

SERO TESTS IN CITY

About 1,200 samples have been collected by the RMRC in 2nd round of sero tests in 2 days

DOWNTOWN P3



SPIKE IN CHILD LABOUR

Survey finds child labour has increased by a sizeable 105 per cent during lockdown period in West Bengal

TWO STATES P7



KAMALA 'NOT COMPETENT'

Kamala Harris is "not competent" to be president, says US President Donald Trump

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Instead of paying us one lakh to publish your book, pay us two lakh to reject it. It will give you better publicity

Black Panther actor dies of cancer at 43

LOS ANGELES: Actor Chadwick Boseman, popular for his role of the superhero Black Panther, is no more. Boseman, 43, had been battling colon cancer since 2016, according to a statement posted on his official Twitter account. The statement read: "It is with immeasurable grief that we confirm the passing of Chadwick Boseman. Chadwick was diagnosed with stage III colon cancer in 2016 and battled with it these last four years as it progressed to stage IV."

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	33.6°C 34.2°C
TEMP MIN	26.6°C 25.0°C
Humidity	95% 83%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky

NO LOCAL LOCKDOWNS

UNLOCK 4.0: States can't impose any local lockdown outside the containment zones without prior consultation with the Centre

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 29: The Union Home Ministry Saturday issued the Unlock 4.0 guidelines under which the state governments shall not impose any local lockdown outside the containment zones without prior consultation with the Central government.

Metro trains will be allowed to resume services from September 7 in a graded manner, while political, social and religious congregations of up to 100 people will be permitted from September 21.

However, schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutions will remain closed for students till September 30, with some relaxations for students of Classes IX to XII.

The Ministry said that states and Union Territory governments may permit up to 50 per cent of teaching and non-teaching staff to be called to the schools at a time for online teaching or tele-counselling and related work.

Students of classes IX to XII may be permitted to visit their schools in areas outside the containment zones only on a voluntary basis for taking guidance from their teachers.

This will be subject to the written consent of their parents or guardians, according to the guidelines.

Metro rail will be allowed to operate with effect from September 7 in a graded manner; by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA), the Ministry of Railways (MOR), in consultation with the MHA.

In this regard, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be issued by the MOHUA.

Social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious, political functions and other congregations will be permitted with a ceiling of 100 persons, with effect from September 21. However, such limited gatherings can be held with the mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing and provisions for thermal scanning and hand wash or sanitiser, the guidelines read.

WHAT WILL CHANGE

- Students of classes IX to XII permitted to visit their schools in areas outside containment zones
- 50 pc of teaching and non-teaching staff to be called to the schools at a time for online teaching or tele-counselling
- Metro trains allowed to resume services from Sept 7 in a graded manner
- Congregation of 100 people allowed from Sept 21

The Ministry added that there shall be no restriction on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods, and no separate permission/ e-permit will be re-

quired for such movements during Unlock 4.0.

Emphasising on the adherence of national directives for Covid-19 management, the MHA said national directives for Covid-19 management shall continue to be followed throughout the country, with a view to ensure social distancing. "Shops will need to maintain adequate physical distancing among customers. MHA will monitor the effective implementation of National Directives," added the statement.

The Centre also emphasised on the use of Aarogya Setu mobile application and urged people to continue its usage.

For the vulnerable section of the population, the MHA said, "vulnerable persons, i.e., persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities,

AMIT SHAH RECOVERS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recovered and will be discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Saturday, eleven days after being admitted for post-COVID care. "He has recovered and is likely to be discharged in a short time." AIIMS media and protocol division chairperson Dr Aarti Vij said in a statement. August 18, Shah was admitted to the apex institute for post-COVID treatment after he complained of fatigue and bodyache. August 2, he had tweeted after testing positive for coronavirus. He had said that he was fine but was getting admitted to a hospital on the advice of doctors. The Union Minister was discharged from Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon August 14 after testing negative for Covid-19.



pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years, are advised to stay at home, except for essential requirements and health purposes."

NO SHUTDOWN ACROSS THE STATE FOR NEET, JEE

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has lifted shutdown norms in the state in view of the JEE (Main) and NEET examinations, informed Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena. There will be no lockdown or shutdown in the state from August 30 to September 7 for JEE (Main), an order said. The examination will be held from September 1 to 6 in 26 centres across the state. Similarly, curbs have been relaxed from September 12 to 14 for NEET, the order added. The NEET exam will be held September 13. At present bi-weekly shutdown is in force in four districts of Cuttack, Khurda, Ganjam and Gajapati in addition to Rourkela town to stem the spread of Covid-19 cases and flatten the graph.

Rising Mahanadi is brewing danger

IT WORSENS

- Hirakud dam's 44 sluice gates opened
- Parts of Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh and Kendrapara to witness flood-like situation
- Death toll mounts to 16; 8 lakh people affected
- Standing crops in 3 lakh hectares damaged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The water level of swollen Mahanadi river rose menacingly creating flood situation in many parts of the state Saturday following opening of 44 sluice gates of the Hirakud dam.

Forty-four of the 64 sluice gates of the dam, built across the Mahanadi near Sambalpur have been opened by the authorities to discharge excess water from the reservoir. The water level at Hirakud dam rose to 627.17 feet as against the full reservoir level of 630 feet.



Floodwater from Mahanadi inundate Brajabinharipur in Cuttack, Saturday

After heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi in neighbouring Chhattisgarh Thursday, over 8.83 lakh cusec water is now entering the Hirakud reservoir while 7.25 lakh cusecs is being discharged through 44 sluice gates of the dam, Chief Engineer of Water

Resources department, Jyotirmaya Rath said.

Following discharge of huge volume of water from Hirakud dam, 10 to 10.5 lakh cusec of water is likely to flow through Munduli shortly which may trigger a medium level flood in the Mahanadi delta re-

gion, said Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena.

The flood situation in Mahanadi basin turned grim as the water level of the river, regarded as the largest river in the state, rose alarmingly and stood at 26.62 metre at Naraj near Cuttack as against the danger mark of 26.41 metre Saturday morning, the SRC said.

Meanwhile, back water of Mahanadi inundated several low-lying areas of Sambalpur city. Water flowing over a bridge on the Sambalpur-Sonepur State Highway-15, has disrupted communication on the road.

Similarly, the floodwater of Mahanadi submerged low-lying areas in several villages in Banki block in Cuttack district. Road communication between Banki and Kalapathara was affected as floodwater was flowing over a bridge.

The SRC said the Collectors of the affected districts have been asked to assess the extent of damage and send detailed reports at the earliest to facilitate payment of financial assistance to the affected.

JAYANTI HOGS LIMELIGHT



Para athlete Jayanti Behera, Saturday, receives the award from Odisha Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera as she bagged the Biju Patnaik Sports Award for Outstanding performance in sports and game. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik attended the ceremony, which took place on the occasion of National Sports Day, via video conference

Ambani's Reliance secures Biyani's Future with ₹24Kcr

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 29: In a much-awaited move, Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries Ltd's retail subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRVL), Saturday evening announced that it is acquiring Kishore Biyani-founded Future Group's retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses for Rs24,713 crore.

June 11, it was first reported that Reliance Retail is in advanced discussions to acquire these businesses from debt-laden Future Group.

The all cash deal has been carried out on a slump sale basis, said a media statement by RIL. The deal is subject to adjustments as set-out in the composite scheme of arrangement said the release.

As a part of the acquisition Future Group will merge certain companies carrying on the aforesaid businesses into Future Enterprises Limited (FEL).



The retail and wholesale undertaking of Future Group will be transferred to Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited (RRFL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RRVL. The logistics and warehousing undertaking will be transferred to RRVL directly. "As a result of this reorganisation and transaction, Future Group will achieve a holistic solution to the challenges that have been caused by Covid and the macroeconomic environment. This transaction takes into account the interest of all its stakeholders including lenders, shareholders, creditors, suppliers and employees giving continuity to all its businesses", said Kishore Biyani, Group CEO, Future Group.

Asia's 1st lung transplant on Covid patient in Chennai

The 48-yr-old survivor's lungs were severely damaged due to Covid-19-related fibrosis in one and a half month after he was infected by the virus

Lung transplant may well be the answer to many of the Covid survivors whose lungs are healing with fibrosis and making them a chronic respiratory cripple

APART JINDAL | CLINICAL DIRECTOR & CONSULTANT, LUNG TRANSPLANT, INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY & CHEST MEDICINE, MGM HEALTHCARE

AGENCIES

Chennai, August 29: Severely damaged lungs of a 48-year-old coronavirus positive male patient were successfully replaced by doctors at a Chennai hospital who carried out a critical bilateral lung transplant, the private hospital said.

This is Asia's first known lung transplant on a Covid-19 positive patient and the second lung transplant in the hospital since the lockdown began, the statement claimed.

In a statement issued here the hospital said the patient from Delhi was suffering from severe lung infection with Covid-19. His lungs were severely damaged due to Covid-19-related fibrosis in one and a half month after

he was infected by the virus.

According to MGM Healthcare, the patient tested positive for coronavirus July 8, and only a small portion of the lungs was left functional.

As he became breathless and oxygen saturation came down, he was put on ventilator support June 20. His condition continued to worsen in spite of ventilator support. He was airlifted to MGM Healthcare from Ghaziabad July 20.

"His lung condition continued to worsen in spite of maximum ventilatory supportive care, and he was put on ECMO support July 25 for more than one month. Such patients are difficult to manage even in well-equipped ICUs (intensive care units)," MGM Healthcare said.



The doctors decided to go for the transplant, and it was performed August 27. The transplant was led by Dr. KR Balakrishnan, Chairman & Director of Cardiac Sciences and Director of the Heart and Lung

Transplant Programme and his team. "Post the transplant, the patient is doing fine in the transplant ICU," MGM Healthcare said. "As the patient's both transplanted lungs were working well, we removed

the ECMO support. Now his clinical condition is stable," Suresh Rao, Co-Director, Institute of Heart & Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support said.

"Those select patients suffering from Covid pneumonia where all medications and mechanical ventilators fail to show positive results, an early initiation of ECMO support may be a lifesaving modality," said Apart Jindal, Clinical Director & Consultant, Lung Transplant, Interventional Pulmonology & Chest Medicine.

"Over time, progression can determine whether the patient improves spontaneously or may be offered the option of lung transplant," Jindal added.

leisure



The best advice about getting older? Just be thankful you're not dead!

I think you realize how much you need to have people that you love. It's not as much about them loving you - it's about you needing to love people

LIFE & LEGACY

Orissa POST takes a look back at Boseman's powerful life and career playing icons and superheroes

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Ganesh sees a wonderful time ahead for you. Today, you will meet many people who will prove reliable and trustworthy in the future. You aim to think and work perfectly. For that, says Ganesh, you will have to remain your practical and head-on-shoulders self.

TAURUS
There will be a positive surge in your career prospects today. However, this progress may not be in the direction that you expected. Financial opportunities and success will knock at your door, a rare combination of guests.

GEMINI
You may come up with a precise understanding of other days, says Ganesh. You will please your sweetheart with both your presence and presents. You will browse through dozens of showrooms for that perfect, and expensive, gift for your beloved.

CANCER
Today, you and your soul mate will be rolling in the hay; there will be little time or inclination to do anything else. In fact, you will show such single-minded devotion to the act of rolling as if the future of the world lies in the haystack. Your mind can think of nothing more, and nothing less.

LEO
After a long time, it seems as if the stars are aligning to bring something special for you. Call it your field day, but today, everything will go your way, says Ganesh. Expect to get appreciated for your hard work in office.

VIRGO
Don't dilly-dally when it comes to matters of health, says Ganesh. You look lean and mean to take on those old wounds today. But peace and prosperity are the flavours of the day. Ganesh advises you to invest time in fun and entertainment today - just to get those batteries charged.

LIBRA
If ever there was a time when that industrious nature of yours was to listen to your conscience, it is today. Call it a positive day to embark upon new business adventures, particularly for freelancers. It is mighty hard to go wrong when you listen to your inner voice and back it up with zeal.

SCORPIO
Your business associates will emerge as intangible assets for you today, says Ganesh. You will probably start off an innovative joint venture without any doubt or indecision. Hard work and enthusiasm are always a good combination for achieving success. Your skill and business sense will bring you positive feedback from your seniors, feels Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Tempers will fly today, warns Ganesh. Rein in your anger by the leash of control and restraint. But the buck will stop somewhere! When it does, dig your feet in and battle the crunch situation, advises Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in a dilemma on more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Expect the unexpected today! Success, money, love, whatever it is that you'd lost hope of will suddenly come your way! In the evening, you may catch up with reading, research, discussion or other such activity, says Ganesh.

PISCES
A day wherein you will be handling responsibilities on both the home front and at the workplace awaits you, says Ganesh. Expect to be involved in home refurbishing projects, where expenses are likely to soar. Appreciation and gratitude will come your way at the end of a hard day's work.

REST IN POWER, BLACK PANTHER

Chadwick Boseman played one of the 20th century's most famous athletes and greatest singers within a single year, and had given two performances that could not have been more different

POST NEWS NETWORK

The sudden demise of American actor and producer Chadwick Boseman, also known as Black Panther, has left his many followers from all over the world in a deep state of sorrow. The news triggered an outpouring of condolences with his fans taking to social media platform to remember the wonderful artist.

"In my culture, death is not the end. It's more of a stepping-off point" - one of Boseman's dialogue from the *Captain America: Civil War* is being tweeted by many.

Born November 29, 1976, the *Black Panther* actor has portrayed several real-life historical figures, such as Jackie Robinson in *42* (2013), James Brown in *Get on Up* (2014), and Thurgood Marshall in *Marshall* (2017). His most iconic and well known role was superhero Black Panther in the Marvel Cinematic Universe films, including *Black Panther* (2018), *Captain America: Civil War* (2016), *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018), and *Avengers: Endgame* (2019).

Boseman became a household name after appearing as the Marvel superhero Black Panther in 2016's *Captain America: Civil War*, and then in director Ryan Coogler's 2018 film *Black Panther*, which went on to gross over \$1.3 billion worldwide. He followed it up with two more appearances as the character in *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Avengers: Endgame*. His most recent film appearance was in director Spike Lee's

Da 5 Bloods, which released on Netflix earlier this year.

Almost as shocking as the news that Chadwick Boseman died Friday at the age of 43 was the revelation that the actor had spent the last four years battling colon cancer. This timeline means he was diagnosed in 2016 - the year that he debuted as King T'Challa in *Marvel's Captain America: Civil War*. And it means that after his diagnosis, Boseman filmed and appeared in *Marshall*, *Black Panther*, two more *Avengers* movies, *21 Bridges*, Spike Lee's *Da 5 Bloods*, and an upcoming adaptation of Ma Rainey's *Black Bottom*. This output is immense coming from an actor who had only been making major Hollywood films for two years before his big Marvel break - a superstar run that seems all the more miraculous in light of the knowledge that Boseman pulled it off while quietly undergoing many surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy.

Given his stature today, it may be surprising to recall that Boseman didn't land a significant movie role until he was in his mid-30s. A graduate of Howard University and the British American Drama Academy, he mostly appeared in one-off parts on television until he was cast as baseball legend Jackie Robinson in the 2013 biopic *42*. The only other person who had played Robinson in a movie before was Robinson himself, and yet here was a virtual unknown taking on the part with confidence and grace. So much of the film, directed by Brian Helgeland, deals with

Robinson's struggle to control his anger as he's subject to racist abuse by fans and players, and Boseman's performance simmers with heroic restraint.

Chadwick Boseman breathed life into the soul of King T'Challa aka Black Panther, gaining a spot in every Marvel Comic Universe lover's heart. However, he appeared in many other films through the years and went on to win million hearts.

His work as James Brown in *Get on UP* is particularly astonishing; Boseman captures all of the singer's live-wire onstage energy, doing all of his own dancing and some of his singing. Perhaps the biggest achievement is how the performance felt a million miles away from his work as Jackie Robinson in *42*. He played one of the 20th century's most famous athletes and greatest singers in a single year, and had given two performances that couldn't have been more different.

He played the character of T'Challa, the king of the fictional African nation of Wakanda. It's a Marvel superhero movie. The interesting thing about this movie is that it is the first major superhero movie with an African protagonist.

When the real-life superhero made illness invisible
As the world pays tribute to the late actor, here are five of his movies that have released in the last four years while he was undergoing surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy to battle colon cancer

MARSHALL (2017)
Boseman played the role of young civil rights icon Thurgood Marshall, who was the first African-American to serve on the US Supreme Court. The film also features Josh Gad, Kate Hudson, Dan Stevens, Sterling K. Brown, and James Cromwell.

BLACK PANTHER (2018)
He played the character of T'Challa, the king of the fictional African nation of Wakanda. It's a Marvel superhero movie. The interesting thing about this movie is that it is the first major superhero movie with an African protagonist.

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR (2018)
In the movie, *Avengers: Infinity War*, the superheroes including Iron Man, Thor and the Hulk come together to fight against Thanos, who's on a mission to wipe half the population of the universe to bring a balance. Boseman played the role of T'Challa, the king of the African nation of Wakanda. It features Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Don Cheadle, Tom Holland and Boseman, among others.

21 BRIDGES (2019)
In the movie, Boseman is seen in the role of New York police detective, who orders the closing of 21 bridges to nab crooks who have stolen 50 kilos of cocaine and killed eight officers. The movie stars Stephan James, Taylor Kitsch, Sienna Miller, Keith David and JK Simmons.

REACTIONS

MUMBAI FILMDOM
B-Town celebrities took to social media to mourn the demise of Hollywood actor Chadwick Boseman, known worldwide for his role of the superhero Black Panther

SIDHARTH MALHOTRA: Really sad... RIP Chadwick Boseman... Thank you for the amazing movies.
ARJUN KAPOOR: @chadwickboseman u were so graceful & dignified onscreen to know u battled cancer for 4 years quietly and work thru it makes me respect you off it as well...rest well...#WankandaForever
YARUN DHAWAN: RIP Wakanda forever.
ANUPAM KHER: Deeply saddened to know about the sad demise of #BlackPanther actor #ChadwickBoseman at such a young age. My condolences to his family, friends & fans! #WakandaForever #OmShanti."
RITESH DESHMUKH: #ChadwickBosemanForever Thank you for all the wonderful memories that I made & continue to make with my children. You will live on, in our hearts forever #KingTchalla Rest in Peace.
ALI FAZAL: No no no! #chadwickboseman . No god no.. what is happening!!!!



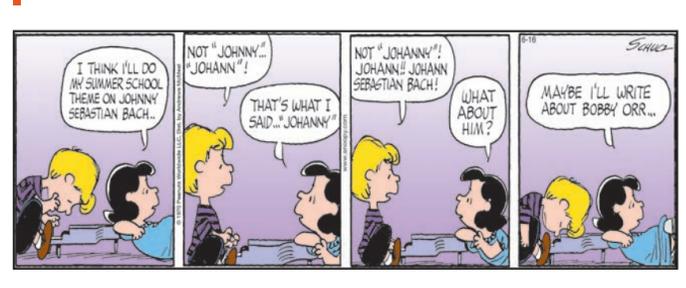
HOLLYWOOD
Boseman's death has come as a shock to colleagues and fans, because the actor had never publicly revealed his battle with colon cancer since 2016

HERE IS HOW SOME OF HIS CO-STARS MOURNED THE LOSS

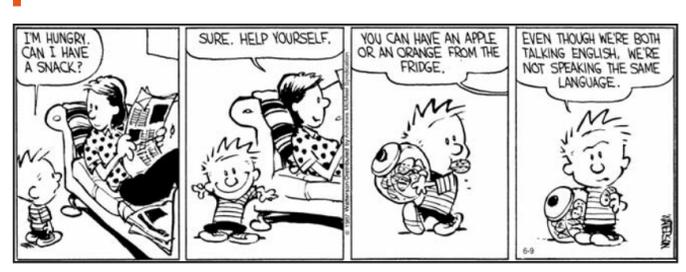
I am absolutely devastated. This is beyond heartbreaking. Chadwick was special. A true original. Rest in power, King
CHRIS EVANS | ACTOR
What a man, and what an immense talent. Brother, you were one of the all time greats and your greatness was only beginning. Lord love ya. Rest in power, King.
MARK RUFFALO | ACTOR
My prayers go out to Chadwick's family and loved ones. The world will miss his tremendous talent. God rest his soul.
CHRIS PRATT | ACTOR

DA 5 BLOODS (2020)
A war drama film, *Da 5 Bloods* tells the story of four Black Vietnam War veterans who return to the country to look for their old friend and a treasure in gold bars. The cast of the film includes Boseman, Delroy Lindo, Jonathan Majors, Clarke Peters and others.

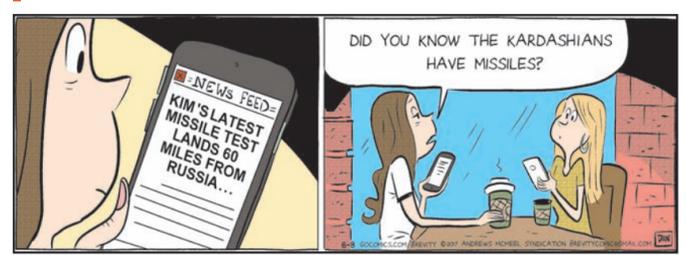
PEANUTS



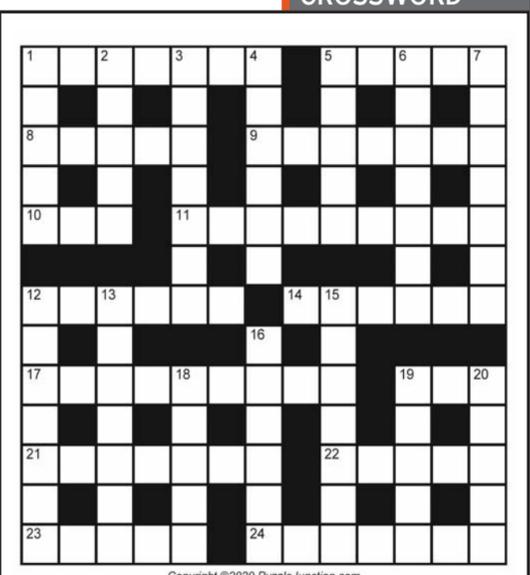
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



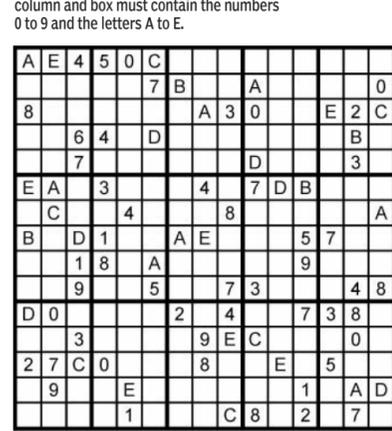
FUN post CROSSWORD



Across
1 Place to get hitched
5 Receded
8 Scimitar
9 Fancy porch
10 German resort
11 Short stories
12 Skirts
14 Ambush
17 Elephant, e.g.
19 French flower

Down
21 Blatant deception
22 Poe's bird
23 Driver's choice
24 Nipper
5 Guessed wrong
6 Port in SW England
7 Visits (5,2)
12 Guanaco relatives
13 Orange grove
15 Looked up to
16 Veto
18 Hanker
19 Carpenter's tool
20 Whale finder

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD
P R A N K B A H A M A S
R L O R U A U
I D O L I S E N U R S E
M H A C I T
A N A Y O K O H A M A
T O O B B R
E M B E R S C A N A P E
S A K C P
C U E S T I C K G A R
C X H N R I
A L I B I G O B L E T S
P E R E S T O I E E
E V E R E S T D O D O S

SUDOKU
3 8 7 0 9 C 2 1 4 B 6 E A 5 D
0 B D 5 1 E 3 9 C A 4 7 2 6 8
1 2 A 8 6 7 E B D O C 5 3 4 9
9 4 5 8 3 A 6 7 8 D 2 1 C E 0
C 6 E 2 D 4 A 5 0 3 9 8 7 1 B
4 D 1 A C 5 8 0 7 2 B 3 E 9 6
5 0 2 9 7 6 D A E C 8 4 1 B 3
A 8 C 6 E 0 1 2 3 5 A 9 D 7 4
E B C 3 4 2 9 6 5 7 1 D 8 0 C
7 3 1 8 D 4 9 6 E 0 5 A 2
D 3 4 6 8 9 3 8 1 7 2 0 C A
6 1 0 7 A B 5 8 2 4 D C 9 3 E
2 A 8 4 0 9 7 C 1 E 3 6 B D 5
B 7 C D 2 3 0 E 6 9 5 A 4 8 1
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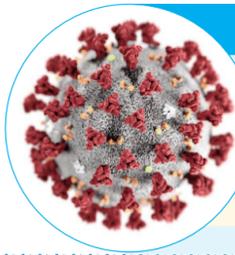
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



REMOVING SQUATTERS

Civic authorities demolish illegal structures near Maharishi College in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,50,05,883	1,73,74,870	8,42,971
India	34,63,972	26,48,998	62,550
Odisha	97,920	70,714	470

NCRB decries shortage of staff in state prisons

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Prisons' statistics for 2019 released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) revealed that vacancy of prison staff under various categories in the jails across the state increased during the year. The NCRB data also indicated a drop in budgetary allocation for the Prisons department in 2019.

As per the report, 2,378 prison staff, including executive, correctional and medical, was available against the sanctioned strength of 2,986 staff. Vacancy in these posts increased from 538 in 2018 to 608 in 2019. The number of jail officials in the previous year was 2,011, which decreased to 1,962 in 2019. A total of 255 staff in officers' cadre was deployed in various jails of the state in 2019 as against the sanctioned strength of 464.

Similarly, the number of correctional staff also declined to 108 in 2019 as against 120 in 2018. The report revealed that almost half of the posts of welfare officers in the prisons across the state have been lying vacant in 2019. There were 31 welfare officers available against the sanctioned strength of 60. At the same



PRISON STATISTICS

As per the NCRB report, 2,378 prison staff, including executive, correctional and medical, was available against the sanctioned strength of 2,986 staff

The report revealed that almost half of the posts of welfare officers in the prisons across the state have been lying vacant in 2019

Worse still the only women's prison in Sambalpur has no healthcare staff

time, the government has failed to fill up the three sanctioned posts of psychiatrists (psychologists) in the state prisons despite the high number of mental illness cases reported among the prison inmates. As per the report, the sanctioned strength was also reduced in 2019. The state prisons also recorded employment of 76 social workers against the sanctioned strength of 101 in 2019.

However, the state government increased the number of medical staff in the state prisons following the regular exposure by the media regarding the crippled medical facilities in the state prisons. The strength of doctors in the various prisons of the state has been in-

creased from 42 in 2018 to 61 in 2019. Still there is an acute shortage of doctors as the sanctioned strength is 94. Worse still the only women's prison in Sambalpur has no healthcare staff.

This apart, the report revealed that the Odisha Prisons Directorate has received fewer amounts under budgetary allocations during the financial year 2019-20 compared to the 2018-19 fiscal. The total sanctioned budget for the state in 2018 was ₹202.4 crore, which declined to ₹199.7 crore in 2019, registering a decrease of 1.3 per cent from the previous year. Meanwhile, the Prisons department managed to spend ₹170.5 crore out of the sanctioned ₹199.7 crore.

Rainfall activity to restart from August 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday said some places of north and coastal areas of the state are likely to witness rainfall activity from August 31.

"There is no rainfall warning for two days. However, few places will continue to receive light to moderate rainfall. Some places in Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts will witness heavy rain from August 31," said Bhubaneswar Met Centre director, HR Biswas.

The Met Centre, in a bulletin, said that thunderstorm with lightning is very likely at one or two places over Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Angul, and Kandhamal districts, September 1.

Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over Gajapati, Malkangiri, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Angul, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts, September 2, it said.



1,200 samples collected in 2nd round Sero tests in city

The findings of the first round showed 1.42% people exposed to virus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: About 1,200 samples were collected by the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) in two days from 25 wards in state capital till Saturday.

While samples from 635 individuals across 15 wards were collected on first day, 648 more people were tested on second day. On the second day, samples were collected from 10 wards in Gadakana, Patra Sahi, Bharatpur Slum, RBI Colony, Bayababa Matha Lane, Trishna Apartment, Paika Nagar, Shatabdi Nagar, Kargil Bast and Dumduma Phase IV.

It may be mentioned here that the RMRC, a regional division of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is

providing technical support in collaboration with the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). The target is to cover 1,500 people through this survey in two days' time.

Furthermore, unlike other three types of tests conducted across the city to ascertain the positive or negative status of an individual vis-à-vis COVID-19, the serological surveillance will provide insights into the community exposure levels. As per the BMC and RMRC, the first round of sero-surveillance revealed that the levels remained very low at 1.42 percent. After the two-day survey the RMC will submit an interim report to BMC.

However, with high number of COVID-19 cases being detected in the city, experts are of the opinion that the second

round is likely to reveal higher levels of exposure to the novel coronavirus.

BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary and RMRC Director Dr Samghamitra Pati, who are leading the exercise, stated that the rise, if any, will be due to resumption of economic activities.

"The community exposure to virus was relatively low in first round in city due to a plethora of enforcement measures taken by the BMC authorities along with the Commissionerate Police. However, large majority of the population is still susceptible to the infection and, hence, all preventive measures of physical distancing, use of masks among others, prescribed by the government needs to be adhered to without complacency," Chaudhary said.

State for extension of date for admission process

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The Odisha government Saturday urged the Ministry of Education, Government of India to extend the time for submission and uploading the Higher secondary mark sheets for UG admissions in Delhi University.

Odisha School and Mass Education

DELHI UNIVERSITY

(SME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash in a letter requested Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal to extend the time for submission of necessary documents by students till September 7 as the Odisha government has decided to declare the Plus II Arts result by September first week.

Notably, August 31 is the last date of Delhi University (DU) for submission/uploading of higher secondary mark sheet for UG admission in order to complete the admission process.

For this, several students from Odisha might fail to take part in the admission process due to the non-pub-

lication of Plus II Arts results.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a delay in publication of results for Arts stream in Odisha.

In the letter Dash assured Pokhriyal to declare the Plus II arts result by September first week so that they can submit their marks and other required documents in order to get admission in DU.

FLOOD FEAR LOOMS LARGE

Senior officials to oversee flood mgmt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The state government Saturday deputed eight senior IAS officers to oversee flood management in the affected districts of the state.

Panchayati Raj Secretary DK Singh has been assigned to oversee the flood management in Cuttack district and Industries Secretary Hemant Sharma will be in charge of Kendrapada district, said an official.

Tourism Secretary Vishal Dev and Revenue Secretary Bishnupada Sethi have been given the charge of Balasore and Bhadrak districts, respectively. Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Secretary Vir Vikram Yadav and MSME Secretary Satyabrata Sahu will oversee the flood situation in Jajpur and Jagatsinghpur districts, respectively. RDC Anil Kumar Samal will oversee the operations in Puri district.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena informed that District Collectors have been asked to conduct an elaborate damage assessment of houses due to floods as per the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) guidelines.

"The government has asked

all Collectors to complete damage assessment of houses at the earliest as per SDRF guidelines/relief code and extend assistance to eligible cases as per norms at the earliest. This applies to all districts which witnessed heavy rainfall and flood," said Jena.

Besides, the District Collectors



Floodwater from Kathajodi river inundates Ghatakula Sahi in Cuttack

have been asked to take up crop damage assessment at the earliest and submit a report for consideration of assistance.

All cases of death due to wall



Mahanadi river in spate at Jobra anicut in Cuttack, Saturday, after the release of floodwater from Hirakud dam

OP PHOTOS



Kathajodi, a major distributary of Mahanadi, flows with full vigour at Debigada ghat in Cuttack

Puri admin on high alert

PURI: State Planning Board Deputy Chairman Sanjay Das Burma Saturday reviewed the preparedness of Puri district administration to meet any possible flood-like situation.

This comes in the wake of the water levels in several rivers in Puri district, including Daya, Bhargavi, Ratnachira, Luna and Makara, rising alarmingly following the release of floodwater into Mahanadi from Hirakud dam, sources said.

Das Burma asked the officials to keep an eye on the unsafe embankments of the above said rivers in Puri district.

It is expected that around five lakh cusec of floodwater from Mahanadi would pass through the



Villagers wading through floodwater at Kanas in Puri district

rivers in Puri district to reach Chilika lake. "The Puri district may witness a medium-scale flood. The administration should make

all arrangement to provide drinking water, essential commodities and healthcare facility to the flood-affected people. Besides, there

should be proper planning to conduct the rescue and relief work," Das Burma said at the meeting.

The Planning Board deputy chief also asked the Revenue department officials to take stock of crop damage if the district witnesses a flood in the coming days.

The district administration has, meanwhile, deployed a unit of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Delang and Kanas and a unit of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) at Brahmagiri to meet any eventuality.

Earlier, Puri Collector Balwant Singh had asked all the Block Development Officers (BDOs), Tehsildars and officers in charge of police stations in the district to maintain high alert for fighting possible floods. "The administration is ready to face any eventuality," Singh said.



Panicked slum dwellers of Khannagar Kali Vihar in Cuttack take shelter on footpaths



Residents of low-lying areas in Khannagar relocated their cattle to safer places



People move across the flood-affected area at Balakati in Khurda

PTI

Pandemic likely to end in state in late Nov: Report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: After a promising start in handling COVID-19, the state's tally of confirmed COVID-19 cases breached the 97,920-mark Saturday and is fast proceeding to cross the one lakh-mark soon.

Saturday, the state announced 3,252 fresh cases. With 14 more patients succumbing to the disease Saturday, the death toll rose to 479.

Latest data released by the Union Health Ministry states that currently Odisha has 29,571 active cases at present, while 67,826 patients have recovered from the disease. In fact, cases have been reported from all the 30 districts of the state. The state government claimed it tested a record 58,813 samples Saturday taking the total samples tested so far to 16,70,910. According to data released by the Union Health Ministry, the state had the second highest testing rate in the country - undertaking 1,265 tests per million, only behind Goa which tested 1,825 people per million, compared to the national average tests, which stood at just 580 per million a week ago.

With the rapid increase in tests over the last two months, the state's positivity rate stood at 5.5 per cent last week down from 9.2 per cent five weeks ago. Even the fatality rate - somewhere around 0.6 per cent - is also among the lowest in the country.

Outbreak of Covid in Odisha

Unfortunately, June, July and August have not been kind to Odisha. Data compiled by the India Outbreak Report reveals that the state had recorded only two cases March 22, just two days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi put the entire nation under lockdown.

COVID-19 FORECAST FOR ODISHA



Odisha had recorded only two cases March 22, just two days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi put the entire nation under lockdown.

The state announced 3,252 fresh cases Saturday with 14 more patients succumbing to the disease, while the death toll rose to 479.

India Outbreak Report forecasts that the state is likely to witness Covid-19 peak around 41,000 active cases between the second and third week of September

Covaxin Phase II human trial in City

BHUBANESWAR: A COVID hospital in the capital city is all set to conduct the Phase II of the human clinical trial of India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine, Covaxin, from next week. The Phase I trial was conducted with 375 volunteers. The vaccination in the city was conducted after the volunteers had undergone a rigorous screening procedure. Covaxin, the vaccine being developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV), was administered to several persons who had volunteered to be part of the trial, Principal Investigator of the trial process Dr E Venkat Rao informed. The ICMR has selected 12 medical institutes of the country for conducting trials.

down in order to curb the spread of the deadly infection as well as flatten the curve. The lockdown seemed to be effective in Odisha with the state recording only 154 total cases and 98 active cases by May 1 - the

time when the lockdown was lifted. However, by June 1, the state witnessed a jump in the number of daily cases from 10 per day (as of May 1) to 100 per day. With this, the total cases went up to 2,039 and active cases stood at 785.

The disturbing trend continued all through June. On July 1, the state's COVID-19 cases stood at 7,251, while active cases stood at 1,865. The state was recording around 250 cases per day.

The infection spread at an accelerating through July and by August 1, the Odisha's COVID-19 tally had escalated to 33,414. As on August 1, the state witnessed 11,915 active cases, while around 1,500 people were infected every day.

When will the pandemic end

During August, the daily number of cases has doubled in the state, and India Outbreak Report estimates that Odisha can most likely expect to arrive at its COVID-19 peak of around 41,000 active cases sometime between the second and third week of September. During this period the recovery rate is expected to outstrip the COVID-19 growth rate in Odisha. In fact, the report forecasts that Odisha is likely to see the end of the pandemic during the third or fourth week of November.



Amid the weekend shutdown, passengers wait for the arrival of trains at Bhubaneswar railway station Saturday, without following the Covid-19 norms like social distancing and wearing of masks

Regular Covid surveillance led to decline in dengue: DMET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 29: Regular and sustained surveillance for Covid-19 pandemic has led to a decline of dengue fever in the state, a report said.

This has become possible due to increased awareness on infections and people becoming conscious about their health has also led to a decline in the disease, Dr CBK Mohanty, Director Medical Education and Training (DMET), told Orissa POST, Saturday. The government is also simultaneously conducting surveys for dengue, tuberculosis and other diseases which have contributed to the decline in the disease, the DMET said.

Sources said that dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus.

The viruses are passed on to humans through the bites of an infective female Aedes aegypti mosquito. The disease is mainly treated by its symptoms while platelets and other emergency method of treatments are required for critical patient.

Every year 7,000 new patients are reported from the state out of which 31 per cent are women. The death toll due to dengue fever is very negligible in the state. This year, so far the number of recorded patients in the state has remained limited within 100. Among them, Rayagada district has the highest

number of dengue patients. However, in past, Odisha used to be in seventh position in number of dengue patients.

He said, people have realised that allowing water to remain stagnant around the house will give birth to dengue larvae for which they are keeping their surroundings clean. This apart, availability of free examination and treatment facilities in 40 government health centres in 30 districts has also contributed to the decline in the disease. The concern among people in keeping their surroundings clean has also put a check in spread of the disease. This apart, dengue infection has also reduced due to use of mosquito nets.

4 arrested in City on charges of looting woman bank officer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Khandagiri Police Friday arrested four persons for looting a female relationship officer of Bandhan Bank.

The accused, identified as Sahajahan Khan (45), Sk Sahid (21), Jalauddin Khan (21) and Prasanta Bhoi (28), will be produced before a court Saturday. Police have recovered one MT15 bike, one country made pistol, and ₹70,000 cash from their possession.

The arrests came following a complaint registered by the victim, a resident of Barmunda village under Khandagiri police limits in Khurda district, August 5.

The female officer had stated that she was returning home in her scooter after collecting money from different customers worth ₹94,000 along with some important documents 11:50 p.m., August 5.

Meanwhile, the robbers stopped the officer in the middle of the road taking the advantage of night and looted the sum at gun-point.

Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and launched an investigation. Police authorities also recovered the necessary documents and some portion of loot money from the four culprits.

The cops said that the culprits would move in their bikes in different parts of the city and mostly target females. The police have said that the accused are involved in many similar cases in Bailanta, Balipatna and Dhauli.

Central University of Odisha

Foundation stone for 2 permanent bldgs laid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Foundation stone for two permanent buildings of the Central University of Odisha Saturday was laid Saturday. The event took place through a virtual mode on the 12th Foundation Day of the university which was done in a virtual mode.

Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', who was present in the virtual event, claimed that the institution has become one of the prominent universities in India within a few years.

The minister appreciated the launching of the 'Bharosa' programme, which was used by the students to overcome the trauma of the COVID pandemic.

The Union minister also applauded the university authorities for conducting the Home Based Open Book examination for their students successfully. Urging the central university to focus more on research and development, the minister claimed that such results could not be attained through the new education policy.

Vice Chancellor of the University I Ramabrahman inaugurated the Foundation Day programme and highlighted the achievements of the university.

IIT BHUB COMMENCES NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar (IIT, Bhub), commenced classes for the new academic year August 17, 2020 for its on-roll students and August 27, 2020 for the post-graduate students.

With rising cases of COVID in the country, the institute has begun all its classes via live streaming of classes without the physical presence of students in the campus. Sources said that the present semester has started on time, with only a delay of three weeks compared to the normal or non-pandemic situation.

"We are now left with the only challenge of commencing the classes for 2020-21 batch of B.Tech students. Now that JEE Mains and JEE (Advanced) examinations are scheduled, we will be able to admit students and commence their classes after a couple of months and save the academic year of the B.Tech freshers," said Prof RV Raja Kumar, Director, IIT-Bhub. Speaking on online education, Kumar said that the pandemic forced us to start the new academic year through on-line mode. Meanwhile, giving details on resumption of physical classes, the director stated the students will be brought to the campus through an SOP as soon as the situation improves.

DMs to ensure special care of senior citizens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The state Department of Social Securities and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) has asked all district Collectors to take special care of the senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The department issued the order to the Collectors after the Union Home Ministry asked all states to ensure the welfare of the elderly during the pandemic. The Ministry of Social Justice has also asked the states to take care of the elderly during these testing times.

The SSEPD department, as per the instructions of the Home

EFFECT OF PANDEMIC



Ministry, has apprised the Collectors about the special measures that need to be taken during the pandemic. The department has also issued the ministry's norms for compliance across the state.

"Elderly persons, especially aged women and elderly people with disabilities, should be protected from violence, abuse, neglect and social isolation through community-level interventions assisted through field agencies of the state government," the directive said.

The Collectors have been asked to identify the pockets inhabited by senior citizens and collect basic demographic data on the elderly and their families, including information regarding their health condition, at the community level for necessary assessment.

The district administrations have been asked to act promptly against complaints of harassment or de-

ception and other crimes against senior citizens, besides facilitating legal aid for them.

The state government has asked also the Home Ministry to create more awareness in the state about the dedicated helpline meant for the elderly for redress of their grievances.

"As it is not advisable for senior citizens to go out, their access to essential goods and services, medicines and healthcare facilities etc. may also be paid special attention," the norms said.

The district administrations have also been asked by the SSEPD department to create awareness on the do's and don'ts during the pandemic.

WORLD KITCHEN GARDEN DAY

Rediscovering life with greens amid Covid pandemic

CHAITALI SHOME, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to major changes in people's lifestyle. It has compelled everyone to ration their supplies and, interestingly, drawing them towards nature for immunity and relief from the toxic environment.

The World Kitchen Garden Day August 30 will be celebrated by the Kitchen Garden Association in the city with a special webinar on the topic 'Usefulness and management of kitchen garden'. Orissa POST interacted with few kitchen gardeners in the city who have inspired many others to rediscover themselves with nature.

Keeny Mahapatra, a successful kitchen gardener and a specialist in growing micro greens, has also developed quintessential kitchen compost that is both unique and made from vegetable and fruit peels and flowers.

"During this pandemic what truly refreshes my mind, body and soul is my kitchen garden where I have planted brinjal, cabbage, ba-

nana, moringa plants and more. Recently, I have started growing micro greens from such as mustard, coriander and fenugreek. They have high nutrition value and definitely increase immunity to fight dreaded diseases like COVID-19," Keeny says.

Sarat Kumar Tripathy is another noted city kitchen gardener, who passed from OUAT Bhubaneswar in 1980. He has served in various state government departments, including



Growing greens on rooftop.



Horticulture, Soil Conservation and Agriculture and is presently a consultant to ICRISAT Odisha - a crop research institute. Tripathy said, "I am interested in terrace gardening and have been growing vegetables on my rooftop. During the COVID-related lockdown I produced organic vegetables for my family." Presently, he is cultivating

FRUITS OF LABOUR

Mahapatra, a successful kitchen gardener and a specialist in growing micro greens, has also developed quintessential kitchen compost that is both unique and made from vegetable and fruit peels and flowers

Tripathy is interested in terrace gardening and have been growing vegetables on his rooftop. During the COVID-related lockdown he produced organic vegetables for his family

Sahoo, a sub-inspector in RPF feels gardening keeps one young, energetic and makes him/her healthy while improving the immune system as one spends the morning in the amazing company of plants every morning

crops like red amaranth, palak, okra, ridge gourd, cucumber, bottle gourd, brinjal and chilli in his kitchen garden."

Amiya Prasad Sahoo is another plant lover who lives at Sailashree Vihar and is currently serving as a sub-inspector in the Railway Protection Force (RPF). A native of Kalan village of Jajpur district, his passion for rooftop gardening has made him well-known in the area. He took to gardening and vegetable

cultivation under the guidance of his father since 1992-93.

"During the pandemic, we got enough time for gardening and opted for kitchen gardening. In fact, gardening keeps one young, energetic and makes him/her healthy while improving the immune system as you spend the morning in the amazing company of plants every morning. I am sure time has come when people are going to rediscover life with greens," says Sahoo. In 2014, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation honoured Sahoo with the "Nagarbandhu Samman" for making city clean and green.

Surya Prasad Jaysingh is RPF head constable working with Railways and living the life of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kissan'. "Although my profession makes me handle a gun, at heart I am a farmer. In my backyard I am cultivating vegetables, flowers and herbs. My family is very happy with my cultivation and my neighbours take ideas from me on how to develop a healthy kitchen garden. My earnings from organic farming help me to make extra money while keeping me fit and healthy. It also improves my immune system."

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Malnutrition among kids on rise in Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 29: The government implements the integrated child development scheme (ICDS) through Anganwadi centres to tackle malnutrition among children and women. Despite this scheme, malnutrition cases have not been tackled in tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district, a report said.

Lack of awareness among people about dietary provision has been blamed for the increase in the number of cases of malnutrition among kids and expectant and lactating mothers.

The report said that such cases, particularly among children, are being found in remote and inaccessible pockets of the district where development has taken a backseat. Experts and social activists have cast doubts over effective execution of the ICDS.

Official data revealed by the nutrition rehabilitation centre (NRC) at the district headquarters hospital in Baripada shows that malnutrition is yet to be tackled in the district. The NRC has been functioning under National Health Mission at the DHH since 2009 to treat malnourished kids free of cost. The transport fare of the malnourished kids is provided to the guardians.

The report said that 219 kids were found malnourished and were treated at the centre in 2014-15 while the centre has treated 172 malnourished kids in 2015-16.

205 malnourished kids were admitted to the NRC for treatment in 2016-17 while 166 were treated in 2018-19 and 155 in 2019-20.

In the last four months of the current year, 17 malnourished children



ICDS GOES HAYWIRE
A report said, 219 malnourished kids were treated at the NRC in 2014-15; 172 malnourished kids in 2015-16; 205 malnourished kids were admitted to the NRC in 2016-17; 166 were treated in 2018-19 and 155 in 2019-20. A case in point is the one-and-a-half-year old son of Karmi Murmu, a resident of Saria under Betanoti block. The child is malnourished and stunted.

Nutrition consultant Sonali Sahu said that Angawadi workers visit houses to detect malnourished children and send them to the nutrition rehabilitation centre

dren were admitted and treated at the NRC. In August, four kids had come to the centre for treatment.

It is seen that children under the age of five years are affected by micronutrient deficiencies. Most malnourished cases were found to be underweight. A case in point is a one-and-a-half-year old son of Karmi Murmu, a resident of Saria under Betanoti block. The child is said to be malnourished and is affected by stunted growth. The condition of the second child is also the same. Their mother is also affected by malnutrition.

Besides, children of Sebatu Majhi (Kuliana village) and Phulamani Tudu (Rasagobindapur) are malnourished.

In is observed that many children in the areas around Smilipal are found malnourished while ef-

ports of the administration to curb such cases have allegedly failed.

Experts said, timely and complementary feeding needs to be given to infants aged 6-8 months to tackle such cases, but parents in rural pockets are not aware of it.

Nutrition consultant Sonali Sahu said that Angawadi workers visit houses to detect malnourished children and sent them to the NRC for treatment.

She pointed out that since most of the people whose kids are malnourished are daily wagers, they overlook the care of kids and are unwilling to take them to the NRC. Now, Covid restrictions have become a problem for them. Some conscious citizens say that malnutrition cases are on the rise for lack of public awareness in remote and rural pockets.

Jajpur: Roads breached at 29 places

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 29: The Brahmani and Baitarani rivers including their distributaries are in spate causing severe surge of floodwaters in Jajpur district. The damage has been so bad that the floodwaters have created 29 road breaches here during past 24 hours, district official sources informed.

Most of the parts in Jajpur district have been submerged and road connectivity completely snapped. Out of 29 road breaches in the district, Bari block has 10, Rasulpur block has seven, Sadar block has five, Sukinda block has one, Binjharpur and Dasarathpur blocks have three road breaches each, official sources added.

On the other hand, Jajpur denizens have ascribed the reason behind road breaches to alleged low quality of construction work at several of those affected places. Loss of life and property in the dis-

trict was caused due to this negligence, they fumed.

Notably, three-month-old baby Lakshmi, the daughter of Amar Majhi of Beherapatna village of Panasa panchayat under Sadar block had died recently which relates to flood, owing to house walls caving in. Earlier, a double-storied building had collapsed near Brahmani River dike at Kandiasahi of Bandhadiha panchayat under Rasulpur block, following occurrence of a 150ft-wide road breach.

It is known that, nearly 4,37,014 persons and 2,86,327 livestock of about 530 villages of 124 panchayats under 10 blocks have been badly affected due to surging flood in Jajpur district.

FIRE FIGHTERS GIVE FRESH LEASE OF LIFE TO NEWBORN

Even as nature unleashed its fury on people by way of unprecedented floods in various parts of Odisha, service of fire



fighters has saved people trapped in floodwaters.

Several incidents have come to light wherein fire fighters have saved the lives of people and livestock across the state.

Most notably, fire fighters by their quick and timely response have saved a newborn along with five others who were marooned in floodwaters Friday afternoon in Bari area of Jajpur district.

For this heroic work of fire fighters, Chief Minister took to his official Twitter account to praise the fire personnel.

He expressed his gratitude and

commended the fire personnel of Bari Fire Station, Jajpur for the swift response to rescue marooned families including a newborn.

Sources said, even though the announcement on the impending flood was made through a public address system by the district administration, not all people responded to the warning properly.

As a result, two families were stuck in their house logged by the flood water following a breach in the embankment of the Brahmani river near Kacheri under Bari block, Friday. The locals informed the nearby fire station in Bari. On being informed, the personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the families including the newborn.

As per the latest information, all six people including the baby are safe and have been provided dry ration by the district administration. Locals praised the efforts of the fire personnel.



MARONED: A man going to a safe place on a raft in a flood-hit area of Balasore

OP PHOTO

BODY RECOVERED FROM BRAHMANI

BHUBAN: A day after a youth was swept away by surging floodwater, his body was recovered from Brahmani river Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Vishal Gochhayat, son of Hrudananda Gochhayat, a resident of Bhuban NAC in Dhenkanal district.

According to sources, Vishal along with his friends had gone to a place near Buddheswar temple Friday to witness the floods in Brahmani river.

It was when he was watching the floodwaters that Vishal accidentally slipped and fell into the river.

Since the current was strong, he got swept away, leaving little scope for anyone to even make an attempt to rescue him. Local people Saturday found his body floating in water. On being informed, fire personnel reached the spot and fished out the body. In another case reported from Bhadrak, a youth who was swept away in floodwater was fortunately rescued by fire personnel Friday night. He was identified as Pratap Barik of Dohrapatna area.

Mahanadi embankment caves in near Gayalbanka

BANKI: After an embankment on the river Mahanadi caved in near Gayalbanka area under Damapada block of Banki in Cuttack district Saturday, people here are in a state of panic.

Floodwater has already entered villages and farmlands in Bhagipur panchayat near the embankment, locals said.

Sources said, a breach measuring around five-ft-wide was ini-

tially formed on the embankment which later widened to around 60-ft causing heavy flooding in the area. The embankment near Gayalbanka caved in for the second time after 1982 flood.

Following the mishap, road communication between Banki and Bhubaneswar has also been disrupted. Besides, vehicular movement on many parts of Banki were disrupted as roads were sub-

merged with floodwater.

Sources said, Kainmundi, Sukhuakhela and Bilipada village in Banki have been waterlogged.

Besides, movements on Banki Baideswar route have been disrupted due to flooding in the area.

Notably, the Mahanadi river in Banki area is flowing at a height of 8.1 metres as against the danger mark of 7.8 metres as of Saturday morning.

Missing man's body fished out

DHAMNAGAR: In an unexpected turn of event Friday, a man who had been swept away by surging floodwaters and was missing since then was traced at a spot near his village, a source said. The man has been identified as Hemant Kumar Jena of Dakshina Korua village of Khadiyapada panchayat under Dhamnagar block of Bhadrak district.

His body was found Saturday morning by a team of fire brigade

personnel from near his village. The body was identified by family members, official sources informed. According to reports, Hemant was swept away by surging floodwaters in his village. Later, an ODRAF team frantically searched for him, but failed to trace him.

However, Dhamnagar police found the body near Dakshina Korua village. The police sent the body for postmortem.



An NDRF team rescuing a pregnant woman in a marooned area of Bhandaripokhari block in Bhadrak

Abhay reviews anti-Naxal ops in Malkangiri, Koraput



POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput/Malkangiri, August 29: DGP Abhay along with senior officers of Odisha Police visited Malkangiri and Koraput districts and reviewed the left wing extremism (LWE) scenario and anti-

Naxal operations in the districts. During their one-day visit, they had an interaction with senior officers of the district police and central armed police forces (CAPFs) on various topics including the district police's anti-cannabis operation and developmental activities

in the districts.

He specially met COVID warriors from among the police and gave them a pat on their back. He also issued appreciation certificates to those COVID warriors who have joined their duties immediately after their recovery from the disease.

Notably, Superintendent of Police Rishikesh Khilari had Monday informed the journalists at a press conference that during a joint operation by Malkangiri DVF and BSF 76th battalion in the Kalimela forests, the security forces had seized 12 bore empty cartridge case with caps, two 12 bore live ammunition, 93 detonators, 2 gas cylinders, 1 lathe machine, 1 carbide gas welding cylinder, lathe machine accessories, iron scrap materials and Maoists literature from a Maoists' hideout in the Kalimela forest.

213 jail inmates test +ve in Rayagada district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, August 29: As many as 213 jail inmates and five jail staff tested positive for Covid-19 in Rayagada district Friday.

Out of 495 positive cases detected in Rayagada district Friday, 152 were inmates of the Rayagada sub jail, 61 were inmates of Gunupur sub jail and five were staff of Rayagada sub jail, officials sources said.

Both the jails' premises have been declared as Covid Care Homes as per the Covid-19 protocol laid down by the state government. Doctors have been assigned to both



the jails for treating prisoners afflicted with Covid-19.

Rayagada District Collector Pramod Kumar Behera, Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M, project director DRDA Amrit Raturaj, Rayagada District Judge Chitta Ranjan Dash among others have visited

Rayagada Sub-Jail Friday to take stock of the situation.

"All 213 Covid-19 infected jail inmates are asymptomatic and they have been segregated. As per protocol, we have declared the jails as Covid Care Homes," informed the Collector.

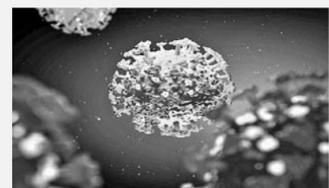
Kandhamal: Doctor's Covid fear kills newborn

KANDHAMAL: A woman lost her newborn girl and was struggling in the hospital bed Friday as the doctor in the hospital refused to treat her because she hailed from a Covid-19 containment zone.

The incident took place at Padanketa area in Daringbadi in Kandhamal district. The pregnant woman, identified as Jasmine Pradhan, was rushed to Daringbadi hospital by family members as she complained of labour pain Friday night.

After reaching the hospital, the family members called the doctor on duty to attend to Jasmine. However, the doctor did not turn up fearing Covid-19 infection, alleged her family.

Without getting any medical assistance from doctors, Jasmine delivered a baby girl who died after her birth.



Jasmine's mother Bhagyalata Mallick alleged, "The doctor asked to conduct Covid-19 test of my daughter as we are from a containment zone. Even after we produced the test reports, the doctor did not turn up to treat her. My daughter delivered a baby girl. However, baby died within 10-15 minutes of her birth due to lack of medical treatment."

Neither the doctor nor the district health department has given any statement regarding the matter, sources added.

Wife beaten to death by alcoholic man

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 29: A woman was beaten to death by her husband under the influence of alcohol over a domestic dispute at Rangiatikra village under Sadar police limits in this district, late Friday night. The de-

ceased was identified as Rajkumari, wife of Pagnu in the village. The deceased is survived by three children who have become helpless with the death of their mother and their father going to jail. Police registered a case in this connection and arrested the killer husband.

The accused will soon be produced in court, police said.

SP Kanwar Vishal Singh visited the crime scene and took stock of the situation. A forensic team collected the blood samples and other evidence from the spot. Police said it was routine

for the accused to come home drunk and pick up fights with his wife on trivial issues. The deceased was staying with her parents for last one year due to regular bickering. She had recently come home for Nuakhai but fell prey to domestic violence.

Tourism boost for Sarisua hill

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, August 29: The district administration chalked out plans to give Sarisua hill under Khaira tehsil limits in Balasore a facelift soon.

It is going to be a tourist hotspot in the state, Tourism and Culture minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi said Friday evening. A team comprising senior architects and engineers of the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) led by the minister visited Sarisua hill Friday afternoon. The team including Balasore forest department officials surveyed available infrastructure at Bandhanata waterfall of Kapilajhuri in the vicinity of the scenic hill.

A blueprint has been prepared for the purpose, official sources informed. Balasore additional collector Sambit Nayak, divisional forest officer (DFO) Biswaraj Panda,



Khaira tehsildar Pradip Kumar Sahoo, block vice chairman Jayant Kumar Rout including local people's representatives accompanied the technical team.

On being contacted, the minister said, "I have always given priority to development of Simulia Assembly constituency segment. After being developed and beautified, the waterfall at Sarisua hill will become a tourist hotspot in the district and state as well."

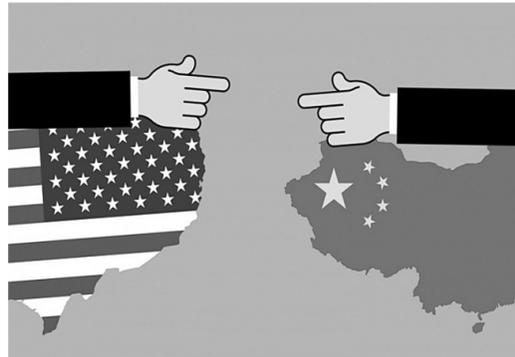
It may be noted here that there was rampant illegal stone mining in the Sarisua hill area, which has raised concern of environ-

mentalists. Some had strongly opposed such illegal stone mining that was gradually stripping of its greenery. Taking serious note of it, the Kolkata bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had imposed a stay order on stone mining in the Sarisua hill in 2019. While locals are relieved, the tribunal's order has set alarm bells ringing for the stone mafia.

As per the NGT fiat, the administration had imposed prohibitory orders on 21 stone mines under CrPc Section 144. The district administration is poised to be tough on mining mafias and keep it aloof from their evil eyes.

FOCUS DIPLOMACY

4 PATHS OF US-CHINA TIES



Suppose, for the sake of scenario planning, that a new Chinese leader was negotiating with either Biden or Trump. Under Biden, one could at least expect the US to engage in professional diplomacy. But if a political upset in China were to coincide with another Trump term, all bets would be off

precedented domestic strain. To secure the political stability needed for economic growth, Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader who launched "reform and opening" in the late twentieth century, took pains to establish norms of collective leadership and institutionalised succession. But because Xi has systematically dismantled these norms, the CPC now faces a situation in which any political outcome is possible: Xi could enjoy lifetime tenure, be forced to hand over power in 2022, or be toppled by a sudden coup. The absence of periodic elections should not be taken to mean that Chinese politics is inherently more stable than that of the US or other democracies.

Suppose, for the sake of scenario planning, that a new Chinese leader was negotiating with either Biden or Trump. Under Biden, one could at least expect the US to engage in professional diplomacy. But if a political upset in China were to coincide with another Trump term, all bets would be off.

As the old joke goes, prediction is difficult, especially when it is about the future. No one can say with certainty what will happen in the coming months and years, because the possible outcomes are constantly being changed by current actions and shocks like pandemics and record floods. Even the most carefully laid plans can be scuttled by unexpected developments. But what decision-makers can and should do is consider different scenarios based on current features and trends.

To pin all of one's hopes on an outcome that seems most likely or desirable is to risk succumbing to dangerous complacency. When it comes to the critical issue of US-China relations, the wise approach is to look ahead and imagine all possibilities, however unthinkable they may seem now.

The writer, a professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is the author of How China Escaped the Poverty Trap and China's Gilded Age.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

There is no bilateral diplomatic relationship more consequential than the one between the United States and China, which affects not only the two countries but all of humanity. And now, the future of this relationship hinges on who will lead each country in the years ahead.

In the US, the next presidential election is barely two months away, and – barring complications – either the Republican incumbent, Donald Trump, or his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, will be sworn in on January 20, 2021. In China's case, however, almost everyone assumes that President Xi Jinping will hold the reins of power indefinitely. But while a change in the top Chinese leadership seems improbable, it is not impossible. As such, we should really be considering the possibility of four separate scenarios in Sino-American relations.

First, suppose that Biden wins and China remains under Xi's leadership for the long term. In a commentary for Foreign Affairs earlier this year, Biden promised that his main foreign-policy priority as president would be to restore America's global leadership and democratic alliances. He wants to invest in infrastructure, education, and research and development. With a Biden administration, one could expect less drama and inflammatory rhetoric toward China.

But tough action against Chinese industrial and foreign policies would no doubt remain on the table. Once America's commitment to defending a liberal global order was restored, Chinese leaders would restrain their bid for international leadership. If Biden's agenda were realised, the US would be more secure, and thus less paranoid about China's rise.

In the second scenario, Trump pulls off another surprise victory, with profound implications for US-China relations. Whereas Trump's upset victory in 2016 was widely regarded as a fluke, a second win would have to be taken as a de facto endorsement of his dem-

agogic nationalism and xenophobia. In a deeply divided and insecure country, opposing China might become the one issue that members on both sides of the partisan divide could embrace. With eight years of Trump in office, the damage inflicted on America's global standing would be long-lasting, if not permanent.

True, an optimist might argue that after winning re-election, Trump would soften his stance and focus on doing business with China rather than stoking enmity. But if the past four years have shown us anything, it is that Trump plays only to his base, which responds to emotional appeals, not rational analysis and deliberation. Most likely, winning a second term would embolden the Trump administration to take China-bashing to the extreme.

This scenario would be dreadful for China, but something of a gift for Xi politically. The more the US vilified China, the more that Chinese citizens – even those who resent Xi's dictatorial con-

trol – would rally behind him. And within the Communist Party of China (CPC), anyone who dared to criticize Xi would be accused of abetting foreign aggressors, and thus effectively silenced.

Still, a change in China's top leadership cannot be ruled out. Yes, with China having successfully contained COVID-19 while the US continues to flounder, Xi appears to have won. And since he has already done away with constitutional term limits, he could remain China's supreme leader for life.

Yet beneath this façade of invincibility, Xi should feel just as insecure as Trump does in the wake of the pandemic. Despite the certainty of punishment, some senior CPC members have recently spoken up against him, and on key economic issues, his and the premier's positions are in open contradiction, an abnormality in Chinese politics. On foreign policy, in particular, Xi's increasingly aggressive approach has made more enemies for China at a time of un-

ONCE AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO DEFENDING A LIBERAL GLOBAL ORDER WAS RESTORED, CHINESE LEADERS WOULD RESTRAIN THEIR BID FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP



Yuen Yuen Ang

Illogical Unlock

From September 1 we will have Unlock 4.0. I have lost track of what this means and I do not think anybody really understands it. What the Indian government has done is try and manage the spread of Covid through keeping things shut. If India forces people to stay away from one another by denying them access to services, it will stop or slow the spread of the infection.

This has produced rules that, as I said, I do not really understand. For instance, airlines have been running since May, and have been flying for more than three months now. Flights are allowed to be flown full, with the middle seat occupied. However Indian Railways is shut and has been shut since the lockdown began. From running 17,000 trains daily, it today runs only 230 special ones. What is the logic of not having trains run when planes are allowed to run full? Air passengers cannot maintain the 6 foot separation on their seats so it seems illogical to let people fly but not travel by train.

The benefit of stopping the spread of Covid is uncertain but the damage to the economy is visible. Reports from Surat last month said production of textiles was less than 25 per cent of normal and the big reason was the lack of labour.

More than 30 lakh people had left Surat and its surrounding industrial zones in April and May, according to a report in the Hindu Frontline magazine published on July 31. There is almost no way for these people to return to their jobs even if they wanted to now come back. There are reports that mill owners and other businesses have begun flying labourers back. But why not just open the Railways? This has not been explained to us.

Delhi's Metro will reportedly open this week with 50 per cent capacity (again note the difference with airlines) while Mumbai's local trains, the city's life-line and its artery, have stayed shut. I saw a very moving note from journalists to the chief minister asking those who were not accredited with the government to be allowed to use the trains because it was too expensive for them to take taxis everywhere.

Schools and colleges will remain shut but exams will continue to be held. Again this makes no sense to me. If we are asking all schools and colleges to do online classes, why are we then asking students to gather in masses to take their exams?

We are told cinema halls will have to remain shut as it won't be feasible to run shows with only 25 per cent capacity due to physical distancing norms. But a movie is about as long as a flight and the seats are equidistant in both. What is the thinking behind the decision to disallow movie halls, a very large sector of the entertainment industry and its employment, from opening?

It all seems slightly eccentric to me, and I suspect that some of this is touched with the moralism that we see in the prime minister. For instance, restaurants were allowed to open but not bars. Why? There is no standard format in a restaurant's seating, as we know. And the same is true for bars. The only reason seems to be that the government in some way looks down on those who drink.

In Unlock 4.0 bars will be allowed to serve liquor over the counter but not inside. Meaning the bar will be turned into a liquor store and the employment that its waiters and cooks and other staff would have otherwise got is not available even today, in September, more than five full months after the lockdown began.

Some of the confusion has then come from the Centre versus State differences. Apparently the opening of gyms is allowed by the Centre but the states are not letting them do so.

In other nations, the lockdowns have been mostly voluntary. In India it has been like a curfew. Even today, Mumbai police can confiscate your vehicle if you cannot show a "good reason" for being out. What is a "good reason" is left for the police to determine of course.

We have one nation one tax, but we do not have free movement of people. Those going from one state to another must fill out some application and ask for permission which may or may not be given.

As I said at the beginning, India has tried to slow or stop the spread of Covid through denial of services. Has it worked? I don't think so. India is the only large nation along with Argentina whose numbers have continuously and without a break risen from March. The only way of stopping the spread of Covid is good individual behaviour at the mass level. But we have Union ministers in meetings wearing their masks on their chin instead of covering their mouth and nose. How can such people communicate good behaviour to the public? They cannot. And so we have the endless tweaking of rules, all leading to failure as is visible in the numbers, with bureaucrats being kept busy making funny and illogical rules for 1.0 and 2.0 and 3.0 and now 4.0.



Aakar Patel

In other nations, the lockdowns have been mostly voluntary. In India it has been like a curfew

WISDOM CORNER

- In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit. ANNE FRANK
- Those who have knowledge, don't predict. Those who predict, don't have knowledge. LAO TZU
- Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative. OSCAR WILDE

WORDSWORTH

There's the rub

The phrase is Shakespeare's. It comes from Hamlet's famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy: To die – to sleep. To sleep – perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub! For in that sleep of death what dreams may come When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, Must give us pause. By rub, Hamlet means a difficulty, obstacle or objection – in this case to his committing suicide. The origin is the ancient game of bowls. A rub is some fault in the surface of the green that stops a bowl or diverts it from its intended direction. The term is recorded first a few years before Shakespeare's time and is still in use. It appears, too, in golf, in the expression rub of the green, which refers to an accident that stops a ball in play – hitting an obstacle or a bystander perhaps – and for which no relief is allowed under the rules. It later became a broader term for an abstract impediment or hindrance. The Oxford English Dictionary has its first example from Thomas Nashe's The First Part of Pasquill's Apology of 1590: "Some small rubs, as I hear, have been cast in my way to hinder my coming forth, but they shall not profit." Rub of the green is also used figuratively, but in the sense of something that's just bad luck and can't be helped; an example is in James Elroy's Clandestine: "I'm a deputy district attorney, for the city of Los Angeles. We have the same employer. I would rather be a deputy public defender, but that's the rub of the green, as Dad would say."

LOL

Life after death

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, Sir," the new recruit replied.



"Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on.

"After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

An act of human failure & not 'God's'

Consumption shock from the pandemic is severe and the world economy devastated. Like the World Bank, the Reserve Bank of India too is less hopeful of coming out of contraction and even with higher government spending recovery may be delayed. The Indian collapse is, however, pre-Covid and started August last year. Since December 2019 finances have been in a tizzy with cuts in departmental allocations.

Shivaji Sarkar

THE RE-IMPOSITION OF PARTIAL AND LOCALISED LOCKDOWNS IS REGRESSIVE AS IT IS PROLONGING GROWTH CONTRACTION

Worse, the GST concept itself is floundering in terms of collections and denying the States their due share. It is an act of human failure and not 'God's'. Nobody can deny a State its dues and in the overall count it boils down to about ₹2.35 lakh crore, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Even the tranche, to be paid in December 2019, was paid only this April. Asking States to borrow after usurping their share is harsh and they will have to borrow ₹92,000 crore plus service interest burdens. Thus adds to the inflation that the cess on GST has added.

In addition to this, the RBI annual report 2019-20 indicates negative growth this fiscal. It is critical of stricter sporadic localised lockdowns disrupting economic activities. Fall in its income leads to

bonus payment of ₹57.128 crore to Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, and Telangana have delayed salary payments. The private sector too has either cut up to 70 per cent of wages or sacked lakhs of workers.

The RBI report is concerned about firming up of inflation caused by disruption of supplies. It says that heightened volatility in financial markets could also have a bearing on inflation and may affect households. It proposes that the monetary policy keep a constant vigil on price movements as official data says the retail inflation touched 6.93 per cent in July.

India is having to go through difficult situations and is likely to take time to regain pre-COVID-19 levels despite a small recovery in May and June, warns the report. The re-imposition of partial and localised lockdowns is regressive as it is prolonging growth contraction as investments remain anemic and dents consumer confidence. However, the RBI expects government's rural-focused employment schemes to provide a fillip to rural incomes. In short, the rural sector is supposed to give a push to growth as wages contract.

The State governments squeezed by COVID-19 and delayed release of GST payments have put on hold payment of employees' salaries. A number of States, including

Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, and Telangana have delayed salary payments. The private sector too has either cut up to 70 per cent of wages or sacked lakhs of workers.

Insofar as farmers are concerned, they are not getting the prices for their produce, markets are agog. Wheat is being sold at around ₹1600-1700 a quintal against the MSP of ₹1725 and they are getting half the price of last year for corn and millet. The RBI contention that despite contracting wages and falling grain prices mere government job schemes can raise rural incomes lacks clarity.

All these are impacting demand, the consequence of which is being noticed in production fall as the IIP numbers recently demonstrated. The contraction is up to 20 per cent or more in GDP in the first quarter of 2020-21 due to lockdown. Says the RBI: "Private consumption has lost its discretionary elements across the board, particularly transport services, hospitality, recreation and cultural activities." And warns the situation is unprecedented as it sees an overall thaw – 'retrenchment in activity'.

Moreover, the recovery, it notes, will happen when non-discretionary

spending leads the way till a durable increase in disposable incomes enables discretionary spending like vacations, and entertainment. In short, it is waiting for people to have larger disposable income or spare money with them.

The bank's survey for July indicated that consumer confidence has fallen to an all-time low, with a majority of respondents reporting pessimism about the economic situation.

Besides, it is not buoyant about urban consumption either. It has suffered a bigger blow with drop in vehicle and consumer durable sales. However, the rural sector is doing marginally better.

Having said that private consumption is not boosting demand, the report wants the government to increase consumption. It may be a good suggestion but is fraught with many risks as government income is hit. If it increases borrowing, taxes would rise further and so would inflation, thus making it a double-edged sword.

The RBI needs to rethink about monetisation of assets in steel, coal, power, railways and privatisation of ports. These would not boost demand, a prerequisite for the turnover in economy. Finally, mini-lockdowns have to end for fast recovery. INFPA

Conundrum of online education

Sir, Due to the extraordinary situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, offline education imparted by teachers has been seriously affected. It has taken a backstage. As all educational institutions are closed, there is a demand for online education. It is the need of the hour. But, in a state like ours, where per capita income is low, purchasing smartphones for their wards is not easy on the part of all parents. The poor are the hardest hit by the economic impact of the pandemic. Online education may be popular in economically advanced countries but, in our country, it will further increase the gap between the haves and have-nots. Online education also has numerous health hazards. It may lead to unethical use of digital technology if not properly monitored and checked by parents and teachers. Online education is good but shouldn't be made mandatory. It is an aid to study but not a panacea.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Dissent in Grand Old Party

Sir, The famous 'letter writers' Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Shashi Tharoor, Mukul Wasnik, Anand Sharma and Veerappa Moily, among others, 'shocked' the nation by asking Congress president Sonia Gandhi to put an end to indecisive leadership in the party. It is pertinent to note that Sonia loyalists are the old guard like Mallikarjun Kharge and Ambika Soni. Most young and middle aged leaders seem to be drifting away. The 'letter writers', it is felt, were piqued by the scion Rahul Gandhi calling the shots from behind without leading from the front. So, it is naive to assume that the 'letter writers' are against Sonia. As things stand today, Sonia due to her illness isn't able to galvanise the party; Rahul remains a reluctant leader. If the dissenters desire a non-Gandhi face as Congress president, then they themselves know it is hard to come by. Even if a name is accepted, that is going to be a stop-gap arrangement till Rahul is pushed to take up the post. The tone and tenor of the 'letter' could not have irked the Congress high command as much as who wrote it. They would bear no ill-will against the party that has given them name and fame. But what they have stated is an emphatic resonance of the general mood. The party cadres are tied to the Gandhi apron strings because of fear: fear of being kicked out of the party, and a fear of the party disintegrating without a Gandhi at the top. If a non-Gandhi face allays their fear then so be it.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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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Bengal sees child labour spike during lockdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 29: The lockdown has impacted one and all and a survey has found that child labour among school going children has increased by a sizeable 105 per cent during the period in West Bengal.

The number of child labourers among girls in the state exceeded those among the boys. While among the girls the number increased by 113 per cent, among the boys the increase was 94.7 per cent, said the survey.

The survey was jointly conducted by the West Bengal Right to Education Forum (RTE Forum) and Campaign against Child Labour (CACL) and published Saturday.

As per the rapid assessment conducted among 2,154 children and their families across 19 districts of the state, the number of child labour among the school going children belonging to the 6-18 years age group has gone up by 105 per cent during the lockdown period.

"Though the percentage of child labour among school going children has decreased for those in the



GLARING DIGITAL DIVIDE

DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD, ONLY 29 PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN WHO WERE ATTENDING SCHOOLS COULD ACCESS ONLINE EDUCATION SUPPORT

AROUND 49.5 PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN SURVEYED DO NOT HAVE ANY OPTION TO ACCESS ONLINE EDUCATION FACILITIES.

ABOUT 33 PER CENT OF THE CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SMARTPHONES OR COMPUTERS AT HOME

6-10 years age group, it has increased both in 10-14 years and 14-18 years age groups," the study revealed.

Also reported during the lockdown were about 42 incidents of child marriages.

During the lockdown period, which started March 25, only 29 per cent of the children who were attending schools (pre-primary to Class XII) could access online education support.

The percentage having access to online education was found to be the

lowest among the students from the junior classes. It is 21.5 per cent among the students of pre-primary and primary level. The highest in this respect was from among the students of senior classes. The figure was 53.2 per cent among students belonging to higher secondary level, the study said.

It was found that 54 per cent children using online means to continue their education during the period used WhatsApp to attend classes.

"Around 49.5 per cent of the children surveyed do not have any option to access online education facilities. And 33 per cent of the children do not have access to smartphones or computers at home," it said.

Out of the 2154 children surveyed in the 19 districts of West Bengal, 173 were disabled, the report stated.

"Around 37.5 per cent of school going disabled children are accessing digital or online education support," the survey said.

Meghalaya witnesses sharp rise in MMR, IMR amid pandemic

At least 61 pregnant women and 877 newborns have died in the state in the last four months



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, August 29: At least 61 pregnant women and 877 newborns have died in Meghalaya in the last four months starting from April for want of admission to hospitals and also due to lack of medical attention because of diversion of the health machinery to fight COVID-19 pandemic, a senior health department official said.

The fatalities from April to July this year were due to diseases other than the novel coronavirus.

Newborn deaths were due to lack of medical attention, care, pneumonia and birth asphyxia, Director of Health Services Aman War said. "It is a matter of concern that the infant and maternal mortality rate has risen sharply as the entire state health machinery is diverted to fight the COVID-19 pandemic," War told reporters Friday.

He said most of the women died because they were not admitted to hospitals or health centres for institutional delivery.

The state has an infant mortality rate of 34 deaths per 1000 live births and pneumonia is the major cause of deaths of babies at birth

even as birth asphyxia is another cause, War said.

He said the health department has told hospitals and health centres that they should not refuse admission to patients including pregnant women even if they come from COVID-19 containment zones.

War urged all pregnant women to register with the nearest health centre to enable the department

to do contact tracing of their well being and to allow health workers to reach out to them in case they need help and to prevent possible mishaps at childbirths.

The health services director said during the period a total of 10 persons had died due to COVID-19. "More people have died due

to other disease and not COVID-19. At least 877 newborns have died at birth and 61 women during childbirth during the period from April to July this year," War said.

There are 12 big hospitals in the state capital, including six privately owned. The state has a total of 28 community health centres and 139 public health centres. Besides, there is a government-run civil hospital in each of the 11 district headquarters.

It is a matter of concern that the infant and maternal mortality rate has risen sharply as the entire state health machinery is diverted to fight the COVID-19 pandemic

AMAN WAR | DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

Assam serial banned for 'promoting love jihad'

Right-wing groups have been protesting against the serial for weeks, alleging it belittled Hindu and Assamese culture



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 29: A television serial was banned here following protests by right-wing groups, alleging that it promoted 'love jihad' and denigrated Hindu and the Assamese culture, officials said Saturday.

The TV serial, 'Begum Jaan', was banned for two months on the recommendations of the Kamrup (Metro) district-level monitoring committee, Guwahati Police Commissioner Munna Prasad Gupta told PTL.

A prohibitory order was issued under the Cable Television Network (Regulations) Act, 1995 to suspend the telecast of the serial, he said. Noting that several complaints were received against the serial aired by a private entertainment channel, Gupta said those were deliberated upon by the 10-member committee.

Based on the recommendations of the committee, which apprehended that there may be a breach of peace and tranquillity, the prohibitory order was issued August 24, he said.

At the end of two months, the TV channel can appeal for a review of the order and the committee will

make a fresh recommendation, the officer said.

Groups such as Hindu Jagran Manch and Hindu Janajagruiti Samiti have been protesting against the serial for the last few weeks, alleging that it promoted 'love jihad' and belittled the Hindu and Assamese culture. Social media campaigns against the serial were also on.

Speaking to reporters, the lead actor of the serial Preety Kongkna said, "There is no communal angle in the serial. In fact, it depicts humanity above faith."

She said the allegations of promoting "love jihad" are a figment of some peoples imagination. "The serial is about a Hindu woman being caught in a difficult situation and is helped by a Muslim man. However, a rumour was spread that her character Janmoni eloped with the Muslim man," she said.

The private channel started broadcasting the serial in July.

Kongkna alleged that she was trolled and bullied on social media and even received rape threats, following which she lodged a complaint with the police.

Police said they are looking into these allegations.

FAMILY TIME



A family walks at the Brigade Parade Ground during Unlock 3.0 in Kolkata, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

Why NIA is grilling this Trinamool leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhargram, August 29: Trinamool Congress leader and former convenor of Maoist-backed PCAPA, Chhatradhar Mahato was Saturday grilled for the second consecutive day by National Investigation Agency (NIA) in two 11-year-old cases of train hijack and murder of a CPI(M) leader, sources said.

He was grilled by NIA officials for three hours in the CRPF camp at Salboni in West Midnapore, where he had arrived at 9 am. Mahato later said he was questioned in connection with the October 2009 hijacking of New Delhi-bound Rajdhani Express from Bhubaneswar for five hours at Jhargram station.

"I am fully cooperating with the investigators but I think they (BJP) have dug up an 11-year old case and I am being harassed for my association with a political party (Trinamool Congress)," Mahato told reporters after the interrogation Saturday.

Mahato said he has moved the Calcutta High Court and informed Trinamool Congress leadership about the developments. His lawyer Kaushik Sinha said, "We have questions about the legal justification to interrogate Mahato in connection with an 11-year-old case."

Mahato, who was inducted into the TMC state committee in July and given leadership role in the tribal Jangalmahal region, was questioned for hours by a team of NIA officers at the Salboni

camp Friday too. Mahato, 57, was a prominent leader of the Lalgarh movement

that was spearheaded by People's Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCAPA) and backed by Maoists in



camp Friday too. Mahato, 57, was a prominent leader of the Lalgarh movement

that was spearheaded by People's Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCAPA) and backed by Maoists in

the late 2000s. He is one of the accused in the killing of a CPI(M) leader in Jangalmahal area.

Mahato was arrested September 26, 2009, from present-day Jhargram district for an alleged attempt on the life of former chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee in Kantapahari area of West Midnapore district November 2, 2008.

He was set free in February this year following a reduction of his life term to 10 years by Calcutta High Court for his good conduct. He has been named in several cases related to alleged Maoist activities with charges levelled under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA.

'Sunny Leone' finds place in merit list of 3 Bengal colleges

STUDENTS' UNION SEEKS PROBE INTO THE INCIDENT, WHILE COLLEGE AUTHORITIES REMAIN TIGHT-LIPPED ON THE GOOF-UP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 29: Actor Sunny Leone's name appeared on the college merit list in West Bengal for the third day Saturday and the authorities of the institute have lodged a complaint with the police against mischief makers.

The actor's name featured in the third place in the list for English honours in Barasat Government College Saturday. Her name was preceded by that of US pornstar Dani Daniels and webcam model from Lebanon, Mia Khalifa. The names were accompanied with ap-

plication and form numbers. A college official said an FIR has been lodged at Barasat police station against mischief makers.

The college students union run by Trinamool Chhatra Parishad filed a separate FIR at the police station alleging that vested interests are at work to malign the educa-

tional institution.

Friday the name of Leone, a Canada-born actor, had appeared in the 151st position in the list of 157 candidates selected for BA (Honours) in English at Budge Budge College in South 24 Parganas district.

This was preceded by her name topping the merit list again for English Honours at Asutosh College in the city Thursday.

Asutosh College filed a complaint with the cyber cell at Lalbazar, the headquarters of Kolkata Police, and also ordered an internal probe, a college official said.

The students' union of Budge Budge College demanded a probe into the incident, while college authorities remained tight-lipped on the goof-up. The West Bengal government had earlier announced that admission to undergraduate courses will be completely online this year and no processing fee will be charged due to the hardship caused by the pandemic situation. Leone, in a light-hearted remark, tweeted, "See you all in college next semester!!! Hope you're in my class."

Rail route for 3 more NE states by 2023

NEW RAILWAY LINES WERE BEING LAID IN MANIPUR, MIZORAM AND NAGALAND

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati/Agartala, August 29: Six of the eight north-eastern state capitals will come on the Indian railway map by March 2023, top railway officials said.

The North-east Frontier Railways (NFR), which has already connected Assam's main city Guwahati (adjoining capital Dispur), Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh's capital cities, is laying tracks to connect the capital cities of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland by March 2023.

The first train in the north-east region chugged out from the industrial city of Dibrugarh in eastern Assam 138 years ago. NFR's General Manager Sanjive Roy said new railway lines were laid to extend the railway lines in three more capital cities of northeast India - Imphal (Manipur), Aizawl (Mizoram) and Kohima (Nagaland) - excluding Meghalaya's Shillong and Sikkim's Gangtok.

"The work to lay the broad gauge railway line has been progressing well in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. There are some land-related and other environmental prob-



REGION'S RAIL INFRA

The first train in the north-east region chugged out from the industrial city of Dibrugarh in eastern Assam 138 years ago

The NFR has already connected Assam's main city Guwahati, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh's capital cities

lems in Sikkim and Meghalaya, causing the delay in extending the railway networks in the two hilly states," Roy told IANS.

The NFR, one among the 17 railway zones in India, operates fully and partially in six of the eight

northeastern states, excluding Meghalaya and Sikkim, and in seven districts of West Bengal and five districts of north Bihar.

The NFR General Manager said the government had sanctioned electrification of railway lines

in the region and tender-related work was being undertaken for the purpose. He said, "The works for the 12.23 km Agartala (Tripura)-Akhaura (Bangladesh) new railway lines are underway and it would be completed by March next year."

The Agartala-Akhaura railway line would facilitate ferrying of goods to and from both the countries and greatly benefit India's landlocked north-eastern states. The journey time between Agartala and Kolkata via Bangladesh would be reduced by a third, from 1,613 km through mountainous terrain to only 514 km.

Linking with the existing Agartala railway station, of the 12.23 km India-Bangladesh new railway line, 5.46 km railway tracks were laid in India (on the outskirts of the capital city Agartala) and 6.57 km railway line laid on the Bangladesh side.

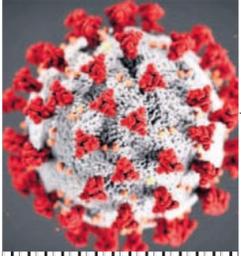
The Rs 972-crore project was finalised in January 2010 when Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina met the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during her visit to New Delhi.



India will play a leading role in the future global political framework in terms of economy and Disaster Risk Management
NITYANAND RAI | MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME

RECOVERIES GO PAST 26 LAKH

India's COVID-19 recoveries have crossed 26 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 76.47 per cent, which the Centre said has been made possible due to the strategic policy of testing aggressively, tracking comprehensively and treating efficiently in supervised home-isolation, facility-isolation and hospitals



of the day quote

Language and culture lay the foundation for the development of the society
M. VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

The Ram Jambhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute at Ayodhya was the most fiercely-contested cases in India's legal history in which every point was hotly debated and passionately argued by the lawyers
RANJAN GOGOI | FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

We will announce our first decision Monday about how we are going to conduct examinations of students in final year of graduation and post-graduation courses. Students' safety is paramount and decisions would be taken without compromising on safety
UDAY SAMANT | MAHARASHTRA HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Tusker kills woman

Jalpaiguri (WB): A 65-year-old woman was allegedly killed by a tusker in West Bengal's Kalimpong district Saturday, a forest officer said. The incident took place when Gangadevi Bastola, a resident of Washabari tea estate in Jalpaiguri district, took her cattle for grazing in a nearby area adjoining Chel forest of Kalimpong district, he said. Suddenly an elephant came out of the forest, lifted the woman with its trunk and slammed her on the ground, the officer said, adding she died while being taken to a hospital.

Probe ordered

Ramgarh (Jharkhand): Two people, who could not give their swab samples due to a long queue at a hospital here, "tested positive" for COVID-19, while a BJP functionary was administered treatment for coronavirus at a government health facility for 10 days, only to discover that he had tested negative, a senior official said. The two bizarre incidents have prompted the authorities to order separate probes, said Neelum Chaudhary, civil surgeon, Ramgarh, describing the issue as something "very serious". The BJP functionary was admitted to a COVID care centre almost 10 days before the reports of his swab sample came out, the official said.

Three killed

Bhandara: Three persons were killed and as many others were critically injured Saturday in collision between a motorcycle and a car in Bhandara district of Maharashtra, police said. Prima facie, the driver of the speeding car lost his control over the vehicle while trying to avoid a pothole on the national highway between Lakhni and Bhandara around 11:30 am, police inspector Gajanan Kankale said.

Naik recovering

Panaji: Union AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik, who is undergoing treatment for COVID-19, is recovering steadily with "stable vitals and good respiratory efforts", a senior Goa health official said Saturday. Naik was admitted to a private hospital near here on August 12 after he tested positive for the infection. "Naik is having a steady recovery with stable vitals and good respiratory efforts. The RT-PCR test conducted on him on August 28 came out positive, detecting COVID-19 virus in his body," the health department official said.

BSF detects tunnel along Indo-Pak border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jammu, August 29: The Border Security Force (BSF) has detected a tunnel, originating from Pakistan, just beneath the Indo-Pak international border fence in Jammu, officials said Saturday.

The force has launched a major search operation in the area to look for other such hidden structures that aid infiltration even as it analyses the about 3-4 feet wide structure that could be used for pushing terrorists and smuggling of narcotics and arms, they said.

BSF Director General Rakesh Asthana has directed his frontier commanders to ensure that the anti-infiltration grid is intact and there are no gaps along this front, they added. The tunnel, about 50 metres from the border fence on the Indian side, was located by a BSF patrol on Thursday in the Galar area of Samba sector in Jammu.

The force found that 8-10 plastic sandbags stuffed in the tunnel's mouth had "Pakistani markings" on them, officials said. A senior official said BSF troops got suspicious after noticing the sinking of earth at some places in a farmer's field due to recent incessant rains.

An earth moving machine was immediately pressed into service to completely unearth the tunnel that is about 170 metres from the IB on

EVIL DESIGNS



A senior official said BSF troops got suspicious after noticing the sinking of earth at some places in a farmer's field due to recent incessant rains

The force has launched a major search operation in the area to look for other such hidden structures that aid infiltration

the Indian side, the official said. Spot inspection revealed that the tunnel was under-construction and about 20 feet-long, officials said.

The tunnel, as per sources, has a depth of about 25 feet at the opening and has been located near the 'whaleback' border post of the BSF. BSF Inspector General (Jammu) N S Jamwal also visited the spot to oversee the operation, they said.

The green-coloured plastic bags have markings of 'Karachi and Shakargarh' factories on them and

the bags have a manufacturing and expiry date embossed that indicate they have been manufactured recently, officials said. The nearest Pakistani border post 'Gulzar' is about 700 meters from the tunnel, they said.

The BSF pointed at the "deep connivance" of Pakistan in aiding infiltration along this front. "With this detection, alert BSF troops foiled the nefarious design of Pakistan to infiltrate terrorists into Indian Territory. The tunnel's origin is in

Pakistan territory close to IB."

"Efforts of alert BSF troops deployed in our multi-tiered counter-infiltration grid once again resulted in neutralising the evil designs of terrorists in deep connivance with Pak establishments," the Jammu frontier of the force said in a statement. There have been "regular inputs about the presence of terrorists in Pak border villages desperately looking for infiltration into Indian Territory but vigilant BSF troops foiled desperate attempts of anti-national elements to infiltrate and carry out terrorist actions in India," it said.

"Seeing the long tunnel, I can say that the Pakistan establishment surely has a hand and has knowledge of it." The date mentioned on the sandbags suggests that the tunnel has been freshly dug. We are investigating it further," Jamwal said.

The force has been conducting a mega 'anti-tunnel drive' in the IB areas of Jammu and other places after five armed infiltrators were recently killed by it along this front in Punjab. The entire BSF formation deployed across the 3,300 km International Border that runs along Jammu, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat is on extra alert as there are multiple intelligence inputs of terrorists trying to breach the IB and infiltrate into India, officials said.

SUPERLATIVE QUALITY

Special care for 35K extra troops in Ladakh



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 29: As standoff with China remains unresolved, the Indian Army gears up for formidable logistical challenges posed by harsh climate at heights exceeding 12,000 feet and temperature as extreme as minus 50 degrees Celsius.

The force requires special clothing, diet and shelter for around 35,000 extra troops deployed in Eastern Ladakh. Most of the friction points in Ladakh like Pangong Lake and Galwan Valley where the face-offs have happened are 14,000 feet above the sea level.

The force will incur an estimated expenditure of around Rs 400 crore for providing special winter clothing to cater to the enhanced deployment. The cost per soldier for special clothing equipment to brave the harsh winter is around Rs 1 lakh. "To meet clothing and sheltering requirements for operations in these areas, a Special Clothing and Mountaineering Equipment (SCME) at cost of around Rs 1 lakh per set is provided to each soldier," the officer said.

The SCME set comprises snow clothing and equipment for survival, resuscitation, rescue, mountaineering equipment and tents. "The equipment is of superlative quality standards offering attributes such as light-weight, thermal, equilibrium, waterproof, breathable and durability," the officer said.

The winter clothing and gear includes special three layered jackets and trousers, boots, snow goggles, facemask, rucksacks and other

special tents and pre-fabricated huts are also provided. These can maintain the optimum temperature at the freezing heights where oxygen levels are also low, as in Ladakh.

Troops operating in high altitude areas suffer from anorexia, a syndrome which results in loss of appetite. This special provision to meet the taste of troops has been made with an aim to enhance, motivate and incentivise food intake.

"Indian Army provides a scientifically formulated special diet to its troops consisting of high calorific and nutrient value items to offset the loss of appetite and reduced intake of food which soldiers suffer in such a climate," said a senior Indian Army officer.

Rations scaled to soldiers in the Indian Army have been scientifically designed and evolved to provide adequate nutrients and to cater for the daily routine, training and for operating in different terrain conditions. "Rations are accordingly authorized at different scales for all ranks serving at altitude below 9,000 ft, between 9,000 ft and 12,000 ft and above 12,000 ft with progressive increments for challenges at higher altitudes," the officer said.

Similarly some increments to ration scales are aimed at countering heat and dehydration in desert terrain. It was in 1984, a special scale of rations was introduced for troops deployed in Siachen. On the basis of the experiences of soldiers who were posted at Siachen, these ration scales were further improved in the next few years.

HEAR US



BJP workers ring bells and clang utensils during a protest, demanding to reopen all the religious places in the state, outside Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai, Saturday

NIA ARRESTS LeT TERRORIST

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 29: In a major breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, who is closely related to the mastermind of the 2007 Glasgow airport attack, after he was brought to India from Saudi Arabia, officials said Saturday.

According to senior NIA officials related to the probe, Shabeel Ahmed was brought to India late Friday.

Ahmed had moved from Bangalore to Saudi Arabia in 2010-11. He was also arrested in connection with the 2007 attack in which a person died, said an NIA official.

The official said that Ahmed is the cousin of the UK airport attack mastermind Kafeel Ahmed.

SHOWING THE WAY HOW THIS TOKYO PROF IS HELPING VILLAGE CHILDREN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, August 29: Students of a Zilla Parishad-run school in a remote village of Maharashtra's Aurangabad district, who have been learning Japanese language, have received help straight from the Land of the Rising Sun.

A professor based in Tokyo has sent several sets of books to help these students learn Japanese in a better way. Gadiwat village, located around 25 kms from Aurangabad city, came into focus after students from the local ZP-run school started learning Japanese through a social media platform and speaking that foreign language. In September last year, the school

decided to launch a foreign language programme, under which students from Classes 4 to 8 were asked to choose a language they would like to learn. Most of them chose Japanese as they were interested in robotics and technology.

A local Japanese expert then started teaching Japanese online free of cost. Currently, 70 students are learning the language. ZP education extension officer Ramesh Thakur said, "A professor named Prashant Pardeshi from the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, who has been residing in Japan for the last 25 years, came to know about this initiative and decided to help these children to learn the foreign language in a better way."

110-year-old Kerala woman beats Covid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malappuram (Kerala), August 29: In a matter of pride for the state health sector, a 110-year-old woman got discharged from a Medical College Hospital in North Kerala Saturday after winning her battle against the novel coronavirus. State Health Minister K K Shailaja said Randathani Variathi Pathu from Malappuram district is the oldest person who has recovered from the coronavirus infection in the state.

After being admitted to the state-run Medical College on August 18, the woman responded to the treatment without any tension, doctors said. "Pathu contracted the virus from her daughter. She had only minor symptoms," they said.

The Health Minister congratulated the doctors and staff of the Medical College hospital for providing good healthcare to the elderly woman.

COLLEGE STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH WORST-HIT: STUDY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: A mental health study done on over 8,000 individuals found that college students were the most affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown.

Conducted by YourDost, an online mental health platform, the study found that the second worst-affected segment of people was working professionals. They were not affected at the beginning of lockdown, but were severely hit with a drastic deterioration in feelings of anxiety, anger and loneliness.

The study compiled and analysed data from a survey done at the beginning of the coronavirus lockdown and another in June at the be-

ginning of 'Unlock 1.0'. It also included data from individual sessions with experts on the YourDost platform. Students recorded a six-per-cent increase in the emotions of anger and irritability at the beginning of the restrictions and a 13-per-cent increase in the emotions of loneliness and boredom, according to the study.

As the lockdown progressed, students continued to be the worst-hit emotionally, reporting the highest net deterioration in their emotions, particularly in terms of their anger, anxiety, loneliness, hopelessness, and happiness. The study showed a significant deterioration in emotions through several categories. "Students registered 41 per cent increase in emotions of

COVID LOCKDOWN



anxiety/fear/worry, 54 per cent increase in anger/irritability/frustration, 27 per cent in hopelessness, sense of sadness was increased by 17 per cent, and 38 per cent increase

in the feeling of loneliness/boredom," it noted.

At the beginning of the coronavirus restrictions, the student respondents of the study registered

a one per cent increase in their sense of happiness. However, the feeling of joy went down by 15 per cent as the lockdown progressed.

The report also found that the change in the mental stage of students was also affected by facing difficulties in adjusting to life at home. "They miss college, they miss their peers and they miss the string of activities that keep happening on campus. Most of all, they report difficulty in reconnecting with their parents which has caused them to feel severely frustrated. They also report a 'loss of freedom' with their parents around," it read.

While the reason for students' falling emotional state was mostly being confined to homes, working professionals were troubled by the

uncertainty and a feeling of "what's next?"

"Working professionals registered 41 per cent increase in emotions of anxiety/fear/worry, 34 per cent increase in anger/irritability/frustration, 17 per cent in hopelessness, the feeling of sadness was increased by 18 per cent and the sense of loneliness/boredom increased by 26 per cent," the report noted.

Many reported feeling anxious, frustrated and bored from being stuck at home and the consequent lack of social interactions. These feelings are further exacerbated by the sudden change in lifestyle that many working professionals are still struggling to come to terms with, according to the study.

national



India has controlled the spread of crop-threatening migratory pest desert locusts by using advanced technologies, including drones, and ensured there was not much crop damage
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

J&K HIGHWAY REOPENS

After remaining blocked for four days due to landslides triggered by incessant rains, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway reopened for traffic Saturday



of the day quote

Under the first option the states are asked to borrow by pledging their future receivables under compensation cess. The financial burden falls entirely on the states. Under the second option, states are asked to borrow from the RBI window. It is more market borrowing, only by a different name. Again, the entire financial burden falls on the states
P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

For the past some time, an attempt is being made to derail our country. New challenges have come before our democracy. Today, the country stands at a crossroads. Anti-poor and anti-nation forces and those who rule by making people fight against each other have been spreading hatred and venom of violence
SONIA GANDHI | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

The irresponsible attitude of the Centre in shirking its commitment towards GST shortfall of the states is condemnable. It has dealt a blow to the federal structure of the country by describing the crisis arising out of COVID-19 pandemic as an unforeseen "Act of God"
H D KUMARASWAMY | FORMER KARNATAKA CM

SHORT TAKES

Haryana minister Covid positive

Chandigarh: Haryana Power Minister Ranjeet Singh said Saturday that he had tested positive for the novel coronavirus. Singh, who is an Independent MLA supporting the BJP-JP government, had got his test done just before the one-day Assembly session on Wednesday and his report returned negative. However, he developed symptoms after the session and got himself tested again. "I got my COVID test done again and the report came positive," the cabinet minister tweeted.

Man ends life

Bhadohi (UP): Saddened over a case registered against him, a 25-year-old man allegedly hanged himself here, police said Saturday. The incident took place in Hardevpur area under Gopiganj police station limits on Friday night, they said. According to circle officer Kalu Singh, a trader was beaten up allegedly by Sandeep Shukla alias Pintu and his friends almost three months ago.

Woman, son drown

Bhadohi (UP): A woman and her minor son drowned in a pond in Chauri area here Saturday, police said. Nazareen (36) was washing clothes at Gotiya pond in Arjunganj village when her son Sarfaraz (10) accidentally slipped in the water body, they added. She tried to save him but also drowned while going to the deeper side of the pond, police said. Local residents brought them out and rushed them to a nearby hospital where doctors declared them dead, they further said.

Elephant dies

Umaria (MP): A female elephant died of electrocution in Panpadha sanctuary of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh Saturday, an official said. The incident took place when the tusker came in contact with a high-voltage electricity line passing through Gangital beat, forest sub-divisional officer Anil Kumar Shukla said. The pachyderm was a part of a herd that was passing by the banks of a pond when the incident occurred.

CONG WRITES TO FB OVER ALLEGED POLITICAL 'BIAS'

At a press conference, the opposition party also demanded an investigation by a Joint Parliamentary Committee into the alleged 'links of Facebook employees and the ruling establishment'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: The Congress Saturday wrote to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg for the second time in a month, asking what steps were being taken on repeated allegations about the global social media giant's India unit being biased towards the ruling BJP.

At a press conference, the opposition party also demanded an investigation by a Joint Parliamentary Committee into the alleged "links of Facebook employees and the ruling establishment". The Congress' letter to Zuckerberg came over an article in a magazine, which the opposition party claimed "revealed" more information and "evidence of biases and a quid pro quo relationship" of Facebook India with the Bharatiya Janata Party. There was no immediate reaction from Facebook or the BJP on the allegations. A report in the Wall Street Journal earlier this month had brought to fore similar allegations, which were strongly rejected by both Facebook and the BJP. Tagging the report, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed in a tweet that it exposes the "WhatsApp-BJP nexus". "Used by 40 Cr Indians, WhatsApp also wants to be used for making payments for which Modi Government's approval is needed. Thus, BJP has a hold over WhatsApp," he alleged, without elaborating.



Popular messaging app WhatsApp is also owned by Facebook. In his letter to Zuckerberg, Congress general secretary organisation, K C Venugopal, referred to his earlier letter dated August 17 in which the party had requested the US-based company to investigate the allegations made in the Wall Street Journal article that the social media platform refused to apply hate speech rules to certain BJP politicians. "We draw your attention to the article in Time magazine dated August 27 that reveals more information and evidence of biases and a quid-pro-quo relationship of Facebook India with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party," Venugopal said in the new letter dated August 29 and asked for details of steps being taken by the group. "We will also be pursuing legislative and judicial actions in India to ensure that a foreign company cannot continue to cause social disharmony in our nation for their pursuit of private profits," he said. At the party's press conference, spokesperson Pawan Khara and AICC data analytics department chief Praveen Chakravarty called for an "exhaustive and unbiased investigation by a Joint Parliamentary Committee between the unending links of Facebook employees and the ruling establishment". "The investigation must include how Facebook manipulated voter opinion, allowed hate speech and was oblivious to fake news, even when they were in clear violation of their own regulations," they said in a statement. "WhatsApp cannot be granted approvals for its payment operations until the inquiry is complete and the recommended actions are taken by the company," Khara and Chakravarty said. They also demanded that the report of the investigation ordered by Facebook into the conduct of its Indian unit be made public.

3 MILITANTS, SOLDIER KILLED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 29: Three Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants and an Army soldier were killed Saturday in a gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said.

A search operation was launched by security forces on a specific input regarding the presence of militants in Zadoora village in south Kashmir, a police spokesman said. He said during the operation, when the presence of militants was ascertained they were given an opportunity to surrender. However, the militants fired upon the joint search party of the forces which retaliated.

In the ensuing encounter, three militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site, the spokesman said. He identified them as Adil Hafiz, Arshid Ahmad Dar and Rouf Ahmad Mir; all residents of Pulwama and affiliated with proscribed terror outfit HM.

During the encounter, one Army jawan also received critical injuries and he was shifted to hospital for treatment where he succumbed, the spokesman said. He said the slain militants had a long history of terror crimes and were part of groups involved in planning and execution of several militant attacks in the area, including attacks on police and security establishments.

As per police records, Hafiz was involved in a case pertaining to an attack on a naka party of the forces at Prichoo Bridge in which one police personnel was killed and another was injured, the spokesman said. He said keeping in view the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the bodies of the militants will be sent to Baramulla for burial after completion of medico-legal formalities.

Letter 'misconstrued', says Cong leader Jitin

Asked why he chose to sign the letter, Prasada said the "letter was written with the sole purpose of suggesting how to reinvigorate and revitalise the party, and introspect for galvanising the organisation"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Congress leader Jitin Prasada, one of the 23 leaders who wrote to party chief Sonia Gandhi seeking organisational changes, said Saturday that the letter is being "misconstrued" and he has full faith in the top leadership.

In an interview, he said the letter was not written with the intention of leadership change. Asked why he chose to sign the letter, Prasada said the "letter was written with the sole purpose of suggesting how to reinvigorate and revitalise the party, and introspect for galvanising the organisation. It was not to undermine the top leadership. I had stated this at the Congress Working Committee meeting as well".

"The letter is being misconstrued," the former Union minister asserted. On allegations by some party leaders that the intention was to target the top leadership, Prasada said, "I have full faith in the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and they have full faith in me."

His remarks assume significance as they come days after the District Congress Committee of Lakhimpur Kheri hit out at the letter from the 'group of 23' and called for action against Prasada. Prasada said the resolution passed by the DCC seeking action against him could have been the "result of local instigation of rival factions". "These are small matters which happen in every democratic party and could



be the result of local instigation of rival factions. I bear no grudge against anyone as everyone is part of the Congress family," the 46-year-old leader said. "The Congress president has said that the matter stands closed and we have to concentrate on fighting the ruling dispensation," he said. Asked about an audio clip that went viral on social media platforms in which Lakhimpur Kheri DCC chief purportedly suggested that the resolution was passed following directives of AICC, Prasada said, "I don't comment on unverified media reports." On the way forward after the controversy surrounding the letter, he said important elections were coming in Bihar, Bengal, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, and "we will put our energy in fighting the communal forces". Prasada, along with 22 other signatories had written to Sonia Gandhi, seeking an active and full-time party leadership among other organisational changes.

DELUGE



A view of the flooded Ganga ghat, owing to heavy rainfall in Varanasi, Saturday

Aug gets highest rainfall in 44 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: India has received the highest rainfall in the month of August in the last 44 years, IMD data shows, as several parts of the country have witnessed floods.

Until August 28, the month recorded a 25-per cent surplus rainfall. It has also surpassed the previous highest rainfall in August, which was recorded in 1983. In that year, August had recorded a 23.8-per cent excess rainfall.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) data shows that in August 1976, the country had recorded a 28.4-per cent excess rainfall. The country has so far recorded nine-per cent more rainfall than normal. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa have recorded excess rainfall



while Sikkim has recorded a large excess. Many states have seen floods after the swelling of rivers.

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the overall storage position of the reservoirs in the country till August 27 is better than the corresponding period of last year.

It is also better than the average storage of the last 10 years during

the corresponding period, the CWC said.

"Better than normal storage" is available in the basins of the Ganga, Narmada, Tapi, Mahi, Sabarmati, the rivers of Kutch, Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi and the neighbouring east-flowing rivers, Cauvery and the neighbouring west-flowing rivers and west-flowing rivers of south India, the CWC said.

IIT-I introduces unique course

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, August 29: The Indian Institute of Technology here has introduced a unique course to impart mathematical and scientific knowledge from ancient texts in Sanskrit, an official said Saturday.

Titled "Understanding Classical Scientific Texts of India in an Immersive Sanskrit Environment", the course was started in a bid to expose the present generation to ancient knowledge, the official from the institute said. The All India Council for Technical Education

(AICTE)-sponsored quality improvement programme began August 22 and will continue till October 2 with a total of 62 hours of online classes, he said. Over 750 candidates from all over the world were participating in the course, he added.

"Ancient texts of India, originally composed in Sanskrit, have a rich heritage of mathematical and scientific knowledge and the present generation is unaware of this. We started this course to make them aware of this ancient knowledge in Sanskrit itself," said professor Neelesh Kumar, officiating director of IIT, Indore.

The course will inspire participants to research, innovate, study and teach mathematics and science in Sanskrit, he said. According to an IIT official, the course has been divided into two parts, under which participants will first be taught the nuances of Sanskrit to build their understanding of the language and in the next part, they will be taught classical mathematics in Sanskrit. A qualifying examination will also be conducted to evaluate the participants involved in the second part of the course and successful candidates will be awarded a certificate, he added.

Migrant labourers turning out to be a poll issue in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, August 29: The migration of labourers is turning out to be a poll issue for the opposition parties in Bihar. Tejashwi Yadav, leader of the opposition, has slammed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for being unable to create jobs in the state. As a result, workers who walked thousands of kilometres to reach their homes from other states during the lockdown are again heading towards states having more job opportunities.

Tejashwi Yadav's statement came a day after Pappu Yadav, president of the Jan Adhikar Party, sharply attacked CM Nitish Kumar on the same issue. "The development of Bihar is currently reflected at the airport of Patna where hundreds of workers are assembling to catch flights. The development is also visible in villages where buses are being sent by employers from other states to take our skilled labourers," Tejashwi said. "These labourers travelled thousands of kms during the Covid-19



lockdown to reach their homes. They deserve some respect and jobs

back home. The employers from other states are sending air tick-

ets and buses for the labourers of Bihar. It clearly explains the approach of the Bihar government," Tejashwi added.

Tejashwi claimed that around 40 lakh migrant labourers returned home during the lockdown. The Nitish Kumar government had announced that it will deposit Rs 1,000 in every labourer's account. Fifty per cent of them are deprived of government aid. More importantly, Bihar has a double engine government but neither the state nor the centre has extended their helping

hand towards them, Tejashwi said. "Nitish Kumar is a respectable person. I respect him personally. At the same time, he is also a liar. He hid the actual data of corona infected persons. There are 84 lakh people in Bihar's 16 districts who are affected by floods. I have pointed this out several times but the CM went for an aerial survey just twice," Tejashwi said. "In the last 28 days, 80,000 new cases of Covid 19 have been recorded in the state including 376 who have lost their lives," Tejashwi added.



It is necessary to actively guide the Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to the socialist society and promote the sinicisation of the Tibetan Buddhism
XI JINPING | CHINESE PRESIDENT

57TH ANNIV OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S MARCH

Yolanda King, granddaughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. speaks as her father Martin Luther King III smiles during the March at Washington, Friday



of the day quote

It is gut wrenching to have to leave my job before accomplishing my goals



SHINZO ABE | JAPAN PRIME MINISTER

This revolting publication calls for unambiguous condemnation... The fight against racism will always transcend our differences (on a French magazine's depiction of a Black lawmaker as slave)



JEAN CASTEX | FRANCE PRIME MINISTER

When I adopted Ishwar Ramlutchman, I gave him the name of Mabheka Zulu. The name Mabheka means the one who cares for my people. This was done after his heroic dedication and achievements in serving the poorest of the poor in the Kingdom of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal



GOODWILL ZWELITHINI | ZULU KING

SHORT TAKES

Riots in Sweden; 15 detained

Stockholm: Far-right activists burned a Quran in the southern Swedish city of Malmo, sparking riots and unrest after more than 300 people gathered to protest, police said Saturday. Rioters set fire and threw objects at police and rescue services Friday night, slightly injuring several police officers and leading to the detention of about 15 people. The violence followed the burning Friday afternoon of a Quran, near a predominantly migrant neighborhood, that was carried out by far-right activists and filmed and posted online, according to the TT news agency. Later, three people were arrested on suspicion of inciting hatred against an ethnic group after kicking the Muslim holy book.

17 killed as eatery collapses in China

Beijing: Seventeen people were killed after a restaurant collapsed in north China's Shanxi province on Saturday, authorities said. The accident took place at around 9:40am in Xiangfen county in the city of Linfen. By 6:52pm, local time, 45 people had been pulled out of debris of the collapsed two-story building, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. As many as 28 people were injured, including seven critically.

2 dead in Nigeria chopper crash

Lagos: Two people have died and a third is critically injured after a helicopter crashed into a residential area in Nigeria's most populous city, Lagos, authorities said Friday. The dead include the pilot and a passenger in the Bell 206 helicopter operated by Quorum Aviation, according to Ibrahim Farinloye of the National Emergency Management Agency. The third person was also in the helicopter and is receiving medical attention.

Malaysia extends ban on tourists

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia has extended its pandemic movement restrictions including a ban on foreign tourists until the end of the year. Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said in a televised address late Friday that global cases have been rising and the country has seen sporadic virus clusters even though the situation was under control. Malaysia has recorded more than 9,000 cases with 125 deaths.

Kamala 'not competent' to be US Prez: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 29: Kamala Harris is "not competent" to be president, US President Donald Trump has said as he launched an attack on the Indian-origin senator's credentials for the top post.

Addressing his supporters at a Republican campaign rally in New Hampshire Friday, Trump said he would support seeing a female president in the US but suggested that his daughter and senior White House adviser Ivanka Trump would be a better candidate for such a role.

Harris, 55, was a presidential aspirant until last year before she dropped out of the race because of lack of popular support. Harris returned to political limelight after Joe Biden, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate, picked her as his running mate in the November 3 election.

Born to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, Harris is the first Indian-American and first Black woman to be picked by a major American political party for the top post.

"You know I want to see the first woman president also, but I don't want to see a woman president get into that position the way she'd do it, and she's not competent," Trump said.

"She's not competent," he said amidst applause from his supporters, a few of whom screamed Ivanka Trump, at an election rally Friday.

"They're all saying, 'we want Ivanka'. I don't blame you," he said responding to his supporters.

This was Trump's first election rally after he formally accepted the nomination of the Republican Party Thursday for the presidential election.

Trump said Harris withdrew from the Democratic Party's presidential race before primary season kicked off as her popularity dropped



You know I want to see the first woman president also, but I don't want to see a woman president get into that position the way she'd do it, and she's not competent

DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

down to single digit.

"How about her? Sheer beauty? What a beauty though. They pick a woman who starts off...She (Harris) starts off (her presidential campaign) sort of strong. She's one of the favourites. Within a period of a few months, she goes down, down 15, 12, 11, nine, eight, five, three, two," he said, underlining the popularity downslide of Harris in the few months after her highly impressive campaign launch.

"Then she goes, I'm going to leave because I've decided that I want to leave. I want to leave. She left (the race of presidency) because she wouldn't have gotten any votes. She was terrible. And this would be your president possibly. I don't think so. I don't think so," Trump said, speculating on the possibility that Harris could emerge as a Democratic presidential candidate in 2024.

Attacking Biden, Trump said he is running on the most extreme, far left platform of any nominee in American history.

"And of our foreign adversaries who are devising a plan to destroy the United States from within all they have to look, is that the Biden-Harris (ticket)," he said.

Juliette Binoche for Golden Icon Award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 29: French star Juliette Binoche will be honoured with Golden Icon Award at the 2020 Zurich Film Festival.

The 16th edition of annual film gala will be held from September 24 to October 4 this year.

The 56-year-old Academy Award winner will be the first French artist to receive the award.

She will be feted September 30 at a presentation ahead of a screening of her film, 'How to Be a Good Wife'. "I'm very happy to come to the ZFF in this year that is so special for the world and for the cinema. It's great that the Zurich Film Festival exists and can defend the cinema and the various international cultures represented through the films it presents to its audience," she said.



Schools to reopen in France

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 29: With France's national health agency decriing an 'exponential' rise in new coronavirus infections, French President Emmanuel Macron has said he couldn't rule out a new nationwide lockdown.

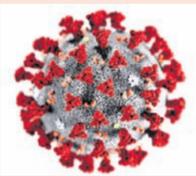
France registered more than 7,000 new virus infections in a single day Friday, up from several hundred a day in May and June, in part thanks to ramped-up testing. But the rate of positive cases is also growing, with more than 30 positive tests per 100,000 people in 20% of the country's regions. That figure was in the single digits a month ago.

"The dynamic of the epidemic's progression is exponential," the national health agency said Friday.

While the number of hospitalized patients remains well below levels during the height of France's outbreak in the spring, it is rising, notably in areas where the virus is circulating most intensely.

"Nothing in theory can be excluded," Macron told reporters

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH



- France registered more than 7,000 new virus infections in a single day Friday
- While the number of hospitalized patients remains well below levels during the height of France's outbreak in the spring, it is rising
- But the government is going ahead with plans to send France's 12.9 million students back to classrooms starting Tuesday

Friday when asked about a new nationwide lockdown. "I would not have learned much from what we have lived through for eight months if I said I totally exclude it."

Macron said the government favours regional measures to stop outbreaks and will do everything it can to prevent a new nationwide lockdown by "learning to live with the virus." France's strict two-month lockdown in the spring devastated its economy but was credited with sharply slowing the virus.

France has seen more than 30,600 confirmed deaths from COVID-19, the third-highest toll in Europe

after Britain and Italy. In addition, experts say all confirmed numbers understate the true impact of the pandemic due to limited testing and other factors. Macron defended his government's push to restart the economy and its handling of the post-lockdown period. Over the summer, French people travelled around the country for family gatherings and dance parties blamed for fuelling the rise in cases.

In the face of new cases, Paris started requiring masks everywhere starting Friday and French workers nationwide will have to wear masks on the job from Tuesday

LAURA AFTERMATH



A damaged house at Hackberry in US stands testimony to massive devastation caused by Hurricane Laura PFI PHOTO

'WOBBLE, STEPS LESSEned LAURA'S DEVASTATION'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lake Charles (US), August 29: Hurricane Laura was a monster storm that could have, even should have, wreaked much more destruction than it did, except for a few lucky breaks and some smart thinking by Gulf Coast residents, experts say.

Just before striking Louisiana, Laura wobbled. It wasn't much, maybe 15 miles (24 km) for a Category 4 storm that was nearly the width of two states. But it was enough to move the worst of the storm surge east of Lake Charles and into a far less populated area.

And even before that, Laura threaded a needle between well-populated New Orleans, Port Arthur

and Houston and came ashore in Cameron Parish, which is the second least-populated county along the coast. The population of the average Atlantic and Gulf Coast county is 322,000. Cameron Parish has less than 7,000.

Before Laura struck, local governments and residents took the right steps and got out of harm's way for the most part, a veteran New Orleans disaster expert said

and residents took the right steps and got out of harm's way for the most part, a veteran New Orleans disaster expert said. The storm was still devastating, but not quite as catastrophic as it might have been.

"It was really, really bad instead of apocalyptic," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

Lauren Sylvester heeded the mandatory evacuation, leaving her townhouse in Lake Charles Wednesday to stay with her mom in New Iberia. Between the evacuation order and the storm surge projections, she didn't want to take a risk.

UAE ends Israel boycott amid US-brokered deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 29: The ruler of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) issued a decree Saturday formally ending the country's boycott of Israel amid a US-brokered deal to normalise relations between the two countries.

The announcement now allows trade and commerce between the UAE, home to oil-rich Abu Dhabi and skyscraper-studded Dubai, and Israel, home to a thriving diamond trade, pharmaceutical companies and tech start-ups.

The announcement further cepts the August 13 deal opening up relations between the two nations, which required Israel to halt its contentious plan to annex occupied West Bank land sought by the Palestinians.

The state-run WAM news agency



said the decree formally ending the boycott came on the orders of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi and the Emirates' leader.

WAM said the new decree allows Israelis and Israeli firms to do business in the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula. It also allows for the purchase and trade of Israeli goods.

"The decree of the new law comes within the UAE's efforts to expand

diplomatic and commercial cooperation with Israel," WAM said. It lays out "a roadmap toward launching joint cooperation, leading to bilateral relations by stimulating economic growth and promoting technological innovation."

Already, some Israeli firms had signed deals with Emirati counterparts. But the repeal of the law widens the likelihood of other joint ventures, such as in aviation or in banking and finance.

Dubai International Airport, home to the long-haul carrier Emirates, has been the world's busiest for international travel for years. The Dubai International Financial Centre also hosts major firms who trade in the hours between Asian and European markets. Dubai already has a major gold market and growing diamond trade.

Ecuador couple certified as oldest married pair

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Quito (Ecuador), August 29: Julio Mora slipped away from his parents to secretly marry Waldramina Quinteros one February day as both families disapproved.

Seventy-nine years later, they're still together — he at 110 years of age, and she at 104, both lucid and both in good health, though relatives say they're a little depressed because they miss their big family get-togethers due to the pandemic.

There are longer marriages, but at the moment no other between people so old, according to Guinness World Records — just short of a combined 215 years. Mora was born March 10, 1910,

and Quinteros October 16, 1915. They entered into the wedlock February 7, 1941, in the first church built by the Spanish in Quito: La Iglesia de El Belen.

The two retired teachers live in Ecuador's capital of Quito, where in mid-August they received the Guinness certification.

Their daughter Cecilia says they're both lucid and active, although they no longer have the agility they had before.

But "for a month they have been different, more downcast because they miss large family gatherings." And they can gather quite a crowd: four surviving children, 11 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



OIL SPILL IN MAURITIUS SPARKS OFF PROTESTS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johannesburg, August 29: Honking and drumming, thousands of people protested Saturday in the capital of Mauritius over the government's handling of an oil spill from a grounded Japanese ship and the alarming discovery of dozens of dead dolphins in recent days. The protesters waved the country's flag and held up signs with messages such as "You have no shame" and "I've seen better Cabinets at IKEA."

The frustrated residents marched peacefully through Port Louis a month after the ship struck a coral reef offshore and later cracked and spilled around 1,000-tonne oil into fragile marine areas.

"It's clear we are at a turning point in the history of our country," a commentary in the Le Mauricien



newspaper said.

The Indian Ocean island nation depends heavily on tourism, and the spill has been a severe blow on

top of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, which has limited international travel.

Authorities Friday said at least

THREAT TO MARINE SPECIES

The protesters waved the country's flag and held up signs with messages such as "You have no shame" and "I've seen better Cabinets at IKEA"

The frustrated residents marched peacefully through Port Louis a month after the ship struck a coral reef offshore and later cracked and spilled around 1,000-tonne oil into fragile marine areas

At least 39 dead dolphins have washed ashore but it's not yet clear what killed them

"Something that is also concerning is that we don't know the possible long-term effects. The oil is a new low-sulfur fuel oil that is being introduced to reduce air pollution," Jacqueline Sauzier with the Mauritius Marine Conservation Society told the journal Nature this week. "This is the first time that type of oil has spilled, so there have been no long-term studies on the impacts."

Residents and environmentalists have demanded investigations into why the MV Wakashio strayed miles off course. Its captain and first officer have been arrested and charged with "endangering safe navigation."

The ship ran aground July 25 and began leaking fuel August 6 into the Mahebourg Lagoon, fouling a protected wetlands area and

a small island that was a bird and wildlife sanctuary.

Thousands of civilian volunteers worked for days to try to minimise the damage, creating makeshift oil barriers by stuffing fabric bags with sugar cane leaves and empty plastic bottles to keep them afloat. Environmental workers carefully ferried dozens of baby tortoises and rare plants to shore, plucking some trapped seabirds out of the goo.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth blamed bad weather for the government's slow response to the ship's grounding. Experts from ship owner Nagashiki Shipping, France and the United Nations have since arrived at the scene.

The ship's remaining fuel was pumped out before the vessel finally split in two.

business

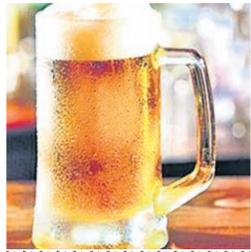


Walmart is going to see a very quick rise in ad spend, if its (TikTok) bid succeeds. From a brand standpoint, it's a no brainer because of the reach Walmart has and the huge shift we're seeing right now from offline to online

SCOTT SMIGLER | PRESIDENT & FOUNDER, EXCLUSIVE CONCEPTS

'BEER MARKET MAY SEE ACQUISITIONS'

United Breweries Ltd (UBL), which owns the popular Kingfisher brand of beer, is expecting further acquisitions and entry of new players in the Indian beer market, despite disruptions due to COVID-19 and higher taxes by some states, the company said in its annual report



of the day quote

Over 1,000 km length of DFC passes through UP. However, certain issues relating to land acquisition and ROB construction still persist, which need to be resolved urgently for ensuring commissioning of the project work within target time



PIYUSH GOYAL | RAILWAY MINISTER

The early data is saying that we're on the right track and that we have a vaccine. Our confidence has increased. We have work to do like everybody on manufacturing in large volumes. But we will have one, maybe two vaccines next year



PAUL HUDSON | CEO, SANOFI

At ESC, we have created a roadmap for taking India's electronics exports, which include mobile and accessories, components and other electronics and hardware items, to \$180 bn by 2025



SANDEEP NARULA | CHAIRMAN, ESC

SHORT TAKES

Canada's economy sees record drop

Ottawa: Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) fell by a record 11.5% in the second quarter this year, following a 2.1% decline in the first quarter due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In a report Friday, Statistics Canada said that almost every single component of the economy was at its lowest point in the second quarter as the pandemic forced the country to carry out widespread shutdowns of non-essential businesses, border closures, and restrictions on travel and tourism, reports Xinhua news agency.

Suzlon Energy's loss widens

New Delhi: Suzlon Energy Saturday reported widening of its consolidated net loss to ₹398.86 crore in the April-June quarter compared to the year-ago period mainly due to lower revenues. The consolidated net loss of the company was ₹336.88 crore in the quarter ended on June 30, 2019, a BSE filing said. Total consolidated income of the company declined to ₹528.22 crore in the quarter under review from ₹851.09 crore in the same period last year.

Wockhardt Q1 net profit at ₹760 crore

New Delhi: Drug firm Wockhardt Saturday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹759.75 crore for June quarter mainly on account of exceptional items in connection with the transfer of a business comprising 62 products and Baddi facility to Dr Reddy's Laboratories. The company had posted a net loss of ₹36.88 crore for April-June 2019-20, Wockhardt said in a filing to BSE. Total income stood at ₹606.22 crore in the quarter under review.

'Trade restrictive steps temporary'

New Delhi: Economic and trade ministers of 18 countries, including India, the US, and China, at the East Asia Summit agreed that trade restrictive measures taken to address the impact of coronavirus pandemic must be transparent and temporary, according to a statement. The ministers also emphasised that trade measures in view of COVID-19 should not create unnecessary barriers.

'Fiscal deficit likely to touch 7% of GDP in FY21'

AS PER THE DATA RELEASED BY THE CGA, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE IN Q1 OF THE CURRENT YEAR IS MUCH LOWER THAN THE COLLECTIONS FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 29: Centre's fiscal deficit is expected to touch 7% of the GDP in 2020-21, against budget estimates of 3.5%, Brickwork Ratings said Saturday. The ratings agency said that the impact of the lockdown on economic activity shows up starkly in the trends in the Central government revenue collection during the first three months of the 2020-21 fiscal.

As per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the central government's revenue in Q1 of the current year is much lower than the collections

for the corresponding period last year.

As per the data, revenue from income tax (personal income tax and corporate income tax) was lower by 30.5% and the GST (CGST+IGST+UTGST) was lower by almost 34% during the period.

On the other hand, there is a sharp increase in expenditure (by 13.1%) due to additional spending incurred to save lives and livelihoods and to provide stimulus under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission.

"This has resulted in the fiscal deficit widening to 83.2% of the budgeted target in the first quarter itself," the statement said.



According to Brickwork Ratings, the economy is expected to gradually pick up from the third quarter of this fiscal.

"Given the early signs of resumption in business activity, we expect revenue collections to reach pre-Covid levels towards the end of the third quarter, hoping that the festive season demand induces consumption and spending," the statement said.

"However, if the current situation prolongs further, the government may face acute burden of fund shortage to fulfill the budgeted expenditure even after considering the announced higher borrowing of ₹12 lakh crore. This could cause a huge cut in capital expenditure, as well as a centrally sponsored scheme, except MNREGA and the National Health Mission," it added.

The Centre has already increased the allocation of ₹40,000 crore for MNREGA in the 'Atmanirbhar' scheme, and the funds are expected to be utilised fully in the current year.

"Given the expected shortfall in revenue, fiscal deficit of the Central government could reach 7% of the GDP in 2020-21, assuming the nominal GDP at last year's level," the statement said.

"Borrowings may further increase if the contraction in economy is more severe than our early estimates. As States too have been allowed additional borrowings amounting to 2% of the GDP, the consolidated fiscal deficit could reach 12% of the GDP," it added.

In addition, the ratings agency said that among the major economies, only the US has a higher deficit than India's deficit.

Bhattacharya takes charge as Director (Projects), NTPC



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya has taken charge as the Director (Projects), NTPC. He joined NTPC in 1984 as ninth batch of Engineering Executive Trainees and was initially posted at NTPC Korba which was then situated in Madhya Pradesh. He is an Electrical Engineering Graduate from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He has also completed his PG Diploma in Management from MDI, Gurgaon.

He began his career in Green Field Project Construction, followed by working in the areas of Power Plant Operation & Maintenance, Renovation & Modernisation, Environment Management and Technical Services at NTPC Farakka (2,100 MW) in West Bengal.

After serving in Farakka in various departments, he moved to NTPC Talcher Thermal (450 MW) in Odisha, an old and underperforming asset, taken over from State Electricity Board. Under his stewardship, along with his team, the power station went on to become a top performing station in years to come.

Bhattacharya has significantly contributed for NTPC's vertical & horizontal business diversification as well as growth through inorganic route. He has had an illustrious career in business development functions of NTPC in domestic as well as international arena with special focus on NTPC's diversification into hydroelectricity with acquisition of Koldam and setting up of subsidiary company namely NESCL for electricity distribution business.

He has been at the forefront of JV formulation & Project conceptualisation for 1,320 MW Maitree Power Project at Bangladesh.

LOAN REPAYMENT

RBI moratorium extension unlikely

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is unlikely to extend the moratorium on repayment of bank loans beyond August 31 as an extension could impact the credit behaviour of borrowers without resolving the issues being faced by them following the outbreak of the COVID-19, sources said.

The RBI had announced a moratorium on repayment of debt for six months beginning March 1, 2020 to help businesses and individuals tide over the financial problems on account of disruption in normal business activities.

The six-month moratorium period comes to an end August 31. It was only a temporary reprieve to borrowers affected by the pandemic, the sources said, adding that a longer moratorium period exceeding six months can impact credit behaviour of borrowers and increase the risks of delinquencies post resumption of scheduled payments.

It is to be noted that several bankers, including HDFC Ltd Chairman Deepak Parekh and Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director Uday Kotak, had asked RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das not to extend the moratorium as



many are taking undue advantage of the facility. As the various containment measures put in place by the government begin to ease and the economic activity gathers pace, continuation of temporary measures would not be sufficient in addressing cashflow problems of the borrowers.

A more durable solution was, therefore, needed to rebalance the debt burden of viable borrowers, both businesses as well as individuals, relative to their cashflow generation abilities under the post-lockdown scenario, the sources said.

It was with the above objective that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced a special resolution window for COVID-19-related stress within the existing Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets.

Centre reveals details of borrowing options

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 29: The central government Saturday wrote to states suggesting options of borrowing money to make up for the ₹2.35 lakh crore shortfall in GST revenues expected in the ongoing fiscal.

Two days after first suggesting to states to borrow money to make up for the shortfall at the GST Council meeting, the finance ministry wrote to state governments saying they could borrow either via a special window it will facilitate through the RBI or raise debt from the market.

While the Centre has reasoned its recommendations on premise that it is already saddled with a large borrowing requirement given the slowdown in revenue collections due to a slump in the economy, non-BJP ruled states such as Punjab, Kerala, Delhi and West Bengal have already stated that raising debt is not an option for already stretched state finances.

In a letter to finance secretaries of all states and union territories, Union Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said while additional borrowing by the Centre influences the yields on central government securities (G-secs) and has other macro-economic reper-

GST SHORTFALL



In the recent GST Council meeting, Sitharaman had said that COVID-19 is an "Act of God" and it was necessary to differentiate between GST shortfall and the pandemic-related shortfall

cussions; the yields on state securities do not directly influence other yields and do not have the same repercussions.

"Hence, it is in the collective interest of Centre and states and in the interest of the nation and of all economic entities including the private sector; not to do any avoidable borrowing at the central level when it could be done at the state

level," Pandey wrote in the letter.

Compensation payment has been an issue since August 2019 with GST collections faltering. In the current fiscal, the compensation requirement of states has been estimated at ₹3 lakh crore, of which ₹65,000 crore would be funded from the revenues garnered by levy of cess. This leaves a shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore.

The Centre has estimated that of this ₹2.35 lakh crore, ₹97,000 crore compensation requirement is due to GST rollout and the remaining is on account of the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

In the GST Council meeting August 27, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that COVID-19 is an "Act of God" and it was necessary to differentiate between GST shortfall and the pandemic-related shortfall.

Giving two options, she said states can borrow either ₹97,000 crore - the deficit arising out of GST implementation - or the entire ₹2.35 lakh crore. States, on their part, have said that such a distinction is not constitutionally valid.

Explaining in detail the borrowing options to meet shortfall, Pandey said borrowing by states typically incurs a higher interest cost than borrowing by the Centre.

Engineering cluster plan gets nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The Government of Odisha approved the proposal of setting up a Common Facility Centre (CFC) of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Engineering Cluster in Cuttack. Principal Secretary of Odisha MSME department Satyabrata Sahu examined the proposals at the 2nd State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) meeting. The proposal was recommended by Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) OASME Council for Engineering & Technology (ACURATE) and it is promoted by Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises, Cuttack.

The proposed CFC will be set up at Indrani Patna, Choudwar in



Cuttack in area of 40,407 square meters land. About 88 MSE units in and around Cuttack will be benefited by the project.

The CFC will support State MSMEs on Value Addition of Products in the field of defense, mining, metallurgy, aerospace, O&NG, general engineering etc.

According to report, the total cost of project will be ₹31.80 crore. Of the total, the Central Government will be providing financial assistance of ₹18 crore and state government will be funding ₹7.19 crore for the project.

Also, SPV will contribute ₹5.31 crore and bank loan for working capital will be ₹1.30 crore. OASME stated that for the first time, state government will be funding for the development of any cluster.

According to MSME officials, the proposed project will create about 1,000 direct and 2,500 indirect employment in the state.

Considering the factual position of the proposed project, SPV Chairman Jay Prakash Biswal approved the proposal for its recommendation to Techno Economic, Appraisal Committee (TEAC), New Delhi.

The officials from State MSME department and representatives of SPV like MD Satwik Swain, Director Sushant Mahapatra were present during virtual approval.

US TECH STOCKS OUTSHINE ENTIRE EUROPEAN MARKET

AGENCIES

New York, August 29: The market capitalisation of US tech stocks has crossed \$9 trillion and now the sector is worth more than the entire European stock market.

According to a research note by Bank of America, the European market was four times larger than US tech in 2007. The momentum is now with US tech as the market cap is now more than all of Europe, which has much lesser big ticket tech stocks.

Bank of America Global Research said in a note that this is the first time the market cap of the US tech sector



at \$9.1 trillion exceeds that of Europe, which including the UK and Switzerland is now at \$8.9 trillion.

The US markets and indices have been lately dominated by FAANG and other tech stocks which have witnessed the maximum upward

swing. The five top tech stocks, Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon and Facebook, accounted for 17.5% of the S&P 500 in January, and the rotation of funds wealth into tech during the coronavirus pandemic has pushed that number well above 20%. Consumer tech company Apple is worth more than \$2 trillion out of the \$9 trillion.

Tech stocks overtaking Europe is also reflected in the overall performance of US and European markets in the last decade. Since the beginning of 2010, the S&P 500 has gained nearly 200%, while the Euro Stoxx 50 has risen 13.4 per cent and UK's FTSE 100 has gained just under 11%.

IMPORTANCE OF CYBER INSURANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS

We live in a digital world where information is created and transmitted at a hyper speed.

The various devices and applications being used in homes or at organisations have now become so integrated that it's hard to keep them separate. Thus, making it important to safeguard ourselves against the risk that digitisation brings along with it i.e. cyber threats. There has been an increase in consumption of internet on personal computers and digital devices in the recent past and even more so, post-demonetisation and now during this lockdown period due to COVID-19 pandemic thereby exposing more people to greater cyber risks.

Post the lockdown, more individuals are using digital means to process payments. With social distancing, the exchange of physical

money has reduced even further as online methods of payment are taking on a much larger role. This leads to an increased cyber threat exposure, especially to new users, the elderly or less tech savvy.

With an increase in social media users, there has been an increase in cyber-attacks including spyware and ransomware, phishing e-mails, cyber stalking, etc. I have further elaborated on how cyber insurance covers individuals against cyber threats and things one needs to consider while buying such a policy.

COVERAGE:

Phishing, spear phishing and spoofing are popular ways for cyber criminals, wherein a scammer uses an authentic-looking page or email from trusted companies, to trick users into giving their personal in-

formation, like their login credentials, credit card, bank account details, etc. So, if a customer who falls victim to a phishing scam has a cyber-insurance cover, it will not only pay for the loss of fund, but also incur the cost of filing a criminal complaint and pursuing legal action against the culprit once found.

We have also seen increasing

cases of 'identity theft' and hacking of individuals' social media accounts to post malicious information defaming the individual or a third party which can cause immense reputational damage and attract legal liability. This data can be misused to transfer the

ance cover in such cases, helps you pay the cost of filing a criminal complaint or pursuing legal action against the culprit or defending yourself against a legal suit.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

While opting for a cyber-insurance cover, it is advisable for individuals to match the policy coverage with their needs and select the sum insured according to their exposure. Their exposure will be based on factors like their presence on social media, their public image i.e. if they are a public figure or not and their financial status. These factors will play a major role in deciding the limit for the cover they should buy. It is critical



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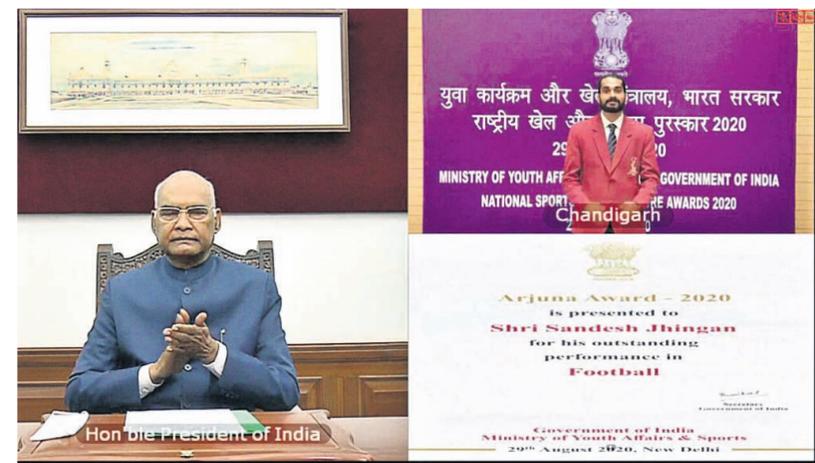
Post lockdown, more individuals are using digital means to process payments

funds from your account or your personal photographs, emails, texts etc. A cyber insur-

(The writer is the Chief Technical Officer of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)

ATHLETES HONoured ONLINE

In a first of its kind, sportspersons receive National Sports Awards in a virtual manner as 60 out of 74 attend the ceremony from across 11 SAI centres



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: India's sporting heroes were bestowed the annual national awards in an unparalleled online ceremony amid the COVID-19 pandemic during which athletes logged in from multiple cities to be honoured by President Ram Nath Kovind Saturday.

This year a whopping 74 winners were picked for the national honours, including an unprecedented five Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratnas and 27 Arjuna awardees. Of these, 60 attended the virtual ceremony conducted across 11 Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres in various cities.

Cricketers Rohit Sharma (Khel Ratna) and Ishant Sharma (Arjuna) missed out due to their IPL commitments in the UAE, while star wrestler Vinesh Phogat (Khel Ratna) and badminton player Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (Arjuna) had to pull out of the ceremony after testing positive for the dreaded virus.

The other three Khel Ratna winners – TT player Manika Batra, Paralympic gold-medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu and women's hockey captain Rani Rampal – attended the ceremony. While Batra logged in from Pune, Thangavelu and Rampal joined from Bangalore.

President Kovind applauded names of the attending awardees as names of the attending awardees were called out and their achievements were cited as is the convention. Missing, however, was the grandeur of the Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall.

"This is the first awards ceremony in COVID times during which the President has participated," Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said at the beginning of the ceremony.

President Kovind congratulated all the winners and exuded confidence that India can achieve its goal of finishing among top 10 countries in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"My heartiest congratulations to all the award winners! All of you,

through your performance, have provided unforgettable moments of collective success to all Indians," Kovind said in his address during the ceremony, which lasted little more than an hour.

"I am confident that with the collective efforts made on the strength of everyone's participation, India will emerge as a sporting superpower. Our goal is to be in the top 10 podium finisher countries in the 2028 Olympic Games. We will definitely achieve this goal."

The Dhyana Chand award this year was given to 15 individuals, including Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu (football), Trupti Murgunde (badminton) and Nandan Bal (tennis) among others.

Golfer Aditi Ashok and former footballer Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu did not attend the award function as they are out of the country.

All health and safety protocols, keeping with the guidelines of the Health Ministry, were followed at the venues where dignitaries and

awardees were present. In fact, awardees were seen clad in PPE kits as they made their way to the ceremony venues. As per the direction of the Sports Ministry, every award winner had to undergo a COVID-19 test before reporting to the ceremony venue.

AWARDEES' LIST

- RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD:** Rohit Sharma (Cricket), Mariyappan Thangavelu (Para Athletics), Manika Batra (Table Tennis), Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling) & Rani Rampal (Hockey);
- ARJUNA AWARD:** Dutee Chand (Athletics), Atanu Das (Archery), Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (Badminton), Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty (Badminton), Vishesh Bhriguvanshi (Basketball), Manish Kaushik (Boxing), Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing), Ishant Sharma (Cricket), Deepti Sharma (Cricket), Sawant Ajay Anant (Equestrian), Sandesh Jhingan (Football), Aditi Ashok (Golf), Akashdeep Singh (Hockey), Deepika (Hockey), Deepak (Kabaddi), Kale Sarika Sudhakar (Kho Kho), Dattu Baban Bhokanal (Rowing), Manu Bhaker (Shooting), Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting), Madhurika Patkar (Table Tennis), Divij Sharan (Tennis), Shiva Keshavan (Winter Sports), Divya Kakran (Wrestling), Rahul Aware (Wrestling), Suyash Narayan Jadhav (Para Swimming), Sandeep (Para Athletics) & Manish Narwal (Para Shooting);
- DRONACHARYA AWARD (LIFETIME):** Dharmendra Tiwary (Archery), Purushotham Rai (Athletics), Shiv Singh (Boxing), Romesh Pathania (Hockey), Krishan Kumar Hooda (Kabaddi), Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar (Para Powerlifting), Naresh Kumar (Tennis) & Om Parkash Dahiya (Wrestling);
- DRONACHARYA AWARD (REGULAR):** Jude Felix (Hockey), Yogesh Malviya (Mallakhamb), Jaspal Rana (Shooting), Kuldeep Kumar Handoo (Wushu) & Gaurav Khanna (Para Badminton);
- DHYAN CHAND AWARD:** Kuldip Singh Bhullar (Athletics), Jincy Philips (Athletics), Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe (Badminton), Trupti Murgunde (Badminton), N Usha (Boxing), Lakha Singh (Boxing), Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu (Football), Ajit Singh (Hockey), Manpreet Singh (Kabaddi), J Ranjith Kumar (Para Athletics), Satyaprakash Tiwari (Para Badminton), Manjeet Singh (Rowing), Late Shri Sachin Nag (Swimming), Nandan Bal (Tennis) & Netarpal Hooda (Wrestling);
- TENZING NORGAY NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARDS:** Anita Devi (Land Adventure), Col Sarfraz Singh (Land Adventure), Taka Tamut (Land Adventure), Narendar Singh (Land Adventure), Keval Hiren Kakka (Land Adventure), Satendra Singh (Water Adventure), Gajanan Yadava (Air Adventure) & Late Magan Bissa (Life Time Achievement);
- MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY:** Panjab University, Chandigarh
- RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR**
- IDENTIFICATION AND NURTURING OF BUDDING AND YOUNG TALENT:** Lakshya Institute, Army Sports Institute;
- ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPORTS THROUGH CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd.;
- EMPLOYMENT OF SPORTSPERSONS AND SPORTS WELFARE MEASURES:** Air Force Sports Control Board;
- SPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT:** International Institute of Sports Management (IISM).

BIJU PATNAIK SPORTS AWARDS

Jayanti, Deep Grace take top honours



CLOCKWISE: Award winners along with Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera (L) and other dignitaries posing for a group photo

Purnima Giri and Savita Giri with the former's cash award

CM Naveen Patnaik and Odisha '5T' secretary VK Pandian attend the ceremony via video conference along with other dignitaries



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Para athlete Jayanti Behera and hockey star Deep Grace Ekka bagged the top honours at the Biju Patnaik Sports Awards on the occasion of National Sports Day, Saturday.

Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik presented the awards to outstanding sports persons and coaches on the occasion through video conferencing.

Jayanti and Deep Grace received the awards for 'Outstanding performance in sports and games'. Both of them received Rs.2 lakh cash award each. Chess coach Satya Ranjan Pattanaik received a cash award of ₹1 lakh for 'Excellence in coaching'.

Similarly the 'Bravery Award' was received by Purnima Giri and Sabita Giri who received cash award of rupees one lakh each, medal and citation.

Besides, Siba Prasad Das received a cash award of Rs.32,50,000 for coaching to sports persons with disability. Among others, Padmini Rout, Hupi Majhi, Rajashree Mohapatra, Manisha Merel, Pratyasha Ray also received cash awards.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen congratulated the award winners. "Today we are celebrating National Sports Day on the birth anniversary of Indian Hockey legend Dhyan Chand. I pay my sincere tributes to the wizard of Indian hockey on this occasion."

Speaking on the occasion, Sports & YS Minister Shri Tusharkanti Behera said that the objective of the

- AWARD WINNERS**
- Outstanding performance in sports & game
JAYANTI BEHERA (Para athlete) & DEEP GRACE EKKA (Hockey)
- Excellence in coaching
SATYA RANJAN PATTANAİK (Chess)
- Bravery Award
Purnima Giri & Savita Giri
(The sisters had rescued 12 persons while country boat was capsized in the river Nipania (Gania river) of Mahanadi, 03.01.2019)
- CASH AWARDS**
- Coaching to sportsperson with disability (Rs 32,50,000)
Siba Prasad Das (personal coach of Arjuna Awardee Pramod Bhagat)
- Outstanding Sportsperson in Chess (Rs 2,40,000): **Padmini Rout**
- Outstanding Sportsperson in Rugby (Rs 2,30,000): **Hupi Majhi**
- Outstanding sportsperson with disability (Rs 2,00,000)
Rajashree Mohapatra (Special Olympics, Fursal game)
- Outstanding sportsperson in athletics (Rs 1,12,000)
Manisha Merel
- Outstanding sportsperson in Khelo India Games (Rs 81,000)
Pratyasha Ray (Swimming)

state is to become the best in sports and games.

Former Indian hockey captain Padmashree Dillip Tirkey recalled the memories of Biju Patnaik as a great sports person.

Barca unwilling to negotiate departure

Madrid, August 29: Barcelona is unwavering in their intention to keep Lionel Messi, who told the club earlier this week that he wanted to leave.

Spanish media says Messi has contacted the club to try to resolve the situation, but Barcelona confirmed to this agency Saturday that they will not negotiate to allow the Argentina great to depart before his contract ends next year.

Earlier this week, Messi said he wanted to invoke a contract clause that allowed him to leave at the end of last season, but the club said the clause had already expired.

A lengthy legal battle may ensue as the 33-year-old forward is expected to say the clause was valid until the end of the season, which was pushed back because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Barcelona are not willing to give up on the player, especially not for free. Messi's contract, which ends in June 2021, has a buyout clause of 700 million euro. He has been

with the club for nearly two decades, leading them to more than three-dozen titles and holding most of their individual records.

Spanish media said Messi and his team contacted the club late this week to try to discuss his situation. He had announced his intention to leave by sending the club a burofax, a certified document similar to a telegram.

Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu reportedly tried to meet with the player after his decision to leave was announced.

He later said he was willing to resign if that was what it took to get Messi to stay, and if the six-time Ballon D'Or winner admitted the president's presence at the club was the reason he wanted to leave.

Messi reportedly talked to new coach Ronald Koeman before making his decision to leave. Messi hasn't spoken publicly since the embarrassing 2-8 loss to Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League August 14, one of the worst defeats in the player's career and in the club's history.

Raina opts out of IPL citing 'personal reasons'

New Delhi, August 29: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) all-rounder Suresh Raina has pulled out of the Indian Premier League citing 'personal reasons', the franchise said Saturday even as it emerged that a second player in the team has tested positive for COVID-19.

The player in question is a right-handed top order batsman, who has been a part of India A teams in

recent past and is a prolific performer in Ranji Trophy. A T20 specialist pacer had tested positive Friday along with 12 members of the contingent in Dubai.

While it is expected that Raina will be issuing a statement later in the day, sources close to the franchise said that Raina desperately needs some downtime to be with his young family at the moment.

"Suresh Raina has returned to India for personal reasons and will

be unavailable for the remainder of the IPL season. CSK offers complete support to Suresh and his family during this time," CSK tweeted CEO Kasi Viswanathan's statement.

CSK's quarantine period in Dubai has already been extended till September 1. It couldn't be officially confirmed but speculation was rife that a family tragedy coupled by spike in COVID-19 cases in the team might have disturbed the former India left-hander.

Raina's relative killed in attack by robbers

Chandigarh: A 58-year-old man said to be a relative of cricketer Suresh Raina died while four members of his family sustained injuries allegedly in an attack by robbers in Punjab's Pathankot district. The deceased has been identified as Ashok Kumar, a government contractor. According to police, the incident took place at Thariyal village in Pathankot on the night intervening August 19 and 20. Though some media reporters suggested that Kumar is a relative of Raina, a senior police officer said they can't confirm it as of now. Ashok Kumar, who had suffered head injuries, died while the others sustained injuries, said police.

CATALUNYA CLUB INTEND TO KEEP MESSI UNTIL HIS CONTRACT EXPIRES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chennai: Koneru Humpy took the spotlight as she beat Monika Socko in a nifty tie-break to help India pip Poland in the semifinals and reach the summit clash of the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad Saturday. After the two teams won one round each in regular play, World Rapid Champion Humpy was pitted against Socko for the Armageddon (a tie-break), and the Indian beat her rival in style with black pieces to clinch a spot in the final for her side. India will play the winners of the other semifinal between Russia and the USA, in the summit clash Sunday.

Lewis dedicates pole to late Chadwick Boseman

Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium): Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton set a track record at the Belgian Grand Prix as he clinched a record-extending 93rd pole position Saturday, finishing well ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton is primed to extend his championship lead, which stands at 37 points over Max Verstappen and 43 over Bottas. The six-time F1 champion dedicated it to Chadwick Boseman, who inspired audiences as the regal 'Black Panther' in Marvel's blockbuster movie franchise. Boseman died Friday of cancer. Hamilton stood up on his all-black Mercedes car with his arms crossed, which is the 'Wakanda forever' salute that became a pop culture landmark after the release of 'Black Panther' two years ago.



BACK IN BUSINESS: Indian and RCB captain Virat Kohli (in the pic) hit the nets Saturday, first time in five months, and so did Rohit Sharma and a few other big names, beginning their preparations in earnest for the upcoming IPL in the UAE

'Unacademy' roped in as official IPL partner

New Delhi: Bangalore-based edu-tech firm 'Unacademy' has been roped in the as official partner for the IPL for three seasons, the BCCI announced Saturday. The 13th IPL is scheduled to be played in UAE from September 19 to November 10. "We are pleased to have Unacademy on board as the 'Official Partner' of the IPL 2020 to 2022," IPL chairman Brijesh Patel said in a release Tuesday. The BCCI had earlier announced fantasy gaming platform 'Dream11' as this year's IPL title sponsor, replacing Chinese mobile phone company Vivo. 'Dream11' had pipped 'Unacademy' and 'BYJU's' to win the rights for a period of four months and 13 days with a bid of ₹222 crore.