



IN A QUANDARY

Actor Radhika Apte says nepotism talks are pretty complicated, she doesn't want to be part of it

LEISURE

P2



INDIA OVERTAKES BRAZIL

India overtook Brazil in coronavirus infection numbers Monday, making it second only to the US

NATIONAL

P9



US SCRIBES FACE EXPULSION

China is delaying the renewal of press cards for at least five journalists working at 4 US media outlets

INTERNATIONAL

P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, not a hypersonic missile! The news anchor again got a bit over-excited today!

SHORT TAKES

Tourism minister infected with Covid

Bhubaneswar: Tourism and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi was tested positive for Covid-19. Panigrahi is the fourth minister from the state to have contracted the virus. Taking to Twitter, Panigrahi informed about the development and urged people, who came in contact with him, to undergo Covid-19 test and stay in isolation. "Mid March '20 onwards doing public & official works. Not missed a day. Tried hard during this pandemic people don't feel alone & worked as desired by CM. Finally Covid-19 caught hold of me. Who're in my contacts in last 7 days please isolate," he tweeted.

Daylight bank robbery in City

Bhubaneswar: A bike-borne miscreant Monday looted a nationalized bank at gun point at Kalarahang under Infocity police limits here. According to sources, the armed robber reached the Indian Overseas Bank's branch at Nandan Vihar in Kalarahanga Monday afternoon. Sources said there were no security personnel at the bank during the hold-up. The robber had covered his face with a mask and a helmet while committing the crime. Only three officials of the bank including two lady staffers were on duty during the incident.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	38417.23 ↑ 60.05
NIFTY	11355.00 ↑ 21.10
DOLLAR	74.06 ↑ ₹0.10
EURO	86.90 ↑ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹50,852 ↑ ₹174
SILVER	₹67,955 ↑ ₹689

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	35.7°C	36.0°C
MIN	26.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	95%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

At 96.2%, Kerala tops literacy chart, Andhra worst at 66.4%

AGENCIES

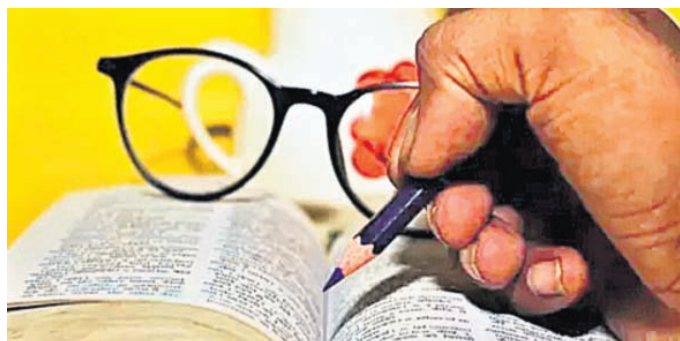
New Delhi, Sept 7: With 96.2 per cent literacy, Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 per cent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey.

The report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey - from July 2017 to June 2018' provides for state-wise detail of literacy rate among the persons aged seven years and above. According to the study, after

Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7 per cent, followed by Uttarkhand's 87.6 per cent, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6 per cent and Assam's at 85.9 per cent.

On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second worst performer with literacy rate at 69.7 per cent, followed by Bihar at 70.9 per cent, Telangana at 72.8 per cent, Uttar Pradesh at 73 per cent and Madhya Pradesh at 73.7 per cent.

The study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7 per cent. In rural areas, the literacy rate is 73.5 per cent compared to 87.7 per cent in urban areas of the country. At all-India level, the male



literacy rate is higher at 84.7 per cent compared to 70.3 per cent among women.

The survey showed that the male

literacy rate is higher than female literacy rate among all states. In Kerala, the male literacy rate is 97.4 per cent compared to 95.2 per

cent among females.

Similarly, the male literacy rate in Delhi stood a 93.7 per cent higher than 82.4 per cent among females. Even in the worst performing states, there was a considerable gap in male and female literacy rate.

In Andhra Pradesh, male literacy rate is 73.4 per cent, higher than 59.5 per cent among females (of the age of seven year or above). In Rajasthan, the gap was even wider as male literacy rate stood at 80.8 per cent compared to 57.6 per cent of females.

In Bihar, the male literacy rate was also higher at 79.7 per cent compared to 60.5 per cent of females.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Giving a last warning to habitual violators of Covid norms, the state government Monday said heavy fine will be imposed on offenders from Wednesday.

Addressing a presser here, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said it is important to check the spread of virus.

"We have been announcing lockdowns and shutdowns for last six months but this cannot go on forever. Now, relaxation has been given so that people can earn livelihood. But, there is a need to ensure a balance between

lives and livelihood," he said.

Jena said 10 senior IAS and IPS officers had conducted surprise visits in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar last Friday and based on their feedback, videos were shot using drone cameras the following day.

"The videos showed that people are crowding markets, not maintaining social distancing and also not wearing masks. With such behaviour, we are inviting the virus home and will never be able to win this fight against Covid-19," he said.

Doctors and experts worldwide have stressed social distancing, usage of mask and

DO OR DIE

The state government Monday said heavy fine will be imposed on offenders from Wednesday

We cannot afford to put many lives in danger for the mistakes & violations by a few: SRC

personal hygiene, which are the only defense against the virus till vaccine is found. "Unfortunately, many of us have started taking things for granted," he said.

It is high time to re-learn

the regulations in two days after which police will start stringent enforcement, he said.

"Police have been asked to take stringent action from Wednesday and start imposing heavy fines against those who violate the norms at public places. We are being forced to take such steps because people are failing to realise the consequences. We cannot afford to put many lives in danger for the mistakes and violations of a few," he warned.

Surprise checks in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack will continue to curb blatant violations of social distancing and obligatory mask norms. Violators will be penalised be-

cause of whom the virus is spreading, he said. The SRC urged the community leaders to cooperate with the government in this fight against pandemic.

As per the existing rules, one will have to pay ₹1,000 for first two offences of not wearing a mask and splitting at public places and ₹5,000 for third time violation.

If more than 10 people gather at one place, the person organizing or causing the congregation will have to fork out ₹1 lakh fine. For violation of physical distance norms, one has to pay ₹2,000 for the first offence and ₹10,000 for subsequent offences.

MILK TO BE 'INTEGRAL' PART OF MDM SOON

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: Milk will soon be an integral part of the midday meal scheme to ensure proper nutrition to all students in government schools across the country, which is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aim to make a malnutrition-free India.

The Women and Child Development (WCD) and Education Ministries are working in a coordinated way to meet the Prime Minister's vision of providing nutritious meals to the students in government schools.

All the officials linked to the departments concerned dealing with the policies have been directed by both the ministries on the 3rd 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' to expedite changes in midday meal by including milk soon after the schools



resume functioning with attendance by children.

The Prime Minister had in 2018 launched 'Poshan Abhiyaan' - a robust scheme which has been playing an important role in eliminating malnutrition from the country.

On this Poshan Maah 2020, Modi's government planned to focus on an intensive campaign across the country for the holistic nourishment of children with severe acute

malnutrition, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a statement.

In this regard, an official, requesting anonymity, told IANS that the Education Ministry may come up with a revised menu for midday meals scheme, that will include milk as an integral component.

All the state governments have been told to implement the new mid-day meal policy which includes milk. Earlier, the then HRD Ministry had revised its midday meal policy in 2016. In order to give better quality food to children in schools where midday meals are provided, the HRD has revised its norms, that include milk as a necessary supplement.

WCD Minister Smriti Irani on Monday assured Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu that the central government would consider recommending to all the states to "include milk in the midday meal scheme".

UNICEF to lead global supply of Covid vax

AGENCIES

United Nations, Sept 7: In what could possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind, UNICEF announced that it will lead the procurement and supply of coronavirus vaccines to ensure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to initial doses when they are available.

The United Nations Children's Fund is the world's largest single vaccine buyer, procuring more than 2 billion doses of various vaccines annually for routine immunisation and outbreak response on behalf of nearly 100 countries.

With several vaccine candidates showing promise, the UN agency, in collaboration with the Revolving Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), will lead efforts to procure and supply doses of COVID-19 vaccines on behalf of the COVAX Global Vaccines Facility for 92 low and lower middle-income countries, whose vaccine

purchases will be supported by the mechanism. "We are ready for an immense new challenge: to lead the global supply of COVID-19 vaccines and help end the worst stage of this pandemic," UNICEF tweeted Saturday. "UNICEF is the world's largest single buyer of vaccines for diseases like measles and polio, procuring over 2 billion doses on behalf of nearly 100 countries each year. Thanks to our supporters, we now have the experience and expertise to deliver a COVID19 vaccine to the world," it said.

UNICEF will also serve as procurement coordinator to support purchases by 80 higher-income economies, which have expressed their intent to participate in the COVAX Facility and would finance the vaccines from their own budgets, it said.

The vaccine procurement and distribution effort, involving over 170 economies, has the potential to become the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind.

INDIA IN ELITE MISSILE CLUB

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: India has successfully flight-tested hypersonic technology that will pave the way towards development of missiles travelling at six times the speed of sound.

With this successful demonstration, the country enters an elite club to become a member of the hypersonic regime. This is a step towards manufacture of advanced Hypersonic Vehicles. India became the fourth country after the United States, Russia and China to get this technology.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully demonstrated the Hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) at 11:03 am Monday from the APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has appreciated the DRDO for achieving this milestone.



"The Hypersonic cruise vehicle was launched using a proven solid rocket motor, which took it to an altitude of 30 km, where the aerodynamic heat shields were separated at hypersonic Mach number," said the DRDO in a statement.

The cruise vehicle separated from the launch vehicle and the air intake opened as planned. The hypersonic combustion sustained and the cruise vehicle continued on

its desired flight path at a velocity of six times the speed of sound.

Critical functions such as fuel injection and auto ignition of scramjet have demonstrated technological maturity. The scramjet engine performed in a textbook manner.

The parameters of launch and cruise vehicle, including scramjet engine, were monitored by multiple tracking radars, electro-optical systems and Telemetry Stations.

The scramjet engine worked at high dynamic pressure and at very high temperature. A ship was also deployed in the Bay of Bengal to monitor the performance during the cruise phase of hypersonic vehicle.

All the performance parameters have indicated a resounding success of the mission. With this successful demonstration, many critical technologies such as aerodynamic configuration for Hypersonic manoeuvres, use of scramjet propulsion for ignition and sustained combustion at hypersonic flow, thermo-structural characterisation of high temperature materials and separation mechanism at hypersonic velocities can be achieved.

Kangana given Y-plus security cover by Centre



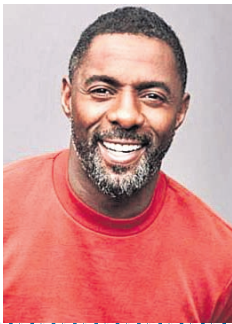
AGENCIES

New Delhi/Shimla, Sept 7: Kangana Ranaut has been given Y-plus category security and will be protected by about 10 armed commandos, the Union Home Ministry said on Monday, prompting the Bollywood actor to thank Home Minister Amit Shah and declare that no one could crush a patriot.

The decision to provide 24X7 security comes two days before Ranaut, who is in her home state Himachal Pradesh and had likened Mumbai to Pakistan occupied Kashmir, plans to visit Mumbai September 9. Ranaut, whose comments led to a spat with Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, had said she felt unsafe in Mumbai after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and also spoke of drug use in a section of the film industry.

Describing the "Queen" star as a daughter of Himachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur issued a video statement on Monday welcoming the decision to provide her with CRPF security.

He said the Central and the state governments are providing security to the actor and would do whatever necessary for her security. "I have got information that an 11-member commando team of the CRPF has been provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs for her security yesterday. I welcome this decision and also express my gratitude to union home minister... her security is important for us," he said.



ELBA WENT BEYOND EXPECTATIONS IN *THE SUICIDE SQUAD*: JAMES GUNN

Director James Gunn has praised British star Idris Elba for going beyond expectations as an actor during the filming of *The Suicide Squad*. Gunn has directed the much-anticipated Warner Bros film which features Elba in the role of DC Comics mercenary villain Bloodsport.

CHLOE GRACE MORETZ TO STAR IN *MOTHER/ANDROID*

Actor Chloe Grace Moretz will headline upcoming sci-fi feature *Mother/Android*. The film will mark the directorial debut of Hollywood screenwriter Mattson Tomlin, best known for his work on movies such as *Project Power* and upcoming *The Batman*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You may be spoilt for choices today! Contemplating a change of job, business, or even a relationship? Consider long-term implications before you commit to anything, says Ganesha. A romantic evening is on the cards.

TAURUS

You are likely to find your self at odds with people today, says Ganesha. Avoid confrontations and arguments as it may lead to serious fights. Legal issues may creep up unexpectedly. Relax and spend some time with yourself to return to your charm and cheer.

GEMINI

A busy day for you as the look of your house needs a change, predicts Ganesha. But it may have little to do with its need than yours to impress your colleagues and friends. The renovation will mainly be in the interiors of the house, mostly to get them in sync with the state of your mind.

CANCER

Today, you may have to pay a lot of attention to educational and intellectual activities, predicts Ganesha. There may be novel business proposals and job offers in the afternoon.

LEO

Ganesha looks at the stars and foresees that you are at the receiving end of a lot of advice and suggestions from elders today. The best part is that you are likely to get influenced by them as well.

VIRGO

In the sea of relationships, you may just chance upon the one port you were looking to dock. But weigh your options carefully before forging a bond of love, warns Ganesha. Later in the day, you may think twice about continuing your current job. Romance will brew quite steadily, hopes Ganesha.

LIBRA

Settle in soon, because you have a long day ahead. There is every possibility that you shall remain very busy for most part of the day, predicts Ganesha. Don't be surprised if you can't seem to find the time or the appetite even for a sluggish lunch – it is one of the drawbacks of a hectic schedule.

SCORPIO

In all likelihood, you shall be unreasonably tentative and curious. Professionally, seek out tougher challenges. You shall shower love and affection on your loved ones today.

SAGITTARIUS

Money matters stand to be at the forefront today. Lady Luck will smile on you, as you may see monetary gains from your business. But fickle as fortune is – and not that you would mind – evening might be spent in buying the most exquisite jewellery for your sweetheart.

CAPRICORN

Quite unlike you, but you will not be impulsive in making decisions today. Reason? Shaking off clouds of imagination, you will be more realistic in your approach to everyday dealings, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You will transform abstract ideas into practical and tangible strategies today, and deserve all the credit. You will also appreciate and understand life a little more, says Ganesha. You may finally reach out for the Bhagwad Gita your mother has been pressing you to read.

PISCES

In spite of the pressure and stress you will be labouring under at the workplace today, you can expect to excel in all the activities that you choose to pursue. On the domestic front, the support that your family members extend will prove to be invaluable, says Ganesha.

26TH GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA AWARD FESTIVAL

Gauri, Abhishek's effortless brilliance captivates viewers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The third evening of the 26th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival 2020 organised Monday by Srjan hosted performances by Kathak exponent Gauri Diwakar, followed by a Carnatic vocal recital by Abhishek Raghuram. The duo left the audience spellbound.

Gauri began with *Chabili Naar*, based on the text and music composition of Ghulam Sabir Khan Saheb, and *Sabb bann than aai shyam pyari re*, a Pandit Bindadin Maharaj's text, composed in Raag Hameer by Pt. Birju Maharaj. Her third presentation was a composition of Meera Bai choreographed by Dheerendra Tiwari and Gauri Diwakar to Samiullah Khan's music. Finally, she presented *Naino Ke Dore Laal Gulal Bhare* choreographed by Aditi Mangaldas to Samiullah Khan's music composition. She was accompanied by Yogesh Gangani on the tabla and Samiullah Khan on vocals and the harmonium.

The second half of the



Gauri Diwakar's soulful performance

event witnessed Abhishek Raghuram's soulful renditions of compositions by Saint Tyagaraja.. His first song was *Nenarunchara* composed in the rare *Raga Simhavaahini*, with rhythmic elements of *Adi Talam*. This was followed by *Durmaargacharaa* in *Raga Ranjani* and *Rupaka Talam* (3 beats), symbolic of the anguish that Tyagaraja faced, when he was unable to flatter people treading on the path of *Durmaarg*. The third song *Neevaadane Gaana*, composed in *Raga Saranga*, brought forth the spirituality, musical harmony, and emotions that both Carnatic music and Tyagaraja deem as the essence of their compositions. He concluded with a song on Lord Nataraja at Chidambaram, composed in *Ragam Behag* and *Adi Talam* by Shri Gopalakrishna Bharathi. He was ably accompanied by Mysore V Srikanth on the violin and Anantha R Krishnan on the mridangam.

Curated and designed by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, the festival is supported by the title sponsor Odisha Mining Corporation Limited, gold sponsor, Odisha Tourism, Government of Odisha, and festival sponsors, Union Ministry of Culture, State Odia Literature Language and Culture department, and the MGM Group, Bhubaneswar. The media partners

'We have supported nepotism as a society'

New Delhi: Actress Radhika Apte feels the nepotism conversation is complicated, and not just related to the film industry.

"I don't want to be a part of this discussion, really," Radhika said when asked about the ongoing nepotism discussion, adding: "It is not just about the insider and the outsider. It is a larger discussion. There is not one answer to it. As a society, we

are Dharitri and **Orissa POST**, and web partner is Narthaki.com.



Tiger to make his singing debut soon

Mumbai: Actor Tiger Shroff has made his debut as a singer with a song titled, *Unbelievable*.

The action star who is also popular for his cool dance moves took to Instagram to post the motion poster of the song. Looking chic in formals, he is seen holding a microphone in the poster.

"Always wanted to sing and dance to my own song, but never really had the courage to take it forward. Spent a lot of time exploring and working this lockdown and discovered something new. It's been an unbelievable experience, and I'm excited to share this humble effort with you soon #YouAreUnbelievable #TeaserOutSoon," he captioned the image.

Unbelievable has been conceptualised during the lockdown by the actor.

The track has been penned by DG Mayne and Avitesh, with Tiger lending vocals.

The video will feature Tiger dancing and singing to his own tune for the first time. **IANS**

Sara's trick to hide from 2020

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan shows fans how to hide from the year 2020, in a new social media post Monday.

Sara's latest Instagram picture sees her in the lap of nature. She stands amid sprawling greenery and what catches your eye is her camouflage-printed short dress. She completes the look with a sling bag and sunglasses.

"Hiding from 2020 like... #camouflage #monday-mood#mondaymotivation," she captioned the image.

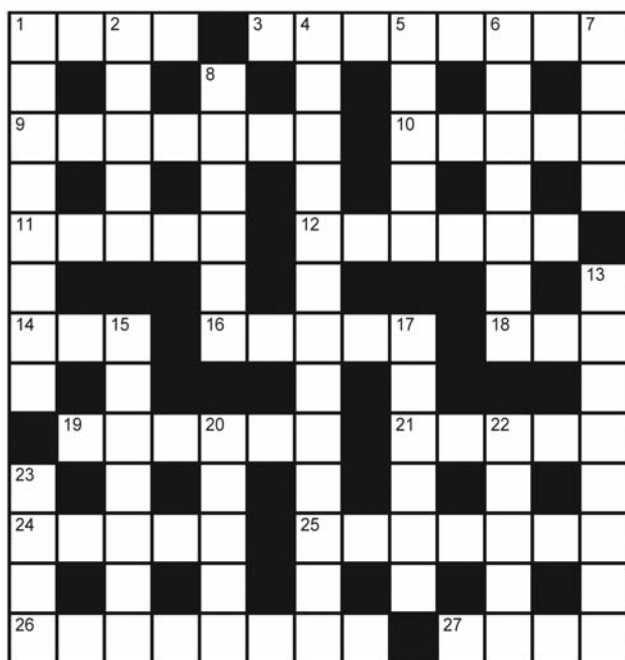
Sara had recently shared a picture in a hot-pink bikini paired and heart-shaped dark shades. She tries focusing on a book, seated a pink tube in the swimming pool.

The actress will soon be seen opposite Varun Dhawan in the remake of the 1995 hit film *Coolie No. 1*. The new version is directed by David Dhawan, who also helmed the original film of the same name, starring Govinda and Karisma Kapoor.

The actress also stars with Akshay Kumar and Dhanush in *Atrangi Re*. Shooting for the film is set to commence in October. **IANS**

FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

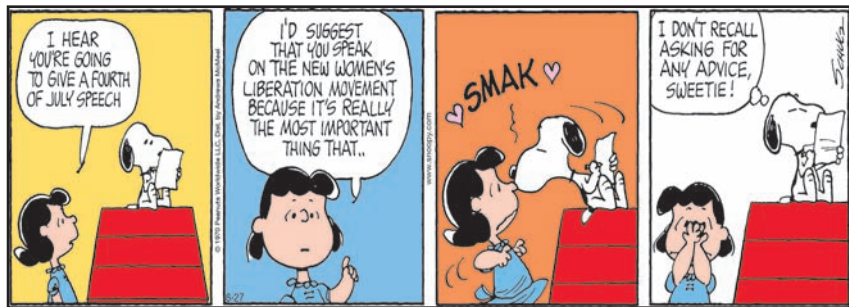
- 1 Trots
- 3 Banker's topic
- 9 Not clear
- 10 Scenes
- 11 Bypass
- 12 Trifling, like a sum
- 14 Quick swim
- 16 Standards
- 18 Fishing aid
- 19 Subconscious

Down

- 21 Designer's concern
- 24 Stick
- 25 Confidence trick (3,4)
- 26 Kind of seat
- 27 Sea swallow
- 1 Peril
- 2 Enthusiasm
- 4 Like a tyro

- 5 Blacksmith's block
- 6 Grade insignia
- 7 Insolence
- 8 Millstone
- 13 Roe producer
- 15 Fervency
- 17 Roomy cars
- 20 They're found in the zoo
- 22 Terminate
- 23 Identifying mark

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

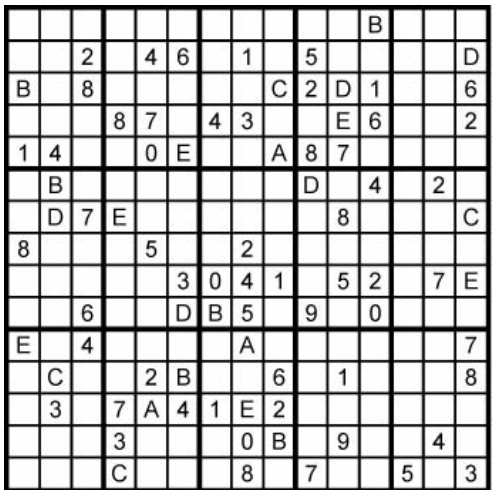


BREVITY



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

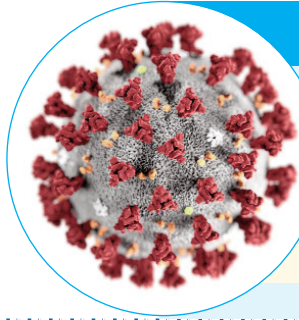


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



WATER WASTAGE

This defunct stand-post near Gourishankar park in Cuttack is yet to draw the attention of the civic administration



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,73,56,942	1,94,24,770	8,94,024
India	42,48,510	32,95,860	72,263
Odisha	1,27,892	99,398	556

Skill training in jails gets a short shrift



OFFICIAL APATHY

Vocational training imparted to prisoners improves self-confidence and self-esteem among them and using the skill set they can earn a dignified livelihood after their release from the jails

The Bureau of Police Research and Development's Model Prison Manual's Rule 14.01 terms the vocational training and work programmes as essential features of the correctional programmes

However, the annual prison statistics by NCRB revealed that prison authorities in Odisha have shown little interest towards vocational training in the jails of the state

programmes and it should be the duty of every state to 'have a clear policy for work programmes and vocational training of prisoners.'

However, the annual prison statistics by NCRB revealed that prison authorities in Odisha have shown little interest towards vocational training in the jails of the state. The 10-year data revealed declining number of inmates getting vocational training like carpentry, tailoring, weaving, farming and soap or phenyl making.

As per NCRB data, 481 prisoners out of the total 12,429 received vocational training under various categories in 2010. The number witnessed a continuous rise till 2015 barring a small decline in 2014. As many as 937 prisoners comprising 5.86 per cent of the total 15,965 inmates lodged in 90-odd jails of the state underwent training under various vocations in 2015.

However, the NCRB prison statistics for 2016 revealed a sharp decline as compared to the previous year's data on trainees. Only 92 prisoners were imparted vocational training in various jails of the state in 2016, as per NCRB data.

What is more shocking is that the prisons authorities failed to impart vocational training to any of the jail inmates in the state during 2017. Similarly, as many as 94 and 101 prisoners underwent training in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The same was also unearthed by the audit report of prisons in Odisha in 2017. The report remarked, "The authorities had not imparted vocational training in any of the jails of Odisha except in Berhampur circle jail. Only 32 out of 162 convicts were trained in masonry and plumbing during 2015-17."

The decrease also mirrored

in the value of goods produced in the jails during vocational training. The gross value of the goods produced by trainee prisoners during 2015 was Rs 1.25 crore which slipped to just Rs 78 lakh in 2019.

In 2016, the gross value of jail products stood at Rs 1.063 crore which further declined to 0.915 crore and 0.875 during 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Odisha figured in the Top 10 worst performing states in the country in connection with value of goods from jails during 2019. Meanwhile, the goods produced in various jails of Telangana were valued at Rs 599.89 crore in 2019.

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

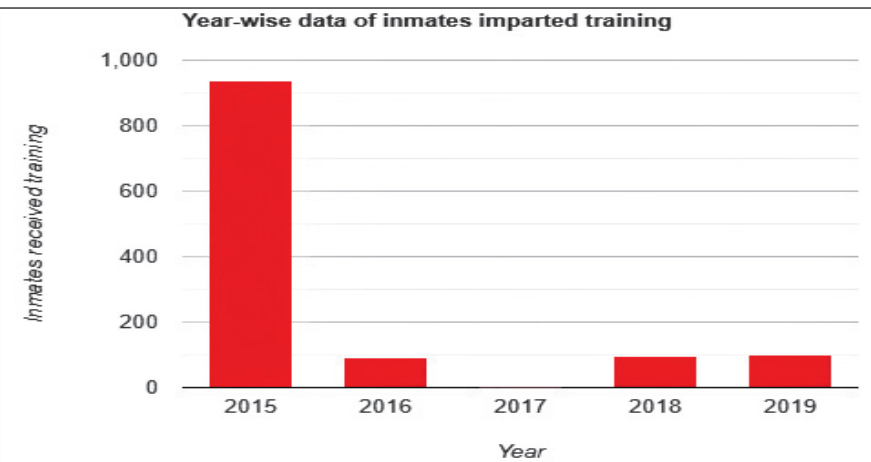
Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Even though vocational training is considered one of the essential features of correctional programmes in jails, the state Prisons department is showing little interest, if data revealed by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is any indication.

Various courts and experts have repeatedly stressed upon the fact that prisons should play the role of correctional centres instead of turning into torture chambers. The state governments implement different welfare activ-

ities, educational and vocational training programmes in the prisons to make the inmates eligible enough to subsist without resorting to any criminal activities.

Vocational training imparted to prisoners improves self-confidence and self-esteem among them and using the skill set they can earn a dignified livelihood after their release from the jails.

The Bureau of Police Research and Development's Model Prison Manual's Rule 14.01 terms the vocational training and work programmes as essential features of the correctional



Oppn seeks Anubhav's scalp amid 'Varsha row'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: With the ongoing family discord between actor politician Anubhav Mohanty and his wife Varsha Priyadarshini escalating each passing day, Opposition BJP and Congress demanded removal of the MP from Biju Janata Dal (BJD) over the issue.

State BJP women wing president Smruti Patnaik said, "As the torture reached its peak, Varsha broke her si-

lence and now the matter is no more a secret. Anubhav should immediately resign from his capacity as a parliamentarian on moral ground."

She questioned the silence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and demanded expulsion of Anubhav from BJD. If no action is taken against the Kendrapara MP, the BJP women wing will take to the streets, she warned.

The Congress party too urged the CM to take strong action against Anubhav.

Congress spokesperson Nishikant Mishra said, "If the ruling party is having any respect for women, it should take action against the Kendrapara Lok Sabha MP. The party should also take legal action against him."

Earlier, reacting on this issue, BJD leader Arabinda Dhali had said that this is Anubhav's personal matter and he will resolve it. It will not have any impact on the party as the Chief Minister never encourages injustice.

Ex- MP Narendra Swain dead

BHUBANESWAR: Senior BJD leader and former Rajya Sabha member Narendra Swain died Monday at a private hospital in Cuttack,



party sources said. He was 81. Swain was under treatment in a hospital. BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death of Swain and conveyed his condolence to the bereaved family. He described Swain as a dedicated organiser and said the former parliamentarian will be remembered for his service to the community. Various ministers, MLAs and leaders across the party line paid condolence to the bereaved family. Swain was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha in 2015. Prior to that, he was also served as chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC). The party organised a condolence meeting at the BJD state headquarters here.

State's sex ratio may reach 1,192 in 2036, highest in India

ODISHA'S POPULATION IS PROJECTED TO TOUCH 4.5 CR IN 2036, AS PER A SURVEY UNDER UNION H&FW MINISTRY

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 7: Female population in Odisha is expected to outnumber its male counterpart in 2036 as the number is expected to reach 2.44 crore as compared to 2.05 crore males, says a report on Population Projection for India and State released by National Commission on Population under Union Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare. The total population of the state is projected to be 4.5 crore in 2036. As a consequence, the density of population will increase from 270 to 489 per sq km. Around 62.4 per cent of the population would be between 15-59 age-group and the median age of people would be 37 in 2036.

school-going age of 5-14 years. The projected crude birth rate of Odisha will decline from 18.1 during 2011-15 to 13.7 during 2031-35 because of dwindling level of total fertility. In contrast, the crude death rate is expected to increase marginally due to changing age structure of the population with the rising median age as a result of continuing decline in fertility and increase in the

DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS



THE SEX RATIO (NUMBER OF FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES) IN THE STATE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM 979 IN 2011 TO 1,192 IN 2036

DENSITY OF POPULATION WILL INCREASE FROM 270 TO 489 PER SQ KM

AROUND 62.4 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WOULD BE BETWEEN 15-59 AGE-GROUP AND THE MEDIAN AGE OF PEOPLE WOULD BE 37 IN 2036

THE IMR, WHICH WAS 53 IN 2011-15, IS EXPECTED TO COME DOWN TO 35 BY THE END OF THE PERIOD 2031-35

Health and Family Welfare. The sex ratio (number of females per 1,000 males) in the state is expected to increase from 979 in 2011 to 1,192 in 2036, highest in the country.

The state will have one per cent contribution in the growth of national population between 2011 and 2036 which is

According to the report, the total fertility rate of Odisha would decline from 2.10 to 1.71 in 2036. As a result of decline in fertility rate, the proportion of population aged under 15 years is projected to decline from 28.9 per cent in 2011 to 19.4 per cent in 2036. This would also result in decrease in population of

expectation of life at birth. It will increase from 8.0 during 2011-15 to 9.2 during 2031-35.

The infant mortality rate (IMR), which was 53 in 2011-15, is expected to go down to 35 by the end of the period 2031-35.

Odisha would also witness a slight increase in the urban population from 17 per cent in 2011-15 to 20.9 in 2031-35.

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COVID surge shows no signs of abating



GETTING BATTLE-READY: A healthcare personnel at a COVID hospital in Bhubaneswar helps another wear personal protective equipment

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Odisha's COVID-19 tally rose to 1,27,892 Monday with the state registering its highest single-day spike of 3,861 new cases, while 10 fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 556, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

As many as 2,278 new cases were detected in quarantine centres, while 1,583 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of fresh infections at 767, followed by Cuttack (386), Jajpur (285) and Puri (200), added the official.

The state had reported its previous highest single-day spike of 3,810 coronavirus cases September 6.

CASES PILE UP

As many as 2,278 fresh cases were detected in quarantine centres, while 1,583 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of fresh infections at 767, followed by Cuttack (386) and Jajpur (285)

Of the 10 new deaths, Ganjam reported three, while Balasore, Khurda, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Koraput, Nayagarh and Rayagada registered one death each

Odisha's COVID-19 tally rose to 1,27,892 with 3,861 new cases, while 10 fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 556

Ganjam district reported three fresh fatalities, while Balasore, Khurda, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Koraput, Nayagarh and Rayagada registered one death each, the official pointed out.

Ganjam has so far reported the highest number of COVID-19 fatalities at 207, followed by 76 in Khurda, said the official, adding that as many as 53 coronavirus patients have died due to other ailments in the state so far.

Odisha now has 30,919 active cases, while 96,364 people have recovered from the disease till date, the official said. The state has so far tested over 21.43 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 45,165 Sunday, added the official.

Meanwhile, Tourism and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi tested positive for Covid-19.

Taking to Twitter, Panigrahi informed about the development and urged the people, who have come in contact with him, to undergo COVID-19 test and stay in isolation.

"Mid March '20 onwards doing public & official works. Not missed a day. Tried hard during this pandemic people don't feel alone & worked as desired by Hon'ble C.M. Finally Covid-19 caught hold of me. Who're in my contacts in last 7days please isolate. Last pic y'day. @CMO_Odisha, (sic)" the Tourism minister tweeted.

Panigrahi is the fourth Odisha minister to have contracted the virus. Earlier, Textile and Handicrafts Minister Padmini Dian, Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo and Rural Development Minister Susanta Singh had tested positive for the viral infection.



Throwing COVID-19 guidelines to winds, travellers wait at Bhubaneswar Railway Station, Monday

OP PHOTO

Liquor shops to open till 10.30 pm

BHUBANESWAR: After relaxing shutdown and night curfew restrictions, the state government Monday allowed liquor shops to remain open till 10.30 pm everyday like earlier. All liquor shops in the state will now remain open from 10:30 am to 10:30 pm for counter sale in addition to the home delivery service, Excise department said in an order. However, shops within containment zones will remain closed. Earlier, the sale of liquor was permitted from 7 am to 6 pm due to Covid-19 lockdown measures.

BMC launches outreach prog 'Sampark Meeting'



Senior citizens and community members at BMC's 'Sampark Meeting'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation's (BMC) one-of-its-kind interactive initiative 'Sampark Meeting' saw interaction with senior citizens and community members, Monday, on the inaugural day. The program saw awareness activities by senior officials regarding spread of COVID-19.

In view of the rising cases in the state capital, the week-long initiative ECI (Information, Education and Communication) launched by the civic authority is launched to promote active community participation. The program is being conducted in three zones of the BMC and Monday saw awareness function at Unit 9 Boys High School, Girl's High School, Infocity Green Apartment and Baramunda CHC Conference Hall in South-East and North and South-West Zones respectively.

"As markets, shops and shopping malls are reopening to revive economic activities and to ensure balance between lives and livelihoods, we must be extra careful and strictly adhere to government's COVID-19 guidelines. Maintaining social distancing, wearing face mask and practicing hand hygiene are must for all of us and should not be compromised at any cost," said BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary.

As per campaign plan, people from different walks of life, eminent citizens, associations like Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Puja Committees, Market Associations, NGOs, voluntary organisations, slum Peer Leaders, among others will attend the outreach programme across the city from Monday to next Sunday in each zone of the city.

As per the schedule, meeting in South-East Zone, will be held at Unit 9 Boy's High School (Monday), Ekamra College, Sundarapada (Tuesday), BMC Bhawani Enclave, Saheed Nagar (Wednesday), Central Market Association, Unit-2 Market Building (Thursday), Saheed Nagar Kalyan Mandap (Friday), Saheed Nagar Puja Mandap (Saturday) and Esplanade One Mall (Sunday).

Similarly, the second week of 'Sampark Meeting' will see meetings held at Baramunda CHC Conference Hall (Monday), Community Centre, Khandagiri Bari (Tuesday), Day Care Centre, Ward No- 15 (Wednesday), Cosmopolis (Thursday) and Community Center, Sashtri Nagar (Friday) in South-West Zone of the Civic Body. In North Zone, the outreach programme is scheduled to be held at Infocity Green Apartment (Monday), Ward Office, Ward No-14 (Tuesday), VSS Nagar Kalyan Mandap (Wednesday), De Habitata (Thursday), Loyala School (Friday) and Club Town (Saturday).

Another accused in 'QNet Scam' held in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch Police arrested another accused of the multi-crore Q-Net scam, Monday.

The accused has been identified as Prashant Kumar Mohanty, 37, of Patia area of the city. The accused was arrested by EOW sleuths from his residence here.

The cops had earlier arrested another three persons in this connection as well. They are Sarat Parida of Bramheswarpatna, Debabrata Harichandan of Chandrasekharpur and Chandan Mohalik of Jagannath Vihar area October 1, 2019.

The Orissa High Court had also rejected the anticipatory bail pleas of all accused January 20.

All the above accused were the partners of QNet and Vihaan Direct Selling (India) Pvt Ltd. All of them have been arrested under section 406, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code and section 4, 5, 6 of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (banning) Act, 1978.

According to the police, Vihaan Direct Selling (India) Pvt Ltd, formerly known as Gold Quest and Quest Net, is a Hong Kong-based direct selling/multi-level marketing (MLM) company owned by the QJ Group. They were targeting software employees, unemployed youth and homemakers to sell their products in the categories of homeware, personal care, skin-care, health food supplements, watches and holiday packages.



ARRESTING ODIA MAN IN UP 'UNDEMOCRATIC'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Criticising the arrest of a small businessman of Odisha Sayyed Hassan Ahmed by UP police, the National alliance of people's Movement, Odisha termed the arrest as undemocratic and attack on freedom of speech.

Prafulla Samantara of NAPM said that criticism against PM or CM is not a crime but a right of freedom of speech and dissent expression. "Because he is a Muslim, UP's fascist police has acted on false allegation made by member of anti-muslim organisation. NAPM, Odisha condemns such violation of human rights and repressive measure by police against an innocent shopkeeper," he said.

We appeal to all democratic organisation to protest UP police's illegal act in Odisha. This action indicates that police in BJP-ruled state are engaged to book any dissident citizen from any state. It is very dangerous move to throttle



Uttar Pradesh police Thursday arrested a small businessman of Cuttack over several charges including sedition for allegedly posting threatening content against the PM and UP CM

the democratic rights of citizens.

As per report, Uttar Pradesh police Thursday arrested a 42-year-old small businessman of Odisha from a village of Cuttack district over several charges including sedition for allegedly posting threatening content against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP chief minister Adityanath on social media.

Police in Cuttack district said a team from police in Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh arrested 42-year-old Sayed Hassan Ahmed from Kushambi village under Salepur police limits. In-charge of Salepur police station, inspector Nihar

Mohanty said a police team from Singhbali police station in UP's Baghpat district arrested Ahmed after booking him.

"The man had allegedly posted derogatory and threatening content on social media against Prime Minister and UP chief minister Adityanath and a case was lodged in UP. Accordingly a team from UP police had arrived here today. The person runs a small electronics shop in Salepur. He would be put up before a local magistrate for grant of transit remand," said the inspector.

Police did not reveal any other details of the threatening message.

CLASSIFIED LOST

By virtue of this affidavit before Notary Public, Kendrapara, I Puspallata Sahoo aged about 45 years, W/o. Rashmi Ranjan Sahoo, village Bharatpur, PO - Bankeswar, PS - Aul, Dist - Kendrapara, declare that, while I go to Singiri bazaar on 31/08/2020, where I lost my homestead land patta vide khata No. 909/282, Plot No. - 2198/3455, having an area A-O.13 decimils, at mouza Patrapur, for which I have lodged FIR before IIC Aul, PS and police investigating the same. If any person get that patta, kindly intimate me by contact No. - 8260868413.

ECoR strengthens fight against virus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: To cope with the pandemic, East Coast Railway (ECoR) here Monday announced elaborate initiatives to avoid a surge of infections.

For the treatment of Covid-19 patients, East Coast Railway has prepared 187 beds, i.e. 37 beds at Central Hospital at Mancheswar, 80 Beds at Divisional Hospital at Khurda Road and 70 beds at Divisional Hospital at Visakhapatnam. The hospitals are fully prepared with sophisticated and modern equipment like Oxygen Gas Pipe Line, High flow nasal oxygen and Ventilators. Apart from this, Special Fever Clinic is also running in ECoR hospitals at its headquarters and at all the divisional hospitals.

To face the challenges and utilisation of modern equipments, doctors and paramedical staff of ECoR received various training from corporate hospitals and SCB Medical College.

Special kiosks have also been prepared for collection of swab for Real Time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Test and point of care Rapid Antigen Test and later sent to different strategic locations identified by the state govt.



Till date, 859 RT-PCR samples have been sent for test at different locations. Apart from this, 803 Rapid Antigen have been conducted in ECoR hospitals.

Even during these distressing times, ECoR continues the awareness drive. ECoR is strictly following the Covid-19 guidelines like using face masks, sanitising hands

and maintaining social distancing among others. Sanitisation of Railway establishments, workplaces, stations and circulating areas including trains are also being done on regular basis.

During the Antigen Test at ECoR HQs from 2nd to 4th September, 2020; a total of 25 positive cases have been detected who have been isolated and admitted in Railway Hospital and at other COVID Hospitals. High risk group of Railway employees, i.e. employees above 55 years with diabetes, hypertension, persons with history of contact with Covid suspect or positive cases were encouraged to undergo the tests organized by Railway Central Hospital.

In ECoR Hospitals, altogether 283 Covid-19 positive patients were admitted till date. 183 patients have already been discharged after cure and 100 patients are now under active treatment.

GOVT'S DECISION ON VARSITIES 'WILL RESULT IN IRREGULARITIES'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Several students' and educationists' groups of the state continue to raise their voice against the state government's decision of bringing all universities under the Odisha Universities Act, 1989.

These groups also object to the decision of selection of teachers by OPSC and increase of VCs' tenure to four years.

Sashikant Mishra, secretary, ABVP, said, "The state government is trying to take away the autonomy and independence of state universities which will disrupt the environment. The decision such as VC selection by the state government will bring favoritism and deserving candidates will miss out. The decision was taken in a hurry and without consultation with the student's council of the universities."

"The increase in tenure of VCs

The state cabinet has decided to bring all universities under the Odisha Universities Act, 1989

will not bring any changes. Universities no longer need to lay down annual audit reports before the Assembly. This will bring irregularity in the university finances," he added.

In a bid to rationalise the administrative functioning of all state-run universities, the state cabinet decided to bring all universities under the Odisha Universities Act, 1989 recently.

Earlier, AISO also objected to the decision of the state government and submitted a memorandum to the Governor Ganeshi Lal demanding reversal of the ordinance.

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Flood in Brahmani, Baitarani to cost ₹12cr

FLOODWATERS HAVE CREATED 25 MAJOR ROAD BREACHES BETWEEN AUGUST 26 AND 29, WHICH NEED ₹12.39 CRORE FOR REPAIRS IN JAJPUR DIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 7: The Brahmani and Baitarani rivers including their distributaries have caused severe surge of floodwaters in Jajpur district, over the past few weeks. Floodwaters have created 25 major road breaches in between August 26 and 29, which need ₹12.39 crore for repairs.

According to reports, 21 major road breaches were created on river dykes under Jaraka irrigation division and four major road breaches were created under Jajpur irrigation division, respectively. Jajpur irrigation department has prepared an estimate in this regard.

Most of the parts in Jajpur district have been submerged and road connectivity snapped. It is said that, over 10,00,000 denizens in rural areas have been badly affected due to severe flood situation.

It is known that nearly 2,86,327 livestock of about 530 villages of 124 panchayats under 10 blocks have been badly affected due to surging floodwater in Jajpur district, an unconfirmed source revealed.

Worthy to note, the state irrigation department Principal Secretary Anu Garg had directed Collectors of 13 districts for repair as well as renovation of weak and rundown river dykes vide letter (No.-15301/29.08.2020), much before the occurrence of flood.

On the other hand, Jajpur



Most of the parts in Jajpur district have been submerged and road connectivity snapped

The Irrigation dept had directed Collectors of 13 dists for repair as well as renovation of weak and rundown river dykes much before the floods
Jajpur residents say road breaches have happened due to low quality of work at several places

denizens have ascribed the reason behind road breaches to al-

leged low quality of work at several places. Loss of life and property in the district were caused due to this, they said. It was also alleged that, Niraghat and Rambhapur road breaches on Kelua river dyke under Dharماسala block was manmade. On being contacted, Jaraka irrigation division executive engineer Debasish Patnaik said, "Repair work of road breaches will start soon after flood situation completely subsides. Efforts are being made at the departmental level for effective management of flood situation."

Notably, a three-month-old baby Lakshmi, the daughter of Amar Majhi of Beherapatna village of Panasa panchayat under Sadar block had died recently as house walls caved in following incessant rains. Similarly, a double-storied building had collapsed near Brahmani river dyke at Kandiasahi of Bandhadiha panchayat under Rasulpur block, following occurrence of a 150ft-wide major road breach.

36 persons held for killing home-guard

Home-guard Banabasi Maharana died in Malkangiri Sunday after being attacked by cannabis smugglers during a raid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 7: Malkangiri police Monday arrested 36 persons from Nabarangpur here and Kotpad area of Koraput district on the charge of killing a home-guard at Chaulimendi forest under Mathili police limits Sunday.

Sources said that a home-guard Banabasi Maharana died in Malkangiri Sunday morning after being attacked by cannabis smugglers during an operation by the police. The incident took place near Chaulimendi area under Balimela police limits of Malkangiri district.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Balimela police including the home-guard conducted a search operation near Chaulimendi area in the wee hours of Sunday. The police were informed that more than 70 ganja smugglers were ferrying hundreds of contraband packets to the border of Chhattisgarh in some vehicles.

When police reached the spot, the smugglers had already loaded the cannabis in more than 20 mini trucks and started their journey. However, police intercepted them near Chaulimendi. The smugglers attacked the out-



WHEN POLICE REACHED THE SPOT, THE SMUGGLERS HAD ALREADY LOADED THE CANNABIS IN MORE THAN 20 MINI TRUCKS AND STARTED THEIR JOURNEY

numbered cops with sharp weapons and the cops retaliated. That said the miscreants successfully managed to escape from the place. Meanwhile, home-guard Banabasi Maharana sustained grievous injuries in the incident.

Though Maharana was rescued and rushed to Mathili Hospital, he succumbed to the injuries, police said.

Cong alleges irregularities in embankment repair works

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Sept 7: Every year, various parts of Bhadrak are badly affected by floodwaters from Genguti river. However, the government has made no permanent solution to this problem.

Reports said, crores of rupees are being spent in repair of embankments and their strengthening, but works are allegedly botched up.

This was alleged by a delegation of state Congress. Former PCC chief Jaydev Jena and Taraprasad Bahinipati visited various flood-hit areas Saturday and brought this complaint.



They explained how some escapes have caused massive floods by the water of Baitarani and Genguti.

Poor embankment work and irregularities have defeated the purpose of embankment strengthening, they added.

Odisha man arrested while smuggling diamonds worth ₹25L

The diamond smugglers are involved in sending the stones to other parts of the country from Paylikhand diamond mine of Gariaband district



Chhattisgarh police seize 171 pieces of diamonds of different sizes and a small weighing machine from the two accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 7: A person from Nuapada district was arrested by Chhattisgarh police in the wee hours of Monday for allegedly smuggling diamonds worth ₹25 lakh in Gariaband district in the state.

The accused has been identified as Nutan Patel (55) of Godal village under Sinapali police limits of Nuapada district.

The diamond smugglers were involved in sending the stones to other parts of the country from Paylikhand diamond mine of Gariaband district.

Acting on a tip-off, Gariaband police conducted raids in Jadapadar village and intercepted the accused who was going in a two-wheeler near Kaitapadar.

After arresting the smuggler, police seized 171 pieces of diamonds of different sizes and a small weighing machine from the two. The valuation of the stones seized is estimated to be around ₹25 lakh.

Police said that the accused were illegally smuggling the diamonds from the diamond-rich belt of Gariaband's Deobhog area and selling those in different states across India through middlemen.

After registering a case against the accused, police have launched an investigation into the matter. They are trying to find out the accomplices associated with the arrested man.

MILLION-DOLLAR SMILES



Two kids play on road while a passerby watches on at Angul, Monday. While the government has mandated wearing face masks in public, neither the kids nor the passerby seem to mind the norm

OP PHOTO

HUMAN SACRIFICE BID FOILED IN GANJAM DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Sept 7: A human sacrifice bid was foiled in Ganjam district thanks to timely intervention of locals Sunday afternoon, sources said.

Aska police arrested three persons for allegedly trying to kidnap a minor girl and seized two swords and one motorcycle from their possession. However, five other accomplices in the incident managed to give the police a slip and fled.

Officer in-charge of Aska police station Prasant Kumar Sahoo said that the cops acted upon a rumour from Surat in Gujarat that the accused had been trying for the past several days to kidnap and sacrifice the minor girl in order to become millionaire in the future.

According to sources, Swarajya Gouda lives with his father and two sisters in Chasapitala village under Aska police limits in Ganjam district. Chitrasena Tarai and Panchu Gouda, of the same village, and Sadhu Amiya Kumar Swain from neighbouring Ramachandrapur village along with their five associates reached Swarajya's house in the evening



Aska cops arrest three persons for trying to kidnap a minor girl. Two swords and one motorcycle seized from their possession. Five other accomplices flee

September 3. They forcibly demanded Swarajya to hand over his minor sister.

When Swarajya refused to oblige, the accused tried to buy his minor sister for ₹30,000. After Swarajya rejected the offer, the accused tried to kidnap her.

On being informed, Aska police reached the village and arrested Chitrasena, Panchu and Sadhu Amiya. The police have launched a frantic manhunt after failing to nab the five other associates.

Online OJEE deferred till Oct

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Amid a continuous surge in COVID-19 cases in the state and keeping in mind the interest of the students, the state government Monday decided to postpone the online Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE)-2020. Officials of OJEE will declare the next date of the online examination which in all probability will be conducted in October.

Earlier, the OJEE had announced that the online examinations will be conducted September 9 to September 15.

It should also be stated here that to prevent large gathering of students at one place, the OJEE in association with the Odisha government has announced the addition of nine extra examination centres in and outside the state. Six of these online centres are within Odisha and three outside the state.

The new online examination centres in Odisha are in Bolangir, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Nayagarh and Kandhamal. Students appearing in the online tests from outside the state can avail of the facilities at Patna, Ranchi and Kolkata.

Sarangi welcomes Traffic DCP Soumya Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Twin city Police Commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi welcomed Soumya Mishra who joined her duty as DCP of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar Traffic police, Monday.

Mishra was earlier appointed as the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Sundargarh district.

"Mishra has done tremendous works as the SP in Sundargarh district. Her work towards safety of woman in the district is commendable. We wish her good luck

& a satisfying tenure," Commissioner Sarangi said.

Mishra said she will take effective steps to address the traffic congestion in the city. She replaced Sagarika Nath who had taken many steps in the recent past to improve the traffic situation in the Twin City.

Mishra has completed her schooling in Loreto Convent, Lucknow. Then she pursued her graduation and Masters in Sociology from LSR & Delhi School of Economics. She cleared the Indian Administrative Service in 2014 and chose to be an IPS officer.

Why Boudh migrants want to return to Guj, TN

AS COVID KICKED IN, INDUSTRIES WERE SHUTTING, MIGRANT LABOURERS WERE RUNNING OUT OF THEIR SAVINGS BUT THEIR EXPENSES REMAINED AS THEY WERE AND THUS, BEGAN THE HOMECOMING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Janhapank, Sept 7: Around six months ago, they hired private buses to return to their home Odisha while escaping the woes of the COVID-19 lockdown and unemployment prospects. But today the migrant workers of Boudh district are waiting for the buses to take them back to their jobs which they had left as the industries have reopened in those states. Little did they know that they will be greeted with no-vacancy signs here.

The Odisha migrant workers made big splash in the news as they, in thousands, returned to the state on foot. Industries were shutting, they were running out of their savings but their expenses remained as they were and thus began the journey towards home.

But just after six months of their return journey, they are again keen to go back to their previous job places as there are not so bright employment opportunities in Odisha. They are again struggling for sustenance. The Unlocked-4.0 has removed all restrictions including inter-state movement of people. For this, the agents have informally started urging returnee migrant workers in Boudh district to prepare for going back to Surat and other industries in Tamil Nadu.



Several returnee migrant workers in Janhapank area of Boudh district were seen waiting for a bus on NH-57 on the wee hours of Monday

OP PHOTO

As the textile units in Surat in Gujarat have reopened now, the owners of the factories need manpower. The owners are sending their agents to Odisha to ferry the returnee migrant workers back by luring them with extra wages.

Several returnee migrant workers in Janhapank area of Boudh district were seen waiting for a bus on NH-57 on the wee hours of Monday. When our correspondent asked some of them (who did not wish to be named) on why they are again keen to go back to their former job places, they answered that they

were being encouraged to return to Gujarat (Surat) and Tamil Nadu as early as possible, over phone calls and personal meetings with agents who claimed to be working on behalf of textile mill or other industry owners in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. We are being urged to reach there and bargain with mill owners for better working conditions and other facilities, they said.

Now, the question remains—what about the tall promises that the state government had made regarding providing employment to these returnee migrants.

Another thing which adds to the woes of these migrant workers is that they are doing manual labour in and outside the state without any official registration. Following this, there exploitation is happening in terms of wages or job conditions. Notably, under the Inter-State Migrant workmen Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 the migrant workers have to be provided with the basic benefits by their employer outside the state. According to this law, inter-state migrant workers are to be registered through li-

censed labour contractors.

As the middlemen are taking the migrants workers by avoiding the process, they have to compromise while settling wages and other benefits with the employers.

Some NGOs and intellectuals of the district urged the Odisha government to ensure employment to these workers or to register both the returnees and well as workers who have stayed back in other states. They urged the state government to ask the other state governments for the migrants' registration at their workplace.

RETURN CALL

Textile units in Surat in Gujarat have reopened

The mill owners need manpower and the labour there isn't meeting their needs

Moreover, industrial units in Tamil Nadu have also resumed

THE OWNERS OF THESE MANUFACTURING UNITS ARE SENDING THEIR AGENTS/ RECRUITMENT OFFICERS TO ODISHA TO ENTICE THE RETURNEE MIGRANTS HERE WITH LUCRATIVE OFFERS

“Spirituality is indeed the master key of the Indian mind; the sense of the infinitive is native to it.”
SRI AUROBINDO



SOME ATTENTION DIVERSIONS

Attention-diversion seems to have become a familiar tactic used by many current politicians for different purposes. Magicians are believed to use such techniques with perfection to mesmerize the spectators. At a different level, criminals use it for theft, pick-pocketing in buses and trains, and chain-snatching in the streets. Today, political establishments are increasingly resorting to such techniques, and with lethal effects. Evidence of such behavior is visible in the Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR) death case, which is used and misused with ulterior motives by many including the media. Politics is clearly at play, and other vested interests too may have stepped into the scene to make a mess out of what could have been a normal police investigation.

Popular Hindi film and TV serial actor SSR's death by hanging from a ceiling fan – in his apartment in Mumbai on June 14 – was a tragic incident. Initial Mumbai police reports claimed it to be a suicide and that set the ball rolling. Sushant was reported to be under treatment for depression. There were also allegations of nepotism in the Mumbai film industry that added to his woes. The following days saw fresh theories being advanced every single day and TV channels like Repulsive TV played out conspiracy theories dime a dozen. Over a month later, Sushant's parents in Patna brought forth allegations against his girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and five others. They were blamed for his death. SSR's parents filed a complaint with the police in Patna, which suggested that they did not trust the investigations in Mumbai. Keeping Bihar elections in sight, the state police, unknown for efficiency, sprang into action and landed up at Mumbai. The police team that arrived in Mumbai from Patna was quarantined by the Maharashtra government, allegedly to stall their investigations in the metropolis. It turned into a state-versus-state row for the media to play with. By mid-August, in the midst of all these, the Supreme Court allowed the CBI to take over the investigations. Later, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) stepped in.

Politics obviously is playing multiple roles in the Sushant saga after his death. The name of Aadiya Thackeray, Cabinet minister and son of chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, came up prominently as one who interacted with SSR shortly before his death. In this context, fresh aspersions were cast on the Maharashtra Police investigations. However, present reports have conveniently forgotten Aadiya, which may be due to lack of evidence to connect him. The BJP's support to the cacophony over the SSR death too signified it sought to fish in troubled waters.

Worse, the current media frenzy running through the third month at a stretch after the death is seen as part of a motivated attempt by the powers-that-be at the Centre to divert public attention from the pressing issues of the day. The nation is facing its worst plight in the aftermath of the Covid-linked lockdowns, which virtually shut down the nation for over five months, and the pandemic scenario is still worsening. Demonetization followed by GST roll-out contracted the economy to scary levels. Now, with a hit from Covid, the financial super structure is seen to be collapsing. This is evident from the call by the Centre to states, to borrow money from RBI and make up for the GST collection shortfall and failure of the Centre to keep up with its promise to the states in this respect. Governmental performance in every sector is seriously affected, and things are turning from bad to worse.

Now, dominant sections of the media have little time or space to highlight the distress of the nation. They are concentrating mainly on the SSR case, debating for days on end whether it was a simple case of suicide or more, and what role Rhea Chakraborty and others played in the death. This is going on and on; one day, a debate on the role of the Maharashtra Police; another day on the accusations from the actor's parents; then on the Supreme Court nod for CBI probe; so on and so forth. Clearly, these are nothing more than an attention-diversion tactic to bail out the government in present times. That apart, the media seems to have realised that the upper and middle class of urbanised India laps up such titillation eagerly and is happy for the diversions. The more shocking the story angle, the more the views. The general public probably finds this to be a filmy plot. Newer characters are being thrown into the ring for increasing the excitement. One actor in particular, Kangana Ranaut has benefited greatly by spewing venom against her film colleagues in the matter of nepotism and casting aspersions on Rhea Chakraborty. As a reward, she has been given Y Plus Class security by the Centre for which she has profusely thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah. While a death and charges of nepotism in the film industry were the main subjects of investigations, the involvement of ED and NCB is constantly changing the plot. Rhea's brother Showik Chakraborty and two others have been arrested by the NCB for allegedly sourcing curated marijuana. Rhea is also being questioned by the same agency for alleged drug connections. Sadly, the mainline investigation into the real reasons for SSR's death is being sidelined by the agencies with a purpose. The narrative needs to continue long like a Hindi movie. Maybe the plot needs to be thickened so that people's attention remains steadfast. The actor's death, possibly, could have been investigated as a stand-alone case. The investigative agencies seem to be more interested in fueling media frenzy and not focusing on the original issue.

WORDSWORTH

Tiddlywinks

The BBC regional television weather forecast map for the south-west of England once marked the usual cities such as Bristol and Exeter, but also added Tiddleywink in Wiltshire, an obscure hamlet ignored by gazetteers and all maps except those of largest scale. The BBC was having fun over its inhabitants' success in persuading the local council to put up road signs to mark this cluster of eight cottages, as up to now people driving past would miss it if they blinked. Those in favour of perpetuating the name did so not only out of local (very local) pride, but because of the name's associations with word history. Local historians say that the occupant of one of the cottages used to sell beer to passing cattle drovers. At the time – presumably the eighteenth or early nineteenth century – the slang term for an unlicensed beer-house of this sort was tiddlywink (sometimes kiddlywink) and the name came in time to be attached to the hamlet as a whole. John Ayto, in the Oxford Dictionary of Rhyming Slang, and Jonathon Green, in the Cassell Dictionary of Slang, both suggest that it was originally rhyming slang (tiddlywink = drink). In the way of such slang, it soon became shortened to tiddly as the name for an alcoholic drink, which by the early 20th Century had become the adjective tiddly for the state of being drunk. It may be that the first element is a variation on an even older term tiddy for something small, which would make a tiddlywink a small drink. Jonathon Green points to yet another form, titley, as in the slang phrase titley and binder, for a glass of beer and a lump of bread and cheese, known from the middle of the 19th Century. Some writers suggest (for which read guess) that the second part comes from phrases like to tip the wink, to give somebody a private signal, so suggesting a tiddlywink was a place to which a man slipped off quietly with close friends to have a quick one.

LOL DUCK

Story goes that one day a duck walks in a store and ask the manager if they sell grapes. The manager says, "No, we don't sell grapes." The duck goes home and comes back the next day and asks the same question. The manager says the same thing again, "No, we do not sell grapes." The duck goes home, comes back the

next day, and asks the manager if they sell grapes. This time the manager says, "No, we don't sell grapes! If you ask one more time, I will nail your beak to the floor!" The duck goes home. It comes back the next day and asks the manager if he has any nails. The manager says, "No, I don't have any nails." The duck says, "Okay, good. Do you sell grapes?"



Jagdish Rattanan

THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND HOW INVESTIGATIONS RUN WOULD KNOW THAT IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE EVIDENCE IF THIS WAS INDEED A MURDER OR A CASE OF ABETMENT TO SUICIDE

SPECTRUM SPORTS

Cricket astronauts under pressure

Yajurvindra Singh

THE FIRST CASUALTY THAT THE IPL FACED, EVEN BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT BEGAN, WAS WHEN 13 MEMBERS OF THE CHENNAI SUPER KINGS TESTED POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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FOCUS SOCIETY

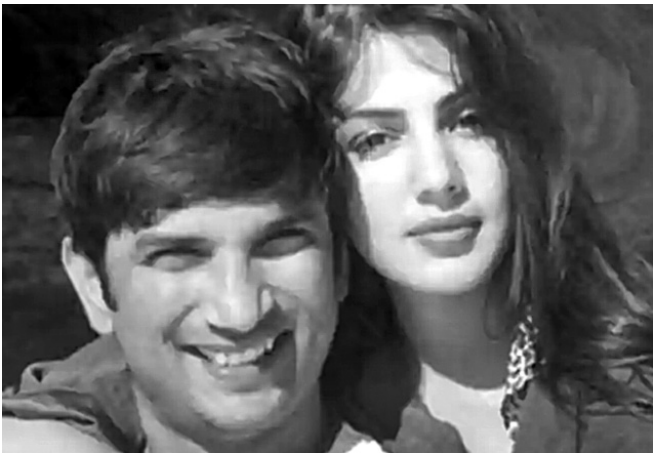
SUICIDE AND SLANDER

The statement by the father of Rhea Chakraborty reflects the pain and the discomfort many might feel at the manner in which the suicide of Sushant Singh Rajput is being handled by the investigating agencies. Lt. Col (Retd) Chakraborty writes, addressing the whole of India, "Congratulations India, you have arrested my son, I'm sure next on the line is my daughter and I don't know who is next thereafter. You have effectively demolished a middle class family. But of course, for the sake of justice everything is justified. Jai Hind."

While there is no doubt that the CBI must be given a free hand to probe all possible leads, there is equally little doubt that the atmosphere has been so vitiated by a sharp, focused and carefully constructed campaign that has condemned, targeted and vilified Rhea mercilessly for reasons that have nothing to do with the investigation. The attack is ostensibly on Rhea Chakraborty but it is actually turning out to be an attack on institutions, civility and the very idea of living in a decent society.

The entire air has been poisoned in such a manner that there is almost a pre-judged line that is being followed with political motivations that are not far to seek. Consider the manner in which the Mumbai police have been targeted, leading to some of the most ludicrous statements about the functioning of the police force in this city, so much so that several former police officers have been forced to come out and take a stand.

It is not that the Mumbai police are perfect. It is also not that investigations cannot be botched. But those who understand how investigations run would know that it is almost impossible to hide evidence if this was indeed a murder or a case of abetment to suicide. If there was anything remotely suspicious, Rhea Chakraborty would already have been arrested. Those making wild statements of the kind made in Mumbai or from Bihar would also know that the Mumbai police ar-



As a nation, we must reflect on the way motivated media houses and trolls on social media have been allowed to get way with harassment and sully the name of a family, leaving the young Rhea Chakraborty no time to mourn her loss. That this is being done through a media that is anything but independent, and working to an agenda that many in India can see, tells us of how much the nation is dragged down when prejudice is allowed to run free and even placed at a premium

rested Sanjay Dutt under a tough law against terrorists called TADA in the 1993 Bombay bomb blasts case at a time Sunil Dutt, his father, was a Congress MP and the Congress government was in power at the Centre.

The worry that the entire momentum is being created through the instruments of a political leadership that has an axe to grind against the current political dispensation in Maharashtra, particularly the Shiv Sena leadership that has dared to break away from the BJP, tells its own tale. If there is one party that knows how vicious the BJP has become, it is the Shiv Sena, which knows its former ally only too well and has worked with it dating back to the days of Pramod Mahajan as the lead BJP strategist in the 1990s.

It is well-known that the BJP has not been able to stomach the insult

of having to lose to the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra. It played all kinds of tricks, including an attempted early morning swearing-in almost in secret, to keep the position of Chief Minister. It failed. Since then, we have seen assault after concerted assault – first in the name of saffron-clad sadhus who were killed in an apolitical case of murder, then in the alleged negligence of the government in battling the Sars-Cov-2 pandemic and now in the case of Rhea Chakraborty with attempts to muddy the name of state minister Aadiya Thackeray.

There is the other political link-up to the upcoming Bihar elections, and the fancy that Sushant Singh Rajput being a native of Bihar will lead to its own mileage for the BJP. It is surprising that a FIR was registered in Bihar in a case that is entirely and fully

within the jurisdiction of Maharashtra. Then consider the statement of the Bihar DGP Guptaeshwar Pandey that Sushant Singh Rajput was "Bihar ka beta" (a son of Bihar) and that the actor's death was a matter of sentiment for the people of Bihar. Since when did the police begin investigating cases on that basis, leanings put out in so naked a fashion? Even the pretensions of being an impartial investigator are lost.

Pandey has been under some cloud in other cases, and his statements now are of a politician in uniform, not of a professional policeman serving in the highest echelons of the service. The statements of Sushant Singh Rajput's father, who himself was reportedly not close to his son, stand out less for the agony of a father who has lost his son and more for their ugliness, pettiness, the claim that he is the legal heir and show no respect for a person that his son loved and lived with. To call her a "murderer" who "poisoned" Sushant, as the father has reportedly said in a video, is crude and cruel. If Rhea had been married to Sushant officially, these are the kind of statements that would make for a case of harassment of a daughter-in-law under India's law that is meant to protect newly-wed women from harassment by their in-laws.

As a nation, we must reflect on the way motivated media houses and trolls on social media have been allowed to get way with harassment and sully the name of a family, leaving the young Rhea Chakraborty no time to mourn her loss. That this is being done through a media that is anything but independent, and working to an agenda that many in India can see, tells us of how much the nation is dragged down when prejudice is allowed to run free and even placed at a premium. There is no knowing who this kind of vicious prejudice will take down next and where it will lead this nation.

The writer is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. THE BILLION PRESS

Practical education

Sir, The National Education Policy 2020 aims to make education more experiential, holistic, inquiry driven, discovery oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible to make students skilled and capable. Middle standard students, i.e. the age group between 11 and 12 years, have the wide ranged area to practice in different vocational field like carpentry, electric work, metal work, gardening, pottery making as matching to the local need. Students have the scope to participate in ten day bagless period in their respective areas with the guidance of the local vocational experts: carpenters, gardeners, potters, artists, etc. Similar internship opportunities provided to learn vocational subjects may be made available to students throughout Class 9 to 12. Holidays will be engaged by the teacher-superior on various types of enrichment activities involving arts, quizzes, sports and vocational crafts. Students will also be allowed to visit important places monuments of historical, cultural and tourist points in order to exchange cultural program to improve evidence based thinking, sense of aesthetic and art, oral and written communication, team work, problem solving, logical reasoning, cooperative attitude, vocational exposure which also increase the cognitive development, socio-emotional, ethical, cultural development, collaborative efforts, respectively in duty, self-initiative, self-direction and self-discipline. The need of skilled workforce in the multidisciplinary abilities across science and technology also in social science and humanities on restructuring school curriculum and pedagogy in a new 5+3+3+4 structure is to empower students through flexibility in course choice particularly in secondary standard, so that they can earn after learn and design their own ways to study and life plans which will enable themselves to face the rapidly changing world.

Dr Akshaya Kumar Mohanty, Rajsunakhala College, NAYAGARH

Wisecrack

Sir, In course of time and particularly at an advancing age, one might get more rigid in his attitudes. One cannot change his opinions formed in the past. Such a mindset often leads to difficulties for oneself. He or she becomes a misfit in the fast-changing world. It is desirable to look at issues with a fresh mind. Others may have different opinions on the same subject. One should not feel slighted or let down for being influenced by others. A new approach to life leads to mental satisfaction. Stated Mark Twain, "Loyalty to a petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul."

TK De, NOIDA

Platforms deserted as metro services resume

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Platforms and key hub stations, including Rajiv Chowk, wore a deserted look, eateries remained closed and the ambience far removed from the usual hustle-and-bustle as the Delhi Metro services resumed Monday after a 169-day hiatus triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Station employees frequently sanitised areas of the metro station and ensured social distancing norms, even as very few commuters opted for the services on the first day.

Rajiv Chowk, which is one of the busiest stations of the national capital, remained empty. At around 9 am, the usually busy entry point at Rajiv Chowk was deserted with officials, wearing masks and face shields, ready with sanitizers to ensure a safe ride for passengers.

After the entry point, there was a second layer of sanitisation process where thermal screening of passengers as well as their luggage was done.

Imran Khan, who was travelling from Chattarpur to Barakhamba, was on his way to attend a job interview.

“The ride was smooth and there were hardly less than five commuters in my compartment. So, we had ample space to maintain social distancing even within the coaches. I’m glad that metro services have finally begun or I wouldn’t have been able to make it for my interview on time,” he said.



Commuters travel in a metro train after Delhi Metro resumed services with curtailed operation of the Yellow Line, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in New Delhi, Monday.

Another commuter, Vishal Naik, 21, a resident of Shastri Park, was relieved that now he would finally be able to reach office in Connaught Place on time.

“Until now, everyday, it took almost two-three hours to reach office. Half of my time was spent in travelling. I had to start at least an hour early from home and wait for unusually longer hours at the bus stands and if the passenger count exceeded beyond 20, I had to again wait to catch the next bus, which is equally risky during pandemic,” he said.

Deepika Nautiyal, a resident of

Laxmi Nagar, said she is scared but has taken all the precautions.

“I took an auto rickshaw from my home in Laxmi Nagar and reached Rajiv Chowk metro station. I am a bit scared but have taken all the precautions,” Nautiyal, who works at company in Gurgaon, said.

Another commuter Mona Jha, who lives in Bhajanpura in north-east Delhi and works at Barakhamba Road, said she noticed that people are maintaining the norm of social distancing inside the metro train. “I boarded the metro at Kashmiri Gate and have seen that

people are aware. I am not scared. People are more concerned but we must follow social distancing norms. The situation will take time to become normal,” Jha said.

At Kashmere Gate metro station, only two gates were opened.

When people were entering the premises, they were seen getting their bags sanitized by the metro employees. Before contactless frisking, CISF personnel were also seen helping the commuters maintain social distance.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) was making several an-

nouncements about dos and don’ts during COVID-19.

“If you have cold cough or fever, then please don’t take metro. Duration of opening and closing of metro doors have been increased for the convenience of commuters,” the announcer said.

Trains were stopping at station with an extra time so that the passengers can easily board or de-board the metro without get in contact with anyone.

The DMRC said all possible measures will be taken to ensure that services are smooth.

Parents averse to taking kids for vaccination

Paediatricians call it a disturbing trend as skipping timely administration of vaccines can have long-term impact on children’s health

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Parents are delaying vaccination for kids by avoiding hospital visits to prevent their exposure to coronavirus, even as paediatricians call it a disturbing trend as skipping timely administration of vaccines can have long-term impact on children’s health.

Experts said parents should take their children for timely vaccination, especially in the first year of a child’s life.

be delayed by one or two months but not beyond that,” Kwatra explained.

He said he has had patients coming to him in September for vaccination of their kids which were due in March since they were scared of stepping out.

Assuring parents, Nagpal said many doctors have separated their immunisation clinics from the regular clinics to ensure that children are not exposed to other patients.

Underlining the importance of vaccines, Kwatra said primary vaccines are administered in the first year of a child’s life and these are most important and should not be delayed.

These include pneumococcal, polio and DPT vaccine, he said, adding that measles vaccine is crucial in the first year.

“If a child catches measles, it reduces the immunity greatly,” he noted.



“I had a patient yesterday who came to me after three months for vaccinating their child for polio. There are certain vaccines that you cannot catch up. For instance, the rotavirus vaccine is limited to a specific time. The last dose can be given by seven months. The vaccines act best when they are administered on time,” Rahul Nagpal, Director, Paediatrics, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj said.

Vineet Kwatra, Head and Senior Consultant, Department of Paediatrics and Neonatology, Medeor Hospital said there were a few patients in the first three to four months of the pandemic outbreak due to the lockdown, fear of contracting the infection and lesser number of clinics which were functional.

“Parents are still hesitant and are unnecessarily delaying vaccination. There are vaccines which are administered at six weeks, 10 weeks and 14 weeks, and they should not be missed. They can wait for a month or so but not beyond that. Under normal circumstances, a vaccine can be delayed by seven days. In the second year of a child’s life, vaccines can

In the second year of life, a child is given booster vaccines which are also important but a bit of delay is not harmful, Kwatra said.

Sandhya, a resident of north Delhi’s Burari, said, “I have been delaying the vaccination of my 18-month-old daughter because of COVID-19 scare. The vaccination was due in August, but I have been scared to take my child out due to the pandemic. Elders are fine with wearing face masks, but kids do not like them. We cannot force them to wear such masks.” Neetu Singh, who has a one-and-half-year-old girl said, “My daughter catches cold and cough very easily. During this pandemic, we are scared for her wellbeing. So we have delayed her vaccination by a couple of months.”

Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director of LNJP Hospital, said, “It’s true that other health ailments have taken a backseat. Ours is a COVID-only facility and parents are scared to come for immunisation over fears of catching the virus. Even private practitioners have closed their clinics since they are scared of catching the infection.”

NEP lacks roadmap for implementation: Sisodia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said Monday the new National Education Policy (NEP) lacks the roadmap for implementation and needs proper planning so that it is not reduced to just a wonderful idea.

Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, made the comments at the ‘Governors’ Conference on the Role of NEP in Transforming Higher Education’.

“The new national education policy lacks the action plan to implement it. The implementation of this policy should be carefully planned so that it is not limited to just a wonderful idea. It is necessary to put national education policy into practice rather than restricting it to only wishful thinking,” he said.

“This policy talks about spending 6 per cent of GDP on education. It has been said in the 1968 policy as well but never implemented. Thus, a law should be made so that successive governments are bound by it and necessary resources needed for effective implementation of the policy can be guaranteed,” Sisodia added.

The NEP approved by the Union Cabinet in July replaces the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems to make



The new national education policy lacks the action plan to implement it... It is necessary to put national education policy into practice rather than restricting it to only wishful thinking

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER

India a global knowledge superpower:

“The National Education Policy talks about vocational education. At present, about 80 per cent of the youth having a degree are not considered employable. This needs our attention. Even after completing 20 years of education, if our students are not employable then where does the fault lies?” Sisodia posed.

“It is inappropriate to treat vocational degree differently from an undergraduate degree in any other subject. These courses should be given equal importance, then only we will be able to reap their benefits,” he added.

Not joining any party, would like to remain a doc: Kafeel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 7: Putting an end to speculation about him joining the Congress after being released from jail recently, Dr Kafeel Khan said that he is a doctor and would like to remain so.

He was recently released from Mathura jail after the Allahabad High Court quashed his detention under the stringent National Security Act (NSA). The court had ordered his immediate release, asserting that his speech at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) didn’t promote hatred or violence, rather gave a call for national integrity.

Dr Khan, who is presently in Rajasthan, told PTI over phone that he will “not join any political party.”

“I am a doctor and would like to remain the same,” he said and expressed a desire to visit flood-hit areas of Bihar and help the victims.

He said that when his release was delayed after the Allahabad High Court order September 1, it was feared that the Uttar Pradesh government was preparing to implicate him again in a case.

“Because of the apprehension that I could be implicated in any other case by the Uttar Pradesh government, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had helped me on humanitarian grounds,” he said but made it clear that it should not be construed as



he is going to join the Congress.

Dr Khan said there has been no discussion regarding politics with Priyanka Gandhi, nor has he got any indication as such from the Congress leader.

“As there is a Congress government in Rajasthan and the distance from Mathura to Bharatpur is of just 20 minutes, Priyanka Gandhi offered me to come to Bharatpur.”

He thanked the Congress general secretary saying it was due to her he got ‘security’ in Rajasthan.

Dr Kafeel said that he has written a letter to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urging him to reinstate him to his post at Gorakhpur Medical College so that he can serve the people.

Dr Kafeel says he has written a letter to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urging him to reinstate him to his post at Gorakhpur Medical College

Khan, who worked as a paediatrician at Gorakhpur’s BRD Medical College, first hit headlines in 2017 after several children died at the hospital due to lack of oxygen cylinders.

Initially, he was hailed as a saviour for the children for arranging emergency oxygen cylinders. However, later, he faced action along with nine other doctors and staff members of the hospital, all of whom were released on bail.

A state government probe had cleared Khan of all major charges, prompting him to seek an apology from the Yogi Adityanath government. The doctor had alleged that an institutional failure had led to the deaths of the children.

Khan was again arrested in January this year on the charge of delivering a provocative speech at the AMU during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests. After the Allahabad High Court ordered his release September 1, he walked out of Mathura jail late in the night.

IIT-Delhi clarifies after ad for dog handler kicks up a row



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: A faux pas in a job advertisement for the position of a dog handler posted by the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi created quite a buzz on social media, prompting the institute to issue a clarification and cancel the recruitment.

August 26, IIT-Delhi had sought applications for the post of a dog handler, and the notice stated that the eligibility criteria was “B.A./B.Sc./B.Com/B.Tech or any equivalent undergraduate degree”. This led to a social media storm.

In a statement issued September 6, the institute said, “In reference to a job advertisement dated 26-08-2020 for a post titled ‘Dog Handler’



(on purely contract basis), IIT Delhi would like to clarify that the minimum qualification as mentioned in the advertisement got inadvertently copied from another job advertisement.” The qualification intended in the advertisement was ‘Bachelor of Veterinary Science’, it said, adding that the recruitment process was cancelled after the mistake was brought to the notice of the higher authorities. “A fresh process in due course will be initiated to hire a Consultant (on purely contract basis) with suitable minimum qualification required for the job profile that involves proper care of a large number of stray dogs on the campus etc.,” the statement said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Varanasi, Sept 7: To check the increasing crimes against women in the country, Rachna Rajendra Chaurasia who is an expert in martial art Taekwondo, along with a young scientist Shyam Chaurasia, has prepared a women-safety ‘hand grenade’ in Varanasi.

It helps to promote women’s safety in any emergency situation. Information will be sent to emergency numbers as soon as the device is activated.

Rachna told IANS that the women’s safety grenade was very useful. “The grenade has a SIM card which can secure five to seven numbers. It will contain emergency numbers in addition to the contact numbers of the family members. It has an on-off trigger which can be pressed and thrown. Upon doing so these numbers will trace the location by which they will be able to protect the woman by reaching the location. It is built on complete wireless technology. Due to its small size, it can be kept in a purse or in the pocket. Distance sensor



THE GRENADE HAS A SIM CARD WHICH CAN SECURE FIVE TO SEVEN NUMBERS. IT WILL CONTAIN EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN ADDITION TO THE CONTACT NUMBERS OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS. IT HAS AN ON-OFF TRIGGER WHICH CAN BE PRESSED AND THROWN. UPON DOING SO THESE NUMBERS WILL TRACE THE LOCATION BY WHICH THEY WILL BE ABLE TO PROTECT THE WOMAN BY REACHING THE LOCATION

THIS GRENADE COSTS A MEAGRE RS 650 AND WEIGHS NEARLY 50 GRAM. IT WORKS FOR NEARLY A WEEK ON AN HOUR-LONG CHARGING

has been used in this and if there are incidents like snatching of purse or mobile of women, then it will start working in active mode. This will work even if the

distance breaks,” Rachna said. She said that later, the sound of firing will be heard by pressing the trigger.

“The loud sound can be heard up

to a kilometre away. The firing sound catches everyone’s attention and people can easily reach the woman in distress. Using this unique grenade, the location of

the incident reaches the number 112 of the police which will be live-streamed by them as well as to the registered members of the family,” Rachna added.

Shyam Chaurasia, in-charge of the research and development cell at Ashoka Institute, said it has been designed as an experiment to prevent incidents like molestation and rape.

Shyam said, “This grenade costs a meagre Rs 650 and weighs nearly 50 gram. It works for nearly a week on an hour-long charging. It is a complete ‘Make in India’ product. No foreign material has been used to make it.

A letter has been written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the same.”

Dr Manish Arora, Coordinator of the BHU innovation centre, said, “This is a good innovation for women’s safety. Right now its prototype is being made. It has an RF and a sensor base technology. It will work at the command centre and help in helpline numbers. It is a commendable effort and needs to be introduced to the industry. Its patent is mandatory.”

of the day uote

The central government aims to form a database of indigenous recipes of every corner of the country

JP NADDA | BJP CHIEF

BJP government's claims have been exposed with India becoming number 2 in the world in corona cases. The government took public data from the Arogya Setu but it failed to control spread of coronavirus

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

Modi govt has eminently proved itself as a govt which has been infected by political as well as economic bankruptcy. While China is registering a growth of 3.8 per cent of its economy, India has contracted by 23.9%

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY | LEADER OF CONGRESS IN LOK SABHA

SHORT TAKES

MLA booked

Chandigarh: Punjab Police Monday registered a case against Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) legislator Simarjit Singh Bains for allegedly spreading false propaganda to mislead the people on the Covid-19 pandemic. An FIR has been registered in Ludhiana city on the complaint of a civil surgeon and legal opinion has been sought on the issue by the police, a police spokesperson said. In his complaint, the civil surgeon demanded legal action against Bains, an MLA from the Atam Nagar constituency in Ludhiana, for misguiding people through a video clip regarding Covid-19. The complainant said the video clip is being played on various social media platforms, thus leading to the creation of an atmosphere of confusion among the public with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic.

BJP leader injured

Diamond Harbour (WB): A leader of the BJP women's wing was shot at by unidentified miscreants in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal Monday, police said. Radharani Naskar, Vice-President of a unit of the Bharatiya Janata Mahila Morcha in Bispur area of the district, was seriously injured after gunmen fired at her near her house at Raghudebpur village, police said. She was admitted to state-run SSKM Hospital in Kolkata after being turned away by a local medical establishment, a BJP leader said.

DRI arrests three

New Delhi: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested three people outside the Karipur airport at Kozhikode in Kerala for smuggling gold and has recovered 4.3 kilograms of compound gold. A tweet by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said that DRI officers of the Cochin Zonal Unit and Calicut (Kozhikode) Regional unit intercepted a vehicle suspected to be carrying smuggled gold, near the Karipur International Airport.

Three held

Kolkata: Three persons have been arrested for allegedly taking photographs of women and girls at a restaurant here and making lewd comments on them, police said Monday. The incident happened Sunday night when a woman along with her relatives and a few others were celebrating the birthday of her 15-year-old daughter at the restaurant in Phoolbagan area, they said.



Both Centre and states will have to increase funding in research and innovation to give impetus to a large economy like India

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

AG VENUGOPAL IN SELF-QUARANTINE

Attorney General KK Venugopal has gone into self-quarantine after one of his colleagues tested positive for coronavirus, the Supreme Court was told Monday



IMPLEMENTATION OF NEP

We must show 'flexibility': PM

Modi said the idea behind the concept of graded autonomy is to encourage healthy competition among colleges and universities and to reward the performers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday that "maximum flexibility" has to be shown in implementing the new National Education Policy (NEP) and all questions about it have to be addressed, as he asserted that it is not a government's but the country's education policy.

Addressing the 'Governors' Conference on the Role of NEP in Transforming Higher Education', Modi said it is natural for stakeholders to have questions about various aspects of the policy and "we are all working to address all these questions".

The view of every stakeholder is being heard with an open mind, he said, adding that most of the questions about the NEP are related to its implementation. He likened the education policy to defence and foreign policies, saying they belong to the country not government. The education policy is linked to the nation's aspirations, he added.

"We have to collectively address all doubts. The vision of flexibility with which this policy was brought..



We will have to show in a similar way maximum flexibility in implementing it," he told the conference, which was also attended by President Ram Nath Kovind, education ministers from states and union territories and vice chancellors besides governors.

The prime minister urged them to hold virtual conferences before September 25 in universities on the NEP, 2020 which, he said, has been widely welcomed, from a village teacher to noted educationists, as it was based on feedback received from across the country.

Highlighting the main features of the policy, first since 1986, he

said it attempts to bring all aspects of higher education, be it academic, technical or vocational, out of silos and to cut down on administrative layers while bringing about a better coordination.

Modi said the idea behind the concept of graded autonomy is to encourage healthy competition among colleges and universities and to reward the performers.

"It is now our collective responsibility to implement this essence of NEP, 2020 in letter and spirit," he said. The policy focuses on learning instead of studying and goes beyond curriculum to focus on critical thinking, he said.

In the NEP, the concerns about students facing heavy burden of their books and examination pressure have been addressed and efforts are being made to expose them to vocational courses and practical training from an early age to make them more employable in Indian and global market, he said. The policy will give a new shape and strength to India's push towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India), he said. Our youth will now be able to learn according to their interests, he said.

Govt launches mental rehabilitation helpline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Centre Monday launched a 24X7 toll free mental rehabilitation helpline for providing psychological support to people.

The helpline 'KIRAN' (1800-599-0019) was launched by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot.

The helpline will offer mental health rehabilitation services with the objective of early screening, first aid, psychological support, distress management, mental wellbeing, promoting positive behaviour and psychological crisis management, the minister said.

"The helpline will function as a lifeline to provide advice,

counselling and reference in 13 languages to individuals, families, NGOs, parent associations, professional associations, rehabilitation institutes, hospitals or anyone in need of support across the country," he said.

"I hope this helpline will also be very useful for family members of those with mental illness," Gehlot said. Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary at social justice and empowerment ministry, gave a

presentation to highlight the salient features of the helpline.

"This toll free helpline will be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the technical coordination of BSNL. It is backed by 660 clinical and rehabilitation psychologists and 668 psychiatrists," he said.



COVID WOMAN PATIENT ABUSED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 7: A day after the shocking news of an ambulance driver raping a young Covid-19 female patient inside an ambulance Saturday night in Pathanamthitta district, another case of abuse surfaced Monday. A junior Health Inspector in the state capital was arrested after he abused a female Covid patient who went to him for a Covid negative certificate.

The incident occurred when a 40-year-old woman working in Malappuram district returned to her hometown near Thiruvananthapuram.

She was asked to go into quarantine for a 14-day period and after it got over, she approached the Health Inspector for a Covid negative certificate.

The official asked her to come to his house near here where she was abused by him. The incident occurred September 3. The woman approached the Vellarada police station in the capital district and registered a complaint, but later it was found that the incident occurred under a different police station's jurisdiction. Following this, the Pangode police arrested the official.

The case has been transferred from Vellarada to Pangode as the crime took place in their jurisdiction.

LIVING WITH COVID



A worker cleans the Chennai-Madurai special train as Southern Railway resumed services in Chennai, Monday PTI PHOTO

SC SEEKS REPLY ON PLEA FOR ELDERLY CARE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Supreme Court Monday asked states to file a detailed affidavit within four weeks on a plea seeking directions to provide masks and sanitisers for senior citizens, who are living alone, amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

A bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R. Subhash Reddy and M. R. Shah was informed by former Union Minister and senior advocate Ashwini Kumar that the affidavits filed by states based on August 4 direction of the court lack



detail on actions taken to address the issue. Kumar submitted before the bench that except Orissa and Punjab, the affidavits on record lack details.

On August 4, the top court had di-

August 4, the top court had directed that all pensioners should be regularly paid pension, and states should provide them necessary medicines, masks, sanitisers and other essentials amid the ongoing pandemic

rected that all pensioners should be regularly paid pension, and states should provide them necessary medicines, masks, sanitisers and other essentials amid the ongoing pandemic.

Kumar had argued that the elderly amid the pandemic need more care and protection. Today, Kumar insisted that priority should be granted to senior citizens who are undergoing treatment at various hospitals. He cited the affidavit filed by Manipur and contended that state governments should file better affidavits with more details on the actions taken so far.

The Supreme Court had directed the Centre and the state governments to ensure timely pension to the elderly, besides ensuring availability of sanitisers, masks and PPE kits to them, wherever re-

quired, during the coronavirus pandemic. "We, in this application, which is specially confined to Covid-19 crisis, direct that all old age people who are eligible for pension should be regularly paid pension and those identified as older people should be provided necessary medicines, masks, sanitizers and other essential goods by respective states", said the bench.

The top court asked the Centre to ensure that all Covid-19 safety precautions are followed and caregivers in old-age homes were well equipped with masks, PPE kits, and sanitisers.

HALF-BURIED NEWBORN RESCUED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Sept 7: A just-born baby found half-buried has been rescued by some shepherds in a village in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district.

The incident occurred near Krishnavaram village in Yetapaka mandal on Saturday but surfaced Sunday evening. Some shepherds grazing their cattle heard the baby crying and they found it half-buried. They immediately cleared the mud and called women from the village for help.

According to locals, the women removed mud from the baby's mouth and gave it a bath. The male baby suffered minor injuries on its hands and legs due to stones. The rescued baby was then shifted to Lakshmiapuram Primary Health Centre and later to the Bhadrachalam Area Hospital in neighbouring Telangana. The newborn is stated to be fine.

Locals said the baby may have been buried a few minutes before the shepherds heard the cries. The shepherds said they did not find any suspicious person before the incident. Meanwhile, the women development and child welfare department has launched an inquiry to identify the parent.

On the direction of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) chairperson Padmavathi, a special team visited the village to gather details about the incident and conduct an inquiry. They collected information about pregnant women and the deliveries that took place in the village during the last couple of days. The team gathered information from auxiliary nurse midwives, ASHA workers and Anganwadi employees. It also spoke to local police officials about their investigation. The CWC team also enquired about the newborn's health condition.

Antibodies won't guarantee protection from Covid: Scientists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The presence of antibodies indicates previous exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus but may not always translate into protection against the disease, say scientists, citing imponderables such as what kind of antibodies, how many and how long they last.

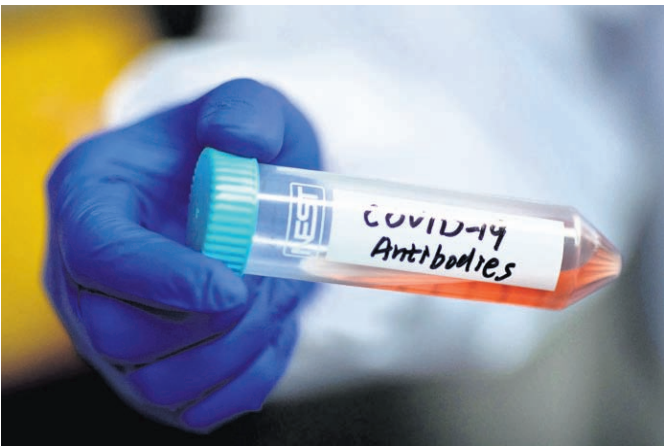
As worries over India's COVID-19 spike mount – the country added 90,062 cases Monday to take its tally past the 42-lakh mark – scientists are grappling with the pivotal issue of antibodies and trying to understand how they impact on the progression of the disease.

But the jury is still out there with several studies and hypotheses but no consensus yet. The only thing that can be said with any degree of un-

certainty is that antibodies is a sign that the person has already been infected with the novel coronavirus, the scientists said.

Immunologist Satyajit Rath said he would prefer to "wait and see" where the evidence goes. Antibody presence in itself tells us nothing about disease progression in individuals, said the scientist from New Delhi's National Institute of Immunology (NII).

There are neutralising antibodies (nAbs) and also 'simple' antibodies. While nAbs produced against the novel coronavirus can block its entry into the host cell, other antibodies are also generated against many parts of the virus, added Vineeta Bal from Pune's Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER).



The 'simple' antibodies are an indication of host response to viral presence but are not that useful to stop further spread of the virus,

Bal said. "Simple presence of antibodies is a clear indication of previous exposure to SARS-CoV2 but does not necessarily guarantee pro-

tection from the disease in the absence of neutralising antibodies," the immunologist added.

"Presence of nAbs in sufficient concentrations and for longer period is the most likely indicator of protection of the individual from next exposure leading to illness i.e. COVID-19," she explained.

Bal also noted that there is no consensus on what levels of nAbs are 'protective' from the public health perspective or to ensure that plasma therapy is likely to be useful. Different sero-survey tests have been conducted in India in the last few months with the aim of indicating the actual number of infected cases in the country.

A sero-survey involves testing the blood serum of a group of individuals for the presence of anti-

bodies against that infection to know who has been infected in the past and has now recovered.

Surveys carried across metros suggest that COVID-19 cases are far more than actually reported. According to Rath, one of the many problems in looking for easy patterns in the serological evidence is that not everyone is using the same antibody tests.

"In fact, all antibody tests in the market are not against the same viral protein target, and some investigators use only one target, others use more. And it is possible that tests differ in their sensitivity," Rath said. The scientist also noted that most surveys are reporting people as just 'positive' or 'negative', and not analysing antibody levels present in the blood.

of the day quote

The Narendra Modi government has failed on the pandemic front. The government has left the citizens to their fate as India becomes the second worst-hit nation in terms of the number of infections

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

Education plays a great role in developing country in every field, therefore, in Haryana, we have to make sure that youth of the state is well-educated and cultured so that they can help in taking the country and state on the path of development

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

The NEP-2020 is against the federal structure, and undermines the role of states. We are against the move. It is an effort to centralise the education system and curb the jurisdiction of states

PARTHA CHATTERJEE | WEST BENGAL EDUCATION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Encounter on in Budgam district

Srinagar: An encounter is underway between security forces and militants in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Acting on specific information about the presence of militants in Kawoosa area of the Central Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation, a police official said. He said the operation turned into an encounter after the militants fired upon the search party.

BMC to add 250 ICU beds in Mumbai

Mumbai: In the wake of a spike in COVID-19 cases in Mumbai, the civic body will be adding 250 ICU beds in its hospitals and other facilities in the next three days, an official said Monday. The official of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said these 250 ICU beds will be added to ensure that at least 350 beds remain vacant all the time to deal with any sudden surge in number of patients.

3 killed as wall collapses in Guj

Palanpur (Guj): Three persons, including a woman and her toddler son, were killed and five others injured when a wall collapsed on them in Banaskantha district in Gujarat Monday, police said. The incident took place in Sejalpura village when the wall of a dilapidated house came crashing on the victims, all hailing from Rajasthan, they said.

Good news for disabled govt employees seeking VRS

The Personnel Ministry in an order issued Monday has said that disabled government employees seeking voluntary retirement due to the hardships faced by them can continue in service with the same pay scale and benefits



THE COVID-19 CASE FATALITY RATE HAS FURTHER DECLINED TO 1.70 PER CENT

INDIA OVERTAKES BRAZIL

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: India overtook Brazil in coronavirus infection numbers on Monday, making it second only to the United States after a record jump, but the government resumed underground train services and announced plans to reopen the Taj Mahal this month.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, faced with a pandemic that is showing no sign of abating, has chosen to end most curbs in a bid to resuscitate an economy in deep trouble after a severe lockdown.

The world's second-most populous country posted more than 90,000 cases Monday, taking its tally past 4.2 million, more than 68,000 ahead of Brazil, which will issue its latest figures later in the day.

At current rates, India could exceed the US figure of 6.2 million by next month as the disease spreads from the big cities of Delhi and Mumbai to the vast hinterland where two-thirds of India's 1.3 billion people live, experts say. The urban areas are not slowing down, and rural areas are picking up.

Most TMC MPs aged over 65 yrs likely to skip Parl session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 7: A majority of TMC MPs above the age of 65 years are likely to skip the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament to avoid the risk of contracting COVID-19, party sources said.

Although there has been no official communication by the party leadership in this regard, the sources said MPs over 65 years of age have been advised not to attend the session.

Sudip Bandopadhyay, the 67-year-old Lok Sabha MP from Kolkata Uttar, said he would co-ordinate from here with his party colleagues in the Lower House.

"I won't be attending the Parliament session as I am above 65, and vulnerable. I will be coordinating with my party colleagues in the Lok Sabha," he said.

TMC chief whip and party's Rajya Sabha MP, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, too, said he won't be attending the session. Roy cited the Unlock-4 guidelines by the Union home ministry, which advised persons aged above 65 to stay at home except for emergencies, to make his point. "I won't be there as I am 71 years' old. I will abide by the Unlock-4 guidelines. I have already written to the Rajya Sabha chairman informing him about it," he told PTI. Senior TMC leader and Dum Dum MP Saugata Roy, however, did not want to give the parliamentary proceedings a miss.

"There is no blanket rule from the party. If anybody above 65 years is willing to attend, he or she can.... I will attend the session," Roy said. The Parliament's monsoon session will begin September 14 and continue till October 1.

Hectic preparations are underway for the session with several first-time measures being taken because of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as testing of MPs, staggered seating arrangements in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and use of both chambers and galleries to accommodate the members.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Disabled government employees seeking voluntary retirement due to the hardships faced by them can continue in service with the same pay scale and benefits, the Personnel Ministry said in an order issued Monday, highlighting the different protections available to them.

Citing provisions under Section 20 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, it said every government establishment shall provide reasonable accommodation and appropriate barrier-free and conducive environment to employees with disability.

"No Government establishment



The BJP did not support Kangana Ranaut's comments, in which the actress had likened Mumbai to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK)

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | SENIOR BJP LEADER



COUNTRY BATTLING CORONAVIRUS

lion people live, experts say. The urban areas are not slowing down, and rural areas are picking up. India's death toll, however, stands at 71,642, far behind the nearly 1,93,000 dead in the United States and 1,26,000 in Brazil.

The government says the high recovery rates show its strategy of testing, tracing and treatment is working. Fighting the virus is straining medical facilities around the country. Doctors at Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital, with the

MAHARASHTRA, ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, KARNATAKA AND UTTAR PRADESH ARE THE FIVE WORST-AFFECTED STATES IN THE COUNTRY

largest private COVID-19 facilities in the Indian capital, say they are exhausted and facing staff shortages

Man gets back smartphone as thief couldn't operate it



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Burdwan (WB), Sept 7: Wonders will never cease found out a man who lost his smartphone in a shop and was returned it a few days later by the person who stole it as he could not operate the device.

Police said Monday that the man left his mobile phone worth ₹45,000 by mistake at a sweet shop at Jamalpur in East Burdwan district September 4. The phone was soon stolen from the shop counter where it was lying by a 22-year-old person.

The phone owner had lodged a complaint with the police as the phone could not be traced at the sweet shop, a police official said.

He had tried to make a call in his number from another phone but found it switched off, the police said. But the situation looked up Sunday when he repeated the attempt and the man who had stolen the phone answered the call and told him that he wanted to return the phone as he did not know how to operate it.

"I was surprised when the man took the call and said he wanted to return my phone. I collected the cell phone that very day from his residence with police help," he said. "He even expressed remorse for his act," the phone owner said when asked of the man's demeanour. The police did not take any action against the man on the request of the complainant as he had returned the phone, the official added.

Monsoon 2020 could end in normal to above normal category, says IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: This year's monsoon could end in the range of normal to above normal, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday with the government saying that this is expected to benefit agriculture and the overall economy.

Of the four-month rainfall season, June and August have recorded 17 and 24 per cent more rainfall than normal respectively while July saw 10 per cent deficient precipitation. "Rainfall is likely to end in the normal or above normal category," IMD director general Mrutunjay Mohapatra said at a press briefing. He said the overall rainfall is likely to be 102 per cent



of the Long Period Average (LPA) with an error margin of plus or minus 4 per cent. The LPA rainfall over the country for the 1961-2010 period is 88 centimetres.

Monsoon in the range of 96-104 per cent of the LPA is considered normal. The official rainfall season in the country is from June 1 to September 30. "Overall, monsoon

will be good this year. It will help agriculture and the economy," M Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said. "The plentiful and spread of southwest monsoon this year should help farmers and the output must be very good. It will also help Indian economy, though exact quantification cannot be made at this moment. We don't have an assessment as to how it will impact the economy," he said in a statement.

The country as a whole so far received 7 per cent excess rainfall, Rajeevan said. Predicting rainfall for September, he said there was an increase in rainfall over the foothills and adjoining northern plains and south peninsula in the first week of the month.

PUNJAB TO PROVIDE 50,000 FREE COVID-19 CARE KITS

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Monday that his government will provide 50,000 free health kits to coronavirus patients undergoing treatment in hospitals and in home isolation to ensure better care for them



Madhav attends Tibetan hero's funeral, deletes tweet

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Leh, Sept 7: Sending mixed signals, senior BJP leader Ram Madhav, who is in Ladakh for the party's first ever state executive meeting in the newly created Union Territory, attended Subedar Nyima Tenzin, Special Frontier Force, hero's funeral but later deleted a tweet which he posted hailing him as "valiant".

In his now-deleted tweet, he referred to the border as "Indo-Tibetan" as opposed to "Indo-Chinese". China considers Tibet as part of its own territory.

His presence at the funeral is seen as a strong signal to China, given that Subedar Tenzi who was killed during an operation on the south bank of Pangong Lake and was laid to rest at Leh with full

military honours Monday, was a Tibetan himself. In fact, chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "Jai Tibet" and "Vikas Regiment Zindabad" reverberated during the funeral procession. Amid the waving of Tibetan flags, Madhav paid his last respects to the martyred soldier.

However, the concerned tweet was deleted without posting a fresh one. Madhav had tweeted,

"Attended the funeral of SFF Coy Ldr Nyima Tenzin, a Tibetan who laid down his life protecting our borders in Ladakh, and laid a wreath as a tribute. Let the sacrifices of such valiant soldiers bring peace along the Indo-Tibetan border. That will be the real tribute to all martyrs." He had also posted 4 photos of himself attending the ceremony.



FOR A CAUSE



Activists and representatives of various farmers' organisations raise slogans during a protest against the Electricity Amendment Bill 2020, in Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

Rhea files complaint against Sushant's sister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 7: Actress Rhea Chakraborty, who is accused of abetting the suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has filed a complaint with Mumbai Police, accusing Rajput's sister Priyanka Singh and a Delhi-based doctor of forgery and preparing a "fake" prescription of medicines for anxiety.

In her complaint sent to the Bandra police here Sunday, Chakraborty sought that Priyanka Singh and Dr Tarun Kumar, working with Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi, be booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for forgery, the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Telemedicine Practice Guidelines.

The 28-year-old actress in her complaint said Rajput was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and was undergoing treatment for various other mental health issues.

However, Rajput was not disciplined in following the treatment and would often abruptly stop his medications, she further said in the complaint.

"On June 8, 2020, Rajput showed me the messages he and his sister Priyanka had exchanged in which Priyanka sent him a list of medicines to take. I explained to Rajput that he has already been prescribed medicines by doctors who are treating him," Chakraborty said in her complaint. On the same day, Rajput asked Chakraborty to leave the house as his sister Meetu Singh was coming to stay with him for a few days, according to the complaint. "It has now come to light that Rajput June 8 told his sister Priyanka that he would not be



able to obtain the said medicines without a prescription. His sister Priyanka subsequently on the same day sent him a prescription signed by one Dr Tarun Kumar, working with the Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi," the complaint said. "Prima facie, the prescription appeared to be fabricated. The medicines prescribed by the doctor are prohibited from being prescribed electronically without consultation with the patient," Chakraborty said in the complaint.

On July 25, Rajputs father K K Singh lodged a complaint with Patna police against Rhea Chakraborty, her parents Indrajit and Sandhya Chakraborty, her brother Showik Chakraborty, the late actor's former manager Shruti Modi and his house manager Samuel Miranda.

He accused them of cheating and abetting his sons suicide. Based on this allegation, the Enforcement Directorate is probing money laundering charges.

The FIR lodged by Patna police was later transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Meanwhile, Rhea was questioned by the NCB for around 8 hours on Monday, the second consecutive day of her interrogation.

international

of the day quote

An “unscrupulous” President Donald Trump was trying to sow doubt about the US presidential election by urging his supporters to vote twice, which is illegal



We have discovered those responsible (for Natanz nuclear site blast) and they know the reasons, the method employed and how it was done



Australians will be among the first in the world to receive a safe and effective vaccine, should it pass late-stage testing



SHORT TAKES

Major quake jolts Indonesia

Jakarta: An earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale struck Indonesia's North Sulawesi province, but did not trigger a tsunami, the country's meteorology and geophysics agency said. The agency initially said the quake's magnitude was originally measured at 6.9-magnitude, said Kristiyawan, official in charge at the agency, told Xinhua on Monday morning. There was no preliminary report of damages or casualties resulted from the earthquake, he said. The quake struck at 10.23 p.m. Sunday with the epicentre at the depth of 117 km under sea bed.

3 rockets hit Baghdad Airport

Baghdad: Three Katyusha rockets landed in Baghdad Airport, damaging four vehicles, the Iraqi military said. The attack took place in the evening when the rockets were fired from Abu Gharib area, west of Baghdad's city center, and landed in the airport, the media office of the Iraqi Joint Operations Command (JOC) said in a statement Sunday. One of the rockets struck a car park in the airport and caused damage to four civilian cars, the JOC said.

28 killed in Yemen fighting

Sanaa: At least 28 people were killed as fighting intensified between Yemen's government forces and the Houthi group in the country's al-Jawf province, a military official said Monday. The official told Xinhua news agency that “armed confrontations that began late Sunday are still taking place between the government troops and the Houthi group over the control of key areas in al-Jawf province”. The victims comprised 18 Houthis and 10 government personnel.

HK police arrest man for ‘sedition’

Hong Kong: The Hong Kong police arrested a 47-year-old male on suspicion of posting seditious texts. The man held 29 street lectures nominally on epidemic prevention from the end of June to August in multiple districts of Hong Kong, which were actually aimed to incite public hatred, contempt and dissatisfaction with the government, said Senior Superintendent Steve Li of the police's national security department Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Journalists for US media face possible expulsion from China

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Sept 7: China is delaying the renewal of press cards for at least five journalists working at four US media outlets, an organisation of foreign correspondents said Monday, making them vulnerable to expulsion in apparent retribution for Washington's targeting of Chinese reporters working in the United States.

Atlanta-based CNN said its China correspondent was among those given a letter authorising him to continue reporting for the next two months instead of the usual one-year press card.

He was told the move was unrelated to his reporting but was merely a reciprocal measure in response to the actions of the Trump administration toward Chinese media, making it the latest manifestation of the deteriorating state of US-China relations that have fallen to their lowest level in decades.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China, or FCCC, said The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg have also been targeted. It did not name the fourth outlet, but said more foreign journalists are expected to receive similar treatment. While the targeted outlets are all American, the journalists involved are of various nationalities.

China's move comes after the US capped the number of Chinese citizens who could be employed by Chinese media outlets and placed them on 90-day visas.

China first responded in March by expelling reporters from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. Those affected have been both US and non-US citizens.

Official press cards are used to obtain residency permits usually good for one year, while the letters issued by the Chinese foreign ministry “could be revoked at any time,



China is delaying the renewal of press cards for at least five journalists working at four US media outlets

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China, or FCCC, said The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg and CNN have also been targeted

The CNN correspondent was told the move was unrelated to his reporting but was a reciprocal measure in response to the actions of the Trump administration toward Chinese media

thus putting (the journalists) at constant threat of expulsion,” the FCCC said in a statement.

The US moves were fed by complaints that Chinese journalists working for state media acted more as propagandists and agents for the Communist Party than as genuine reporters.

The US had already required those outlets to register as foreign entities with the US, similar to consulates and embassies.

They also come against the backdrop of worsening US-China relations on a range of issues, including human rights, trade, technology, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the South China Sea and Chinese treatment of its Muslim minority in the north-western region of Xinjiang.

Relations hit a new low in July when the US ordered China to close its consulate in Houston and China demanded the shuttering of the US mission in Chengdu.

Typhoon Haishen lashes South Korea after battering Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Sept 7: A powerful typhoon damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea Monday after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people.

The Korea Meteorological Administration said Typhoon Haishen was passing waters off the eastern coastal city of Sokcho on Monday afternoon after barreling through South Korea's southern and eastern regions.

The typhoon was weakening, with its maximum winds measured at 108 kilometres per hour after blowing at 144 kilometres in the morning, and it was forecast to be downgraded to a tropical storm within 12 hours.

Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said at least



38 people were injured, five of them seriously, after Haishen lashed southwestern Japan over the weekend with strong winds and rain. Schools and department stores were closed in Hiroshima and other cities in the country's southwest.

In South Korea, cars struggled to navigate flooded roads in Ulsan and other coastal cities such as Busan, Sokcho and Gangneung. Emergency workers scrambled to clean up toppled trees and damaged traffic signs, buildings, and other structures.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said a person in Busan was

FACT FILE: Trump's errant views on voting, Biden miscues

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 7: President Donald Trump has been putting forth convoluted guidance to his supporters on submitting double votes in the November election, an act that would be illegal and risk public safety in the pandemic.

In a week filled with fabrication, half-truths and misrepresentation, he also wrongly took full credit for veterans' improvements that were underway before he took office.

He said he never called John McCain a loser – he did – and also distorted events in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, Democratic rival Joe Biden falsely claimed to have been the first person to have called for the use of emergency production powers in the pandemic, and he tried to shed light on the history of the incandescent bulb, but was a bit hazy.

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

TRUMP: “So you sign your ballot and mail it in, just mail it ... On election day or early voting, go to your polling place, even though you've mailed it in, go to your polling place to see whether or not your mail-in vote has been tabulated or counted. ... So if it hasn't been counted, if it doesn't show up, go and vote. And then if your mail-in ballot arrives after you vote, which it shouldn't, but possibly it could, perhaps. That ballot will not be used. ... So send it in and then see, and then vote, and let's see what happens.”

TRUMP: “Send in your ballots, send them in strong ... And you send them in, but you go to vote. If they haven't counted it, you can vote,” Trump said in an interview Wednesday with WECT TV6 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

THE FACTS: To be clear, it is illegal in all 50 states and under fed-



The reality of America today is what we have seen over generations and, frankly, since our inception, which is, we do have two systems of justice in America

KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC PARTY VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Johnson sets Oct 15 deadline for EU trade deal

WITHOUT A DEAL, THE NEW YEAR WILL BRING TARIFFS AND OTHER ECONOMIC BARRIERS BETWEEN THE UK AND THE EU, ITS BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 7: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson talked tough Sunday ahead of a crucial round of post-Brexit trade talks with the European Union, saying Britain could walk away from the talks within weeks and insisting that a no-deal exit would be a “good outcome for the UK”.

With talks deadlocked, Johnson said an agreement would only be possible if EU negotiators are prepared to “rethink their current positions”. The EU, in turn, accuses Britain of failing to negotiate seriously.

Britain left the now 27-nation EU January 31, three-and-a-half years after the country narrowly voted to end more than four decades

of membership. That political departure will be followed by an economic break when an 11-month transition period ends December 31 and the UK leaves the EU's single market and customs union.

Without a deal, the New Year will bring tariffs and other economic barriers between the UK and the bloc, its biggest trading partner. Johnson said the country would “prosper mightily” even if Britain had “a trading arrangement with the EU like Australia's” – the UK government's preferred description of a no-deal Brexit.

British chief negotiator David Frost and his counterpart Michel Barnier are due to meet in London starting Tuesday for the eighth round of negotiations. The key sticking points are European boats' access to UK fishing waters and state aid to industries.



The EU says a deal has to be struck before November to allow time for parliamentary approval and legal vetting before the transition period expires.

Johnson gave an even shorter deadline, saying an agreement needed to be sealed by an EU summit scheduled for October 15.

“If we can't agree by then, then I do not see that there will be a free trade agreement between us, and we should both accept that and move on,” he said.



People escape the California heat wave at the beach in Huntington Beach, Calif.

PTI PHOTO

PAKISTAN ARMY CHIEF WARNS INDIA OF ANY MISADVENTURE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Sept 7: Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has sent out an open warning to India, claiming that his country would win the “fifth generation or hybrid war”.

Addressing a ceremony marking Defence Day and Martyrs' Day at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Sunday, Bajwa said Pakistan is facing multiple challenges aimed at discrediting the country and its armed forces.

“We are facing the challenge that has been imposed on us in the form of the fifth generation or hybrid war. Its purpose is to discredit the country and its armed forces and spread chaos”, he said. “We are well aware of this danger. We will surely succeed in winning this war with the cooperation of the nation.”

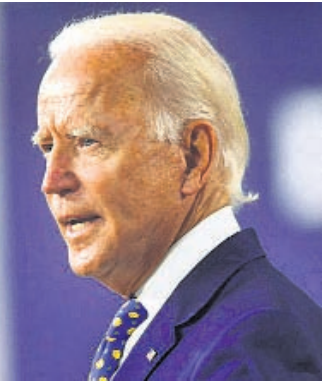
Giving out an open and clear

warning without naming India, Bajwa said that Pakistan will give a befitting response to every aggression if a war is imposed.

“I want to send a message to my nation and the world that Pakistan is a peace-loving country. But if war is imposed on us, we will be fittingly response to every aggression.” “We are always ready to defeat nefarious intentions of the enemy,” he said.

Hitting out at India, Bajwa said that in 1965, Pakistan had defeated India, an enemy he said many times greater in might than it. He also reminded Pakistan's response to the 2019 Balakot airstrikes by India, insisting that there should be no doubt on the country's readiness to respond.

“Pakistan had again demonstrated this in response to the failed airstrikes at Balakot and the enemy should have no doubt about it.”



eral law to vote twice in an election. Contrary to what Trump suggests, information on whether a ballot has been counted is typically not available right away. In several states, absentee ballots aren't even counted until after polls close. What can be checked is whether an absentee ballot has been received, and in some cases, whether it has passed

a security review and will be submitted for counting.

THE WALL

TRUMP, claiming Biden wants to “eliminate America's borders”: “He wants to tear down the wall – he actually suggested tearing down the wall that we fought so hard to get built.” — North Carolina tele-rally Friday.

2,500-YEAR-OLD INTACT COFFINS DISCOVERED IN EGYPT

Egyptian authorities announced the discovery of a collection of more than 13 intact sealed coffins dating back to 2,500 years ago. The coffins were found at an archaeological site in Saqqara necropolis in Giza



Frost told the Mail Sunday newspaper that Britain was “not going to compromise on the fundamentals of having control over our own laws.” “We are not going to accept level playing field provisions that lock us in to the way the EU do things,” he said.

The EU says a deal has to be struck before November to allow time for parliamentary approval and legal vetting before the transition period expires.

Johnson gave an even shorter deadline, saying an agreement needed to be sealed by an EU summit scheduled for October 15.

“If we can't agree by then, then I do not see that there will be a free trade agreement between us, and we should both accept that and move on,” he said.

CHINA SHOWS OFF HOMEGROWN TWO nCoV VACCINES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, Sept 7: China has put its homegrown coronavirus vaccines on display for the first time, as the country where the contagion was discovered looks to shape the narrative surrounding the pandemic.

High hopes hang on the small vials of liquid on show at a Beijing trade fair this week – vaccine candidates produced by Chinese companies Sinovac Biotech and Sinopharm. Neither has hit the market yet but the makers hope they will be approved after all-important phase 3 trials as early as year-end.

A Sinovac representative told AFP his firm has already “completed the construction of a vaccine factory” able to produce 300 million doses a year. On Monday, people at the trade fair crowded around booths showing the potential game-changing vaccines. China is facing a storm of foreign criticism over its early handling of the pandemic.

Global Covid-19 cases surpass 27mn

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 7: The overall number of global coronavirus cases has surpassed the 27 million mark, while the deaths have increased to over 882,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Monday morning, the total number of cases stood at 27,002,224 and the fatalities rose to 882,053, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US accounted for the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 6,275,614 and 188,932 respectively, according to the CSSE. Brazil came in the second place with 4,137,521 infections and 126,650 deaths.

In terms of cases, India ranks third (4,113,811), and is followed by Russia (1,022,228), Peru (683,702), Colombia (658,456), South Africa (638,517), Mexico (634,023), Spain (498,989), Argentina (478,792), Chile (422,510), Iran (386,658), the UK (349,500) and France (347,268).

Production Act.” — comment after a news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He is correct about being mistaken.

Biden issued a statement March 18 saying he was issuing a call for Trump to invoke the Defence Production Act to give priority to “and immediately increase domestic production of any critical medical equipment required to respond to this crisis — such as the production of ventilators and associated training to operate.”

JOBS

BIDEN: “Donald Trump may be the only president in modern history to leave office with fewer jobs than when he took office.” — Wilmington, Delaware, speech Friday.

THE FACTS: Maybe yes, maybe no. Not since Depression-era Herbert Hoover has a president left office with a record of fewer jobs than when he began.

of the day quote

Whether it is a factory shop floor workman or an office-goer, or a CEO, they are finding ways to cope up with the new reality. Steady restoration of confidence should help, going forward

DEEPAK SOOD | SECRETARY GENERAL, ASSOCHAM

Agri-tech players operating in the addressable segments in India have received a cumulative investment funding of \$532 million as of April 2020

ANKUR PAHWA | PARTNER AND NATIONAL LEADER, E-COMMERCE AND CONSUMER INTERNET, EY INDIA

Unemployment will keep rising above the pre-pandemic baseline as government programmes are phased out and cease to protect workers

ARUN SINGH | GLOBAL CHIEF ECONOMIST, DUN & BRADSTREET

SHORT TAKES

Deepak Kochhar arrested by ED

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, in connection with a money laundering case, officials said Monday. They said Deepak Kochhar was arrested by the agency here under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The couple has been questioned by the central probe agency in a case of alleged irregularities and money laundering in giving bank loans to the Videocon group.

8K miles ends 10-month hiatus

Mumbai: Cloud computing provider 8K Miles Software Services has hived off its flagship healthcare business into a separate entity as part of reorganisation of the firm with more focus on profitability, a top official has said. Besides, the company's shares resumed trading Monday after a 10-month hiatus following auditor concerns. The firm is hopeful of winning back the confidence of investors as it has resolved all the issues flagged by auditor Deloitte Haskins & Sells last November.

Samsung India expects growth

New Delhi: Tech giant Samsung expects its online business in India to grow 35% in 2020 over the last year, driven by strong overall demand and success of its M series of devices. The company, which had introduced its M series of smartphones in February last year for online channels, said it expects the cumulative sales from this range to cross \$3.5 billion by the end of 2020.

'Need to consider amendment'

New Delhi: Goa Mining People's Front (GMFP) Monday said it has made a plea to the Centre to consider amendments in the relevant law that will permit mining operations in the state until 2037. Mining activities in the state came to halt March 15, 2018 after the Supreme Court quashed the second renewal of 88 mining leases. GMFP President Puti Gaonkar said it has proposed amendment in The Goa Daman and Diu Mining Concessions (Abolition and Declaration of Mining Leases Act) 1987.



News reports say that SBI plans to implement a VRS scheme as an 'economic measure'. In normal times the plan would be debatable. In these abnormal times, when the economy has collapsed and jobs are scarce, it is cruel

P CHIDAMBARAM | FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

TECH MAHINDRA TEAMS UP WITH AWS

IT major Tech Mahindra has announced a collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to build solutions based on Blockchain technology across verticals, including aviation and aerospace, telecom, and healthcare



GDP contraction should alarm everyone: Rajan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: A week after India reported a significant contraction in its GDP during the April-June quarter of 2020-21 fiscal, former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor and noted economist Raghuram Rajan has said that the negative GDP growth numbers should alarm everyone.

Emphasising on the importance of government relief or support in the given scenario, he pointed out that it is "meagre" so far.

In a note published on LinkedIn, he also opined that the 23.9% contraction in the GDP during the Q1 would be "even worse if the damage to the informal sector is taken into account".

"The recently released quarterly GDP growth numbers for the first quarter of FY2020-21 should alarm us all. The 23.9% contraction in India (and the numbers will probably be worse when we get estimates of the damage in the infor-



The recently released quarterly GDP growth numbers should alarm us all. The 23.9% contraction in India compares with a drop of 12.4% in Italy and 9.5% in the US, two of the most Covid-affected advanced countries

RAGHURAM RAJAN, FORMER RBI GOVERNOR

mal sector) compares with a drop of 12.4% in Italy and 9.5% in the United States, two of the most Covid-affected advanced countries," Rajan said.

He said that India is "even worse off" than these comparisons suggest.

Since the coronavirus pandemic is still raging in India, discretionary spending, especially on high-contact services like restaurants, and associated employment, will stay low until the virus is contained, Rajan

said, adding that government relief becomes all the more important in the given scenario.

However, the government support so far has been "meagre", he said, primarily in terms of free food grains to poor households and credit guarantees to banks for lending to small and medium (SMEs) firms, where the taken-down has been patchy.

"The government's reluctance to do more today seems partly because it wants to conserve resources

for a possible future stimulus. This strategy is self-defeating," the former RBI Governor said.

According to him, at a time when the government should expand resources to spend more and take more action, the Indian government "seems to have retreated into a shell", after an initial burst.

He said that the government and public sector firms should clear their payables quickly so that liquidity moves to corporations.

In addition, small firms below a certain size could be rebated on corporate income and GST tax they paid last year, or some portion thereof, with the rebate tapering off with firm size.

This would be an objective way of helping small, viable firms based on a hard-to-manipulate metric, even while rewarding them for their honesty, Rajan said, adding that finally, the government will likely have to set aside resources to re-capitalise public sector banks as the extent of losses are recognised.

BIZ BUZZ

Vodafone Idea to rebrand as 'Vi'

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea said Monday it plans to rebrand itself as the debt-ridden telecoms carrier, which has been losing customers, looks to change its image three years after it announced the biggest merger in India's telecoms market.

The loss-making company, Friday approved fundraising of up to 25,000 crore at a time it owes roughly 50,000 crore (\$6.81 billion) in dues to the government. The dues, according to a Supreme Court order, will have to be paid over a 10-year period. Vodafone Idea, a joint venture between Britain's Vodafone and Idea Cellular, said it will go by the brand name "Vi".



Banks sanction loans of ₹1.61L cr to MSMEs

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry Monday said banks have sanctioned loans of about ₹1,61,017 crore under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector reeling under the slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. However, disbursements against this stood at ₹1,13,173 lakh crore till September 3. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May to mitigate the distress caused by lockdown due to COVID-19 by providing credit to different sectors, especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The latest numbers on ECLGS, as released by the finance ministry, comprise disbursements by all 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 24 private sector banks and 31 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).



RBI TO SET UP INNOVATION HUB FOR FINANCE SECTOR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in the process of setting up an innovation hub which will focus on future technology in the financial services space, an RBI official said Monday. Detailed guidelines in this respect are expected to be released soon.

"Innovation Hub is one of the things that we are trying out where we are looking at actually creating ideation, creating ideas to evolve technologies... RBI is in the process of setting up an Innovation Hub," RBI executive director T Rabi Sankar said while virtually participating in a conference organised by FICCI.

More details will come out once it is finalised, he added.

"We would expect technology firms, financial entities, academic entities, even funding agencies, all of them to interact on this hub and start the



entire process from ideation to creation to piloting of solutions," he said. Sankar also said the RBI has released a framework for setting up umbrella entities for operating pan-India retail payments systems. It has invited applications from eligible companies by February 26, 2021.

As per the framework, the com-

panies with a net worth of over ₹500 crore will be eligible to set up an umbrella entity which among other things will be permitted to set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the retail space comprising ATMs, White Label PoS, Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services.

Diesel price extends its gap with petrol, falls again

PNN/IANS

New Delhi, Sept 7: Diesel price has extended its gap with petrol across the country with oil marketing companies (OMCs) cutting its retail price again while keeping petrol price steady. The OMCs Monday reduced the pump price of diesel, the third such downward revision in last five days.

In Bhubaneswar, the price of diesel has fallen by 12 paise per litre, Monday and now stands at ₹79.66. Meanwhile, petrol prices remained unchanged at ₹82.70.

In the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, it fell by 11 paise per litre, bringing down the transport fuel price to ₹73.16 per litre. The price of diesel has also fallen Thursday by 16 paise per litre and then again Saturday by 13 paise.

While diesel prices have fallen, the OMCs have kept petrol prices steady. However, the fuel prices have remained at the same level so far this month. But petrol price has been rising regularly since August 16, when it stood at ₹80.57 per litre in Delhi. Petrol is now retailing at ₹82.08 per litre in the capital. The price of fuels may remain steady or fall in coming days as global crude prices have shown some indication of softening over the expectation of a prolonged demand squeeze over Covid disruptions.

TOP GAINERS 7 SEP			
38,417.23 BSE SENSEX			
60.05			
POINTS			%
2162.10	HUL		1.77%
2327.40	TCS		1.64%
189.30	ITC		1.42%
1981.95	Asian Paints		1.33%
1790.65	HDFC		1.17%
707.50	HCL Tech		0.93%
16374.00	Nestle		0.88%
458.60	Axis Bank		0.74%
176.30	Power Grid		0.71%
2901.30	Bajaj Auto		0.67%

Century Mattresses eyes 18-20% growth in FY21

The deadly COVID-19 virus has not only challenged mankind's subsistence but has also largely impacted business operations across all sectors around the globe. Businesses will have to bring a certain well-ness proposition for consumers in the post-COVID era, says Uttam Malani, Executive Director of Century Mattresses. In an interaction with **Orissa POST**, he elucidated on chalking out business plans and strategies amid the ongoing pandemic. Excerpts:

How has COVID-19 impacted the mattress industry?

Even if the situation improves, economy may not come back to normal. Industries which run on lower costs and have lesser loan burden will benefit and their business will swing back to track very soon. Various sectors including mattress might witness consolidation of business. When the pandemic entered India, it was estimated that the mattress industry might witness 25% negative growth (-25%) in 2020-21 but the way business has revived in last 3 weeks, it might remain limited to -5%.

What are the business challenges Century has faced due to pandemic and how are you tackling it?

The COVID-19 induced lockdown has certainly put the brakes on the growth category, but we anticipate it to be temporary. We strongly believe that every business in the post-COVID era will have to bring a certain wellness proposition for the consumer. While mattresses demand is becoming normal in tier 2 & 3 cities, the momentum is yet to pick up in the urban regions. In the initial period, we were anticipating a hit of around 25% on the business, however, with the current developments, we foresee it to be down by around 5% this fiscal with a healthy growth in 2021-22.

How has the pandemic impacted your yearly business target?

With Covid-related cases rising every day, Century Mattress is expecting to close this financial year with 18-20% growth. The organised market is pegged at ₹7,500 crore. At present, we enjoy about 10% of the market share in the organised segment and it aims to increase its share by at least 2-3 percent this financial year.



DBS Bank enters Odisha, opens first branch in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL) Monday opened its first branch in the capital. Located at Esplanade One Mall, Rasulgarh, the branch will offer a comprehensive portfolio of diversified financial products and services to small and medium businesses as well as retail customers.

It has rapidly grown the branch network in the country and is now present across 25 cities and having 35 branches.

Managing Director and Head of National Distribution Prashant Joshi said, "It is an integral part of



our expansion strategy and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with customers in the market. The city has evolved as a hub for IT, manufacturing and industrial projects in past few years."

BofA Securities bets on Reliance's 'layer of commerce'

In next 5 years, RIL is expected to have 500 million mobile users, offer broadband services to 20-25 million households, and cater to 12-15 million small businesses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: After building a "digital layer" (Jio Platforms) on top of the existing "physical layer" of retail shops, Reliance Industries would over the next four years focus on adding a third "layer of commerce" and monetise the existing investments, BofA Securities said.

RIL is also looking to leverage the users' digital footprint and earn incremental revenues from digital ads, digital lending and even engagements like play along with IPL, KBC, etc, it said in a report.

Over the next 3-5 years, RIL is

expected to have 500 million mobile users, offer broadband services to 20-25 million households, and cater to 12-15 million small businesses.

"In the last 4 years, with Jio, RIL has been able to build a "digital layer" on top of the existing "physical layer" of retail shops across electronics, grocery, and apparel as well as depth and width of India.

"We believe the next four years, RIL's focus would be to add a third "layer of commerce" and monetize the existing investments across different formats," the brokerage said.

Jio has 388 million subscribers at the end of FY20. Reliance has tied



up with WhatsApp to deliver grocery items from local Kirana stores to cus-

tomers. Like Amazon, Alibaba, and Tencent, RIL has the potential to cre-

ate shareholder value to retain its customers, BofA Securities believes.

"RIL's approach of owning the "pipe" as well as the "services" offered on the pipe should help it keep the subscriber base captive and apart from the core telco and retail offerings, the company could also offer other services," it said.

For instance, entertainment offerings would help RIL improve stickiness. Jio may not fully monetize this but would keep users captive to cross-sell other offerings.

RIL is also focusing on leveraging tech to offer ed-tech, health-tech, agri-tech services.

"We also believe gaming will pick-

up in India as the country has young population mix," it said. An omnichannel approach on commerce would help RIL sell its grocery, apparel, and electronics items to a wider audience base. "By working with the kiranas, RIL would likely increase its B2B sales as well," BofA said. Stating that potential stake sale at the retail business will be a catalyst, it said Reliance Retail may follow the Jio Platforms model, onboarding multiple investors by selling stakes in the firm.

RIL has reportedly offered all 13 investors of Jio Platforms (including Facebook, Google etc) the option to invest in its retail unit.

MISFORTUNE MAULS DJOKO

Title favourite World No.1 Serb kicked out of US Open after unintentionally hitting line judge with ball



OSAKA STORMS INTO LAST EIGHT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 7: Naomi Osaka returned to the US Open quarterfinals by taking advantage of some early jitters for Anett Kontaveit and showing no ill effects from a recent left hamstring problem.

The fourth-seeded Osaka never faced a break point and beat the 14th-seeded Kontaveit 6-3, 6-4 in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Osaka owns two Grand Slam titles, including Flushing Meadows in 2018. She lost in the fourth round a year ago.

Kontaveit won the match's first point, but followed that with a pair of double-faults, followed by a pair of backhand errors to get broken. And Osaka was on her way, winning 35 of 45 service points.

The 22-year-old from Japan improved to 5-0 head-to-head against Kontaveit and now faces unseeded Shelby Rogers of the United States in the quarterfinals. Rogers has won all three matches she's played against Osaka.

Rogers sweat it out hard to overcome Petra Kvitova challenge in her round of 16 match. She battled past the sixth seed Czech player 7-6(7-5), 3-6, 7-6(8-6).

In the men's draw, 12th seed Denis Shapovalov came back from a set down to beat seventh seed David Goffin 6-7(0-7), 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. Shapovalov will face Pablo Carreno Busta in the next round.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 7: Novak Djokovic was kicked out of the US Open for accidentally hitting a line judge in the throat with a tennis ball after dropping a game in his fourth-round match Sunday, a stunning end to his 29-match winning streak and bid for an 18th Grand Slam title.

As he walked to the Arthur Ashe Stadium sideline for a changeover, trailing Pablo Carreno Busta 6-5 in the first set, Djokovic – who was seeded and ranked No.1 and an overwhelming favourite for the championship – angrily smacked a ball behind him. The ball flew right at the line judge, who dropped to her knees at the back of the court and reached for her neck.

During a discussion of about 10 minutes near the net involving chair umpire Aurelie Tourte, tournament referee Soeren Friemel and Grand Slam supervisor Andreas Egli, Djokovic appeared to be pleading his case. But eventually, he walked over to shake hands with Carreno Busta.

"His point was that he didn't hit the line umpire intentionally. He said, 'Yes, I was angry. I hit the ball. I hit the line umpire. The facts are very clear. But it wasn't my intent. I didn't do it on purpose'. So he said he shouldn't be defaulted for it," said Friemel, who made the decision to end the match.

"And we all agree that he didn't do it on purpose, but the facts are still that he hit the line umpire and the line umpire was clearly hurt."

Tourte then announced that Djokovic was defaulted, the tennis equivalent of an ejection. "I was a little bit in shock, no?" Carreno Busta said later at a news conference done via video conference.

Djokovic left the tournament grounds without speaking to the media. He, however, posted an apology on social media hours later. "This whole situation has left me really sad and empty. I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong," Djokovic wrote.

"As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being," he wrote. "I apologise to the @usopen tournament and everyone associated for my behavior."

Asked whether Djokovic should have been allowed to continue to play, Carreno Busta shrugged and replied: "Well, the rules are the rules.... The referee and the supervisor (did) the right thing, but it's not easy to do it."

Indeed, the US Tennis Association issued a statement saying that Friemel defaulted Djokovic 'in accordance with the Grand Slam rulebook, following his actions of intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences'.

The USTA went on to say Djokovic forfeits the ranking points and USD 250,000 in prize money he earned in the tournament – 'in addition to any or all fines levied with respect to the offending incident'.

Djokovic began the day 26-0 this season and with an unbeaten run that extended to his last three matches of 2019. He had won five of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments to raise his total to 17, closing in on rivals Roger Federer, who has a men's-record 20, and Rafa Nadal, who has 19.

With reigning US Open champion Nadal, who cited concerns about travelling amid the pandemic, and Federer, sidelined after two knee operations, not in the field, the 33-year-old Djokovic was expected to claim a fourth trophy in New York and gain on them.

But it all came apart so suddenly Sunday, even if it was clear that Djokovic did not intend to hit the line judge. He wasn't looking in her direction when his racket made contact with the ball, and there was concern written on his face as soon as he realized what happened.

"I think the supervisors and all them are just doing their job, but very unlucky for Novak," said Alexander Zverev, the No.5-seeded man, who reached the quarterfinals by winning Sunday. "If it would have landed anywhere else —

we're talking a few inches — he would have been fine."

Among the many oddities about the 2020 US Open, the first Grand Slam tournament since the outset of the pandemic, is that there are no spectators.

Another is that only the two largest arenas – Ashe and Louis Armstrong Stadium – have full complements of line judges making calls at matches. At other courts, chair umpires are aided by an electronic line-calling system.

Djokovic's mood had soured over the preceding few minutes Sunday. In the prior game, he wasted three consecutive break points and after the last, which Carreno Busta won with a drop shot, Djokovic whacked a ball off a courtside advertising sign.

Then, on the second point of what would become the last game at this year's US Open for Djokovic, he stumbled while chasing a shot and fell to the ground, clutching his left shoulder.

Play was delayed for a few minutes while a trainer checked on him. On the second point after they resumed, Carreno Busta hit a passing winner to break Djokovic's serve. That's when Djokovic got himself into trouble.

"Going to be a new Grand Slam champion, (that's) all I know. No Grand Slam champions left in the draw. Now it gets interesting," said Zverev, who beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. "Now I think is the time when it gets really interesting."



Novak Djokovic tends to the line judge following the accident



Djokovic requests the umpire not to default him

Players who hit a ball out of anger and make contact with an on-court official have been defaulted in the past

In 2017, Denis Shapovalov was defaulted from a Davis Cup match against Britain when he accidentally hit the chair umpire in the face with a ball

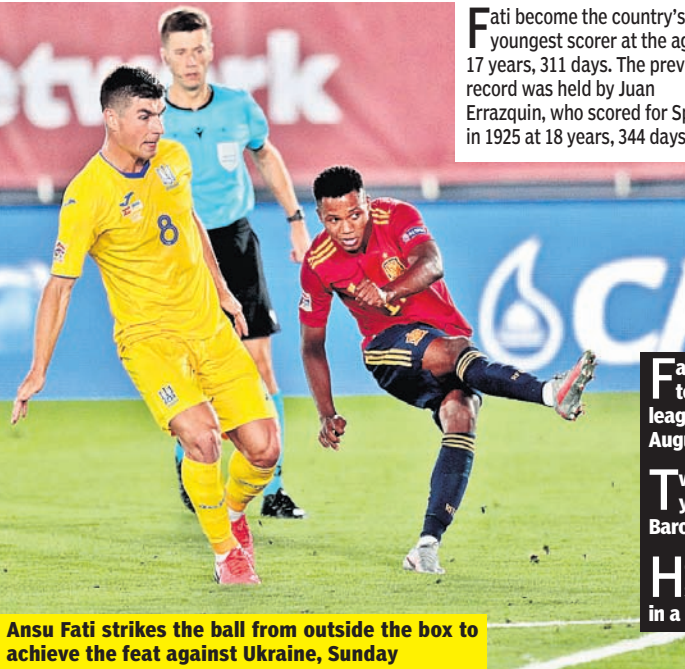
At 1995 Wimbledon, Tim Henman hit a ball into the head of a ball girl and was defaulted from a doubles match

Djokovic's departure means there is no man left in the field who has won a Grand Slam singles title. Whoever emerges as champion will be the first first-time major trophy winner in men's tennis since 2014, when Marin Cilic won the US Open

Each of the last 13 Grand Slam trophies had been won by a member of the Big Three of Federer, Nadal & Djokovic

Fati feat lights up Spain win After hockey, Odisha bets big on football

BARCELONA YOUNGSTER BECOMES YOUNGEST SCORER FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM IN A 4-0 ROUT OVER UKRAINE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 7: Teenager Ansu Fati became the youngest player to score for Spain in a 4-0 win against Ukraine in the Nations League.

Fati Sunday scored Spain's third goal from outside the area in the 32nd minute to become the country's youngest scorer at the age of 17 years, 311 days. The previous record was held by Juan Errazquin, who scored for Spain in 1925 at 18 years, 344 days.

Fati started his strong performance by dribbling past Oleksandr Tymchyk before he was tripped by Serhiy Kryvtsov in the area. That set up Sergio Ramos to go to the penalty spot in the third minute and score his first of two goals.

Spain coach Luis Enrique said he had rarely seen the level of confidence that Barcelona forward Fati has displayed with the national

team since his debut Thursday against Germany.

Ramos got his second with a header in the 29th, netting his 23rd international goal to move level with Alfredo Di Stefano as Spain's eighth all-time leading scorer.

New Manchester City signing Ferran Torres capped the win with a goal in the 84th after coming on as a substitute.

Spain lead their Nations League group with four points after Germany drew 1-1 with Switzerland. Ukraine has three points, Germany two and Switzerland one in Group 4 of League A.

Luis Enrique continued to rejuvenate his side, giving debuts to Manchester City defender Eric Garcia and Real Madrid defender Sergio Reguilon.

The match was played at Real Madrid's Alfredo Di Stefano training ground without fans due to

He, Thursday, became Spain's youngest debutante since Angel Zubietia in 1936. He made his maiden international appearance against Germany last week

Fati had become the youngest player to score for Barcelona in the Spanish league at the age of 16 years, 304 days, August 31, 2019

Two weeks later he became the youngest player to score at Barcelona's Camp Nou

He became the youngest player to score in a Champions League match in a 2-1 win at Inter Milan, December 10

Swiss hold Germans

BASEL: Germany's wait for a win in the Nations League continued with a 1-1 draw against Switzerland here. Germany looked in control after Ilkay Gundogan's 14th-minute goal Sunday but slowly allowed Switzerland back into the game before Silvan Widmer leveled for the hosts. Since 2018, Germany has played six games in the first two editions of the Nations League and won none of them, despite scoring the opening goal in its last four matches in the competition.

coronavirus health measures.

Making his first start for Spain, Fati impressed from the first touch, putting the ball through Tymchyk's legs. He continued to trouble the right back and almost scored from a bicycle kick that hit a defender on the line. Then came his swerving shot from long range that went in off the post.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: After field hockey gave Odisha a global recognition, the state is now shifting its gears to the next level focussing on the game of football.

Hero Super Cup happened to lay the foundation for the thought, the Football High Performance Centre with AIFF, launch of ISL franchise Odisha FC and winning the hosting rights for the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup 2021 have been apt steps for the government to create an ecosystem to take that dream forward and promote football, shared Director Sports, Odisha, R Vineel Krishna.

Sindhu to play in Thomas and Uber Cup meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Reigning World Champion PV Sindhu has agreed to compete in next month's Thomas and Uber Cup after deciding to pull out of the event earlier due to personal reasons, national federation's president Himanta Biswa Sarma said Monday.

"I have requested @Pvsindhu1 to join the team as we have a favourable draw and have the best chance to take a shot at a medal at the ThomasUberCup," Badminton Association of India (BAI) chief Biswa Sarma tweeted.

"She has agreed and will pre-empt her family function so that she can be part of the Indian Team and play for the country."

The Indian women's team have been clubbed with 14-time winners China, France and Germany in Group D while the men's side have been placed in Group C alongside 2016 champions Denmark, Germany and Algeria in the draw.

While world-class infrastructure is being developed for this 2021 extravaganza, Odisha is also developing a pathway from grassroots to elite for producing talented footballers.

With women football gaining global recognition, Odisha is developing programs to induct more women into the game.

Elaborating on this, Krishna said, "Odisha has a rich past of women footballers from the State representing India. Even the current pool is very talented, with girls bagging bronze and silver medals in Khelo India Youth Games, Guwahati in the U21 and U17 categories re-

spectively.

"Our focus is to build on this area of strength on the women's football front. Developing a strong legacy program in the State as part of hosting the World Cup is being worked on priority too."

To increase the sport's popularity, reach and participation, the State, phase wise, will be setting up football corners in schools and public parks across Odisha with provision of footballs, equipment, and coaching.

Engaging AIFFE-license coaches at these football corners will add new possibilities for the players with promising talent. Hosting Football

competitions in the State in a phased manner across different age categories for both boys and girls is also being chalked.

Football has a mass appeal and rural talent will be tapped in. Odisha FC youth program will also be available to the talents which adds to the aspirational goal for youngsters to make it to the Odisha FC squad. They can also find a spot in the Indian U17 and U19 teams which are based in Odisha.

Odisha FC also intend to have a team in the Indian Women League soon, and that becomes an aspirational target for the women footballers in the state.

Kohli 'so calm' ahead of IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 7: Virat Kohli has been able to 'disconnect' from the underwhelming seasons that he and Royal Challengers Bangalore have endured in the IPL and there is a welcome 'sense of calm' as he prepares to lead the side this year, something he last felt in 2016.

Despite the presence of champion players like Kohli and AB de Villiers, RCB, in the last three seasons, has failed to even qualify for the play-offs. The team last played the final in 2016, a season in which Kohli struck an unprecedented four hundreds.

"The 2016 IPL, we all loved to be a part of (it). Since then, this is the most balanced I have felt about (the) squad," the Indian skipper said on RCB's Youtube show 'Bold Diaries', sharing his thoughts on the upcoming edition starting September 19 in the UAE.

Kohli said that both he and AB de Villiers feel that this could be the 'breakthrough season' when tables will turn for the franchise which has flattered to deceive on many occasions.

"I (have) never felt so calm going



into a season before. He (ABD) is coming from a very different space and he is enjoying his life and is very relaxed and fit as ever. I feel I am in a much better space, much more balanced, when it comes to environment (the) IPL," the straight speaking RCB skipper said.

This is the first time he feels that he isn't carrying any baggage. "Disconnecting with things that have happened in the past and not taking that baggage, as we have done that way too many times," he responded to a query on what has changed for him this season.

"Just because we have a bunch of players that are so skilled, people like seeing them play is the reason people have had so much expectation as well."

IPL will be played across three venues this season – Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. The tournament has been moved out of India due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kohli believes three venues close to each other is the sort of arrangement that makes life easy for players, who are mostly left 'packing a small little bag for a two-match or three-match trip and then come back'.