

President of India attends Civic reception hosted by the Government of Gujarat in her honour in Gandhi Nagar

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, attended a civic reception hosted by the Government of Gujarat in her honour this evening (October 3, 2022) in Gandhinagar. Speaking on the occasion, the President thanked the Government and people of Gujarat for organising the felicitation function in her honour. She said that this was her first visit to Gujarat as President of India and she was overwhelmed by the immense enthusiasm and affection of the people. The President said that Gujarat has been a major centre of Indian culture and civilization since ancient times. Sites like Dholavira, inscriptions of Emperor Ashoka at Junagadh, Surya-temple at Modhera and trade centres like Surat and Mandvi are ancient examples of the rich culture of Gujarat. Gujarat has Jain Temples at Palitana and Girnar, Buddhist Viharas at Vadnagar, Parsi Fire Temples at Udvada. Among the present cities, Ahmedabad has been declared a World Heritage City by UNESCO. Apart from assessing buildings and other physical dimensions built in the last 600 years, UNESCO also attached importance to the tradition of mutual harmony and shared culture of the people of Ahmedabad. She said that Gujarat was and is a mirror of India's cultural unity, and will remain so in future too. The President said that people of Gujarat are known all over the world for their hard work, dedication and social service. She said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave shape to the 'Gujarat Model' as the Chief Minister of the state which paved the path for progress of Gujarat. Today, Odisha government has adopted a four-fold strategy to make roads safer by enforcement, education, improvement in road engineering and emergency care. Addressing the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) here on Friday, Naveen said road safety is a high priority area for the government. "Odisha has scored 66 per cent and categorised as a high performer in implementing road safety measures during an audit conducted by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety. The committee has also rated some of our road safety initiatives as best practices and recommended neighbouring states to follow," he said. He appreciated SIAM for extending responsibility beyond vehicular engineering.



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The President noted that about two-third of the processed diamonds of the world are produced in Gujarat. This state accounts for 95 percent of India's diamond exports. She said that Gujarat ranks first in India's total exports, with a share of about 21 percent. It is also one of the leading states in the country in terms of start-up ecosystem. The President said that as the leading manufacturing hub of the country Gujarat provides huge employment opportunities. She said that the 'White Revolution' through cooperatives of Gujarat, is behind the top ranking of India in milk production. He noted that Gujarat produces 76 percent of the country's salt. On a lighter note, the President said 'the salt produced in Gujarat is consumed by all Indians' (yah kaha jaa sakta hai ki sabhi deshwasi Gujarat kaa namak khate hain). The President said that Gujarat has given high priority to environmental protection along with industrial development. She noted that Gujarat is the largest generator of roof top solar power in the country. Gujarat is also one of the leading states in wind energy production. The President said that Gujarat is one of the most invest-



and civilization since ancient times. Sites like Dholavira, inscriptions of Emperor Ashoka at Junagadh, Surya-temple at Modhera and trade centres like Surat and Mandvi are ancient examples of the rich culture of Gujarat. Gujarat has Jain Temples at Palitana and Girnar, Buddhist Viharas at Vadnagar, Parsi Fire Temples at Udvada. Among the present cities, Ahmedabad has been declared a World Heritage City by UNESCO. Apart from assessing buildings and other physical dimensions built in the last 600 years, UNESCO also attached importance to the tradition of mutual harmony and shared culture of the people of Ahmedabad. She said that Gujarat was and is a mirror of India's cultural unity, and will remain so in future too. The President said that people of Gujarat are known all over the world for their hard work, dedication and social service. She said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave shape to the 'Gujarat Model' as the Chief Minister of the state which paved the path for progress of Gujarat. Today,

ment for the last two years, this time people from far-off places are visiting the city to celebrate the Puja. Tanuja Samantaray (45) of Kotpad in Koraput district is visiting her paternal house at Sheikh Bazaar along with her in-laws to celebrate Durga Puja. "I used to visit my parental house during Dussehra every year. For the last two years, there have



and commitment to strengthening health services across the country is being showcased again with the inauguration of AIIMS, Bilaspur. Mr Modi had laid the foundation stone in October 2017 and it has been established under the Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, the statement said.

tor-friendly states in the country. This state has made impressive progress in the development of modern infrastructure and connectivity. She appreciated the Governor of Gujarat for his guidance and Chief Minister of Gujarat for his leadership and expressed confidence that the developmental journey of Gujarat will continue to progress at an even faster pace.

Four-fold strategy to make roads safer: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said



fold strategy to make roads safer by enforcement, education, improvement in road engineering and emergency care. Addressing the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) here on Friday, Naveen said road safety is a high priority area for the government. "Odisha has scored 66 per cent and categorised as a high performer in implementing road safety measures during an audit conducted by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety. The committee has also rated some of our road safety initiatives as best practices and recommended neighbouring states to follow," he said. He appreciated SIAM for extending responsibility beyond vehicular engineering.

People from far and abroad throng Cuttack

CUTTACK(KCN): Cuttack city comes alive during Durga Puja. While the festivities had been



been no celebrations due to the outbreak of Covid-19, which forced us to stay at home. This year we are celebrating and enjoying the festival as usual," she said while admiring the welcome arch erected by the Badambadi Puja Committee replicating the 'Mahishmati Samrajyam', built at a cost of Rs 15 lakh. Tanuja plans to visit pandals and enjoy melody programmes on each day of the festival. CONTINUED ON: P-7

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Rahul, Priyanka slam BJP; say Lakhimpur farmers yet to get justice

NEW DELHI(KCN): Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday accused the BJP of protecting criminals saying the farmers killed in Lakhimpur Kheri last year were yet to get justice.

Gandhi said the farmers' agitation was a big inspiration for the Congress behind the decision to undertake Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"One year has passed, but the martyr farmers of Lakhimpur Kheri have not received justice. Reason is the same -- BJP, as always, has been protecting criminals," Gandhi said on Twitter. Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Misra's son Ashish Misra was arrested in the case after four farmers were crushed under the wheels of a convoy of cars, and four others, including two BJP workers, were killed in apparently retaliatory violence.



istler continues in his post due to the protection power. The trial has been sluggish and the families of the victims are disappointed," Vadra said. "Despite the agitation of the farmers, neither did they get the law on MSP, nor justice for the martyred farmers," she said.

"This struggle will not end without ensuring justice to the farmers," he said. AICC General Secretary Vadra said the Lakhimpur Kheri farmer massacre has exposed the "anti-farmer" face of the BJP government. "Even after a year, the minister continues in his post due to the protection power. The trial has been sluggish and the families of the victims are disappointed," Vadra said. "Despite the agitation of the farmers, neither did they get the law on MSP, nor justice for the martyred farmers," she said.

PM Modi to lay foundations for projects worth over Rs. 3,650 cr in Himachal Pradesh

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Himachal Pradesh on October 5, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for a host of projects worth over Rs. 3,650 crore. The Prime Minister will inaugurate the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bilaspur and participate in the famous Kullu Dussehra celebrations during his visit.

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AIIMS, Bilaspur, constructed at a cost of more than Rs. 1,470 crore, is a state-of-the-art hospital with 18 speciality and 17 super-speciality departments, 18 modular operation theatres and 750 beds, including 64 ICU beds. Spread over 247 acres, the hospital is equipped with 24-hour emergency and dialysis facilities, and modern diagnostic machines such as ultrasonography, CT scan and MRI among others. It also has a Jan Aushadhi Kendra and a



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Russia smuggling Ukrainian grain to help pay for Putin's war

Beirut(KCN): When the bulk cargo ship Laodicea docked in Lebanon last summer, Ukrainian diplomats said the vessel was carrying grain stolen by Russia and urged Lebanese officials to impound the ship. Moscow called the allegation 'false and baseless,' and Lebanon's prosecutor general sided with the Kremlin and declared that the 10,000 tons of barley and wheat flour wasn't stolen and allowed the ship to unload. But an investigation by the Associated Press and the PBS series 'Frontline' has found the Laodicea, owned by Syria, is part of a sophisticated Russian-run smuggling operation that has used falsified manifests and seaborne subterfuge to steal Ukrainian grain worth at least USD 530 million ? cash that has helped feed President Vladimir Putin's war machine.

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AP used satellite imagery and marine radio transponder data to track three dozen ships making more than 50 voyages carrying grain from Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine to ports in Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and other countries. The ongoing theft, which legal experts say is a potential war crime, is being carried out by wealthy businessmen and state-owned companies in Russia and Syria. Meanwhile, the Russian military has attacked farms, grain silos and shipping facilities still under Ukrainian control with artillery and air strikes, destroying food, driving up prices. CONTINUED ON: P-7



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Message

Warm Greetings to the People of Barachana – Dharmasala dist.- Jajpur, Odisha on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja.

Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantray
Barachana – Dharmasala, Jajpur
Odisha

Mangalyaan mission over, Mars Orbiter craft non-recoverable, confirms ISRO

BENGALURU(KCN): The Indian Space Research Organisation confirmed on Monday that the Mars Orbiter craft has lost communication with ground station, it's non-recoverable and the Mangalyaan mission has attained end-of-life. The ISRO gave an update on the Mars Orbiter Mission and the national meet held on September 27 to commemorate the MOM, on the event of completion of its eight years in the Martian orbit. It was also discussed that



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Message
The Kalinga Chronicle family wishes its readers, hawkers, advertisers, writers and well-wishers on the Eve of Durga Puja.
- Editor-in-Chief

Declaration
The Office will be off on 4th and 5th October, 2022. The next publication will be on 7th October, 2022.
- Publisher

Dhamnagar By-election on 3 Nov.

New Delhi (KCN): Election Commission

ency in Bhadrak district of Odisha. This will be conducted on 3 November, the ECI announced on Monday.

The by-poll has been necessitated by the demise of sitting BJP Lawmaker Bishnu Charan Sethi who passed away last month at the age of 62.

Mr.Sethi was Deputy Leader of BJP Legislative Party and was undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar due to various ailments.

Mr.Sethi was elected to the State Legislative Assembly twice from two different constituencies of his native Bhadrak district. He was first elected to the House once from Chandbali Assembly seat in 2000 and again from Dhamnagar Assembly seat in 2019.



of India has announced the date for the by-election to Dhamnagar Assembly constitu-

Leaders Mourn Bariha Demise

Bhubaneswar veteran tribal leader (KCN): Tall leaders and Padampur MLA



He was undergoing treatment at the hospital for quite some time due to several ailments, family members said.

He was 65 and is survived by his wife Tilottama Singh Bariha, daughters Barsha Singh Bariha, Kadambini Singh Bariha and son Bhojraj Singh Bariha. Mr.Bariha's mortal remains has been taken to Odisha Assembly and BJD Headquarters where leaders from all political parties paid floral tributes to the departed soul. His body is being taken to his ancestral house at Padampur, where last rites will be conducted, the family members informed. He was elected to the state assembly from Padampur seat in

Bargarh district five times, including twice on Janata Dal ticket in 1990 and 1995, and three times on BJD tickets in 2000, 2009 and 2019.

He was also the SC, ST Development Minister in Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's cabinet between 2009 and 2011. Expressing his grief at the demise of Mr.Bariha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that his work as a public representative for the welfare of the people will always be remembered.

The Governor described Mr.Bariha as a popular politician and prayed for safe departure of the soul and extended condolences to the bereaved family and his followers.

from Odisha including Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik condoled the death of Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha, Mr.Bariha passed away at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar late on Sunday night.

Durga Puja brings cheer for makers of traditional musical instruments in Odisha

KENDRAPARA(KCN): The last two years were tormenting for 73-year-old Gourahari Das of Gopa village who makes musical in-

struments for a living. But this year, he is back in business and working tirelessly with his son Sanjit to meet the huge demand from Durga Puja organisers.



struments for a living. But this year, he is back in business and working tirelessly with his son Sanjit to meet the huge demand from Durga Puja organisers. "We faced a lot of hardship due to the pandemic. But now, we are glad to have received huge orders for musical instruments like mridanga, tabla, dhol, pakhawaj, etc from Durga Puja committees, temples, mutts and other religious organisations. So far, we have supplied dhols and other traditional musical instruments to around 10 Puja committees," said Das. Dhol is used by Puja organisers during the immersion ceremony. Sanjit said many organisers have placed orders for Dhol

as it is mandatory to purchase a new drum and beat it during the immersion ceremony. Like Das, around 50 makers of the district are busy giving final touches to their products. "We have been working since the last several months to earn more during Dussehra and Laxmi Puja. Band parties and Puja committees place their orders for musical instruments around three to five months before the

Durga Puja," said 45-year-old Madhusudan Das, another traditional musical instrument maker of Kendrapara.However, shortage of skilled artisans is the biggest hurdle in the business. "Some of us, who still practise the craft, are doing it only to keep the hereditary art-form alive. Otherwise, one cannot make both ends meet in the profession," said Madhusudan. President of Indupur Durga Puja committee Bidyadhar Chatterjee said since the government has banned the use of DJ and high-decibel audio systems to check noise pollution during festivals, most band parties and Puja committees are opting for traditional instruments this year.

Fiscal boost for BSNL

New Delhi(KCN): Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw has an-

Shakti. He also announced that the fibre network will be put on a common portal, which will



nounced that the connectivity is vital for the Digital India and its reach to every corner of the country.

He announced that Rs 36,000 crore to install new 25,000 towers in next 500 days have been approved.

The list of spots for installing towers is prepared in consultation with the Chief Secretaries of the States.

States can further review the list. He also announced that Rs 1.64 lakh crore will be used for revival of BSNL in a comprehensive manner and it will be rolled out in next 18 months.

Design in India and Make-In-India will be big beneficiary. He congratulated all States and UTs for their speedy onboarding at PM Gati

help States and UTs to plan layout driven infrastructure projects, and digital transformational projects. He informed that the policy related matter are / will be determined in due consultation with States.

Mr.Vaishnaw also shared that the special assistance to States for capital expenditure worth Rs 2000 Crore has been supported. He encouraged the States to be proactive and make business friendly policies to attract businesses in their States.

Emphasizing on the moto of Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas, he stated that the commitments from all States and UTs, large as well as small States, are vital in taking Digital India to higher level and in realizing the AatmaNirbhar Bharat and Trillion Dollar Digital Economy.

Make india strong with message of peace and brotherhood: Odisha CM

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Chief

and non-violence for all. Stating that the peepal tree signifies



Minister Naveen Patnaik called upon people to join hands to make India strong with the message of peace, non-violence and brotherhood. The CM planted a peepal tree on the premises of Lok Seva Bhavan on Sunday to commemorate the 75th year of Independence which is being celebrated across the

peepal tree has always been an inseparable part of our socio-cultural life, he added. Veteran freedom fighter and president of State Freedom Fighters' Association Nilamani Samal presented a charkha to the Chief Minister on the occasion. Naveen honoured him by presenting a shawl. Welcoming the Ahimsa Rath, he thanked all for the kind of response it received from the people of Odisha.He released special editions of Utkal Prasang and Odisha Review. He also released a special commemorative publication on the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Odisha.

IAF jets scrambled after 'bomb threat' on Iran-China flight over Indian airspace

NEW DELHI: Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter jets were scrambled to intercept an aircraft

pilot refused to divert the plane following which Indian Air Force jets were scrambled to intercept and escort the plane.



with its origin in Iran and headed to China, which was moving towards New Delhi airspace. According to sources, inputs were received at 9:20 am by Delhi Police about a bomb threat on board a Mahan Air flight headed to Guangzhou in China from Tehran in Iran.It triggered an alert and permission was not granted for the plane to land in Delhi and the plane was instructed by Air Traffic Control (ATC) to divert to Jaipur. Reportedly the

The aircraft was headed to China as its final destination, had entered Indian airspace when the alert from Indian Air Traffic Control was shared with the plane. Indian Air Force Su-30MKI fighter jets from Punjab and Jodhpur airbases were scrambled to intercept the plane, sources told ANI.

Data from Filghtradar24 showed the plane reducing altitude over the Delhi-Jaipur airspace for a brief period before it was seen making its way out of Indian airspace. According to ATC sources, Mahan Air requested for immediate landing at Delhi airport but Delhi ATC directed it to head to Jaipur Airport. The pilots of the Iranian carrier did not do so and eventually left Indian airspace. The nature of the bomb threat is still unclear. The plane was seen continuing on its flight path towards China.

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'Was difficult to play an 18-year-old': Aamir Khan on 'Laal Singh Chaddha'

How close is Laal Singh Chaddha to Forrest Gump, of which it is an adaptation?

We have tried to make it as close to Forrest Gump as possible, but it's an Indianised version. Atul Kulkarni (scriptwriter) and Advait Chandan (director) have made a few changes, and we hope the audience loves it. The Hollywood version had a few adult scenes, but since we wanted to make a family film, we decided to do away with them. We wanted to retain the innocence of the character from the original version.

Did you actually grow a beard for the role?



I grew my beard six inches long. It took me almost six months. I met a Sardar at my gym and liked his look. I told him I wanted to have this look for my next film. I did grow a beard but also used extensions.

Your son Junaid gave screen tests for the film. What happened?

Junaid studied theatre at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and did plays for a year. I told Advait to shoot a few test scenes with him for the film to see if he could handle it. We made him Laal Singh Chaddha and he shot for two weeks. That helped us gauge what Junaid had learnt at school. He was so good as the character that I was in a dilemma if Junaid should do the film. I showed (the tests) to all my close friends who don't give any leeway to my work. Only two people said no—Atul (Kulkarni) and Aditya Chopra. They said that since it was an episodic film, a newcomer should not do it. It's a star vehicle, which is why it was Tom Hanks who played the role in the original.

How did you convince yourself for the role? I prepped for the film, but it stayed in my mind that Laal is an innocent and pure character. I am 57 and an idealist. You learn a lot throughout life and that innocence does not remain. I had to finally use Junaid's instincts for the

role. I got the cue from his screen tests as Laal.

You are 57 and the character's age spans from 18 to 50. What was the toughest part about it?

There were challenges during the run sequences. There were a lot of locations and I travelled a lot for one and half months. I don't look 18, but the technical team has done an amazing job with de-ageing. What was difficult was to mentally prepare as an 18-year-old. You made Kareena Kapoor Khan, who you

are working with after 12 years, audition for her role. Why so, and how was it working together again?

I watched her for the first time in Kabhie Khushi Kabhie Gham and I loved her. Then I did 3 Idiots and Talaash with her. She gets into the character completely and is a fantastic actor. She has never given a screen test, but she agreed for this one because we wanted to see how she would look in the film. After we did a reading with her, both Advait and I realised that she was perfect for the role.

What qualities of Laal have impressed you? He is innocent, doesn't complain, and knows how to leave the past behind. If anyone speaks ill of him, he keeps quiet. He knows that you can't rewind the past. A lot of us don't accept that. Even if he feels bad, he just moves on with life. His mother has taught him that. My relationship with my Ammi has been the same. That's why I could relate to the film. I have learnt a lot in life because of her.

Are you doing Kiran Rao's next film, Lapata Ladki?

I gave a screen test for it, but she rejected me. Both of us felt that I was not the right fit for the role. I was also busy with Laal, so we decided that if she cannot find anyone, I will be there as a backup.

Have you ever faced rejections in your career? I don't like rejections; they upset me. I was rejected from a Hindi play during my intercollege years, but when I went out, I saw a notice on the board about a Gujarati play. They wanted chorus players.

I said to myself, "Don't give up." I went and

auditioned for the Gujarati play.



Do you plan to launch Junaid soon?

He doesn't want me to launch him. He is making his own career.

Actor Dhanu Harsha roped in for Diganth's 'Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana'

Dhanu Harsha is the newest talent in Sandalwood, and she is set to play the female lead in Samarth B Kadkol's directorial, Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana. A film that revolves around the problems of south-paws has Dhanu paired opposite Diganth. An official announcement of Dhanu, a runner-up of Fresh Face season 13, coming on board was announced on International Lefthanders day.



Dhanu, who has previously worked in English films, a Tamil independent film Irandha Kaalam, and a Kannada film Ariha, is excited to bag her first solo lead.

"The title, (Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana) translates as 'Left hand is the reason for the problem to happen' is a concept based on 'Left handers'. I play the role of Radhika, who is a left hander, in her mid 20s, who goes through an unfortunate turn of events. The role is challenging, and it is something I haven't done before. It will be a different process for me to get into this character," says the actor, who will begin shooting for the film this month. Dhanu, who is still pursuing her education, says she has started loving this profession.

"At present, this medium has become my passion, and it will be amazing if I can do it full time," Edagaiya Apaghatakke Karana is jointly produced by Gurudatha Ganiga and Samarth Kadkol, and has cinematography by Abhimanyu Sadanand.

'We miss you Pappa': Genelia shares note, pics on Vilasrao Deshmukh's death anniversary

Bollywood actor Genelia Deshmukh, on Sunday, shared a heartfelt note to mark her father-in-law Vilasrao Deshmukh's 10th death

Riteish Deshmukh's sons Riaan and Rahyl which is directed by Shaad Ali and is scheduled to be seen sitting beside the picture of



anniversary. Taking to Instagram, the 'Force' actor dropped a couple of pictures, which she captioned, "Verified Dearest Pappa, Riaan and Rahyl asked me today. "Aai, if we ask Ajoba a question, will he answer??" Without a doubt my answer was, "He will answer, if you Hear him". I have honestly lived all these years speaking to you and getting every answer back, I know you have been with us through our toughest times and laughed with us through our lighter times, I know that you answer every doubt we have and I know even right now, you have read what I am writing to you..And I know it's your promise to us, that you will always be there, if we just keep our ears open to hearing you, our eyes open to seeing you and our hearts open to experiencing you. We Miss You Pappa P.s - Riaan and Rahyl insist that they are holding you on either side." In the first picture, Genelia and her husband

their grandfather. In another picture, shared by the 'Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya' actor, her kids can be seen seeking blessings from Riteish's father Vilasrao Deshmukh. Soon after Genelia dropped the pictures, fans flooded the comment section with heart emoticons. Vilasrao Deshmukh was a two-time Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and he passed away due to kidney and lung failure on August 14, 2012. Meanwhile, talking about Genelia, she has completed filming for 'Mister Mummy'



to release in the latter part of the year. Apart from 'Mister Mummy', she has also started working on a new project titled 'Trial Period', helmed by Aleya Sen. Manav Kaul is also a part of the film.

The duality between divinity and social responsibility

Most people are possibly not much aware of the fact that to begin work on the idol of Goddess Durga a little clay has to be



collected from the home of a sex worker. This tradition has been followed as a socio-religious custom for past several centuries across the Indian subcontinent. There

are many interpretations why this is being done. As per the Vedic scriptures, "Navkanyas" (nine classes of women) are to be worshipped along with Goddess Durga to make the Durga Puja holy and blissful. This is possibly a socio-cultural message across the spectrum to teach the masses that everyone is equal in the eye of the supreme creator (Almighty). The "Nati" (dancer) and the "Vaishya" (sex worker) are among the Navkanyas. We also celebrate the holy worship of the virgins; that includes the live worship of a young non-menstruating girl as an incarnation of Goddess Durga.

The virgin girl is symbolically believed to be the embodiment of the divine supreme power that regulates our life, work (karma) and destiny. No other religious tradition like Hinduism place such high respect and devotion for women in their social, cul-

tural, moral and religious practices. But yet across South

Asia, girls and women are being grossly mistreated, severely abused, aggressively



violated and drastically marginalized even in this new millennium. We need to seriously think and introspect as to what we have actually learnt from our ancient tradition and practices over centuries.

The national crime record indicates a steady increase in crimes against women in every sphere of our modern life and society. 'Molestation' and 'gang rape' have transformed into our household vocabu-

Saikat Kumar Basu

laries. Domestic violence against repressed and economically dependent women has been a constant feature in every daily newspaper published across the nation.

Gender discrimination, female infanticide, child marriages, dowry related torture and deaths as well as death during childbirth due to lack of adequate healthcare, proper nutrition and medication during pregnancy. Furthermore, gross ignorance and lack awareness related to sensitive feminine issues has plagued our society for centuries. Exploitation of the women in our society has forced the rapid rise of suicidal deaths of young girls and women of all age is a serious dark spot on our society.

Let us take the oath during the grand celebration of Durga Puja, Dashera (Dasin) and the celebration Navaratri across the nation to care for the girl child and respect woman in every aspect of our sociological and economic life. A nation cannot prosper without the liberation and proper respect of the female gender. We need to remember that we are brought to this world by a woman, sustained and supported by a woman in our journey from childhood to becoming an adult; and that we worship woman in our socio-religious practices.

Let us pray and work towards the better-



ment of the lives of helpless prostitutes, women destitute surviving on our streets, mentally and physically challenged women and the women senior citizens. Let the deep and dark scars of our society heal over time through our sincere empathy and earnest respect for women.

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, West Bengal India

Durgapuja Carnival: Economic Method in Mamata's Madness

The festival season is already here. And in India, the September-November festive season has a decisive impact on the



economy because it drives up consumption and acts as a bellwether for the year ahead. During the last two years,

the festival spirit was not as high as it is this time round, thanks to the pandemic and the fear of re-surfacing of the pandemic. While for larger parts of the country, festival spirits are palpable around the Diwali time, in Bengal, it starts with the Durga Puja. With the Durga Puja having been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, little wonder that the Bengal government has gone gung ho about the Durga Puja celebration and the carnival. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee often comes in for a flak by her political detractors for her excessive focus and over-enthusiasm over fairs, festivals and festivities. While her bete noires have their own logic and arguments, one should not forget that annual community festivals have impacts on their surrounding communities and residents. These communities continue to benefit from the economic

impacts after the festivals.

The economic benefits of festivals are easiest to see and most often cited — festivals attract visitors, which stimulates the growth of tourism and other businesses in a town or region. The social benefits of festivals are less visible,

but they are just as important. It's fair to say that festivals foster community pride, teach people new things, and strengthen relationships. Events, fairs and festival tourism are one of the fastest growing forms of tourism. It is becoming increasingly popular in rural areas as a means to revitalise local economies.

Let's for a moment, forget about the political reasoning and verbose, and focus on the pure economic impacts of the community festivals.

*The Key Direct Economic Impact: Direct injections of "new" money into the community.

*Direct Expenditure: All expenditures that festival visitors incur related to the event.

Ritwik Mukherjee



*Indirect Impact: Additional input purchases made by local businesses as a result of the direct impact.

*Induced Impact: It is created when local business owners, suppliers, and employees spend the additional income that they earned as a result of the direct and induced impacts.

*Multiplier Effect: The number of times a rupee "changes hands" before leaving the community, which in economic parlance, reflects velocity of circulation of money.

Mind you that tourism is an industry that contributes significantly not only to a community, but to the national economy as well. This is because a wide range of business sectors are being impacted and the event has the possibility of impacting employment and payroll incomes. The employment and payroll incomes have the potential to impact the central, state, and local governments in the form of taxes.

Quite significantly, festivals also provide

free marketing and advertising for local businesses as visitors talk about their fun experiences when they go back home. If visitors post comments and photos about their experiences on Facebook or other social media, so much the better. The economic benefits of successful festivals ripple throughout a local economy — affecting tourism and non-tourism-related businesses alike.

The fixed length of such festivals encourages visitors to attend; often attracting new visitors that would otherwise not experience that particular region. This extra exposure acts as an indirect form of marketing for the region as a whole, offering an opportunity to reach a previously untapped market. These new tourists bring with them new money, further diversifying the market and subsequently increasing both real and potential revenue generation.

The only rider in this whole thing is: 'if done properly- in a well structured, well planned manner'. You like her ways or not, there is a method in Mamata's madness!

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

Age is simply the number of years the world has been enjoying you

Stephen Richards has said "When we age we shed many skins: ego, arrogance, dominance, unreliable, pessimism, rudeness, selfish, uncaring ... Wow, it's good to be old!"



1st October is celebrated as the International Day for Older Persons every year. It is specially celebrated for the senior citizens all across the world to

focus on the responsibilities towards their lives. This day is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing in today's world. It is a time not only to highlight their valuable contribution to the globe but also to stress their basic human rights. Many older persons are unaware of their rights and how to enforce them, due to a variety of reasons.

This is why celebrating the International Day of Older Persons is important in raising global awareness as a huge advocacy effort to call for more enhanced international

thinking and actions on elderly rights. The age problem certainly confronts us and the

matter is taking a turn for the worse with the passage of time. Today the life expectancy has risen sharply due to medical advancement, improvements in nutrition, sanitation, medical science, health care, education and economic well-being. Ageism is widespread and an insidious practice which has harmful effects on the health of older adults. The problem of loneliness and isolation is the gift of modern society. The society forces an old person to live like an island. The ageing process is a biological reality and affects every human being on earth. Physical strength leaves us resulting in general weakness and physical and mental infirmity'. Ageism rests on the assumption that discrimination against older persons is the norm and acceptable. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". We must do everything possible to ensure that our elders can lead a life of dignity, enjoy the best of medical attention, economic

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

security as well as emotional stability. Every phase of life has its own

problems which require prudence, wisdom, courage and strength to attend to. In childhood and youth one has parents and other close elderly kith and kin to help, cooperate and guide. Besides, one himself is full of energy, strength, stamina and courage. But the situation takes a reverse turn in the old age.

The Older persons make wide-ranging contributions to economic and social development. They should be encouraged to get out of their retirement mentality and think about old age as second innings and opportunity to complete so many unfinished tasks and expand horizons to look beyond the family and work for the community. When one grows old, this natural love and affection of other members of the family for him vanishes and the elderly person becomes like a planet which has lost its gravitational force and has consequently been lost in the boundless and endless empty space.

As per WHO, there are around 600 million persons world-wide aged 60 years and over

and this total will double by 2025 and it is estimated to reach virtually two billion by 2050 - the vast majority of them in the developing world. Do we forget that the luxuries enjoyed by us were created by them through their hard work. At the same time we must also remember that we too will be like them one day and if our children treat us in the same fashion, are we going to happy then? We need to look at creating a more enabling and inclusive environment that is supportive and inclusive to people of all ages, including older people. The failure to tackle ageism undermines older persons' rights and hinders their contributions to social, economic, cultural and political life. "The younger generation should know how the world addresses the elderly. The problem of old age should be seen as a societal issue rather than an individual's problem. A day will come when we all will be old and we will be facing the similar situation as faced by our elders today. It is our responsibility to provide long term care to them and thus contribute to healthy ageing."

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

IAF inducts indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter

Jodhpur(KCN): The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday inducted the first fleet of indigenously - built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), which has been developed primarily for mountain warfare after a requirement for it was felt during the Kargil war in 1999. Developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the 5.8-tonne twin-engine gunship chopper is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20 mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons. The fleet comprising four helicopters was inducted into the IAF at a ceremony at the Jodhpur Air Force Station in presence of

pleted a major flight test and it was deemed to have fulfilled the desired parameters. In February 2020, the LCH was declared ready for production. In March, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the procurement of 15 indigenously developed Limited Series Production (LSP) LCH at a cost of Rs 3,887 crore. The defence ministry had said 10 helicopters would be for the IAF and five will be for the Indian Army. The induction of the chopper comes at a time



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other senior military officials. The LCH would be an effective platform in hitting enemy targets, tanks, bunkers, drones and other assets in high-altitude regions, military officials said. In his address, Singh described the induction of the indigenously-built LCH into the IAF as a "momentous occasion" for India's defence production. "The IAF has been playing an important role in protecting India's sovereignty and I am confident that its overall capability will enhance further following induction of LCH," Singh said in his address. "We have been focusing on boosting the country's defence production following certain developments.... security of the country has been our foremost priority and it will remain so," he said. The defence minister also complimented the IAF for reposing confidence in indigenously developed platforms. Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the capabilities of LCH are on a par with the helicopters of its class globally. The helicopters were given a traditional water-cannon salute that followed a multi-religious prayer ceremony. The need for developing a light combat helicopter for mountain warfare was felt during the Kargil War in 1999. "Subsequently, the IAF and HAL began exploring the possibility of developing the platform with a capacity to carry an adequate weapon load, sufficient fuel and still be capable of operating in the higher reaches of the Himalayan ranges," said an official. By mid-2010, the prototype of LCH com-

India and China are locked in a military stand-off in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh. The LCH has similarities with Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv. It has a number of stealth features, armoured-protection systems, night attack capability and crash-worthy landing gear for better survivability, officials said. The LCH is equipped with requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and all-weather combat capability to perform a range of roles including combat search and rescue (CSAR), destruction of enemy air defence (DEAD) and counter-insurgency (CI) operations. The helicopter can also be deployed in high-altitude bunker-busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungles and urban environments as well as for supporting ground forces. The helicopter can also be used against slow-moving aircraft and remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs) of adversaries. Officials said it would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF and the Indian Army. They said state-of-the-art technologies and systems compatible with stealth features such as reduced visual, aural, radar and IR signatures and crash-worthiness features for better survivability have been integrated into the LCH for deployment in combat roles. Several key aviation technologies like a glass cockpit and composite airframe structure have been indigenised, they said. The future series-production version will consist of further modern and indigenous systems, they said. Four LCH helicopters have already been accepted by the IAF. The officials said IAF plans to procure more LCH in the near future. The helicopter has been tested under stringent operating conditions including at sea level, in desert regions and in Siachen. The Army has a plan to acquire 95 LCH largely for a combat role in mountains.

Bomb threat in China-bound jet over Indian airspace, IAF on alert

New Delhi: Indian Air Force fighter jets were scrambled to intercept an aircraft with its origin in Iran and headed to China, which was moving towards New Delhi airspace. According to sources, inputs were received at 9:20 am by Delhi Police about a bomb threat on board a Mahan Air flight headed to Guangzhou in China from Tehran in Iran. It triggered an alert and permission was not granted for the plane to land in Delhi and the plane was instructed by Air Traffic Control

(ATC) to divert to Jaipur. Reportedly the pilot refused to divert the plane following which

Indian Air Force jets were scrambled to intercept the plane, sources told ANI. Data from Filghtradar24 showed the plane reducing altitude over the Delhi-Jaipur airspace for a brief period before it was seen making its way out of Indian airspace. According to ATC sources, Mahan Air requested for immediate landing at Delhi airport but Delhi ATC directed it to head to Jaipur Airport. The pilots of the Iranian carrier did not do so and eventually left Indian airspace. The nature of the bomb threat is still unclear.



Indian Air Force jets were scrambled to intercept and escort the plane. The aircraft was headed to China as its final destination, had entered Indian airspace when the alert from Indian Air Traffic Control was

shared with the plane. Indian Air Force Su-30MKI fighter jets from Punjab and Jodhpur airbases were scrambled to intercept

Galore of Literary awards from Motivational Strips and Gujarat Sahitya Academy

Bengaluru (KCN): The India Independence Day Global Literary Honours 2021 - 2022 were handed over to the winning poets through a grand ceremony

Malay translator and author Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman had flown down from Malaysia to represent Malaysian Government's literary organization Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka to felicitate poets on the occasion. There was the prominent presence of Karnataka Press Club Council President Dr T Shivakumar Nagara Navile who stated that the land of Karnataka was blessed to host such a great event; meanwhile World English SAINO Poetry inventor Author Khemlal Pokhrel who had also flown down all the way from Nepal maintained momentum of the event. Eco activist and poet Swapna Behera said "I could not recollect any other global poetry meet or award ceremony which could meet the standards maintained by Motivational Strips and Gujarat Sahitya Academy. Author Shiju H Pallithazheth was highly honoured with "Accolade of Honour" and Author Sreekala P Vijayan with "Literary Appreciation" by Gujarat Sahitya Academy and Government of Gujarat making them as the most distinguished honourees of GSA in the last few years. The citation and certificate scroll was handed over to them by Dr Vishnu Pandya during the event. Soundarya Educational Trust was handed over this years Global Educational Brand award from Motivational Strips for their service in the educational sector imbuing high educational standards and literary merits to their students. SET Managing Trustee Prateeksha Keerthan Kumar accepted this award which was commissioned by Motivational Strips Headquarters in Sultanate of Oman. Dr Vishnu Pandya and Dr Awang Sariyan from Malaysia was conferred with lifetime literary achievement awards while Poet Rohini Behera won Motivational Strips Founders award 2022. Many eminent poets and administrators were awarded with "Poetic Star" and "Headquarters mention" awards. Another highlight of the award ceremony was that three highly talented children were conferred with India Independence Day Global Literary Honour 2022. They were Seethalekshmi Kishore (Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman), Meethi Sharma (Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman) and Sannidhi Kulkarni (Soundarya Central School, Bengaluru). Dr Vishnu Pandya stated that these children were awarded to inspire many young aspirants to take up the pen for a future prosperous literary career.



held in Soundarya Educational Trust, a leading educational group in South India, and one which is popular for imbuing quality literary training to their students. These world's leading poetry Awards were directly handed over by Dr Vishnu Pandya and Motivational Strips Founder and president Shiju H Pallithazheth. Unlike last three years, this year three children were also honoured with the India Independence Day award. The lucky three were Sannidhi Kulkarni from Soundarya Central School as well Meethi Sharma and. Seethalekshmi Kishore from Indian School Al Ghubra., Sultanate of Oman. The Founder of Motivational Strips Shiju H Pallithazheth who was one of the two chief guests for this function stated that "it becomes the responsibility of the global literary diaspora to prepare the future generations to take poetry and literature seriously" Padma Shree awardee Dr Vishnu Pandya stated that the event has created history in world literature and will remain one of the greatest achievement of Gujarat Sahitya Academy and the Indian Government in general when it comes to justice towards the nation's literature goals" The function was handled with finesse by Motivational Media coordination office in Bengaluru headed by Author Sreekala P Vijayan. It was interesting to note that globally renowned

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Uddhav Thackeray-led party is real Shiv Sena: NCP

MUMBAI: The Uddhav Thackeray group is the "real" Shiv Sena though the decision is pending with the Election Commission and two rallies are being organised on Dussehra day by rival factions, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) said on Monday.

The Sharad Pawar-led party is of the view that the real Shiv Sena carries the ideas of the party founder the late Bal Thackeray, which is Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, said party spokesperson Mahesh Tapase. "Two Dussehra rallies will be held this year. One is of tradition, loyalty, self-respect and means the one led by

ideas of Balasaheb Uddhav Thackeray. Even though the decision on which is the real Shiv Sena is pending with the Election Commission, the real Shiv Sena is the one that has the ideas of Balasaheb (Thackeray) which means it is the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena," he said in a video statement. In a setback for Thackeray, the Supreme Court last week allowed the EC to go ahead with hearing the Eknath Shinde group's plea seeking recognition as the 'real' Shiv Sena and allocation of the party's bow-and-arrow poll symbol to it. The Thackeray-led faction is scheduled to hold a rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai, while the group led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has booked the MMRDA grounds at the Bandra Kurla Complex for the October 5 congregation. NCP chief Sharad Pawar and top leaders of the party have been backing the Thackeray-led faction since the split in Shiv Sena. The Thackeray-led Sena is one of the three members of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The MVA government collapsed in June this year following the rebellion by 39 MLAs of Shiv Sena led by Shinde.



Gandhiji and Shastriji's philosophies annihilated

October 2, 2022, the birthday anniversary of both Gandhiji and Shastriji is celebrated by politicians, leaders and rulers on a grandeur scale who go on



to speak about their contributions, sacrifice and , ideals. But the greatest tribute to a person can be if their ideology, or philosophy is emulated and practised in deeds. But ruling dispensation at the Centre is just doing reverse

what both Gandhiji and Shastri advocated and practised. Their philosophies and ideals are annihilated every day. Publicity blitzkrieg is the order of the day. Retaining power or snatching power is the ultimate objective of politicians today

Talking about our role and the government's role 'Gandhiji' had told, "I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?"

Today, people have been made more self-centred, greedy, insensitive and arrogant by the ruling class. Though, the Prime Minister talks of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Biswas, in reality, the measure taken or policies adopted by the government are meant to cater to the interest of the rich and corporates. Cronyism is so rampant that corporate behemoths are interfering in government transactions and browbeating the government to formulate rules and regulations to suit them and to the detriment of the masses. The glaring example is the reduction of corporate taxes to the benefit of corporate honchos while the imposition of GST on food items to the detriment of the masses.

Our system is rigged to enable the rich to generate huge profits even humungous black money and hide that ill-gotten wealth in safe places especially tax havens to evade taxes and hide identity. Corruption is so rampant today, that it is difficult to get any work done without paying bribes. Rich people evade taxes and loot people's savings by not repaying loans taken from banks. Our tax system is so regressive that the poor pay more than the rich as a proportionate of their income.

For example, the wealth of the richest 98 same as

the bottom 55.2 crores. According to Credit Suisse's 12th wealth re-

port, in India, the richest 1 per cent of the country has 33 per cent of the country's total wealth, while the 10 per cent has 64.6 per cent of the country's total wealth. On the other hand, only 5.9 per cent of the total national wealth remains in the hands of half the people of the country. Creating wealth at an unprecedented speed of Rs 1,612 crore per day, billionaire Gautam Adani has more than doubled his wealth in the last year to beat Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos as the world's second-richest man, according to IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2022

and Shastriji had told us that we can win respect in the world only if we are strong internally and can banish poverty and unemployment from our country. But India has the ignominy of being home to the highest number of hungry, homeless and poor people in the world. Around 27.9 per cent of Indians are multidimensionally poor. What is reprehensible is that around 70.5 per cent or 97.33 crore Indians were unable to access healthy food, and 22.4 crores or 16.3 per cent of Indians are undernourished. India had reached an unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 which was a record 45 years high. It is now revolving around 8 to 10 per cent. What is disquieting is that around 75 per cent of employment in India is vulnerable.

Lal Bahadur Shastri said, "The unique thing about our country is that we have Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, and people of all other religions. We have temples and mosques, gurdwaras and churches. But we do not bring all this into politics. This is the difference between India and Pakistan. But what we witness today is that nation is divided in the name of religion and the state is no more neutral to religious issues and our secular fabric is torn asunder. Hatred is created against minor communities.

The relevance of Gandhi in the capitalism debate is more discernible and relevant today. Gandhiji had told, "The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed." Gandhiji's above teaching has much to say about capitalism that strives for greed, deceit, and fraud. Gandhiji's sayings are also a forewarning to those governments who are

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

obsessed with GDP growth that comes at the cost of the environment

and natural resources.

Gandhi's environmentalism fitted in with his overall vision for India and the world which sought to extract from nature what is absolutely necessary for human sustenance. His ideas on the environment are intimately linked with his ideas relating to polity, economy, health, and development. Gandhiji's environmentalism is largely built on the ecological practices of peasants and tribal communities. But today, in the name of creating wealth, and enhancing GDP, natural resources are overexploited, and exhausted and environmental concern is ignored.

These pose a serious threat to the survival of humanity. The glaring example is the way Corona Pandemic wrought havoc. Natural resources are not infinite and will be exhausted one day. So how will posterity survive? If posterity will not survive then for whom, we are accumulating wealth?

Gandhiji would have posed other delicate questions for today's responsible business movement. Business behemoths plunder our resources, and maximize profits by unfair means but do some charity to hide their dishonesty and rapacity. Gandhiji said, "The charitable giving is nice, but not enough. How you make your money in the first place is more important than how much you give away". Gandhiji argued that all efforts to improve the human condition are bound to fail unless they put 'dharma', or a moral framework and a sense of higher purpose, above the pursuit of 'arth' (wealth) and 'kama' (pleasure)".

The Swadeshi movement was a self-sufficiency movement that was part of the Indian independence movement and contributed to the development of Indian nationalism. Gandhiji had also warned of the dangers of other countries taking to western industrialism. He stressed self-reliance and Swadeshi movement and building small-scale and cottage industries. But since economic liberalisation was embraced by India in 1991, India has lost its economic sovereignty. The present ruler has expedited the process and allowed unfettered foreign investment to the detriment of indigenous companies.



Gandhian outlook : A brief synopsis

IF PHILOSOPHY IS WISDOM, MAHATMA GANDHI WAS AMONG OUR foremost philosophers. He had the wisdom of Socrates, the humility of St. Francis of Assisi, the mass



appeal of Lenin, the saintliness of the ancient Indian rishis and the profound love of humanity of the Buddha. He was a revolutionary who was committed to the overthrow of all forms of tyranny and social injustice but

who never bore ill-will towards anyone, who led a mighty movement against British imperialism but never allowed the movement to be accompanied by hatred, rancour or resentment against Englishmen. He was not an intellectual in the conventional sense of the term. He was not an academic philosopher propounding his philosophy in a precise, dry and formal manner. It would not be difficult to find inconsistencies and contradiction in some of his statements. He was supremely consistent in his devotion to truth. He was like the ancient sages, an earnest seeker after truth, a spiritual explorer or a scientist experimenting all his life to discover truth and apply it to the practical problems facing man. His sources of inspiration were not confined to his country or to his religion. His respective mind was open to various influences. From his very childhood he was brought into contact with religious and moral ideas. He studied the Ramayan, the Bhagabata, the Vaishnava poets of Gujarat and the popular writings of the Jains. During his stay in England he studied Buddhism and the Gita, met Quakers and Missionaries, read the Upanishads in translation, "Ruskin's unto this last, theosophist literature and books on Islam. He was also profoundly impressed by Thoreau and Tolstoy. Thoreau taught him that it was more honorable to be right than to be law-abiding-a revolutionary concept, which

inspired his philosophy of passive resistance. Tolstoy's

The Kingdom of God Within You taught him how man could liberate himself and control ill through suffering.

Gandhiji was thought his life a God-conscious, God-fearing man. He never passed thought the valley of doubt and darkness. Nothing could shake his confidence and faith in God and His Scheme of life. God with him was not an abstraction or a mere metaphysical concept, but an intensely felt reality. Belief in God was with him a question of faith and conviction. He needed no arguments to establish God's existence. His whole being was permeated with God-consciousness; his heart vibrated with it. Gandhiji was no mystic

who communicates with God in his trances or in moments of ecstasy but a man of action not living, in forests and meditating on eternal verities, but living amidst men, engaged in an epic struggle against alien rule. He had, however, the ability to withdraw himself from the life of excitement and meditate even amidst action. The Mahatma described God in various ways. God to him was kind, just and loving, who always responded to pra & love.

He was truth and love. A logical corollary to give belief is that the Universe is organised on moral principles and that it presents a harmonious design, there being no contradiction for inconsistency in the laws of nature and moral and spiritual principles. Gandhiji's faith in God was not shaken when he beheld nature read in truth and claw, when he saw earthquake, floods and other natural calamities overwhelming man and causing

Uma Sankar Prasad

infinite suffering. If God was truth, love, benevolent and

justice Gandhiji asserted, man who was fundamentally moral and spiritual an image of God. Not a naked ape, not one with a divided nature, but a fraternity of spiritual beings.

Mahatma Gandhi's bold affirmation of faith in God, in the moral nature of the universe, in human society as an association of kindred souls and in free will may be criticized by the modern cynics on the ground that no valid intellectual grounds have been offered, but none can dispute the fact that his faith leads to a way of life which is in complete harmony with the needs of the times. If God is love or truth, there can be no

bar to the realization of God through diverse ways. Religion does not divide people, unless it is understood in the sense that it is a matter of dogma, a church, a holy book; it emphasizes the fundamental unity of the human race. The Gandhian way is the way of universal love and tolerance, of profound reverence

for all great religious which are so many ways of apprehending the reality and identifying ourselves with its purposes. Distinctions of race, nationality and sect have no room in Gandhian ethics. Patriotism is not enough. A truly religious man does not restrict his allegiance to any country or nation. His loyalty is to the whole of humanity. He acknowledges all great religious as embodying the truth and therefore, worthy of deep reverence. Mahatma Gandhi was an admirer of all religious- Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam,



Both Gandhiji and Shastriji believed in a true democracy. True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village. Along with freedom and justice, the third most important thing, which requires special mention in context of Gandhi's views on democracy, relates to fundamental rights of citizens.

Even in a democracy, many times ,we observe great lack in protecting and honouring the rights of citizens. More care for rights of self and less for others is noticed. Consequently, state of violation of human rights emerges time and again. For, undoubtedly, democracy suffers. To quote Gandhi himself, "Democracy is an impossible thing until the power is shared by all. Even a pariah, a labourer, who makes it possible for you to earn your living, will have his share in self-government -Swarajya or democracy. Gandhiji had said, "Evolution of democracy is not possible if we are not prepared to hear the other side. We shut the doors of reason when we refuse to listen to our opponents or, having listened, make fun of them. If intolerance becomes a habit, we run the risk of mission the truth". But now dissent is curbed, and hatred is created against dissenters. Instead of exposing the failures of ruling classes, media is subverted to act as an instrument of government's advertisement and target oppositions. The Voice of the voiceless or average people is getting decimated while the voice of the rich getting shriller day by day.

Today our democracy has been taken over by oligarchy. Money and muscle power play a dominant role in the electoral process with people having criminal backgrounds having more chance of winning the election. In a democratic country like India, the importance and inevitability of social justice cannot be obliterated. Hundreds of thousands of people are still deprived of getting social justice. Consequently, they suffer in political, economic and intellectual spheres and get dehumanised

Gandhiji said that possession of power makes persons blind and deaf; they cannot see things which are under their very nose and cannot hear things which invade their ears. There is thus no knowing what a power-intoxicated government may not do. So, ... patriotic men, and progressive people must fight and ought to be prepared to face any eventualities.

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Christianity and others. This does not mean that he accepted everything they preached. "He does not mouth the name of the Founder of Christianity", "writes Will Durant in his appreciation of the Mahatma, but he acts as if the Sermon on the Mount were his perpetual guide". If God is truth and if truth is God, then there is nothing which stands in the way of persons of various religious affiliations coming together on the same platform as seekers after truth. Even an earnest atheist trying to explore the reality is a truly religious man. What is repugnant to the Gandhian way of life dogmatism, fanaticism, intolerance, selfishness? Mahatma Gandhi was a secularist in the sense that he was against any discrimination between citizen and citizen on grounds of religion, sect or caste. But he firmly believed that a State or Society would be stable only to the extent to which it was based on ethical and spiritual ideals.

The Mahatma was the greatest exponent of Satyagraha-soul force, non-violence, non-cooperation. He condemned the use of force; he hoped to win even his enemies by love, suffering and sacrifice. Underling his faith in Satyagraha was his conviction that no man, however tyrannical, can long withstand the pressure of the soul force, Gandhiji's followers, however, were not all confirmed pacifists, Non-Violence with many of them was more a matter of expediency.

The Mahatma was a kind of philosophic anarchist who believed in voluntary organization on co-operative lines. He was opposed to highly centralized states. He stood for village autonomy with a federation of village republics. He hated everything that degraded man-untouchability, inferior status for women, child marriage.

The Mahatma was neither a capitalist nor a Socialist. He propounded the theory of the rich classes being the trustees of the national wealth. He preferred the method of Satyagraha and moral persuasion as a mean of achieving a truly classless society of kindred souls to State action.

The Author is a Columnist, Khordha

Russia smuggling Ukrainian grain to help pay for Putin's war

Continued from page-1

The grain and flour carried by the 138-meter-long (453 feet) Laodicea likely started its journey in the southern Ukrainian city of Melitopol, which Russia seized in the early days of the war.

Video posted to social media on July 9 shows a train pulling up to the Melitopol Elevator, a massive grain storage facility, with green hopper cars marked with the name of the Russian company Agro-Fregat LLC with a logo in the shape of a spike of wheat.

Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fedorov told AP the occupiers are moving vast quantities of grain from the region by train and truck to ports in Russia and Crimea, a strategic Ukrainian peninsula that Russia has illegally occupied since 2014.

A July 11 satellite image shows the Laodicea tied up at a pier in Feodosia. The ship's radio transponder was turned off. Two weeks later, when it arrived at the Lebanese port city Tripoli, it claimed to be carrying grain from a small Russian port on the other side of the Black Sea.

A copy of the ship's manifests obtained by AP claimed its port of origin was Kavkaz, Russia. The shipper was listed as Agro-Fregat, the same name on the train cars in Melitopol. The buyer was Loyal Agro Co Ltd., a wholesale grocer headquartered in Turkey.

Agro-Fregat didn't respond to emailed questions and a phone number that had been listed on its website was out of service last week.

A spokesman for Loyal Agro said the ship's cargo came from Russia.

But the Laodicea couldn't have picked up its cargo in Kavkaz, the Russian port listed on the manifest. The ship's hull, which reaches 8 meters (26 feet) below the surface, would run aground in the relatively shallow port, which has a maximum depth of 5.3 meters (17.5 feet).

The port in Feodosia is more than twice as deep ? easily able to accommodate the big ship.

Another company involved in smuggling grain is United Shipbuilding Corp., a Russian state-owned defense contractor sanctioned by the United States for providing weapons to the Russian war effort.

The company, through its subsidiary Crane Marine Contractor, bought three cargo ships just weeks before Putin invaded Ukraine, in a departure from its core business providing heavy lift platforms to the oil and gas industry.

The three ships have made at least 17 trips between Crimea and ports in Turkey and Syria.

When AP called Crane Marine Contractor a receptionist answered by saying the company's name. A man she transferred the call to, however, insisted AP had the wrong number.

You have reached the wrong place, we do not have such information, ? said the man, who refused to give his name.

During a typical voyage in mid-June, a 170-meter-long ship (560 feet) called the Mikhail Nenashev was captured on satellite being loaded at the Russian-controlled Avlita Grain Terminal in Sevastopol, Crimea. The ship's radio transponder was turned off, a tactic often used by smugglers known as ?running dark.?"

It arrived on June 25 in Dörtöyl, Turkey, and docked at a pier owned by MMK Metalurji, a steel producer.

MMK Metalurji is controlled by Viktor Rashnikov, a Russian billionaire who is close to Putin. Rashnikov and his company have been sanctioned by the United States, European Union and United Kingdom.

In an email to AP, MMK said the grain came from Russia: ?The place where the said cargo is loaded is PORT KAVKAZ.?"

As with Laodicea, Nenashev's draught is too deep to dock at the Kavkaz port.

Turkey helped broker an agreement between Russia and Ukraine in July to allow both countries to export grain and fertilizer through safe corridors in the Black Sea. The deal did not address the grain Russia has taken from occupied areas.

Though Turkish authorities have pledged to stop illegal smuggling, Turkey's foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in a June news conference his country had not found any evidence of theft.

In our investigation on ships' ports and goods' origins, following claims about Turkey, we saw the origin records to be Russia, ? he said

Whatever the records say, the smuggling operation continues.

Crane Marine Contractor's ship Matros Koshka ? named for a Russian sailor lauded as national hero for his bravery during the Crimean War of 1854 ? cruised north last week into the Black Sea with a listed destination of Kavkaz before turning off its transponder and running dark.

Satellite imagery taken Thursday showed the 161-meter-long ship (528 feet) had docked once again at the grain terminal in the occupied Ukrainian port of Sevastopol, little more than a mile from a Soviet-era statue honouring its namesake.

PM Modi to lay foundations for projects worth over Rs. 3,650 cr in Himachal Pradesh

Continued from page-1

30-bed Ayush block.

The hospital has also set up a Centre for Digital Health to provide health services in tribal and inaccessible areas of the state.

Also, specialist health services will be provided by the hospital through health camps in the inaccessible tribal and high Himalayan regions such as Kaza, Saluni, and Keylong. The hospital will admit 100 students for MBBS and 60 students for nursing courses every year. Among other development projects, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for a 31-km-long project for four laning of NH-105 from Pinjore to Nalagarh, worth over Rs. 1,690 crore.

He will also lay the foundation stone for Medical Device Park at Nalagarh, which will be built at a cost of around Rs. 350 crore.

The statement said, "Noting that the International Kullu Dussehra Festival will be celebrated from October 5 to 11 at Dhalpur Ground in Kullu, the event is unique in the sense that it is the congregation of worshippers of more than 300 deities of the valley."

"It will be the first time that the Prime Minister will participate in the celebrations," the statement added.

Mangalyaan mission over, Mars Orbiter craft non-recoverable, confirms ISRO

Continued from page-1

despite being designed for a life-span of six months as a technology demonstrator, the MOM has lived for about eight years in the Martian orbit with a gamut of significant scientific results on Mars as well as on the Solar corona, before losing communication with the ground station, as a result of a long eclipse in April 2022, the national space agency said.

During the national meet, ISRO deliberated that the propellant must have been exhausted, and therefore, the "desired altitude pointing" could not be achieved for sustained power generation, ISRO said.

"It was declared that the spacecraft is non-recoverable, and attained its end-of-life", an ISRO statement said. MOM was launched on November 5, 2013, and after completing 300 days of interplanetary journey, it was inserted to the Martian orbit on September 24, 2014. "Equipped with a five scientific payloads onboard, during these eight years, the mission has gifted significant scientific understanding on the Martian surface features, morphology, as well as the Martian atmosphere and exosphere," ISRO said.

People from far and abroad throng Cuttack

Continued from page-1

Like Tanuja, Saroj Kumar Samal, who works as an engineer in Oman too has come home at Mahanadi Vihar to celebrate the festival with his family and friends. "I was not able to enjoy the festival with government for the last two years. But, this year I am enjoying as the Sikharpur Puja Committee is observing Durga Puja on a temporary mandap at Nadikula Sahi near my house," said Samal who was buying new dresses for his family members.

People irrespective of caste, creed and religion are venturing out to relish local delicacies like 'khichudi', 'dahi pakhala' and 'jantala' at the pandals. This apart, snacks like 'dahibara aludam', chaat, gupchup and others too are immensely popular among the revelers.

Cuttack city is famous for its filigree work and during the Puja, many organised decorate their pandals with chandi medha. Use of delicate and intricate silver and gold filigree work used for decorating the idols is an integral part of the city's pandals.

Gandhi Jayanti Observed at DVC Towers, Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN):Gandhi Jayanti, also the International Day of Non-Violence, was observed with utmost grace and respect at the DVC Towers, Kolkata on October 2, 2022 (Monday).

The Member-Secretary, Dr John Mathai, Executive Director (HR), Shri Rakesh Ranjan and other officials paid homage to Father of Our Nation on his

153rd birth anniversary. There were similar events also at various field formations of DVC.



Gas price hike: CNG prices may go up by at least Rs 8-12 per kg

NEW DELHI: CNG prices are likely to be hiked by Rs 8-12 per kg and that of gas piped to household kitchens by over Rs 6 per unit after the government raised the prices of input natural gas to a record, analysts said on Monday.

The government last week raised the prices of gas produced from old fields, called APM gas, to USD 8.57 per million British thermal unit from USD 6.1.

The rates for gas produced from difficult fields were hiked to USD 12.46 from USD 9.92 per mmBtu. APM gas makes up for two-thirds of all gas produced in the country. This gas is converted into CNG for automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking.

Kotak Institutional Equities said APM gas prices are up nearly 5x in just a year - from USD 1.79 per mmBtu till September 2021 to USD 8.57.

"We expect CGDs to raise prices, but only in tranches, impacting near-term earnings," it said.

For each USD per mmBtu gas price rise, city gas distribution (CGD) entities need to raise the CNG price by Rs 4.7-4.9 per kg.

"For USD 2.5 per mmBtu price rise, and also for recent currency weakness, CGDs will need an immediate CNG price increase of Rs 12-14 per kg,"

national capital, will need to raise CNG price by Rs 8 per kg while Mahanagar Gas Ltd - the retailer in Mumbai - will have to increase prices by Rs 9.

"This would reduce CNG's discount to petrol/diesel from 45/30 per cent to 40/20 per cent for IGL. Similarly, the discount for MGL would reduce from 45/30 per cent currently to 40/20 per cent," it said.

"This could impact volume growth." As a key producer of domestic APM gas, a sharp 40 per cent increase in price is positive for upstream producers ONGC and Oil India. The price hike will boost ONGC's earnings by about 16 per cent, Kotak said.

"However, in our view, such high prices may not sustain for long. In addition, there is a risk that the government may take away benefits by imposing additional taxation, like the recent windfall tax on oil prices," it said.

But unlike APM gas, the benefits of higher rates for gas from new and difficult fields can sustain. Reliance Industries Ltd, with the largest new gas production, is a key beneficiary.

Kotak said there is a serious need to revisit the domestic gas price formula and introduce floor/ceiling price for several reasons.



it said adding CGDs cannot absorb gas price increases.

In the past, CGDs have been able to pass on all cost increases, and per unit margins have been on long-term rising trends for CGDs.

According to ICICI Securities, piped cooking gas, called PNG, CNG prices will need to be raised by Rs 6.2 per standard cubic meter and Rs 9-12.5 per kg to fully pass on the impact of these high input costs. "At best, we see only a slow gradual pass-through of these costs over third quarter (October to December)," it said. Jefferies said Indraprastha Gas Ltd, the firm that retails CNG and PNG in the

prices and volatility can impact demand, conversion from pollution fuels to gas and future investments," it said detailing reasons for the review.

ICICI said Kirit Parikh Committee has been asked to review the pricing formula. "The implication clearly is to moderate gas prices for both CGDs and by extension the consumers."

"For Q4FY23 (January-March 2023), therefore, we see a reduction in the effective gas costs by about 15 per cent from October 2022 declared prices as the revised formula is put in place, which is likely to cap prices at an effective range of USD 6.5-7 per mmBtu," it added.

The current formula, it said, has led to high volatility in APM gas prices - up 5x in just a year while rates stayed below breakeven price of USD 3-3.5 for earlier six and half years (October 2015 to March 2022).

"This gas is produced from legacy nominated blocks with low taxation (no profit petroleum, etc.); and APM gas is allocated by the government to price-sensitive segments (CGDs, fertilizers, power), where both high



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National Games: Swimming begins with Assam's Astha Choudhury setting record

RAJKOT: Assam's Astha Choudhury claimed the honour of becoming the first swimmer to break a record as the National Games Aquatics competition commenced at the Sardar

Patel Aquatics Complex here on Sunday. She clocked 1:03.91 in the 100m Butterfly heats to take the Games record from Richa Mishra, who set it at 1:04.41 in Ranchi in 2011.

Incidentally, the Butterfly specialist had clocked 1:03.07 in Guwahati last month to claim the National Record too.

Tanishi Gupta (Karnataka) and Divya Satija

(Haryana) were second and third fastest in the heats.

Sajan Prakash, the Best Male Athlete of the 2015 National Games, started his quest to repeat that feat by entering two

individual finals and the Kerala team's 4x100m Freestyle relay final. On a day when his younger Olympic colleague,

his pursuit of that title, he was conservative in doing enough to make the finals in the 200m Freestyle and 100m

Vedaant Madhavan, who trains alongside Sajan Prakash in Dubai, also made it to the final. National champion Harsh

ing 57.47 though Assam's Bikram Changmai (Assam) was the second fastest of the qualifiers from the heats.

Netizens seek action against organisers of Durga Puja that had Asura looking like Gandhi

KOLKATA: Outraged over the installation of a Mahishasur idol that resembled Mahatma Gandhi at a pandal in southwest Kolkata, people on social media sought immediate arrest of Hindu Mahasabha leaders who organised the Durga puja.

Organisers Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha, however, claimed that it was a "coincidence" that the Mahishasur idol, which had a bald head and was dressed in a white dhoti and round glasses, bore resemblance to Gandhi, but social media was not convinced.

"Immediately arrest the officials of Hindu Mahasabha for depicting Mahatma Gandhi as

"Nope, this isn't coincidence. This is a deliberate attempt to change the narrative to suit the current narrative of demonising our freedom movement heroes. We have truly lost our moral compass as a nation," Chaturvedi tweeted.

One Partha Pratim Bhattacharya on Facebook urged the police to take action against the organisers of the Durga Puja as the idol "has hurt the religious sentiments of many Hindus like me".

"I don't have an inkling as to what steps the law enforcement people are taking to curb this nuisance. It's a shame for us, Indians and



Srihari Nataraj, made his appearance only in the Freestyle relay heats, Sajan Prakash stated his intent in very clear terms.

National Games 2022: Bhavani Devi wins hat-trick of gold medals

Aware of the number of races that he will have to compete in in

Butterfly. Sajan Prakash opened with a 1:55.74 in the 200m Freestyle, his time being the fifth fastest in the heats behind rising star Aneesh S Gowda and Sambhavv Rao (both Karnataka), Gujarat's big hope Aryan Nehra and Vishal Grewal (Delhi).

Saroja (Haryana), who finished ninth, has been marked as a reserve for the final. The vastly experienced Sajan Prakash breezed to the top of the 100m Butterfly qualifications with a time of 56.16 seconds. Sambhavv Rao also made it to his second final, clock-

Karnataka youngster Dhindihi Desinghu was the fastest in the women's 200m Freestyle heats, coming home in 2:11.44. She would get the pride of place in the lane allocation in the final ahead of Bhavya Sachdeva (Delhi) and Shivangi Sarma (Assam).



asura in a Durga Puja at Kolkata," tweeted one Atanu Chakravarty, tagging Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

As the photos of the Durga Puja pandal went viral on social media, the Kolkata Police told the Mahasabha to change the look of the idol and also asked journalist Indradeep Bhattacharyya, who shared it on Twitter, to delete the photograph as it "may create tension" amid the festival.

"The Hindu Mahasabha claimed to have changed the idol on Kolkata Police's request and 'put moustache and hair' on it. What an easy solution found by KP," tweeted Ujjaini. Priyanka Chaturvedi of Shiv Sena alleged that this was a "deliberate attempt" to demonise freedom fighters.



Bengalis is particular," Kumar Mukherjee posted on Facebook.

"It's such a disgrace to my city!" posted Dwaipayana Banerjee. According to mythology, Goddess Durga slew Mahishasur in an epic battle to end his evil reign. Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha state working president Chandrachur Goswami told PTI that the organisation didn't want to hurt anybody's sentiments.

"The Durga idol that was worshipped here initially had a Mahishasur whose face looked similar to that of Mahatma Gandhi. The similarities are just a coincidence. After photos of it went viral, a police team visited the pandal and asked us to make changes to the face," he said.

Odia entrepreneur felicitated in British Parliament



BHUBANESWAR: UK-based Odia entrepreneur and co-founder of NesT Group Arun Kar has been honoured with 'Mahatma Gandhi Samman' at the House of Commons in British Parliament, London. He was felicitated ahead of the 153rd birth anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi. Kar, has made a place for himself in innovations in

various diversified fields like Information Technology and Environmental Sustainability. He has been featured on Forbes, Fortune's cover page and also been a winner of National Business awards in UK. He is also a Guinness World Record holder and has been felicitated as Global Indian of the Year - 2021 by AsiaOne Magazine.

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