

7 billionth wonder

At the turn of the decade, we are staring at a 7-billion strong population. Is this a reason to rejoice...or worry?

Aakash Sahai, AIS Saket, XI F

India welcomed the world's first symbolic "seven billionth" citizen, named Nargis, born to a family in Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state on October 31. While the nation celebrates the symbolic birth as a landmark in the fight for the country's "missing girls" and declining sex ratio, the global milestone presents both an opportunity and challenge for the planet on the whole. Here's how:

Cheers & Fears

Reaching the 7 billionth mark surely indicates that more people are living longer and enjoying healthier lives. But, with the number of people more than double of that in the last half-century, resources are under more strain than ever before. To some demographers especially India, the 7 billionth milestone forecasts turbulent times ahead; nations are struggling to grapple with rapid urbanisation combined with environmental degradation and skyrocketing demand for food, health care, education, and resources. Gaps between rich and poor are widening and more people than




Wonder Baby Nargis: World's seven billionth baby, an Indian

ever are vulnerable to food insecurity and water shortage.

Future Beckons

Actions taken now will decide whether the future will be healthy, sustainable and prosperous or marked by inequalities, environmental decline and economic setbacks for the 7 billionth baby. As per United Nation Population Fund's (UNFPA) Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin, the world must now seize

this opportunity to invest in the health and education of its youth. Investing in the two will help them reap full benefits of future economic development; or they would have to face disparity like hundreds of millions of people living in developing and developed nations face due to shortage of resources. Planning and the right investments in people will empower them to make choices that are not only good for themselves, but also for a world of seven billion. 

Newsreels

Rishi Thariani & Vivasvaan Srivastava, AIS Saket, XI

DU's Draconian Diktats Drubbed!

A midnight protest by over 160 students of DU's Daulat Ram Hostel, over the suffocating and hellish restrictions imposed on them by the hostel authorities, resulted in the authorities going on the backfoot. Acting principal Mrs Indu Bahadur said that the ban on laptops and mobile phones would be lifted soon. The hostel students alleged that they were regularly frisked, their luggage checked for hidden cell phones and laptops and their gadgets were confiscated. According to the students, the demands include a stop on random checks of rooms and body-search, as well as amending the rules to allow students to keep cellphones and laptops.

Rising Fuel Prices: Oiling The Misery

On November 4, the PSU oil marketing companies hiked petrol prices by Rs 1.80/Ltr in Delhi to balance the increase in the cost of import of crude oil. The increase in petrol prices from Rs66.84/Ltr to Rs.68.64/Ltr marks the 4th hike in prices this year, and has given rise to immense criticism over the government's policy of deregula-


tion of fuel prices, implemented in June, 2010.

This harsh rise comes after the PSU oil marketing companies stated an under-recovery of Rs 319 crore on the sale of diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG at subsidised rates; all losses in-turn being passed on to petrol prices, and *aam-aadmi* paying for it.



Frazier's Final Fight

Kriti Misra, AIS Saket, XI

Joe Frazier, a name forever immortalized in the world of boxing, lost a one month long battle to liver cancer at the age of 67 on November 8, 2011. The arch nemesis of Muhammad Ali in and out of the ring, he was touted as possibly the only man capable of dethroning Ali. He was renowned to have handed Ali his first defeat ever on March 8, 1971, winning a 15-round bout at New York's Madison Square Garden, billed as "The Fight of the Century." The demise of 'Smokin' Joe, better known as the lion of heavyweight division, is a huge loss to the boxing world and his fans worldwide. He will be missed. RIP Frazier! 

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We know how to pose too!