



BELLIGERENT KANGANA

Actor Kangana Ranaut slams filmmaker Karan Johar for downplaying patriotism in his latest film *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*

LEISURE P2



HIDDEN THREAT

Due to the pandemic, patients suffering from critical diseases are delaying hospital visits

TWO STATES P7



WILL STAND WITH INDIA

Joe Biden asserted that if elected, his admin will stand with India against threats along its borders

INTERNATIONAL P10

Two killed as heavy rains batter Odisha

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Heavy downpour caused by a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal led to a flood-like situation in several parts of Odisha Sunday, snapping road connectivity, damaging mud houses and crops, and killing two people, officials said.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall coupled with strong surface wind is likely to persist in many parts of the state till Monday under the impact of the low-pressure area, which has now weakened and lies over Jharkhand and its neighbouring areas, the Meteorological Centre here said.

Two members of a family were killed in an incident of wall collapse at a village in Patnagarh block of Balangir district on Saturday night, Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said.

No other casualty was reported from anywhere in the state, he said.

While Odisha has already been battered by intense rainfall due to three back-to-back low-pressure areas this month, the MeT Centre has forecast the likelihood of the formation of another low-pressure area over north Bay of Bengal around August 19.

Noting that almost all parts of the state have received widespread rain-



Potteru river overflows in Malkangiri

fall under the impact of the current low-pressure area since August 13, Jena said. Sonepur district recorded maximum showers of 125 mm during the 24 hours till 8.30 a.m. of Sunday.

Malkangiri reported 100 mm of rainfall, Boudh 97 mm, Bargarh 95 mm, Sambalpur 85mm, Balangir 73 mm, and Deogarh district received 90 mm. Jharsuguda, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Angul and Sundargarh recorded an average rainfall of 25-50 mm during the period, he said.

With heavy downpour pounding the state, life was thrown out of gear in several areas of Malkangiri, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak and Cuttack districts, officials said, adding that several villages were cut off from the rest of the state as roads were submerged.

In Malkangiri, low-level bridges connecting various block headquarters have been submerged, temporarily disrupting the road connectivity. District collector Manish Agarwal said.

As soon as the water recedes, as-

The MeT Centre has forecast the likelihood of the formation of another low-pressure area over north Bay of Bengal around August 19

Issuing an 'Orange Warning' for Malkangiri till Monday, the MeT Centre forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall

assessment of the damage caused to crops will be made to provide relief to the affected people, he said.

Reports of some houses being damaged have come from Chittrakonda and Kalimela blocks, while two persons were rescued from a truck at Kangurukonda Saturday, Agarwal said.

Around 34 villages have been affected to various degrees, mostly for agricultural loss and marooning, while a check dam has been breached caus-

ing submergence of agricultural land and crop loss in the Mathilli area, the collector said.

About a hundred stranded people due to submergence of a bridge have been provided accommodation and food, ensuring social distancing, he said.

Similar reports were received from the Dhenkanal district where rainwater inundated low-lying areas in around a dozen villages in Bhuban block, besides inundating several roads and snapping communication lines, officials said.

State Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik, who visited the affected areas in Bhuban, said necessary steps are being taken to provide assistance to the people in the submerged villages.

He said he has asked the Block Development Officer (BDO) to take quick steps to deal with the situation.

Issuing an 'Orange Warning' for Malkangiri till Monday, the MeT Centre forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall. Heavy rainfall may also occur in some areas in Koraput, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Bolangir, Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts where a 'Yellow Warning' has been issued till Monday.

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FAKE INVOICING

GST officials slap ₹1cr fine on deceitful firm

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The Enforcement Squad of Odisha CT & GST wing Saturday collected ₹1 crore on spot as penalty in a case of fraudulent GST registration in Raruan of Mayurbhanj district.

According to an official, the registrant Minati Das Adhikari and her son Ritesh Das Adhikari have been jointly running their business ranging from tobacco manufacturing, brick manufacturing to supplies of cement, MS rod and ceramic tiles at Raruan near Khitcing in Mayurbhanj.

The amount was collected as penalty u/s 122 of the OGST Act from the GST taxpayer for holding stock of goods not commensurate with the actual books of account maintained by the taxpayer. The department also recovered and seized a number of incriminating documents including around 40-60 blank cheque leaves belonging to their parties.

Commissioner of CT & GST Sushil Kumar Lohani



said that involvement of other parties in the tax fraud is being investigated by the authorities. Lohani also assured that other taxpayers who are deliberately evading due tax to the government exchequer by resorting to fraudulent means are under the scanner of Enforcement Wing. Similar actions will be taken against such taxpayer in the near future, he said.

The Enforcement wing has increased its activities steadfastly in order to unearth tax frauds in the state.

It was also said that a number of fraudsters have also been arrested by the CT & GST Enforcement wing in various raids conducted previously across the state. The raids were conducted in the firms of Shree Udyog, Shree Jagannath Traders, Omm Sai Industries and Sanjeev Kumar & Co.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



After Instagram & Twitter, I have installed WhatsApp too, just in case I need to announce my retirement...

₹12K cr invested in state during lockdown: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das Sunday said that the state has witnessed investment to the tune of ₹12,000 crore during the lockdown period and has been doing well in several sectors despite hurdles.

Das was speaking at a webinar organised by the BJD Youth Wing. He claimed that the health indicators of COVID-19 in Odisha had been the best in the country.

government performed well during the lockdown and migrant crisis as it ensured quarantine centres in each panchayat and took care of the food and livelihood issues of the people. Das further said that the laws enacted by the state government during lockdown and COVID outbreak definitely helped us to reduce transmission of the virus and better monitor the whole COVID crisis.

In a video message in the webinar, the CM also said that Odisha

GOOD NEWS



After Maharashtra, Odisha is second in receiving such major investments: Naba Das

The health indicators of COVID-19 in Odisha is the best in the country

Odisha has the highest rate of recovery and lowest rate of deaths for the COVID epidemic: CM

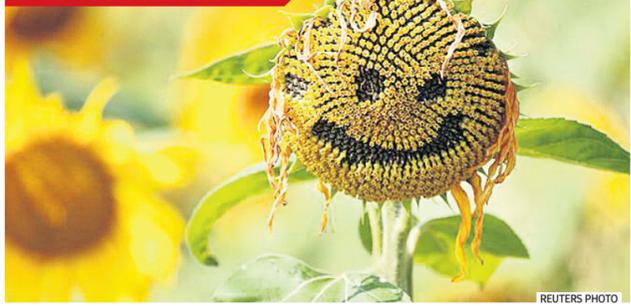
He said, "During the lockdown we have received investment worth ₹12,000 crore. After Maharashtra we are second in this aspect. We have seen progress even in the agriculture sector. In the whole country, the agriculture growth rate is 2.8 per cent but in Odisha it is 7.6 per cent."

The minister also added, "Our fight against COVID-19 is a long one. The mortality rate of the virus is low in the country and within the country the lowest mortality rate is in the state. This shows the state government's good COVID management." The minister said that the state

has been the frontrunner in fight against COVID-19. He said, "Odisha has the highest rate of recovery and lowest rate of deaths for the COVID epidemic. I want the active participation of all the youths for their fight against COVID-19."

BJP leader Pranab Prakash Das said that the state provided hand holding support to the COVID Warriors in the state. He appreciated the Chief Minister's efforts in coming up with COVID Hospitals for better management of the pandemic, besides creating other infrastructure.

SUNSHINE



A smiley face is seen carved into the head of a sunflower in a field in Dunham Massey, Britain

Now, India is epicentre of pandemic

INDIA'S SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE OF DAILY NEW CASES HAS BEEN HIGHER THAN THE UNITED STATES OR BRAZIL

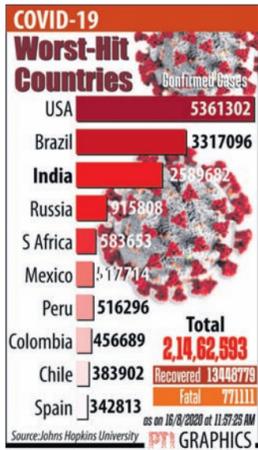
AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 16: For the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19, India's seven-day average of daily new cases has been higher than the United States or Brazil.

However, weekly averages are vital metric, as the US, Brazil and India, to a lesser extent, is witnessing a drop in fresh cases at the beginning of every week - probably a result of weekend closures of testing labs - followed by a rise through the week. As a result, while comparing single days might give misleading answers, weekly averages are more reliable.

According to Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering (JHU CCSE), India had a weekly average of over 60,000 new cases each day as on August 11, much more than the US and Brazil.

This moment has been weeks in the making; the graph of the three countries shows Brazil beginning



to flatten the curve by the end of July, and the US beginning to reverse its second wave around the same time. On the other hand, the Indian line in the graph is indefatigable -

BARE FACTS

- According to Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, India had a weekly average of over 60,000 new cases each day as on August 11, much more than the US and Brazil
- Cases are doubling every 24 days in India as against every 47 days in Brazil and every 65 days in the US
- The weekly average of reported deaths in Brazil has flattened and the US could be heading towards a recovery after its second wave. India again has seen no reduction or pause

it has increased without pause since the beginning of the pandemic.

Experts apprehend it's only going to get worse; cases are consistently growing far faster in India than in Brazil or the US, doubling every 24 days in India as against every 47 days in Brazil and every 65 days in

the US. The doubling time has been increasing steadily in Brazil (indicating a slowing outbreak), and rapidly in the US after its second wave. India is yet to see a substantial or rapid increase in the doubling time of cases.

The US hit its peak July 22, with a weekly average of over 67,000 new cases - the highest the world has seen. India is set to surpass that record soon; current trends show the number of new cases it is recording each day is only growing. And while India has so far done much better than the other two countries in terms of deaths, that too seems set to change going by the trends.

The weekly average of reported deaths in Brazil has flattened and the US could be heading towards a recovery after its second wave. India again has seen no reduction or pause. On the contrary, daily reported deaths keep growing, and it could soon surpass the only two other countries that currently report more deaths each day than it.

Lack of basic infra impedes functioning of state's courts

CURRENTLY, 14.58 LAKH CASES ARE PENDING IN ODISHA AND 12.98 LAKH OF THESE ARE IN THE DISTRICT AND LOWER COURTS

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The judiciary in India has been reeling under huge backlog of cases pending for years. Currently, 14.58 lakh cases are pending in Odisha and 12.98 lakh of them are in the lower courts.

This has been attributed to inadequate infrastructure combined with insufficient manpower and inefficient court management system.

In 1993-94, the Centre implemented the 'Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities' to address the infrastructure bottlenecks at

the district and subordinate courts across the country. The state governments have been allocated funds under this scheme on a matching basis for improved capacity building to deal with the pending cases.

However, latest studies reveal that the district and lower courts in several districts of Odisha still lack basic facilities as mandated by sub-committee of National Court Management Systems set up by the Supreme Court in 2012. Available data also reveals that Odisha has been allocated less funds under the scheme as compared to other states.

Vidhi Center for Legal Policy, an independent think tank, released a



survey report in 2019 underscoring the lack of basic amenities such as barrier-free access, absence of guide maps or signage, fully-functioning washrooms, e-case display boards and security checking at the lower courts. During the survey, around 300 litigants and several

lawyers in the 30 district courts of Odisha were interviewed.

The study found that 25 out of the 30 court complexes in Odisha are accessible by public transport, while litigants in five districts rent private vehicles to reach the courts. Similarly, facilities for parking of the

vehicles of the advocates, court staff and litigants are available only at 13 district court premises.

Court buildings in only eight districts of the state have guide maps to help the litigants to reach the courtrooms concerned without taking anybody's help. On the other hand, electronic display boards are functioning properly in only 13 districts to help people identify which cases are being heard in which courtroom.

Most of the courts do not have well-maintained and clean washrooms. The study found that 15 court complexes had washrooms, while 18 did not have washrooms for women. The most disturbing finding of the

study was the absence of facilities in court buildings for a barrier-free access to the specially-abled litigants. Only six district court complexes in the state have ramps, but none have facilities like Braille notice boards or tactile pavements for the visually impaired.

Moreover, none of the court complexes in Odisha have functional baggage scan facility at their entrance despite the increasing incidents of violence in the state. What is worse, only 15 court complexes in the state have fire extinguishers, while only four court complexes have emergency exit signage. Even police booths exist on only 26 court premises.

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.7°C	31.6°C
MIN	25.2°C	23.2°C
Humidity	85%	95%
Rainfall	2.0mm	3.0mm

Forecast: Light rain likely



STONE'S SISTER TESTS COVID +VE

Actress Sharon Stone has shared that her sister Kelly has Covid-19 and blamed all those not wearing masks for her infection. The actress took to Instagram to post a photo of a solitary room with a large yellow tube being fed into it, surrounded by PPE-clad doctors, reports [dailymail.co.uk](https://www.dailymail.co.uk).

STALLONE'S FUN TIME ON BEACH

Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone had a fun time on the beach with his wife Jennifer Flavin and daughters Sophia and Scarlet. The action star was seen chatting with the three ladies, who all flaunted their figures in bikinis, on a beach of Malibu Saturday, reports [dailymail.co.uk](https://www.dailymail.co.uk).



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
An enterprising day. The stars say you may visit an ancient place. A museum, perhaps, or a historical place. But your health may require some attention, says Ganesh. If so, it's a good idea to spend an evening by yourself.

TAURUS
It will be a thought-provoking day with titbits of success and rewards scattered here and there, says Ganesh. If you feel you got the short end of the stick, do not let it affect your morale. Every sunrise comes with a different promise and today is not the end of the world.

GEMINI
Your desire for a clean house will reach the level of obsession, predicts Ganesh. You may plan to wash your car, clean your yard and arrange your wardrobe. And you don't trust the housemaid with any of the chores, because no one can clean the house better than you.

CANCER
Though your thoughts and views may be quite radical, you will be largely restrained while acting on them, portends Ganesh. You will have no problems starting a new venture or love affair, and taking the required action to keep them afloat.

LEO
'One small drop at a time fills an ocean over time'. Remember this lesson, says Ganesh, and continue to concentrate your efforts on your goal without losing heart. There may be times when you sit back and think twice, but know that all it takes is a small effort and that is what shall enable you to reach the zenith.

VIRGO
Meticulous as you are, hopefully you won't grudge the extra quota of domestic responsibilities that comes your way today. But then, since the work is in a more than satisfactory state, some added issues on the home front won't hurt either.

LIBRA
You will be very unpredictable today, and your mercurial tendencies will remain till the evening. After that, be prepared to get a pleasant surprise. Just bear in mind that being prepared is always a good idea, since you never know when the perfect moment arrives. But everything considered, all Ganesh has to say is, "Stop worrying and start living!"

SCORPIO
Today, the sugar and spice of work and home are delicately balanced to bring out the best in you, says Ganesh. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at your desk. In the evening, however, mental exercises will be substituted for pleasure and fun with friends and family.

SAGITTARIUS
The way you keep your interests alive will keep your mind occupied. Leisure activities and by-lines will by-pass the mundane routine today, foretells Ganesh. Pamper yourself by doing what you like, be it gardening, cooking or even plain old reading.

CAPRICORN
Today, you will remain unruffled by the commotion around you, says Ganesh. However, the emotions locked up inside you will probably cloud your power of reasoning and may leave you feeling a little lost. But this will only be a passing phase, and you will come out of the bewilderment in no time.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will experience the harmonious balance between logic and emotion. You will consequently know how to mix business with pleasure. Money wise, you are content, but trivial issues may bother you today, says Ganesh.

PISCES
The focus is firmly on career advancement today. Business deals, which have been a long time in the making, will finally come through. Those pursuing a profession can expect pay rises or promotions. Make sure your skills are up to the mark to be able to tackle your new responsibilities satisfactorily, says Ganesh.

Kangana

targets KJo over Gunjan Saxena...

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut has taken a dig at filmmaker Karan Johar and his latest film *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl* based on Air Force woman pilot Gunjan Saxena, through a poem.

"A poem for Karan Johar...we want to jump aboard the nationalism bandwagon but won't show patriotism. Films based on war with Pakistan earn money so we will make such films but the villains in these will still be Indian. Now the third gender has also entered the army, when you will understand, Karan Johar, that a soldier is simply a soldier?," read a tweet posted by Kangana's team.

It's not just Kangana, but also others who have attacked the film. A hashtag claiming Karan has insulted the Indian Air Force was trending on Twitter Thursday.

Netizens trolled the filmmaker for the gender bias portrayed in the film, which is based on the first Indian Air Force woman pilot Gunjan Saxena, who was part of the 1999 Kargil conflict.

Pinto bags TV adaptation of *The Henna Artist*

Actress Freida Pinto of *Slumdog Millionaire* fame will star in and produce the TV series on *The Henna Artist*.

The Henna Artist, Alka Joshi's bestselling debut novel, is based on 17-year old Lakshmi, who escapes from an abusive marriage and makes her way alone to the 1950s Pink City of Jaipur. There, she becomes the most highly requested henna artist and confidante to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she never can reveal her own.

"The *Henna Artist* has tremendous potential to become

that bingeable, high-quality, multilayered television show that honours the glory and beauty of India, its culture and its people," said Pinto, reports [deadline.com](https://www.deadline.com).

"As an actress, I cannot wait to dive back into the stories of my motherland and make my women (and my men) of all backgrounds, with all their good and their complexities, feel seen and heard," said the actress, who was born and raised in India.



Sadak 2 trailer world's third most disliked video

Mumbai: *Sadak 2* trailer is third most disliked video in the world and the most disliked YouTube video in India.

Sadak 2 got 9.04 million dislikes following 11.6 million dislikes for pop star Justin Bieber's 2010 song *Baby* and the highest 18.2 million (dislikes) for a video posted by YouTube itself, a rewind of the year 2018, according to India Today's Data Intelligence Unit (DIU), reports [BusinessToday.in](https://www.BusinessToday.in).

Released August 12, the trailer of *Sadak 2* has been trolled by many netizens as it is seen by people as a shining example of nepotism in

Hindi film industry—a topic which became the talk of the town after actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death in June.

Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt's movie stars his daughters Pooja and Alia Bhatt along with Sanjay Dutt and Aditya Roy Kapur, youngest brother of producer Siddharth Roy Kapur.

In July the Nepometer, an app created by Sushant's family, had rated *Sadak 2* as 98 per cent nepotistic. Fans of the late actor have been actively campaigning on social media for the past few weeks urging everyone to boycott the film.

Online I-Day celebration by NROs in New York

Soulful renditions by Odia singers Shashanka Sekhar and Arpita Choudhury, dancer Harihar's graceful moves and rib-tickling act by comedian Papu Pom Pom were event's key attractions

POST NEWS NETWORK

New York: Odisha Society of New England (OSNE), an association of Odias living in New England, the USA, Saturday celebrated country's 74th Independence Day through an online event.

Appropriately titled *Ama Desha Ama Mati, Ame Sabu Ekathi* (Our nation, our soil, we all are together), the programme was opened with a congratulatory message from Randhir Jaiswal, the Indian Consul General in New York followed by another one from Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik.

Soulful rendition by Odia singers Shashank a

Sekhar and Arpita Choudhury, comedian Papu Pom Pom's hilarious act and elegant dance by Harihar Dash were the key attractions of the programme.



Shashanka and Arpita during the event

Shashanka and Arpita started off the event with the national anthem and a few other patriotic songs. The duo followed it up with popular numbers from Odia and Hindi films. They also paid rich tributes to late actors Bijoy Mohanty

and Sushant Singh Rajput lending voices to the songs from their films. Harihar's dance moves on songs from *Kesari*, *Na Tum Jano Na Hum* and *Muqabla* were instant hits with the participants whereas Papu's rib-tickling comedy triggered an online laugh riot.

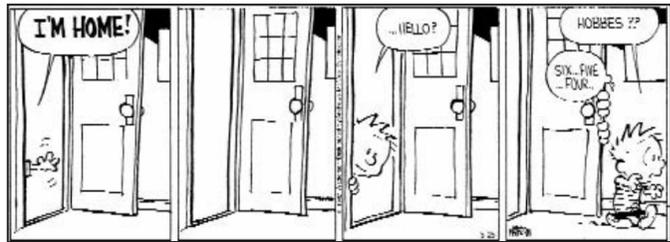
Ramesh on Piano, Suresh on guitar and Ram Krushna on octapad were truly amazing. Somesh Satapathy from Somesh Studio made it possible for all the artists to come together.

OSNE president Debadutta Behera and secretary Manabesh Das opened the event for the online viewers while the evening ended with vote of thanks by association's vice-president Pankaj Panda and editor Reema Patnaik. A large number of Internet users from North America, Europe, and Asia joined in to watch the live event.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

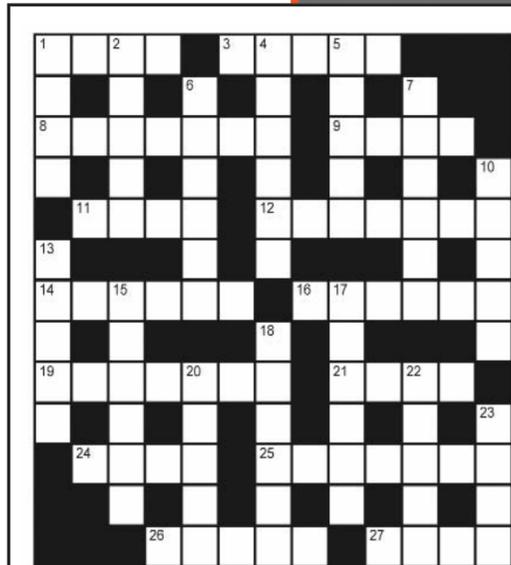


BREVITY



FUN post

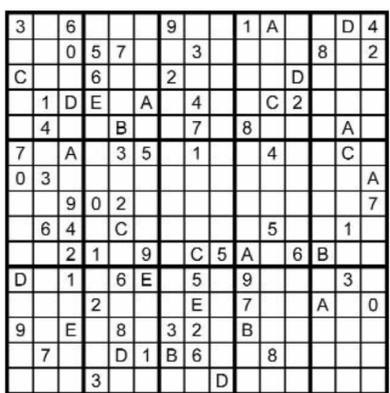
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Cheese nibblers
 - 3 Wash cycle
 - 8 Olympic athlete
 - 9 Attention-getter
 - 11 Picture problem
 - 12 Love affair
 - 14 They have strings attached
 - 16 Flag
 - 19 Indonesian island
 - 21 Know-it-all
 - 24 Blueprint
 - 25 Stone pillar
 - 26 Rubberneck
 - 27 Flower holder
 - 6 Desolate
 - 7 Beatles name
 - 10 Equine of Africa
 - 13 Old-hat
 - 15 Gad about
 - 17 Fisherman
 - 18 Steam
 - 20 Precept
 - 22 Side dish
 - 23 Hebrides isle

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

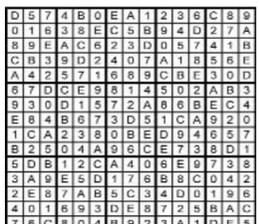


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



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SECOND DIVISION : 72
THIRD DIVISION : 11

SUBJECT WISE HIGHEST % OF +2 SCIENCE RESULTS - 2020

S.N	STUDENTS NAME	ROLL NO.	REGD. NO	SUBJECT	MARKS
1	Y SAGAR	335HA180	HA35518197	PHY	97
2	Y SAGAR	335HA180	HA35518197	MATH	96
3	RUDRANSH DAS	335HA181	HA35518198	IT	95
4	AAYUSH PADHY	335HA001	HA35518010	HINDI	92
5	RUDRANSH DAS	335HA181	HA35518198	BIO	91
6	SIDHARTH BISSOYI	335HA142	HA35518157	CHEM	90
7	SUCHISMITA MUDULI	335HA156	HA35518173	ALT. ENG	90
8	MANISHA PANIGRAHI	335HA085	HA35518098	MIL	90
9	PRASANJIT BAGANI	335HA167	HA35518184	ENG	82



 BISWA PRAKASH PUJARI 1ST DIVISION 476 (79.33%)	 V TARUN KUMAR RAO 1ST DIVISION 470 (78.33%)	 SUMIT PARICCHA 1ST DIVISION 468 (78%)	 MANISHA PANIGRAHI 1ST DIVISION 467 (77.83%)	 Y SAGAR 1ST DIVISION 511 (85.16%)	 NIBEDITA SAHU 1ST DIVISION 488 (81.32%)	 CHIRANJIVI CHOUDHURY 1ST DIVISION 464 (77.33%)	 DEVDAAS BISWAS 1ST DIVISION 457 (76.16%)	 PRABIR HALDAR 1ST DIVISION 447 (74.50%)	 BINAYAK HARIJAN 1ST DIVISION 440 (73.33%)
 SOURAV MAJUMDAR 1ST DIVISION 439 (73.16%)	 GOUTAM HOTA 1ST DIVISION 439 (73.16%)	 LAXMI NARAYAN GOUDA 1ST DIVISION 438 (73.00%)	 SUCHISMITA MUDULI 1ST DIVISION 436 (72.66%)	 REDHE PANIGRAHI 1ST DIVISION 488 (81.32%)	 SIDHARTH BISSOYI 1ST DIVISION 488 (81.32%)	 PRANJAL BARIK 1ST DIVISION 434 (72.33%)	 SK ABDUL REHEMAN 1ST DIVISION 431 (71.83%)	 CHANDIKIRAN SATAPATHY 1ST DIVISION 427 (71.16%)	 PUJA JAIN 1ST DIVISION 426 (71.00%)

BISHI KESAN JAL
1ST DIVISION
424 (70.66%)

ଯୁକ୍ତ ୨ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ପରୀକ୍ଷାଫଳ-କୃତିତ୍ୱ, ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ସଫଳତାର ନିଦର୍ଶନ ଅବିଭକ୍ତ କୋରାପୁଟ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ବିଦ୍ୱାନ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ

ଶିକ୍ଷାଗୁଣ ପ୍ରତି ଆଗ୍ରହ ଓ ନିରନ୍ତର ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଜୀବନକୁ ସୁନ୍ଦର ସୁନ୍ଦର କରିଥାଏ । ରଶ୍ମି ରଞ୍ଜନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ (ତେଲୁଗୁଭାଷୀ)

ଜୟପୁରର ବିଦ୍ୱାନ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଦାନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଏକ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ସ୍ଥାନ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିପାରିଛି । ଗତ ୨୦୧୯ରୁ ଯାଏଁ ଯୁକ୍ତ ୨ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଫଳର ସଫଳତା ବିଦ୍ୱାନ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟକୁ ଦେଇଛି ବିଶେଷ ସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ଗୌରବ । ଶୁଦ୍ଧାନ୍ତ ପରିଚାଳନା ସହ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ମାନଙ୍କର ଶିକ୍ଷା ଗ୍ରହଣ ପ୍ରତି ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ଆଗ୍ରହ ବିଦ୍ୱାନ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ସଫଳତାର ଚାବିକାଠି । ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ବିଦ୍ୱାନ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଜୟପୁରରେ ଯୁକ୍ତ ୨ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ପରୀକ୍ଷାଫଳରେ ସର୍ବାଧିକ ପ୍ରଥମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପାସ ହାର ରଖି ଜୟପୁର ସହରରେ ନିଜର କୃତିତ୍ୱ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରିପାରିଛି । ଅବିଭକ୍ତ କୋରାପୁଟ ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ଦୀର୍ଘ ୮ ବର୍ଷ ଧରି ନିରନ୍ତର ଶିକ୍ଷାଦାନ କରି ଆସୁଥିବା ଏହି ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ମାନଙ୍କର ଆତ୍ମବଳ ଉଦ୍ୟମ ଓ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ମାନଙ୍କର ଆତ୍ମବଳ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟାକୁ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭାବେ ଅବିଭକ୍ତ କୋରାପୁଟ ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ବିଶେଷ ଲୋକପ୍ରିୟତା ହାସଲ କରିପାରିଛି । ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଯୁକ୍ତ ୨ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ପରୀକ୍ଷାଫଳରେ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ଛାତ୍ର ରୁଚିଂଶୁ ବାଗ ୫୨୬ ନମ୍ବର (୮୭.୬୬) ଶତକଡ଼ା ରଖି ପ୍ରଥମ ସ୍ଥାନ ଅଧିକାର କରି ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟର ସୁନାମ ଓ ଗୌରବ ଆଣିପାରିଛନ୍ତି । ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଯୁକ୍ତ ୨ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ପରୀକ୍ଷାରେ ସଫଳତା ହାସଲ କରିଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ ବିଦ୍ୱାନ ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ତରଫରୁ ବିଶେଷ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବା ସହ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସୁନ୍ଦର, ସଫଳ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

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ଇ-ଏଡମିଶନ୍ ପାଇଁ ସୂଚନା

ଦଶମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପାସ କରିଥିବା ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପୁରୁଣା ସୁବିଧା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଡା. ୨୧-୦୮-୨୦୨୦ ଠାରୁ ୦୪-୦୯-୨୦୨୦ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ହେଲପ୍ ଡେସ୍କ (Help Desk) ବିଦ୍ୱାନ କଲେଜ ପରିସରରେ ଖୋଲାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ହେଲପ୍ ଡେସ୍କ (Help Desk)କୁ ଅଭିଭାବକ ଏବଂ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀ ନିଜେ ଆସି ସୁବିଧାରେ ନିଜ ମନମୁତାବକ କଲେଜ ଚୟନ କରିପାରିବେ । ହେଲପ୍ ଡେସ୍କ (Help Desk)ଟି ସକାଳ ୯ ଘଣ୍ଟା ଠାରୁ ରାତି ୮ ଘଣ୍ଟା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଖୋଲା ରହିବ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ କଲେଜ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଭାବେ କଂପ୍ୟୁଟର ଏବଂ ଭିଡିଓ କନଫରେନ୍ସ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ମଧ୍ୟ କରାଯାଇଛି । ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଶେଷ ତାରିଖ ୦୪-୦୯-୨୦୨୦ ।

Positivity rate in 18 dists dips to 4.62 pc

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack, which has been testing the samples from 18 districts of the state for COVID-19, has witnessed a slump in the positivity rate, Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani said Sunday.

Participating in a virtual press briefing, Chayani said, "SCBMCH has increased the COVID testing. This week, it tested more samples as compared to the previous week. The positivity rate, which was 6.72 per cent last week, came down to 4.62 per cent this week."

Chayani added that the premier state-run healthcare facility has conducted 13,124 tests between August 2 and 8. Between August 9 and 15, the facility conducted 17,435 tests. The district has also witnessed an improved recovery rate. "The recovery rate in Cuttack was 66.03 per cent a week ago. This week, it's 72.15 per cent," Chayani said, adding that the mortality rate of Cuttack is 0.01 per cent.

Highlighting the district administration's preparedness to fight the pandemic, the Cuttack Collector said that they have 34 ICU beds and 20 ventilators for any eventuality.

As many as 223 COVID patients in the Silver City have opted for COVID treatment at home. "This is applicable to people who are asymptomatic or with mild symptoms. We're keeping a track of their health and giving them a kit comprising medicines and other important materials," Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) commissioner Ananya Das said.

The Cuttack administration, meanwhile, claimed that the district has seen a total of 112 plasma donations at the SCBMCH. Out of it, 224 units of plasma were prepared and administered in 179 critical COVID patients.

The CMC commissioner said that



COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,16,98,904	1,44,07,115	7,70,512
India	25,91,188	18,62,937	50,112
Odisha	60,050	42,277	343

Record 2,924 daily cases

State's COVID-19 tally jumped to 60,050 Sunday with a record 2,924 new cases, while 10 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 343, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said. Four deaths (two each) were reported from Khurda and Ganjam districts and one each from Bhadrak, Bolagiri, Cuttack, Jajpur, Kandhamal and Sonepur, said the official. The H&FW department took to the Twitter to say, "Regret to inform the demise of Ten #COVID19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals." A total of 1,815 cases were detected from quarantine centres and as many as 1,109 people tested positive during contact tracing exercise, added the department. Khurda reported the maximum of 488 new cases followed by 318 in Ganjam, 200 in Jajpur, 189 in Cuttack, 161 in Sundargarh, 142 in Nayagarh, 136 in Mayurbhanj, 127 in Balasore, 116 in Rayagada and 107 in Bhadrak, said the department, adding that remaining districts recorded below-100 cases. Meanwhile, 1,550 persons recovered.

Cuttack City saw the highest prevalence of the viral cases among the age group of 21-40. "A total of 46 per cent of the cases (375) were from this age group, while minimum cases were reported from the people

above 60 years of age," Das said. This week, most of the new cases were reported from home quarantine and institutional quarantine centres. The local contact cases were the least, Das said.

BATTLING CORONA

From being a dreaded epicentre of the coronavirus epidemic to being cited by experts and international media as a model to follow, Italy has come a long way. Among the health protocols devised in Italy, one which is particularly worthy of mention is that of Prof. Luigi Cavanna. In this interview, he sheds light on his Home Therapy approach. Excerpts:

Taking a leaf out of the Italian book

■ At what point did you realise that there is a need for Home Therapy for the people of Italy?

■ I realised the need for Home Therapy when I became aware that many patients arrived at the emergency department after too much time, more than 7-10 days, of symptoms characterised by fever, cough, asthenia, dyspnea. Secondly, when the emergency department was saturated with COVID-19 positive patients, it was difficult to treat them all.

■ What does the data on the cases you've been treating say?

■ The data covers about 300 pa-

tients that I have treated at home at an early stage. There were no deaths. Hospitalisation rate was less than 5%. Percentage of discharged patients who recovered was 100%. We are writing a third research paper to send out for publication in scientific journals, after two of our research papers have already been published in Future Science Group.

■ What were the necessary steps for proper home care that you established?

■ The steps are: home visit, chest ultrasound, swab. Then, if the clinical picture is compatible, start therapy immediately: i.e. isolation of the patient and administration of the correct dose of medicine. However, it is essential to follow the patient remotely, leaving a blood oxygen monitor, and asking every day how he or she is progressing: are the patients taking the medication, are they eating, what symptoms do they have and are they experiencing any side effects from the treatment et al.

■ How are you prepared in case this pandemic revisits in future?

■ Today we know a lot more than we did in February and March 2020. Above all, we know that if the treatment starts early, serious complications are avoided, and therefore, mortality and hospitalisation are reduced. In case of new peaks, I would organise by first offering fundamental information, that is to advise the attending physician about the first symptoms of cough and fever: In the presence of these symptoms, a home swab test and chest ultrasound should be performed. If there is any pneumonia, immediately start the hydroxychloroquine treatment, with the following dosage: 800 mg on the first day, then 400 mg/day for another 6 days.

■ What would you suggest for India, where the pandemic is on a rise?

■ In general, I would first suggest a strong public information campaign to continue about how the virus spreads and taking preventative measures. Home Therapy can be initiated for the identified patients at the early stage to arrest the spread and reduce the burden on hospitals.

Dr. Pratapaditya Mishra
Visiting Professor, Utkal University

INFRA BOOST



Work in progress for the widening of a road along Taladanda canal in Cuttack to facilitate the expansion and upgradation of SCB Medical College and Hospital, Sunday

BMC seals bar for flouting Covid norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials along with police Sunday sealed Utkal Inn Bar and Restaurant at Garage Chowk here for selling liquor during the weekend shutdown.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint squad of the BMC South East Zone and officials of Lingaraj police raided the bar and restaurant and found open violation of the shutdown guidelines.

The hotel was reportedly selling liquor to people during the shutdown. Many youths flocked the bar to buy liquor in violation of the lockdown norms, sources said.

Cops to stay at home as accused contracts virus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Around 12 officials of Sahid Nagar police station were Sunday asked to stay under home quarantine after one accused and a staff who came in his contact tested Covid-19 positive. The station premises were sanitised after the incident.

According to sources, the accused who is a resident of Jharkhand had come to a private medical in the city for treatment of a relative. The accused and his relatives later decided to visit Puri before going back to their native place.

However, the vehicle of the accused person broke down near Bhimtangli area here while they were returning from Puri. Upon contact, a mechanic of a nearest garage went the spot and repaired the vehicle.



The accused person who left the city without making the full payment forcefully de-boarded the mechanic from their vehicle near the shop at Keshura under Sahid Nagar police limits. Upon being informed, cops chased the accused and caught them near Jajpur Sunday.

One accused out the two held was found positive during test. Later, one more constable who came into contact with the accused person was also found Covid-19 positive.

SCHOOLS CELEBRATE I-DAY VIRTUALLY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The 74th Independence Day was observed by various educational institutes here virtually sans students Saturday.

Parades and cultural programmes, which have been common during I-Day celebrations in all schools, were not held due to the ongoing pandemic. Many students participated in the celebrations enthusiastically through online platforms like Facebook Live and Zoom.

The virtual celebration by SAI International School reflected the enthusiasm and positivity of the children even during the pandemic. From patriotic songs, to dance to instrumental music to speeches to mono acting, children showcased a gamut of activities that spoke volumes about their deep affection for the nation.

Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, founder of SAI International School, said,



"Independence Day holds great significance in the heart of every citizen of India. It is a day to celebrate the unity and rich diversity of our country, understand each other's perspective and awaken one's responsibility towards the nation."

On similar lines, ODM Public

School also celebrated the day by organising singing of patriotic songs by students from their homes. Satyabrata Minaketa, founder and chairman of ODM Educational Group, said that students must be confident and must not lose focus during tough times.

In BJEM School, the principal

hoisted the flag and observed the occasion with some staffers. IIT Bhubaneswar celebrated the day at its campus by adhering to social distancing and other norms as per Govt protocols.

Even though schools remain closed till August end, the state government Thursday directed the schools to celebrate Independence Day, 2020 without students.

School and Mass Education department issued detailed guidelines for all schools including government schools, aided schools, private schools, Madrasahs, Sanskrit tolls and teacher training institutes.

"No student will be asked to attend school to participate in Independence Day celebration. The headmaster and teachers will attend flag hoisting ceremony following Covid guidelines/safety protocol i.e. wearing of masks, social distancing, etc.," the department had said in the guidelines.

Parents to organise hunger strike today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Members of Odisha Parents Federation will sit on a hunger strike in front of the Head of Departments' Building at Unit-V here August 17 to protest the non-implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act by the private English medium schools.

The parents' body has asked the School and Mass Education department to ensure online admission and help poor students. It had earlier announced to stage the hunger strike August 10. But, it was postponed on the request of the Director, Elementary and Secondary Education, sources said.

Federation chairman Basudev Bhatt said they had requested the government to implement the RTE Act and reserve 25 pc seats for students from economically weaker sections as well as issue SOP for private English medium schools.

'Students climb trees, hills to attend online classes'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 16: School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said that due to poor internet connectivity in the state many students have to walk miles, climb hills and trees to attend online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to S&ME minister, about 22 lakh children are now availing e-education in the state, while the remaining 38 lakh students are deprived of the facility due to non-availability of mobile network in their areas.

Dash said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has taken up the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for expanding net connectiv-

ity in remote areas of the state.

The minister said this after unfurling the Tricolour at the Independence Day function at the district headquarters town of Jajpur Saturday.

As schools are closed since March due to the pandemic, the state government has started online classes. However, only one-third of the students could avail the facility with much difficulty due to poor internet connectivity in different parts of the state.

According to reports received by the government, students in Rayagada district walk miles and climb hills to attend online classes, the pupils in Sambalpur and Deogarh districts climb high rise water tanks for get-



ting net connectivity. Another report from Angul and

other districts said children have to climb trees to get net connection for attending online classes.

"I am happy that my department has been imparting online classes but children have to climb trees, hills to get net connectivity. This is a central issue and our Chief Minister has taken up the matter with the Prime Minister for expanding net connectivity in remote areas of the state," he said.

Dash said, "Had there been no online classes, the reports of children climbing hills and trees would not have received. I am happy that our teachers are taking online classes."

The minister said it has been proposed that teachers will visit areas where there is poor internet connection and teach the children at

Civil societies for remedial classes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Members of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have welcomed the state government's recent move to initiate Siksha Sampark Yojana, a chalk and talk mode of learning, for rural children who lack resources and infrastructure to avail online education.

They claimed that the state government's move will benefit lakhs of children in rural areas amid the Covid-19 pandemic. However, they have urged the government to improve school infrastructure and implement remedial classes which are vital to impart quality education to the children.

"Last month, we had written to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik along with the Chief Ministers of all other states urging them to implement remedial classes and rebuild school infrastructure. We are happy that the Odisha government has heard our voice," said Anjan Pradhan, a social activist and convener of Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha.

Earlier, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said that his department has proposed that teachers will visit villages where there is poor internet connection and teach the children at their homes. "This move will help the students who are facing problems to access the e-learning," he added.

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Sarpanch arrested for misusing power



Sarpanch Hemakanti Munda and husband Mohan Munda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bolangir, August 16: A sarpanch has been arrested in Odisha for allegedly misusing powers of a Collector, a police officer said. The sarpanch and her husband have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the demolition of several under construction houses allotted to tribal families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAYG) in Bolangir district, he said. Hemakanti Munda, the sarpanch of Salebhata panchayat in Agalapada block, was arrested Saturday for ordering the demolition by misusing powers of a Collector which have been delegated to sarpanches by the state government for COVID-19 management, the police officer said. Her husband Mohan Munda

was arrested for his role in the demolition drive while efforts are on to arrest eight others, he said. As the tribal families did not own land, the construction of houses, under the PMAYG, was in progress on a government plot at Salebhata village after it was allotted to them by the panchayat and the block administration, the police officer said. August 11, the houses under construction were bulldozed on the order of the sarpanch, the officer said. Following a complaint lodged by the affected families at Loisingha police station, cases were registered against 10 persons, including the sarpanch and her husband, he said. The sarpanch said, "I along with my husband and some members of the village committee demolished the houses as I have been granted powers of a Collector."

I along with my husband and some members of the village committee demolished the houses as I have been granted powers of a Collector

HEMAKANTI MUNDA | SARPANCH

Schools that were quarantine centres are now left in mess

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 16: After migrant returnees abandoned the isolation centres set up in schools in Ganjam district, these educational institutions were left in a mess. Most of the schools are now found unlocked, making them safe havens for anti-social elements.

With these schools not being taken care of after the migrants went back to their respective villages, the furniture and other utilities of the schools have reportedly gone missing. The schools in Kukudakhandi block are a case in point. An isolation centre was set up at Balipada High School. The school was left opened, unguarded for three months after the migrant returnees left for their villages. And during these three months, water motors, fans and other articles of the school were stolen away. And fittings like taps in toilets were also missing. Some



local people alleged that the buckets and mugs used in the isolation centre are now being used by some villagers and youth clubs. "When the school will reopen, students and teachers will face a lot of problems. The sarpanch who is entrusted with the collector's power should have locked the school for the safety of furniture and fittings of the school and daily need articles at the centre," they observed. The sarpanch is learnt to have lodged an FIR with the police alleging theft. The same thing happened to Ghatipari High School and the centre set up there. When contacted, headmistress Jyoti Kumari

Panda said they had handed over the school after the local sarpanch sought permission for setting up an isolation centre. "The sarpanch is yet to hand over the keys to us even though the centre has since long been closed," she alleged. Sarpanch Umashankar Samal admitted it that the keys have not been handed over to the headmistress. When asked why, he said, "Some furniture of the school has gone missing. I have lodged a complaint with the police. They are investigating into it." The villagers said they are astonished to see the administration remaining silent on such incidents.

26 labourers rescued from being trafficked to Gujarat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 16: As many as 26 labourers allegedly being trafficked from Ganjam district to Gujarat were rescued Sunday. Three middlemen have been detained in this connection.

The rescue came following simultaneous raids conducted by the Balipada police and Buguda block administration. Acting on a tip-off, the police intercepted a bus carrying the labourers during Sunday wee hours. While investigating, the cops came to know that most of the labourers are from Polsara and Buguda blocks in the district. When questioned, the labourers said that the government had

promised to provide them jobs after their return from their workplaces outside Odisha amid the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the government has failed to fulfil its promise that has forced them to look for opportunities elsewhere, the labourers alleged. "With no source of income here, we are struggling to make ends meet and are forced to move to other states in search of work, said a migrant labourer. With the resumption of industrial operations in Gujarat's Surat, industries are in need of cheap manual labour. Taking advantage of the large scale unemployment in Odisha, the middlemen have again started labour trafficking from Ganjam.



Encroachments hinder Defence Road project

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, August 16: Encroachments of government land have hindered the Defence Road project (a special bypass road) in Balasure district. The 9.2 km-long road would supposedly stretch from a private hospital at Kuruda in this town to Patrapada. According to reports, the bypass road which has been taken up by the Defence Ministry will connect Balasure town with Chandipur-based Integrated Test Range (ITR). As per plans, the road with 35 feet width will have a flyover bridge, two junctions and two bypass roads. There will be a one-way road including drains alongside with elec-

trification and modern corridors. Initially, Rs 66,00,00,000 was sanctioned for the purpose. A national level company has been entrusted with the construction work, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) sources informed. A railway line passes through Tamulia gate in Balasure town and a flyover bridge exists on this railway line. However, some unscrupulous encroachers have blocked the northern side of the railway line, thereby hindering transportation of raw materials to the road construction site. DRDO authorities have already informed about this in writing to the Balasure District Collector and to the forest department as well.



Remuna, Sadar tehsildars including Kuruda revenue Inspector had jointly conducted a survey in the past. The DRDO authorities have provided all assistance to the displaced private land owners. Notices have been issued to unscrupulous encroachers. On the other hand, due permis-

sion has been sought from Balasure forest department for felling some large trees which are on government land. The project was targeted to be completed by October 2021 but only 10 per cent of the work has been completed so far. Giving his views, the Defence Road project manager Satish Saha

said, "After completion, Balasure denizens will get a modern bypass road to the town. This road will provide prime connectivity to tourists and visitors coming to Chandipur beach." Remuna Tehsildar Charles Nayak said, "Acting on directives of the Orissa High Court, a survey was conducted through a non-governmental organisation in 2007. Detailed databases about encroachers of government lands are available." Discussions have been held several times between Balasure Collector, Additional District Magistrate and Sadar Tehsildar. The alleged encroachments will be cleared soon and construction work of Defence Road Project will be expedited, Nayak added.

Bee attack leaves man dead, wife critically injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

Manmunda, August 16: A man was killed while his wife was critically injured in a honeybee attack at Nadianagar village under Kantamal block in Boudh district, Saturday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Bhujasekhar Karmi, 52, and his injured wife as Budhubari Karmi, 47. The incident occurred when the couple had gone to their farmland to oversee their cultivation. A swarm of honeybees from a tree attacked them on the route and left them critical, said their son Narayan Karmi, a state executive member of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. Locals and family members rescued them and rushed them to Sonepur hospital where Bhujasekhar died.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Machines replace manual labour in MGNREGS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sajanagad/Khaira, August 16: To ensure livelihood opportunities for local people and migrants, both the Central and the state governments have attached much importance to MGNREGS especially during the lockdown period. Sadly, this concern of the government has allegedly been ignored during execution of projects under MGNREGS in Sajanagad and Khaira areas of Balasure dis-

trict. According to a report from Sajanagad, a canal work from Ayodhya-Aradi Road Banabhain Chhak to Kumudiha under Nilagiri block has been executed with machines under the MGNREGS. Scores of local people, who have been facing shortage of work, were deprived of their rights. It was alleged that no information plaque about the cost of the project and other details has been put at the project site. Villagers demanded an impartial

probe into the allegation and stern action against the contractor. They pointed out that scores of labourers are sitting idle for want of jobs in the area. The villagers observed that use of machines has impacted the earnings of the poor in the area who depend on MGNREGS for livelihood. There were instances of machines being used and fake rosters of workers being made under MGNREGS projects in the past.

"A lot of workers do not get the work and wages they deserve. If machines are allowed for the work, it would only benefit the contractors," they noted. When asked about the irregularity, Gram Rozgar Sevak Sudhansu Rout admitted that the work has been executed under MGNREGS while machines were used to carry on the work at night. Another report from Khaira said that massive irregularities were committed in a pond renovation work at Sundhira panchayat. Locals demanded a vigilance probe into the irregularities. They have intimidated the issue to the Vigilance SP, the Collector and the BDO. A sum of Rs 10 lakh has been provided from the 4th Finance Commission for renovation of a pond in front of Sundhira Akhandaleswar temple. The work was botched up while officials are attempting to get away the bill of Rs 8 lakh. They alleged that many officials and people's representatives are involved in the irregularities. The villagers warned of agitation if no step is taken against those involved in the irregularities. BDO Debendra Prasad Bal said that after receiving a complaint in this regard, the bill has been put on hold. The next course of action will be taken after an investigation, he added.



GUIDELINE VIOLATIONS

Scores of local people, who have been facing shortage of work, were deprived of their rights. It was alleged that no information plaque about the cost of the project and other details has been put at the project site. The villagers observed that use of machines has impacted the earnings of the poor in the area who depend on MGNREGS for livelihood with allegations of machines being used and fake rosters of workers being made under MGNREGS projects doing the rounds

45-year-old Covid positive doctor dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purusottampur, August 16: Yet another COVID warrior has lost his life while fighting the deadly virus in Ganjam district. The in-charge medical officer of Bhatakumara community health centre (CHC) under Purusottampur block in Ganjam district, who tested for COVID-19, breathed his last Sunday. The exact reason behind the death of the doctor, however, is yet to be known. At the moment, it is



also unclear whether the doctor suffered from any comorbidities. A pall of gloom descended the locality as the news broke. The doc-

tor used to be very popular among the staff as well as local people, said a man here. According to a source, a COVID testing camp was held at Rani Gaon under Purusottampur block August 4. The doctor got his swab samples collected there for testing. His report turned out to be positive for coronavirus. He was immediately admitted at KIIMS Hospital in Bhubaneswar. While undergoing treatment, he breathed his last Sunday morning.

Girl dies, 4 of family hurt as wall caves in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patnagarh, August 16: A 19-year-old girl died and four others of her family were injured after the rain-soaked wall of their house caved in Sunday.

The incident occurred at Ghunghutipali village in Deulagaon panchayat under Patnagarh block in Bolangir district. The house of Sobhaban Baralendia caved in while all his family members were asleep in the wee hours. Villagers rescued them from under the debris and rushed them to Patnagarh sub-divisional hospital. Sobhaban's daughter Deepanjali died on her way to hospital, while four other members of the family were admitted to the hospital in critical condition.

Man hacks sister-in-law to death over family feud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 16: A man hacked his sister-in-law to death on the premises of a temple at Venkatarapalli village under Aska police limits in Ganjam district Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Ranjita Nahak (40). Sources said Ranjita had gone to the temple at 5am. While she was returning from the temple her brother-in-law Mochiram Nahak hit her head with an iron rod from rear. Ranjita fell unconscious on the spot after sustaining grievous injuries on her head and breathed her last. After committing the crime, the accused fled from the place. However, some villagers who

Ranjita fell unconscious on the spot after sustaining grievous injuries on her head and breathed her last

had also come to the temple found the body and informed the police. The police recovered the body for post-mortem and started an investigation. Ranjita's husband Sudam Nahak lodged an FIR against his brother at Aska police station. A family feud is suspected to be the reason behind the fatal attack, the police said. A manhunt has been launched for the accused, they added.

VIRTUAL DANCE FEST



Amid Covid restrictions, artistes take part in a virtual dance festival - 'Chhau Connect' at Baripada.

When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to be heard in the purity of the silence.

SRI AUROBINDO



HOW RELIANT

This 15 August was the 74th Independence Day for India. We, as a nation, seem to adore living on thin air and celebrating ceremonies without trying to understand what, if any, relevance those functions hold for our daily existence. We are troubled that our Rakhi and so many other festivals have gone by unnoticed. All due to the scare of this pandemic. Even Durga Puja seems elusive now as the situation is perceptibly worsening each day.

However, our nationalistic fervor is untouched and we celebrated this Independence Day albeit on a very small scale all over. The Red Fort too had a tiny gathering of about 1500 plus audience. They were mostly frontline coronavirus warriors including some 500 police personnel who had been infected and have recovered.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke for nearly one hour and twenty six minutes on this occasion and addressed the nation in his usual flamboyant style. The PM laid great stress on making India self reliant (atma nirbhar). He mentioned about removing all restrictions on the farm sector which would, supposedly, benefit the farmers. What was unclear was how could removing whatever restrictions there were help the actual marginal, small and medium farmer. Agriculture has been neglected for far too long. The farmer is hard working but is still extremely dependent on the vagaries of nature. There is only traditional knowledge or experience to guide him but the great scientific strides made across the world in the field of agriculture still eludes the average Indian farmer. For the person on the field it is timely inputs, adequate rainfall and, above all, a big dollop of good luck can only produce a good crop. Then, once that happens, comes the greatest challenge of them all. Marketing of the produce is definitely not the forte of the Indian farmer as yet. It is in this act of selling the produce that the farmer is continuously getting battered. If removing restrictions implies introducing private players to indulge in purchasing of agricultural produce, then the coin could easily spin both sides.

Possibilities of disbanding organizations like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) by this government may not be ruled out. In case such steps are taken, they will certainly be detrimental to the small and marginal farmers who will eventually get side tracked by large corporate maneuverings when activities like procurement are handed over to them.

The other move towards self reliance is opening up the Indian space sector to private players. India's space program has been a tax payer funded experiment that has, as yet, not added any economic value for the country. If sending multiple satellites for a few other countries is considered a valuable source of income, then all we got to do is to wonder why other nations, which had been exploring space for decades before India could stand on its own feet, have deserted that arena! Privatization could only mean handing over scientific data collected over a long period as well as the scientists working at ISRO and real estate facilities like Sriharikote and other sites to the friendly private corporate who takes over the business of space. It may be appropriate to mention that the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) of the US is still a government funded and owned project. It often funds private players like Elon Musk or Boeing to carry out specific exercises but does not even share its facilities with corporates.

This Atma Nirbhar slogan of PM Modi could sound pleasant to the ears of many who seem to be enamored with whatever is happening now in this country. However, it is much more important to delve deeper and observe the strengths and weaknesses of this country prior to simply donating everything to a few corporates whose antecedents do not speak well of their performance. In the Indian scenario, it has been noticed that the citizen's rights to get better service gets constricted when private players enter the domain of public services. While admitting that most government enterprises and services have constantly demonstrated failure yet encouraging crony capitalism, especially in such an essential sector as food, could hamper the proclaimed goal of self reliance and thereby negatively impact the future growth of India.

WISDOM CORNER

- Heaven is the most angelically dull place in all creation. **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**
- Thoughts without content are empty, intuitions without concepts are blind. **IMMANUEL KANT**
- A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone. **HENRY DAVID THOREAU**

WORDSWORTH

Teetotum

This was a small spinning top. Strictly and originally, it wasn't just any spinning top, but one with four sides, each with a letter on it that decided the outcome of a player's turn in a game. The letters were conventionally TADN, the initials of Latin words, one of them being totum, take everything from the pot. This supplied the old name of the device, the initial T, expanded to tee, being added later. The other letters stood for aufer, take one stake from the pot, depono, put one stake into the pot, and nihil, do nothing. The letters were later changed to fit English words, but the old name remained, though it can sometimes mean a four-sided die instead. Despite its form, teetotum has no connection with teetotal. It is an ancient device, once common in adult gambling, but by the nineteenth century was largely restricted to children's games. The device was so familiar that it was commonly used to refer to the act of spinning around, as Mary Kingsley did in her Travels in West Africa: "We spun round and round for a few seconds, like a teetotum, I steering the whole time for all I was worth, and then the current dragged the canoe ignominiously down river, tail foremost." It appears in Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass: "Are you a child or a teetotum?" The Sheep said, as she took up another pair of needles, "You'll make me giddy soon, if you go on turning round like that." It isn't surprising that the word should have taken on the broader sense of spinning top, losing the connection with a game of chance. The toy has had many local or dialect names, such as jenny-spinner, whirligig, and scopperil, the last of these once known in the Midlands and North of England; these names often referred to an improvised top, perhaps made from a button with a piece of wood through it, rather than to a method of playing a game of chance. Jews will know dreidel (from a Yiddish word related to German drehen, to turn), similarly a four-sided spinning top that was used especially for a children's game played at Hanukkah. This has the Hebrew letters nun, gimel, he and shin on it. The letters are often said to spell out the initials of the Hebrew phrase "a great miracle happened there" (the miracle being the tiny amount of oil that burned for eight days in the Temple in Jerusalem) but in the game meant "do nothing", "take all", "take half" and "put in".

LOL

Doctor & lawyer

Story goes that a doctor and a lawyer are talking at a party. Their conversation is constantly interrupted by people describing their ailments and asking the doctor for free medical advice.

After an hour of this, the exasperated doctor asks the lawyer, "What do you do to stop people from asking you for



legal advice when you're out of the office?" "I give it to them," replies the lawyer, "and then I send them a bill." The doctor is shocked, but agrees to give it a try. The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor prepares the bills. When he goes to place them in his mailbox, he finds a bill from the lawyer.

RAHAT'S PLACE IN LITERATURE

FOCUS URDU POETRY

Rahat Indori was five years old when the much loved poet Majaz died of a stroke after he was found on the freezing terrace of a country liquor shop in Lucknow's Qaisar Bagh. As someone born to a poor cloth mill labourer, Rahat's nightmare of financial insecurity only increased watching the economically circumscribed lives of Urdu poets. Majaz was only one of them.

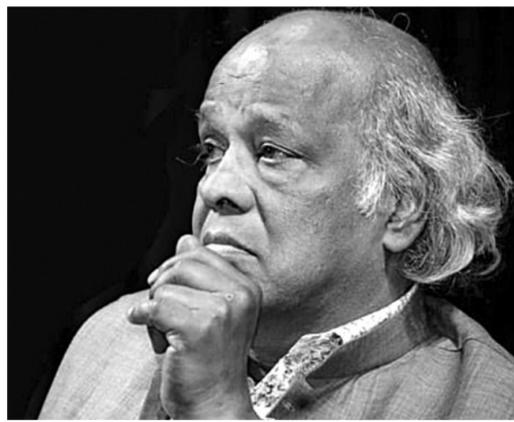
Rahat worked hard educating himself right upto PhD on a subject which was to stand him in good stead in subsequent years – Urdu Mushaira. And what a performer he became in Mushairas – charging upto ₹10 lakh for an appearance – quite unprecedented.

A brief digression might help explain the phenomenon of Rahat Indori, the Urdu poet who died in his hometown, at the age of 70 last week. Govind Ballabh Pant, Uttar Pradesh's first Chief Minister and Union Home Minister died on the same day as one of Urdu's greatest ghazal writers of the 20th Century, Jigar Moradabadi. But while Pant made banner headlines in newspapers, Jigar received a single column notice, buried in the inside page.

This is precisely the reason why Rahat's dominance of the media space following his death is such a phenomenon. Andy Warhol's observation is succinct: society has reached a point where everybody will have fifteen minutes of fame. But applying this quip to Rahat Indori would be an insult. Rahat had an extraordinary following for decades.

Rahat missed out on any personal experience of the greats like Faani Badayuni, Jigar Moradabadi and Yaas Yagana Changezi. He was too young. But Josh Malihabadi and Firaq Gorakhpuri were around till the late 80s, and a 30-year-old budding poet of Indore must have overlapped in a Mushaira or two.

Firaq, of course, taught English literature in Allahabad University, but Josh mostly depended on feudal patronage after the abolition of Zamindari system in 1952. Some experiences for a man of his ego were humiliating. For instance, when Josh was introduced to the Patiala Durbar, the state's Prime Minister Sardar KM



What will be Rahat's place in literature? There is a singular lack of endorsement of a large swathe of contemporary Urdu poetry by critics, scholars, connoisseurs and those who have grown in an informed Urdu milieu. Ironically, this turns out to be in inverse proportion to the unprecedented popularity of poets like Rahat. How does one explain this equation?

Panikkar, ill-equipped to place any value on an Urdu poet, decided on a stipend of ₹75 per month. The Maharaja, an admirer of Josh, was embarrassed: he increased the amount to ₹300, a princely sum those days.

The fastidious would not rank Rahat among the finest poets, but the poets who would qualify for their esteem would never have audiences of thousands in their thrall, Mushaira after Mushaira, across India, indeed, worldwide.

What will be Rahat's place in literature? There is a singular lack of endorsement of a large swathe of contemporary Urdu poetry by critics, scholars, connoisseurs and those who have grown in an informed Urdu milieu. Ironically, this turns out to be in inverse proportion to the unprecedented popularity of poets like Rahat. How does one explain this equation?

It is almost axiomatic that with rising egalitarianism a taste for classics will decline. This truism was advanced for classical music too. It was a touching dependence

on feudal patronage, as Jawed Naqvi recently reminded us, that caused the great Sarod maestro, Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan (Amjad Ali Khan's father) to refuse any recording of his performances: "I don't want my music to be played in city squares and paan shops."

The danger of feudal patronage drying up was real but mostly in North India. The South remains much the more civilized thanks to such institutionalized treats in dance and music annually as "The Season" in Chennai. In the Hindi belt, just as the feudal patronage tapered off, enlightened business houses like the Bharatrams, Charatrams and the Sarabhais stepped in massively. They have now been superseded by the unbelievable explosion of music on the social media. Everything, from the earliest recordings in 1900, is available with the flip of a switch.

Compared to music, the graph of Urdu poetry is more complex. After Partition, it was assumed that interest in Urdu would decline. Josh Malihabadi's dictum

that "a language which does not give you bread will die" did operate to the extent that the number of scholars, critics, indeed even university faculties dwindled.

A more formal and educated appreciation of poetry was a distinct casualty. Highbrow literature did begin to make way for more popular genres. But Urdu was able to frequently shock those who had written its obituary. Never was this shock more telling than during the unprecedented success of Jashn-e-Rekhta, a celebration of Urdu in all its forms, an annual carnival which fills up half a dozen venues at New Delhi's National Stadium day and night for three days.

This brainchild of a remarkable cultural entrepreneur Sanjiv Saraf is an unparalleled contribution towards uplifting the drooping morale of Urduwallas. Urdu's demise, in any case, was prematurely predicted after the resilience it had demonstrated in the Hindi film industry in the field of lyrics, diction, dialogues both, their content and delivery. Little wonder, Rahat became a sought after lyricist with music directors like Anu Malik and AR Rahman.

Artist M.F. Hussain became one of Rahat's obsessive admirers after watching him keep a packed hall spellbound during a poetic symposium in Qatar. They became close friends. In fact the cover of one of Rahat's collections, has been designed by Hussain. There is stunning irony about his death. Rahat wrote:

"Waba phaili hui hai har taraf/ Abhi mahaul mar jaane ka naheen." (A pandemic is spreading everywhere/ This is not the proper season to die.)

The poet who wrote these lines is declared Corona positive on the night of August 10 and is dead by August 11. Is there a galloping strain of Corona?

Remember how Habib Jalib's "Main naheen manta" became an iconic song during the anti-citizenship stir? Equally evocative and direct was Rahat's couplet:

"Sabhi ka khoon hai shamil yahan ki mitti mein; Kisi ke baap ka Hindostan thodi hai" (The blood of all of us has mingled in this soil; Hindostan is not the property of anybody's father).

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Vocal for local, but conditions apply

Shivaji Sarkar

MODI WOULD HAVE DONE WELL IF HE WERE TO HAVE ANNOUNCED AN END TO PERSONAL INCOME TAX. THIS INCREASES PURCHASING POWER, CREATES A HEALTHY ECONOMY, BOOSTS DEMAND AND LARGER COLLECTION OF INDIRECT TAXES

The call for Atmanirbhar Bharat has been giving a new touch for "enhancing capacity, creativity and skills". In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Modi made a pitch for a virtual halt to exports of critical raw materials and minerals.

Over the decades, economists have been raising the pitch for a vibrant self-reliant economy. Modi echoed the sentiment and suggested a reversal of the policy to import of raw material and export of value-added products to make India a manufacturing hub epitomising vocal for local, 'Make in India' and make for the world.

The conceptual change in the policy, if implemented, can create a manufacturing country that would not only meet its needs but also export enough to the world. This would create jobs, spare Indians with enough resources to sustain themselves and may even attract aspirants from across the world. The no-export policy of critical materials would help Indian manufacturers add more value to their products.

India, as Modi says, would eventually become a global hub. Many firms keen on relocating them-

selves may flock to India. So far, though, the hitch has been its tax system. So, two days before his I-Day speech, he announced a faceless tax transparency system that is expected to be more honest and hassle-free for the taxpayer.

At the same time, a debate is raging as to why Modi is trying to ensure a transparent tax system even as the number of taxpayers has shrunk by 55 per cent from 3.29 crore in 2018-19 to 1.46 crore in 2019-20, raising the taxable income limit to ₹5 lakh a year from ₹2.5 lakh in the interim Budget 2019-20. This led to 1.8 crore people having no tax liability, which was sensible.

Now, the question is why 1.46 crore people, the real middle class, is being tormented to pay tax at high rates? Even those senior citizens having no pension are being robbed off a huge chunk of their deposits due to interest accruals at measly rates of an average of 5 per cent a year. The tax on bank deposits is retrograde and no step has been taken to waive it.

In reality, the transparent system should have freed the bank deposits of TDS or any other tax payment. This is hurting India's pur-

chasing capacity and furthering a feeling of oppression. If someone needs to survive on his own savings, without a pension or any other support, any tax on the interest accrual, a mere hedging of his principal amount, is considered draconian.

There is a view that these small numbers of personal Income Tax payers need to be freed from paying taxes. It would not only help them but the government too, as expenses on collection could be saved. In 2019-20, there were 8,600 individuals who declared ₹5 crore taxable income and about 3.2 lakh who declared taxable income of over ₹5 lakh. In 2018-19, the net tax collection of both direct and indirect taxes saw a significant decline. In 2019-20, personal income tax is to contribute about 5.69 lakh crore. The figure could be actually less in 2021 as the economy has taken a hit due to Covid-19 lockdown.

The question is, for whom are these new set of transparency slated for? Apparently for the new entities which are likely to enter the country for business. However, Modi would have done well if he were to have announced an end to

personal income tax. This increases purchasing power, creates a healthy economy, boosts demand and larger collection of indirect taxes. In fact, the government achieves far more by ending the Income Tax and the "transparent" system is primarily to help foreign and Indian businesses and reduces litigation.

Compared to this, the PM's concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat of putting a cap on exports of raw materials and minerals is more beneficial. The country produces and works with about 100 minerals, which are an important source for earning foreign exchange as well as satisfying domestic needs. India exports iron ore, titanium, manganese, bauxite, granite, and imports cobalt, mercury, graphite etc.

By weight, coal and iron ore are the most extensively traded minerals. It has long been held that developing countries tend to export raw materials and import manufactures. India's major mineral resources include coal (fourth largest reserves in the world), iron ore and manganese (seventh largest reserve), mica, bauxite (fifth largest reserve), chromite, natural gas, diamonds, limestone and thorium.

Air disaster

Sir, The recent air-crash in Kozhikode has raised many eye-brows on flights, airports and passenger safety. It is said that the agility of the experienced pilot could save lives of several people of the ill-fated aircraft, even at the cost of his life and of his co-pilot. This may be true. An investigation is on, but there is no guarantee the real truth will ever come out. In a very inclement weather condition, the pilot's quick action to delay landing for the purpose of exhausting fuel and prevent the engine from catching fire, as is now stated by aviation authorities, is praiseworthy. Yet, as many as 18 valuable lives were lost. Apart from the topography, the tabletop-shaped runway is cited to be the major reason for the mishap. Unfortunately, adequate care is not being taken to conform to safety standards in specially built airports. Ten years ago, when the Mangalore airport witnessed a similar mishap, the enquiry committee had suggested provision of sufficient deterrents at the end of the tabular area of the runway. The authorities didn't pay heed to the recommendation in view of substantial expenditure involved for such work. The present disaster should force the authorities to expedite remedial action. Altogether five airports in the country remain unsafe, thus.

Sanjib Das, CUTTACK

Bagful of goodies

Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address unraveled a bagful of goodies. But the overall mood across the nation is one of despondence. Nothing, these days, seems to move in the right direction. Still, there are a few noteworthy promises. The key takeaways included efforts to develop three Covid-19 vaccines, launching a National Digital Health Mission that would give every Indian a health identity that is verifiable digitally, giving away sanitary napkins at Re 1 to help women, setting up a 7,500 MW solar power park in Ladakh and a ₹100 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline Project to move India towards modernity at a faster pace. The PM also lauded the jawans for rising to the challenges on the borders. There is a serious deficit in the matter of military preparedness over the past many years, when China and even Pakistan spent heavily on defence requirements. This put India on the defensive, and this is time to catch up with the rivals in terms of military readiness.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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

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Covid fears drive patients to avoid hosps

DOCTORS SAY PATIENTS ARE EVEN DELAYING SIMPLE SURGERIES LIKE GALL BLADDER STONE REMOVAL WHICH COULD LEAD TO MAJOR ISSUES IN THE LONG RUN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, patients suffering from critical diseases like cancer and those requiring surgeries are delaying hospital visits, thus endangering their health and even risking their lives.

Doctors say they have even lost patients who could have survived or their situation salvaged had they reported to hospitals in time. Dr Mandeep S Malhotra, Head of Department - Head, Neck and Breast Oncoplasty at Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, said two of his patients - an IAS officer and an IT consultant, both aged 45 - had palpable breast lumps in March. Due to fear of COVID-19, they neither reported to the hospital nor to their gynaecologists or family doctors and are now in Stage 4 of breast cancer.

He also shared another case of a 42-year-old patient who had a relapse of cancer around April while he was in his hometown Dehradun. "He had recovered from oral cancer but during lockdown period,

he had a nodal recurrence. He sent me a picture and I asked him to come back. I told him he can come back after getting required permission. He came back after three months and by then the main artery that supplies blood to the brain was involved. Earlier this week, he succumbed to cancer," Malhotra said. The senior doctor said cancer progresses in no time from Stage 2 to Stage 4 without timely treatment and if patients report early, they can be discharged in less time and the treatment costs are lower in comparison to critical state when the costs escalate and there is a greater risk involved.

According to Dr Manoj Sharma, senior consultant, medicine and incharge at Medeor Hospital, Qutub Institutional Area, delaying treatment is not the right option. He said hospitals are taking all precautions and adopting all hygienic practices. Sharma said one of his patients had reported to him about a liver abscess around April but did not return to the hospital after that. "Ultimately his infection in-



creased and he ended up in a critical condition and after surgery had to stay in hospital for a week. Had he continued treatment when he was diagnosed, he could have been discharged in two days," he said. Sharma said patients are not reaching out and consulting doctors which is leading to situations like these and opined that people will have to learn to live with coronavirus. Dr Chandragouda Dodagoudar, director of medical oncology at Aakash Healthcare in Dwarka, shared a case of a 65-year-old patient who had stage 2 lymphoma. The patient first visited the health facility in March and was advised chemotherapy but was very apprehensive due to the coronavirus disease. The doctor said after the patient recovered from coronavirus, she was administered a slight dose of chemotherapy and became better and was discharged. But after a month, she had a relapse of COVID and ended up in a critical condition and succumbed last month. The doctor said delaying treatment led to wastage of time and the patient's condition could have been salvaged had she got timely treatment since she did not have other co-morbidities.

UP among fastest growing states in green projects: IGBC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida (UP), August 16: Uttar Pradesh is one of the fastest growing states in terms of green building projects as the state has more than 570 such projects covering over 1,400 million sq ft area, according to the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

The IGBC, formed by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 2001, said as on date, India has 5,975 projects, spanning 7.55 billion sq ft of green buildings and green-built environment that are adopting its "green rating" programmes.

India has also bagged the prestigious distinction of becoming one of the top five countries in the world in terms of built-up area of green projects, it said. These projects, from both the government and private sector, have adopted IGBC's many rating systems, including homes, new buildings, healthcare facilities, schools, factories, campuses, townships, cities, and others, it added. "Uttar Pradesh has been one of

The IGBC said it has launched 26 holistic Green Rating programmes that cater to the design, construction & operations of almost all project typologies

India has also bagged the prestigious distinction of becoming one of the top five countries in the world in terms of built-up area of green projects

the fastest growing states in terms of green building projects. The acceptance among the developers to adopt sustainable design, construction and certification has been widespread," Sachin Sharma, Chair, IGBC Western UP Chapter, said. "The support from the state government has been exemplary. The state has more than 570 green building projects covering over 1,400 million sq ft of green footprint. We are happy to contribute to India achieving this significant milestone," Sharma said. He said the IGBC has also trained over 40,000 professionals on green building concepts, in line with *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives of the Centre. "These professionals have gone on to offer consultancy for certification, energy audit, simulation study, computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis and various other environmental services which enhance building efficiency," Sharma said. However, he urged the government to consider additional incentives, such as reduction in development charges and rebate in property tax to projects which are rated by IGBC. The IGBC said it has launched 26 holistic Green Rating programmes that cater to the design, construction and operations of almost all project typologies.

FIGHT AGAINST PANDEMIC

Recovery rate in Delhi improves to over 90%



This is the second time in a week that the daily number of deaths has dropped below 10. Delhi had recorded eight COVID-19 deaths Aug 11, indicating a significant improvement in the situation

On August 11, Delhi had recorded eight COVID-19 deaths, indicating a significant improvement in the pandemic situation in the city. The national capital recorded 14 deaths each on Wednesday and Thursday, 11 on Friday and 10 on Saturday.

The number of fresh cases recorded Sunday was the lowest after July 27, when Delhi registered 613 cases.

The number of recoveries Sunday was also the highest since July 27, when 1,497 patients had recuperated from the disease. Of the total COVID-19 cases recorded in the city so far 1,37,561 people have recovered or discharged putting the recovery rate at 90.15 per cent. There are 10,823 active cases of coronavirus infection and among them 5,762 are under home isolation.

As many as 3,024 RT PCR, CB NAAT and TrueNat tests, and 7,685 rapid-antigen tests were conducted in last 24 hours.

A total of 13,02,120 tests have been conducted till date that is 68,532 tests per million population, the health bulletin stated. The case positivity rate in the last 24 hours stood at 6.08 per cent. In the last one week, the number of new infections has grown by less than one per cent everyday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: The national capital's COVID-19 tally rose to 1,52,580 Sunday with 652 fresh cases, while 1,310 people recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours pushing the recovery rate in Delhi to more than 90 per cent, authorities said. The death toll due to the disease has increased to 4,196 with eight more fatalities in the last 24 hours. This was the second time in a week that the number of daily fatalities due to the viral infection has dropped below 10, the Delhi government's health bulletin stated.

Fresh guidelines to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi amid nCoV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: There will be no large congregations, community celebrations or idol immersion at public places on Ganesh Chaturthi in the national capital this year in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

A fine of Rs 50,000 will be imposed on violators, it said. This year, the festival will be celebrated August 22. Idol immersion in the Yamuna river was banned following an order by the National Green Tribunal in 2015.

Last year, the Delhi government had created artificial ponds at public places for people to immerse idols on Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja. "Idol immersion in artificial ponds, too, is not allowed this time as large gatherings will increase the risk of virus transmission," a DPCC official said.

Community celebrations cannot happen as large congregations are prohibited by the government in view of the pandemic, he said.



The pollution control body has asked residents to perform the idol immersion ritual in a bucket or container at home.

The Delhi Police and civic bodies have been directed to check the entry of vehicles carrying idols into the city. Idol makers and sellers have been directed to use natural material "as described in the holy scriptures" like traditional clay to make idols. Paints, colours and dyes used in making idols contain

hazardous chemicals such as mercury, zinc oxide, chromium, lead and cadmium which harm aquatic life and can cause cancer, respiratory ailments and skin infections among humans.

Several studies conducted to assess the impact of idol immersion have revealed deterioration of water quality in terms of conductivity, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and heavy metal concentration.

MATTER OF FAITH



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal along with his spouse Sunita Kejriwal offers prayers at Hanuman Temple in Connaught Place on his birthday, in New Delhi

Police officer asks girl to dance before filing FIR

The 16-year-old girl alleged in a video that the Inspector summoned her to the police station during odd hours and asked her to dance in front of him

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), August 16: A video of a teenage girl has gone viral on social media, in which she has alleged that an Inspector of the Govind Nagar police station asked her to dance in lieu of registering an FIR against the nephew of her landlord.

The 16-year-old girl alleged in the video that the Inspector summoned her to the police station during odd hours and asked her to dance in front of him.

The girl with her family lives in a rented accommodation in Dabauli West area of Govind Nagar. The girl's family earns a livelihood by doing *jagran* parties.

They had tried to lodge a complaint against the nephew of their landlord, accusing him of molesting the girl, besides forcibly evacuating them from the rented portion of the house a few days

ago, the family said. The mother of the girl said the accused Anup Yadav, nephew of the landlady, had July 26 barged into their house and attacked them.

"Again, August 7 night, my daughter was molested by him while she was on her way back home from the market. It was when she approached Inspector Govind Nagar, Anurag Mishra, he asked my daughter to first dance in front of him and then he will register her complaint," the girl's mother told reporters. The Govind Nagar Circle Officer Vikas Kumar Pandey, said that there was already a dispute between the two sides with regard to possession of a house. "There seems to be no substance in the charges. Prima facie it appears that the girl has made the video viral in order to create pressure on the police. However, a probe is underway in this regard," Pandey further said.



'Name Ayodhya mosque as Sufi Masjid'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur (UP), August 16: The Madariya Sufi Foundation has written to the chairman of UP Central Sunni Waqf Board, suggesting that the mosque that will come up at the land provided by the government in lieu of Babri masjid at Dhannipur village in Ayodhya, be named as 'Sufi Masjid'.

"The naming of the mosque as 'Sufi Masjid' will help promote harmony and endorse Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb. On behalf of Sufi leaders, sajada nasheens of dargahs, Islamic scholars and peace-loving citizens of our country, we appeal to the Sunni board that this will have a positive impact nationwide," said Haji Mohd. Sameer Aziz Boghani, president, Madariya Sufi



Foundation. "India is an example of peaceful co-existence of various religions, creeds and faiths. Sufis were firm in abstaining from religious conflict and are recognized as peaceful members of society. Sufi teachings of spirituality, tolerance and global harmony still resonate with common people. Sufism is an antidote to extremism," Boghani said,

Punjab, Haryana to bank on more machines, biomass plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: The Punjab and Haryana governments have submitted to a Supreme Court-mandated panel their action plan to check stubble burning - a major contributor to extreme levels of air pollution that choke the national capital in winters.

The states have proposed setting up more custom hiring centres (CHCs) to give farm machinery on rental basis to farmers who cannot afford to purchase the high-end equipment for crop residue management and supplying more balers - a machine used to compress stubble into compact bales.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, stubble burning contributed significantly to air pollution in Delhi last year with the share of farm fire smoke in particulate matter peaking to 44 per cent in November. The Punjab govern-



ment has told the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) that it has been utilising crop residue through biomass-based power plants and various bio-CNG projects are under process. The state has now proposed to set up a 25-megawatt solar-biomass project. Punjab has already set up

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, stubble burning contributed significantly to air pollution in Delhi last year with the share of farm fire smoke in particulate matter

The period between October 15 and November 15 is considered critical as a maximum number of stubble burning incidents takes place

Last year, Haryana produced 7mn tonnes of paddy residue, of which farmers burnt 1.23 mn tonnes

7,378 CHCs. The state will establish 5,200 more CHCs this year to accomplish the target of having one CHC in each village. The administration will provide 220 balers this year, according to the EPCA. Farmers sell bales to nearby factories, mainly biomass plants, at around Rs 120 per quintal. The state has also launched a mobile appli-

cation to help farmers rent machinery to manage crop residue. The Haryana government told EPCA that a committee has been set up to look into the progress of bio-CNG and bio-ethanol projects and biomass plants to manage crop residue. The state has set up 2,879 CHCs and 2,000 more will be established by October.

As many as 791 balers will be supplied by the time harvesting starts. A mobile application is being promoted for providing machinery on rent to farmers. The state has already launched "Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana", a scheme for promoting cultivation of vegetables. Around 1,09,000 hectares of land has already been diverted from paddy to other crops such as maize, millet and cotton. Last year, Haryana produced 7 million tonnes of paddy residue, of which farmers burnt 1.23 million tonnes. Despite a ban on stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, farmers continue to defy it because of lack of financial incentives. State governments are providing 50 to 80 per cent subsidy to farmers and cooperative societies to buy modern farm equipment for in-situ management of paddy straw and running a massive awareness campaign against stubble burning.



We first need to cleanse the electoral system. The process is going on here and there. There have been some reforms which are just in the initial stages

SM KRISHNA | FORMER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

MODI PAYS TRIBUTE TO VAJPAYEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his second death anniversary. He also visited 'Sadaiv Atal' memorial and paid floral tributes



of the day quote

Scientists are working hard on coronavirus vaccine and if their efforts bear fruit, COVID-19 warriors will be the first ones to get the dose

ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY | UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH

Maintain a six feet social distance, do not go out without wearing masks and be careful while venturing out

SOMUNYA SWAMINATHAN | CHIEF SCIENTIST OF WHO

Atal Bihari Vajpayee taught all political parties and people active in public life that the national interest is always paramount. Therefore he was a widely accepted leader who had admirers across the political spectrum

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

RUSSIA VACCINE: RAUT TAKES DIG AT CENTRE

Attacking the AYUSH Ministry, Raut said it had claimed that ayurvedic medicines would be effective against corona, but now AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik has also been infected

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 16: Contending that Russia has given the first lesson in 'Atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) by making a vaccine against coronavirus, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut Sunday said India is still busy hawking "wacky remedies like 'Bhabhiji Papads'". "Russia has boldly gone ahead and brought the world's first Covid-19 vaccine. Russian President Vladimir Putin even administered it to his corona-hit daughter to win the country's confidence over its efficacy," he said.

On the contrary, in India, Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries Arjun Ram Meghwal, who publicly claimed that consuming 'Bhabhiji Papads' will boost immunity against Covid, stands exposed as he himself is now infected," Raut said in his anecdotal column 'Rokthok' in the Shiv Sena's 'Saamana Group'.

Attacking the AYUSH Ministry, he said it had claimed that ayurvedic medicines would be effective against corona, but now AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik has also been infected.

"More than half a dozen ministers in the Centre are down with corona, former President Pranab Mukherjee is affected, even (Home Minister) Amit Shah recently came out unscathed by the virus. Only Russia went ahead and brought the vaccine and did not even bother to ask the World Health Organisation (WHO). That's called a superpower," the Sena MP said.

Now, he said, three days ago, it came to light that the Ayodhya Ram Temple Trust Chairman Mahant Nriya Gopal Das has been infected.



"Mahant Das had shared the stage at the Ram Temple foundation stone ceremony on August 5, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and was not even seen wearing a mask. He had come in contact with Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, the PM even shook hands with the Mahant. The question is - will the PM be quarantined now," Raut wondered.

Like Mumbai, even New Delhi is in the grip of the corona scourge

with Union ministers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats and officials getting infected and the national capital which runs the country, is practically "idle", he said.

"There are no political interactions, even the I-Day celebrations were muted, there are no protests... the situation was not so bad during riots or wars. There was a fear of Modi and Shah, but the corona scare is greater," the Sena leader asserted. Lauding Russia's achievement, Raut said that our politicians are "in love with America more", and if the US had successfully developed the first vaccine, the Indian leaders would have sung paean to US President Donald Trump.

He also expressed suspicion "whether our VVIPs and officials who have been infected had acquired the Russian corona vaccine secretly, though there's nobody to bother about the ordinary Indian masses suffering from Covid-19".

Raut said that as per official figures, there are 14 crore people unemployed now, but the government has no work and Delhi has never been seen to be so lazy ever before.

Raj Bhavan under surveillance: Dhankhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 16: Raj Bhavan has been placed under surveillance "undermining the sanctity" of the institution, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar alleged Sunday, a development that could plunge his already strained ties with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to newer depths.



Making the startling claim, Dhankhar, who has often crossed swords with the TMC government over a host of issues in the past one year, also alleged lawlessness was prevailing across the state. "I would like to tell you all that the Raj Bhavan is under surveillance. It undermines the sanctity of the Raj Bhavan. I will do everything to protect its sanctity," Dhankhar told a press conference.

"I have initiated a very serious, critical probe into it. Sanctity of Raj

Bhavan's functioning has to be kept intact," he said. Without elaborating on what kind of surveillance Raj Bhavan had been put under, Dhankhar said, "As constitutional

act, I will not, will never suffer any surveillance of any nature whatsoever. Those who have done it, must pay the price according to rule of law. My internal inquiry will be completed soon enough," he said.

The Governor also spoke about confidential documents getting leaked. There was no word from the government on Dhankhar's claim. Expressing "pain" at Mamata Banerjee and her cabinet colleagues not attending the customary 'At Home' hosted at Raj Bhavan, the Governor's official residence, on Independence Day, Dhankhar said that less than 35 distinguished guests had been invited keeping in mind the COVID-19 outbreak.

Rajnath okays plan to expand NCC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal to expand the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in 173 border and coastal districts from where one lakh new cadets will be inducted, an official statement said Sunday.

The expansion of the NCC was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech Saturday. He said the NCC will be expanded in border and coastal districts so that these areas "get trained manpower for disaster management, and the youth will also get skill training for making their career in the armed forces".

The defence ministry's statement said Singh has approved the NCC proposal "for a major expansion scheme". "More than 1,000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced," it said.

A total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted into the NCC, it said, adding that one-third of them will be girls. "As part of the expansion plan, a total of 83 NCC units will be upgraded (Army 53, Navy 20, Air Force 10) to impart NCC training to the cadets in the border and coastal areas," the ministry noted.

The Army will provide training and administrative support to NCC units located in border areas, it said. The Navy will provide support to NCC units in coastal areas and the Air Force will provide support to those located close to its stations, it added.

The NCC is a youth development movement managed by the armed forces. It also provides exposure to cadets in a wide range of activities, with a distinct emphasis on social services, discipline and adventure training. It is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis.

FINAL TOUCH



An artist gives finishing touch to an idol of goddess Durga before being sent to France for Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata, Sunday

Gaganyaan: Dec mission likely to be delayed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Hit by disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic, the launch of India's unmanned space mission under the first leg of Gaganyaan, planned for December 2020, is likely to be delayed, sources said.

It was part of the two unmanned missions to be undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation ahead of the planned launch of India's maiden human spaceflight under 'Gaganyaan' in December 2021. The likely delay in the first unmanned mission was recently conveyed to the Space Commission, the apex policy making body on space related issues.

The Space Commission is headed by ISRO Chairman and Department of Space Secretary K Sivan. Two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the human space mission in his Independence Day address.

The Gaganyaan mission aims to send a three-member crew to space for a period of five to seven days by 2022 when India completes 75 years of Independence.

The ISRO had started planning for the mission accordingly. The first unmanned mission was planned in December 2020, the second unmanned mission in June 2021. The final and the main component, the manned mission of Gaganyaan, was scheduled six months later in December 2021, much before the 2022 deadline.

ISRO had earlier indicated that there would be a delay in several missions as the space body's work has been hit by disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic. Among the major projects that have been affected are Chandrayaan-3 and Gaganyaan. Chandrayaan-3, the third mission to Moon, was scheduled later this year.

The sources said that efforts are on to stick to the deadline of 2022 for launching the human space mission. "We will not be able to meet deadline for the December 2020 launch of the unmanned mission. The coronavirus pandemic has led to several disruptions.

SHORT TAKES

Vaishno Devi temple reopens

Jammu: After four months the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine was reopened for devotees Sunday, officials said. "Two thousand pilgrims will only be allowed to proceed to the shrine daily from today. "Out of these, 100 would be from outside J&K and 1,900 devotees would be locals. All outsiders will have to undergo Covid-19 test before they are allowed to undertake the trek to the shrine. "Thermal scanners have been installed at different places on the trek to Mata's Shrine. No helpers or ponies will be allowed to move with the devotees who will have to walk the entire trek from Katra base camp", officials said.

Ajay Maken's new role

New Delhi: The Congress Sunday appointed senior party leader Ajay Maken as the new general secretary in-charge for Rajasthan, replacing Avinash Pandey. Congress chief Sonia Gandhi also set up a three-member committee to resolve the issues raised by party rebels in Rajasthan. Senior party leader Ahmed Patel, Ajay Maken and general secretary organisation KC Venugopal have been made members of the panel. The appointments come in the wake of a rebellion in the Rajasthan government with former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and 18 other MLAs revolting against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

RJD expels three MLAs

Patna: RJD, the principal opposition party in Bihar Sunday expelled three of its legislators from the party for six years for their anti-party activities. RJD state secretary general Alok Mehta announced the expulsion of Prema Choudhary, Maheshwar Yadav and Faraz Fatmi. All the three MLAs have at various times come out in support of JD(U) and had praised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Kafeel's detention extended

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government has extended, by three months, the detention of doctor Kafeel Khan under the National Security Act (NSA) for his alleged provocative speech during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests. Khan was arrested in January for delivering the speech at Aligarh Muslim University on December 10, 2019. This is the second time his detention under the stringent law has been extended by another three months.

BJP, RSS control FB: Congress

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 16: Accusing the BJP and the RSS of controlling Facebook and WhatsApp in India, the Congress Sunday alleged that the two had attacked democracy in the country and demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into alleged violations by the social media platform and its messaging service.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "BJP and RSS control Facebook and WhatsApp in India. They spread fake news and hatred through it and use it to influence the electorate. "Finally, the American media has come out with the truth about Facebook."

He tagged a Wall Street Journal report on the issue. Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted: "Facebook - WhatsApp sinister connection to BJP government exposed! Is Facebook being used to spread 'Fake News' and 'Hate Material'? What is the connect of Facebook-India leaders to BJP? Does it not warrant a JPC probe?" Addressing a virtual press conference, Congress spokesperson and former Union Minister Ajay Maken said: "There are 40 crore Indians on WhatsApp and over 28 crore on Facebook. So, a probe is necessary into the commercial



Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "BJP and RSS control Facebook and WhatsApp in India. They spread fake news and hatred through it and use it to influence the electorate. Finally, the American media has come out with the truth about Facebook"

ference, Congress spokesperson and former Union Minister Ajay Maken said: "There are 40 crore Indians on WhatsApp and over 28 crore on Facebook. So, a probe is necessary into the commercial

dealings, propagation of hate content, and connection of Facebook and WhatsApp employees with the BJP." "The bias and alignment of the Facebook India's leadership team with the BJP and RSS is not limited to just their Head of Public Policy in India. There are many others in that leadership team with a close working relationship with the BJP."

The Congress said that the government too should clarify the "quid pro quo" with WhatsApp and Facebook and what type of business dealings they had with the government.

Congress Data Department Chairman Praveen Chakravorty said: "I met the WhatsApp CEO and raised the issue in the past after the Congress Working Committee took it up, and the CEO heard me politely but did not act."

The Congress said it had raised the issue with the Facebook team in India. "We met the team of Ankhil Das on May 15 and complained about the manipulative content; the team heard us but did nothing," claimed Rohan Gupta, Congress Social Media head.

PRIVATE TRAIN OPERATORS CAN CHOOSE HALT STATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Private operators who will be handed over 150 trains to ply on 109 routes by the Railways will have the freedom to choose halt stations of the trains they operate, documents released by the national transporter have shown.

However, the private operators have to submit in advance to the Railways the list of such intermediate stations on the trains' paths where they are proposing halts in advance. The private operators also have to provide the time in and time out at the intermediate railway stations, which shall form part of the train operation plan. This has to be submitted in advance and will be in place for at least a year, after which it can be revised, a draft of the Concession Agreement has said.

"The Concessionaire shall have the flexibility in deciding the



stops/ halts in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Concession Agreement," the Railways has said in reply to a query by one of the private players who attended pre-application meetings.

The Railways has also said the number of such halts of the private trains will not be more than the number of existing halts of the fastest train of the Railways operating in that route. The train operation plan submitted by private operators will also have to include the stations at which the water tanks in the trains need to be filled and also the railway stations, washing lines or stabling lines, as the case maybe, at which the train toilets would be evacuated.

Monsoon Session to witness many first-time measures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Hectic preparations are underway for the Monsoon Session of Parliament with several first-time measures in view of the COVID-19 pandemic such as staggered sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and use of both chambers and galleries to accommodate members while following physical distancing norms, officials said.

The Monsoon Session is likely to begin in the last week of August or early September. According to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, members of the Upper House will be seated in both chambers and galleries during the session.

This is the first time in the history of Indian Parliament since 1952 that

such an arrangement will be in place, where 60 members will be seated in the chamber and 51 in the galleries of Rajya Sabha and the remaining 132 in the chamber of Lok Sabha. Similar seating arrangements are being worked out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat as well.

For the first time, large display screens and consoles for participation from galleries, ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, special cables between the two Houses and polycarbonate separators will be in place.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at a meeting on July 17, after detailed examination of various options for holding the session, decided on using the chambers and galleries of both the Houses.



Naidu has directed officials to complete preparations for the session by the third week of August, when testing, rehearsal and final inspection would be carried out. The

Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been working overtime for the last two weeks to ensure full preparedness, officials said. While both Houses usually function simultaneously,

this time due to extraordinary circumstances, one House will sit during morning hours and the other in the evening, sources say.

The last Budget Session of Parliament had to be curtailed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and both Houses were adjourned sine die on March 23. As per precedent, Parliament has to be convened before the end of six months from the last session.

Work is in progress at fast pace for ensuring several additional installations in the prescribed time which include installation of four large display screens in the House chamber, six small screens in the four galleries, audio consoles in galleries, ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, special cables connecting the two Houses for transmission

of audio-visual signals and polycarbonate sheet separating the officers gallery from the chamber, Rajya Sabha Secretariat officials said. They said the arrangements mark the first-of-its-kind session to be held in compliance with social distancing norm to check the spread of COVID-19.

Subsequently, senior officials of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat held detailed discussions with agencies concerned and firmed up special arrangements to be made and they are being worked upon.

Various parties will be allotted seats in the chamber and galleries of Rajya Sabha based on respective strength and the remaining will be seated in the chamber of Lok Sabha in two blocks meant for ruling parties and the others, they said.



The process of lifting the lockdown in the state would be done in a stepwise manner
UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

'FIT INDIA FREEDOM RUN'

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police has launched a 'fit India freedom run' at all its border posts and formations in the country as part of which its troops and officers will undertake a 10 km walk, officials said



of the day quote

The state government will set up a Sikkim Education Reform Commission to draw a comprehensive policy and strategy in line with the National Education Policy, 2020
PREM SINGH TAMANG | SIKKIM CM

Rather than criticising everything, anyone who has a grievance and doubt should seek proper information through RTI and get the facts correct
N BIREN SINGH | MANIPUR CM

The proposed 300-km long 'Chambal Progress Way' in the state would be named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MP CM

Girl raped, killed in UP; Oppn fumes

The incident drew strong condemnation, with Congress and SP leaders attacking the Adityanath government over law and order situation in the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lakhimpur Kheri/Lucknow, August 16: A 13-year-old girl was raped and strangled to death in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district, police said Sunday.

Two men have been arrested for the crime that took place Friday. Police dismissed reports that the girl had sustained grievous injuries on her tongue and eyes in the incident, and said the postmortem stated that the death was due to strangulation after rape.

The incident drew strong condemnation, with Congress and SP leaders attacking the Adityanath government over the law and order situation in the state. Police said the girl had gone to her fields on Friday afternoon. When she did not return home, her family started looking for her and found her body in a sugarcane field.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Dhaurahra, Abhishek Pratap said two men were arrested on Friday night. "On the complaint by the deceased's father, two youths identified as Sanjay and Santosh have been arrested," DSP Pratap said.

An FIR has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code besides the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the SC/ST Act, he said. Earlier, there were reports about injuries to the girl's eyes and tongue. However, the post-mortem conducted by a panel of doctors showed no such thing, he said. "The post-mortem report stated the cause of the girl's death was strangulation after rape," he said.

Lashing out at the state government over the law and order situation, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said the incident has shaken humanity. "The rape and murder of a teenage girl in Lakhimpur Kheri in UP is an incident, which has shaken humanity. In the BJP rule, atrocities on children and women are at an all-time



Lashing out at the state government over the law and order situation, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said the incident has shaken humanity

high," he charged in a tweet in Hindi. "Why is the BJP government shielding those who are involved in rape, kidnapping, murder and other crime," the former state chief minister asked.

Senior Congress leader Jitin Prasada on Sunday said, "The inhuman act with a girl has put humanity to shame. This is an extremely saddening incident. In this episode, the police must initiate such a strong action that it becomes a deterrent for criminals."

In a tweet in Hindi, Prasad asked, "What was the police doing that such a big incident took place. Action must be taken against the guilty persons. The safety of the family (of the girl) should be looked into". Terming the incident as very saddening and shameful, BSP supremo Mayawati had on Saturday demanded strict action against the guilty.

"What is the difference between the SP government and the present BJP government if such incidents keep happening. The BSP demands that the government should initiate strong action against the guilty in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident and also in the Azamgarh incident," she said in a tweet.

OIL SPILL: INDIA HELPS MAURITIUS

A JAPANESE BULK CARRIER STRUCK A CORAL REEF OFF THE COAST OF MAURITIUS IN LATE JULY AND LEAKED HUNDREDS OF TONNES OF OIL IN THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE REGION DAYS LATER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: India has sent 30 tonnes of technical equipment and material on board an IAF aircraft to Mauritius to help the country contain an oil spill on its pristine south-east coast.

A 10-member Indian Coast Guard (ICG) team specialising in containing oil spill has also been deployed to Mauritius to extend necessary technical and operational assistance, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Sunday.

A Japanese bulk carrier struck a coral reef off the coast of Mauritius in late July and leaked hundreds of tonnes of oil in the environmentally sensitive region days later. Saturday, Mauritius authorities said the ship, MV Wakashio, broke apart. Last week, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth declared a state of envi-



ronmental emergency and sought international assistance to deal with the situation.

"In response to a request of the government of Mauritius for assistance in dealing with the environmental crisis due to oil spill on its south-east coast, the government of India has dispatched over 30 tonnes of technical equipment

and material on board an IAF aircraft to Mauritius to supplement the country's ongoing oil spill containment and salvage operations," the MEA said in a statement.

The MEA said India's assistance is in line with its policy to extend humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to its neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and guided

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of security and growth for all in the region.

It said the urgent assistance reflects the close bonds of friendship between India and Mauritius and New Delhi's abiding commitment to assist the people of Mauritius in need. "The specialized equipment, consisting of ocean booms, river booms, disc skimmers, heli skimmers, power packs, blowers, salvage barge and oil absorbent graphene pads and other accessories, is specifically designed to contain the oil slick, skim oil from water, and assist in clean up and salvage operations," the MEA said.

India has also sent Mauritius essential medicines and other materials to help it in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. A special consignment of Ayurvedic medicines and a medical team were part of the assistance.

SHORT TAKES

Parrikar's son contracts corona

Panaji: Former Defence Minister and late BJP leader Manohar Parrikar's elder son Utpal was Sunday hospitalised after he tested positive for coronavirus. "On the advice of doctors and to take proper line of treatment, I've got admitted to hospital. Thank you everyone for the wishes," tweeted Utpal Parrikar, who is also a member of the state Bharatiya Janata Party executive committee.

Punjab minister tests Covid+

Chandigarh: Punjab Revenue Minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar Sunday tested positive for the novel coronavirus, doctors said. He hoisted the national flag on Independence Day and in Mansa town a day earlier. The Minister complained of a sore throat, after which he was tested for coronavirus. Kangar told the media over the phone that his condition is stable and is undergoing treatment at his residence.

2 held for US student's death

Bulandshahr (UP): Two persons have been arrested in connection with the death of a US student Sudiksha Bhati who died in a road accident August 10. While the police maintained that the girl had lost her life in an "accident", her father Jitendra Bhati maintain that she was heckled by two men on a motorcycle who were following her and her uncle.

Pak violates ceasefire

Srinagar: Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kamalkote sector of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday, officials said. From 10:45 to 11:45 am, ceasefire violation was reported from Lowergrah and Upergrah posts of Kamalkote Sector in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, the officials said.

5 women rescued

New Delhi: Five women were rescued by a Delhi Fire Service team after a clinic in a building in Delhi's Pitampura caught fire on Sunday morning, an official said. One of the women was rescued from the clinic, and the four others from the building's second floor. "We received a fire call at 11 am at Rajdhani Enclave in Pitampura and rushed seven fire tenders to the spot. The building has a basement and three storeys. The four women were stuck on the second floor," said Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Service.

58 more arrested for riots

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, August 16: As part of its investigation into the riots that rocked the city's eastern suburb August 11, police arrested 58 more people for their alleged involvement in them, an official said Sunday.

"We have arrested 58 more people since Friday, taking the total number of suspects held for their role in the riots to 264 so far, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for Bangalore East S.D. Sharanappa said here.

The police also booked 52 cases against all the accused under various sections of the IPC (Indian Penal Code) for rioting, looting, arson and destroying public property, ostensibly, in protest against a derogatory post on the social media on that fateful day.

"Of the arrested, the main accused are in our (police) custody for interrogation, while others have been lodged in the central jail on the city's outskirts and the Ballari prison under 14-day judicial custody, as investigation on their role in the riots is underway," said Sharanappa.

Ballari is about 330km northwest



of Bangalore in the southern state. In the two-hour long riots, the unruly mob burnt the house of Pulakeshinagar Assembly segment's Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy and the D.J. Halli police station in the vicinity, set scores of police and public vehicles on fire and destroyed public property.

To quell the mob violence and control the situation, the police opened fire in which three youths from the locality succumbed to bullet wounds later. A fourth person, who was injured in the tear gas the police fired at the unruly mob, succumbed on Saturday, taking the toll to four in the riots.

CATCH OF THE DAY



A man carries fish from the swollen Krishna river following heavy rainfall in Karad, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

BSF nabs Pak fisherman, seizes 4 boats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhuj (Gujarat), August 16: Four Pakistani boats were seized by the Border Security Force Sunday from 'Harami Nallah' creek along the India-Pakistan border in Gujarat's Kutch district, the force said.

A Pakistani fisherman, identified as Alla Bachao Siddique (25), from Sindh province of Pakistan was apprehended, while others managed to escape, it said. A patrolling team of the BSF's Bhuj unit observed movement of four to five Pakistani men on boats near the 'Harami Nallah', in Kutch region, at around 6 am, it said.

"The Pakistani fishermen were attempting to enter into Indian Territory by taking the advantage of rough sea state. The alert patrol party of BSF intercepted the Pakistani intruders the moment they tried to enter into Indian Territory, while the intruders also saw the BSF patrol party and jumped into the water," the BSF said in a statement.

RAJASTHAN HC CHIEF JUSTICE TESTS NEGATIVE FOR COVID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 16: Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Indrajit Mahanty Sunday tested negative for coronavirus after a scare that he has contracted the infection.

Jaipur Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr Narottam Sharma said the first report had come out positive due to a "technical error" in the RT-PCR test. "However, he has tested negative in two subsequent reports," Sharma said, adding that there is a possibility of an error cropping up due to mistakes by the health staff or technical issues.

The laboratory technique, called Real Time-Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction, is widely used in the diagnosis of genetic diseases and considered more reliable due to its sensitivity. Sharma said the health staff has been asked to remain vigilant with utmost accuracy.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

on Saturday had expressed concern after the chief justice tested positive for the infection. He had wished him speedy recovery in a tweet.

Earlier, the work at the Rajasthan High Court here was suspended for three days from August 17 to 19.

The registrar general of the high court in a notice said all persons concerned are requested to get themselves tested for COVID-19. The notice, however, did not mention the High Court chief justice.

Two days ago, six people tested positive for COVID-19 in the high court. The notice had said in view of recent results of COVID-19 tests conducted in the Rajasthan High Court here, the office work will remain suspended from August 17 to 19 for COVID-19 testing.

The health authorities have already taken 5,000 samples from the HC and district courts, officials said, adding the sampling will continue in coming days.

Rave party busted in Goa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, August 16: Twenty three people, including three foreigners, were arrested after the crime branch raided a rave party where drugs were allegedly being used in North Goa district, police said Sunday.

Narcotics worth over Rs 9 lakh were seized from the party which was going on amid the COVID-19 pandemic at a villa in Vagator village under Anjuna police station limits on Saturday night, they said. Two women from Russia and one from Czech Republic were among those arrested. They were held under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for allegedly possessing banned substance during the police raid, a senior crime branch official said. An Indian man, who organised the party, was also arrested under the NDPS Act, he said. Nineteen others present at the party were arrested for violating the social distancing norms.



'Parivar' loyalist in J&K Raj Bhavan

Manoj Sinha is the fourth choice of Narendra Modi in his six-year tenure to handle Jammu & Kashmir. Sinha's appointment is significant as he is the first die-hard Sangh Parivar loyalist to don the mantle at J&K Raj Bhavan. Of his 11 predecessors since Independence, none

belonged to 'Parivar'. Initially, Modi continued with NN Vohra as Governor after coming to power in May 2014. Vohra was a Manmohan Singh nominee. Modi didn't want to tinker with the on-going Kashmir policy of successive governments. Kashmir was a delicate matter and he tried to woo Pakistan initially. After NN Vohra, he brought in a political person who had goodwill across parties, Satya Pal Malik as Governor. But within a year, Modi converted the state into Union Territory and GC Murmu was brought in. Murmu was his most-trusted bureaucrat since the Gujarat days. But even Murmu was recalled in less than a year and finally, Modi chose Manoj Sinha.

Covid vaccine a far cry

Prim Minister Narendra Modi may have cut short bureaucratic delays to fast-track coronavirus vaccine trials in India,

but the wonder drug will continue to elude the citizens as trials may take longer. ICMR had declared that Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine will be out by Independence Day. But the trials, which began at the prestigious AIIMS and 11 other facilities across India last month, have not even completed Phase-I stage. In a surprising development, Dr Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS clarified, "We are rushing trials for the vaccine and clubbed Phase-I & II trials. But the human clinical trials will follow all safety norms." It means that Indian vaccines will be delayed.

CVC cracks whip

The CVC has cracked its whip on Babus again. Earlier, the departments used to sit over the files recommending action against corrupt Babus in the government. The CVC has fixed the time frame to two

months. But in a revised order, it decided to cut short by one more month and told them it will have to reconsider its view within one month. The departments and ministries used to sit over files on the name or reconsidering action for months. The department concerned wants to have a lenient or stricter view on the quantum of punishment recommended by it. But the CVC noticed that such proposals were not received in the stipulated time period of two months, thus causing a delay in the processing of vigilance cases.

UP sets new record

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has set a new record by conducting one lakh COVID tests in a day. The state conducted 1.20 lakh tests August 10. Yogi Adityanath also set a new record when UP conducted more than 33 lakh tests. It left Tamil Nadu to number two slot

and Maharashtra to number three in testing. UP was a laggard like Bihar in testing despite being the most populous state in the country. But a determined Yogi Adityanath ramped up testing from July 1 and within the next 40 days emerged on top in the country in testing.

Jaishankar's pep talk

The Prime Minister's core team remains low-profile and virtually invisible; be it Principal Secretary PK Mishra, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval or even hand-picked External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. While Doval's predecessor Shiv Shankar Menon was always in the news, Doval is rarely seen. Even S Jaishankar is hardly talked about compared to his predecessor late Sushma Swaraj. It is not if S Jaishankar doesn't interact. But he knows his "boss" very well and makes big moves quietly.

international



The universal mail-in voting is going to be catastrophic. It's going to make our country the laughing stock of the world
DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

PANDA TURNS 38

A birthday party was held at a zoo in China's Chongqing Municipality Sunday for the world's oldest captive giant panda, who turned 38 this year. A birthday cake covered with bamboo shoots, carrots and watermelons, was prepared for the animal, who is currently in good physical condition except for occasional hypertension



SHORT TAKES

Nepal landslide claims 18 lives

Kathmandu: At least 18 people have been killed and 21 others reported missing after a massive landslide hit Nepal's Sindhupalchowk district, authorities said Sunday, adding that a search and rescue operation was ongoing in the affected area. The landslide, which occurred on Friday in the district's Jugal Rural Municipality, also damaged 37 houses in Lidi village.

Lam returns Fellowship

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader says she has "returned" her honorary fellowship to a Cambridge college after a row over whether the finance hub's academic freedoms are being suppressed as authorities crackdown on democracy opponents. Chief Executive Carrie Lam said she was cutting ties with Cambridge's Wolfson College after it began looking into the state of academic liberty in Hong Kong.

500 animals go 'missing'

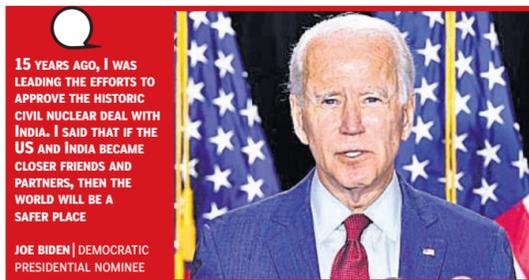
Islamabad: At least 513 animals have been reported as having gone 'missing' from Marghazar Zoo in Pakistan's national capital, a media report said Sunday. According to a report issued by the Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation (IMC) - which was managing the zoo then - in July 2019, there were a total of 917 animals of and birds of different species, a Pakistani daily reported.

If elected, will stand with India: Biden

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 16: Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden has asserted that if elected, his administration will stand with India against the threats New Delhi faces from its own region and along its borders and vowed to continue to rely on the Indian-American diaspora, that keeps the two nations together.

Last week, Biden scripted history by selecting Indian origin Senator Kamala Harris, 55, as his running mate in the US presidential election. Harris, whose father is an African from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is the first ever Black vice-presidential nominee. Presidential elections in the US will be held November 3 and the 77-year-old is challenging incumbent Republican President Donald Trump in the polls.



"15 years ago, I was leading the efforts to approve the historic civil nuclear deal with India. I said that if the US and India became closer friends and partners, then the world will be a safer place," Biden, who was vice-president in the Obama administration, said while addressing the Indian-American community on India's Independence Day.

If elected president, Biden said, he will continue to believe this and also continue to stand with India against the threats it faces from its own region and along its borders.

Biden said that he will work on expanding two-way trade between the US and India, and take on big global challenges like climate change and global health security.

If elected, the Democratic candidate said, he will work to strengthen the democracies where diversity is the mutual strength.

On this day, let us "continue to deepen the bond that endures between our nation's and our people," Biden said.

He said that "as President, I'll also continue to rely on the Indian-American diaspora that keeps our two nations together, as I have throughout my career".

"My constituents in Delaware, my staff in the Senate, the Obama administration that had more Indian-Americans than any other administration in the history of this country, and this campaign with Indian Americans at senior levels, which of course includes the top of the heap, our dear friend (Kamala) who will be the first Indian American vice president in the history of USA," Biden said.

COVID SPIKE

'1,000 single-day cases reported in 30 nations'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, August 16: More than 30 countries have reported over 1,000 single-day coronavirus cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). According to the WHO report released Saturday, the countries with a daily caseload between 1,000 and 10,000 are mainly in Latin America, Europe and Asia, reports Xinhua news agency. Peru recorded 9,441 new daily cases and Argentina reported 7,498 cases. Mexico's daily caseload topped 7,000, reaching 7,371, followed by Chile with 2,077, Bolivia with 1,388, the Dominican Republic with 1,354, Venezuela with 1,281, Guatemala with 1,144, Costa Rica with 1,072, Panama with 1,069 and Ecuador with 1,066.

In Europe, Spain reported 5,479 new daily infections, while the number in Russia was 5,061. France recorded 2,667 cases in a day, followed by Ukraine with 1,847 new daily cases, the UK with 1,440, as well as Germany and Romania with the same number of 1,415. In Asia, the Philippines reported 6,134 new daily cases. Iraq recorded 4,013 new cases, while Iran reported 2,501. Bangladesh's daily new cases reached 2,766, followed by Indonesia with 2,307, Kazakhstan with 2,307, Saudi Arabia with 1,383, Japan with 1,360 and Turkey 1,226.

In Africa, South Africa, Morocco and Ethiopia were the only three countries that reported a daily caseload between 1,000 and 10,000, with 6,275, 1,306 and 1,088 daily new cases respectively. Meanwhile among the countries with more than 10,000 daily cases, four topped the list.

India reported 65,002 new daily cases, followed by Brazil with 60,091, the US with 52,799 and Colombia with 11,286.

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India reported 65,002 new daily cases, followed by Brazil with 60,091, the US with 52,799 and Colombia with 11,286.

Israel shuts Gaza fishing zone

Palestinian militants in Gaza fired two rockets into southern Israel after Israeli airstrikes targeted sites belonging to the territory's militant Hamas rulers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, August 16: Israel closed the Gaza Strip's offshore fishing zone Sunday following a night of cross-border fighting with Palestinian militants, the most intense escalation of hostilities in recent months. Palestinian militants in Gaza fired two rockets into southern Israel after Israeli airstrikes targeted sites belonging to the territory's militant Hamas rulers. The military said the Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted the two rockets that militants in Gaza launched at southern Israel.

But police said rocket fallout caused damage to a house in the



town of Sderot, and paramedics treated a 58-year-old man for minor wounds from exploding glass.

The Israeli army said the strikes were a response to explosive balloons launched by Hamas-affiliated group over the border, and attempts by Palestinian protesters to throw explosives at the Israel-Gaza perimeter fence and soldiers stationed along it. Dozens of Palestinians

took part in protests along the perimeter fence.

The military said the protesters "burned tires, hurled explosive devices and grenades towards the security fence and attempted to approach it." The Gaza health ministry said Israeli gunfire at protesters wounded two Palestinians. Israel holds Hamas, the Islamist militant group ruling the Gaza Strip, responsible for all attacks emanating from the Palestinian territory.

Incendiary balloons from the Gaza Strip have caused extensive damage to Israeli fields in recent days. It comes as Hamas, like other Palestinian factions, denounced the United Arab Emirates for agreeing to formal ties with Israel.

USFDA clears simple saliva test

AGENCIES

Houston, August 16: The US health watchdog has authorised the emergency use of a new and expensive saliva based laboratory diagnostic test for COVID-19 that could be a game changer in the diagnosis of the infection as it will enable rapid testing amongst more people easily. Stephen Hahn, the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, said the new saliva test would increase efficiency and avoid shortage of crucial test components like reagents.

"Providing this type of flexibility for processing saliva samples to test for COVID-19 infection is groundbreaking in terms of efficiency and avoiding shortages of crucial test components like reagents," he said in a statement.

business



The GDP of the state of Karnataka is growing sustainably amidst many challenges including COVID-19 and it may touch ₹35 lakh crore in the next five years
CN ASHWATH NARAYAN | DY. CM, KARNATAKA

S'PORE GOVT INCREASES STAKE

The government of Singapore has increased its stake in ICICI Bank as it took up 11.08% stake of the total shares issued in the latest QIP of the bank's shares with an investment of ₹1,662.71 crore. As of the quarter ended June, it had 2.12% stake in the private lender



SHORT TAKES

Gold imports dip 81% in April-July

New Delhi: India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit (CAD), plunged 81.22% to \$2.47 billion (about ₹18,590 crore) during April-July period of 2020-21 due to a significant fall in demand in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, according to data from the Commerce Ministry. Imports of the yellow metal stood at \$13.16 billion (about ₹91,440 crore) in the corresponding period of 2019-20.

FinMin to regulate salary

New Delhi: The finance ministry is working on norms to regulate salary paid to retired central government employees re-appointed on contract and has proposed keeping nomination-based appointments at "bare minimum".

Johnson Hitachi to resume growth

New Delhi: After taking a hit in business this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, air-conditioner maker Johnson Controls-Hitachi Air Conditioning India expects to resume its growth journey from 2021 onwards when situation normalises, a top company official said. The company reported over 70% drop in sales in June quarter. However, it is fully committed to the Indian market and confident over its long-term prospects, the official said.

COVID IMPACT

'Steel demand to fall significantly in FY21'

The global economic growth is expected to see a contraction of over 3% in 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Steel demand is expected to decline significantly in 2020-21 in line with a projected contraction in the global economy due to the impact of coronavirus pandemic, Tata Steel said in its annual report.

Most of the steel producing regions are expected to witness a decline in crude steel output due to production cuts amidst ongoing lockdowns, Tata Steel said.

The global economic growth is expected to see a contraction of over 3% in 2020, Tata Steel Chairman N Chandrasekaran said terming the slump as the "worst contraction" since the 1930s.

A contraction in the global GDP is not at all a good sign for the global steel sector as steel demand is positively correlated with the economic growth.

"Global GDP growth eased to 2.9% in 2019, against an initial growth projection of 3.5%...As we



look ahead, it is important to gauge COVID-19's unprecedented impact on the global economy. It is expected that global growth will contract by over 3% in 2020, the worst contraction since the 1930's," Chandrasekaran said in the Annual Report for 2019-20.

He also said that this is for the first time since the Great Depression, that both advanced and developing economies are in recession together.

The impact of the slowing economy was also felt in the global steel sector. Global crude steel produc-

tion reached 1,870 million tonne (MT) in 2019, registering a more modest growth of 3.4% in 2019 against 4.6% in 2018, he said.

In India also, he said, the growth slowed to 4.2% in FY 2019-20 against an initial growth projection of 7.5% in the beginning of the year. The domestic steel sector registered a stark easing of growth to 1.8% in 2019 compared to 7.7% growth in the previous year. The country was just beginning to show signs of coming out of a protracted slowdown that began in early 2018 when COVID-19 arrived, Chandrasekaran added.

Tata Steel's CEO and MD TV Narendran, and Executive Director and CFO Koushik Chatterjee said FY2020 was undoubtedly a challenging year not just for the company but for most businesses across the globe. Almost all countries faced a slowdown in economic growth amidst rising trade tensions.

COVID-19 triggers once-in-a-century crisis: Birla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Hindalco Industries Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla has said COVID-19 and associated lockdowns have triggered a once-in-a-century crisis for the society and the economy and the country's GDP may contract in 2020-21.

He mentioned that COVID-19 struck India at a time when the underlying economic conditions were subdued on account of heightened global uncertainty and stress in the domestic financial system.

"It is estimated that about 80% of India's GDP originates from districts which were classified under red and orange zones during the lockdown, where economic activity remained severely constrained. Correspondingly, India's GDP is likely to contract in FY21, which would be the first such instance in over four decades," Birla said in a letter to shareholders.

'Tech-enabled healthcare solutions on the rise'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 16: The outbreak of COVID-19 has led to a change in consumer preferences and priorities as the focus now shifts towards the use of technology and contactless healthcare, a report by consultancy services firm Deloitte India said.

Home healthcare has taken prominence as consumer receptiveness towards out-of-hospital, at-home services across the care continuum - consultation, diagnostics, and in-patient care - has shot up, it added. The report, 'Changing consumer preferences towards healthcare services: The impact of COVID-19', said social distancing and a fear-led mindset have resulted in consumers preferring online consultations over in-person interactions. "Consumers are increasingly preferring to have their healthcare needs met remotely or from the comfort and safety of their homes.



They expect their healthcare service providers to prioritise adherence to safety protocols," the report noted. The demand for telemedicine services is expected to continue, driven by an increase in consumer preference for an efficient consultation setting that eliminates commute and waiting time, it added.

Deloitte India Partner Anupama Joshi said the report lists the opportunities and challenges for the healthcare sector in managing the shift in consumer preferences. "We believe this will help organisations in the healthcare ecosystem to create better business strategies and collaborate with startups," she added.

Railway generates 5.5L mandays of work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Indian Railways generated more than 5.5 lakhs mandays of work under Gareeb Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (GKRA) in six states: Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. According to the Ministry of Railways, around 165 railway infrastructure projects are being executed in these six states worth ₹2,988 crore. By August 14, 2020, 11,296 workers have been engaged under the Abhiyan and the payment of ₹1,336.84 crore has been released to the contractors for the implementation of projects.

Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal is monitoring the progress made in these projects and generation of work opportunities for the migrant labourers of these states under this scheme.

Railway has identified numbers of works that are being executed under this scheme. They are related to construction and maintenance of approach roads for level crossings, development & cleaning of silted waterways, trenches and drains along the track, construction and maintenance of approach road to

railway stations, repair and widening of existing railway embankments/cuttings, plantation of trees at extreme boundary of railway land and protection works of existing embankments/cuttings/bridges.

This Abhiyan will last for 125 days. It is being undertaken in a mission mode, and involves focused implementation of 25 categories of works/activities in 116 districts, each with a large concentration of returnee migrant workers in the aforementioned states. Public works being undertaken during this campaign will have a resource envelope of ₹50,000 crore.

As we look ahead, it is important to gauge COVID-19's unprecedented impact on the global economy. It is expected that global growth will contract by over 3% in 2020, the worst contraction since the 1930's



N CHANDRASEKARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA STEEL

MS DHONI RETIRES FROM ALL FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

CLASS ACT



Emotional bond

New Delhi: For someone who has the reputation of keeping his emotions in check, Mahendra Singh Dhoni must have held his tears back when he decided to quit international cricket, felt his wife Sakshi while lauding the legend's phenomenal accomplishments. Sakshi, in a social media post which she shared both on Instagram and Twitter along with a picture of the former India skipper, congratulated Dhoni on his career. "You should be proud of what you have achieved. Congratulations on giving your best to the game. I am proud of your accomplishments and the person you are!" wrote Sakshi. "I am sure you must have held those tears to say goodbye to your passion. Wishing you health, happiness and wonderful things ahead!" she added. Sakshi ended her post with American poet Maya Angelou's quote, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

(Dhoni) has been for India and world cricket... He will finish with no regrets on the field," said Ganguly. "He is leaving the game richer from the time he joined," added Shah.

Dhoni's last international encounter had been a heart-breaking one. He had brought India to the doorsteps of glory, before being run out after getting a very good half century. Incidentally in his debut game for India, the wicketkeeper-batsman had also been run out.

Ever since he went on a sabbatical after that match, speculation raged over his future but he stoically avoided a response for over a year. He kept things close to his heart.

The reticent man from Ranchi will, however, go down as one of the finest to have played the game for India, turning up in a whopping 350 ODIs, 90 Tests and 98 T20 Internationals.



However, Dhoni should not just be considered by mere stats alone. Considered a punter by some and a master strategist by several others, it was Dhoni's captaincy, terrific reading of match situations and the jaw-dropping hand-speed behind stumps that had the cricket world mesmerised.

A leader even after he gave up the official tag of the captain, Dhoni will be remembered as non-conformist, who made risks look like well thought-out strategies.

Whether it was handing the ball to rookie Joginder Sharma in the final over of the 2007 World T20 final or pushing himself ahead of man-in-form Yuvraj Singh in the 2011 50-overs World Cup, Dhoni's instincts rarely failed him.

For the record, India lifted the trophy on both occasions, propelling him to cult status in a country which remains hopelessly in love with all things cricket.

The IPL was also his happy hunting ground where he was the revered 'Thala', leading the CSK. The most significant of those titles came last season when the side made their return to the event after a two-year suspension for its official Gurnath Meiyappan's role in the 2013 spot-fixing scandal.

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 15: Two-time World Cup-winning former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni announced Saturday his retirement from all forms of international cricket. In the process Dhoni ended over one year of suspense regarding his future. The last time Dhoni donned Indian colours was in the 2019 World Cup semifinals against New Zealand. With his retirement an era ended, a tenure during which his often unorthodox leadership and finishing skills made him a 'living legend' of Indian cricket.

The 39-year-old will, however, compete in this year's IPL, which gets underway in the UAE from September 19.

"Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout, from 1929hrs consider me as retired," Dhoni posted on his Instagram handle. The announcement came a day after he joined his Chennai Super Kings (CSK) teammates at the side's home base for a short training camp ahead of the players' departure to the UAE next week.

The BCCI sent out a statement, detailing each one of his historic achievements. It lauded 'a legacy that will be difficult to replicate'. Board president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah paid rich tributes. "It is the end of an era. What a player he

CAREER STATS

Format	M	I	R	H	Avg	100s	50s	SR
Tests	90	144	4,876	224	38.1	6	33	59.1
ODIs	350	297	10,773	183*	50.6	10	73	87.6
T20s	98	85	1,617	56	37.6	0	2	126.1

Truly inspirational for formers, mates



DEADLY STUMPER: MS Dhoni's glove work behind the stumps has become a folklore in Indian cricket

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Any announcement by Mahendra Singh Dhoni evokes a huge amount of emotions. Well then the moment he announced his retirement from international cricket, reactions from all over the world started flowing in. Many stars took to various social media platforms to shower accolades on 'Captain Cool'. Here's what they had to say.

SACHIN TENDULKAR: Your contribution to Indian cricket has been immense, @msdhoni. Winning the 2011 World Cup together has been the best moment of my life. Wishing you and your family all the very best for your 2nd innings.

VIRAT KOHLI: Every cricketer has to end his journey one day, but still when someone you've gotten to know so closely announces that decision, you feel the emotion much more. What you've done for the country will always remain in everyone's heart, but the mutual respect and warmth I've received from you will always stay in mine. The world has seen achievements, I've seen the person. Thanks for everything skip(per). I tip my hat to you.

ROHIT SHARMA: One of the most influential man in the history of Indian cricket. His (Dhoni's) impact in and around cricket was massive. He was a man with vision and a master in knowing how to build a team. Will surely miss him in blue but we have him in yellow. See you on 19th at the toss (IPL opener between CSK and Mumbai Indians)

SOURAV GANGULY: It is the end of an era. What a player he has been for the country and world cricket. His leadership qualities have been something, which will be hard to match, especially in the shorter formats of the game. Every good thing comes to an end and this has been an absolutely brilliant one. He will finish with no regrets on the field.

RAVI SHASTRI: Massive boots to fill. It's been a privilege and honour to be part of the dressing room and seeing you (Dhoni) as a thoroughbred professional at work. Salute one of India's greatest cricketers. Second to none. Enjoy. God Bless.

BEHIND THE WICKETS SHOW		
Tests-90	Caught-256	Stumped-38
ODIs-350	Caught-321	Stumped-123
T20I-98	Caught-57	Stumped-34

VIRENDER SEHWAG: "To have a player like him, 'Mission Impossible'. Na Koi Hai, Na Koi Tha, Na Koi Hoga MS ke jaisa. Players will come & go but there won't be a calmer man like him. Dhoni with his connect with people having aspirations was like a family member to many cricket lovers. Om Finishaya Namah.

GAUTAM GAMBHIR: One record if you talk about, which is going to stay forever is MS Dhoni's three ICC trophies. I don't think so any other captain would ever be able to achieve that. I think, whether it is the T20 World Cup, whether it is ICC Champions Trophy or 2011 World Cup. I think that is something which is going to stay forever.

JASPRIT BUMRAH: You've been a constant source of motivation and encouragement for young players everywhere and you will continue to be, even as you embark on this new journey.

VVS LAXMAN: Seeing Dhoni's journey from a small town boy into a match-winner and one of the most astute leaders the world has seen was remarkable. Thank you for the wonderful memories, Mahi. It was my privilege to play alongside you and I will always cherish the memories we shared together.

SHANE WARNE: A terrific cricketer. You think back to some of the games that he won for India, off his own back. And you think of his captaincy, his leadership, he was a terrific competitor and a wonderful player. He will go down in history as one of the all-time great wicketkeeper-batsmen.

WASIM AKRAM: I saw him when he started his cricketer career, his first tour to Pakistan (in 2006), he became a mega hit because of his long hair, his batting - he got runs on that tour (a maiden test hundred). As a skipper, I always thought he was very calm. He was very good in reading situations.

QUOTABLE MSD QUOTES

We are told that Mumbai is a city which is always on the move. See, me and my boys have brought the entire city to a standstill today. **MS DHONI RETURNING TO MUMBAI AFTER WINNING THE T20 WORLD CUP**

You (media people) change my girlfriends every two days. Please let one continue for some time. **REACTING TO SPECULATION ABOUT HIS LOVE LIFE**

I love to go back to Ranchi. I have three dogs at home. Even after losing or winning a series, they treat me the same way. **BEING UNDER CONSTANT SCRUTINY AS INDIA'S CAPTAIN**

If you are not 100 per cent fit and not at your best (and still play), it's cheating. **DHONI ON HIS FITNESS AFTER DROPPING OUT OF A SERIES AGAINST SRI LANKA IN 2008**

Frankly speaking I don't understand Duckworth-Lewis. I just wait for the umpire's decision. It's too complicated. **ON THE RAIN-AFFECTED RUN-RATE RULE**

What happens inside a meeting, where the selectors, the captain and the coaches are there, when it comes out, it is disgusting and disrespectful. **ON SELECTION NEWS BEING LEAKED TO MEDIA**

The only person who can control Sreesanth is Sreesanth. It is beyond my control and I don't think too much about it. **MAN-MANAGEMENT ACCORDING TO DHONI**

It's like having 100kg put over you. After that even if you put a mountain, it will not make a difference. **DHONI ON PRESSURE AS A CAPTAIN**

Retire No.7 jersey, implores Karthik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Will Mahendra Singh Dhoni's No. 7 jersey follow him into retirement? A demand has certainly been raised and a prominent voice within BCCI agrees with it.

India wicketkeeper batsman Dinesh Karthik became the first to voice the opinion Sunday in his tribute to the former captain, who retired Saturday.

With a photo of him and Dhoni after the World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand last year, Karthik posted: "This is the last photo taken after our semis at the World Cup. Lots of great memories through this journey. I hope the @bcci retire the #7 jersey in white ball cricket."

He added: "Good luck with your second innings in life, I'm sure you'll have a lot of surprises for us there too," said Karthik.

Reacting to it, BCCI apex council member and former India women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy endorsed Karthik's views.

MSD'S TOP 5 ODI KNOCKS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 16: Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the 'cool finisher' that he was inspired India to many awesome victories in one-day internationals. Here's a look back at some of his truly inspirational knocks.

(91 NOT OUT AGAINST SRI LANKA, 2011 WC CUP FINAL): It was indeed a captain's knock with Dhoni promoting him up the order ahead of the in-form Yuvraj Singh. "Dhoni finishes off in style. A magnificent strike into the crowd! India lift the World Cup after 28 years!" These words from Ravi Shastri in the commentary box were an apt description of Dhoni's innings. Dhoni wrapped the up the game with a straight six off pacer Nuwan Kulasekara.

(183 NOT OUT AGAINST SRI LANKA, 2005): The match was completely dominated by the wicket-keepers. However, Dhoni overshadowed Kumar Sangakkara's unbeaten century to help India register a famous win. Sangakkara's 138 not out helped Sri Lanka post an imposing 298/4. However, Dhoni went a step ahead as his



145-ball unbeaten 183 (15x4, 10x6) took India home with almost four overs to spare at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

(148 AGAINST PAKISTAN, 2005): It was the game that heralded the arrival of Dhoni. It was just his fourth ODI, but Dhoni stunned the Pakistan attack with a brilliant innings of 148 (123b, 15x4, 4x6). India scored 356/9 and won the game by 58 runs.

(48 NOT OUT AGAINST AUSTRALIA, 2012): Chasing Australia's 270 at the Adelaide Oval, the Men in Blue needed 13 in the final over. Dhoni till then had just crawled to 33 off 55 balls. However, when the crunch came he finished the off the game with a monumental six and a couple of boundaries in the last over.

(92 NOT OUT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, 2015): With others failing Dhoni played a brilliant knock of 92 with seven boundaries and four sixes. His effort propelled India to 249 for seven. Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Axar Patel took three wickets each as India won the game by 24 runs.

LOOKING BACK



CROWNING MOMENT: Mahendra Singh Dhoni with the T20 World Cup trophy in 2007



TIME TO CHERISH: A day after the 50 overs World Cup final, MS Dhoni poses with the trophy, April 3, 2011



CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS: Dhoni talks with the media after the triumphant Champions Trophy campaign in 2013



THE FAMILY MAN: MS Dhoni with wife Sakshi and daughter Ziva



WHEN IT ALL BEGAN: MS Dhoni after his first ODI century which he scored against Pakistan in 2005

SHORT TAKES

Wrestling camp to begin Sept 1

New Delhi: The national wrestling camps for Tokyo Olympics hopefuls will commence September 1, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) confirmed Sunday. The month-long camp for the male grapplers will be held at SAI Sonapat. The women however, will train at the nodal sports body's Lucknow centre. "The decision to commence the camp has been taken to ensure that those athletes who have already qualified for the Olympics and those who can still qualify for the Olympics, can begin on-field training," the SAI said in a release. Both the camps will conclude September 30. Prominent wrestlers who will take part in the camps are Ravi Kumar, Bajrang Punia, Narsingh Yadav, Deepak Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Pooja Dhanda, Sakshi Malik and Divya Kakran.

Website launched

New Delhi: Indian tennis icon Leander Paes launched Saturday his website on the occasion of India's 74th Independence Day. Paes is the only Indian tennis player to have won a singles Olympic medal as he grabbed a historic bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Games, beating Argentina's Fernando Meligeni in the play-off. The 18-time doubles Grand Slam winner launched the website, www.leanderpaes.in. "My team and I have been so used to meeting face to face. These last five months have been really tough in the lockdown. I have been meeting people during this time but online. And in that I wanted to share something really special I have just designed and launching today the Leander Paes website," Paes said during an Instagram live session, Saturday

Easy victories

Lexington: Jennifer Brady reached the first WTA final of her career by beating 16-year-old Coco Gauff 6-2, 6-4 at the 'Top Seed Open', the first tennis tournament in the US since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Brady, will face Jill Teichmann, a 23-year-old left-hander from Switzerland, in Sunday's title match. Teichmann beat Shelby Rogers 6-3, 6-2. Neither finalist has dropped a set at the hard-court tune-up for the US Open, which starts August 31 in New York. Brady has ceded a total of just 17 games through four matches and was broken only once — by Gauff.

ALL SEASON MAN HANGS UP HIS BAT

Raina retires



Suresh Raina (left) has always remained under the shadow of Mahendra Singh Dhoni during his career. PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Michael Jordan needed a Scottie Pippen, so did Lionel Messi with an Andres Iniesta by his side and Suresh Raina is that glue that admirably stuck around with Mahendra Singh Dhoni in highs, lows, and from Saturday, in retirement. Following in the footsteps of his favourite captain and mentor, Raina announced his retirement from international cricket, Saturday. The 33-year-old is among the few who made centuries across three formats, having played 18 Tests, 226 ODIs and 78 T20 Internationals while scoring 768, 5,615 and 1,605 runs respectively. He also has 36 ODI wickets to his name and 13 each in Tests and T20Is. One will remember that 34 not out against Australia at Ahmedabad during the 2011 World Cup, an innings that was bridesmaid to Yuvraj Singh's all-round heroics. In the semifinal

of the same tournament, the unbeaten 36 was pure gold dust but Sachin Tendulkar's scratchy 85 still remains in our collective conscience. Some things in life are just meant to be and Raina, the quintessential supporting actor, was probably one of them. The 33-year-old left-hander from Ghaziabad, a mean white-ball master in his own rights, probably understood that the train called 'Team India' had left the station and he will not be able to catch it anymore. But he did hold his own in a significant number of matches as his seven hundreds across three formats (only one among three with KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma being the other two) and nearly 8,000 (7,988 runs to be precise) international runs would suggest. Add to it 167 catches and a rough estimate of 1,000 runs saved on the field in the point and cover region, Raina did well while having serious technical limitations, which prevented him from playing more than 18 Test matches.

MS DHONI: AN ENIGMA WHO SURPRISED ALL OPPOSITIONS

DEBI MOHANTY

It's the last over of the inaugural T20 World Cup final between arch-rivals India and Pakistan in 2007. India had to defend only 13-odd runs to take the coveted cup. At the crease was opposition captain Misbah-ul Haq, who had begun to time his strokes well and also with a lot of power. India's new, long-haired skipper, MS Dhoni handed the ball to the till then unknown-Joginder Sharma. The rest is history. Sharma's moment under the sun ended thereafter, he has gone into oblivion since then. However, what continues to seize the minds of countless followers of the game and also the experts is what prompted Dhoni for such a risky decision. No captain would ever take such a risk. Don't forget, it was an India-Pakistan final.



ex-India captain turned BCCI top boss, Saurav Ganguly. Some even say Dhoni was not as aggressive as Ganguly or Virat Kohli. Undoubtedly Ganguly was a superb leader of men, and shaped the team into a solid group. On the other hand, Kohli is still new to the job, as compared to the other two. Ganguly and Kohli have always been more expressive, but a calm Dhoni has brought more success for the team. Dhoni's aggression on the field was expressed in his field placements and bowling changes. Till date, he remains the only captain to have won all three ICC tournaments — the T20 World Cup, the 50 overs World Cup and the Champions Trophy. Under his leadership India also became the No. 1 Test playing nation for a substantial period. Dhoni's temperament and personal conduct are his own hallmarks, unseen, even difficult to think of, in competitive cricketing environment. That's because, he took a win and defeat, equally. His last essay in an international game was in the 2019 World Cup semi-finals against New Zealand. Coming down the order, he scored a fifty, which was a far cry from his own signature knock. As Dhoni was run out and India lost the game, he was dubbed as the 'only villain'.

Why in a team game like cricket, one player should be held responsible for defeat? Dhoni, known for his 'finishing in style' habits, generally required some time at the crease before unleashing his shots. It was always the case with him, including his scintillating captain's innings in the 2011's 50 overs men's World Cup final. Dhoni and his boys scripted history again, 28 years after Kapil's Devils had done the same for the first time for India, at Lords, England in 1983. It still baffles, as to why in an all important game, the team management fiddled with the batting order? Why was Dhoni not allowed the breathing space and sent, even after Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant or Hardik Pandya — all known for their hitting abilities right from the word go? Was it because, the team management had made up its mind about him? Even, many in the media, known for their vested interests, quickly, conducted a post-mortem of the match and were busy writing the obituary on Dhoni's international career. They did not even for once, raise any questions about the top six in the team's batting line up. Dhoni is now getting ready to lead CSK in the IPL. He waited for the opportune moment to hang up his boots. Like a true soldier he did that on the Independence Day. No press conferences, no media briefings. He announced his retirement silently on social media. Once again the wicketkeeper-captain who had flummoxed so many opponents and batsmen, from behind the wicket, has caught his detractors unaware and stumped them. In typical, Mahi style.

FORMER INDIAN OPENER CHAUHAN DIES OF COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Former India opener Chetan Chauhan died Sunday due to COVID-19 related complications after being put on life support for nearly 36 hours, his brother Pushendra Chauhan said. Chauhan, who played 40 Tests for India, was 73. He is survived by his wife and son Vinayak, who is scheduled to arrive from Melbourne later in the day. "My elder brother Shri Chetan Chauhan has left us today after fighting a good battle. I sincerely thank everyone who had prayed for his recovery. His son Vinayak will be reaching anytime and we will then perform last rites," Pushendra told this agency. Chauhan, who was Sunil Gavaskar's longest serving opening partner, was admitted to Sanjay Gandhi PGI in Lucknow July 12 after being found COVID-19 positive. Due to kidney related ailments, his health deteriorated and he was shifted to Medanta hospital in Gurugram. However, he suffered multi-organ failure Friday night and was put on ventilator support. However all efforts of the doctors failed and he breathed his last Sunday. In his 40 Tests, the opener scored 2084 runs with a highest of 97. He scored 16 half centuries, but failed to get a century. Chauhan was serving as the Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, and Civil Security in the Uttar Pradesh cabinet. Virat Kohli was shocked by Chauhan's demise. "Shocked to hear about the passing of Shri Chetan Chauhan ji. May his soul rest in peace. My prayers are with his family," Kohli said. Top BJP leaders including Narendra Modi also expressed their condolences.

INCHING TOWARDS SCHUMACHER'S RECORD

88th career win for Lewis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montmelo, August 16: Lewis Hamilton had no problems with his tyres this time as he coasted to victory Sunday at the Spanish Grand Prix. The win extended his championship lead to 37 points. It was his 88th career victory to move within three of Michael Schumacher's Formula One (F1) record. The talk before the race was whether Mercedes' tyres would be vulnerable in the searing summer heat of Spain, after experiencing problems in the past two races at Silverstone. But there were no such issues as Hamilton finished a sizeable 24 seconds ahead of Max

Verstappen — who has eight podiums in the past nine races stretching back to last season. Valtteri Bottas was third to fall further behind second-place Verstappen in the standings. After narrowly securing Saturday a record-extending 92nd career pole position Hamilton made a strong start on the long straight to the first corner. But Bottas was overtaken by Verstappen and the Racing Point of Lance Stroll — who jumped from fifth to third with a fine move on Bottas' right flank. It was another miserable day for struggling Ferrari, with Sebastian Vettel seventh and Charles Leclerc abandoning the race.

Goa to host ISL 7 matches in 3 venues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: All matches of the seventh edition of Indian Super League (ISL) will be held in three venues in Goa. The tournament is likely to be played in November, amid strict health and safety measures to deal with the COVID-19 threat, the organisers said Sunday. In order to minimise travelling by players and officials amid the pandemic, the ISL organisers had wanted to host the league this time in just one state. Kerala was also in the reckoning to host the ISL but the organisers finally zeroed in on Goa. "Keeping in mind the safety and



- Three venues will play host to all ISL games including the stadium at Fatorda
- Tournament likely to start in November amid strict health measures
- Social distancing protocols to be maintained strictly at all venues

well-being of players, participants, staff members and fans amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) has decided to host the upcoming ISL season across

three stadiums in the state of Goa," the ISL said in a release. "All the matches of the ISL 2020-21 will be hosted by Goa only," it added. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Fatorda, Margao, the Tilak Nagar

Stadium at Vasco da Gama and the GMC Athletic Stadium at Bambolim are the venues slated to host the matches with strict training and social distancing protocols. "I am delighted to bring the ISL Season 7 to the state of Goa, from where we had left the action last season. Congratulations to the beautiful state of Goa and their passionate fans of football as they once again become the epicentre of the beautiful game in India," said FSDL founder and chairperson, Nita Ambani. The announcement of the ISL came just days after the AIFF decided to host all the matches of I-League in Kolkata only in view of the health and safety concerns due to the pandemic.

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