

I believe, it is still not too late for humanity to correct its course and live in harmony with nature. The pandemic, like climate change, has awakened the global community to our shared destiny.

RAM NATH KOVIND
PRESIDENT

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 2020

03

SAD warns Capt of mass stir if free power stopped

Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Badal tears into Montek Ahluwalia-led expert group's report describing Punjab's policy of free power to the agriculture sector as 'highly regressive'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 14 AUGUST

With an expert group headed by former deputy chairman of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia terming Punjab's policy of free power to the agriculture sector as "highly regressive" as it benefits only big farmers, the Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Friday warned the Capt Amarinder Singh-led Congress government of a mass movement if free power is stopped in the state.

SAD president Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal said his party will never allow free power, introduced in 1997 by the then Parkash Singh Badal-led SAD-BJP government, to



be stopped.

"If you take a single step towards discontinuing free power to farmers, you must prepare yourself and your government to face an unprecedented mass movement by the SAD to safeguard the interests of the already beleaguered peasantry," he said.

The expert group was formed by Punjab Chief Min-

ister Amarinder Singh to seek suggestions on "medium and long-term post-COVID economic strategy for Punjab". In its report submitted to the Punjab government, Ahluwalia has also asked it to gradually reduce procurement of paddy from the extremely water-stressed areas.

Rejecting this report for being "inimical to farmers", the SAD chief claimed that

"accepting its recommendations would amount to signing the death warrant of poor farmers". He said the CM should "realise the gravity of the issue and reject itself the recommendations of the Congress' blue-eyed economist (Ahluwalia)".

Badal also lashed out at the other recommendation of the Ahluwalia-led panel advising the Punjab government to "slow down the procurement of paddy in the state". "This recommendation of the Congress-loyalist economist sets the cat out of the bag. This is the clinching proof of who really wants to stop assured procurement of farmers' produce by the government," the SAD chief alleged.

Badal said farmers were already on the brink of a disaster with the ever-increasing costs of farm inputs and the failure of the prices of their produce to keep pace with the rising costs.

ly to please "the Maharaja mind-set of the Congress rulers". He said free power has completely secured our India's food kitty and saved billions of dollars in foreign exchange alone through self-reliance and export in food grains.

"It is strange that some arm-chair economists, sitting in air-conditioned rooms in the metropolitan cities pretend to understand farm economics better than the generations of farmers who have spent their lives toiling in midsummer heat in the farms," the SAD chief said.

Badal said farmers were already on the brink of a disaster with the ever-increasing costs of farm inputs and the failure of the prices of their produce to keep pace with the rising costs.

Punjab warns of online fraudsters promising free smartphones

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 14 AUGUST

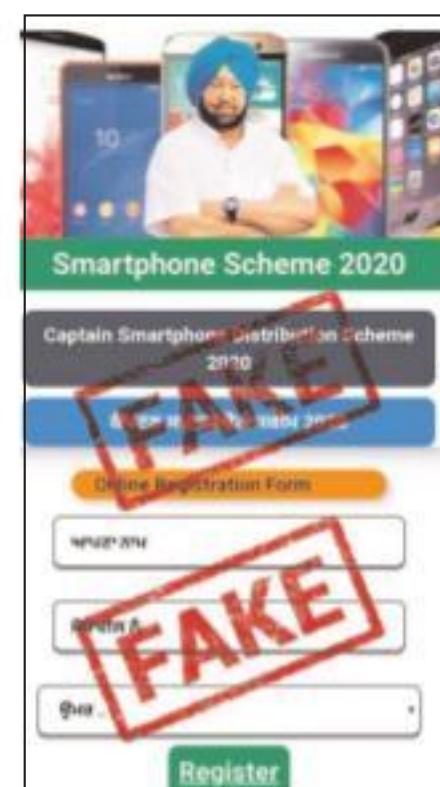
Punjab education minister Vijay Inder Singla on Friday cautioned the people of the state against falling prey to online fraudsters promising free smart phones under the "Punjab Smart Connect Scheme".

Taking strong exception of the messages circulating on WhatsApp and other social media platforms, Singla said that Punjab Smart Connect Scheme is solely for Class XII boy and girl students of government schools.

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ment.

He warned that these kinds of phishing attacks could allow cyber-criminals to take control of your device. He informed that the circulating graphic carried a photo of the Punjab Chief Minister under the title "Captain Smartphone Distribution Scheme 2020" and online registration pro forma. Singla urged people to remain extremely cautious about such messages URL links, adding that after getting such messages, don't forward it to others and delete it immediately.



chievous online fraud under cyber crime prevention laws, Singla asked people of the state not to follow any messages or click any URL message being circulated via instant messaging services like WhatsApp, SMS, which depicts registration for free smart phones given by the govern-

Plea in HC for contempt action against police for not preparing manual to deal with mentally ill

PTI
NEW DELHI, 14 AUGUST

A plea was moved in the Delhi High Court on Friday seeking contempt action against the police for not complying with a judicial direction to prepare a manual for dealing with cases under the Mental Healthcare Act 2017.

The petition by lawyer Gaurav Kumar Bansal contended that the high court in 2018 directed Delhi Police to create a manual to deal with cases under the Mental Healthcare Act. However, according to response received from police under the Right to Information Act, the manual was being prepared, Bansal claims in his plea.

Bansal has said, in his plea, that due to lack of a manual or protocol, police officers face difficulty in following section 100 of the MH Act which lays down duty of police officers in respect of persons with mental illness.

CM presents 'Himachal Gaurav Purskar' to Dr Jagat Ram

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 14 AUGUST



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday presented 'Himachal Gaurav Purskar-2019' to Director of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Dr Jagat Ram - a Padma Shree awardee - for his outstanding services in the health sector.

He hails from Sirsa district in Himachal Pradesh. Dr Jagat Ram could not attend the function last year to receive the 'Himachal Gaurav Purskar' due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Chief Secretary Anil Khachi, Secretary GAD Devesh Kumar and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

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DELHI METRO

**Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India**

74th Independence Day

Independence Day
Greetings to all fellow citizens

Jai Hind

15th August is a day to pay homage to all those greats who worked hard for India's freedom. Their struggles continue to give strength to millions. Independence Day is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to build an India that would make our respected freedom fighters proud.

- Narendra Modi

Independence Day Ceremony at the ramparts of Red Fort to be live telecast by Doordarshan 6:25 a.m. onwards

davp 2220113/0015/2021

THUMBNAILS



A man irons an Indian national flag on the eve of the country's 74th Independence Day in Mumbai On Friday

Amma Covid-19 scheme: Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami on Friday launched the Amma Covid-19 scheme to monitor those who are in home quarantine. According to the scheme, if a person pays Rs 2,500, s/he will be provided with pulse oximeter 14 face masks, sanitiser, digital thermometer and immunity booster tablets. SNS

Telegu film critic held: Hyd-erabad Cyber Crime Police arrested Telugu film critic Kathi Mahesh on charges of making derogatory comments and posts on Lord Ram. The police acted upon several complaints against him and had booked him under many sections. According to complainants there is also a YouTube video link where he is seen making derogatory comments and it has been widely shared. SNS

TENDER

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice	
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-	
Name of work and location	Construction of Administrative block, Store, Shed, Boundary wall and other allied works in c/w Outfit facility at Sarai Rohilla & Up gradation of sick-line maintenance facilities at TKD.
Completion period of the work	12 MONTHS
Approx. cost of the work	Rs.110.49 LAKH
Earliest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs.705250/-
Sale/availability of tender document on Railway Web site	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 03.09.2020 to 17.09.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/time of upload of tenders	17.09.2020 upto 11.30 hrs. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 03.09.2020 to 17.09.2020
Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	17.09.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender) (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bid of the eligible tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.
Opening of tender	17.09.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender)
Tender Notice No.369-ACS-C-SSB Dated : 11.08.2020	1760/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:	
1 Name of work	Annual Zone work for PE 30.06.2021 for repair to service building and station building in the section of JE/Yamuna Bridge & SSB in the section of SSE/W/DL/Line under ADEN/IDL.
2 Approx. cost of work	Rs. 49,41,448.72 (Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Forty One Thousand Four Hundred Forty Eight and Paise Seventy two only)
3 Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 98,800/- (Rupees Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
4 Cost of tender document	Rs. 3540/-
5 Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	11.09.2020 @ 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.

* For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

* No manual offers are acceptable.

* Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/16/2020-21/W-3 Dated : 14.08.2020

1762/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single-packet system for the following work:-	
1. Name of work and location	Hiring of 03 (three) Nos. Non-AC Vehicle such as "Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicle" on the monthly basis for a period of 02 (Two) years for the officers (XEN/C-ITKJ, XENIC-ITKJ & XEN/C/ROK) working in the unit of Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction, Tilak bridge, New Delhi
2. Completion of the work	24 (twenty four) months
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 34,71,680.16 only
4. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 69,400.00 only
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded up to 11.30 hrs. on 07.09.2020 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Bids of which will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 07.09.2020.
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in above tender document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 24.08.2020 to 07.09.2020 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid from 07.09.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No.: 454-ACS/C/Vehicle/TKJ dt.: 14.08.2020 1767/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

'Local political differences, SDPI's plan behind K'taka riot'

State home minister says 60 people were held on Thursday night, taking total detainees to over 200

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, 14 AUGUST

Local level "political differences" and SDPI's larger conspiracy to disturb law and order were among the reasons behind the recent violence here, Karnataka home minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Friday. Further investigations were going on into all these aspects, he told reporters here after meeting chief minister S Yediyurappa.

He also said 60 people were arrested on Thursday night, taking the total detentions to over 200 so far in connection with the mob violence on Tuesday night in Pulakeshingar assembly constituency area that led to police firing and death of three people.

Khaileem Pasha, the husband of city Corporator Irshad Begum, was among the 60 arrested. "Political differences there (in Pulakeshingar) and matters related to previous election, also upcoming election (to city civic body) and related matters are all involved in it (violence)," Bommai said.

Along with political differences, "conspiracy" by the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) to disturb the law and order situation was also behind the violence by a large number of people protesting against the damages and asked the police to investi-

Cong MLA files complaint regarding attack on his house, claims upto ₹ 3 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, 14 AUGUST

Congress MLA R Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy on Friday lodged a complaint with the police regarding the attack on his house and property during the violence that erupted here over a social media post allegedly posted by his relative, and said loss may be to the tune of Rs 3 crore.

The Congress legislator has also sought police protection for him, his family and people of Pulakeshingar constituency that he represents. "I have given the complaint, in which I have mentioned about the damages and asked the police to investi-

gate and provide me justice by finding the culprits," Murthy said. Speaking to reporters, he said, with the complaint he has given a list containing details about the loss. "An estimated Rs 3 crore loss has been incurred, including the house.. there is nothing left to call it a house, it only has to be demolished."

I'm deeply pained because it is the house where I was born and grew up, it was built by my parents, it was my parent's remembrance," he added.

Three people were killed after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage in DJ Halli and adjoining areas on Tuesday night over an inflammatory social

media post allegedly put out by P Naveen, a relative of MLA Murthy. The MLA's residence and a police station at DJ Halli were torched by rioters who also set many police and private vehicles afire, and looted the belongings of the legislator and his sister.

"The split and friction that was caused during the previous election... also upcoming elections.

Noting that 60 people

arrested last night were being investigated and their background looked into, Bommai said this operation will continue.

"We have given directions to officers to take all steps to put a permanent end to anti-social elements and their activities," he said.

Bommai rejected the charge that there was delay in lodging FIR and arresting Naveen, which led to the violence, and gave a detailed account of the turn of events and defended the police.

"Around 5:40 pm (on Tuesday) Naveen posted the inflammatory post, one Firoz Pasha between 7.30-7.45 pm came and gave a complaint at DJ Halli police station, at 7.45 pm FIR was filed, it is a public document, which can be verified.

"So the allegation that there was a delay in filing FIR is a complete lie, and an attempt to mislead the case," he said.

Further, around 8.30 pm the crowd started gathering in a large number there and the inspector had clearly told them that FIR has been filed and Naveen was being tracked and would be arrested shortly, Bommai said.

"But, the crowd wanted the police to handover Naveen to them, which was not possible and there is no room for it under law....so despite knowing the whereabouts of Naveen, for his safety he was not brought to the police station," he said.

"At the same time, they engaged police in a similar fashion at K G halli also, and in the meantime they attacked MLA and his relative's house," the Minister said.

Along with this the larger conspiracy of SDPI - violence and targeting police stations and all (these) involved. We are investigating this further," the Home Minister said.

The violence in DJ Halli and adjoining areas on Tuesday night was unleashed by hundreds of people over an inflammatory social media post allegedly put out by P Naveen, a relative of Pulakeshingar MLA R Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy of Congress.

The MLAs residence and a police station at DJ Halli were torched by rioters who also set many police and private vehicles afire, and looted the belongings of the legislator and his sister.

Noting that 60 people

T'gana, Andhra take stern stand against private hospitals

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 14 AUGUST

In Telangana the state government finally cracked the whip and took control of 50 per cent of the beds in all private hospitals.

to surrender their certificate of registration as well.

The hospital has been charged for "non display of rates charged for each type of service provided by the hospital for benefit of the patients," collecting exorbitant fees for every admission and finally "admitting Covid cases in Metropolitan Hotel and M5 Hotel without obtaining permission from district authorities.

It has also charged the hospital for "non display of rates charged for each type of service provided by the hospital for benefit of the patients," collecting exorbitant fees for every admission and finally "admitting Covid cases in Metropolitan Hotel and M5 Hotel without obtaining permission from district authorities.

The district magistrate of Krishna today cancelled its earlier orders allowing Ramesh Hospital to admit Covid patients and directed the hospital against admitting any new patients after a five member inquiry committee set up by the government submitted its preliminary report.

The report said not only the management of the private hospital which had set up the makeshift Covid care centre in Swarna Palace Hotel did not take precautionary measures while converting the hotel into temporary care centre the "hospital authorities have charged patients admitted in their hospitals far in excess of what is prescribed" under government order.

Another notice issued by

the district medical and health officer of Krishna district directed the authorities of the private hospital to appear before him on 30 August and provide explanations for the violations. They were asked

The decision came after more than 1000 complaints were reported against private hospitals, most over excessive billing and negligence.

The state government even barred two private hospitals from admitting Covid patients.

I-Day: Cong-Left stir against Centre

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 14 AUGUST

Independence day tomorrow will be marked by statewide agitations as Congress activists will close ranks with Left Front supporters against the Centre.

Bhattacharya has been running the state Congress since late Mitra's hospitalisation.

The decision has been welcomed by Congress rank and file following a long interval in joint agitation programmes after Mitra's illness and death.



MP Meenakshi Lekhi paying homage during the inauguration of a painting exhibition based on Shaheed Veer Jawans in Galwan Valley on the occasion of the Independence Day celebrations at Connaught Palace, in the Capital on Friday.

Kerala CM in self isolation after contact with officers who tested +ve following plane crash

SNS
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 14 AUGUST

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, seven of his cabinet colleagues and speaker of the state Assembly P Sreeramakrishnan who visited Kozhikode plane crash site have gone into self-quarantine after Malappuram district collector, district police chief and at least 21 officials involved in the rescue operations of the Air India Express plane crash site in Kozhikode have tested positive for coronavirus on Friday. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his team of ministers and speaker Sivaramakrishnan had interacted closely with the Malappuram district collector N Gopalakrishnan at the plane crash site in Kozhikode on 8 August. Malappuram district collector N Gopalakrishnan, sub-collector and 20 other officials at the collectorate tested positive for Covid on Friday. Malappuram SP U Abdul Kareem was diagnosed with Covid on Thursday.

Seven ministers in Vijayan's cabinet – Revenue minister E Chandrasekharan, health minister K K Shailaja, higher education minister K T Jaleel, industries minister E P Jayaraman, minister for local self-government A C Moideen, agriculture minister V S Sunil Kumar and ports minister Kadannapally Ramachandran and state Assembly speaker P Sreeramakrishnan, who had visited the crash site along with the chief minister, have also

decided to go into self-quarantine. A C Moideen, minister for local self-government decided to undergo self-quarantine even though his antigen tests came out negative. Kerala chief secretary Dr. Vishwas Mehta and DGP Loknath Behra, who were also with the chief minister, have also been asked to go into self-quarantine. Meanwhile, Rajbhavan informed that governor Arif Mohammad Khan will not undergo self-quarantine though he had also visited the crash site.

The chief minister will not attend the Independence Day celebrations at the central stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. Instead, devaswom minister Kadannapally Surendran will hoist the national flag at the stadium here.

The health condition of popular playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam, who was diagnosed with Covid, deteriorated on Friday and the singer is under life supporting system, according to the private hospital he has been admitted. The statement from MGM Healthcare where he is undergoing treatment for over a week, said that his condition is critical.



Punjab Smart Connect Scheme is solely for Class XII students of govt schools. Thus, there isn't any question that it is for other people

PUNJAB EDUCATION MINISTER VIJAY INDER SINGH
WARNING AGAINST ONLINE FRAUDSTERS PROMISING TO PROVIDE FREE SMART PHONES

The Statesman
NEW DELHI, SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 2020

05

'Over 4,000 invited for Red Fort I-Day event'

Defence Ministry says seating arrangements were made under guiding principle of maintaining distance of two yards between 2 guests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 14 AUGUST

Over 4,000 people including diplomats, officials and media personnel have been invited for the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort and it is being organised maintaining a balance between dignity of the event and factoring in Covid protocols, the Defence Ministry said Friday.

It said the seating arrangement has been made under the guiding principle of *Do Gazki Doori* (maintaining distance of two yards) between any two guests. It said members of the guard of honour have been under quarantine.

"With an eye on safety, NCC (National Cadet Corps) cadets have been invited to witness the event (instead of young school children) and they will be seated at Gyanpath," it noted.

All invitees have been requested to wear masks, it said, adding that an adequate number of masks are being kept handy for distribution at various points of venue.

"Similarly, availability of hand sanitizers at pre-defined locations has been done. Display boards are placed discreetly to attract the attention of invitees," the ministry said.

In order to facilitate people's seamless movement and to avoid crowding, seating enclosures and walkways have been laid with wooden flooring and carpeting, it said.

Additional door frame metal detectors with adequately spaced markings have been provided to avoid queuing and to ensure smooth passage for all the invitees, it mentioned.



Security personnel keep tight vigil on the eve of 74th Independence Day celebration at Red Fort, in the Capital on Friday. SNS

"Most of the parking areas have been brick lined and paved in order to ensure smooth entry and exit of vehicles to the maximum feasible extent," it said.

Thermal screening at all entry points for the invitees has been planned, it mentioned. It said a thorough sanitization of the premises inside and outside the Red Fort is being carried out on a regular basis.

The ministry said the participation is only through invitation and those who do not have formal invites should "refrain from coming to the venue".

About 4000 plus invites have been issued to officials, diplomats, members of public, media etc., it added.

Ceremonial drills, it said, have also factored in due social distancing norms as well as other precautionary measures.

The ministry said, "Ade-

quate medical booths at four locations, one near the Rampart, one in Madhavdas Park and two in 15 August Park have been set up to cater to any attendee who is detected having any symptoms related to Covid during entry."

Ambulances would also be stationed at these four locations, it added.

India's COVID-19 caseload surpassed 24 lakh on Friday after 64,553 more people tested positive and the recoveries rose to over 17 lakh, the Health Ministry said.

With 17,51,555 people defeating the disease, the recovery rate has surged to 71.17 per cent.

The caseload increased to 24,61,190, while the death toll climbed to 48,040 with 1,007 people succumbing to the disease in 24 hours, the ministry data updated at 8 am showed.

Two cops shot dead by militants in Jammu & Kashmir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 14 AUGUST

Two cops of J&K Police were martyred and one critically wounded on Friday

morning when motorcycle borne terrorists indiscriminately fired at them in Nowgam area in outskirts of Srinagar.

The attack has come amidst tight security on the eve of the Independence

Day and on the day Pakistan was celebrating its Independence Day.

The area has been cordoned to track the attackers. Army, CRPF and police have been deployed in strength in the

area. Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists were behind these killings and they escaped after the attack.

Three police personnel were injured in the attack.

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सारे जहाँ से अच्छा
हिन्दुस्तान हमारा

74^{वां} स्वतंत्रता दिवस

हिमाचलवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस के पावन अवसर पर

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

असंख्य शहीदों के सर्वोच्च बलिदान को
हिमाचलवासियों का नमन !

आईए हम स्वाधीनता सेनानियों के अथक प्रयासों से
हासिल आज़ादी का मूल्य समझें

देश की आन-बान और शान बनाएं रखें

- जय राम ठाकुर
मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश

A process begins

Well as American President Donald Trump may claim a huge breakthrough in the Middle East with the decision by Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalise bilateral relations, the telephonic accord reached on Thursday is at best a good starting point in what may well end up as a tortuous process, especially if it is to serve as a template for other countries in the region. That much is even evident from the tenor of the statements of the two countries, which appear far more nuanced than Mr Trump's exuberant proclamation of a "huge breakthrough" (in all caps). The UAE Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed has claimed an "agreement" with Israel that the latter would stop further annexation of Palestinian territories. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says his country has decided to "temporarily wait" on its annexation plan on a request from President Trump, a position quite distinct from the UAE's understanding of an agreement to stop further annexation. In effect, the deal appears to have been brought to fruition because of Mr. Trump's desperate need to score a triumph amid the overwhelming gloom that envelops his bid for a second term as President. But while Mr Trump may claim headlines and even score a few debating points, the value of a foreign policy triumph in American domestic politics may be somewhat limited because of the myopic world view that most voters have. They are likely to judge Mr. Trump far more on his record in handling the coronavirus outbreak than on a promise of peace in the distant Middle-east, a hope it must be emphasised that has been kindled more than once in past decades only to be doused by the intractability of the protagonists when it comes to the fine print.

In tangible terms, the accord may help the beleaguered Mr Netanyahu far more. Beset by a corruption scandal and facing daily public opposition for his handling of the public health emergency caused by the virus, the Israeli Prime Minister has desperately sought favourable winds to sail out of the storms of protest unleashed by unfavourable public opinion. Mr Netanyahu will hope the deal with the UAE forms the basis of recognition of the Israeli state by other countries in the Middle East. From the UAE's perspective, the deal formalises what one observer has called "dating on the quiet" for the two countries over recent years had found common ground in the threat they perceived from Iran and in other shared regional perceptions. In the past decade or so, there has been a thaw in relations between the two countries, with some significant visits to the UAE by Israeli government functionaries. Close relations had also been built between the UAE and the Foundation for Defence of Democracies, a staunchly pro-Israeli, neo-conservative think tank. Of course, the accord will leave the poor Palestinians, uprooted from their territories on the basis of a Biblical promise, wondering what the future holds for them.

Hockey horror

With so many of India's senior national hockey players having to be shifted to a high-end Bengaluru hospital with coronavirus in the backdrop of the shocker, the putatively argumentative Indian ought to have been on a roll, suitably outraged. But the sky has not crashed with a Beirut-like bang and the oceans have not receded from the shores. Nor has Mr Donald Trump begun making sense with his verbal darts. Part of the muted reaction is perhaps to be chalked up to the Sports Authority of India authorities' successful airing of the explanation that the boys, called to a national camp, were cavalier about Covid-19 protocols when they should have been cautious. And, reminding us of something that humans get to learn pretty early in their lives, they let it be known for good measure that India's senior hockey girls, also to be tutored in the same place as part of the same programme, were unaffected. The disclosure serves a dual purpose, happy as we all are that the girls are safe.

First, it makes it clear that the SAI is faultless. Secondly, the boys it is who have brought it upon themselves. To that extent, it is at the level of the nursery rhyme which said little boys were made of snips and snails and puppy dogs' tails and little girls of sugar and spice and everything nice. Sport administrators permit themselves the idiocy everywhere. When Jofra Archer recently copped it for breaking coronavirus rules during a Test series against the West Indies, the England and Wales Cricket Board was capable of no better response than saying that the fast bowler's indiscretion could have resulted in a huge financial disaster, with so much hinging on in-camera matches proving a hit. The afflicted Indian hockey players are in reality just a cluster in the world's millions of people obliged to be in the same boat, completely stupefied by a disease that can strike anyone, virtually anywhere and not all its victims are dense in the head. Pontificators should consider themselves lucky that the coronavirus has not got them, but the resultant relief does not come with a licence to point an accusing finger at anyone, especially if the targeted individual is disadvantageously placed. What hockey's authorities and the SAI should be made to explain is the urgency, if any, that led them to force travel on the players during a countrywide lockdown when restrictions on movement were of the essence. Global hockey - and many other disciplines - is in suspended animation now. There is no blue-chip tournament where India could eye the supreme prize. The summonses call for an inquiry, truth to tell, and, also, the Union ministry should consider the eligibility of an insensitive officialdom for looking adequately after sportspersons during the world's longest lockdown. Viral infections are varied and institutionally damaging too.

The India-Nepal story

In a quest to assert its own political muscularity and one-upmanship, Delhi had fanned the subliminal fears of 'interference', when it questioned the tenets of the new constitution of Nepal on behalf of the Nepali Madheshis and then, as claimed by Nepal, enforced a humiliating 'blockade'



There is an overly simplistic, inadequate, and convenient logic of citing 'co-ideology' between the Communist governments in Kathmandu and Beijing to explain the growing proximity between Nepal and China, at India's cost. As Delhi's relations sour in the neighbourhood, 'co-ideology' has joined the ranks of the linear rationale of implied 'specific-religiousity' to justify the increasing dissonance with traditional allies like Bangladesh and now, Nepal.

This facile and politically driven narrative allows Delhi to obfuscate the more complex and nuanced reality besetting bilateral relations, whilst satisfying internal cadres of the inevitability of bilateral relationships - crucially hiding the missteps and mishandling of the relationship by the dispensation in India.

That the Chinese Ambassador to Nepal, Ms Hou Yanqi, is flitting busily in an extra-ambassadorial role to salvage the beleaguered Communist government in Kathmandu is a fact and a consequence of the situation that regressed between India and Nepal, and not necessarily the primary reason for Nepal's sharp tilt towards China. True to the fabled speed of Chinese diplomacy, Ms Hou Yani personifies the apostle of realpolitik i.e. China, that exploits any opportunity or 'opening' it senses, especially in the South Asia region, where it is mired in a more intense fight of incrementalism against India.

To suggest that the strained relations between India and Nepal only arose with the advent of the Communist parties on the Nepali mainstream is untrue. All four broad eras of Nepali political power i.e. Rana regime, Shah monarchy, Nepal Congress and other political parties, to now the Communist parties - have had understandings, misunderstandings and concerns with India, at

some stage or the other. To posit seamless 'normalcy' prior to the Communist parties would require the overlooking of recurrent Nepali concerns on the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, contentious removal of the Indian Military mission from Nepal, Kathmandu's instinctive reaction seeking a 'Zone of Peace' after India's annexation of Sikkim and 1989-90 tensions that led to decoupling of currencies and 'blockade' etc.

In the last seven decades the Indo-Nepal realm has seen its share of ups and downs, though admittedly the situation has now deteriorated to unprecedented lows - earlier the internal-governmental disagreements did not seep into the conscience of the common man as the citizenry was spared the political poison. However today that animus, distrust and vengefulness is felt on the streets. If China was selectively used as a 'counterweight' to India's occasional belligerence, the Nepali citizenry did not bear empathy towards the Chinese with whom they had minimal cultural-civilisational-religious-social-linguistic cognacy, unlike with India. Today, endorsing the 'counterweighting' of India with China has aggravated to dangerous levels of societal acquiescence and preferences.

It is important to remember that like their rival opposition party, Nepal Congress, the Communist parties in Nepal owe their genesis, nurturing and inspiration to the Communist movement in India, and not China. The first Communist Prime Minister of Nepal, Man Mohan Adhikari, was like any other founding member of the Communist movement (e.g. Pushpa Lal Shrestha who is hailed as the

father of Nepali communism), who spent considerable time in India, participated in the Quit India movement and was jailed for the same. Much later the guerrilla Jhapa movement in Nepal was to be inspired by the class-war of the Indian Naxalite movement, rather than the Chinese model.

Even the currently sparring colleagues, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the Chairman of Nepal Communist Party, Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, had little if any support, or meaningful benefaction from Beijing, in the rise of the red flag over Nepal.

Owing to internal politics, intrigues and necessities of posturing their ideological differentiation from the ostensibly pro-India Nepal Congress, the Communist leadership did publicly declare a more 'balanced' international equation, but that did not axiomatically tantamount to an 'anti-India' position. Ironically today,

within the Communist intra-party fractures, a 'Maoist' leader like Prachanda is considered 'pro-India', whereas a leader with a supposedly more moderate Communist outlook like Oli is swerving extremely towards China - this is the paradox of Nepali politics that needs consideration and not blanket suppositions, as professed by Delhi.

In a quest to assert its own political muscularity and one-upmanship, Delhi had fanned the subliminal fears of 'interference', when it questioned the tenets of the new constitution of Nepal on behalf of the Nepali Madheshis and then, as claimed by Nepal, enforced a humiliating 'blockade'.

The signs of Delhi's intransigence and diplomatic hubris had

gained currency with its condescending support during the Nepal earthquake and refusal to accept the Indian currency in Nepal, post-demobilisation - but the 'blockade' was perhaps the tipping point for the landlocked nation and people who have remained proudly independent, since recorded history.

Kathmandu's own opportunistic flirting and teasing by signing the Chinese largesse (debt-trap, more realistically) via the Belt and Road Initiative, did not help matters, but perhaps Delhi could have played 'big brother' more delicately, maturely and generously than the blunt and intimidating posture adopted against a traditional 'ally'; the generosity of spirit was replaced by Delhi's perceived smallness-of-spirit that continued with the provocative bravado that bore notions of a bullying 'big brother'.

China was never materially relevant to the Nepali Communist movement, India was. When Indian politicians pandered to their own visions of 'arriving on the world stage', we ham-handedly pushed the Nepalis into the waiting and willing arms of the Chinese.

Till last year, the Chinese Ambassador's attempts at charm offensives included a literal personal dance performance on a Nepali song at a function at the Chinese Embassy - today, that Ambassador has the rival factions of the Nepali Communist leadership dancing to her tune and abiding by her decisions, to fall in line. India must do a more honest introspection of where it lost the battle of perceptions to the Chinese, what was the tenor of its messaging, and how was it getting deciphered in Nepal? To only blame 'co-ideology' is to economise with the truth, and to as usual find a convenient scapegoat - clearly, this naïve approach may cut ice with the domestic cadres in India, but India is also running out of allies in the neighbourhood.

A MEMBER OF THE **ANN**
ASIAN NEWS NETWORK
ASIAN VOICES

A decision in the interest of HK residents

To help the Hong Kong authorities contain the third wave of novel coronavirus infections, and consequently revive the economy and improve people's livelihoods, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Tuesday decided that the sixth Legislative Council of the special administrative region will continue to perform its duties for no less than one year until the seventh LegCo starts its term.

The NPC Standing Committee's decision will also ensure LegCo continues to operate smoothly in the run-up to the election next year.

On July 31, Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-nger, chief executive of the SAR, announced that the election to the Legislative Council, originally scheduled for Sept 6, has been deferred by a year in view of the health risks posed by the new, severe outbreak of COVID-19.

Since July, Hong Kong has been in the grip of a new wave of infections, which, coupled with the damage caused to the city by the yearlong violent demonstrations by radicals, poses a big challenge to the authorities. And holding the LegCo election in such conditions, which would see more than 3 million flocking to polling stations spread across the SAR to cast their votes, would greatly increase infections and further strain the already stressed healthcare system of

CHINADAILY

the city. Therefore, the SAR authorities' decision to defer the election is both rational and logical - not least because it attaches the highest priority to the Hong Kong residents' health and welfare.

Given that LegCo's operation in the interim one year is an important constitutional issue that concerns the overall interests of Hong Kong, the NPC Standing Committee decided that it should operate normally to ensure the healthy functioning of Hong Kong society.

The NPC Standing Committee is empowered by the country's Constitution and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR to decide on the fundamental and major issues of LegCo's operation. Its decision also takes into account the situation in Hong Kong and its residents' livelihoods, which are of utmost importance to the city's long-term stability and prosperity.

The fact is that, if the latest outbreak is not contained quickly, it will deal another serious blow to Hong Kong's economy and affect local residents' health and livelihoods.

That's why containing the new outbreak is of overriding concern for the SAR. Hence, it is necessary for people from all walks of life in Hong Kong to shelve their differences and rally around the SAR government so it can tide over the health crisis and resume normal economic operations at an early date. Not only is the SAR government, with the support of the central government, capable of controlling the latest outbreak, it can also restore the social order and put the region's economy back on the growth track.



BHUPINDER SINGH
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Former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Puducherry

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Netaji, 75 years after Taihoku

SIR, 18 August 2020 will mark the platinum jubilee of the Netaji mystery, as the day will mark completion of 75 years since his disappearance. This occasion will mark

However, despite of the failure or reluctance of the government to find out the truth, sections of people of the country have remained inquisitive about the fate of Netaji.

brother) decades ago, and which we can evaluate vis-à-vis the report of the Justice Mukherjee Commission, it is now crystal clear that Netaji did not die in the Taihoku air-crash and that Netaji's remaining alive till 1985 inside India may not be a figment of the imagination.

The existence of the nameless hermit of Ayodhya-Faizabad has now become the focal point of all unbiased Netaji-centric research. It has to be borne in mind that the Mukherjee Commission did not conclude that the nameless saint was a person different from Netaji. The Commission just left this issue unanswered as the evidence then available before the Commission was inadequate.

Further research by private inquirers has by now established to a reasonable standard that the question of the identity of the nameless hermit who died (or disappeared) in 1985, cannot be ignored in the context of researching the fate of Netaji.

Will it be irrelevant to mention here that, as it appears, the nameless saint used to read *The Statesman* regularly in his secluded abode in Uttar Pradesh?

Anyway, the silent existence of the nameless sannyasi was not known to the general public in West Bengal at that time, but



a juncture in Indian history which brings no credit to us.

The nation has so far failed to unearth what actually happened to Netaji behind the cover of the "air-crash" of 1945.

As a result of their in-depth enquiry and dedicated research work which we can appreciate in the backdrop of the Dissent Report penned by late Suresh Chandra Bose (Netaji's elder

RELIGION AND THE HEAD

SIR, The Church of England is Protestant and the Sovereign is its Head. In 1936, divorce was frowned upon and the King, Edward the Eighth wanting to marry a twice-divorced Mrs Simpson was asking for trouble.

The government would not accept Mrs. Simpson as the King's consort in any form. Hugely popular as the Prince of Wales, Edward was a flop as King, just as his father, King George V had predicted. He had to abdicate and was succeeded by his brother, "Bertie" as King George VI, the present queen's father.

The Sovereign has no executive powers but his/her personality should bear emulation to that of the present monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, who will go down in history as one of the most beloved and gracious sovereigns anywhere in the world. The Queen will never endanger the monarchy like her uncle, King Edward VIII.

Like Britain we follow what is called the Westminster System, government by elected political party, with a Prime Minister and Cabinet which governs the country. In India, the President is the Head of State. Our first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was restrained by Prime Minister Nehru from visiting the revived Somnath temple in his official capacity.

It is believed that our present Prime Minister will grace the proposed Ram Temple with his official presence as Prime Minister. This will offend many citizens and should be eschewed. Rather, Mr Modi should make India Ram Rajya in the truest sense.

Yours, etc., Saroj Kumar Mehera, Kolkata, 12 August.

there were whispers which occasionally popped up in the print media in UP even during the saint's lifetime.

The Government of India, it is surmised, still holds some unknown information and enlightening materials which can throw light on the Netaji Mystery in such a way that the entire matter may be settled beyond dispute.

I would request the top most authorities in the Government that all such sensitive, decisive and conclusive material regarding Netaji, which are still guarded beyond the reach of the public, be disclosed before 18 August so that the mystery is solved.

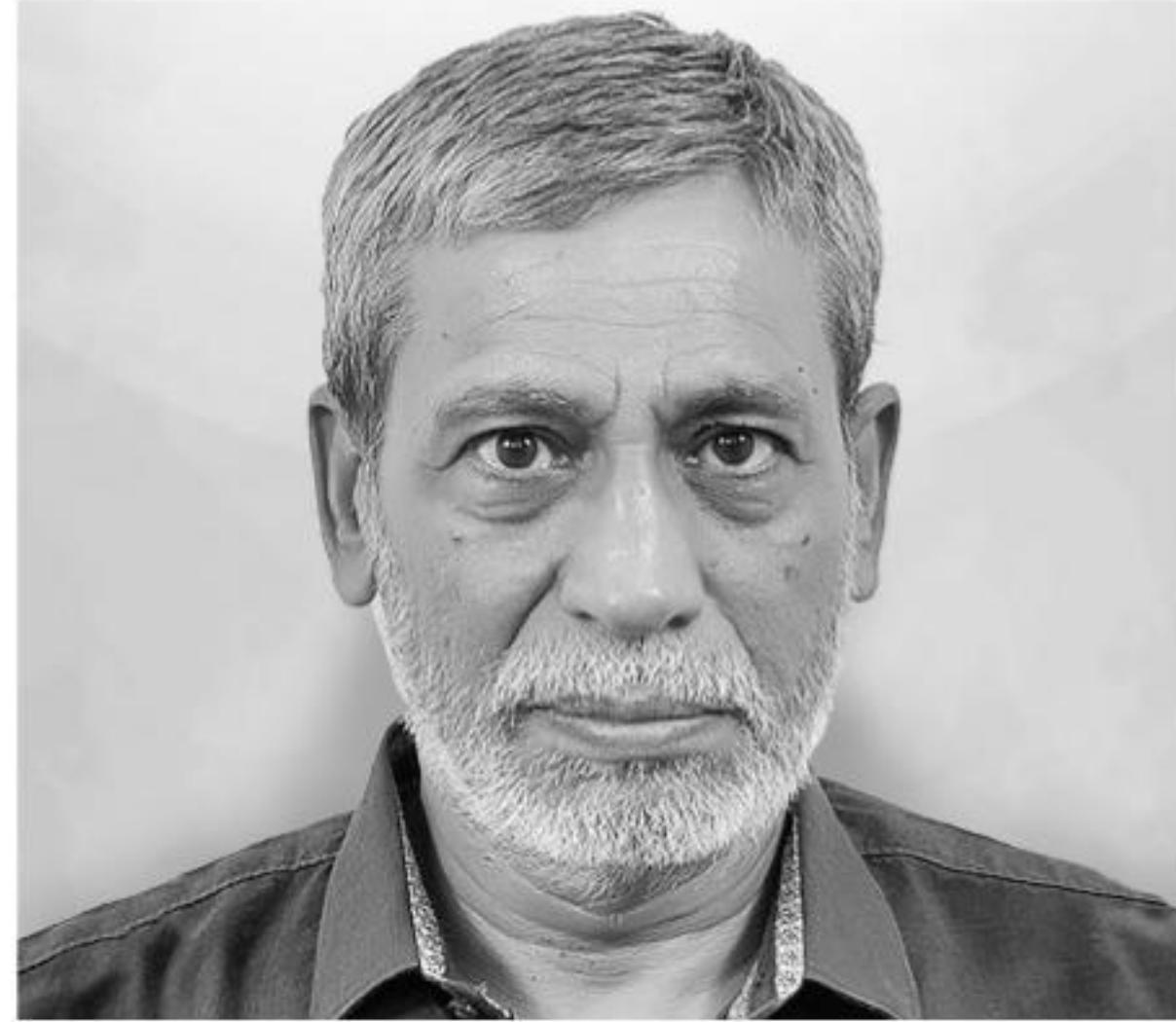
Yours, etc., Satadal Bhattacharjee, Kolkata, 12 August.

'Good crop, but demand may suffer'

Former Union agriculture secretary **SIRAJ HUSSAIN** was one of the key officers who prepared the agriculture sector roadmap and drew up most of the agriculture schemes announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first term. Hussain also headed the Food Corporation of India, a statutory body under the ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, which is engaged in the procurement and distribution of the Rabi and Kharif crops in India. Prior to assuming the Union agriculture secretary's post, he was secretary in the food processing ministry. The 1979 batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer had earlier served in UP in various capacities including as chief of UPSIDC (Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation), registrar of cooperative societies and as secretary to the UP chief minister. In 2016, Hussain was awarded honorary doctorate by Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University. Since his superannuation in January 2016, he has been working with the ICRIER (Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations) as a visiting senior fellow. He has also been engaged in research on various aspects of Indian agriculture and food processing and has authored several research papers on agriculture and the rural economy. In an interview with **VIJAYTHAKUR**, Hussain explored a gamut of issues relating to farmers and the agriculture sector in the country. Excerpts:

Q. The coronavirus lockdown affected all sectors in the country. How do you see the slump in agriculture and its allied sectors thereafter?

A. The situation was very bad during the initial days of lockdown. Farmers were beaten up at some places. In some places, it was reported that they were not allowed to transport their produce to market. It



caused huge loss to farmers engaged in producing fruits and vegetables. However, the government then took prompt action and exempted agriculture operations from the lockdown. As a result, we had record high procurements of wheat. Farmers did not suffer much in the procurement process. Wheat growers got MSP but for channa and cotton crop farmers the procurement was below the MSP. In a nutshell, procurement this time was better than in previous years.

Q. It means there was little impact of lockdown and subsequent market slump on agriculture and its allied sectors?

A. No. It had a real impact on two main sectors — poultry and milk sectors. Their producers were very badly hit. The most-affected were the pou-

try farmers. The price of a live bird, which was around Rs 85 per kg in February-March came down to Rs 35. So was the situation of milk producers. The bulk milk buyers, who account for nearly 25 per cent of the milk consumption, did not buy to that level. According to a rough estimate, the price of bulk milk price went down by Rs 10 a litre. That is why milk producers are agitating in Maharashtra.

Q. Will Covid-19 have an impact on the Kharif production as well?

Thankfully, this time Kharif operations have taken place in time because of good and timely monsoon. The availability of labour has increased in the farming sector as well because of the migration (of workers from urban to rural areas). Direct seeding of rice has seen an impressive increase in

Punjab. The present scenario indicates that we would have record production of Kharif crops this year.

Q. Does it mean everything is going to be fine in the agriculture sector?

A. No. The problem is probably still there. We may have the problem of plenty this time. The record high Kharif production is good, but the purchasing power of people has gone down due to lockdown and slump in the market. The decrease in income and increasing unemployment due to Covid-19 may not generate as much demand as we had expected. Migrant labour who had gone back home are facing a tough time. They are earning less than what they used to earn in urban areas. I think it would be very difficult for farmers to get a good price for their produce.

Q. But then we have export options?

A. As regards the export of our Kharif crops, the major export crops are rice and cotton. The export of cotton we cannot predict, as most of our cotton goes to China. Considering the present scenario, it is difficult to comment on its export. Now coming to rice, unfortunately, Indian rice export has also been declining in the international market. In case of rice, our major importer country is Iran. It would thankfully continue to import from India. Look at the export figures: The export of non-basmati Indian rice has come down from USD 3 billion to 2 billion - a 33 per cent decline. Similar is the situation of basmati rice - it came down from USD 4.7 billion to USD 4.3 billion. Globally also, the purchasing power of people has gone down. And that is our worry. I still do not think the global demand for food products would go down that much. I am not sure if we will get a better price in the international market.

Q. What is your hope from the agri-

culture sector? What more do you think should the government do to help farmers?

A. Government has taken a few good steps. They have opened up the market. Now a farmer can sell their produce anywhere in the country through E-NAM. It has allowed movement of agriculture produce anywhere in the country. If all goes well, it would bring very good results in future. New players will enter the market, which would give a better price to the farmers. Then e-commerce companies are also coming up. They would also procure directly from the farmers. The big question still remains - the private players would come only when there is demand in the market. We also have some hope from the infrastructure AgriFunds. It may have some impact. I think government lacks long-term plans for the agriculture funds.

Q. The Modi government had announced the plan to double farmers' income by 2022. Do you think the government would be able to meet this target in the wake of the Covid pandemic?

A. I have repeated it several times that nominally income of farmers doubles every six years. This is data from NSSO surveys. In 2002-03, the average monthly income of farmers stood at Rs 2,115. It grew to Rs 6,426 by 2012-13, an annual increase of 11.75 per cent. Which means regardless of massive government efforts, the farmers' nominal income has already been growing at the rate targeted set by the Modi government. But doubling of their real income would take 16 years. And if the government is talking about doubling their real income, it needs to ensure 20 per cent increase every year in farmers' income. This is a real challenge. Some good steps have been taken - yet I don't see any major long-term strategy of the Modi government in this regard.

Yunnan faces a development dilemma

MAHENDRA P LAMA

China's western region, covering two-thirds of its territory and nearly 23 per cent of the population, comprises nine provinces and autonomous regions — Gansu, Guizhou, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Yunnan and Chongqing Municipality. After eastern China's 14,000-km coastline brought fortunes to the country during the period 1980-2000, western China with a 3,500-km land frontier was considered to become the second golden area of reopening.

During these two decades, China witnessed glaring regional disparity, and the western region emerged very vulnerable. Its seven coastal divisions handled 75 per cent of national exports, more than 90 per cent of all processing exports and 67 per cent of imports. In 1998, Tibet and Gansu had the lowest per capita rural consumption of 710 yuan and 939 yuan respectively.

China received foreign direct investment inflows of \$250.02 billion from 1985-98 in which the share of the eastern region was over 86 per cent against the western region's 3.4 per cent. Beijing's biggest concern was that this blatant development laggardness in these politically and strategically volatile provinces could trigger huge political dissent and social upheavals. Therefore, a provision of autonomy and flexibility in their cross-border interactions was considered a central point. It was at this critical juncture that Yunnan, a core province on the traditional Tea Horse Road, was projected as the torchbearer of this opening of the western region to neighbouring countries.

China launched the Kunming Initiative in 1999. The core rationale was to gravitate the 'backward zones of eastern South Asia and its periphery including Bangladesh, the north-eastern region of India, Bhutan and Nepal to the sub-regional idea of Kolkata to



Kunming (K2K). This was both to subsume India's Look East policy introduced in 1992 and facilitate China's entry into the Indian Ocean from its unexplored western flank.

In Premier Zhu Rongji's report on National Economic and Social Development during the 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-05), developing the western region for regionally balanced economic development and also deepening reform were major deviations. It launched the 'develop-the-west' campaign in 2000 with five major components - infrastructure construction, environmental protection, adjustment of the industrial structure, promotion of science, technology and education, and economic reforms. These measures brought significant development in the whole of the western region. These provinces started interacting intimately with the neighbouring countries, particularly Southeast Asian countries.

Yunnan's development status,

along with Tibet and Sichuan, has undergone massive transformation. They have moved from the basics to more sophisticated interventions and to more pivotal roles within China. Just two decades ago, Yunnan - a mountainous landlocked province with Myanmar in the west and Laos and Vietnam in the south - was considered a slow growing poverty-stricken province majorly dependent on cattle rearing and tobacco farming. It had huge infrastructural gaps and poor connectivity with major Chinese cities and development centres. Its overwhelming ethnic population of 24 minorities kept it as a sensitive zone for any major development intervention.

Today, it is one of the most vibrant provinces and an over-bridge to Southeast Asia. During the period 1990 to 2018, the gross regional domestic product increased from \$9.41 billion to \$269.7 billion. Its per capita income recorded an almost 22-fold jump. Initiatives under the west-east (Shang-

hai-Yunnan) cooperation made huge investments and helped alleviate poverty among various ethnic minorities. In 2011, the 'three prefectures helping three counties' model was adopted with a focus on aspects of production, living, education and medicine.

Yunnan's total foreign trade increased from \$548 million in 1990 to a hefty \$29.90 billion in 2018. Border trade, mostly with Myanmar through the Muse-Ruili point, jumped from a mere \$74 million in 1990 to \$3.3 billion in 2018. Its trading partners are spread over countries in Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America and Africa. The openness was clearly reflected in the number of foreign direct investment projects that increased from 11 to 182 resulting in an investment flow of \$8.28 billion in 2018 alone. More than 5.49 million foreign tourists visited Yunnan in 2018 as against 0.66 million and 38 million in 2000. Foreign

exchange earnings from tourism increased from \$339 million in 2000 to \$4.41 billion. Domestic tourists left behind earnings of \$131.21 billion.

Yunnan is already a crucial part of the Greater Mekong Subregion. Besides oil and gas pipelines originating from Myanmar and electricity transmission lines linking neighbouring countries, landlocked Yunnan has four cross-border highways connecting Kunming with Bangkok, Hanoi, Yangon, Vientiane. It has been deftly connected with other parts of China. As a major beginning in its railway connectivity with Southeast Asian countries, the ongoing \$7 billion Kunming-Vientiane (Laos) 415-km railway project under the Belt and Road Initiative is likely to be completed in 2021. Besides two dozen land, air and water ports, the three cross-border waterways from Lancang to the Mekong, Red River and Irrawaddy are likely to be connected with the oceans and ports therein.

With all these, Yunnan has encountered a serious development dilemma of exposing its unique ethnic cultures and fragile cultural ecology too much, and steadily eroding the basic principles of sustainability. Its dependence on Southeast Asia has grown so much that any dislocation by issues related to the South China Sea and other strategic and nationalism-based resistance could derail its entire development process.

The ongoing India-China imbroglio has indefinitely grounded its sub-regional ventures, like the K2K, and entry into the Indian Ocean. How much of these development gains have inbuilt inclusiveness, and what is the extent of its percolating down to strikingly varied ethnic communities including Achang, Bai, Bulang, Buyi, Dai, Dulong, De'ang, Hani, Hui, Jingpo, Jino, Lahu, Lisu, Miao, Mongolian, Naxi, Nu, Pumi, Shui, Tibetan, Wa, Yao, Yi and Zhuang is yet to be scientifically studied. So far, propaganda has ruled the roost.

The Kathmandu Post/ANN

NO 28044

OCCASIONAL NOTE

Mr. Clarence Hatry, to whose efforts to form a combine of the four principal branches of the Dundee manufacturing jute trade our London correspondent makes allusion in his message published today, is a young financier of the Commercial Bank in London. He is but little over thirty, but already he has a score of two of "deals" to his credit, one of which was the purchase of the London Globe. It was announced some time ago that he had completed the purchase of the very old Dundee concern of Messrs. J&A.D. Grimmond, who, at Bowbridge and Maxwell-town, employ an all-English (or all-Scots) staff of workers which, for size, would compare with the mainly Indian staffs of some of the Hooghly mills. He is now endeavouring, apparently, to add to this nucleus and form something like a ring in the Dundee jute trade. It will be of interest to observe the degree of success to be attained by Mr. Hatry. Some movement in the Dundee jute trade, parallel to the process of re-capitalisation and amalgamation which large sections of the textile trades of Lancashire and Yorkshire have recently undergone, was almost inevitable in view of the large block of capital which is essential to large scale manufacture under conditions now obtaining at Home. Sooner or later Calcutta will doubtless have something to say on the subject - in those branches of the trade, at least, in which Calcutta competes, or will ultimately compete, with Dundee.

NEWS ITEMS

DACCA EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraj of Burdwan has received several deputations on educational matters at Dacca. The latest deputation approached him on the subject of female education. The progress of female education in Dacca has been quite remarkable in recent years. This is borne out by the results of the Eden High School, for the growth of which, Miss Lena Sorabjee, late principal, has been largely responsible. It is now proposed to start an intermediate college in Dacca for girls. The idea of the authorities has been to start the college at Ramna. The deputation pointed out that the establishment of the college at Ramna would mean a great deal of inconvenience to the public. It is understood that the appointment of the staff for the Dacca Intermediate College has been made.

GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Simla, Aug 14
The Governor-General-in-Council has resolved to borrow funds for the public service by the issue of Treasury Bills in the following manner. On and after Monday the 16th day of August, Treasury Bills will be issued at the Banks of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras in denominations of Rs 5,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 50,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 5 lakhs, and Rs 10 lakhs, for terms of six months, nine months, and twelve months, to be reckoned from the date of issue of the bills. The rates payable for the bills will be notified from time to time. The Governor-General-in-Council reserves the right at any time to vary the rates payable for any class of bills. The bills will be repayable at maturity at the Presidency Bank of issue.

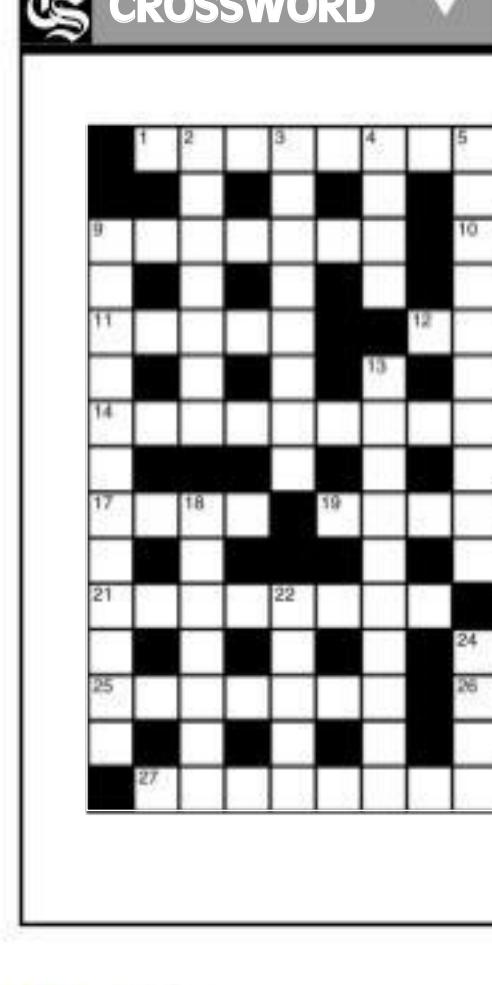
INTERESTING PRESENTATION

Bangalore, Aug 14
Colonel W.M. Coldstream, Officiating Surveyor-General, today performed an interesting ceremony in the office of the 8th Party, Survey of India, when before a large gathering of European and Indian members of the Southern Circle of the Survey of India, he made a presentation of medals, ribbons, and brooches to the lower subordinates and khalasis of the South-West Persia Detachment who had recently returned from active service. Those present at the function included Col. Gunter and Majors Thulier and Campbell of the Survey of India. Colonel Coldstream, in making the presentation, said the detachment left India in October, 1918, under Mr. F.H. Grant and consisted of five surveyors and a number of khalasis. The inhabitants were hostile. In some parts there were frequent and severe shortages of water.

A SERIOUS INCIDENT

An Amsterdam telegram from Berlin reports a new German-Persian incident at Tabriz. Herr Schutze, German Consul, considering arms at the German Consulate no longer safe from raids, planned to destroy all, and he had already begun a scheme when the leader of the Persian Democrats penetrated the Consulate, carried off all arms, and arrested the German Consul. It is reported that the Berlin Government has ordered the arrest of the Persian Charge d' Affairs in Berlin as a protest. According to the Persian Government, the Tabriz authorities considered that the destruction of arms would greatly endanger the population.

CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

BRAINCHILDREN
ADOUOEAOA
RIVETMERGANSER
OEIBDDWE
MOROCCHOCOYNNESS
ESELHMA
THEMIDEALISTIC
ESTMX
RUBIKSCUBEWARP
OIUEECLEI
THINNERREALIGN
YLICRLMBH
PRIMAVERAPLAZA
ONRNJUBN
GREETINGS CARD

SOLUTION FOR 08 AUGUST

JPHULLIP
JAMAICANANDHOW
LVEOBEL
ALLEGRETTOSTYE
IUTIH
GASTONCHERUBIM
TMEMR
GETAWAYBEEBALM
DRSIO
ESSEXMANMUESLI
LCACOT
RIBSHYPERBOLIC
PAPTRP
SUUKYIYEARBOOK
PIRIP

ACROSS

- President Trump livid, in a rage (8,5)
- Unleaded pinchbeck kept in a controlled environment (2,5)
- Acme Co working to introduce new construction project (7)
- Smarted up pages around the margin (5)
- Frau Merkel's current carbon storage plant? (8)
- Generous hand bringing colour to Her Majesty's cheeks? (5,5)
- He wrote notes alongside river delta (4)
- Damn ... it's Yoko on the phone (2,2)
- Rail: Labour rejected American deal (10)
- Camels graveyards? (8)
- Top criminal Russian fighter accepting bribe on a regular basis (2,3)
- Pay them off in compassion (7)
- Some toast Tory admitting defeat (7)
- Quietly lived next to Tina Turner's city, ignoring an upper-class George (9,4)
- Head supporting action by which to obtain a new name (4,4)
- Pence perhaps beginning to madden former President (4)
- Near mosque, oddly, as are some early churches (10)

DOWN

- Fortunately, bravely - though not at first (7)
- Head supporting action by which to obtain a new name (4,4)
- Pence perhaps beginning to madden former President (4)
- Near mosque, oddly, as are some early churches (10)
- One opens doors for Montmartre pawnbroker (5)
- Isn't it common showcasing adult Yankee senselessness? (7)
- 27's predecessor arranged loan rollover (6,6)
- President Mao angered, having been done (12)
- Tired-looking writer of nonsense in Times I had reportedly contracted (6-4)
- Such as Little Boy Blue broadcast, with catastrophic results? (4,4)
- Area north of Houston St a 'lost cause' (2-5)
- Unpopular, but usually accommodating growth (7)
- Criticises prices (5)
- Examine Charlie in hospital (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



Overall, we expect WPI to print in a disinflation of 0.8-1.0 per cent in FY 2021

ADITI NAYAR
ICRA PRINCIPAL ECONOMIST

THUMBNAILS

Vedanta CEO: Vedanta Ltd today announced that industry veteran and former CEO of Hindustan Zinc Ltd Sunil Duggal is elevated as chief executive officer of the company. "We are delighted to welcome Sunil Duggal as our CEO. Sunil is a proven leader with a wealth of strategic executive experience. He has motivated and led teams to deliver high standards of operational excellence, stakeholder management, best-in-class people practices, technology, safety, ESG and carbon footprint," Vedanta Ltd chairman Anil Agarwal said in a statement.

PTI

Maruti Alto: Maruti Suzuki Alto announced a remarkable milestone of 40-lakh cumulative sales. Alto is the preferred choice of Indian car buyers with 76 per cent of Alto customers choosing it as their first car. Crowned as India's best-selling car, Alto could not have achieved this milestone without the unparalleled faith and support from all its valuable customers, the company said in a statement.

SNS

Luminous service: Luminous Power Technologies has rolled out contactless customer service on WhatsApp. It will offer multiple services, resolving customer's query and helping them while they stay safe indoors, said a Press release.

SNS

New robots: Milagrow, India's leading service robots brand, has launched three new robots ~ MilagrowiMap Max, MilagrowiMap 10.0 and Milagrow Seagull, with independent navigation features. All of them use the proprietary Milagrow software 'RT2R' ~ real time terrain recognition technology. They can be used for both commercial and domestic purposes, says a Press release.

SNS

Milaap introduces free fundraising: Milaap, one of the crowdfunding sites, introduced a zero per cent platform fee for the upcoming festive season. "It will help people to get the direct help from Covid-19 pandemic crises. As thousands of people raised funds on Milaap to help those who are in distress. So, we made Milaap free for all relief-related fundraisers," said Milaap co-founder and CEO Mayukh Choudhury in a Press release statement.

SNS

Mi India to donate smartphones: Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi said its arm Mi India will donate 2,500 brand new smartphones worth Rs 2 crore for online education of children from communities that are worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Mi India has partnered with Teach For India, to ensure that the children can avail these smartphones for online learning and education, according to a Press release.

SNS

WPI inflation in negative zone for 4th month in a row

Inflation in June was (-) 1.81%, while for May and April it was (-) 3.37% and (-) 1.57%, respectively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 14 AUGUST

The wholesale price-based inflation stood at (-) 0.58 pc in July, remaining in the negative zone for the fourth straight month even as vegetables and other food items turned costlier.

WPI inflation in June was (-) 1.81 per cent, while for the month of May and April it was (-) 3.37 per cent and (-) 1.57 per cent, respectively.

"The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI (wholesale price index), stood at (-) 0.58 per cent (provisional) for the month of July 2020 as compared to 1.17 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles was at a four-month high level of 4.08 per cent in July, mainly due to sharp rise in vegetable prices. Inflation in vegetables stood at 8.20 per cent, against (-) 9.21 per cent in June.

However, onion prices softened and inflation fell 25.56 per cent, while in fruits it was (-) 3.03 per cent.

FOOD PRICES ON THE RISE

► The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI (wholesale price index), stood at (-) 0.58 per cent (provisional) for the month of July 2020 as compared to 1.17 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year

► Inflation in food articles was at a four-month high level of 4.08 per cent in July, mainly due to sharp rise in vegetable prices. Inflation in vegetables stood at 8.20 per cent, against (-) 9.21 per cent in June

► Manufactured prod-



ucts, however, witnessed inflation of 0.51 per cent

in July, against 0.08 per cent in June

10.24 per cent, while for potato it was 69.07 per cent in July. Protein-rich items like egg, meat and fish saw hardening of prices with inflation at 5.27 per cent.

However, onion prices softened and inflation fell 25.56 per cent, while in fruits it was (-) 3.03 per cent.

Inflation in fuel and power basket fell 9.84 per cent in July, compared to 13.60 per cent drop in the previous month. Manufactured products, however, witnessed inflation of 0.51 per cent in July, against 0.08 per cent in June.

ICRA principal economist Aditi Nayar said the consid-

er and moderate rise in potato prices pushed up the vegetable inflation in July 2020, contributing to the uptick in the inflation for primary food articles to a four-month high.

"While the inflation for pulses remained steady in double-digits, cereal inflation eased appreciably, to a mild 0.75 per cent in July 2020, offering a modicum of relief," Nayar said.

The RBI, in its policy review last week, kept interest rates unchanged and said it sees an upside risk to inflation. The apex bank projected retail inflation to moderate in October-March period.

Retail inflation was 6.93 per cent in July, against 6.23 per cent in June.

"Overall, we expect WPI to print in a disinflation of 0.8-1.0 per cent in FY 2021, driven by the correction in prices of various commodities other than gold. Today's WPI print does not materially alter our view that an extended pause is likely from the monetary policy committee," Nayar said.

"The surge in tomato prices

Exports contract 10.21% in July; deficit narrows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 14 AUGUST

have recorded negative growth during July include petroleum products (-51.54 per cent), gems and jewellery (-49.61 per cent), leather (-26.96 per cent), man-made yarn/fabs/made-ups (-23.33 per cent), ready-made garments of all textiles (-22 per cent), and cashew (-21.25 per cent).

Sectors with positive growth during the month include rice, iron ore, oil seeds, oil meals, meat, dairy and poultry products, pharmaceuticals, coffee, engineering goods, and plastics.

Import segments that showed negative growth in July include machinery, electrical and non-electrical chemicals and electronic goods.

During the April-July period, exports declined by 30.21 per cent to \$74.96 billion, while imports fell 46.7 per cent to \$88.91 billion. Trade deficit during the period stood at \$13.95 billion.

Oil imports during the period dipped by 55.88 per cent to \$19.61 billion. Non-oil imports declined by 43.36 per cent to \$69.3 billion.

Ambani to set up successor 'family council': Report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 14 AUGUST

The planned council will provide equal representation to all family members said the report, including Mukesh Ambani's three children who are expected to succeed their father in running RIL

in 2002. The planned council will provide equal representation to all family members said the report, including Mukesh Ambani's three children Akash (29), Isha (28) and Anant (25) who are expected to succeed their father in running RIL

Ambani, with a personal net worth of \$81.6 billion and ranked among the world's richest people, has obviously indicated intention of wanting to avoid a repeat of the messy break-up with his brother Anil in 2005 after their father Dhirubhai's death

Amber senior aims to complete the succession planning process by the end of 2021, with the family council including external members as mentors and advisors.

This leadership group will take critical decisions relating to the family and the business empire.

"The proposed family council, which will emulate other wealthy families, especially multigenerational families with controlling interests in diversified businesses, will also act as an executive body to coordinate among the family members on various matters," according to one of the people quoted as involved in the matter.

Akash, Isha and Anant Ambani will head separate verticals within Reliance Industries such as retail, digital and energy. The family council is to help ensure harmony and synergy without a further break-up as with their uncle Anil. The Ambani siblings have already been appointed to the board of various Reliance entities since 2014.

Covid-19 may accelerate shift in global trade relations: Moody's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 14 AUGUST

Some Asian markets excluding China will benefit from the supply chain shifts, particularly as companies look to diversify their sources of supply

economies.

Some Asian markets excluding China will benefit from the supply chain shifts, particularly as companies look to diversify their sources of supply, it further noted.

"Asian countries ex-China will stand to benefit from diversification away from China provided that these countries have sound economic fundamentals, reliable infrastructure, sufficient human capital stock, and low geopolitical and supply security risk," Moody's said in a report.

However, localization of production or reshoring that moves productive capacity

out of the region to the US or the European Union will have negative effects for Asian producers, notably those in strategic sectors. Moody's said as the global trade system becomes more regionally focused, each major region Asia, Europe and the US will likely have its own suppliers for strategically important products. As these trends accelerate, some localization and reshoring of supply chains outside of Asia to Europe and the US will be likely, it said.

"Developing countries in Asia such as Indonesia, Cambodia and India stand to benefit from their preferential access to the EU and US markets for certain goods under the 'Generalized System of Preferences' and the 'Everything but Arms' initiative to support low-and middle-income economies," Moody's added.

According to Moody's, in a post-Covid world, ensuring supply security through enhanced supply chain robustness will become a key focus of governments and companies. Supply chain robustness refers to the ability to maintain operations during a crisis, which can be achieved both by increasing inventories and increasing supplier diversification.

As this occurs, the global trade system will become more fragmented, leading to less efficient, less just-in-time supply chains at the global level but an increase in regionally focused production, it said.

RBI clears transfer of ₹57,128 crore to govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 14 AUGUST

The RBI Board had met via video conference on 14 August under the chairmanship of the central bank Governor

Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Board discussed the proposal of setting up an Innovation Hub," said RBI chief general manager Yogesh Dayal, besides reviewing RBI operations and accounts for 2019-20. RBI Deputy Governors B P Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain and Michael Debabrata Patra attended the virtual meeting, besides nine of the 15 directors of the Central Board and the two secretaries of Department of Economic Affairs and Dept. of Financial Services.

G P Garg takes charge as Sebi executive director

NEW DELHI, 14 AUGUST

Markets regulator Sebi today said G P Garg has taken charge as its executive director.

Prior to his promotion, Garg was chief general manager in Sebi and has handled several important assignments since joining the regulator in January 1994, Sebi said in a statement.

He has been closely associated with Sebi's initiatives on Financial Literacy and Investor Education in the country. He also played a key role in the establishment of National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) including setting up of the new state-of-the-art campus at Patalganga.

Former errand boy's free app 'Dukaan' rescues retailers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 14 AUGUST

makers said, "enables anyone to create an online store within 30 seconds".

The Dukaan app enables brick-and-mortar businesses to sell their products and services online through WhatsApp.

Grocery stores, restaurants, sellers of any kind make catalogues of products on the cell phone to share with their customers.

The Dukaan app, that has generated more than 75,000 orders across 400 cities, is empowering a wide cross-section of people in a poster

story of "Digital India" providing solutions in stressful times.

"We have a 16-year-old kid who helped his father set up an online rakhi store in Gorakhpur, a 59-year-old wholesaler on WhatsApp.

Forex reserves climb \$3.62b to record 538.19b

In the previous week ended 31 July, the reserves had increased by \$11.938 billion to reach \$534.568 billion

MUMBAI, 14 AUGUST

The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$3.623 billion to a record high of \$538.191 billion in the week ended 7 August, the Reserve Bank of India data showed on today.

In the previous weekend ended 31 July, the reserves had increased by \$11.938 billion to reach \$534.568 billion.

The reserves had crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time in the week ended June 5, 2020, after it had jumped by \$8.223 billion to \$501.703 billion.

In the week ended 7 August, the forex kitty rose on the back of gains in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves.

FCAs rose by \$1.464 billion to \$492.293 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$2.160 billion to \$39.785 billion. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased \$ 6 million to \$1.481 billion.

However, the country's reserve position with the IMF declined by \$7 million to \$4.632 billion during the reporting week, the data showed.

Markets retreat for third day; bank stocks bleed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, 14 AUGUST

by SBI, M&M, Bajaj Finance, ITC, HDFC Bank, HCL Tech and IndusInd Bank.

Only five index constituents ended in the green ~ Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Steel, Titan and Infosys, rising up to 2.04 per cent.

During the week, the Sensex declined 163.23 points or 0.42 per cent, while the Nifty fell 35.65 points or 0.31 per cent.

Indian markets tracked weak global cues in the latter part of the trading day to end with losses. The uncertainty was with regards to the US-China trade meet this weekend and a lack of wholesome pickup in economic activity in many countries, including China.

The Indian retail inflation

SENSEX DOWN 443 POINTS

► Tanking 663 points from the day's high, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 433.15 points or 1.13 per cent lower at 37,877.34 points

► Only five index constituents ended in the green ~ Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Steel, Titan and Infosys, rising up to 2.04 per cent

► BSE auto, bankex, finance, oil and gas, FMCG and telecom indices fell up to 2.50 per cent in Friday's session, while metal, healthcare and consumer durables closed higher

numbers that came in above the MPCs' target also put doubt on expected rate cuts by the RBI, which the market was looking forward to. Weak

results especially in the Auto sector also contributed to the losses," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Retail inflation rose to 6.93 per cent in July, mainly driven by rising prices of food items like vegetables, pulses, meat and fish, official data released post market hours on Thursday showed.

BSE auto, bankex, finance, oil and gas, FMCG and telecom indices fell up to 2.50 per cent in Friday's session, while metal, healthcare and consumer durables closed higher.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices fell up to 1.02 per cent.

Odisha: Covid situation improves in Ganjam, worsens in Khurda

State Capital Bhubaneswar cause of concern

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUABENESWAR, 14 AUGUST

Odisha's COVID-19 tally on Friday crossed the 54,000-mark with 1,977 fresh cases with Khurda district (including state capital Bhubaneswar) contributing the maximum number of cases to the tally.

The death toll rose to 324 today as 10 more patients succumbed to the disease. Ganjam reported 4 deaths followed by Puri (3), Cuttack, Sambalpur and Sundargarh (one each).

Of fresh infections, 1,241 were detected from quaran-

tine centres, while 736 people tested positive for the disease during contact-tracing.

The Khurda district headed Friday's tally with 322 virus infections (247 of them from Bhubaneswar), followed by Gajam (280), Mayurbhanj (120), Bhadrak (118), Cuttack (101), Gajapati (93), Koraput (90), Sundargarh (88), Puri (83), Nayagarh (75) and Rayagada (70).

The state tested 39,761 samples for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

The positivity rate in Odisha today stood at 4.97% implying that around five out of 100 samples have tested positive while the contagion grew at

3.75% in the last 24 hours.

Spurt in infections in the districts of Cuttack, Jajpur, Sundergarh are source of concern to COVID managers of the state.

Evidently, the COVID graph in the state is following the projected trajectory of at least 2000 cases per day to end up above 80,000 cases by the end of the current month (conservative estimates). There are other projections which indicate that the tally will cross the one lakh mark before flattening next month.

The rising caseload in Bhubaneswar and the fall in the hotspot Ganjam has been as per these projections.

Ganjam district collector Vijay Amrula Kulege said that the positivity rate in the district has come down to 15 per cent from 60-70 per cent.

He informed that Ganjam district had crossed the 1 lakh milestone in COVID-19 testing. Only 3 per cent of the 8000 samples tested positive yesterday, he said.

The COVID-19 graph of the district shows a decline in trend and the fatality rate is also dropping, stated the collector.

Eighty four per cent of rural Ganjam is corona-free while 55 per cent of the urban areas are also turning green zones, he added.

In contrast Bhubaneswar's COVID count rose to 4,842 today by clocking 247 new infections with around 99 of the new cases detected from local contacts.

Seven slum colonies reported 26 infections with 11 of them in a slum in Bhoi Nagar.

Eight employees of three private hospitals among others were detected contracting the virus.

Of the 4,842 positive cases, 1,695 are active cases while 3,118 have recovered from the contagion till date. 23 patients from the city have succumbed to virus. Bhubaneswar has reported a recovery rate of 64.39%.

SOA researchers identify 73 variants of Covid-19 strain

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 14 AUGUST

A team of genomic researchers from CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi and Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here has identified 73 novel variants of the Covid-19 strain for the first time.

The researchers, who carried out sequencing of 1536 samples including 752 clinical samples, reported two lineages B.1.112 and B.1.99 for the first time in India. Dr Jayashankar Das, Lead Investigator and Director (Research) of IGIB and SUM Hospital, said.

Dr Das said the research team, supported by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), validated the most advanced COVID-Seq technology for the first time in the world which could be a potential high sensitivity assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 with the additional advantage of enabling genetic epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2.

Besides, the study would help understand the vulnerability of the strains, new mutation in eastern India specifically to Odisha.

"This is the first ever attempt in the world to have such a large scale detection, surveillance and genetic epidemiology of Covid-19 in a single run," Dr. Das said.

The rapid emergence of corona virus disease as a global pandemic, which has affected millions of people across the world, has necessitated sensitive and high-throughput approaches for diagnosis, surveillance and determining the genetic epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 which would help in strain tracking information as well, he said.

Online class on tree top wooden scaffold platforms

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUABENESWAR, 14 AUGUST

As poor internet connectivity is affecting their online homestudy, the school students in Odisha are having a harrowing time. They are resorting to innovative methods to get hooked to mobile signal and net access endangering their safety in the process.

Such sights of school students scaling atop the wooden scaffold platforms erected on trees, climbing altitude hillocks, going to the top of puca buildings and water tanks are trickling in from almost all parts of the State ever since the school and mass education department launched online teaching to compensate the loss of classroom study due to COVID-19 pandemic.

While students, whose cash-strapped parents have not been able to provide smartphones for their wards are deprived of online classes, the erratic internet network has affected those having smart phones as well.

"Of the total 83 roll strength in 10th class, only 45 are having access to smartphones. Those having phones are also unable to access the online classes due to poor mobile signal. Like the parents, we are also equally worried as hardly six months are left for the board examination. Besides students have largely failed to adapt themselves to the online mode", said a teacher of a govern-



ment-run high school in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) jurisdiction. If the schools and mass education department officials are to be believed, only 30 percent students are benefitting from online classes and rest 70 are deprived or it either due to poor net connectivity or access to smartphones.

It is an intriguing situation. The school students are badly hit academically as classes remain suspended due to pandemic. We are worried about the 10th class students as they will sit at the annual HSC board examination in five to six months' time", they said.

The governments in some of the States are contemplating distributing free smartphones to school students. The Punjab government has announced giving away smartphones to class 12 students.

Though Odisha is yet to take up the matter due to severe financial crisis, the government

may be forced to go for smartphone distribution keeping in view the prevailing crisis in the online classes.

To find a temporary solution, the government is planning to seek the services of voluntary agencies to reach out to the students getting deprived of online classes, they said.

It is pertinent to note here that around 11,000 human settlements in Odisha are yet to be covered under mobile phone network, adversely affecting the online cash transfer to beneficiaries under various social welfare schemes.

Altogether 77.22% people in Odisha have access to mobile phones as against the national average of 92.82%, according to the Odisha Economic Survey 2019-20.

The villages uncovered by mobile phone networks are mostly located in the left wing extremism (LWE) affected pockets of Koraput, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, and Koraput districts.

INDEPENDENCE DAY



Seven inter-state ATM looters held

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
ANGUL, 14 AUGUST

Angul police busted a well knit inter-state ATM looters gang by arresting seven persons belonging to Haryana.

It also recovered Rs 18.5 lakhs stolen cash, a truck, car, gas cutters and other equipment from the arrested accused.

It may be noted that the gang had struck at two ATMs

in Angul town on Saturday.

The arrested accused have been identified as Amar Ali (28), Tariff Khan (24), Mahamad Chawani (27), Munfer (30), Azad (32), Amanant (25) and Hyder Ali (28).

All of them belong to Haryana, said SP Jagmohan Meena. They are involved in crime in several states and had embarked on their inter-state operations on a truck from Haryana on 4 August.

They reached Dhenkanal on 8 August, stole a car and broke open ATMs.

The gang dumped the car on NH 55 and proceeded to Chahtisgarh on their truck.

"We managed to successfully track them and alert the police en route. They were caught by Chhattisgarh police.

Meena said the seven has been brought on remand to Odisha and forwarded to court here.

Virtual Tour of Tribal Museum



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 14 AUGUST

In a new initiative Odisha State Tribal Museum is on virtual tour platform taking the visitor on a tour of the museum every Sunday, said Director Prof Dr A B Ota.

The virtual tour will enable the audience to visualize the exclusive tribal artifacts, habitats and unique aspects of Trib-

al Museum, sitting at home.

Established in 1952, the Museum of Tribal Art & Artifacts now known as Odisha State Tribal Museum celebrates the life and culture of Odisha's 62 tribal communities and is regarded as one of the best Tribal Museums in India.

Located in Bhubaneswar, the Museum has been conceptualized as a 'Museum of Man' showcasing the rich cultural past

and present of Odisha's tribes informed Director Prof A B Ota.

A hub of anthropological knowledge for visitors and research scholars, the Museum's primary role is to represent the richness of indigenous tribal cultures and multifaceted religion, cultural and social system followed by tribal communities.

One can visit the Facebook and Twitter pages @scstribal, @scstdtve.

Negative turns positive from the same sample

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAGATSINGHPUR, 14 AUGUST

Alleged glitches in testing and inordinate delay in furnishing reports has been the bane of micro level COVID management.

The appalling incidents have been reported despite repeated pleas to the government to ensure efficacy of the samples that are tested, be it in terms of storage, proper tagging and furnishing reports at the earliest to the person concerned.

The latest in the series of incidents was when a person under treatment at a hospital in Cuttack for non-COVID ailments was tested and found to be negative. He was discharged from hospital.

He returned to his village Deuligamewar here.

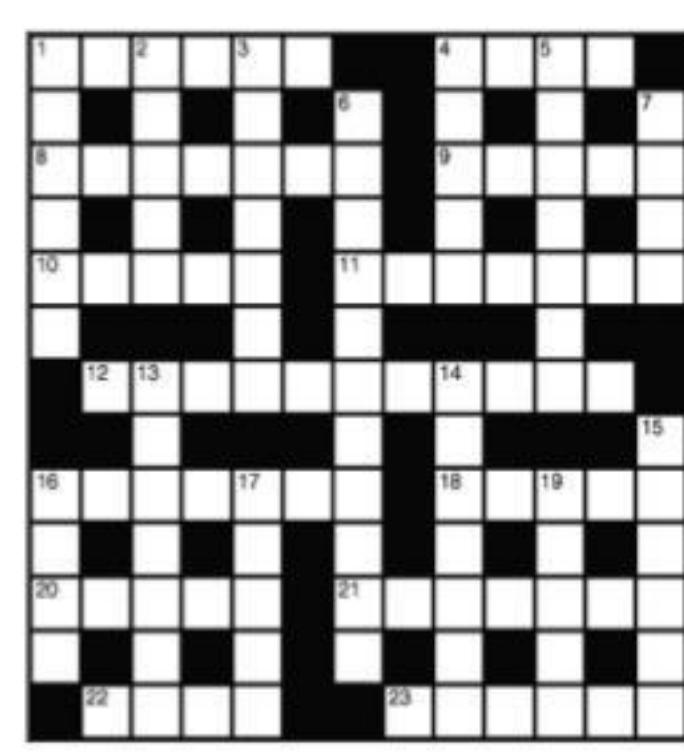
Today, he was again informed by officials that he had tested positive for COVID 19 as per the test conducted at Cuttack.

Nodal officer of Jagatsinghpur Municipality Saroj Kumar Sarangi informed on 11 August, his swab had been collected and he was found negative. He was not subjected to a test for the second time, hence on the same sample another report declaring him to be COVID positive was sent today.

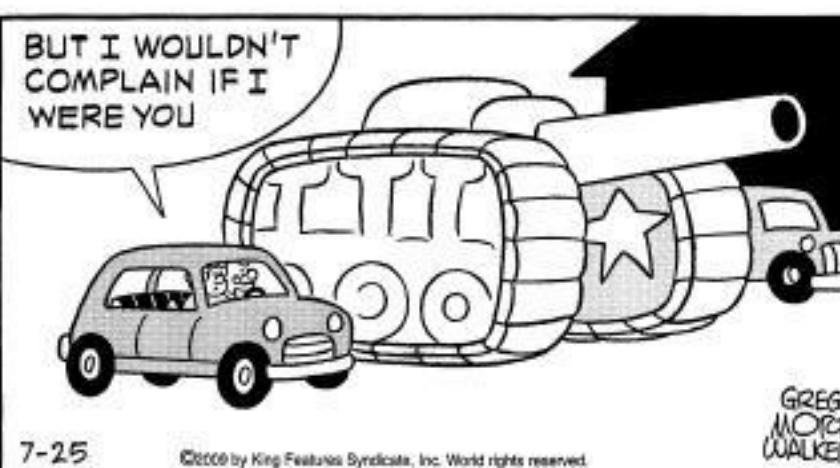
Despite the confusion, we have asked him and his family to remain on home quarantine said Sarangi. The family as well as neighbours is now worried. They want the village to be sanitized and contact tracing and testing undertaken at the earliest.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

ACROSS 1. Agriculturist (6); 4. Fluid-filled sac (4); 8. Long-lasting (7); 9. Adorn (5); 10. Measuring stick (5); 11. Light automatic rifle (7); 12. Financial aid for a pupil (11); 16. Drinking vessel (7); 18. Surpass (5); 20. Quickly (5); 21. Liberate (3,4); 22. Enticement (4); 23. Blood vessel (6).

DOWN 1. Felt or velvet hat (6); 2. Rustic (5); 3. Trade stoppage (7); 4. Alcoholic drink (5); 5. African language (7); 6. Commercial goods (11); 7. Surrender (4); 13. Choral work (7); 14. Vehicle (7); 15. Attractive (6); 16. Small duck (4); 17. Turn aside (5); 19. Abrupt (5).

CROSS 12. Ostentation; 13. Spinach; 14. To date; 15. Attest; 16. Salsa; 17. Dear; 18. Lifel.

Difficulty Level ★★★

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

ACROSS 1. Rim; 2. Shindig; 3. Arc; (Remark); 4. Delft; 5. Lhasa; 6. Initable; 7. Abode; 8. Exert; 9. Restart; 10. Orient; 11. Restart.

DOWN 1. Riches; 2. Mince; 3. Avocado; 4. Cheat; 5. Bow tie; 6. Secret agent; 7. Mass; 8. Spinach; 9. To date; 10. Lifel; 11. Spinach; 12. Shindig; 13. Spinach; 14. To date; 15. Attest; 16. Salsa; 17. Dear; 18. Lifel.

Difficulty Level ★★★

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

ACROSS 1. Plumes; 2. Tidier; 3. Even; 4. Aridest; 5. Par Score 75-85.

DOWN 1. 13; 2. 21; 3. 27; 4. 58; 5. 119.

Difficulty Level ★★★

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

ACROSS 1. 13; 2. 21; 3. 27; 4. 58; 5. 119.

Difficulty Level ★★★

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

ACROSS 1. 13; 2. 21; 3. 27; 4. 58; 5. 119.

Difficulty Level ★★★

By arrangement with The Independent. Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required



It is not humane to exploit the pain and suffering of the people for political goals. Lebanon alone must decide its own future

IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF

DURING HIS VISIT TO BEIRUT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MASSIVE EXPLOSION

WEATHER

CITY	MAX°C	MIN°C
SINGAPORE	31	27 CL
HONG KONG	29	26 CL
TOKYO	36	27 S
LONDON	23	17 R
DUBAI	41	32 CL
SAN FRANCISCO	25	16 S
NEW YORK	28	21 CL
MOSCOW	19	11 CL

S=sunny, CL=clear, H=hazy, R=rainy...

THUMBNAILS



Prince Charles meets first responders in Stonehaven where a passenger train derailed. In northeast Scotland on Friday.

AP

Princess Anne's birthday: Queen Elizabeth II's only daughter, Princess Anne, will be celebrating her 70th birthday on Saturday in a no-nonsense manner befitting her reputation in Britain because of the coronavirus pandemic. AP

Mobile app for tourists: Digital startup firm Xpertness on Friday said it has launched a mobile app for tourists to check least congested beaches in the United Kingdom amid COVID-19 pandemic. "In addition to showing how busy each beach area is, the app provides handy information on the beach lifeguard status, and information on bylaws," said Xpertness founder Arun Kar. Kar said that they are keen to work with the Indian government and are willing to launch similar products in India. PTI



Palestinian protesters tear apart a portrait of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan on Friday at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem. AFP

Turkey, Iran slam Emirates over 'dagger deal' with Israel

Regional allies accuse UAE of betraying Palestinian cause over its move to normalise ties with Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, 14 AUGUST

Iran and Turkey lashed out at their regional rival the United Arab Emirates on Friday over its decision to normalise diplomatic relations with Israel, accusing it of betraying the Palestinian cause, even as much of the international community welcomed the move.

Iran's Foreign Ministry called the US-brokered deal a "dagger that was unjustly struck by the UAE in the backs of the Palestinian people and all Muslims." Turkey said the peoples of the region "will never forget and will never forgive this hypocritical behavior" by the UAE.

The UAE, which has never fought Israel and has quietly been improving ties for years, said the agreement put a hold on Israel's plans to unilaterally annex parts of the occupied West Bank, which the Palestinians view as the heartland of their future state.

But the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the UAE had no authority to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Pales-

tinians or "to make concessions on matters vital to Palestine."

The agreement would make the UAE the first Gulf Arab state - and the third Arab country, after Egypt and Jordan - to have full diplomatic ties with Israel.

The Palestinians say the deal amounts to "treason"

and have called on Arab and Muslim countries to oppose it.

The historic deal delivered a key foreign policy victory for US President Donald Trump as he seeks re-election and reflected a changing Middle East in which shared concerns about archenemy Iran have largely overtaken traditional Arab support for the Palestinians.

Trump has predicted that other countries in the region

will follow the UAE's lead.

Israel, the UAE and other Gulf countries that view Iran as a regional menace have been cultivating closer ties in recent years.

Turkey has had diplomatic relations with Israel for decades, but under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has positioned itself as a champion of the Palestinians. Turkey

and the UAE support rival camps in the conflict in Libya.

Germany's Foreign minister Heiko Maas welcomed both the agreement and the decision to suspend annexation and called to congratulate his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi on "this historic step."

"We stand by our position that only a negotiated two-state solution can bring lasting peace to the Middle East," Maas said in a statement. "Together with our European partners and the region we have campaigned intensively in past months against an annexation and for the resumption of direct negotiations."

China also said it welcomes "any measure that helps in easing tensions between Middle Eastern countries and promotes regional peace and stability."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Beijing will "continue to firmly support the Palestinian people's just cause of restoring their legitimate national rights and building national independence."

New Zealand extends Auckland lockdown as virus cluster grows

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WELLINGTON, 14 AUGUST

New Zealand's government on Friday extended a lockdown of its largest city Auckland for another 12 days as it tries to stamp out its first domestic coronavirus outbreak in more than three months.

The outbreak has grown to 30 people and extended beyond Auckland for the first time. Until the cluster was discovered on Tuesday, New Zealand had gone

102 days without infections spreading in the community. The only known cases were travellers quarantined after arriving from abroad.

Health authorities believe the virus must have been reintroduced from overseas, but genome testing hasn't found a link with any of the quarantined travellers.

That has prompted autho-

rizers to investigate whether shipping workers were a source, after several employees at a

food storage facility were infected.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said extending the Auckland lockdown, which began Wednesday, would give authorities time to get a handle on the virus cluster and isolate those infected.

Together, we have got rid of Covid before, Ardern said in a highly anticipated address.

We have kept it out for 102 days, longer than any other country. We have been world-leading in our Covid response,

with the result that many lives were saved and our economy was getting going faster than almost anywhere else. We can do all of that again.

All of the new cases in the outbreak appear to be linked through family or work connections.

The only known infections outside Auckland are two people in the central North Island town of Tokoroa who were visited by infected family members from Auckland.

Officials said they thought the

chances were low the virus would spread further in Tokyo.

Several of those infected work at an American food storage facility in the Auckland suburb of Mt. Wellington.

Officials are looking at the possibility that workers on a freight ship or at the port may have spread the infections, despite physical distancing requirements at those sites and orders preventing ship workers coming ashore.

Families of Lebanese blast victims plead for international inquiry



A woman and her son contemplate the damaged grain silos at the port of Beirut on Friday. AFP

Toll rises to 178, 30 still missing, says UN: The death toll from last week's massive explosion in Lebanon's capital has risen to nearly 180, with estimated 6,000 people injured and at least 30 missing, the United Nations said on Friday.

and a crime scene. It still was not known what sparked the fire that ignited nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate that were stored for years in Beirut's port next to densely populated residential areas. Documents have emerged that show the country's top leadership and security officials were aware of the stockpile.

Search and rescue crews flew in from around the world in the immediate aftermath and found themselves looking at a scene that was both familiar and yet alien. "In an earthquake, it's easier because we can understand ... how it moves. But in this case, we didn't have enough elements to understand what happened," said Alberto Boanini, a member of the Italian rescue team.

The team has seen its share of quakes and forest fires, but nothing quite like the port in Beirut.

Officials: US seizes Iranian gas heading for Venezuela

MIAMI (US), 14 AUGUST

The Trump administration has seized the cargoes of four tankers it was targeting for transporting Iranian fuel to Venezuela. US officials said on Thursday, as it steps up its campaign of maximum pressure against the two heavily sanctioned allies.

Last month, federal prosecutors in Washington filed a civil forfeiture complaint alleging that the sale was arranged by a businessman, Mahmoud Madanipour, with ties to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, which US has designated as a terrorist body.

At the time, experts thought it would be impossible to enforce the US court order in international waters. Asenio U.S. officials said that no military force was used in the seizures and that the ships weren't physically confiscated.

Rather, U.S. officials threatened shipowners, insurers and captains with sanction to force them to hand over their cargo, which now becomes US property, the official said. Prosecutors alleged the four ships were transporting to Venezuela 1.1 million barrels of gasoline. AP

Classified

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public at large that our Client Mrs. Rashmi Sharma, w/o Late Sh. Pawan Sharma, r/o H-9, Police Colony, Lajpat Nagar-3, New Delhi-110024, having Aadhar Card No. E659 3482 7399 has changed the name of her minor son Arsh Kaushik having Arsh Card No. 45130112741 to Arsh Sharma. She has duly executed an affidavit to this effect on 13-08-2020. Henceforth Master Arsh Kaushik shall be known by the name of Master Arsh Sharma.

Vikas Arora
Advocate
Reg. No. D-2309/1999
Arora Law Office
A5, LaJpat Nagar-3
New Delhi-110024
Ph. 9814144440

BY VIRTUE of an affidavit in front of the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I, Smt. Binapani Sethi, W/o. Mr. Utkal Kumar Sethi, declare that my Original Sale Deed No.: 1667 & 1668 Dated 15.02.2008 and the Previous Original Link Documents which I have obtained at the time of my purchase of the said property have been completely destroyed by the white ants. Hence I declare that I shall be held responsible for any litigation against the property belongs to these Sale Deeds.

SALE BY AUCTION

ON 19-08-2020 at 2 p.m. at BSB, Pushpa Bhawan, Madangir, New Delhi M/s. Stores, 2-22-08-2020 at 11 at Central Administrative Tribunal Copernicus Marg, New Delhi, Condemned Office Equipments. Entry 5000/- Full payment with Tax. 9818003790.

SITUATION VACANT
REQD. chip level Engineer for laptop repairing. Handsome pay. Accommodation optional. Call: 9748524853.

BY VIRTUE of an affidavit in the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar on 06.11.2019, I, Smt. Smitanjali Sahu, W/o. Sri Aji Kumar Majhi of Plot No. 204/898, Mouza: Ranasinghpur, P.O.: Sarakantara, Dumduma, P.S.: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, State: Odisha, Pin-751019, do hereby declare that I have changed my surname from Sahu to Majhi. Henceforth I will be known as Smt. Smitanjali Majhi for all purposes.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

ON 20-08-2020 at 11 Central Administrative Tribunal Copernicus Marg, New Delhi, Divisional Forest Officer Parks & Gardens (North) Division invited tenders for procurement of 14 Nos. of Desktop Computer with accessories under NAME/G project at Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya. For detailed notification visit: www.ukvbk.ac.in and https://nahep.icar.gov.in Last date of submission of bid is on 14.09.2020 within 14.00 hrs. (IST). Principal Investigator

ALL CLASSIFIED ARE CARRIED FREE OF COST ON OUR WEBSITE

Divisional Forest Officer Parks & Gardens (North) Division invited tenders for procurement of 14 Nos. of Desktop Computer with accessories under NAME/G project at Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya. For detailed notification visit: www.ukvbk.ac.in and https://nahep.icar.gov.in Last date of submission of bid is on 14.09.2020 within 14.00 hrs. (IST). Principal Investigator

John Eastman, who ran in the Republican primary to be California's attorney general in 2010, lost the race to Harris, a Democrat, said that there are some questions about the eligibility for the position.

The Biden campaign called the opinion piece racist. "I just heard that I heard it today that she doesn't meet the requirements and by the way the lawyer that wrote that piece is a very highly qualified, very talented lawyer. I have no idea if that's right," Mr. Trump said. Former US President Barack Obama was also hit by a birther movement, where his opponents questioned about the origin of his birth.

Born to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, 55-year-old California senator, Harris, was named by Joe Biden as his vice-presidential running mate on Tuesday. The conspiracy theory about Harris started following a *Newsweek* Op-Ed by Dr



Trump promotes 'birther' theory about Harris

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 14 AUGUST

President Trump frankly acknowledged that he's starving the U.S. Postal Service of money to make it harder to process an expected surge of mail-in ballots, which he worries could cost him reelection.

In an interview on Fox Business Network, Trump explicitly noted two funding provisions that Democrats are seeking in a relief

Harris was born on 20 October, 1964, at Oakland in California. Her mother Shyamala Gopalan migrated to the US from Tamil Nadu in India, while her father, Donald J. Harris, moved to the US from Jamaica.

If elected in the November presidential elections, Harris would be second in line of succession after Biden, who is the Democratic party's presidential nominee.

As per the Constitution, the president needs to be born in the United States after

package that has stalled on Capitol Hill. Without the additional money, he said, the Postal Service won't have the resources to handle a flood of ballots from voters who are seeking to avoid polling places during the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump is pairing the tough Postal Service stance in congressional negotiations with an increasingly robust mail-in voting legal fight in states that could decide the election.

1787. Harris is the first black, and first Indian-American and African-American to be selected for this second highest elected office in the country.

During the news conference, Trump said, "I would have assumed the Democrats would have checked that out before she gets chosen to run for vice president but that's a very serious."

Constitutional law expert Erwin Chemerinsky told CBS News that the claim about Ms. Harris "is a truly silly argument".

As per the Constitution, the president needs to be born in the United States after

France, Netherlands added to UK's quarantine list

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, 14 AUGUST

Hundreds of thousands of British holidaymakers on Friday faced the prospect of having to go into self-isolation for 14 days when they return home after the British government reimposed quarantine restrictions on France following a recent pick-up in coronavirus infections.

In an announcement late Thursday, the government said France is being removed from the list of nations exempted from quarantine requirements because of rising coronavirus infections, which have surged by 66 per cent in the past week.

The Netherlands, Malta, Monaco and the Caribbean islands of Aruba and Turks & Caicos are also being added to the quarantine list.

The requirement to spend 14 days in self-isolation will apply to anyone returning to the UK after 4 a.m. local time on Saturday.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said the decision shouldn't have come

as a big surprise given that the government has consistently said it will continue to monitor infection rates when assessing its list of safe countries. Unfortunately, this virus doesn't play ball, he told Sky News. "So people will look at their own situations. I think a lot of people would have been aware that this was a possibility in France and in some of these other countries."

Any rush back is likely to be most prominent in France, the second-most popular holiday destination for British tourists after Spain, which was put on the quarantine list last month.

Travel companies are urging anyone considering a swift return home to do so. Getlink, which operates the Channel Tunnel rail service linking Britain and

I know England are the best one-day side in the world because Morgan has got their players playing a great brand of cricket and you can tell they play for him and they trust him



SHANE WARNE
LEGENDARY SPINNER

The Statesman

11

THUMBNAILS

160 kmph: Mitchell Starc is wary of injuries from bowling too fast but the Australia hopes to push the 160 kmph mark in the coming home summer after adding five kg to his frame during a long off-season. Starc broke down in Adelaide Oval during a day-night Test.



Malik available: All-rounder Shoaib Malik will join the Pakistan squad in Southampton on Saturday to be available for the three-match Twenty20 International series against England starting on 28 August. The T20 battle begins after the ongoing three-Test series.

Langer's tip: Justin Langer believes young sport stars should steer clear of social media. Langer's comments come as the Premier League said it had filed an official police complaint against a person responsible for abusing Brighton's Neal Maupay online.

Serena wins: Serena Williams rallied to defeat sister Venus Williams 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Thursday in a second-round match of Grand Slam champions at the Top Seed Open. Serena said the victory would boost her confidence heading into the US Open.



Halep's victory: Big W champion Simona Halep reached the quarter-finals of the Prague Open after grinding out a 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 win against Czech doubles specialist Barbora Krejčíková on Thursday in two hours and five minutes in her second post-lockdown match.

No replay: The FA Cup will not have replays for the 2020-21 season to help ease fixture congestion caused by the Covid-19 crisis, England's Football Association said on Thursday. Next season's competition is scheduled to begin on 1 September.



New deal: Juventus are entering a new era following the appointment of Andrea Pirlo as manager and are reportedly looking to reshape their squad. They are keen to offload Cristiano Ronaldo, who has "been offered everywhere, including Barcelona."



Blatter's charge: Fifa president Gianni Infantino, facing a criminal probe in Switzerland, "thinks he is untouchable," his deposed predecessor Sepp Blatter said on Thursday. Blatter even called for the opening of an investigation by Fifa's ethics commission.

Match cancelled: A Levain Cup match between Sanfrecce Hiroshima and Sagan Tosu scheduled for Wednesday was cancelled because of the high likelihood that some of the Sagan Tosu players had been infected with the coronavirus, the J.League announced.

UEFA fines PSC: Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel's half-time talk trying to lift his team to a Champions League quarter-final win cost the club 30,000 euros (\$ 35,500) on Friday. UEFA also warned Tuchel for being responsible for the late kickoff to restart Wednesday's game.

Sri Lankan board wants to host England-India Test matches

THE ISLAND
COLOMBO, 14 AUGUST

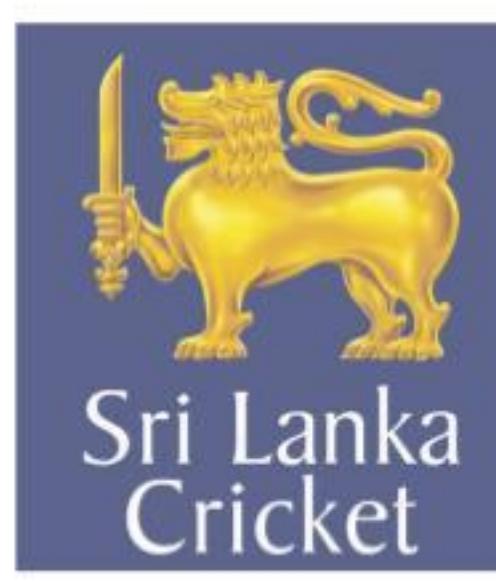
Their bid to host this year's Indian Premier League tournament may have failed but Sri Lanka Cricket has indicated to the Board of Control for Cricket in India its willingness to host the next England-v-India Test series in Sri Lanka next year, if the necessity arises, informed sources told *The Island*.

England are scheduled to tour India next year for five Test matches but with the host nation strug-

gling with the Covid-19 pandemic, there are doubts about when India will be able to resume cricket.

According to information from John Hopkins University in the USA, there have been more than two million confirmed patients of Covid-19 in India, which is third highest in the world after USA and Brazil.

England were scheduled to tour India for a limited-overs series in September but that has been postponed now. The BCCI was also forced to postpone several other cricket



series and the Indian Premier League was being shifted to Dubai.

England are scheduled to tour Sri Lanka early in January next year to conclude their postponed series in March this year. England had spent two weeks in Colombo preparing for the two-match Test series but were forced to fly back home in the middle of a warm-up game at P Sara Oval after the pandemic went out of control in the UK.

The possibility of England staying back after their two Tests in Sri

Lanka to complete the series against India has been given some thought after SLC came up with the suggestion.

Not much sport has taken place this year after the outbreak of the pandemic with even the Olympics being postponed. England at the moment are playing a Test series against Pakistan having successfully hosted series against the West Indies and Ireland.

Sri Lanka too have had several series postponed owing to the pandemic.

While the England series will take place in January, Bangladesh are expected to be on the island in October after their series in July was pushed back.

One-Day International series involving India and South Africa were also postponed and the dates for these were yet to be announced.

SLC had wanted to host the Lanka Premier League tournament in August but that came to be pushed back to November on a recommendation from the health ministry.

Rizwan's gritty 53 holds up England

AGENCIES
SOUTHAMPTON, 14 AUGUST

Mohammad Rizwan scored a gritty, unbeaten half-century to guide Pakistan past 200 against an increasingly frustrated England before the teams were forced off because of bad light before tea on the second day of the second Test on Friday.

Pakistan was 215-8 at the enforced end of the session, with Rizwan on 53 and Mohammad Abbas on 2.

England looked like wrapping up the Pakistan innings after star batsman Babar Azam (47) edged behind a brilliant ball from Stuart Broad that seamed and squared up Babar.

That made the score 158-6 and two more wickets fell for 18 runs, with Yasir Shah (5) flashing at a delivery from Jimmy Anderson and edging to give wicketkeeper Jos Buttler another catch before Shaheen Afridi (0)

was run out by Dom Sibley at the non-striker's end after a mix-up.

England's seam bowling unraveled in the final half-hour, with the field set by captain Joe Root perhaps too negative under threatening skies and with two lower-order batsmen in the middle. On occasions, there were five or six out near the boundary as Root spread the field.

Anderson has the best bowling figures, with 3-48.

Earlier, the start of play was delayed by 90 minutes because of morning rain in Southampton, leaving England an hour to make further inroads in the first session after reducing Pakistan to 126-5 by stumps on Day 1.

Babar Azam (45 not out) and Mohammad Rizwan (12 not out) dealt with a swinging ball as Pakistan reached lunch on 155-5, though Chris Woakes in particular was unlucky not to find an outside edge from a couple of superb deliveries to Rizwan.



Pakistan is plodding along at a run rate of 2.54, with Babar looking key to its hopes of a decent first-innings total as he approaches his 15th half-century in tests.

The tourists trail 1-0 in the three-match series after los-

ing the first match by three wickets in Manchester.

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

Rajasthan Royals are likely to suffer the most in their absence as they have Buttler, Smith and Archer in their ranks. As per the joint release issued by ECB and CA, the upcoming series will also be a bio-secure behind the closed doors event with the Australian team reaching UK on August 24.

England, Australia players likely to miss the start of IPL

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, 14 AUGUST

The Australian squad will travel to Derbyshire's The Incora County Ground before leaving for the Ageas Bowl after England's third Test match against Pakistan on August 27.

Australia will be playing 50-over intra-squad practice games and three T20 warm-up matches before the series.

The three ODIs will form part of the ICC World Cup Super League.

The ECB Chief Executive Officer, Tom Harrison, said: "We owe a significant debt of gratitude to the players, staff and administrators of Cricket Australia for their efforts in getting this tour underway."

"Their co-operation to ensure these matches are staged is crucial to cricket in this country. It will also provide much-needed financial aid at all levels of cricket in England and Wales as we work through the challenges in front of us."

The ECB in these Covid times has been able to schedule 18 international games across formats, said Harrison.

"I'm very proud of what our game has achieved, and that cricket is seen as the standard-bearers in developing bio-secure sporting events to the highest of standards."

The Cricket Australia interim Chief Executive Officer, Nick Hockley, added: "We also like to thank the Australian Government for granting travel exemptions for the Australian men's team, as well as all those who have worked tirelessly to put together a plan that allows for the tour to progress in a bio-secure way."

Spanish GP: Hamilton fastest

MONTMELO, 14 AUGUST

Mercedes again topped the leaderboard as Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton posted the fastest time ahead of teammate Valtteri Bottas in second practice Friday for the Spanish Grand Prix.

The championship leader finished .287 ahead of Bottas, who had been quicker than Hamilton earlier in first practice. Red Bull's Max Verstappen again looks the only driver capable of challenging the dominant Mercedes and he placed third in both sessions, closing the time gap slightly in the afternoon.

Verstappen has leapfrogged Bottas into second place in the standings after winning last Sunday's race at Silverstone with a commanding drive. Verstappen sealed a ninth career win, helped by Mercedes struggling with its tires amid surprisingly high heat in England.

The track temperature was higher in the afternoon sun of Spain and, after about 30 minutes of the second session, the tires on the Mercedes started to show some signs of wear.

It was an encouraging afternoon for the improving Renault team, with Daniel Ricciardo clocking the fourth-fastest time, but Ferrari slipped back.

Charles Leclerc dropped from fourth in P1 to sixth, while the struggling Sebastian Vettel went from fifth to a disappointing 12th.

Sergio Perez was seventh in P1 and eighth in P2 for Racing Point after recovering from the coronavirus and testing negative.

AFP

All I-League matches to be held in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, 14 AUGUST

unanimously decided to grant hosting rights of 2nd division qualifiers and I-League to IFA, Kolkata," the AIFF said in a release.

"The Hero 2nd division qualifiers will also serve as a dress rehearsal for the Hero-I-League and enable all involved stakeholders to understand the COVID-19 threat, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Friday.

The decision was taken in a virtual meeting of the League Committee chaired by AIFF senior vice-president Subrata Dutta.

The I-League, the country's second tier club competition, is likely to kick off in November while the second division qualifiers are tentatively scheduled for the third week of next month. But the schedule of both the leagues is subject to government clearance.

"Keeping in mind available infrastructure and... granting requisite permissions to organise 2nd division qualifiers and subsequently I-League 2020-21 including arranging for practice sessions for participating clubs, the Committee

Nagelsmann wins tactical battle against Simeone

MIGUEL DELANEY

LISBON, 14 AUGUST

If it isn't Atletico Madrid's year, then, because RB Leipzig were the side actually willing to seize the day.

Diego Simeone's defensive approach ultimately let him down, on more than one level. Atletico again struggled to create when they needed to, and it was an attempted block that finally knocked them out.

Tyler Adams's speculative shot went in off Stefan Savic to give Leipzig the 2-1 victory their approach deserved, and send them into the semi-finals for the first time in their short history.

They go on to meet Paris Saint-Germain, in a match that is effectively a stalemate against a sports drink franchise: Qatar against Red Bull. That might sum up the depressing reality of the modern game in this strange setting, but it shouldn't take away from the brilliance of Julian Nagelsmann (in photo). He is very much the present and future of coaching. That he did it without Timo Werner was all the more impressive.



Nagelsmann, however, isn't the ideal manager to play against. He's too canny. With the 33-year-old obviously conscious of all this, it was conspicuous that Leipzig weren't pressing anywhere near as hard as they usually would.

That effectively invited Atletico to come forward, which is not where they're comfortable. Simeone's side would rather be released on the counter than have to construct, and it was telling that their best first-half chance was a header from a centre-half, Savic going close.

It was just, intelligent as

Nagelsmann's approach, it wasn't as invigorating as they usually are.

Leipzig's best chance by that point was also a header from a centre-half,

Dayot Upamecano bringing a save from Jan Oblak with a few

header.

It just so happened, though,

this was precisely the setting for Joao Felix.

A 126m Pounds signing, he

certainly represents "a lot"

to bring on from the bench. It's

just that the 20-year-old partly

started there because he's

had a patchy first season for

Atletico after his big move.

Many around the club,

however, have felt that his

moment has been coming.

This, in his home city, is his side needing something, was

it.

After a series of influential interventions, he suddenly surged forward on 70 minutes, Lukas Klostermann could do little but bring him down.

Felix got up and then stepped up for the penalty. In a genuine pressure moment, he converted.

It's just that... this was still pretty much all Atletico had: individual surges or set-pieces. They weren't exactly creating chances from play.

It was almost as if Leipzig saw this, realised they didn't have too much worry about it, and then picked it up again.

They did get lucky with the eventual winner, but that's what happens when you take the initiative and actually try and play. And there are few better ways of "playing" than Sabitzer's divine outside-of-the-foot pass to initiate the ball by working the ball.

Atletico this time can't even point to bad luck, as has been the case so often in the past. Leipzig were just too good for them.

THE INDEPENDENT

Match cancelled: A Levain Cup match between Sanfrecce Hiroshima and Sagan Tosu scheduled for Wednesday was cancelled because of the high likelihood that some of the Sagan Tosu players had been infected with the coronavirus, the J.League announced.

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Andreeescu says she will not defend US Open title

THE INDEPENDENT

LONDON, 14 AUGUST

"After many discussions with those closest to me, I have made the difficult decision not to return to New York this year. The US Open victory last year has been the high point of my career thus far and I will miss not being there. However, I realise that the unforeseen challenges, including the pandemic, have compromised my ability to prepare and compete to the degree necessary to play at my highest level."

Andreeescu is the latest top-10 player on the women's side to skip the event, joining world

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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- Improving quality of life through employee welfare and CSR activities in 70 villages of Jharsuguda District

Happy Independence Day 2020

MESSAGE

"Let us celebrate and enjoy the freedom to live independently in our country by remembering our National Heroes who gave us freedom. After suffering pain of humiliation, it's time to be an Indian. Happy Independence Day. Kalu Chandra Khandayray (BJP State Executive Committee Member, Odisha)

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

MESSAGE

"Let us rejoice in happiness and indulge in celebration.... saluting them who made it possible who made our country stand high and mighty. Let us make them our inspiration. Happy Independence Day. Iswar chandra Mangraj Senior Journalist, Khordha"

SBI

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प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग की नूडल्स उत्पादन उत्तराखण्ड राज्य के लिए आवश्यक एक विशेष विकास योजना होती है।

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15th August Happy India Independence Day

MESSAGE

"Today we are living freely because many Sacrificed their lives for the sake of our country salute to the great souls Happy Independence Day"

Prakash Kumar Hati President OUVJ, Khordha District Unit

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

MESSAGE

"Today we cherish the ones who Made our Independence possible Freedom is hard to get but we were blessed to have it. Let's appreciate everything we have and celebrate the great miracle of freedom."

Happy Independence Day Krushna Chandra Dash Editor "Khordha Sandesh".

Independence Day 15 August

MESSAGE

"Remembering the Supreme Sacrifices of the martyrs this Independence Day Stay safe and celebrate. Happy Independence Day"

Jitendra Kumar Sahoo District Correspondent, MBC TV, Khordha.

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15th AUGUST HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Message

"The Tribute will always be less for Our freedom fighters but the Salute to all will never be less Saluting the entire nation Happy Independence Day"

(Your's Hope Foundation Trust Odisha)

INDEPENDENCE DAY

MESSAGE

"A lot of people laid their lives to make this country better we should respect that and not do anything that will drag the name of the country into the mud. It is our collective responsibility to make this country better than the previous years Happy Independence Day"

Prasanna Kumar Patikray, Secretary OUVJ, Khordha, District.

15th August Independence Day

MESSAGE

"Thousands laid down their lives so that Our country can celebrate this day. Never forget their sacrifices. Happy Independence Day"

Sobhan Kumar Sahoo, Saripancha, Godhalaladia G.P. of Vice-President All Odisha, Saripancha, Maharashtra

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

INSTITUTE OF NURSERY TEACHER TRAINING



Shivmandir
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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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Mob: 97494-24525, 75479-11559.
E-mail: uttarbangaddwayagency@gmail.com

SILIGURI MODEL Sr. Sec. SCHOOL
AFFILIATED TO C.B.S.E., DELHI
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Contact
9434019917 | 9832699433

Let's Celebrate this Independence day by Wearing a Mask & Free Ourselves from COVID-19

Happy Independence Day

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Atmanirbhar Bharat - the dream and vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji backed by ambitions and drive of 1.3 billion Indians.

Let us pledge to work together and contribute towards making our nation self-reliant & self-sufficient.



Greetings to all Indians across the globe

15th AUGUST
Independence Day



15 अगस्त

Raju Bista Loksabha Sansad, Darjeeling

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