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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 2020

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One should not spread hatred on it. Facebook is just meant to stalk one's exes!

SHORT TAKES

Pt Jasraj no more



Indian classical vocalist Pandit following a

cardiac arrest at his home in New Jersey, his daughter Durga Jasrai said. He was 90. One of India's greatest music legends. Pandit Jasraj leaves behind a storied legacy spanning almost eight decades. "Bapuji is no more," Durga, also a musician, said over phone from Mumbai. She was inconsolable and could not speak any more. Jasrai, who belonged to the Mewati Gharana, was in the US when the lockdown happened. P2

Susanta tests nCoV +ve

Bhubaneswar: Rural Development and Labour Minister Susanta Singh Monday said he has tested positive for COVID-19. The MLA from Bhatli Assembly constituency is the first minister in Odisha to have been infected with the virus. "I have tested positive for Corona and I am stable now. Those who have came in contact with me recently are requested to stay isolated and get tested." the minister

Big transactions exempted from ITR

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 17: Taxpayers will not be required to mention their high-value transactions in their income tax returns (ITR), officials in the know of the development said.

"There is no such proposal to modify income tax return forms," an official said, responding to reports of the proposed expansion of reportable financial transactions to include hotel payments over ₹20,000, life insurance premium payment over ₹50,000 and health insurance premium payment over ₹20,000, donations and payment of school/college fees over ₹1 lakh a year. Any expansion in reporting under the statement of financial transactions

(SFT) will mean that such reporting of high-value transactions to the I-T department will be done by financial institutions, they said. Only third parties would report

high-value transactions to the I-T department as per the Income Tax Act. Such information would be used to



Such reporting of high-value transactions to the I-T department will be done by financial institutions Only third parties would report high-

value transactions to the I-T department as per the Income Tax Act

These items include business class air travel, foreign travel, spending big money in expensive hotels, or sending children to expensive schools

identify people who are not paying up due taxes, and not for examining affairs of honest taxpayers, they said. "There is no such proposal to modify income tax returns forms," an official said. "The taxpayer would not need to mention his/her high-value

transactions in his/her return." They said collecting reports of highvalue transactions was the most nonintrusive way to identify those who spend big money on various items and

SIMPLER THE BETTER than ₹2.5 lakh per annum.

yet they do not file income tax returns by claiming that their income was less

> These items include business class air travel, foreign travel, spending big money in expensive hotels, or sending children to expensive schools. Finance Ministry sources said the Income-Tax Act already provided for quoting of PAN/Aadhaar for certain high-value transactions and their reporting by the third parties mainly for the purpose of widening the tax base.

> "It's an open fact that in India, only a tiny segment of people pay taxes and all those who should be paying their taxes are actually not paying their taxes." a source said.

The I-T Department is relying more and more on voluntary compliance and, hence, expenditure data collected

from third parties through SFT is the best and the most effective non-intrusive method to catch evaders, sources said. The Income Tax Department currently receives information like cash deposit/withdrawal from saving bank accounts, sale/purchase of immovable property, credit card payments, purchase of shares, debentures, foreign currency, mutual funds, among others.

It receives such information "specified persons" like banks, mutual funds, institutions issuing bonds and registrars or sub-registrars with regard to individuals having high-value financial transactions since the financial year 2016 onwards.

In the 2020-21 Budget, the government revised the format of Form 26AS, stating that all such information from different SFTs would be shown in the new Form 26AS. It is an annual consolidated tax statement that can be accessed from the income-tax website by taxpayers using their permanent account number (PAN).



AG notices ₹48 cr hole in road work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The Accountant General (AG) has found additional expenditure of ₹48.28 crore in execution of rail over bridge (ROB) and road projects due to technical faults by the works department.

Deputy accountant general of Odisha has written two letters to works secretary seeking comments on the findings of the auditor. The findings are proposed to be included in the report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) for the year 2019-20.

The AG, in its letter, said an extra cost of ₹36.68 crore was made for the ROB project at Kudiary near Jatni between Retanga and Khurda Road stations while technical faults in road projects led to extra cost of ₹11.60 crore to the state exchequer.

There was laxity during the primary survey ahead of construction of the ROB leading to abandonment of work. This called for a revision of the design and drawings causing an extra cost of Rs36.68 crore, the auditor said in its letter.

The ROB project was technically sanctioned in

STATE SQUAD BUSTS ₹712CR **GST FRAUD** POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar, August 17: The

State GST Enforcement Squad Monday arrested the kingpin of a GST racket involved in generation of fake invoices worth ₹712 crore and passing of bogus input tax credit (ITC) of ₹129 crores over multiple transactions routed through different chains.

SK Lohani, Commissioner (CT&GST), Odisha said the mastermind, Kashmira Kumar Agrawal, Director of M/s Madhumita Steels Industries Pvt Ltd, has been arrested from Sambalpur.

Agrawal was arrested u/s 69 of OGST Act, 2017 for commission of cognizable and non-bailable of-

More rains likely; CS vets situation POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Rain-soaked Odisha, which witnessed a flood-like situation in several areas, is likely to see more downpour over next three days with a fresh low-pressure area brewing over the Bay of Bengal. While many parts of the state have been battered by heavy rain due to three back-to-back low-pressure areas so far this month, a new one is likely over the Bay of Bengal around August 19 which will bring in more downpour, said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre in a bulletin issued Monday.

The low pressure is likely to become more marked during subsequent 24 hours and move westwards gradually, it said. Heavy downpour since August 13 has created a flood-like situation in some parts of the state, snapping road connectivity. damaging mud houses and crops, and killing two people.

Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy

RESH LOW-PRESSURE LIKELY OVER NORTH BAY OF BENGAL AROUND

AUGUST 19

CS ASKS COLLECTORS TO SUBMIT DAMAGE REPORT TO SRC

said the situation in the affected districts is under control while communication was temporarily snapped in some places in Malkangiri due to submergence of low-level bridges and roads.

Tripathy reviewed the prevailing situation at a meeting with Collectors and senior officials of Malkangiri, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Kendrapara, Subarnapur, Bhadrak, Boudh and Bargarh, following directions from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Malkangiri district recorded a maximum rain of 463.2 mm during last three days under the influence of the lowpressure, said an official. Damage has been caused to houses and crops. Tripathy said, adding that the District Collectors

have been asked to send detailed reports to the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) for appropriate steps.

Regarding the fresh low-pressure area taking shape over the Bay of Bengal, the CS said the government is keeping a close vigil on the emerging situation and is well prepared to deal with it.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi said the districts have been put on alert. People are being rescued and moved to safe places wherever necessary, he said. The exact magnitude of the damage caused to crops, houses and other properties will be ascertained after getting the assessment reports, the minister said. Life was thrown out of gear in several areas of Malkangiri, Dhenkanal and Bhadrak districts with many villages cut off from the rest of the state as roads were submerged. In Malkangiri district, lowlevel bridges connecting various block headquarters were inundated.

for completion by July 2017. The contractor did not expedite the work despite repeated instructions from

the executive engineer. It carried out only earthwork. sand filling, cast-in-situ piles, among others, that added up to ₹10.80 crore (28 per cent of the contract price). It was abandoned in March 2018. The leftover work was assessed at ₹27.55 crore.

September 2014 and the con-

tract was awarded at a cost

of ₹38.35 crore in July 2015

As per the audit report, original detailed project report (DPR) was technically sanctioned with provision of four spans of 37.24 metre length and nine spans of 37 .24 metre length with an approach road from Khurda and Pipili sides respectively.

The technical sanction for the project was based on the certificate of the executive engineer and superintendent engineer. However, due to their faulty survey, traffic jam and road blocks occurred in the site. The reason for abandonment of the work was attributed to political interference to shift the approach landing from Sitaram Chhak iunction due to heavy traffic density, the auditor stated.

tweeted. Singh was the chief quest at the Independence Day celebrations in Balasore district.

MARKET WATCH						
INDEX VARIATION						
RSES	SENSEX	38050.78		173.44		
BOU	NIFTY	11247.10		68.70		
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	74.93	₽	₹0.08		
CURR	EURO	88.71		₹0.15		
ION	GOLD	₹53,272		₹1045		
BULLION	SILVER	₹69,711	1	₹2540		

W	EAT			
		BHUB	СТК	
ЧЬ	MAX	33.4℃	33.6°(
Ē	MIN	26.0°C	24.0°	Forecast
Hur	nidity	95%	86%	
Raiı	nfall	Nil	Nil	Generally cloudy sky

fence u/s 132(1)(a) and (b) read with section 132(4) of OGST Act.

Investigations revealed that the mastermind hired middlemen to collect credentials such as PAN, Adhaar, photographs from persons of no means (housewives, drivers, plumbers) of Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts on the pretext of giving them gainful employment / handsome amounts of money in every month but misutilised the documents to fulfill his vested interest and defrauded the government revenue

According to the authorities, the accused showed to have purchased goods worth ₹13 crore but transferred ₹38 crore to the said firm through its bank account raising suspicion regarding his involvement in money laundering. The probe revealed that Agarwal

fraudulently availed bogus ITC of ₹113.81 crore and passed on bogus input tax credit worth ₹129.09 crore in the name of 14 fictitious firms created and operated by him on the strength of fake invoices.

Don't put off JEE & NEET-UG exams: SC

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi. August 17: The Supreme Court Monday dismissed a plea seeking postponement of JEE (Main) April 2020 and NEET-Undergraduate examinations, which are scheduled to be conducted in September, amid spurt in number of COVID-19 cases, saying precious year of students "cannot be wasted" and life has to go on.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said career of students "cannot be put under jeopardy for long". "Life has to go on. Life has to move ahead. Precious year of students cannot be wasted,' the bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai and Krishna Murari, said during the hearing conducted through video conferencing while paving the way for commencement

of the exams as scheduled. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta

told the apex court that due precautions and all safeguards would be taken while conducting these examinations. The counsel appearing for the petitioners told the bench that lakhs of students are looking towards the top court for relief and they were only seeking postponement of these exams.

The plea, filed by 11 students be longing to 11 states, had sought quashing of the July 3 notices issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA), by which it was decided to conduct the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) April 2020 and National Eligibilitycum-Entrance Test (NEET)-Undergraduate exams in September.

As per the public notices issued by NTA, JEE (Main) April 2020 is scheduled from September 1-6, while NEET UG 2020 exam is scheduled for September 13. The plea, filed through advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, had referred to COVID-



19 pandemic and said authorities be directed to conduct these exams only after normalcy is restored.

The plea had also sought direction to the authorities to increase the number of examination centres. "Conducting the aforesaid examination across India at such perilous time, is nothing else but putting lives of lakhs of young students (including petitioners herein) at utmost risk and danger of disease and death. The best recourse at this stage can be to wait for some more time, let COVID-19 crisis sub-

side and then only conduct these exams, in order to save lives of the students and their parents," the plea had said. It had claimed that NTA, which conducts entrance exams for admission in higher educational institutions in India, has decided to conduct JEE (Main) April-2020 through online mode and NEET UG-2020 exams through offline mode at 161 centres across the country.

It had alleged that NTA has indefinitely postponed the National Council of Hotel Management Joint Entrance Examination-2020, which was scheduled to be conducted on June 22, in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The plea had also alleged that authorities have ignored the plight of lakhs of students from Bihar, Assam and NE states, which are presently reeling under flood, and conducting either online or offline exams in such places may not be possible.

+2 COMMERCE **RESULTS AUG 19**

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The results of the annual Plus II Commerce exams conducted by the state's Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) will be declared at 11:30 am August 19, School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Monday.

"All the necessary arrangements have reached final stages," Dash said, adding that the Plus II Arts results will be published before August 31.

Earlier, the CHSE had published the Science results August 12.

Of the 68,374 students who cleared the 2020 Plus II Science Exam, 38,301 were boys and 30,073 girls. As many as 25,339 students



secured first division, 24,121 students got second division marks and 18,268 students cleared the exam with third division in the Science stream this year.

According to sources, Nayagarh district had registered the highest pass percentage of 86.51 while Jharsuguda recorded the lowest success rate of 40.71 per cent.

Nearly 20 higher secondary schools had recorded 100 per cent results this year in Science stream. On the other hand, the school and mass education department served notices on 15schools which have recorded nil results in the Science stream.

China too claims patents for its Covid-19 vaccine

THIS IS A RECOMBINANT ADENOVIRUS VACCINE NAMED AD5-NCOV CO-DEVELOPED BY CANSINO

AGENCIES

Beijing, August 17: China has granted the first invention patent to a Covid-19 vaccine co-developed by biopharmaceutical firm CanSino Biologics Inc in the country, which experts said demonstrates the vaccine's originality and creativity.

According to a Global Times report, the vaccine is a recombinant adenovirus vaccine named Ad5nCoV co-developed by CanSino with a team led by Chinese military infectious disease expert Chen Wei.

"The grant of the patent further confirmed the vaccine's efficacy and safety and convincingly demonstrated the ownership of its intellectual property rights (IPR),"

CanSino said in a statement on Sunday

An officially granted patent would enhance the market's confidence in Chinese-developed Covid-19 vaccines, "especially that of the international market".

"The US has been making accusations since May that Chinese hackers were attempting to steal novel coronavirus data on treatments and vaccines without providing substantial evidence," said the report.

According to CanSino, they applied for a patent with the National Intellectual Property Administration on March 18, three days after they launched phase one clinical trials on the candidate and received ap-



proval August 11. The phase III trial on the vaccine "which will be conducted overseas is progressing smoothly," the company said in the

statement. CanSino has signed deals with Mexico to conduct late-stage clinical trials for Covid-19 vaccines. Saudi Arabian health officials also announced on August 9 to cooperate with phase III clinical trials on the vaccine, recruiting around 5,000 participants.

CanSino has also reportedly been in talks with Russia, Brazil and Chile to launch a Phase III trial on Ad5-nCOV.

Meanwhile, Russia has begun production of the first batch of vaccines against Covid-19, its health ministry said in a statement over the weekend.

The world's first registered vaccine against the novel coronavirus was announced by President Vladimir Putin last week, during an online meeting with government officials.

The third stage of the research on the world's first registered vaccine against the novel coronavirus, called Sputnik V, may begin in 7-10 davs.

According to the Tass news agency, several tens of thousands of people are expected to take part in this research of the vaccine created by the Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry.

The vaccine Sputnik V, which is named after the space satellite launched by Moscow in 1957, was created by the Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, alongside the Russian Direct Investment Fund.











HUDSON REMEMBERS FRANKLIN **ON HER 2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

Actor Jennifer Hudson remembered songstress Aretha Franklin on the R&B legend's second death anniversary. The Oscar winner, who is set to play Franklin in her upcoming biopic Respect, shared a black-and-white picture of the late singer on Instagram Sunday.

ACTING IS HER FIRST LOVE. SAYS ELISABETH MOSS

The Handmaid's Tale star Elisabeth Moss may have turned producer, but she says acting is her first love. Moss, who launched her production banner Love & Squalor Pictures last month, said being involved behind the camera enriches her performance on screen.



FORTUNE **FORECAST A SOULFUL VOICE FALLS SILENT**

You may get all nostalgic and wistful today, pre-dicts Ganesha. You will go out of your way to improve your relationships. To you, your commitment is an investment for the future. The result is loving life-long bonds.

GaneshaSpeaks.com

accuracy • reliability • trust 🖾 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 5518

TAURUS

Financial gains are on the cards today, predicts Ganesha. Happiness will fly in as you receive some good news from an overseas friend. If you have feelings that you haven't expressed to someone you dearly love, today is a good day to go ahead and let them know

GEMINI

Today, you will have the required intentions and courage to propose your sweetheart. You will be dressed to kill, or rather to marry. You will make a favourable impression with the way you'll look tonight. You will be an open book to your future partner, which is likely to work in your favour.

You will be in high spirits today, foretells Ganesha. It is a favourable day to engage in household activities, like gar

dening, cooking or even washing laundry. In the evening, work will be eclipsed by the pleasures of love.

LEO



every possibility that you shall remain extremely busy. The tasks may be small - like writing a letter to revive old contacts - but it is important that you do them. Chances are that you may also end up giving a few interviews over the phone.

VIRGO

Family matters will matter today. They hold more weight in your thoughts than everything else, says Ganesha. Business will be good today. Spend the evening relaxing and chilling out. On the cards is a visit to a place of worship.



INDIA HAS LOST ONE **OF ITS PRECIOUS GEMS** WITH THE DEATH OF **PANDIT JASRAJ WHO** WAS LIKE AN ELDER **BROTHER TO HER.** SAYS LEGENDARY **ODISSI CLASSICAL** VOCALIST **SHYAMAMANI** DEVI

Reactions from Odia classical vocalists

India has lost one of its precious gems in the death of Pandit Jasraj. I have grown up listening to him. He used to treat me like his younger sister..difficult to control my emotion now.

Shyamamani Devi,

Odissi classical vocalist Pandit Ji's demise has created a void in the world of classical music. I was fortunate enough to do 'sangat' in Tanpura at Bharat Muni musical festival held in Bhubaneswar

Sangita Gosain, CEO, Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi research centre. I had the opportunity to work with Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra, who was regarded as a brother by Pandit Jasraj. I was extremely lucky that Pandit Ji appreciated my song Chudamai Pradana at the Sankata Mochan Festival in Varanasi

Guru Bijay Jena, **Classical vocalist and** principal of Utkal

Sangeet Mahavidyalay

merge in the Tavi river as a daily ritual. Being the musician of his court, my father's day would begin with singing devotional music daily for these three hours. So the element of 'bhakti', I believe, was there in my **Celebrity students**

Several of his pupils had gone on to achieve stardom Some of those classical musicians include Saptarshi Chakraborty Sanjeev Abhyankar, violinist Kala Ramnath, Tripti Mukherjee, Suman Ghosh, flautist Shashank Subramanyam, singers Anuradha Paudwal, and Sadhana Sargam

Global presence

genes.

Pandit Jasraj was the founder of schools for Indian classical music in Atlanta, Tampa, Vancouver, Toronto, New York, New Jersey,

Nora's latest music video inspired by Beyonce's Mine!

Mumbai: The latest music video of dancer-actress Nora Fatehi is drawing attention for the uncanny resemblance it bears with a song of pop star Beyonce.

Nora's new video is for the female version of Pachtaoge. In the video, the dancing sensation is seen in an all-white outfit, with background dancers dressed in nude-coloured outfits.

The set-up bears a resemblance with the music video of Beyonce's 2013 song, Mine, which featured in her album, Beyonce. In the Mine video, the American superstar is seen in similar all-white outfit and dancers dressed in various shades of browns. The anonymous Instagram account, Dietsabya called out the similarity, sharing videos of both the songs."@tseries.official out here stealing from THE QUEEN. Guts on! Top: @beyonce MINE; bottom: @norafatehi in PACHTAOGE,' the clips were captioned.

The female version of Pachtaoge is sung by Asees Kaur and it was unveiled last week.

Drishyam director Nishikant Kamat passes away

Mumbai: Filmmaker Nishikant Kamat passed away in a Hyderabad hospital Monday. He was 50. Kamat was battling liver cirrhosis for the past two years.

A statement issued by a Hyderabad hospital, where the filmmaker was admitted, confirmed the news Monday evening.

Several Hindi film celebrities took to their verified social media accounts to express condolences. Ajay Devgn, who starred in

Kamat's 2015 release Drishyam tweeted: "My equation with Nishikant was not just about Drishyam, it was an association that I cherished. He was bright; ever-smiling. He has gone too soon. RIP Nishikant." "I will miss you my friend. #NishikantKamat Rest In Peace,' tweeted Riteish Deshmukh who made his acting debut in Marathi cinema with Kamat's critically acclaimed directorial Lai Bhaari in 2014. "Nishikant Kamat. Really sad to hear about his untimely demise." tweeted Yami Gautam.

"Shocked to hear the demise of talented filmmaker Nishikant Kamat, My condolences to his family & friends . #OmShanti," posted director Madhur Bhandarkar. IANS





pall of gloom descended on Indian music industry Monday with the sudden demise of celebrated classical singer Pandit Jasraj at his New Jersey residence in the USA. While Jasraj's intoxicating music will continue to reverberate the music world for a long time to come, Orissa POST takes a look at the life and times of the legend and finds out what the state classical vocalists have to say on the huge loss. The musical career of Pandit Jasraj, win-

ner of all three Padma awards, has spanned more than 80 years and adorned with numerous other major awards. Jasraj has taught music in India, Canada and the US. Some of his students have in turn become notable musicians.

Mandori unfortunate lemise of Pandit Jasraj Ji leaves a deep void in the ndian cultural sphere. Not only ere his renditions outstandi he also made a mark as an exceptional mentor to several other vocalists. Condolences to his family and admirers worldwide. Om Shanti. NARENDRA MODI I PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Hisar district in Haryana, Jasraj spent his youth in Hyderabad, However, he used to travel to Sanand in Gujarat to study music with musicians of the Mewati gharana. In 1946, Jasraj moved to Calcutta, where he began singing

director V Shantaram, whom he had first met in 1960 in Bombay. They initially lived in Calcutta but moved to Bombay in 1963. The couple has two children, a son, Shaarang Dev Pandit, and a daughter, Durga Jasraj.

Signature style

Pandit Jasraj's unique style of rendition came from Mewati Gharana but his tuneful voice and devotional content of compositions were his hallmarks.

Bhakti-element in genes

While speaking about the devotional elements in his compositions to a national daily at Delhi during Shriram Shankarlal Music Festival last year the maestro revealed. "My father was in the court of Raja Pratap Singh, the Shaivite king of Kashmir, who used to worship Shiva's Parthiv Ling, which he and the group of Brahmin priests of his kingdom would make out of mud in early Brahmin family to Pandit Motiram at Pili Shantaram, the daughter of eminent film morning from 3 am to 6 am and then would

FUN



knows. Today, you will fulfil your filial duties in all that you undertake. As Ganesha rightly points out: All good things begin at home, including your fortune and good luck.

SCORPIO

A healthy and hectic day is in store for you today. You are likely to finish your pending tasks with new zeal. But the chaotic day will blossom into a fabulous evening when you hang out with your sweetheart, says Ganesha

SAGITTARIUS

Chances of you hitting a roadblock today are high. But remember the saying, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.' So don't succumb to pressure, advises Ganesha, but rise up to the occasion and show who's the boss.

CAPRICORN

You will have heard of many emotional fools who let sentiments rule their lives. Try not be one

of them, and if it's too difficult a task, at least pretend not to be one of them, for Ganesha says going by your feelings can leave you at a low ebb. In other words, your feelings can come in the way of your success. A solution to this problem is to remain dispassionate and let the opportunist think you are a hard nut to crack.

You will prove yourself today by staying ahead of your rivals in all ways. You will conquer you frustrations, and will soon be raring to go. Your pleasing demeanour endears you to others and you win admiration from al quarters, says Ganesha.

PISCES An action-packed day awaits you, busy as you will be corresponding with old contacts, telephonic interviews, organising meetings and scheduling tasks, says Ganesha. Do not forget to breathe!

Early days

PEANUTS

Born January 28, 1930, in a middle-class

classical music for radio. In 1962, Jasraj married Madhura Pittsburgh, Mumbai, and Kerala. He was teaching some of his international students through Skype even at the age of 90





lage of

CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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

						5				0		1	E
	4		5			1							7
С		6	8		3	Е				D			
9	1	0		4					2	3			
		3			Α	С		4	Е		6	D	2
1		D	9				6		4			Е	0
1			Е			D				В		4	
	3			В				Е	6	2	7		
	С	9			8	2	1						A
	8	7	D				0	9					
1						4			0	9			8
3	А			8		В	С		7				
D	9				2		7	А	5	6			
1		5	В					6	А	1			
		4		Е					С		3		









SUDOKU







HOPE AMID DESPIAR

An artisan gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Lord Ganesh in Vani Vihar area of Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
rld	2,18,80,832	1,46,01,065	7,73,899
ia	25,91,188	18,62,937	50,112
sha	62,294	43,780	353

Freight corridors to boost state industries **Five ULBs to turn greener** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: In a bid to augment forest cover in urban settings, the state government is planning to undertake massive plantation drive in five municipal corporation areas of Odisha under 'Nagar Van' scheme

Urban forests will be created in municipal corporations of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Rourkela and Berhampur with an outlay of Rs 13.84 crore.

State Forest & Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha has given this proposal to Union Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar and pressed for its early approval. Arukha was attending state forest ministers' conference held through videoconferencing, Monday,

Arukha said that Odisha has a long tradition of forest conservation by forest dependent communities. Forest cover in the state has increased by 33.15 per cent, as per State Forest Report, 2019.

"Despite being prone to natural calamities like cyclones and floods, our green coverage has increased by an area of 929 sq km in the last two years and 4,586 sq km in last two decades," he said. "During the current financial

year, our state has already raised Rs 13.70 crore saplings for plantation in over 1.30 lakh hectare area and distribution to public which is higher than the target set for Odisha by the Union government," the minister pointed out

The government has also decided to take up 100 school nurseries in the best performing schools having 'eco clubs', 'national green corps' in the state by utilising Central fund. Preparatory activities and process for identification of schools under School Nursery scheme are under process.

State government has already launched its online timber transport (TT) permit portal. National tran-



Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Arukha (middle) at the videoconference

NAGAR VAN SCHEME Forest

cover in Odisha

has increased by

33.15 per cent, as

per State Forest

eport, 2019

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur & Rourkela would be covered under 'Nagar Van' scheme with an outlay of ₹13.84 crore

The state has raised ₹13.70 crore saplings for plantation in over 1.30 lakh hectare area and of 'Green distribution to public which is higher than the target Mahanadi set for Odisha, says minister BK Arukha Mission'

sit pass system portal (https://ntps.nic.in) is being closely monitored and will be seamlessly integrated with state's TT permit portal (ttpermitodisha.in), whenever the modalities are shared by the Centre, he said during the meeting.

Under MGNREGS programme, in addition to the afforestation works, soil and moisture conservation activities, digging of trenches around forest, subsidiary silvi-cultural operations in timber coupes and forest road repair works have been taken up in large scale. "Our state is implementing Green Mahanadi Mission since 2018-19 with plantation in 1-2 km on both sides of river Mahanadi." Arukha further said.

He requested the Union Minister for making provision of funds from CAMPA, a central scheme, for successful implementation of 'Green Mahanadi Mission' and

for making

reiterated that all states must take measures to accelerate Nagar Van scheme, School Nursery scheme, plantation under 20 point programme, afforestation in catchment areas of 13 rivers, Lidar Survey for soil moisture conservation and National Transit Permit Portal. Project dolphin and project lion

the country, Javadekar said.

New Delhi, August 17: The

Railways will build nearly 4,000km dedicated freight corridor (DFC) connecting industrial areas in the eastern and western parts of the country to southern India through major ports in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, a document on the planned corridors savs

The proposed DFCs are part of the next big-ticket infrastructure projects of the Railways.

These DFCs are: First, 1,115-km East Coast corridor from Kharagpur (West Bengal) to Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh); the second, East-West corridor which comprises 1.673 km connecting Bhusaval-Nagpur-Kharagpur-Dankuni (near Kolkata) route, and 195-km Rajkharswan-Kalipahari-Andal (West Bengal) route and the third 975-km North South sub-corridor Vijayawada-Nagpur-Itarsi (Madhya

The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFC-CIL) will soon begin the survey for these corridors and will complete the exercise in a year.

nectivity to Paradip, Dhamra, Gopalpur Ports in Odisha and Vishakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, Krishnapatnam and

High drama at PMG Square

Bhubaneswar: High drama unfolded at Lower PMG Square here Monday morning when a man, claimed to be mentally retarded, allegedly assaulted a woman scooty rider waiting at the traffic. When the cops present at the spot rushed to the woman's help, he attacked the policemen too. The lady in her complaint to Kharavela Nagar police claimed that the man leapt towards the woman, caught hold of her, dragged her off the scooty and started attacking her. Informed, his family reached at the police station and took him to hospital for treatment.



ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY

The corridors will provide connectivity to Paradip, Dhamra, Gopalpur Ports in Odisha and Vishakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, Krishnapatnam and Machhalipatanam ports in Andhra Pradesh

Machhalipatanam ports in Andhra Pradesh, ensuring faster movement of goods and capacity enhancement in the over-saturated sections of the railway network.

The Kharagpur-Vijayawada corridor will pass through the state's Kalinagar Industrial area, connecting it with southern India

Angul Industrial area, home to Aluminium industries, thermal power plants, heavy water plant, coal fields and iron and steel plants, will get an impetus with the new East West sub corridor

southern India. The Kalinagar Industrial area

Vijayawada corridor will pass through the state's Kalinagar Industrial area, connecting it with

try through the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. The Kalinagar Industrial area

has ferrochrome and alloy industries, sponge iron plants, steel companies like Tata Steel, Neelachal İspat Nigam Ltd, Mesco Ispat & Steel Ltd., Jindal Stainless Steel Ltd., Yazdani Steel & Power Ltd., Maitan Ispat among others.

Similarly, Odisha's Angul Industrial area, home to Aluminium industries, thermal power plants, heavy water plant, coal fields and iron and steel plants, will get an impetus with the new East West sub corridor, connecting it to the Western part of the country as well as the coal belts in the east.

The (DFCCIL) is already building the first two freight corridors -Eastern Freight Corridor from Ludhiana to Dankuni (1,856km) and Western Freight Corridor from Dadri to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (1,504km)—at a total cost of Rs 81,000 crore.

These two are set to be completed by 2021.

According to a RITES projection, the East-West (EWDFC) is likely to handle around 449.88 million tonne (MT) freight by 2031-32 and 690.6 MT by 2041-42, while the East-Coast (ECDFC) is estimated to handle 405.11 MT by 2031-32 and 861.02 MT by 2041-42.

In a major boost to development of Odisha, the proposed Kharagpur-

will by then already be connected with the western part of the coun-17 IICs, two ADCPs transferred

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POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The Commissionerate Police, Monday, effected a major reshuffle in the ranks of additional DCPs and inspector in-charges (IICs) in the twin city. Seventeen IICs and two ADCPs were transferred.

Additional DCP Kishore Chandra Patasani has been transferred to Bhubaneswar urban police division (UPD) while Subash Chandra Mohanty, additional DCP, has got his new posting at IB section of Commissionerate Police. Both the OPS-cadre officers are currently posted at the headquarters of Commissionerate Police.

Similarly, Bharat Charan Sahoo, former IIC of Bhubaneswar GRP station, will be the new IIC of Capital police station replacing Girija Shankar Chakraborty, who has been transferred as the IIC of Laxmisagar police station.

Likewise, Dayanidhi Nayak, currently the IIC of Laxmisagar PS, will be the new IIC of Dhauli PS. Jubaraj



Bharat Charan Sahoo, former IIC of Bhubaneswar GRP station, will be the new IIC of Capital police station

Sarat Kumar Sahu, the ex-IIC of Pipli police station, will replace Arun Kumar Swain as the IIC of Nayapalli police station

Khandagiri IIC, Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra, and Sahid Nagar IIC Biranchinarayan Pati will take charge as IICs of Badambadi and Choudwar police stations

who has been transferred as the IIC of Badagada PS.

OMMISSIONER OF FOLIC

EHUBANESWAR-CUTTACK

Sarat Kumar Sahu, the ex-IIC of Pipli police station, will replace Arun Kumar Swain as the IIC of Nayapalli police station. Swain has been transferred as the IIC of Kharavela Nagar police station while Biswaranjan Senapati, the incumbent IIC at Kharavela Nagar police station, has been given the charge of Nandankanan police station where the IIC post

Similarly, Khandagiri IIC, Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra, and Sahid Nagar IIC Biranchinarayan Pati will take charge as the IICs of Badambadi and Choudwar police stations respectively

Deepak Mishra and Himanshu Bhusan Swain have been posted as the IICs of Airfield and Sahid Nagar police stations respectively.

Meanwhile, Anjali Chotray, has been given the charge of Traffic police station at Chandrasekharpur



sandal wood.

for approval of proposal for disposal of 1,315 tonnes of red During the meeting, Javadekar

are to be implemented in right earnest to augment their count in

Arukha requests the Union Minister provision of funds Pradesh) route. from CAMPA, a central scheme, for successful implementation

These corridors will provide con-



The underpass at OMP Square in Cuttack features a graffiti on intricate silver filigree work. The civic body has undertaken a mammoth task to beautify several underpasses in the Millennium City

Ragi laddus for kids to up farm income

ODISHA MILLETS MISSION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Ragi (millet) laddus have been introduced as morning snacks for preschool children as part of Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts

The scheme has been launched by Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti department with technical support from Odisha Millets Mission and financial support from District Mineral Foundation (DMF) of the districts.

Central Food Technical Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore is the technical partner for implementation of the pilot project. The programme has been piloted in 335 Anganwadi centres (AWCs) of Keonjhar Sadar in July 2020. Sundargarh launched the pilot scheme in 549 AWCs under three blocks – Hemgir, Tangarpali and Sadar – on the occasion of Independence Day this year.



consumption. processing and marketing of millets

he provisions include two ragi ladoos per week per child in Keonjhar district and four ladoos per week per child in Sundargarh district

Introduction of ragi ladoos under SNP is part of the ongoing 'Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal-cum-Mining Areas of Keonjhar under DMF', said Odisha

Millets Mission sources. The core objective of the mission is to revive millets in farms and on plates through integrated efforts towards increasing production, consumption, processing and marketing of millets. The objec-

tive of the programme is to improve the nutritional status of preschool children.

The programme will ensure dietary diversity among preschool children. Ragi ladoos are in addition to the existing entitlements of morning snacks under SNP. The provisions include two ragi

ladoos per week per child in Keonihar district and four ladoos per week per child in Sundargarh

district. Modalities for preparation, packaging and capacity building of ICDS functionaries and selfhelp groups (SHGs) are some of the major tasks in the pilot phase. Two local SHGs have been roped in for preparation of a premix for ragi laddus.

They have been adequately trained on storage of ragi, preparation of ragi flour and premix for the laddus. Currently, due to closure of AWCs, the premix is being provided at the households of the children.

Mothers have been counselled to prepare laddus and serve the same to the children. Once the AWCs open, the helpers will use the mix to prepare laddus and serve them to children on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The initiative will provide an additional source of income to SHGs, an assured price to millet farmers and boost local production of ragi. This will potentially transform the nutritional status of the preschool children and the nutrition scenario of these districts.

Swain will take the charge of IIC at Chandrasekharpur police station from Biswaranjan Nayak,

has been lying vacant following the suspension of Paramananda Nayak a few months ago.

replacing Pramod Kumar Patnaik who will be the new IIC of Tamando police station.

Govt gives CRS to **Ex-CDAO** Pradeep **Kumar Mohanty**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The state government has ordered compulsory retirement of Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, former Chief District Agriculture Officer (CDAO) of Koraput, as part of zero tolerance towards corruption.

With careful consideration of the policy of zero tolerance towards any act of immorality, inefficiency or lack of integrity, PK Mohanty has been given compulsory retirement with immediate effect," a statement issued by the government said.

Following allegations of corruption, Mohanty was intercepted by the state Vigilance July 2 last while he was on his way to Bhubaneswar from Koraput. During the raid, Vigilance sleuths seized ₹11 lakh in cash, which he could not justify.

Mohanty, serving in the rank of deputy director of agriculture, was arrested on the same day and forwarded to court and was remanded to judicial custody. He was then placed under suspension. The aggregate value of his movable and immovable assets till now was estimated to be ₹3.5 crore, sources said.

Meanwhile, the state government has suspended OAS officer Purna Chandra Jena and asked him to remain present at the headquarters of Rayagada.

Jena was working as deputy collector of Rayagada and deputed as officer on special duty (OSD), Patrapur block in Ganjam district, for Covid management.

New look for Ekamra Kshetra by next year



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday asked the officials concerned to complete Ekamra Kshetra project for peripheral development of Shree Lingaraj temple shrine here within a year.

A detailed presentation was made before the Chief Minister on the project. Considering the importance of the project, he directed the officials to complete various developmental works that include beautification of Bindu Sagar, provision of substantial space and facilities for devotees, establishment of orientation centre, parking, food plaza, Bhajana Mandap among others within a year. The project will be come up on an area of 66 acres across the temple.

Patnaik said that the project is another significant step after Puri

Srimandir Heritage Project under 5T programme. He directed the officials to take steps to include festivals such as Maha Shivaratri. Ashokastami. Rath Yatra and Sitala Sasthi in the national cal-

Around 2 lakh devotees can now congregate and witness Mahadeepa on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri at Lingaraj shrine

endar of festivals.

Now, roughly 10,000 to 15,000 devotees are gathered in front of the temple during Shivaratri to witness Mahadeepa. However, more than two lakh people can congregate at Lingaraj temple after the new plan is executed.

It will also be helpful in managing pilgrims during the Ashokastami Rath Yatra of Mahaprabhu.

As huge number of kanwariyas are visiting the shrine to pour water on the Lord during the month of Shravan, Naveen asked to make necessary arrangements in the plan for them.

The Chief Minister also proposed to work out plans to accord UNESCO recognition for heritage city of Bhubaneswar.

Among others, Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy, Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra-Mohapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian attended the meeting.

downtown

City set to take new strides towards water security

59.76 MN LITRES OF RAINWATER IS TO BE PRESERVED IN PUBLIC PARKS ANNUALLY

Orissapost

TUESDAY | AUGUST 18 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Amid regular inundation of some regions and unplanned water conservation, the state capital is set to preserve 59.76 million liters of rainwater annually through implementation of Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) techniques at multiple parks here.

In a joint collaboration of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the state government has set a roadmap of urban designing four water-sensitive cities. Under the project, four cities including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela and Berhampur are set to preserve 174.09 million liters of rainwater through different RWH methods.

"While flooding during monsoon has become a common sight in many cities, the groundwater level is reaching dangerous levels every year. We have thus decided to put in place a water management system in all the urban areas of the state, which will be capable of catering to the needs of the present and be sensitive to the requirements of the future," said G Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary of H&UD Department.

The project which will see phase-



wise implementation of various schemes will see RWH methods applied to all public parks and open spaces in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) under its first phase. A city-

Three city parks to implement RWH methods

The capital city which receives an estimated 1500 mm average rainfall annually is estimated to lose about 50,000 Kilo Litres (KL) of water each year from its open spaces to drains.

Hence, three major parks: Indira Gandhi Park, Biju Patanaik Park and Neighbourhood Park at Unit-3, have been zeroed in for implementation of project. The parks will reportedly preserve 43.04 million liters water annually.

"Assuming peak rainfall of 100-150 mm, IG Park, Biju Patnaik Park and Neighbourhood Park have potential annual runoffs of 16.4 KL, 25.8 KL and 1.105 KL respectively. Various infiltration systems such as rain garden, filter strip trenches.

POST NEWS NETWORK

per million per day.

Bhubaneswar, August 17: In

terms of tests per million per day,

Odisha leads the country with

1.096 tests per million per day in

the Large States category. The

national average was 542 tests

double the national average and

ahead of states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat

The testing rate in Odisha is

bio retention areas and swale along footpaths are being proposed. Assuming 15 neighbourhood-level parks implement RWH in Bhubaneswar, an additional 16.72 million liters of rainwater can be harvested," a report published by H&UD stated.

Even though the city has surplus water supply and mandatory rooftop RWH in towns and cities, the project is set to focus on constant water logging situation in the city. "RWH has had limited success and needs incentivisation and other measures. Although the situation in Odisha is not very alarming, the state government is conscious of the fact that any complacency at this stage can jeopardize the prospects of sustainability in future," Vathanan added.

Odisha tops COVID testing in country

Daily State wise sample tested per Million (on 16 Aug)

three families were gutted in a massive fire that broke out at Pandasahi village under Tangi block in Khurda district Monday. Fire service personnel rushed to the spot to douse the flames after being informed about the incident by locals. However, six of the houses were already destroyed completely by the time the rescue personnel could reach the spot. However, there is no loss of life, said an official. Goods and furniture worth lakhs of rupees were gutted in the blaze which were stored in 15 rooms of six houses, said locals even though an

official estimation of damage caused by the fire is yet to be ascertained. Reportedly, locals have demanded government help for the victims-Prafula Pradhan, Manguli Pradhan and Sudarshan Maharana

542

2,244 fresh cases in state

POST NEWS NETWORK & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 17: State Monday reported 2.244 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking Odisha's tally to 62,294, while 10 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 353, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Of the new patients, 1,390 were reported from among the people lodged in different quarantine centres, while 854 were detected during contact tracing exercise, said the official.

The fresh cases were found in 29 of the 30 districts.

Khurda district, which encompasses the state capital Bhubaneswar, reported the maximum number of new cases at 311. followed by Ganjam at 243, Cuttack at 194, Rayagada at 160, Balasore at 142 and Sundargarh at 136.

The H&FW department took to

The MLA from Bhatli

Assembly constituency

is the first minister in

Odisha to have been in-

fected with the virus. "I have



the Twitter to say, "Regret to inform the demise of Ten #COVID19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals (sic)."

Of the 10 new fatalities. four were reported from Khurda district, one each from Bargarh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Puri, Rayagada

and Sundargarh, the official pointed out, adding that the COVID-19 toll in Odisha mounted 353.

will provide necessary informa-

tion on the number of parks and

their physical features such as area,

topography, soil.

So far. 53 more coronavirus patients have lost their lives in the state but these fatalities have been

attributed to 'other reasons' Odisha tested 50,421 samples for COVID-19 Sunday. The state has so far conducted 9.58, 929 tests.

Additional Chief Secretary PK Mohapatra claimed that the coronavirus outbreak in Odisha is declining.

August 15, a record number of 2,924 positive cases were reported from 52,795 tests in Odisha while during the last 24 hours the number reduced to 2,244 from 50,421 tests.

198 NEW CASES IN CAPITAL

With the detection of 198 fresh COVID-19 cases in the City Monday, the novel coronavirus tally in Bhubaneswar reached 5,487, an official said.

quarantine centres and 94 were local contacts, the Bhubaneswar

"Two employees of AG Office, one employee of a media house, seven staffers of a security agency four police personnel and two persons from Reserve Police Colony linked with earlier positive cases as well as two railway officials with travel history to Delhi were among the quarantine cases tested positive for COVID-19 in the City," the civic

BMC's spl virus testing camp

tioned at No.4 in the country with

In the coming weeks, the state

50,421 tests.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: As the COVID-19 pandemic has posed a challenge for persons with disabilities (PwD), the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday organised a special testing camp here as part of its disabilityinclusive response to the crisis.

The testing camp was organised at Gopabandhu Leprosy Colony in Budhanagar slum area. More than 72 differently-abled people turned up to undergo the Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests. Among the people tested there were elderly persons, people with disability and leprosy affected.

The health camp started at 10 AM and lasted till 1 AM.

'The objective behind the camp is to strengthen outreach of COVID-19 testing and making healthcare services accessible for persons with disabilities (PwD). The current crisis demands that people with disabilities must be treated as vulnerable groups and special provisions included for them at every stage of the public health crisis," said

Anshuman Rath, Zonal Deputy Commissioner (South East) of BMC. The BMC is ready with an emergency response plan by including the needs of people with disability and is trying to reach out to more number of differently-abled by arranging such special test camps in

government intends to increase

the testing numbers further in

tion to the differently-abled persons who were in quarantine at Keshari Nagar as well as cooked food

State's Rural Development and Labour Minister Susanta are requested to stay isolated and get tested (sic)," the minister Singh Monday said that he tweeted. Singh was the has tested positive for chief guest at the COVID-19.

Independence Day celebrations in Balasore district. Earlier, five MLAs had tested positive for novel coronavirus. They are Khandapada

MLA Soumva Ranian Patnaik. tested positive for Corona and I am stable now. Those who have Polasara MLA Srikant Sahu, come in contact with me recently Remuna MLA Sudhanshu Shekhar

Activists, lawyers throw support behind Prashant

Susanta Singh first Odisha minister to test nCoV +ve Parida, Nilgiri MLA Sukanta Kumar Nayak and Salipur MLA Prasant Behera.

State Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari and Transport Minister Padmanava Behera went on home isolation August 14 after a person, who was later found to be COVID-positive, came in their proximity. Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari has also tested positive for the virus and is in home quarantine on the advice of doctors.

and Kerala among others. The state government has ramped up Covid-19 testing to more than 50,000 tests per day. Sunday, Odisha was posi-

Of the fresh cases, 104 were from Municipal Corporation tweeted.

body said.

the coming days, Rath added. Previously, BMC had provided ra-

phased manner.

for the visually challenged at Odisha Association for the Blind during their isolation period. At present, the BMC is conducting three types of tests i.e. RT-PCR, Antigen and TrueNaat at various centres across the city. The Civic Body has started rapid antigen test-

ing of local citizens at nine local urban health centres - six Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and three Urban Community Health Centres (UCHCs) to encourage people to step forward in large numbers for Covid-19 testing.

Edu min assures action on parents' grievances

HOUSES OF THREE FAMILIES GUTTED Khurda: As many as six houses of

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Odisha based lawyers, political and social activists Monday expressed deep disappointment over the SC verdict in

the Prashant Bhushan contempt Prashant Bhushan and unfair criticisms of its workings have been case and threw their support bewas found hind the lawyer. They said that guilty of criminal that they will stand contempt for in solidarity with Prashant Bhusan his 2 derogatory August 19in groups tweets against by maintaining physical distance the judiciary or even individu-

ally to communicate the message across the country that, we are duty bound to uphold freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

A statement with signature of more than 100 members of legal, political and civil society members was released Monday.

Social activist Prafulla Samantara said that the Supreme Court has al-



ways held that it is not immune to criticism and the Court has broad shoulders to carry it. In fact, in the 70 years of its existence, the Supreme Court has adopted a magnanimously charitable attitude even when utterly uncharitable

> made out of bonafide concern for improvement.

We strongly feel that the tweets were a bonafide expression of Bhushan to improve the administration of justice dispensation in the country and were made in larger interest of public.

Bhushan was found guilty of criminal contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary saying they cannot be said to be a fair criticism of the functioning of the judiciary made in the public interests. The Supreme Court Monday framed questions in Prashant Bhushan contempt case of 2009



Adhering to COVID-19 norms, beneficiaries of Madhu Babu Pension scheme queue up at Palla Mandap in Rasulgarh area of Bhubaneswar to avail the assistance Monday

'STATE'S COVID CURVE LIKELY TO DECLINE FROM SEPT

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Even as state's COVID-19 graph continues an upward trend, the director of Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) in Bhubaneswar, Ajay Parida, is hopeful that the daily caseload will decline after a peak in the first week of September. Addressing the media, Parida

said, "The number of daily COVID-19 cases in Odisha will peak in the first week of September and is

likely to go down thereafter. The number of testing has increased in the state, while the rate of infection has declined. This is a positive sign.

"The Centre and the state government have adopted an aggressive testing, tracing and treatment strategy to keep the virus in check. The infection and mortality rate are low in Odisha. If the trend continues, then we will be in a better position," Parida added.

However, the virus is highly unpredictable as can be observed in Kerala, which is experiencing a second wave. Keeping this in view, 120 samples from different districts of Odisha have been collected to study the nature of the virus.

Odisha's novel coronavirus tally surged to 62,294 on Monday with 2,244 new cases, while ten more fatalities pushed the death toll to 353. Currently, the state now has 19,612 active cases, while 42,276 patients have recovered from the disease.

POST NEWS NETWORK

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

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

Federation chairman Basudev Bhatt said they had requested the government and School and Mass Education department to implement the RTE Act during the admission process with 25 per cent

reservation of seats for students from economically weaker sections and issue a standard operating procedure (SOP) for private English medium schools in Odisha.

"We had decided to stage the hunger strike August 10. The S&ME department sought a week's time to look into our demand. The parents' body is all set to sit on the hunger strike August 17 as no action has been taken with regard to our demand." Bhatt added.

During the hunger strike, School & Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash and Additional Secretary Pratap Mishra met Odisha Parents Federation leaders and decided to conduct a highlevel meeting in this regard. After the meeting, the minister informed that they will send notice to all the private schools for 25 percent reservation in the online admission process. After the declaration, the federation decided to call off the strike.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STAT FOR IONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488. Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.











state

Vehicles set ablaze, **Red posters put up**

THE TWO NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS- KANDHAMAL AND KALAHANDI-ARE REELING UNDER RED SCARE AS THE REBELS OBSERVE BANDH TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani/Bhawanipatna, August 17: A group of Maoists set afire several vehicles which were being used for laying a road in the wee hours of Monday at Kanjalagu area under Baliguda police limits protesting the construction work here.

Maoists set ablaze vehicles engaged in construction work in Baliguda

Maoist banners found put up on the main road in Katrigian panchayat

CPI (Maoist), Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Nayagarh (KKBN) division has called for a shutdown today

The suspected Maoists blazed vehicles including two tractors and a Hyva. They threatened to stop construction work immediately, in order to avoid any violence, sources said. Soon after the incident, panic gripped locals of the area who feared loss of lives.

Maoist banners were found put



Vehicles torched and posters put up in Kandhamal, Monday

up on the main road in Katrigian panchavat under Bisipada Sadar area in the district. It is said that the banners were released by Communist Party of India (CPI) Maoist KKBN division. The rebels have called for bandh August 18, opposing recent encounter in Kandhamal district

Kalahandi too in fear

Meanwhile, Maoist posters were also found pinned up on trees in Kalahandi district, Monday. The posters were found put up on

of India (CPI) Maoist, Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Navagarh (KKBN) division, has called for a shutdown August 18. As mentioned, the Maoists are holding the shutdown in opposition to the encounter that took place in Kandhamal district resulting in the loss of lives of seven Maoists.

tress along the road connecting

Kandhamal and Kalahandi dis-

tricts at Dangabaju village under

In the posters, Communist Party

Madanpur-Rampur block.

Urging public to support the move, the Red rebels mocked the state government's recent announcement, claiming five districts as Maoist-free districts.

Notably, the state government July 10 announced Angul, Boudh, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Nayagarh as Red-free districts. The rebels have mentioned it in the posters that the government has falsely declared the five districts as Maoist-free.

Notably, seven Maoists were killed in three separate incidents of fire exchange during a combing operation carried out by jawans of Special Operation Group (SOG) and the District Voluntary Force (DVF) of the State Police in Sirla forest under Tumudibandha block in Kandhamal district.

PUBG addiction drives 20-yr-old to 'suicide'

The deceased was identified as Ganesh Sahu, a native of Panijharia village under Mahulia panchayat of **Chandbali block** in Bhadrak

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, August 17: A youth committed suicide by hanging at Dhamra in Bhadrak district Monday after his uncle pulled him up for playing online mobile game PUBG.

The deceased was identified as Ganesh Sahu, 20, a native of Panijharia village under Mahulia panchayat of Chandbali block in the same district.

Reports said that Ganesh was working at a private company in Vishakhapatnam. However, following the lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic, Ganesh returned home two months back.

He then went to the house of his maternal uncle, Umesh Sahu and worked at a prawn processing factory in Dhamra area along with his uncle.

22 injured in group clash in Jajpur dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dasarathpur, August 17: As many as 22 persons were injured including one of them rendered critical after two groups of people clashed with each other over construction of a temple on a pastureland at Darabha village under this block in Jajpur district, Monday

The injured persons were admitted to the Mangalpur hospital while the critically injured person was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after his condition deteriorated. The incident occurred after members of Khandayat community started construction of a temple on pastureland.

The members of the milkmen community opposed their move stating that the pastureland is meant for public use and lodged a complaint with the tehsildar.



Umesh was upset with Ganesh as also reprimanded him for being irmost of the time he was playing regular at the work. Umesh convinced Ganesh and PUBG mobile game on his smartphone instead of concentrating on

brought him back to the prawn prothe work. There were frequent arcessing factory. However, little did guments between Ganesh and Umesh know what fate has in store Umesh over the youth's addiction for his nephew. Ganesh was pushed into distress

and hung himself at a room on the premises of the prawn processing factory.

Umesh and some employees of the factory admitted Ganesh to the Basudevpur hospital in a critical condition where doctors pronounced him dead. Dharma police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem.

RISKY PROPOSITION



Even as the second bridge on Mahanadi in Sambalpur has become accident prone, a family makes a stop midway to click some photographs on the second day of two-day shutdown, Monday

'Mathematical Equation' saree to be auctioned

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 17: The Sambalpuri 'Mathematical Equation' saree of actor Vidya Balan will go under the hammer online August 20 at 10.00 pm. The actress wore the saree during the promotion of her latest movie 'Shakuntala Devi'. The movie was recently released online. Those interested in acquiring the saree can do so by visiting the Google 'Form Page' and then use the various search options. Anita Sabat and Amrita Sabat, the co-founders of Bhubaneswar-based 'Sabat Exports Private Limited' had handed over the saree to Vidya Balan. The saree has been christened 'Utkalamrita'. Both Anita and Amrita said that the money



Vidya wore a Sambalpuri 'Bandha' style saree for the promotion of

the saree be sold and the money be donated to the weaver.

The demand for acquiring the saree was always stellar. Seeing the demand, the co-founders decided to auction the masterpiece handloom online. Sources said Vidya wore a Sambalpuri 'Bandha' style saree for the promotion of 'Shakuntala Devi'. The film is based on the life of mathematical genius Shakuntala Devi. It should be stated here that Bhagwat is a Sambalpuri 'Ikat' weaver from Tikiripada village under Biramaharajpur police limits in Subarnapur district. He has been in this profession for around 20 years. Bhagwat had weaved the special saree with the help of his as-

sociates Prafulla Meher, Brundaban

Meher and Ganga Meher.

HIRAKUD DAM'S 12 SLUICE GATES OPENED

POST NEWS NETWORK

to the online mobile game

Sunday, Umesh scolded Ganesh

again after he found him playing

PUBG instead of attending to his

work. Later, Ganesh left his uncle's

place and went to his aunt's house

near the prawn processing farm.

Umesh searched for him and

found him at his sister's house and

narrated the whole incident. There

Ganesh's aunt and her husband

Sambalpur, August 17: As the water level in the Hirakud reservoir kept on increasing following incessant rain in upper catchment area, as many as 12 sluice gates of the dam were opened Monday. While the maximum storage capacity of the reservoir stands at 630 feet, the water level of the reservoir stood at 615.41 feet Monday. According to sources, the inflow of water into the reservoir was 2,04,079 cusecs and at the same time the outflow was 1,93,353 cusecs. The water was being released through sluice gates, power channel and different canals. Taking note of the heavy inflow of water into the Hirakud reservoir, the dam authorities have kept the gates open. Notably, the dam had released

this season's first flood water June 25. The flood water was released through sluice gate 7 around 10.05am. There are 64 sluice gates including

24 on the right and 40 on the left side of the dam to release floodwater. Each sluice gate has the capacity to discharge 16.440 cusecs of water.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-CUM-MEDICAL

FINDING

A WAY OUT

recent survey, conducted Aby the National School of

Journalism reveals that the

PUBG craze is a game-changer, in more ways than one. The

game, brought out by Tencent

Gaming (the South Korean parent company) has grabbed

eyeballs world over. And it's

professionals too are hooked.

So much so that players end up

sleep-deprived, missing meals

etc, just to see the message

Winner Winner, Chicken

Dinner!' (a PUBG-tag). The

game, however, was not as

well-known till Tencent Gaming

released a new mobile-version

operating systems like Android

which could be supported on

and iOS. According to a 2018

Quartz India survey, over 30

million active users play PUBG on a daily basis. India comes

second in terms of PUBG user

base, just behind the USA. The

survey adds that the Indian

gaming market is set to be

worth \$1.1 billion by 2020.

not just students, working

'Shakuntala Devi'. The film is based on the life of mathematical genius Shakuntala Devi

earned from the auction will be handed over to the weaver of the saree, Bhagwat Meher.

Vidya had returned the saree to the Sabats after completion of the promotion of the film. Vidya had already said that she will return the saree but had preconditioned that

SUPERINTENDENT, MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE, S.C.B. MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, CUTTACK

Telephone: 0671-2414359, Email- mhi.cuttack@gmail.com No. 1818/MHI Date: 14.8.2020

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. E-186:- Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed Printing Firms of Cuttack Municipality Corporation for supply of printing materials to Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack-753007 The tender will be opened on scheduled date and time in the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. In the event of the date being declared as holiday for Govt, of Odisha, the due date of submission of bids and opening of bids will be the next working day. The bidders may download the Tender Documents directly from the website www.scbmch.nic.in and also can be obtained from the office of the Director-cum-Medical Superintendent Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack. The cos of tender paper is Rs.500/- (Non-refundable) by cash payment or bank draft/demand draft in favour of "Director-cum-Medical Superintendent Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack payable at Cuttack from any Nationalized Bank. Any tender received after the due date and time will be rejected and return to the sender un-opened. The tender will be received through Speed Post/Regd. Post only. The authority reserves the right to reject any/all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

1 Date of sale of tender paper -18.08.2020 to 01.09.2020 2. Last date of receipt of tender paper

-02.09.2020 up to 5.00 P.M 3. Date & Time of opening of technical bid-03.09.2020 at 12.00 NOON

4. Place of opening of tender- Office of the Director-cum-Medical Superintendent, Mental Health Institute, S.C.B. Medical College

Hospital, Cuttack-753007 Sd./- Director-cum-Medical Superintendent Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack. OIPR-10011/11/0016/2021

When will Mahakalapara get rid of child marriages

CHILD MARRIAGE IS MOSTLY RAMPANT IN BATIGHAR. KHARINASI. RAMNAGAR. PETACHHELA. BAULAKANI. JAMBU. SUNITI. GAGUA. LANJUDA AND KANSARBADADANDUA PANCHAYATS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, August 17: Rampant marriage of minor girls has posed serious threat to their lives and health in this part of Kendrapara district due to lack of serious effort on part of the district administration, a report said.

Observers and intellectuals attributed its rise to poverty, lack of proper education and awareness. Reports added that several girls under this block have been married off by their parents at an underage despite knowing that such marriages are illegal and might invite action from police.

Studies reveal that child marriage is driven by poverty and has many effects on girls' health. A girl carries the increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases, cervical cancer, malaria, death during childbirth, and obstetric fistulas if married at an early age

Girls' offspring are at increased risk for premature birth and death as neonates, infants, or children. Child marriage violates children's rights and places them at high risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse. The marriage of minor girls are mostly rampant in Batighar,



Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Petachhela, Baulakani, Jambu, Suniti, Gagua, Lanjuda and Kansarbadadandua panchavats under this block where the parents marry off their daughters to minor boys or overage grooms.

However, the district administration except foiling a few marriages has not been successful in curbing the illegal act. The district administration has managed to stop only nine marriages in 2019-20

Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has corroborated the growing trend of child marriages under the impact of COVID-19

Since April, as many as 180 incidents of child marriages have been reported from different parts of the state

n 2019-20, Kendrapara administration managed to stop nine such marriages

said, Manorama Swain, the block ICDS officer.

Among them, three marriages are from Ramnagar panchayat and one each from Batighar, Jambu, Baulakani, Suniti, Nanjura and Badihi panchayats in the block. She said that more raids will take place in coming days to stop such marriages. She added that there are several reasons behind the early marriages of minor girls and often the family members are directly or indirectly involved in such marriages.

Observers claimed that child marriage is the result of the interplay of economic and social forces. In communities where the practice is prevalent, marrying a girl as a child is part of a cluster of social norms and attitudes that reflect the low value accorded to the human rights of girls.

A social activist Biranchi Narayan Das said that tradition, custom, love affairs and mostly to cover up the rape cases fearing social stigma; parents marry off their daughters before they attain the legally prescribed age of 18 for marriage. In many cases, poor and gullible persons do not hesitate to marry off their daughters to outsiders in other states in exchange of some money.

The early marriage of the girls before they attain prescribed age of 18 for marriage often proves hazardous for their health. The girl after marriage becomes pregnant which often results in death for her or that of her child. The early pregnancy might result in delivery of stillborn or disabled child, warned Dr Manoj Kumar Panda, medical officer of Mahakalapara community health centre (CHC). When contacted, Maheswar Sethi,

IIC of Jambu Marine police said that police will take action on receipt of any complaint.





power post

FOCUS SOCIAL MEDIA

The world is deafened with useless words.

THE MOTHER



THE NAGA

any thought the Naga issue was over. Far from it. Now the primary Naga organization, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) or NSCN (I-M) has termed the Indo-Naga Treaty as insulting the Nagas.

The NSCN (I-M) has accused the Centre's interlocutor for Naga peace talks and Governor RN Ravi of not only making a mockery of the Framework Agreement co-authored by him representing the Prime Minister of India but also of insulting the Nagas as a whole by reducing the talks to the State of Nagaland only. NSCN (I-M) reiterated that the talks were on Naga political issues for all Nagas and covering all Naga-inhabited areas in that part of the world.

It pointed out that even though Ravi's off-repeated catchphrase was "one issue one solution", he had signed two agreements – Framework Agreement with NSCN (I-M) and Agreed Position with NNPGs. Thus, it questioned Ravi where he was trying to take the Nagas to. Accusing Ravi of wanting to keep the Nagas divided by signing a parallel agreement, NSCN (I-M) said he tutored his "favoured Naga groups" on how to look at the Framework Agreement after manipulating its contents that simply recognized Nagas' past history and nothing else.

But since Ravi, acting as the Interlocutor and not the Governor, created imbroglio in the talk process, the Prime Minister, it is said, has given the mandate to continue talks to a team of IB officials as a fast-track channel for communication and clear the pending points. The NSCN (I-M) leadership believes that after this process is over, the political settlement will be dealt with by the PM himself.

Interestingly, this is not the first time that the Government of India is dealing with the Naga problem and the various organizations involved in it. History has many examples of failures too. Now, the Indo-Naga Treaty has a new face to deal with. How effective the Intelligence Bureau officials, tasked to thrash out a solution to this long-standing issue, will be is anybody's guess.

However, accepting naming of the treaty as 'Indo-Naga Treaty' might sound defeatist from the beginning.

WISDOM CORNER

- Criminals do not die by the hands of the law. They die by the hands of other men. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
- I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand. CONFUCIUS
- Help the world to become better. Don't leave the world just the same as you have found it make it a little better, make it a little more beautiful.

WORDS**WORTH**

Teknonymy

et's say you're at the school gate and you hear a mother say to her boy, "Give this to Johnny's mum". Why not use her real name? The boy might not know it. More likely, mum has taught son that it's impolite for him to use it. Versions of this kind of naming by relational reference are common in societies worldwide. Anthropologists call it teknonymy (adjective teknonymous). In some cultures, including some native American ones, it became formalised to the extent that a child's birth required the father (sometimes also the mother) to be permanently renamed according to the name given the child. Elsewhere, it may be required by etiquette or status or by social custom, often because of taboos against addressing or referring to senior members of the community by their given names. In Arabic cultures, it's polite to refer to a married woman by the honorific Umm. "mother of" (as in Umm Khalifa. mother of Khalifa); the male equivalent is Abu (so, Abu Khalifa). Here's another case: Given the rather pervasive taboo in Korean culture against using personal names when speaking to or about adults. Koreans can



idential elections in the United States, the Guardian newspaper published a story of how the Obama election campaign was building a huge database on voters using the power of Facebook. This was thus the first election in world history where Facebook could become a dominant political force. Using datamining techniques, connecting user data with their friends and other profiles, the experts could build an amazingly detailed, micro-focused central database which could then be used to customise electoral messages to individuals and communities.

This style of micro-targeting was borrowed from the methods of marketing and advertising campaigns of successful consumer goods companies. This

strategy was a phenomenal success. As the Guardian article says, if the 2008 Obama campaign was about pioneering the use of social media, the 2012 campaign was all about data.

The exponential rise of Facebook itself, which grew from 40 million to 160 million users in those four years, was crucial to the success of the 2012 election. Of course, television was more important, but the use of Facebook data in electoral campaigns was fast catching up. That was eight years ago. Today, social media-based campaigns are on par, if not surging ahead, in terms of efficacy in comparison to television. Today, Facebook also owns WhatsApp and Instagram, making it the single largest repository of user-data owned in the private sector.

After the 2016 elections, the role of Facebook came under increasing scrutiny. Was it biasing electoral outcomes? President Trump has accused it of creating prejudice, which the company has denied. Its cofounder Mark Zuckerberg has said that his company offers a platform to all people to voice their ideas. It does not censor free speech. It is a platform for civic engagement between voters and candidates. It remains non-partisan. It claims to remain a politically agnostic tool. But Facebook faced severe criticism that it allowed Russianfunded advertisements, with fake information, to influence voters. Infact, increasingly, its role in



The recent revelation in a Wall Street Journal article on the role of Facebook in India's electoral politics, and in being uneven in its treatment of curbing hate speech or trolling to help a particular political party, raises many questions. How should we regulate this immense power?

is trolling or harassment and what

is 'protected free speech'. It has

to draw the thin line between hates

peech and free speech. But the

company is not the judiciary, nor

isit subject to broadcast licens-

ing. So, what if it tilts, even un-

wittingly, to one side? After all,

the incumbent candidates, and

governments can be lucrative ad

buyers, and could potentially in-

fluence Facebook's internal polic-

ing decisions. It does employ so-

phisticated Artificial Intelligence

(AI) tools to detect fake news or hate

speech, but that still may not be

India has the world's largest

number of Facebook and

Whatsapp, and possibly Instagram

users, as well. In China these are

banned. The reach, influence and

potential power of social media can

only be imagined. Prime Minister

Modi has the largest number of fol-

lowers on a variety of social media

platforms, including Facebook.

He has leveraged the medium to

a large extent and established di-

rect connections with citizens in

good enough.

catering to politically well-funded campaigns has been in the spotlight. Does this information get transparently disclosed? Does the company take care of removing fake information or misinformation? Actually, as per Bloomberg

tion? Actually, as per Bloomberg reports, since 2011 Facebook has been

asking the US Federal Election Commission to exempt it from disclosing revenue from political ads.

This would put it in a more exclusive situation as compared to television and broadcast media. In general, the company will push back any government request about user data, to maintain users' privacy, unless it is legally warranted. But then its close work with political party campaigns means its employees get close to what can be called electioneering. Facebook helps elected officials connect to citizens, through live streaming, participative interactions, and in that process helps governance. But its proximity to governments, combined

with its enormous reach, power and data make it a formidable force in electoral democracies.

Added to all this, the phenomena of hate speech, organised harassment and trolling. There are enough instances when bigotry and hate speech have been spread a way which is a break from the olden days of radio and television. The implication for electoral politics is obvious.

A few years ago, the Chief Election Commissioner of India said that in the earlier days the EC had to worry about the influence of two "M"'s.These were money and muscle power. Increasingly, there is a third "M" which is "media", he noted, in a reference to the menace of paid news, fake news, misinformation and disinformation. He was mostly referring to print and electronic media, which are all licensed businesses. The EC's job is to ensure free and fair elections without the undue influence of money, muscle and media power. To this third M, we have to include social media. The recent revelation in a Wall Street Journal article on the role of Facebook in India's electoral

politics, and in being uneven in its treatment of curbing hate speech or trolling to help a particular political party, raises many questions. How should we regulate this immense power?

Even in the domain outside electoral politics, the CEOs of the big four – Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple – were recently summoned to Washington to appear before a Congressional hearing. This was to grill them about their growing clout in stifling competition in the marketplace. There is demand that some anti-trust (antimonopoly)

measures be introduced to curb their power. Similarly, in the domain of elections too, messaging, networking and micro-blogging social media platforms have to be regulated to curb misuse and also partisanship. This is a huge challenge for the Election Commission. Luckily there is evidence that voters themselves are becoming skeptical of fake news and paid news.

Ultimately, an enlightened citizenry – or voters – who invest time and effort in educating themselves and don't remain passive consumers of social media content is the best protection and guarantee to a free and fair election.

> The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow, Takshashila Institution. THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM ENERGY

Ajit Ranade

AN ENLIGHTENED

CITIZENRY - OR

VOTERS – WHO

AND EFFORT IN

INVEST TIME

EDUCATING

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THEMSELVES

REMAIN PASSIVE

CONSUMERS OF

SOCIAL MEDIA

CONTENT IS

PROTECTION

AND GUARANTEE

TO A FREE AND

FAIR ELECTION

THE BEST

Scope of biofuels in Odisha context

P6

resort to one of two interesting strategies: teknonymy or geononymy. Teknonymy is the practice of addressing or referring to an adult by way of that adult's relationship to a child. Thus Mrs Kim, the ajum ni next door, may also be Chinho m ni, or "Chinho's mother." -- Korean Language in Culture and Society, by Ho-min Sohn, 2006. Geononymy, the author explains, "is the practice of qualifying kinship terms with place names."The word was invented by the British anthropologist Sir Edward Burnett Tylor in an article in 1888. He took it from the Greek teknon, child, plus the ending -onymy, from Greek onuma, name.

Televersity

A blend of telecommunications and university, the word televersity describes a new type of further education not yet achieved anywhere, though experiments are taking place at various sites. One proposal is that Suffolk College in Britain should become a university without a campus, teaching students using the resources of information technology, especially Internet communications and multimedia. This is in effect a high-tech update of the existing Open University concept, in which its proponents argue the new university would become something like a knowledge broker, supplying learning materials on demand both to its own students and to students registered at other universities in Britain and Europe. A related scheme is the European Televersity Project, which sees the value of reaching remote communities which could otherwise not gain access to higher education, as well as individuals prevented because of their work, disability or social disadvantage. Another name used for various versions of this concept is virtual university.

Television 2.0

This is a spin-off term from Web 2.0 and refers to the convergence between Internet services and television. The term has been around for a couple of years, but is only slowly becoming known outside the business, though the rush of conferences currently being held to discuss the future of digital media may cause it to appear in newspapers from time to time. The key word here is "convergence", one in the minds of communications companies these days, which are working towards what they sometimes call quadruple-play services (Internet, television, fixedline telephone and mobile telephone), exploiting the possibilities of linking them together. "It was only a matter of time," one commentator wrote in May 2006, "before the Internet changed TV in a way more profound than colour or cable." The World Wide Web is seen as the new distribution medium for TV; companies hope to persuade their subscribers to download programmes, which can be viewed on personal computers or mobile phones, not even needing a television set.



OXYGEN

A science teacher tells his class, "Oxygen is a must for breathing and life. It was discovered in 1773." A blonde student responds, "Thank



without it."



Dr Sanjib Kumar Karmee

THERE IS PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR INSTALLATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE-TO-ENERGY CONVERSION PLANTS IN URBAN CLUSTERS OF ODISHA LIKE BHUBANESWAR, CUTTACK, BERHAMPUR AND

uring the 74th I-Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted the successful examples of how India's capabilities are explored. Among other things, he noted, "We are emphasising on increasing the use of ethanol to reduce pollution caused by petrol. Five years ago, there used to be only 40 crore litres of ethanol production. It has risen by five times. Today, we are producing 200 crore litres of ethanol." This is certainly a way forward for the nation. The state of Odisha has special significance in this context.

In general, biofuel is derived from biomass or carbon-containing non-edible sources. Biofuel can be solid (pellets and briquettes), liquid (bio-ethanol, biodiesel and bio-oil) or gaseous (bio-gas, syn-gas, and pyro-gas) in nature. This is a potential carbon-neutral fuel and widely used in the US and European nations, as also several other countries. Its importance is increasingly evident. In India, biofuels are sold commercially in some filling stations. Like every year, this time too, the World Biofuel Day was observed on August 10 to highlight the significance of biofuel as an alternative to conventional fossil-based fuels. The 2020 theme of World Biofuel Day was 'Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Eminent focus has been laid on exploitation of three different biofuels – viz bioethanol, biodiesel and biogas – to reduce the dependence on import of petroleum based fuels and gas.

Agro-residues available in Odisha can be used for biofuel production. The Union government has announced that Odisha will have a second generation bioethanol plant to produce ethanol from rice straw in Bargarh district. From recent reports, one learns that a Tata project has received an order from **Bharat Petroleum Corporation** (BPCL) for completion of this project. Successful implementation of this project will be a win-win situation for farmers and for the protection of the environment. Farmers from nearby villages can directly sell their agricultural residues to the plant. So far, this was either discarded or burnt.

Furthermore, municipal solid waste contains a significant amount of organic waste. Currently, these are not utilised and getting dumped as landfills. This generates a bad odour, causes leachate and emission of methane. Methane is toxic and a potent greenhouse gas. If separated properly from municipal solid waste, the organic waste/food waste can be used for bioethanol. hiodiesel and biogas generation.Plastics can be recycled back to value-added materials or can be pyrolysed to pyro-oil (another liquid fuel).

There is plenty of scope for installation of municipal solid wasteto-energy (wealth) conversion plants in urban clusters of Odisha like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela.

In various restaurants, cooking oil is over-used and this is leading to complex health issues. Afteruse cooking oil is a good feedstock for biodiesel production. Efforts need be made for collection of this waste and its utilization for biofuel production.

The Odisha government would do well by streamlining policies

so that waste management and energy generation can take place in tandem. The state may focus on the following points: Frame separate policies for waste management and biofuel production; consider "segregation of municipal solid waste" as a part of its biofuel policy; separate different wastes at source by sensitizing local people, SHGs, NGOs and municipal authorities; organise vocational or professional training programmes on biofuels for different stakeholders; and promote decentralised small and medium scale biofuel generation plants.

To conclude, biofuels will not only help cut the nation's importdependence on fossil fuels but also ensure a sustainable environment along with creation of new jobs and generation of additional revenue for farmers. Policy makers are urged to work together to make renewable energy the main source of energy and create a greener Odisha.

> The writer is a scientist based in Gujarat and an alumnus of IIT Madras.



OTHERS

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Kamala and India

Sir, Indian-origin Kamala Harris is expected to become the Vice President of the USA if the Democrats win the presidential elections this time. This is the first time such a prospect arises. Many Indians there and here are elated she is coming upfront. But, nothing goes to show that she would go out of her way and help India or Indians. If she gives any such hint now, that is only for winning the election. A politician has one face before the polls and another face after the polls. Moreover, she will be no more than a spoke in the wheel, and the US shapes its policies visà-vis India at a wider level of discussions. An individual or a politician by himself or herself does not matter in the US scheme of things

Sunil Pradhan, NUAPADA

Shameless UP cops

Sir, It's surprising that a policeman in Uttar Pradesh has forced a teenage girl to dance in front of him before filing an FIR. This is the height of irresponsible behavior, but UP is known for lawlessness and police excesses. This state has notoriety about it. The BJP has not been able to change the sad fate of the people there and Yogi Adityanath as Chief Minister is failing in his duty to uphold the rights of the people. He is taking such matters lightly and concentrating attention only on building a Ram temple in Ayodhya. When will UP change for the better? The whole nation is embarrassed at the way the police and governmental machinerv function there.

Naresh Chandra Mandal, BHADRAK

Education amid pandemic

Sir, In the wake of the Covid pandemic, parents are worried about their children's education. It is by now certain that one education session will be completely ruined. The online education system has limited access and only some segments of the students are benefited. The poor students cannot hope to have Android mobiles. If at all some manage to have it, there is no signal reach to remote and village areas. Children are climbing up trees to get signals. The callto the government is to issue special guidelines for Covid-19 situations, to enable all students have same facility when it comes to online education, or education in general.

Pravat Kumar Mishra, BHUBANESWAR

God I was born after 1773!

Otherwise I would have died

(





BANGALORE RIOTS

Vedigoes Vogiway

AGENCIES

Bangalore, August 17: The Karnataka government has decided to recover the cost of public and private properties destroyed in the Bangalore city riots last week from the rioters, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said Monday.

"We have decided to recover the cost of the public and private properties damaged or destroyed in the riots from the culprits," said Yediyurappa in a statement after reviewing the situation in the city's riot-hit eastern suburb at a high-level meeting here. State Home Minister Basavaraj

Bommai, Advocate-General PL Navadagi, Director General of Police Praveen Sood, Bangalore Police Commissioner Kamal Pant, Chief Secretary TM Vijay Bhaskar. Home Secretary Rajneesh Goel, Additional Director General of Police (Intelligence) B Dayanand and Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) AK Pandey participated in the meeting.



accused if warranted

The

coverv cost.

BS YEDIYURAPPA CM,

KARNATAKA

state government will request the

a Claims Commissioner to assess

the damage caused to properties

in the riots as per the guidelines of

the Supreme Court and fix the re-

"A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been set up to probe into the violent incidents August 11 in the eastern suburb. Goonda

Act will be invoked against the accused if warranted." asserted the Karnataka High Court to appoint Chief Minister.

A derogatory post on Facebook by P Naveen, the nephew of Congress legislator Akhanda Srinivas Murthy, triggered the riots in the DJ Halli and KJ Halli area in

the suburbs. The house of the Congress MLA and the local police station were burnt along with scores of vehicles. Three people died in police firing.

Over 300 people, including some members of the Socialist Democratic Party of India (SDPI), a fringe political outfit, have been arrested for their alleged role in the riots. Naveen was also arrested August 12 for the derogatory post under the cyber crime laws.

"Three special prosecutors will be appointed for the speedy trial of the cases to bring justice to the affected people, including Murthy and others," said Yediyurappa.

Taking serious view of the riots that caused massive losses, the state government has invoked the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) against the accused.

The Chief Minister also directed the city police to maintain law and order and ensure peace in the riothit area in view of the ensuing festivals like Gauri-Ganesha Utsav, Muharram and Onam.

No Muharram processions in Karnataka, says official

AGENCIES

Bangalore, August 17: The Karnataka government has prohibited Muharram processions this year, in view of the coronavirus pandemic, an official said Monday.

"Public gatherings and taking out of processions are strictly prohibited," said Minority Welfare, Haj and Waqf Secretary AB Ibrahim.

However, he clarified that the prohibition is only for this year.

'This order of restricting the celebration issued only this year in view of the infectious pandemic of Covid and shall not be a precedent for future cases," Ibrahim said. The senior officer issued guidelines for observing Muharram with restrictions that stretch from August 21-30. All the ashurkhanas, masjids and dargahs have to be sanitised and disinfected while no alams or panjas should be installed in public places.

"The number of participants may be reduced at fateha and for Majilis-e-Imam Hussain (religious sermon). Preferably, the general public and devotees are advised to offer fateha and majilis at their re-



spective homes in view of Covid,' said Ibrahim

Though the religious sermon is allowed, it is only permitted in halls, maintaining physical distancing with all preventive measures. The management committees of the religious places should display the number of devotees who can be accommodated in

asthanas or ashurkhanas for majilis and close the gates after the devotees enter. "Carpets should be removed and

sitting places should be clearly marked by maintaining physical distance after every sermon," he said. Entry of devotees should be monitored to avoid large gatherhe prohibition is only for this yea

ll the ashurkhanas, masjids and dargahs to be sanitised and fected while no alams or panja will be installed in public places

igious sermons allowed but onl Apermitted in halls, maintail physical distancing with all preventive measures

ings and no congregation will be allowed in gravevards.

Likewise, sharbat, tabaruk and water can be distributed only in sealed packets. People above 60, those with comorbidities and children below 10 years should not be allowed for ziyarat and have been advised to offer pravers at home.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and

Managing Director at Knight Frank

India, said: "The pandemic-infused

economic stress has engulfed the

global markets with a fear of un-

certainty. Ultra-rich buyers around

Of Kamala Harris & the delectable 'idli' A RITZY AFFAIR OF B'LORE REALTY

AGENCIES

Chennai, August 17: The gentle and safest food - South India's idli will now kindle global interest with US Senator and Democrats' Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaking about the dish, opine chefs.

'With the wedding catering business down during the past four months due to the coronavirus pandemic, the only good news that came was Kamala Harris talking about idli," M Eniyavan who founded Mallipoo Idly told IANS.

When the US Presidential or Vice Presidential candidate speaks about anything it is duly taken note of by the world. So idli may also go global sometime soon as the frozen idli concept is also being looked at," Eniyavan added.

Recently Harris said her mother Shyamala Gopalan originally from Chennai "always wanted to instil in us a love of good idli.

Agreeing with Enivavan was celebrity chef Damu.

"Idli will surely kindle more interest in foreign countries. World over people have become healthconscious and want to have healthy and safe food, for which idli qualifies." Damu said. Damu said during his visit to a South Indian restaurant in California, he found the majority of the customers were non-Indians. "Indian cuisine is hugely varied and easily digestible," he added. "After mother's milk, idli is the safest food that can be given to a baby. When there is no sufficient milk or food for the baby owing to poverty, half an idli with a small amount of milk will be sufficient for a baby? Eniyavan said.



or coconut chutney that gives the taste

"One can steam idlis in different shapes so that the kids don't get bored. The idli batter is such that one can add carrot/beetroot/pineapple juice and make it interesting for the kids." Enivavan added.

According to him, the idlis will taste better if tender coconut water is used while making the batter instead of normal water.

Eniyavan's is a rags to riches story "Mine was a very big family. I

went to school as there was a middav meal there. I have washed tea

The premium micro-markets of Bangalore record a rise of 0.60 per cent in annual capital value change in *Q2 2020 to an average price of* ₹19,727 *per sq ft, as per the Knight Frank Prime Global Cities Index*

AGENCIES

Bangalore, August 17: Indian cities have performed well in the high-end property market in the past one year, as the Knight Frank Prime Global Cities Index Q2 2020 shows that the ranking of Delhi along with Mumbai and Bangalore inched higher.

The national capital jumped five places to become the 27th fastest growing market in the world in terms of price appreciation of prime properties. "New Delhi ranked 27th on the global index, with a 0.30 per cent rise in terms of annual capital value change in the prime residential market to an average price of ₹33,625 per sq ft in Q2 2020,"said a Knight Frank statement.

The IT hub of Bangalore, however, ranked above Delhi with a



one-rank jump to the 26th position. Mumbai also moved up one place to 32.

The premium micro-markets of Bangalore recorded a rise of 0.60 per cent in annual capital value change in Q2 2020 to an average price of ₹19,727 per square feet. Mumbai, however, registered a decline of 0.60 per cent with an average price

the world are seen deferring the high premium purchase of a prime residential asset class and preferring investments in liquid assets, primarily gold and cash equivalents.' "With the expected price correction and uptick in sentiment de-

pending on the news related to vaccine discovery, buyers with adequate liquidity will find value to enter the prime residential asset class in India," he said.

Prime residential property is defined as the most desirable and most expensive property in a given location, generally defined as the top 5 per cent of each market by value.

The shops in Chennai remained closed as the city had the highest per day coronavirus infection rate. But over a period of time, the



of ₹64,388 per square feet.

Manila, leads the index with prime home prices rising by 14.4 per cent over the 12 months to June 2020, followed by Tokyo (8.60 per cent) and Stockholm (4.40 per cent). Bangkok was the weakest-performing global city in the year to June 2020, with luxury home prices

falling by 5.8 per cent.



For convalescing persons, idli ranks at the top as the safest food as it is 'no oil only boil food' and is followed by 'Idiyappam' and bread.

Idli is made by steaming the riceurad dal batter and there are a cou-

Growing up, my mother would take my sister Maya and me back to what was

because she wanted us to

understand where she had

course, she always wanted to instil in us, a love of good idli

come from and where we

had ancestry. And, of

US SENATOR & DEMOCRATS' VICE

KAMALA HARRIS

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

then called Madras

ple of variants. However, now one can get fried idli also

Among the several types of idlis, the Kancheepuram idli has a special. even divine. status.

It is offered to Lord Varadharaja Perumal in Kanchipuram. The other idli variants are rava

idli, millet idli and the fluffy Kushboo idli named after actor Khushbu Sundar who is plump.

Similarly, Ramassery idli of Kerala - a dosa like idli - is also popular. Idli per se does not have a taste. It is the gun powder, sambar

glasses in a bakery shop in Coimbatore," Eniyavan said.

"I came to Chennai with two idli

making vessels and stayed in a thatched hut. The first lot of batter was washed off in heavy rains. From there I struggled and worked hard to come up in life," Eniyavan said. "I am a school dropout. But today I address students of big colleges," he mused.

"An idli festival is being planned in London. Normalcy is returning back to London, I am told. So, the idli festival is expected to happen sometime next January," Eniyavan said. Already there are several South Indian restaurants in many western countries serving the dish.

liquor outlets amid Covid-19: DMK chief

'Inhuman' to reopen

MADRAS HIGH COURT HAS ALLOWED THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO DEVISE ITS OWN NORMS FOR LIOUOR SALES

AGENCIES

Chennai, August 17: The Tamil Nadu state government has decided to reopen retail liquor shops in Chennai from Tuesday onwards after a gap of several months.

However, DMK chief Stalin has said that it was "inhuman to not worry about those who may be affected by the opening of liquor stores and be concerned only about the revenue to the government." He added that the move to resume

Scientists 'make' space bricks for lunar habitation

WITH THE EARTH'S RESOURCES DWINDLING, SCIENTISTS HAVE INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO INHABIT THE MOON AND OTHER PLANETS, THANKS TO EXPONENTIAL SPACE EXPLORATION SINCE THE 20TH CENTURY

per day infection rate has come

liquor sales would lead to further spread of coronavirus here.

Liquor retail is a state monopoly run by the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation or popularly known as Tasmac. According to the government, the liquor shops will function between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and only 500 tokens will be issued daily. Customers will have to wear masks and maintain social distance.

Liquor shops had reopened across the state, except Chennai, May 7 after 45 days.

down to about 1,000-1,200. There are over 5,300 Tasmac liquor outlets in the state contributing about ₹30,000 crore of tax revenue to the state exchequer.

Major opposition parties in the state have strongly criticised the government's decision to open the liquor outlets.

During the May 7 exercise, however, social distance was not maintained and there were large crowd before the shops risking spread of coronavirus. The Madras High Court May 8 ordered closure of the shops as its conditions for opening up of the shops were not followed but allowed online sales.

5890 new COVID cases, 120 more deaths in TN

AGENCIES

Chennai, August 17: Tamil Nadu Monday recorded 5,890 fresh COVID-19 cases, pushing the tally to 3,43,945, while 120 deaths propelled the death toll to 5,886.

As many as 5,667 patients were discharged from various hospitals and in total 2,83,937 people have recovered and there are 54.122 active cases, according to official data.

Of the fresh cases, Chennai recorded 1,185 cases, Madurai 136, Coimbatore 393 and three nearby districts here - Chengelpet, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur-together logged 706 infections and the



tally of cases was 1,17,839. Those dead include 110 with comorbidities. The state has been witnessing 100 plus deaths daily

over the past few days. Two men, aged 93 and 94, a 33year-old man and a 35-year-old woman, were among those who succumbed to the virus in various hospitals. Of the 5,886 deaths till date, 2,478 were from Chennai.

While 67,532 samples were tested, cumulatively 37,78,778 specimens have been examined, all under RT-PCR.

Bangalore, August 17: Research scientists from the premier Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have developed a process to make bricks on the

moon for habitation. 'The process involves extracting lunar soil and using bacteria and guar beans to harden it (soil) into brick-like structures for habitation on the moon in the future," a researcher of the city-based science

AGENCIES

institute said Monday. The Indian space agency launched two unmanned missions to the moon in 2008 and 2019 as part of its inter-planetary exploration to study the earth's natural satellite, though it failed to land on the lunar surface.

The making of space bricks brings biology and mechanical engineering together and using them to assemble structure for habitation on the moon's surface.

With the earth's resources dwindling, scientists have intensified efforts to inhabit the moon and other planets, thanks to exponential space exploration since the 20th century.

"As the cost of sending 1 pound of material to outer space is currently ₹7.5 lakh, the process our scientists developed reduced it (cost) as urea, sourced from human urine and lunar soil will be used as raw materials for construction on the moon's surface," said the institute's assistant professor in mechanical engineering Aloke Kumar.

As guar gum is used instead of cement for structures, space bricks will also lower carbon footprint in the lunar atmosphere.

Since micro-organisms produce minerals through metabolism, one bacterium called 'sporosarcina pasteurii' can be used to form calcium carbonate crystals through a metabolic pathway called the ureolvtic cvcle

"Living organisms have been in-



volved in such mineral precipitation since the dawn of the Cambrian period and modern science has found a use for them," Kumar said in a statement.

Space scientists Arjun Dey and I Venugopal joined the Institute's team to develop the process for making the space bricks.

The team mixed the bacteria with a simulant of lunar soil and added urea and calcium with gum extracted from guar beans to increase the strength of the material

for carbonate precipitation. The product after a few days of incubation was strong and resilient.

"Our material can be fabricated into any free form or shape, using a lathe. It is also recommended as it circumvents the need for specialised moulds, a common problem when trying to make a variety of shapes by casting," said another professor Koushik Viswanathan.

The expertise can also be used to make interlocking structures for construction on the moon without additional fastening mechanism.

The scientists believe the process is a significant step towards constructing buildings in space. "Though we have quite a distance to go before we look at extra-terrestrial habitats, our next step is to make larger bricks with more automated and parallel production process," Kumar added. The scientists also plan to enhance the strength of the bricks and test them under varied load-ing conditions like impacts and possibly moonquakes.





The model of development that works in Dehradun will not work in the hills. We need a separate model of development for hilly areas based on their circumstances and resources TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT UTTARAKHAND CM

BIHAR EXTENDS LOCKDOWN

The Bihar government Monday extended the lockdown till September 6 in view of the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the state, as per a notification





Our doctors are working really hard. They are putting their lives into danger and working day and night for us

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS BJP LEADER

As the month of Chingam commences, my greetings to everyone. I pray that the coming year brings with it success, good health and prosperity for all NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

I had a word with the Governor regarding Monday's violence on the Pous Mela ground and told him that the state government's role in the matter is limited MAMATA BANERJEE WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Meghwal discharged

New Delhi: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Monday discharged Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, a week after he had tested positive for Covid-19 and was admitted to the apex hospital for treatment. Meghwal, who had recently endorsed an indigenous 'papad' brand claiming that eating it will help fight the virus, had tested Covid positive August 8. The Union Minister underwent treatment under Neeraj Nischal at AIIMS. According to a hospital source, the minister had mild Covid-19 and throat discomfort and responded well to the treatment given to him.

Tragedy averted

Srinagar: A major tragedy was averted on Monday when the security forces recovered an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants in Jammu and Kashmir's

BHUSHAN CONTEMPT CASE SC to examine larger questions

The Apex court said it would like to hear arguments from the lawyers as to what should be the process which should be followed in contempt cases where allegations are being levelled against judges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: The Supreme Court Monday said it would consider certain larger questions in the 2009 contempt case against activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan and journalist Tarun Tejpal as the issue before it has wide ramifications. The top court said it would like

to hear arguments from the lawyers as to what should be the process which should be followed in contempt cases where allegations are being levelled against judges. A three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said it would like to hear the counsels on whether such statements can be made and the procedure to be adopted for dealing with them.

The apex court in November 2009, had issued a contempt notice to Bhushan and Tejpal for allegedly casting aspersions on some sitting and former top court judges in an interview to a news magazine. Tejpal was the editor of the magazine.

Bhushan told the court Sunday that making corruption charges against the judges would not amount to contempt of court and mere utterance of corruption charge could not be contempt of court.

The top court asked senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan -- appearing for Bhushan -- Shanti Bhushan and Kapil Sibal to address it on three issues -- whether such statements can be made, in what circumstances they can be made and what is the procedure to be adopted with respect to sitting and retired judges.



The bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai and Krishna Murari, posted the matter for next hearing on August 24. At the outset. Dhavan said the court should consider certain questions and the matter should be heard by a larger bench.

Dhavan also referred to the recent judgement in which Bhushan was held guilty of contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary and said the lawyer intends to file a review petition against the August 14 verdict. He told the court that it appears that August 14 judgment suffers from many imbalances as in some parts the verdict says that allegations against judges "per se" does not constitute contempt. Sibal, appearing for Tarun Tejpal, then said the matter should be given quietus

(discharged). The bench said that even the court wants to give the case a quietus but it there are certain questions which needs consideration. Dhavan said the questions posed by the court were very "meaningful" and suggested that the matter be examined by a constitution bench.

trict of the union territory Monday, security forces chased the ultras and killed two of them in an encounter, police said. Two militants, suspected to belong to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were

Srinagar, August 17: Hours after

a militant attack left two CRPF

jawans and a Jammu and Kashmir

policeman dead in Baramulla dis-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

killed in an encounter with the security forces in Kreeri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, a police official said.

He said the encounter began hours after the attack on a 'naka' party of the security forces in which two CRPF personnel and a special police officer (SPO) of Jammu and Kashmir police were killed. Immediately after the attack, the security forces cordoned off the area and launched the searches to nab the militants, he said.



to LeT carried out the attack.

"According to eye witnesses,

there were three militants who

came from the nearby dense or-

chards and started firing indis-

criminately on the 'naka' in which

our three jawans -- two from CRPF

Militants killed after 3 security personnel martyred

Contact was established with them and during the exchange of fire, two militants were killed, the official said. He said the operation was going on, when the last report came in. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said and one J-K Police -- were marthree militants suspected to belong

SOAKED IN DEVOTION



Devotees offer prayers at Lord Shiva temple on last Monday of the holy month of Shravan, in Ahmedabad, Monday

FB India executive 'threatened'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: The Delhi police Monday registered a case based on a complaint by senior Facebook India executive

tyred. It seems the LeT has carried out the attack. We will give them a befitting reply soon,' Kumar told reporters at the site of the attack

'We have cordoned off the area and searches are on. We are hopeful that we will neutralise them soon," he had said. Asked whether the militants have changed their strategy and were attacking the security forces and then fleeing the spot, the IGP said it was a matter of concern, but the forces will soon find a solution to the problem.

"It is a matter of concern. The number of forces on a 'naka' point is less and is normally in a remote area where they (militants) conceal themselves by coming along with civilians and then fire on the forces. We have faced losses and they have managed to flee a few times, but we will soon find a response to this factic and end this problem." he said.

Rakesh Asthana new BSF DG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana has been appointed as the chief of the Border Security Force (BSF) and VSK Kaumudi will be Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Home Ministry, according to a Personnel Ministry order issued Monday.

Asthana is at present working as the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) here. He has been appointed the Director General (DG) of Border Security Force from the date of joining the post and up to July 31, 2021, i.e. date of his superannuation, the order said.

Asthana, a 1984 batch IPS officer, is also holding additional charge of DG, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Kaumudi, a 1986 batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is presently working as DG, Bureau of Police research and Development (BPR&D).

TMC MLA dies of Covid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

published in the Wall Street Journal. In her complaint, Das stated she has been receiving

threats ever since. "The content, which even in

AAP smells a rat, attacks BJP

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj alleged *the BJP's campaign for the* Delhi election centred



Pulwama district. Police said an IED planted by militants under a bridge near Tujan village in Pulwama was detected and recovered by the security forces. Militants have been planting IEDs on roads and highways to target passing vehicles of the security forces in Kashmir. To thwart the militant designs, parties of security forces assisted by sniffer dogs and electronic equipments move out first to secure roads and highways. These trained parties of the security forces are known as road opening parties (ROPs).

Woman killed

.....

Ranchi: A young woman was thrashed to death on the suspicion of practicing black magic in Jharkhand's Giridih district Monday, the police said. According to the police. Geeta Devi. 30. a resident of Gawa village in Giridih district. was beaten to death by local villagers. Munsi Mahto surrounded the house of Geeta Devi along with 10 to 15 people, dragged her out and then brutally attacked her with rods. Geets died on the spot. The police have sent the body for postmortem. Munsi Mahto's son died 13 days ago and his family members alleged that the black magic practice of Geeta Devi caused the death.

Body recovered

Azamgarh: The body of a 16year-old girl who is suspected to have been raped, was recovered from a pond on the outskirts of a village in Azamgarh Monday. The girl's body has been sent for post mortem. The teenager, whose family had returned from Mumbai during the lockdown, had been missing since Saturday.

around the Shaheen Bagh protests and it was the only party that benefited from the controversy

surrounding the agitation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: The AAP Monday claimed the entire Shaheen Bagh protest was "scripted by the BJP" and that its leadership dictated each and every move of the agitators for electoral benefits in Delhi polls, drawing a rebuttal from the saffron party.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj made the claim a day after several members of the minority Muslim community from Shaheen Bagh area, which was the centre of the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests here, joined the BJP. Bhardwaj alleged the BJP's cam-

paign for the Delhi election centred around the Shaheen Bagh protests and it was the only party

that benefited from the controversy surrounding the agitation."Delhi assembly election could have been fought on the issue of education. health, environment or other developmental narratives. But the Delhi BJP chose to fight the election on the issue of Shaheen Bagh," he

told a press conference. "The whole Shaheen Bagh protest was scripted by the BJP. The topmost leadership of the BJP scripted each and every step of these protests," he alleged. "They decided who will speak what, who will attack whom and then who will be doing the counterattack. All these things were preplanned and well-scripted," Bharadwaj claimed.

He said the key people behind the Shaheen Bagh protest joined the BJP on Sunday in the presence of the senior leadership of the party. "Today the question is: does the BJP want to give a message that the people who used to raise anti-national slogans will now be part of the BJP?" he asked

Bhardwaj claimed that in Delhi, the BJP's vote percentage rose from 18 to 38 due to the Shaheen Bagh protests and the controversy surrounding it."Due to this protest, BJP polarised north-east Delhi, won some seats and then engineered a riot," Bhardwaj charged. His allegations drew a rebuttal from Manoj Tiwari, the chief of Delhi BJP when these protests happened, who said his party does not discriminate on the basis of religion, caste, creed or lineage.

Ankhi Das that she has been receiving "violent threat to her life", officials said.

Das, who is Facebook's Director, Public Policy, India, South and Central Asia, had filed the complaint on Sunday, they said.

Based on the complaint, a case has been registered under relevant sections of the law on Monday and investigation has been taken up by the Cyber Cell of the Delhi Police, said Anil Mittal, Additional PRO (Delhi Police)

A Facebook spokesperson said, "We take the safety and security of our employees seriously and care for their well-being. However, we do not comment on individual employee matters.

In her complaint, Das alleged that several people were issuing "threats, making sexually coloured remarks and defaming her" through online posts.

According to the complaint, the threats are in relation to an ar-

cludes my photograph, is evidently threatening to my life and body and I fear for my safety as well as that of my family members. The content also maligns my reputation based on a news article and I am subjected to namecalling, cyber bullying and eveteasing online," she said.

ticle dated August 14, 2020

Das alleged that she was intentionally vilified by the accused due to their "political affiliations" and are now engaging in online and offline abuse, subjecting her to "criminal intimidation and making sexually coloured remarks'

The comments came as the ruling BJP and opposition Congress traded barbs over Facebook's alleged bias towards the ruling dispensation.

While BJP accused the social media giant of censoring nationalist voices, opposition Congress seized on the Wall Street Journal report that alleged that Facebook's content policies favour the ruling party. Kolkata, August 17: Trinamool Congress MLA Samaresh Das, who had tested positive for COVID-19 recently, died at a hospital in West Bengal's East Midnapore district Monday, party sources said. He was 76.

The three-time MLA from Egra assembly constituency in the district was admitted to the hospital a few days back after he had tested positive for coronavirus and developed complications of heart and kidney, party sources said. He died Monday morning, a senior party leader said.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, in a message, condoled his death. She said his demise has left a void in the state politics. Das, a senior leader of the TMC in the district, was first elected as an MLA from Egra assembly constituency in 2009 during a by-election. He retained the seat during the 2011 and 2016 assembly polls. Das is the third notable politician from the state, who died after testing positive for COVID-19.

BOOSTING RURAL ECONOMY

IITs must pay attention to problems faced by farmers: Naidu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: IITs should start major research programmes to boost the rural economy through the development of sustainable technologies, Vice President

Venkaiah Naidu said Monday. The research at IITs and other higher education institutes, he said, must be relevant to society and focus on finding solutions to various problems faced by mankind from climate change to health issues.

Indian institutions will be counted among the world's best only when they start impacting the societies around them by developing optimal and sustainable solutions

to the problems faced by the nation. Research should focus on making the lives of people comfortable, quicken the progress and ensure a more equitable world order," Naidu said in his address at the diamond jubilee celebrations of IIT Delhi. Calling upon the IITs to pay at-

tention to the problems faced by the farmers and rural India, the vice president asked them to work not only for enhancing agri-production, but also specially focus on the production of nutritious and protein-rich food. "With more than 50 pc of our

population still dependent on agriculture, it is important for IITs to start major research programmes



to boost the rural economy through the development of sustainable

technologies," he said.

"Higher education institutions should not work in silos and form a symbiotic relationship with the industry to develop cutting-edge technology and the industry experts in various areas should act as mentors in guiding researchers. This type of collaboration will help in fast-tracking projects and produce quicker results." he added.

Stressing on the need for greater investment in Research and Development projects which focus on finding solutions to societal problems, Naidu urged the private sector to collaborate with the academia in identifying such projects and fund them liberally.

"There should be greater investment in R and D projects which focus on finding solutions to societal problems. I call upon the private sector, including industry bodies like CII and Assocham, to collaborate with academia in identifying such projects and fund them liberally," he said.

Asserting that the New Education Policy seeks to promote India as a global study destination, Naidu pointed out that only eight Indian institutions figured in the top 500 globally. "This situation has to change and there has to be a concerted and collective action from all the stakeholders—governments, universities, educationists and the private sector to bring about a radical improvement in the standards and quality of education of our institutes of higher learning," he said. "I am happy to note that the New

Education Policy seeks to promote India as a global study destination providing premium education at affordable costs, thereby helping to restore its role as a Vishwa Guru," he added.

Observing that there is a huge potential for India to become a world leader in various technological domains given the demographic advantage and the presence of highly talented youth, the vice presidentsaid, "the need of the hour is to impart quality education".















States must use **CAMPA funds** exclusively for afforestation and not for payment of salaries PRAKASH JAVADEKAR UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Responding to a question,

The party alleged that such lead-

It was earlier reported that

Congress leaders were consider-

ing writing a collective letter to the

FESTIVE SPIRI

ers are acting at the behest of the

Bharatiya Janata Party.

SHARAD PAWAR TESTS COVID NEGATIVE

NCP president Sharad Pawar has tested negative for Covid, an aide said Monday. The NCP patriarch had undergone a test last week at Breach Candy Hospital after a couple of his security personnel had tested positive



uote

Cong rebuffs Sanjay Jha's claim

Sanjay Jha who has been sacked as party spokesperson tweeted, "It is estimated that around 100 Congress leaders (including MPs), distressed at the state of affairs within the party, have written a letter to Sonia Gandhi asking for change in political leadership and transparent elections in CWC"

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 17: Suspended Congress leader Sanjay Jha has claimed that about a hundred party leaders have written to interim president Sonia Gandhi for elections to the Congress Working Committee and the party president's post.

Sanjay Jha who has been sacked as party spokesperson tweeted, "It is estimated that around 100 Congress leaders (including MPs), distressed at the state of affairs within the party, have written a letter to Sonia Gandhi, asking for change in political leadership and transparent elections in CWC."

Congress leader Randeep



a letter. "Special Misinformation

HC DISMISSES PLEA FOR PROBE INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 17: The Delhi High Court Monday dismissed a petition seeking directions to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate for initiating a probe into alleged links between Congress General A single judge bench of Justice

the allegations that Vadra sold a painting for ₹2 crore to Kapoor even though it was the property of the Congress party.

tions from the court to register an FIR in person against Priyanka Gandhi, Rana Kapoor and Milind Deora for alleged money laundering, cheating, extortion, fraud,

The NGO alleged that Vadra in connivance with Milind Deora, partner conspirator, and Rana Kapoor, who is one of Yes Bank Ltd. co-founder, in a pre-planned man-

Surjewala vehemently denied such

Group on Media-TV Debate Guidance" in its what's app of today directed to run the story of a nonexistent letter of Congress leaders

The petition also sought direcmisrepresentation etc.

An artisan paints an idol of Lord Ganesh for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Amritsar. Monday PTI PHOTO





Congress Working Committee to

elect or appoint a new full-time

party president as Sonia Gandhi

is set to complete one year as interim

Top sources had said at that time

that the group of leaders has met

at least twice to deliberate on the is-

sues of party organisation and a

One of the leaders who is privy

to the developments confirmed the

move. But the sources did not reveal

the names as the group wants to have

wider consultations on the issue.

is not against Rahul Gandhi as the

only motive is to have a permanent

president and there should be a

clear line of command in the party.

However, sources said, "the move

draft letter is being prepared.

party chief.

Naidu alleges phone tapping; seeks probe

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Naidu sought a probe by a competent authority of the Central government into the alleged tapping of phones



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, August 17: Alleging that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government in Andhra Pradesh was resorting to massive phone tapping of its opponents. former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to order an inquiry.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Naidu sought a probe by a competent authority of the Central government into the alleged tapping of phones.

The Centre should take stringent action so as to prevent the Jagan Reddy-led YSRCP and some private persons from resorting to such illegal activities that pose a threat to national security, he wrote

Naidu said that the ruling party and private individuals were using sophisticated technology and illegal software to tap the phones belonging to the opposition leaders, advocates, journalists and social activists.

He wrote that this was a violation of the Articles 19 and 21 that provide for fundamental rights of citizens.

The ruling YSRCP was using

illegal tactics to protect and preserve its power by intimidating and blackmailing the opponents and dissenting voices. These illegal activities were posing a serious threat to the right to privacy in the state. he added.

The TDP chief alleged that even private individuals were using cutting edge technology and equipment to unlawfully tap the phones. "If these nefarious activities were not put to an end, they would proliferate and emerge as a bigger threat to national security and sovereignty of the country as a whole. "If the Governments and private persons involved in such illegal activities were not restrained. they would attack and undermine the democratic institutions that were painstakingly built over decades of hard work in the country," he added.

Stating that the YSRCP was already misusing its power to destroy institutions, Naidu deplored that systematic efforts were being made to deny fundamental rights and perpetrate oppression.

He pointed out that as per the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (Sec 5 (2)) and Information Technology Act 2000 (Sec 69), phone tapping is to be strictly used only in times of a threat to national security or the country's sovereignty or to national integration or when friendly relations with foreign countries are under threat.

Naidu claimed that many Constitutional institutions were under attack since the YSRCP came to power. Systematic attacks were made on the State Election Commission (SEC), AP Public Service Commission (APPSC) and other institutions.

Threats were being given to opposition leaders, advocates, media, social activists and all those who raise a dissenting voice against the ruling party's excesses, he added.

Covid tally crosses 26L-mark -

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 17: India's



ner performed an illegal act of money laundering with the intention of cheating and forgery.

representatives from the disease AKHILESH YADAV SP CHIEF

Bulandshahr, Hapur, Lakhimpur

Kheri and now

Gorakhpur. Such repeated incidents

have proven that the

security to women

PRIYANKA GANDHI

Uttar Pradesh government has

completely failed in providing

CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

The steps

Narendra

Modi government in

sector in the last six

India's success in containing the

UNION MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

effects of the coronavirus pandemic

the healthcare

years ensured

to a large extent

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI

Seeing the spread of

COVID-19 in

the state, adequate

measures should be taken to protect the

public

taken by the

Fire doused

SHORT TAKES New Delhi: Seven fire tenders were rushed to the

Parliament Annexe building here Monday after a fire broke out on the sixth floor The fire was soon brought under control and a shortcircuit is believed to be the cause of the incident. The fire department said that further investigation is on. "A call was received at 7.30 a.m., and it is suspected the fire started following a short-circuit. The

fire has been brought under control," Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Services said.

Dubey aide held

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Rajendra Mishra, another

aide of gangster Vikas Dubey

and father of slain Prabhat

Mishra, who was carrying a

reward of ₹50,000, has been

arrested from near a factory



Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor. Vibhu Bakhru refused to entertain the petition while raising jurisdictional issue over the plea filed by an NGO named Akhil Bhartiya Shanti Pratishthan. The plea sought a detailed inquiry into

in Shivraipur area Superintendent of Police (Rural) Brajesh Srivastava said Mishra was wanted under sections 147, 148, 149, 302, 307, 394, 120b, 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act (CLA) and 3/25 Arms Act in connection with Bikru shootout on July 3 in which eight policemen were killed.' The SP said that Mishra was caught near a factory on Sunday while he was going to the place of an acquaintance to seek help for his surrender before the court.

Lawyer killed

Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh): A lawyer has been shot dead allegedly by his relatives over a land dispute in Gorakhpur district. The incident took place on Sunday in Shivpur village of the Gagha area in the city and two persons have been arrested. The deceased has been identified as Rajeshwar Pandey, 45. He was practicing at Gola tehsil in Gorakhpur. The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) office spokesman said, "On Sunday, Rajeshwar had some argument over land with the grandfather of his relative Chanki Pandey. After a heated argument, someone fired at the back of the lawyer from close range. He was rushed to the hospital but he succumbed on the way.'

Girl raped, singed with cigarette butts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gorakhpur (UP), August 17: A minor girl was allegedly raped and singed with cigarette butts by two men in the Gola area of Gorakhpur district. The girl was found unconscious

Sunday and is currently undergoing treatment at the district hospital. The police have registered a case against one Arjun of Dehribhar village and another unidentified man on the basis of a written complaint from the victim's mother.

According to reports, the teenage girl, daughter of a brick kiln labourer, had gone to fetch water from a hand pump on Saturday night, when the two accused forcibly took her to a hut near a pond in the village on a motorcycle and allegedly raped her.

They also tortured the girl by inflicting burn injuries on her with cigarette butts and fled when she became unconscious.

at a hospital in Hyderabad received a lung from a brain dead donor in Pune, as different authorities came together to ensure the organ's transportation within one hour.

A Green corridor was arranged by different departments in both cities for faster transport of the organ on Sunday. A patient suffering from terminal lung disease and undergoing treatment at KIMS Heart and Lung Transplant Institute here, was the recipient of the organ. He had registered his name under the Jeevandan scheme of the Telangana government

The family of a young person, who was declared brain dead at a private hospital on Sunday, came forward to donate the organ while Zonal Transplant Coordination Center (ZTCC) Pune ensured that the organ reached Hyderabad in time for the trans-

plant. Dr Swarnalatha, who is Incharge of Jeevandan, Telangana guided and supported the cause, while Arthi Gokhle, Central Coordinator ZTCC Pune ensured

that it happened without any obstacles. The lung was brought by a chartered flight from Pune to Hvderabad. Traffic police of both the cities arranged the green corridor and the Airports Authority of India also came forward to help this noble cause.

Finally, KIMS Heart and Lung Transplant Institute, Hyderabad received the lung by the evening without any delay from the city which is 560 km away, within one hour and transplanted the same to the needy patient.

At a time when even smaller health issues are a big deal in Covid-19 pandemic times, the authorities showed that even tough things like lung transplantation can happen if there is a strong will. Before the transportation and transplant, the authorities took all precautions. Doctors at KIMS said the transplant was done after the donor tested negative for Coronavirus.

26-lakh mark Monday with 57,981 new cases in 24 hours, while the death toll climbed to 50,921 with 941 more fatalities, said the Health Ministry.

Out of the total 2,647,663 cases, recoveries have surged to 19, 19,842 with a record 57,584 more people recuperating in the past 24 hours, taking the recovery rate to nearly 72.51 per cent. The actual caseload of the country is the active cases, which currently stand at 6,76,900.

The country had touched the twomillion mark August 7 and added more than six lakh cases in ten days. The silver lining, however, is that the gap between recoveries and active cases is growing every day. Currently, recoveries are over 12 lakh more than the active cases.

As far as the death toll is concerned, the country had registered its first death on March 13 and crossed the 25,000-mark on July 17. The next 25,000 deaths were logged in the span of a month. Notably, the case fatality rate, which is the proportion of people who die from the disease among individuals diagnosed, has dropped to 1.93 per cent, the ministry said.

As many as 7,31,697 samples were

of mainly of four different tribes -

- are Khas (or Chetri), Gurung,

Limbus and Rais

tested on Sunday, taking the total to 3,00,41,400 samples being tested till date, according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state with a total of 5,95,865 cases and 20,037 deaths; followed by Tamil Nadu with 3,38,055 cases and 5,766 deaths. The southern state is followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh.

At the global front, the overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped 21.5 million, while the

deaths were nearing 774,000, ac cording to Johns Hopkins University As of Monday morning, the total number of cases stood at 21,598,893 and the fatalities rose to 773,934, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US accounted for the world's highest number of infections and fatalities at 5,403,213 and 170,052, respectively, according to the CSSE. Brazil came in the second place with 3,340,197 infections and 107,852 deaths.

China funds study on Nepal youth joining Gorkha regiment

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Two arrested

Jammu: Two people have been arrested in Jammu city in connection with uploading a video likely to incite communal sentiments, police said Sunday. Inspector General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh said a video had gone viral on the social media in which accused. Satpal Sharma is seen making utterances which have the potential to incite communal sentiments.

New Delhi, August 17: China has given 12.7 lakh Nepalese rupees to a Kathmandu-based NGO to carry out a study on what motivates Gorkha community members to join the Indian Army.

Sources said that in the first week of June, China's Ambassador to Nepal, Hou Yanqi, funded a Nepalese NGO -- China Study Centre (CSC) - to conduct a study on Nepalis being recruited in the Gorkha regiments of the Indian Army.

'The CSC has been asked to conduct the study by addressing several points such as the reasons behind Nepalis joining the Indian Army,

areas of Nepal from where such recruits are being made and their social-economic impact, their interest in joining the armed forces of foreign countries, among others," a source said.

A fund of 12.7 lakh Nepalese rupees has been allocated by the Chinese Embassy for this task, said the source. There are seven Gorkha regiments in the Indian Army comprising around 28,000 Nepali citizens. The regiments have a total 39 battalions. In total, there were 11 Gorkha Regiments, out of which four went to the British Army after

Independence. India has the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th and 11th Gorkha regiments



while the British Army has the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th regiments. The Gorkha community consists

The recruitment of Nepali Gorkhas into the Indian Army stems from an arrangement agreed to in 1947 between India, the UK and Nepal, known as the Tripartite Agreement. But Nepal has now stated that this agreement is redundant. The assertion was made after Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli first raised the issue during his meeting with former UK Prime Minister Theresa Ma.

In the meantime, sources also said that the Communist Party of Nepal-Biplab, a banned underground insurgent outfit, has launched an extensive people's awareness programme to stop the youth of Nepal from joining the Gorkha regiments of Indian Army. Sources said the cultural wing of the CPN-Biplab is organising street plays, folk dances and other cultural events to spread anti-India campaigns. The ties between India and Nepal have come under strain after Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80 km long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8. Nepal protested the inauguration of the road, claiming that it passed through its territory. Days later, Nepal came out with a new map showing Lipulekh,-Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories.

OrissaPOST TUESDAY AUGUST 18 2020 BHUBANESWAR international



The then Army chief (and later President) Ziaur Rahman and his wife Khaleda Zia resorted to the "politics of killing Bangabandhu" SHEIKH HASINA BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER

GOOGLE WARNS AUSSIES COULD LOSE FREE SEARCH SERVICES

Google warned Monday that the Australian government's plans to make digital giants pay for news content threatens users' free services in Australia and could hand users' data to media organisations





I apologise for failing to stop people carrying the novel coronavirus from disembarking from a cruise ship in Sydney in March, triggering what was at the time Australia's worst

GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN NSW PREMIER

outbreak

We had the determination to reach conclusions (on Beirut blast) guickly but we found out that the issues are very complex and require time

MICHEL AOUN LEBANESE PRESIDENT

Neither the United Arab Emirates (UAE) nor any other country has the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people MAHMOUD ABBAS | PALESTINE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

16 dead in Somalia hotel attack

Mogadishu (Somalia): Somalia's security forces 'Sunday ended a nearly fivehour siege by Islamic extremists at a beachside hotel in Somalia's capital. said police and a government spokesman. At least 15 people were killed when the attackers invaded the Elite Hotel, a new establishment popular with Mogadishu's young people, said Col. Ahmed Aden, a police officer. Security forces later killed all four attackers and rescued dozens of people who were trapped inside the hotel, Ismail Mukhtar, spokesman of Somalia's Information Ministry said.

doctors affected

the massive August 4

US ELECTIONS 2020 Trump never interfered in J&K issue, stood up to China: Campaign team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 17: US President Donald Trump has hit the right chord with India by standing up to China and never intervening in the Kashmir issue, officials of his presidential campaign have asserted. Seeking re-election for a second

consecutive term, Trump, 74, is pitted against Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, 77, in the November 3 presidential elections. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the US, there was a record drop in unemployment rate of Indian-Americans under the Trump administration, his Indian-American supporters said.

US President Trump elevated India's stature on the world stage. stood up to China in support of India and has never intervened in the Kashmir issue, they claimed. "In a nutshell, Trump has hit the right chord with India and Indian-Americans," said Al Mason, the co-chair for the Trump Victory Indian-American Finance Committee and for the recently cre-

ated "Indian Voices for Trump". The Trump campaign's strong pitch that he is the best bet for the community and India-US relationship for the next four years comes on the eve of the Democratic National Convention that would for the first time nominate an Indian-



American and an African-American, Senator Kamala Harris, as the party's vice-presidential candidate. Born to a Jamaican father and an

Indian mother. California senator Harris, 55, if elected, would be second in line of succession after Biden. 'The choice for Indian-Americans is clear this fall, four more years for Trump/Pence (Vice President Mike Pence)," said Harmeet Kaur Dhillon, an eminent Indian-American lawyer and a senior Republican Party leader from California.

Dhillion is also the co-chair for "Indian Voices for Trump" by the Trump Campaign. Prior to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the unemployment rate among Indian-Americans dropped by nearly 33.33 per cent, a senior official of the Trump administration said.

The unemployment rate for

efore the COVID-19 panmic hit the US, there was a record drop in unemploymen rate of Indian-Americans under the Trump administration, his In-American supporters

President Trump has elevated ed India's stature on the world stage. Of course, credit also goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his smart policy towards the US, Trump's mpaign team asserted

Indian-Americans dropped from 4.1 per cent in 2015 to a record low of 2.5 per cent in 2019, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Indian-Americans are arguably the group that have most benefited from America's freedoms which include free markets, freedom to pursue happiness and freedom to aspire and strive for the best life possible. Also, personal freedom to practice one's religion," Mrinalini Kumari, co-chair of the "Indian Voices for Trump", said.

Employment among Indian-Americans increased from 2.1 million in 2016 to an all-time high of 2.5 million in 2019, according to the latest figures from the Department of Labor. Indian-American members of the Trump campaign attribute this to the economic policies of his administration.

"The Indian-American community is filled with hard-working achievers who create jobs, technology, and small businesses, all of which have thrived thanks to Trump," Dhillon said. "In addition to these economic metrics, the administration's focus on equal opportunity as opposed to quotas has ensured educational and job opportunities for Indian-American students and workers," Dhillon said.

"No other US President has ever given the respect to an Indian Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) or to India, as much as President Trump has," he said. "President Trump has elevated India's stature on the world stage. Of course, credit also goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his smart policy towards the US. The India-US relationship has never been stronger, and the Indian-American community in the US largely credits both Trump and Modi for deepening the ties between the two countries," Mason said.

"Kashmir is the most sensitive issue for every Indian, as well as every Indian-American. Trump has never interfered in the internal affairs of India-Kashmir-which is an integral part of India. No other US President has stood up to China as much as President Trump China ready to address differences with India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, August 17: China Monday said it is ready to work with India to enhance political mutual trust, properly manage their differences and safeguard the long-term development of bilateral ties.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said this at a regular briefing when a Western media journalist sought China's reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that the Indian armed forces have given a befitting reply to those challenging the country's sovereignty.

Modi, in his 74th Independence Day address to the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort, said the armed forces have given a befitting reply to those challenging the country's sovereignty "from LoC to LAC", in a veiled reference to Pakistan and China.

"From LoC (Line of Control) to LAC (Line of Actual Control), anyone who casts an eve on the sovereignty of the country, the armed forces have responded in the language they understand," Modi said.

Modi's comments came amid India's bitter border row with China along the LAC in eastern Ladakh and rise in incidents of ceasefire violations along the LoC with Pakistan in the last few months. Responding to the question,

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao said that "we have noted Prime Minister Modi's speech." "We are close neighbours, we

are emerging countries with over one billion people. So, the sound development of bilateral ties not only serves the interest of the two peo-



China stands ready to work with India to enhance our political mutual trust, properly manage our differences, step-up practical cooperation and safeguard the long-term development of bilateral ties ZHAO LIJIAN I CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

ples but also stability, peace, prosperity of the region and the whole world," he said. "The right path for the two sides is to respect and support each other as this serves our long-term interests," Zhao said. "So, China stands ready to work

with India to enhance our political mutual trust, properly manage our differences, step-up practical cooperation and safeguard the longterm development of bilateral ties, the spokesman added.

In his speech, Prime Minister Modi also said that "whether it is terrorism or expansionism, India is fighting both with determination.

Referring to the Galwan Valley clashes in eastern Ladakh in June, the Prime Minister said respect for India's sovereignty is supreme and the world has seen in Ladakh

NEPAL, INDIA HOLD HIGH-LEVEL TALKS AMID BORDER ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, August 17: Senior diplomats of India and Nepal Monday held a virtual meeting to review the progress made on various India-aided developmental projects being implemented in the Himalayan nation.

The meeting came days after Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli telephoned his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to greet him on India's 74th Independence Day in the first high-level contact after bilateral ties came under severe strain following issuance of a new political map by Nepal in May. Nepalese Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra are leading the delegations representing their respective countries during the oversight mechanism meeting, according to Nepal Foreign Ministry sources here.

Pak army chief visits Riyadh to revive ties

REUTERS

Beirut blasts: 2K

Beirut: Some 2,000 Lebanese physicians were impacted by explosions at the Port of Beirut, state-media reported. "Physicians were either injured or have their clinics destroyed which necessitates quick measures to support them in addition to helping nurses to prevent them from immigrating as many of them have started leaving the country," Xinhua news agency quoted Head of Lebanese Order of Physicians Charaf Abou Charaf, as saying.

Riyadh/Islamabad, August 17: Pakistan's army chief was visiting Saudi Arabia Monday in an effort to ease a row between the two countries over policy towards the disputed region of Kashmir.

The argument, brought on by Pakistani demands for Saudi Arabia to take a firmer line against India's behaviour in Kashmir, has threatened Rivadh's financial lifeline to Islamabad. General Qamar Javed Bajwa's visit was "primarily military-affairs oriented," the Pakistani army spokesman said. But Pakistani military and government officials said that Bajwa would try to calm a situation that if not reversed could badly hurt Pakistan's central bank foreign reserves. A traditional ally, Saudi Arabia gave Pakistan a \$3 billion loan and \$3.2 billion oil credit facility to help its balance of payments crisis in late

them [Saudi] that there's no foreign policy shift," a senior Pakistani military official said.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars over the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir, which both claim in full. The Saudiled Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) has only held lowlevel meetings over Kashmir despite Islamabad's demands.

Analysts say Saudi Arabia does not want risk its business inter



Sabrina is Harris' press secy

.....

Washington: Senator Kamala Harris has roped in Indian-American Sabrina Singh, who previously was the spokeswoman of two Democratic presidential candidates, as press secretary for her Democratic vice presidential campaign. Sabrina Singh, 32, previously headed the press shop of two Democratic presidential candidates - New Jersey Senator Cory Booker and former New York mayor Mike Bloomberg. Last week, Democratic presumptive vice presidential nominee Joe Biden, 77, picked 55-year-old Indian-origin Harris as his running mate.

2018.Irked by Islamabad's demands for Rivadh to

convene a high-level meeting to highlight arch-rival India's alleged human rights violations in Kashmir, Saudi Arabia has forced Pakistan to pay back \$1 billion early and is demanding another \$1 billion of the loan.

Riyadh has also not responded to Pakistani requests to extend the oil facility, military and finance ministry officials have told Reuters. "I think our case is to convince

ests in India for supporting Pakistan over Kashmir. Riyadh might also have reservations over its foe Iran's possible inclusion in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), part of Beijing's Belt and

Road Initiative, they said. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said last week that if Saudi

Arabia did not convene a meeting on Kashmir, then Pakistan might call one involving Islamic countries that supported it on the issue. Last year Islamabad withdrew from a forum of

Muslim nations at the last minute on the insistence of Riyadh, which saw the gathering as an attempt to challenge Saudi's OIC leadership.

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi, an influential Pakistani cleric, who went to Rivadh ahead of the General's visit, was optimistic, saying Saudi King Salman bib Abdul Aziz and Crown Price Mohammad bin Salman have a long history of good relations with Pakistan.



Pro-democracy protesters attend a rally to demand the government to resign, to dissolve the parliament and to hold new elections under a revised constitution near the Democracy Monument in Bangkok, Thailand REUTERS PHOTO

New Zealand delays election after virus outbreak

Before the latest outbreak, New

Zealand had gone 102 days with-

out any known community trans-

mission of the virus, and life had

returned to normal for most people,

who were going to restaurants,

sports stadiums and schools with-

The only known cases during

that time were returning travelers

out fear of getting infected.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, August 17: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern Monday chose to delay New Zealand's national elections by four weeks as the country deals with a new coronavirus outbreak in its largest city, Auckland. The election had been scheduled for September 19 but will now be held October 17. Under New Zealand law, Ardern had the option of delaying the election for up to about two months.

Opposition parties had been requesting a delay after a virus outbreak in Auckland last week prompted the government to put the city into a two-week lockdown and halted election campaigning.

who were quarantined at the border.

Officials believe the virus was reintroduced to New Zealand from abroad but haven't vet been able to figure out how it happened. The Auckland outbreak has grown to 49 infections, with authorities saying they believe the cases are all connected, giving them hope the virus isn't spreading beyond the cluster.

Ardern said in making her decision, she had first called the leaders of all the political parties represented in the parliament to get their views. "Ultimately I want to ensure we have a well-run election that gives all voters the best chance to receive all the information they need about parties and candidates, Ardern said.

parent view of the economic situ-

ation, loans, and repayments. That

The meeting, being held virtually due to the coronavirus outbreak, will assess the progress made on various India aided development projects being implemented in Nepal, the sources said.

The ties between India and Nepal came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand May 8.

Nepal protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. Days later, Nepal came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories...

World's largest creditor China yet to publish data on lending pattern

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nationwide power breakdown in SL

Colombo: Sri Lanka plunged into darkness Monday as a massive power outage hit the entire country following a technical failure at a major power plant. The outage hit the country at around midday. The power supply was restored in many parts of the country after six hours, but Colombo was still in darkness. There was chaos on the streets of Colombo as traffic lights failed following the breakdown in the electricity supply.

New Delhi, August 17: China, the largest global creditor today, has extended loans to more than 150 countries in the last two decades but surprisingly, the dragon has marched

on unhindered. It is not a member of the Paris Club - an informal group of creditor nations with the aim to strike workable repayment solutions. It is also not part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Both Paris Club and OECD maintain loan

records of official creditors. China's financial assistance is directed in the form of trade credits, foreign direct investment ad-

vances under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), besides direct loans. While this is no secret, what is worrying many is the lack of transparency in its lending pattern and record keeping.

According to the Harvard Business Review (HBR), China's outstanding claims now exceed more than 5 per cent of global GDP. However, a large chunk of loans informally has also been extended by the dragon through its local authorities and lenders, which are practically unaccounted. While the report suggests that

about \$1.5 trillion has been directed, analysts have questioned this figure since China has remained silent on the quantum of financial assis-



CHINA'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS DIRECTED IN THE FORM OF TRADE CREDITS, FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT ADVANCES UNDER THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI), BESIDES DIRECT LOANS

tance extended to other countries. times like these - the crisis-like sit-"China's official figures do not uation in the coronavirus era, it is present the correct picture and in important to get a clear and trans-

LOAN SHARK

will not be the case with China," an China is not a member analyst on condition of anonymity of the Paris Club - an said. Until the coronavirus pandemic hit the world bringing global creditor nations with economy to a near halt, all was well with China, which escaped scrutiny workable repayment by rating agencies. Economic Co-operation

The picture, however, has changed with the spread of the pandemic. In June, the World Bank, in its Global Economic Prospects, said that the global economy could contract by 5.2 per cent this year - the worst

since World War II. Several countries that have been beneficiaries of Chinese loans have indicated their inability to repay. Despite that, China, which already has a whopping debt to GDP ratio of 317 per cent, has been extending fresh assistance in a bid to forge new alliances. Nepal and Bangladesh are cases in point.

"China does not report on its international lending, and Chinese loans literally fall through the cracks of traditional data-gathering institutions. For example, credit rating agencies such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's, or data providers. such as Bloomberg, focus on private creditors, but China's lending is state-sponsored, and therefore off their radar screen," HBR wrote.

The unaccounted loan or "hidden loan" as referred to by HBR hasnow become a cause for concern for many international agencies.













Due to COVID-19, we expect very few foreigners to travel to India in the current year and for the following two years. Therefore, the hospitality industry must concentrate on domestic travellers and we are well positioned to serve them PRS OBEROI EXEC CHAIRMAN, EIH LTD

DIESEL CONSUMPTION FALLS

The consumption of diesel has fallen after a long time as disruptions caused by COVID-19 continue to impact economic activity and demand. In the first two weeks of August, diesel consumption has fallen by almost 20%, as compared to the same period of the previous month

in rural areas.

of GSDP.

"These districts contribute mostly

around 2-4% of GSDP (gross state

domestic product) of their respec-

tive states, indicating that cases

are penetrating deep rural hinter-

The report estimates total (GSDP)

State-wise analysis indicates that

top 10 states accounted for 73.8% of

total GDP loss, with Maharashtra

contributing 14.2% of total loss fol-

lowed by Tamil Nadu (9.2%) and

Subsequently, the per capita loss

for all India is around ₹27,000 with

states like Tamil Nadu, Guiarat,

Telangana, Delhi, Haryana, Goa, ex-

hibiting loss of more than ₹40,000 per

person in FY21, the report stated.

Uttar Pradesh (8.2%), it said.

loss due to COVID-19 to be at 16.8%

lands." the report noted.



'India's GDP to contract by 16.5% in Q1 FY21' creasing coronavirus penetration

We are proud to open these (two) allwomen stores that will increase our commitment to diversity and

inclusion in India and empower our female partners in new and meaningful ways NAVIN GURNANEY CEO, TATA STARBUCKS

uote

Even today, over 500 million Indian



regional KOLs coming on Trell, our aim is to become the most relatable lifestyle community commerce platform for our users

PRASHANT SACHAN CO-FOUNDER, TREU



the producers relied to access markets. However, this presented as an opportunity to build the capacity of community embedded resources for FPOs

PUNIT GUPTA, COUNTRY DIRECTOR (INDIA) TECHNOSERVE

SHORT TAKES

OKAYA to provide **EV charging stations**

New Delhi: Okaya Power Group Monday said it has entered into a partnership with Prakriti E-Mobility for providing charging stations to the fleet operations of the latter. Prakriti E-Mobility Private Limited is a fleet operator of electric 4W vehicles while Okaya Power Group is one of the largest suppliers of EV charging stations in India. Okaya has deployed more than 500 chargers across the country.

Agribazaar to treble headcount

Mumbai: Amid rising retrenchments and salary cuts driven by the pandemic across sectors, agritech platform

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 17: State Bank of India's research report Ecowrap expects the country's GDP to contract by 16.5% during the first quarter of the current fiscal. Earlier in May, Ecowrap had estimated Q1 FY21 GDP contraction at over 20% and now pegs it at much lower contraction of 16.5% for the quarter, "though with the relevant caveats in the current uncertain scenario", the research report released Monday stated.

It said degrowth in corporate GVA (better than expected results of some financial and non-financial companies) has been significantly better than revenue degrowth in Q1 FY21 as far as the results of the listed companies are concerned.

So far, around 1,000 listed entities have announced their results for



the first quarter. The results indicate more than 25% decline in topline and more than 55% decline in bottomline. However, it is interesting to men-

tion that the decline in corporate GVA (gross value added) is only 14.1%, it said.

"In principle, revenue decline of listed companies has been far outstripped by cost rationalisation thereby not impacting margins,' the report said.

It further said over the months of July and August, coronavirus has now significantly penetrated

THE DOWNSLIDE

- Earlier in May, Ecowrap had estimated O1 FY21 GDP contraction at over 20%
- The report said degrowth in corporate GVA has been significantly better than revenue degrowth in Q1 FY21
- State-wise analysis indicates that top 10 states accounted for 73.8% of total GDP loss

Subsequently, the per capita loss for all India is around ₹27,000

the rural areas. The percentage of cases in rural districts to total new cases has risen to 54% in August.

Also, the number of rural districts with less than 10 cases has reduced significantly. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have been impacted more severely with in**RIL** in talks to buy Urban Ladder, Milkbasket: Report



Bangalore, August 17: India's Reliance Industries Ltd is in talks to buy online furniture retailer Urban Ladder and milk delivery firm Milkbasket to strengthen its e-commerce business, the Times of India newspaper reported Monday.

The oil-to-telecoms conglomerate's talks with Urban Ladder are at an advanced stage, the report said, citing four unnamed sources briefed on the matter. A deal could be pegged at around \$30 million, it said, citing here one of the sources.

Representatives at Reliance and Urban Ladder did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Milkbasket declined comment.

The news comes as the COVID 19 pandemic forces many Indians indoors, spurring a wave of online shopping, including for daily groceries such as milk.

'Odisha has lion's share of country's natural resources'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: In the backdrop of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has caused economic activity to remain standstill with declining livelihood opportunities. In such crisis, the experts expressed that mining sector could be the key to utilising India's phenomenal demographic dividend and also key contributors to the GDP.

According to sources available from Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) and Indian

GOVT EASES PARTIAL CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME NORMS

AGENCIES

New Delh, August 17: With a view to provide additional liquidity to crisis-ridden NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs), the government Monday relaxed norms for Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) for purchase of bonds and commercial papers by public sector banks and extended its period by three months.

Keeping in view the progress under the Scheme and the fact that the stipulated limit for AA/AArated bonds/CPs (commercial papers) has been nearly reached, while the appetite for lower rated papers is nearing saturation considering their lower ticket size, the government has now decided to modify PCGS 2.0. "Additional 3 months have been granted to build up the portfolio. At the end of six months, i.e. by November 19, 2020, the portfolio shall be crystallised based on actual amount disbursed, for the Guarantee to come into effect," a fi-

nance ministry statement said. At the portfolio level, AA and AA- investment sub-portfolio under



PCGS 2.0 was launched May 20 to provide portfolio guarantee for purchase of papers with a rating of AA and below, issued by NBFCs/HFCs/

MFIs, by PSBs

the Scheme should not exceed 50 per cent of the total portfolio of bonds/CPs purchased by public sector banks (PSBs) under the Scheme as against 25 per cent stipulated earlier.

"It is expected that the above modification will provide greater flexibility to PSBs in purchasing bonds/CPs under PCGS 2.0." it said. As part of ₹20.97 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan', announced by the government,

PCGS 2.0 was launched May 20 to provide portfolio guarantee for purchase of papers with a rating of AA and below, issued by NBFCs/HFCs/micro finance institutions (MFIs), by PSBs.

It was envisaged to purchase bonds or CPs of ₹45,000 crore under PCGS 2.0 of which the maximum headroom permissible for purchase of papers rated AA/AA- was 25% of the total portfolio i.e. ₹11,250 crore, the statement said.

In addition, the government had separately announced the Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) for purchase of CPs and non-convertible debentures (NCDs) issued by NBFCs/HFCs with a residual maturity of up to 3 months, which could be extended for a further period of upto 3 months, of a total value not exceeding ₹30,000 crore to be extended by the amount required as per requirement.

Under PCGS 2.0, PSBs have approved purchase of bonds/CPs rated AA/AA- issued by 28 entities and bonds/CPs rated below AA- issued by 62 entities, amounting to ₹21,262 crore overall.

AGENCIES Tokyo, August 17: Japan's economy shrank at annual rate of 27.8% in April-June, the worst contraction on record, as the coronavirus pandemic slammed consumption and trade, according to government

The annual rate shows what the number would have been if con-

nancial crisis of 2008-2009.

The world's third largest economy was already ailing when the virus outbreak struck late last year. The fallout has since gradually worsened both in COVID-19 cases and social

CREDAI hails new ODA Rules

shrinks at record rate

The Cabinet Office reported that Japan's preliminary

seasonally adjusted real GDP, fell 7.8% q-o-q

Japan's economy



January-March period, and contracted 1.8% in the October-December period last year, meaning that Japan slipped into recession in the first quarter of this year.

two consecutive quarters of contraction.

flat in July-September. Growth was minimal the quarter before that. For the April-June period, Japan's exports dropped at a whopping annual rate of 56%, while private consumption dipped at an annual rate of nearly 29%.

nCoV IMPACT



The economy shrank 0.6% in the

Recession is generally defined as

Japanese economic growth was

data released Monday. The Cabinet Office reported that Japan's preliminary seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product, or GDP, the sum of a nation's goods and services, fell 7.8% quarter on quarter.

Japanese media reported the latest drop was the worst since World War II. But the Cabinet Office said comparable records began in 1980. The previous worst contraction was in 2009, during the global fi-



Agribazaar is more than trebling its headcount as it plans to double geographical footprint, a top company official has said. The agri-tech platform currently employs just 150 and it is aiming to add 350 more this fiscal, and will be expanding its geographical coverage to 75 cities from 32 now. Agribazaar co-founder and chief executive Amith Agarwal said.

Renault launches SUV Duster

New Delhi: Automaker Renault India Monday said it has launched SUV Duster with all new 1.3 litre turbo engine, priced between ₹10.49 lakh . and ₹13.59 lakh. The 1.3 litre turbo version comes in three manual trims priced at ₹10.49 lakh, 11.39 lakh and ₹11.99 lakh, respectively, while the CVT (automatic) variants are tagged at ₹12.99 lakh and ₹13.59 lakh. The company said it will also continue to offer the SUV with the existing 1.5 litre petrol engine.

Valvoline launches Suraksha Initiative

Bhubaneswar: Valvoline Cummins Pvt. Ltd, supplier of premium branded lubricants launched its first Suraksha initiative under which they are rigorously reaching out to the mechanics in the entire country providing them with 'Suraksha Kit' and making them aware of the necessary safety guidelines post the unlock. It also reached out to the mechanics of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Rourkela. Valvoline, under its Suraksha initiative, has distributed more than 70.000 Suraksha Kits in almost 100 markets in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad.

mbai: SpiceJet Monday said it will soon induct its first Airbus A340 cargo aircraft in its freighters fleet. The induction of the first wide-body freighter will help the airline to primarily operate cargo flights on long-haul routes including to destinations in Europe, CIS and African region, SpiceJet said. With the latest

induction, SpiceJet will have a dedicated fleet of nine freighter aircraft consisting of five Boeing 737s, three Bombardier Q-400s and one Airbus A340. "The induction of our first wide-body cargo aircraft will be a huge game changer in our journey as the country's largest cargo operator," SpiceJet Chairman and MD Ajay Singh said.

BIZ BUZZ

SpiceJet to induct Airbus A340 cargo aircraft

Gadkari lays foundation stone for 13 highway projects

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Monday laid the foundation stones of ₹3,000-crore highway projects in Manipur and said the government will soon take up



additional projects worth ₹16,023 crore in the state. Laying the foundation stone of the 13 highway projects and inaugurating a road safety project in a virtual ceremony, the road transport, highways and MSME minister promised to also expedite the ongoing ₹2,250-crore highway works in the state and termed it as his "priority". The virtual ceremony was attended by

Minister of State for the Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways VK Singh, Manipur CM N Biren Singh and Manipur cabinet ministers, among others.

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The real estate bodies Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI), Odisha and CREDAI Bhubaneswar Monday welcomed state government's new construction rules and expected that it will draw more investments in real estate sector.

General Secretary of CREDAI Bhubaneswar Umesh Pattnaik said We welcome the steps undertaken by the Govt. of Odisha in introducing some major reforms in planning and building rules for construction of houses and multi-storied apartments in the state with the approval of Odisha Development Authority's (ODA) (Planning & Building Standards) Rules, 2020. The changes in the rules and regulations definitely will attract more investments in real estate sector and give a boost



to GDP growth."

The newly formed rules say that the building having up to eight dwelling units constructed in one block not to be considered as apartment buildings. Also, charges for Purchasable FAR reduced to 25% of the benchmark value of land. There other new rules that brought transparency in real estate industry and will help to boost the sector.

CREDAI Odisha Chairman DS Tripathy said that new ODA rules

are a breakthrough announce ment beneficial to the entire real estate sector.

This rule will be an economic catalyst post lockdown. The rules made are transparent and RERA compliant. These rules will benefit the entire sector.'

Pattnaik said that the body has discussed Chairman of ORERA on different issues being faced by the real estate sector and submitted an application regarding the delay in processing for registration of the projects, software issues in online application and compliance issues

The CREDAI chairman decided to streamline the process by allowing the acceptance of offline application till the software issue resolved. Fresh application will be considered with the submission of the hardcopies of the document for those, who have already applied online earlier.

Bureau of Mines (IBM), Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, Odisha has the lion's share of the country's natural resources accounting for 25% of coal reserves and over 50% of bauxite reserves. Also, an extensive coastline provides the state a direct gateway to the global trade market. The Indian aluminium industry invested over Rs. 1.4 lakh crore in Odisha to make it the aluminium capital of the nation.

According to sources, with bauxite reserves of 2 billion tons. Odisha-based industries have to meet their bauxite requirements from imports, rendering them economically unviable and globally uncompetitive.

Odisha has the potential for multi-fold growth in bauxite production from current 12-13 million tons to over 50 MTPA of bauxite and meet India's domestic bauxite requirement.

FOUR LESSONS THAT PANDEMIC TAUGHT US

have been associated with the insurance industry for more than three decades now. Having seen how insurance comes in handy to the person who bought it has been a way of life for me since the beginning. Despite the benefits, it often baffles me as to why people would not consider buying insurance, and more specifically health insurance, despite it

health insurance extends vou the dignity of being able to afford the treatment of your choice without depending on others being such a beneficial investment. In times of a health emergency,

ance expert, below are the four leshaving a health insurance extends you the dignity of being able to sons COVID-19 taught me, someafford the treatment of your choice thing that's beneficial for the pubwithout depending on others. The lic at large. premium (amount you pay) to sum

In times of a health

emergency, having a

1. India – an underpenetrated market

Only around 3-4% of the entire COVID positive cases had some sort of insurance in place. As an insurer, we covered COVID patients from day-1 of the virus outbreak and have noticed that while significant number of claims came from the

states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat and West Bengal, the states like Rajasthan, Assam, Odisha, and Punjab, are highly underpenetrated in terms of health insurance. The need to identify and build awareness on insurance as a financial safety net is hence of paramount importance to prevent out of pocket expense for treatment related costs.

2. Employee sponsored GMCs came in handy

For most people in the organised sector, an employer sponsored medical policy (GMC) is their only protective gear against a health emergency. During the Covid phase, such policies came in handy making people aware of the benefits of an insurance cover. However, the downside of this was that most employees had opted for minimal sum insured falling between ₹2-3 lakh which was insufficient in cases with co-morbidity issues.

3. Awareness around individual policies

The phase also saw inquiries on Health Insurance policies reaching an all-time high. Given the stressful situation more and more people wanted to safeguard their financial exposure in terms of treatment costs while also wanting to extend the coverage benefits to their families. Easy online purchases, digital assistance and being able to avail cashless facility, while being hospitalised were the top benefits enjoyed by customers in trying times. Corona-cover specific policies that pay for hospitalisation/homecare treatment cost, in case a person is found to be COVID+ is yet another highlight of the phase, bought by people on online channels through easy digital payment modes.

4. It's not whether you need insurance but how much

In an age of uncertainty where

a health crisis happens every few years, and with steep rise in healthcare costs, you must not be thinking about whether you need an insurance cover or not. Insurance is as essential for you as food and water. The question you should rather ask yourself now is how much of insurance is adequate. As per most experts, on an average, you should opt for a coverage of 10 lakh or above for yourself and your family at earliest to ensure avoiding a financial burnout in the event of a medical exigency.

(The writer is Head, Retail Underwriting, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)

GURDEEP SINGH BATRA

insured (the coverage you opt for)

ratio for your health insurance

policy is a nominal 1-3% of your en-

tire coverage but the peace of mind

and security that it brings along is

past few months where corona

wrecked havoc. As a health insur-

This was more evident in the

priceless.







OrissaPOST TUESDAY | AUGUST 18 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

sports

SEVILLA STUN MAN UTD



time, before De Jong won it.

With the game at 1-1 and heading

for extra time, Sevilla substitute

De Jong made the breakthrough

in the 78th minute. A cross by Jesus

Navas fell kindly for the tall Dutch

forward to score his first European

goal of the season from close range.

ninth minute with yet another

penalty in a season packed with

them. Diego Carlos tangled with

Marcus Rashford as the United for-

ward had his shot saved, and then

Bruno Fernandes stepped up to send

the penalty into the top-left corner.

spot-kicks in all competitions this

season, more than any other club

eight from the spot.

United have been awarded 22

United had taken the lead in the

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cologne, August 17: Manchester United made it an unwanted hat trick of semifinal defeats this season after losing 2-1 in the Europa League to Sevilla. After losing in the last four of the FA Cup and EFL Cup, United failed to convert a string of chances before Luuk de Jong scored the winning goal for Europa League experts Sevilla.

The Spanish club have won all five of the finals they have reached in Europe's second-level cup competition. Sevilla have the chance to win a record-extending sixth title Friday in Cologne when their opposition will be either Inter Milan or Shakhtar Donetsk, who play Monday.

United will look to the new English Premier League season next month after a marathon coronavirus-extended campaign which saw defender Harry Maguire play 55 games. Sevilla goalkeeper Yassine Bounou kept his team in the semifinal at 1-1 with crucial saves either side of halfManchester United, Sunday

todian Bounou, who had saved a spot-kick from Wolverhampton's Raul Jimenez in the previous round. Sevilla restored parity 17 minutes later with a lightning team move which exposed both of United's full-backs. Lucas Ocampos' pass put attacking left-back Sergio Reguilon, on loan from Real Madrid. in space to send a perfectly calculated low cross for onrushing for-

ward Suso to knock into the net on the right flank. That goal jolted United back into life. Anthony Martial curled a promising shot over the bar before Bounou was forced to parry powerful shots from outside the box by Rashford and Fernandes.

in the five biggest European United started the second half in leagues. Since Fernandes arrived similarly exuberant style, with at the club in January, he's scored Bounou forced to save from Martial and other efforts blocked by an in-Fernandes put a hop back into his creasingly desperate Sevilla defense. run-up after omitting it for the extra-After seeing those chances stopped, time penalty which decided the United lost some of its intensity, allowing Sevilla to get back in the quarterfinal against Copenhagen. game and score the winning goal.

'ENG owe PAK a reciprocal tour: Akram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Southampton, August 17: Former pace great Wasim Akram said England owe Azhar Ali and his team for coming to the UK amid the coronavirus pandemic and they need to return the favour with a tour of Pakistan in 2022.

The West Indies and Pakistan had decided to tour England for Test series amid the global health crisis, saving the country's cricket board (ECB) huge financial loss. England have not travelled to Pakistan since the 2005-06 due to se-

curity concerns following the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009. However, England are scheduled to tour Pakistan in 2022 to play three Tests and five ODIs.

'You boys owe Pakistan cricket, and the country, a lot, with the boys coming over here. They've been here almost two and half months in the bio-secure environment,' Wasim told 'Sky Sports Cricket'.

"So if everything goes well, England should tour Pakistan. I promise you they'll get looked after on and off the field there and every game will be a packed house."



England players had participated in the Pakistan Super League and Akram hoped that it will help to address their security concerns.

The English players were there for the Pakistan Super League in our team, Karachi Kings – Alex Hales and Chris Jordan. They loved it, they enjoyed it, they got looked after beautifully, so the PSL is a step in the right direction," the 54year-old former pacer said.

Earlier this month, England coach Chris Silverwood had said he would have 'no problem' leading a tour to Pakistan.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

positive for coronavirus.

toms to us.

New Delhi, August 17: Indian

boxer L Sarita Devi and her husband Thoiba Singh have tested

In an interview with this agency

Sarita's husband Thoiba said,

"Sarita and me were tested COVID-

19 positive today. We will go to the

COVID centre now, since home

quarantine is not allowed here.

Ronnie wins Boxer Sarita Man City to honour tests positive sixth World Silva with a statue for COVID-19 **Snooker title**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 17: Ronnie O'Sullivan became World Snooker Champion for the sixth time at the age of 44 by beating fellow Englishman Kyren Wilson 18-8 in the final. O'Sullivan moved to within one of the all-time record of world titles, held by Stephen Hendry, and tied the number won by Steve Davis and Ray Reardon.

O'Sullivan had a tough run to the final. beating Chinese star Ding Junhui in the second round, former

World Champion Mark Williams in the quarterfinals, and then threetime winner Mark Selby in the semifinals that went to a decider.

Regarded as the most talented player ever, O'Sullivan — a righthander who is also comfortable playing left-handed — won the world title in 2001, '04, '08, '12 and '13. He now has 37 career ranking titles, a record, and is the only player to make more than 1,000 competitive centuries.



Manchester, August 17: Manchester City will recognize David Silva's 10-year career at the club by building a statue in honor of the Spanish playmaker at the Etihad Stadium.

Silva, who is widely regarded as one of City's greatest ever players. played his last game for the English team in the 1-3 loss to Lyon in the Champions League quarterfinals Saturday.

He is the only player to have been at the club for all of the trophies won under their Abu Dhabi

ownership, starting with the FA Cup in 2011.

City said a statue of Silva has been commissioned and will be unveiled in 2021, along with one of former captain Vincent Kompany. A training field will also be dedicated to Silva at City's practice facility. City said it will immortalise "David's

remarkable contribution to the 6-1 defeat of archrivals (Manchester) United in 2011," during which he scored and set up Edin Dzeko with a superb volleyed assist.

"David Silva is a transforma-tional player," City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said, "a quiet leader who has acted quietly and deliberately and inspired everyone around him, from the youngest academy player to his senior teammates over the past 10 years.

"He has put a stamp on the team. on this club, its history and even the Premier League as a whole. In doing so he has been instrumental to the beautiful football philosophy you see today. He was the start of it.'

Silva joined from Valencia after winning the World Cup with Spain in 2010 and made 436 appearances for City, winning four Premier League titles, two FA Cups and five English League Cups.



week, to isolate themselves immediately and get tested," he added. The National Boxing Camp is on at Patiala but Sarita is not part of it. At present, she is training at her home in Manipur.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) Monday confirmed that all six hockey players, including captain Manpreet Singh, will be discharged from the SS Sparsh Multi-Speciality Hospital in Bangalore after having tested negative for COVID-19.



MSD DECISIONS NO ONE SAW COMING

GIVING BALL TO SEHWAG AND UTHAPPA IN **BOWL-OUT:** Despite having frontline bowlers like Agarkar, Pathan, Sreesanth and RP Singh, Dhoni

chose Harbhaian. Sehwag and

Uthappa to bow the first three attempts in the bowl-out in the 2007 T20 World Cup's tied group match against Pakistan which unexpected-

ly went in favour of the Indians

GIVING THE TITLE-DECIDING LAST OVER TO JOGINDER SHARMA: In the 2007 World Cup final, Pakistan were required 13 runs off the last over to win the tournament. With the regular pacers - RP Singh, Sreesanth and Pathan - already finished their quota of four overs, Dhoni went for Sharma, despite having an over left of Harbhajan. Despite conceding seven runs in the first two balls to well-set Misbahul-Hag, a miscalculated shot from the Pakistani handed over the title to India.

Yuvraj. No one was aware of the reason until his biopic -'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' released. It was shown in the movie that because of off-spinner Muralitharan coming into attack and there was already a left-hander - Gambhir – was at the crease, another left-hander join ing him might had given the opposition an edge. That's why. Dhoni decided to come in ahead of Yuvrai. The rest is history and his last ball winning six has almost become a Dhoni trademark.

KEEPING FAITH IN ISHANT: In the 2013 Champions Trophy rain-curtailed final, England were needed 28 runs off the last three overs, while chasing 130 in 20 overs. To everyone's utter shock and dismay, Dhoni threw the ball to Ishant, despite the pacer carrying a figure of 0/28 in his first three overs, and that proved to be the turning point as he took two wickets – well set Morgan and Bopara - to sink England. With the title, he became the only captain to lift all three major ICC trophies - T20 World Cup (2007), 50-over World Cup (2011) and Champions Trophy.

rest is history. Rohit now holds two major records three double centuries in ODI cricket and the highest individual score in ODIs (264 vs Sri Lanka) - which are very unlikely to be broken any time soon.

BID ADIEU TO TESTS MIDWAY TO A SERIES: After losing the Test series in Australia he abruptly quit the captaincy and retired from Test cricket. There was criticism for leaving the team mid-way through the journey. It was the end of the Boxing Day Test following a draw in Melbourne, Dhoni went through the paces of postmatch press duties and still no one had any idea as he reacted as usual. Dhoni did say anything at the press conference or at the presentation ceremony and the 'announcement' was made later through a BCCI press release.

NUN

Out of action since 2019 World Cup semifinal, MS Dhoni, out of nowhere, announced his retirement from international cricket. Orissa POST looks at some of his crucial decisions he made during his career, that influenced many

PROMOTING HIMSELF UP THE BATTING ORDER: In the 2011 World Cup final against Sri Lanka, when India lost the wicket of Kohli and being reduced to 114/3, to everyone's surprise Dhoni walked in ahead of in-form

BEST IN DRS BUSINESS

uring an Asia Cup 2018 match against Pakistan, Chahal trapped opener Imam-ul-Haq in front, yet the umpire refused to give him out. Dhoni instantly insisted to the then captain Rohit for a review, to which he readily agreed. The umpire reversed the decision since the ball was crashing into the stumps

n an ODI against England at Headingley in 2018, Moeen Ali stunned Dhoni with a ripper of a ball for an LBW appeal to which the umpire agreed. However, Dhoni was quick to go for the DRS. He calculated quickly that the ball bounced high enough to miss the stumps by a huge margin, even though the other two parameters were spot on. As a result, the decision was overturned

n an ODI against England in 2017, Dhoni had reviewed when it came to a catch taken off a Hardik Pandya delivery against Eoin Morgan. The moment the keeper called for a review, skipper Kohli agreed to take it upstairs. The catch was proven to be clean, making Dhoni's judgement accurate once again

n the Cuttack ODI in the same series, Yuvraj Singh was given out caught behind. Everyone on the field, including Yuvraj, believed that he was out but Dhoni called for a review at the non-striker's end. It turned out that the ball bounced slightly on the ground before keeper Jos Buttler caught it, which had to make the third umpire reverse the decision in Yuvraj's favour

MAKING ROHIT AN OPENER: From 2007 to 2012 Rohit played 86 ODIs with a mediocre batting average of 30.4 and a mediocre strike-rate of 77.9. By then, he had just one century against a top eight team. Two questions were asked - 'Why was Dhoni persisting with him & why wasn't he being retired immediately?' Then Dhoni made him open the innings and the

TAKING A GLOVE OFF: In a group match of 2016 World T20, India were almost on the verge of being knocked out of the tournament with Bangladesh requiring just two runs off three balls. Mushfiqur Rahim already smashed the previous two deliveries to the boundary and only a miracle could save India. However, against the run of play, Pandya dismissed Rahim and Mahmudullah in consecutive balls with Shuvagata Hom requiring to score two runs off the last delivery. Dhoni decided to remove one of his gloves before the last ball. Hom missed the ball which went straight to the keeper. And the rest is history.



VIRAT KOHLI: He knows exactly what he SD wants to do in the middle. He is always calm and composed. He allows himself to make Σ those tough decisions on the field. For me, he Memorable quotes for will always be my captain

SACHIN TENDULKAR: He is the best captain I have played under. He is very sharp and always alert. He always tried to be a step ahead of the opposition

RAVI SHASTRI: When you compare the icons of the game, you have Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar and Dhoni in the same bracket.

SOURAV GANGULY: I had over the years constantly looked out for players who remain steady under pressure and possess the capability to change the course of the match. MS Dhoni, who came to my notice in 2004, was a natural progression of this thought. I wish I'd Dhoni in my 2003 World Cup team. I

was told that when we were playing the 2003 World Cup final he was still a ticket collector with Indian Railways. Unbelievable!

ISHANT SHARMA: If captains like Mahi bhai (Dhoni) tell you that you have to jump from the 24th floor, you would readily do that without thinking even once. Mahi bhai helped me a great deal to cope with the disappointment

SUNIL GAVASKAR: When I die the last thing I want to see is the six that Dhoni hit in the 2011 World Cup final

GARY KIRSTEN: I would go to war with Dhoni by my side

STEVE WAUGH: If I am supposed to select a team, Sachin will be the opener and Dhoni would be my captain

ADAM GILCHRIST: I will pay to watch MS Dhoni. He's not the next Gilchrist, he is the first MS Dhoni

NEXT ON THE ANVIL

NEW DELHI: Enquiring about importing a rifle, he once sent a mail at around 2 am, got it delivered at his Ranchi home, went to the range and did what he does in any-thing he tries his hand at. MS Dhoni hit the bull's eye, ng an interest that would see him visit innu shooting ranges in the country over the next few years and display his skills in the sport. The Walther rifle and display his skins in the sport. The wanter The imported by Dhoni is the same model which another champion sportsperson, Abhinav Bindra, had used to wir a historic individual gold medal at the Olympics. Dhoni, who is experience the members of Netional Bills who is now also a life member of National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), was bracing up for what inate into his second World Cup title triump The model that he owns is LG300XT Walther Carbontec. Recently, during an interaction with cricketer Suresh Raina, who retired along with Dhoni, shooter Manavaditya Singh Rathore, who is the son of Olympic lallist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, revea that Dhoni is a pro when it comes to shooting as well. So shooting is a definite option for the cricket great.

'Chacha Chicago' follows Dhoni's footsteps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: In Karachiborn Mohammad Bashir Bozai's vow to give up watching India-Pakistan play at ICC events, obsessive fandom follows MS Dhoni into retirement, adding to things like jersey number and disciples such as Suresh Raina.

Travelling the world to watch the arch-rivals in action doesn't make sense anymore to Bashir, aka 'Chacha Chicago', who endured abuses from Pakistani fans while cheering for Dhoni. The well-known chacha, instead, plans to visit Ranchi to meet the man

"Dhoni has retired and so have I.

I don't see myself travelling for but Dhoni arranged it for the 65cricket again with him not being year-old, enough for him to 'unaround. I loved him and he loved conditionally love' the World Cupme back," Bashir told this agency winning captain for life. from Chicago, where he runs a But which is his most cherished memory as a lifelong Dhoni fan?

restaurant. "All great players have to call time one day but his retiring makes me sad and brings back a lot of precious memories. He deserved a grand send-off but again he is beyond that," he added.

The unspoken bond between glasses. He said 'it is from Dhoni Bashir and Dhoni blossomed after the 2011 World Cup semifinal between the two countries. A ticket for the arguably the

biggest game of the tournament in

Mohali was a precious commodity

bhai not me'. I smiled back at him.' Such was his loyalty to Dhoni that Bashir would openly cheer for India and for that, he, at times, -(had to endure abuses from Pakistani fans.

"This particular incident during

the 2015 World Cup I can never for-

get. I was there for a game in Sydney

and was sitting in the sun, it was ex-

from nowhere and gave me sun-

tremely hot. Suresh Raina came 🛁

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