

People should declare correct income and pay proper taxes- Jain

Kolkata(KCN): National Academy of Direct Taxes, Kolkata celebrated Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav yesterday. It invited Advocate Narayan Jain to address on Future of the

Taxation Ecosystem to mark the occasion. Jain felt that the faceless assessments are the steps in right direction to promote ecosystem in the Income Tax department. It has resulted in increased voluntary compliance by the tax payers and the number of taxpayers have also increased substantially. The e filing of Returns and Reply to various Notices as well as faceless assessment scheme have created new landmark in tax administration, added Jain. The very purpose of introducing faceless assessments was to impart greater efficiency,

accountability by the government between the taxpayer and the tax authority. Optimising utilisation of resources by producing a team based approach. There cannot be any shortcuts. The objects but what is the end implementation. And this should be in mind set of the government with the taxpayers, said

Officials looking after faceless assessments and appeals also need to consider the submissions made by assessee. A system need to be developed to ensure that each submission and documents furnished by the assessee has been duly considered by the concerned officer before passing the assessment order or appeal order. The faceless officers should properly acquaint themselves and follow the principles of natural justice while carrying out the

15 Odisha cops awarded service medals on occasion of Independence Day

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Odisha Police Wing Saroj Priyadarshi and in-charge SP of Security Wing Saroj Kumar Mohapatra have been awarded the prestigious President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. Two Commandos Kumar Karmi and Pitabasa Pande have been awarded Po-



lice Medal for Gallantry and 11 personnel have been awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Service. A total of 1,082 police personnel from CAPFs and State forces have been awarded service medals, including gallantry, an official statement issued on Sunday said. President's Home Guards and Civil Defence Medal for Distinguished Service. Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded to leading fireman Bijaya Chandra Patra and driver havildar Sarbeswar Mishra.

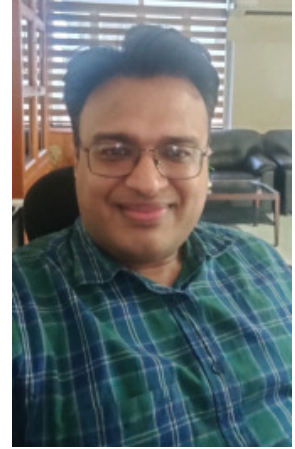
CM Naveen Patnaik reviews Odisha flood situation, emphasises on zero casualty

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday emphasised on 'zero casualty' and asked officials to ensure this by undertaking prompt evacuation of people from vulnerable areas to safer places.



Reviewing the situation with senior officials and collectors of 10 districts in the Mahanadi river, the chief minister said that not a single life should be lost due to flood. He asked the officials to ensure that there are no major disruptions in road communication because of the flood. Stating that 'zero casualty' during any calam-

proceedings. While issuing notice for hearing usually 2 weeks time should be allowed for compliance by the assessee. In many cases we have seen that hardly 2 days time is allowed, which is not justified. Now, the tax portals allow various taxpayers' information to auto-populate compliances. The taxpayer's data could be captured based on the details reported by various third-party agencies, for example, interest income from banks could be pre-populated via reporting by banks, capital gains information could be pre-populated via SEBI linkages, etc. The taxpayers can verify the details on the portal. Jain advised all to declare correct income and pay right amount of tax.



while making tax



The webinar was graced by Ashutosh Rajhans, Addl Director General, National Academy of Direct Taxes, Kolkata; Dr Raman Garg, Addl Director of Income Tax (Training), P.R. Unnikrishnan, DDIT (Training); other Officials. KK Jain, RD Kakra, Indu Charath, Vinod Singhania and many Advocates and Chartered Accountants also participated. P.R. Unnikrishnan, DDIT thanked Narayan Jain and all participants for making the programme successful.

and Binod Padhi. Home Guards and Civil Defence Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded to a civil defence volunteer and two home guards. While Fire officer Prasanta Dash has been awarded President's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service. Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded to leading fireman Bijaya Chandra Patra and driver havildar Sarbeswar Mishra.

ity is the state government's policy, the chief minister asked the officials to take immediate measures to evacuate people from flood zone to safety to prevent loss of life. He directed chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and Special Relief Commissioner Pradip Kumar Jena to constantly monitor and review the situation in order to mitigate the plight of people. Stating that 10 districts located in the Mahanadi river basin are likely to be affected due to floods caused by torrential rains, the Chief Minister said the collectors of these districts should remain alert and vigilant and take all necessary steps to deal with the situation.

The chief minister asked officials to ensure that necessary relief and other basic essentials are provided to people evacuated from low lying areas of coastal districts. He directed all the departments concerned to quickly extend required

10 districts on high alert

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has started taking steps to manage floods in the Mahanadi river system. Due to very heavy rainfall in upper and lower catchment areas of the Mahanadi river system, flood-like situations arise in 10 districts. The state has witnessed torrential monsoonal rain in the catchment areas due to the week-long low pressure and de-

pression, attracting rain bearing clouds. Holding a high-level meeting to review the situation, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked the

possible steps to tackle the flood situation. The state government's policy

Somnath Bharti MLA celebrated the birthday of Delhi Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal in a unique way

New Delhi (KCN): On this occasion, residents and activists donated blood at a blood



donation camp organized by the Bridging the Gap Foundation at the MLA's office, Aurobindo place.

MLA Somnath Bharti and Mehrauli MLA Naresh Yadav donated blood. Somnath Bharti likened Arvind Kejriwal to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Somnath Bharti said the way Netaji had called upon the country to bring freedom to the country, "You give me blood, I will give you freedom." On the same lines, today the whole country is standing with Arvind Kejriwal and wants that Arvind Kejriwal to fight openly to free the country from serious issues like unemployment, hunger, inflation, corruption and that is why by donating blood, people who donated blood also vowed to give strength and support to Arvind Kejriwal in this fight.

The NGO Bridging the Gap Foundation has been organizing blood donation camps for the last many years and this year they got the open support of Rotary Club in organizing this camp. More than 100 people took part in this blood donation camp. Recalling the Corona period, Somnath Bharti

10 districts on high alert

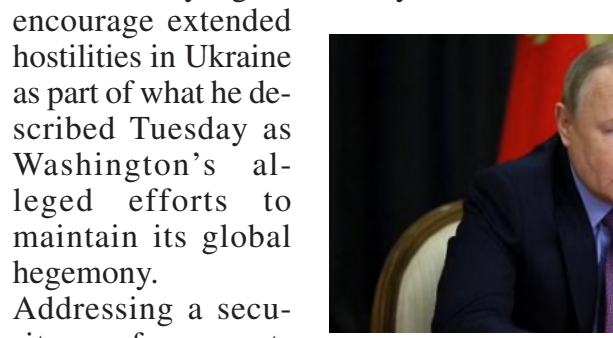
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pression, attracting rain bearing clouds. Holding a high-level meeting to review the situation, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked the

possible steps to tackle the flood situation. The state government's policy

Vladimir Putin blasts US 'hegemony,' predicts end to 'unipolar' world

MOSCOW(KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the United States of trying to encourage extended hostilities in Ukraine as part of what he described Tuesday as Washington's alleged efforts to maintain its global hegemony. Addressing a security conference attended by military officials from Africa, Asia and Latin America, Putin reaffirmed his long-held claim that he sent troops into Ukraine



to retain their hegemony," Putin charged. "That's why they have turned the Ukrainian people into cannon fodder. The situation in

said that in those days there were many blood takers but very few blood donors, so every person must donate blood at least once a year by visiting some camp or the other. All preparations were made in the camp keeping in mind the corona protocol. A large number of people participated in this camp. Many eminent people had also reached the camp to donate blood, in which MLA from Mehrauli, Shri Naresh Yadav was also involved. The



people who came to donate blood were told in the camp how important their work is. People were told that the blood donated by them would be used to save many lives.

One of the doctors present in the camp shared facts/myths and information related to blood donation with the people present here. During this, the people who came to donate blood in the camp were also honored with certificates.

Shri Somnath Bharti said that we all have a responsibility towards the country and society, so we all should contribute and donating blood to save lives is one of them. Shri Bharti said that there were many blood takers during the Corona period, but there was a shortage of donors. He said that this is the best way to celebrate the birthday of Shri Arvind Kejriwal. The Chief Minister and we have the same principle, 'Service to the nation is in public service'.

for all disasters is 'every life is precious'. So, he instructed the officials to ensure zero casualty in the floods and people will not face any major problem due to the disaster.

The Chief Secretary and the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) were asked to regularly review the flood situation. He also instructed the fisheries and animal resources develop

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Ukraine shows that the United States is trying to drag the conflict out, and it acts in exactly the

leader to rally support amid bruising Western sanctions that targeted the Russian economy and finance along with its government structures, top officials and businesses for Moscow's action in Ukraine. Putin also drew parallels between the U.S. backing Ukraine and a recent visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, charging that both were part of an alleged American attempt to fo



CONTINUED ON: P-7

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign conducted at Saraswati Sishu Mandir, Barbil

Barbil(KCN): Students of Saraswati Sishu Mandir, Barbil conducted Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Friday to encourage citizens to hoist national flag atop their houses as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) to commemorate 75 years of Independence. The students conducted the campaign by creating



human chain carrying national flag. They raised slogans like Bharat Mata ki Jai and Jhanda Uncha Rahe Hamara. They observed the campaign will infuse patriotism, will event remind our national leaders and also will increase patriotic fervour among students. Nalini Kanta Mahant, one senior

Eminent Social Worker Narayan Chandra Mohanty Felicitated by RSS at his native place

Cuttack Sadar(KCN): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) 42 Mouza Cuttack Sadar Branch organised Guru Puja festival at leading Social organization Dayanidhi Pratibha Bikash Pratistan puja puja meeting hall at Patana, Bentakar. In this festival all volunteers participate in several types discussion with worship Gourika dhawaja puja & guru dakshina program etc. In this program Sangh volunteers Gandhiguru Das, Dipak Acharay, Asima Das, Anil Mohapatra, Arta Bhanjan Sahoo, Tapan Das, Sagar Behera, Farmer Leader Devi Prasad Pati, and others are present with felicitated to

Acharya of Sishu Mandir said that the campaign is meant to remember our freedom fighters, known and unknown and pay tributes to them. Students too appealed to the people to hoist the national flag atop their houses, shops and industries between August 13 to 15 as a part of AKAM celebrations. Before



the campaign, the students conducted cultural activities in the school campus. All teachers including parents participated on the occasion. All volunteers of Seva group too have accompanied in the programme said Shankar Konar, a senior member of Seva group.

Felicitated by RSS at his native place

the villagers of Patana son of Late Brundaban Moahanty, Bengalata Mohanty eminent Social worker, karmaveer, best organiser Narayan Chandra Mohanty for his best quality. Moreover Senior Sangrahaka Narayan Chandra Biswal for his great achievement, dedication to society and Village, dedication for the betterment of arts, Odia Literature, tradition, puja puja, award to talented students etc., he was awarded by The Muhana Sahitya Sansad Mumbai, Adarsh Yuva Sangha Cuttack branch, Saraswati Klaparisad Kandarpur, UVP cuttack sadar, Utkal Youth Trust Bangalore etc.

Major flood looms large in Mahanadi, 7 Odisha districts face threat

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A major flood looms large in Mahanadi as the

cusec. The floodwater is now being released through 26 gates as

catchment areas are experiencing rainfall. However, the closing down



catchment areas of the river and its tributaries continued to experience heavy rainfall for the last three days under the influence of a low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.

Even as eight gates of Hirakud dam were closed on Monday afternoon as part of flood control measures, Mahanadi's tributaries - Tel and Indravati have been continuously feeding the system in addition to the water released from the reservoir. The inflow of water to the dam increased to 8.5 lakh cusec against an expected 7 lakh

against 34 gates earlier. The re-opening of gates can not be ruled out as rain is yet to stop in the catchment areas and the forecast is that the region is expected to experience more rains in the coming days.

Development Commissioner and Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said anticipating a major flood in Mahanadi river, it was decided to close eight gates of Hirakud dam till 9 am on Tuesday. "Though there is no significant rainfall in the lower catchment areas of Mahanadi, its upper

of gates of Hirakud dam will lead to reduction of 1.2 lakh cusec of water. Now over 10 lakh cusec or water is passing through Mundali," said Jena.

Tel and Indravati are in spate following torrential rains in Sonapur, Boudh, Nabarangpur, Balangir and Kalahandi adding to the woes. The maximum 368 mm rainfall was recorded at Thuamul Rampur, 157 mm in Bhawanipatna, 218.2 mm in Kalampur, 182 mm in Jaipatna, 144 mm in Junagarh and 182.4 mm in Lanjigarh.

Similarly, Dabugaon block in Nabarangpur received 241 mm, followed by 293 mm in Kotpad, 212 mm in Baliguda and Kandhamal' Nuagaon block experienced 235 mm rainfall.

The State government has sounded flood alert in Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Sonapur, Nayagarh and Boudh districts and asked Collectors to remain prepared for relief and rehabilitation activities. Twenty fire fighting teams and 12 disaster rapid action forces have been deployed in these districts. Meanwhile, several villages under Athagarh and Banki blocks in Cuttack district, Kakatpur in Puri and Kalampur block in Kalahandi have been inundated. Kani river, a tributary of Baitarani, breached embankment near Brahmacharipatna under Jajpur's inundating nearby villages.

Rains cause havoc in Odisha's Kalahandi district, major rivers in spate

BHAWANIPATNA(KCN): Torrential rains and flash floods have wreaked havoc throughout Kalahandi district in

dated. According to official reports, Talmala, Balichada, Biripur and Bhelagaon villages under

feet water from Halerjore is flowing over the road connecting Junagarh with Dharamgarh.

Two gates of Ret Medium Irrigation Project were opened on Monday to release flood waters. The water level



Odisha. Major rivers of Hati, Tel, Sagada, Nagavalli and Bansadhara are in spate and other smaller rivers are swelling. While villages under seven blocks are cut-off from the mainstream with river water flowing above the roads, incessant rainfall has badly affected Bhawanipatna town leaving several low-lying neighbourhoods inun-

Kalampur block have been inundated due to flash floods in Hati river. Low-lying areas and paddy fields in Talmala, Sahajkana, Mankadsola under Junagarh block have been submerged. Road link between Junagarh and Chicheguda besides Kuruguda and Nandol has been snapped as roads are submerged with water from Hati river. Similarly, three-

Block and tehsil officials of Kalampur block have rushed to low-lying areas of Balichada and Matikhal to shift people from marooned areas to safer places. To control flood in Hati river, power generation in Indravati Project has been stopped since Sunday night. Two gates of Mangalpur barrage of Indravati have been opened to release water into Hati.

at present stands at 5.690 hectare metre as against reservoir capacity of 6,438 hectare metre. The maximum 368 mm rainfall has been recorded in Thuamul Rampur, 157 mm in Bhawanipatna, 218.2 mm in Kalampur, 182 mm in Jaipatna, 144 mm in Junagarh and 182.4 mm in Lanjigarh in the last 24 hours ending at 8 am on Monday.

ORERA intervention sought clarity over BDA's new apartment project

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has not complied with certain Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) provisions in one of its new apartment projects in the State Capital, alleged a RERA activist seeking the intervention of the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA). RERA activist Bimalendu Pradhan pointed out that the term 'super built-up area' used by the BDA in its notice issued on July 22, 2022, for the project 'Daya Enclave' lacks clarity. He claimed that the BDA in its RTI reply to a query in 2019 itself had stated that terms like 'Super area' and 'Super built up area' do not exist in any State law and as per the norms of RERA only 'Carpet area' should be used for describing an apartment's size. Pradhan also said the BDA in the project brochure has stated that 'all information on dimension and area are approximate and confirmation of the asset to the same cannot be claimed as a matter of

right by allottee'. BDA has also stated that it has the 'right to alter or modify the layout plan and curtail the area of assets suitably in order to address the exigencies arising out of constructions related issues.' "This is completely opposite to RERA section 14 (2) (ii) that prohibits the promoter to make any changes without the previous written consent of at least two-thirds of the allottees, other than the promoter, who have agreed to take apartments in the building," he said. However, BDA Secretary Kabindra Kumar Sahoo said they have mentioned the carpet area in the advertisement notice and have shared details of the 'Super built up area' only as additional information. Besides, he said the agency will also seek the consent of the allottees as required under law for changes to the layout. "There has been no deviation and BDA issued a notice with due compliance to the existing norms," the BDA secretary said.

76th Independence Day celebrated at DAV, Kalinga Nagar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar celebrated the 76th Independence Day of mother India with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour as an apex touch to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. As the chief

urged them to fulfill their role in a faithful manner. The students presented a beautiful



guest of the occasion, Chairman of the school, Sj Madan Mohan Panda hoisted the national flag. In his address on this occasion, he advised the students to give priority to the



interest of the motherland so that the dreams of the freedom fighters can be materialized and the country can reach the zenith of its progress. During his address, the chief guest emphasized the decisive role played by the student community in taking the country on the path of progress and development and



patriotic chorus that spread the aroma and patriotism in the air. The spirit of freedom and nationalism and the very cult of India's inherent strength 'unity in diversity' was well exhibited by the students through a beautiful cultural programme which comprised of a



spectrum of patriotic dance, yoga, aerobics, art, and music. The entire programme was smoothly conducted amidst strict adherence to SOP of COVID-19 under the supervision of the Principal, Sri Bipin Kumar Sahoo and all the members of staff.

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"Flag Hoisting" by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Party on the occasion of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"

Mumbai(KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): On the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Party organized 'Flag Hoisting' program on 15th August, 2022 in the party office at Dattapada

of the office bearers of the party was organized and various cultural programs were organized. On this occasion, Karan Bhai Parekh, Baba Saheb Selke,

Parekh said, "Today people sit outside and only criticise the government but what will happen with it? Today's young generation



Road, Borivali (East), Mumbai in the morning, which was successfully completed, where Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Party's National President Dashrath Bhai Parekh, National Vice President

etc. and party officials graced the program and made the program a success. Everyone congratulated the public on



Narendra Bhai Darji, Chetan Bhai Sahu, Kamlesh Bhai Vyas

should join this politics and try to eliminate the evils. We will give them a chance through my party."



Kalpeshbhai Parekh, National Organization Minister Santosh Kurlmelwar and Maharashtra Spokesperson Sanjay Kohli along with the party officials and people hoisted the flag. A huge rally was also organized. After that a felicitation ceremony

Party's national president Dashrath Bhai Parekh said, "We are trying to take the country to new heights by following the footsteps of Sardar Patel ji." National Vice President of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Party, Kalpeshbhai



this occasion.

Party's Maharashtra spokesperson Sanjay Kohli said on the occasion, "We want to take the country back to that point where our country was known as a golden bird. Our country's name should be echoed in every corner of the world, so that we progress. For this we have to work unitedly."

Malaika Arora receives first dose of COVID-19 vaccine

MUMBAI: Actor-host Malaika Arora on Friday received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine. The 47-year-old ac-

tor shared the news in an Instagram post, along with a photo of hers receiving the vaccine jab at a centre in Lilavati Hospital. "I took the first dose of the COVID vaccine. Because #wereinthistogether!

Arora also gave a shout-out to frontline healthcare staff for being "caring and vigilant". "A special mention to our amazing frontline workers, who were so caring and vigilant and went about doing everything with a

smile. Thank You (and yes I am eligible to take the vaccine)," she added. The actor, known for featuring in movies



such as "Dil Se", "Kaante", "Kaal" and "EMI", had contracted the virus in September 2020. She recovered after briefly quarantining at her home. Arora is the latest Indian film celebrity to be vaccinated after

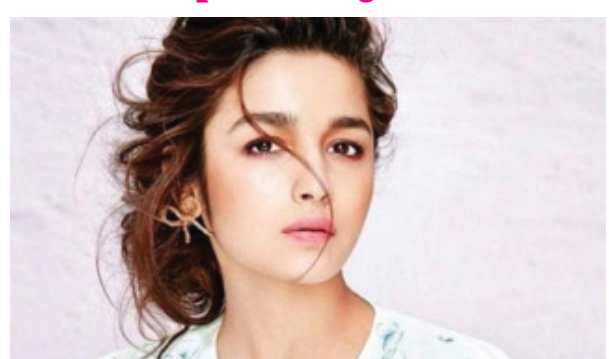
Kamal Haasan, Nagarjuna, Rohit Shetty, Neena Gupta, Rakesh Roshan, and Johnny Lever. Last week, the government had announced that from April 1, all people above 45 years of age would be eligible to get COVID-19 vaccines.

Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Sharmila Tagore, Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Mohanlal, Jeetendra,

for Covid-19. I have immediately isolated myself and will be under home quarantine. I am following all safety protocols under the advice of my doctors. Grateful for all your love and support. Please stay safe and take care."

Covid-19: Alia Bhatt tested positive, goes under home quarantine

Mumbai (GNS): Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt has tested Covid-19 positive and has been under home quarantine. Alia took to Instagram stories to share her diagnosis late night. She wrote, "Hello all, I have tested positive



a less annoying manner. The story has potential in its premise but doesn't translate effectively on screen. The director couldn't build enough tension as we watch how Arjun-Anu's friendship turns sour. He occasionally struggles to haul up a coolness that the script doesn't possess. The real problems surface when Venky arms up the melodrama and resorts to using tired cliches to milk the emotional conflict between the lead characters. For example, Anu's mother (Rohini Molleti) encourages Arjun and his wrongdoings but doesn't support her daughter's goal to study abroad. The humour dries up and the narrative goes off the rails about ten minutes into the second hour. The sub-plot involving Vineeth and Abhirami too lacks real depth and it stretches the narrative needlessly. The climax scene in which Arjun makes the confession to Anu fails to pack an emotional wallop. Yet you are willing to overlook all these loopholes because all the characters have their own insecurities, which make them endearing and relatable. The film also attempts to be mature about sexual abuse and the concept of motherhood.

Rang De review: A breezy entertainer

Nithiin and Keerthy Suresh's romantic drama Rang De is undoubtedly more entertaining than recent films of this genre. Yet this film rides on an old and predictable story. Arjun (Nithiin) and Anu (Keerthy Suresh) are childhood buddies and neighbours, who endure a love-hate relationship. He's a student with poor academic records, she's studious, thoughtful and attention-seeking. They grow up together for 20-odd years and for Arjun, Anu is one annoying friend everyone has in their life and is also someone his parents (Naresh VK & Kausalya) love more than him. Arjun bears the brunt of his father for Anu's achievements and he steadily develops a strong dislike for her. He wants to stay away from Anu so that his father stops comparing him to her. Anu, on the other hand, assumes Arjun shows real affection for her and falls for him. What happens next? The first hour of the film draws its strength from the sheer charm of its lead pair. Director Venky Atluri has succeeded in maintaining a light and breezy tone throughout and generates laughter out of most natural situations. Even the routine slang jokes are presented with a dash of freshness and in

Who is responsible for corruption?

While addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of 76th Independence Day (August 15, 2022), PM Modi raised concern over corruption and nepotism, saying "corruption is eating up my country like termites and nepotism is snatching opportunities from all. He urged the 130 crore Indians to pledge to rid India of these. Of course, corruption is not only growing but gnawing at the vitals of our economic system. The proximate cause of corruption is our flawed electoral system and the present capitalist system that strives on greed, fraud, and deceit.



But the man who rode into power to fight black money to ensure corruption-free governance is speaking about the danger of corruption after eight years of rule. This sounds ridiculous and preposterous. He should blame his government for failing to curb corruption and nepotism. What he did not tell is that corruption and black money is distorting our electoral outcome.

In 2014, before becoming prime minister, Narendra Modi, promised to bring back black money and deposit Rs 15 lakh to every citizen's bank account. On November 8, 2016, he implemented the draconian measure of demonetization to curb black money eradicate corruption, and eliminate fake currencies, obliterate terrorism which devastated the economy and triggered enormous problems for the masses but failed to make any dent. Rather black money holders converted their black money into white money easily.

But during his regime corruption has not only increased but crony capitalism has taken a deep root in the economic system and played havoc and corruption has assumed the shape of pillage and plunder. Now politicians and government officials are found keeping huge black money and abetting corruption. Growing NPAs, loan write off, and banking frauds are new forms of corruption today. Who are beneficiaries of those irregularities?

In Transparency International's corruption perception index, India has ranked 85 out of 172 countries in 2014 and 76 out of 168 countries in the 2015 index. But in the 2022 Index, India ranks also 85 out of 180 countries. This means in eliminating corruption India is behind 84 countries. The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100 to rank Corruption Perception Index (CPI), where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. On the scale, India scores 40, which shows that India's public sector is nowhere near to being clean from corruption. The global average is 43 points.

But the case of India is particularly worrying. According to the report, While the country's score has remained stagnant over the past decade, some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening. There are concerns over the country's democratic status, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay."

The report highlighted concerns over the risk to journalists and activists who have been "victims of attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs and corrupt local officials." "Civil society organizations that speak up against the government have been targeted with security, defamation, sedition, hate speech and contempt-of-court charges, and with regulations on foreign funding."

The root of corruption lies in our opaque electoral process where huge black money is spent by politicians and political parties. Prime Minister must be aware of this and how much his party spends and how that money is acquired and why one pays as a political party. Can anyone pay without any personal interest? That is why some dishonest people indulging corruption and fraud contributing to political party funds to escape punishment. According to a report by the Centre for Media Studies, around Rs. 55,000 crores, or \$8 billion, was spent during the Lok Sabha elections in 2019. The figure is almost twice the amount estimated by the CMS for the last general polls in 2014 at Rs 30,000. Overall, expenditure in the last six Lok Sabha elections between 1998 and 2019 has seen a near six-fold jump from Rs 9,000 in 1998 to over Rs 55,000 crore in 2019. And Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party spent roughly half of that.

The report, named 'Poll Expenditure: The 2019 Elections', has termed the recent democratic exercise as the 'most expensive election ever, anywhere with an estimated Rs 100 crore spent in each Lok Sabha constituency. Effectively, an approximate Rs 700 per vote was spent.

In terms of individual constituencies, there are at least 75 to 85 seats where individual candidates spent more than Rs 40 crore, which is over 50 times the expenditure limit (Rs 70 lakh) mandated by the polling body per candidate in a constituency. Voters are bribed/purchased to cast votes in favour of those who are capable of giving more money or other benefits to them.

According to the commission's seizure report dated May 24, 2019, a total of Rs 3,475 crore worth of cash and other items were confiscated during the elections, which is almost three times the amount seized in all of the 2014 Lok Sabha election. This included, Rs 844 crore worth of cash, Rs 304 crore worth of liquor, Rs 1,279 crore worth of drugs/narcotics, Rs 987 crore worth of precious metals (gold, etc.), and other items or freebies worth Rs 60 crore. Even, today, after the election, the people's representatives are purchased or allured with some ministerial berth

to muster a majority which undermines the people's verdict. The total assets declared by seven national and 44 regional parties during fiscal 2019-2020 amounted to Rs 6,988.57 crore and Rs 2,129.38 crore respectively, of which, the highest assets were declared by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at Rs 4,847.78 crore (69.37 per cent) among the national parties. This was followed by the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which declared assets worth Rs 698.33 crore (9.99 per cent) and Indian National Congress (INC) which declared assets worth Rs 588.16 crore (8.42 per cent), an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has found.

Among the 44 regional political parties, the top 10 parties declared assets worth Rs 2,028.715 crore or 95.27 per cent of the total assets declared by all the regional parties for fiscal 2019-20. The highest assets were declared by Samajwadi Party (SP) at Rs 563.47 crore (26.46 per cent), followed by Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) worth Rs 301.47 crore and All India Anna Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) worth Rs 267.61 crore.

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

The unsavoury reality is that crony capitalism donates huge money to political parties. According to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms, in FY 2019-20, when the Lok Sabha elections were conducted, political parties received over Rs 920 crores in the form of corporate donations and Prudent Electoral Trust was the top contributor to the BJP and INC

As per the Election Commission's list, between 2017-18 and 2019-20, 17 political parties actually received funds of Rs 6,201 crore through electoral bonds, an instrument introduced in 2018 through which anyone can anonymously donate money to political parties. BJP Pocketed 67.8% out of this amount. In reality, the world economic system has been made in such a way, which will enable the rich/corporate behemoths powerful to amass illegal wealth while the poor and middle class would have to pay huge taxes as a proportion of their income.

The act of money laundering, round-tripping, and the tax haven are root causes of black money and corruption. Money laundering, which is the process of concealing the proceeds of crime and integrating them into the legitimate financial system, is also a method used to hide the nature, source, location, situation, and movement of a crime or to give a legal image to the proceeds of crime

A tax haven, or offshore financial center, is any country or jurisdiction that offers minimal tax liability (less tax rate compared to own countries) to foreign individuals and businesses. Tax havens do not require businesses to operate out of their country or the individuals to reside in their country to receive tax benefits which allow outsiders to easily set up businesses there.

There are around 182 tax havens in different countries where rich, corporates powerful people stash their black money. Many Indians have kept black money in those havens to evade taxes. The Panama papers and the Pandora papers are glaring examples. Why Modi did not penalize those whose names were found in the Panama papers and the Pandora papers

Round tripping refers to money that leaves the country through various channels and makes its way back into the country often as foreign investment. This mostly involves black money and is allegedly often used for stock price manipulation. Round tripping is often done through a series of transactions that don't have any substantial commercial purposes, which makes it fall within the trapings of GAAR.

It could be invested in offshore funds that in turn invest in Indian assets. The Global Depository Receipts (GDR) and Participatory Notes (P-Notes) are some of the other routes that have been used in the past. There are a number of observed factors that promotes round-tripping. Mainly, Tax concessions allowed in the foreign country encourage individuals to park money there and then reroute it.

Question creeps in mind: why does Prime Minister allow the rich and people with a criminal background to contest elections and even become minister in their own cabinet? Why political parties are allowed to receive funds from rich/corporate/black money holders who influence government policies in their favour and escape punishment with impunity?

Why selective raids are made by ED or CBI on those who are against the ruling party while politicians or supporters of ruling class are never raided? Corruption is the act of abusing entrusted power for private gain. Corruption is linked to human rights and democracy. Protecting human rights and democracy plays a vital role in fighting against corruption.

The Corruption Perception Index shows that countries with higher civil liberties score higher on the CPI. Corruption is something that can be fought against by taking measures. The report recommends methods to end the vicious cycle of corruption, human rights violations, and democratic decline.

Government should not put restrictions on freedom of expression. It helps to bring to the light corrupt activities which would have remained hidden otherwise. Anti-corruption agencies and supreme audit institutions need to be independent, well-resourced and empowered to find out corruption activities and work against them.

The government should ensure that the corrupt and their accomplices cannot escape justice and will have to face the consequences of their actions. Every individual should be aware that the government and its services are for the benefit of all, and the power that comes along with being in the public sector should not be abused for personal gains.

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Just by donating your organs you can continue to live forever

August 13 of every year is observed as World Organ Donation Day aimed at raising awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage people to take a pledge for the same. This day strives to encourage people to donate their healthy organs after death in order to save more lives. The first-ever organ donation was done in 1954 when Ronald Lee Herrick donated a kidney to his identical twin brother. Doctor Joseph Murray conducted the procedure for which he has also won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for advances in organ transplantation.



Donating organs like the kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, etc can help save the lives of those who are suffering from chronic illnesses. Numerous people lose their lives

due to the unavailability of healthy organs that could save them. This day aims to help people realise that volunteering to donate their organs after death can be life-changing for many. The term organ donation means donating one's organs that are in healthy condition after a person dies. Organs including kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, and liver can be donated to save people who are suffering from any chronic illnesses. By observing World Organ Donation Day, people around the world will realise that volunteering to donate their organs after death can be life-changing for many who are patiently waiting. The day also focuses on sensitising and motivating people towards assuring them to donate organs and save more lives. Organ transplantation is nothing less than a miracle of the twentieth century, which has improved lives of hundreds of thousands of patients

worldwide. An organ donor could save up to 8 lives and enhance the lives of more than 100 people through tissue donation. Organ donation is a social act and it's considered to be an honor. Organ donation can happen from a brain-dead owner or a living donor. One person can save up to eight lives from chronic illness by pledging to donate their heart, kidney, pancreas, lungs, liver, intestines, hands, face, tissues, bone marrow, and stem cells. Donating one's organs is giving someone a new life, anyone can volunteer to be an organ donor irrespective of their age, caste, and religion. Nearly 5 lakh people die in India every year for want of organs, while 2 lakh people die of liver disease, 50,000 of heart diseases. Of the 1.5 lakh people awaiting kidney transplant, only 5,000 get one. The emergence and spread of Covid-19 has brought great challenges to the healthcare system. While the country has lost hundreds

of thousands to the illness, the effect on those suffering from non-Covid illnesses has been equally profound. The gift of an organ is like a gift of life. But, organ donation is not widely known or understood yet. Thus, people may feel that only the heart or liver, or kidneys can be donated. But, organ donation is much more than that. There is no age limit for this act of gifting life to the one in need. Organ donation has no age criteria. There are two systems for organ donation practiced worldwide, the family consent system and the presumed consent system. Organ donation from deceased donors is slowly gaining momentum in India.

Organ donation is a helpful act by the donor that can help in saving a life of a person and also could help in improving the quality of life for many individuals. Organ transplantation is one of the greatest achievements that modern science has been able to accomplish.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

Rain worry for Bhubaneswar city as drainage falters

BHUBANESWAR: As rain continues to lash the Capital over the last few days, the IMD forecast of more showers in the next 48

channel the storm water," said Prahallad Das, a local. People from Jagannath Nagar and Mahadev



hours due to a fresh low pressure has triggered apprehensions of waterlogging in low-lying areas of the city.

Residents are worried as restoration of the drainage work is yet to be completed in many vulnerable localities. Waterlogging during monsoon season has become an annual affair for many parts of the city like Old Town, Naharkanta, Jagannath Nagar, Nayapalli and other places, thanks to poor drainage network.

The residents of Nandan Vihar said though the locality near Kalarahanga was brought under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) jurisdiction last year, a concrete drainage plan is yet to be worked out for the area that faces heavy waterlogging during rains.

"Construction of a culvert by the Works department has helped in addressing the problem partially. However, the locality is still prone to severe waterlogging as it doesn't have a proper internal drainage system to

AP rules out fresh survey on Polavaram for 'backwater effect' at 50 L cusecs

Vijayawada: As the Telangana government raises its concern over the 'backwater effect' due to the implementation of the Polavaram project on Bhadrachalam and at others places, Andhra Pradesh says there is no scope for a fresh survey. "Three surveys have been already held based on directions from the Central Water Commission and there is no need for a fresh survey to gauge the possible maximum flood possibility of 50 lakh

Nagar also alleged that despite waterlogging in the locality every monsoon, the BMC is yet to revamp the drainage system, leading to artificial floods during heavy showers.

The intense spell of rain five days back had forced the civic body to commission pumps at a number of places including Gayatri Nagar, Bhoisahi of Hanspal and Basudev Nagar of GGP Colony to drain water from low-lying areas.

Major roads, especially Bomikhal-Rasulgarh stretch on Cuttack-Puri road and Iskcon temple road along NH 26 in Nayapalli, are also expected to face heavy waterlogging in the event of excess rain.

BMC drainage division engineer Goutam Das, however, said as per the direction of the Mayor and Municipal Commissioner, pump sets have been commissioned in vulnerable areas in advance to deal with the waterlogging menace in the event of heavy rain. Water pumps have been kept in at least 12 such places in advance, he said.

while AP, IIT, Hyderabad and a joint team of engineering on both AP and TS have been carried out on submergence areas of Polavaram project and these did not notice any major issue of concern over submergence.

The initial survey found the submergence area comprising 373 habitations in 272 villages at the 45.72 meter contour level. Moreover, the AP government has taken up a Li-



cusecs unless otherwise warranted," the AP government has said.

Telangana water resources engineer-in-chief C Muralidhar wrote a letter to the chief executive officer of Polavaram Project Authority recently, expressing concerns over the backwater effect from the Polavaram project on Bhadrachalam town and other places. He called for another round of backwater studies by involving a neutral agency for a revised PMF of 50 lakh cusecs and for initiating protection measures against the drainage congestion vis-a-vis Kinnerasani and Murreduvagu rivers.

AP water resources authorities say the maximum flood received in Godavari river in the last 500 years was 28 lakh cusecs. In 1986, it was 36 lakh cusecs (at Sir Arthur Cotton barrage at Dowleswaram), against 28 lakhs cusecs in 2006 and 26 lakh cusecs in the recent floods.

They say that the Polavaram project dam's height has been fixed at 45.72 metres FRL, based on an assessment that the maximum flood received is to the tune of 36 lakh cusecs only and the Polavaram's concrete spillway has been designed to withstand floods upto 50 lakh cusecs, which is cited as a factor for safety.

The authorities say that three surveys involving Andhra Pradesh Engineering Research Lab in erst-

dar survey (light detection and ranging), a remote sensing method used to examine the surface of the earth to find out the submergence areas. The processing and analysis of data are in progress and the details are expected to be out shortly to give a clear picture of areas of submergence due to the Polavaram project, AP officials said.

Referring to Telangana seeking protection against drainage congestion of Kinnerasani and Murreduvagu rivers, the AP authorities say that such a situation could last for a few hours or a day when the water level in Godavari river is above the water levels in the two rivers. "Once the water level starts receding, the water from rivers joins the river water," they said, referring to the study reports.

The AP authorities also raise concern saying that both Odisha and Chattisgarh have not conducted any environmental impact study on the submergence of their areas due to the backwater effect from the Polavaram project so far. This, even as the AP government has made it clear it is ready either to compensate or to strengthen their flood banks, keeping in mind the heavy floods witnessed at 36 lakh cusecs level.

If Telangana asks for a fresh study at 50 lakh cusecs of floods, both the states may ask for the same, causing fresh hurdles to the execution of the Polavaram project, it is pointed out.

U.S. to ban Russian flights from American airspace

WASHINGTON: The U.S. government on Tuesday announced a

State of the Union address. The U.S. Transporta-

tion Department Federal Aviation Administration orders will take effect by the end of the day Wednesday and will suspend operations of all aircraft owned, certified, operated, registered, chartered, leased, or controlled by, for, or for the benefit of, a person who is a Russian citizen. This includes passenger and cargo flights, and scheduled as well as charter flights "ef-

fectively closing U.S. air space to all Russian commercial Russian airspace to operate some flights to and from India in recent days. Delta Air Lines, American Airlines and United Parcel Service all confirmed this week they had halted flights over Russia. FedEx on Tuesday did not respond to emails asking if it has stopped flying over Russia.

United is canceling two flights to India for Tuesday and Wednesday as it evaluates how it could continue to operate via a different route that does not use Russian airspace.

White House officials had privately asked if the move would harm U.S. supply chains or have other negative impacts, sources told Reuters.



ban on Russian flights from American airspace following similar moves by the European Union and Canada after Russia's invasion of neighboring Ukraine. "I am announcing that we will join our allies in closing off American airspace to all Russian flights, further isolating Russia and adding an additional squeeze on their economy," Biden said in his

air carriers and other Russian civil aircraft," the Transportation Department said. Late on Tuesday, United Airlines said it had temporarily suspended flying over Russian airspace, joining other major U.S. carriers who have taken the step after Russian troops last week poured into Ukraine. United had been continuing to fly over

action will be decided. AIFPSDF national general secretary Further, the members said all due margins for all the states, including Jammu and

PM's brother Prahlad Modi stages dharna at Jantar

Mantar with fair price shop dealers' demands

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi, who is

to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, listing our long-standing demands for the sake

Further, the members said all due margins for all the states, including Jammu and



also the vice president of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation, on Tuesday staged a dharna here with various demands of the organisation. Prahlad along with several other members of the All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFPSDF) gathered at Jantar Mantar, holding banners and raising slogans. "A delegation of AIFPSDF will submit a memorandum

of our survival. With the current situation of hike in the cost of living and overhead expenditures for running shops, a raise of mere 20 paise per kg in our margin is a cruel joke. We request the Union government to grant us relief and end our financial miseries," Prahlad said. He further stated that AIFPSDF will hold a national executive meeting on Wednesday and based on that, their next course of

Biswambhar Basu told PTI that they also plan to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday. The AIFPSDF has been demanding compensation for loss on rice, wheat and sugar, and also for edible oil and pulses to be supplied through fair price shops. It has also demanded that the 'West Bengal Ration Model' of free distribution be implemented across the country.

Kashmir, should be reimbursed immediately. "We also demand that edible oil, pulses and LPG gas cylinders be supplied through fair price shops. Rural areas' fair price shop dealers should be allowed to function as direct procurement agents for rice and wheat. Our demands were also raised by TMC MP Sougata Roy in Parliament," Basu said, adding that their protests will continue until their demands are met.

Hyderabad-bound AirAsia India flight struck by lightning, returns to Bengaluru

BENGALURU: In a rare incident, an AirAsia India flight was struck by lightning while on its way from Bengaluru to Hyderabad on Tuesday morning. As a result, the flight was forced to return to the Kempegowda International Airport. None of the passengers on board the flight were hurt. But the aircraft appears to have suffered minor damages. The Airbus A320 took off from Bengaluru airport at 7.39 am. It had 91 passengers on board. According to an airline spokesperson, "AirAsia India flight I5-1576, operating from Bengaluru to Hyderabad, returned to Bengaluru due to air traffic congestion caused by inclement weather."

An inspection by the airline later revealed that the aircraft had encountered a lightning strike. "Lightning strikes although rare, do occur and aircraft are safeguarded against strikes which do not pose a risk. The safety of guests and the aircraft remained intact at all points," the spokesperson said. A passenger Dr Arun Mavaji had tweeted that after returning to Bengaluru and refuelling, airline staff realised the aircraft was damaged. Medical emergency mid-air forces diversion of Bengaluru-Kolkata AirAsia India flight; passenger dies

Irrigation Projects inaugurated

Baripada: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday visited Mayurbhanj district and inaugurated two mega irrigation projects, which will provide irrigation facilities to more than 27, 000 hectares of land, benefiting more than 2.5 lakh farmers.

The Chief Minister has inaugurated Deo and Subarnarekha irrigation projects. Along with



this, he has laid the foundation for many developmental works in the district.

Attending a program organized at Tikpada in Rasgovindpur block of the district, the CM launched these two projects and said that the state government's program for tribal brothers and sisters has started bearing fruit today.

The State Government's program to empower them through education and employment has gone a long way. The tribal children are getting fame all over the country due to their skills.

Out of the two projects launched today, the Subarnarekha project will provide irrigation facilities to agricultural land of 17,121 hectares in Mayurbhanj and Baleswar districts. This will benefit 55,000 farmers of both the districts. A total of Rs 685 crores have been invested for this purpose.

It is worth noting that the Subarnarekha is a major irrigation project of the State Government. Target is to provide irrigation facilities to 70,000 hectares of land through the project. So far, more than 50,000 hectares of agricultural land have been provided with irrigation facilities.

Similarly, about 10,000 hectares of land in

The 5th Apex Committee Review Meeting on Coastal Security of Odisha Conducted at INS, Chilika

Khordha (KCN): Navy, State Government of Odisha, The 5th Apex Committee Review Coast Guard, reps



Meeting on Coastal Security co-chaired by Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, AVSM, YSM, VSM Flag Officer Commanding -in-Chief



of Dharma, Puri & Gopalpur Ports, SIB, ITR, Balesore Department of Fisheries and Customs. The meeting was convened as an Annual Review of Coastal Security issues of Odisha. All key issues and development / progress made since the last review meeting were discussed and suitably addressed various challenges in the maritime domain as well as future measures and possible solutions to enhance the effectiveness of coastal.

Mayurbhanj will be irrigated through the Deo Irrigation Project and it will benefit two lakh people of 100 villages of the tribal district. For this, a dam of 1280 meters length has been constructed on Deo river at Hatibari of Karanja Block at a cost of Rs 823 crore.

Highlighting his government's developmental programmes on agriculture, education and health, the Chief Minister said that all such programs have empowered the people and got recognition from the people.

On transformation of schools, Patnaik said that it has increased confidence among the children. When a child of Mayurbhanj is getting proper education in a village school, it gives clear indication that not only that child or his village, but also the whole of Odisha is moving ahead.

Highly praising the art and culture of Mayurbhanj district, he said that Mayurbhanj has a unique identity for its art and culture throughout India. The Mayurbhanj tribe has a rich tradition and President Draupadi Murmu has further enhanced its glory. She has made all of us proud, he said.

Stating that Mayurbhanj is a big and important district of the State, Naveen said that Mayurbhanj has a special contribution to the development of the State. The Chief Minister called upon everyone to work hand in hand for the development of the district and the entire State.

Among others, Tourism Minister Ashwini Patra, Morada MLA Rajkishore Das, Bangriposhi MLA Sudam Marndi and President of Mayurbhanj District Council Bharti Hansda highlighted the importance of these two projects for the farmers of Mayurbhanj. Describing Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as the most popular and the best Chief Minister of the country, they opined that the commitment of the Chief Minister for the people of Odisha has made him the favorite of all.

Affordable and Sustainable Handwashing in 3 Easy Steps with Savlon Powder Handwash

Kolkata (KCN): Of all the hygiene habits, handwashing has received considerable attention in last two years and its critical role in public health is now a well-established discourse globally. But as the fear of the pandemic gradually wanes and amidst rising prices, concerns like accessibility and affordability have caused consumers to return to washing hands with just water. Good hygiene should never be compromised upon despite rising prices all around us. If you are caught in the trade-off between buying handwash or keeping your monthly budgets in



order, don't think twice, choose the Savlon Powder Handwash.

Backed by Savlon's trusted 99.9% germ protection, Savlon Powder Handwash addresses the issues of hygiene that remains unaddressed in many parts of the country where people are still used to washing hands by using just water. Priced at just INR 10/-, one Savlon Powder Handwash sachet makes 200ml liquid handwash that provides more than 120 washes. This reduces the cost per use to just 8 paise, which is unbeatable as compared to any other handwash available in the country. In just 3 simple steps Water-Powder-Shake, your liquid germ protection handwash is ready for use!

What's more, the Powder handwash sachet reduces plastic use by 91% as compared to a 200ml handwash pump bottle. This unique pack encourages consumers to make informed, sustainable lifestyle choices without having to compromise on value. And all this in just INR 10!

Digital learning improves but no district in top two categories in centre's rankings

NEW DELHI: Digital learning in schools is gradually improving with more than 60 districts showing improvements between 2018-2019 and 2019-20, according to the latest district-wise ranking of school education.

Among the southern states, digital learning grading is lowest in the districts of Andhra Pradesh and the highest in Kerala, according to the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for 2018-19 and 2019-20 released by the Department of School Education and Literacy, under the Ministry of Education.

The progress in digital learning is slow but steady, said the survey, which for the first time rated districts on the standard of schools.

The number of districts in the third-highest "Ati Uttam" category of the index doubled from four to eight in 2019-20. None of the districts could make it to the top two categories of "Daksh" and "Utkarsh". The number of districts in the

"Uttam" category in digital learning also went up from 27 to 41. According to the survey, 20 districts showed 20 percent improvements in their score while the performance of 43 districts went up by 10 percent. Districts scoring more than 90 per cent are categorised as "Daksh". "Utkarsh" is the second-highest-ranking scoring 81 to 90 per cent, followed by "Ati Uttam" (71 to 80 per cent), "Uttam" (61 to 70 per cent), Prachesta-1 (51 to 60 per cent), Prachesta-2 (41 to 50 per cent), Prachesta-3 (31 to 40 per cent), Akanshi-1 (21 to 30 per cent) and Akanshi-2 (11 to 20 per cent).

The survey released on Monday said that in many Andhra Pradesh districts like Srikakulam, Chittoor, Kurnool, Kadapa and Nellore, the digital learning scores were less than 10 out of the grading of 50.

In comparison, most Kerala districts scored around 30. Even in Tamil Nadu, where two districts - Dharmapuri and Villuparam - were

placed in the "Ati Uttam" category for their overall performance, the digital learning curve remains low. Most of the Tamil Nadu districts have scored less than 30, Chennai being the best with 27 and

IMD alerts on Heavy Rains

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Bhubaneswar Another possible low-pressure system over the weekend will affect the State, the IMD Bhubaneswar informed on 11 August. While the state continues to grapple with the losses and difficulties caused by torrential rain over the past few days due to a depression. Heavy rain has battered several districts due to an intensified weather system, which crossed the state on Tuesday and now lay weakened over Madhya Pradesh. It led to flooding of many villages and low-lying areas, disrupting road connectivity as some bridges over swollen rivers collapsed.

Four coastal districts recorded heavy to very heavy rain due to the monsoon trough and a cyclonic circulation in the western parts of Gangetic West Bengal, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said. While Jajpur received 150 mm rain over a 24-period till 8.30 am. Downpour pounded Mayurbhanj as Sukruli recorded 89 mm of rain and district headquarters Baripada received 69 mm, according to a bulletin.

Report says Khaira in Balasore was battered by 79 mm of precipitation, followed by 78 mm at Ghasipura in Keonjhar. There was moderate rainfall in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and several other districts. at least 10 gates of Hirakud dam in Burla were opened to discharge excess water following incessant rain in the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi river.

The Major Dam authorities had closed the sluice gates on July 31 after releasing the first flood water of the year on 18 July. At 3 pm, the water level was 612.93 feet and the outflow of water from the dam was 1.92 lac cusecs, of which 1.51 lac cusecs was released through the 10 sluice gates.

"All 66 gates of Kalma barrage in Chhattisgarh have also been opened now," DoWR Chief Engineer said.

Hirakud, which has 98 gates, received 46.4 mm of rain between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, the IMD office said.

"We're closely monitoring the situation. A meeting will be convened and a decision will be taken on opening more gates," the CE said.




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5G Auction: Record Rs 1.5 lakh cr bids; Jio top bidder

New Delhi: After a competitive bidding battle that lasted an entire week, India's first-ever mega 5G spectrum auction finally ended on Monday, with spectrum worth a total of Rs 1,50,173 crores being sold to telecom companies. The auction saw about 71 per cent of total spectrum bid out in the latest auction. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio was the top bidder, winning a bid of over Rs 88,000 crores to consolidate its leadership position in the telecom space. Bharti Airtel, cash-strapped Vodafone Idea and Adani Data Networks came second, third and fourth respectively in the bidding for their priority circles.

Briefing the media after the final day's auction on Monday, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio emerged as the largest bidder for the 5G spectrum, acquiring close to half of all the airwaves sold in the latest auction for Rs 88,078 crores, while the Adani group bought only 400 MHz, or less than one per cent of all spectrum sold, for Rs 212 crores. "Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel was the second-highest bidder with 19,867 MHz spectrum in various bands worth Rs 43,084 crores, while Vodafone Idea snapped up 2,668 MHz worth Rs 18,784 crores. The total bids worth Rs 1,50,173 crores for 71 per cent

of the total bids of 72,098 MHz of spectrum offered across 10 bands in this latest auction," the minister said, adding the government in the first year will get Rs 13,365 crores in payment for the spectrum, and 5G services could be launched by October this year. While the Adani group bought spectrum in the 26 GHz band, which is not for public networks, Jio acquired spectrum across several bands, including the coveted 700 MHz band that can provide 6-10 km of signal range and forms a good base for fifth generation or 5G in all 22 circles in the country. Sources said both Bharti and Jio have built a pan-India spectrum footprint for 5G, with Vodafone Idea's and

Adani Data Networks participating selectively in the bidding. While the government had put on offer spectrum in 10 bands, it got no bids for high-priced airwaves in 600 MHz, 800 MHz and 2300 MHz bands. At the end of the auction, the mop-up from the 5G spectrum is estimated to be almost double of the Rs 77,815 crores worth 4G airwaves sold last year, and triple of the Rs 50,968.37 crores garnered from the 3G auction in 2010. "About two-thirds of the bids were offered for the 5G bands (3300 Mhz and 26 GHz), while more than a quarter of the demand came in the 700 Mhz band -- a band that had gone unsold in the previous two auctions (2016 and 2021)," the sources added.

Ashada jinx hits Hyderabad property registrations in July

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad has witnessed the registration of 4,313 units of residential properties in July 2022.

of 26 per cent MoM. Since the beginning of the year, the city has seen sales of 40,897 residential units with a total

decline in valuation. The share of registrations for properties worth Rs 50 lakh and above has declined to 26 per cent in July

ago. Commenting on the report, Shishir Baijal, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India



The number of registrations in July 20 per cent lower on month on month basis as buyers preferred to delay registrations in the wake of rising interest rates and the Hindu month of Ashada, which is considered not ideal to execute big purchases.

"The total value of properties transacted in July 2022 stood at Rs 2,101 crore also registering a decline

worth of Rs 20,023 crore," said a monthly report released by Knight Frank India. The Hyderabad residential market includes four districts namely Hyderabad and its surrounding Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy and Sangareddy.

A decline in the registration of properties worth over Rs 50 lakh and above contributed to the de-

2022 from 31 per cent in July 2021.

However, homes in the price band of Rs 25 lakh and Rs 50 lakh constituted 56 per cent, which is an increase from a share of 34 per cent in July 2021.

The contribution of the segment comprising houses worth less than Rs 25 lakh in the July registrations declined to 18 per cent compared to 35 per cent a year

ago. "Going forward, we do expect some short-term moderation in activities due to the rising home loan rates and an increase in prices in the market. However, the strength of the latent demand in the market is expected to keep the market buoyant in mid to long-term basis, because of the overall economic growth and the rise in income levels."

Cognizant's acquisitions to strengthen digital offerings

HYDERABAD: Cognizant, one of the world's leading professional services companies, is looking at acquisitions in the next six months as it seeks to expand its presence in digital technologies.

"We will continue to look for opportunities on the M&A front. We bought several companies last year. This year too we expect to have some movement on this front," Rajesh Nambiar, executive vice-president, chairman and managing director of Cognizant India, told Deccan Chronicle on Thursday, after announcing the company's second quarter results. It has forecast a 100 basis point growth in revenue through the inorganic contribution.

In 2021, the company had spent \$970 million on acquisitions, while the year before it had used \$1.12 billion to fund its inorganic growth strategy. According to Nambiar, the company would be looking at further strengthening its digital portfolio through the acquisitions. "Going forward, all our service offerings could have a digital element," he said, laying emphasis on the company's digital strategy. During the April-June quarter, the company reported a seven per cent growth in revenue at \$4.91 billion compared to \$4.58 billion in the year-

ago period. This year for the second consecutive quarter 50 per cent of Cognizant's revenue have come from their digital business.

Despite unprecedented labour market conditions in the technology space, Cognizant has reported a healthy growth of 30 basis points in operating margin. "In a period of unprecedented labour market conditions characterised by elevated attrition and significant wage inflation, we focused on our client commitments and delivered balanced financial results in the second quarter," said Brian Humphries, Chief Executive Officer. "As we position the company for sustained success, we will continue to invest in our talented employees, our clients and our capabilities," he said. At the end of the April-June quarter, the company had 3,41,000 employees on its rolls. During this period, the company had seen a 31 per cent voluntary attrition, caused mainly due to an industry-wide talent shortage seen since the Covid pandemic. Nambiar said the company has been taking several initiatives to stabilise attrition. As part of this, the company had promoted 33,000 employees and is planning to hire 50,000 freshers through campus recruitment.

Vladimir Putin blasts US 'hegemony,' predicts end to 'unipolar' world

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ment global instability. Nancy Pelosi says US will 'not allow' China to isolate Taiwan

"The American adventure in Taiwan wasn't just a trip by an irresponsible politician. It was part of a deliberate and conscious U.S. strategy intended to destabilize the situation and create chaos in the region and the entire world, a blatant demonstration of disrespect for another country's sovereignty and its own international obligations," Putin said.

The Russian leader claimed that "Western globalist elites" were trying "to shift the blame for their own failures to Russia and China," adding that "no matter how hard the beneficiaries of the current globalist model try to cling to it, it's doomed."

"The era of the unipolar world order is nearing its end," he added. Speaking at the same conference, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu charged that along with supplies of weapons to Ukraine, Western allies also have provided detailed intelligence information and deployed instructors to help the Ukrainian military operate the weapons systems.

"Western intelligence agencies not only have provided target coordinates for launching strikes, but Western specialists also have overseen the input of those data into weapons systems," Shoigu said. He dismissed allegations that Russia could potentially use nuclear or chemical weapons in the conflict as an "absolute lie."

"From the military viewpoint, there is no need for using nuclear weapons in Ukraine to achieve the stated goals," Shoigu said. "The main mission of the Russian nuclear forces is providing a deterrent against a nuclear attack."

Shoigu added that the claims of a possible chemical attack by Russia were equally "absurd," saying that Moscow fully liquidated its chemical weapons stockpiles in compliance with an international treaty banning chemical weapons.

CM Naveen Patnaik reviews Odisha flood situation, emphasises on zero casualty

Continued from page-1

assistance to the affected districts. He also asked officials to keep Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), Fire Service personnel and NDRF on alert for undertaking rescue operations wherever necessary.

Besides, the chief minister said hospitals and water supply and power supply agencies should provide uninterrupted services, while the health department should make special arrangements for providing medical aid in affected areas. Similarly, fisheries and animal resource department should take necessary steps for the safety and protection of livestock.

He said prompt steps should be taken for repair and restoration work to prevent disruption in communication. The energy department should also take advance measures to ensure immediate restoration of power supply in the event of any disruption, he added. The SRC said eight sluice gates of Hirakud dam have been closed and excess water was now being released through 26 gates to prevent any major flood in the Mahanadi river system. Nine ODRAF, nine NDRF teams and 44 fire service units have been deployed in vulnerable districts, he said.

While 11.75 lakh cusec water was now flowing in Mahanadi at Mundali near Cuttack, the administration in affected districts are in a state of high alert and ready to undertake evacuation. The SRC said that 12.06 lakh cusec of water will pass through Mundali in the evening. Water level of the Hirakud dam has reached 626 feet. Further decision of opening of gates will be taken in the evening, he added.

Telangana 2nd in Niti's innovation index

Hyderabad: A day after cracking the list of best states for start-up ecosystems, Telangana on Thursday ranked second among 'major states' in the NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2021 and also ranked first in the 'performers' category.

Telangana was preceded by Karnataka and followed by Haryana in the innovators under the 'major states' category, which comprised 17 states, with other categories including 10 north-east and hill states, and nine Union territories and city-states.

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao took to Twitter to hail Telangana's achievements. Rao tweeted: "Glad that the 3-I mantra; Innovation, Infrastructure & Inclusive growth of #Telangana is paying rich dividends @NITIAayog has ranked Telangana as No-1 in performers category & overall as 2nd best in the country. Kudos to Hon'ble CM KCR for his visionary leadership(sic)".

Finance minister T. Harish Rao tweeted: "#Telangana ranked 2nd in India Innovation Index & stands 1st as a performer by @NITIAayog. This is testament to Hon'ble #CMKCR garu's vision, as even Central govt acknowledged that ICT labs have doubled; Enrolments in higher education, Private R&D units & Startups have increased."

The India Innovation Index 2021 was set against the backdrop of the pandemic, which disrupted the global demographic landscape. The index examines innovation capacities and ecosystems at the sub-national level and highlights the recent factors and catalysts for promoting crisis-driven innovation.

The index was released by NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman Suman Bery in the presence of Chief Executive Officer Parameswaran Iyer on Thursday. It has been developed on the lines of the Global Innovation Index.

10 districts on high alert

Continued from page-1

ment department to protect the livestock during the flood.

He further instructed the concerned department officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply, healthcare service and water supply to the people in affected areas.

Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said nine ODRAF teams have been kept in readiness in seven districts while nine NDRF teams have been stationed in six districts. About 44 teams of fire service have been kept on alert for the floods, he said.

The district collectors have been asked to close the schools and other educational institutions in the vulnerable areas, if required, said Jena.

"The flood situation in the Mahanadi river system is grim. The next 48 to 72 hours are critical for the state as about 12 lakh cusec flood water will flow at Mundali barrage near Cuttack and the water level in other connecting rivers will remain at about 10 lakh cusec," Mr. Jena said after Patnaik reviewed the situation.

Water level in Hirakud reservoir crossed 626 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet by 12 noon alarming the officials as the Mahanadi river system turned grim. Out of 64 sluice gates of Hirakud Dam, 31 gates opened for discharging flood waters from the reservoir.

Efforts are on to maintain maximum water level within 12 lakh cusec in order to keep it within a medium flood range. The water level in different gauge points will fall after the peak situation passed in the next 48 hours, the Special Relief Commissioner said.

The SRC said that the water of Tel river, a tributary of Mahanadi will now decrease and be within 3.5 lakh cusec as against the earlier estimation of 5.5 lakh cusec as there has been no rainfall in the Indravati river basin in the last 24 hours. This may help in opening more gates of the Hirakud dam, he said.

The overflow from the flood has entered villages, agricultural fields and is flowing over different bridges in the districts of Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Boudh, Cuttack, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Puri districts, he informed.

Embankments at many places have been breached along the Mahanadi river and its tributaries, major one being at coastal Jagatsinghpur district.

Women referees call shots at Commonwealth Games

HYDERABAD: Women punched big time at the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. They won most golds — 146, two more than men; made waves in the pool and were in absolute charge of play, controlling most of the action as referees. The Queen's Games had to have women on top. They sure were on song, and simply lived up British rockstar Mick Jagger's superhit — She's The Boss. The fairer sex certainly rocked at the Games with their increasing presence in every sphere of activity. Women putting their feet down and erring, imposing men in place was such a sight. For example the Super Heavyweight boxing final between the towering Delicious Orié of England and India's Sagar Ahlawat was strictly supervised by a puny Paola Falorni, referee for the big bout.

And one could only admire when Marcia Chiasson used her referee's whistle to telling effect as George Ramm and Lowe Bingham wrestled for bronze in the men's 65kg bout. Women were definitely in control with the wrestling competition officiated by 15 female and six male referees, making it the first time in wrestling history that over 70 per cent of referees were women at a major Games. That was thanks in large part to the United World Wrestling's (UWW) gender equality strategic plan which comes after the International Olympic Committee's announcement last year to achieve gender parity for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. "We are committed to advancing wrestling in the right direction and promoting topics such as diversity, achieving gender parity,

equal opportunities and access to education in all areas of our sport," UWW president Nenad Lalovic had said. Pullela Gopichand,



across the board. From the visual perspective too women referees present a neat picture. It feels very good to see women referees acting tough and handling the rough and unruly guys in a football match... it provides a power equation that is very different," the renowned badminton coach added. India did have its women referee representation at the Birmingham CWG, in Akshata Shete-Jadhav, who was judge at the rhythmic gymnastics event. "Rhythmic gymnastics is a women oriented sport. In this field we do have a few male judges but it's mostly a female dominated sport," explained the 30-year-old former gymnast who is a member of the Asian Gymnastics Union Technical Committee and also an official of the Gymnastics Federation of India. Women are kicking right ahead indeed. In another first, women referees will officiate matches at the men's football World Cup in Qatar this year — three women referees and three women assistant referees will be part of the global showpiece event in November-December. International basketball federation (FIBA) too is getting more women referees into its fold. "As per a policy implemented in 2021, every national federation should have at least one female referee. Secondly, during the Basketball World Cup, 90 per cent of the referees are females. Also, at the Asian Championships, it is only referees from neutral countries from here and there that are male, otherwise they're all females.

India banned by FIFA for third party influence, cannot host U17 women's World Cup

New Delhi: In a major setback and embarrassment for the country, world football governing body FIFA on Tuesday suspended India for "undue influence from third parties" and said the U-17 Women's World Cup "cannot

control of the AIFF's daily affairs."

"The suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as

and model guidelines.

The FIFA has never allowed third party interference in the affairs of its member units whether by the court or the government. It has set up normalisation committees in various

conditions, including 36 eminent players in the list. The filing of nominations is to start from Wednesday till Friday.

India's football fraternity is hoping that a last-minute solution will salvage the FIFA under-17

Badminton Association of India vice-president, concurred with the view. "Gender equality is something to achieve in sport, especially in the officiating, playing or coaching and support staff segments. I think there's been a conscious push from the government also to ensure there is some kind of parity in gender at various events," he said. "I have seen some really good quality women referees



currently be held in India as planned." The country is scheduled to host its first FIFA event from October 11-30.

This is the first time the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been banned by FIFA in its 85 year history.

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes," the FIFA said in a statement.

"The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full

planned. FIFA is assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau of the Council if and when necessary.

A ban on India was on the cards after the Supreme Court removed Praful Patel as AIFF president on May 18 for not holding elections due in December 2020.

The court had appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA), headed by former apex court judge AR Dave, to manage the affairs of the national federation.

The CoA, which has former Chief Commissioner of India SY Quraishi and ex India captain Bhaskar Ganguly as other members, also had to frame its constitution in line with the National Sports Code

countries in cases similar to India.

FIFA, though, has kept a window open for India, saying it is in touch with the sports ministry on the issue.

"FIFA is in constant constructive contact with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in India and is hopeful that a positive outcome to the case may still be achieved," it said.

Following the ban, the fate of the AIFF elections, to be held on August 28 on the orders of the Supreme is not yet known.

The poll process began on August 13 as the top court approved the time-line prepared by the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

The CoA has already appointed a returning officers and has published the electoral college for the elec-

women's world cup when the Supreme Court hears the matter on Wednesday.

The sports ministry had filed an application in the Supreme Court, seeking a modification to its August 5 order that allowed 36 eminent players to vote in the AIFF elections on the grounds that the world body was not in favour of 'individual membership' in the AIFF.

According to sources, FIFA re-iterated its stand to the sports ministry on Monday and issued the statement to ban India after that (around 10pm Swiss local time; wee hours on Tuesday in India). The Supreme Court on August 3 directed the executive committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to expeditiously hold elections as per the schedule proposed by the CoA.



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