



FAMILY AFFAIR

Masaba Gupta will soon work with her mom and actor Neena Gupta in a series titled *Masaba Masaba*

LEISURE

P2



DOUBLE BATTLE

Amid battling COVID-19, authorities in Telangana are also up against social stigma attached to the disease

TWO STATES

P7



BRAZIL CHICKEN COVID +VE

A sample of frozen chicken wings from Brazil has tested Covid positive in China

INTERNATIONAL

P10

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The world is following our footsteps. Recently, in America, Biden ji launched Operation Kamala.

SHORT TAKES

No Ganesh Puja in Twin City this year

Bhubaneswar: The Twin City Commissionerate Police here Thursday said that this year they will not grant permission for Ganesh Puja in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. "In view of COVID-19 pandemic, there are restrictions on large religious congregations. So, no permission has been given to puja mandaps to celebrate Ganesh Puja at community level," the Commissionerate Police tweeted. With COVID-19 cases increasing every day in Cuttack and Khurda districts, the move of the Commissionerate Police has been appreciated by the twin city residents.

No change in Pranab's condition

New Delhi: Former President Pranab Mukherjee's health condition remains critical Thursday, following his emergency brain surgery three days back. He continues to remain on ventilator support at the Army Research and Referral Hospital. The hospital authorities said: "The condition of Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged this morning. He is deeply comatose with stable vital parameters and continues to be on ventilator support."

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	38310.49	↓	59.14
NIFTY	11300.50	↓	7.90
DOLLAR	74.91	↑	₹0.01
EURO	88.71	↑	₹0.53
GOLD	₹52,290	↑	₹36
SILVER	₹68,750	↑	₹1997

WEATHER			
BHUB		CTK	
TEMP	MAX 34.2°C	34.6°C	
	MIN 26.6°C	25.5°C	
Humidity	95%	90%	Forecast
Rainfall	6.1mm	1.2mm	Generally cloudy sky

PM's big push for tax reforms

THE PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES PLATFORM FOR TRANSPARENT TAXATION; SAYS FOCUS ON SEAMLESS, PAINLESS, FACELESS TAX SYSTEM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 13: In a major overhaul of tax administration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday unveiled faceless tax assessment and appeals to reduce the scope for corruption and overreach by officials, and said a taxpayers' charter is being implemented to ensure a free, fair and transparent tax environment

Launching the 'Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest Platform' through video conferencing, he said the taxpayer base at just 1.5 crore in India is very low and urged those who owe taxes to come forward and honestly pay their dues and contribute to nation-building

The taxpayers' charter and faceless assessment are the next phases of direct tax reforms aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers as the government looks to rebuild the pandemic-hit economy.

While, faceless assessment that does not require the taxpayer to visit any office or meet any official, and taxpayers' charter has been implemented from Thursday, the faceless appeal will come into force from September 25, he said

"The tax system may be turning



faceless but it promises fairness and fearlessness for taxpayers," he said

Modi said, till now the tax office in the city of residence was handling the scrutiny, appeal, and notices of an individual taxpayer

Now, a central computer will pick up tax returns for scrutiny based on risk parameters and mismatches and then will allot them randomly to a team of officers in any city. The scrutiny by these officers will be reviewed by officers at another randomly selected location

■ Faceless assessment does not require the taxpayer to visit any office or meet any official

■ Taxpayers' charter was implemented from Thursday, while the faceless appeal will come into force from September 25

■ The taxpayers' charter and faceless assessment are the next phases of direct tax reforms aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers

Notices, if any, will be sent only by centralised computer system, and taxpayer can respond to them electronically without the requirement of visiting a tax office or meeting any official

This, he said, will end the era of "jaan pehchan" (acquaintance) to get scrutiny or notices settled

The Prime Minister said taxpayers' charter provides for fair, courteous, and reasonable treatment while treating taxpayers as honest. It expects taxpayers to be honest and compliant and pay taxes in time

While the number of people filing income tax returns has increased by about 2.5 crore in the past few years, actual taxpayers at just 1.5 crore out of a population of 130 crore "is very very less," he said. "Those who are capable must voluntarily come forward and pay their dues and contribute to the development of the nation," he said

Modi said, economic reforms in the past were done under compulsions or pressure which did not yield desired results

"For us reforms mean reforms based on policy, reforms that are holistic and not piecemeal and one reform forming the base for other," he said. "Reform is a continuous process."

MORE P11

ICMR STUDY

1.5L Berhampur residents exposed to virus: RMRC

A STUDY SHOWS 31% SERO PREVALENCE IN GANJAM CAPITAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: The results of the latest sero survey in Berhampur city revealed that 31 per cent of the population who were tested have developed antibodies against the novel coronavirus.

Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), regional wing of ICMR, Director Sanghamitra Pati said that the study covered 2,830 people, comprising citizens from five urban slums and other High Risk Community members, in the city.

"In the community, we have found sero prevalence up to 31 per cent. This means that 1/3 of the population have developed antibodies against the disease. The sero prevalence ranged from seven per cent to 60 per cent in some areas," she said during a virtual media briefing Thursday.

The RMRC Director said that as per the study trends, 1.5 lakh people in the city seems to have been exposed to the virus. "Ninety per cent of the people who had been infected did not show

any symptoms. Over 1.5 lakh people, as per the survey trends, might have developed antibodies against the infection. In high risk groups the prevalence was 23.4 per cent."

The sero survey was conducted jointly by the Regional Medical Research Centre, Berhampur Medical College and Berhampur Municipal Corporation.

In four Wards, 50 per cent of the people tested had developed antibodies, while 35 per cent citizens in urban slums were found to have developed antibodies.

"The infection fatality rate, which hints at the transmission pattern, was 0.02 per cent. When we undertake the next round of serological testing, we hope to get a better result," she said.

The survey was undertaken by five different teams which conducted tests across the city covering five slums and High Risk Groups. A total of 2,830 people were covered under the survey and their samples were tested. RMRC has submitted a detailed report to the state government.

Ex-AYUSH director forced to retire

A woman employee of the directorate accused the officer of sexual harassment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: Weeks after being accused of sexual harassment, former director of AYUSH Bibhu Prasad Sadangi was given compulsory retirement Thursday.

A woman employee of his office had accused Sadangi of sexually harassing her. On basis of her report, Mahila Police had arrested the OAS officer in special secretary rank July 9. Sadangi remained in judicial custody till July 13 when the additional district & session's court granted him bail.

With Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

emphasising on high degree of morality and integrity in public service, the officer was suspended considering the gravity of the case, a source said.

The government ordered compulsory retirement of Sadangi from service with immediate effect in line with its policy of zero tolerance on any act of immorality by any of its employee, howsoever important he might be, a press notification said.

Notably, the 25-year-old woman employee of Kendrapara is engaged as a contractual worker on an outsourcing basis at the directorate. She accused Sadangi of pressurizing her to have sex-

ual relations with him which she refused many times.

Sadangi later sent indecent messages and obscene videos on her WhatsApp number several times. She mentioned in her complaint that it was when she blocked Sadangi on WhatsApp, the officer verbally abused her over telephone.

Sadangi has also filed a counter complaint with Capital police through mail accusing the lady of falsely implicating him in the case at the behest of one of her male friends when he tried to unearth irregularities in their appointments.

Gehlot to bring confidence motion

AGENCIES

Jaipur, August 13: In a major twist to the Congress crisis in Rajasthan, the BJP Thursday announced it will move a no-confidence motion against the Ashok Gehlot government in the special Assembly session starting Friday. Not to be daunted by the threat, Chief Minister Gehlot said his government will bring in a confidence motion in the Assembly.

Earlier in the day, senior Rajasthan BJP leaders including Vasundhara Raje met to plan for the session. It was the first meeting of BJP MLAs since the Congress crisis pushed

the Ashok Gehlot government to the verge of collapse in July.

The crisis was resolved after Sachin Pilot ended his rebellion Monday following a patch-up with the Congress leadership.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly Gulab Chand Kataria Thursday told the media, "We are bringing a no-confidence motion tomorrow in the Assembly along with our allies".

All through the month-long Congress rebel crisis, the BJP denied any attempt to seize power by luring the former's MLAs. The party had also said it would not call for a no-confidence motion and

RAJASTHAN CRISIS

that it was up to the Congress to call a trust vote to prove its majority.

On Tuesday, BJP called off its scheduled MLAs' meet after the Congress patch-up, but Thursday Khaturia said, "We are reworking our strategy" hinting that despite the truce, the Congress government would not complete its five-year term.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, said: "The BJP doesn't know what hit them! They suddenly cancelled their meeting. They realised that their conspiracy didn't work."

The revolt by Sachin Pilot and 18 other rebels left Gehlot with 102

MLAs, barely one above the majority mark in the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly.

Meanwhile, Gehlot and Pilot shook hands Thursday and smiled for the cameras as they met for the first time since their public clash. Pilot was invited to the Rajasthan Chief Minister's home for a meeting of Congress MLAs, his first after his reconciliation with the party leadership and "homecoming".

Gehlot had posted on Twitter Thursday morning that he was all for "forget and forgive" and moving on "for the sake of saving democracy."

Woman hacks husband to death over affair



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, August 13: Upset over her husband's alleged extra-marital affair and tortures inflicted on her, a woman from Sadeipur village under Balikuda police limits in Jagatsinghpur district 'hacked' her husband to death in the wee hours of Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Sushant Samal.

Sources said that Sushant and his wife, Kabita Samal, were going through a rough patch as Sushant used to beat her regularly over petty issues. On top of that, he was also suspected of having an extra-marital affair. As a result, both had an altercation late Wednesday night, but the argument remained inconclusive and Sushant went off to sleep.

Fuming over the incident and in a bid to free herself from the husband's atrocities, she hacked her husband with an axe while he was asleep resulting in his death.

After committing the crime Kabita informed her close relatives about the same following which the latter alerted the cops. On being informed local police reached the spot with a forensic team and sent the body for post-mortem.

Police have detained Kabita for interrogation, while further investigation is on.

'Operation Empty Plate': Chinese diners told to order less food

RESTAURANT DINERS TOLD TO ORDER ONE DISH FEWER THAN NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER NEW SYSTEM CRITICISED AS OVERLY CONTROLLING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, August 13: The Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, has launched a campaign targeting a new enemy of the country: food waste.

"Waste is shameful and thriftiness is honourable," Xi said in a speech published Tuesday, describing the amount of food that goes to waste in the country as "shocking and distressing".

Quoting a poem, he said: "Who knows that of our meal in the dish, every grain comes after hard toil?" He added: "We should still maintain a sense of crisis about food security. The impact of this year's COVID-19 pandemic has sounded the alarm."

The focus on food waste comes after weeks of mass flooding across



the country wiped out crops, contributing to rising food prices – already higher after the COVID-19 outbreak paralysed the Chinese economy.

Faced with trade tensions with the US and other countries, food

security – always a priority for China – has become even more important. As much as 20% to 30% of China's grains are imported, according to estimates.

Local authorities immediately sprang into action with proposals

targeting the scourge of food waste, or "operation empty plate", an initiative first mentioned in 2013 but elevated anew by Xi's speech. The Wuhan Catering Industry Association called on restaurants in the city to issue a system called "N-1 ordering" whereby a group must order one dish fewer than the number of diners.

Restaurants should offer half-size and smaller portions as well as offer to-go boxes to pack up leftovers. Following Wuhan's lead, the cities of Xianning, also in Hubei province, and Xinyang, in Henan province, also proposed implementing the N-1 system.

In Chongqing, the Federation of Industry and Commerce issued a statement promising to implement

Xi's guidance, setting up LED screens with prompts to "establish a frugal consumption reminder system", as well as measures to "supervise consumers to eat frugally".

In a country where it is seen as polite to order more than the amount needed, "operation empty plate" will encounter difficulties. Meals are often served family-style with shared dishes and hosts tend to order more dishes than the number of diners in the group.

In his speech, Xi called for strengthening legislation, supervision, and long-term measures as well as better public education to "resolutely stop food waste". A report in 2015 by the China Academy Science and partners found that up to 18 million tonnes of food a year was

wasted in large cities, enough to feed 30 to 50 million people a year.

Under an article on Wuhan's N-1 dining initiative by the official People's Daily, internet users on Weibo left sceptical and in some cases angry comments. "Can you first limit the dining of officials? Don't always take away from the people," one said, referring to formal banquets and lavish meals held by officials.

One user, alluding to the economic difficulties many in the country are facing, said: "This seems aimed at us bottom class, but we are already thrifty. This will mean nothing to the rich." Another said: "I especially hate this kind of political action that leans on ordinary people to act."

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you are not in your usual gregarious mood. An unpleasant situation may also prove to be a challenge. Even though you're enterprising, Ganesh suggests that you don't go tripping all over yourself. A little devotion to God can make a big difference to your life.

TAURUS

You may come across as headstrong to your co-workers and friends. You are known to be stubborn at times and today will be no exception. You may find it unnecessary to meet the other person halfway, regardless of the truth in it.

GEMINI

You are likely to have a great time with like-minded people, says Ganesh. At work, achieving perfection will be your motto. You will strive for perfection at work and home. You will remain practical and pragmatic throughout the day.

CANCER

You have a gift. You come across as a very approachable and dependable person. It's this attribute that makes people want to work with you and trust you, says Ganesh. But today is another day, and you may want a break from helping people fight their daily battles and spending some quality time with your family members.

LEO

Rise and shine, says Ganesh, as today will be a sunny day. You will start the day on a very positive note filled with unwavering optimism. Look forward to expressing your views clearly. In fact, the honest opinions you will give at official meetings may push you into the limelight.

VIRGO

In all probability, you would want to quarantine yourself today – mentally and physically. It's all got to do with the way you can challenge yourself and pool your own resources together to make the best of unpleasant conditions.

LIBRA

Today promises to be an action-packed day for you at work. So, get ready to take the bull by its horns, says Ganesh. Expect to handle a lot of unknown people and unfamiliar situations at work. Evening might find you making a few trips to the market to buy some provisions. Also, love is in the air, and you are in demand.

SCORPIO

Business will keep you on your toes and make you dance around, says Ganesh. Success is likely to intoxicate you. Ganesh advises you not to let emotions influence your plans and strategies in any way.

SAGITTARIUS

Today you shall remain deep in thought. You may have plans to change the look of your home and a romantic evening with your sweetheart is on the cards, says Ganesh. Fine gourmet and a nice ambience will arouse those senses more, informs Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

A memorable time with like-minded people is on the cards today, says Ganesh. At work, you may try everything in your capacity to attain perfection, but perfection will remain restricted to your thinking. None of the innovative ideas striking your mind will actually come into force.

AQUARIUS

Your ideas may be excellent, says Ganesh, but it's your diplomacy and charm which will oil the wheels. You are a silver-tongued smoothie, and can even talk people into eating soap! Family and friends will revel in your company. If you are a student, you may get As in all your tests!

PISCES

Today is a day when the focus is solely on achieving your career goals. A joint venture you have been hankering after for quite some time ought to fall into place today. A tour for business purposes is also indicated. On the domestic front, all should be well, says Ganesh.



SADAK 2 MUSIC COMPOSER DENIES PLAGIARISM CHARGES

Music composer Suniljeet has hit back at plagiarism accusations, saying that his song, *Ishq kamaal*, in the upcoming film, *Sadak 2*, is his original composition.

ZUBEEN GARG VERBALLY ABUSED IN GUWAHATI

Renowned Assamese singer Zubeen Garg was verbally abused by a group of six unidentified men in Guwahati Thursday, police said, adding that a probe has been launched into the incident.



PRIYANKA gripped by wanderlust

Mumbai: Sitting at home in a world paralysed by Covid lockdown, actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas seems to be gripped by wanderlust.

In a new snapshot she has posted on Instagram, Priyanka looks out of a window. She has captioned the image as, "Wanderlust".

Priyanka has been busy working out amid the lockdown, and she recently shared that she loves doing push-ups, especially when her husband, pop star Nick Jonas, is involved in the activity.

On the work front, Priyanka will be seen in *The White Tiger*, an upcoming Netflix adaptation where she features with Adarsh Gourav and Rajkummar Rao. The film is based on Aravind Adiga's Man Booker Prize-winning novel of the same name, and directed by Iranian filmmaker Ramin Bahrani.

IAN S



Vidyut extends helping hand to stuntmen

Mumbai: Action hero Vidyut Jammwal has donated to help stuntmen of Movie Stunt Artists Association.

He has also urged those who can help to contribute monetarily to these professionals, who have no income over the past months owing to the shutdown of the film industry during Covid lockdown.

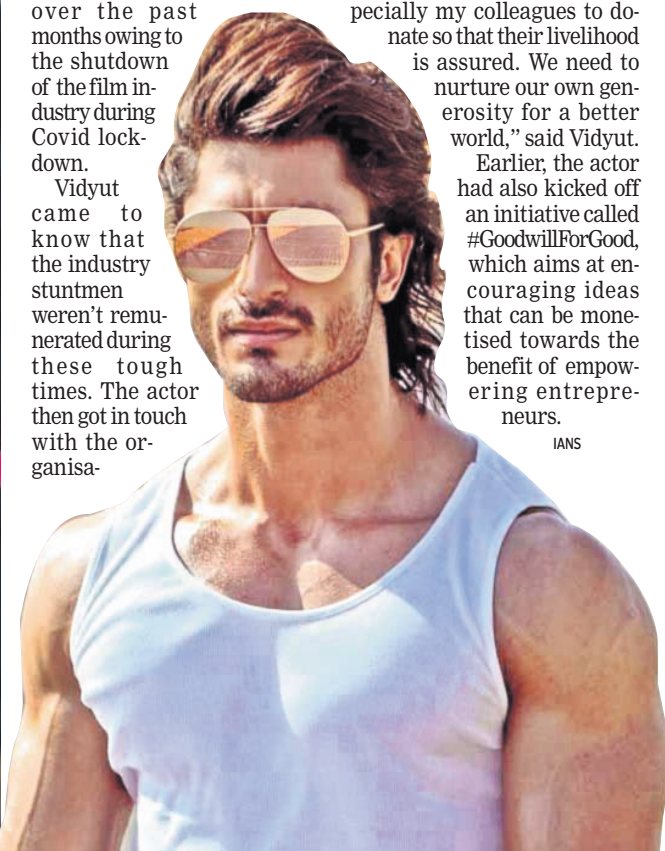
Vidyut came to know that the industry stuntmen weren't remunerated during these tough times. The actor then got in touch with the organisation

that manages these 'screen warriors'. He penned a letter addressed to them and made a donation.

"Our stunt artistes need our support and all those who can help please step forward. It is my humble request to everyone, especially my colleagues to donate so that their livelihood is assured. We need to nurture our own generosity for a better world," said Vidyut.

Earlier, the actor had also kicked off an initiative called #GoodwillForGood, which aims at encouraging ideas that can be monetised towards the benefit of empowering entrepreneurs.

IAN S



Musical ode to frontline warriors

New Delhi: While people applaud healthcare workers in their fight against the pandemic, the role of police forces who help citizens sleep fearlessly night after night, pandemic or not, often goes unnoticed.

On this Independence Day, the song titled *Tera Shukhriya* and *Jeetkar Dikhaana Hai* will be released as musical odes to the spirit of the police forces, who are during this period serving the country without any fear for their lives or their families amidst the pandemic.

The song *Tera Shukhriya* which was shot between Mumbai and Delhi is created and conceptualised by Catalyst Entertainment and initiated by Naad Foundation. It is written by Sachin Jigar and features various eminent artists such as Kailash Kher, Nitin Arora, Aamir Ali, Navraj Hans, Hussain Kuwjerjwala, as well as the composers



Sachin Jigar themselves.

Jeetkar Dikhaana Hai is also dedicated to the warriors who are risking their lives for us at this crucial period from doctors and scientists to the defence forces, as well as a huge motivational message to the public to fight the pandemic together.

The lyrics as well as the music production have been carved in such a way so the whole country feels a sense of responsibility towards writing our own destiny. The song featuring multi artists, the likes of Kailash Kher, Sheetal Gupta, Kunal Ganjawala, Mahima Chaudhary, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Usha Uthup and many more.

Both tracks will be released on YouTube August 15 2020

IAN S

FUN post

PEANUTS



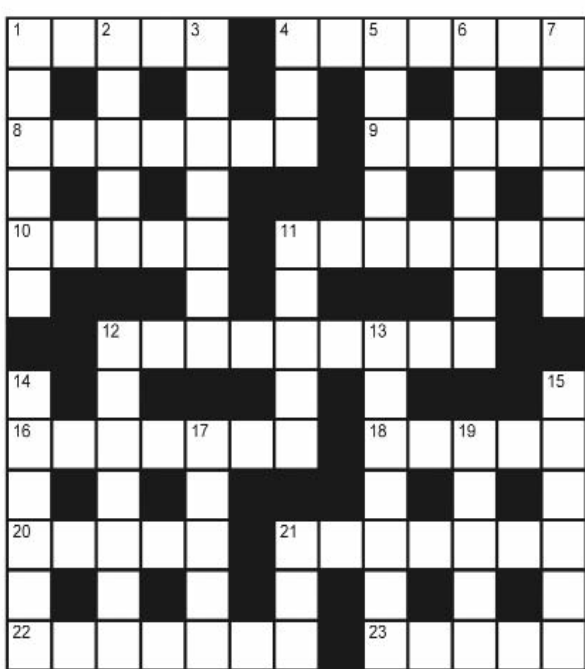
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Tropical Asian starling
- 4 Porpoise kin
- 8 Unnercd
- 9 Financial check-up
- 10 Supplemented
- 11 Result
- 12 Payments to an author
- 16 Precious stone

Down

- 1 Building material
- 2 Illustrious
- 3 Leisure time
- 4 Family member
- 18 Enchant
- 20 Petrol unit
- 21 Kind of rock
- 22 Creeks
- 23 Slipped up

5 Minimum

- 6 Repulsive
- 7 Mace relative
- 11 Embrocated
- 12 Cooking pan
- 13 You can burn it
- 14 Mystifies
- 15 Entertained
- 17 Alpha's opposite
- 19 French romance
- 21 Psyches

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

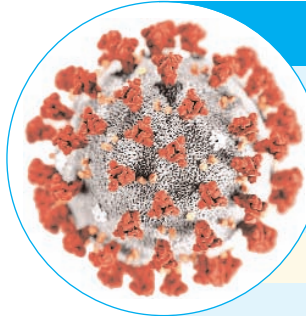
SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



I-DAY REHEARSAL

Security personnel rehearsing for the Independence Day parade at Barabati stadium in Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,08,88,256	1,37,73,279	7,48,578
India	24,31,558	17,25,834	47,527
Odisha	52,653	37,901	314

Centre plans tweak in DMF norms

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 13: In order to bring uniformity in guidelines in all states and for better utilisation of funds, the Union government is planning to make changes in the rules of District Mineral Foundation (DMF), a non-profit body established by states in districts affected by mineral explo-

ration. According to sources, the Mines Ministry has recently proposed several procedural reforms to enhance employment in mineral and mining industry. The ministry, sources said, has proposed certain changes in the DMF guidelines. It has been stated that the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines were issued by the ministry and the states framed their own rules. However, sources said, there is no uniformity in the rules framed by



MINING AREAS & DEVELOPMENT

■ The objective of DMF is to work for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas affected by mining operations

■ Mines Ministry has recently proposed several procedural reforms to enhance employment in mineral and mining industry

■ The ministry has proposed to use DMF funds for creation of tangible assets and synergies with goals of national flagship programmes

The DMFs have been directed to take major decisions in participatory mode, in consultation with gram sabhas

states with regard to PMKKKY.

The ministry, sources said, has proposed to use DMF funds for creation of tangible assets and synergies with goals of national flagship programmes such as electricity, road, water, health, education, skill and nutrition in the mining affected districts across the country. Significantly, the objective of DMF is to work for the interest and benefit of persons, and

areas affected by mining related operations in the manner prescribed by the state government. The DMFs have been directed to take all major decisions in participatory mode, in consultation with gram sabhas.

The holder of a mining lease, in addition to the royalty, contributes to DMF of the district in which the mining operations are carried out. The amount the mining firms pay to the DMF is equivalent to

the percentage of royalty, if lease has not been granted through auction and 25 per cent of royalty, if lease has been granted through auction.

It is to be mentioned here that Rs 6,104 crore was collected by DMF in Odisha till December 2018. Around 11,434 projects were sanctioned and Rs 1,011.11 crore was spent on various projects in the state.

Ailing Monalisa gets CM's aid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: Expressing concern over health and financial condition of Balasore's Monalisa Mandal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday asked the officials concerned to extend necessary support for the treatment of the girl.

Monalisa, a resident of Juari village under Alumeda panchayat of Balasore, has been battling with life-threatening cancer since 2018. Since she was undergoing treatment, she could not appear for the matriculation exam in 2019. This year, she sat the exam and secured 80 pc marks. Following the instruction of the Chief Minister, Balasore CDMO and local BDO visited her house and enquired about her health conduction. She has been shifted to AIIMS-Bhubaneswar for treatment. The Chief Minister has directed the hospital authorities to provide treatment to her under BSKY.

9 more OJEE centres

Bhubaneswar: Nine more online exam centres were added for the OJEE which includes six places in Odisha and three centres outside the state for the convenience of students. The candidates can log on to the online OJEE Application Portal and modify, if they want, only their choice of examination centres as per their convenience, said OJEE chairman. The places are: Bolangir, Paralakhemundi, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Nayagarh, Phulbani (Kandhamal) in Odisha and Patna, Ranchi and Kolkata.

ZERO RESULTS

15 higher secondary schools show-caused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: The Directorate of Higher Secondary Education has served a show-cause notice on 15 higher secondary schools of Odisha that recorded zero results for 2019-20 academic year.

The schools have been asked to submit their reports within seven days. The department has asked the 15 schools to explain why the department should not restrict their admission for 2020-21 academic year in Science stream

Plea to extend recognition

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court has sought reply from the state government in connection with a case seeking extension of the recognition to the private Plus-II colleges in Odisha for a year due to Covid-19 pandemic. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq and Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi posted the next hearing on the case to August 19. Petitioner Anang Kumar Ota has made state Chief Secretary, Higher Education secretary, S&ME Secretary and others as parties to the case.

and why temporary or permanent recognition for science stream should not be withdrawn.

The dept has asked the 15 schools to explain why admission for 2020-21 academic year should not be restricted

The 15 schools are — Nayanmani Women's Higher Secondary School in Bhadrak, Sushree Science HS School, and Government (SSD) HS School in Bolangir, Padmini Devi HS School in Sonepur, Krishna International Residential HS School for Science and Brundaban Pandi Women's Science HS School in Ganjam district, SRBD Science Res-cum-Dist Scholar HS School and Bijju Patnaik HS School in Kalahandi, Upendra Nath HS School, and Brilliance Science HS School in Mayurbhanj district, KB Hist Residential HS School in Kandhamal, Subas Science HS School in Khurda district, Vision Residential HS School in Puri, Panchayat Anchalik HS School in Jharsuguda and Rourkela Institute of Technology HS School in Sundargarh district.

Notably, the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) published the Plus-II Science results August 12. While Nayagarh district registered the highest pass percentage of 86.51 this year, Jharsuguda recorded the lowest pass percentage of 40.71.

Crimes soar in twin city: CP data



■ The statistics revealed that the twin city experienced a significant rise in dacoity (robbery involving five or more persons), robbery, burglary and theft in 2019 as compared to 2018

■ However, there is mixed outcome when it comes to murder cases. Murder cases took a nosedive in Bhubaneswar (from 43 to 39) but increased slightly in Cuttack (from 29 to 30)

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: The twin city has turned into a happy hunting ground for the looters as far as the crime statistics for 2019 released by Commissionerate Police is concerned.

The statistics revealed that the twin city experienced a significant rise in dacoity (robbery involving five or more persons), robbery, burglary and theft in 2019 as compared to 2018.

As per the statistics, 69 cases of dacoity have been registered at different police stations in the twin city in 2019. Of that, 49 were reported in Bhubaneswar while 20 were reported from the Millennium City. However, only 37 dacoity cases – 10 in Cuttack and 27 in Bhubaneswar – were recorded in 2018. The occurrences of dacoity incidents in twin city have almost doubled in 2019.

Similarly, there is around 34 per cent increase in robbery cases in 2019 as compared to the previous year. The cases increased from 282

RISING CRIME GRAPH		
Cases	2018	2019
Dacoity	37	69
Robbery	282	379
Burglary	368	461
Theft	2,548	2,142
Swindling	758	917
Rape	192	215

in 2018 to 379 (266 in Bhubaneswar and 113 in Cuttack) in 2019.

The twin city also recorded 461 cases of burglary in 2019 as compared to 368 during the previous year. The Capital city witnessed 337 burglary incidents while the Silver city recorded 124 burglary cases in 2019.

Likewise, 2,548 theft cases were registered at the police stations in twin city during 2019 as against 2,142 during the previous year. Bhubaneswar witnessed around 22 per cent rise in theft cases dur-

ing 2019.

The twin city police recorded 758 swindling cases under Section 420 of the IPC including cyber fraud incidents in 2018. The number of cheating cases rose to 917 in 2019, registering an increase of around 18 per cent. Cuttack registered around 50 per cent increase in swindling cases during 2019.

Meanwhile, the Commissionerate Police managed to detect the accused only in 50 per cent of the theft and burglary cases during the period.

Similarly, rape cases in twin city rose to 215 in 2019 as against 192 in 2018, registering around 17 per cent increase. Although sexual abuse cases registered a slight decrease in Silver city, the Capital city witnessed a rise. It registered 149 rape cases in 2019 as against 122 in 2018.

However, there is mixed outcome when it comes to murder cases. Murder cases took a nosedive in Bhubaneswar (from 43 to 39) but increased slightly in Cuttack (from 29 to 30).

OUAT pact with IIT-Delhi for agri research

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) and IIT-New Delhi with an aim to strengthen education and research in farm sector.

The MoU was signed to generate frontier technologies and produce quality human resources in the field of agricultural research and education.

With signing of the pact, students of both the institutions will visit each others' institute under a student exchange programme and get the experience of learning from experts. This apart, the scientists of both the institutes will work together for solving various problems faced by farmers in rural areas. Both the institutes will work together on some new research projects. This collaboration will help mitigate the current challenges faced by the agricultural sector.

The agreement was signed between Vice-Chancellor of OUAT, Pawan Kumar Agrawal, and IIT-New Delhi director, V Ram Gopal Rao. "The MoU will be helpful in doing some ground breaking work in agriculture sector and will help in finding solution to various problems faced by farmers," said the VC.

Recently, several students visited the International Rice Research in Philippines for a training programme.

HC for probe into lawyer-tehsildar spat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 13: The Orissa High Court (HC) has ordered the Town police in Berhampur to register a case and investigate the alleged misbehaviour meted out to a lawyer by the tehsildar in June this year.

A bench of Justice Biswanath Rath pronounced the order while hearing a petition filed by Berhampur-based lawyer Lalit Mohan Mangaraj alleging a cold shoulder by the Town police in registering a case against Berhampur tehsildar.

The petitioner had informed the HC



that the incident took place when he was on his way home June 6. "I was hauled up at a Covid-related checking near Gandhi Nagar Square. Berhampur tehsildar Sipak Patra, who was heading the inspection team, entered into an argument with me. In a fit of rage, Patra not only abused me but also my profession," said

the petitioner. Soon after the incident, Mangaraj highlighted the issue with his fellow lawyers of Ganjam Lawyers' Association, Berhampur sub-collector, revenue divisional commissioner (Southern Range) and Home secretary. "These apart, I had approached the Town police with a written complaint. But they [police] didn't pay heed to my complaint," the petitioner pointed out. With no way out, Mangaraj knocked the HC door for justice.

The HC has directed the Berhampur Town police to ensure expeditious investigation into the incident, said a source.

Schools to celebrate I-Day sans students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: Even though schools will remain closed till August end, the state government Thursday directed the schools to celebrate Independence Day, 2020 without students.

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

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



A boy sells the Tricolours in Unit-VIII area of Bhubaneswar ahead of the Independence Day celebration, Thursday

tancing, etc.," the department said in the guidelines.

School management committee (SMC) president and members will be invited to attend the celebration. The day

will be celebrated in presence of a maximum of 10 persons.

The department has asked the school authorities not to distribute any eatable in the flag hoisting ceremony. The

SMC president and members will be invited to attend the celebration. A maximum of 10 persons are allowed to attend the function

process of observance should be completed within 9am to 11am.

School headmasters have been directed to ensure that all guidelines issued by Health & Family Welfare department and Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) will be followed strictly and under no circumstances should be violated.

सी डेक

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Record 1,981 daily cases in state



COVID testing at Niladri Vihar Upper Primary School in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 13: State Thursday witnessed the biggest single-day spike of 1,981 COVID-19 cases, which took Odisha's tally to 52,653, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Nine more patients succumbed to the infection, raising the death toll to 314, said the official. "Three deaths were recorded in Ganjam district, two each in Cuttack and Mayurbhanj, and one each in Kandhamal and Sundargarh," the official added.

"Regret to inform the demise of Nine #COVID 19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals," the H&FW department said

On Twitter.

Of the 1,981 cases, 1,225 were reported from different quarantine centres, and the remaining from localities during contact tracing exercise, the official pointed out.

Meanwhile, 1,422 recovered in the state Thursday. As many as 37,900 people have recovered from the disease so far. Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died in Odisha due to comorbidities.

The Odisha government has claimed that the state has conducted the highest number of 40,711 Covid tests Wednesday as against 32,053 tests conducted August 11.

The government has planned to conduct at least 50,000 tests every day by August 20 which will be subsequently enhanced to one lakh.

ACTIVISTS SEEK RELIEF FOR DAILY WAGERS

CUTTACK: Activists of Bastibasindanka Milita Manch, an outfit fighting for the causes of slum dwellers, Thursday staged a dharna in front of the office of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) seeking immediate relief for the poor people residing in the Covid-19 containment zones in the Silver City here.

Outfit convener Khageswar Sethi along with Deepak Das, Swadhin Behera and others staged the dharna in front of the CMC office. Mahanagar Nagarik Manch convener Chittaranjan Mohanty extended his support to the agitators.

The agitators claimed that the CMC has declared several localities near Malgodown, one of the biggest wholesale markets in state, as containment zones to check the spread of Covid-19.

As a result, the poor and daily wagers of Behera Sahi, Jalua Sahi and Telugu Basti have been forced to stay home.

Moreover, many male members of the slum dwellers' families have been quarantined to tackle the deadly virus. In the process, the daily wagers lost their livelihood. The daily wagers of the containment zones have urged civic authorities to provide them relief in terms of food and groceries but to no avail,

had earlier urged the civic body to sanitise slums in the city and mobilise health staff to deal with the pandemic. But, the concerned authorities did not pay heed to the outfit's pleas.

"The authorities concerned should provide financial assistance declared by the state government to slum dwellers who have completed their quarantine periods. We will be forced to opt for a hunger strike if the administration does to take



alleged the agitators. They further alleged that they immediate steps to provide relief to the daily wagers," Sethi said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while reviewing the Covid situation in the state Wednesday announced that Odisha will substantially enhance the testing during the coming

weeks and conduct tests at sub-divisional hospitals and community health centres to take the fight against COVID-19 to the next level.

Odisha government has relaxed

the weekend shutdown restriction imposed in the month of August in the districts of Ganjam, Khurda, Gajapati, Cuttack and Rourkela Municipal Corporation in view of Independence Day.

Expect 4 days of heavy rain: MeT



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: A fresh low-pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal Thursday is likely to trigger heavy downpour in many parts of Odisha over the next four days, prompting the government to ask the districts to remain prepared to deal with possible water-logging and flood-like situations.

Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation, a new low-pressure area has formed over northwest Bay of Bengal off north Odisha and West Bengal coasts, said H R Biswas, the Director of the Meteorological Centre here.

This is the third low-pressure area formed over the Bay of Odisha this month. Many areas of Odisha have already been battered by heavy to very heavy rainfall under the

monitor the situation and remain prepared to meet any possible water-logging and localized flood-like situation.

Advice for fishermen should be strictly implemented, he said in an advisory to all district collectors.

Issuing an Orange Warning for Malkangiri and Koraput till Friday, the MeT Centre said heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at some places in these districts during the period, and cause water-logging in low-lying areas.

Similarly, heavy rainfall is likely to occur in some areas of Ganjam, Puri, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Sambalpur and Deogarh districts where 'Yellow Warning' has been issued, it said.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at some places of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Bolangir and Malkangiri on Friday and Saturday with the weather office issuing 'Orange Warning' for these districts. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Ganjam, Kendrapara Jajpur, Bhadrak, Sonepur, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Bargarh during the period.

The Met Centre has also forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in some areas of Nuapada, Bargarh, Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Nabarangpur, Deogarh, Sonepur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Keonjhar, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Boudh, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Bargarh and Sundargarh districts Sunday and Monday.

While 'Yellow Warning' implies the possibility of disruption to normal life, including movement due to adverse weather conditions, 'Orange Warning' stands for weather conditions that have the capacity to impact the lives of the people significantly and requires the authorities to remain prepared.

CM confers Suraj Award on 3 organ donors of state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: With an aim to promote organ donation, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday conferred Suraj award to three organ donors of the state posthumously who donated their organs to save the lives of others.

Naveen conferred the award to the family members of the organ donors through video conferencing. The three awardees include late P Pryanka Rani Parta of Digapahandi in Ganjam district, Suchitra Dash of Bhubaneswar and Rajalakshmi Das of Delanga in Puri district. The Chief Minister presented the memento and a cash award of Rs 5 lakh to each of the families. November last year, the state government had announced the Suraj award to encourage organ donation by brain dead people. The Award was named after Suraj Behera, a native of Ganjam, who donated his organs to save the



lives of six persons after he was declared brain dead following a road accident. "Suraj is an inspiration for all of us and shines bright as the sun, even after his death. He and the awardees today are living examples of humanity and service to the society," Naveen said.

Among others, Assembly Speaker SN Patro, Health Minister Naba Das, Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, MLA Pradip Maharathi, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy attended the event.

DISMANTLING ACT



Servitors dismantle Nandighosa chariot of Lord Jagannath near Srimandir Lions' Gate, Thursday. The temple administration has decided to preserve the three grand chariots of this year's Rath Yatra at Jagannath Ballav Mutt in Puri

OP PHOTO

Sarpanch 'embezzles' ₹5.88 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: The Odisha Lokayukta, Thursday, appointed its Director of Inquiry to investigate into allegations of embezzlement of funds amounting Rs. 5.88 lakhs by Sarpanch and other senior government officers of Gop block in Puri.

In a complaint, Block Development Officer (BDO), Junior Engineer and Sarpanch, Sabita Sahu of Gop block had 'fraudulently misappropriated' about Rs. 6 lakhs that was sanctioned under

the 'Swachh Bharat' scheme. The amount was to be utilized for construction of lavatories under the panchayat.

"It is alleged that husband of the Sarpanch, Trilochan Sahu, has withdrawn the entire amount from the block account without utilizing the same for the purpose it was sanctioned in connivance with his wife, Sabita Sahu. Moreover, despite serving the notice, no reply was filed by the BDO and Junior Engineer. Also, surprisingly the reply filed by the Sarpanch is unsigned," said the notice by the

Lokayukta.

Realising the serious nature of the allegations, the Lokayukta has ordered the Director of Inquiry to hold a preliminary inquiry. The inquiry will ascertain whether there exists a prima facie case for proceeding further in the matter.

"The Director of Inquiry is directed to look into the case. The department should finish its preliminary inquiry within 60 days from the date of order. After thorough investigation into the report submitted further course of action will be decided," the notice added.

De-addiction drive in Bhadrak soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: The state government has now decided to scale up their de-addiction drive in Bhadrak after some pockets of the district reported hooch tragedies.

The Tihidi and Chandabali area of Bhadrak district had earlier this year reported death of nine persons after consuming spurious liquor. The Department of Social Securities and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) has now asked the Bhadrak District Social Security Officer to intensify de-addiction drives across the state.

and 29th April, 2020 in Tihidi and Chandabali area of Bhadrak District which has already accepted by government," the SSEPD letter to the Bhadrak DSSO said.

In this regard, the Excise department had earlier requested for taking necessary steps on intensifying social campaign in the district through social organisations, women SHG groups or health experts to educate people against evil effects of consumption of liquor.

"Functioning of such agencies needs periodical monitoring and supervision of the District Social Security Officer (DSSO) so that effective social mobilisation by them can bring a change against consumption of liquor. It is therefore requested to kindly take necessary steps on the above matter and an action taken report may be furnished to this Department at an early date," the SSEPD department said in the letter to the Bhadrak DSSO.



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App to counter coronavirus stigma

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: As part of its efforts to counter misinformation campaigns on COVID-19, the Odisha government has launched a mobile application, which would provide necessary details and proper guidance to people to help them combat the disease.

The app, developed by the government in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will generate awareness on the pandemic, especially among the younger population, who account for 55.49 per cent of the state's total coronavirus count, a senior of-

ficial said. Of the 52,653 COVID-19 cases in Odisha, 29,999 are in the age group of 15 to 40 years, and 15,638 in the age bracket of 41 to 60 years, the official said. "The new app will provide scientific information on COVID-19 in English and Odia. It will help dispel myths and prevent ostracisation of coronavirus patients."

"Videos on safety measures and guidelines to control the spread of the disease, along with other dos and don'ts, are also available on the app. The self-learning software can be downloaded from Google Play Store," the official said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had Wednesday said those asymp-

tomatic or with mild symptoms are finding it difficult to undergo home isolation due to the social stigma associated with the viral disease.

"This fear and stigma surrounding COVID-19 must be removed from the minds of the people and communities (at large) so that more and more people can opt for home isolation," the CM had said. Meanwhile, with an aim to promote organ donation, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday conferred Suraj award to three organ donors of the state posthumously who donated their organs to save the lives of others.

Top bureaucrat arrested by Vig

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: Vigilance sleuths traced assets worth over three crores acquired by Ajay Kumar Das, the special secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management Department, disproportionate to his known sources of income. He was Thursday produced before the special vigilance court here.

Notably, acting on a tip-off, the vigilance officials carried out simultaneous raids at Das' residential houses at Ratnakara Bag near Tankapani Road in Bhubaneswar, his flat at Patia in Bhubaneswar and his double-storied building in Balasore.

During the searches, the sleuths found assets worth Rs.2,58,91,4271 including two double-storied buildings, one single-storied building, four numbers of flats, nine numbers of plots, two numbers of four wheelers, two numbers of two wheelers, deposits in different banks, investment in Sahara India, gold over 1.1 Kg, silver ornaments, cash over 2.5 Lakhs and costly household articles.

That apart, the vigilance officials also traced investments to the tune of over Rs 81 lakhs in various insurance policies made by Ajay.

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Jumbos unsafe in Keonjhar as corridor projects in cold storage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 13: Rapid deforestation, rampant mining, poaching, electrocution and road accidents are some of the major factors posing risk to elephants in mineral rich Keonjhar district.

The forest department has taken up measures for protection of elephants, but incidents of elephant casualties have not been checked while several elephant corridor projects including Baitarani elephant conservation project in the district remain unexecuted over years, a report said.

Habitat loss coupled with fodder shortage in declining forested pockets often forces the animals to stray out of their habitats into human settlements, resulting in man-animal conflicts.

In the current year, five elephants have died in the district for various reasons. Lack of monitoring on the movement of elephants under Keonjhar forest division recently came to light. Two elephants were found electrocuted by poachers in Joda section of Champua range June 14. A forester and a forest guard had been suspended June 18 for negligence in duty. The state government had ordered a Crime Branch probe into the elephant deaths, but it has not started as yet.

According to reports, for safety of elephants, a corridor had been planned in a forest area of 10,000 hectares in four districts. It was named as Baitarani elephant conservation project about 22 years ago. Sadly, the project had been caught in red tape.



RISK FACTORS

The forest department has taken up measures for protection of elephants, but incidents of elephant casualties have not been checked while several elephant corridor projects including Baitarani elephant conservation project in the district remain unexecuted over years, a report said

Nine elephants died in 2012-13; four each in 2013-14 and 2014-15; six in 2015-16; two each in 2017-18 and 2018-19; six in 2019-20 and five in 2020-21 (till date)

For safety of elephants, Baitarani elephant conservation project had been planned in a forest area of 10,000 hectares in four districts about 22 years ago. Sadly, the project had been caught in red tape

No step was taken on other elephant corridor projects like Karo-Kamarpada under Barbil range and Telkoi-Palahada elephant corridor under Telkoi range. Lakhs of rupees had been spent on identifying an area for the elephant corridor comprising Karo-Kamarpada and Kardangi-Kakudiamba. The elephant corridor was planned for a 32-km stretch from Kardangi to Kakudiamba.

Some wildlife experts and environmentalists say, the district was once rich with dense forests, but they have depleted over years due to mining and timber smuggling.

The hilly and forested pockets

like Thakurani, Roida, Mahaparat, Roida, Kalaparvat, Gandhmardhan, Khandadhar, Baula, Daitari, Baitarani and Siddhamath used to be major elephant habitats in the district. However, over years, these habitats have been badly damaged by mining, becoming unsafe for elephants.

Apart from mineral mining, quarrying of granite, laterite, murrum, and other minor minerals are said to be responsible for the thinning of the forest cover.

Wildlife conservator (Honourary) Harekrushna Mohant said there is a need for sufficient food in the areas where forest cover is wan-

ing. Locals observed that had the project been executed, the district would not be seeing man-animal conflicts.

Statistics have it that since 2010 till date, Keonjhar forest division alone has reported 51 elephant deaths. In 2010-11, the district saw deaths of nine elephants while four died in 201-12.

Nine elephants died in 2012-13; four each in 2013-14 and 2014-15; six in 2015-16; two each in 2017-18 and 2018-19; six in 2019-20 and five in 2020-21 (till date). According to official data, there are 105 elephants in the Keonjhar division.

Upset over elephant casualties, environmentalist and honorary wildlife warden Harekrushna Mohant said, "Rampant mining, and declining forest cover resulted in loss of habitat and shortage of fodder threatening elephants' safety."

He added that increasing movement of mineral-laden vehicles, encroachment of forests, infrastructure development projects such as roads and railways and industrial units in the forested pockets have posed serious threat to animals, which stray out and enter villages, leading to man-elephant conflicts.

Experts suggested that underpasses, overpasses, check gates and bridges should be incorporated into a development plan in the forested pockets to mitigate elephant casualties. Additional conservator of forests, Ghanashyam Mohant said, "The department has taken tough stand on protection and safety of elephants. 24X7 patrolling and monitoring have been intensified."

FLOODS HIT MALKANGIRI, MANY RIVERS ARE IN SPATE



Floodwaters gushing over a bridge at Kangrukonda

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 13: Even as heavy rains lashed many parts of southern Odisha, a flood-like situation prevailed in Malkangiri district.

Incessant rains over last few days have caused many rivers and canals to swell in Potteru Kanyashram, Kangarukonda, MV-90 and MV-96 areas since Wednesday. Water level in these rivers is rising.

Floodwaters of Saberi river flowed 5 ft above a bridge near Kanyasham in Padia block. Communication in various parts of the district was disrupted Thursday as floodwaters entered 17 villages under this block.

Meanwhile, an ODRAF team of 17 members was pressed into rescue operation in the area.

The administration has formed

a rapid action force by taking fire-fighters, BDOs and tehsildars.

Communication between Motu and Padia was badly affected amid heavy rains. Floodwaters from Kolab river entered in some parts of Mathili area.

Villages like Majhiguda, Kuduguda, Gambhariguda under Khairiput block remained cut off from the rest of the world.

The connectivity between Balimela town and Malkangiri district headquarters has been totally disconnected. As a result of which hundreds of vehicles and people were stranded on both sides of the bridge as there were no signs of water level decreasing.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological centre here said that under the influence of a deep depression over northwest Bay of Bengal, moderate rain or thundershowers oc-

Villages like Majhiguda, Kuduguda, Gambhariguda under Khairiput block remained cut-off from the rest of the world while a 17-member ODRAF team was pressed into service



curring in most places in Odisha and heavy to very heavy rain occurred at some areas, mostly in the southern region.

Heavy to very heavy rain is likely to pound several areas till August 14, it said. As the water level of the rivers Sileru, Saberi, and Saptadhara has been continuously rising, the district administration has made arrangements for many shelters and relief camps to evacuate people from marooned areas.

The rain water has started entering into some villages of the district which are in low-lying areas. The district administration stated that the situation was being monitored. Police and fire services teams have been deployed to attend to exigencies.

Sec-144 at 7 more places in Sambalpur

SAMBALPUR: A day after imposing Section 144 at ten places in Sambalpur district to curb the spread of coronavirus, the district administration imposed curfew at seven more places Thursday.

The total number of places in the district under Section 144 has now gone up to 17. The places where the prohibitory orders under Section 144 have been clamped are Kadammal, Khetrajpur; Kalyani Residency, Khetrajpur; Deulbandh, Modipada; Christianpada, in front of Church; Shantinagar; Budharaja; Pensionpada and Talipada, Durgapali.

The imposition of Section 144 will remain in force from August 13 to August 17, ordered the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

The areas where the section was imposed Wednesday are Hatli Chowk, Badbazar; Hirakud Colony (Adarsh Nagar); Jhadupada (Sradhakara Supkar Gali); Haragouripada, Panchgochhia;

Jagannath Mandir Colony; Housing Board Colony; Sibanagar, Dhanupali; Explosive Colony, Motijharan; Nuapada, Bareipali and Kansaripada. However, the imposition of restriction in these places will remain in force from August 12 to August 16.

While the movement of people in or out of the restricted areas is banned, movement for medical emergencies and for maintaining the supply of essential goods and services is exempted.

No person will be allowed to enter within 100 metres radius of the aforementioned areas.

Notably, Sambalpur district reported 38 fresh COVID-19 cases Thursday. With this the district's tally has gone up to 1,269.

While a total of 693 patients have recovered from the disease, 574 patients are still undergoing treatment at hospitals. So far, two patients have succumbed to the virus in the district.

Locals demand lifting of curbs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, August 13: Residents of Sipkapada area under Kantabanji block of Bolangir district took to streets Wednesday afternoon at the entry point which was sealed earlier, demanding lifting of containment zone restrictions.

Sub divisional police officer (SDPO) Saroj Kumar Mohapatra immediately reached the spot and tried to pacify the agitating residents.

Kantabanji notified area council (NAC) authorities and the district administration have declared

ward Nos 2, 5, 10 and 11 as containment zones. Since then, residents in these areas have been confined to their homes. As most of the residents of ward No 10 are daily wagers, they find it difficult to eke out their living amid COVID-19 outbreak, locals alleged.

"Containment cone restrictions should immediately be lifted", residents of ward No 10 insisted. The agitators relented after Mohapatra committed to convey the problems to police higher-ups and the district administration.

Burla PS sealed as 2 cops test positive

SAMBALPUR: Burla police station in Sambalpur district was sealed Thursday after two cops of the police station tested positive for COVID-19. The station will be sealed for five days, said a senior official of the police station. Reportedly, the COVID-19 test report of the two police personnel came out positive Wednesday night after which the call to seal the police station was taken. Sources said, the two officials had been feeling ill over last couple of days. After they developed noticeable COVID-19 symptoms, they underwent COVID test and the report came out positive. For the safety of the public, the district police have sealed the office for five days i.e. from August 13 to August 17. Efforts are on to sanitise the police station, said a police official. All the policemen were sent on quarantine. The administration also launched a contact tracing drive with collection of swab samples.

Healthcare services in Kendrapara in tatters

POST NEW NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 13: Healthcare services in rural parts of the district have deteriorated due to lack of doctors in 24 public health centres (PHCs), a report said.

With the situation already worsening due to the pandemic, such deteriorating healthcare services have severely hit the residents. The district being flood prone, many people die due to water-borne and vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria.

The situation is quite worrisome in rural areas where there are very few doctors to attend to patients. The situation in urban areas is more or less same as doctors attend to fewer patients due to Covid guidelines. As a result, quacks are ruling the roost in villages while private nursing homes make hay taking advantage of the situation.

An RTI activist Bibhuti Bhushan Routh alleged that around 24 PHCs in rural areas have no doctors. These PHCs are two in Rajkanika, four in Derabish, seven in Mahakalapara, two in



Marshaghai, three in Rajnagar, two in Aul and two each in Garadpur and Pattmundai.

Things have come to such a pass that PHCs in remote areas like Dangamal, Talachua, Ishwarpur villages are going without doctors for last two years. As a result, villagers take the help of quacks when they fall ill.

Quacks, mainly from Bengali community, fleece gullible villagers. The death of a woman and a child at Tantiapala village in 2019 is a case in point.

Pratap Chandra Padhy, a social activist, said dialysis services were suspended at the district headquarters hospital due to pandemic. A few patients turn up at rural health centres due to strict en-

forcement of social distancing norms.

The PHCs with doctors don't touch patients due to fear of Covid. The state government engaging many doctors in Covid-19 duties has affected healthcare services.

Sarpanch Basudev Jena of Nikirai panchayat narrating his woes alleged that he admitted his pregnant daughter to a private nursing home due to a mess at the DHH. His daughter delivered a stillborn child there due to medical negligence. He lodged a complaint at Town police station. Contacted, Collector Samarth Verma said the administration is appointing para-medical staff at PHCs with no doctors while doctors are deputed at regular intervals.

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED					
CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264					
Extract Of Financial Results For The Quarter Ended On June 30, 2020					
Key numbers of Financial Results (Rs. in Thousands)					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended June 30, 2020	Quarter Ended March 31, 2020	Quarter Ended June 30, 2019	Year Ended March 31, 2020
1	Total Revenue from Operations	-	-	9,592	15,583
2	Net Profit / (Loss) (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,300)	(1,341)	286	(6,546)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,300)	(1,341)	286	(6,546)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,300)	(1,182)	286	(6,387)
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit / (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	(1,300)	(1,182)	286	(6,387)
6	Equity Share Capital	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	"Earnings per share (of Rs 10/- each) Basic & Diluted (Rs.)"	(0.33)	(0.30)	0.07	(1.61)
Notes :					
a) The above unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 30th June, 2020 have been revised and recommended by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on 13th August, 2020. These results are being published in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.					
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on June 30, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020, are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges - www.bseindia.com and on the website of the Company - www.suryofoods.com .					
By order of the Board For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited					
Sd./- Amarendra Dash (Chairman-cum-Managing Director) DIN - 00583036					
Date : 13 August, 2020 Place: Bhubaneswar					



Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Anushakti Bhawan, C.S.M Marg, Mumbai-400001



Ref. No. 2092/IOP**Date: 31.07.2020**

CORRIGENDUM

Reference our indicative advertisement No. 1608/3/2018/R&D-II/DAE inviting applications for the post of **DIRECTOR**, Institute of Physics (IOP), Bhubaneswar (Level – 15 under 7th CPC) which appeared on all leading Newspapers during last week of February - 2020.
Due to COVID – 19 Lock Down, the last date is further extended up to **31.10.2020** for receipt of applications through **Registered Post (or) Speed Post (or) Courier (or) e-mail: <chmnoff@dae.gov.in>**. All other terms and conditions as explained in the detailed advertisement appearing on the following websites remain same.
i. www.dae.gov.in under “Vacancy Notices”
ii. www.iopb.res.in under “Openings → Jobs →2020”



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Order No.5573Date: 13.08.2020

TENDER CALL NOTICE
No.E-178:- Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Manufacturer/Authorized Distributor/Wholesalers for supply of “CATHLAB CONSUMABLES” to Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar for the year 2020-21 through **courier service / speed post / registered post only**. For detail please visit our website: www.capitalhospital.nic.in. The details of last date & time of receipt of tender, pre-bid meeting, date & time of opening of tender, venue etc. are as mentioned in the bid documents. The undersigned reserves the right to reject or cancel any or all the tender without any reason thereof.
Sd./- Director, Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-10078/11/0003/2021

“

True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become.

SRI AUROBINDO



End restrictions

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its latest monetary review meeting last week, decided against extending the six-month moratorium it had allowed, in phases, for customers on repayment of their existing loans. The central bank had allowed a choice to people to decide if they wanted to avail the moratorium on EMIs or continue to pay them. Ending the moratorium was a right decision by the RBI. We have argued in this column how the moratorium was just a charade. The scheme ensured no relief for customers. People availing the moratorium had to pay the principal plus interest and then interest on interest on their defaulted EMIs. It was also not beneficial for banks as they saw massive slippages on their loan books as people skipped having to pay EMIs. Such large scale defaults choked the cash flow even as it created a mess in banks' loan books. Banks were struggling with economic recession. The outbreak of the pandemic further ravaged the economy. Even as the RBI brought down the repo rate by around 150 basis points since February last year, the response from people in terms of loan offtake was tepid. With demand having crashed, industrial activities came to naught. To that extent, the corporate demand also came down. Banks have reported truncated profits. In this backdrop, default of multiple EMIs could push the banks to the brink. Also, accumulation of EMIs swollen by interest would force customers to default on loan repayments – a clear recipe for shooting the non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks. The larger the NPAs, the weaker the banks become. This would eventually force the government to step in with fresh capital. Thus, the moratorium was a loss and loss proposition for all. Therefore, the end of the moratorium story and its replacement by allowing banks to restructure loans and incentivize loanees based on their repayment track record is a welcome move. The banks have been asked to take into account the payment history of consumers as on March 30, 2020. The new policy will provide help to corporates, retail consumers and MSMEs wherein a consumer will be able to restructure his loan amount, the EMI amount and more importantly, the tenure of his loans. This will be applicable for people who have home loans, car loans, personal loans, education loans, loan against property, business loans and term loans, among others.

With inflation having a lot of upside, the RBI has held off on further raising the rates. This must have brought in additional pressure on the Central government to support an economic recovery even as it is struggling with an upsurge in COVID-19 infections across the country. The economy has been going under ever since the government announced the lockdown in March. Thereafter, repeated lockdowns and shutdowns have nipped all hopes of an early revival of the economy in the bud. It has also been proved that the lockdowns and shutdowns have failed to contain the spread of virus which has passed the 2.2-million mark. With the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) likely to drop to the lowest since Independence, the government must be weighing plans to present another package to stimulate the economy. Hopes are rising on the government to take more demand-boosting measures. Thrust on ramping up of infrastructure projects and a possible cut in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates could be other possible options for the government. But every effort by the government and the RBI will be futile as long as the government continues with its policy of restrictions. Economy can only be revived if there is a demand comeback and this will happen only after people are allowed to resume their work and jobs. End of restrictions only can catalyse this.

WISDOM CORNER

- “

The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science.

ALBERT EINSTEIN
- “

A woman has to live her life, or live to repent not having lived it. DH

LAWRENCE
- “

God is not present in idols. Your feelings are your god. The soul is your temple.

CHANAKYA

WORDSWORTH

■ Teamspace

This is a business term describing types of workplace accommodation that are designed to support collaborative effort. A significant proportion of office workers now work in teams, but conventional office layouts still assume workers are individuals. This can be a problem, for example in trying to arrange areas in which to hold impromptu discussions. Project teams have been known to move voluntarily to inadequate accommodation, say in the back of a warehouse, just so they can be together. Experts say that well-designed teamspace must permit workers to be all in the same place and should allow flexibility of furniture layout to cope with meetings and changes of personnel. Sometimes the teamspace is one large room, sometimes it's broken into what's been called a caves and commons system, with private individual work areas around a communal area. Capitalised, it's the trademark of a computer application designed to assist team working.

■ Technosis

The word technosis was invented by Erik Davis in an article in 1994 and used as the title of his 1998 book, subtitled Myth, Magic and Mysticism in the Age of Information. His is not the easiest book to read or summarise – Publisher's Weekly called it a “deluge of information and theory” – because he ranges very widely over spirituality and its interaction with technology. He argues that for many Net users there's a spiritual component to their links with it, and that valid comparisons can be made with earlier technological developments that also became metaphors for our view of the world. He cites the example of the Extropians, a Californian sect which believes it may one day be possible to download the essence of the human mind into a computer and so achieve immortality, and suggests this has elements in common with the Christian belief in the afterlife. He argues this spiritual feeling is a high-tech update of gnosia, an early Christian belief, hence his title and the word technosis for its modern equivalent. The topic is technostics and someone who studies the subject is a technognostic. Spelled with an internal capital, TechGnosis, it's the trading name of an American computer company.

LOL

BEER FESTIVAL

After a Beer Festival in London, all the brewery presidents decided to go out for a beer. Corona's president sits down and says, "Señor, I would like the world's best beer, a Corona." The bartender takes a bottle from the shelf and gives it to him. Then Budweiser's president says, "I'd like the best beer in the world, give me 'The King Of Beers', a Budweiser." The bartender gives him one. Coors' president says, "I'd like the



best beer in the world, the only one made with Rocky Mountain spring water, give me a Coors." He gets it. The guy from Guinness sits down and says, "Give me a Coke." The other brewery presidents look over at him and ask, "Why aren't you drinking a Guinness?" And the Guinness president replies, "Well, if you guys aren't drinking beer, neither will I."

FOCUS BUSINESS

TIME FOR TRIAL, ERROR



Now is the time to start creating and nurturing the businesses of tomorrow. There are many key areas to choose from, including “green” value chains, recyclable personal protective equipment, resilient tourism, and gender-balanced work environments

For most countries, navigating the protracted economic slump brought on by Covid-19 is starting to look more like a marathon than a sprint. According to our estimates at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), domestic private investment and foreign direct investment in emerging economies will fall this year by almost \$700 billion and \$250 billion, respectively, and may not return to pre-crisis levels until 2023.

Worse, the crisis is exacting a massive toll on the world's poor and most vulnerable, jeopardizing decades of hard-won development gains. The World Bank warns that we are about to witness the first increase in global poverty since 1988, with up to 100 million people being pushed into extreme poverty.

How governments and firms navigate this uncertain period between shock and recovery will determine whether there is a sound economic foundation upon which to revive employment, long-term growth, and global development efforts. The situation demands that we reorganize and fix markets. Many companies have had no choice but to reshape their business models, now that the pandemic is accelerating changes in how we work, consume, and communicate. These trends could reshape entire industries, creating opportunities for those with the innovative capacity. But governments, too, must seek creative ways to adapt their economies and protect viable firms, while quickly unwinding those that should disappear because they are insolvent or obsolete. This will be a time of trial and error, requiring strategic vision and pragmatism on the part of business and political leaders.

Countries can do three things to speed up the recovery. The first task is to adapt the rules of the game to new realities. A prolonged crisis means that emerging economies will increasingly find themselves ill equipped to help thousands of companies renegotiate their debts. In many low-income countries, an insolvency

proceeding averages more than three years, a half-year longer than the global norm. But with informal out-of-court mechanisms and simplified court proceedings, governments can give viable businesses an opportunity to weather the storm and avoid lengthy legal processes and costly and cumbersome negotiations. Developing countries can also increase the threshold for insolvency and adapt debt-restructuring rules to prevent unnecessary liquidation of firms that are struggling for no other reason than lockdowns.

Second, governments must adopt a "do-no-harm" principle when organising their responses. Wherever possible, the public sector should limit or simply suspend its arrears to private contractors, especially in job-rich sectors and critical supply chains. That will mitigate the damage to balance sheets, prevent viable businesses from going bankrupt, and limit the kind of ripple effects that could delay the recovery.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, public-sector arrears represent 3.3 per cent of the GDP. Clearing them could create the equivalent of a large stimulus package. At the same time, decision-makers should resist the temptation to use much-needed public money to prop up "zombie" firms with unviable business models. Achieving a strong recovery will require a level playing field for private companies.

Finally, all countries need to think strategically about their spending. Some sectors and industries should be retooled, and others should be phased out. For example, as countries and markets shift toward lower-carbon forms of energy and production, it would be counterproductive to continue subsidizing energy-inefficient industries.

Now is the time to start creating and nurturing the businesses of tomorrow. There are many key areas to choose from, including "green" value chains, recyclable personal protective equipment, resilient tourism, and gender-bal-

anced work environments. In countries with large gaps in access to digital financial services, embracing technologies such as mobile money and artificial intelligence could hasten the process of digitalization, setting the stage for robust growth.

But if these countries are to attract investors, they will need to create opportunities – starting now. That is why IFC has made it a high priority to help lay the foundations for boosting private investment and private-sector growth in the developing world. Accelerating private investment will require policy and regulatory reforms to create the right conditions for business, and to generate bankable projects. This was true before the pandemic, and the urgency of reform is even greater now.

Development practitioners, for their part, need to step up their efforts to foster investable opportunities. That means restructuring and recapitalizing firms, investing equity in support of growing businesses and start-ups, and promoting public-private partnerships to attract investors back to emerging and developing countries. To that end, rather than passively waiting for investors, development-finance institutions need to approach them directly with investment proposals, which would generate feasibility studies and get the ball rolling on various opportunities.

The economic downturn from Covid-19 will inevitably affect many sectors and jobs. But there is hope yet for a strong recovery, provided we learn from past crises. Policymakers need to muster all their creativity to keep the private sector afloat, and to prepare companies for the return to growth.

The writer is CEO of the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group and the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in developing countries.

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SPECTRUM STREETS

Survival strategies in changing times



Shivaji Mohinta

THERE ARE FIVE DEEP-ROOTED LESSONS FROM THE ROADSIDE BUSINESS MODELS, WHICH CAN PASS BY THE ACRONYM 'RAACE'

A roadside tailor who normally does stitching and alteration is now producing hand-made masks from residual cloth pieces. An e-rickshaw operator seeing reduced numbers of passengers has converted his vehicle into mobile vegetable kiosk. People engaged in different trades and vocations are adapting themselves to the new COVID-linked situations in smart and engaging ways. A lot of management insights can be gained from these real-life examples, which are not necessarily taught in B-Schools.

There are five deep-rooted lessons from these business models, which can pass by the acronym RAACE. One is Resilience. Street vendors show tremendous resilience to keep business running even in the face of hardships, and these are driven essentially by economic necessity. Many a time, they are harassed by local authorities, subjected to extortions, made to change locations or suffer damage to their stalls. They cope up with such adversities to face another day.

They withstand severe weather conditions to show up at the right place at the right time. They change

their wares to stay relevant to the needs of their customers. During the lockdown, the e-rickshaw owner turned the crisis into a new business opportunity by keeping in mind the geographic elements of proximity and mobility for the consumers.

Another lesson is Agility, which is discovering potentially new opportunities to occupy a slot before others. In the changed scenario, it is important to know what your customers might look for and how you can serve them profitably. The roadside tailor selling face masks is a good example of Agility. One big lesson is the pace of response to the sudden changes and how to make best use of the resources at our disposal. Experimenting with small, new ideas has been an effective mantra for the street vendors. In times of uncertainty, one has to be agile enough to work without a script, test waters and review the outcome.

Three is Action. If agility is what takes you to the desired slot, then it has to be backed by the right set of tangible actions. What has to be done next and how the same can be executed are critical fac-

tors at this stage. It is like a driver taking a detour to save time but he should have the skills to drive on narrow alleys or in poor road conditions to reach his destination. Agility with improper action will be viewed as stupidity. The e-rickshaw owner acted proactively to stock the requisite varieties of fresh vegetables and fruits to cater to the requirements of his customers.

Next comes Convertibility. Since these are not normal conditions, there is a natural tendency to show resistance to anything about which we are not used to. That is human nature, and running a business is no different. Convertibility is adapting to the new scenario. This decides the winners. Like in cricket matches, the team which acclimatizes to the conditions at the earliest wins the matches. During this phase, they resort to tactical measures like a compelling sales pitch or extra deals. The tailor sensed the demand for face-masks during the pandemic and displayed them on the shop front to attract customers.

The above examples bring to the forefront the enterprising qualities of these informal micro-busi-

ness owners. They undertake risks, manage resources, innovate and re-invent their selling skills with changing times. Without formal education, the vendors teach us a lot of entrepreneurial lessons even if they are selling wares in the streets. Although they do not have great knowledge or resources, they believe in trying out something new. They push themselves hard to acquire new customers and master new selling techniques while operating in a constrained environment.

Bootstrapping is another key lesson we learn from them – the manner many ramp up their businesses successfully with meagre resources.

Street vendors constitute an integral part of our retail and distribution system. In these times when standard operating procedures are getting challenged, we can draw a few lessons embedded in the RAACE approach from these street-smart entrepreneurs.

The author is the Country Head of Greenlam Industries Ltd and a certified Life Coach. The views are personal.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Five-star Lokpal

Sir, It's worth setting an example by one's actions than by words, but such a trend is fast disappearing from our governments and our polity. After prolonged agitations by citizens against corruption, the Lokpal and Lokayukta systems are functional at the Centre and in states for more than two years. But, what are they up to? The Lokpal wastefully spent crores towards rent for running its office from a star hotel. This came in for scathing attack in the media. Now, the Lokayukta's official bungalow is being spruced up by spending crores. This, apart from grant of six-figure salary, perks and luxurious amenities. Such extravaganza for a corruption ombudsman is proof of the irresponsible governance. Every institution is a waste of huge funds with very little benefit to the people, or to their causes. The excuses to not mete out natural justice are many; one of which, in the present case, being the citing of jurisdictional questions. One after another, institutions are appearing to disappear from the public horizon, and a sizeable number of those who danced to the tunes of a few are showered with governmental favours in one way or the other. Integrity is not easy to find, and everything is sought to be made a big show with little of results. Democracy is taking hard hits, and people are losing trust in its institutions.

Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ

RR, Indian Army

Sir, RR or Rastriya Rifles of the Indian Army is a counter-insurgency force comprising different wings of the ground force. But what is the need of RR when we can fight insurgency even with the normal military and other security forces? We know 55RR comprises The Grenadier; the 22RR comprises the Punjab Regiment and so on. All these come under the Ministry of Defence. Insurgency is on the decline due to our fight against not only the terrorists but their supporters as well. Even the civilian population in the Valley is fed-up with terrorism as it had badly hurt economic activities there, especially tourism. The government is urged to reassess the role of RR, take appropriate decisions, and fight insurgency in best ways to eradicate the problem forever.

Sunil Pradhan, NUAPADA

T'GANA BATTLES COVID & THE STIGMA

EXPERTS SAY SOCIAL STIGMA POSES A CHALLENGE AS CORONAVIRUS CAN INFECT ANYONE

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, August 13: Amid battling COVID-19, authorities in Telangana are also up against social stigma attached to the disease with a few people even taking the extreme step of ending their lives over fears of its fallout including being ostracised.

Experts say such fears were totally uncalled for and that social stigma was posing a challenge as they pitch for sensitising the people that coronavirus can infect anyone.

Instead of becoming paranoid, the focus should be on taking adequate preventive steps and remaining courageous even in case of testing positive for the virus, doctors said.

The advice of the doctors assumes significance in the wake of a few individuals committing suicide in recent weeks in Telangana out of fear, either before testing positive or after.

Tuesday, a 60-year-old man from Karimnagar hanged himself in the washroom of his room at a private hospital where he was under treatment for COVID-19 with his family members saying he was under panic



after testing positive.

Also, there have been instances of landlords asking tenants to vacate after the latter tested positive and residents not allowing infected people to enter villages.

Dr B Nagender, Superintendent of the state-run Osmania General Hospital (OGH) here, who was cured of COVID-19, said the recovery rate was high and that people need not nurture fears over the virus.

"There will be some fear (after testing positive). But once, if you retain courage, there will be im-

provement. Many people are recovering, unless there are a lot of risk factors such as old age, uncontrolled blood sugar, hypertension...Otherwise, it is like viral fever... If it is mild, many people are taking treatment from home," he told PTI.

Those having moderate or severe symptoms need further medical attention, he said.

Nagender, who took treatment at the state-run Gandhi hospital and the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in the city, said

There will be some fear but once, if you retain courage, there will be improvement. Many people are recovering, unless there are a lot of risk factors such as old age, uncontrolled blood sugar, hypertension... Otherwise, it is just like viral fever

B NAGENDER | SUPERINTENDENT, OSMANIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

panicking would be unhelpful.

He stressed that one needs to stay strong and that he did not take treatment at any private hospital.

Renowned medical doctor and president of the Association of Surgeons of India P Raghu Ram said social stigma associated with COVID-19 was truly a major challenge. With fear and concern associated with the new virus, there was bound to be a lot of misinformation resulting in anxiety and prejudice against people and community, eventually leading to hos-

tility and stigma, he said.

"We must come to terms with the fact that COVID-19 can affect anyone. Instead of becoming paranoid and living in fear, we must take adequate preventive steps social distancing, frequently washing our hands and wearing a mask in public places," he told PTI.

Despite taking all the possible precautions, if one gets infected, it is important not to panic, Raghu Ram said. The vast majority has only mild infections and it is curable in most cases with early and effective treatment.

However, by hiding the illness and not seeking timely medical help, there is every possibility that the infection can cause significant morbidity and even mortality, he said. Observing that frontline health-care workers are working selflessly, putting their lives at risk, he said they deserve to be supported and appreciated during these times.

"However, ostracising and targeting them just because they are working with COVID patients will demoralise the fraternity, which will undoubtedly, weaken our fight against this invisible enemy," he added.

COVID-19 claims 11 more lives in 24 hrs

With the new fatalities, the death toll in Telangana rises to 665 and the cumulative case tally mounts to 86,475



AGENCIES

Hyderabad, August 13: Eleven more people died of COVID-19 in Telangana while 1,931 tested positive for the virus, officials said Thursday.

With the new fatalities the death toll rose to 665 and the cumulative case tally mounted to 86,475.

The case fatality rate in the state stands at 0.76 per cent against the national average of 1.97 per cent. Officials said 53.87 per cent of the deceased had comorbidities.

During the last 24 hours ending 8 p.m. Wednesday, the case load in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and surrounding districts slumped while the daily count spiked in other districts.

The GHMC recorded 298 new cases against 479 the previous day. Medchal Malkajgiri and Rangareddy bordering GHMC reported 71 and 124 cases respectively. Sangareddy, another district which shares borders with the state capital, reported 86 new infections.

After a day's gap the cases spiked again in other districts. Warangal Urban was the second worst affected district after Greater Hyderabad with 144 new infections. There were 89 new cases in Karimnagar, 84 in Nalgonda, 64 in Suryapet, 59 in Jangaon, 56 in Jogulamba Gadwal and 52 in Jagtial. According to the media bulletin released by the Director of Public Health and Family Welfare, the new cases were

reported from all 33 districts.

A total of 39 testing laboratories and 323 rapid antigen testing centres conducted a record 23,303 tests against the state's target of 5,600 as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) benchmark of 140 tests per million per day.

Test results of 706 samples were awaited. The state has so far conducted 6,89,150 tests. Officials said 1,780 people recovered from COVID-19 during the last 24 hours, taking the cumulative recoveries to 63,074. The state further improved its recovery rate to 72.93 per cent against

the national average of 70.37 per cent. The number of active cases now stands at 22,736 including 15,621 who are in home/institutional isolation. More than 84 per cent of those under home isolation are asymptomatic.

Age-wise Covid positive details show that 65.9 per cent of those tested positive were in the age group of 21-50 years. Those above 51 years account for 24.4 per cent. About 10 per cent were aged below 20 years. Officials said 65.10 per cent of those tested positive were male while the remaining 34.90 per cent were female. According to the media bulletin, out of 20,396 beds in the government-run hospitals, 17,734 beds were vacant.

While 118 private hospitals treating COVID-19 patients have a total of 7,879 beds and out of them 3,426 beds were vacant.

Case fatality rate in the state stands at 0.76 per cent against the national average of 1.97 per cent

Officials say 53.87 per cent of the deceased had comorbidities

Economic Offences court rejects Swapna's bail plea

AGENCIES

Kochi, August 13: Close on the heels of an NIA court denying bail to Swapna Suresh, the prime accused in the gold smuggling case, an Economic Offences Court Thursday, where the Customs has filed a case against her, also refused to give her bail.

The Customs in their argument said that given her huge and wide ranging contacts with higher ups, granting bail to her could be detrimental to the investigation. This was accepted by the court.

After the scam came to light last month and the NIA was handed over the probe, the Central agency had arrested Swapna and her associate Sandip Nair from Bangalore July 11.

Swapna was later arrested by the Customs and the Enforcement Directorate and has undergone multiple rounds of questioning from all the agencies.

The gold smuggling case was unearthed when P. S. Sarith, a former employee of the UAE Consulate here, was arrested by the Customs July 5 while he was facilitating smuggling of 30 kg gold in the diplomatic baggage to Thiruvananthapuram from Dubai.

It turned murkier when the name of Swapna, a former employee of the Consulate and employed with the state IT Department, surfaced and more so when her links with powerful IAS official M. Sivasankar, came out. Sivasankar held the dual



THE CUSTOMS ARGUES: GIVEN HER HUGE AND WIDE RANGING CONTACTS WITH HIGHER UPS, GRANTING BAIL TO HER COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE INVESTIGATION

posts of Principal Secretary to Vijayan and state IT Secretary.

The IAS officer was subsequently removed from both posts and then

suspended by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Meanwhile, the NIA probe team Wednesday night arrived for the second time at the State Secretariat to find out more details from the State Protocol office on the statement made by Kerala Higher Education Minister K. T. Jaleel. He had said that during Ramzan he had received kits for distribution and copies of the Holy Quran directly from the UAE consulate, which is in a violation of the protocol.

According to the code of conduct for state ministers, they cannot accept gifts which are valued at over Rs 5,000. Besides, the rules are clear that all such items should be routed only through the Ministry of External Affairs and not given directly to either state ministers or Union ministers.

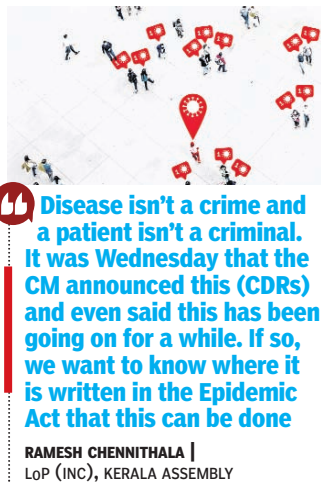
AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, August 13: A day after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan gave the nod to track the mobile call detail records (CDRs) of Covid positive cases in the state, Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala has demanded to stop the process immediately, terming it a blatant violation of all rules and regulations.

"Disease is not a crime and a patient is not a criminal. It was on Wednesday that the CM announced this and even said this has been going on for a while. If so, we want to know where it is written in the Epidemic Act that this can be done. I went through it and there is no such provision. Vijayan is turning Kerala into a surveillance state and we will strongly oppose it," said the Congress leader.

He added, "In the case of the state government's deal with a US-based firm on processing data related to Covid-19 patients, the high court had clearly directed that data privacy should be maintained. We want to know, why was the Kerala Police engaged in this blatant violation of privacy through collection of CDRs."

"I strongly feel this decision has been taken by the CM and the state police chief. I wish to know if the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary are aware of this bla-



Disease isn't a crime and a patient isn't a criminal. It was Wednesday that the CM announced this (CDRs) and even said this has been going on for a while. If so, we want to know where it is written in the Epidemic Act that this can be done

RAMESH CHENNITHALA | LOP (INC), KERALA ASSEMBLY

tant violation of Article 21 of the Constitution and also provisions in the Indian Telegraph Act. This cannot be allowed and has to be stopped."

Wednesday, the Chief Minister had said that the state police have been given permission to take the CDRs of Covid positive patients as a means to make tracking of such people easier, since the state has been witnessing a massive spread of the virus. Kerala has so far reported 13,993 positive cases, of which 24,926 people have been cured.

With COVID-19 cases continuing to rise, the Pinarayi Vijayan led government early this month decided to bring in stringent measures to contain the spread.

India's largest pvt rail coach factory coming up near Hyd

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, August 13: Telangana's Industries Minister KT Rama Rao Thursday laid the foundation stone for Medha Rail Coach Factory at Kondakal near Hyderabad.

Coming up over 100 acres, it will be India's largest private rail coach factory and will be capable of manufacturing coaches, locomotives, metro trains and monorail.

Being set up by Medha Group with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore, the coach factory will have a production capacity of 500 coaches and 50 locomotives per year.

Rama Rao said the plant with employment potential of 2,200 would give a big push for the manufacturing sector.

He hoped that the first assembly unit of the plant would be ready in 15 months to cater to the future requirements of Telangana, not just of metro and mono rails, but also high-speed trains.

AREA: 100 ACRES
INVESTMENT: ₹1,000 CRORE
PRODUCTION CAPACITY: 500 COACHES & 50 LOCOMOTIVES (YEARLY)
EMPLOYMENT GENERATING CAPACITY: 2,200

the promise made in Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act by setting up the rail coach factory in the public sector and handhold the new state which was marching on the path of development with progressive policies.

Medha Group had signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) in 2017 while the land was allotted last year.

AGENCIES

Kochi, August 13: A research project to assess the status of 27 species of marine mammals and five species of sea turtles in Indian waters has been launched by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

With a budget of Rs 5.66 crore, the project is funded by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for three years, the CMFRI said in a statement here Thursday.

The study aims to address the information gap on the status of stocks of marine mammals as well as bycatch of sea turtles, the statement said.

The research assumes significance in the context of emerging seafood trade-related challenges faced by the country.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA, had issued import provisions of Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) stating that seafood exporting countries should not allow intentional killing of marine mammals in commercial fisheries.

For exporting fish and fish products, the US had given a five-year ex-



FOLLOWING THIS, THE USA HAD BANNED IMPORT OF SHRIMP FROM INDIA FROM MAY 2018

emption period starting January 1, 2017, to nations for developing regulatory programs by assessing marine mammal stocks, estimating bycatch, calculating bycatch limits, and reducing total bycatch.

Likewise, the US Public Law provides that shrimp products should not be imported unless the US certifies that the exporting nation harvests shrimp without adversely affecting sea turtles.

Following this, the US banned import of shrimp from India from May 2018.

Deputy director general of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Dr JK Jena inaugurated a webinar during the launch of the project Wednesday.

According to him, the research project would bolster the preparedness of the country in meeting the challenge faced by the seafood export industry, and enhance the indigenous capacity to address the emerging conservation concerns of marine mammals and sea turtles.

Speaking on the occasion, chair-

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

US laws say seafood exporting countries should not allow intentional killing of marine mammals in commercial fisheries

The US had given a five-year exemption period starting January 1, 2017, to nations for developing regulatory programs

US laws also say that shrimp products should not be imported unless the US certifies that the exporting nation harvests shrimp without adversely affecting sea turtles

(AI)-based technologies in the marine mammal stock assessment in US waters.

They lauded the initiative and offered cutting-edge collaborative research support.

CMFRI Director Dr A Gopalakrishnan recalled the achievements of scientists of the institute in the field of research on marine mammals and sea turtles.

"Marine mammals and sea turtles play a key role in maintaining marine ecosystems. Considering the need for conservation, the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 listed the species of marine mammals and sea turtles under Schedule I," he said.

However, interaction on fisheries and other human interventions have negative effects on the population of the megafauna, Gopalakrishnan said.

"This is evident from frequent reports on bycatch and stranding of these animals along the coastline of India. While government and non-government organisations have undertaken studies on distribution, biological and ecological characteristics, the information on status of stocks of marine mammals as well as bycatch of sea turtles are not available," he added.

of the day quote

The incident (Sushant Rajput's death) took place in Mumbai. The FIR was filed in Patna and the Bihar government recommended a CBI probe. The Centre immediately agreed. This is illegal. The case is now technically with the CBI

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

Good conversation with FM @HeikoMaas of Germany. Discussed the #COVID19 situation and vaccine cooperation. Reviewed the developments in Europe and Asia. Reaffirmed our multilateral partnership, including in the UN

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Role of @GovtofGoa is now reduced to Travel & Hospitality agent of @IFFIGoa. I demand @goacm must reconsider its decision on hosting of #IFFI2020. Release White Paper with expenditure incurred on IFFI & benefits received by local Film Fraternity & Tourism Sector from the Festival

DIGAMBAR KAMAT | EX-GOA CM

SHORT TAKES

Kolkata top cop tests Covid+

Kolkata: A senior Kolkata Police officer tested positive for Covid-19 Thursday, police said. City police Joint Commissioner (Headquarters) Subhankar Sinha Sarkar tested positive for Covid-19 at the Kolkata Police headquarters in Lalbazar. He was suffering from fever for the past three days and went for a corona test. The report came out Thursday. Police sources at Lalbazar said Sarkar has now gone into home isolation. His condition is stable as of now. Those who came in contact with him in the past one week will also have to undergo Covid tests at Lalbazar.

16 Naxals surrender

Dantewada: Sixteen Naxals, including four women and some carrying cash rewards on their heads, Thursday surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, citing disillusionment with the Maoist ideology, a senior official said. A rehabilitation campaign for Naxals being run by the police also helped the rebels in deciding to shun the armed movement and join the national mainstream, he said.

2 killed, 4 hurt

Seoni (MP): Two truck drivers were killed and four others injured after their vehicles collided and caught fire near Banjari in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district Thursday, a police official said. The mishap occurred in the morning on the National Highway (NH) 7, he said.

Tortoises recovered

Amethi (UP): Over 500 tortoises were recovered from a vehicle during a checking near Kadunala on the Lucknow-Varanasi national highway while one person was arrested in this connection, police said on Thursday. Amethi Superintendent of Police Dinesh Singh told mediapersons that a police team led by Jagdishpur police station SHO Rajesh Kumar Singh and sub-inspector Mahendra Saroj checked a vehicle and recovered 502 tortoises from it on Wednesday after receiving a tip-off.



Time to do justice to farmers. They can't be deprived benefit available all over the country

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | WB GOVERNOR

NEW MILESTONE

Narendra Modi has become the longest serving non-Congress Prime Minister and the fourth longest-serving overall, the party noted Thursday



COVID-19 RECOVERY RATE RISES TO 70.77%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 13: The COVID-19 recovery rate has risen to 70.77 per cent on Thursday with the total number of patients recuperating from the disease reaching nearly 17 lakh, while the case fatality rate has further declined to 1.96 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said.

It said "record-high" recoveries have led to a decline in the "actual caseload" of the country, which is the number of active cases, and currently is only 27.27 per cent of the total cases. The number of recoveries from COVID-19 exceed active cases by more than 10 lakh.

The country recorded the highest 56,383 recoveries in 24 hours Thursday, taking the total number of recovered patients to 16,95,982. There are 6,53,622 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country, according to the health ministry data updated at 8 am.

"With the increasing number of recoveries, the recovery rate has risen to 70.77 per cent, while the mortality among COVID-19 patients has further regressed to 1.96 per cent, and is steadily declining," the ministry said.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative 2,68,45,688 samples have

The country recorded the highest 56,383 recoveries in 24 hours Thursday, taking the total number of recovered patients to 16,95,982

been tested up to August 12 with 8,30,391 samples being tested on Wednesday, the highest in a day so far.

The focussed and collaborative efforts of the Centre, state and Union Territories along with the support of lakhs of frontline workers have ensured the successful implementation of testing aggressively, tracking comprehensively and treating efficiently through an array of measures including supervised home isolation, and effective clinical management of severe and critical patients, the ministry said.

With a record single-day increase of 66,999 cases, India's COVID-19 tally rose to 23,96,637 on Thursday, while the death toll climbed to 47,033 with 942 people succumbing to the disease in 24 hours, the health ministry data showed.

Very heavy rains likely over next 2-3 days: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 13: Large parts of the country are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall during the next two-three days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday.

The IMD said a low pressure area has formed over northwest Bay of Bengal off north Odisha and West Bengal coasts. There is also a monsoon trough plus a convergence of south-westerly winds with moisture from Arabian Sea is likely to continue during the next two days, which will lead to heavy rains over several parts of the country.

Fairly widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places are very likely over major parts of north India -- Himachal Pradesh,

Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan -- during the next two days and decrease thereafter, the IMD said. "Moderate to severe thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand,

Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, east Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during next 24 hours," the IMD said.

Several parts of western India are also expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall. This includes Gujarat, Goa, Konkarn, the ghat areas of central Maharashtra, and parts of central India during next 4-5 days, the IMD said. "Isolated extremely heavy falls are also likely over Gujarat state during next 2-3 days and over ghat areas of central Maharashtra during next 24 hours," the IMD said.



ARMY CONVOY ATTACKED IN J&K

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar/New Delhi, August 13: An Indian Army convoy in Jammu & Kashmir's Baramulla district came under heavy attack after militants fired indiscriminately, injuring a soldier; the force said Thursday.

The soldier injured in Wednesday's attack was rushed to Base Hospital in Srinagar. He is out of danger and is recuperating. The convoy of three Army vehicles, comprising 30 personnel, was moving from Baramulla to Gulmarg and when it reached Pattan area, terrorists hiding in a built-up area attacked the convoy and started indiscriminate firing.

"The firing started at 2:15 pm. As the first vehicle crossed, the militants attacked the second convoy vehicle. A soldier inside the vehicle received a bullet injury," said a senior Army officer. As it was a built-up area and people were on the streets, Naib Subedar Joginder Singh who was leading the convoy decided not to resort to firing and decided to first disengage from the line of fire.

HC TO RESUME HEARING FRIDAY

After hearing arguments, Justice Mahendra Kumar Goyal posted the matter for next hearing Friday as a half day was observed in the court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 13: The Rajasthan High Court has posted for hearing Friday the petitions filed by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar and the BSP challenging the merger of six MLAs with the Congress.

After hearing arguments, Justice Mahendra Kumar Goyal posted the matter for next hearing Friday as a half day was observed in the court. The Rajasthan assembly speaker's counsel Kabil Sibal argued that the BSP must approach the speaker first. In case, he does not pass any order, then the BSP may approach the court for a direction to the speaker for deciding their

BSP MLAs' MERGER CASE

application.

He said the BSP's writ petition bypasses the available remedy. Sibal contended that he has no problem if the BSP and the BJP are directed to approach the speaker for a proper order. Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who represented one of the six MLAs, also started his arguments but hearing remained inconclusive owing to paucity of time. The matter will now be heard Friday.

The petitioners have challenged the merger of the six MLAs -- Sandeep Yadav, Wajib Ali,

Deepchand Kheria, Lakhan Meena, Jogendra Awana and Rajendra Gudha -- with the Congress and demanded stay on the execution of the order passed by the speaker.

They contested and won the 2018 assembly elections on BSP tickets. All of them defected to the Congress in September 2019. The MLAs submitted an application for merger on September 16, 2019 and the speaker issued an order on September 18, 2019. BJP MLA Dilawar challenged the merger and filed a petition before the speaker in March this year which was rejected on July 24. Dilawar challenged the decision of the speaker in the high

court and demanded a stay on the merger. Similarly, the BSP filed a separate petition against the merger.

The single-judge bench of the high court on July 30 issued notices to the speaker and secretary of the assembly, and the six MLAs but did not give a stay on the merger against which Dilawar approached the division bench with an appeal.

The division bench disposed of the appeal and directed the single-judge bench to decide the matter. The merger of BSP MLAs with the ruling Congress was a boost to the Ashok Gehlot-led government in the state as the tally of the Congress increased to 107 in the house of 200.

BANGALORE VIOLENCE

Minister confirms SDPI role

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 13: Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai Thursday said the role of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) behind the Tuesday night violence in parts of Bangalore, had come to light and investigation will go deep into it and their connections.

The minister said, four people associated with SDPI have been arrested in this regard and investigation is under way. "K G Halli and D J Halli are peaceful since yesterday and there have been no untoward incidents...as the investigation is progressing new information is coming out. I cannot share with you everything, but in the days to come I will share before the media," Bommai said.

He said, as per the information gathered so far and video footage, most importantly the role of SDPI is coming to light. We are collecting more information regarding it, we are investigating deeply in this regard. "Already, several SDPI office-bearers have been arrested. Muzammil Pasha, the SDPI district secretary is the main (per-



son), also Firoz, Afraz Pasha and Shaik Adil, all of them are from SDPI. Their role is completely being investigated and they have been arrested," he added.

Three people were killed after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage in a city locality on Tuesday night over an inflammatory social media post allegedly put out by a Congress legislator's relative. Pulakeshinagar MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy's residence and a police station at D J Halli were among those targeted by the angry mob.

The house of the MLA, who was

not at home at the time, was allegedly set on fire. The rioters also torched many police and private vehicles, badly damaged the house and looted the belongings of MLA Murthy and those of his sister. An ATM was smashed into pieces. After the arson and violence, the entire DJ Halli resembled a war zone.

Nearly 140 people have been arrested so far, in connection with the incident. Bommai said, through some video footage it has come to light that SDPI workers had come from neighbouring areas of K G Halli and D J Halli, and it is being investigated.

DCW rescues girl who was sold several times, 5 held

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 13: In a major crackdown on a human trafficking ring in the national capital, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has rescued a minor girl who was allegedly sold multiple times. A total of five persons have also been arrested in connection with the same, the women's body said Thursday.

The Commission carried out the operation in assistance with the Delhi Police and rescued the 2.5 month old infant. "On Wednesday night, we received information from our Mahila Panchayat that a 2.5 month old girl has been sold by her own father for 40,000 rupees. DCW

Members Firdos Khan and Kiran Negi escalated the matter to DCW Chief Swati Maliwal who immediately formed a team to rescue the infant," a statement from the Commission read.

The infant's father was made to accompany the DCW team to Jaffrabad where the man had sold the child to a woman named Manisha. However, the woman was not present at the address. The DCW team asked the father to call the woman. During the conversation between the infant's father and the woman, it was learnt that the man had sold his daughter to the woman for a sum of Rs. 40,000.

"The infant's father was taken to the police station where he con-



fessed that he had two daughters and was disappointed to have another girl child. He did not want to another girl added to the family and sold her off," the statement said.

The infant's father was made to accompany the DCW team to Jaffrabad where the man had sold the child to a woman named Manisha

During the course of interrogation, the father revealed a location in Madipur where the infant could be traced. Following the tip off, the team along with Delhi police and the

child's father went to Madipur where they met a woman named Indu. On inquiry, Indu divulged that she had sold the infant to another woman Radha in Shakurpur.

When the teams reached Shakarpur, Radha told them that she had given the child to her sister in Chawri bazaar. The rescue team then reached Chawri Bazar where Radha's sister informed that she had given the infant to an acquaintance in Trilokpur.

After chasing the infant throughout the night at various locations, the baby was rescued early Thursday morning. The five accused namely- Amanpreet, Indu, Manju, Manisha and Radha have been arrested.

A case has been registered under the relevant sections of the law and efforts are being made to rehabilitate the infant. Reacting over the said incident, DCW chief Swati Maliwal said, "We have been tracing the girl since Wednesday late night and have raided several places in an attempt to rescue the infant. The infant was successfully rescued and a big trafficking nexus was exposed."

"The work of Delhi Police on this case is commendable and I thank them for the same. All 5 accused have been arrested. DCW will work on rehabilitation of the infant. DCW is working 24x7 for safety and security of women and girls in Delhi," she added.

of the day quote

It is clear from such frequent jungle raj-like incidents, especially in matters of crime control and law and order, as to what the difference is between SP and BJP governments. The government needs to pay proper attention to this. It is the BSP's advice in public interest



MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

Contact tracing is crucial in fighting the pandemic and follow-up should be done properly as it helps in checking the spread of the infection



YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Swadeshi doesn't mean boycotting of foreign goods but we should buy them on our own terms



MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Mob attacks police team

Kaushambhi: A mob attacked a police team in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambhi district that had gone to arrest a person accused of theft. Sub-inspector K.R. Singh and Constable Dilip Singh were seriously injured in the attack in Kachua village on Wednesday night and both have been admitted to the district hospital. The attackers snatched the sub-inspector's service revolver. According to reports, as soon as the team caught the accused Raju, the mob of local residents, led by women, tried to stop the police team.

LeT hideouts busted in Kashmir

Srinagar: The police in Jammu and Kashmir have busted two hideouts of the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar e Taiba in South Kashmir's Pulwama district and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition, officials said. Based on credible inputs about presence of terrorists in the forest area of Badroo Barsoo at Awantipora police along with the Army and CRPF launched a search operation late on Wednesday. Early on Thursday the two hideouts were destroyed, the police said.

One killed

Palghar: One person was killed when a state transport bus collided with a van and both the vehicles caught fire on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in Maharashtra's Palghar district Thursday afternoon, police said. Some passengers of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus also received injuries, they said, adding the exact number of those hurt was not yet known.

Man arrested

Mahasamund: The police have arrested a 30-year-old man and seized brown sugar worth ₹1.46 crore in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district, a senior official said Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, the police on Wednesday nabbed Shankar Lal Vaishnav from Ghodari Chowk on NH-53, Mahasamund superintendent of police Prafull Thakur said. The police had received information that a man from Raipur was looking to sell the contraband in Mahasamund, he said. While vehicles were being inspected at the check post, the accused, who was on his way to Mahasamund from Raipur on a two-wheeler, tried to flee and was apprehended after a short chase, he said.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah is keen to resolve the Naga, ULFA, and inter-state border issues in the northeast
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM FINANCE AND HEALTH MINISTER

'GOOGLE BOLO' INITIATIVE

More than one crore children enrolled in around 1.13 lakh primary schools in Uttar Pradesh will now be able to improve their pronunciation in both Hindi and English, by using Google's 'Bolo' app



SUSHANT DEATH CASE

NO FIR WAS LODGED IN MUMBAI: BIHAR TO SC

The Supreme Court has reserved the order on the plea of main accused Rhea Chakraborty seeking transfer of the case registered in Patna to Mumbai. Tuesday, the Apex court reserved the order and asked all the parties in the case to file their written submissions



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 13: The Bihar government in its written submission to the Supreme Court Thursday said that on account of political pressure in Maharashtra, neither an FIR was lodged nor any cooperation was provided to Bihar Police in the case in connection with the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The Supreme Court has reserved the order on the plea of main accused Rhea Chakraborty seeking transfer of the case registered in Patna to Mumbai. On Tuesday, the apex court reserved the order and asked all the parties in the case to file their written submissions.

"It is apparent that it is on account of political pressure in the

State of Maharashtra that neither the FIR has been registered by the Mumbai Police nor did they extend any cooperation to Bihar Police in discharging their obligation to conduct investigation expeditiously," said the Bihar government in its submissions before the top court.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the Bihar government, had argued on similar lines. Criticizing the quarantine of senior Bihar police officer in Maharashtra, the government said, "Whereas on the one hand, the State of Bihar and its officials had acted with all sense of responsibility and regard to authorities of State of Maharashtra, sadly, it has met with complete absence of recip-

rocity by similar conduct by the authorities of the State of Maharashtra."

The written submissions also cited that Rhea in the transfer petition relied upon a tweet to the Union Home Minister requesting for investigation by the CBI. "Even in the Additional Affidavit, Petitioner has stated that she has reiterated for investigation by CBI," said the Nitish Kumar government.

The state government argued that the attention of the apex court is also invited to the provision of Section 406 of the CrPC, whereunder it has been envisaged to make a prayer for transfer of a case.

Whenever there is information regarding commission of a cog-

nizable offence, u/s 154(1) Cr.P.C. it is mandatory to register an FIR and conduct investigation immediately and expeditiously.

"No doubt or dispute with regard to jurisdiction would permit, in any manner whatsoever, to cause any impediment in the expeditious conduct of the investigation. It is in this background that Section 406 provides for transfer of the case and not for transfer of the investigation," said the written submissions.

The state government urged the apex court to reject the transfer petition filed by Rhea.

"It deserves to be rejected/dispensed of by the orders of this court. In the facts and circumstances of the present case, it is humbly submitted that no impediment would deserve to be allowed to come in the way of the CBI to undertake and complete the investigation expeditiously," said the Bihar government.

The 34-year-old actor was found dead in his Bandra flat on June 14. His father registered an FIR in a Patna police station on July 25 accusing his live-in partner Rhea and a few others of abetment to suicide and misusing ₹15 crore from Sushant's bank account.

The ED took over financial probe involved in the case on July 31. The CBI took transfer of investigation from Bihar Police August 7.

LAYING A TRAP



A fisherman casts a net to catch fish in the swollen Krishna river after excess water was released from Prakasam Barrage following heavy rains in Vijayawada, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Doc dies of Covid, kin given another body

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Varanasi, August 13: In a shocking incident, the mortuary at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) hospital, handed over the wrong body to the family of Additional Chief Medical Officer (ACMO) who had died of Covid-19.

The ACMO, Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh, had died late Tuesday night and the body was handed over in a body bag to the family Wednesday. The family took the body for cremation at the Harishchandra Ghat and started the cremation rituals.

Just when the pyre had been lit, the family of a Covid-19 patient from Ghazipur who had also died the same day reached there and apprised the ACMO's family of the mix-up. The ACMO's family removed the wrapper to see

Just when the pyre had been lit, the family of a Covid-19 patient from Ghazipur who had also died the same day reached there and apprised the ACMO's family of the mix-up

the face of partially burnt body and was shocked to find that the body was not of the ACMO.

Later, further rites of cremation of Ghazipur's patient were completed by his family while the ACMO's family went back to the mortuary to take his body for cremation. The ACMO, who held the responsibility of ensuring nec-

essary arrangements at all COVID hospitals in the district, had fallen ill and was admitted to a private hospital a week ago.

"The result of his initial corona test had come negative two days ago, but when his test was conducted again, he was found positive," said District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma. The ACMO had been shifted to BHU hospital's ICU, where he breathed his last on Tuesday late night.

According to the official statement of the district administration, the body of another Covid-19 patient from Ghazipur, who died Wednesday morning, had been kept along with the body of the ACMO at BHU's mortuary. As per the COVID protocol, both bodies were wrapper packed, which led to the mix-up.

Man kills father for snoring in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), August 13: Did all work and no sleep lead to a case of patricide? A 28-year-old man in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district has killed his father for disturbing his peaceful slumber with his snoring.

Naveen, the elder son of Ram Swarup, apparently bludgeoned his father's head in with a club when he began snoring. The 65-year-old victim was rushed to the Purnapur community health centre where doctors declared him brought dead. His body was sent for post mortem.

Naveen has been arrested by the police after Manoj filed a written complaint against his elder brother. The accused has been booked under Section 302 (murder) of IPC. According to reports, the incident took place in Sondha village on Tuesday night. Manoj was at his maternal uncle's house with his mother on the night of the incident.

Seramaun North SHO Pushkar Singh said that the accused was known to abuse and physically assault his father for his snoring habit.

J&K BJP CHIEF TARGETS PAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 13: Pakistan is afraid of the BJP's rise in Kashmir and is engineering targeted killings of party workers in the Valley, BJP's J&K chief Ravinder Raina said Thursday, asserting the neighbouring country will not succeed in its nefarious designs.

His statement came in the backdrop of terror attacks on some village-level BJP leaders, following which nearly a dozen party workers in Kashmir have resigned. "Pakistan is afraid of the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Kashmir; that's why it is selectively targeting BJP workers in Kashmir", he told reporters here.

He said with the rise of the BJP and the nationalist forces in Kashmir, Pakistani terrorists and separatists are in frustration and desperation. "But they can't succeed in their nefarious designs."

Applauding the dedication and commitment of BJP workers in Kashmir Valley, Raina said their sacrifices won't go in vain and very soon the whole Valley will become terrorism-free. Naming some of the party workers who were recently attacked, Raina said Pakistani terrorists were afraid of the growing popularity of BJP leaders like Sheikh Wasim Bari, Abdul Hamid Nazir and the party's sarpanches and therefore targeted them.

Over 22,000 'Make in India' ventilators distributed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 13: The Centre Thursday stated that it has distributed more than 3.04 crore N95 masks and over 1.28 crore PPE kits to states, union territories and Central institutions free of cost in the last five months. Over 22,000 'Make in India' ventilators have also been delivered.

The Centre has been strengthening the health infrastructure to fight the pandemic and effectively manage it. Along with augmenting Covid-19 facilities, the government has been providing medical



supplies free of cost to the states and union territories to supplement their efforts.

"Since 11th March 2020, the Union

Government has distributed more than 3.04 crore N95 masks and more than 1.28 crore PPE kits to states, UTs, Central Institutions, free of

cost. Also, more than 10.83 crore HCQ tablets have been distributed to them," the government said.

In addition, 22,533 'Make in India' ventilators have been delivered and their "installation and commissioning is also being ensured". "Most of the products supplied by the Government of India were not being manufactured in the country in the beginning. The rising global demand due to the pandemic resulted in their scarce availability in the foreign markets," it added.

As a result, resolve for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make

in India' has been strengthened and most of the supplies made by the Union Government are domestically manufactured. With the combined efforts of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Pharmaceuticals, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and others, the domestic industry has been encouraged and facilitated to manufacture and supply essential medical equipment like PPEs, N95 masks, ventilators, etc., during this period.

of the day quote

Our military is always closely monitoring the North's nuclear and missile activities, and the authorities of South Korea and the US are keeping a close cooperation system

COL. MOON HONG-SIK | SOUTH KOREA'S DEPUTY MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON



There is a landing zone for securing a post-Brexit trade deal between the United Kingdom and the European Union

MICHEAL MARTIN | NEW IRISH PRIME MINISTER



We note unprecedented pressure that is being exerted by individual foreign partners on the Belarusian authorities

MARIA ZAKHAROVA | RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESWOMAN



SHORT TAKES

Portland protesters, police clash again

Portland (US): Protesters and police clashed in downtown Portland in a demonstration that lasted into the predawn hours of Thursday, with some in the crowd setting a fire and exploding commercial grade fireworks outside a federal courthouse that's been a target in months of conflict for Oregon's largest city. Officers used tear gas to break up the crowd of several hundred people who gathered near the Mark O Hatfield US Courthouse, the neighboring Multnomah County Justice Center and a nearby police precinct station.

3 dead in Swiss canyoning mishap

Berlin: Three Spanish tourists were killed and one is presumed dead after being caught in a flash flood while canyoning in the Swiss Alps, authorities in the Alpine country said Thursday. Police in the eastern canton (state) of St. Gallen said they were alerted to the men's disappearance late Wednesday by two Spanish women who had been part of the group but who had decided not to enter the Paritobel Gorge.

Israel strikes Hamas sites

Jerusalem: Israel said on Thursday that it struck Hamas sites in the Gaza Strip after militants in the Palestinian enclave launched explosive balloons into southern Israel.

School set ablaze

Kabul: Unknown armed men set a school ablaze in Taluqan city, the capital of Afghanistan's Takhar province, Thursday, a local official said. Provincial police spokesman Abdul Khalil Asir confirmed the incident to Xinhua news agency, saying: "The second floor of Abu Osman Taluqani school was completely burned due to unknown reason at around 3.30 a.m. today."

Pompeo in Slovenia

Bled: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Slovenia Thursday to make the case for high-speed wireless networks that bar Chinese companies like Huawei. On the second leg of a four-nation tour of central and eastern Europe, Pompeo met with Slovenian officials in the mountain lake town of Bled and signed a joint declaration on "5G Clean Network Security" that aims to keep untrusted telecommunications vendors out of Slovenia.



After receiving valuable information from our foreign partners, we can assume that Hezbollah is functioning on the principles of terrorist organization

LINAS LINKEVICIUS | LITHUANIA FOREIGN MINISTER

POWER BLACKOUT IN UGANDA

Uganda was Thursday hit by a nationwide power outage whose cause is not yet known, the state-run power generation company said



Lebanon Parl okays military rule in Beirut

AGENCIES

Beirut, August 13: Lebanon's Parliament Thursday approved a state of emergency in Beirut in its first session since the catastrophic August 4 explosion, granting the military sweeping powers amid rising popular anger at official corruption and mismanagement and political uncertainty.

The government resigned after the blast that killed more than 170 people, injured at least 6,000 and wrecked the capital's port and caused widespread damage across the capital. The disaster has raised popular fury toward Lebanon's leaders to a new level as the country reels from an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, along with the coronavirus pandemic. Before it resigned, the government declared the state of emergency that gave the



FBI to join probe

Visiting US Under Secretary for Political Affairs David Hale says the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be joining Lebanese and other international investigators in the probe into the Beirut port blast that killed and wounded thousands.

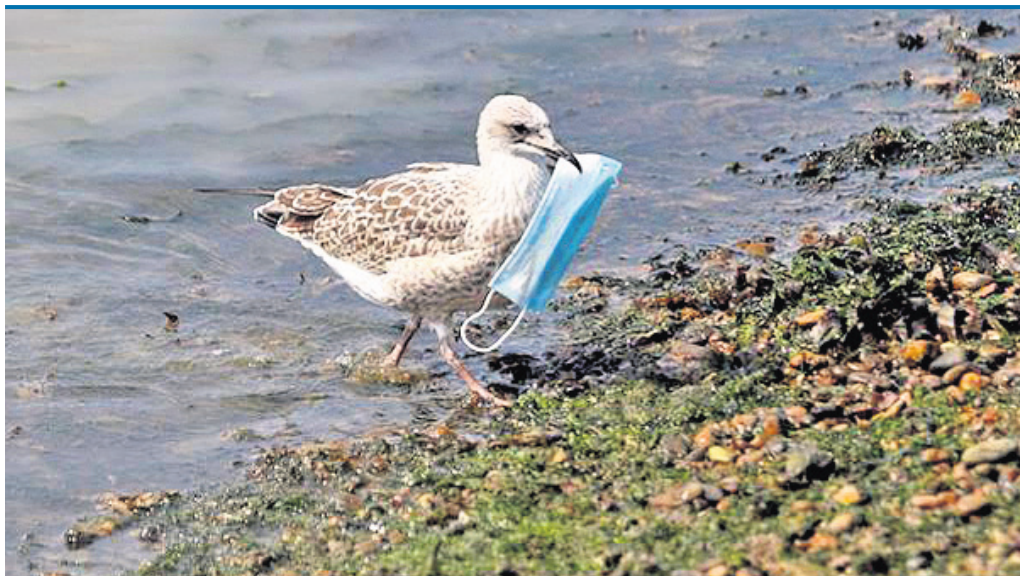
military the power to declare curfews, prevent public gatherings and censor the media, as well as refer civilians to military tribunals for alleged security breaches. The action required approval by lawmakers, which they granted Thursday. The move has been criticised by rights groups and others who say the civilian government already was operating with increased

powers because of the coronavirus outbreak. Some pointed to the military crackdown on protesters last week, fearing the extended powers could lead to silencing dissent.

It still was not known what caused the fire responsible for igniting nearly 3,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate that were stored for years in Beirut's port. But documents have emerged that show the country's

top leadership and security officials were aware of the stockpile. After the government resigned Monday, the Cabinet is in a caretaker capacity. It was not immediately clear if Parliament had technically extended the government decision on the state of emergency for 15 days or simply imposed it to take effect starting Thursday, said rights lawyer Nizar Saghie.

MASKS FOR ALL



A seagull carries a protective face mask at the port of Dover, Britain

REUTERS

Pak repeating lies on J&K: India slams article in Chinese paper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, August 13: India Thursday slammed Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque for his "lies and half-truths" on Jammu and Kashmir, and said terrorists "recruited, trained and armed" by Islamabad have disturbed peace and order in the Union Territory which is an integral part of India.

"India's concerted efforts to bring peace, stability and progress to J&K

stand in stark contrast to Pakistan's strategy, which is little more than a blatant and rapacious campaign of cross-border terrorism aimed at debilitating the region," the Embassy of India here said.

The Embassy made these remarks in response to an article titled "Urgent actions on Jammu, Kashmir needed" published in China's state-run Global Times August 7.

In a statement, the Embassy said Ambassador Haque has chosen to



repeat Pakistan's "lies and half-truths vis-a-vis the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India and whose affairs are internal affairs of India, where Pakistan, or any other country, has no locus standi."

Ambassador Haque's misrepresentations, while not surprising, cannot conceal the significant progress that J&K has made in the year following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian

Constitution, the statement said, detailing the developmental activities initiated by the government in the last one year.

Haque could consider holding up a mirror to his own "regime" and reflect on Pakistan's own actions in the region before making ludicrous characterisations of the Indian government's actions, it added.

The Global Times has declined to carry the Indian Embassy's response, the mission said.

FB LAUNCHES US VOTING INFO CENTER

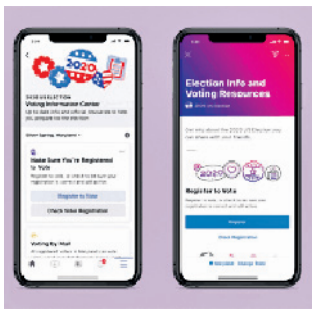
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

San Francisco, August 13: Facebook Thursday launched a voting information center as part of its campaign to help millions of voters register for November's US presidential election and counter misinformation.

The hub accessed from the menu on Facebook and Instagram "will serve as a one-stop-shop to give people in the US the tools and information they need to make their voices heard at the ballot box," the social media giant said.

It is the latest effort by the platform to prevent a repeat of the online disinformation that marred the 2016 US election.

Facebook said the voter infor-



mation tool would also help people navigate the changes to voting procedures being brought in by various states due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It is also important that we help protect the integrity of our elections," the San Francisco-

based social media giant said.

Facebook and Instagram users can use the tool to check if they are registered to vote and how to do so if they are not.

The social media group said it would from Thursday add labels to voting-related posts on Facebook and Instagram, after last month rolling them out for politicians.

It is also launching a "Voting Alerts" feature to help state and local election authorities communicate with voters about election-related updates.

"This will be increasingly critical as we get closer to the election, with potential late-breaking changes to the voting process that could impact voters," Facebook said.

NO WORLD PEACE WITHOUT CHANGING CHINA: JIMMY LAI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hong Kong, August 13: Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai, who was arrested over alleged collusion with foreign forces, said on Thursday that there would be no world peace without changing China, calling on Americans to support the city's fight for freedom, it was reported.

"If we don't change (China), the world will not have peace," the South China Morning Post (SCMP) quoted the Apple Daily founder as saying in a live-streamed session organised by the Washington-based Heritage Foundation, a day after he walked free on bail.

Lai also warned the people of Hong Kong against radicalism and urged them to brace themselves for

a long fight to resist the encroachment on the city's autonomy. "We're like an egg and there is a high wall. We have to be very flexible, innovative and patient," he said.

Lai, along with his two sons and four senior employees of the tabloid-style newspaper known for its scathing criticisms of Beijing, was arrested on Monday when more than 200 officers raided the Apple Daily offices, sparking an international backlash. In the 40-minute live chat with the US think tank on Thursday, the 72-year-old said he did not expect the arrests to come so early, considering the "strong responses from the international community" after Beijing imposed the sweeping national security law June 30, the SCMP reported.

CHICKEN WINGS TEST POSITIVE FOR nCoV IN CHINA

VIRUSES CAN SURVIVE UP TO TWO YEARS AT TEMPERATURES OF MINUS 20 DEGREES CELSIUS, BUT SCIENTISTS SAY THERE IS NO STRONG EVIDENCE SO FAR THE CORONAVIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID-19 CAN SPREAD VIA FROZEN FOOD

REUTERS

Beijing/Shanghai, August 13: Two cities in China have found traces of the new coronavirus in imported frozen food and on food packaging, local authorities said on Thursday, raising fears that contaminated food shipments might cause new outbreaks.

A sample taken from the surface of frozen chicken wings imported into the southern city of Shenzhen from Brazil, as well as samples of outer packaging of frozen Ecuadorian shrimp sold in the northwestern Xian city, have tested positive for the virus, local authorities said Thursday.

The discoveries came a day after traces of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 were found on the packaging of frozen shrimp from Ecuador in a city in eastern Anhui province. China has been stepping up screenings at ports amid the concerns over food imports.

Shenzhen's health authorities traced and tested everyone who might have come into contact with potentially contaminated food products, and all results were negative, the city's notice said.

The Brazilian embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"It is hard to say at which stage the frozen chicken got infected,"



Representative image

said a China-based official at a Brazilian meat exporter.

The Shenzhen Epidemic Prevention and Control Headquarters

said the public needed to take precautions to reduce infection risks from imported meat and seafood.

The health commission of

Shannxi province, where Xian city is located, said authorities are testing people and the surrounding environment connected to the contaminated shrimp products sold in a local market.

In addition to screening all meat and seafood containers coming into major ports in recent months, China has suspended some meat imports from various origins, including Brazil, since mid-June.

The first cluster of COVID-19 cases was linked to the Huanan seafood market in the city of Wuhan. Initial studies suggested the virus originated in animal products on sale at the market.

Li Fengqin, who heads a micro-

biology lab at the China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment told reporters in June the possibility of contaminated frozen food causing new infections could not be ruled out.

Xinfadi market in China's capital city Beijing, a sprawling food market linked to cluster infections in June, where virus was found on the chopping board on which imported salmon was handled, will be reopened for the weekend.

How the virus entered Xinfadi market in the first place is yet to be determined, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said in its latest update of the investigation in July.



India needs to move beyond knee-jerk reactions and put in place long-term and time-bound strategies for domestic industry to grow and become a major player in the global supply chain at a time when businesses are looking at shifting base from China

AM NAIK | CHAIRMAN, L&T

FOUNDATION STONE LAID

Telangana's Industries Minister KT Rama Rao has laid the foundation stone for Medha Rail Coach Factory at Kondakal near Hy'bad. Coming up over 100 acres, it will be India's largest private rail coach factory and will be able to manufacturing coaches, locomotives, metro trains and monorail



of the day quote

The industry has been affected due to the Covid-induced lockdown and migration of labourers. Efforts would be made to expedite the work on four laning of the road passing through industrial areas

JAI RAM THAKUR | CM, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Due to the rise of nuclear families, increased life expectancy and people living across geographies, 'independent seniors' are becoming a new demography. Such seniors do not settle for traditional old-age homes as they prefer autonomy

ANUJ PURI | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

China hopes the United States will stop taking restrictive and discriminatory action against Chinese firms and create conditions for the implementation of a Phase 1 trade deal

REN HONGBIN | ASST MIN OF COMMERCE, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Tata Power shares close 6% higher

New Delhi: Shares of Tata Power Thursday closed the day with 6% gains after the company said its consolidated net profit rose 10% for quarter ended June. The stock closed 5.95% higher at ₹56.10 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 9.25% to ₹57.85. On the NSE, it jumped 5.66% to close at ₹55.95. In traded volume terms, 50.49 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over 11 crore units on the NSE during the day.

Sikkim to set up SEZ

New Delhi: The commerce ministry has given in-principle approval to the Sikkim government's proposal for setting up a new special economic zone (SEZ) in Sikkim with an investment of around ₹43 crore. The nod was given by the highest decision-making body for SEZs - Board of Approval - in its meeting July 31. The board, after deliberations, decided to grant in-principle approval to the developer, according to the minutes of the meeting of the board.

Economic recovery portal launched

New Delhi: Indian School of Business (ISB) Thursday launched a portal that brings together several high-frequency indicators (HFIs) of India's economic recovery to a common platform, to enable real-time analysis of patterns of the recovery. The portal will provide journalists, citizens and policymakers direct visual insights into important indicators at daily or monthly frequency on the near-real-time basis and at district and state levels, ISB said in a statement.

BE, Janssen Pharma tie up

Hyderabad: Biological E Ltd has joined hands with Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, part of pharma-major Johnson & Johnson (J&J), for creation and enhancement of production capabilities to manufacture the latter's COVID-19 vaccine. J&J's vaccine candidate is currently in phase 1/2 clinical trials, the vaccine maker said. "We are pleased to collaborate with J&J. Given the magnitude of the pandemic, our ability to mount an effective response will be predicated on the ability to supply the vaccine globally," said BE MD, Mahima Datla.

'FACELESS TAX ASSESSMENT TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 13: Faceless tax assessment and appeals unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday will promote transparency and certainty, and empower honest taxpayers, India Inc and experts said.

In a major overhaul of tax administration, Modi unveiled faceless tax assessment and appeals to reduce the scope for corruption and overreach by officials, and said a taxpayers' charter is being implemented to ensure a free, fair and transparent tax environ-

ment. Launching the "Transparent Taxation - Honouring The Honest Platform" through video conferencing, he said the taxpayer base at just 1.5 crore in India is very low and urged those who owe taxes to come forward and honestly pay their dues and contribute to nation building. The taxpayers' charter and faceless assessment are the next phases of direct tax reforms aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers as the government looks to rebuild the pandemic-hit economy. While faceless assessment that

Today is a landmark day in the history of tax administration. The vision of the Prime Minister is to empower the taxpayers, to provide a transparent system and to honour the honest taxpayers

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

Faceless scrutiny to up fairness in tax net: FM

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday said the faceless tax scrutiny assessment and appeal would help ease compliance burden of taxpayers and increase fairness and objectivity in the tax system. "Today is a landmark day in the history of tax administration," Sitharaman said, adding that the vision of the Prime Minister is to empower the taxpayers, to provide a transparent system and to honour the honest taxpayers. "To realise this vision, the CBDT has given a framework and put in place a system in the form of this platform, a transparent efficient and accountable tax administration is what this platform brings in. It uses technology, data analytics, and also uses artificial intelligence.

Bankers discuss 'language policy'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: The 48th half yearly meeting of Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Bank) (TOLIC), Bhubaneswar was held Thursday via a video conferencing.

Deputy Director, Regional Implementation Office, Kolkata Nirmal Kumar Dubey said that the implementation of the official language policy amid the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging. "But we must take this challenge forward," he added.

Dubey also opined his views on the subject of problems and solutions relating to implementation of an official language in office(s) at present.

Chairman, TOLIC (Bank) and SBI CGM Ruma Dey said that due to the ongoing covid-crisis, people across the world are constantly struggling at both economic and social level.

"Banks have been placed in the category of most essential services due to the role they play in shaping country's economy. All bankers who have been providing continuous service to the customers deserve hearty congratulations," Dey said.

Zydus Cadila launches India's cheapest Remdesivir version

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 13: Drug firm Zydus Cadila Thursday said it has launched Remdesivir under the brand name Remdac, used for treating patients suffering from severe symptoms of COVID-19, in the Indian market.

Priced at ₹2,800 per 100 mg vial, Remdac is the most economical Remdesivir brand in India, Zydus Cadila said in a regulatory filing.

The company said the drug will be made available across India through the group's distribution chain reaching out to government and private hospitals treating COVID-19 patients.

"Remdac is the most affordable drug as we would like to enable patients to have access to this critical drug in the treatment of COVID-19," Cadila Healthcare MD Sharvil Patel said.

Through the course of this pandemic, the company's efforts have been focused on supporting people in this healthcare crisis, whether it is through developing vaccines, ramping up production and dis-

tribution of critical drugs and therapies, making diagnostic tests available or exploring new treatment options, he added.

The active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) for the drug has been developed and manufactured at the group's API manufacturing facilities in Gujarat, Zydus Cadila said. Complete backward integration makes Remdac the most economical Remdesivir brand in India, it added.

In June this year, Zydus had entered into a non-exclusive agreement with Gilead Sciences to manufacture and sell Remdesivir, the



investigational drug, which has been issued an emergency use authorisation by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to treat patients suffering from severe symptoms of COVID-19, the filing said. Zydus Cadila's vaccine ZyCoV-D is now in phase-II of clinical trials, it added.

Zydus Cadila is the fifth company to have launched its generic version of Remdesivir in India. Hetero Labs, Cipla, Mylan and Jubilant Life Sciences have already launched their generic versions of antiviral drug Remdesivir in the country.

Retail inflation rises to 6.93% in July

As per the NSO data, inflation in rural India was 7.04%, while in urban areas it was 6.84% during July



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 13: Retail inflation rose to 6.93% in July, mainly driven by rising prices of food items like vegetables, pulses, meat and fish, government data showed Thursday. The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.15% in July 2019.

Retail inflation for June has been revised upwards to 6.23% from the earlier estimate of 6.09%, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been mandated by the government to keep the CPI-based inflation at 4% (+, - 2%). Retail inflation has remained above the 4% mark since October 2019. Last week, the RBI had kept interest rates on hold to contain elevated inflation. The central bank mainly factors in retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.

As per the NSO data, inflation in rural India was 7.04%, while in urban areas it was 6.84% during July, translating into a combined rate of price rise of 6.93%.

The rate of price rise in meat and fish' segment was 18.81% in July over the same month last year. Similarly, the annual inflation was 12.41% in 'oils and fats' and 11.29% in vegetables. The annual inflation in the food basket was 9.62%, the data showed. In the fuel and

light' segment, the CPI-based inflation stood at 2.8%.

As the various COVID-19-related restrictions were gradually lifted and non-essential activities started resuming operations, availability of price data has also improved.

NSO collected prices from 1,054 (95%) urban markets and 1,089 (92%) villages during the month of July 2020, an official release said.

The price data are usually collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and selected 1,181 villages through personal visits by field staff of the Field Operations Division of NSO, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, on a weekly roster.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA, said the CPI inflation hardened to a sharper-than-anticipated level, led by core items that are still adjusting to the new demand-supply dynamics, even as the increase in food inflation was along expected lines.

"As expected, the soaring vegetable prices amidst heavy rainfall and localised lockdowns, contributed to the spike in food inflation in July 2020, which is expected to soften somewhat in the ongoing month," she said.

Nayar opined that the stabilisation in prices of crude oil and retail fuels in recent weeks would ease the incremental pressure on the CPI inflation in the ongoing month.

BIZ BUZZ

Exports of gems, jewellery slump 38% in July

Mumbai: India's gems and jewellery exports fell 38% in July from a year ago to \$1.36 billion as shipments of cut and polished diamonds plunged because of the nCoV, a trade organisation said Thursday. The industry was hit twice because of the nCoV, with export orders evaporating and then a shortage of workers caused by a national lockdown to stop the spread of the virus. India's cut and polished diamond exports in July fell 39% from a year ago to \$918.4 million, the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said. In the April to July period, cut and polished diamond exports plunged 46.5% from a year ago to \$2.7 billion, it said.



India announces \$500 million package for Maldives

New Delhi: India will fund the implementation of a major connectivity project in Maldives through a \$400 million line of credit and \$100 million grant, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Thursday after holding wide-ranging talks with his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid. The 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) will be the largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives, connecting Male with three neighbouring islands: Villigili, Gulhifahu and Thilafushi, officials said. People familiar with the GMCP said it was a key election promise of the ruling MDP for which the President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih sought India's assistance during his meeting with Jaishankar in September last year.



CHINESE APP BAN

INDIAN STARTUPS LURE TALENT FROM TIKTOK, HELO

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 13: A number of Indian startups in the field of social media that came into prominence following the ban on TikTok and Helo, along with other Chinese apps in June, confirmed Thursday that they are attracting talent from these companies as they face uncertainty over their India operations in the long run.

Chinese unicorn ByteDance, which owns TikTok and Helo, has nearly 2,000 employees in India.

"We've got various interests from the employees of ByteDance and other competitive companies. We have received close to 100 resumes from them," Sumit Ghosh, CEO and Co Founder, Chingari App, told

IANs.

The homegrown short video app Chingari which recently raised 1.3 million (around ₹10 crore) in a seed round currently has just about 25 employees.

Short video-making app Rizzle said that about 10 former TikTok employees have joined it.

"Rizzle attracts a number of sharp engineers, marketers, and other talented individuals from a variety of companies across India, which includes ByteDance among others. An approximate of 10 employees have joined us," informed Lakshminath Dondeti, Co-founder, Rizzle.

This app that allows its users to make 60-second videos said it currently has about 100 people working



with it.

In a bid to provide a sense of normalcy to its close to 2,000 employees in India, ByteDance has initiated a performance-review cycle.

Soon after Indian announced the ban on TikTok, along with 58 other apps over national security concerns, TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer who is also the COO of ByteDance

said that employees are the company's "biggest strength" and their well-being its "top-most priority".

However, these assurances appeared to be not enough to calm the minds of many of the company's anxious employees.

While many of them are seeking opportunities with apps like Chingari and Rizzle, it is only natural that some will seek opportunities with bigger companies like ShareChat which is seeking to fill many positions like Business Analyst, Product Analyst, Product Manager and Data Scientist, among others, in Bangalore.

Another short video-sharing app, Mitron, which became popular in the wake of the anti-China sentiment, is also looking to hire "the best

'ByteDance in talks with Reliance'

New York: China's ByteDance is in early talks with Reliance Industries Ltd for an investment in its video-based app TikTok's business in India, TechCrunch reported, citing sources. The two companies began conversations late last month and have not reached a deal yet, according to the report. Reliance, ByteDance and TikTok did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. India in June banned 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok and WeChat, for threatening its "sovereignty and integrity" after border tensions with China.

talent in the country."

"At Mitron, we are hiring the best talent in the country across product, engineering, marketing and other functions and give them a platform where they can impact the experience of millions of users," said Shivank Agarwal, Co-founder and CEO, Mitron.

It has now emerged that what is TikTok's loss could be gains for the Indian startups that are trying to fill the gap left vacant by the ban.

However, all these apps will have to deal with the challenge of holding on to their users and attracting top-notch creators to emerge successful in the long term.

ATALANTA'S DREAM CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DEBUT ENDS IN HEARTBREAK AS PSG SCORE TWO LATE GOALS TO MAKE IT TO THE SEMIFINALS



So near yet so far

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lisbon, August 13: Just like that, Atalanta's Champions League dream was over. Two late goals inside four minutes ended Atalanta's remarkable run and crushed the hopes of their fans back home in Bergamo, the small Italian city hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The team's chances of bringing home the European trophy ended with a 1-2 loss to Paris Saint-Germain in the quarterfinals Wednesday here. "I can only thank my players. We were so close, really close," Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said.

Atalanta took the lead at the Stadium of Light thanks to Mario Pasalic's first-half goal, but Marquinhos equalised in the 90th and Eric Choupo-Moting scored the winner in the third minute of stoppage time.

The first half was all about Neymar who had four good chances but squandered them all. The Brazilian burst clear of the Atalanta defence in the third minute but sidefooted wide with only goalkeeper Marco Sportiello to beat.

Despite boasting only a fraction of PSG's spending power, Atalanta were more than equal on the pitch and went ahead when an exchange of passes ended with the ball falling to Pasalic who met it first time to curl his shot past Keylor Navas.

Mbappe and Neymar were both denied by Sportiello but, as PSG ramped up the pressure, Atalanta finally cracked. Cameroon forward Choupo-Moting's cross found Neymar and he touched the ball to Marquinhos for his fellow Brazilian

to fire home from close range. Minutes later, Neymar sent Mbappe down the left and his low cross was turned in by Choupo-Moting. It was a heart-breaking finish to

Atalanta's first appearance in Europe's top club competition, one that had grown bigger than sports after the coronavirus killed more than 6,000 in Bergamo. Atalanta players were behind the city from the start and said they wanted to bring joy back to their supporters after months of suffering. "At this moment, it's quite painful," Atalanta midfielder Marten de Roon said. "Tomorrow, I will be



ERIC CHOUPO-MOTING

proud of our team and club but at this moment I feel disappointment." Back in Bergamo, the fans remained fiercely proud of their players — none of whom had left the city in its darkest moment and during one of the strictest lockdowns in the world.

A few months ago the people of Lombardy, in which Bergamo is situated, were only allowed to leave their houses for essentials such as food or health emergencies.

Fans are still not allowed into the stadium — although some Atalanta supporters had made the trip to Lisbon — but approximately 300 of them were gathered at Edone, a bar and a cultural space near the team's stadium.

In the balmy evening and under picture-

esque fairy lights, they wildly celebrated Pasalic's goal, applauded every save and good move from their players, and grasped their heads in shock and groaned at the late heartbreak.

"Atalanta already won and the city already won because five months ago, when Atalanta beat Valencia and we were in our darkest days, a night like tonight looked like impossible back then because we were just feeling the worst moment, fear for our best friends, fear for ourselves, fear for our family," said 38-year-old Franz Barcella, an Atalanta season ticket holder and the managing partner at Edone.

"And in those days, a night, a normal summer night of drinking, of watching a game or watching a movie seemed just like impossible for us in Bergamo. So already being here with our friends, having a pizza, hugging, laughing ... it feels like a dream, it feels like joy back again."

Atalanta reached the final eight with an 8-4 aggregate victory over Valencia in the round of 16. The first leg took place February 19 in Milan in a match dubbed "Game Zero" because of the spread of the disease that followed both in northern Italy and in Spain.

Images of a convoy of military trucks driving coffins out of the city of Bergamo because the crematorium couldn't keep up were beamed around the world. "Tonight is not about a quarterfinal of a Champions League. For us it's much more," Barcella added. Atalanta will get another chance to succeed in the Champions League next season after qualifying again through a third-place finish in Serie A, repeating their best-ever result from a year ago.

CLASH OF TITANS

Barcelona have a massive task in hand as they take on Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals

AGENCIES

Lisbon, August 13: Arguably the pick of the quarterfinal ties in this season's Champions League will take place in Lisbon Friday night as Barcelona take on Bayern Munich for a spot in the final four.

Barca overcame Napoli in the quarterfinals to book their position at this stage of the competition, while Bayern breezed past Chelsea to ensure that they would be present in the last eight.

Incredibly, this is Barca's 13th successive Champions League quarterfinal — a competition record — but they have not won the European Cup since 2015, which is too long for a club of their ilk.

The Catalan giants were incredibly knocked out by Liverpool in the semifinals last season despite a 3-0 victory in the first leg and will be determined to go all the way to the final on this occasion.

There is certainly pressure on Barca as they probably need to win this season's competition to make it a successful campaign. Indeed, they have relinquished control of the La Liga title to Real Madrid, and it would be fair to say that all is not well in the camp following a difficult domestic season.

Barca have only lost two of their last 31 Champions League games, though, and are unbeaten in their last six matches against German clubs since a second-

leg defeat to Bayern in the semifinals of the 2015 competition.

Quique Setien's side were far from perfect against Napoli in the round of 16, but a 3-1 victory at Camp Nou saw them book their spot in the quarterfinals courtesy of a 4-2 aggregate success.

The Spanish outfit cannot be written off in any game due to the presence of a certain Messi, although it would be fair to say that the team will have to play a lot better than they have done for the majority of the 2019-20 campaign if they are to book their spot in the semifinals of the competition.

TONIGHT'S MATCH

BARCELONA vs BAYERN MUNICH

Time: 12:30 am

Telecast: Sony Ten channels

TEAM NEWS

Barca will again be without Samuel Umtiti due to a knee injury, but Ousmane Dembele has returned to training following a long-term hamstring issue, and the Frenchman could be involved off the bench. The Spanish club will also be boosted by the returns of midfielders Sergio Busquets and Arturo Vidal from suspension

As for Bayern, experienced centre-back Jerome Boateng will reportedly overcome the issue that he picked up against Chelsea to start, while Kingsley Coman is expected to be available following a muscular problem



LIONEL MESSI

ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI

Barca have actually won 14 of their previous 19 two-legged ties with German opposition, while they are one of only two previous winners left in this season's competition, the other being Bayern

The Spanish outfit's overall record against the German powerhouse Bayern Munich is surprisingly poor, though, winning just two of their 10 previous encounters, suffering six defeats in the process

The German giants have lost five of their last six knockout ties with La Liga teams, including defeat to Real Madrid in the semifinals of the 2017-18 competition, while they have only won one of their last six matches against Spanish clubs, suffering three defeats in the process

As mentioned, these two teams have met on 10 previous occasions in European competition, and Bayern lead the head-to-head six wins to Barca's two, with two draws also occurring

Barca knocked Bayern out in the semifinals of the 2014-15 competition before going on to win it, while the German giants beat the Spanish club in the semifinals of the 2012-13 tournament en route to the trophy

The La Liga giants also beat Bayern in the quarterfinals of the 2008-09 competition, but the German side have won their only two previous meetings in the group stages of the European Cup

Ronaldo offered to Barca by Juventus



AGENCIES

Turin, August 13: Cristiano Ronaldo has reportedly been offered to Barcelona in a sensational move that would see him play alongside Lionel Messi.

The former Real Madrid talisman could be on his way out from Juventus, after two seasons with The Old Lady — who are trying to get his huge 28mn pound per year salary off their books, according to Spanish journalist Guillem Balague.

He explained to the BBC that the Serie A champions are desperate to ship off Ronaldo due to his astronomical wages that they have been offering him out to Europe's elite, including Barcelona.

Juventus' hierarchy of sporting director Fabio Paratici, vice president Pavel Nedved and chairman Andrea Agnelli with new boss

Andrea Pirlo will hold a meeting Thursday to decide who will leave out of Ronaldo and Paulo Dybala, according to 'Sportmediaset'.

The Italian giants can reportedly only afford to keep one at the club for next season due to their financial situation and desire to bring in at least one striker, a right back and a winger.

Both Ronaldo and Dybala have contracts at the club until the summer of 2022 and Juventus could get between 50mn pound and 90mn pound for either of their stars.

"He's been offered everywhere, including Barcelona," Balague told '5 Live Sport' on Ronaldo, adding: "I'm not sure if they can get rid of him easily with the kind of money he earns. Who is going to pay that kind of money?"

Barcelona have been hit hard financially by the coronavirus pandemic and look unable to make big-money signings during the summer period, as they hope to bridge the gap to La Liga champions Real Madrid.

While an attacking duo of Messi and Ronaldo has been a spectacle football fans have been crying out for since they both announced themselves on the world stage around 15 years ago, it looks incredibly unlikely to become a reality this summer.

OFC rope in Dias as new asst. coach



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 13: Odisha FC announced Thursday the signing of former India international Steven Dias as the new Indian assistant coach ahead of the seventh edition of Indian Super League (ISL). Dias joined the Bhubaneswar-based club for a one-year deal.

After his phenomenal playing career with the Indian national team and many reputed clubs like Air India, Mahindra United, Churchill Brothers, Delhi Dynamos, and Mumbai FC, Dias had joined Jamshedpur FC as their assistant coach last year.

Apart from the Indian assistant coach, the club has also announced the re-signing of Spanish strength and conditioning coach Joan Casanova for the upcoming season. He was also a part of the OFC coaching team under former head coach Josep Gombau.

Anderson spell troubles Pak

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southampton, August 13: James Anderson (2/24) struck either side of the lunch on day one of the second Test to put Pakistan in a spot of bother as the visitors reached 85/2 in 33.5 overs before rain halted the play Thursday.

Meanwhile, Azhar Ali's struggles continued as the Pakistan captain was dismissed by Anderson soon after lunch before more rain brought another delay to the opening day.

Abid Ali (49 batting) and Babar Azam (7 batting) were at the crease when a heavy shower landed on the Rose Bowl and forced the play-

ers off less than an hour into the middle session on a day of changing weather here.

Azhar was in need of runs after making only 139 in his last 12 away Test innings but fell for 20 — off 85 balls — by edging Anderson low to Rory Burns at second slip. He didn't add to his score at lunch and it gave England's all-time leading wicket-taker his second of the day, after trapping Shan Masood for one in the third over.

Anderson, who kept his place despite bowling poorly in the first test won by England by three wickets last week, had 2/24 off 12 overs. Abid was dropped twice in the

slips before lunch, firstly by Dom Sibley at third slip on zero and then Burns at second slip on 21. He also was rapped on the box off a delivery from Chris Woakes.

Pakistan, who won the toss under sunny skies, are 1-0 down in the three-match series.

Another victory for England will clinch a first test series against Pakistan in 10 years, and a second series of this pandemic-affected summer having already beaten the West Indies.

BRIEF SCORES (AT TEA): Pakistan 85/2 (Abid Ali 49 batting; Jimmy Anderson 2/24) vs England. Match to continue.



Jimmy Anderson celebrates the wicket of opener Shan Masood

N Sikki Reddy tests positive for COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 13: Shuttler N Sikki Reddy and physiotherapist Kiran C have tested positive for COVID-19 at the ongoing national camp, forcing the closure of the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad for sanitisation, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said Thursday.

Women's doubles specialist Sikki and Kiran, who have been attending the national camp at the academy, are both asymptomatic, according to a SAI statement.

They had undergone the SAI's mandatory COVID-19 test for players, coaches and support staff before the start of training August 7 at the facility.

"All necessary precautions as per protocol are being taken so that players can come back for training safely and as soon as possible," said Pullela Gopichand.

The academy has been closed down for sanitisation and all primary contacts of Sikki and Kiran are undergoing the RT PCR test again.

The badminton camp was allowed by SAI for eight Olympic hopefuls, including Rio Games silver-medallist and world champion PV Sindhu, following the approval from the Telangana government August 1.