevented from reporting facts, as evident most recently in reporting the floods in Zhengzhou this July.

Therefore, it is hardly surprising that China tries to elaborately gift-wrap its ulterior motives in seemingly benign outreach to unsuspecting partners. In 2018, the Centre for Global Development named Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, the Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Pakistan, and Tajikistan as 'highly vulnerable to debt distress' due to China's BRI. This should serve as a warning to these nations and to those which run the risk of eventual bankruptcy in this dangerous game of geopolitics.

The writer is Chairman, Law and Society Alliance.

IAN S

SPECTRUM DISEASE CONTROL

Modernising our arsenal against malaria

Consider the humble mosquito. When compared to some of the world's most notorious and vicious predators, it might not look like much. And yet it has killed more people in history than any other creature. As a carrier for some of the world's deadliest diseases, including malaria, yellow fever, Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, it instills fear in tens of millions of people around the world.

Malaria, the oldest of these diseases, dates back to the time of the dinosaurs and continues to have a devastating impact on people's lives. Each day, it deprives thousands of young people of a future. Among the 400,000 deaths from malaria recorded in 2019, two-thirds were children under the age of five, and almost all lived in Africa.

Throughout my career in public health, I have seen modern technology transform our centuries-old fight against malaria in the space of just a few decades. Insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying of homes, rapid diagnostic tests, and new treatments and prophylactics were not even part of the conversation when I started work on my medical degree. Now, these interventions are saving lives every day.

Ensuring wider access to these innovations has been instrumental to the progress we have made in end-

ing suffering for millions of people and eliminating the disease in many countries. But it is clear that these tools will not be enough to achieve the ultimate goal of eradication.

Mosquitoes and the malaria parasite have survived as long as they have by constantly adapting to new conditions. Now, growing drug and insecticide resistance in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Sub-Saharan Africa threatens to weaken our current tools for prevention and treatment. Collaboration between scientists and the private sector is urgently needed to develop new medicines to combat resistance to artemisinin, the main component of the first-line drug that treats the most common form of the disease, and to insecticides that stop the malaria-carrying Anopheles mosquitoes in their tracks.

Some potentially game-changing innovations have emerged in recent years. With further development, these could (once again) transform the fight against malaria. For example, the Innovative Vector Control Consortium's New Nets Project is currently piloting mosquito nets treated with novel insecticide combinations to combat resistance throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. The Medicines for Malaria Venture is bringing together leading pharmaceutical companies to speed up the drug development process. And

researchers at Target Malaria are conducting trials of gene drives to reduce or eliminate Anopheles mosquitoes' malaria-carrying capacity at the species level. While there is still a long way to go, it is worth noting that these advances would have been unimaginable not long ago. Moreover, the rapid development of vaccines against COVID has strengthened the case for increased investment in innovation to tackle other deadly diseases.

The global malaria community has been hoping for an effective malaria vaccine for more than 30 years. While the malaria parasite is considerably more complex than the coronavirus, there have been recent advances in preventive treatments. The WHO-backed RTS, S vaccine, manufactured by GSK, is already being piloted in three African countries and has recently been shown to reduce severe malaria cases and deaths among young children by 70 per cent when combined with seasonal malaria chemoprevention. This is a promising first-generation vaccine, but more investment is needed to create a highly effective, all-ages vaccine. And now, BioNTech has announced that it will pursue development of an mRNA vaccine against malaria, following the platform's unprecedented success in developing vaccines against COVID. While new

technologies will help to accelerate progress, there is no silver bullet. Until we eradicate malaria, we will need constant innovation to stay one step ahead of evolution. These interventions must be deployed strategically in combination with existing malaria prevention and treatment measures.

We must also overcome longstanding barriers to scaling up innovations and making them universally accessible, even for hard-to-reach populations. New interventions will fall far short of their potential unless they are accompanied by steps to empower and support health workers tasked with implementing them. Routine use of data to orchestrate more targeted deployments of treatments and preventive measures is crucial. We have achieved a great deal so far in our fight against malaria. But only by harnessing new discoveries and technologies, equipping countries with the right tools to meet their needs, and accelerating access to life-saving innovations can we consign malaria to the history books, alongside diseases like smallpox, and deliver a healthier, more prosperous world for all.

The writer is CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring. MARILYN MONROE
- It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends. JK ROWLING
- If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people. VIRGINIA WOOLF

WORDSWORTH

Petard

If it wasn't for its appearance in Shakespeare's Hamlet: "For 'tis the sport to have the engineer / Hoist with his own petard" and its fossil survival in the rather more modern spelling to be hoist with one's own petard, this term of warfare would have gone the way of the halberd, brattice and culverin. A petard was a bell-shaped metal grenade typically filled with five or six pounds of gunpowder and set off by a fuse. Sappers dug a tunnel or covered trench up to a building and fixed the device to a door, barricade, drawbridge or the like to break it open. The bomb was held in place with a heavy beam called a madrier. Unfortunately, the devices were unreliable and often went off unexpectedly. Hence the expression, where hoist meant to be lifted up, an understated description of the result of being blown up by your own bomb. The name of the device came from the Latin petar, to break wind, perhaps a sarcastic comment about the thin noise of a muffled explosion at the far end of an excavation.

LOL

Criminal steals lumber

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked. "What did you take?" his priest asked. "Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And

houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake." "This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?" "No, Father, I haven't," the man replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."



Abdourahmane Diallo

THE MOSQUITO HAS KILLED MORE PEOPLE IN HISTORY THAN ANY OTHER CREATURE

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

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sidhu's surprise

Sir, When one thought all is well that ends well in Punjab, Navjot Singh Sidhu has dropped a bombshell by quitting the post of PPCC chief barely three months into the post. What does this man want? This must be the question on the minds of the Gandhis. After the resignation of Captain Amarinder Singh, there were some who believed Sidhu would replace him. But the party high command had other ideas. It is certain that the high command acted after taking Sidhu into confidence. Otherwise the man would not have accepted Charanjit Singh Channi as the chief minister. Was there a deal? The high command may or may not have assured Sidhu of being made a chief ministerial candidate for the Assembly elections six months away. Insiders say Sidhu was piqued by Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, a Jat Sikh, being made the deputy chief minister. Himself a Jat Sikh, Sidhu was insecure about Randhawa's increasing clout in the party. Inclusion of Rana Gurjit Singh in the Channi Cabinet is also said to have disturbed Sidhu. Did Rahul Gandhi push Channi to assert himself and take some decisions inimical to Sidhu? Was an attempt made to divide and rule the Sidhu camp? It won't be a surprise if Sidhu joins the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); the temperamental man is capable of doing anything.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Quad & AUKUS

Sir, Under the AUKUS pact, the US and the UK will provide technologies to Australia for manufacturing nuclear-powered submarines. This will be pivotal in countering Chinese hegemony in the Indo-Pacific region. Apart from its repeated adventurism along the Line of Actual Control, China also claims a huge part of the South China Sea. In the Philippines Vs China case, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled that China's historic rights claim over the 'nine dash line' in the South China Sea is bogus and it will have no lawful effect if they exceed what's entitled to under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. But China rejected the ruling. Although India is not a member of AUKUS, it will definitely be benefitted from the pact. The deployment of Australian nuclear submarines in the Indian Ocean is expected to keep a check on the extending maritime claims of China in the Indo-Pacific. The QUAD and AUKUS must be seen as potential threats to China.

Tushar Anand, PATNA

Oustees' fight for a 'name' still on after 3 decades

These rehabilitated 'camp-dwellers' who were displaced by the Upper Kolab Dam project in 1976 and resettled in hamlets having no official names in 1988, still long to belong to a village with a name of its own as they recall their past and rue their lost identity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Sept 29: Along the Koraput-Kotpad road, a signboard will show you the two-km-long narrow path to a village of nearly 500 people. These villagers were all rehabilitated here in 1988 after being displaced, losing their ancestral homes to the Upper Kolab Dam project in Koraput district built in 1976 across the Kolab river.

IDENTITY CRISIS

The name of the village changes depending on who you ask. If you look into the official records, it is known as Colony 6, while villagers call it Baikunthapur and going by the local parlance it is known as Camp 6. Even the signboard displays the dilemma, bearing the latter two names in English and Odia.

In the beginning when we came here, we were told we were being moved to camps. Eventually, we got our Aadhaar cards and official documents, saying we lived in colonies. But we are still identified as camp-dwellers," says Gangai Burudi, a local.

Such a grievance is not new in many dam-rehabilitation camps in this district. These villagers do not know where they belong to and these human habitations called 'camps' and 'colonies' never got an official name or identity even as

three decades have passed already.

In 2018, locals of Colony 5, 6 and 7, three of the five villages without an official name, rolled up their sleeves. They put up boards bearing the names 'Santoshpur,' 'Baikunthapur' and 'Purshottampur' at the entrances to these villages between April and May. These names also appear in some of their postal addresses nowadays. Baikunthapur and Santoshpur fall under Batasuna panchayat while Purushottampur comes under SB Nuagaan GP.

However, these names are yet to be officially mentioned in land and revenue records.

Back in 1988, each of these ousted families was given 3 acre of land for housing and farming, along with Rs 14,000 as compensation. Only after 2000, these camps started getting basic amenities such as drinking water, electricity, schools and Anganwadi centres. But the absence of an official name still ranks.

"This keeps reminding us of being displaced from our own ancestral village where we grew up. It does not help us feel settled," says Burudi. More than 3,000 families from 57 villages were displaced by the Kolab Dam project. About 52 per cent of the oustees belong to Paraja tribe and 17 per cent



“ A person anywhere in the world obtains his or her identity from the place they come from. We come from a camp. Our Aadhaar says we live in colony number 7. It feels like we do not belong here

HARIHAR NAYAK | A RESIDENT OF COLONY 7

are Dalits, according to a study conducted by the South Orissa Voluntary Action, an NGO in Koraput.

Asked, tehsildar Janardhan Dalai said, "Some of the villages have changed their names voluntarily but that is not acceptable

legally. They are still registered as Colony 6, 7 etc, as per revenue records. But these hamlets can approach us for changing their names. No such change is in process at this moment from our end."

Kuma Muduli, a resident of Camp 4A with a population of 603, says the villagers have held consultations with block-level officers but in vain. "We start the dialogue with one official and by the time the papers are to be processed a new official comes in and we are back to zero. Villagers also keep getting anxious that they would have to go through so many procedures and formalities all over again. But we are still at it and we would want to change the

name of our village, not just by ourselves but officially as well," Muduli says.

Harihar Nayak (60) from Colony 7 says, "When you are uprooted and moved to a new location, there are a lot of things in mind to begin with. Pain of leaving one's shelter and fear of an uncertain future also accompany hopes of a lot of basic facilities and services. But eventually one realises that we have been reduced to camps and colonies. A person anywhere in the world obtains his or her identity from the place they come from. We come from a camp. Our Aadhaar says we live in colony number 7. It feels like we do not belong here."

₹19 LAKH FRAUD

Former BM of private gold loan agency held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 29: Baidyanathpur police arrested the former branch head of a private non-banking finance firm Manappuram Finance Ltd's Kamapalli branch here on charge of financing loan to the tune of Rs 19 lakh by accepting fake gold ornaments as mortgage, Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Smitarupa Padhi, 32, former branch manager of the private gold loan agency in the Silk City, Baidyanathpur police station IIC Ram Kumar Murmu said. A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in court, he said.

Earlier, police had arrested four persons including a woman and her son. The accused N Rajesh Achari, 34, of MG Road in Aska, P Lata, 44, of Somanath Nagar and her son P Siva Kumar, 24, and J Manoj Kumar Achari, 37, of Sriram Nagar were produced in court after their arrest and remanded to judicial custody, ASP Prabhat Routray had informed.

According to the case diary, the four accused took a loan of Rs 19,00,314 from the Kamapalli branch of Manappuram Gold Loan agency by mortgaging fake gold ornaments. Sudhanshu Mishra, the



area manager of the agency lodged a complaint at the Baidyanathpur police station after he was apprised about the fraud.

Police started an investigation over the complaint and came to know that Padhi had sanctioned the loan by accepting fake gold ornaments as mortgage. Police came to know that around 26 loans were sanctioned during the period. The gold ornaments were found to be fake and gold coated when an audit was done on the transactions of the firm.

Police intensified its investigation and arrested those who had received the loans by mortgaging fake gold ornaments. Police said that the loans were sanctioned in between January 2021 to May 2021. Further probe is on to ascertain the involvement of other officials of the agency in the fraud. All those involved in the fraud will be arrested soon, the IIC added.

TRAINING CAMP



Anganwadi workers take part in a training programme on pre-adolescence care and education of children in Krushnaprasad area of Puri district

Bus owner kills self

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 29: A bus owner allegedly committed suicide by jumping on the railway track near the Berhampur railway station here, police said Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammed Faiz, 46, a resident of Bhimarao Peta Sahi under Town police limits in the Silk City and proprietor of private passenger bus chain 'Silk City'. The matter came to the fore after Railway Protection Force (RPF) officials recovered the decapitated body of the deceased from the railway track, Wednesday.

A mobile phone, a debit card, and cash worth Rs 7,190, and a scooter were recovered from the spot. Later, Government Railways Police (GRP) reached the spot and started an investigation. Preliminary inquiries suggested that he might have committed suicide out of depression.

1,200-year-old Buddha idols found in Baitarani

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhandaripokhari, Sept 29: Two idols of Lord Buddha made up of Khondalite stone (a typical foliated metamorphic rock) have been recovered from Baitarani riverbed near Mudhapada village of Sholampur panchayat under Bhandaripokhari block in Bhadrak district, an official said.

The idols comprise a large-sized head of Lord Buddha and another half-broken Boudha goddess. The excavated idols were later handed over to authorities of Boudha Vihar museum at Sholampur Tuesday afternoon, the official added.

Interestingly, the stone idols date back to Eighth and Ninth Century and were carved during the days

when Bhouma-Kara dynasty rulers reigned over the territory, a researcher Ekadasi Padhy claimed.

According to sources, a local man named Pritam Mohanty, son of Narendra Mohanty from Mudhapada village in Bhadrak noticed the stone-made idols while quarrying sand from Baitarani riverbed.

Later, Pritam took the idols (a large-sized head of Buddha and another half-broken Boudha goddess) to his home. On being informed by a local youth Suratha Das another researcher Biswambar Rout reached the house and thoroughly scrutinised the idols, a source stated. Pritam's family wanted the idols to be exhibited at the nearby museum.

Veggie growers panic as rain destroys crops

FARMERS ALLEGED THE HORTICULTURE OFFICIALS OF BINIKA ARE NOT VISITING THEIR VILLAGE WHEN THEY NEED THEM MOST TO BATTLE THE CRISIS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Binika, Sept 29: Farmers are a worried lot nowadays after the incessant rainfall triggered by low-pressure destroyed their vegetable crops at Jampali village under this block in Subarnapur district, a report said.

They had borrowed a lot from local moneylenders and other sources to raise their crops. However, their hopes have been shattered after their crops were destroyed in the rainfall.

Reports said that the village has carved out a niche for itself in vegetable cultivation as majority of the residents eke out their living from vegetable farming. Farmers in the village have cultivated various vegetables like cauliflower, brinjal, tomato, long beans, bitter gourd, chilly, radish as well as greens on 55 acre of farmlands. They earn very good money from vegetable farming which helps in managing their families and in meeting other expenses.

This time they have cultivated cauliflower and cabbages planning to sell it at the start of winter season at Jampali haat and to trans-



port to outside markets. However, the low-pressure triggered rainfall frustrated their plan by destroying their vegetable crops. The rainwater has submerged their farmlands. And by the time they could manage to drain out the water they found vegetable plants had been already destroyed.

The farmers are now worried about paying their loans back and meeting the expenses of their

family. A few of them could salvage very little from their cultivation. However, they are not hopeful of a good harvest. Farmers alleged the horticulture officials of Binika are not visiting their village when they need them most to battle the crisis.

They alleged that horticulture officers and other officials are hardly attending their office in Binika block headquarters. They visit the

office once or twice in month only to conduct and attend the government programme. They are not visiting their farmlands to take stock of the actual situation arising out of the heavy rainfall.

Farmers Suresh Gadua, Binod Bisi, Sukadev Deheri, Prakash Deheri, Rit Kalita, Sarjan Pradhan, Bhaskar Gadua, and Bipin Karna alleged that the state has made provision of supplying seeds, saplings and plant medicines to the farmers at subsidised rates but the horticulture department never provides any assistance to any farmers in their village.

They demanded that the horticulture department must provide them with financial assistance when they have been hit hard by the calamity. They wanted to approach the district Collector if the horticulture department ignores their pleas.

When contacted, Hitesh Badhei, block horticulture officer said he was not aware of the crop loss in Jampali village. He however, assured to conduct a probe and take remedial measure if the farmers submit written complaints before him.



Farmers and scientists participate in a workshop on climate resilient varieties, technologies and practices at Boudh

Woman killed in lightning strike, daughter critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Sept 29: A woman was killed while her daughter sustained critical injuries after lightning struck them while returning from jungle at Talapada under this police limits in Kendrapara district, Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Malati Tanti, 60, while her injured daughter as Sabita Patra, 45. The injured woman was admitted to Patana community health centre (CHC).



The incident occurred when the two women were returning home after collecting wild mushrooms and firewood from Rengabeda jungle near their village. They fell unconscious at the spot after lightning struck them when they were near home. Family members rushed them to the Patana CHC where a doctor pronounced Malati dead and admitted Sabita for treatment.

Polythene enclosures in rivers leave villages waterlogged

THE MATTER WORSENS AS FISHERMEN SET UP POLYTHENE ENCLOSURES BELOW THE BAMBOO FENCES TO REAR FISH. THIS, IN TURN, PREVENTS RAIN WATER FROM FLOWING INTO THE RIVER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Sept 29: The practice of constructing enclosures below bamboo fences (locally called 'ad-abada') in the rivers by fishermen has been blamed for storm water collecting even after a brief spell of rain in six slums of Paradip municipality and six panchayats.

Once there were 57 rivers and rivulets in and around Paradip, including prominent rivers like Kaudia, Majhidia, Patakana, Haladipani, Shamukatimunda, Kapilajor, Batanadi and Saharapentha Matsyadia near Sandhakuda.

However, some of these are rivers only by names. While Kapilajor river, which flowed through the town, has already vanished, Batanadi has been reduced to a

mere pond at PPL Square. Human settlements and industries around Batanadi river have proved to be a bane for it. Similarly, there is no sign of Shamukatimunda river.

Saharapentha Matsyadia river still flows into the Bay of Bengal. The Orissa High Court as well as the state government has allowed fishermen from 101 nearby villages to catch fish in this river. Every year, fishermen's organisations deposit tax at Kujang tehsil office to allow them to fish in the river. Later, they are allowed to catch fish in particular areas of the river depending on the border of their villages.

After obtaining the fishing rights, fishermen put up fence-like structures with bamboo to mark their respective areas.

What has made matters worse is



that the fishermen set up enclosures below these bamboo fences with polythene and rear fish in those enclosed spaces. The polythene sheets are tied to the bamboo poles in such a way that they are not visible from above. Saharapentha Matsyadia river is

about 60 metres to 80 metres in width. After preparing enclosures, only 10 metres of the river is left free where they catch fish using nets. Catching fish using nets is only a smokescreen to hoodwink officials of the illegal fish farming.

"There are seven such bamboo

fences in the river. And they obstruct the free flow of storm water into the river," said Alekh Behera, a fisherman.

Sharing his opinion, another fisherman Alok Rout said, "The government asks the fishermen to dismantle the bamboo fences before the rainy season. But nobody follows the orders. The villagers facing water logging problem every year are not aware of this fact. Kujang tehsil is responsible for inspecting whether the fences are removed or not. But the tehsil is hardly discharging its duty."

When asked, tehsildar Preetiparna Mishra said, "We had visited the fishermen's villages and directed them to dismantle the fences. The administration has already started an eviction drive there since last Friday."

Water accumulated due to incessant rainfall recently is still standing in the villages under Paradip municipality area, forcing people to wade through it. In the past, the villagers as well as the residents of Balijhara and Bauriapalanda slums in ward No 5 and 6 of Paradip municipality have staged several road blocks demanding steps to end their sufferings for good. Every time they stage a demonstration, officers from the municipality come to them and ask them to call off the strike, assuring them of action. However, nothing has been done so far in this regard, they alleged.

Incidentally, the villagers are not aware that they are actually suffering due to the fishermen's illegal practice of creating under water enclosures.

Coal expansion to severely affect Delhi

As per the C40 report, the current proposed coal expansion by 64 GW around Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Chennai could cause 52,700 premature deaths, 31,300 preterm births, and 5,700 new asthma cases among children, over just a decade



Representational image

AGENCIES

of coal capacity takes place.

New Delhi, Sept 29: India's plans to expand its coal fleet by 64 gigawatt would nearly double the number of annual premature deaths from coal-related air pollution in Delhi to 5,280 over the next decade, according to a new study.

Besides premature deaths, the current expansion could cause 8,360 preterm births and 10,310 asthma emergency visits over the next decade, the report by C40 Cities, a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change, says.

Twelve percent of India's coal-based electricity is generated within 500 km of the national capital.

The research suggests that around 55 lakh sick days could be caused by air pollution exposure from coal power plants in Delhi if the current proposed expansion

The economic health costs associated with coal pollution in Delhi is estimated at USD 8.4 billion over the coming decade.

One billion is equal to 100 crores. It is also estimated that a coal expansion would result in a total of 3,770 life-years lived with disabilities.

"Air pollution (PM2.5 annual concentration) in Delhi is more than nine times above the WHO guidelines, and more than twice the national guideline. Current national plans would expand the coal fleet by 28 percent between 2020 and 2030 not reduce it by 20 percent, threatening the health and well-being of the urban residents in Delhi while undermining India's climate and air quality targets." "Current national plans could nearly double the number of annual premature deaths

HARD TIMES COMING

TWELVE PERCENT OF INDIA'S COAL-BASED ELECTRICITY IS GENERATED WITHIN 500 KM OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

THE RESEARCH SUGGESTS THAT AROUND 55 LAKH SICK DAYS COULD BE CAUSED BY AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE FROM COAL POWER PLANTS IN DELHI IF THE CURRENT PROPOSED EXPANSION OF COAL CAPACITY TAKES PLACE

THE ECONOMIC HEALTH COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH COAL POLLUTION IN DELHI IS ESTIMATED AT \$ 8.4 BILLION OVER THE COMING DECADE

from coal power plants air pollution in the city," Dr Rachel Huxley, Head of knowledge and research at C40.

The research also sheds light on how closing coal plants would save lives, cut costs and create jobs in Delhi.

Governments can create 2.26 lakh energy jobs by 2030 by retiring the oldest and least competitive coal plants while investing in solar and wind energy to supply Delhi with renewable electricity, the C40 Cities report suggests.

"A transition to clean energy is not only critical for Indian cities to reduce air pollution, improve their residents' health and deliver their climate targets, aligned to Paris Agreements but also to create jobs," said Shruti Narayan, Regional Director C40, South and West Asia.

Cong's new plans to counter BJP in UP

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 29: The Congress in Uttar Pradesh will set up 100 war rooms to counter the RSS-BJP propaganda.

These war rooms will also be used to prevent party cadres from getting "lured" by the "regional parties" which have alienated from their primary ideologies for the sake of survival.

According to a senior party leader, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who arrived in Lucknow Monday evening, will formally begin meeting various groups in the party Tuesday and also fine-tune the process for selection of candidates for the 2022 Assembly elections.

"The Congress General Secretary is expected to discuss with party leaders, the finer points about the party's 'Pratigya Yatra'



scheduled to be launched soon. The yatra will cover a distance of about 12,000 km to connect with people in all the major cities and Assembly constituencies of the state," said the leader.

A party functionary said: "This is her second visit within a month

and is expected to last for five days. Her mere presence has energised party workers who now feel that the party is determined to fight the enemy."

Organisational leaders said that the Congress was working hard to position itself as the only chance

against the "autocratic RSS and automated BJP".

"The party will most likely roll out its poll campaign on the first day of Navratri. Besides holding yatras to spread the anti-BJP message, Priyanka will also review the selection of candidates and meet the manifesto committee members besides her routine meetings," the functionary said.

Sources said that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra may proceed to Varanasi from here to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti Saturday.

Meanwhile, the UPCC announced statewide demonstrations on Tuesday to demand a judicial probe into the incident and withdrawal of cases against the Congress leaders, the most recent being cases against former Congress MP Pramod Tiwari and Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra in Pratapgarh.

GODLY TOUCH



An artisan applying finishing touches to a Durga idol at a studio ahead of the Durga puja in New Delhi

UNI PHOTO

ROW OVER DRESS CODE

Restaurant asked to shut for lack of licence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: A restaurant that allegedly denied entry to a saree-clad woman here was issued a closure notice by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation for operating without a proper trade licence, following which the owner said he has shut operations.

SDMC officials said on Wednesday that a closure notice was issued to the Aquila Restaurant located at Ansal Plaza in Andrews Ganj for operating without a valid licence.

The September 24 closure notice said the area public health inspector found during a check September 21 that the facility is running without a health trade licence and under unhygienic conditions. It also flagged encroachment on public land.

"The public health inspector again inspected the site on September 24 and found that the trade is running under the same condition. You are directed to close the trade within 48 hours of

In a social media post last week a woman had alleged she was refused entry in the south Delhi restaurant because she was wearing a saree

the receipt of this notice failing which suitable action including sealing will be taken without assigning further notice," the SDMC notice issued to the restaurant-owner said.

In his response September 27, the owner said, "I have closed-down the above said trade immediately and I shall not run the same trade without SDMC Trade Licence under insanitary condition from health point of view and create nuisance."

The woman had also posted a short video of her argument with the restaurant staff, alongside a couple of pictures of herself in the saree. Later, the restaurant claimed that the incident was "misrepresented".

Patriotism lessons at Delhi govt schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Starting the class with five minutes of "deshbhakti dhyam", maintaining "deshbhakti diary", Flag Day activity and exploring why "India is glorious but still not developed", are among the main features of Delhi government's ambitious patriotism curriculum which will be rolled out in its schools.

The curriculum for classes nursery to 12, which was launched at a mega event at Chatrasal stadium Tuesday, will not have any textbooks.

According to officials, the 40-minute classes will be conducted every day for classes six to eight and twice a week for classes nine to 12.

"Each class will begin with a five-minute activity called 'deshbhakti dhyam'. During the meditation, students will chant the lines 'I bow before my country and I respect Bharat Mata' through their minds," explained an official of the Directorate of Education (DoE).

"The children will then be asked to take a vow to honour their country and preserve its respect. In the end, the students will be asked to think of five people who they consider patriots and thank them in their minds," the official said.

The students will be asked to



Students wave Tricolours during the launch of Deshbhakti Curriculum in all government schools in New Delhi

maintain a new notebook or diary as "deshbhakti diary" which will be a reflective journal to document learnings, thoughts and feelings along the journey of the Deshbhakti Curriculum and will have notes related to the homework.

The topics include taking responsibility towards the country and its progress, constructive criticism, respect for and harmonious coexistence with others, critically thinking about issues confronting the country, comprehensive conception of patriotism, linking patriotism to the lived realities and

everyday actions of students and working for the country's development with pride and honesty.

Some of the chapters are: 'My India is glorious but why not developed', 'Deshbhakti: My country my pride', 'Who is a Deshbhakt' and 'India of my dreams'.

"Facilitator's handbooks have been designed for three cohorts - nursery to class five; classes six to eight and classes nine to 12 - and these will be used to inculcate patriotism among the students through simple activities," the DoE official added.

JNU CONVOCATION

Over 470 students to be awarded PhD degrees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Over 470 students will be awarded their PhD degrees at the fifth convocation of the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will be the chief guest at the convocation to be held Thursday in virtual mode owing to the pandemic.

Satish Garkoti, Rector II of the university, said 479 students have registered for the convocation. All are PhD students.

Their names will be announced during the online ceremony and they will be able to collect the degrees and certificates later, he said.

The first convocation of the university was held in 1972 when G Parthasarathi was the vice-chancellor. The practice resumed in 2018 after a gap of almost 46 years with JNU chancellor Dr V K Saraswat as the chief guest.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest at the third convocation in 2019, which saw protests by students over hostel fee hike, forcing then HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" to stay inside the venue for over six hours.

River ranching in UP to clean Ganga

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 29: In another effort to keep the Ganga clean and pollution-free, the Uttar Pradesh government, under the Namami Ganga campaign, will begin the practice of river ranching.

An action plan has been formulated, according to which about 15 lakh fishes of different species will be released into the river by the Department of Fisheries.

This will help in sustaining and conserving the biodiversity in the river and will ensure its cleanliness under the Namami Ganga campaign. These fishes will be released in about 12 districts ranging from eastern Uttar Pradesh to the western Uttar Pradesh.

These districts are Ghazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Kaushambhi, Pratapgarh, Kanpur, Hardoi, Bahraich, Bulandshahr, Amroha and Bijnor.

To ensure the cleanliness of the



Representational image

river, the state government has also constructed sewage treatment plants (STPs) to eliminate flow of untreated sewage into Ganga under the Namami Ganga campaign.

To monitor pollution along the river, the government also deployed the Ganga Task Force.

Principal Secretary, Namami

Ganga, Anurag Srivastava said that the practice of river ranching is a part of the efforts being made for cleanliness of Ganga and conservation of groundwater.

NS Rahmani, Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries said that the activity of 'river ranching' is also used to control pollution and to

GREAT INITIATIVE

About 15 lakh fishes of different species will be released into the river by the Department of Fisheries

Nearly 1.5 lakh fishes each will be released in Ganga from Varanasi and Ghazipur districts

River ranching will help in achieving sustainable fisheries, reducing habitat degradation, conserving biodiversity, maximising social-economic benefits and will also remove factors causing pollution

improve marine life in the river. In this activity, different species of fish are released in the river, which destroy the factors that increase the levels of nitrogen.

These fish will also aid in maintaining the cleanliness of the river

as they feed on organic remnants. He added that due to overfishing and pollution in the Ganges, fish population was also decreasing.

Rahmani, further informed that about 1500 kg of fish, present in an area of about 4,000 square metres, controls about 1 mg per litre of nitrogen waste.

Therefore, the government has decided to release nearly 15 lakh fish into the Ganges to control excess nitrogen in the river. If nitrogen exceeds 100 mg per litre or more, it becomes highly detrimental to the fish diversity of the river.

Consequently, the fish cannot reproduce and lay eggs which leads to their extinction.

Through this practice, the released fish will be made to grow and proliferate for restoration of the fish stock, which will not only protect the aquatic organisms but will also reduce the pollution. The fish to be released include Rohu, Catla and Mrigal.

EXODUS FROM BSP CONTINUES IN UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 29: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is facing an unprecedented exodus from the party on the eve of the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

After a revolt by seven legislators last year, the BSP is losing more leaders to the Samajwadi Party.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) national general secretary RS Kushwaha, Monday, called on Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav at the party headquarters in Lucknow. Though the meeting was termed as a courtesy call, it is said that Kushwaha is all set to join SP any day now. "In any case, even if he does not join SP, he will be expelled from the BSP after this meeting," said a BSP leader.

Earlier, two expelled BSP MLAs Lalji Varma and Ram Achal Rajbhar had also met Akhilesh

Yadav for a 'courtesy call'. Another senior BSP MLA and former Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Sukhdev Rajbhar had announced his retirement from active politics while his son, Kamakant Rajbhar, has joined the SP. SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said the Samajwadi Party has emerged as the only alternative to the ruling BJP.

Dissent within the BSP is growing by leaps and bounds as more and more leaders are leaving the party. Interestingly, most of the leaders who are quitting the party belong to Dalit and OBC communities. One of the BSP MLAs, who is preparing to join the SP, said, "The BSP is now ruled by Brahmins (read Satish Mishra). I made several attempts to meet the party president in Lucknow, but was not given an opportunity. If an MLA cannot meet his party president, then what is to be expected from the party?"

national

of the day quote

For us India is not a map, it is not just a physical boundary of lines, it is carried everywhere by the people living here. We carry India inside us and it evolves every day

Celebrate the upcoming festivals within the house only and make sure that all your members are vaccinated against the Covid virus

The BJP government at the Centre does not want to conduct caste census as it knows that backwards will demand their right and due respect after it. This is the biggest demand of backwards and Dalits

SHORT TAKES

Man attacks wife in court

Belagavi (Karnataka): In a shocking incident, a retired soldier Wednesday attacked his wife with a machete in the premises of a court in Karnataka's Belagavi, severing her leg, police said. The condition of victim, identified as Jayamala, is said to be serious and she has been admitted to a hospital. The retired soldier, Shivappa Adaki, has been taken into custody.

ED summons Shiv Sena MP Gawali

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Shiv Sena MP Bhavana Gawali for questioning October 4 in a money laundering case registered against her and others, official sources said Wednesday. Gawali, 48, is a member of the Lok Sabha from the Yavatmal-Washim seat in Maharashtra. The Shiv Sena MP has been asked to deposit before the investigating officer of the case at the ED office located in South Mumbai, they said.

Luizinho Faleiro joins Trinamool

Kolkata: As expected the two-time Chief Minister of Goa and former Congress leader Luizinho Faleiro joined Trinamool Congress Wednesday in Kolkata. Ten other Congress leaders also joined Trinamool along with Faleiro. Flanked by Trinamool Congress All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, State Minister of Panchayat Subrata Mukherjee and the party MP Sougata Roy, Faleiro took the flag of the party from Banerjee and said that his primary job is to fight the divisive politics, vengeance and the culture of intolerance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Boy's tongue slashed in UP

Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh): A 12-year-old boy's tongue was slashed with a pair of scissors during a quarrel between children in which their respective families also got involved. Another boy was also pushed to the ground in which he sustained head injuries. Three people have been booked under IPC section 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means).

Shameful incident

Basti (UP): A teenage boy and a girl were paraded with a garland of footwear around their necks and faces blackened for apparently having an affair in a village in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh, police said Wednesday. After a video of the incident that took place in the Gaur police station area Tuesday went viral, police swung into action and arrested 15 people.



Locked up in my house today yet again for attempting to visit the village in Tral allegedly ransacked by army. This is the real picture of Kashmir that visiting dignitaries must be shown instead of GOIs sanitised & guided picnic tours

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

MAHA RAINS SUBSIDE

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Wednesday directed officials to expedite relief measures for people affected by the recent spell of heavy rains and floods in several parts of the state. Parts of Marathwada, north Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Konkan regions, including Mumbai, have been lashed by heavy showers in the last few days, but the rain intensity reduced Wednesday



SIBAL'S JAB AT CONG LEADERSHIP

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 29: Former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence here Wednesday, raising speculation over his future plans ahead of the Assembly polls in the state. The sources said the veteran Congress leader may also meet some of the "Group of 23" leaders, including Kapil Sibal and Ghulam Nabi Azad. Singh's meeting with Shah assumes significance as the Congress leader had not opened his cards and had claimed that he had not quit politics and would fight till the end. With several Congress leaders quitting the party and its Punjab unit in turmoil, senior party leader Kapil Sibal Wednesday demanded

In our party at the moment there is no president. So we don't know who is taking these decisions. We know and yet we don't know

KAPIL SIBAL | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

that an immediate meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) be convened and wondered who in the party was taking decisions in the absence of a full-time president. Hours after he raised questions over the functioning of the Congress, senior party leader Kapil Sibal Wednesday came under attacks from several quarters with party workers also protesting outside his house here.



Delhi Congress workers hold placards reading Get Well Soon Kapil Sibal stage a protest against Kapil Sibal outside his residence

In the wake of several Congress leaders quitting the party and its Punjab unit in turmoil, Sibal demanded that an immediate meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) be convened and wondered who in the party was taking decisions in the absence of a full-time president. Sibal, a member of the 'Group of 23' which last year had written to Congress President Sonia Gandhi, said at a press conference that the grouping is "not a Jee Huzur 23" and will continue to put forth the views and will continue to repeat the demands. Carrying 'Get Well Soon' placards and raising slogans against Sibal, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee

(DPCC) workers protested outside his house, saying they were "hurt" by his remarks. "The workers went there on their own accord as they felt hurt by Sibal's remarks. They just expressed their disappointment over the remarks," a senior DPCC functionary said on condition of anonymity.

Several leaders hit out at Sibal for what they said was questioning the leadership from which he had earlier "benefitted". Youth Congress chief Srinivas B V said on Twitter, "Listen 'Ji-Huzoor' : The President and Leadership of the party are the same, who always ensured your entry in Parliament, made you a 'minister' during the good times of the party, when in opposition, en-

AZAD WRITES TO SONIA

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has written to party president Sonia Gandhi demanding an immediate meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) to discuss the current state of affairs in the organisation. Sources said Azad, a former leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha who currently leads the 'Group of 23' leaders who have demanded organisational overhaul in the past, has sought internal discussions in the wake of exodus of its leaders. Senior party colleague has also demanded that an immediate meeting of the CWC, the highest decision-making body of the party, be convened and wondered who in the party was taking decisions in the absence of a full-time president.

sured your entry into Rajya Sabha, always rewarded with responsibilities in good and bad times. And when the 'time' came for struggle, then..." Congress general secretary Ajay Maken and Chhattisgarh minister T S Singhdeo also hit out at Sibal for his remarks.

Sidhu's resignation a setback for Priyanka

Navjot Singh Sidhu's resignation as Punjab Congress chief is seen as a setback for party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who was at the forefront in the appointment of the former cricketer over the objections of then Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. Now questions are being raised in the Congress over the selection of Sidhu. Sidhu resigned much to the dismay of the Congress party and on the day when the party was going gaga over the joining of Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mevani. Due to the Punjab mess this could not get prominence in the media as well as the public. The party is upset over his resignation and has asked emissaries to settle the issue.

World leaders thank India for vax shipments

India will resume the export of surplus Covid-19 vaccines in the fourth quarter of 2021 under the 'Vaccine Maitri' programme and meet its commitment to the COVAX global pool



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

valuable support provided by our partners. We are truly grateful to our genuine friends Australia, India, Japan and Republic of China (Taiwan), for their ongoing assistance."

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said Abuja remains grateful for the assistance received from its partners and friends all over the world.

Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Philip Pierre said the "insidious" nature of the coronavirus has allowed it to sneak across even the most heavily patrolled borders, and Saint Lucia has experienced waves of highs and lows in managing this pandemic.

Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves said it is "timely to remind all of us that the noblest form of solidarity is to give not from the abundance or surplus that we may have but from the little that we possess; that is the lesson of the proverbial widow's mite."

Ghana had also termed as "unfortunate" the development in "some countries in Europe" of not recognising the Covishield vaccine manufactured in India for travellers.

Prime Minister of Fiji Josaia Bainimarama said after one full year with zero local Covid cases, the "insidious" Delta variant crept into the country and sparked a deadly second outbreak. Dominica's Minister for Foreign Affairs Kenneth Darroux expressed gratitude for the vaccine doses it received from India and other nations.

New Delhi/United Nations, Sept 29: World leaders thanked India for its help and support in combating the coronavirus pandemic through "early and meaningful" shipments of Covid-19 vaccine doses, as they addressed the high-level UN General Assembly session this year. Several world leaders expressed their gratitude to India and other nations for the help provided through exports of vaccines and other critical medical supplies in their national statements at the 76th UNGA session's General Debate that ran through September 21-27. Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, in his address, expressed his sincere gratitude to the countries and organisations "who expressed solidarity and had provided valuable support to my country and people in the battle against this pandemic, at a very early stage."

Nauru President Lionel Rouwen Aingimea said his country's efforts to respond to Covid-19 and vaccinate its people "would not have been possible without the

WATER SPORT



Madras sappers personnel take part in water sports during a media visit to Madras Engineers Group (MEG) & Centre on the day ahead of the celebration of 241st MEF Day in Bangalore

India to buy weapons worth ₹13,165 cr

ACCORDING TO THE DEFENCE MINISTRY, 87% OF THE PROCUREMENT WORTH ₹11,486 CRORE WILL BE FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The defence ministry Wednesday approved the procurement of military platforms and hardware worth ₹13,165 crore that includes 25 indigenously-developed ALH Mark-III helicopters.

The cost of acquiring the helicopters has been estimated at ₹3,850 crore, while a batch of rocket ammunition will be procured for ₹4,962 crore, the defence ministry said.

The procurement proposals were approved at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) that

was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Out of the total procurements, equipment and platforms worth ₹11,486 crore will be sourced from domestic entities.

"The DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisitions proposals for modernisation and operational needs of the Indian Armed Forces amounting to approximately ₹13,165 crore. In addition, the DAC also approved a few amendments to the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 as a part of "business process re-engineering to ensure further ease of doing busi-

ness for the industry as well as measures to enhance procurement efficiency and reducing timelines", the ministry said.

The approval to the procurement proposals came five days after the ministry sealed a nearly Rs 21,000 crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C-295 transport aircraft to replace the ageing Avro-748 planes of the IAF.

Under the agreement, Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in 'fly-away condition from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain, within four years.

CBI'S REPORT ON FIRECRACKERS

CAN'T ALLOW PEOPLE TO SUFFER, DIE: SC

POINTING AT THE AIR POLLUTION CAUSED BY BURSTING OF FIRECRACKERS, THE TOP COURT OBSERVED THAT IT HAS TO TAKE BALANCED VIEW LOOKING AT THE COUNTRY, AS EVERY DAY, THERE IS A CELEBRATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 29: After the CBI's preliminary report indicted six leading firecracker units for violating the top court's order on use of barium and its salts, the Supreme Court Wednesday issued show cause notice to manufacturers, and sought an explanation why contempt proceedings should be not initiated against them, and why their licenses not be cancelled.

A bench comprising Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna noted the CBI's report on use of toxic chemicals in manufacturing of firecrackers is very serious and there is also "prima facie" violation of the court's orders on use of bar-

ium and labelling of fireworks.

"Why cannot these companies be punished and why their licenses cannot be cancelled? They have purchased banned substance from market to manufacture crackers," the bench said, emphasising that the report has been received from government labs, therefore it is reliable.

The bench also noted that the CBI's preliminary enquiry report has come out with a finding that banned harmful chemicals have been used by manufacturers in several crackers. The report claimed that firecracker manufacturers were also not disclosing the correct ingredients on the labels of the product.



Pointing at the air pollution caused by bursting of firecrackers, the top court observed that it has to take balanced view looking at the country, as every day, there is a celebration. If further added that the court cannot allow people to suf-

fer and die due to air pollution. "Only those suffering from asthma can feel this. We have to take a balanced view looking at the country because every day there is a celebration...but we have to see other factors also and we

cannot allow them to suffer and die," it said.

The bench observed, if it were to issue orders for only green crackers, it may end up flouting, and the manufacturers may continue to use banned chemicals.

The top court allowed the firecracker manufacturers to peruse the CBI report and file a counter on it, and scheduled the matter for further hearing October 6.

When counsel representing a firecracker manufacturer asked the court to hear her client, the bench remarked: "Yes, we will hear you, before sending you to jail." Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati appeared for the Ministry of Environment,

Mid-Day Meal scheme to be now called PM POSHAN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The national Mid-Day Meal Scheme in government and aided schools popularly will now be known as PM POSHAN Scheme and will also cover students of balvatikas or pre primary classes, the government announced Wednesday.

Encouraging "Tithi Bhojan" to allow people from community to provide special food to children on occasions and festivals, using harvest from "school nutrition gardens" for cooking mid-day meals, cooking competitions to promote ethnic cuisine and innovative menus and involvement of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO) and Women Self Help Groups in implementation of the scheme, are among the features which have been added in the new scheme. The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the roll-out of the 'PM POSHAN in Schools' scheme that will provide hot cooked meal to students of elementary classes in government and government-aided schools across the country. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Today the CCEA cleared the PM POSHAN (Poshan Shakti Nirman) Scheme for providing one hot cooked meal in government and government-aided schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26, earlier known as National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme," Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said.

Gulab to intensify into another cyclone: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The remnants of Cyclone Gulab are likely to enter the Arabian Sea September 30 and intensify into a cyclonic storm a day later and then move towards Pakistan, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday.

The IMD said a low pressure area - a remnant of Cyclone Gulab - was formed over south Gujarat region and adjoining Gulf of Khambhat Wednesday morning. "It is very likely to move west-northwestwards, emerge into north-east Arabian Sea and intensify into a depression by tomorrow (September 30)."

"Then it is very likely to move further west-northwestwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm during the subsequent 24 hours (October 1). Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards towards Pakistan Makran coasts, moving away from the Indian coast," the IMD said.

The IMD said light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places and extremely heavy falls at isolated places are very likely over Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat.

Forests and Climate Change.

The report of the Joint Director, CBI, Chennai on Standard Fireworks said: "Chemical analysis revealed that 11 finished firecrackers and one sample of raw material contained barium salt, out of which four finished firecrackers which tested positive for barium were manufactured in the year 2020, i.e. after the ban on barium salt was imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated October 23, 2018. Remaining seven samples of finished fire crackers were collected in loose form, hence the date of manufacturing and the details of the chemical composition were not known."

international



North Korea's latest missile launches will not affect the US' determination to seek diplomacy with the North for the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula

MATTER OF CONCERN

Air pollution likely contributed to nearly six million premature births and almost three million underweight babies around the world in 2019, according to a study published Wednesday



of the day quote

Investing in job-rich growth, social protection and a just transition to a net-zero emissions future, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, could prevent a further deepening of the inequalities between developed and developing economies that have been exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

We sincerely hope the US will walk the walk by truly abandoning the Cold War mentality

ZHANG JUN | CHINA'S UN AMBASSADOR

Greater economic cooperation should drive the privileged partnership between India and Mexico

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Five arrested

Thessaloniki: Police in northern Greece have arrested five people and detained at least 20 others following clashes involving youths backed by an extreme right-wing political group. The youths entered a vocational high school and hurled gasoline bombs, flares, and rocks at a rival gathering organised by left-wing university student groups against government education reforms. The clashes occurred Wednesday in Thessaloniki, Greece's second-largest city, where police used tear gas to break up the violent demonstration as classes at the school were ongoing.

Toll rises

Lagos: A cholera outbreak in Nigeria has killed 2,791 people since its onset in January, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) reported on Wednesday. There were 55 deaths out of 1,825 suspected new cases recorded in nine states during the September 13-19 period, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the NCDC.

US deports Russian man

Washington: In a surprising development, a Russian man who was imprisoned in the U.S. for cybercrimes has been deported to Russia, officials said Tuesday. Aleksei Burkov, 31, facilitated \$20 million in credit card fraud and ran a sophisticated clearinghouse for international criminals. He was sentenced to nine years in prison last year after pleading guilty in federal court in Virginia. Burkov was flown Monday on a commercial flight back to Russia, said Dani Bennett, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She said Burkov was wanted in Russia for attempted theft and making and selling counterfeit credit cards.

Quake shakes Sea of Japan

Tokyo: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 struck in the central part of the Sea of Japan on Wednesday, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). The quake occurred at around 5:37 p.m. local time, with its epicenter at a latitude of 38.8 degrees north and a longitude of 135.5 degrees east, and at depth of 400 km. The quake logged 3 in some parts of Aomori, Iwate and Fukushima prefectures on the Japanese seismic intensity scale which peaks at 7, Xinhua news agency reported.

CHANGE OF GUARD

Kishida to be new Japan PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 29: Former Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida won the governing party's leadership election Wednesday and is set to become the next prime minister, facing the tasks of reviving a pandemic-hit economy and ensuring a strong alliance with Washington to counter growing regional security risks.

Kishida replaces outgoing party leader Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after serving only one year. As new leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Kishida is certain to be elected the next prime minister on Monday in parliament, where his party and its coalition partner control both houses.

In his victory speech, Kishida vowed to tackle "national crises" including COVID-19, the pandemic-battered economy and the declining population and birthrate. He said he would pursue "important issues related to Japan's future" through a vision of "a free and open Indo-Pacific" that counters China's assertiveness in the region.

Kishida defeated popular vaccinations minister Taro Kono in a runoff after finishing only one vote ahead of him in the first round, in which none of the four candidates, including two women, was able to



Kishida replaces outgoing party leader Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after serving only one year

In his victory speech, Kishida vowed to tackle "national crises" including COVID-19, the pandemic-battered economy and the declining population and birthrate

Kishida is under pressure to change the party's high-handed reputation, worsened by Suga, who angered the public over his handling of the pandemic and insistence on holding the Summer Olympics in Tokyo despite surging infections

win a majority. In a landslide 257-170 victory in the second round, Kishida received support from party heavyweights who apparently chose stability over change advocated by Kono, who is known as something of a maverick and a reformist.

Kishida is under pressure to change the party's high-handed reputation, worsened by Suga, who angered the public over his handling of the pandemic and insistence on holding the Summer Olympics in Tokyo despite surging infections.

The long-ruling conservative Liberal Democratic Party desperately needs to quickly turn around plunging public support ahead of lower

house elections coming within two months. Kishida said he heard many voters in the past year complaining that they were being ignored. "I felt our democracy is in a crisis," he said in his speech. "I, Fumio Kishida, have a special skill of listening to people. I am determined to make an effort toward making a more open LDP and a bright future for Japan together with you all."

The former foreign minister was once seen as an indecisive moderate. Lately, however, he has shifted to become a security and diplomatic hawk as he sought support from influential conservatives to win the party election.

Israeli settlers attack Palestinian village, wound toddler

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ramallah, Sept 29: Dozens of Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian village in the occupied West Bank, hurling stones at cars and homes and leaving several people wounded, including a Palestinian toddler, activists said Wednesday.

Video of Tuesday's attack released by an Israeli rights group showed several shirtless settlers with scarves wrapped around their faces hurling stones at a cluster of homes and vehicles.

Israeli troops stood among the settlers but did not appear to be taking any action to stop them. The Israeli military declined to comment. Israeli police described it as a "friction incident" and said two Palestinians and a settler were arrested.

Tunisia names first woman PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tunis, Sept 29: Tunisia's president Wednesday named the country's first female prime minister, appointing her to lead a transitional government after her predecessor was sacked and parliament suspended.

President Kais Saied named Raoudha Boudent Ramadhane, a 63-year-old professor at a prestigious engineering school, to the prime minister's post in a surprise decision.

The president's office said in a statement that Saied instructed the new prime minister to name a new Cabinet as soon as possible.

GEARING UP



A scuba diver feeds fish at KLCC Aquarium center before it reopens to public in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday

NATURE'S FURY Lava from La Palma eruption reaches Atlantic

La Palma, home to about 85,000 people, is part of the volcanic Canary Islands, an archipelago off northwest Africa

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 29: A bright red river of lava from the volcano on Spain's La Palma island finally tumbled over a cliff and into the Atlantic Ocean, setting off huge plumes of steam and possibly toxic gases that required local residents outside the evacuation zone to remain indoors on Wednesday.

The immediate area had been evacuated for several days as authorities waited over a week for the lava that began erupting

September 19 to traverse the 6.5 kilometres (4 miles) to the island's edge. On the way down from the Cumbre Vieja volcanic ridge, the flows have consumed at least 656 buildings, mostly homes that turned out to be in its unstoppable march to the sea.

The meeting of molten rock and sea water finally came at 11 pm on Tuesday. By daybreak, a widening promontory of newborn land could be seen forming under plumes of steam rising high into the area. Even though their initial readings



of the air quality showed no danger in the area, experts had warned that the arrival of the lava at the ocean would likely produce small explosions and release toxic gases that could damage lungs. Authorities

established a security perimeter of 3.5 kilometers (2.1 miles) and asked residents in the wider area to remain indoors with windows shut to avoid breathing in gases. No deaths or serious injuries

have been reported from the island's first eruption in 50 years, thanks to the prompt evacuations of over 6,000 people in the first hours after the earth cracked open following weeks of tremors.

The flattening of the terrain as it approached the coast had slowed down the flow of the lava, causing it to widen out and do more damage to villages and farms. The local economy is largely based on agriculture, above all the cultivation of the Canary plantain.

Just before it poured down a cliff into the sea at a local point known as Los Guirres, the lava rolled over the coastal highway, cutting off the last road in the area that connects the island to several villages.

GROWING CHALLENGE

Chinese switch to flashlights, generators amid power cuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shenyang, (China), Sept 29: People ate breakfast by the light of smartphones and shopkeepers turned on generators as cities across China enforced power cuts Wednesday to meet official conservation targets and ease shortages in some areas.

News reports blame high coal prices they say make power companies reluctant to meet booming demand, while economists say the real motive is political. Officials are under pressure to curtail energy use to meet official targets.

In Shenyang, the northeast's most populous city, restaurant owner Li Yufeng used a battery from an electric bicycle to run a pot

for noodles after seeing a notice power would be switched off at 7:30 am. Li said he started work two hours early, at 6 am, to prepare chicken, sauces and other dishes.

"There are some impacts, but not a big impact," said Li as customers ate by smartphone lights. Factories in China's busiest manufacturing provinces have been ordered to suspend production for up to a week, prompting concern global supplies of smartphones and other goods might be disrupted. Now, urban neighbourhoods are being blacked out, triggering pleas on social media for the government to solve the problem.

China's power consumption is growing at almost double its usual



rate, while the ruling Communist Party is trying to reduce energy intensity, or the amount used per unit of economic output.

The power cuts come as global

leaders prepare to attend a UN environmental conference by video link on October 12-13 in the southwestern city of Kunming. That increases pressure on President Xi Jinping's

government, as the meeting's host, to show it is sticking to emissions and energy efficiency targets.

The cuts are "largely driven by energy consumption control measures, with power shortages affecting another few provinces," Lara Dong of IHS Markit said in an e-mail. "This is in line with China's decarbonisation ambitions," she said.

The Cabinet's planning agency warned in August that 20 regions had exceeded energy use and pollution targets after manufacturing rebounded from the pandemic. The government has ambitious plans to make the economy cleaner and more energy-efficient, so failing to meet those targets can be a career-ending blunder.

The power cuts "could be more disruptive than previous shortages," Bank of America said in a report. Due to shortages in some areas, it said, "a relaxation of the government's energy consumption goals may not immediately alleviate the power crunch."

China is one of the world's biggest emitters of climate-changing industrial gases and consumes more energy per unit of economic output than developed countries. Given its huge population, on a per capita basis it ranks much lower.

China is also preparing for the Winter Olympics in the capital, Beijing, and the nearby city of Shijiazhuang in February, a period when it will want clear blue skies.

of the day quote

We must recognise that we are in the post Covid world, in almost a Y2K-like moment for the Indian tech space. We are at an unprecedented inflection point in terms of opportunities for growth

We are struggling to debt fund start ups. Bank norms and rules allow debt funding to profitable ones. As initially startups are loss making, they are to be funded based on the viability of the idea only. We are trying a way out

The India Pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2020 offers a golden opportunity to showcase India to the world and project our country as the next hub for growth and innovation. L&T's story has been woven with India's growth story for over eight decades

ASHWINI KUMAR TEWARI | MD, SBI

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

SN SUBRAHMANYAN | CEO AND MD, L&T

SHORT TAKES

Coal India set to ramp up supplies

Chennai: State-run Coal India said Wednesday it will ramp up supplies to utilities to address a coal shortage that has left most of the country's power plants close to running out of fuel when electricity demand is increasing.

Govt moves ECLGS scheme deadline

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry Wednesday expanded the scope of the ₹4.5 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to support micro, small and medium enterprises facing liquidity issues due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Samsung launches Galaxy M52 5G

Bhubaneswar: Samsung announced the launch of Galaxy M52 5G, a powerful M series smartphone. It features 7.4mm sleek design, 6nm Snapdragon 778G processor, super AMOLED+ 120Hz display, 5000mAh battery.

SBI to start 3-day festive cashback

New Delhi: India's largest pure-play credit card issuer SBI Card Wednesday announced its three-day festival to offer cashback benefits for online shopping on all domestic e-commerce platforms beginning next month.



Last week, crude oil prices inched upwards to seven-week highs. The cost of crude oil has considerable impact on the pace of energy transition pathways. It is in the collective global interest that energy transition should be orderly

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

VEDANTU, INDIA'S NEWEST UNICORN

Tutoring service Vedantu became India's latest startup to reach a \$1 billion valuation after raising funds from investors betting on the country's rapidly growing online education market.



Musk urges US regulators to let crypto fly

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Sept 29: Tesla chief executive Elon Musk thinks US regulators should take cryptocurrency out of their crosshairs, leaving it free to 'fly', he told a conference in California.

An outspoken digital money fan, shared his view at a Code Conference in Beverly Hills, as governments around the world fret over cryptocurrency threatening their control of financial systems.



is potential for cryptocurrency to be considered a security, and platforms to be seen through the lens of those regulations. China's central bank last week said all financial transactions involving

I wouldn't say that I am some massive cryptocurrency expert. I think there is some value in cryptocurrency. I don't think it is like the second coming of the messiah, which is what some people seem to think

ELON MUSK | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TESLA

in part due to Chinese regulations, which have sought to prevent speculation and money laundering. "It would appear they don't love cryptocurrency; it's subtle but hinting in that direction," Musk quipped when asked about the crackdown in China.

Mahindra mulls funding options for EV supercar



AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 29: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd is considering options to raise funds for its unit Automobili Pininfarina, as the Indian automaker looks to start production of its \$2.2 million electric hypercar; Bloomberg News reported.

The Munich-based luxury electric vehicle unit had in 2019 rolled out a prototype of its 1,900-horsepower Battista, which had a top speed of 350 km/hour and a range up to 500 km in a single charge.

Mahindra's options include a merger with a blank-check company and a potential overseas listing of the EV supercar business.

It could seek to value the unit at around \$500 million in any deal, the report said, citing people with knowledge of the matter.

Automobili Pininfarina originally planned to build 150 cars beginning 2020, but now deliveries are due to start early in 2022, the report said, citing a spokesperson for Automobili Pininfarina.

Mahindra bought a 76.06% stake in Turin-based Pininfarina, the designer of some of the most iconic Ferrari, Alfa Romeo and Maserati models, in 2015 for \$28 million. As part of its push to become a key player in the high-end electric vehicles segment, it set up Munich-based Automobili Pininfarina in 2018.

GOVT APPROVES ECGC IPO, ₹4,400 CR CAPITAL INFUSION

The govt also approved continuation of the National Export Insurance Account scheme and infusion of ₹1,650 cr Grant-in-Aid over five years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The Cabinet Wednesday approved ₹4,400-crore capital infusion in the state-owned credit insurance provider Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Limited (ECGC) and its listing through an initial public offering.

Giving details of the decisions taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CEA), Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the government has undertaken a series of measures to provide a boost to the exports sector.

In line with this, he said the government has approved capital infusion of ₹4,400 crore to ECGC Ltd (formerly known as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.) over a period of five years (FY 2021-2022 to FY 2025-2026).

The approved infusion along with efforts made to suitably synchronise with the listing process of ECGC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO) will increase the underwriting capacity of ECGC to support more exports. He also said the government will start the process to list the state-owned entity soon, and the IPO would hit the market during the next financial year.

Replying to a query regarding the capital infusion in ECGC, he said: "If we are able to insure more people (exporters) and use the available headroom, then the funds would be



EXPORT BOOST

The capital infusion would increase the ECGC's capacity to underwrite risks up to ₹88,000 crore. This will enable ECGC to issue covers that can support additional exports of ₹5.28 lakh crore

Capital infusion in ECGC will enable it to expand its coverage to export oriented industry particularly labour-intensive sectors

₹500 crore will be infused in the ECGC immediately and another ₹500 crore in the next financial year

The country's exports till September 21, 2021, this fiscal were at USD 185 billion and may touch USD 190 billion by the end of the first FY

made available as and when required. Cabinet has specifically said that first installment be re-

leased immediately, second installment will try to synchronise it with DIPAM listing process which is why I said next year because I expect the listing to happen next year..." the minister said. As regards the percentage of shares of ECGC to be listed, he said it could be fresh equity infusion or disinvestment or combination of both. "...There is an established alternative mechanism which takes the decision in this respect. We will take it in due course," Goyal added. An official release in this regard said that the proposed listing of ECGC would unlock the true value of the company, promote 'people's ownership' by encouraging public participation in the equity holding of the company and also promote Corporate Governance through transparency and greater accountability.

DEBT FUNDS

Sebi brings swing pricing mechanism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Capital markets regulator Sebi Wednesday decided to introduce a swing pricing mechanism for open-ended debt mutual fund schemes, a move that will discourage large investors from sudden redemptions.

To begin with, the swing pricing framework will be made applicable only for scenarios related to net outflows from the schemes, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The mechanism will be a hybrid framework with a partial swing during normal times and a mandatory full swing during market dislocation times for high risk open-ended debt scheme.

The new framework, aimed at ensuring fairness in treatment of entering, exiting and existing investors in mutual fund schemes, particularly during market dislocation, will be applicable from March 1, 2022.

During normal times, Sebi said industry body Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) will prescribe broad parameters for determination of thresholds for triggering swing pricing which will be followed by the asset management companies (AMCs).

The industry body will prescribe an indicative range of swing thresholds for the industry for normal times. For normal times, AMCs will decide on the applicability of



Swing pricing refers to a process for adjusting a fund's net asset value to effectively pass on transaction costs

swing pricing and the quantum of swing factor depending on scheme specific issues. These need to be disclosed in the Scheme Information Document (SID).

For the purpose of determining market dislocation, the regulator said Amfi will develop a set of guidelines for recommending the same to Sebi. The regulator will determine 'market dislocation' either based on Amfi's recommendation or suo moto.

Once market dislocation is declared, it will be notified by Sebi that swing pricing will be applicable for a specified period.

Subsequent to the announcement of market dislocation, the swing pricing mechanism will be mandated only for high risk open-ended debt schemes as they carry high risk securities compared to other schemes.

RIL backs Saudi Aramco chairman

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 29: Reliance Industries Ltd said Wednesday Saudi Aramco chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan met all regulatory criteria for his appointment as an independent director, pending a shareholder approval on the decision.

Last week, shareholder California State Teachers' Retirement Fund had decided to vote against the move based on US proxy advisory research firm Glass Lewis' recommendation.

The voting process on the appointment, made July 19 for a period of three years, will end Oct 19.

Al-Rumayyan's inclusion to the board was widely seen as part of a process to formalise a deal to sell 20% stake in the Indian conglomerate's oil-to-chemical business to the world's top oil exporting company for \$15 billion in 2019.

However, Reliance said Wednesday his appointment has no connection with the transaction, adding that Saudi Aramco will be a part of the deal-related process to spin off the oil-to-chemicals business into a separate unit.

The deal is expected to be completed soon after a delay last year due to pandemic-led hit to oil prices and demand.

External debt rises 2.1% to \$570B

The augmented external assistance reflected larger disbursement of Covid-19 loans from multilateral agencies during 2020-21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: India's external debt rose modestly by 2.1 per cent year-on-year to \$570 billion as of March-end 2021, notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the finance ministry.

External debt to GDP ratio rose marginally to 21.1 per cent from 20.6 per cent as at end-March 2020.

Reserves to external debt ratio, however, increased to 101.2 per cent from 85.6 per cent during the



same period, thereby consolidating the country's position as a net creditor to the world, as per the status report on India's external debt released by the ministry. The sovereign debt at \$107.2 bil-

lion rose higher by 6.2 per cent over its level a year ago, mainly because of an increase in external assistance more than compensating the fall in FPI investment in government securities (G-Secs), it said.

The non-sovereign debt, on the other hand, grew 1.2 per cent on a yearly basis to \$462.8 billion. Commercial borrowings, NRI deposits and short-term trade credit account for 95 per cent of the non-sovereign debt.

Drooping private sales of vax deal a blow to Sputnik V

INDIA IS SET TO BECOME A MAJOR PRODUCTION CENTRE OF SPUTNIK V, WITH PLANNED CAPACITY OF ABOUT 850 MILLION SHOTS A YEAR

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 29: Some of India's private hospitals have cancelled orders for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine as they struggle to sell Covid-19 shots amid surging supplies of free doses of other vaccines offered by the government.

Industry officials said low demand and the extremely cold storage temperatures required have spurred at least three big hospitals to cancel orders for Sputnik V, sold only on the private market in the world's biggest vaccine-producing country.

"With storage and everything, we have cancelled our order for 2,500 doses," said Jitendra Oswal, a

senior medical official at Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College and Hospital in the western city of Pune.

"Demand is also not great. There is a class of people, barely 1%, that wanted to go for Sputnik. For the rest, anything would do."

From May until last week, private hospitals accounted for just about 6% of all vaccines administered in India, although the government had freed them to buy up to a quarter of domestic output, health ministry data show.

India is set to become a major production centre of Sputnik V, with planned capacity of about 850 million shots a year, and low domestic uptake could mean higher exports instead, a step backers are already pushing for. Indian com-



panies have already started making Sputnik doses.

Since a June launch event by Indian distributor Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, only 943,000 doses of Sputnik V have been adminis-

tered by hospitals, a fraction of the national total of more than 876 million.

CHEAPER, EASIER ALTERNATIVES

The mainstay of India's inocu-

Private sales fall as govt centres give other vaccines for free

Private sales account for 6% of inoculations since May

Sputnik is as much as 47% more expensive than Astra

Covishield accounts for 88% of India's inoculations

when it runs out of AstraZeneca doses, as daily inoculations have fallen about 90% to 100 from their June levels, Oswal said. Just 9,000 doses remain of stocks of 62,000 it ordered.

India's monthly production of vaccine, mainly of the AstraZeneca shot known domestically as Covishield, has quadrupled to 300 million doses from April, when a dramatic surge in infections and deaths prompted a halt in exports. Overseas sales are to resume in October.

Covishield accounts for 88% of India's inoculations, followed by Bharat Biotech's domestically developed Covaxin. Both are administered for free at government centres since mid-January.

NIGHT FULL OF SURPRISES

Messi opens his PSG account following a superb 1-2 with Mbappe as the French giants see off Manchester City 2-0 at Parc des Princes

Sheriff overrule Real authority

Paris, Sept 29: Lionel Messi's superb first goal for Paris Saint-Germain was well worth the wait and delivered a timely reminder of the electric skill that has helped him win a record six Ballon d'Or trophies.

It also punished his former coach Pep Guardiola's team as PSG beat Manchester City 2-0 in the Champions League group stage Tuesday.

Messi charged from midfield toward the penalty area in the 74th minute, opening up more space as Achraf Hakimi made a dummy run to his right, and received a

better position.

Then Messi lit up Parc des Princes with a glimpse of things to come, at the stadium where he scored his last Champions League goal for Barcelona last season.

PSG top Group A on goal difference and are level with Club Brugge with four points, while City are third with three points.

City should have equalised in the 26th, but instead produced a contender for miss of the season. Raheem Sterling's header from Kevin de Bruyne's cross hit the crossbar and the ball fell to winger Bernardo Silva less than two meters out. But

Donetsk 2-0 in their opener at home, while Madrid had won 1-0 at Inter.

Sheriff are the first club from the Moldovan league to qualify for the group stage of the Champions League, although they are based in the breakaway region of Transnistria, a self-proclaimed independent nation which isn't recognised by any United Nations member state.

The club founded just over two decades ago is funded by the Sheriff company,



MADRID: The start to life in the Champions League couldn't be going much better for Moldovan club Sheriff. Sebastian Thill

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wide of the post.

Benzema, Vinicius Junior, and Eden Hazard all had scoring chances as Madrid kept pressuring, but failed to capitalise on them while Sheriff threatened on counterattacks. Sheriff goalkeeper Giorgos Athanasiadis was named the player of the match for helping stop a Madrid attack that had more than 30 attempts.

Benzema equalised from the penalty spot in the 65th after a controversial foul on Vinicius as he tried to get past a defender inside the area. The referee initially let play continue but awarded the penalty after checking the video review.

Less than 10 minutes later, Sheriff had a potential winner by substitute Bruno called back for offside, but Thill still secured the victory near the end with a booming first-time that hit the upper corner of the net.

Sheriff players celebrated loudly after the final whistle as many Madrid fans jeered their team after their second consecutive setback at the Bernabeu. The Spanish powerhouse has won only five of their last 13 European games at home.

scored a 90th-minute winner as the newcomers stunned Real Madrid 2-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu Tuesday.

Thill netted with a powerful shot into the top corner from the edge of the area to give Sheriff their second consecutive victory. They lead Group D with six points, three more than Madrid and five more than both Shakhtar Donetsk and Inter Milan, who drew 0-0 in Ukraine in the other group match. Sheriff had beaten Shakhtar

which runs large parts of the economy in Transnistria and has strong political ties.

The visitors had rarely threatened until opening the scoring after a breakaway in the 25th, with Jasurbek Yakhshiboev finding the far corner with a firm header past Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

A mistake by Courtois a few minutes later while trying to move the ball up the field nearly gave Sheriff another goal, with Yakhshiboev's shot missing just

ATROCIOUS TOUCH: Bernardo Silva fails to score despite an open goal opportunity from less than two yards in Paris, Tuesday



clever flick from Kylian Mbappe before curling a fine strike into the top right corner with the most famed left foot in world soccer. The ecstatic crowd rose to their feet.

Messi netted an astounding 672 goals for Barcelona but it was his first for PSG in three starts and four games overall since a shock summer move from the Spanish club. It was the kind he scored for fun playing under Guardiola at Barcelona. The pair won the Champions League in 2009 and 2011, with Messi scoring in both finals.

City had not lost their five previous meetings with PSG, winning 2-1 here and 2-0 at home in last season's semifinals before losing to Chelsea in the final.

PSG started their dream attack of Messi, Neymar and Mbappe,

Silva somehow scooped the ball onto the bar with goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma beaten.

Donnarumma and opposite number Ederson then made a smart save each in an even first half that De Bruyne was perhaps lucky to finish, receiving only a yellow card for a dangerous tackle on Gueye's shin.

Donnarumma then kicked away De Bruyne's shot in the 54th as City exposed poor defending on the other flank as the Premier League champion took control.

PSG's glittering attack looked flat, as it did in a 1-1 draw against Club Brugge. Neymar shot into the side netting midway through the second half, with Mbappe in a

I'm very happy to have scored. I've not been playing much recently and I'm adapting to my teammates little by little. The more we play together the better it will become. We need to grow together and increase our level

LIONEL MESSI

OTHER RESULTS

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------------|
| RB Leipzig | 1 - 2 | Club Brugge |
| Dortmund | 1 - 0 | Sporting CP |

Suarez, Griezmann seal Atletico win



SUPERB DUO: Atletico Scorers Antoine Griezmann (L) and Luis Suarez rejoice a goal against Milan at San Siro

MILAN: Luis Suarez converted a stoppage-time penalty after Antoine Griezmann scored his first goal since returning to Atletico Madrid as the Spanish team fought back to beat 10-man AC Milan 2-1 in the Champions League.

Griezmann levelled six minutes from time and Atletico were awarded a penalty that Suarez struck confidently down the middle in the seventh minute of stoppage with the last of the visitor's 22 shots Tuesday.

Milan were forced to play for an hour with 10 men after midfielder Franck Kessie was sent off for a second bookable offense. That came shortly after Rafael Leao had given the Italian squad the lead in the 20th minute.

Atletico remained second in Group B, two points behind Liverpool after the English team beat Porto 5-1. Milan is last with zero points from its opening two matches.

It was Milan's first home match in the Champions League in more than seven years — when they lost 0-1 at San Siro to coincidentally the same opponent in the round of 16.



ON A ROLL: Mo Salah (C) and Curtis Jones (L) are joined by Jordan Handerson for celebration following a goal against Porto

Liverpool rout Porto

PORTO: Two goals from Mohamed Salah, a double as well from Roberto Firmino and all with 20-year-old midfielder Curtis Jones playing a part for Liverpool. The only Liverpool goal without a direct role for Jones came from Sadio Mane in a 5-1 victory at Porto in the Champions League Tuesday.

The six-time European champions benefitted from poor goal-keeping from Diogo Costa to make it two wins out of two in Group B, which they lead by two points from Atletico Madrid after the Spanish champions won 2-1 at AC Milan.

Jones cut in on his right foot to fire in a low shot which Costa weakly parried into Zaidou Sanusi and Salah pounced from close range to open Liverpool account.

A James Milner low cross into the penalty area allowed Mane to score comfortably. Then Jones' driving run from deep teed up Salah, who fired past Costa. Mehdi Taremi pulled one back in the 74th minute with a diving header.

Receiving a high ball from Jones, Firmino rolled a shot past an on-rushing Costa from 30 yards (meters). Firmino benefited from a deflected shot from Jones to slot home a second in the 81st.

History beckons Mithali & co All-round RCB thrash Royals

India, Australia renew Test rivalry after 15 years with landmark D/N game

Gold Coast, Sept 29: Having gained significantly in confidence with a fighting performance in ODIs, the Indian women's cricket team would now go through a trial by fire when it make its day-night Test debut against Australia in the one-off game beginning here Thursday.

With the third ODI held Sunday and the following day being a rest day, the Mithali Raj-led squad has got only two practice sessions in the lead up to the landmark Test. The visitors lost 1-2 in the ODIs.

The squad has very little idea about how the shiny pink ball will behave during the course of the game at the Metricon Stadium.

Australia, who played their lone D/N Test in November 2017, also go into the game with limited practice but their potent pace attack will be looking forward to wreaking havoc at the greenish pitch here.

India did well in their first Test outing in seven years, drawing against England in June, but the



AUSSIE CAPTAIN MEG LANNING and **INDIA SKIPPER MITHALI RAJ**

available though she did have a hit in the nets on the eve of the game. Rookie batter Yastika Bhatia and pacer Meghna Singh, who made impressive debuts in the ODI series, could be handed their maiden Test caps.

Veteran Jhulan Goswami, Meghna and Pooja Vastrakar is

the likely pace combination. Spinner Sneha Rana is likely to be the other all-rounder in the side alongside Deepti Sharma. Wicket-keeper Taniya Bhatia, who was pipped by Richa Ghosh in ODIs, is expected to be back behind the stumps. Punam Raut, who featured in the England Test and has lost her place in the ODI, is expected to play.

Australia will be aiming for a perfect game after India ended their 26-match winning streak in the third ODI. With the pink-ball, their relatively inexperienced pace attack is more than capable of troubling the Indian batters.



(From L): Yuzvendra Chahal, Harshal Patel along with a teammate congratulate Shahbaz Ahmed after dismissing a Royals batter

Dubai, Sept 29: Royal Challengers Bangalore dished out a clinical display with both bat and ball to record a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL here Wednesday, boosting their prospects of a top-two finish.

Chasing 150, RCB completed the task with as many as 17 balls to spare. Glenn Maxwell blazed away to an unbeaten 50 (30b, 6x4, 1x6), while Srikar Bharat (44, 35b, 3x4, 1x6)

played sensibly. Earlier, RR bowlers checked the flow of runs following the dismissals of Virat Kohli (25) and Devdutt Padikkal (22).

Earlier, RCB staged an excellent comeback as Rajasthan Royals blew away a blistering start to finish at 149/9. Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed (2/10) and leg-break bowler Yuzvendra Chahal (2/18) triggered the slide after RR were cruising at 100/1 in the 11th over. Harshal Patel (3/34) bowled a brilliant final over as RR lost eight

wickets for 49 runs.

Evin Lewis top-scored with 58 (37b, 5x4, 3x6), but he was guilty of throwing away his wicket at a crucial juncture, and so was skipper Sanju Samson (19).

Asked to take first strike, Evin Lewis and Yashasvi Jaiswal (31) decided to cut loose. Dan Christian broke the stand in the ninth over getting rid of Jaiswal with the scoreboard reading 77/1. Then after the departure of Lewis in the 12th over, RCB bowlers seized the opportunity and restricted RR below 150.

BRIEF SCORES: RR 149/9 (Evin Lewis 58, Yashasvi Jaiswal 31; Harshal Patel 3/34, Shahbaz Ahmed 2/10, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/18) lost to RCB 153/3 (Glenn Maxwell 50 n o, Srikar Bharat 44, Mustafizur Rahman 2/20) by 7 wickets.

TODAY'S MATCHES

SRH vs CSK

Time: 07:30 pm

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