

ECO-CONSCIOUS MANUSHI

Actor Manushi Chhillar celebrates an eco-friendly Ganesh Chaturthi with plant seeds embedded in her idol

LEISURE P2

₹116CR FOR SWABHIMAN

Odisha sanctions ₹116.09 cr under Socio-Economic Transformation and Upliftment for 'Swabhiman Anchal'

DOWNTOWN P3

NAVALNY IN GERMANY

Navalny, a Russian opposition figure who fell ill after poisoning, arrived in Germany from Siberia

INTERNATIONAL P10

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 142 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 | 2020

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹4.00

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Not a single word of hate... I spoke only about human values, brotherhood, and social harmony in my election speech

Tablighis made 'scapegoats'

It is high time authorities concerned repented this action against the foreigners..., observes the Bombay High Court

AGENCIES



Delhi in March.

"There was virtually a persecution of these foreigners. A political government tries to find the scapegoats... and circumstances show that there is a probability that these foreigners were chosen to be made the scapegoats," the court ruled.

Making strong observations, the court said that there was a "big propaganda in the print and electronic media against these foreigners and attempts were made to paint a picture that these foreigners were responsible for the spread of coronavirus in India."

"The propaganda against the so-called religious activity was unwarranted as records and submissions proved that it had been going on for over 50 years," said Justice Nalawade and Justice Sewlikar.

However, these circumstances and

MARK COURT'S WORDS

- A **FEAR** WAS CREATED IN THE MINDS OF THOSE MUSLIMS
- THE CENTRE TOOK ACTION MAINLY **AGAINST MUSLIMS** WHO ATTENDED THE NIZAMUDDIN MARKAZ OF THE TABLIGHI JAMAAT
- IT WAS INDICATED THAT EVEN **FOR KEEPING CONTACT** WITH THE MUSLIMS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM (INDIAN MUSLIMS)

the latest figures of the spread of the infection in India show that "such action against the present petitioners should not have been taken."

It said that records show that the Centre took action against mainly Muslims who attended the Nizamuddin Markaz of the Tablighi Jamaat, but not against persons or foreigners belonging to other religions.

"This action indirectly gave a warning to the Indian Muslims that action in any form and for anything can be taken against them. It was indicated that even for keeping contact with the Muslims of other countries, action will be taken against them," the court added.

Rejecting the plea by government counsel MM Nerlikar to stay the judgment to enable a legal challenge to the same, the court said that the foreigners cannot immediately leave India and there is a "long procedure to grant permission to them and send them to their countries."



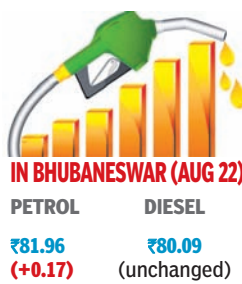
Petrol prices hiked six times in a week

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 22: State-run oil marketing companies increased the price of petrol for the third consecutive day Saturday. With this it was the sixth time that the fuel price was raised in seven days.

Petrol prices were raised by 16 paise in Delhi to ₹81.35 a litre; in Mumbai, it stands at ₹88.02 a litre. Diesel prices, however, continued to remain steady for 23 days in a row, just like it was for petrol prices in July.

Petrol prices were kept on hold since June 29, while diesel prices were revised irregularly throughout the period. Petrol prices were revised August 16 after a long



pause. Since, then there has been a consistent increase in petrol rates.

Since August 16, petrol prices have been raised by a margin of 92 paise per litre. Diesel prices have remained stable since the Delhi government announced 13.25 per cent reduction in the VAT July 30, which had caused the price to fall.

SHORT TAKES

■ Bhadrak MP is COVID-19 +ve

Bhubaneswar: Biju Janata Dal MP from Bhadrak Lok Sabha constituency, Manjulata Mandal has tested positive for Covid-19. She said that her health condition was stable and she was under home quarantine. "After developing symptoms of Covid-19, I got the test done and the report came positive. My health is stable and I'm under home quarantine," tweeted the MP. She requested all the people who had come in contact with her recently to isolate themselves and get tested. P5

■ ISIS operative held in Delhi

New Delhi: A major terror strike was averted with the arrest of a suspected operative of the ISIS, armed with two pressure cooker IEDs, from central Delhi's Ridge Road area following a brief exchange of fire, Delhi Police officials said Saturday. Mustakeem Khan, alias Abu Yusuf, a resident of a village in UP's Balarampur district, who was under watch for over a year, planned to carry out a "lone wolf" strike at a high footfall area in the national capital, said PS Kushwah, DCP (Special Cell).

■ Bagala land not sold 'to anyone'

Puri: Amid a raging controversy over the alleged sale of Bagala Dharmashala land in the Holy City here, the district administration Saturday claimed that it had not sold the shelter house land to anyone. It said it has only rehabilitated a few evicted Srimandir servitors and other individuals at the Dharmashala land for the smooth implementation of the heritage corridor project around the 12th century shrine. P4

CITY MAY SEE 5K CASES BY SEPT 15

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Observing an exponential increase in Covid cases here, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Saturday, stated that the city has now entered 'critical' phase. It projected that the state capital will have 5,000 active cases by mid-September.

Addressing a press conference here, BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary said that they are working out on two scenarios; the first: active cases are expected to increase to 3,429 by August end. According to the second scenario there could be 5,000 cases by September 15.

"Positivity rate under the BMC jurisdiction has risen to 10 pc with more than 300 cases being observed daily. COVID in Bhubaneswar has attained its peak and coming one month will be critical. The rise in cases is mainly due to increased testing and commercial activities resuming," Chaudhary highlighted.

Detailing about the preparedness against the upcoming surge, the Commissioner stated that the BMC has done a backhand calculation of the available COVID facilities. He further informed that the city is "in a comfortable position" as far as availability

- BMC targets to keep 40 to 50 pc cases in home isolation by Aug-end
- Under the civic body jurisdiction, 4,151 beds at different COVID hosps, CCHs and DCHs ready
- 38 pc beds occupied by BMC patients, 21 pc beds by non-BMC patients
- 41 pc of the beds unoccupied

While antibody development across other cities has been found close to 29 pc on average, it remains only 1.24 pc here

PREM CHANDRA CHAUDHARY | COMMISSIONER, BMC

of beds is concerned.

Comparing Bhubaneswar with other cities on basis of sero-surveillance results, Chaudhary mentioned that the city still remains the "best protected capital cities."

"While antibody development in the survey in other cities has been found close to 29 pc, it remains only 1.24 pc here," he said. However, describing the coming period as challenging, the Commissioner requested denizens to strictly follow the COVID guidelines of social distancing and wearing masks. "Ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, mass violations were observed. Thus, I advise people to personally adhere to COVID norms for their own safety," he concluded.

MASKED UP



Children wear masks of Lord Ganesha on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, at an orphanage in Birpur of North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, Saturday

Expectant mother crossed river on boat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, August 22: An expectant mother, Sukanti Hembram of Balama village under Udala block in Mayurbhanj district had to cross a river in spate on a boat in order to reach a nearby hospital Friday.

Seeing her in pain, Sukanti's family members called an ambulance (Janani Express) to take her to the hospital. However, the ambulance had to wait on the other side of river Sanja – a tributary of river Balama that flows down from



- The woman was first carried on a bicycle for up to 2 km on road
- The ambulance couldn't reach her as river Balama was flooded

Similipal area in the district.

According to reports, Sukanti was first carried on a bicycle for up to two kilometres on road. Subsequently, she was taken to the

waiting ambulance on the other side of the river. Later, the expectant mother was admitted into Udala community health centre.

"Despite running from pillar to post, the administration shows no interest in building a bridge and a pucca road," said Sukanti's husband Thakura Hembram.

On being contacted, Udala sub-Collector Bhagaban Behera said, "I will write to the district administration. Steps will be taken in this regard after getting a nod from the departmental higher-ups."

It will rain cats and dogs from tomorrow: Met

Orange warning issued for several districts across the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Many parts of the state will receive heavy rainfall for three days under the influence of a low pressure likely to form over the north-west Bay of Bengal around August 24.

One or two places in the districts of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Kandhamal and Boudh will witness rain Sunday. However, very heavy rainfall will occur in between August 24 and 26, said director of Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, HR Biswas here Saturday.

Predicting heavy rain for three days, the Met Centre has issued orange warning (be prepared) for several districts across the state. Some



places of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Angul, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj district may experience heavy rain August 24.

Similarly, orange warning has been issued for the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Angul, Sambalpur and Sundargarh as heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur in these places August 25. Some places of Puri, Khurda, Sonepur, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Boudh, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Koraput, Jharsuguda and Bargarh may witness heavy rain on this day, the Met Centre added.

Besides, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at few places in the districts of Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Keonjhar, Nuapada, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Malkangiri, Koraput and Kandhamal August 26.

Covid pandemic may 'vanish' faster than Spanish-flu

AGENCIES

Geneva, August 22: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said that the ongoing global coronavirus pandemic could be over within two years. Addressing a virtual press briefing from Geneva Friday, the WHO chief said that the Spanish flu of 1918 had also taken two years to overcome, but current advances in technology could enable the world to halt the Covid-19 pandemic "in a shorter time," the BBC reported.

"Of course with more 'connectiveness', the virus has a better chance of spreading," he said.

"But at the same time, we have also the technology to stop it, and



The Spanish flu of 1918 had also taken two years to overcome

the knowledge to stop it," he said, stressing the importance of "national unity, global solidarity."

During the briefing, Tedros also responded to a question about cor-

ruption linked to personal protective equipment (PPE), which he described as "criminal."

"Any type of corruption is unacceptable," he said.

"However, corruption related to PPE... for me it's actually murder. Because if health workers work without PPE, we're risking their lives. And that also risks the lives of the people they serve," the BBC quoted the Director-General as saying.

Tedros also said that the pandemic has given new impetus to the need to accelerate efforts to respond to climate change, Xinhua news agency quoted him.

"Throughout history, outbreaks and pandemics have changed economies and societies, this one will be no different."

Noting that the global health crisis "has given us a glimpse of our world as it could be: cleaner skies and rivers... Building back bet-

ter means building back greener."

In May, WHO published its Manifesto for a Healthy Recovery from Covid-19, with six policy prescriptions for a healthy and green recovery – protecting nature, investing in water and sanitation, promoting healthy food systems, transitioning to renewable energy, building liveable cities, and stopping subsidies on fossil fuels.

Since then, over 40 million health professionals from 90 countries

have sent a letter to G20 leaders, calling for a healthy recovery from the pandemic.

The WHO chief reiterated that "Covid-19 is a once-in-a-century health crisis. But it also gives us a once-in-a-century opportunity to shape the world our children will inherit – the world we want."

As of Saturday, the overall number of global coronavirus cases stood at 22,864,873, while the fatalities rose to 797,787.



Any type of corruption is unacceptable. However, corruption related to PPE...for me it's actually murder because if health workers work without PPE, we're risking their lives. And that also risks the lives of the people they serve

TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHO

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you may just want to delve deep into yourself. You realise the importance of polishing the mirror of your soul and Ganesha approves. Spontaneity is important too, and spending time with children is an excellent way to keep in touch with it.

TAURUS

You are likely to remain unconquerable and unsailable throughout the day. Caution: Stay focussed and avoid frittering away your time and energy. You may face stress at work or in some ongoing project.

GEMINI

You may meet with stiff resistance in all your efforts. You should not let it bother you; just keep moving forward. This will help you maintain a good rapport with your bosses. You are likely to taste success in your interim objectives.

CANCER

A very hectic day for you! Today, you may have too much work to do, and taking even a coffee break may not remain an option. You will be forthright in dealing with issues and nothing will escape your sharp observation.

LEO

The tiny voice inside us always tells us a lot of things. If only we were more in sync with ourselves, we could avoid so many troubles, says a retrospective Ganesha. Well, today it seems you are going to have no qualms in listening to your inner voice as you strive for excellence in all your efforts.

VIRGO

You don't need to be one of the Mafia to realise the importance of family, says Ganesha. Your better half will try spicing up the relationship in the afternoon sometime. So keep fuelling the fires of love - a wildfire isn't always bad now, is it?

LIBRA

There are indications that today, you may want to take a break from your humdrum routine in order to recharge your batteries. It is an essential change that we all need from time to time, says Ganesha. Finances may improve sometime later in the day.

SCORPIO

Family members would want to talk about important matters with you today, says Ganesha. Time at work will be comfortable. Take special care of new assignments though. You are likely to bear expenses on account of tours and services today, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

A mixed bag of fortunes in store today, says Ganesha. At work, expect the unexpected and overlook the expected. Don't you worry if you stumble there, says Ganesha, for the evening promises to be ecstatic and a fitting finale to a rather muddled day.

CAPRICORN

Don't be surprised if you are suddenly showered with attention at work. Ganesha says it's your lucky day today, for you will leave no room for complacency and rewards for this may come by way of special treatment from your colleagues and even your boss.

AQUARIUS

It is not everyday that work is rewarding. So, if your boss praises you, feel good about it. You may even begin something new. A joint venture? Go ahead, says Ganesha. You are exceptionally talented.

PISCES

A day wherein you will be busy socialising in the company of your near and dear ones, or childhood buddies. Refurbishing and refurbishing your home is also likely to be on the agenda. You may find yourself visiting a holy place as well, says Ganesha.

DOGS MAKE GREAT CHARACTER: AMANDA

Actress Amanda Seyfried says dogs make great characters on screen. "It's their wide-eyed innocence, their playfulness, and their curiosity. They just want to love you and live in the present and we could all learn that," Seyfried said while talking about why dogs make for great characters.



MEGAN TO PERFORM HER FIRST VIRTUAL CONCERT

Singer-rapper Megan Thee Stallion will be performing her first paid livestream concert August 29. The event is produced by Live Nation and choreographer/dancer JaQuel Knight is attached as creative director. Live Nation shared the details of the event on Instagram.



Manushi believes in eco-friendly festivity

Mumbai: Actress and former beauty queen Manushi Chhillar is celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi at home for the first time consecrating an eco-friendly idol of the elephant god.

"My parents always wanted me to experience different cultures and celebrate them. I'm from Haryana but Mumbai is my home too. I was fascinated by the Ganapati celebrations in the city when I first experienced it," she said.

Enamoured by Ganesh puja, Manushi decided to bring Ganpati home.

Manushi believes in an eco-friendly celebration. "The Ganpati I'm keeping at home is an eco-friendly one. It has seeds embedded in the idol so I'm going to do the



Visarjan at home in a clay tree pot. I'm looking forward to nurture the seeds well so that life sprouts out of it," she said.

"We are definitely in the middle of a huge ecological crisis. It is high time we acknowledge it," she added.

The actress is gearing up for her Hindi film debut opposite Akshay Kumar in the upcoming movie *Prithviraj*.

IAN S



Mumbai: Actor Ranveer Singh is in a classic black mood, going by his new social media post.

The actor has posted a new picture on Instagram, where he exudes vintage style in a classic black

Fans gush over Ranveer's classic look

suit accessorised by a crisp white shirt, neatly groomed beard, and gelled hair. He strikes an intense pose, looking out the window.

He captioned the picture with a yin and yang emoji. Ranveer's fans could not stop gushing over the image.

A user wrote: "Bahut hard." "U look dashing," said another.

A fan tagged him as a "handsome boy".

A netizen questioned: "Why you so bomb?"

Ranveer is awaiting the release of his much-hyped next, Kabir Khan's '83, which narrates the story of India's first-ever cricket World Cup victory in 1983. In the film, he essays the role of Kapil Dev, who captained an underdog team to World Cup glory.

IAN S

Netflix apologises after thousands sign petition to remove Cuties

San Francisco: Netflix has apologised for the material it used to promote the controversial French film, *Cuties* after thousands of people signed a petition demanding the removal of the movie from the streaming platform.

Directed by Maimouna Doucoure, the movie is about an 11-year-old who hopes to join a dance crew.

The petition at Change.org which has now amassed over 225,000 signatures alleges that the movie is 'disgusting' as it 'sexualizes' an 11-year-old for the 'viewing pleasure of paedophiles'.

The petition is accompanied by a screenshot of the original plot summary of the movie which introduced the central character as Amy, 'who becomes fascinated with a twerking dance crew' and starts to explore her femininity.



The movie was originally titled *Mignonnes*.

"We're deeply sorry for the inappropriate artwork that we used for *Mignonnes/Cuties*," Netflix said in a statement this week, adding, "We've now updated the pictures and description." In a recent interview with Cineuropa, the director of the film revealed that *Cuties* is partly based on her own experiences of growing up.

IAN S

Odia girl's poem to be part of British Library

Olivia's composition 'Eggy's Description' has featured in an anthology 'Poetry Monsters', released by UK publishing house Young Writers

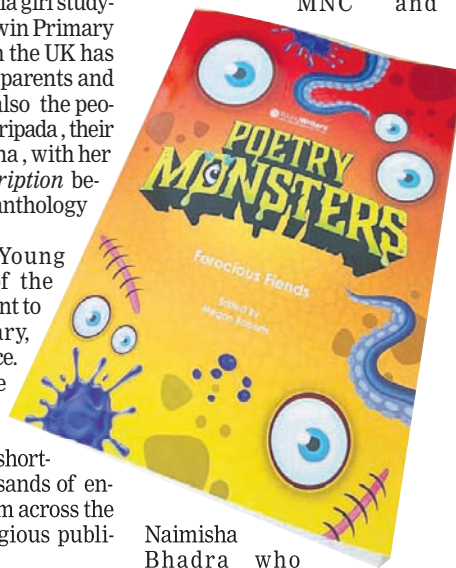
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Olivia Bhadra, a seven-year-old Odia girl studying in Charles Darwin Primary School, Norwich in the UK has not only made her parents and school proud, but also the people back home at Baripada, their birth place in Odisha, with her poem *Eggy's Description* becoming part of an anthology *Poetry Monsters*.

Published by Young Writers, a copy of the book will also be sent to the British Library, London for reference. The publishers have also made a small video on Olivia and how her poem was short-listed among thousands of entries that came from across the UK for this prestigious publication.

The little girl, who will be in her third year (Y3) this September at Charles Darwin Primary School, has also hobbies like drawing, crafting and swimming. But writing is her passion. So much so, that she could manage to complete the lines of *Eggy's Description*

during her school hours. Her parents Deepak Bhadra, an IT professional in an Indian MNC and



Naimisha Bhadra who works for a UK company are natives of Baripada. They are currently in UK on international assignments and live in Norwich.

Olivia has also written a number of short stories such as *Dex's wrong choice*, *The fire and the water spirit*, *Whistle less*, *The legendary pencil*, *The rainbow birds' dream* and *Stuck inside bubble*.



FUN post

PEANUTS



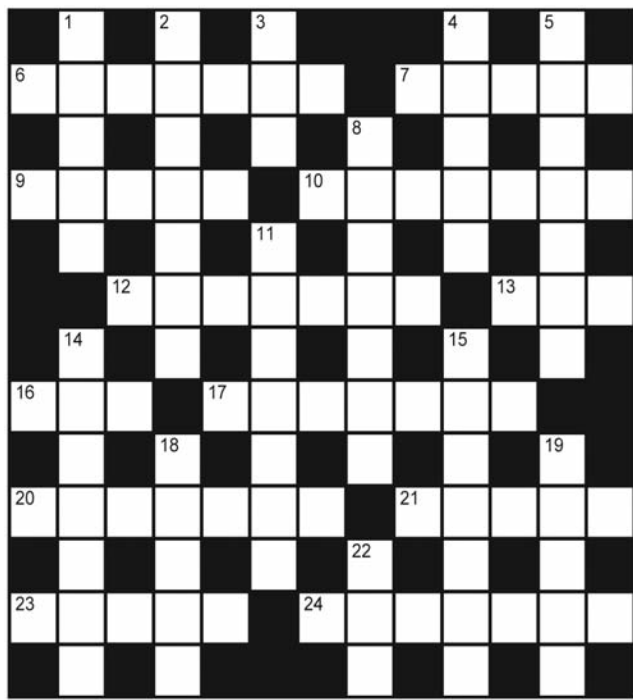
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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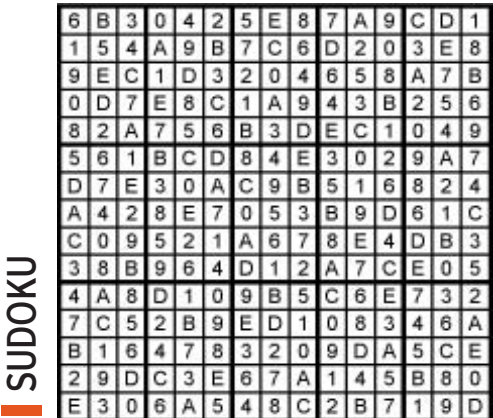
- Across
6 Leashes
7 Sachet scent
9 Off-center
10 Characteristics of ground
12 Reflects
13 Put to the test
16 Tourist's aid
17 Sweet Italian wine
20 Comped thing
21 Toss out
23 Lay to rest
24 Omnivorous insect (4,3)
Down
1 Skein formers
2 Legendary Arabian bird
3 French vineyard
4 Unit of petrol
5 Firearm gauge
8 Make unhappy
11 Sign on a fruit stand
14 Drifter
15 Raincoat
18 Small three-masted vessel
19 Animal life
22 Tease

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

BARFI project may come under NGT lens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The ambitious Baliyatra Riverfront Improvement (BARFI) project of the state government to beautify and add more amenities to the Mahanadi riverfront may run into rough weathers in the light of recent order of National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The NGT in a latest order has asked the Joint Inspection Committee, formed after the earlier order of the NGT, to visit the areas close to new SCB Medical College campus and Baliyatra ground and examine the encroachment on the land in contravention of norms.

City man duped of ₹1.05Cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The Commissionerate Police has launched a manhunt to nab a brother duo who has been on the run after duping a person of over ₹1 crore by selling a mortgaged plot here. The victim, Sudhir Ranjan Nayak, a resident of Market Building area, has lodged a complaint with Sahid Nagar police in this regard.

As per the complaint, the accused brothers persuaded Nayak to purchase a plot at Laxmisagar recorded in the name of one of the accused. Nayak agreed to buy the said plot and paid ₹15 lakh in advance to the duo following an agreement at the office of Sub-Registrar May 6, 2013.

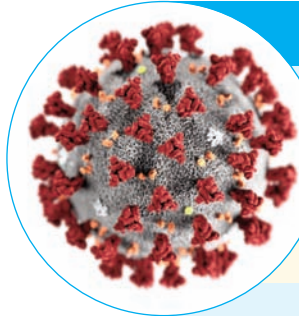
Subsequently, he purchased the land paying the remaining ₹90,65,

000 as per the deal struck February 24, 2015. However, Nayak received a shock few months later when he came across the mention of the plot in an advertisement for auction issued by the Punjab National Bank (PNB) April 14, 2016.

Later, he found that the said plot had been mortgaged by the duo for a loan declared as NPA (Non Performing Asset) by PNB. The outstanding amount pending against the plot was ₹10.76 crore. Later, Nayak purchased the land participating in the auction meeting June 18, 2016. The duo first agreed to pay back the amount taken from Nayak but later started avoiding him. Recently, Nayak found that both the siblings have fled away without returning his ₹1.05 crore.

WAR AGAINST VIRUS

Buses parked alongside the Link Road in Cuttack during the weekend shutdown over Covid-19 pandemic, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,32,36,072	1,58,00,928	8,05,300
India	29,75,701	22,22,577	55,794
Odisha	75,537	52,277	399

₹116Cr pumped in for Swabhiman Anchal

DC SEEKS PROGRESS REPORTS ON PROJECTS SANCTIONED UNDER SETU SCHEME

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The state government has sanctioned ₹116.09 crore during three years under Socio-Economic Transformation and Upliftment (SETU) scheme for the development of 'Swabhiman Anchal' (erstwhile cut-off region) of Malkangiri district.

According to official sources, ₹49.23 crore was sanctioned in financial year 2018-19, while ₹3.77 crore was released during FY 2019-20 and ₹63.09 crore in the current financial year.

The government has allotted ₹18.78 crore to SC and ST Development department for construction of an integrated education complex in the area and ₹8.66 crore to School and Mass Education department for development of educational infrastructure during the three years.

Similarly, ₹5 crore provided to Malkangiri Collector for promotion of livelihood in 'Swabhiman Anchal'. The government has also allocated ₹10 crore for livelihood support to self-help groups (SHGs) and ₹1.23 crore to provide additional cost of ₹1.5 lakh for construction of 82 Anganwadi centres.

For strengthening the power infrastructure in the undeveloped area, the government has re-



File photo of CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurating Gurupriya Setu in 2018

leased ₹15.88 crore during the three years whereas ₹8.04 crore was provided for procurement and release of fingerlings in Balimela Reservoir for providing livelihood support to 2,000 fishermen families. Likewise, about ₹20 crore was sanctioned to Rural Development department for construction of 21 roads and five bridges, the source said.

The government has sanctioned ₹9.39 crore for construction of 169 intra-village cement-concrete (CC) roads in nine gram panchayats (GPs) of the backward region in the southern district. Similarly, ₹1.79 crore was allotted

to provide additional ₹20,000 per unit for construction of houses under rural housing schemes.

Besides, ₹12 crore was released to Works department for construction of roads and bridges in the area.

Beneficiaries of the cut-off area are getting ₹1.50 lakh for construction of pucca houses, sources said. In the first phase, the government has identified 895 people in the area to be covered under the rural housing schemes.

The government is also mulling to provide incentives to teachers, healthcare workers and Anganwadi workers posted in

BRIDGING REGIONAL DISPARITY

Rs 49.23 crore was sanctioned in FY 2018-19, while ₹3.77 crore was released during FY 2019-20 and ₹63.09 crore in current fiscal year

For strengthening the power infrastructure in the undeveloped area, the government has released ₹15.88 crore during the three years

About ₹20 crore was sanctioned to Rural Development dept for construction of 21 roads and 5 bridges

Govt is mulling to provide incentives to teachers, healthcare workers and Anganwadi workers posted in the region

the region because many are reluctant to work in the Maoist-prone area, they said.

Meanwhile, Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mohapatra has asked various line departments to submit the detailed financial and physical progress made in the projects sanctioned under SETU scheme.

In July 2018, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had inaugurated Gurupriya Setu over Janbai River and announced ₹100 crore for development of the area on the other side of the bridge, which was cut off for around five decades.




ପଞ୍ଜିନ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଗଣପର୍ବ ପବିତ୍ର ନୂଆଖାଇ ଅବସରରେ ଆମେ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭକାମନା ଜାପନ କରିବା ସହ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସୁଖମୟ ବର୍ଷ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଜୀବନର କାମନା କରୁଅଛୁ ।

ମାଁ ସମଲେଶ୍ଵରୀ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ମଙ୍ଗଳ କରନ୍ତୁ ।




ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ସହ : ବେଦାନ୍ତ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍, ଝାରସୁଗୁଡ଼ା





ପଞ୍ଜିନ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଗଣପର୍ବ ପବିତ୍ର ନୂଆଖାଇ ଅବସରରେ Bhushan power & Steel Ltd. ତରଫରୁ ସମସ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ । ନୂଆଖାଇ ଜୁହାର



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New equipment for safe train journey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: In a bid to ensure accident-free journey for passengers, ECoR has started using two modern equipment – token-less block instrument with double lock safety feature and data voice logger.

The main purpose of the first instrument is to avoid collision and arrival of two trains on one track and interference from any unauthorised persons in the system.

This instrument is being provided with double locking feature to ensure correct, authorised opening to attend in case of requirement in block. This lock's key is operated by two departments – Operating department and Signal & Telecom (S&T) department.

The voice logger instrument works like a black box in airlines, records the conversation between section controller and station master which plays a vital role in case of derailment or accident.

Nod for ₹602-crore forest projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Forest and Environment department has decided to execute projects worth ₹602 crore under MGNREGA during financial year 2020-21. The MGNREGA Convergence Committee has approved the projects. Last year, the department had spent ₹70 crore in forestry projects under the job guarantee scheme.


Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha said plantations & nurseries, soil moisture conservation work, digging of trench around forest, timber, forest road and other works are normally carried out by the department utilising MGNREGA funds. The forest road repair works are being taken up for the first time under MGNREGA. Funds to the tune of ₹65 crore has been utilised and 35 lakh man-days have been created till August 15 this fiscal year against the previous year's ₹86 crore.

Generation of more number of man-days under MGNREGA would cater to the large number of migrant labourers.



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Lower courts to function normally: HC

HC functioning will remain restricted till September 19 instead of August 21 as declared earlier

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 22: A full-bench of Orissa High Court decided to normalize the functioning of lower courts in the state while abiding by Covid-19 restrictions, a report said. However, the functioning of the Orissa High Court will remain restricted till September 19 which was earlier set at August 21. The decision has been taken in view of the sharp rise in Covid positive cases in the state, the report said. All lower courts will start functioning from now on as per their usual timings of 10 am till 4pm. Earlier, the high court had restricted the functioning of the lower courts due to the pandemic. The bench has asked lower courts to direct lawyers and their clients to file their arguments in writing which will help in reducing the timings of hearings. The arguments in writing can be filed in cases relating to undertrial prisoners, old cases, various applications, domestic quarrels and marriage disputes. The list for hearing of cases and the next date of hearing of cases will have to be regularly published on the websites of district courts. The hearing of all old and new



Lower courts and tribunals in areas where there are no Covid restrictions can conduct physical hearing of cases. However, all has to abide by the social distancing norms and other restrictions and regulations in force for the Covid-19 pandemic

BY ORDER

The bench has asked lower courts to direct lawyers and their clients to file their arguments in writing which will help in reducing the timings of hearings. The arguments in writing can be filed in cases relating to undertrial prisoners, old cases, various applications, domestic quarrels and marriage disputes

Lawyers and clients have been asked to inform the deputy registrar (judicial) about the new cases filed in the high court. All new cases can be filed through e-filing, e-mail or drop box methods while lawyers and their clients could participate in the hearing from home through video conferencing methods

cases in the high court will be done through virtual mode or video conferencing till Septembers 19, the bench in its order said. The high court register has been asked to prepare a list of cases to be heard in the virtual mode in the high court. Similarly, the lawyers and clients have been asked to inform the deputy registrar (judicial) about the new cases filed in the high court. All new cases can be filed through e-filing, e-mail or drop box methods while lawyers and their clients could participate in the hearing from home through video conferencing methods. Similarly, the affidavits will be received through e-filing, e-mail or through drop box systems.

All the lower courts and tribunals will function as per their regular timings. The court work will remain normal while stress will be given on hearing through the virtual mode. The lower courts and tribunals will only opt for physical hearing in case hearing through virtual mode is not possible. Lower courts and tribunals in areas where there is no Covid restrictions can conduct physical hearing of cases. However, all has to abide by the social distancing norms and other restrictions and regulations in force for the Covid-19 pandemic. The lower courts can hear cases of undertrial prisoners, civil cases, record the statement of witnesses and old cases. The lower courts

will not pass any adverse orders, if the lawyers, petitioners, defendants and witnesses fail to appear in hearing due to some reasons. The bench has asked not to produce the accused in court in case there is no urgency. However, the accused has to be produced before the magistrate in the court. The court work will remain restricted in areas where lockdown or shutdown has been announced. The court work in those areas will also remain restricted if lockdown or shutdown is announced there in coming days. Such courts will only take urgent matters for hearing. The district judge has to inform the high court from time to time about the prevailing situation in their area, the bench added.

COVID-19 TALLY 75,537

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Odisha's COVID-19 tally rose to 75,537 Saturday with 2,819 fresh cases, while nine more fatalities pushed the death toll to 399, a health department official said. Three deaths were reported from Cuttack, two from Sundargarh and one each from Bolangir, Ganjam, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts, he said. "Regret to inform the demise of nine COVID positive patients while under treatment in hospitals," the Health and Family Welfare department said on Twitter. The fresh coronavirus cases were reported from 29 of the 30 districts of Odisha, including the highest number of 443 infections from Khurda followed by Cuttack (257), Mayurbhanj (219) and Ganjam (192). Likewise, Balasore reported 105, Bargarh 136, Angul 23, Bhadrak 77, Bolangir 56, Boudh six, Dhenkanal 100, Gajapati 62, Jagatsinghpur 48, Jajpur 120, Jharsuguda 63, Kalahandi 55, Kandhamal 44, Kendrapara 62, Keonjhar seven, Koraput 81, Malkangiri 83, Nabarangpur 43, Nayagarh 64, Nuapada one, Puri 109, Rayagada 147, Sambalpur 145, Sonepur 14 and Sundargarh 57.



Fire personnel sanitising an apartment at Jharpada canal road in Bhubaneswar

Caseload touches 7,015 in Capital

BHUBANESWAR: As many as 295 new COVID-19 cases were detected under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits in last 24 hours, BMC said Saturday. While 153 of them were reported from quarantine centres, the remainder are local contact ones. Meanwhile, 158 persons who earlier tested positive for the disease recovered during the same timeframe. "Contact tracing is still continuing. Primary con-

tacts & nearby houses are being quarantined, sanitised and will be under active surveillance," BMC said. It added that all positive cases have been shifted to dedicated COVID hospitals. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Saturday, 7,015 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 4,219 have recovered. While there are 2,754 active cases, 33 persons succumbed to the disease. patients have so far recovered from the disease. The state Friday conducted 61,379 tests, taking the total number of such clinical examination to 12,33,805, the official added.

Babus, netas eyeing Dharmasala land: Patra



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national spokesperson, Sambit Patra, Saturday attacked the state government over its alleged move to sell Bagala Dharmasala land in Puri to private hoteliers. He alleged that many government officials and MPs/MLAs had eyed the segregated plots of the land to get commercial benefits. He also lambasted the government for selling the donated land in con-

travention of established laws. "I have been told by the people of Puri that different government officials and MPs, MLAs are trying to grab the plots from the heritage building which was meant to serve the poor. This is a huge conspiracy," Patra told reporters. He said the Dharmasala was built in 1905 and was donated. "There are established laws which prevent sale of Dharmasala received from donations. It has a historic significance and was used by the people in Puri at very low

BAGALA LAND HAS NOT BEEN SOLD TO ANYONE: ADMIN

PURI: Amid a raging controversy over the alleged sale of Bagala Dharmashala land in the Holy City here, the district administration Saturday claimed that it had not sold the shelter house land to anyone. In a press statement, the administration claimed that it has only rehabilitated a few evicted Srimandir servitors and other individuals at the dharmashala land for the smooth implementation of the heritage corridor project around the 12th century shrine. The state government has approved a rehabilitation policy for

the evicted locals. "Bagala Dharmashala has 2 acre and 738 decimal land in Puri. A few evicted servitors and others have been rehabilitated on 12 per cent of the land of the shelter house," said the press statement. The administration said many Srimandir servitors and locals have donated their ancestral land to facilitate the heritage corridor project. It claimed that the landed properties of Bagala Dharmashala were earlier under the ownership of Lodging House Fund Committee but the properties were brought under the control of the revenue

department recently. "Bagala Dharmashala had the capacity to provide shelter facility to only 200 devotees. The state government is constructing a pilgrim centre at the dharmashala to provide shelter to at least 2,000 devotees from poor financial background," said the administration. The administration further claimed that the state government will make arrangements for accommodation of additional 8,000 devotees in Puri. "The state government has planned to provide shelter facility to around 10,000 poor devotees in the Holy City," it added.

not sell the dharmasala as it was a donated property. What law the municipality used to transfer it to the revenue department and parceled the land into 26 pieces and changed the nature of the land," he said. The BJP leader said under the PRASAD scheme the Union government had been helping Puri city. "The Centre had allocated Rs 20 crore to the city out of which Rs 3 crore has been used. Why work under the scheme received a setback and the land was

put into plotting? How the government becomes a property dealer over night by," he asked. The BJD, however, attacked Patra. Puri MP Pinaki Misra said, "No question of sale of land of Bagala Dharmasala which is a government revenue land-15 per cent of the vacant land given as per land for land policy to our sevayat families who have given up their ancestral land for beautification of Jagannath temple surroundings. This is a standard government policy."

Cyber crooks dupe govt employee of ₹1.63 lakh



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Cyber fraudsters duped a government employee of more than Rs 1 lakh on the pretext of providing lottery money. The victim, Giri Raj Derji, 42, has been staying at the staff quarters of Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), a reputed central government-owned scientific institute, here at Acharya Vihar area under Sahidnagar police limits. As per sources, the victim used to buy Ayurvedic medicines regularly online from one website, 'extreme pleasure shopping', for her ailing sister who was suffering from arthritis from 2015 to 2018. On 29 July, he received a message on his mobile phone in the name of the shopping website. The message informed Giri Raj that he has

won a lottery prize of Rs 8.5 lakhs organised by the company. The cyber crooks also informed him about winning the lottery and the process to fetch the prize money. Subsequently, they asked him to deposit different amounts of money on the pretext of registration fees, late fine, transfer charges, TDS charges. Accordingly, Giri Raj deposited Rs 1, 63,300 through eight different installments in the account given by the miscreants. Later, the accused again asked him to deposit another 18 per cent GST charges to get TATA Nexon Car or cash Rs 8.5 lakh under the lottery scheme. However, Giri Raj, smelling a rat, lodged a complaint with Sahid Nagar police. Police have started investigations into the matter after registering a case based on the complaint.

Lokayukta releases annual report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Odisha Lokayukta has released its annual report for 2019. As per the report, as many as 1,132 complaints in connection with irregularities in various government authorities were lodged at the Lokayukta between

March and December 2019. The cases include some high profile ones involving several top bureaucrats like Bishnupada Sethi in Rs 9 lakh medical bill from the funds of Odisha State Cooperative Bank, former Sundargarh Collector Rashmita Panda in Rs 70 lakh of official residence renovation scam.



Ganesh Chaturthi a low-key affair amid pandemic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: In a departure from the past, Ganesh Chaturthi festival was celebrated without the usual pomp and fanfare across Odisha Saturday because of the COVID-19 pandemic. People observed the Ganesh puja only at home as the administration denied permission for holding community puja in pandals in public places to contain the spread of the disease. This apart, a week-end shutdown Saturday and Sunday is also in force in districts like Ganjam, Khurda, Gajapati and Cuttack with restrictions on the movement of people. Hundreds of pandals are erected every year to celebrate the Ganesh puja with much fanfare in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

No organisation, club or group is allowed to celebrate the puja in public places, Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police Umashankar Dash said. Cuttack Collector Bhawani Shankar Chayani said that the festival is not being celebrated in public places as the COVID-19 situation is yet to improve in the district. Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan and a host of dignitaries have greeted people on the occasion. Wishing all happiness and prosperity, the Chief Minister in a message expressed hope that the coronavirus crisis will soon wither away with the blessings of Lord Ganesh. "Hon'ble Governor wishes everyone a very happy #GaneshChaturthi and prays for the blessings of the Lord to ease peo-



Children worshipping at Shastri Nagar in Bhubaneswar PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

ple's troubles & pain due to COVID-19 pandemic & to bestow good health, wealth, peace and prosperity upon all. #GanpatiBappaMorya," said the official Twitter handle of Lal. In a message, Union Petroleum and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan wished peace, happiness

and prosperity for all. "Greetings on the auspicious festival of Ganesh Chaturthi. May the blessings of Bhagwan Shri Ganesh always be upon us. May there be joy and prosperity all over," Union Minister of State for MSME Pratap Sarangi tweeted. The business of idol makers was

affected as no community puja was allowed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and many people chose to hold the puja at home without idols. "We had to make fewer idols this time compared to previous years and sell them at a very low price," said an idol maker in Bhubaneswar.

HIT BY PANDEMIC

Hundreds of pandals are erected every year to celebrate the Ganesh puja with much fanfare in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar which were missing this year

Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan and a host of dignitaries have greeted people on the occasion

The business of idol makers was severely affected as no community puja was allowed to held at public places because of the Covid-19 pandemic

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Irregularities mar PMAY for Juanga tribals in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 22: Even as the central government has envisioned housing for all by 2022, large-scale irregularities have come to the fore in Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in Juanga-dominated areas of Keonjhar. Corruption has reportedly defeated the purpose of the scheme for the poor tribals, a report said.

Reports said, Juanga tribals live in hilly and remote Kharab village in Pithagola panchayat. Many poor families were included in the PMAY scheme, but surprisingly their houses have remained incomplete. In certain cases, construction of houses has stopped at plinth level. The housing funds of tribals have allegedly been misappropriated. Amid allegations of irregularities, a state-level delegation of the BJP visited the village and took stock of the irregularities. The tribals were found to be living in miserable condition in shanties.

The delegation comprising Satyabrata Panda, Ranjit Thakur and Sonali Sahu talked to tribal families about the status of their houses and complaints thereof. After taking stock of the ground situation, Sonali Sahu said, "Lakhs of rupees have been bungled in the name of housing to the tribal."

Maheswar Sahu, vice president of the Rashtriya Krushak Morcha, demanded an investigation into the alleged scam. "This is a big



MESS IN RURAL HOUSING

Juanga tribals live in hilly and remote Kharab village in Pithagola panchayat. Many poor families were included in the PMAY scheme, but surprisingly their houses have remained incomplete

Maheswar Sahu, vice president of the Rashtriya Krushak Morcha, demanded an investigation into the alleged scam. "This is a big scam. The tribals have been duped. No houses were built, but their funds were misappropriated" he lamented

scam. The tribals have been duped. No houses were built, but their funds were misappropriated" he lamented.

The tribals expressed their displeasure before the delegation over their incomplete houses.

Local leader Radhakant Mohant said the houses of the Juanga tribals were left incomplete, but surprisingly the bills of the incomplete houses were cleared by the authorities concerned.

"The role of the people's representatives and officials at the pan-

chayat and the block levels is suspicious", he added. The leaders demanded a Crime Branch investigation into the housing scheme for the poor tribals so that those involved in the scam will be caught.

Social activists observed that misappropriation of housing funds has deprived many poor tribal beneficiaries of their housing rights. This is how gullible tribals are exploited in remote pockets, they pointed out, saying there is a need for an investigation and action against the guilty.

Woman kills 19-month-old baby, attempts suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 22: In a shocking incident, a woman attempted suicide after killing her 19-month-old daughter at Bhiwanipur under Sadar police limits in Ganjam district.

The accused was identified as Sabitri, wife of Kulamani Gouda of Mahanti Sahi of Bhiwanipur. Police seized the body for post mortem and detained Sabitri for interrogation.

According to police, Kulamani married Sabitri, a resident of Belapada under Rambha police limits two and a half years ago. Few days later, Sabitri wanted Kulamani to stay away from the family. Kulamani, who ekes out his living as a mason, would ignore her demand. After the birth of his daughter, though he managed to persuade her to stay with the family but they used to have frequent quarrels.

During the lockdown restric-

tions, he did not get enough work. Despite being broke, Sabitri pressured her husband to take a house on rent.

Friday morning, Sabitri and her daughter were at the house. Kulamani and others returned home at noon only to find Sabitri sobbing with her daughter lying close to her, motionless. She confessed to having strangled her to death. Then she attempted to end her life by slitting her vein. A case was registered against her.

Lacklustre Nuakhai fest amid Covid curbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna/Bolangir, August 22: As Covid pandemic has been spreading all over the state, the administration kept imposing restrictions amid shutdowns and lockdowns. Amid such gloomy scenes, Nuakhai, a major agrarian festival of western Odisha, beginning Sunday will apparently see muted celebrations.

On the eve of Naukhai, people worship their household deities as a mark of gratitude for bumper crops, good rain and favourable weather: This year Nuakhai will be observed August 23 with certain protocol in place.

As per the age-old tradition, during Nuakhai, the eldest member of the family worships the household deity and offers rice and other harvest. All the family members sit and eat together during the celebration. People from all over, especially migrant workers, return to their homes to celebrate the festival. Due to the restrictions this year, a traditional social gathering organised by local people to greet each other stands cancelled. Following the social distancing guidelines, people are being encouraged to celebrate at home without holding community Puja. A gathering of more than five people is prohibited.

However, in western Odisha, certain district administrations have withdrawn the weekend shutdown to enable



On eve of Nuakhai, a woman is selling puja requirements at a market in Bargarh

Shutdown to be eased in Steel City

Rourkela: Shutdown restrictions will be eased Sunday in areas coming under Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) for 'Nuakhai' festival. In this regard, the state government issued a notification. The notification (dated 21/8/2020) read, "The weekend shutdown imposed in the jurisdiction of Rourkela Municipality Corporation is hereby relaxed on August 23, 2020 (Sunday) to allow citizens to observe the said festival on their premises without causing any congregation at any place in accordance with the lockdown orders issued vide Order No No 4582/R&DM (DM) dated 31.07.2020 and maintaining all safety protocols, such as social distancing, wearing masks, proper sanitization." At the same time, Rourkela Municipal Corporation said in a tweet that the relaxation is only for residential celebration of the festival. Hence, shops to remain closed Sunday. Notably, in view of the increasing COVID-19 cases, the weekend shutdown in Rourkela Municipality area has been imposed till August 31.

people to celebrate Nuakhai. Although the number of cases is rising in these regions, locals hailed the decision of the district officials. Folklore researcher Shyam Sundar Dhar said social or-

ganisations in towns hold 'Nuakhai Bhetghat' in the evening of the festival to uphold ancient traditions. In contrast, various events are held in villages religiously to mark the day. Nonetheless,

all the rituals, both in towns and villages, will be dropped this time as public gatherings are prohibited.

'Nuakhai' is a mass festival linked to harvest. What Onam is to Kerala and Bihu to Assam, 'Nuakhai' is to Western Odisha. The festival is celebrated the next day after Ganesh Chaturthi i.e. Shukla Paksha, Panchami Tithi of lunar fortnight of Bhadraba month.

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Khurda Road

ବରଗଡ଼ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ସମସ୍ତ ଚାଷୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ପବିତ୍ର ପର୍ବ ‘ନୂଆଁଖାଇ’ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ସାଦର ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

ଆମ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ୫ଟି ବ୍ଲକ ଯଥା ବିଜେପୁର, ଗାଇସିଲେଟ, ପଦ୍ମପୁର, ପାଇକମାଳ ଓ ଝାରବନ୍ଧ ବ୍ଲକକୁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ‘ମିଲେଟ ମିଶନ’ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଗତବର୍ଷଠାରୁ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ଯୋଜନାରେ ମାଣ୍ଡିଆ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଲଘୁ ଶସ୍ୟ ଚାଷକଲେ ଚାଷୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହେକ୍ଟର ପ୍ରତି ୨୫୦୦ରୁ ୫୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ରାଶି ଦିଆଯାଉଛି ଏବଂ ଏନ୍.ଜି.ଓ. ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଚାଷ ପଦ୍ଧତି ବିଷୟରେ, ଉତ୍ପାଦିତ ମାଣ୍ଡିଆରୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଖାଦ୍ୟଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ବିଷୟରେ ତାଲିମ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି । ଉତ୍ପାଦିତ ମାଣ୍ଡିଆକୁ ମଣ୍ଡି ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଧାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସର୍ବନିମ୍ନ ସହାୟକ ମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ତଥା କୁଳଖିଲ ପ୍ରତି ଟଟା୨୯୫/- ରେ ଆଦିବାସୀ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଦ୍ୱାରା କ୍ରୟ କରାଯିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ମଧ୍ୟ ରହିଛି ।

ଏଣୁ ଡିପ ଜମି (ଆଦି)ମାନଙ୍କରେ ଧାନଚାଷ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତେ ମାଣ୍ଡିଆ ଚାଷକରି ମରୁଡ଼ିରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇବା ସହିତ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ ସୁବିଧାଗୁଡିକ ହାସଲ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ସ୍ୱା./- ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଜିଲ୍ଲା କୃଷି ଅଧିକାରୀ
ତଥା ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ
ଆତ୍ମା, ବରଗଡ଼

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak/Baliapal, August 22: Amid incessant rains, major rivers like Baitarani, Salandi, Kochila, Reba, and Kapali saw floods. Many areas under Chandibali , Dhamnagar and Tihidi blocks were flooded.

Subarnarekha also flowed close to danger mark in Baliapal area in Balassore Saturday afternoon while people in low-lying areas were panicked over possible flood situation.

Reports from Bhadrak said, areas like Aradi, Nandapur, Sundarpur, Olaga under Chandbali block; Palasahi, Rabapur under Dhamnagar block and Shyamsundarpur under Tihidi block were flooded.

Due to flood in river Baitarani, villages like Muan, Santara, Shitalpur, Batola, Singipur, Sanapanki and several other villages under Aradi panchayat were cut off from the rest of the world.

Thousands of hectares of farmland are under floodwater at Pahana, Bhuinpur, Koilakha, Palatpur, Bankamuhan, Bodak, Sathibankuda, Sundarpur, Khatuapatana, Paradia, Champasahi, Sundarpur, Dohorapatana.

Locals said floodwaters fail to



An area in Aradi inundated

drain out to sea as sea water remains stormy due to amabasya.

A stretch of NH-20 in Olaga panchayat got submerged under floodwaters, disrupting traffic.

Farmers were worried over the fact that paddy saplings they had raised for transplantation will start rotting if the water-logging continues.

The water levels of Salandi and Genguti river in Bhadrak also swelled. Thousands of hectares of farmlands are under water while communication on many roads was affected. Rainwater on Dhamnagar-Phalpur road flows 4 feet above the ground.

Reports said, thousands of hectares of farmland under

Bhadrak, Bhandaripokhari, Tihidi and Chandbali block were inundated, leaving the farmers worried.

People of Chhatabar Ramchandrapur panchayat under Bhadaripokhari block have been facing a lot of difficulties as some roads are submerged under rainwater. Heavy rains created a fissure on the Genguti embankment at Rameswar under Dhamnagar block. Locals fear possible collapse of the embankment in case of flood situation in the area.

Collector Gyanaranjan Das and other officials visited some areas of Dhamnagar. In case of floodin Bhandaripokhari and Dhamnagar, the PD and the sub-collector have been given special tasks.

Road connectivity snaps in Keonjhar

PATANA: Following low pressure-induced incessant rain that battered Keonjhar district for past few days, rainwater was seen flowing four feet above Kanajhari bridge Saturday morning.

According to reports, the Kanajhari river is in spate at Bhimapada on Patana-Kendeiposi road and connectivity from Patana to Keonjhar, Turumunga, Kendeiposi and Baunsuli areas has completely snapped. Vehicular movement has been halted on both sides of the river bridge. Hundreds of vehicles were reportedly stranded here.

One sluice gate was opened after heavy rainfall at the upper catchment of Kanajhari dam and water level went up. About 100 cusecs of rainwater is being released from the dam every second, official sources informed.

Keeping in mind safety of locals, a joint team of Patana police and fire brigade has been deployed near Kanajhari dam.

Bhadrak MP, 4 of her kin test Covid positive

BHADRAK: Bhadrak Lok Sabha MP Manjulata Mandal, her husband and ex-MLA of Dhamnagar Muktikanta Mandal and three others of her family have tested COVID-19 positive Saturday. Both Manjulata and her husband informed about this on their personal Tweeter handles Saturday morning. Her security guard Jitendra Samal and house

cook Bapi Nath were also infected. In her tweet, Manjulata appealed local residents and party workers to get themselves COVID-19-tested, who have come in contact with her in the recent past. As she found some symptoms of coronavirus infection, she got herself tested and was detected positive. She also added that her health

condition is now stable and out of danger. Even as swabs of eight of her family members were sent for COVID-19 testing, Manjulata's son, daughter and another security personnel have tested negative, the report revealed. It is known that all the infected people have been kept in home isolation at MP's personal residence near Bhadrak bypass road.

ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର ପୌରସଂସ୍ଥା

ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର

ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପବିତ୍ର ଗଣପର୍ବ ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର ପୌର ପରିଷଦ ସମସ୍ତ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ କରୋନା ସଂକଟ କାଳରେ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ନିୟମକୁ ପାଳନ କରି ସମସ୍ତେ ଆନନ୍ଦ, ଉଲ୍ଲାସରେ ଏହି ପର୍ବ ପାଳନ ପୂର୍ବକ ପରସ୍ପର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମୈତ୍ରୀଭାବ ସୃଷ୍ଟିକରନ୍ତୁ, ଏହା ହିଁ ମାଁ ସମାଲେଶ୍ୱରୀ ଓ ମାଁ ପାଟଣେଶ୍ୱରୀଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା । ବିଶେଷକରି ସମସ୍ତେ ନିଜ ନିଜ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପ୍ରତି ଯତ୍ନବାନ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ ।

କରୋନା ସଂକ୍ରମଣଠାରୁ ସତେତନ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ


- ବୈଶ୍ୱିକ ମହାମାରୀ କରୋନା ପାଇଁ ସଦାସର୍ବଦା ସତେତନ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ, ଅଯଥା ଆତଙ୍କିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ପ୍ରତିଦିନ ମାସ୍କ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ସାମାଜିକ ଦୂରତ୍ୱ ରକ୍ଷାକରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବିନା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଘରୁ ବାହାରକୁ ବାହାରକୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ଜନଗହଳି ସ୍ଥାନ ବର୍ଜନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଛିକିବା ସମୟରେ ରୁମାଲ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବାରମ୍ବାର ହାତକୁ ସାବୁନ ପାଣିରେ ଅନ୍ତତଃ କୋଡିଏ ସେକେଣ୍ଡ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ନିଜେ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ରହିବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ନିଜର ଘର ଏବଂ ଘର ଆଖପାଖ ସଫାସୁତରା ରଖନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ସାନିଟାଇଜ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- କାଶ, କ୍ୱର, ତଣ୍ଡି ଦରଜ ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଦେଖାଦେଲେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ ପରାମର୍ଶ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।

ଶ୍ରୀ ବିପିନ ବିହାରୀ ଦୀପ ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ	ଶ୍ରୀ ଅରିନ୍ଦମ ଡାକ୍ତା ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ, ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର ତଥା ପ୍ରଶାସକ
ପୌର ପରିଷଦ ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର	ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର

“

Care not for time and success.
Act out thy part, whether it be
to fail or to prosper.

SRI AUROBINDO



Not a popular govt’s record

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has deputed five teams to investigate the death of an actor who killed himself. I do not know why the CBI is investigating it nor do I understand why there is such great public interest in this issue. I have been told that this is because of some political reason linked to the election in Bihar. If there is, I am not able to understand what it is. Bihar is the oldest political entity in India going back to the time of Chandragupta Maurya and Chanakya.

Are Biharis so naïve as to vote based on this sort of material? Perhaps they are and I will be disappointed to know that this is the case. Bihar is one of the poorest parts of the world. They have been governed by two parties that have been in charge for a decade. Will the voter determine whether or not to vote for them based on a Bollywood event? If so, it is amazing. Two other reasons have been put forward as possible reasons for the pushing of this story. First that it is targeted at the son of the Maharashtra Chief Minister. Second that it is aimed in some fashion at the Muslim actors of Bollywood. That seems to me to be more reasonable given our times. This government is hostile to Muslims and will use any lie to attack them including this one.

But to return to the question of voter interest, it was written this week by my friend Shekhar Gupta that the Prime Minister would return to power in 2024 unless he inflicted damage on himself. Gupta’s argument so far as I have understood it is that the damage inflicted on the voter is not relevant because the voter doesn’t care about such things as the collapse in the economy, the record unemployment, the occupation of our land by China and the inability of this government to contain the Covid epidemic.

Gupta did not explain in detail how he had come to this conclusion but he said that a survey that had a previously good track record showed that Modi was at the peak of his popularity. Again, I do not know if this is the case but it would be quite interesting if this were to be so. Our GDP has been declining since January 2018 for nine successive quarters, based on Modi’s own data. Unemployment has been the highest that it has ever been recorded in India, again according to the government’s own data. It is unclear who believes Modi when he says that there has been no Chinese intrusion, I hope it is not the Prime Minister himself because that would be a sign of delusion.

We are currently engaged with the Chinese in trying to get them to withdraw from our land and our generals have had half a dozen meetings with them already. Presumably these meetings are being held because what Modi says (or believes) is untrue. There is no reason to negotiate with them if they are not on our property.

On Covid the data is clear: We are number three in the world in terms of the number of cases, we are number one in terms of the number of daily cases and we will likely end up with the most infected people in the world.

This is not the record of a government and a Prime Minister who is popular. In another nation this would signal disaster politically. Is it the case that for all or most Indian voters, their political affiliation is unrelated to their actual life? Could it be that we vote as we do a Facebook like or Twitter forward? Is our political action through voting and support of a party based not on its performance but on its image? Surely this is not true and even if it is true for many, it cannot be true for all. Certainly it is not true for me.

But how many people think normally in this way? If there were many, then we would not have the circus that we do on an actor’s death at a time which is the worst that I can remember; and I am not a young man. I cannot remember a time in my life when we had such economic strife, such levels of unemployment, a national epidemic and the enemy inside our house and such little interest in these and a focus on Bollywood and temples and such things.

Is this who we really are as citizens, individuals and voters? I should hope note. I do not think that our young generation of this time certainly or the next will be so unconcerned about their politics. The question is whether the current generations of our time do not care about the nation’s security, their health, their employment and their future and whether they are more interested in Bollywood. I do not have the answer to this but it is an answer that we will know for certain fairly soon.

WISDOM CORNER

- “

Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility.

SIGMUND FREUD
- “

There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow men. True nobility lies in being superior to your former self.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY
- “

The history of science shows that theories are perishable. With every new truth that is revealed we get a better understanding of Nature and our conceptions and views are modified.

NIKOLA TESLA

WORDSWORTH


■ Thaumaturgy

Of all the words in English that refer to the making of magic, this is perhaps the most resonant. It doesn’t have the negative associations of words such as sorcery or necromancy because it referred originally to the production of wonders for positive ends rather than any intent to cause someone harm. The origin is the Greek word thaumatourgos, miracle working (from thauma, marvel, plus ergos, work). Though it’s not that common a word, it seems to have generated a surprisingly large set of derivatives since it first appeared in English in 1727. There are several words for a practitioner of thaumaturgy, including thaumaturge and thaumaturgist; another is thaumaturgus, which has been given to a number of Christian saints and others who are said to have performed wonders. The verb is thaumaturgise. The thaumatrope was a Victorian toy, a card with two different pictures on its back and front that magically combined into one when the card was rapidly spun. And aficionados of Terry Pratchett’s Discworld novels will know that the wizards of Unseen University invented a device with which to measure the intensity of a magic field – what would you call that but a thaumometer?

LOL

Lost far from a home

A police car pulls up in front of grandma Bessie’s house, and grandpa Morris gets out. The polite policeman explained that this elderly gentleman said that he was lost in the park...and couldn’t find his way home.



“Oy Morris,” said grandma, “You’ve been going to that park for over 30 years! So how could you get lost?” Leaning close to grandma, so that the policeman couldn’t hear, Morris whispered, “I wasn’t lost.....I was just too tired to walk home.”

FOCUS

GEOSTRATEGY

CHINA ALONE



As long as the costs of expansionism remain manageable, Xi will stay the course, seeking to exploit electoral politics and polarisation in major democracies. The Indo-Pacific’s major democratic powers must not let that happen, which means ensuring that the costs for China do not remain manageable for long

In his most recent New Year’s speech, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared that 2020 would be ‘a milestone.’ Xi was right, but not in the way he expected. Far from having “friends in every corner of the world,” as he boasted in his speech, China has severely damaged its international reputation, alienated its partners, and left itself with only one real lever of power: brute force. Whether the prospect of isolation thwarts Xi’s imperialist ambitions, however, remains to be seen. Historians will most likely view 2020 as a watershed year. Thanks to COVID-19, many countries learned hard lessons about China-dependent supply chains, and international attitudes toward China’s communist regime shifted. The tide began to turn when it was revealed that the Communist Party of China hid crucial information from the world about COVID-19, which was first detected in Wuhan – a finding confirmed by a recent US intelligence report. Making matters worse, Xi attempted to capitalise on the pandemic, first by hoarding medical products – a market China dominates – and then by stepping up aggressive expansionism, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. This is driving rapid change in the region’s geostrategic landscape, with other powers preparing to counter China. For starters, Japan now seems set to begin cooperating with the Five Eyes – the world’s oldest intelligence-gathering and -sharing alliance, comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A new ‘Six Eyes’ alliance would serve as a crucial pillar of Indo-Pacific security. Moreover, the so-called Quad – comprising Australia, India, Japan, and the US – seems poised to deepen its strategic collaboration. This represents a notable shift for India, in particular, which has spent years attempting to appease China. As US National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien recently noted, “the Chinese have been very aggressive with India” lately. Since late April, the People’s Liberation Army has occupied several areas in the northern Indian region of Ladakh, turning up the heat on a long-simmering border conflict. This has left Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with little choice but to change course. Modi is considering inviting Australia to participate in the annual Malabar naval exercise with Japanese, American, and Indian forces later this year. Australia withdrew from the exercise in 2008 when it involved only the US and India. Although Japan’s participation was regularised in 2015, India had hesitated to bring Australia back into the fold, for fear of provoking China. Not anymore. With Australia again involved in Malabar, the Quad grouping will have a formal, practical platform for naval drills. Already, cooperation among Quad members is gaining some strategic heft. In June, Australia and India signed the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement to increase military interoperability through bilateral defense activities. India has a similar pact with the US and is set to sign one with Japan shortly. Japan, for its part, recently added Australia, India, and the UK as defense intelligence sharing partners by tweaking its 2014 state secrets law, which previously included exchanges only with the US. This will strengthen Japanese security cooperation under 2016 legislation that redefined Japan’s US-imposed pacifist post-war constitution in such a way that Japan may now come to the aid of allies under attack. Thus, the Indo-Pacific’s democracies are forging closer strategic bonds in response to China’s increasing aggression. The next logical step would be for these countries to play a more concerted, coordinated role in advancing broader regional security. The problem is that American, Australian, Indian, and Japanese security interests are not entirely congruent. For India and Japan, the security threat China poses is much more acute and immediate, as shown by China’s aggression against India and its increasingly frequent incursions into Japanese waters. Moreover, India is the only Quad member that maintains a land-based defense posture, and it faces the very real prospect of a serious conflict with China on its Himalayan border. The US, by contrast, has never considered a land war against China. Its primary objective is to counter China’s geopolitical, ideological, and economic challenges to America’s global preeminence. America’s pursuit of this objective will be President Donald

Trump’s most-consequential foreign-policy legacy. Australia, meanwhile, must engage in a delicate balancing act. While it wants to safeguard its values and regional stability, it remains economically dependent on China, which accounts for one-third of its exports. So, even as Australia has pursued closer ties with the Quad, it has spurned US calls to join naval patrols in the South China Sea. As its foreign minister, Marise Payne, recently declared, Australia has ‘no intention of injuring its relationship with China. If China continues pursuing an expansionist strategy, however, such hedging will no longer be justifiable. Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono recently declared that the ‘consensus in the international community’ is that China must be ‘made to pay a high price’ for its muscular revisionism in the South and East China seas, the Himalayas, and Hong Kong. He is right – the emphasis is on ‘high.’ As long as the costs of expansionism remain manageable, Xi will stay the course, seeking to exploit electoral politics and polarisation in major democracies. The Indo-Pacific’s major democratic powers must not let that happen, which means ensuring that the costs for China do not remain manageable for long. Machiavelli famously wrote that, “It is better to be feared than loved.” Xi is not feared so much as hated. But that will mean little unless the Indo-Pacific’s major democracies get their act together; devise ways to stem Chinese expansionism, reconcile their security strategies, and contribute to building a rules-based regional order. Their vision must be clarified and translated into a well-defined policy approach, backed with real strategic weight. Otherwise, Xi will continue to use brute force to destabilise the Indo-Pacific further, possibly even starting a war. *The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at New Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.* @PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SOUTH ASIA

Afghan peace process affecting India

The Loya Jirga assembled in Kabul two weeks ago gave the go-ahead for the release of the last of the 400 Taliban prisoners. After the recent release of 80 prisoners, a temporary halt on the release of the remaining 320 is in effect, as a few more countries (France and Australia) shared the apprehensions of the Afghan government and public, that the prisoners in question had conducted violent attacks on Afghans and foreigners.

The release was part of a peace agreement signed between the Taliban and the US February 29 to clear the last hurdle for the beginning of intra-Afghan talks. A quick announcement of US withdrawal of another 4,000 troops, post Loya Jirga’s decision, indicated US fulfilment of its obligations as per the deal. The US may commend its Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, the architect of the deal, but the fact is that the Taliban controls more territory in Afghanistan now than at the time when the US entered the war; and terror groups like al Qaeda, IS, Haqqani Network co-exist with Taliban. The peace deal does not guarantee success of intra-Afghan dialogue; hence all stakeholders

have to wait and see its progress with hope, as well as apprehension.

India, having made significant investments in Afghanistan, will always hope for an Afghan elected, Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process and a popular democratic government in Afghanistan. However, the Taliban continues to be a force to reckon with. The US-led invasion ousted the Taliban post September 11, 2001 attacks. After losing 2,400 US soldiers, tens of thousands of Afghan troops, Taliban fighters and Afghan civilians and spending more than \$1 trillion, a war fatigue of 19 years for peace of another country is enough reason to pull out. Besides, there was Trump’s election promise to end the war. The Taliban’s assurance of not allowing the use of Afghan soil for terrorism seems too good to be true; hence the US defense chief indicated that it will not hesitate to nullify the deal if the Taliban failed to hold its promises.

The Afghan government had no choice but to go along with the deal due to lack of any leverage, as the Taliban refused to talk to them and the election results were not convincing enough to put them in the driver’s seat. The Taliban and

Pakistan’s promise to renounce support to al-Qaeda and fighting ISIS is unrealistic, because ISKP, AQIS and Haqqani network are already active, with no visible disturbance from the Taliban and continued support from Pakistan. The Taliban will continue to use violence as leverage for a better bargaining position even in intra-Afghan talks. The recent attack by ISKP on the Afghan prison housing Taliban prisoners, the earlier attack on a Gurdwara, and the new Pakistani leader from Haqqani network joining ISKP, indicates close linkages of all terror groups, including Pakistan-based ones. The Taliban will not sit quiet unless it gains power. Even if its leaders put up a facade of giving reasonable governance if brought into the power structure, its cadres are unlikely to settle down without Sharia.

The Chinese are keen to extend the BRI to Afghanistan to get an alternate axis to warm water in Gulf should the CPEC face problems, besides exploiting mineral wealth of Afghanistan. Iran is economically weak and needs Chinese support. The China-Iran strategic partnership fructifying the \$400 billion deal may be an impediment for

Indian entry routes into Afghanistan through Chabahar and further connectivity to International North South Transportation Corridor; although Iran has not given any signals of disruption of these projects.

India has to be watchful of the Iran-Pakistan-China axis developing in the neighbourhood of Afghanistan, with tentacles in the form of terror groups inside it. Since 2001, India has undertaken projects worth \$3 billion in Afghanistan. Besides engaging with all stakeholders, including Taliban, a watch on anti-India nexus of terror groups is in India’s interest.

India needs to exercise some smart diplomacy to convince the US that Indian engagement with Iran is as much essential to prevent loss of strategic space of Afghanistan to China, as much as token presence of US troops there. It remains to be seen whether this deal will work, or the US pull back will leave behind a stronger Taliban, growing IS, suffering population of Afghanistan and new challenges for India.

The writer is a Major General (retd) and strategic analyst. IANS

Battle lines drawn

Sir: The much-awaited battle lines are drawn with the announcement of Joe Biden as the Presidential nominee of the Democrats for the November elections. Biden poses a great challenge to Trump as the former’s candidature is well supported by Barrack Obama and Bill Clinton who are held in high esteem by Americans for their contribution to the country’s causes in times of need. Adding to Trump’s woes is Kamala Harris who has been fielded as Biden’s deputy. Harris, an Afro-American, too represents South Asian interests as her mother hails from a South Indian state. However, these factors are crucial as far as the US elections are concerned. One, the American voters have a history of re-electing the incumbent President for the second time. Two, going by the recent Sino-Indian flare-up at the border and the Trump administration’s overt support to India, the Indian-origin electorate in the US may prefer to go with the Republicans. This apart, India has been at one with Trump in matters of the spread of coronavirus from the Chinese soil. The point that goes in favour of Biden is that he was instrumental in the safe passage of the historic Indo-US nuclear deal during Obama’s tenure. Joe may play this card for the Indians and those supporting India in South Asia. That said, only the results will decide the fate of Trump who has seen troubled times in his tenure, be it his fight against the pandemic or his tackling of the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement. **Sanjib Das**, CUTTACK

Focus on farming

Sir, Covid-19 is a great set back to the whole world. In India, lakhs of migrant labourers have returned to their home states with a bitter experience in their working place. Now is the appropriate time for the states to encourage organic farming. It’s a fact that every year production of Ravi crops, like potato, onion, vegetables, and oil seeds is decreasing. This may be due to lack of storage facilities and irrigation. This low production leads to soaring of prices of the essential commodities to a level which is beyond the reach of the common man. Our governments (both state and central) should launch massive publicity by going village to village and motivate farmers by giving support to their agricultural needs. On the other hand, the governments should minimise free food grains supply as it has serious negative impacts. Indirectly, such schemes persuade the huge man-power to sit idle. Now, the time has come for action. Adequate stress on agriculture may boost the rural economy and reduce the flow of population from rural to urban areas. **Ramdas Ray**, BHUBANESWAR

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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

of the day quote

May the blessings of Lord Ganesha be upon the people of Goa so that the obstacles of the COVID-19 epidemic and its negative effects are conquered by the people

BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI | GOA GOVERNOR

How can this powerless government protect the interests of the ordinary people? ...If they cannot, what is the point of such a government in power? Or did the BJP want such riots during the BBMP elections?

HD KUMARASWAMY | FORMER K'TAKA CHIEF MINISTER

...I have strong doubts that my phone calls are being tapped. So I request you to get it investigated appropriately and take necessary action

DK SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA CONGRESS CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Four held for 'franchise fraud'

Noida (UP): With the arrest of four men, Noida Police Saturday said they have busted a "franchise racket" run by them to dupe around Rs 30 crore from over three dozen people from multiple states. The police also recovered properties worth around Rs 10 crore, including 3,300 kg gold, Rs 13,54,550 cash and a Mercedes car, from the accused persons, a senior officer said. During a probe it emerged that it was not only one company but there were also four-five more such firms floated by these men for the same purpose.

IAF officer ends life in Jammu

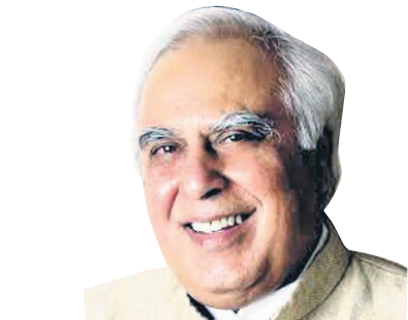
Jammu: A warrant officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service pistol inside a camp here, officials said Saturday. Warrant Officer Inder Pal Singh, 53, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, allegedly shot himself at Air Force Station Kalu Chak on the outskirts of Jammu on Friday, they said. The officials said Singh's colleagues rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not known immediately, the officials said, adding that police have started inquest proceedings and further investigation is underway.

Mukherjee still in deep coma

New Delhi: Former President Pranab Mukherjee continues to remain in a deep coma but his vital parameters are stable, the hospital said Saturday morning. Doctors said attending to the 84-year-old said he is being treated for respiratory infection and continues to be on ventilatory support. Mukherjee was admitted to the Army's Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi Cantonment August 10 and was operated for removal of a clot in the brain the same day.

Shibu Soren, wife test COVID +ve

Ranchi: Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM president Shibu Soren and his wife Roopi, along with seven others in their household, have tested positive for COVID-19, official sources said. All of them are undergoing home quarantine, they said. Samples of 29 people in Soren's household were collected for examination, of which seven were found to have contracted the disease.



Contempt power being used as a sledgehammer. Why are courts helpless when institutions that need to protect the constitution and the laws show "open contempt" for both?

KAPIL SIBAL | CONGRESS LEADER

50-KG OVARIAN TUMOUR, HALF THE BODYWEIGHT OF PATIENT, REMOVED

A 50-kg tumour, which was half the bodyweight of the patient, has been removed from her ovary at a Delhi hospital, with the doctors claiming it to be the largest of its kind to be operated in the world



COVID-19 cases cross 3 million in India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 22: India recorded 69,878 new coronavirus cases in a single day Saturday taking the total tally to 30,05,281, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

In the last 24 hours, 945 people lost their lives due to COVID-19 infection taking the toll to 55,794, the ministry said.

The total active cases from across the country stands at 6,97,330. The total number of people discharged from hospitals and quarantine centres so far is 22,22,577. In the last 24 hours, 63,631 people recovered. The recovery rate stands at 74.69 per cent.

The government stated that 3,44,91,073 cumulative total samples have been tested up to August 21, and 10,23,836 samples were tested Friday.

Andhra Pradesh, one of the worst hit states, has recorded 87,803 active cases so far. A total 2,44,045 people have recovered from the deadly virus in the state so far. In the last 24 hours, 8,827 people recovered from the infection of the



virus. The state has recorded 3,092 deaths so far and in the last 24 hours 91 people succumbed to the infection

In Karnataka, the total active cases are 83,082. So far 1,76,942 people have recovered from the infection, of whom 6,561 left hospitals and quarantine centres in the last 24 hours, when 93 people succumbed to the disease taking the toll to 4,522 so far in the state.

The state of Maharashtra has

1,64,879 active cases. A total 4,70,873 people recovered from the virus infection and in the last 24 hours, as 11,749 people left hospital after recovering. A total 21,698 people have lost their lives as 339 died in the last 24 hours.

The national capital has 11,426 active Covid-19 cases. So far, 1,42,908 people have recovered, of which 1,082 in the last 24 hours. The capital has reported 4,270 deaths so far as 13 died in past one day.

Recovery rate reaches 74.69%

New Delhi: A record 63,631 patients have recuperated from COVID-19 in a day pushing the recovery rate to 74.69 per cent, while the case fatality rate has dropped to 1.87 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said Saturday. "Record-high recoveries have ensured that the actual caseload of the country, which is the active cases, has reduced and currently comprises only 23.43 per cent of the total cases," the ministry said. "With a higher number of COVID-19 patients recovering and being discharged from hospitals and home isolation, the recovery rate has reached 74.69 per cent. This has also led to declining COVID-19 case fatality rate, which stands at a new low of 1.87 per cent as on date," the ministry said.

Nagaland BCC warns against Chinese cult 'Church of Almighty'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kohima, August 22: The Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) has warned the church leaders in Nagaland against a cult called the Church of Almighty God from China. The NBCC said this is a dangerous cult as they are actively spreading false Gospel and false teachings.

NBCC general secretary Zelhoh Keyho in a letter to all executive secretaries and directors of Baptist associations under it, said: "I am writing this with a grave concern concerning a cult, called the Church of Almighty God from China, reportedly making inroads into our land. The Church of Almighty God or Eastern Lightning cult is a well organised group, aggressively moving forward with publications and creating many Facebook pages and colourful artwork that appears biblical and enticing."



The two-page August 19 letter, with the subject "Warning against cult" said that the cult teaches that Lord Jesus has come back to earth as a woman, named Yang Xiangbin, also called Lightning Deng, and the New Testament has been replaced by their new bible, called "The Word Appears in the Flesh".

"They teach that God is speaking through this woman, and they refer to God's speaking through this woman, as utterances, and these utterances are written in their books, as revelations from God, and they are being published and promoted through books, videos, computer generated movies and artwork and many other forms of media."

Keyho in his letter, available with IANS, wrote: "Jesus said in His Word that He would return to earth, not as the almighty who speaks through a woman from China, but as He was, is and ever shall be. Let us beware of this dangerous cult."

National Council for Transgender Persons set up by Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: The Centre has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons to formulate policies, programmes, legislation and projects regarding members of the community for achieving equality and full participation by them.

The council was established by the Centre in exercise of the powers conferred by the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, according to a gazette notification issued late Friday night.

According to the Act, the functions of the council include advising the Centre on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons; monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons.

Don't restrict inter-state movement: Centre to states

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 22: In view of the reports of restrictions on inter-state and intra-state movement of people and goods, the Centre Saturday directed all states to follow the Unlock 3.0 guidelines and allow such movement without any separate permission or permit.

A letter by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla to all Chief Secretaries draws their attention to "para 5 of Unlock 3.0 guidelines", which states that there will be no restrictions on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods.

Citing the para, the letter mentions that no separate permission, approval and e-permit will be required for such movement of persons and goods for cross-border land trade under treaties with neighbouring countries.

The Home Secretary's letter notes that there are reports that

SC extends deadline till Sept 30 for verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: The Supreme Court has extended by a month the deadline for completion of trial in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case involving 32 accused, including BJP veterans LK Advani, MM Joshi and Uma Bharti, and said that judgement should be delivered by September 30.

The top court, which had earlier fixed August 31 as the deadline for completion of proceedings including pronouncement of the verdict, took note of the report filed by special judge SK Yadav in the high-profile case.

A bench of justices RF Nariman, Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee said, "Having read the report of Surendra Kumar Yadav, learned Special Judge, and considering that the proceedings are at the fag end, we grant one month's time, i.e., till September 30, 2020, to complete the proceedings including the delivery of judgment".

The order was passed August 19

BABRI DEMOLITION CASE



and was uploaded on the apex court website recently. On May 8, the top court had extended by three months the time for completion of trial in the case and said that judgement should be delivered by August 31.

The special CBI court at Lucknow has completed the recording of statements of the 32 accused under Section 313 of CrPC in the case.

The mosque in Ayodhya was demolished December 6, 1992, by 'kar sevaks' who claimed that an ancient Ram temple stood at the same site. Former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani and BJP veteran MM Joshi, who were among those leading the Ram temple movement at that time, had deposed before the court through video conferencing.



local-level restrictions on movement were being imposed by various districts and states.

The letter says such restrictions were creating problems in inter-state movement of goods and services and impacting supply chains resulting in disruption of economic activity and employment.

"Such restrictions amount to violation of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005. No restrictions be imposed and it should be ensured that MHA guidelines are followed," says the letter.

WATERLOGGED BRIDGE



Waterlogged bridge on Adi Ganga, owing to high tide in Ganga river, at Kalighat area in Kolkata, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Ganesh fest begins on low-key note as COVID-19 dampens spirit

DUE TO THE SUBDUED CELEBRATIONS, SMALL BUSINESSES THAT THRIVE DURING THE FESTIVAL TOOK A HIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 22: Amid the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions on public movement, the 10-day Ganesh festival started in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra Saturday, although the usual pomp and glory was missing this year.

The Maharashtra government has issued guidelines regarding Ganeshotsav celebrations, saying that processions should not be taken out before installing and immersing the idols of the deity.

It also said that the heights of Lord Ganesh idols installed by sarvajanik (community) mandals and at household-level should be limited to four feet and two feet, respec-

tively, this year.

As a result, the number of people coming out in the market to buy Ganpati idols for installation in their houses, housing societies and sarvajanik pandals, was limited. The usual spirit and fervour of the festival was relatively low this year.

Due to the subdued celebrations, small businesses of that thrive during the festival, like flower vendors, sweet shops, outlets selling decoration items, imitation jewellery and transporters took a hit. The pandemic also affected several others, including artists and transporters.

However, in some popular market places like Dadar in central Mumbai, people still came out in large numbers to purchase material required for decoration, puja ritu-



als in the last couple of days. Lalbaugcha Raja, Mumbai's best-known sarvajanik Ganeshotsav

mandal, cancelled the festival this year in view of the pandemic, while Wadala's GSB Sewa Samiti, con-

sidered one of the richest mandals in the metropolis, postponed the celebration to 'Magh Shudh Chaturthi' in February next year.

The usual pandal decorations in the city are missing this year and cultural events have been replaced by public awareness programmes and health camps by the mandals.

Mumbai and the neighbouring areas have been witnessing heavy rains since the last few days. The downpour continued on Saturday morning, but people stepped out to bring home the idols of the deity amid chants 'Ganpati bappa moraya'. In some areas firecrackers were also burst to welcome the Lord.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray also welcomed Lord Ganesh at his official residence

'Varsha'. Some celebrities and political leaders also installed the idols at their places.

The installation of the deity was done as per the rituals in the morning. Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in the city for the festival. Apart from the local police, a company of Rapid Action Force (RAF), three companies of State Reserve Police Force (SRPF), local arms and riot control police have been deployed.

Quick response teams, bomb disposal squads and anti-terrorism cells have also been put on alert to prevent untoward incidents and police will monitor the happenings in the city with the help of 5,000 CCTV cameras and also use drones for aerial surveillance, a police official said.

of the day quote

The case (Sushant Singh's death) was becoming messy...I praise the wisdom of the top court for ordering a CBI inquiry into the matter

SHATRUGHAN SINHA | ACTOR

It (privatisation of airports) violates the pledge made in 2003 that any proposal concerning airport privatisation would be made only in consultation with the state government and must be revoked

MK STALIN | DMK CHIEF

We will not share water from the Sharda-Yamuna Link canal project because Punjab will burn if the state is forced to share water with Haryana

AMARINDER SINGH | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Threat to blow up Rafale air base

Chandigarh: A letter to blow up the Indian Air Force station in Ambala, Haryana, where the first batch of five Rafale aircraft are stationed, was received by authorities, police said Saturday. The letter was received on Friday after which the authorities lodged a complaint with the nearby police station, a police official said. As a precaution and to ensure safety security has been beefed up at the Ambala station, he added. "The letter appears to be a hoax and the handiwork of some mischief-mongers," a senior police official told IANS.

Six-year-old dies in leopard attack

Guwahati: A six-year-old boy died after being attacked by a leopard in Maligaon area in Assam's Guwahati Friday. According to reports, a leopard attacked the minor boy Friday afternoon while he was playing with his friends near his house. As soon as the leopard attacked the boy, locals raised an alarm but the child was dragged by the beast into the jungle area. Later, locals and family members recovered the child in critical condition and rushed the boy to a nearby private hospital.

Inter-state arms racket busted

New Delhi: The Delhi Police busted an inter-state arms trafficking racket Thursday and arrested a suspect for illegally supplying arms and ammunitions in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and western Uttar Pradesh. The accused, identified as Abdul Salaam, is a resident of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. Abdul Salaam was arrested around 8:30 pm Thursday near Ring Road in Delhi. Police said that 20 semi-automatic pistols along with 40 magazines and 50 live cartridges were recovered from the possession of the accused.

1 terrorist killed in encounter

Srinagar: One terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces in North Kashmir's Baramulla district Saturday, police said. "One unidentified terrorist killed in the encounter at Kreeri. Operation is going on," the police added. The encounter erupted after a joint team of the police and the Army cordoned off the Saloosa area following information about the presence of terrorists. As the security forces zeroed in on the spot, they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter.



The statement of AYUSH Ministry secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha that non-Hindi speaking participants could leave during a ministry's training session speaks volumes about the Hindi domination being imposed

KANIMOZHI | DMK MP

INDIA CONDUCTS OVER 1 MN COVID-19 TESTS IN A DAY

Keeping its commitment of exponentially increasing daily COVID-19 tests, India has "crossed a significant milestone" of testing more than 10 lakh samples in a day



RLYS SCRAP TENDER FOR 44 VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

A joint venture between China-based CRRC Yongji Electric Company Ltd and Gurugram-based Pioneer Fil-Med Pvt Ltd was a frontrunner for the project



ARESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: India has cancelled a tender for making 44 semi-high speed "Vande Bharat" trains, the Railway Ministry said Friday night. It said a fresh tender will be floated within a week and give preference to the Centre's Make In India programme.

The move to cancel the tender is a big setback for China as a Chinese joint venture, CRRC Pioneer Electric (India) Pvt Ltd, was the only foreign bidder among the six contenders to supply 44 sets of semi-high speed train.

"Tender for manufacturing of 44 semi high speed train sets (Vande Bharat) has been cancelled. Fresh tender will be floated within a week as per Revised Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order," the Railway Ministry tweeted.

Tender for manufacturing of 44 semi high speed train sets (Vande Bharat) has been cancelled.

Fresh tender will be floated within

● The move to cancel the tender is a big setback for China as a Chinese joint venture, CRRC Pioneer Electric (India) Pvt Ltd, was the only foreign bidder among the six contenders

● Fresh tender will be floated within a week as per Revised Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order: Railways

a week as per Revised Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order.

The joint venture was formed between China-based CRRC Yongji Electric Company Ltd and Gurugram-based Pioneer Fil-Med Pvt Ltd in 2015.

The railways is keen to ensure that a domestic firm takes the tender and once it was felt that the Chinese joint venture was a frontrunner for the project, it was scrapped, this news agency reported quoting unnamed sources.

The Indian Railways' Integral Coach Factory in Chennai had floated the tender July 10.

The other five bidders were Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, Bharat Industries, Sangrur, Electrowaves Electronics Pvt Ltd, Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd, and Powernetics Equipment India Pvt Ltd, according to the Railway Ministry.

India has tightened trade ties with China after border tensions escalated to a violent face-off in eastern Ladakh in June. India lost 20 soldiers, while Chinese casualties were over 40, according to reports.

India has responded in a multi-dimensional way, from using diplomatic pressure with friendly nations to banning imports of Chinese products such as solar power equipment. The economic backlash extended to blocking 59 Chinese apps including TikTok, which had a massive user base in India.

The railways has already scrapped a tender for thermal cameras meant for COVID-19 surveillance after Indian firms alleged that the tender specifications favoured a Chinese company. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd too cancelled a Rs470-crore contract with a Chinese firm days after the border clash in mid-June.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat train on the Delhi-Varanasi route February 15 last year. The second train service between Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Katra was flagged off by Home Minister Amit Shah October 3 last year.

BSF kills 5 intruders along India-Pak IB



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, August 22: The BSF shot dead five Pakistan intruders along the India-Pakistan International Border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district early Saturday, the force said.

This is the highest number of intruders killed in a single incident along the over 3,300 km-long border with Pakistan in more than a decade time period, officials said.

Punjab shares a 553-km-long frontier with Pakistan, apart from Jammu, Rajasthan and Gujarat, who together constitute the remaining part of the International Border.

A BSF spokesperson said troops recovered nine packets containing over 9 kg of heroin, along with an AK-47 rifle, two magazines and 27 rounds, four 9 mm Berretta pistols with seven magazines and 109 live rounds, two mobile phones and ₹610 in Pakistani currency.

The spokesperson said after suspicious activity was noticed near the border fence, the force personnel "cordoned the area and challenged the intruders to stop and surrender".

"The Pakistani armed intruders did not pay any heed to the challenge and opened fire on the BSF troops," the official said.

"Hence, to stop their further misadventure and in self-defence, the BSF troops retaliated with fire due to which the five Pakistani armed intruders succumbed to bullet injuries," he said.

A senior BSF official said the exchange of fire began around 4.45 am near the Dal border post which is close to Bhikhiwind town of the district and is guarded by the 103rd battalion of the Border Security Force under the Ferozepur sector.

BSF troops, officials said, first noticed suspicious activity at the border around midnight and launched a "focused" surveillance and set up multiple ambushes after which the "contact was established" early morning, just behind the IB fence.

The intruders were seen carrying rifles and were taking the aid of 'sarkanda' or tall grass to sneak into India, they said. A photo collage released by the BSF showed two bodies piled on each other.

This is the highest number of intruders killed in a single incident along the over 3,300 km-long border with Pakistan in more than a decade

Bloomsbury withdraws book on Delhi riots 2020

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 22: Publisher Bloomsbury India said on Saturday it was withdrawing the publication of its book "Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story" planned for September "in view of very recent events including a virtual pre-publication launch organised without our knowledge by the authors, with participation by parties of whom the publishers would not have approved."

"Bloomsbury India strongly supports freedom of speech but also has a deep sense of responsibility towards society," the publisher said in a statement.

"Bloomsbury India had planned to release "Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story" in September; a book purportedly giving a factual report on the riots in Delhi in February 2020, based on investigations and interviews conducted by the authors.

"However, in view of very recent events including a virtual pre-publication launch organised without our knowledge by the authors, with participation by parties of whom the Publishers would not have approved, we have decided to withdraw publication of the book. Bloomsbury India strongly supports freedom of speech but also has a deep sense of responsibility towards society," the statement said.

A storm had been brewing since late Friday after a purported invitation on social media, with the Bloomsbury logo at its bottom left, stated that BJP general secretary Bhupendra Yadav would launch the book with party leader Kapil Mishra, besides authors Monica Arora, Sonali Chitalkar and Prerna Malhotra, as also filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri, among others, attending the virtual event.

In response to this, Bloomsbury issued a statement Friday evening denying it was involved in the launch, saying: "Bloomsbury India is publishing the book 'Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story' by advocate Monica Arora, Sonali Chitalkar, Prerna Malhotra in September 2020. We are not organising any launch event for the book and there are no events being planned yet," the statement said.



Clouds gather in the sky over Raisina Hills in New Delhi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Forced to travel 50 km for online classes, students demand Internet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: Around 200 children were forced to travel 50 kilometers everyday to reach an area with Internet connection to attend online classes from their remote coastal villages in Maharashtra after they were hit first COVID-19 lockdown and then cyclone Nisarga.

Hit by a pandemic and then a natural disaster, the children from remote villages in Maharashtra had to deal with Internet disruptions since early June when connectivity along the coastal area of Ratnagiri district became scratchy.

But when even after a month the situation did not improve, one of the students finally reached out to the top child rights body NCPCR for help. The National Commission for Protection Child Rights, in turn, ensured that the connectivity is restored in the fastest possible manner by reaching out to cellular companies and the district magistrate of the area, NCPCR Chairman Priyank Kanoongo said.



In his letter to the district magistrate of the area, Kanoongo stressed that the authorities must ensure that the issue gets resolved at the earliest.

"The commission has taken cognizance of a complaint received regarding poor and disrupted network connectivity along coastal area of Ratnagiri District,

Maharashtra, particularly in the area of PIN Code 415714, which was deadly hit by cyclone Nisarga June 3, 2020 and since then, the residents of area do not have mobile and data connectivity," Kanoongo said in the letter to the district magistrate July 25.

"As a result, around 200 students are facing difficulties in online educational activities due to corona lockdown. Besides, the students are taking pain to travel about 50 kms

a day to access data connectivity for their online education activities," he said. He sought the immediate intervention from the Ratnagiri district magistrate on the matter.

"Thereby draw the kind attention of DM, Ratnagiri to immediately intervene in the matter, make liaison and issue suitable directions to the concerned cellular service provider to get the Internet connectivity restored at the earliest so that no child becomes victim of undue pressure or stress concerning their education," Kanoongo wrote in the letter.

Speaking to news agency Press Trust of India, Kanoongo said the NCPCR continuously followed up with the authorities and finally the Internet connection in the area was restored by one of the cellular networks while the rest of them assured that they will resolve the issue at the earliest.

"We intervened and wrote to the

Haryana IG held for assaulting women

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, August 22: Haryana Inspector General of Police Hemant Kalsan, who is no stranger to controversies, was arrested by the police Saturday for allegedly assaulting two women after trespassing into their houses in Panchkula district, officials said.

In April 2019 he had faced suspension for allegedly firing into the air with a constable's semi-automatic gun outside the Circuit House at Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu, while in September 2018 he was assaulted by passers-by in a case of road rage.

In the latest episode, Kalsan has been booked for two incidents in Pinjore town, some 30 km from here, both reported Friday.

In the first incident, a woman alleged that Kalsan forcibly entered her house and beat up her daughter.

In the second incident, a man in a complaint said Kalsan allegedly abused his wife and assaulted him, besides threatening to shoot him.

According to the first information report, he was allegedly in an inebriated state at the time of both incidents.

Kalsan, 55, is currently posted as IGP, Home Guards.

In the 2018 incident, Kalsan was behind the wheel, accompanied by a friend. They were travelling from Pinjore to Panchkula, when a SUV overtook the vehicle at a high speed. He allegedly chased that vehicle and forced the driver to stop the vehicle.

Girl gangraped, killed, body dumped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jalpaiguri, August 22: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped multiple times, killed and the body dumped in a septic tank of a house in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, police said Saturday.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident, and when produced before the court Friday, they were remanded to eight days of police custody.

The girl, a resident of Shyanashikata in Rajganj, went missing August 10, following which her family lodged a police complaint, officials said.

Police Thursday arrested three persons, and during interrogation, they confessed to have raped and killed the girl August 15, officials said, adding that the body was then dumped in the septic tank.

The body was taken out from the septic tank of a house in Pradhan Para later that night, police said.

Local TMC MLA Khageswar Roy has met the girl's family and demanded death penalty for the accused.

Police said they are investigating the matter and yet to ascertain what led to the incident.

of the day quote

Any country sponsoring terrorism should not be allowed to paint itself as a victim of terror



T S TIRUMURTI | PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UN

The country is returning to normal following the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic



JAIR BOLSONARO | BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT

The US has violated both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231 by withdrawing from it, unilaterally reimposing sanctions on Iran, and even punishing those complying with the resolution



MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF | IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Nepal to resume int'l flights

Kathmandu: The Nepal government has decided to resume international flights from September 1 after nearly six months, a Cabinet Minister said. Nepal had suspended international flights on March 22 in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, reports Xinhua news agency. The country had earlier planned to resume the services from August 17, but it was extended till August 31 amid the resurgence of coronavirus cases.

WWII memory wall defaced

Paris: Vandals have scrawled graffiti denying the Holocaust on a wall in the village that was the site of the France's biggest massacre of civilians by the Nazis during World War II. France's justice minister vowed on Saturday that those responsible would be brought to justice. Officials in Oradour-Sur-Glane, near Limoges in central France, threw up a tarp to cover the graffiti discovered Friday on the wall at the entrance to the Center for Remembrance. The word "Lie" was scrawled on the wall, along with other graffiti, according to the regional paper Le Populaire du Centre. The inscription "Martyr Village" was crossed out. "Shame on those who did this," Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti tweeted.

South Korea mulls nationwide curbs

Seoul: South Korea is considering national restrictions to cope with a resurgence of coronavirus infections that has seen nine straight days of triple-digit increases in newly confirmed cases. The 332 new cases reported Saturday was the second consecutive day surpassing 300. At a briefing, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said the government is considering expanding to the whole country shutdown measures that have been implemented in the greater Seoul region, which is where the resurgence began.

US buildings closed in Portland

Portland: At least two federal buildings in Portland have been closed and the FBI is investigating after a car bomb threat was made, the officials said Friday. The threat, which was received Thursday, warned of the intention to use a car bomb to target federal property in Portland, according to two law enforcement officials. A number of federal offices in the area have been closed because of the threat, the officials said.

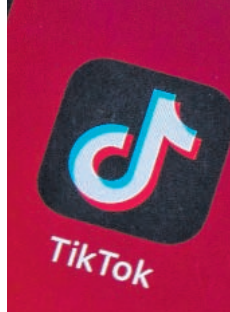


There is no legitimate reason to delay the intra-Afghan negotiations that have been postponed over differences on the release of controversial Taliban prisoners by the Kabul government

ZALMAY KHALILZAD | AFGHAN-AMERICAN DIPLOMAT

TIKTOK MULLS ACTION

TikTok is reportedly preparing to legally challenge by early next week the first executive order signed by US President Donald Trump to prohibit its China-based owner ByteDance to do any business in the US, the media reported



China backs Pakistan on choosing 'independent' path

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IT WAS CHINA, WHICH HAD REQUESTED A CLOSED DOOR DISCUSSION ON THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR ISSUE, SECONDING ISLAMABAD'S REQUEST ON THE SAME AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, August 22: China has come out in full support of Pakistan's position and stance on the Jammu and Kashmir issue along with its extended sustenance on Islamabad "independently" choosing a development path based on its "national conditions" in the context of external security parameters.

A joint statement issued after the talks between Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during Qureshi's two-day visit to Beijing said: "The Chinese side reiterated that Pakistan and China are iron brothers and Pakistan remains China's staunchest partner in the region and that China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, and independently choosing a development path based on its national conditions, striving for a better external security environment and playing a more constructive role in international and regional affairs."

The Kashmir issue was also brought into consideration and discussion during the meeting. Qureshi briefed the Chinese side on the situation in what it calls 'Indian



Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJKY).

China has seconded Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, declaring the dispute left over from the history between India and Pakistan, urging that the dispute should be resolved peacefully and properly through the UN charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. "China opposed any unilateral actions that complicate the situation," maintained the Chinese side.

It should be noted that it was China, which had requested a closed door discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir issue, seconding Islamabad's request on the

same at the UN Security Council.

Other than the Kashmir issue, China's support to Pakistan for taking independent decision, in line with its national interests, is signalling alarm to the Arab world, which has been pushing Islamabad to distance itself from China and see its progress in its ties with the US and its allies.

The joint statement has reiterated that there would be no compromise on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), highlighting that it would continue to pursue the completion of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), brushing aside any pressure Islamabad faces from some external global powers.

Navalny stable after landing in Germany

When German specialists arrived aboard a plane equipped with advanced medical equipment Friday morning at his family's behest, Navalny's physicians in Omsk initially said he was too unstable to move

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, August 22: Russian dissident Alexei Navalny, who is in a coma after a suspected poisoning, arrived in Berlin on a special flight Saturday for treatment by specialists at the German capital's main hospital.

A representative of the NGO that arranged the flight confirmed that the plane had landed and that Navalny was in stable condition.

"Navalny is in Berlin," Jaka Bizilj, of the German organization Cinema For Peace, said.

"He survived the flight and he's stable." He said all other information on the 44-year-old's health

would have to come from his family and the German doctors now looking after him. After touching down shortly before 9 a.m. at a special area of the capital's Tegel airport used for government and military flights, Navalny was taken by ambulance to the downtown campus of Berlin's Charite hospital.

Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator who is one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, was admitted to an intensive care unit in the Siberian city of Omsk Thursday. His supporters believe that tea he drank was laced with poison — and that the

Kremlin is behind both his illness and the delay in transferring him to a top German hospital.

When German specialists arrived aboard a plane equipped with advanced medical equipment Friday morning at his family's behest, Navalny's physicians in Omsk initially said he was too unstable to move. Navalny's supporters denounced that as a ploy by authorities to stall until any poison in his system would no longer be

traceable. The Omsk medical team relented only after a charity that had organized the medevac plane revealed that the German doctors examined the

politician and said he was fit to be transported.

Deputy chief doctor of the Omsk hospital Anatoly Kalinichenko then told reporters that Navalny's condition had stabilized and that physicians "didn't mind" transferring the politician, given that his relatives were willing "to take on the risks."

The Kremlin denied that resistance to the transfer was political, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying that it was purely a medical decision. However, the reversal came as international pressure on Russia's leadership mounted.



Maintenance workers work on the Jialing River railway bridge in Beibei district, southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. The inspection and maintenance of the bridge was strengthened during flood season to ensure the safe operation of the railway

UNI PHOTO

WASHINGTON ZOO WELCOMES NEW BABY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 22: Delivering a "much-needed moment of pure joy" the National Zoo's giant panda Mei Xiang gave birth to a wiggling cub Friday at a time of global pandemic and social unrest.

An experienced mom, "Mei Xiang picked the cub up immediately and began cradling and caring for it," the zoo said in a statement. "The panda team heard the cub vocalize." Panda lovers around the world were able to see the birth on the zoo's Panda Cam. Zookeepers also were using the camera to keep an eye on mom



and baby. "Giant pandas are an international symbol of endangered wildlife and hope, and with the birth of this precious cub we are thrilled to offer the world a much-needed moment of pure joy," said Steve Monfort, John and Adrienne Mars Director of the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

Monfort said Mei Xiang's age —

22 — made her chances of giving birth to a cub slim. "However, we wanted to give her one more opportunity to contribute to her species' survival," he said. She is the oldest giant panda to successfully give birth in the United States. The oldest in the world gave birth in China at age 23.

Mei Xiang has three surviving offspring, Tai Shan, Bao Bao and Bei Bei, that were transported to China at age 4 under an agreement with the Chinese government. The zoo has reopened to visitors on a limited basis, but the Panda House is closed. Mei Xiang gave birth in a small den, where she created a nest out of branches.

Indian-American couple releases campaign video for Biden, Harris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 22: A Silicon Valley-based Indian-American couple has released a musical campaign video targeting Indian-Americans in the battleground states and urging them to vote for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his Indian-origin running mate Senator Kamala Harris.

On the last day of the four-day Democratic National Convention Thursday, Biden, 77, formally accepted the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party. Harris, 55, scripted history in US politics as she became the first Indian-American and Black woman to get

a major party's vice-presidential nomination on the third day of the virtual Democratic National Convention on Wednesday.

"Living in Silicon Valley, we are at heart innovators; we have applied that creativity to rapidly grow the outreach to key South Asian voter groups in support of Vice President Biden. It is extremely important that we all come together as a community to fight for what is right," Vinita Bhutoria said after the release of the video on Friday.

Vinita, along with her tech entrepreneur husband Ajay Jian Bhutoria, starts the video saying, "America Ka Neta Kaisa Ho: Jo Biden Jaisa Ho." The political couple, who had earlier hosted Jill



Biden at their house early this year for fundraising, is currently working on three unique video adverts

in support of the Biden-Harris campaign. The first of the series was released Friday.

"Indo-Americans are the crucial margin of victory in Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, and Nevada," said Ajay.

Running into 143 seconds, in the backdrop of music, Indian-Americans in various languages, including Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, and Bengali, are appealing to their community members in the battleground States to vote and support Biden and his running mate Harris in the November presidential elections.

"As an absolutely essential swing vote, it is essential that Indo-American political representation increases. We have made immense leaps forward, but we will continue working hard

to further push the envelope of what is possible," Ajay said.

The video highlights the culture of Indo-Americans in the USA connecting to mainstream politics and highlights the engagement of all ages of Indo-American community, said Raj, a young Indian-American student from Claremont McKenna College in California. "It shows hope for the future for the Indo American community. The video shows the ocean of political activism and new waves by Indian Americans. The video connects people from different parts of India living in the USA and speaking in multiple languages, all united in the fight to elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," Raj said.

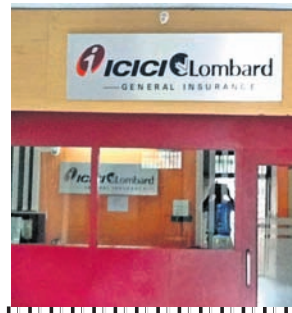


COVID has accelerated the pace of digital transformation that was never seen before. Today our education system is not fully equipped to teach the next generation with future-ready tech skills to thrive in the industry

SANDIP PATEL | MD, IBM INDIA/SOUTH ASIA

ICICI LOMBARD TO ACQUIRE BHARTI AXA

ICICI Lombard General Insurance has announced signing a definitive agreement to acquire Bharti Enterprises-promoted Bharti AXA General Insurance in all stock transaction. The proposed Rs 4,600-crore deal will propel ICICI Lombard to become the third largest player among non-life insurers



of the day quote

While expanding globally this year, the company responded to the pandemic by implementing initiatives to drive an integrated focus from all our centres in support of our clients

SANDEEP SAHAJ | CEO, CLEARWATER ANALYTICS



We have taken a big step forward towards serving the saving needs of senior citizens and general public alike with the launch of our firm's Fixed Deposits. We are happy that we continue to offer better interest rates to the senior citizens as well as the regular investors even in these tough times

YS CHAKRAVARTI | MD & CEO, SHIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE



It is good to see that coders are utilising their time to develop new skills. This will eventually help them stand out from the rest of the crowd who don't possess the talent critical for the new normal. It is also interesting to see that they are more focused on getting a permanent job to strengthen their position in future

NARAYAN MAHADEVAN | FOUNDER, BRIDGELABZ



SHORT TAKES

OIL registers ₹249 cr loss

New Delhi: Oil India Ltd, the nation's second largest state oil and gas producer, logged second quarterly loss in its history in April-June after crude oil prices slumped to lower than cost of production. OIL had a net loss of ₹248.61 crore in first quarter of 2020-21 fiscal as compared to a net profit of ₹624.80 crore in the same period of the previous financial year. "This is the second quarterly loss in OIL history. We had a quarterly loss in 2018-19 fiscal," OIL Director-Finance Harish Madhav said Saturday.

'Steel demand to contract in FY21'

Mumbai: India's steel demand is expected to contract in FY21, Fitch Ratings has said. However, the ratings agency said that volumes should continue to improve over the next few quarters, led by rural consumption and government spending on infrastructure, and lead to better margins due to operating leverage. "Higher prices supported by the price rebound in China should also drive margins in 2QFY21 and beyond. Indian prices have started to tick up since late-July, with a lag," said a statement by Fitch Ratings.

UK govt debt hits \$2.6 tn

London: The UK government debt has increased above 2 trillion pounds (\$2.6 trillion) for the first time amid heavy spending to support the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has revealed. Spending on measures such as the furlough scheme means the debt figure now equals the value of everything the UK produces in a year.

Balmer Lawrie to shut one unit

Kolkata: Diversified PSU Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited will be closing down its industrial packaging unit in Kolkata, which was making losses for years because of low demand, from September 1, a top company official said Saturday.

Worldwide spend on public cloud hit \$233 bn in 2019

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 22: The global public cloud services market grew 26% (y-o-y) in 2019 with revenues totalling \$233.4 billion, according to a new International Data Corporation (IDC) report.

The Public Cloud services include Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Software as a Service (SaaS).

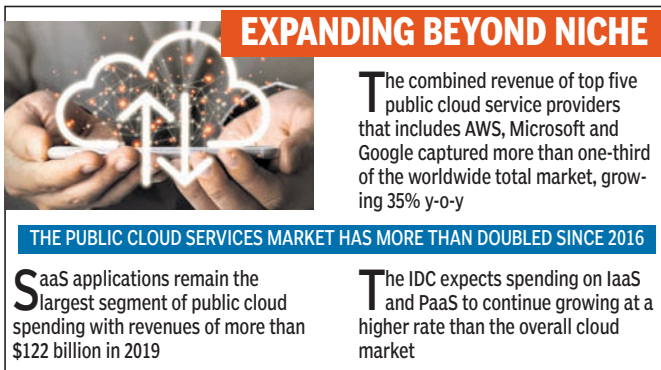
The combined revenue of top five public cloud service providers (Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, Salesforce, Google and Oracle) captured more than one third of the worldwide total market, growing

35% y-o-y.

"Cloud is expanding far beyond niche e-commerce and online ad-sponsored searches. It underpins all the digital activities that individuals and enterprises depend upon as we navigate and move beyond the pandemic," said Rick Villars, group vice president, Worldwide Research at IDC.

"Enterprises talked about cloud journeys of up to 10 years. Now they are looking to complete the shift in less than half that time."

The public cloud services market has more than doubled since 2016. During this same period, the combined spending on IaaS and



PaaS has nearly tripled.

This highlights the increasing reliance on cloud infrastructure

Amazon consumer biz CEO to step down next year

AGENCIES

San Francisco, August 22: Jeff Wilke, the CEO of Amazon's worldwide consumer division, is set to retire early next year after serving the company for over two decades.

Dave Clark, Amazon's Senior Vice President of Retail Operations, will succeed Wilke, Amazon said in a statement on Friday.

In a memo to employees, Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos called Wilke his "tutor".

Wilke, who joined the company in 1999, is often credited with shaping the logistics system that the e-commerce giant has today.

"When you see us taking care of customers, you can thank Jeff for it," Bezos said in the memo, announcing Wilke's departure from the company.



"Jeff's legacy and impact will live on long after he departs. He is simply one of those people without whom Amazon would be completely unrecognisable," the Amazon CEO said.

In a message to Amazon teams around the world, Wilke said that "it's just time" for him "to take time to explore personal interests that have taken a back seat for over two decades."

Centre to develop ₹7,750 cr gas pipeline project in state

JHBDPL, Srikakulam-Angul Pipeline and Dhamra-Haldia Pipeline projects are under construction that will boost gas-based economy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: With an aim to expand the gas pipeline network across the country, the central government is developing around 1,550 km pipeline network for Odisha, under the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project, to boost gas-based economy.

Three projects viz., Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL), Srikakulam-Angul Pipeline and Dhamra-Haldia Pipeline are being developed. These projects are being implemented by state-owned company Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The whole project is worth (estimated) ₹7,750 crore.

According to Odisha GAIL CGM Dinabandhu Soren, under 2,500 km JHBDPL project, the pipeline network will cover around 800 km for Odisha which is an investment of around ₹4,000 crore. This 800 km pipeline project is being implemented through two projects: Bokaro -Angul Pipeline and Dhamra-Angul Pipeline.

"The Bokaro-Angul section will have a total length of 667 km, of which 367 km will be in Odisha and 300 km in Jharkhand. It will cover five districts in Odisha namely



Angul, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Debagarh, and six districts in Jharkhand Bokaro, Ramgarh, Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla and Simdega," Soren said.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) awarded the geographical areas for development of City Gas Distribution networks in these 11 districts to different entities and the Bokaro-Angul section will be catering the supply of natural gas to these areas.

According to GAIL authorities, the JHBDPL project will be completed in Odisha by February 2021.

The Srikakulam-Angul Pipeline

project will have a length of around 500 km and it will supply gas to western parts of Odisha. The authorities said that about ₹2,500 crore is being invested to execute the pipeline network expansion. The authorities also stated that gas will be supplied to small and medium industries and other companies. They also said that the project will be completed soon.

On the other hand, Dhamra-Haldia Pipeline project will be of 250 km and it will supply gas to the coastal region of Odisha. It is expected that around ₹1,250 crore is being invested for the completion of this project.

24 proposals worth ₹8,594 cr of stressed NBFCs, HFCs sanctioned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: The finance ministry on Saturday said 24 proposals worth ₹8,594 crore of stressed NBFCs and HFCs have been sanctioned under the special liquidity scheme announced as part of the ₹20.97 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package.

The scheme, which was launched on July 1, permits both primary and secondary market purchases of debt and seeks to address the short-term liquidity issues of non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs).

Sharing implementation status update of the ₹30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS), Finance

SPECIAL LIQUIDITY SCHEME

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a tweet said that 24 proposals with a total sanctioned amount of ₹8,594 crore have been cleared as on August 21, while 17 more applications seeking financing of up to ₹3,684.5 crore are under process.

"The amount disbursed stood at ₹3,279 crore as on 21.08.2020. Compared to 07.08.2020, there is an increase of ₹2,195 crore in the amount sanctioned & an increase of ₹2,279 crore in the amount disbursed," she tweeted.

NBFCs and HFCs came under stress following a series of defaults by IL&FS group firms in September 2018. NBFCs including microfi-

and digital application delivery.

According to Deepak Mohan, Research Director, Cloud Infrastructure Services, cost optimisation and business resilience have emerged as top drivers of IT investment decisions and IaaS offerings are designed to enable both.

"The COVID-19 disruption has accelerated cloud adoption with both traditional enterprise IT organisations and digital service providers increasing use of IaaS for their technology platforms," he said.

SaaS applications remain the largest segment of public cloud

spending with revenues of more than \$122 billion in 2019.

"Although growth has slowed somewhat in recent years, the current crisis serves as an accelerator for SaaS adoption across primary and functional markets to address the exponential growth of remote workers," said Frank Della Rosa, research director, SaaS and Cloud Software.

The IDC expects spending on IaaS and PaaS to continue growing at a higher rate than the overall cloud market over the next several years as resilience, flexibility, and agility guide IT platform decisions.

OIL IMPORTS

India's Middle East share hits 2-yr high

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 22: Middle Eastern oil accounted for 71.5% of India's oil imports in July, its highest share in 26 months, while imports from Africa fell to 5%, the lowest in at least 14 years, shows the data from trade sources.

Analysts said lower fuel demand and paltry refining margins had driven a preference for Middle Eastern sour grades over sweet African barrels.

India, the world's third-biggest oil consumer, imports more than 80% of its oil needs.

"Since April Indian refiners are trying to save every single penny on crude purchases as refining margins are paltry and fuel demand has crashed. They are forced to cut refiners runs," said Ehsan Ul Haq, an analyst with Refinitiv.

Indian refiners mostly tap spot markets for low sulphur or sweet grades and buy sour grades under term deals with Middle Eastern producers.

"Imports from Middle East help in saving freight cost. Refiners opted to lift committed volumes under contracts with Middle Eastern producers rather than tapping costly Brent-linked African oil that takes more than 20 days to reach India," Haq added.

India's oil imports plunged to their lowest in over 9 years in July,



falling to around 3 million barrels per day as low fuel demand encouraged refiners to shut units for maintenance.

Imports from Opec countries dropped to their lowest in at least 14 years at 67.15% in July, data showed.

Rising imports from the United States also dented Africa's share in Indian imports. The sources declined to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

India imported no oil from Venezuela for the second month in a row in July, the data showed.

During the month Iraq retained its top oil supplier status to India followed by Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

The United States emerged as the fourth biggest supplier followed by Kuwait, Colombia and Qatar. Nigeria, which was the fifth largest supplier to India in June, dropped to eighth position.

PNB posts ₹308 cr of net profit in April-June quarter

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 22: Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's second-largest public sector bank announced its financial result for the quarter ended June 30, 2020. The bank recorded a net profit of ₹308 crore. Global Business of the bank reached ₹17,96,612 Crore.

The bank's operating profit grew by 2.5% on a YOY basis to ₹5,280 crore in Q1 FY21. CRAR as on June 30, 2020, improved to 12.63%. Gross NPA ratio is at 14.11% as on June 20 as against 15.49% in June 19.



Net NPA ratio reduced to 5.39% as on June 20 down from 5.51% as on March 20 and 6.97% as on June 19. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) improved to 80.75% as on June 20 from 70.37% as on June 19. Internet Banking users crossed 233 lakh. UPI transactions increased by 76% YOY to 19.16 crore.

POS installed increased YOY by 17.78% to 88,204. Bharat/BHIM QR Code installed increased YOY by 139% to 1,73,958.

The bank has rolled out a verticalised organisation structure to improve operational efficiency and provide steady growth momentum. Business and control functions have been segregated to have a focused approach for business development and improve customer service.

Global cues to make rupee volatile: Experts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 22: Optimism over the development of COVID-19 vaccine along with broad-based growth trends is expected to induce volatility in the rupee's value during the short term.

The US Fed's FOMC minutes, US-China trade talks, and expectations on Q1 GDP rate will be the other key factors steering the rupee.

Last week, the rupee strengthened to ₹74.85 against a greenback.

"Expect next week range at ₹74.60 to ₹75.10 with some appreciation bias," said Sajal Gupta, Head, Forex and Rates, Edelweiss Securities.

"FY21 Q1 GDP numbers are expected to show contraction between 15-20% and any positive surprise could help the market sentiments."



According to Anindya Banerjee, DVP, Currency and Rates, Kotak Securities: "Dollar is going to be range-bound due to lack of

triggers."

"The RBI intervention below ₹74.80 and exporter selling above ₹75.30 may keep it between ₹74.50 and

This week the movement in USD/INR spot has mainly been dollar driven and the spot traded in a very tight range. Going ahead, insights into how the US economy is recovering from the pandemic along with uncertainty regarding US' trade talks with China will keep playing out on the USD/INR pair

RAHUL GUPTA | HEAD OF RESEARCH-CURRENCY, EMKAY GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

per dollar for the medium term." The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is known to enter the markets via intermediaries to either sell or buy US dollars to keep the rupee in a

stable orbit.

"This week the movement in USD/INR spot has mainly been dollar driven and the spot traded in a very tight range. Going ahead, insights into how the US economy is recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, optimism over vaccine, along with uncertainty regarding the US-China trade talks will keep playing out on the USD/INR pair," said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research-Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services.

"We expect ₹74.50 to continue acting as crucial support while ₹75.20 will act as a strong resistance. Only consistent trading above ₹75.20 will open the doors for ₹75.50 zone."

Inter fall on own sword as Lukaku own goal helps Spanish League side scrape past Italian club 3-2 for a record sixth Europa League title



The Sevilla League!

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cologne (Germany), August 22: The longest Europa League season came down to a defender's spectacular shot and a striker trying to keep it out. Instead of blocking Diego Carlos' overhead kick — which was going wide — Romelu Lukaku deflected it into his own net. That handed Sevilla a 3-2 win in the final Friday and a record sixth Europa League title. And it gave Lukaku the distinction of scoring for both teams. The Belgium striker had given Inter a perfect start with an early goal after winning his first duel with Carlos, who could easily have been sent off in the process. The Brazilian defender was the last defender when he fouled Lukaku on a counterattack in the third minute but was only given a yellow card.



It was a very emotional game but in the second half we controlled the game a bit better we dug in. He (Diego Carlos) gave away the penalty then he scored that wonderful overhead kick

LUUK DE JONG

Lukaku scored the spot-kick, but Sevilla fought their way back into the game with two headers from Luuk de Jong, setting the stage for Carlos to hit his game-winning kick in the 74th. The loss extended Inter's wait for a first European trophy since Jose Mourinho led the Italian club to the Champions League title in 2010. Sevilla have won the Europa League in four of the last seven seasons.

Contrasting media reactions in Spain, Italy

Spanish newspapers have lauded Sevilla after Julen Lopetegui's side landed their sixth Europa League triumph while Italian papers have cast doubt on Antonio Conte's future at Inter Milan. Spanish newspapers have hailed the efforts of Sevilla and Lopetegui, who lifted his first piece of major silverware as a coach following the triumph in Germany

AS splashed the headline: 'Sevilla League' across their front page Saturday morning, a nod to the club's dominance in the European competition that they have now won six times. Marca opted for the headline: '6!' while listing the club's victories in Eindhoven in 2006, Glasgow in 2007, Turin in 2014, Varsovia in 2015, Basilea in 2016 and Cologne Friday night.



'Conte, are you leaving? Inter lose, Antonio splits' was the headline on the front of Gazzetta dello Sport, with an image of the former Chelsea and Juventus boss looking dejected. Corriere dello Sport went for a similar line with regards to Conte's Inter future, with the headline: 'Conte splits', while Tuttosport wrote: 'No, not like this!' on their front page.

India to host England 'in Feb. 2021': Ganguly



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has confirmed to its affiliated units that India will be hosting England for a full series in February next year after playing an away rubber in Australia. The Board supremo also informed the state units that the 2021 IPL will be played in April, within five months of the upcoming edition, which concludes November 10. This is Ganguly's second communication to the states in last two months as he seeks to keep the members posted about India's commitments in the Future Tours Programme (FTP). He said that India is ready to host the T20 World Cup next year and the ODI World Cup in 2023.

"The BCCI and the Indian cricket team will continue to fulfil its FTP commitments. The senior Indian men's team will travel to Australia for its series starting in December this year, and will come back to the country for a series against England starting February next year. This will be followed by IPL 2021 in April," Ganguly said in an email to all the affiliated units. "The BCCI continues to be the host for the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 and the 50-over ICC Cricket World Cup in 2023." The former India captain also said that the tours of the Indian women's team are 'under discussion' but did not elaborate on that. He has assured all state associations that domestic cricket will start as and when the situation is safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic, but did not specify a date for the season's kick-off. Normally domestic season starts in August but the pandemic has wreaked havoc with the calendar and Ganguly's letter to state associations made it clear that the Board is yet to lock in a date. The domestic season is now expected to begin with the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, tentatively from the third week of November.

Buttler-Crawley stand frustrates hapless Pakistan

AGENCIES

Southampton, August 22: Zak Crawley (267, 393b, 34x4, 1x6) and Jos Buttler (140 batting, 290b, 12x4, 2x6) frustrated Pakistan with a 359-run partnership for the fifth wicket as England reached 490/5 at tea on day two of the third and final Test here, Saturday.



Zak Crawley

The visitors banked on part-timer Asad Shafiq after all their regular bowlers failed to make any impact on the duo, and fortunately the move worked. Crawley, who was trying the get some quick runs, was stumped while going for an expensive shot. Resuming the at 332/4, both Crawley and Buttler hardly gave any chance which Pakistan could grab for good. Brief showers took the teams off twice during the morning session, resulting in lunch being taken an hour later than scheduled. **Brief scores (at tea):** England 490/5 (Zak Crawley 267, Jos Buttler 140 batting) vs Pakistan. Match to continue.

BLOCKBUSTER FINALE

PSG set sight on making history as they face mighty Bayern Munich hurdle in quest of their 'holy grail' – the Champions League title

AGENCIES

Lisbon, August 22: A fresh slice of history beckons here for one of these giants as they face off in club football's most prestigious match, but their past history at this stage of the competition could barely be more different. Bayern have been here and done it all before — only Real Madrid can top their tally of 11 European Cup and Champions League finals, while only Madrid, AC Milan and Liverpool have got their hands on the trophy more often. It has not been all triumph and glory for the Bavarian juggernauts, though, and they have lost as many finals as they have won in this competition, Juventus being the only team to have been beaten more often at this stage.

PSG know all about despair in Europe's premier club competition; their recent history has been littered by high-profile failures and it remains impossible to consider their Champions League past without thoughts immediately going back to their Neymar-inspired 6-1 defeat to Barcelona in 2016-17. Now with Neymar in their ranks and beginning to show the decisive influence PSG have been hoping for since his world-record move, the Ligue 1 giants have the chance to finally banish those memories and the hurt of seven successive seasons in which they failed to make it past the quarterfinals. The owners have made no secret of the fact that the Champions League is the holy grail for them and, after years of underachievement in the competition, it could be written in the stars for them to pull off their crowning glory in the club's 50th anniversary year. Success at home is almost a given now for Le Parisiens, who have won 24 of the last 28 domestic trophies available to them, but victory Sunday would see them finally join the top table of Europe's elite. While that is the biggest and tastiest carrot for the owners, in time PSG's possible achievement of completing a clean sweep of trophies this season may be viewed as even more historic, having already wrapped up the Ligue 1, Coupe de France, Coupe de la Ligue and Trophée des Champions titles this season.

After Sevilla reclaimed the lead, Jules Kounde stopped Inter leveling once again when he cleared substitute Alexis Sanchez's shot off the line in the 82nd. Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui said he was delighted to win a trophy with Sevilla in his first job since spending barely three months in charge of Real Madrid in 2018. He had lost his job as Spain coach on the eve of the World Cup over his decision to take over Real.

ROAD TO THE FINAL

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

PSG 3-0 Real Madrid
Galatasaray 0-1 PSG
Club Brugge 0-5 PSG
PSG 1-0 Club Brugge
Real Madrid 2-2 PSG
PSG 5-0 Galatasaray
Dortmund 2-1 PSG
PSG 2-0 Dortmund
PSG 2-1 Atalanta
PSG 3-0 RB Leipzig

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BAYERN MUNICH

Bayern 3-0Belgrade
Tottenham 2-7 Bayern
Olympiacos 2-3 Bayern
Bayern 2-0 Olympiacos
RS Belgrade 0-6 Bayern
Bayern 3-1 Tottenham
Chelsea 0-3 Bayern
Bayern 4-1 Chelsea
Bayern 8-2 Barcelona
Bayern 3-0 Lyon

HEAD TO HEAD

These two sides have met on eight previous occasions, with all of those coming in the group stages of the Champions League. It is PSG who boast the superior record in those meetings, winning five compared to three victories for Bayern

Only two of those past meetings have come since 2000, with the two sides trading victories in the 2017-18 group stages – PSG winning 3-0 in Paris and Bayern winning 3-1 in Munich



No French club has ever completed the treble before either as PSG look to become only the ninth team to achieve that feat, but they are facing a Bayern side similarly familiar with a domestic monopoly on titles and with far more experience in Europe. Indeed, Bayern won a treble of their own just seven years ago when they picked up their fifth Champions League crown, and victory on Sunday would see them join Barcelona as the only clubs to do so on two separate occasions. The German outfit have been simply scintillating en route to the final, plundering an incredible 42 goals during a perfect 10 wins from 10 games in the competition. An 8-2 obliteration of Barcelona in the quarterfinals was undoubtedly the most memorable of those wins. Rarely, if ever, has there been a more emphatic route to the final, with

Bayern already boasting the best goals-per-game ratio in CL history and needing three more goals to equal Barcelona's all-time record of 45 in a CL campaign – recorded over 16 games in 1999-00. With such a record, it is easy to forget that Bayern had been in some trouble earlier in the campaign, leading to Niko Kovac being sacked and replaced by Hansi Flick, who has since steered them back on to the right path. It is not only Bayern's European record which is formidable; German champions for an eighth year in a row, they come into this match having won 27 of their last 28 outings across all competitions including each of the last 19. Yet there is not quite an aura of invincibility about the team despite the results suggesting otherwise, and PSG will have taken belief from Lyon's performance in the semifinals despite their fellow Ligue 1 side being on the end of a 3-0 defeat. Sunday represents a tantalising opportunity to make themselves the team to beat, though, and if they are finally able to lift their most coveted prize aloft then there could be no doubting that they are worthy champions.



CLAMOUR FOR BHARAT RATNA TO DHYAN CHAND GROWS

'1st target semis, then medals at Games'



Actor Babushaan talks to former India player Ashok Kumar during a digital campaign demanding Bharat Ratna for Ashok Kumar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: India's first target should be to reach the semifinals of the Tokyo Olympics. Then India can aspire to win a medal," said former India players Ashok Kumar and Gurbux Singh. They were speaking in a panel discussion organised by 'Signature 24 Productions' in association with Orissa POST. The discussion was taking place on the first anniversary of the first-ever digital campaign launched demanding 'Bharat Ratna' for the iconic Dhyan Chand. The event hosted by popular actor Babushaan also saw Harbinder Singh and Yuvraj Walmiki taking part. Incidentally Harbinder and Gurbux were members of the Indian team that won gold at the Tokyo Olympics. Ashok on the other hand was a part of the team that won the World Cup under Ajitpal Singh. Walmiki had not much to offer on

I learnt by watching his (Dhyan Chand) skills, never got any formal coaching from him. Till the time, I won the World Cup gold medal, he never saw any of my other medals including the Olympic bronze

ASHOK KUMAR

India were in good form. They were beating top teams regularly. Had the Olympics not been postponed due to the pandemic, we were certainly medal contenders. Now the momentum has gone. I am doubtful about how India will fare next year

HARBINDER SINGH

Dhyan Chand. However, he said that during his tenure of eight years in the German Hockey League, people always referred to him as the 'man from Dhyan Chand's country'. It just shows how much the Dhyan Chand Sir was revered," said Walmiki. Gurbux called Dhyan Chand 'the best-ever player India has ever produced' while Harbinder said 'he was an icon in true sense'. Ashok on the other hand pointed out his dad never wanted him to play hockey "Maybe that is because of the financial hardships he faced during his playing days," said Ashok. "I learnt by watching his skills, never got any formal coaching from him. Till the time, I won the World Cup gold medal, he never saw any of my other medals including the Olympic bronze," he added. Discussions also turned towards the Tokyo Olympics. Ashok was quick to point out that Indian

coaches should stop speaking about podium finishes. "In the last 40 years we have not been reached semifinals once. So let's first make that target," Ashok asserted. A point to which Gurbux agreed. It should be stated here that India won their last hockey Olympic gold at Moscow in 1980. However many nations had boycotted the event due to their differences with Russia. Harbinder on the other hand said that India's medal at the Tokyo Olympics has suddenly suffered due to the postponement of the Games to 2021. "India were in good form. They were beating top teams regularly. Had the Olympics not been postponed due to the pandemic, we were certainly medal contenders. Now the momentum has gone. I am doubtful about how India will fare next year," Harbinder said.