



PRIVILEGED PERFORMER

Actor Alaya F says she has the luxury and opportunity to do all sorts of films to challenge herself

LEISURE

P2



nCoV CASES CROSS 25MN

Global COVID-19 cases have surged past 25 million and the virus' epicentre is shifting again

INTERNATIONAL

P10



KOHLI SATISFIED

Virat Kohli says that his first net session with the bat after 5 months has gone better than expected

SPORTS

P12

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It is always good to have illiterates in key positions in the party. They won't write letters for sure!

SHORT TAKES

Petrol to cost ₹82.64/ litre in City

Bhubaneswar: The price of petrol was hiked by 9 paise to ₹82.64 per litre in the state capital Sunday, while diesel price remained unchanged at 80.09 per litre. This is the 12th fuel price hike in 14 days. On the other hand, petrol price crossed ₹82 per litre-mark in the national capital and three other metro cities after a day's pause. In Delhi, petrol was priced at ₹82.03, higher by 9 paise from ₹81.94 Saturday. Price of the fuel in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata was at ₹88.68, ₹85, ₹83.52 per litre, respectively, against the previous levels of ₹88.58, ₹84.91 and ₹83.43 per litre. Diesel prices were unchanged across the four cities.

Cop, 3 LeT militants killed in J&K

Srinagar: Three Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants and an assistant sub-inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police were killed in a gunfight on the outskirts of the city here Sunday, police said. Militants fired on a joint 'naka' of police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Pantha Chowk area late Saturday night, a police official said. He said the joint parties of the forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation there.

Census, NPR unlikely in 2020

New Delhi: The first phase of the Census and the exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR), scheduled for this year but deferred due to the coronavirus outbreak, may be delayed by a year as there is no sign of slowdown of the pandemic. The Indian census is one of the largest administrative and statistical exercises in the world, with the involvement of more than 30 lakh officials who would visit each household across the length and breadth of the country.

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.0°C	35.6°C
MIN	26.5°C	25.2°C
Humidity	77%	65%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

Mahanadi flood situation still grim

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Seventeen people have died due to floods in 20 districts of the state, while flood waters of the Mahanadi inundated several villages in coastal Odisha with over 10 lakh cusecs flowing through the Mundali barrage near Cuttack, officials said.

Noting that an inflow of even 7 lakh cusecs at Mundali usually triggers flood in the Daya and the Bhargavi, the two tributaries of the Mahanadi, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said, the flood waters have submerged many villages in Kanasa and Delang blocks in Puri district causing two breaches in the embankments of the Daya and another in the Rajua in Khurda district. The repair of the breaches will be taken up immediately after the flood water recedes, he said. The swollen river also flooded villages in Banki area of Cuttack district and affected road communication. Mahanadi, the biggest river in the state, is in spate following heavy downpour in its upper catchment areas in neighbouring Chhattisgarh three days ago and flow of huge volume of water into the Hirakud reservoir, built across the river near Sambalpur in west Odisha.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will make an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas Monday.

Meanwhile, 46 of the 64 sluice gates of the Hirakud Dam have been opened by the authorities to discharge excess



An embankment of Brahmani river washed away in flood

OP PHOTO

NATURE'S FURY

SEVENTEEN PEOPLE HAVE DIED DUE TO FLOODS IN 20 DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

FLOOD WATERS OF THE MAHANADI INUNDATED SEVERAL VILLAGES IN COASTAL ODISHA SUNDAY WITH OVER 10 LAKH CUSECS FLOWING THROUGH THE MUNDALI BARRAGE NEAR CUTTACK

CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK WILL TAKE AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS MONDAY

water from the reservoir which was receiving huge inflow from upstream.

“Over 7.65 lakh cusecs of water is now being discharged from the Hirakud Dam,” Jena told reporters after a high-level meeting. The water level at Hirakud Dam stood at 628 feet Sunday noon as against the full reservoir level of 630 feet, the SRC said. “Excess water is being discharged from the reservoir due to the huge inflow and rise in water level,” he said. As a result, the volume of the river water flowing through Mundali near Cuttack has touched 10.02 lakh cusecs Sunday, he said.

“Flow of water from Chhattisgarh has now dropped. Inflow into the Hirakud reservoir which had shot up to 9.5 lakh cusecs has come down to

around 8 lakh cusecs,” the SRC said.

Mentioning that the peak inflow through the Mundali barrage is likely to continue till Monday, the SRC said, the flood waters are expected to reach Kendrapara, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts later in the day.

The flood in the Mahanadi river system is likely to affect coastal districts including Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh and parts of Kendrapara, Chief Engineer of Water Resources department, Jyotirmanya Rath said.

Meanwhile, the water level of the Mahanadi stood at 26.86 metre at Naraj near Cuttack as against the danger mark of 26.41 metre Saturday evening. Principal Secretary, Water Resources

Department, Anu Garg said that engineers are keeping a close watch and carrying out patrolling in vulnerable areas.

The state government has deployed 15 units of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), 14 teams of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and 119 teams of Fire Service in the low-lying areas for carrying out rescue and relief operations, the SRC said.

Evacuation will be undertaken in vulnerable areas to shift people to shelter centres where cooked food will be provided. Collectors of all the districts in the Mahanadi delta region have been alerted to remain prepared to deal with the situation, the SRC said.

MORE P3 & 5

CENTRE TO WEED OUT INEFFICIENT, CORRUPT STAFF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The Centre has asked all its departments to review service records of employees who have completed 30 years in job to identify inefficient or corrupt staff and retire them prematurely in public interest, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

The employees' performance review is conducted under the Fundamental Rule (FR) 56 (J) and 56 (I), and also under Rule 48 (I) (b) of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, that gives “absolute right” to the appropriate authority to retire a government servant, “if it is necessary to do so in public interest”.

“It is clarified that premature retirement of government servants under these rules is not a penalty. It is distinct from ‘compulsory retirement’, which is one of prescribed penalties under Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965,” said the order issued Friday.

The government may, at any time after a government servant has attained the age of 50/55 years or completed 30 years of service, as the case may be, retire him/her prematurely in public interest, it said.

Instructions have been issued from time to time for undertaking periodic review of performance of government servants with a view to ascertain whether they should be retained in service or retired prematurely, the ministry said.



The Centre has asked all its departments to review service records of employees who have completed 30 years in job to identify inefficient or corrupt staff and retire them prematurely

The latest order has been issued in order to bring in better clarity to the existing instructions and enable uniform implementation

The latest order has been issued in order to bring in better clarity to the existing instructions and enable uniform implementation, it said.

“An effort has been made to review, consolidate and reiterate the guidelines so far issued on the subject at one place,” the ministry said in the order issued to the secretaries of all Central government departments.

Giving details on applicability of FR 56 (J), the order said the service record of a group A and B category officer can be reviewed if he/she has attained the age of 50 years (in case of joining service before 35 years of age) or after attaining 55 years (in case of joining service after 35 years of age).

Banks told to refund charges on digital transactions since Jan 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The Income Tax department on Sunday asked banks to refund the charges collected on or after January 1, 2020, on transactions carried out through electronic modes like RuPay cards or BHIM-UPI.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), in a circular on ‘imposition of charge on the prescribed electronic modes under section 269SU of I-T Act’, also advised banks not to impose any charges on any future transactions carried out through these modes.

To encourage digital transactions and move towards a less-cash economy, the government inserted a new provision, Section 269SU, in the Finance Act, 2019.

The Act requires a person carrying on business and having sales/turnover/gross receipts from business of more than ₹50 crore in the immediately preceding previous year to mandatorily provide facilities for accepting payments through prescribed electronic modes.

Subsequently, in December 2019, debit card powered by RuPay; Unified Payments Interface (UPI) (BHIM-UPI); and Unified Payments Interface Quick Response Code (UPI QR Code) were notified as prescribed electronic modes. “Banks are advised to immediately refund the charges collected, if any, on or after January 1, 2020, on transactions carried out using the electronic modes prescribed under section 269SU of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and not to impose charges on any future transactions carried through the said prescribed mode.”

RICH HARVEST



A villager carries collected water lilies on his shoulder in Munshiganj, Bangladesh, Sunday

UNI PHOTO

CUSTODIAL DEATH

Rajasthan man hangs self in Jeypore PS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, August 30: An accused has reportedly committed suicide in police custody at Jeypore police station in Koraput, late Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Gopal Ram (44), a resident of Nagore in Rajasthan.

SDPO Barun Gupali said that the matter will be investigated as per the guidelines of the NHRC.

He informed that while the police were patrolling Saturday night, they spotted a truck at Umuri Chhak. On seeing the police, the driver of the vehicle Gopal Ram fled the spot. Following investigation, police came to know that the truck was transporting over eight quintals of ganja worth ₹45 lakh in the market. Police seized the truck and found an Aadhaar card in the name of Gopal Ram. After searching for the driver, the police located him at 2 pm.

He was in the police station. In the wee hours, the accused managed to go to the bathroom and hanged himself with a bed sheet. He was rescued and rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him ‘brought dead’.

The SDPO said that the family of the deceased has been intimated about the incident and a case has been registered in this regard. The SDPO added that the post mortem of his body will be done in the presence of his family and a magistrate.

We aren't anyone's puppets: Farooq's retort to Pakistan

THE NC LEADER URGES BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO RESUME THEIR DIALOGUE “FOR EVERYONE'S GREATER GOOD”

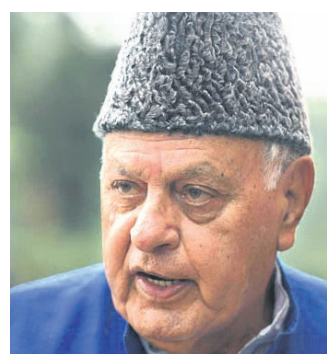
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Reacting sharply to Pakistan hailing the recent Gupkar Declaration in which six political parties of Jammu and Kashmir vowed to fight collectively against the abrogation of Article 370, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Sunday asserted that “we are not anyone's puppets”.

“Pakistan has always abused mainstream political parties of

Jammu and Kashmir but now suddenly they like us”, the former Chief Minister said when asked about Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's statement that the declaration issued by the NC, PDP, Congress and three other parties was “not an ordinary occurrence but an important development”.

“Let me make it clear that we are not anyone's puppets, neither New Delhi's nor of anyone across the border. We are answerable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and



will work for them,” he told this news agency from Srinagar.

In response to a question on cross-border terrorism, Abdullah said, “I would urge Pakistan to stop sending armed men into Kashmir. We want an end to the bloodshed in our state. All political parties in Jammu and Kashmir are committed to fight for our rights peacefully, including for what was unconstitutionally snatched away from us August 5 last year”.

At the same time, the NC leader

urged both India and Pakistan to resume their dialogue “for everyone's greater good”.

“Our people are being killed on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) every time there are ceasefire violations. For God's sake bring a halt to that”, he said.

In a declaration issued August 22, six prominent mainstream political parties came together for restoration of Article 370 and statehood to Jammu and Kashmir after describing as “unconstitutional” steps approved by

Parliament last year to end the erstwhile state's special status and slice it into two union territories.

The joint statement is known as “Gupkar Declaration-2”, being second declaration on Article 370 issued after meetings held at the Gupkar Road residence of Abdullah which clearly asks the Centre that “there can be nothing about us without us”, an indication that the Centre has to take into confidence the people before implementing any Constitutional change.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today is just another busy day. You may remain hassled sorting out problems at office and then at home. Your bosses may allow you certain concessions and this will ease things to some extent. Ganesha says you will gain valuable guidance from elderly people.

TAURUS

Planning your own milestones and celebrating the success of friends is the agenda for the day. Your thoughts will be progressive in business or at work, and any plans you make will make a rock-solid foundation for your future.

GEMINI

Today, you will have a tendency to remain possessive about your personal belongings, says Ganesha. You are likely to join personality development courses to achieve your ultimate goals. An unpleasant occurrence is likely to throw you off guard.

CANCER

You may have a way with words, but women somehow always have their way with you. Your problem is that while you may use your words to pull some strings, the master puppeteer, in most cases, will be a woman.

LEO

Try and put on some protective gear today – maybe a suit of armour should do fine, says Ganesha. For, you may find some need for it on this day of mixed fortunes as you miss out the expected and come face-to-face with the unexpected.

VIRGO

The extraordinary way in which you do things will earn you many admirers. Superiors at work will laud you for your commitment. Evenings will be fun-filled and entertaining. Look to relax with some meditation or music... or both.

LIBRA

Working for the government is always a key responsibility, says Ganesha. But today of all days proves to be fabulous and phenomenal for all those in government service. Your actions will translate into accomplishment and you may rest assured that you shall be duly recognized and rewarded for your meritorious service.

SCORPIO

Ganesha feels that you may be confronted with vital decisions at work. You will need to trust the opinions of your close friends and peers so that you may take informed decisions. Keep your mind away from negative thoughts and delegate responsibilities accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS

The horizons of your thoughts are open and serene. Forgive and forget will be your mood today – even for the most serious mistakes. Generosity was never your Achilles' heel, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

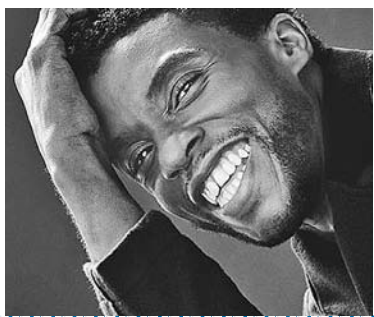
People may call you a busy bee, but that you admittedly will be, says Ganesha. Work will demand your undivided attention, but the good thing is you will quickly get done with pending work one by one. In fact, you will be left with plenty of time in the evening which you are likely to spend romancing with your sweetheart.

AQUARIUS

Amid all the boring work buzz, you will manage to sustain your sense of humour. And, why not? After all, you are an expert at inducing a laugh riot! You are in a gregarious mood and that explains it.

PISCES

Today is a day of mixed fortunes. So, while you may not win a gazillion dollars in the daily lottery, you might just end up winning a return air ticket to Timbuktu. No one has really been there, but it is better than nothing.



BOSEMAN'S LAST POST
MOST LIKED TWEET EVER

Twitter has announced that the last post by *Black Panther* star Chadwick Boseman is the most liked tweet. The tweet is a picture of the actor and his family's announcement of his death.

HAMILTON'S TWIN SISTER
LESLIE PASSES AWAY

Leslie Hamilton Freas, twin sister of actress Linda Hamilton, is no more. She unexpectedly passed away at the age of 63. Her only film credit is for 1991's *Terminator 2: Judgement Day* where she appeared alongside Linda serving as her stunt double.



Alaya comes out of comfort zone

Mumbai: Actress Alaya F has stepped out of her comfort zone for a fun dance.

Sharing a video of her dancing, she posted on Instagram: "Tried to do a fun choreography in pencil heels with no cuts at all just push myself out of my comfort zone a little."

Choreography and in frame: #Utkarsh

Song: Dancing with a Stranger-Sam Smith & Normani

Studio: #Houseofdance

Shot by #KrishnaPerla."

Many of her fans loved it or simply found it "too good".

Meanwhile, the Jawaani Jaaneman actress said, "I want to do all types of films. Everyone tells me that this is a very diplomatic answer. But I swear on anything, I don't think I could ever

choose. I want to do all sorts of films and I hope that I have the luxury and opportunity to do all sorts of films."

"I don't want to get comfortable in any way. I want to keep challenging myself. I want to keep pushing myself. I want to see what best I can do," she added.



Malaika's tips to deal with acne breakouts

Mumbai: Actress Malaika Arora has doled out tips on how to deal with acne breakouts and shared it on social media.

In a video, the actress is seen talking about what she uses on her skin. She mixes cinnamon powder, honey and lime to keep acne at bay.

She captioned the clip: "Suffering from acne breakouts every now and then? Here's a simple diy to control those 'Bad timing' breakouts."

"Breakouts can happen due to various reasons like weather change, hormonal change or due to excessive use of products on skin."

Malaika had earlier spoken about the benefits of aloe vera saying she uses it as her skin is very sensitive.



'Life is all about creating wonderful memories'

Mumbai:

Actor Rajkumar Rao says life is all about creating memories.

He took to Instagram, where he shared two pictures. In the first image, he is seen enjoying himself in the swimming pool. The second picture has the actor posing with his actress girlfriend Patralekhaa and some friends.

As the caption, Rajkumar wrote: "Life is all about creating wonderful memories."

Speaking about his work, the actor will be seen sharing screen space with Priyanka Chopra Jonas in an OTT

adaptation of the Man Booker Prize winning novel *The White Tiger*.

He will also be seen opposite Nushratt Bharuccha in Hansal Mehta's comedy drama *Chhalaang*.



A powerful digital voice for Indian art

The Art Platform India hopes to tackle challenges with galleries pooling in their collective energies to make artwork accessible during the pandemic

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: As the art world increasingly goes digital in the 'new normal', fourteen galleries from all over the country have come together to give Indian art a new platform during these times.

The Art Platform India, also called TAP India, a new collective platform, brings together these galleries to support, advocate and collaborate and generate more visibility, explore newer markets and open private doors to conversations. It furthermore, hopes to tackle challenges as a result of the current pandemic with galleries pooling in their collective energies, one step at a time to stand together as a strong voice to make Indian art accessible during the pandemic.

Blurring the lines between artists, galleries and collectors, TAP India intends to provide an unmatched window into the best of art. Virtual exhibitions curated by each gallery, will appear periodically according to a pre-set schedule. Talks, virtual events and curated online sessions every fortnight also make for a highlight. The platform will also focus on tips and suggestions from the industry's best for existing buyers as well as budding art collectors.

As Sharan Apparao, Founder and Director, Apparao Galleries shares: "During the lockdown I realised we all needed a collective effort and that's how the idea of this platform was born. TAP INDIA will certainly be a treat for collectors and those looking to understand



more about what to buy. The site will have prices and direct access to a gallery of one's choice. The information will also be available on TAP India's social media platforms in addition to each gallery's sites and social media handles."

Anant Art's Mamta Singhania says, "In these uncertain times, art brings hope and builds understanding across

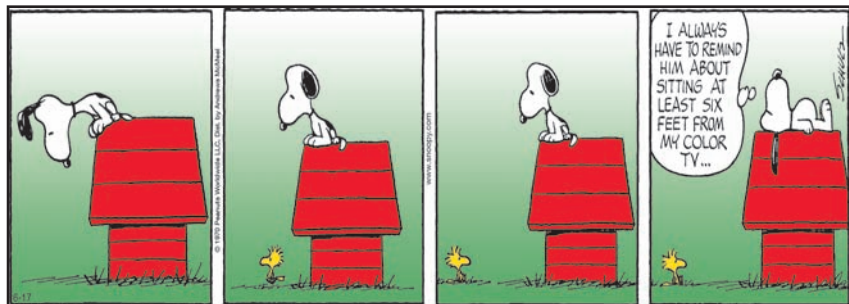
cultures. TAP is a great collaborative digital initiative where galleries present select collections of artworks. This makes Indian contemporary art easily accessible and engaging to new and remote art lovers across the globe. Anant Art is pleased to be a part of TAP and will be participating with recent works on paper by artist Probrir Gupta."

Participating Galleries include AkarPrakar, Anant Art Gallery, Anupa Mehta Arts and Advisory, Apparao Galleries, Art Heritage, Gallery Art Motif, Gallery Espace, Gallery White, Latitude 28, Tribal Art Forms, and Wonderwall.

The initiative begins with the launch of the website theartplatformindia.com. It goes live on September 2.

FUN post

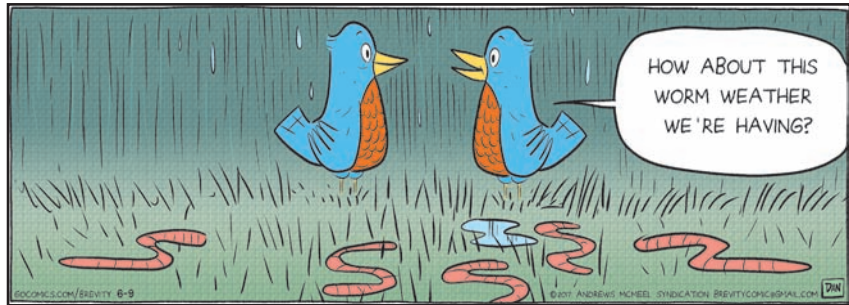
PEANUTS



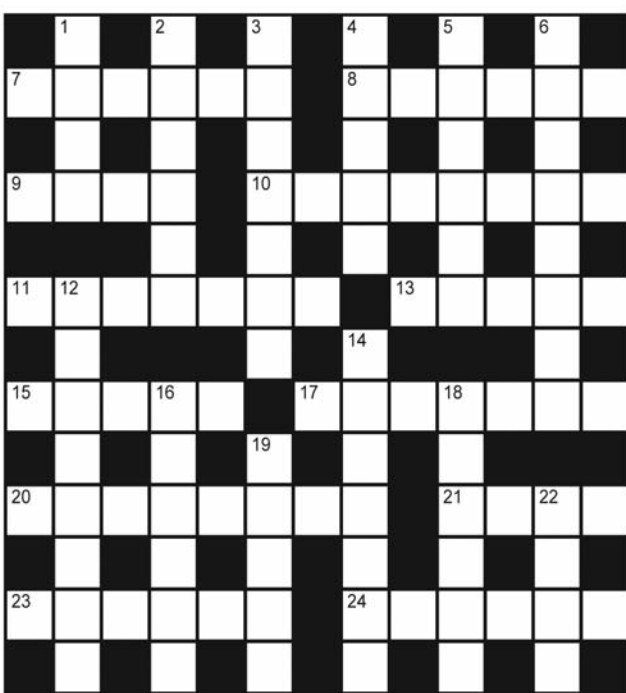
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Boards, etal.
 - 8 Court contest
 - 9 Turkish official
 - 10 Pâté de (4,4)
 - 11 Forsake
 - 13 Cheap jewelry
 - 15 Banquet
 - 17 Goblet
 - 20 Abyssinia, now
 - 21 Davenport
 - 23 Carmaker's woe
 - 24 Perches
 - Down**
 - 1 Ladder part
 - 2 Acquire
 - 3 Mythical monster with the head of an eagle and the body of a lion
 - 4 Bite-the-bullet type
 - 5 Mystery
 - 6 Mammoth
 - 12 Rest period
 - 14 Cinema
 - 16 Coiled shape
 - 18 Portuguese port
 - 19 Milky gems
 - 22 Kismet

SUDOKU

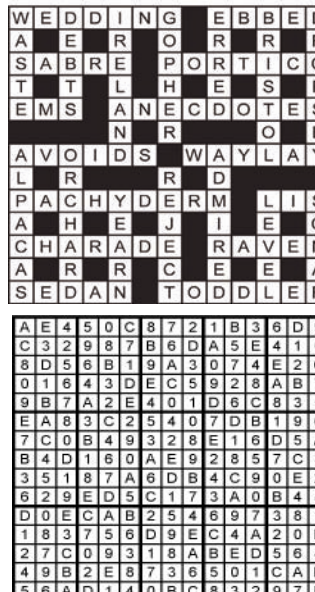
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

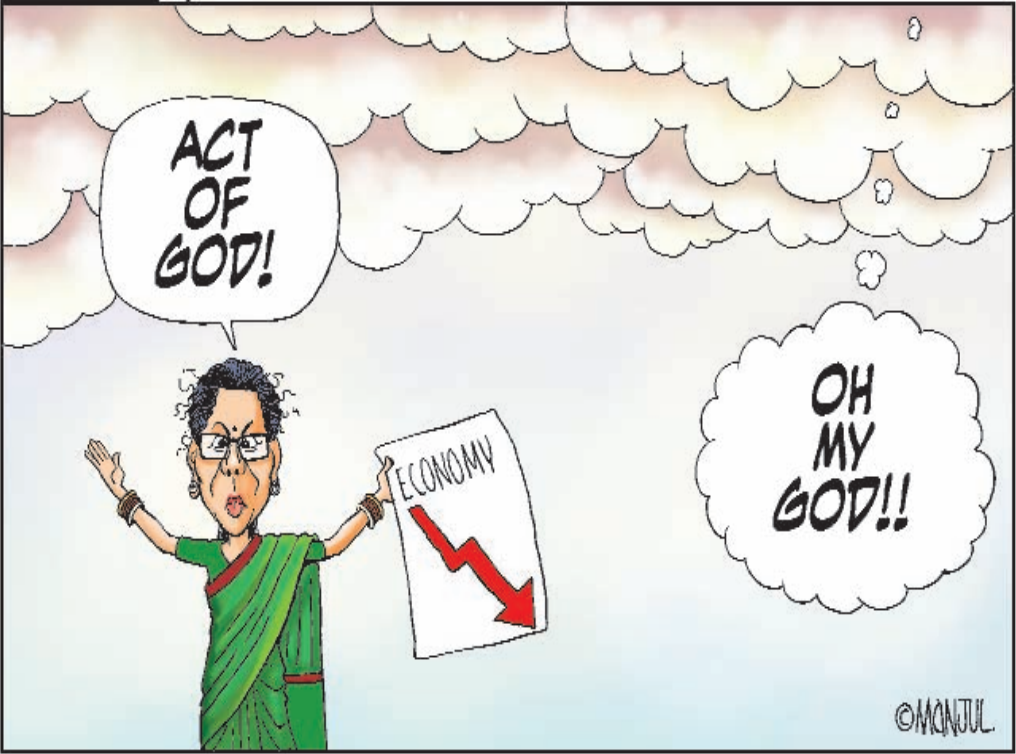
SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



30K affected by floods at Kanas



Flood-affected villagers move to safer places at Kanas, Sunday

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, August 30: Water levels in almost all rivers in Puri district have gone up with the release of floodwater into the Mahanadi river from Hirakud dam.

Rivers like Daya, Bhargavi, Ratnachira, Luna, Makara, Dhanua and Rajua were in spate Sunday causing panic among the people of Puri district.

Several villages of Kanas and Delang blocks in the district have been inundated by the floodwater. Many villagers from low-lying areas of Kanas block have moved to safer places while some others have been marooned by the deluge. Similarly some areas of Satyabadi and Puri Sadar blocks have been submerged by the floodwater, sources said.

Several villages of Kanas block including Pandiakera, Bagipada, Gadamatipada, Bankatala, Gharachhia and Similipatna witnessed extensive flooding due to breaches in the embankments of Daya and Rajua rivers. At least 30,000 people of Kanas block have been affected by a 200-ft-long breach in the Daya embankment at Nuasahi. Similarly, the residents of Lokapala and Haladiapada villages in Kanas block have been affected by a 100-ft-long breach in Rajua embankment, sources said.

Revenue Divisional Commissioner (cen-

tral) Anil Kumar Samal, additional collector Pradip Kumar Sahu and other officials Sunday visited the flood affected areas of Kanas block and took stock of the situation.

It is learnt that several weak spots have been detected in the embankments of Bhargavi river near Suando and Bidyadharpur of Satyabadi block. The rising water level in Bhargavi caused panic among the residents of Balarampurgada, Bidyadharpur, Parajapada and Mahura villages of Satyabadi. Satyabadi Tehsildar Manoj Kumar Nayak, Block Development Officer Saroj Datta and senior officials of the Water Resources department monitored the situation.

Similarly, floodwater from Bhargavi river has inundated some low-lying areas of Puri Sadar block while Devi river has crossed the danger mark at Bauriakana near Astarang. Senior officials of Water Resources department have been deputed to keep tab on the situation, sources added. "At least three units of NDRF and ODRF have been deployed at Kanas and Delang to carry out the rescue and relief operations. Several boats have been pressed into service to relocate villagers to safer places. Food is being distributed among the affected villagers," said an official of the district administration.

Water Resources minister inspects Mundali barrage

CUTTACK: Water Resources Minister Raghunandan Das Sunday took stock of flood situation in Mahanadi river at Mundali barrage here.

He held discussions with senior officials on effective management of the flood-water.

Similarly, Water Resources department Principal Secretary Anu Garg also inspected Naraj barrage here and monitored the floodwater situation in Kathajodi river, a major tributary of Mahanadi. Garg later inspected Jobra barrage on Mahanadi and monitored flood management system.



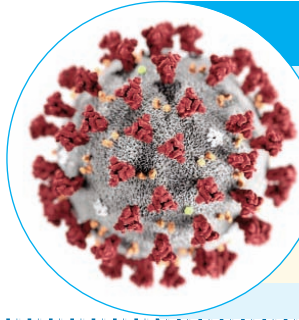
Water Resources Minister Raghunandan Das (R) at Mundali barrage, Sunday

OP PHOTO



FESTIVAL PREP

Priests offer puja on Kuakhai riverbank in Bhubaneswar before collecting holy soil for the shaping of clay idols for VSS Nagar Durga Puja committee, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,52,55,178	1,75,96,984	8,47,999
India	35,42,733	27,13,933	63,498
Odisha	1,00,934	73,233	482

JEE & NEET IN STATE

Patnaik tells all his party MLAs to leave no stone unturned in extending help to students appearing NEET, JEE

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday urged the ruling BJD legislators to extend all possible help to students appearing for JEE and NEET in the state which is currently grappling with challenges posed by the pandemic and floods.

Patnaik, who is also the BJD chief, said his government has decided to relax certain pandemic-related curbs for nine days from August 30 and three days from September 7 to facilitate free movement of the candidates and their parents, examination personnel and those providing logistics required to ensuring smooth conduct of the two examinations.

It is the responsibility of the MLAs to make sure that students in their constituencies get to write their papers without any hassle, Patnaik said, adding that all 4.5 crore people of Odisha are his fam-



NEET and JEE aspirants about to board bus from Ambaguda in Koraput towards Berhampur and Bhubaneswar

ily members. Noting that the pandemic has shaken the global economy, the CM appealed to the MLAs to support frontline workers fighting against the viral disease.

He said that the state's fatality rate has remained below one per cent due to the dedicated and selfless service of the COVID warriors.

Patnaik further said around 10 lakh people including migrant workers have arrived in the state over the

past few months, in the wake of the pandemic, and asked his party MLAs to ensure food security for all eligible returnees.

He insisted that migrant workers be engaged in construction activities. The CM also said that the law-makers should reach out to people affected by floods, caused due to the formation of five back-to-back low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal. "I have asked authorities concerned to allot another Rs 1 crore to MLA Local Area Development Fund. It can be utilised to purchase protective gears such as masks from self-help groups and help women running them earn money," Patnaik added.

Preparations in Capital

Meanwhile, Bhubaneswar authorities Sunday stated that triple-layer security arrangements will be put in place for the smooth conduct of the upcoming examinations here. The decision was taken in a joint coordination meeting held at the

BMC office here which was attended by BMC commissioner Prem Chandra Choudhury, Khurda Collector Sanat Mohanty, SP Ajay Pratap Swain, Bhubaneswar ITI principal Jitamitra Satpathy and transport department officials among other senior government officials.

"Arrangements have been made for 16,000 students who will appear for the examinations in Bhubaneswar at six centres. Mobile teams, police teams, sanitising arrangements will be in place at all the centres. Tagging and housing arrangements have been made for the candidates. Issues related to health and examination of the students will be addressed," stated BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Choudhary.

Khurda SP Ajay Pratap Swain said that special police personnel will be deployed in and outside the six examination centres in the city. There will be no restrictions on movement of buses from various districts.

STATE INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT, BALANGIR
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ONLINE ADMISSION OPEN FOR HOTEL MANAGEMENT COURSES

COURSES	DURATION	QUALIFICATION	AGE LIMIT
1. B.Sc In Hospitality & Hotel Administration	03 Years	10+2 pass or equivalent with English as one of the subjects (Minimum 50% marks)	25 Years as on 1st July 2020 for General/ OBC candidates & 28 Years for SC/ST candidates
2. Diploma In Front Office Operation	1½ Year	10+2 pass or equivalent	
3. Diploma In Food & Beverage Service	1½ Year	10+2 pass or equivalent	
4. Diploma In Food Production	1½ Year	10+2 pass or equivalent	
5. Diploma In Housekeeping Operation	1½ Year	10+2 pass or equivalent	
6. Craftmanship Certificate Course In Food & Beverage Service	06 Months	10th pass	
7. Craftmanship Certificate Course In Food Production	1½ Year	10th pass	

LAST DATE OF ADMISSION: 15.09.2020 FOR FURTHER DETAILS
Visit our website - www.sihmbalangir.org, e-mail: admissions@sihmbalangir.org
Contact No-9348849484, 6370180040, 9437140772, 9437030720

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଧର୍ମଗଡ଼, କଳାହାଣ୍ଡି

ପବିତ୍ର ‘ସ୍ବାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ-୨୦୨୦’ ଅବସରରେ ଧର୍ମଗଡ଼ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦର ସମସ୍ତ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଏହି ପରିଷଦକୁ ପ୍ରଗତି ପଥରେ ଆଗେଇନେବା ପାଇଁ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଅଛୁ ।

ନିବେଦନ

- କରୋନା ପରି ଏକ ମହାମାରୀ କବଳରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇବା ପାଇଁ ହାତକୁ ବାରମ୍ବାର ସାବୁନ ଦ୍ବାରା ଅତିକମ୍ରେ ୨୦ ସେକେଣ୍ଡ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବିନା କାରଣରେ କୌଣସି ସ୍ଥାନରେ ରୁଣ୍ଡ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ଏବଂ ନିଜ ନିଜ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅତିକମ୍ରେ ୨ ମିଟର ଦୂରତା ରକ୍ଷାକରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ନ ଥିଲେ ଘରୁ ବାହାରକୁ ବାହାରକୁ ନାହିଁ । ଜରୁରୀ କାମରେ ବାହାରିଲେ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବରେ ମାସ୍କ ପିନ୍ଧି ବାହାରକୁ ।
- କୌଣସି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ କରୋନାଜନିତ ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଯଥା- ଜ୍ବର, ମୁଣ୍ଡବିନ୍ଧା, ଶ୍ବାସକ୍ରିୟାରେ ସମସ୍ୟା ଆଦି ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୁ ଆସିଲେ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଆଶାକର୍ମୀ, ଅଙ୍ଗନବାଡ଼ି କର୍ମୀ କିମ୍ବା ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକର୍ମୀଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାନ୍ତୁ, ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସ୍ଥଳେ ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ ପରାମର୍ଶ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- କୋଭିଡ଼-୧୯ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ବାରା ପ୍ରଚଳିତ ସମସ୍ତ ନିୟମର ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଧର୍ମଗଡ଼କୁ ଏକ ସ୍ବଚ୍ଛ, ସୁନ୍ଦର ଏବଂ ସୁସ୍ଥ ସହର ରୂପେ ଗଢ଼ିତୋଳିବା ପାଇଁ ଆଜିଠୁ ସଂକଳ୍ପ ନେବା ।

ଶ୍ରୀ ଦିବାକର ଟି ଏସ୍, ଆଇ.ଏ.ଏସ୍.
ଉପଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ତଥା ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ
ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ଧର୍ମଗଡ଼

ସ୍ବାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୦

ବିକାଶ ପଥେ ‘ନାକଗିରି ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ’, ନାକଗିରି

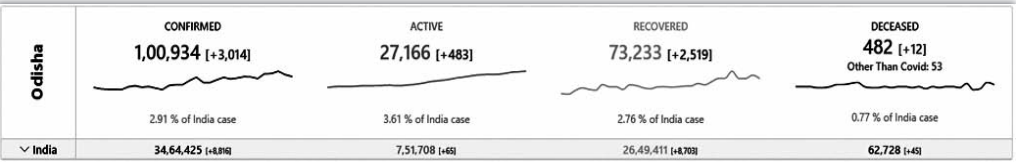
୧. ନାକଗିରି ପବିତ୍ର ପରିଷଦ ପରିଷଦର ସଭା ସଭାରେ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ରହିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସାହ । ୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୨୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୩୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୪୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୫୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୬୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୭୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୮୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୧. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୨. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୩. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୪. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୫. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୬. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୭. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୮. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୯୯. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ । ୧୦୦. ପରିଷଦର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିନ୍ତା ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚାରେ ଯୋଗଦାନ ।

ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ବେଳପାହାଡ଼

ସର୍ବଭାରତୀୟ ସ୍ବାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ-୨୦୨୦ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ପୌର ପରିଷଦର ଚରମର ସମସ୍ତ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଇବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଏହି ପରିଷଦକୁ ପ୍ରଗତି ପଥରେ ଆଗେଇନେବା ପାଇଁ ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଅଛୁ ।

ପୌର ପରିଷଦର ପବିତ୍ର ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା:- ୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨. କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ମଣ୍ଡଳ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩. ପୌରପାଳିକାଙ୍କୁ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ପ୍ରଦାନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫. ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ପ୍ରତିନିଧିତା ନିମନ୍ତେ ନାମାଙ୍କନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୧୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୨୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୩୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୪୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୫୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୬୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୬. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୭. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୮. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୭୯. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୮୦. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୮୧. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୮୨. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୮୩. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୮୪. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀତା । ୮୫. ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ

State's nCoV tally goes past 1L



PNN & AGENCIES

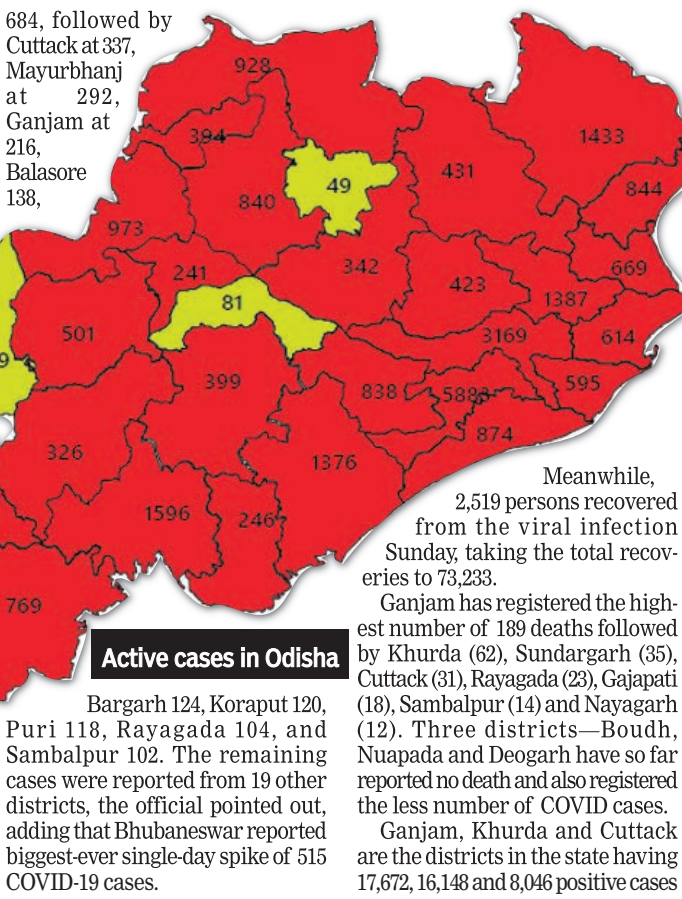
Bhubaneswar, August 30: The COVID-19 tally in state mounted to 1,00,934 Sunday with 3,014 more people testing positive for the disease, while 12 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's death toll to 482, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

"Regret to inform of the demise of 12 COVID positive patients while under treatment in hospital," (sic) the H&FW department said on Twitter.

Four deaths were registered in Ganjam and one each in Khurda, Cuttack, Jajpur, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Puri, Rayagada and Sundargarh.

The new cases were reported from 29 of the 30 districts. Of the fresh cases, 1,868 were reported from various quarantine centres and 1,146 were detected during contact tracing exercise, the official said.

Khurda district recorded the maximum number of new cases at



With 3,014 fresh cases, Odisha's COVID-19 tally mounts to 1,00,934

12 fresh fatalities push state's death toll to 482

Khurda records the maximum number of cases at 684, followed by Cuttack at 337, Mayurbhanj at 292, Ganjam at 216, Balasore 138,

Four deaths were registered in Ganjam and one each in Khurda, Cuttack, Jajpur, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Puri, Rayagada and Sundargarh

respectively. At least 10 districts in the state have reported over 3,000 COVID cases and accounted for 67.87 per cent of the total COVID cases in the state. Five out of 30 districts in the state have reported less than 1,000 positive cases. They are Angul, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada and Deogarh.

As many as 17,31,556 sample tests have been conducted so far, including 60,646 Saturday, the official added. Meanwhile, in view of the JEE and NEET examination, the state government has partially modified the lockdown and shutdown in the state. As per the order issued by the Special Relief Commissioner, there will be no lockdown and shutdown in cities where the examinations would be held from August 30 to September 7 and again from September 12 to 14.

Notwithstanding any restriction

Capital city to get 10 Rapid Response Teams per zone

THE AIM IS TO EFFICIENTLY MONITOR PATIENTS UNDER HOME ISOLATION AND INSPECT THEIR FACILITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Observing the increasing Covid cases in the state capital, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Sunday, increased the rapid response teams (RRTs) to 30. The aim is to efficiently monitor patients under home isolation and inspection of their facilities.

As per the information available, the BMC which has observed 10 pc positivity rate has now are 2,391 home isolation cases across the city. While there were total nine RRTs for three zones, the number will now become 30 with 10 RRTs per each administrative zone.

Each RRT which constitutes an AYUSH doctor and a para-medical staff is responsible for house inspection check whether the Covid-19 positive cases could safely stay in home isolation without having any threat to others. Their number varies from two to four per team de-

pending upon the population density of the ward concerned.

"With increase in RRTs, the physical verification of the facilities will be faster and in a time-bound manner. This has been done due to rising number of cases that are being observed in the city. As most cases have been of home isolations the need for increased RRTs has been discussed," stated BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary. It can be mentioned here that depending on the inputs of the RRTs on ground, the Covid-19 positive cases would be allowed to stay at home or if needed, would be asked to shift to nearby COVID Care Homes, COVID Care Centres or COVID Hospital depending on the clinical symptoms and situation of the person concerned. At this juncture, the Shifting Team at the BMC Control Room starts its work if the RRT team gives a feedback that either the facility is inadequate or the patient has got some symptoms with which home isolation might not be okay.



Representative pic

Badamba MLA tests COVID +ve, Sushanta Singh recovers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Senior BJD leader and Badamba MLA Debi Prasad Mishra became the latest victim of COVID 19 as the legislator tested positive for the virus.

The leader informed the people through his social media accounts. He said that he has been informed by the authorities that he has tested positive for the viral disease.

He added that the test reports for his family members have come negative. This comes after his driver tested positive for the disease.

The results of his staff too have come negative.

The leader has been in isolation since Saturday. He also said that he was stable and asymptomatic but in touch with doctors for better treatment. On the other hand, Minister from the state Sushanta Singh Sunday informed the people that he has recovered from the viral disease. "With all your wishes and grace, now I have completely recovered from corona after taking proper medical treatment at Bhubaneswar. Today, I came to my workplace," he said.



Debi Prasad Mishra

Does Sikkim's homeschooling model have lessons for state?

AMID THIS PANDEMIC WHEN CHILDREN CAN'T COME TO SCHOOL CAN SCHOOLS REACH THEM

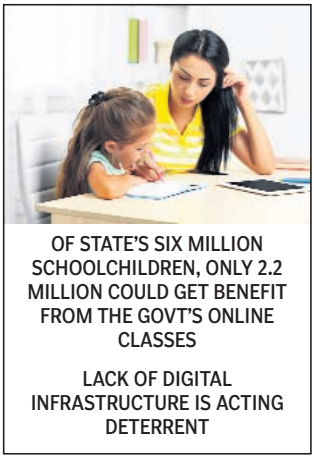
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The children cannot come to school but schools can go home. The state-based CSOs working on education have urged the Odisha government to clarify mechanisms and modus-operandi of recently announced 'Shiksha Samparka' scheme and to initiate remedial classes to bridge the learning gap among children.

As per the government report, there are only 2.2 million school children out of around 6 million, who could get the benefit from the state government's online classes such as 'Shiksha Sanjog', due to the lack of required digital resources, poor tele-density and lack of available internet infrastructure in rural Odisha.

At present, the CSOs are running remedial classes at 359 centres in 15 operational districts where there is a large chunk of tribal and Dalit population. Mostly, they run remedial classes in clubhouses, community-centres nearby their habitations with a maximum of five to six children. Subsequently, they have engaged around 300 local youths along with their 87 community members who take a two-hour class.

"The Sikkim Government's homeschooling model is something



OF STATE'S SIX MILLION SCHOOLCHILDREN, ONLY 2.2 MILLION COULD GET BENEFIT FROM THE GOVT'S ONLINE CLASSES

LACK OF DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS ACTING DETERRENT

which Odisha government can think of replicating it. Under their homeschooling model, teachers will visit students' houses with all resources to teach them. Also, the education department of Sikkim has meticulously mapped out the location of every government school teacher and has assigned them areas," said a CSO member.

"A teacher living in a village may be employed in another village or district. But now they are asking their counterpart in that village to take over their students and vice versa. Why the Odisha government cannot adopt a similar sort of that practice?" asks Anjan Pradhan, of

Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha.

The pupil-teacher ratio is also something that remains a bone of contention in Odisha. In February 2020, Odisha School and Mass Education minister Samir Ranjan Dash informed the Odisha Assembly that of the 46,332 primary and upper primary schools, 18,589 do not have headmasters. In 8,076 high schools, there is a vacancy of 11,588 assistant teachers. Therefore, engaging local educated youths as volunteers will be a viable option to fill the existing pupil-teachers ratio gap.

The National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted by the NCERT in 2018 found that only 53 pc of students in Odisha were able to answer questions on the basic competencies correctly. Similarly, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) (Rural), 2018 revealed that only 33.1 pc students of Class V could recognise numbers between 10 and 99 while just 24.5 pc could do subtraction. "The startling statistics call for doorstep remedial classes for the low performing students so that they can catch up with their peers when they return to school after reopening and there can be no better opportunity than this lockdown to start the remedial classes," said Ruchi Kashyap, of Atmashakti Trust.



A traffic police personnel intercepts bikers for flouting road safety norms at Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

104 patients discharged after plasma therapy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The State Health and Family Welfare department Sunday said that a total of 2,519 COVID patients from the state have been discharged.

The maximum discharge of 419 was reported from Khurda district alone. It was followed by Ganjam which saw 216 new discharges.

The department also said that it has seen a discharge of 104 patients who were given the Plasma Therapy.

"Today, Odisha achieved a rare distinction of having discharged 104 patients after treatment through plasma therapy and it is a commendable achievement. The Health department congratulates the entire team of plasma therapy and also all the plasma donors who have made it possible," the health department said in a statement.

Meanwhile, in the last one week two more districts have been reporting much higher cases and looking towards reaching their peak.

Rayagada and Mayurbhanj districts, in the last one week, have not only reported a consistent rise in new cases but also seem dangerous in terms of mortalities.

Mayurbhanj Sunday saw 292 new cases of the disease. Surprisingly, most of the cases here were from local contacts and not from the quarantine centres unlike the state average.

Similar is the tale of Rayagada district. The district reported a total of 104 new cases Sunday.

FOR A BIG CATCH



Two men weave fishing nets at Brajabaharipur in Cuttack, Sunday

EOW starts probe into ₹5 crore real estate fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has initiated probe into a multi-crore real estate fraud in the city. The EOW registered a case against the accused directors of the sham real estate firm following the initial investigations in the case detecting prima facie cheating of around Rs 5 crore by the firm.

As per sources, the alleged firm Keshari Estates Pvt. Ltd, located near Keshari Talkies at Kharavela Nagar issued advertisements about the construction of 30 duplex houses measuring 2,000 sq ft each on a plot at Pokhaript area under Airfield police limits in 2008. The company allegedly received crores as ad-

In 2008, the firm advertised about construction of 30 duplex houses measuring 2,000 sq ft each on a plot at Pokhaript area under Airfield police limits

The company received crores from the buyers between 2008 and 2010 but kept delaying the construction and eventually scrapped the project but never returned the money

In 2013, the firm announced another housing project with 44 duplexes and triplexes on a plot at Jadupur Mauja under Khandagiri police limits

It received payments for the same but never completed it nor returned the money

The EOW sleuths have found that the company has collected Rs 5, 16, 67,000 from 18 prospective buyers between 2008 and 2019

the payments started delaying the construction under various pretexts. Subsequently, the firm has cancelled the project by claiming that the Bhubaneswar Development Authority denied approval to the

project due to the non-availability of approach road to its plot at Pokhaript.

In 2013, the firm again announced about the re-launching of another housing project with 44 duplexes and triplexes on a plot at Jadupur Mauja

under Khandagiri police limits. The buyers finding no other way again invested in the project after the real estate company showed the BDA approval letter for the particular project this time.

However, the firm neither completed the project nor returned the deposits to the customers despite the executing sale deeds in the name of the victims. The EOW sleuths during the initial probe found that the company has collected Rs 5, 16, 67,000 from 18 prospective buyers during the period 2008 to 2019. Many other victims intending to buy houses in the project have also reportedly given several crores to the firm during the above period. The EOW has registered the case against the four directors of the company.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

“All religions have some truth in them, but none has the whole truth.”
SRI AUROBINDO

WHICH GOD?

Some years ago, there was a cartoon movie named ‘South Park’. That movie, though it used crude language, had tried to portray how society always preferred to blame someone or something else for inherent faults and ills that it was responsible for itself.

In India of today, when it comes to managing the nation’s economy and finances, the deficit of attention and expertise on the part of the present government speaks in a similar fashion as South Park.

The economy was on a steady fall from the past few years since the BJP held the reins of governance at New Delhi. The trends of a fall were already evident even in the last phase of the 16th Lok Sabha period which was the first term of the Modi government and the second term has only accentuated the scenario for the worse. Covid-19 came early this year – when Modi and his folks are in their seventh year of governance – and its chaos now.

In the present context, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s invocation of God – “an act of god may result in a contraction of the economy this fiscal” – might itself be seen as an imbecile putting up an escape act. To put the blame on God for the pandemic and thereby wash the government’s hands of a disaster staring point blank at the nation is a very dangerous effort. Although she spoke in the context of the sharp fall in GST collections, the decline was kick started on 8 Nov 2016 with Demonetization. Painted as an act meant for favoring the poor and flushing out illegally stashed cash of the rich, the move was a lethal play of politics. Aimed at disarming the unprepared Opposition just before elections to Uttar Pradesh state Assembly, that single decision crippled the Indian economy and hollowed it out from inside. This was followed by the haphazard implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) that kicked in the small and medium trade and business activities and killed them completely.

The present GST collections touching base have to be seen in the background of 2016 and 2017. Now it has been exaggerated after the coronavirus related lockdown and other linked issues happened in quick succession. The shortfall this fiscal is of the order of an estimated ₹2.35 lakh crore based on current projections. As the fiscal advances, the scenario is expected to further worsen with very little scope for improvement. The Finance Minister has come up with two proposals before the states to overcome this situation. This is because the Centre has failed to adequately and provisionally compensate the loss for states vis-à-vis GST collections this year. The emerging situation vividly exhibits how, virtually, no planning was done to take into consideration all the 360 degrees of dangers when a nation of India’s size goes into a whole new tax regime all of a sudden. Normally, proper planning would have considered various angles of risk that a large economy might have to face. Those threat perceptions should include war, pandemics, great natural and sometimes, maybe, even man-made disasters, demographic upheavals, international economic crises and other such angles. For such a massive reform step to be successfully introduced, it should have been ensured, at the planning stage itself, to look out for the next 50 years and introduce safeguards against any eventualities. Unfortunately for this country that such future projections are never quite in vogue.

While the shortfall in compensation to states is put at ₹97,000 crore, the Finance Minister has proposed that states borrow as much as they want from RBI through a special window, pay interest for the amount borrowed and repay the principal five years later from cess collections. It is noted that there was hardly any GST collection in April and May, and only a bare minimum improvement in June and July.

It is true that RBI could be sounded for help, but a problem is that it can grant money only on the basis of certain rules and regulations. For one, interest rate will be substantially high. Governments taking huge amounts as loan with interest from RBI or other agencies posed its own risks. The money thus paid as interest will end up as an added burden on the people, who already pay crippling taxes and are groaning under the present critical situations of job loss and lack of income.

GST, introduced as a half-baked system in 2017, was originally a baby of the UPA. It was taken forward in a rush and implemented in a faulty manner by the Modi government. The original idea was to have a ‘one nation, one tax’ system, to unify the market system, which was seen initially as a reform step. Even today, there is very little clarity about the implementation and the system is constantly being tweaked to plug the loopholes or make changes based on demands from powerful lobbies. A major market reform step would require time to settle down but this here is the worst scenario that is possible.

Had there been some care and planning, the present scenario of hopelessness would not have crept in or reached such a pass. Instead, the government is simply confused about the way forward. Most economists agree that the ill-intentioned step of Demonetization had already broken the back of the Indian economy and of markets due to serious disruption in money supply. This being followed up with GST has, together, taken the economy into a state of deep paralysis, compounded only by the spread of the pandemic.

Today, the Indian economy is on oxygen and gasping for its survival. Anything could happen in the coming months. Such is the desperation and this is evident in the words and deeds of the government itself. It is likely the government does not have the expertise at hand to tackle the present situation. Nothing yet goes to show it has. The government is on a trial-and-error mode from which it is not able to extricate itself. This is bound to have serious implications for the future. Blaming such a situation on God by itself will not be of much help either. Question may arise as to which God?

WISDOM CORNER

“The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them.”
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.”
ARISTOTLE

“Life is not a problem. To look at it as a problem is to take a wrong step. It is a mystery to be lived, loved, experienced.”
OSHO

WORDSWORTH

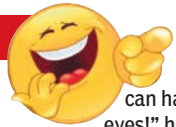
Therianthrope

A therianthrope is a being that is part animal, part human. The usual meaning of the related adjective therianthropic is of a god that is represented as combining animal and human forms. The best known examples are the animal-headed gods of ancient Egypt, such as Bast (with the head of a cat) or Anubis (whose head was that of a jackal). The noun is rarer, but it appeared recently in reports of investigations into ancient cave art. The researchers found that some showed hybrid beings, such as cat-headed humans or men with the heads of antelopes. The word combines the Greek therion, wild animal, with anthropos, human being.

LOL

A good chess player

A man went to visit a friend and was amazed to find him playing chess with his dog. He watched the game in astonishment for a while. “I



can hardly believe my eyes!” he exclaimed. “That’s the smartest dog I’ve ever seen.” “Nah, he’s not so smart,” the friend replied. “I’ve beaten him three games out of five.”

FOCUS CONGRESS

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS



Saeed Naqvi

INSTEAD OF BURSTING ITS GUTS TO “REVIVE”, THE CONGRESS MUST BE PREPARED EVEN TO LOSE ON A PLATFORM OF EQUALITY AND JUSTICE, KEEPING FAITH IN THE BIBLICAL DICTUM THAT HE WHO LOSES SHALL WIN

The late RK Mishra, editor of Patriot and founder of Observer Research Foundation, used to tell a delicious story about Indira Gandhi whom he knew well. One day, Dev Kant Barua, Congress president during the Emergency, furtively handed Mishra a crumpled piece of paper with names of three Congress leaders scribbled on it. Barua led him onto the lawn for secrecy. Indira Gandhi suspected the three of being American moles. She was keen that, after scouring the grapevine, Mishra share his appraisal with her. Just when Mishra was about to visit Barua, his mouth full of news, the morning newspapers gave him a shock. On page 1 were photographs of the three named in that crumpled paper. They had been inducted into the Union Cabinet. Why had he been sent on a wild goose chase? The mist lifted after a call from Barua.

What had happened was this. A parallel investigation, though inconclusive, had caused Indira sufficient anxieties to take quick action. She slotted the three in her cabinet. Moral of the story: the best way to keep powerful political colleagues under surveillance is to bring them into the cabinet “system”. During the Cold War, the East-West affiliations of Congressmen made a material difference. In the post-Cold War messy capitalism, an eye has to be kept on the party smart-alecs and their links with Corporate Houses. Prior to this phase, Left-Right, East-West, were the salient terms of affiliation.

Peter Hazlehurst, The Times, London, correspondent, described Indira herself as “slightly left of self-interest.” In his time, Nehru had been “sanctioned” a free hand in the foreign office, but even here those of the “jute press” were tardy in their endorsement of friendship with Moscow.

Werner Adam, who retired as foreign editor of Frankfurter Allgemeine, after excellent stints in various western capitals, New Delhi and Moscow, was aghest at the absence of the Indian press in Moscow. Some of Adam’s many friends from his innings in New



Days when PMs needed trusted friends to keep a steady gaze on east-west affiliations of colleagues are over. The PMO itself has become the lynchpin in a brand new system of crony capitalism. In such circumstances what kind of information does ‘interim’ Congress president Sonia Gandhi need from her confidant about, say, the 23 “rebellious” letter writers?

Delhi came in handy during his Moscow posting. Once he found himself interviewing the Indian Ambassador who, in the middle of the interview, received a call from Anatoly Dobrynin, former Soviet Ambassador in Washington during the Cuban missile crisis and possibly the most powerful official in the Soviet Foreign office.

The brief exchange with Dobrynin, though guarded, was “chummy”. Adams’ point was that an Indian press contingent with its easy access to powers would be the most well-informed in the Soviet capital. The world media parked in Moscow would be eating out of Indian hands. But the “jute press” had their abiding preferences: they posted correspondents to London and Washington.

Days when Prime Ministers needed trusted friends to keep a steady gaze on east-west affiliations of colleagues are over. The PMO itself has become the lynchpin in a brand new system of crony capitalism. In such circumstances what kind of information does the “interim” Congress president, Sonia Gandhi need from her confidant about, say, the 23 “rebellious” letter writers?

She may, for instance, like to

refresh her memory with brief thumbnail sketches of the 23 so-called rebels who shook the teacup? Her informants do not have to go far back into history – turn just to October 2011 when the Nira Radia tapes erupted. A simple read of the tapes’ transcript will be revealing. Which “rebel” is looking for life after the Rajya Sabha?

Recently, I read a piece by Andy Mukherjee in Bloomberg which Sonia would do well to glance through. The headline itself is arresting: “Adani Joins Ambani in Attempting Full-On Dominance.” The story reads:

“Multiple media reports now say that Ahmedabad-Gujarat based billionaire Gautam Adani, an early and enthusiastic supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, might (also) succeed in taking control of the already-privatised Mumbai airport, as well as a new one coming up on the financial center’s outskirts.” Earlier, Adani had won contracts for six of the smaller airports. “A fresh batch of six will go under the hammer.”

Who among the rebellious letter writers are with whom? Shashi Tharoor approved of the contract for Thiruvananthapuram airport going to Adani, who is one of the

patron saints of the Modi establishment. Where does the Congress president stand on all this?

A brief flashback: When Indira Gandhi split the Congress in 1969, the Cold War mentioned at the outset was entering its fiercest phase. Détente was giving negative returns. Détente, according to Washington standup comedians, was like going to a wife swapping party and returning alone.

The presence of ex-communists like Mohan Kumaramangalam in the government, or the Communist party’s external support to the Congress, was galling for the West as well as its supporters within. Further, the Soviet Union loomed larger than life during the 1971 Bangladesh operations. This warranted the appearance of the US 7th fleet in the Bay of Bengal.

There was corresponding interplay within. Powerful Congress party bosses discarded by Indira Gandhi in 1969, linked up with Socialists, viscerally anti-Communist, and the RSS – this was the amalgamation which became the Bihar or JP movement of 1974. It eventually led to the Emergency and the first non-Congress government in 1977.

The 70s and 80s were a period of intense East-West grappling. In India, it turns out the Communists remained relevant well beyond that timeframe. It is unfashionable to say so, but 2004 to 2009 was the finest Sonia-Manmohan Singh spell in office. This was when they had the support of 61 Communist MPs who were instrumental in pushing through MGNREGA, the Forest Rights Act, the National Food Security Act, and the Right to Information Act. Somewhere here is salvation for the troubled Congress. The ‘sole super power’ moment is over and the Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders teams are together hammering out a document for social justice. Instead of bursting its guts to ‘revive’, the Congress must be prepared even to lose on a platform of equality and justice, keeping faith in the Biblical dictum that he who loses shall win.

The writer is a seasoned journalist and columnist. IANS

SPECTRUM LABOUR

Cities that fail migrant populations



Dr Errol D'Souza

LIMITATIONS OF LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN CITIES DROVE UP THE PRICE OF URBAN SPACE, AND HOUSE PRICES ROSE AT A FASTER RATE THAN WAGES FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNSKILLED

Is migration to urban areas advantageous for rural migrants? Mostly it is assumed that cities play an important role as a conduit for many to get away from rural poverty. Yet my limited experience of working with underprivileged migrants indicates that cities fail them.

Cities do provide opportunities to earn incomes but they are unable to provide a break from the past for successive generations of low-skilled migrants; and for most such families, there is no perceptible progress in their standards of living. Even when migration provides occupational mobility to the discriminated-against castes, this does not always transform into social or geographical mobility.

Social background, including religious and linguistic credentials, still dominates the access to the location and quality of residence in cities. We have evidence in Gujarat and in other states of underprivileged castes or religious minorities being refused the choice of purchasing or renting apartments or of being quoted substantially higher prices and rents.

Cities across the world were hubs of factories and industrialisation. As transportation costs for goods and people began to fall and with the

growth of road networks, logistics, and containerisation, industry began to vacate urban centres. Globalisation spawned geographically dispersed supply chains that resulted in unbundling and offshoring of production that was organised to cater to shorter product life cycles. Firms began to differentiate their products to mitigate the impact of competition by making small functionality changes to products and rapidly phasing them out to feed dynamic consumer demand. Jobs that could be automated began to exit from city centres and supply chains responded by reducing production cycle times and increasing the speed of delivery to customers.

The jobs that remained behind in urban centres were those that required unstructured cognitive activity or unstructured physical activity. Those tasks that require unstructured cognitive activity and involve problem-solving capabilities, creativity, and intuition that characterise professional and technical occupations, are difficult to automate, and these stayed in cities with high pay being offered for those performing them.

Similarly, tasks requiring unstructured physical activity such as visual and language recognition, sit-

uational adaptability, and in-person interactions such as blue collar tasks that are difficult to automate, continue to be offered as low wage jobs in cities.

To the extent that automation substitutes for low-skill labour, the wage of low-skill and mostly blue collar labour decreases and skilled labour that entails cognitive activity continues to enjoy gains. The wages and salaries of skilled workers then result in heftier earnings profiles. Booming and prosperous cities replaced industrial jobs with services and paid more to those jobs that were relatively more intensive in skills.

The wage premium to those in skills bid up the price of urban real estate as their demand to be close to the city centre to avoid long commutes and to enjoy better urban amenities grew. The less skilled who cannot pay high rents had to move elsewhere and began to inhabit slums or on the pavements. Their growth in incomes did not keep pace with the higher growth in rentals for housing or real estate prices. Limitations of location and infrastructure in cities drove up the price of urban space, and house prices rose at a faster rate than wages for those who are unskilled. Urban populations increased

through in-migration and a natural increase in population. The first stage of the demographic transition is where increases in population are propelled by a decline in death rates, stimulating a natural increase in urban populations apart from that stemming from migration. Improvements in health care reduced death rates. Across the world, death rates in slums are almost as low as in non-slum areas, but birth rates are significantly higher, resulting in increases in slum population being led by natural increases in population. Higher life expectancy in cities triggers slum growth and congestion.

Individuals living in slums however experience abysmal living conditions as they are poorly covered by public infrastructure services. It is also common to have many individuals share restricted space that is allocated between themselves via work shifts. They pay a “premium” for the living conditions that they inhabit. Those who cannot afford this “premium” end up staying in the open in the streets. (To be concluded)

The writer is a Professor of Economics and Director at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. THE BILLION PRESS

Looter toll plazas

Sir, In 2016, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik declared that toll gates maintained in close proximity would be scrapped as and when their terms came to an end. But, in these few years after the declaration, too, vehicles are forced to pay toll at three places –Sergarh, Panikoili, and Chandikhole. Even the vehicles of servicemen and freedom fighters are also forced to pay toll. Now two more toll gates are coming up, in Kalabadia and Baisinga en route to Mayurbhanj, as four-lane broadening work on NH-18 will soon come to an end. As a result, now vehicles from Mayurbhanj to Bhubaneswar have to pay toll at five points; and upto Puri, one needs pay toll at Pipli gate the sixth time to cover a journey of 290 km. This is inappropriate, unacceptable and illegal as per rules of NHAI. The national agency has already supplied information that three toll plazas on this NH route are functional further beyond their scheduled years of operation. But, since the last four years, they still carried forward with toll collection in violation of the rule. At whose support is this happening needs to be enquired into and action taken. During 2008, the tollgate at Balgopalpur, en route from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar, was found collecting toll beyond its granted four-year period, and the illegal action was challenged by an activist. Allowing such loot to take place is a crime on the part of the government.

Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ

Struggles in Covid times

Sir, We should be happy to know that many working professionals are coming forward to guide the society faced with the Covid-19 spread. YourDOST is one. We should encourage them. People of different sections are struggling in different ways. As lockdown continued, students remain the worst-hit, emotionally too, faced as they are with anxiety and loneliness, and also hopelessness about their future. A study showed a significant deterioration in emotions through several categories of people. It noted that at the beginning of the corona-linked restrictions, the student respondents of the study registered a one per cent increase in their sense of happiness. However, the scenario reversed soon and the feeling of joy went down by 15 per cent as the lockdown continued to curtail individual freedom and scope for social interactions. This must be so with other segments of the society too. Humans are, after all, social animals.

Naresh Mandal, BHADRAK

of the day quote

There has been a 64% dip in child immunisation and 10 lakh children have not received their BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin) vaccination during the lockdown



The spike in COVID-19 cases in the state over the last one month was due to the government's aggressive approach of tracking, tracing, testing and treatment



The unified policy (ek saamaanya neeti) of the Union home ministry pertaining to lockdown/unlock to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic is welcome. This has long been the demand of BSP. It will stop (people from) indulging in politics in the garb of coronavirus, and the public will get more facilities



SHORT TAKES

Doctor dies of Covid

Chandigarh: A 53-year-old government doctor posted in Amritsar's Civil Hospital in Punjab died Sunday owing to coronavirus. Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu attended the cremation of Senior Medical Officer Arun Sharma and described him as the true corona warrior. Sharma was one of the brilliant and diligent officers of the Health Department. He was enthusiastically battling against the COVID-19 in the frontline since March and passionately performing his duty round the clock in the district hospital, the minister said.

Reddy tests Covid positive

Bangalore: Karnataka's mining baron and former BJP minister Gali Janardhan Reddy has tested positive for the novel coronavirus and admitted in a private hospital for treatment in the city, an official said Sunday. "Reddy is in a private hospital for treatment after he tested positive for corona virus on Saturday as he was not feeling well. As he is asymptomatic, he is responding to the treatment," a party official said here. Confirming that Reddy tested positive for the infection, state Health Minister B. Srinamulu said he would pray to God for his best friend's speedy recovery.

Three sisters die

Chitrakoot (UP): In a tragic incident, three minor sisters were killed when a wall of their thatched house collapsed following heavy rain in Raipura area of UP's Chitrakoot district. Sub Divisional Magistrate of Mau tehsil Raj Bahadur said, "The wall of the thatched house of Ashok Varma collapsed, killing his three daughters. The deceased have been identified as Ritu (12), Shivdevi (9) and Pooja (5). The sisters had died by the time the villagers removed the debris."

Man arrested

Kolkata: A man has been arrested for allegedly smuggling mobile phones into Bangladesh through the Petrapole integrated check-post in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, a BSF statement said Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel conducted vehicle checking at the international border Saturday and seized six new mobile phones concealed in the driver's cabin of a truck, it said.



Students wanted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the issue of NEET and JEE exams in his monthly radio programme, but he spoke on toys

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

KARNATAKA BJP CHIEF COVID POSITIVE

BJP Karnataka state unit President Nalin Kumar Kateel Sunday said he has tested positive for COVID but was asymptomatic



India can become world's toy hub, says PM

In his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' address, he said it was time for startups to be 'vocal for local toys' and also asked them to develop computer games in and based on India, citing the nation's rich heritage and traditions that can drive innovations in the toy and gaming industry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday called upon startups and entrepreneurs to "team up for toys", as he noted India's miniscule share in the global toy market of over Rs 7 lakh crore and asserted that the country has talent and ability to become a hub for the industry. In his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' address, he said it was time for start-

ups to be "vocal for local toys" and also asked them to develop computer games in and based on India, citing the nation's rich heritage and traditions that can drive innovations in the toy and gaming industry.

"Our country has so many ideas, so many concepts; our history has been very rich. Can we make games based on that? I call upon the young talent of the country - make games in India and make games based on India too. It is said that let the game begin! So, let us start the game," he said.

The Prime Minister had also recently chaired a meeting aimed at boosting India's share in the global toy trade in which China is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters. Modi touched on a number of issues in the broadcast and lauded people for maintaining unprecedented restraint and simplicity in celebrating festivals during the COVID pandemic and praised farmers for an increase in the sowing area for crops.

He also asked teachers to work to apprise students of local events and heroes of the freedom struggle as India approaches 75 years of Independence in 2022, saying it will

'MANN KI BAAT'



bring to the fore stories of lakhs of "unsung heroes", who lived and died for the country but had faded into "oblivion".

Touching on his government's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, he said in his address that the country has to be self-reliant in every area and added that a big opportunity lies in the toy and gaming sector.

"You will be surprised to know that the global toy industry is of more than ₹7 lakh crore. Such a big business but India's share is very little in this. Now, just spare a thought for a nation which has so much of heritage, tradition, variety, young population, will it feel good

Corona vaccine trial begins

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mysuru (Karnataka), August 30: Clinical trial of the Covishield vaccine, developed by the University of Oxford, began Saturday at the JSS Hospital in Mysuru, an official said Sunday.

"The clinical trial of Covishield began Saturday at our hospital, which is the only institute in Karnataka to have been selected by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for verifying its effect and efficacy on a coronavirus patient," the official said here.

Similar trials are underway at 16 other institutes across the country. The 1,800-bed Jagadguru Sri

Shivarathri (JSS) Hospital is run by the Suttur Mutt at Suttur village on the banks of the Kabini river in Nanjund.

Once the trials in three phases is completed and submitted for validation, the Pune-based Serum



Institute of India will produce the vaccine candidate in partnership with the British drug major AstraZeneca, which has its Indian operations in Bangalore.

"The vaccine dose was adminis-

tered to five persons who volunteered for the phase-2 trial after investigation and monitoring," the official pointed out.

The trials began on the 105th jayanti mahotsava of Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Swami.

3 LeT militants, ASI killed

Militants fired on a joint 'naka' of police and the Central Reserve Police Force at Pantha Chowk area Saturday night, a police official said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 30: Three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants and an assistant sub-inspector of Jammu and Kashmir police were killed in a gunfight in the outskirts of the city here Sunday, police said.

Militants fired on a joint 'naka' of police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Pantha Chowk area late Saturday night, a police official said. The joint parties of the forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation there, he said.

During the searches in the area, the militants again fired on the



search party of the forces who retaliated, leading to an encounter, the official said.

A tight cordon was maintained throughout the night and the firing resumed this morning, he said, adding that three militants were killed in the gunfight.

An assistant sub-inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Babu Ram, was also killed in the opera-

tion, the official added.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the wreath-laying ceremony of the slain ASI, director general of Jammu and Kashmir Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said the three militants came on a bike and fired at the joint party of the security forces.

"After firing upon the forces, they (militants) tried to snatch weapons, but it was foiled by the alert troops, forcing the militants to flee. They left behind their bike. The forces chased the militants who took shelter in a nearby area known as Dhoobi Mohalla, Pantha Chowk," he said.

Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha after Azad's term expires in February 2021. Anand Sharma was given fourth RS term in 2016 and was hoping to replace Azad. His dream was also shattered as he will never be the Leader of Opposition. If sources are to be believed, it was Anand Sharma whose Lodhi Estate bungalow became the hub of entire dissident operation.

How Rahul invited revolt

Stage was almost set for Rahul Gandhi being re-appointed as the next president of the Congress at the last CWC meeting. It was a foregone conclusion as there was no alternative and with Sonia Gandhi's failing health, things had become difficult to sustain. But Rahul Gandhi seems to have invited trouble, all by himself and kept annoying one leader or the other. He first humiliated Ahmed Patel by asking that all leaders will report to KC Venugopal, AICCC general secretary (Organisation). He came from nowhere and Rahul Gandhi even brought Venugopal to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. This made Ashok Gehlot, a Sonia Gandhi loyalist, very unhappy. The drift

The inauspicious VVIP ward

There is an interesting tale as to why Union Home Minister Amit Shah chose to get himself admitted to the Medanta Hospital after he got infected with the novel coronavirus. He decided to travel

Over 100 students write to CJ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Over a hundred law students from across the country have written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde and other judges of the Supreme Court to reconsider the judgement on senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan in the contempt case.

The Supreme Court had, earlier this month, held Bhushan guilty of contempt of court over his tweets and reserved its order on the quantum of punishment. The top court is scheduled to pronounce the sentence Monday.

In the letter, around 122 law students made an emotional appeal to the CJI and other judges to reconsider the sentencing against Prashant Bhushan in the case. "The judiciary ought to

BHUSHAN CASE

reply for criticism by the restoration of public confidence. The judiciary ought to reply for criticism by changing its case. The judiciary ought not to charge for contempt of court when criticism arises out of anguish and love for justice, from a person aiding in the profoundness of the same justice he asks for others," the letter said.

The law students said that they have witnessed Bhushan in courts fighting for transparency, accountability, environmental protection, and human rights, also against corruption for years. "His contribution to our fraternity and nation-building is undoubtedly cherished by all in the legal fraternity," the open letter said.

The importance of Sushant case

Few facts are necessary to understand the importance of the mysterious case of Sushant Singh Rajput. The Bihar government recommended transfer of SSR's case to the CBI August 4. The Union Home Ministry decided to accept the request and sent the case file to the CBI August 4 night itself. It informed the Supreme Court August 5 morning accordingly. But how this could have happened as the Home Minister was down with coronavirus and advised full bed rest at the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram since August 2. And the CBI is not under the home minister either. It's under the PM and he was preparing to leave for the Ram Janmabhoomi Puja ceremony. Nitish Kumar spoke to Amit Shah over the phone who in turn fixed the nuts and bolts from his hospital bed in no time. He spoke to CBI director RK Shukla over the phone and it was all over in five hours.

Covid impact: Census, NPR unlikely in 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The first phase of the Census and the exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR), scheduled for this year but deferred due to the coronavirus outbreak, may be delayed by a year as there is no sign of slowdown of the pandemic.

The Indian census is one of the largest administrative and statistical exercises in the world, with the involvement of more than 30 lakh officials who would visit each household across the length and breadth of the country.

"Census is not an essential exercise for now. Even if it is delayed by a year, there would be no harm," a senior official said.

The official said no final decision has been taken on when the first phase of the Census 2021 and NPR update would take place, but it is almost certain that it would not be held in 2020 due to the rising cases of the coronavirus. The house-listing phase of the Census and the exer-



cise to update NPR were scheduled to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020, but were postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"As the entire exercise needs the involvement of lakhs of officials and visit to each family we can't undermine the health risk involved in it," the official said.

According to the earlier schedule, the census would have its reference date as March 1, 2021, and in the snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, it would be October 1, 2020. "The COVID-19 threat is still looming large. The census and NPR are not in the priority list of the government as of now," another official said.

'Heavens not falling': Khurshid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Asserting that there was no urgency to have an elected Congress president, senior leader Salman Khurshid Sunday said he "can't see the heavens falling" for the need of a party chief as Sonia Gandhi was still at the helm and should be the one to decide on the leadership issue.

Khurshid, a former Union minister and among the leaders considered close to the Gandhi family, said in an interview that he would not have signed the letter even if he was approached by the group that wrote to Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent organisational overhaul, including an active and full-time leadership.

On Ghulam Nabi Azad, the most vocal among the 23 letter writers, seeking organisational elections to ensure that the Congress does not remain out of power for decades, Khurshid said the senior leader from Jammu and Kashmir had been part of the top echelons of the party for years when there has been no such elections and still the party prospered.

He said probably Azad wanted a change now in what the party has been doing over the years and expressed confidence that the leadership will give a thought to what he is saying as he is a senior leader. Khurshid said the leaders who have written to Sonia Gandhi always had access to her and could have approached her rather than writing to her.

"It is very clear that the important persons in this letter do belong to the top echelons of our party and therefore Sonia Gandhi has indicated that it was best that they could have discussed it within the confines of the party," he said.

How Modi fast-tracked vaccine trials

When the coronavirus pandemic broke out, PM Modi was among the first one to constitute a GoM February 3 under Dr Harsh Vardhan. Next came the PM's Task Force on vaccine under Dr VK Paul. The PM formed it as he knew about the existence of the worst kind of bureaucracy and rivalries among the scientists and doctors. The PM was shocked to learn that seven Central government agencies handle vaccine approvals and that India failed to invent a single vaccine during the past 73 years. Modi simply issued one directive; No file shall remain pending with any scientist or head of any institution for more than five working days and it must come back with comments and all issues sorted out through video conference. The Task Force will monitor it on a daily basis. End result! The ICMR signed a contract with Bharat Biotech to invent a vaccine, a first in history. The ICMR, Drug Controller and agencies took five years to even clear the influenza drug. Modi cut short red tape and virtually gave one window clearances for vaccines.

Kuru Kolumn

Anand Sharma was key to G-23

It is now emerging that Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma played a key role in creating the group of 23 dissident leaders of the Congress. Despite being the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Azad was unhappy with the party for his own reasons. He had been in Rajya Sabha for several decades, but Anand Sharma had always been Sonia Gandhi's favourite leader in the Rajya Sabha. Both felt threatened when Sonia Gandhi brought in Mallikarjun Kharge into the Upper House from Karnataka. In fact, Sonia Gandhi was so keen that she specially asked HD Deve Gowda to spare the seat for the Congress and let the Janata Dal(S) take the MLC seats. Obviously, this signaled that Kharge may be the

of the day quote

On International Whale Shark Day, we reiterate our commitment to protect the whale shark



NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Political parties do not get into Hindi film industry matters



ABHISHEK SINGHVI | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

Tamil Nadu ranks third in the (Niti Aayog's) Export Preparedness Index 2020 and the list is based on four aspects, including government policy, conducive climate for trade, export environment and export status



K PALANISWAMI | TAMIL NADU CM

SHORT TAKES

CBI grills Rhea for the third time

Mumbai: The CBI questioned actress Rhea Chakraborty for the third consecutive day Sunday in connection with her boyfriend and filmstar Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, a police official said. The 28-year-old actress, who is accused of abetting Rajput's suicide, was questioned for around nine hours, he said. Her brother Showik Chakraborty was also questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Sunday for the fourth day in a row, the official said.

Pranab still in deep coma

New Delhi: Former President Pranab Mukherjee continues to be in deep coma but is haemodynamically stable, the hospital treating him said Sunday. Doctors attending to 84-year-old Mukherjee said he is on ventilator support and is being treated for lung infection. Doctors say a patient is haemodynamically stable when his blood circulation parameters, like blood pressure, heart and pulse rate, are stable and normal.

11 foreigners arrested

Noida (UP): Eleven foreigners, including four women, were arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida on Sunday for allegedly partying in violation of curbs imposed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, police said. Police also impounded seven of their vehicles and seized 237 cans and 51 bottles of beer besides three bottles of liquor from the house where they were partying in the Surajpur police station area, officials said.

'Flying to India for NEET risky'

New Delhi: Travelling to India to write medical entrance exam NEET is not only stressful but also impractical, several candidates in Gulf countries have said, citing the risk of contracting COVID-19 and the need to undergo a mandatory quarantine, among other issues. Some of them have decided the skip the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) altogether this year.

Thousands of motorists fined

Ghaziabad: Over 1,900 vehicle owners were penalised for the violation of the coronavirus lockdown norms, Ghaziabad police said Sunday. Some of them were not wearing masks and didn't use helmets, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said.



In the times of the pandemic, while celebrating festivals, we must take care of people from the weaker sections of the society and take adequate measures to protect and safeguard our families and society at large

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

HARYANA LIFTS 2-DAY WEEKLY LOCKDOWN

After the Centre's Unlock 4 guidelines, the Haryana government Sunday withdrew its order to keep markets in urban areas closed Mondays and Tuesdays



Struggle of women e-rickshaw drivers amid nCoV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: No rides, no income and no money to repay the loans they took. But the band of intrepid women who took the decision to steer the course of their lives by driving e-rickshaws and also owning them aren't giving up.

Organisations such as Humsafar and SMV Green Solutions which helped train scores of women and facilitated their loans said none of their 'drivers' have reached out to them to sell their vehicles.

The start-up has also been facilitating e-rickshaw ownership among



NEVER GIVE UP

women drivers in cities like Delhi, Lucknow and Varanasi.

The rules went for a toss a few years back when the handful of

women decided to drive change with their e-rickshaws. The lockdown has been a major setback but ask these women drivers to give

up and they say it will take something a lot bigger than a pandemic to force them back to their old lives.

"I am ready to do all kinds of odd jobs temporarily to make money, but there is no way I am selling my rickshaw," said Sima Khan, a doughty Lucknow-based woman who went from being homemaker to entrepreneur.

In fact, almost all the 55 e-rickshaw drivers who trained at Humsafar since the first batch in 2015 have found themselves in dire circumstances in the last few months. But giving up on their rickshaws is not something they want to even consider.

India to start process to build six submarines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: India is all set to launch the bidding process by next month for a ₹55,000-crore mega project to build six conventional submarines for the Indian Navy to narrow the gap with China's growing naval prowess, government sources said Sunday.

The submarines will be built in India under the much-talked-about strategic partnership model that allows domestic companies to join hands with leading foreign defence majors to produce high-end military platforms in the country and reduce import dependence.

The sources said the ground-work like specifications of the submarines and other critical requirements for issuance of the RFP (request for proposal) for the mega project, named as P-75 I, has been completed by separate teams of the defence ministry and the Indian Navy.

The RFP will be issued by October, they added.

The defence ministry has already shortlisted two Indian shipyards and five foreign defence majors for the project, being billed as one of biggest "Make in India" ventures. The shortlisted Indian entities were L&T group and state-owned Mazagaon Docks Ltd (MDL) while the select foreign entities included ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (Germany), Navantia (Spain) and Naval Group (France).

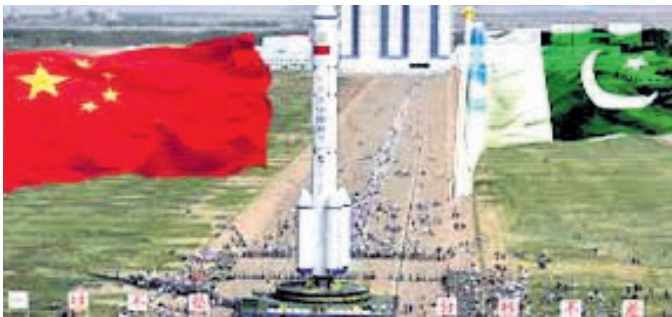
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 30: Pakistan has purchased from China real time satellite data, comprising high definition video, optical and hyper spectral imagery, that also can provide it the precise position of Indian Army camps across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Intelligence sources said that Pakistan has entered into a contract with China to procure Jilin-1 satellite data for 2020. The Jilin constellation comprises a network of ten satellites in orbit with capability of global coverage and it can revisit any location twice a day. "Resolution of panchromatic image provisioned by Jilin-1 is 0.72 m and multi-spectral image is 2.88 m," a source said.

Jilin is China's commercial remote sensing satellite run by the Chang Guang Satellite Technology Co. Ltd. In 2019, Pakistan had purchased data of the advanced land observation satellite phased array type L Band synthetic aperture radar and Jilin-1, sources said.

It has stated that it is procuring data for land and resources surveying, monitoring of natural disasters, agriculture research, urban construction and other activities. In 2018, China had launched two remote sensing satellites for Pakistan, claiming that it would monitor



CLOSE WATCH

■ Jilin is China's commercial remote sensing satellite run by the Chang Guang Satellite Technology Co. Ltd.

■ In 2019, Pakistan had purchased data of the advanced land observation satellite phased array type L Band synthetic aperture radar and Jilin-1, sources said

■ Both China and Pakistan are currently engaged in a confrontation with India at their borders

progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The satellites - PRSS-1 and PakTES-1A --- were launched using a Long March-2C rocket.

A network of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan that will connect China's Xinjiang province with the Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan province, giving China an opening to the Arabian Sea, the 3,218-kilometre CPEC, a dream project of Chinese President Xi Jinping in which China has sunk about \$19 billion, runs along the disputed area of Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Both China and Pakistan are currently engaged in a confrontation with India at their borders. For the first time, India finds itself stretched between the border with China where it is locked in an intense

stand-off with the People Liberation Army and the border with Pakistan where it faces incessant cross-border firing from the hostile Pakistan Army. Pakistan increased bombardment of Indian territory, violating the Line of Control (LoC) ceasefire agreement as China started transgressions in eastern Ladakh, creating a two front war-like situation for India.

COMBATING PANDEMIC



A woman spraying disinfectant on masks as precautionary measures to curb the spread of the pandemic in Agartala. UN

A family's struggle for their specially-abled boy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: Over the last 11 years, Jaya Lakshmi has sold all her jewellery, her mother-in-law gifted on her wedding, for the treatment of her son who suffers from cerebral palsy. But the situation is getting tougher for the family with her husband's salary reduced by half due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The parents are struggling to provide treatment to Ujjawal who cannot walk properly.

From doctors in Delhi to panchakarma therapy in Kerala to treatment at the Udaipur Narayan Seva Sansthan, the couple has explored all options and has spent ₹30 lakhs on their 11-year-old son's treatment till now.

"Ujjawal was fine at birth. His physical growth slowed down when he was seven months old. Initially, doctors said he exhibited development delays," Lakshmi said. Ujjawal's doctor, Dr Ranbir Singh, said the boy needs physiotherapy at home twice a day.

Using a wheelchair to take the boy to hospital will be demotivating and is not advisable, the doctor said, adding that physiotherapy at home is the way ahead. Lakshmi said, "Around ₹15 lakh is needed -Rs 30,000 a month - for four years of treatment. Due to the pandemic, my husband's salary has been reduced by half. He earns ₹15,000, of which ₹5,000 is spent on rent."

WHY ARE COVID CASES SURGING IN INDIA?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The surge in coronavirus infections in India can be attributed to increased testing on one hand and opening of the economy on the other accompanied by complacency among people towards following COVID-appropriate behaviour, experts have said, as the country witnessed over five lakh cases in a week.

Dr Samiran Panda, the head of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said this increase in cases was expected but pointed out that it is not a homogenous phenomenon across the states. "It is happening in some pockets and among groups where there is an intermixing of the susceptible population and asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic cases which



is leading to a transmission of the disease. So, efforts have to be made to interrupt this transmission in these pockets," Dr Panda said.

Also, testing has been ramped up exponentially which is leading to more number of cases getting detected, he said. "Further, with the opening up of the economy and

people's movement increasing, some complacency is being seen among people towards following COVID-appropriate behaviour which is also contributing to the rise in cases," Panda said as he stressed on the need for a sustained COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

Leading virologist Shahid Jameel

said that people are not following advisories on wearing masks, hand hygiene and social distancing. "This is driven by a complacency that results from the official narrative which only talks of the increasing number of recoveries and low death rate. The fact is that we are getting the largest daily numbers (of cases). We are now third in total infections and going to be on the third spot in total deaths as well," he said.

Experts underlined that the way forward is for the people to follow COVID-appropriate which include wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette in a sustained manner, while the government should focus on preventing deaths. Dr K K Aggarwal, the president of the Confederation of Medical Association of Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) and former IMA chief

said, "There is no way the number of cases can be checked by government efforts at this stage."

He stressed that prevention will have to be at an individual level now. "If this current trend continues, nobody can stop India from crossing Brazil and America (in the number of cases). That would happen in probably six weeks. There is no way we can check the number of cases by government efforts. Now, prevention will have to be an individual effort.

"Opening up (of the economy) will lead to a surge in cases. The locking period was to prepare and sensitise people about how to prevent themselves from getting infected. What is more important now is to put a check on mortality. So government efforts should focus on mortality reduction," Aggarwal said.

Prime duty of hosps is to help patients: NCDRC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: A hospital has every right to insist on payment but it also has the prime duty to take care of a patient facing a health emergency, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has said while awarding a compensation of ₹25 lakh for medical negligence to a woman whose husband died at the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore.

A bench of presiding member S M Kantikar and Dinesh Singh awarded the compensation to the deceased patient's wife Yashumati Devi noting that there was an urgent need for the patient's brain CT scan but it was delayed for more than three hours as the hospital waited for a fresh receipt of ₹1,850 towards charges for the proce-



dure. The compensation shall be paid within six weeks of the pronouncement of this order, without fail, it said. "There was an urgent need for brain CT scan of the patient but it was delayed more than 3 hours for the want of a fresh receipt of ₹1,850 towards CT scan charges even though complainants had already deposited 1,50,000 in advance. Hospital has every right to insist on the payment but it was also a prime duty to care (for) the emergency patient," the bench said.

of the day quote

The Republicans are rejecting the funding needed for testing and tracing to crush the virus and safely reopen schools and the economy

NANCY PELOSI | SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

China condemns this despicable act and urges the Czech side (who arrived Taiwan) to abide by the one-China principle and handle Taiwan-related issues in a prudent and appropriate manner

ZHAO LIJIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

Moving a million plus students around the country is a recipe for disaster and risks leaving ill-prepared universities as the care homes of a second wave. It is time for the government to finally take some decisive and responsible action in this crisis

JO GRADY | GENERAL SECRETARY, UCU, UK

SHORT TAKES

French military officer arrested

Paris: A senior French military officer based abroad is under investigation for “serious security breaches,” the defense minister said Sunday. Europe-1 radio reported that the officer served on a NATO base in Italy and is accused of treason for passing “ultra-sensitive” information to Russian secret services. The French Defence Ministry would not provide details about the officer. Speaking on Europe-1 Sunday, Defence Minister Florence Parly said only that a judicial procedure is underway and the French military has taken “necessary protective measures” after the breaches.

Montenegro votes in tense election

Podgorica: Voters in Montenegro Sunday cast ballots in a tense election that is pitting the long-ruling pro-Western party against an opposition seeking closer ties with Serbia and Russia. The parliamentary vote is marked by a dispute over a law on religious rights that is staunchly opposed by the influential Serbian Orthodox Church. The issue has fueled divisions in the nation of 620,000 people that has defied its traditional Slavic allies to become independent in 2006 and join NATO in 2017.

Torrential rains kill 134 in Pak

Islamabad: Seasonal torrential rains have claimed 134 lives and injured 81 others in Pakistan in the last over two months since the monsoon began in the country, the national disaster management agency said Sunday. Monsoon rains are lashing Pakistan at a time when authorities are trying to contain the spread of the coronavirus, which caused 6,288 deaths since February when the country reported its first case.

Free Covid tests for taxi drivers

Singapore: Singapore will offer free coronavirus tests to community groups such as taxi drivers, food delivery workers and hawkers as part of efforts to expand the COVID-19 testing regime, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has said. While there has been “no local evidence” that these groups are at a higher risk of being infected, they will be offered tests “given the nature of their working environment, such as the high frequency of interactions with the members of the public”, the MOH said.



It is absolutely not a coincidence that those who seek to exclude us from the eastern Mediterranean are the same invaders as the ones who attempted to invade our homeland a century ago

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

ZIA'S FAMILY SEEKS EXTENSION

Bangladesh's main opposition leader Khaleda Zia's family has sought an extension of six more months on her suspended prison sentence for the former PM's treatment, according to a report



‘Facebook erred in not removing militia post’

The social media giant has in recent weeks adopted new guidelines removing or restricting posts from groups that pose a threat to public safety

AGENCIES

Washington, August 30: Facebook made a mistake in not removing a militia group's page earlier this week that called for armed civilians to enter Kenosha, Wisconsin, amid violent protests after police shot Jacob Blake, CEO Mark Zuckerberg says.

The page for the “Kenosha Guard” violated Facebook's policies and had been flagged by “a bunch of people,” Zuckerberg said in a video posted Friday Facebook.

The social media giant has in recent weeks adopted new guidelines removing or restricting posts

from groups that pose a threat to public safety.

Facebook took down the page Wednesday, after an armed civilian allegedly killed two people and wounded a third Tuesday night amid protests in Kenosha that followed the shooting of Blake, who is Black.

“It was largely an operational mistake,” Zuckerberg said.

“The contractors, the reviewers, who the initial complaints were funneled to, didn't, basically didn't pick this up.”

Zuckerberg did not apologize for the error and said that so far, Facebook hasn't found any evidence



that Rittenhouse was aware of the Kenosha Guard page or the invitation it posted for armed militia members to go to Kenosha.

Facebook is now taking down posts that praise the shooting or shooter, Zuckerberg said.

Yet a report Thursday by The Guardian newspaper found examples of support and even fundraising messages still being shared on Facebook and its photo-sharing service, Instagram.

Zuckerberg also contrasted the treatment of Blake, who was shot in the back by Kenosha police, and the white 17-year-old now charged in Tuesday's slayings, Kyle Rittenhouse, who carried an AR-15 style rifle near police without being challenged. Zuckerberg also acknowledged the civil rights demon-

stration Friday in Washington, D.C.

“There's just a sense that things really aren't improving at the pace that they should be, and I think that's really painful, really discouraging,” Zuckerberg said.

Zuckerberg also said the company is working on improving its execution, though he did not provide details. He acknowledged that the approaching presidential election would present greater challenges around polarizing content.

“There is a real risk and a continued increased risk through the election during this very sensitive and polarized and highly charged time,” he said.

Global Covid-19 cases surpass 25 mn mark

REUTERS

New York, August 30: Global coronavirus cases surged past 25 million Sunday, according to a Reuters tally, as India marked a worldwide record for daily new cases in the COVID-19 pandemic. The data showed steady global growth as the disease's epicentre shifts again, with India taking centre stage from the United States and Latin America.

virus. That has exceeded the upper range of 290,000 to 650,000 annual deaths linked to influenza.

India, the world's second-most populous country, is third behind, the United States and Brazil, in total caseload, but has consistently outpaced both in new daily cases since August 7, according to the Reuters tally.

Despite the surging case numbers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pushing for a re-

THE RISING NUMBERS



The data showed steady global growth as the disease's epicentre shifts again, with India taking centre stage from US and Latin America

The official number of global coronavirus cases is now at least five times the number of severe influenza illnesses recorded annually, according to WHO data

While COVID-19's trajectory still falls far short of the 1918 Spanish flu, experts worry the available data is underplaying the true impact of the pandemic

India's single-day tally of 78,761 new coronavirus infections on Sunday exceeded the one-day increase of 77,299 reported by the United States in mid-July. The south Asian country's surge took the global caseload to 25,074,751.

The official number of global coronavirus cases is now at least five times the number of severe influenza illnesses recorded annually, according to World Health Organization (WHO) data.

Around the world, there have been more than 840,000 deaths, considered a lagging indicator given the two-week incubation period of the

turn to normalcy to lessen the economic pain of the pandemic, having imposed a strict early lockdown of the country's 1.3 billion people in March.

The government announced Saturday that it will reopen underground train networks - a lifeline for millions in the capital city of New Delhi - and allow sports and religious events in a limited manner from next month.

Latin America is the region with the most infections in the world, although some countries in the region are beginning to show a slight decline in infections.

Won't use military as 'prop': Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 30: Joe Biden said Saturday that as president, he would never use the military “as a prop or private militia” and accused President Donald Trump of employing US forces to settle “personal vendettas” and violate citizens' rights.

The Democratic presidential nominee, in a virtual address to the National Guard Association of the United States' general conference, said Trump recommended “that you should be deployed to quote, ‘dominate,’ your fellow citizens for exercising their right to peacefully protest.”



“We're so much better than this,” Biden said. “You deserve so much better.”

His comments came a day after Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress that the armed forces will have no role in carrying out the election process or resolving a disputed vote.

Saudi announces discovery of new oil, gas fields

RIYADH: Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud announced Sunday the discovery of two oil and gas fields in the kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The two fields, Hadat Al-Hajrah gas field in the Al-Jawf region and Abraq Al-Talul oil field in the northern border region, were discovered by the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco), Xinhua news agency reported. Saudi Aramco will work on assessing the quantities of oil, gas and condensate in the two fields, as well as digging more wells to determine their area and size, the minister said.

ACTIVISTS TOPPLE STATUE OF FIRST CANADIAN PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

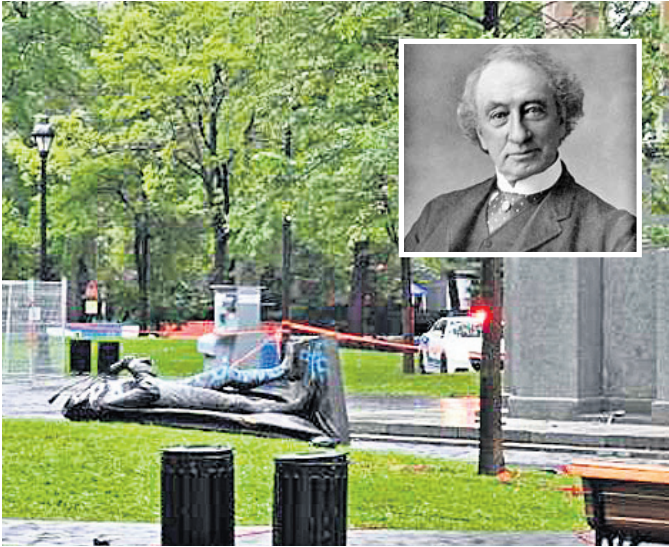
Ottawa, August 30: Activists in Montreal have toppled a statue of Canada's first Prime Minister, John A MacDonald, who was linked to policies that killed many indigenous people in the late 19th century, the media reported Sunday. Video captured the moment the statue's head flew off and bounced on the pavement nearby, the BBC reported.

Quebec Premier Francois Legault condemned the incident as “unacceptable”. “Destroying parts of our history is not the solution,” he said in a tweet Saturday.

“We must fight racism, but destroying parts of our history is not the solution. Vandalism has no place in our democracy and the statue must be restored,” the premier added.

Earlier Saturday, a peaceful demonstration calling for defunding the police took place in central Montreal.

A leaflet distributed at the protest described MacDonald as “a white supremacist who orchestrated the genocide of indigenous people with the creation of the brutal residential schools system”, according to Canadian broadcaster CBC.



John A MacDonald's (inset) statue was toppled in Montreal, Sunday

MacDonald was Prime Minister for 19 years in the 1860s-1890s and is remembered for his nation-building policies but he also created the residential schools system, said the BBC report.

For more than a century, the system forcibly removed at least 150,000 indigenous children from their homes and sent them to state-

funded boarding schools. Many children were abused and some died, and they were forbidden from speaking their own language or practising their culture.

A government report in 2015 called the practice “cultural genocide”.

He was also accused of allowing famine and disease to kill many indigenous people and his government forced some First Nation communities to leave their traditional territories, withholding food until they did so.

What happens when crisis locks down a globe-trotting pope

AGENCIES

Rome, August 30: On the March day that Italy recorded its single biggest jump in coronavirus fatalities, Pope Francis emerged from lockdown to offer an extraordinary prayer and plea to his flock to reassess their priorities, arguing the virus had proved they needed one another.

Francis' words from the rain-slicked promenade of St Peter's Basilica encapsulated the core messages he has emphasised during his seven-year pontificate: solidarity, social justice and care for the most vulnerable.

But the dramatic moment also underscored how isolated the pope had become during the COVID-19 emergency and a sustained season

of opposition from his conservative critics: He was utterly alone before an invisible enemy, preaching to a hauntingly empty piazza.

During the virus crisis, Francis has become a 21st century “prisoner of the Vatican,” as one of his predecessors was once known, robbed off the crowds, foreign travel and visits to the peripheries that so defined and popularised his papacy.

He will resume physical contact with his flock this week with revived Wednesday general audiences, but the meetings will be held in an internal Vatican courtyard before a limited crowd rather than the vast St Peter's Square.

After weeks during which Italy brought the virus under control, the country's caseload is rebound-



Home alone

ing — now adding more than 1,000 new infections a day — so there's no telling when or how more ambitious public gatherings and travel might return.

During the pandemic, Francis has become a 21st century “prisoner of the Vatican,” robbed off the crowds, foreign travel and visits to the peripheries that so defined and popularised his papacy

What does all this mean for a 83-year-old globe-trotting pope and his ministry to the 1.2-billion-member Catholic Church?

Alberto Melloni, a church his-

torian, declared that the pandemic marked the beginning of the end of Francis' pontificate. In a recent essay, he asserted that tensions that had percolated throughout the papacy came to the surface during the lockdown, and won't fade even after COVID-19 is tamed.

“In every papacy there's a historic point after which the final phase begins, which can last years,” Melloni wrote. For Francis, “this point was the pandemic and his solitude before the virus.”

Papal biographer Austen Ivereigh concurred that the pandemic was indeed “a before and after moment” for the papacy and humanity itself. But he disputed that Francis was isolated and said the crisis had offered him an unexpected opportunity to

provide spiritual guidance to a world in need.

The pandemic, he said in an interview, had given “a whole new impetus to the papacy” to double down on its core message, articulated most comprehensively in Francis' 2015 encyclical “Praised Be.”

In the document, Francis demanded political leaders correct the “perverse” structural inequalities of the global economy that had turned Earth into an “immense pile of filth.” “It is his conviction that this is a turning point, and that what the church can offer humanity could be very helpful,” Ivereigh said. “He is convinced that ... in a crisis, and a major crisis like a war or a pandemic, you either come out better or you come out worse.”

of the day quote

The refinery will continue to support 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' by producing high quality raw material for aluminium production – a vital raw material for the country - through digitalisation, focus on quality, skill enhancement and asset optimisation

NAVIN AGARWAL | EXEC. VICE-CHAIRMAN, VEDANTA LTD



The temporary stamp duty reduction is an excellent move by the Maharashtra government. It has been intelligently designed to expire in a time-bound manner which creates an incentive for fence-sitting homebuyers to move forward with their purchase decisions

PIROJSHA GODREJ | EXEC. CHAIRMAN, GODREJ PROPERTIES



We had honoured all our offers made to the engineers and graduates from the IIT's, NIT's and government colleges last year. I am glad that L&T has been able to live up to its commitment even in these extenuating circumstances of Covid-19

SN SUBRAHMANYAN | CEO & MD, L&T GROUP



SHORT TAKES

GJEPC suggests changes in scheme

New Delhi: The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has proposed changes in the revamped gold deposit scheme to make it more attractive, enable its larger acceptance and garner additional deposits of idle gold in the country. The council suggested changes to the Revamped – Gold Deposit Scheme (R-GDS) in a video conference with Tarun Bajaj, Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, recently, the GJEPC said.

Boat Lifestyle eyes ₹1K cr rev

New Delhi: Consumer tech products maker Boat Lifestyle registered gross revenue of over ₹500 crore in FY2019-20 and aims to double the topline by FY24 on the back of strong demand for products like audio devices and accessories in the country, a top company executive said. "We had a target of ₹500 crore revenue in FY21-22, we have already crossed that, we had an outstanding year in FY20. We have grown 2.5X from the previous year," Boat Lifestyle co-founder Aman Gupta said.

GAIL looking for growth

New Delhi: State-run GAIL (India) Ltd will look for growth in areas including petrochemicals, renewables among others, said the company's CMD Manoj Jain. The CMD's message to the shareholders in the company's annual report said that gas will continue to be its core focus.

Probe investments in startups: CAIT

New Delhi: Traders' body CAIT Sunday urged the government to order an investigation into Chinese investments in Indian startups to determine their investment control in these firms. In a letter to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) shared a list of 141 prominent Indian startups claiming they have significant Chinese investments.



With the economic pandemic that has followed Covid-19, a re-calibration of the consumer wallets is taking place where 'essentials' are taking precedence over luxuries, however affordable they are

SURESH NARAYANAN | CHAIRMAN, NESTLÉ INDIA

'55-75% OF LOANS WILL BE BOOKED DIGITALLY BY 2025'

Digital onboarding for loans will increase to 55-75% of the total credit disbursement in the next 5 years from about 20% now, says a financial technology expert. Between 2015-20, around 20% of credit disbursements were tech-driven and were extremely successful in retail and small business loans



CENTRE TO STATES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 30: As several states continue to oppose the borrowing options proposed in lieu of the GST compensation, the Centre has told states that central revenues have been under greater strain compared to GST revenue.

In a letter to the states, and Union Territories proposing the two options and explaining them in detail, the Finance Ministry also laid down the issues faced by the Centre in disbursing the compensation cess.

"The prevailing economic situation is such that Central revenues are under greater strain than GST revenue. While indirect taxes are linked to transactions, and recover in proportion to activity, direct taxes on profits are disproportionately reduced in the present situation," it said in the 12-page letter.

Along with direct taxes on wages and salaries getting seriously affected, Customs revenues are also hit by the slowdown in imports, it said.

Central expenditures are stretched not only by the pandemic response but also by the needs of national security, the Finance Ministry

'Central revenues more impacted than GST revenue'



In a letter to states and UTs proposing the two options and explaining them in detail, the Finance Ministry also laid down the issues faced by the Centre in disbursing the compensation cess

stressed.

"This is a national problem, not a Central Government problem alone," it said.

On the question of borrowing by the Union Government, to pay the compensation cess, the ministry said that the Centre already faces a very large borrowing requirement this year.

Further, additional borrowing by the Centre influences the yields on Central government securities

(G-secs) and has other macro-economic repercussions, it said.

"The yield on G-secs acts as a benchmark for state borrowing as well as private sector borrowing. Hence any rise in Central borrowing costs ipso facto drives up borrowing costs for all borrowers, including not only the states but also the entire private sector," the letter said.

As per the design of the options given to the states by the Centre to

meet GST compensation gap, if the states decide to meet the entire shortfall of ₹2,35,000 crores (including the Covid-impact portion) through issue of market debt, then additional unconditional borrowing limit of 0.5 per cent and the final (bonus) tranche of 0.5 per cent provided under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package as a Covid relief measure will not be available separately.

Under option one, the Centre has offered a special borrowing window to states, in consultation with the RBI, for an amount of ₹97,000 crore (the shortfall arising out of GST implementation) at a "reasonable" interest rate.

The Centre will endeavour to keep the borrowing cost at or close to the G-sec yield, and in the event of the cost being higher, will bear the margin between G-secs and the average of State Development Loan yields up to 0.5 per cent (50 basis points) through a subsidy.

The second option given by the Centre allows states to borrow the entire projected GST compensation shortfall of ₹2,35,000 crore (total shortfall of ₹3 lakh crore minus ₹65,000 crore collected as GST compensation cess) for FY21.

Private cos begin investing in farm sector

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: Private companies have begun investing in farm sector spurred by the recent reforms that will help increase farmers' income, according to Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal. The government recently brought three major reforms via Ordinances.

It amended the Essential Commodities Act to deregulate food items, and introduced a new law – The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 – to allow farmers to sell their produce outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC).

FINISHED STEEL EXPORTS JUMP 2-FOLD IN APRIL-JULY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: India's export of finished steel grew over two-fold during the April-July period of the ongoing fiscal, while imports of such products reduced by about 42%, official data showed.

During April-June, the country's total exports of finished steel stood at 4.641 million tonnes (MT) as against 1.933 MT in the year ago period, the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) said.

JPC, under the Ministry of Steel, is the country's only institution that collects and maintains data on Indian steel and iron sector.

"Vietnam was the largest export market (at 1.37 MT) for India," JPC



said. According to the data, the country reduced its imports by 42% to 1.506 MT during the period under review from 2.597 MT a year ago.

"Import of total finished steel from China declined by 21.7% during this period," it said.

The production of finished steel fell 39.8 per cent to 21.152 MT from 35.156 MT in April-July of 2019, the data showed.

Steel consumption also fell 43.3 per cent to 18.909 MT as against 33.346 MT in the same period of the preceding fiscal.

Airtel, Voda Idea witness dip in gross Q1 rev: TRAI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Two private telecom service providers Airtel and Vodafone-Idea witnessed a dip in gross revenue in Odisha during the first quarter of financial year of 2020-21, said financial report published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

TRAI report claims that gross revenue of Airtel in the quarter was down to ₹434 crore followed by Vodafone Idea at ₹84.2 crore. Two telecom majors have been continually losing its subscribers in the state and now dipped in gross revenue.

However, TRAI report did not declare the change in gross revenue of state-owned BSNL in the same quarter.

The report mentions that BSNL posted gross revenue of March quarter of ₹58.8 crore.

On other hand, Reliance Jio became the first telecom operator in the state to have achieved more than 50% market share in gross revenue, TRAI's report stated.

Odisha has become one of the only two states in the country where Reliance Jio surpassed 50% market share in gross revenue during the first quarter of current fiscal.

FM to review implementation of resolution framework

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will review the implementation of resolution framework for Covid-related stress in bank loans, with the top management of scheduled commercial banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFC) Thursday.

As the pandemic has led to severe economic stress across sectors, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) earlier this month announced to provide a resolution framework to enable the lenders to implement a resolution plan, in respect of eligible corporate borrowers without change in ownership while continuing the ac-

COVID-RELATED STRESS



count status as standard, subject to specified conditions.

"The review will focus on enabling businesses and households to avail of the revival framework on the basis of viability, necessary

steps like finalising bank policies and identifying borrowers, and discussing issues that require addressing for smooth and speedy implementation," a Finance Ministry statement said on Sunday. Announcing the move post the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) meeting, the RBI Governor said that the move has been announced in a bid to provide relief to stressed companies which have not been able to repay loans due to cash flow issues amid the pandemic.

The prudential framework dated June 7, 2019 provides a principle-based resolution framework for addressing borrower defaults under a normal scenario.

Any resolution plan implemented

under the framework which involves granting of any concessions on account of financial difficulty of the borrower entails an asset classification downgrade, except when it is accompanied by a change in ownership, which allows the asset classification to be retained or upgraded to Standard, subject to the prescribed conditions.

The RBI decided to provide a window under the Prudential Framework to enable the lenders to implement a resolution plan in respect of eligible corporate exposures without change in ownership, and personal loans, while classifying such exposures as Standard subject to specified conditions.

'5G smartphones to capture half of global market by 2023'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 30: Riding on a strong 5G push, the global smartphone market will return to a full recovery by 2022 and 5G smartphones are expected to capture 50% of the global market by 2023, according to a new IDC report.

5G remains a priority for all smartphone OEMs despite the challenges with the Covid-19 pandemic and lack of consumer demand.

"While many of the top vendors have reduced their 2020 production plans to align with the market decline, we've seen most of the cuts focused on their 4G portfolios," said Ryan Reith, programme vice president with IDC's 'Worldwide Mobile Device Trackers'. Most channels in developed markets have set the expectation that the portfolios they carry will be dominated by 5G units



by the end of 2020 leaving less shelf space for 4G.

"However, we still believe that consumer demand for 5G is very low and when that is combined with the economic headwinds facing the

market, the pressure to drive down hardware and service fees associated with 5G will become increasingly important," Reith said.

The worldwide smartphone market is forecast to decline 9.5% (y-o-

ON DEMAND

■ 5G remains a priority for all smartphone OEMs despite lack of consumer demand

■ IDC expects global 5G smartphone ASPs to hit \$495 by 2023, which should eliminate most of the price concerns voiced by consumers in recent surveys

y) in 2020 with shipments totaling 1.2 billion units.

While the second quarter resulted in slightly better than expected numbers, the market was still down 17% (y-o-y) with visible signs of economic concerns.

This supply-driven 5G push mixed with a poor economic climate will only accelerate the drop in 5G average selling prices (ASPs) in 2020 and beyond.

In the past quarter, China saw 43% of 5G devices priced under \$400.

IDC expects global 5G smartphone ASPs to hit \$495 by 2023, which should eliminate most of the price concerns voiced by consumers in recent

Although we expect y-o-y growth of 9% in 2021, that is only due to the large drop in 2020. The real recovery won't happen until 2022 when smartphone volumes return to pre-Covid levels

NABILA POPAL | RESEARCH DIRECTOR, IDC

IDC surveys.

Prior to the pandemic, there was an expectation that total smartphone sales would return to growth in 2020. That is obviously not going to happen.

"Although we expect y-o-y growth of 9% in 2021, that is only due to the large drop in 2020. The real recovery won't happen until 2022 when smartphone volumes return to pre-COVID levels," said Nabila Popal, research director with IDC.

Other elements beyond 5G will play a role in the market recovery, most notably the continued opportunity in developing markets.

"There continues to be a strong shift towards low- to mid-end 4G devices in developing regions, which make up over 80 per cent of smartphone volumes in these regions," Popal said.



BIG JOLT
MADRID: La Liga released Sunday a statement saying Lionel Messi's Barcelona contract was still valid. This development came after he failed to attend a pre-season medical Sunday. The ruling body said the only way for the Argentine forward to be released from the contract was to trigger a 700-million euros (\$833 million) release clause. "In compliance with the applicable rule, La Liga will not approve a request to be de-registered as a player with the Spanish Football Federation, unless the amount in the release clause has been paid," the football body said in a statement.

BATTLE INTENSIFIES

Messi skips Barcelona's COVID-19 testing session

AGENCIES

Madrid, August 30: It is another sign that Lionel Messi's time with Barcelona is coming to an end. The Argentine did not report for required coronavirus testing scheduled for the whole squad, Sunday. Barcelona said Messi was the only player who skipped the tests at the club's training centre. The team are set to resume training Monday ahead of the upcoming start of the season.

The club also reiterated their stance not to negotiate Messi's early release. Messi was the only player who skipped the tests at the club's training centre. The team are set to resume training Monday ahead of the upcoming start of the season.

Messi last week expressed his desire to leave the club. However, Barcelona want him to play out the contract which ends in

June 2021. The club also said it is not negotiating a possible transfer with any other team.

Messi announced his decision to leave Tuesday. He told the club of his decision by a 'burofax'. He invoked a contract clause that allowed him to leave at the end of the season for free. However, the club claim that the clause had already expired.

A legal battle is expected to unfold soon. Messi will contend that the season was extended beyond the date the clause expired because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Argentina great reportedly said he wants to negotiate with the club. However, Barcelona said Saturday they were not willing to facilitate his exit. They said they would like Messi to finish his career with the Catalan club.

There were rumours earlier in the week that Messi would show up for Sunday's tests to avoid breaking team rules. However, his people reportedly told Barcelona of his intentions not to attend the testing.

Barcelona will resume training with incoming coach Ronald Koeman in charge. Koeman replaces Quique Setien who was fired following the team's 2-8 loss to Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

The defeat was one of the worst in Messi's career and in the club's history. The loss prompted Barcelona to announce 'profound' changes to the first team and a 'wide-ranging' restructuring of the club.

Koeman reportedly told Luis Suárez, Ivan Rakitic, Arturo Vidal and Samuel Umtiti that they are not in his plans for the future. However, all of them showed up for the required tests Sunday.

Suárez has been a longtime teammate and friend of Messi. The decision to get rid of the Uruguayan striker was believed to have upset Messi. It played a part in his decision to leave. The 33-year-old Messi had been outspoken about the club's poor decisions this season. Incidentally this is the first time since 2007-08 that Barcelona have failed to win a trophy. The performance this season has been a disappointment for Messi.



IT IS SAD THAT A PLAYER OF LIONEL MESSI'S CALIBRE IS HAVING TO LOOK FOR A DIFFERENT CLUB. IT INDEED IS A SORRY TALE OF AFFAIRS. MESSI SHOULD BE RETAINED AT ANY COST. HIS INTENTIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD FOR BARCELONA

CARLES PUYOL | FORMER SKIPPER

THE FLASHPOINTS



JOINT CHAMPIONS

CHENNAI: India and Russia were declared Sunday joint winners of the 2020 Online Chess Olympiad after the final was marred by internet disconnection and server malfunction. Russia were initially declared winners after two Indian players - Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh - lost out on time in the final after suffering a disconnection with the server. India then lodged a protest against the controversial decision which was reviewed. This was the first time FIDE was holding the Olympiad in an online format, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich made a decision to give gold medals of FIDE Online #ChessOlympiad to both teams - India and Russia," the world chess body tweeted. "We are the champions!! Congrats Russia! (sic)," the legendary Viswanathan Anand wrote on his twitter handle after the final.

HAFAEZ LEADS CHARGE

MANCHESTER: Mohammed Hafeez's (69, 36b, 5x4, 4x6) brilliant knock helped Pakistan post an impressive 195 for four at the Old Trafford ground here Sunday. After Babar Azam (56, 44b, 7x4) and Fakhar Zaman (36, 22b, 5x4, 1x6) had put on 72 runs for the first wicket in 8.3 overs, it was the turn of Hafeez to take centre stage. For England Adil Rashid (2/32) was the most successful as Hafeez went berserk with Pakistan scoring 62 runs in the last five overs. However, with the pitch playing easy it may not also be easy for the Pakistan bowlers.

NEARING SCHUMI'S FEAT

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Lewis Hamilton led from start to finish Sunday at the Belgian Grand Prix here to clinch his 89th career win and move two behind Michael Schumacher's Formula One record on Sunday. The World Champion was untroubled from pole position, beating his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas by eight seconds and finishing 15 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen. Renault's Daniel Ricciardo was fourth and grabbed an extra point for the fastest lap. Hamilton's fifth win from seven races also extended his championship lead over Verstappen to 47 points with Bottas drifting back in third.

AGENCIES

SERBIAN WORLD NO. 1 WINS 23 MATCHES IN SUCCESSION, REMAINS UNBEATEN IN 2020

Djokovic beats Raonic to equal Rafa's record

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 30: For all that's been on Novak Djokovic's plate of late - including a painful neck and his efforts to start a new players' association in men's tennis - he just keeps winning. He's perfect in 2020, an ideal way to head into the US Open tennis tournament.

Djokovic tied Rafael Nadal's record by earning his 35th title at a Masters 1000 tournament here Saturday. He overcame a sluggish start to beat Milos Raonic 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the Western & Southern Open final here and improve to 23-0 this season.

"Has been challenging mentally and emotionally for me to stay sane and be able to compete on the highest level and win this title," Djokovic said after the match. "Going on an unbeaten run so far this year obviously brings even more confidence each match," he added. Djokovic, 11-0 head-to-head against 2016 Wimbledon runner-up Raonic, goes into the US Open as the No. 1 seed and a big favourite. The Grand Slam tournament begins Monday. Djokovic will be seeking his 18th Grand Slam title, which would move him



MAKING MERRY: Novak Djokovic is all smiles with the trophy after winning the title Saturday at the Western & Southern Open in New York

one behind Nadal and two behind Roger Federer's men's record of 20. Neither of those rivals is playing at the Flushing Meadows.

In the first set Djokovic was listless. It took all of 30 minutes for Raonic to win

NADAL, FEDERER AGAINST NOVAK

NEW YORK: Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and other members of the ATP Player Council spoke out against a plan put forth by top-ranked Novak Djokovic and Vasek Pospisil to start a men's-only union of sorts for tennis. They issued a joint statement Saturday saying: "It is a time for even greater collaboration, not division." After a meeting Saturday night, Pospisil tweeted a picture showing a group of male players standing on a US Open court. He wrote that "we are excited to announce the beginning of the Professional Tennis Players Association (PTPA)". Federer and Nadal joined player council representatives Kevin Anderson, Jurgen Melzer, Sam Querrey and Bruno Soares in sending a note to players raising questions about the proposal and saying they're against it.

it. But Djokovic asserted himself in the second, breaking to lead 3-2 with a backhand passing shot. In the third, Djokovic broke twice more, and eventually the 33-year-old from Serbia was raising his arms to mark his 80th career title.

KRISTOFF TAKES STAGE 1 EASILY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 30: Without crowded fans and grand launching ceremony, the 2020 Tour de France was kicked off on a rainy day in southern France city Nice, which is famous for its warm sunshine and beautiful beach.

It was a rainy Saturday which witnessed several crashes inside the final three kilometres of the 156km stage one. Alexander Kristoff of UAE Emirates won the yellow jersey.

Key victims of the crashes

included French hopes Thibaut Pinot and Julian Alaphilippe, with Colombia's Astana captain Miguel Angel Lopez suffering a jaw-dropping downhill slide that saw him slam face-first into a traffic sign.

The 107th edition of the world elite cycling event had been postponed by two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organisers strengthened their protocols to fight against the coronavirus only a few hours before the start by deciding that teams will be expelled from the race if two

or more of their members, including staff, test positive for COVID-19 within a week.

Only after riders peeled off their face masks and pedaled off from the start in Nice, serenaded by a uniformed band playing "La Marseillaise," did the Tour begin to look like its old, pre-COVID-19 self, immediately delivering thrills and spills as storms made the roads as slippery as ice Saturday.

Winning Stage 1 earned Kristoff the first yellow jersey of the 2020 Tour, which he will wear as the race leader in Stage 2. The route loops into

the mountains behind Nice. Usually, a race official or a VIP would have helped him slip into the iconic jersey, one of the most coveted and recognisable in sports. But not this year, with social distancing the priority.

Kristoff stood alone on the winner's podium, flanked by a host and a hostess a safe distance away. "An amazing feeling," Kristoff told reporters at the finish. "It means a lot for my career and a stage win shows I can still be up there even at 33 years old and with four kids," he added.

Tour de France participants negotiate a narrow turn during the race Saturday

PTI PHOTO



GUNNERS WIN 1ST TROPHY OF SEASON BEATING LIVERPOOL

Arsenal begin with a bang

AGENCIES

London, August 30: Arsenal beat Liverpool 5-4 on penalties Saturday to lift the FA Community Shield, the curtain-raiser for the English domestic season. The penalty shootout happened after the two sides played out a 1-1 draw on a chilly evening at the Wembley here.

Gunners captain and match goal-scorer Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired in the final penalty to complete the north London side's second win over the league champions in the space of six weeks following a shortened summer break.

"We are improving. There is still work to do but I'm really happy and it's an exciting time to be an Arsenal player," Aubameyang said after the game. It was the Gunners' second trophy within a month following the side's FA Cup final win August 1 over Chelsea.

Liverpool's Virgil Van Dijk had an early strike ruled out offside before Arsenal's opener, a well-worked move to break out of the opposition's high press game.

Bukayo Saka took the ball up the field on the right, crossed all the way over to Aubameyang on the



HEADY MOMENT: Arsenal captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates with goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez after converting the winning penalty against Liverpool at the Wembley, Saturday

far left. The Gabon striker skipped forward and curled an inch-perfect shot beyond the reach of Liverpool keeper Alisson into the opposite corner.

The Liverpool attack appeared disjointed by contrast. While they pushed Arsenal right back up the field for long stretches, they were unable to put together a single shot on goal in the first half.

Liverpool's Japanese substitute Takumi Minamino eventually levelled the tie in the 73rd minute with a shot from close range.

"If we'd scored earlier that would have helped... We had our big moments, which we didn't finish off, so that's the result," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told reporters.

Mohamed Salah, Fabinho, Minamino and substitute Curtis Jones all scored for Liverpool in the shootout, but fellow late substitute Rhian Brewster blasted his shot - his first touch of the ball - onto the bar.

Reiss Nelson, Ainsley Maitland-Niles, Cedric Soares and David Luiz all scored for the Gunners before Aubameyang stroked his shot past Alisson to seal the victory for the Londoners.

Anderson hoping to challenge Kohli during India visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 30: Record-setting England pacer James Anderson relishes the challenge of getting the best batsmen out and is looking forward to a tough contest against Virat Kohli when his side travel to India next year.

Anderson recently became the highest Test wicket-taker among pacers with 600 scalps during the home series against Pakistan. He and Kohli have had some intriguing battles over the years.

"It's always tough bowling at batsmen of that quality. It will be a tough battle but that's something I do enjoy. You want to get the best players out," Anderson told the 'Test Match Special' podcast.

"I had some success against him in 2014 and then he came back a completely different player in 2018 and was incredible," the 38-year-old Anderson added.



Anderson got Kohli out four times during India's tour of England. Kohli could score just 134 runs in his 10 innings. However, four years later Kohli returned to England an altogether different batsman. He scored two centuries, one 97 and two more half centuries during the series.

Asked what changes he saw in Kohli's batting in 2018, Anderson was all praise for the Indian skipper: "He left the ball really well in 2018. The first time he came over (in 2014), when I was bowling out-swingers he would chase it early on and that brought the edge and the slips into play," Anderson said.

"He was a lot more patient (in 2018). He waited for you to bowl at him and then he's very strong off his legs so he could score freely," said the star England bowler who has played 156 Tests since 2003 and is the only pacer to take 600 wickets.

Asked about the techniques he would use on continental pitches, Anderson said, "We have had our successes. We tried to roll fingers down the side of the ball, just try to make it grip on the dry surface. Having skills like that really helps.

USUAL FANFARE MISSING AT TOUR DE FRANCE OPENING