



LEISURE | **P2**



TWO STATES | P7



INTERNATIONAL | P10

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

According to an RGF annual report

Now, leap forward to 2009. The Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS) functions as a think-



"There is a principal need for India to improve its commodity structure to balance its performance of competitiveness and complementarities," the study said.

"Therefore both governments should decide to enter into FTA negotiations. The proposed FTA between India and China will be feasible, desirable and mutually beneficial. An FTA between India and China should also be comprehensive, with a free flow of goods, services, investments and capital," said the study advocating an FTA between India and China, which will be beneficial to both the countries.



He said a scheme has been formulated to give options

The top court asked the CBSE and the Centre to issue a fresh notification on class XII exams dealing with issues including the option of re-examination and internal assessment.

... the idea is to improve upon the face recognition technology and make it face mask recognition technology

SUBHANEWSWAR: With 210 new coronavirus cases in Odisha, the COVID-19 tally in the state rose to 9,962 Thursday, an official from the Health Department said. He said 174 of the 210 new cases were detected in quarantine centres and 36 were local contact cases. There are 1,815 active cases in the state, while a total of 4,123 patients have recovered from the disease, the official said. The death toll due to COVID-19 stands at 17 in the state, he said. The 210 new coronavirus cases include six NDRF personnel who returned from West Bengal after cyclone Amphan restoration work.

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP		
MAX	35.6°C	35.5°C
MIN	27.3°C	25.5°C
Humidity	94%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast Partly cloudy sky

Biramitrapur



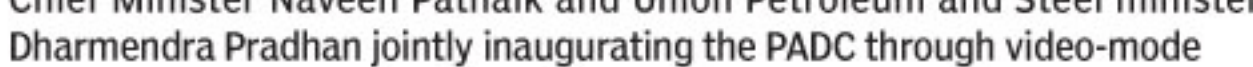
NEW DELHI: Apple, Cisco and Dell products are among the goods from US companies being caught up in India's border tensions with China, as Indian ports hold up imports from China, two sources told Reuters. Though no government notice has been issued, customs officers at major Indian port have held back containers coming from China, seeking additional clearances, government and industry sources have said. The move comes amid heightened tensions between India and China after border clashes last week that saw at least 20 Indian soldiers killed. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), a lobby group representing US firms, told India's commerce ministry in a letter dated June 23, "Authorities have abruptly halted the clearance of industry consignments coming in from China (and perhaps other destinations) at most major ports and airports." "This will send a chilling signal to foreign investors who look for predictability and transparency," it said.

E-commerce giants including US giant Amazon, which sell huge volumes of Chinese-made electronic

China's Xiaomi, India's top cell-phone brand which has factories in the country, is covering its logo on shopfronts in major cities, with banners reading "Made in India."

The issue dates back to March 25 when the girl had come to witness a fair at Biramitrapur which was cancelled due to the lockdown. She failed to return home and was roaming near the bus-stand when a police patrolling team noticed her and brought her to the police station.

"This centre will not only perform a pivotal role in developing new materials and innovative applications but will also provide support to investors in setting up manufacturing units in the plastic and polymer sectors," Patnaik said during the inauguration programme.



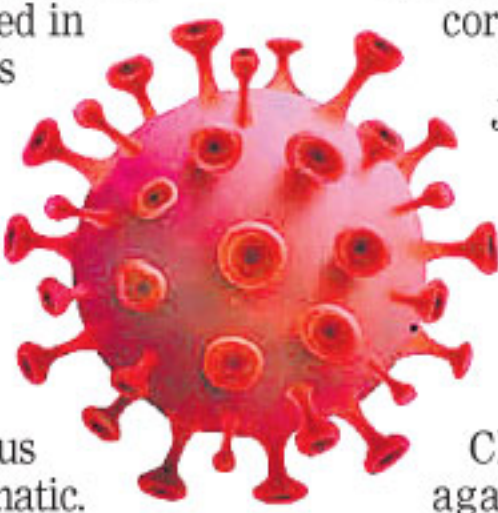
The implementation of Bhadrak

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the PADC would act as a supporting technical centre for polyester yarns and fabrics for the upcoming textile downstream units in Bhadrak and Dhamra.

Besides, all 220, KV 132 KV, 33 KV and 11 KV lines would be converted and made resilient. Gas insulated 'H' type structures would be raised for 33 and 11 KV lines.

AT A TIME WHEN THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE, THE PRISONS ACROSS ODISHA SEEM TO BE SITTING ON A TICKING BOMB

What is worse, the Jharpada jail has no regular doctor to check the inmates for any signs of infection.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES

You are enthusiastic about mixing with people today, and you will feel like combining business and leisure. You will be encouraged to take part in group activities as you have the ability to work and have fun at the same time. Ganesha says that as a matter of fact you may emerge wiser from others' ideas.

TAURUS

This day you will be prone to be stubborn and uncompromising in your business and professional dealings and thereby inviting unnecessary problems. Ganesha urges you to guard against this tendency and conduct yourself cordially and amiably with your colleagues and clients. The day will turn out well for executives and administrators.

GEMINI

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

CANCER

You wish to display your social prestige and monetary clout in front of your relatives. But you have to pay a heavy price for that. Your past experience will teach you something, which will stand in good stead for future dealings.

LEO

No matter how far you go, there is always a horizon that you desire to reach. And what holds true for all outer projections of life most certainly holds true for one's inner self as well, reminds Ganesha.

VIRGO

Financial doldrums are headed your way today. In order to seek what you desire, expect shelling out a hefty price. You might just net those short-term goals in the evening. Ganesha foretells large and important business deals will end the day on a high note.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today you may be able to undertake travel for business or pleasure purposes. It may be a busy day for you work wise and you may not be able to completely focus on your family or family issues.

SCORPIO

Try to take a chill pill as you may be worried about petty issues today. Do not let them hinder your happiness and take a toll on your health. However, the day looks promising towards the end. Friends are just a phone call away, call them and set out for a destination unknown to destress and rejuvenate.

SAGITTARIUS

Keeping all the work aside, you may be painting the town red today. Falling in love is exciting, isn't it? However, for all those who are already in a relationship, Ganesha shows a red signal. Avoid arguments with your loved one, He suggests.

CAPRICORN

Though you leave no stone unturned to identify the opportunities coming your way, you need to keep your guards on whenever you are a part of a legal matter. Financially, you're likely to bear some heavy losses, and if you're a dealer or a broker, the chances of suffering from them are even higher.

AQUARIUS

The game is set; you are put up against those who are holding a grudge against you and are waiting for an opportunity to pull you down. But, you are confident, skilful, and know your strengths very well. No matter how hard the opponents try, they will be no match to you, predicts Ganesha.

PISCES

You will find yourself in a philosophical state of mind today. You will be able to see things for what they really are, rather than what they appear to be. You are unlikely to try and swim against the flow today, given your mental state. You will take things as they come to you, one at a time.

BELL WON'T VOICE MOLLY

Actress Kristen Bell will no longer voice the mixed-race central character of Molly Tillerman in the animated series *Central Park*. Bell took to social media to open up about her decision, reports *variety.com*.

QUAID'S SECRET WEDDING

Actor Dennis Quaid and Laura Savoie have exchanged wedding vows in an intimate beachside wedding ceremony at a resort in Santa Barbara. The couple, who got engaged last October, got married June 2."It was beautiful," Quaid told *people.com*.

Maddy feels he is too old for RHTDM sequel

Mumbai: Actor R Madhavan has finally reacted to rumours of a possible sequel to his 2001 release, *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein*. The film had marked the debut of the actor and actress Dia Mirza in Hindi films, and it also starred Saif Ali Khan.

"# RHTDM ..Guyssss ...been reading rumors about the sequel ..and hoping it's true-cause I have no idea about this.. just praying that someone somewhere has an age appropriate script for Dia and I-varna ab madhav shastri banna toh hathi ko chaddi pehnane ke barabar hai (playing the role of Madhav Shastri at this age will be like making and elephant wear an underwear)," tweeted Madhavan, who turned 50 June 1.

However, many fans don't seem to mind the idea of an aging Madhav Shastri. They feel only Madhavan and Dia can bring alive the screen chemistry.

IAN S

Aahana backs theatre community

Mumbai: With the world of stage shut amid the coronavirus pandemic, actress Aahana Kumra says it is important to come together and support the theatre community and pitch in for its survival.

"My heart goes out to each person in the theatre industry who is going through these tough times. Our community has always been close-knit and we need all the support we can get," Aahana said. "I am more than happy to do my bit for the people who have made me everything I am today," she added. The actress has joined Zee Theatre's mass fundraising campaign to aid the survival of theatre.

Talking about the campaign, Rakesh Bedi, a stalwart in the world of acting, said: "Through the 40 years of my career, I have seen theatre grow and flourish in the face of a number of challenges. But my faith remains that the industry will figure its way out of this setback as well. I am more than happy to do my part and aid the initiative."

IAN S

Mumbai: T-Series chairman and MD Bhushan Kumar's wife Divya Khosla Kumar is facing flak from netizens after she posted a video slamming Sonu Nigam.

Divya had shared a video on Instagram where she replied to the allegations levelled by Sonu Nigam against her husband Bhushan Kumar. She claimed in the video how T-Series gives a break to so many newcomer artistes while Sonu Nigam never does that. She also accused Sonu of 'not standing by T-Series after Gulshan Kumar's assassination, when Bhushan Kumar was just 18 years old. Divya had also alleged that Sonu Nigam had a link with Abu Salem, which is why Bhushan approached him for help.

However, netizens do not seem to be very convinced with Divya's assertion. Rather, they continue extending support to the singer. Memes and trolls targeting Divya Khosla Kumar flooded Twitter throughout Thursday as the hashtag

#DivyaKhoslaKumar kept trending. "I thought @sonamakapoor & #sonakshisinha were worst actress ever but this woman #DivyaKhoslaKumar not only takes the cherry but she takes away entire cake," tweeted a user.

IAN S

'Pulling chariot was surreal experience'

YOUNGSTERS SHOULD NOT ONLY BE TOLERANT BUT ALSO RESPECT THE SPIRITUAL BELIEFS OF OTHERS, SAYS SRIMANDIR SERVITOR ANIL GOCHHIKAR WHO HAPPENS TO BE A BODYBUILDER AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar/Puri: His dhoti-clad chiseled body on Lord Jagannath's chariot had gone viral on social media last year. Anil Gochhikar needs no introduction to the readers, netizens in particular. Even as he is a bodybuilder of international fame, this particular image added quite a few exciting adjectives to his name such as 'Baahubali of Odisha' or 'The bodyguard of Lord Jagannath'.

His elder brother Damodar Gochhikar, was also into bodybuilding and even won a gold medal in an eastern zonal competition. However, he quit the sport to look after family business. Besides, he had to get involved in temple activities also.

Anil, who has defied the myth-vegetarians can't be bodybuilders - is in the limelight yet again. This time, his image of pulling a chariot during Rath Yatra has gone viral on social media.

"I had no intention to become an Internet sensation, it has happened like many other things in life," explained the winner of Mr Eastern India-2020 who also serves as a servitor in Puri Srimandir.

Sharing this year's Rath Yatra experience with Orissa POST, Anil, who has bagged Mr Odisha title on several occasions, said, "The experience was quite different from the previous years. In compliance with the Supreme Court order, the administration tasked the servitors to pull the chariots in the absence of devotees. I was excited to get such a lifetime opportunity. I pulled a chariot on Bada Danda for the first time in my life and it was surreal experience. I am quite happy that no one interfered in temple traditions."

Anil had no dream to become a professional bodybuilder as such. He just moved with the flow. Anil took up bodybuilding very late at the age of 30 in 2009. Then the district lacked proper infrastructure to groom a professional bodybuilder.

"I used to practice in a local gym with my friends. But the equipments were not up to mark there. The gym was not only charging exorbitant fees, the food supplements were also very pricy," said Anil.

He went on to add that God decides the fate of every individual and what has happened was His wish.

Sensing his passion for bodybuilding, his brother set up a gym in 2010 to encourage Anil. Then, there was no looking back for him.

He has also represented India in the 51st Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships. Asked about his advice to the young bodybuilders, Anil said, the youngsters should not only be tolerant but also respect the spiritual beliefs of others. The youth should also be patient to achieve their goals, he added.

PEANUTS

CALVIN AND HOBBS

BREVITY

FUN post

CROSSWORD

Across

1 Tape

4 Fox, e.g.

9 Golf course feature

10 Come out of denial

11 Fatuous

12 Plump

14 Tailor's tool

16 Cleave

19 Better half

21 Bouquet

24 Skyward

25 Plead

26 African howlers

27 Common vipers

Down

1 Hoologans

2 Fine dinnerware

3 Short end of the stick (3,4)

5 Show flexibility

6 Huge

7 New news

8 Greek monster with nine heads

13 Airedales

15 Blow up

17 Saggd

18 Jeopardy

20 Extreme

22 Kind of layer

23 Poison ivy woe

SUDOKU

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

		2	A							4	C
D				C	A	1					7
	C	8						9			
4				8	2	E			1	9	5
	5			E			9	B	3		0
E		B			3	8					
1	0	4			6				7		
A	2	4	6	9					D	0	E
5			3			E	4				A
						C	D	4	7		
	A	8	E			1			3		
B		D	9				6	5		1	
	6	3		1	7	0	B				E
	8	9					5		0		
			C	2	D	4	3	9	A		

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

VIRUS TALLY SURGES TOWARDS 6K

PNN/AGENCIES

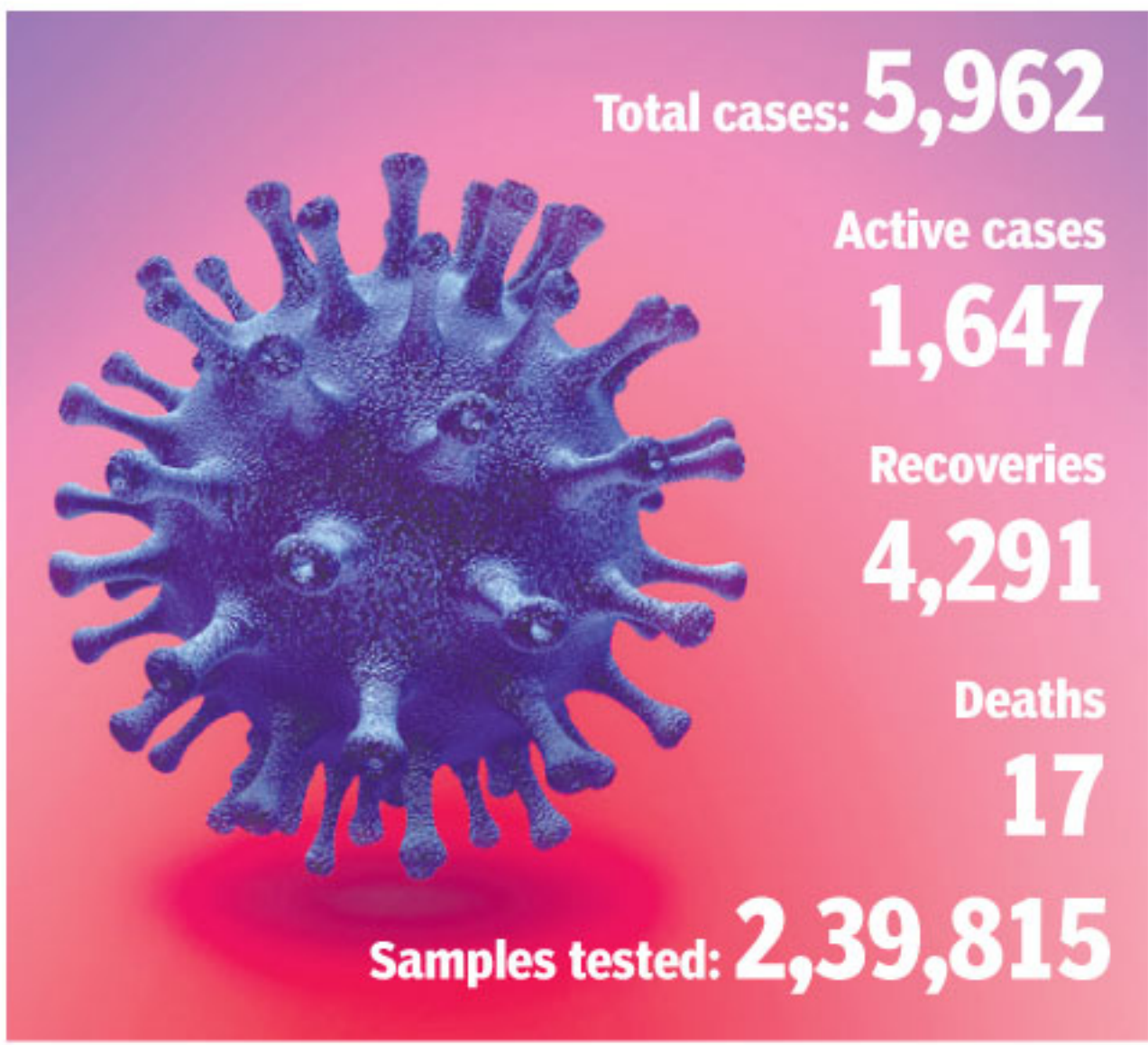
Bhubaneswar, June 25: With 210 new coronavirus cases in Odisha, the COVID-19 tally in state rose to 5,962 Thursday, an official from the Health department said.

The official said 174 of the 210 new cases were detected in quarantine centres and 36 were local contact cases.

There are 1,647 active cases in the state, while a total of 4,291 patients have recovered from the disease, pointed out adding that the death toll in state due to COVID-19 stands at 17.

"As many as 168 persons who earlier tested positive for COVID-19 have recovered and are being discharged," the department said.

Out of the 168 persons, 39 are from Ganjam, 23 from Khurda, 23 from Gajapati, 19 from Puri, 13 from Bargarh, eight from Sundargarh, seven from Balasore, five each from Bhadrak and Rayagada, four each from Malkangiri, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Jagatsinghpur and



Sonepur, three from Angul, two from Dhenkanal and one from Jharsuguda, the department tweeted. The 210 new coronavirus cases in-

clude six National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel who returned from West Bengal after cyclone Amphan restoration work,

the official said, adding that the number of disaster response personnel belonging to NDRF, Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and Odisha Fire Services who have tested positive so far has now increased to 282.

The fresh cases have been reported from Ganjam (58), Khurda (47), Gajapati (29), Bolangir (11), eight each in Puri and Jajpur, seven each in Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal, Sundargarh (six), five each in Keonjhar and Cuttack, three each in Kendrapara and Nayagarh, two each in Nabarangpur and Balasore, and one each in Deogarh, Angul, and Sambalpur.

A cancer patient undergoing treatment at the Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre in Cuttack is among the fresh cases.

"A patient from Ganjam who was undergoing treatment in the emergency department here since June 19 was tested positive for COVID-19," the cancer centre's director Lalatendu Sarangi said, adding that the patient has been shifted to a

COVID hospital in the state capital. A total of 4,188 samples were tested for coronavirus in the state Wednesday, taking the total number of COVID-19 tests to 2,39,815, the official said.

Ganjam district tops the list of COVID patients with a maximum of 1,088 cases followed by Khurda with 735 cases, Cuttack 510 cases, Jajpur 401 cases, Gajapati 384 cases, Balasore 325 cases, Jagatsinghpur 239 cases, Puri 232 cases, Kendrapara 223 cases, and Bhadrak 200 cases.

Seven other districts have also reported more than 100 COVID-19 cases. They are Kandhamal (176), Sundargarh (170), Bolangir (165), Nayagarh (135) and Keonjhar (105).

Meanwhile, as many as 38 persons were found positive for COVID-19 under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) jurisdiction.

"The COVID positive cases include 25 home quarantine and 13 local contact ones," the civic body tweeted. It further said that 14 COVID patients have recovered Thursday.

Plus II exam dates yet to be finalised

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said here Thursday that dates of the pending plus II examinations have not been finalized yet.

The exams, which were scheduled to start from July 1 have apparently been shifted further due to rising virus cases in the state.

He also said that the results of matric examination will be declared by the last week of July.

"Evaluation of answer sheets will be done by June 30. The evaluation of plus two examination answer sheets is underway at about 400 centres," he said.

Earlier, in view of the weekend shutdown in June, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha had decided to suspend the evaluation of matric examination answer scripts on Saturdays and Sundays in 11 districts of Odisha namely Ganjam, Puri, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Balangir.

Clearing the matter and confusion about the Plus II exams, he said that the matter has been intimated to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) seeking permission. The remaining exams were postponed due to the 19 outbreak and were later scheduled to be held in the month of July.

Meanwhile, due to rising virus cases, the state government Thursday said that it will take a decision of reopening of schools July 31. Earlier, in April the state government had decided to roll out



S&ME Minister Samir Ranjan Dash

SCHOOL AND MASS EDUCATION MINISTER SAMIR RANJAN DASH INFORMED THAT MATRIC EXAM RESULTS WILL BE DECLARED BY THE LAST WEEK OF JULY

MORE THAN 38 LAKH STUDENTS IN THE STATE ARE YET TO COME UNDER THE ONLINE EDUCATION SYSTEM DUE TO LACK OF NECESSARY INFRA, HE SAID

online classes for the students for which the students had to download the diksha app. Dash said that out of sixty lakh students in the state, nearly 22 lakh students are accessing online education through various apps including Dikshya, Madhu and Siksha Sanjog.

He also said that more than 38 lakh students in the state are yet to come under the online education system due to lack of necessary infrastructure. A Committee is reviewing the situation so that topic and course related information can reach students.

Srimandir staff, servitors' swab samples collected

PNN, AGENCIES

Puri, June 25: About 3,300 servitors involved in this year's Rath Yatra would be tested for Covid-19 within four days beginning Thursday.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) sources Thursday said three centres were opened to collect swab samples of the servitors.

The centres were opened at Markandeswar Sahi Girls High School, Utkal Hindi Vidyapith and Bagadia Dharmashala. The swab samples of altogether 688 servitors and SJTA employees were collected Thursday.

Apart from servitors, the test would also be conducted on Srimandir employees, OTDC staff who were providing food to servitors in isolation, contractual em-

ployees of the shrine and other personnel connected with the festival, sources said.

Five health teams were engaged by the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) to collect the swab samples, sources added.

This apart, hundreds of police personnel engaged in Rath Yatra duty would be tested for the deadly virus. Swab samples of 500 police personnel had already been collected and sent for tests and more tests would be conducted, official sources said.

Notably, the state government Wednesday announced that it would conduct Covid-19 tests on all people involved in this year's Rath Yatra.

The state government's decision came in the wake of reports that a Srimandir servitor was tested positive for the virus June 23.



An excavator engaged by BDA and BMC razes encroachments at a slum near BJB Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

EVICITION DRIVE

State launches portal to track labour cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: As part of the 5T initiative, Labour and ESI department Thursday launched Labour Case Management System for online filing and tracking of cases by workers in courts of Labour officials.

Labour secretary Anu Gagr has launched the web portal <http://lcms.labdirodisa.gov.in> at a special function.

Now, though the portal, employees and workers can file cases under key labour acts such as Minimum Wages Act, Employees Compensation Act, and Payment of Gratuity Act.

Aggrieved workers can also track the progress of their cases and even get SMS alerts at each stage of the case. The officers too will be able to monitor the cases better, official sources said.

Earlier, workers were in the dark to know about the status of their case and they were being deprived of getting their claims in time. Now, with utilization of technology, the workers will be enabled to file the case online and will also obtain position through SMS alert, the source said.

Besides, the system will ensure transparency and effective monitoring with faster disposal of these crucial cases.

CLASSIFIED LOST

I, Sri Akash Putel, S/o. Dabal Putel, At/P.O.-Belpada, District-Balangir, Odisha. I lost my Rank Card of AIPMT 2015. If any body got please contact in Mob. No. 9937525795.

MISSING GIRL FOUND DEAD IN KHURDA, KIN CRY FOUL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, June 25: A 19-year-old college girl who was missing for the last two days was found dead in a well on the premises of a private school at Jariput under Khurda Town (Model) police limits here, an official said Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Nitu Rana of the locality. Rana was a Plus III student of a women's college here.

According to sources, the incident came to the fore in the morning when a few locals spotted the body in the well and informed the police. Senior police officials including SP Ajay Pratap Swain, additional SP KP Jena, Sadar SDPO Susil Kumar Mishra, Town inspector in-charge Umashankar Singh along with a scientific team reached the spot and carried out investigations.

Later, a case (213/20) was registered under Sections 306 and 34 of the IPC on the basis of a complaint lodged by the girl's mother. The girl's body was handed over to her

family after an autopsy at the district headquarters hospital here, said the official.

According to the compliant, a youth of the locality was stalking the girl for the past few months. "Suddenly, his [the youth's] mother came to girl's place with marriage proposal June 21. Upon getting a cold shoulder from the girl's mother, the youth's mom threatened her of dire consequences if the youth resorts to some extreme decision because of the denial. She [the youth's mom] even hurled abuses at the girl," the official said quoting the complaint of Benupani Rana, the girl's mom. "Unable to bear the humiliation, Nitu left home. After a frantic search, we failed to trace her and lodged a missing complaint with the police Wednesday," said Basant Rana, the girl's uncle. Kin of the deceased allege that the youth's family is involved in the death.

"We've detained a guy as per the complaint. Action will be taken as per the post-mortem report," Town police IIC said.

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 25: There is no proposal to give away Coal India Limited (CIL) blocks for commercial mining, CIL chairman Pramod Agarwal has said.

Brushing aside the anxiety about the future of CIL as undue worry, Agarwal said Coal India is sound and secure, in the wake of opening up of the coal sector for commercial operators.

He said the company has sufficient blocks with abundant resource capacity to continue as a commercially viable entity even in the competition era.

CIL has 447 coal blocks, mostly explored, under its disposal. In addition to these, 16 more blocks were allocated to CIL—10 under Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act and six under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act—making CIL the largest holder of coal resource in the country.

The combined capacity of these blocks is close to 170 Billion Tonne (BT). Most of the recently allo-



cated blocks have a minimum production capacity of 10 Million Tonne (MT) per annum. Their combined peak rated capacity is 264 MT.

At the current rate of production and even after taking into account the projected growth in the ensuing years, CIL will be able to produce and fuel the expanding coal demand of the country to a considerable extent in the foreseeable future.

The CIL is targeted to produce and supply 1 BT of coal by 2023-24 and

Decomposed body found from Gangua

Bhubaneswar: The decomposed body of a man, in his 40s, was recovered from Gangua nullah under Mancheswar police limits here Thursday, an official said, suspecting it to be a case of murder. According to police sources, a few locals of a slum in Palasuni area here spotted the highly decomposed body in the nullah in the evening and informed the police. "The body has been sent to Capital Hospital here for an autopsy. We suspect that the man was murdered before being dumped in the water body as the body bore severe injuries. Action will be taken as per the post-mortem report," a senior police official said.

CIL unfazed by entry of pvt players

PNN/AGENCIES

HUGE RESOURCE POOL

CIL has 447 coal blocks, mostly explored, under its disposal. In addition to these, 16 more blocks were allocated to it, making CIL the largest holder of coal resource in the country

The combined capacity of these 463 blocks is close to 170 Billion Tonne

CIL is mandated to produce and supply 1 billion tonne of coal by 2023-24

take it further forward from there. Having its own in-house consultancy arm, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute with over four decades of expertise is another huge advantage to CIL in a competitive scenario.

With exploration, mine planning, design, infrastructure engineering, environmental management as strong points, it sorts out most of coal mining issues giving CIL an edge over other participants in the coal sector.

The CIL has a talented pool of

multi-disciplinary professionals, the chairman said.

"Domestic demand for coal is outstripping the indigenous production, he said, adding that the resultant gap is being met through coal imports at huge forex output. If commercial miners can step in to fill this gap, imports to some extent would be reduced," said an official of the company, adding but their presence will not dent CIL's status as the company is resilient and has the capability to expand.

Bodybuilder servitor grabs eyeballs



Anil Gochhikar

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 25: Hundreds of servitors had pulled the three chariots from Srimandir to Srigundicha temple here on the occasion of Rath Yatra June 23.

The annual mega festival was organised on the Grand Road without the presence of devotees in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

However, servitor Anil Gochhikar, who had achieved success in many national and international level bodybuilding competitions, grabbed the attention of many during the Rath Yatra.

"We pulled the three chariots barefoot from Srimandir to Srigundicha temple, a distance of

around 3 km, without any difficulty. The scorching sun and high humidity did not hinder us to serve Lord Jagannath," Gochhikar said while sharing his experience of pulling the chariots.

The 40-year-old servitor further claimed that this year's Rath Yatra has added a new chapter to the history of Srimandir: "Usually, police personnel and devotees pull the chariots during the mega festival. This year, we the servitors pulled the chariots. This was a rare experience. I do not think this situation would again arrive in future," he said.

Gochhikar claimed that servitors obeyed all the Covid-19 guidelines while pulling the chariots.

HITTING THE STREETS



People of several outfits, including 'Akhil Bharat Janamancha', demonstrate in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, condemning 'repression' by the Union government

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NGT FIAT ON SAND MINING IN SUBARNAREKHA

Admin team takes stock

A petition was filed with the green body mentioning: ‘How mining beyond permissible limits and beyond lease areas, day and night, is being carried out blatantly under the nose of the administration’



LOCALS APPRISE THE TEAM ABOUT...

- Use of excavators
- Rampant sand transportation during the shutdown
- Illegal construction of temporary roads in the riverbed

THEY URGE THE TEAM TO VISIT THE RIVERBED IN DRY SEASON SO THAT THE OFFICIALS CAN ASSESS THE REAL DAMAGE

Jaleswar, June 25: Amid allegations of illegal sand mining in Subarnarekha riverbed under Jaleswar block of Balasore, three environmentalists along with administrative officials inspected the areas. The team directed the district administration to take stern action on checking illegal sand mining in the river. This visit came following the recent order by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which had issued a notice to the state government on the allegations of illegal sand mining in Subarnarekha river and ordered an inspection into it. The tribunal had asked to constitute a joint committee comprising

senior district and state officials to visit the site and check the ground reality. Abiding by the NGT order, environmental scientist Dr Suresh Babu, scientists of OSPCB Dr Pradipta Kumar Nayak, Dr Prakash Kumar Mohapatra and regional officer of Balasore OSPCB Bhim Charan Marandi along with Collector K

Sudarshan Chakraborty, ADM Sambit Kumar Nayak and tehsildar Khirod Kumar Panda conducted an investigation in sand-mining area Wednesday. The three environmentalists said that a detailed report will be submitted to the NGT. During the investigation, scores of locals apprised the team about a host of issues like excess sand

mining, mining beyond lease areas, use of excavators, and rampant sand transportation during the shutdown, illegal construction of temporary roads in the riverbed. Locals urged the team to visit the riverbed in dry season so that they can assess the real damage and loss due to sand mining. Notably, NGT in its order said, “With regard to the seriousness of the allegations, we deem it essential to constitute a Committee comprising – District Magistrate, Balasore, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), the Odisha Pollution Control Board (State PCB) and, Regional Office of the Environment Ministry.” The NGT has also directed the state to act against the erring sand miners if found guilty based on the inspection report. The applicant had informed the NGT that the villagers of Panchughanta in Balasore district had been affected by the impact of sand mining due to transportation of sand on the village road as there is severe air pollution, depletion of water level, change in course of the river and obstruction of the natural flow by erection of wooden bridges and approach road in the river.



A little girl accompanied by her father takes snaps of floodwater being released from Hirakud dam in Sambalpur. The Hirakud dam released this season's first floodwater into the river Mahanadi, Thursday. The authorities released the excess water through sluice gate 7 of left spillway of the dam around 10.05 AM

Coaching centre and major roads sealed in Berhampur

VIOLATING COVID-19 GUIDELINES, A COACHING CENTRE IN THE SILK CITY, WITH ITS SHUTTER DOWN, WAS FOUND IMPARTING LESSONS TO STUDENTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, June 25: The coronavirus pandemic is acquiring alarming proportions in Silk City as the district administration sealed a coaching institute for violating Covid guidelines and 12 major thoroughfares in the city as part of crowd control measures, a report said. The matter came to fore after officials of Berhampur Municipal Corporation started sealing the entry points of major roads in the city from late Wednesday night. The sealing of the roads is part of a decision of BeMC to check the spread of coronavirus. As part of the measures, the road connecting Kamapalli to Goulundi, New bus-stand Kali Mandir road and Ramnagar by-pass road were sealed by Thursday evening. The sealing of the rest of the roads like Lohia Brothers, Annapurna Market, One-Way traffic road, Giri Market Square, Sana Bazaar Square, Khaspa Sahi Square, Kali Mandir road,



The sealed coaching centre



A sealed road in Berhampur

Haridakhandi Siba Mandir Square, Taluk Hospital Square and Sriram Nagar Square will be completed by Thursday night. Meanwhile, the district administration also sealed a coaching institute here for allegedly violating Covid-19 guidelines. The Special Relief Commissioner had directed for closure of all schools, colleges, and other educational, training, coaching institution in

the state June 1 till July 31 as part of the measures to contain the spread of coronavirus pandemic. Report said that a coaching institute identified as 'Praxis The English Lab' in Gajapati Nagar area with its shutters locked from outside was found imparting coaching to students inside in violation of the aforesaid guidelines. Acting on complaints, the sub-collector Shinde Dattatraya Bhausaheb directed the district officials to raid the premises of the coaching centre. Accordingly, officials raided the premises of the coaching institute around 11.00 AM. During raid 20 students were found taking lessons inside the premises. The officials allowed the students to go back to their places while the coaching centre was sealed. The proprietor of the institute has been served a show-cause notice.

Bank manager in Gajapati tests Covid +ve

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, June 25: The main branch office of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Paralakhemundi and another branch in the market area of Gajapati district were sealed Thursday after the manager of the main branch tested positive for Covid-19. Gajapati Collector Anupam Saha said that the SBI main branch manager was staying in Bhubaneswar when he fell ill a few days ago. During his stay in Bhubaneswar, he underwent the Covid test where the report was found to be positive. As the manager used to visit both the branches in Paralakhemundi, both offices were sealed. The offices will also be sanitised, he added. The Collector also said that all the staff of the two offices have been sent to home quarantine and asked to undergo the Covid-19 test.



What's the use of mandis if paddy packets were to be soaked in rain?



- Millers are making reduction in weight during procurement to around 8-10kg from every packet due to moisture content
- Farmers allege a nexus between contractors and middlemen is delaying infrastructure development in mandis

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, June 25: Farmers in Kalahandi district are a worried lot nowadays as hundreds of paddy packets have been soaked in rainwater in the mandis following incessant rainfall over last few days, a report said Thursday. This has come at a time when farmers have brought their paddy packets for sale in the mandis. As a result, farmers are forced to sell their produce to the middlemen at underrate which is much below than the minimum support price fixed by the state government. This has happened due to absence of any protective coverings like roofs or godowns in the mandis where the farmers can store their paddy for sale. Sources said while the real farmers are forced for distress sale, the millers and middlemen earn quick bucks by transporting the paddy stocks to neighbouring Chhattisgarh for sale. This is not a matter of a day or two but has been continuing since last several

years as the district administration have not shown any interest to construct godowns or roofs in the mandis. Left with no option, the farmers leave their paddy packets under the open sky at the mercy of the rain god. The paddy packets getting wet in rain has sparked sharp resentment among the farmers. The paddy packets getting wet has resulted in increase in the moisture content in paddy. This has also come handy for the millers to make reduction in weight during procurement. It is alleged that millers reduce around 8-10kg of paddy from every packets during procurement. Farmers alleged most of the mandis like Rajpur, Basigaon, Matigaon, Naktiguda and Balichhada in Junagarh block do not have any infrastructure to store the paddy packets. Similarly, the infrastructure in mandis at Bimala, Bondigaon, Karmeli, Khaliabhata, Mukhiguda, Rengalpali and Paikakendumundi, in Jaypatna block and Mingur, Dulkibandh, Bijmara, Depur, Pandigaon, Paruaguda and Bandkona man-

dis in Kalampur block are no way better. Farmers alleged that the regulated market committees who are managing the mandis are regularly collecting tax from various sources but not spending a pie on infrastructure development. The tarpaulins provided in the mandis fall short of the need of all farmers. Moreover, the tarpaulins provided in many mandis are tattered and fail to protect the paddy packets during rainfall.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN & PRINCIPAL PANDIT RAGHUNATH MURMU MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, BARIPADA RANGAMATIA, BARIPADA – 757 107, DISTRICT – MAYURBHANJ, ODISHA Telephone: 06792-252670, E-mail: prmmchbaripada@gmail.com NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Reference No. 1234 /20-21/PRMMCH Baripada, Dated.17/06/2020 No.E-76:- The sealed tenders are invited from the registered firms/publishers for supply of Medical Books, quoting the discount on publisher's price which is to be purchased for the central library of PRM Medical College, Baripada during the financial year 2020-21. The tender papers containing the terms & conditions along with list of the BOOKs can be downloaded from the College website www.prmch.nic.in from 08.07.20. The last date of submission of bid documents is 30.07.20 by 5.00 P.M. Sd./- Dean & Principal, PRMMCH, Baripada OIPR-10120/11/0005/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA
e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.com, eerwss.kld@nic.in, Phone No.: 06670-230784
INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e-TENDERING
Bid Identification No.10/EE/RWSS/2020-21/Bpt Dated 24.06.2020

ANNEXURE-A				
Procurement Officer	Bid identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only	Date of opening (technical bid)	
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	10/EE/RWSS/2020-21 /Bpt Dated-24.06.2020	01.07.2020 from 10.00 A.M.	16.07.2020 upto 05.30 P.M.	17.07.2020 from 10.00 A.M. onwards

Cost of tender paper & payment of EMD to be made online payment system. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>
Sd./-Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna OIPR-25005/11/0001/2021

CURIOUS CUTIE

WHY FEWER PATIENTS ARE VISITING BHADRAK DHH?

On the face of it, it might look like one of the domino effects of coronavirus outbreak but there is more to it

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, June 25: Panic due to coronavirus has seen a drastic fall in the number of patients visiting the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here. Hospital authorities said the fall in number of patients has been due to the lockdown and shutdown restrictions. However, locals alleged the location of some important departments within the DHH is one of the main reasons why the number of visitors has decreased. The DHH witnessed a 63 per cent decrease in the number of outpatients in April, May and June this year. For the same period, the number of inpatients fell by approximately 20 per cent. The total number of outpatients and inpatients who visited the DHH during these three months is 40,124 and 17,765 respectively. In the corresponding period last year, the numbers stood at 1,07,931 (outpatients) and 20,838 (inpatients). People are also afraid they may be infected by the virus if they visit the hospital. It has grown manifold since a staff of the DHH tested positive for coronavirus earlier this month. Lack of proper transport facilities during lockdown is another reason for DHH getting fewer patients. The location of the gynaecology and obstetrics departments is also another reason for the decreasing



A patient being carried on a stretcher in the DHH

The location of the gynaecology and obstetrics departments is one of the major reasons for the decreasing number of patients. Both are situated on the third floor and there is no lift. So, it is difficult for ailing patients to climb the stairs. Also on many occasions hospital staff refuse to carry patients on stretchers if they are not paid

number of patients. Both are situated on the third floor and there is no lift. So it is difficult for ailing pa-

tients to climb the stairs. Also on many occasions hospital staff refuses to carry patients on stretchers if they are not paid. Recently however, another problem has surfaced. Visitors alleged that doctors are neglecting non-coronavirus patients. Hence they are seeking treatment elsewhere. When asked, additional district medical officer Dr Pradeep Khuntia blamed the coronavirus-induced lockdown and shutdown restrictions for poor patient turnout.

- THE DHH WITNESSED A 63 PC FALL IN THE NUMBER OF OUTPATIENTS IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE THIS YEAR
- NUMBER OF INPATIENTS FELL BY AROUND 20 PC

OP PHOTO

SOUTHCO UTILITY
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL CIRCLE, JEYPORE
PHONE: 06854-241276 Fax:06854-241128
E-mail ID: circlehead.jeypore@southcoodisha.com

Ref. 1271 Dated 24.06.20
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. 02/20-21/SE/JYPR
Sealed tenders are invited on two part bidding system from the eligible Electrical Contractors with required license, from Govt. of Odisha who comply with the terms and conditions for carrying out Electrical Installation work on "Turnkey" basis for "Construction of 25KVA S/S, 11 KV Line, 11 KV Line AB Switch at sukraguda & MV 02 under Malkangiri Municipality". For details specification, terms & conditions please visit SOUTHCO's website www.southcoodisha.com. www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHCO. The sale of BID document starts from dt. 26.06.2020. The last date of submission of tender document is up to 13.00 Hrs.on dt. 13.07.20 & opening of techno commercial bid is at 15:00Hrs. on 14.07.20. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender shall be uploaded in the website only. Southco utility Reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Jeypore Electrical Circle, Jeypore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL DIVISION , BHUBANESWAR-3
e-mail I.D. smdivisionbbsr@yahoo.com Ist Corrigendum
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.2 W/2020-2021
No.A-151:- The Executive Engineer , Mechanical Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate basis bid in single cover system through e-procurement for the work mentioned below.

	1	2
1	Total No. of Works	2 (Two) Nos OF Mechanical gate works
2	Estimate cost put tender	Approximately Rs 13,53,405/- to 18,15,690/- (Excluding GST)
3	Tender paper cost	Rs 6000/- (Non refundable)
4	Class of Contractor	SSI Units registered under DIC / NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation shutter / Hydro Mechanical gates.
5	Period of Completion	30 (thirty) days
6	Available of Bid Documents and receipt of bid through online	From 30.06.2020 (11.00 A.M) to 10.07.2020 (5.00 P.M)
7	Date, time and place for opening of online tender	13.07.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, BBSR .
8	Date , time and place for finalization of tender through transparent lottery system if required.	17.07.2020 (11.00A.M) in the office chamber of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division ,BBSR.
9	Digital Signature certificate	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature certificate (DSC)
10	Name and Address of Officer Inviting Tender.	Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, BBSR-3

Further details can be seen from the Government of odisha Web-site WWW.tendersorissa.gov.in
Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Bhubaneswar -3 OIPR-32385/11/0003/2021

“

Let all circumstances, all happenings in life be occasions, constantly renewed for learning more and ever more.

THE MOTHER



Ban will hit poor

There is growing anger against China in the country. The anti-China rage gets reflected in countrywide calls to jettison Chinese goods, services and even technologies – to teach China a lesson. Videos of fully-functional TV sets and smart phones, among many other genres of flashy appliances, being smashed in public view are doing the rounds in social media. Union Minister Ramdas Athawale went to the extent of even demanding a ban on restaurants selling Chinese food. The minister did not care to reason that the restaurants selling the so-called Chinese cuisine have employed Indian chefs and Indian workers, not to talk about using country-grown farm products. Deals worth billions of dollars have now run into rough weather. Maharashtra government Monday announced to put on hold Chinese investment worth ₹5,000 crore. Many other state governments may follow suit. While one can understand the anti-China outrage in the country in the aftermath of the brutal murder of 20 Indian soldiers and the continual Chinese provocations along the border, shutting the door on Chinese goods and services will not only make zero economic sense but will be counter-productive for the country in the short to medium term. An oft-quoted logic is that India runs a trade deficit with China. But trade deficits are not always bad. It does not mean a trade surplus with a country will necessarily make India economically more prosperous than the partner country. For example, India has a trade surplus with the US, the UK and the Netherlands. But this does not make Indian economy any stronger or better off than any of these countries. Similarly, India has trade deficits with 20 plus countries including South Africa. Does it mean that India's economy is worse off than South Africa's? Therefore, trade deficit may not be a clear indicator of a weaker economy. A trade deficit with China only means that Indians buy more Chinese goods than the other way round. This also means that Indians buying Chinese goods are better off today than what they would have been had they, say, purchased a German or a Japanese product, or even an Indian alternative. Both Indian consumers and Chinese producers benefit from the bilateral trade. The situation cannot be turned around unless India puts an alternative system in place that can produce the same product at the same rate. Also, Indians don't buy a Chinese product because they love China or a Chinese product. In fact, there is relative more antipathy against this country in India. But economics always takes precedence over other considerations. Indians buy Chinese products as they do not have a better option. Our country does not have the capacity to produce for the needs of its own country. It does not have an efficient manpower or an efficient system to produce the same product at the same price. Also no country on earth is self-reliant. It depends on others for one product or service or another. Only the ratio between the exports and the imports varies. Unlike in the past, today India has USD 500 billion of forex which can support imports for more than a year. Also a ban on Chinese goods will hit the poorest Indian the most as India is a price-sensitive market and the poorest will be the most vulnerable to a possible price escalation. The rich in the country may survive if Chinese goods are banned here and they are replaced with costlier Japanese or German products. But the poorest in the country will suffer no end unless the government makes available to them a similarly cheap product.

WISDOM CORNER

“

I was never really insane except upon occasions when my heart was touched.

EDGAR ALLAN POE

“

The biggest guru-mantra is: Never share your secrets with anybody. If you cannot keep a secret with you, do not expect that others will keep it. It will destroy you.

CHANAKYA

“

Love me when I least deserve it, because that's when I really need it.

SWEDISH PROVERB

WORDSWORTH

Steal one's thunder


A splendid story is told about the origin of this striking phrase. John Dennis was a literary critic whose life straddled the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Having spent his inheritance he turned to the theatre to make some money, though it turned out he wasn't very good at writing plays. The last of them to grace the boards, Appius and Virginia, was performed at the Drury Lane Theatre in London in 1709. It ran for just three nights and then the management cancelled it. To help make the production effective, Dennis had improved an existing theatrical device to make stage thunder. Shortly after his play was taken off, Dennis was attending the first night of another play at the same theatre and was astonished to hear his thunder device being used. He leapt to his feet and shouted, "That is my thunder, by God; the villains will play my thunder but not my play!" Did this incident ever happen and, if it did, was it really the source of the expression? Dennis's biographer in the Dictionary of National Biography suspects (as Dr Samuel Johnson did much earlier) that it was an invention of Alexander Pope, the first person to mention it. Pope, a diminutive man but an excellent hater, may have been perpetuating a feud with Dennis. Among other exchanges, in 1711 Dennis had written of Pope, "that as there is a great deal of venom in this little gentleman's temper, nature has very wisely corrected it with a great deal of dullness."

Stepney

This odd-sounding term for what we in Britain call a spare wheel or Americans a spare tire is known in some countries of the former British empire and colonies, including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malta. The story begins in 1904. At this time, motor-cars weren't supplied with spare wheels or tyres and motorists had to provide their own. Roads then were often very poor, punctures were frequent and few facilities existed for repairs away from base. Then as now, it was hard to replace a tyre on a wheel without specialised equipment and a spare had to be a wheel with tyre already fitted. That may sound like our common modern spare, but wheels then were often of wood or heavy metal construction and a spare was both bulky to carry and clumsy to replace. Two entrepreneurs, Thomas Davies and his brother Walter, who ran an ironmongery business in Llanelli in south Wales, came to the rescue by inventing a clever device. It consisted of an inflated tyre on a circular metal rim without spokes. The motorist clamped it to the rim of the wheel that had the flat. In a share prospectus in December 1906, the brothers claimed "No levers or spanners are required to fix it. It is firmly secured by two simple butterfly thumb screws" and added that cars didn't require jacking up to get the spare wheel on. They called their device the Stepney Spare Wheel, after the location of their workshop in Stepney Street, Llanelli. They patented the wheel and started to market it in January 1906, selling seven in the first month. By August that year, almost without advertising, they were selling 1,000 a month and realised they had a success.

LOL WISH

A bus full of ugly people had a head on collision with a truck. When they died, they reached the gates of Heaven. God granted all of them one wish. The first person said, "I want to be gorgeous." God snapped his fingers and it happened. The second person said the same thing and God did the



same thing. This went on and on. God noticed the last man in line was laughing hysterically. By the time God got to the set of the arrivals, the last man was laughing and rolling on the ground. When the man's turn came, he laughed and said, "I wish we were all ugly again."

FOCUS WORLD

THE GREAT DEBT CLEAN-UP



Debt restructuring and cancellation should be clearly framed as an emergency measure that will discriminate between those institutions that have acted properly and those that have entered into deals with corrupt and authoritarian governments

With more than \$7.5 trillion owed to external creditors, emerging economies' debt-service costs are becoming increasingly onerous just when they need as much fiscal space as possible to confront the Covid-19 crisis. While there is a strong case for canceling much of this debt, many key players oppose doing so, arguing that it would limit these countries' access to international markets in the future, thereby reducing investment and growth.

In fact, the evidence for this view is fairly weak. Far from reliably boosting investment and growth, international financial flows are more likely to contribute to volatility in emerging markets and developing economies. Even so, it has long been assumed in academia and policy circles that international finance helps emerging economies build more effective institutions, enabling them to develop their banking system and stock markets, for example. Opponents of debt forgiveness have also argued that emerging markets need the "discipline" that international bond markets provide, because the threat of capital flight constrains misuse by autocrats and populists.

Hence, during the European debt crisis, Greeks were discouraged from defaulting on their debts to foreign banks, lest they destroy their credit profile. And even after Greek voters had rejected the terms imposed by the troika of official creditors (the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund), the country's left-wing government ultimately made a deal, leading many policymakers to conclude that market discipline had worked.

But this narrative no longer rings true. Far from checking autocrats, international finance has been facilitating them. For example, in South Africa between 2009 and 2018, foreign funds continued pouring in even after it was obvious that then-President Jacob Zuma's kleptocratic government was hollowing out the country's economy and institutions. When Zuma was finally kicked out of power, it was because his own

party, the African National Congress, took steps to remove him. The whip of international markets had little to do with it.

Similarly, though Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's attacks on his country's institutions have coincided with declining investment and productivity growth, foreign investors have saved him. With money still flowing into finance a growing current-account deficit and prop up a faltering economy, Erdoğan has been able to consolidate his rule, even establishing a presidential system that subordinates parliament and the courts to him. As with Zuma, the greatest resistance Erdoğan faces comes not from international markets, but from domestic politics. In municipal elections last year, his party was defeated in most of Turkey's major cities, leaving his grip on power significantly weakened.

Beyond these examples, there is also mounting evidence that international finance has overtly facilitated corruption and criminal activities in emerging markets, as in the case of Goldman Sachs's alleged involvement in Malaysia's \$700 million 1MDB fraud scandal. None of these cases should come as a surprise. Why wouldn't international financial institutions seize on opportunities to lend on attractive terms to autocrats, or to boost profits by helping kleptocrats and dodgy businesses cook the books and exploit tax havens?

– there is a clear case for not forcing these countries into deeper poverty, even if their debts were incurred under democratically elected governments. The assumption that a massive round of debt restructuring and forgiveness would mean the end of plentiful capital for emerging markets is not well founded. Even if these countries refused restructuring or forgiveness, their debt overhangs would prevent further investment in infrastructure, poverty alleviation, and new technologies.

Equally important, the cancellation of odious debts would improve the incentives governing international financial markets, because lenders would have to think twice before propping up authoritarian and corrupt regimes. And this change could provide an impetus for designing a new framework for global financial integration.

This approach will work only if it does not become a blanket condemnation of international finance. Many developing countries still need resources for investment and infrastructure, and there are still plenty of responsible, regulated international financial flows that they can tap. We must not create a situation in which emerging markets and developing countries are left without any access to finance at all.

To that end, debt restructuring and cancellation should be clearly framed as an emergency measure that will discriminate between those institutions that have acted properly and those that have entered into deals with corrupt and authoritarian governments. We need a new international body not only to oversee the rules of future financial engagements and monitor financial malfeasance, but also to backstop a new global framework of norms and standards. Only that can ensure the system's legitimacy in the eyes of developing countries and international financial institutions alike.

The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT and co-author with James A. Robinson of The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty.

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SPECTRUM CHINA

Vacillation as foreign policy for India



Dr. Anil Singh

THE MODI GOVERNMENT'S CYNICAL USE OF FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS HAS RESULTED IN INDIA LOSING THE SOUTH ASIA INFLUENCE TO CHINESE HEGEMONISM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's iteration at the All-Party Meeting (APM) on the ongoing India-China crisis, on June 19, that 'neither have anyone intruded into our border, nor has any post been taken over by anyone' in the Galwan has given rise to many questions, This, especially in the wake of satellite images pouring in, depicting the presence of Chinese troops and vehicles in large numbers in the vicinity of the site where 20 jawans of Indian Army were martyred on 15 June.

Of the 15,106.7 km long land border India shares with its neighbours, India's land border with China is 3,488 km and a part of this border is not properly demarcated, especially in Ladakh region; and this is known as Line of Actual Control (LAC), a term coined by the then PRC premier Zhou Enlai in the late 1950s and has been in vogue since then. In the aftermath of the 1962 War, and after having occupied a major chunk of the Ladakh region known as Aksai Chin, the Chinese version of the LAC was the line of actual control that existed after the Chinese attack in September 1962. This, whereas India insisted that LAC should be based on the actual position on 8 September 1962, prior to the Chinese attack.

In the wake of signing of the 1993 Agreement to Maintain Peace and Tranquility at the LAC between India and China, the LAC was accepted by both sides as it existed at the time of signing of the Agreement. The LAC is only a concept. During his visit to China in May 2015, PM Modi's proposal to clarify the LAC was rejected by Beijing.

China has made deep inroads into India's immediate neighbours in the Himalayan region, especially in Nepal and Bangladesh by providing massive economic aid and building strategic infrastructure. Pakistan is already in the tight Chinese grip through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) entailing Chinese investment worth \$62 billion and specific emphasis on building strategic infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in proximity to Indian borders. China has provided \$2.5 billion worth of military aid to Nepal recently along with the Nepalese \$56 billion assistance to Kathmandu, apart from developing strategic infrastructure in Nepal, including border roads.

The Modi government blowing the issue of illegal Bangladesh immigrants out of proportion to gain

domestic political mileage has not only angered Bangladesh but also pushed Dhaka towards China. Bangladesh is the second largest receiver of Chinese investment after Pakistan in South Asia. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)-related investment in Bangladesh stands at around \$38 billion. China has provided massive economic assistance to Sri Lanka and under the BRI, Sri Lanka got huge amounts; the debt of which is piling up thereafter, forcing Colombo to lease Hambantota to China for 99 years.

China has meticulously built up its strategy of encircling India via land in South Asia, and these neighbours can be easily harnessed by Beijing in arousing anti-India sentiments. There is no denying the fact that the Modi government's cynical use of foreign policy towards immediate neighbours has resulted in India losing the South Asia influence to Chinese hegemonism.

The ongoing India-China border face-off at Galwan Valley in Ladakh has raised the hackles of Indians with growing demands for immediately banning trade with China and boycotting products produced by it. Given the fact of heavy penetration of Chinese products into the India market – ranging from heavy machinery to phar-

maceuticals to electronics – immediate ban on Chinese goods does not seem to be a viable option to teach China a lesson. India is not a major player in China's trade scenario because China accounts for 5 per cent of India's exports and 14 per cent of India's imports. China exports only 3 per cent of its total outgoings to India. At the same time, what India exports to China makes up to less than 1 per cent of China's imports.

Experts opine that a blanket ban on Chinese goods is simply not feasible because even if people buy a computer from a different country other than China, the microchips in it might be manufactured in China.

Now is the ripe time for the Modi government to shed its ego domestically and externally and address issues facing the nation with a clear, transparent and well-concerted manner by focusing on rebuilding economy via practical solutions. A long-term defence and strategic policy is the need of the hour and any mismatch between domestic and external policies should be avoided.

The writer is executive editor of News24 & the views expressed here are personal.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



B-15, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Nepotism, yes

Sir, The whole nation is talking about corruption and nepotism. It's time now to understand the actual meaning of the term. We say it is very much prevalent in Bollywood and that's good research. We need to ask ourselves a very personal and honest question, "Have we not practiced or were not a party to nepotism in our own petty life?" Many a time, we have avoided standing in a queue and got our job done by using money, power and contacts. Haven't we greased palms, given money to get things done? Haven't we recommended the names of our near and dear ones for a job or a post? Haven't those of us in positions given preference to our relatives? Haven't we flattered our seniors for a hike and promotion? Haven't we bribed cops and rode free after breaking traffic rules? Haven't we used contacts to get our children admitted to good educational institutes? It's high time we do justice to ourselves. What we do is perhaps what the Hindi film industry too does.

Ajit Kumar Barla, ROURKELA

PLA on prowl

Sir, The PLA movement at Dapsang plains, north of the Galwan Valley, despite mutually agreed disengagement plans, is a matter of grave concern. Chinese troops are near a place called "Bottleneck" from where they have a vantage position to intercept patrols of the Indian Army. Given their penchant for springing unpleasant surprises, we must not trust the Chinese. If fact, we need to learn from the past.

N J Ravi Chander, EMAIL

Returning migrants

Sir, Now migrants who returned to their home states have completed their quarantine. They want work. If work is not provided to them within these states, they will again migrate. These labourers are generally lured by money and are staying in cities as also. The labour hirers pay instant money to them without any paperwork. Even middlemen in the local areas also try to start the migration. Going out of the state to work is voluntary and a free-for-all. A problem is of treatment of these labourers. They must be treated well and as per the existing labour and other laws. If migrant labourers suffer due to one reason or the other, they should be taken care of by the authorities. Migration can't be stopped.

Sunil Pradhan, NUAPADA

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Now, Dharavi strategy in other parts of Mumbai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, June 25: Taking a leaf from the success against Covid-19 notched up in Asia's largest slum Dharavi, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is now implementing a similar strategy for the north-east and north-west suburbs of Mumbai, currently in the grip of the deadly coronavirus, an official said here Thursday.

The Rapid Action Plan (RAP), found effective in Dharavi and Worli in the public-private-partnership model, is being implemented in Mulund-Bhandup and Dahisar-Borivali-Kandivali-Malad suburbs which continue to record an alarming number of cases daily.

"As in Dharavi and Worli, we shall focus on containing the spread of Covid-19 with a series of initiatives in these suburbs and screening at least 10,000 homes in each ward to cover over 25 lakh people next week," said an official.

The BMC is collaborating with local doctors, the realtors' body CREDAI-MCHI, NGOs Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana and Desh Apnaye



Healthcare workers screen residents of Hitwardhak Housing Society to detect COVID-19 suspects in a bid to control the pandemic at Malad in Mumbai, Thursday

COVID CONTROL STORY

► The Rapid Action Plan, public-private-partnership model, was found effective in Dharavi and Worli

► Under Dharavi's 4T - Tracing, Tracking, Testing, Treating - approach, the BMC actively screened 5.48 lakh people, tested nearly half a million, separated senior citizens to limit the transmission and shifted suspected cases to quarantine centres immediately

► The Dharavi success story led to an unbelievable doubling time of 78 days in the slum, earning praise for the BMC and Maha Vikash Aghadi government from the BJP-led Centre

Foundation for this dedicated drive in the suburbs.

Fifty mobile fever clinics in ambulances with a team of medicos drive around all day for a door-to-door check on residents, detect symptoms or comorbidities, collect swabs from suspects and create general health awareness among

the people. Each community volunteer, armed with a thermal scanner and pulse oximeter, screens around 100 houses daily amid plans to touch over 25 lakh people by next week.

To expedite testing, Maharashtra is procuring ICMR-approved 100,000 Rapid Antigen Test Kits from SD

Biosensor; South Korea - which can provide results in just 30 minutes - for people living in all coronavirus hotspots in Mumbai and Pune.

With this, the number of daily tests in Mumbai is expected to go up by nearly 35 per cent to 6,000, though Delhi conducts more than 15,000 tests per day.

Maha bans Ramdev's coronavirus treatment

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 25: India's richest state Thursday banned a "spurious" coronavirus treatment manufactured by a company founded by popular yoga guru Baba Ramdev, which he says has a 100 per cent record in curing patients.

Baba Ramdev, co-founder of Patanjali and a household name in India, launched Coronil to much fanfare Tuesday, but hit a roadblock when New Delhi and some state governments expressed scepticism. The western state of Maharashtra has banned the drug.

"Maharashtra won't allow the sale of spurious medicine," state minister Anil Deshmukh tweeted Thursday, adding authorities would probe whether any clinical trials had been run. Deshmukh could not be reached for a comment. Patanjali did not immediately respond to an email from Reuters seeking comment.

Hours after its launch, India's federal government asked Patanjali to



provide details about Coronil, trials and sample size and asked the company to stop advertising the product until it had been approved.

Ramdev, who is seen as a supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said at the launch that the medicine consisted of ancient Ayurvedic ingredients that boost immunity and had a 100 per cent cure rate. India reported a record increase of nearly 17,000 coronavirus infections Thursday, taking the total to 473,105 with 14,894 deaths. Maharashtra, home to India's financial hub of Mumbai, has been the hardest hit by the pandemic, accounting for more than 25 per cent of the cases. The state reported some 3,890 new infections Thursday.

Circus queen now a fish vendor, thanks to Covid

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Silchar, June 25: Sarada Singha, a 45-year-old chief performer of her Kolkata based circus company, had everything going right for her until the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent nationwide lockdown forced her to become a fish vendor to manage two-square-meal for her family. The virus spread forced shut her circus shows and she along with other members of her team are now grappling with an uncertain future.

While the Nepali woman Sarada sells fish at a roadside market in Silchar, the other circus performers - clowns, jugglers, trapeze players, ring masters, technicians, singers, make-up artist, guards, including her husband Ratan Singha are working as daily wage earners' and even taking up menial jobs.

The 160-member circus team, comprising performers and assistants belonging to West Bengal and Assam, came to Hailakandi (in southern Assam) in January to perform their show in famous 'Rabindra Mela'. From Hailakandi, the circus party moved to Karimganj to perform the shows in another famous 'Netaji Mela' in January end and then in next month to the 'Gandhi Mela' in Silchar, a major commercial city in southern Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura.

"Initially, our circus owner in Kolkata financially helped us, but gradually the proprietor of DK Enterprise, which owns the circus troupe, expressed his helplessness forcing us to search for alternate works. But, because of the lockdown, most of our co-performers had no work and no money. For days we starved. Our lives were devas-

tated, our dreams wrecked," Sarada, a lone woman vendor in the market, told IANS. Sarada's husband Ratan said besides the 160 men and women, some of the couples have minor children. "One of the performers delivered a baby earlier this month in a local government hospital in Silchar. Besides, we have two horses as part of our circus squad. During the normal working time, we feed the horses with 'Chola', but now we take them to a nearby river bank or field to feed them grass," Ratan told IANS.

He said, "Among our co-performers and co-workers, there are people belonging to Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Christian communities, an exceptional combination of religious diversity. For many years we have been working together as one big family. The local administrations, clubs, NGOs and even individuals provided us with various relief materials and foods, but we need big supplies of food and money for our teammates," Ratan said while explaining their distress.

Sarada, mother of two daughters, said she was 11-year-old when she was forced to join the circus due to poverty and afterwards earned huge kudos during the past 34 years. "I was like a princess or a queen during the peak of my career. As our circus party lived together and moved together in many places of Bengal, Assam and other states, one day I fell in love with Ratan, we married. Not only us, there are so many love stories in our circus party. My elder daughter is already married and 15-year-old younger daughter Punam is a good performer in various events of the circus," the woman shared moments from their nomadic life.



Initially, our circus owner financially helped us, but gradually expressed his helplessness forcing us to search for alternate works... because of the lockdown, most of our co-performers had no work and no money. For days we starved

SARADA SINGHA



AGENCIES

Guwahati, June 25: The Tea Association of India has urged the Assam government to take cognizance of the 'threat' to the tea industry due to the gas blowout and subsequent fire at the Baghjan well of Oil India Ltd.

"Tea and oil have traditionally been the main economic backbones of Assam and have co-existed since the early 19th century, but the recent mishap has brought to fore the apprehension in tea estates where there are oil wells within their precincts," TAI secretary general PK Bhattacharjee said in a release Wednesday. The tea gardens

and oil fields, particularly in Upper Assam, have grown parallelly and a significant portion of garden lands have been acquired by the state government to facilitate exploration and digging of oil fields, he said. "This (the Baghjan incident) has had serious environmental repercussions on the soil and environment in and around the tea estates, but the most important aspect is that the workforce continues to remain perpetually apprehensive of their livelihood, should there be a recurrence of such at any point of time in the future," Bhattacharjee said. TAI, therefore, urges the state government to adopt a long-term mechanism to lessen the

NGT slaps ₹25crore penalty on OIL

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal Thursday imposed a heavy fine of Rs 25 crore on Oil India Ltd for causing damage to the environment, humans and wildlife, over its failure to stop the fire at its oil well in Assam's Baghjan.

Enormous volume of inflammable natural gas which was releasing from the Baghjan-5 oil well since May 27 caught fire June 9, thus claiming lives of two fire-fighters. Baghjan is one of the 23 oil wells set up by OIL to tap the large gas reserves in the Brahmaputra basin and located near the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

A bench comprising Justice SP Wangdi and expert member Siddhanta Das pulled up the company and said: "We direct the OIL to deposit an initial amount of Rs 25 crore with the District Magistrate, Tinsukia District, Assam and abide by further orders of the Tribunal." The tribunal also constituted an

impact of such eventualities in the near future, he said. "We urged the Assam government to take cog-

Baghjan is one of the 23 oil wells set up by OIL to tap gas reserves in the Brahmaputra basin and located near the Eco Sensitive Zone of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

eight-member committee headed by former high court judge BP Katakay to look into the matter and submit a report in 30 days.

The committee has been asked to probe the cause of the gas and oil leak, extent of loss and damage caused to human life, wildlife, environment, damage and health hazards caused to the public and whether any contamination has been caused to water, air and soil

of the area of the oil well and its vicinity.

The blow-out left behind a mixture of chemical compounds that is toxic for land and vegetation. It is not only hazardous to the health of the people but also severely affects their livelihood, mainly agriculture, fishing, and animal rearing. The plea filed by activist Bonani Kakkar pointed fingers at the failure of the OIL authorities in preventing the blowout, resulting in a massive fire causing irreparable loss to the entire biodiversity of the region and loss of lives and property.

"Due to the negligence and lack of concrete effort to control the spread of the oil and gas leak, enormous fire broke-out in the area which continues to rage causing displacement of more than 1600 families," Kakkar said. The matter will now come up for further consideration on July 29, the NGT said.

WEDDING IN COVID TIMES



A security guard uses a thermal screening device on Heli, a bride, as she arrives for her wedding ceremony at a marriage hall in Kandivali, Mumbai, Thursday.

PTI PHOTO

Monsoon woes: Assam struggles to stay afloat

AGENCIES

Guwahati, June 25: The flood situation in Assam remains grim, with the deluge affecting 38,000 people in five districts of the state.

A fresh death was reported in Sivasagar district Wednesday, taking the toll in this year's floods in the state to 12, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

Around 38,000 people have been affected due to the floods in Dhemaji, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar and Dibrugarh districts, it said.

Dhemaji has been the worst-hit with 15,000 affected people, followed by Dibrugarh with 11,000 and Sivasagar with 10,000 people suffering due to the deluge.

The floods have inundated 102 villages and damaged crops on 5,031 hectares, the ASDMA said.

The administration is running 27 relief camps and distribution centres in two districts, where 1,081 people have taken shelter, it said.

A total of 119.3 quintals of rice,

pulses and salt have been distributed among the affected people, the report said. The Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat and also in Dhubri town.

Its tributaries are also flowing above the danger level - Dikhowat at Sivasagar town, Disang at Nanglamuraghat in Sivasagar, Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat and Jia Bharali at NT Road Crossing in Sonitpur, the ASDMA said.

Roads and several other infrastructures have been damaged at various places in Dhemaji district. Massive erosion has been witnessed in different places in Golaghat district, it added.

Floodwaters Thursday entered the studios of All India Radio (AIR) station in Assam's Dibrugarh, forcing authorities to suspend all broadcast-related services, an official said. The programmes are being broadcast from an emergency studio located at Lepetkata, 18 km away from the town, said AIR station Programme Head Lohit Deka.



A one-horned rhinoceros wades through the floodwater inside the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district, Thursday.

PTI PHOTO

Virus claims pani-puri seller, patrons raise funds for kin

The popular vendor was called 'Bisleri pani-puri wala' as he would use packaged water to make tangy-sweet snack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 25: For over four decades, Bhagwati Yadav sold pani-puri at Napean Sea Road in south Mumbai, which made him a known figure in the area, and his use of packaged water for preparing this tangy-sweet snack made him all the more popular.

However, his death due to coronavirus last month moved some of his regular customers so much that they launched a fundraising campaign to help the family of their favourite pani-puri wala.

According to them, this initiative was their way of paying tributes to the late street-side vendor.

Talking to PTI, Girish Agarwal, a tech-lead in a digital agency, said that he was a regular customer at



the late pani-puri wala.

"Yadavji had been doing his business for 46 years, which is much before I was born. Whether summer or monsoon, he was always there between 5 pm and 9 pm and the

taste of his pani-puri never changed," 34-year-old Agarwal recalled.

Yadav was famously known as 'Bisleri pani-puri wala' as he would use packaged water to make the

popular snack, he said.

"When the lockdown started, his business stopped. In May, I learnt from one of my building residents that Yadavji, who used to walk all the way from his house in Walkeshwar to Napean Sea Road, is no more as he succumbed to COVID-19 May 23," he said.

Agarwal said he spoke to his friends and decided to collect funds for Yadav's family.

"We felt we should do something for the family. I could not do it on my own. Therefore, we created a fund raiser link on an online crowd sourcing platform and shared it on WhatsApp to our contacts," he added.

"Due to the word of mouth awareness, we have so far received more than 125 contributors who have

collectively donated Rs 2.5 lakh so far. Our target is to collect Rs 5 lakh for the family," he said.

The contributors are not only from Napean Sea Road, but from other parts across Mumbai and also from abroad, Agarwal said.

In his online message seeking contribution, Agarwal said, "...The virus that affected the lives of all of us unfortunately took the life of Yadavji. While we can try to find another snacking spot, his family will gravely miss a loving father, husband and provider. They need our support... Will make sure your generosity reaches his wife and daughter."

Yadav's daughter, Kusum, said that she and her family were overwhelmed by the support of her father's customers.

of the day uote

The Congress general secretary is resorting to cheap politics since Covid-19 cases started emerging in UP. The claim of deaths made by her in Agra due to Covid-19 is false. The district administration has served her notice and if she fails to reply then we will take action

KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA |
UP DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

If the country can stand against the coronavirus pandemic in five months, it can surely fight TB

HARSH VARDHAN |
UNION HEALTH MINISTER

I wonder, those who killed democracy 45 years ago are questioning the government today. The party that suppressed the entire system, ended the freedom of all and jailed scores of people, particularly from the opposition, is now raising slogans of freedom

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR |
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

First corona death in Arunachal

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh has recorded its first COVID-19 fatality after a 43-year-old woman succumbed to the disease, while two new coronavirus cases have been reported, taking the northeast state's tally to 160, officials said Thursday. The woman, a resident of West Kameng district, was suffering from chronic kidney disease and had returned from Delhi on June 11. She was kept at an institutional quarantine at Dirang. As her health deteriorated, she was tested for COVID-19 and was found positive June 23.

2 militants killed

Srinagar: Two unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Sopore area of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir Thursday, police said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Hardshiva in Sopore area in north Kashmir Thursday morning after receiving specific information about the presence of militants in the area, a police official said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants fired upon a search party of the forces, who then retaliated.

Three kids killed

Bhagalpur: Three children of a family were killed when a speeding truck rammed into a roadside shanty in Bihar's Bhagalpur district Thursday morning. The truck apparently lost its balance near Jahnavi Chowk in Parbatta police station area and crashed into the hut, killing the three children on the spot, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Pravendu Bharti said. Others in the family, however, escaped unhurt.

Drugs seized

Pune: Ganja and charas worth ₹2.10 crore have been seized and four people arrested in Pune district, a Customs official said here Thursday. Two trucks coming from Andhra Pradesh were intercepted Wednesday and 868 kg of ganja worth ₹1.04 crore, charas worth ₹75 lakh and some other narcotic drugs were seized from cavities made in the roofs of the vehicles, he said.



The Goa government is likely to take key decision on the resumption of tourism activity in the state within eight days

PRAMOD SAWANT |
GOA CHIEF MINISTER

DIGVIJAYA IN SOUP

An FIR has been registered against Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh for leading a cycle protest in Bhopal against the fuel price hike without taking permission from the authorities, police said Thursday



MASSIVE TROOP BUILD-UP

India, China tension rises

India has increased deployment of forces and big guns by manifold across these places as the tension has escalated, said a senior government official, adding that China too has been building defence infrastructure on the other side

Defying the agreed mutual consensus to disengage, the Chinese People's Liberation Army troops have returned to Patrol Point 14 in Galwan Valley where the barbaric attack took place on June 15, in which 20 Indian Army soldiers were killed



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: The situation in the four flash points -- Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, Depsang and Pangong Lake -- in Eastern Ladakh is still tense despite military-level talks between India and China ending on a positive trajectory, sources said Thursday.

India has increased deployment of forces and big guns by manifold across these places as the tension has escalated, said a senior government official, adding that China too has been building defence infrastructure on the other side.

At Pangong Lake, Chinese troops have moved up to Finger 4 where they have brought over 120 vehicles and a dozen boats. The Chinese army has also opened up a new front in the area near the Depsang Bulge, a table-top plateau north of Galwan. They have built camps and deployed vehicles and troops.

The build up by the Chinese army has again started at Patrol Point 14 in Galwan, Patrol Point 15 in Kongka La and Patrol Point 17 in Hot Springs, even though they had agreed to remove defence infrastructure.

Further, defying the agreed mutual consensus to disengage, the Chinese People's Liberation Army troops have returned to Patrol Point 14 in Galwan Valley where the barbaric attack took place on June 15, in which 20 Indian Army soldiers were killed.

baric attack took place on June 15, in which 20 Indian Army soldiers were killed.

The PLA has even set up tents and an observation point exactly where they were on June 15, sources said, adding that the Chinese have returned with huge reinforcements even after they agreed to withdraw their troops and dismantle their setups.

Sources said that during the 11-hour-long Corps Commander-level talks between India and China on June 22, it was stated that there was "mutual consensus to disengage".

It was also stated that "modalities for disengagement from all friction areas in Eastern Ladakh were discussed".

The Corps Commanders of the two countries' militaries had met at Moldo to resolve the border issue and ease tension in Eastern Ladakh. This was their second meeting after the first one on June 6.

The meeting took place between 14 Corps Commander Lt. Gen Harinder Singh and South Xinjiang Military District chief Major General Liu Lin and it happened on the lines of the one they held at the Chushul-Moldo border personnel meeting point in Eastern Ladakh on June 6.

However, Chinese Army troops were back at the same location where the conflict took place.

INDIA RECORDS WORST SPIKE

A total of 16,922 new cases eggs the tally to 4, 73,105 as India continues to be the fourth worst-hit country by the pandemic

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: India witnessed highest spike of almost 17,000 fresh Covid cases, with Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu contributing more than 62 per cent of it in the past 24 hours taking the total in the country to 4.73 lakh, data from the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry revealed Thursday.

A total of 16,922 new cases eggs the tally to 4, 73,105 as India continues to be the fourth worst-hit country by the pandemic. According to the Health Ministry data, in the last 24 hours 418 new deaths were reported taking the total tally of fatalities to 14,894 in the country.

Over 1,000 cases more were recorded in 24 hours than what we saw on Wednesday, when 15,968 new COVID-19 cases were reported.

Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu continued at the top contributing almost 62 per cent of the total spike of the Covid-19 cases.

There are currently 1,86,514 active and 2,71,696 recoveries. The number of patients recovering from COVID-19 continues to rise. The recovery rate has further improved to almost 57.42 per cent. Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state in the country with total cases at 1,42,900, including 6,739 deaths. It recorded a spike of 3,890 fresh cases with 208 deaths in last 24 hours.

Delhi has 70,390 cases and 2,365 deaths followed by Tamil Nadu with 67,468 cases with 866 deaths. Delhi witnessed the surge of 3,788 cases with 64 deaths and Tamil Nadu recorded 2,865 cases with 33 fatalities in last 24 hours.

States with more than 10,000 cases include Gujarat with 28,943

Lightning kills 83 in Bihar, 24 in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, June 25: At least 83 people were killed by lightning in various districts of Bihar, and 24 in Uttar Pradesh while many people were reported to be injured as heavy rain and thunderstorms lashed several areas of north India Thursday, a government official said.

Out of the 83 dead in Bihar, 13 people were killed in Gopalganj district alone. According to reports, 8 people were killed in Madhubani and Nawada district each, six each in Bhagalpur and Siwan, and five each in Banka, Darbhanga and East Champaran districts.

Apart from this, three persons were killed by lightning in Khagaria and Aurangabad districts each, two each in Jehanabad, Kishanganj, West Champaran, Jamui, Purnia, Supaul, Kaimur and Buxar and one each died in Saran, Shivhar, Samastipur, Madhepura and Sitamarhi, according to officials.

Gopalganj District Collector Arshad Aziz said that according to information received so far, 12 to 13 people have died in lightning strikes in the district. He appealed to the people to remain indoors during the rain and not to stand under trees if outside.

Most of the people who died



were working in the fields. The injured have been admitted in hospitals.

Heavy rain with thunderstorms and lightning has lashed various parts of Bihar even before the onset of the monsoon in the state. Meanwhile, in Uttar Pradesh, in the midst of the ongoing coronavirus crisis, 24 people died in lightning strikes in the state amid heavy rain and thunderstorm. Out of them, nine died in Deoria district alone.

Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner Sanjay Goyal said, "Amid rain and thunderstorms, 24 people have died due to lightning strikes in various districts of the state today - one in Kushinagar, one in Fatehpur, one in Unnao, 9 in Deoria, 2 in Barabanki, 6 in Prayagraj, 3 in Amedkar Nagar and 1 person has died in Balrampur

Teacher beats odds of online learning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dumka, June 25: "Teachers can change the world" -- and that is what Shyam Kishore Singh Gandhi, the headmaster of a school in Jharkhand's Dumka district, has been trying to for his over 200 students, who may be bereft of smart-phones but not the willingness to attend classes amid the lockdown.

Gandhi has put up several loud-speakers across the Bankathi village where his Upgraded Middle School is located, and classes are being held for two hours every day since April 16, beating the odds of online learning.

The students sit near the loud-

THE NOVEL WAY



speakers which have been put up on trees and walls at different locations, and attend the classes. "Louder speakers are put up where the number of students is more.

Five teachers and two para teachers teach over the mike from the classroom, Gandhi said.

Thousands of schools and colleges across India have switched to online as classrooms remain shut since mid-March amid the coronavirus outbreak. There are 246 students from class 1 to class 8, and 204 of them don't have mobile phones," Gandhi said. He said the classes start at 10 am daily.

"If the students have any doubt or want to ask any question, they can send their queries to me from anyone's mobile phone and we explain it the next day," he added. Gandhi said the model is working and students are grasping well

what is being taught.

The students are receptive and are enjoying the new style of studying, said an elderly villager. Lauding the headmaster, Dumka's district education officer Poonam Kumari said all the 2,317 government schools here should emulate the model so that the students would not have to struggle to complete the syllabus once the lockdown is lifted.

The effort is praiseworthy and all the schools in Dumka district should follow this idea in the interest of the students, Kumari said, adding that she would soon visit the school and the village to learn about the teaching method.

FULFILLING NEEDS

Railway stalls to sell Covid-19 essentials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Coronavirus essentials like masks, gloves, sanitisers, bedroll kits will now be sold at the multi-purpose stalls at railway platforms, railway officials said Thursday.

The stalls, run by private contractors, carry most items that travellers could require, like toiletries, books, medicines and packed eatables. The stalls will now also be able to sell essential items required to protect passengers from coronavirus infection, according to a set of instructions issued by the Railway Board.

"Mindful of the fact that passengers travelling during these times might need certain essential items which they would need to buy in case they forget to get it from home, we have directed our multipurpose stalls to sell them.

"However, we have said that they have to be sold at MRP and no profiteering will be allowed through it," said a senior railway official. The official said bedroll kits, which are no longer provided on board trains due to fear of the coronavirus spread, will also be available at these stalls. They will be sold as a kit -- with pillow, pillow covers, blankets, face towel -- as well as separately.



■ The stalls, run by private contractors, carry most items that travellers could require, like toiletries, books, medicines and packed eatables

■ The official said bedroll kits, which are no longer provided on board trains, will also be available at these stalls

"Since we have stopped giving these items because of the pandemic, passengers can buy either the entire kit or any item separately," the official said. The order issued last week stated that the emphasis was on maintaining hygiene and fulfilling needs of the passengers.

"These takeaway bedroll and other protective items should be of good quality and not exceed the MRP," the official said, clarifying that the stall owners are not bound to sell these items manufacturing by the Railways.

GUJ MLA WRITES TO PREZ FOR SECURITY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, June 25: The Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) leader and MLA from Jhagadia Chhotubhai Vasava in a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind has expressed fear of being eliminated in an encounter and has sought adequate protection at the earliest. The BTP chief and his son, the BTP MLA from Dediapada constituency Mahesh Vasava, didn't vote in the last Friday's elections for four Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat. As the battle for the fourth Rajya Sabha seat was tough, both the rul-

ing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress wanted the BTP votes for their candidate, but the father and son duo abstained from polling.

On reasons for not voting in the Rajya Sabha polls, Vasava said it was due to non-implementation of the Schedule V and the constitutional rights of the tribals. Neither the BJP nor the Congress favoured the tribals' rights, he added.

In his letter to the President on Wednesday, Vasava said he and his son had been raising their voices for social justice. In Gujarat, the caste divide had reached a revolting situation.

PLOTS FAILED

146 infiltration bids reported along border since 2014

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: A total of 146 infiltration attempts along International Border (IB) were reported between 2014 and June 15 this year. All those attempts were foiled and 25 terrorists were neutralised while trying to sneak into Indian territory from Pakistan, a government data revealed.

All these infiltration attempts took place through borders along Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan, said the data, adding



the maximum number of infiltration cases was reported in Jammu and Kashmir and minimum in Rajasthan.

In the span of around six and a half year (between January 1, 2014 and June 15, 2020), the BSF has also apprehended 12 terrorists which were pushed through launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) and Pakistan's Punjab province to this side of the border to escalate violence in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country.

The BSF is the nodal force responsible to thwart infiltration attempts through 3,323 kilometre border between India and Pakistan. Apart from ensuring zero infiltration attempt through the borders between the two countries, the 2.5 lakh personnel strong Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) or paramilitary force is responsible to curb smuggling and illegal activities being carried out through the border from the Pakistan side.

The revelation followed the June 20 incident when the BSF troops shot down a Pakistani HexaCopter drone carrying one M4 carbine machine (US Made), two filled magazines, (60 rounds), seven chinese grenades near IB in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district.

Multiple intelligence agencies assessing ground reports from across the IB and the LoC have found that Pakistani Army and the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) would gather trained terrorists and push them through their launching pads. The number of launching pads in Pakistan is close to 300, said a source.

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of the day quote

The DMK cannot speak about democracy after aligning with the Congress

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

COVID patients don't need to visit care centre, health team will make assessment at their homes

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DY CM

COVID pandemic is increasing, we are making all efforts and we have even sealed some areas

B S YEDIYURAPPA | KARNATAKA CM

SHORT TAKES

Four quakes jolt NE states

Aizawl/Kohima: Moderate to mild four separate quakes with magnitude ranging from 2.8 to 4.5 on the Richter scale hit several parts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Assam and adjoining areas of northeast region bordering Myanmar Thursday, officials said. According to the officials, there was no report of any damage or casualty from any part of the northeastern region.

Former IAS officer grilled

New Delhi/Imphal: A day after questioning former Manipur Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh in connection with Rs 332 crore misappropriation case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday questioned O. Naba Kishore Singh, then Chairman of the Manipur Development Society (MDS). The retired IAS officer was questioned by the CBI team led by Joint Director N.M. Singh, who reached Imphal Tuesday for questioning the former Chief Minister and others.

CTET postponed

New Delhi: The CBSE Thursday postponed the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) scheduled July 5, which will now be conducted when the situation is conducive, HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said. "The 14th edition of CTET scheduled on July 5 has been postponed. A new date for examination will be intimated when the situation is more conducive for conduct of examinations," Nishank said.

CBI starts probe

Jammu: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has started preliminary enquiry into allegations of land grab and corruption by an education trust, run by former J&K Minister Chowdhary Lal Singh. It's alleged that Singh used his official position to get the Forest Department land transferred to an education trust run by him in the Kathua district. Also, false information was submitted to the High Court on June 9, 2015 vide an affidavit filed in a public interest litigation to favour this trust.

Five murdered

Chandigarh: Five people, including four of a family, were murdered at Kairon village in Punjab's Tarn Taran district Wednesday, the police said here Thursday. The head of the family Brij Lal (65), also murdered, had been facing drug peddling cases. Brij Lal's two daughters-in-law -- Jaspreet Kaur and Amandeep Kaur -- his relative Daljit Singh and driver Gursahib Singh Saba were also murdered.

Safeguarding the secular democratic fabric of the country is as important as defending her borders

PARKASH SINGH BADAL | FORMER PUNJAB CM

CRISIS OVER

BJP'S TROUBLE IN MANIPUR ENDS

NPP chief Conrad Sangma, who arrived in Imphal in the morning from Delhi, said the party MLAs will also withdraw their resignation as minister as senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured to look into their issues

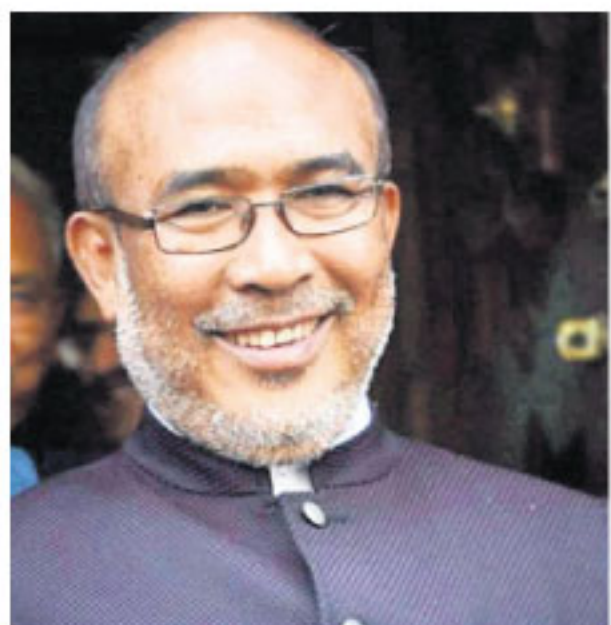
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, June 25: Four legislators of the National People's Party (NPP) in Manipur who had resigned as ministers a week ago submitted a letter to Governor Najma Heptulla Thursday, extending their support to the government headed by Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

NPP chief Conrad Sangma, who arrived in Imphal in the morning from Delhi, said the party MLAs will also withdraw their resignation as minister as senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured to look into their issues. He said they will be back as ministers. The four MLAs, accompanied by Sangma and BJP's trouble-shooter and Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, visited the Raj Bhavan in the afternoon to submit letter of support to the BJP-led government.

"A delegation of National People's Party led by Shri @SangmaConrad alongwith Shri @himantabiswa called on me and all the 4 MLAs gave their letter of support to BJP led Government in the State of Manipur," Heptulla tweeted. They met Biren Singh at Chief Minister's Secretariat here just after meeting the governor.

Sangma, who is also the chief minister of Meghalaya, said they were given a patient hearing at their meetings with Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda in Delhi on



Wednesday, and their concerns were addressed. "We had meetings with Nadda and Shah, and we expressed all our grievances and concerns we had as a part of this alliance," Sangma told reporters outside the airport.

"Both the leaders understood and assured us that all the issues will be addressed and taken care of," he said. Shah and Nadda assured that they will personally look into the issues and on the basis of that the ministers have decided to withdraw their resignations, he said.

Himanta Biswa Sarma, BJP's trouble-shooter and convener of the North East Democratic Alliance which comprises of the BJP and its allies in the Northeastern states, took the NPP delegation for a meeting with Shah on Wednesday as the Manipur government plunged into a crisis after the rebellion of nine MLAs on June 17. They later met BJP president Nadda.

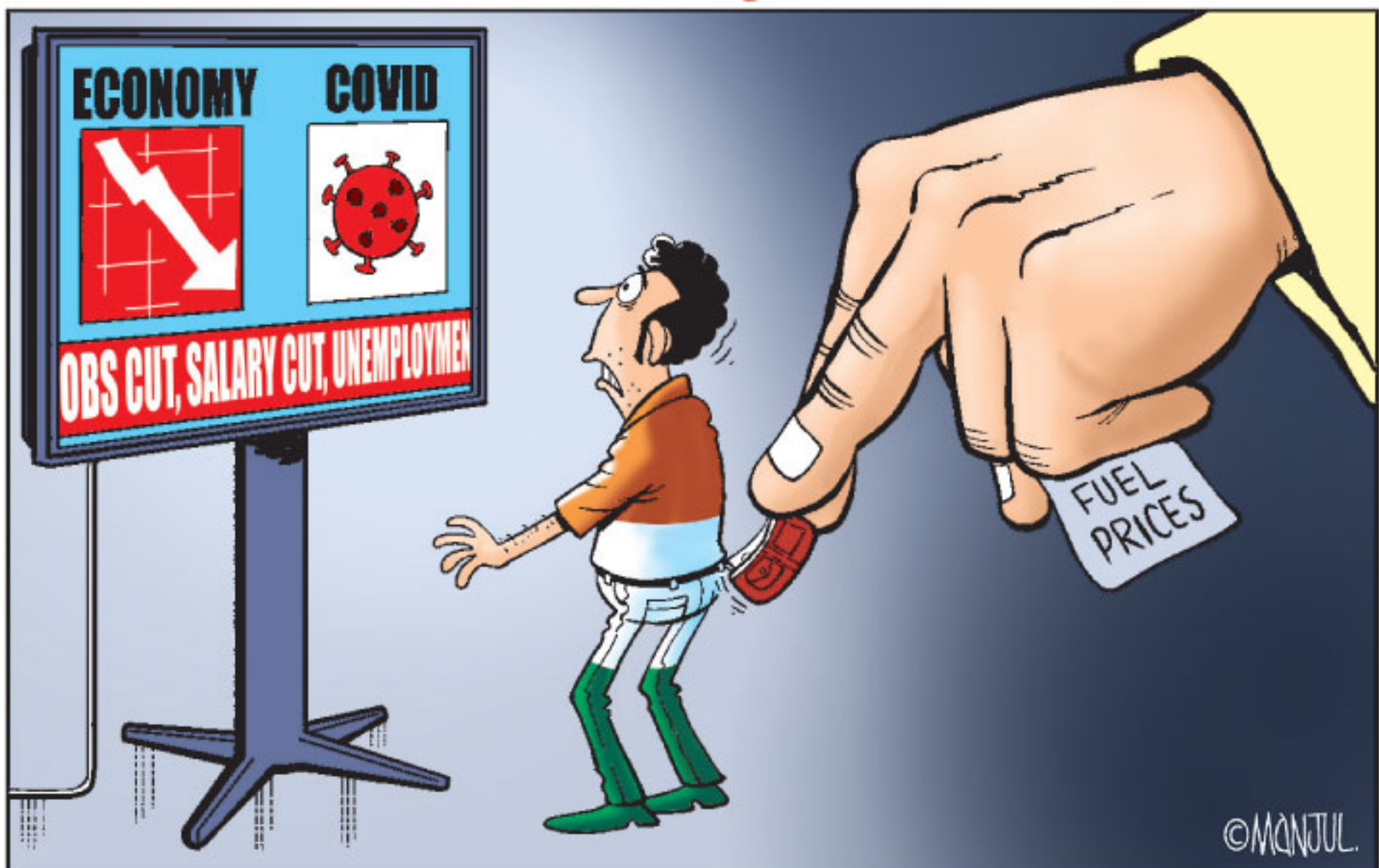
While the four ministers from the NPP quit the government, three BJP MLAs resigned from the party and the assembly. Further, the lone Trinamool Congress MLA and an Independent legislator withdrew their support from the BJP-led government.

Deputy Chief Minister Y Joykumar had said he and his three NPP colleagues quit the BJP-led government because of the treatment they received. Besides Joykumar, Tribal and Hills Area Development Minister N Kayishii, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Letpao Haokip, and Health and Family Welfare Minister L Jayanta Kumar Singh had stepped down.

As the uncertainty continued, opposition Congress swung into action and roped in the disgruntled MLAs to form an alliance -- Secular Progressive Front (SPF) - with the hope of installing a government in the state under the leadership of former chief minister Ibobi Singh. Asked about the SPF, Sangma said, "Obviously we will withdraw from that."

"It gives us a lot of confidence that the two national leaders will be looking into the affairs of the state," he added. Sangma said there will be some changes in the portfolios but all the four NPP MLAs will continue as ministers. After the 2017 assembly polls, the BJP had formed a coalition government with the help of the NPP and others.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



UP has a jumbo reason to cheer

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 25: The elephant population has grown in Uttar Pradesh. The state forest department which carried out a census for elephants, has recorded 352 elephants in the state.

According to data, 149 elephants are in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, 82 in Amangarh Tiger Reserve, 103 in the Bijnor range, 103 in Shivalik forest range, and 18 elephants were found in the Saharanpur region.



According to the last census, which was carried out in 2017, only 232 elephants were found in the five state reserves. This means

that the elephant population has grown by 120 in three years. The latest census was carried out in three phases after three years in coordination with the authorities of Uttarakhand. While Uttarakhand also conducted a census using drones for the first time, Uttar Pradesh has not adopted the technique yet. The conservator of the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department Mukesh Kumar confirmed the census figures.

ANXIETY AND LONELINESS

TREATING KIDS WITH CORONA A CHALLENGE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 25: Children who got infected with the coronavirus and have been admitted to COVID hospitals, are posing a 'clinical challenge' to doctors and other health workers. Most of them complain of anxiety, distress, and fear. Petrified by the PPE suits of health workers, they scream "bhoot".

Children cannot understand the need for isolation and hence, become irritable and do not cooperate with health workers. "In many cases now, we are allowing one parent to remain with the child if the latter creates problems. The parent is required to adhere to all safety pro-

ocols including wearing PPE kits. However, some children get scared seeing us move around in PPE kits," said a senior doctor at the KGMU.

According to a doctor in Prayagraj, most children admitted in COVID hospitals experience anxiety, loneliness, distress, and fear. Many of them get petrified seeing people move around in PPE suits. "They scream thinking that we are all 'bhoot'. They also cannot understand why they cannot be with their family. The atmosphere in the isolation ward creates fear and loneliness. The absence of parents and siblings adds to the distress factor," he said.

Citing the example of a four-



year-boy who was admitted after testing Corona positive, the doctor said that the child developed fever within hours of being admitted to the hospital. "We realized that he was deeply distressed in the atmosphere where everyone was moving around in PPE suits. We asked the nurse at-

tending to him to get him to make video calls to his parents and siblings as many times as he wanted. A day later, his fever came down and the child seemed more comfortable. We explained to him the need for remaining isolated due to the virus and he gradually accepted the situation," the doctor said.

In another case -- that of a three-year-old -- the doctors had to allow the patient's mother to remain with him because the child was inconsolable.

"The mother of the child was also a doctor and she understood the protocols," the doctor said.

In at least two cases in Lucknow where the "little human" suffered

trauma after being admitted, the doctors had to provide them professional counselling.

Child counsellors were called in and they interacted with the children for hours, trying to convince them about the need for isolation. It took almost two to three days to help the kids get rid of the distress factor.

Some hospitals in the state are now providing juvenile patients with toys, games and even colouring books to keep them entertained.

Some NGOs have sent toys and hospital authorities are also requesting others to provide some games for children admitted in wards.

APP FOR BLOOD SERVICES

A mobile application that would enable people to access safe blood easily, especially during the corona pandemic, was launched by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Thursday



BJP slams Cong on Emergency anniv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Senior BJP leaders slammed the Congress on the 45th anniversary of Emergency Thursday, alleging it still suffered from the 'Emergency mindset' and the interests of "one family" prevailed over those of the party and the country.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has often criticised Congress for imposing Emergency in 1975, made no mention of the party in his tweet but lauded the people who fought against it, Home Minister Amit Shah and other BJP leaders launched a broadside against the Congress.

Modi said the sacrifice of people who fought for democracy and suf-

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has often criticised Congress for imposing Emergency in 1975, made no mention of the party in his tweet but lauded the people who fought against it, Home Minister Amit Shah and other BJP leaders launched a broadside against the Congress

fered torture during Emergency will never be forgotten by the country. Shah said the interests of "one family" prevailed over the party and national interests, and questioned why the "Emergency mindset" still remained in the Congress. He said the "sad truth" was that leaders were feeling suffocated in the Congress.

"On this day, 45 years ago one family's greed for power led to the imposition of the Emergency. Overnight the nation was turned

into a prison. The press, courts, free speech...all were trampled over. Atrocities were committed on the poor and downtrodden," he said in a series of tweets.

Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had imposed Emergency, which suspended civil rights and elections, on June 25, 1975, and it continued till March 21, 1977. Opposition leaders and some even belonging to the Congress who were seen to be opposed Gandhi's style of governance were put behind bars. Shah said due to the efforts of lakhs of people, the Emergency was lifted, democracy was restored in India but it remained absent in the Congress.

"The interests of one family prevailed over party's interests and national interests. This sorry state of affairs thrives in today's Congress too!" he said. Referring to a recent Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, Shah said senior and younger members raised a few issues but they were shouted down. He said a Congress spokesperson was unceremoniously sacked.



FASTER GROWTH

Sivan hails reform in space sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Allowing private sector to carry out space activities like building of rockets, satellites and providing launch services is a major reform, ISRO chief K Sivan said Thursday.

The Cabinet Wednesday approved participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities, including planetary exploration missions. Terming this a "major reform", Sivan said the private sector can also be part of the inter-planetary missions of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

"The private sector will be able to carry out space activities like building of rockets, satellites, providing launch services on a commercial basis. "The private sector can also be part of interplanetary missions of ISRO. This is being planned to be done through announcement of opportunities," he said in an online briefing.

He, however, added that ISRO's activities are not going to reduce and it will continue to carry out space-based activities including advanced research and development, inter-planetary and human space flight missions.

When asked whether policy foreign private players will be allowed, Sivan said that a decision on this is yet to be taken. Unlike many countries in the West, where civilian space activities like launching satellites are opened up for private players, it remained closed in India. However, with this decision, it is likely to change.

Sivan said the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (In-Space) has been created under the Department of Space as a separate vertical for taking independent decisions with respect to permitting and regulating space activities of the private sector.



The Cabinet Wednesday approved participation of the private sector in the entire range of space activities, including planetary exploration missions

He said the move will not only enable accelerated growth of the space sector, but will also help the Indian industry play a major role in the global space economy. The current global space economy is pegged at USD 360 billion, while the Indian space economy is estimated to be around USD 7 billion.

"This is going to be a major system and reform in the Department of Space. In-Space will have its own directorates for technical, legal safety and security, activity promotion as well as for monitoring purposes so that they can take an independent decision," Sivan said.

The In-Space board will also have members of the industry, academia and the government. It will take six months for the system to take shape.

"Private companies can directly apply to In-Space which will independently evaluate and process the application. Once In-Space gives the decisions, it will be binding on all stakeholders, either private people or ISRO," Sivan said.

Woman kills daughter, self

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Palghar (Maharashtra), June 25: A 30-year-old tribal woman allegedly killed her minor daughter and later hanged herself from a tree in the forests on the outskirts of Jawhar, around 160 km north of Mumbai, the police said Thursday.

According to investigating officer Appasaheb Lengare, no suicide note was found. The woman was missing along with her daughter since the last three days. Identified as Mangala Wagh, the woman first hanged her daughter from a tree near a hillock, around 1 km on the outskirts of the Deragao village, Lengare said.

She left behind her husband Dilip Wagh and another 7-year old daughter when she walked out of their hutment on June 22 along with the younger daughter, 3-year old Roshni. According to the locals, Dilip Wagh was a brick kiln labourer and was mostly jobless due to the lockdown, and the family lived in dire poverty.

"The Sarpanch informed us after some tribals discovered the two bodies hanging from the tree. The bodies have been sent for autopsy and further investigations are on," said Lengare.

HYD COP HELD FOR RAPE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, June 25: A constable of Hyderabad police was arrested Thursday for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl.

The constable, identified as V.S. Umesh, had allegedly raped the minor, said to be his distant relative, after luring her to his house.

The incident reportedly occurred in Bowenpalli police station limits two months ago during lockdown but the victim's family only approached the police on Thursday.

The 33-year-old, who was residing next to the victim's house in Sikh village, committed the crime when the girl was alone.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar announced the arrest. "None is above law. We had to arrest a constable of Ramgopalpet who molested a girl. He is being sent to jail. I feel ashamed that there are such black sheep in our department," the police chief tweeted.

Basing on the victim's statement, police booked the constable under Indian Penal Code's section 376 (3) (rape of a minor) and 506 (criminal intimidation) and also Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The victim's mother first brought the issue to the notice of Balala Hakkula Sangham, an NGO. Balala Hakkula Sangham honorary President Achyuta Rao said that they informed Additional Commissioner of Police Shikha Goel, who alerted Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Zone).



The outbreak of coronavirus in Palestine came earlier than we expected. However, the situation is still under control
MOHAMMED ISHTAYE | PALESTINIAN PRIME MINISTER

EFFEL TOWER REOPENS

The Eiffel Tower Thursday welcomed back visitors after the coronavirus outbreak forced the Paris landmark into its longest period out of action since World War Two. Strict hygiene and safety measures have been put in place for the re-opening



of the day quote

It's very likely that I'll go to Washington and meet with President Trump, and that'll be soon
ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR | MEXICAN PRESIDENT

I want to achieve equality and justice for Black people
IARN AYTON | UK ACTIVIST

We need all governments to show greater solidarity and provide support, to developing countries most of all, to tackle illicit drug trafficking and offer evidence-based services for drug use disorders and related diseases, so we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, promote justice and leave no one behind
GHADA WALY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE UN OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

SHORT TAKES

Nepal, US discuss to boost ties

Washington/Kathmandu: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Gyawali have reviewed their bilateral ties, including the ongoing cooperation to address the COVID-19 pandemic. State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortugus said that during the phone call on Wednesday, the two leaders reviewed the USD 7.3 million COVID-19 aid that the US has provided to Nepal, building on the USD 600 million in health programming assistance that Washington has provided to Kathmandu over the past two decades.

Earthquake hits eastern Turkey

Ankara: A moderately strong earthquake hit southeast Turkey on Thursday, causing damage to some homes and slightly injuring five people. The 5.4-magnitude quake struck the town of Ozalp, in Van province, near Turkey's border with Iran, at a depth of 6.9 kilometers, Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said.

Goh retires from politics

Singapore: Singapore's former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on Thursday announced that he is retiring from politics and will not run in the upcoming general elections, after having served as a parliament member for over 40 years.

Britons can go on holiday now

London: Britons will reportedly be able to holiday in a number of European destinations, including France, Italy and Spain, from next week, but travel to the US and South America will not be permitted until at least December, media reports said Thursday. Prime Minister Boris Johnson will allegedly give the go-ahead for foreign holidays on June 29, with air bridges to 10 countries in Europe set to be announced, the Metro newspaper reported.

New curbs

Bangkok: Coronavirus case numbers are rising to dire new levels in several US states and around the world, potentially wiping out two months of progress in fighting the pandemic and prompting governments and businesses to impose new restrictions. Alarmed, some states are moving to ensure more consistent use of face masks and other anti-virus measures.

PAK EXPRESSES REGRET OVER US REPORT

AGENCIES

Islamabad, June 25: Pakistan Thursday expressed its disappointment over the US State Department's report which described the country as a "safe harbor" for regionally-focused terrorist groups.

The State Department, in its Congressional-mandated 2019 Country Reports on Terrorism, said Wednesday that Pakistan remained a "safe harbor" for regionally-focused terrorist groups and that the suspension of US aid to the country remained in effect throughout 2019. "Pakistan is fully aware of its responsibilities as a sovereign state. We reject any insinuation about any safe haven. Pakistan will not allow any group or entity to use its territory against any country," the Foreign Office said, commenting on the report.

It said the report was "self-contradictory and selective in its char-



acterization of Pakistan's efforts for countering terrorism and terrorist financing." While the report recognizes that al-Qaeda has been seriously degraded in the region, it neglects to mention Pakistan's crucial role in decimating the terror group's network, thereby diminishing the threat that the terrorist group once posed to the world, the FO said.

"Similarly, the report acknowledges the sharp decrease in the incidence of terrorist attacks in Pakistan but neglects to explain

Pak in FATF list vindicates India's position: MEA

NEW DELHI: India Thursday said Pakistan's continuation in the "grey list" of global terror financing watchdog, FATF, vindicated its position that the country has not taken any appropriate action against terror networks operation from its soil. It vindicated our position that Pakistan has not taken appropriate action against terror outfits, MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said during an online media briefing. FATF on Wednesday decided to keep Pakistan in the "grey list" as it has failed to check flow of money to terror groups like the LeT and the JeM. The decision was taken at the Financial Action Task Force's third and final plenary held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the Trump administration's decision to suspend H1B visas, Srivastava said India is assessing its impact on Indian industry.

that this was only possible because Pakistan's resolute counter-terrorism operations have targeted proscribed groups and outfits without discrimination," it added.

The FO said that Pakistan was still facing the threat of terrorism from externally based and foreign sponsored groups, like the TTP, ISIS-K and others and pointed out that the report was either silent or vague on the origins and locations of these terrorist groups. The UN 1267 Sanctions Committee desig-

nated Jaish-e-Mohammed founder Masood Azhar as a global terrorist in May last year, slapping an arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban on him, 10 years after India's first move to have him blacklisted at the UN. Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday called slain al Qaeda chief and 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden a "shaheed" (martyr) and said that Islamabad faced "embarrassment" by taking part in America's war on terror.

ACT OF KINDNESS



Local fishermen help ethnic-Rohingya people as they arrive on Lancok Beach, North Aceh, Indonesia, Thursday

COVID may lead to 95K extra TB deaths in India

Pandemic could result in decreased TB clinic attendance, delayed diagnosis and treatment

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, June 25: The COVID-19 pandemic may lead to 95,000 additional tuberculosis (TB) deaths in India in five years due to disruptions to health services, and delays to diagnosis and treatment, according to new estimates published in the European Respiratory Journal.

Researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Lancaster University in England estimated additional TB deaths and cases in China, India and South Africa

over the next five years. They examined the impact of various reductions in social contacts and impacts on health services due to COVID-19. The researchers hypothesised that social distancing might reduce TB incidence as



Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria which causes the disease, is transmitted via droplets in the air - similar to the coronavirus.

However, even after taking into account this potential reduced TB transmission, the most likely scenario was estimated to result in more than 95,000 additional deaths in India, 6,000 in China and 13,000 in South Africa.

Russia begins voting amid nCoV

Some voters said Putin had earlier suggested this term would be his last as president and accused him of a U-turn. Others said Putin had earned the right to run again

REUTERS

Moscow, June 25: Russians began casting ballots Thursday in a vote that could clear the way for President Vladimir Putin to stay in the Kremlin until 2036 if re-elected, a process that critics say is a constitutional coup.

Some election officials wore full protective suits, gloves and masks, and took voters' temperatures as seven days of voting got under way across the world's largest country.

Opponents have complained about the safety of voting during the COVID-19 pandemic and about pos-



sible fraud, and have said the 67-year-old former KGB officer, who has ruled as president or prime minister since 1999, has been in power too long. Russia has reported over 600,000 COVID-19 cases, and there are thousands of new infections daily, but authorities say the novel coronavirus is in retreat and that safety precautions are being taken for the vote. If, as expected, the constitutional changes are approved, Putin will be eligible to run for two more back-to-back six-year terms after his current one expires in

2024. Putin says he has yet to decide whether to run. Critics say he intends to cling to power. Others believe he is keeping his options open to avoid becoming a lame duck.

Some voters said Putin had earlier suggested this term would be his last as president and accused him of a U-turn. Others said Putin had earned the right to run again.

The vote is on a large bundle of constitutional changes, already approved by parliament and the Constitutional Court, which the Kremlin says are needed to strengthen the role of parliament, improve social policy, and lock in stability.

With state media supporting Putin, and the president facing no immediate threat from a divided opposition, the vote is expected to go his way despite rising unemployment and the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak. The central bank forecasts a 4%-6% GDP drop this year, while the International Monetary Fund projects a 6.6% decline.

Pak to convert locusts into fertilizers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, June 25: The Pakistan government has decided to convert locust swarms, which have been described by some as a bigger threat than the coronavirus pandemic, into fertilisers with the help of communities, a media report said Thursday.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research (NFS&R) has proposed that locusts collection will be incentivised through community mobilisation under the incentivised scheme," it added. Professionals will also be involved from research, extension, academia and civil society in compost processing activities.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johannesburg, June 25: A half-year into the most momentous pandemic in decades, it's hard to imagine that anyone, anywhere has not heard of the coronavirus.

But scores of migrants arriving in Somalia tell United Nations workers every day that they are unaware of COVID-19. Monitors for the UN migration agency interview people at the border in Somalia, a crossroads on one of the world's most dangerous migration routes: across the Red Sea with traffickers, through war-ravaged Yemen and into rich Gulf countries.

The questions for migrants are simple. Origin? Destination? Why are you going? But after the first infections were confirmed in Somalia, a new one was added: How many people in your group are aware of the coronavirus?

In the week ending June 20, just over half — 51 per cent — of the 3,471 people tracked said they had never heard of COVID-19. "The first time I saw this I was also very shocked," Celeste Sanchez Bean, a program manager with the UN agency based in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, told The Associated Press.

The findings, little more than a line in the agency's reports, are a reminder of the huge challenges in reaching everyone in the world with information about the pandemic, much less getting them to wear face masks. The migrants are often young men from rural parts of neighboring Ethiopia. Most have no education, and some are from communities where internet access is low, Bean said. She doubted that anything had been lost in translation. "We've been interviewing migrants for many years," she said.

In past interviews, many mi-



Scores of migrants arriving in Somalia tell United Nations workers every day that they are unaware of COVID-19

Somalia, with one of the world's weakest health systems, now has more than 2,800 cases

grants were not even aware that a war was being waged in Yemen, the next step on their journey, she said. With that in mind, "I'm not super shocked that levels of awareness of the coronavirus are still very low."

Instead, she's heartened that the number of those unaware of COVID-

19 has been dropping over the dozen weeks that the question has been asked, down from 88 per cent at the start.

Anyone who is unaware of the coronavirus is given a short explanation of the pandemic, including how the virus is contracted and descriptions of the symptoms

and preventative measures. What worries Bean now are the findings of a new project mapping the migrant route through Somalia, a country destabilized by decades of conflict, and merging it with epidemiological data showing coronavirus infections.

Lack of awareness about COVID-19 isn't limited to the migrants. "I've heard of something that sounds like that name, but we don't have it here," Fatima Moalin, a resident of Sakow town in southern Somalia, told the AP when reached by phone.

A recent assessment by the U.N. migration agency of displaced people in Somalia's breakaway region of Somaliland found "very high" levels of misunderstanding, with some people confusing COVID-19 with a mosquito-borne disease or thinking a key symptom of the respiratory disease was diarrhea.

of the day quote

We were aiming to grow at least by 30% in the year 2020-21. But the pandemic and lockdown has changed all that...projection for the full year right now I think would be a wishful thinking, it cannot be based on any facts

KSHITU JAIN | MD AND CEO, EXIDE LIFE INSURANCE

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the weaknesses and the strengths of India's large businesses. Now executives have an opportunity to make changes that will see their companies through the downturn and position them for long-term success

RAJAT DHAWAN | SENIOR PARTNER, MCKINSEY & COMPANY

One thing is certain that hygiene and safety will be a key differentiator in the post-pandemic restaurant operations. With various agencies of the government releasing their own version of SOPs, we felt that it is important that NRAI releases its own set of comprehensive guidelines

ANURAG KATRIAR | PRESIDENT, NRAI

SHORT TAKES

Amperсанд to train teachers

New Delhi: Amperсанд Group, an end-to-end school management services provider, has partnered with Jammu and Kashmir government's Samagra Shiksha programme, under which it will provide online training to teachers. This is also the first time that a project on this scale has been initiated by any the government with the private industry to train teachers amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Amperсанд Group said in a release.

PFC sanctions over ₹1L cr loans

New Delhi: State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Thursday said it sanctioned loans over ₹1 lakh crore for power projects during the 2019-20 financial year. Out of the ₹1 lakh crore, it successfully disbursed ₹68,000 crore loans during the last financial year, PFC said in a statement. PFC, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, is the largest non-banking financial corporation (NBFC) in power sector in India.

Fitch upgrades RIL's rating

New Delhi: Fitch Ratings Thursday said it has upgraded Reliance Industries Ltd's rating to 'BBB+' from 'BBB' as the company's financial profile has improved following sale of nearly 25% stake in Jio and ₹53,124 crore equity raise. "Fitch Ratings has upgraded India-based RIL's long-term local-currency issuer default rating (IDR) to 'BBB+' from 'BBB'. The Outlook is Stable," the ratings agency said in a statement.

Samsung, Servify join hands

New Delhi: Samsung India Thursday said it has partnered with Servify to launch Samsung Care+ that will provide protection service for newly purchased Galaxy smartphones. Samsung Care+, powered by Servify, offers consumers a range of benefits to safeguard their Galaxy smartphones against any accidental, physical and liquid damage as well as technical or mechanical failure, a statement said.



We extend our support to the government to make India self-reliant in the face of the recent tiff with China, but we should also keep in mind that we depend on China for a lot of key raw materials

SARAD KUMAR SARAF | PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Zurich, June 25: Funds parked by Indian individuals and enterprises in Swiss banks, including through India-based branches, fell nearly 6% in 2019 to 899 million Swiss francs (Rs 6,625 crore), annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed Thursday.

This marks the second consecutive year of decline in aggregate funds of Indian clients with all Swiss banks, taking the figure to the third lowest level in more than three decades since 1987 when the Swiss National Bank (SNB) began



compiling the data.

The total amount of CHF 899.46 million, described by SNB as aggregate 'liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian

This marks the 2nd consecutive year of fall in aggregate funds of Indian clients, taking the figure to the 3rd lowest level in more than three decades

clients at the end of 2019, included CHF 550 million (over ₹4,000 crore) of customer deposits; CHF 88 million (Rs 650 crore) held via other banks; 7.4 million (Rs 50



'STANDOFF A WAKE-UP CALL FOR INDUSTRY'

The India-China standoff in Galwan Valley is a 'wake-up call' for the Indian companies to introspect and take actions to become more competitive globally, top industry body CII said Thursday

crore) through fiduciaries or trusts; and CHF 254 million (Rs 1,900 crore) as 'other amounts due to customers' in form of securities and various financial instruments.

All the four components declined during 2019.

These are official figures reported by banks to SNB and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in names of third-country entities.

According to SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks to-

wards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities.

Indian and Swiss authorities have earlier said that a more reliable measure for deposits by Indian Individuals in Swiss banks is given by the 'locational banking statistics' of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), which showed a marginal increase of 0.07 per cent in 2019 to USD 90.6 million (nearly ₹646 crore).

Indians' money in Swiss banks slumps 6% in 2019

Sebi relaxes pricing norms for preferential issues of listed cos

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 25: Making it easier for corporates to raise funds amid the coronavirus pandemic, Sebi Thursday decided to relax the pricing methodology for preferential issuance of shares, and approved certain changes in norms for acquisition of shares through open offer.

The regulator's board, during its meeting Thursday, also cleared amendments to insider trading regulations and decided to streamline settlement regulations to make procedures faster and more effective. Sebi has decided to allow acquisition of shares through stock exchange settlement process by way of bulk or block deals during an open offer subject to certain conditions.

Experts opined that changes in the pricing guidelines for preferential issues would help promoters and investors to infuse funds into companies that are facing various challenges due to the pandemic.

Providing a "temporary" relaxation, Sebi said there would be an additional option for pricing methodology with respect to preferential issues. In cases where the new op-



Many deals were stuck on pricing misalignment between regulatory minimum and current market conditions. This amendment will pave the way for many of these transactions and help in liquidity situation for several companies

BHAVIN SHAH | PARTNER AND LEADER, FINANCIAL SERVICES TAX, PWC INDIA

tion is exercised, there would be the requirement of three-year lock-in period for such shares. In a statement issued after the board meeting, the regulator said there have been numerous representations from various stakeholders for temporarily liberalising regulations relating to raising of capital from securities market.

The option in pricing would be

available for the preferential issues made between July 1 or date of notification of amendment to the regulations, whichever is later, and December 31.

Under this option, in case of frequently traded shares, the price of the equity shares to be allotted pursuant to the preferential issue should not be less than higher of either of two levels. One is the average of the weekly high and low of the Volume Weighted Average Price (VWAP) of the related shares during the 12 weeks preceding the relevant date or such average of the weekly high and low of VWAP of shares during the two weeks preceding the relevant date. Bhavin Shah, Partner and Leader Financial Services Tax at PwC India, said the much-awaited change in pricing guidelines would cheer promoters as well as investors.

Yash Ashar, Partner & Head at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas said additional condition that those who participate in preferential issuance under the revised formula would be locked in for a three years is "primarily intended to benefit the promoters of the company as otherwise they would have had to pay a much higher price".

HUL to remove 'Fair' from 'Fair & Lovely'

The company said it will continue to evolve its advertising, to feature women of different skin tones, representative of the variety of beauty across India



AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 25: FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Thursday said it will get rid of the word 'Fair' from its popular skin care brand 'Fair & Lovely', as part of a re-branding exercise in the wake of growing voices against racial stereotypes. The company said its other skincare portfolio will also adopt a new holistic vision towards beauty that cares for everyone and celebrates all skin colours.

"Taking forward the brand's journey towards a more inclusive vision of beauty, the company will stop using the word 'Fair' in the brand name 'Fair & Lovely'. The new name is awaiting regulatory approvals and we expect to change the name in the next few months," Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) said

in a statement.

As part of the rebranding, the company will also be announcing the new name for the 'Fair & Lovely' Foundation, set up in 2003 to offer scholarships to women to help them pursue their education.

HUL Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Mehta said that "in addition to the changes to Fair & Lovely, the rest of HUL's skincare portfolio will also reflect the new vision of positive beauty".

"In 2019, we removed the cameo with two faces as well as the shade guides from the packaging of Fair & Lovely and the brand communication progressed from fairness to glow which is a more holistic and inclusive measure of healthy skin," he added.

These changes were very well received by consumers, Mehta claimed.

The new name is awaiting regulatory approvals and the pack with the revised name will be available in the market in the next few months, he said. cts' packs and communication.

CBI files charge sheet against Rana Kapoor, DHFL's Wadhawans



AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 25: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Thursday filed a charge sheet in a court here against Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor and DHFL co-founders Kapil and Dheeraj Wadhawan for an alleged scam.

As per the central agency, in return for investment in DHFL debentures by Yes Bank, companies controlled by Kapoor and his family members got undue benefits.

The scam started between April to June, 2018, when Yes Bank invested ₹3,700 crore in short-term debentures of the scam-hit Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL), the CBI has alleged.

In return, Wadhawans allegedly "paid kickback of ₹600 crore" in the form of loans to DoIT Urban Ventures (India) Pvt Ltd, a firm controlled by Kapoor's wife and daughters, it has claimed.

Aluminium assn urges Centre to implement RoDTEP scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Aluminium Association of India sought urgent intervention from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and Industry to relieve the Aluminium industry from the burden of high taxes and duties and bolster global competitiveness for the domestic Aluminium industry.

In the letter, the association demanded urgent implementation RoDTEP Scheme (Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products) for Indian Aluminium industry on a priority basis to make India's Aluminium exports competitive and create a level playing field for Indian exporters vis-à-vis global players in international markets.

Jack Ma dethroned as China's richest by Pony Ma



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, June 25: Internet giant Tencent founder and CEO of Ma Huateng (also known as Pony Ma), worth \$50 billion, has surpassed Alibaba Co-Founder Jack Ma's \$48 billion fortune to become China's richest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

What worked in favour of the Tencent CEO is the company's significant surge in stock this week.

Before co-founding Tencent in 1998, Pony led research and development for the internet paging system at China Motion Telecom Development Limited, a telecommunications services and products provider in China.

Vedanta rolls out Nand Ghar project across villages in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Lanjigarh, June 25: Vedanta Limited's, flagship project 'Nand Ghar' rolled out e-learning modules for home-schooling through WhatsApp groups across villages of Odisha. The e-learning module was also rolled out in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

It consists of stories, games, rhymes, home-based activities, moral science lessons and more for children below six years of age. In Odisha, a WhatsApp group was formed to connect parents of the children studying in 25 Nand Ghars located at Kalahandi district for sharing the Arunima e-learning curriculum. Till date, around 50 families are connected through this initiative and are regularly supplied with the e-content so that parents can educate children by showing videos.

Vedanta has also initiated IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System)



for the beneficiaries without having smart phones. Once developed, this will be shared with families which have feature phones. 374 families have been identified to avail this facility.

Chairman of Vedanta Resources Anil Agarwal said, "The spread of COVID-19 pandemic leading to closure of schools and colleges has affected billions of children and

youth across the world. The higher income families have access to technology and internet; however it is the lower income families that are bearing the brunt of the unprecedented pandemic. With the Anganwadi centres closed at this point, the need for uninterrupted education of children remains our priority. Thus, with an objective that no child is bereft of education, Nand Ghar has launched its e-learning modules through mobile phones."

Vedanta project Nand Ghar has already constructed more than 1,300 Nand Ghars across seven states in India. The Nand Ghars are equipped with televisions for e-learning, solar panels for reliable power, safe drinking water, and clean toilets and have emerged as an ideal model for replication in other parts of the country. The project aims to transform lives of 8.5 crore children through 14 lakh anganwadis across the country.

Strained relations may increase supply chain risks

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: Any potential escalation between India and China could increase operational and supply-chain risks in the current economic backdrop, even as economies look to recover from the pandemic, brokerages have said citing the recent border tension between the two countries.

The most affected sectors could be auto, consumer durables, pharmaceuticals, telecom, chemicals and renewable power sector (Solar) that seem to be the most dependent in terms of sourcing from China. According to an India strategy report by Motilal Oswal Institutional Equities, it would be difficult and expensive for Indian firms in certain sectors to immediately find alternative suppliers at the same scale or costs.

This could create big problems for such companies who would not only



have to look quickly at alternate source of supplies but also be ready to add up costs at a time when the COVID-19 has severely dented overall economic conditions and squeezed demand in several sectors.

While Consumer Durables are dependent on China for components, Pharma is dependent for API sourcing. Telecom is depend-

ent on China from a network standpoint as well as for 4G smartphone handsets as China caters to more than 75% of the Indian handset demand. Various sectors have material inter-linkages with China and form a critical part of the supply-chain for many firms in India, the report said.

"In the short-to-medium term,

INDIA-CHINA STANDOFF

THE MOST AFFECTED SECTORS COULD BE AUTO, CONSUMER DURABLES, PHARMACEUTICALS, TELECOM, CHEMICALS AND RENEWABLE POWER SECTOR

IT WILL BE EXPENSIVE FOR INDIAN FIRMS IN CERTAIN SECTORS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE SUPPLIERS AT THE SAME SCALE OR COSTS, REPORTS MOTILAL OSWAL INSTITUTIONAL EQUITIES

we believe the deep inter-linkages of several sectors preclude any meaningful retaliation on the trade front. However, as the world looks to de-risk its supply-chain from China given the back drop of the COVID-19 pandemic, from a long-term perspective, the need for emphasis on Indian Manufacturing gets reinforced now, the brokerage report has said.

In this regard, the government's drive for self-dependence in various aspects (Amanirbhar Bharat) should bring the necessary change that could sustain the changes in market dynamics. "For sustained change, however, we believe structural reforms encouraging manufacturing (ease of doing business, ease of compliance burden, etc) and market reforms (land, labour and capital) would augur well to augment India's manufacturing competitiveness," the report said.

India's growing linkage with China can be seen from the developments on the trade front. From barely any deficit in FY2000, India ran a trade deficit of \$48.6 billion (1.7% of GDP) with China in FY20. India's imports from China have risen steeply from just 2.6% of total imports in FY2000 to an all-time high of 16.4% in FY18 before easing to 14% (\$65.3bn) in FY20.

On brink of glory



Trent Alexander-Arnold (No.66) rejoices after his goal as his Liverpool teammates rush in to join in celebration, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool, June 25: Liverpool is on the verge of ending their 30-year league title drought after cruising to a 4-0 victory over Crystal Palace with an attacking display that exemplified a dominant campaign.

Jürgen Klopp's team can even clinch the Premier League title Thursday without playing if Manchester City fail to beat Chelsea. They then play City, the second-placed defending champion, next Thursday.

"I'll watch the game tomorrow night not to prepare a celebration, I'll watch the game because we play against City a week later," Klopp said. "Whatever happens tomorrow night we have no influence on it, so I'm not too much interested to be honest."

All that matters to Klopp is collecting the maximum two more points from seven remaining games

to clinch the trophy. After stuttering in a goalless draw with Everton after the restart Sunday, Liverpool was authoritatively rampant again against Palace Wednesday.

Trent Alexander-Arnold curled in a free-kick to start the rout against Palace and Mohamed Salah swept in the second before half time from Fabinho's dinked ball.

Fabinho powered in the third from distance in the 55th minute and Sadio Mané raced onto Salah's throughball to complete a counterattack in the 69th to make it 16 wins in 16 home games in the league this season.

The victory moved Liverpool 23 points ahead of City with seven games remaining of a campaign that will end without any fans in the stadium to celebrate the Reds' first championship triumph since 1990.

Football returned to Anfield for the first time since March 11, when Liverpool lost in the Champions League to Atletico Madrid on the day

Salah scores one, sets up another as Liverpool close in on Premier League title after crushing Crystal Palace 4-0



ready have been shut down in England.

One hundred and five days later, the Kop was silent for the visit of Palace. The seats were covered with a tapestry of banners and slogans rather than being packed with the fans who form the choir for club anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

One Liverpool great among the 300 people allowed into the stadium was Kenny Dalglish – the manager who won the league title in 1990, three years before the Premier League trophy was handed out

for the first time.

Two Champions League titles have been won since then – including last year – but not the biggest prize in English football. What was once a record haul of 18 titles has been eclipsed by now 20-time English champion Manchester United.

One of the managers who tried – and failed – to win the Premier League with Liverpool was back at Anfield in the away dugout Wednesday. Roy Hodgson

the WHO declared the coronavirus a pandemic and some medical experts believed mass gatherings should al-

was fired by Liverpool in 2011 after only 20 matches in charge, to be replaced by the returning Dalglish.

Martial lifts Man Utd

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, June 25: Converting from a winger to a central striker is bringing the best out of Anthony Martial at Manchester United this season.

The French forward scored his first hat trick for United in the 3-0 win over Sheffield United in the Premier League Wednesday, taking his tally in all competitions to 19 goals – his highest in one season since joining from Monaco in 2015.

There could be as many as 14 matches remaining this season for Martial to top up that number. And with Bruno Fernandes and Paul Pogba finally together in central midfield to increase United's creativity, goals shouldn't be in short supply.

It was the first hat trick by a

United player since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and the type of finishes Martial delivered showed he is growing in his new role.

Martial's first two goals came at either end of the first half, the



opener coming when he slid in to divert in a fiercely driven cross by Marcus Rashford from the right in the seventh minute.

It was a real striker's goal, as was his second in the 44th when he

FRENCH FORWARD SCORES HAT-TRICK

swept home another cross from the right, this time by Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

Rashford was again the provider for Martial's third goal, slipping a short pass behind the visiting defense for his fellow forward to run through and apply a deft finish over goalkeeper Simon Moore.

The hosts did, though, print large photos of 40,000 of their supporters and place them on seats in the stadium as part of a fan mosaic.

The win kept United in fifth place, which will be enough to secure qualification for next season's Champions League if second-place Manchester City fails in its appeal against a two-year European ban.

It was a second straight loss for the visitors, who dropped five points behind Man United.

Sanjita to finally get Arjuna award



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Cleared of the dope taint, two-time Commonwealth Games gold-winning weightlifter Sanjita Channu will finally get the coveted Arjuna award which has been on hold since 2018.

A Sports Ministry source confirmed that Channu will be conferred with the Arjuna award as per a 2018 Delhi High Court order, which directed the selection committee to consider her and keep the decision in a sealed cover to be disclosed only if she was absolved of the doping charges.

"Sanjita (Channu) is absolved of all the doping charges by the international federation, so we will

have to abide by the Delhi High Court order and consider her for the Arjuna award," the ministry source told PTI.

After she was ignored for the 2017 Arjuna Awards, Channu had filed a writ petition before the Delhi HC challenging the decision to exclude her from the list of those recommended for the coveted honour.

During the pendency of the case, she tested positive for a banned substance in May 2018. But the High Court, in its order in August that year, directed the committee to consider her for the award and keep its decision in a sealed cover, pending a decision on her appeal against dope charges.

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) dropped the doping charge against Channu due to 'non-conformities' in the handling of her sample last month. The Manipuri plans to seek compensation from the IWF for the 'trauma' she endured.

The IWF cleared her based on a recommendation from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), following which the national federation wrote to the Sports Ministry to comply with the High Court order.

Indian Weightlifting Federation secretary general also confirmed the development to PTI. "It's confirmed, Sanjita will get her 2018 Arjuna award," he said without getting into details.

Rohit has his first outdoor training time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

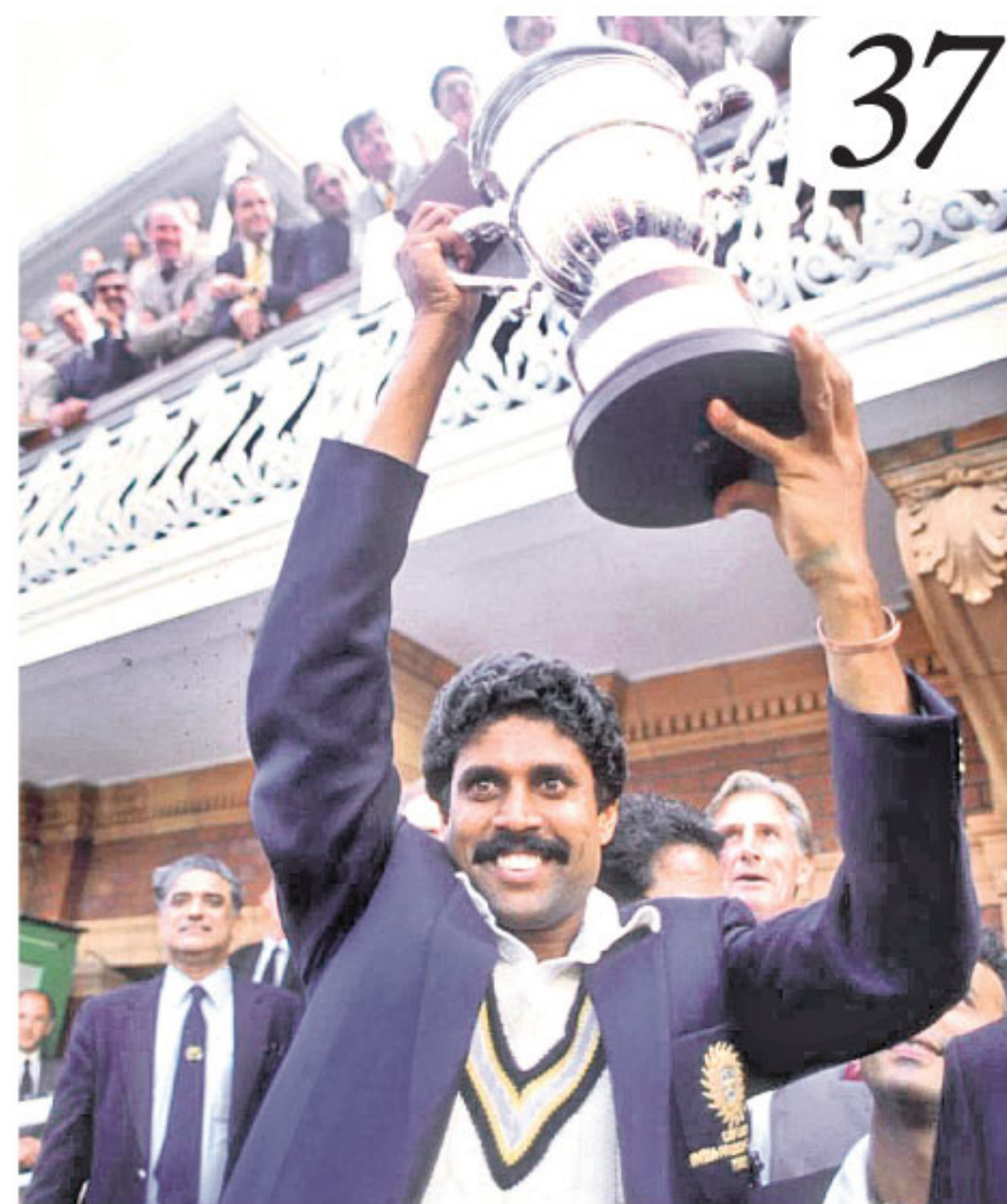
Mumbai, June 25: India's white-ball vice-captain Rohit Sharma was back on the field Thursday as he had his first outdoor training session post relaxation of COVID-19 lockdown.

Rohit, who last played competitive cricket during the T20 series in New Zealand before hamstring injury ruled him out. "Good to be back on the park getting some work done, felt like myself after a long time," Rohit wrote on his Instagram page.

However from the post, it couldn't be ascertained which ground he trained. Rohit like his other teammates had been confined to his house after the nationwide lockdown was enforced March 25 to curb the outbreak of COVID-19.



Cheteshwar Pujara has recently started batting in the nets in Rajkot. Pacer Shardul Thakur had become the first Indian cricketer to resume training last month, after he bowled in the nets.



BCCI: #OnThisDay in 1983 Lord's - history created. #TeamIndia led by @therealkapildev won the World Cup after beating the mighty West Indies. #TeamIndia (with a photo of then skipper Kapil Dev receiving the trophy)

YUVRAJ SINGH: A moment of national pride, our seniors lifted the 1983 Cricket World Cup on this day. Congratulations to every member of the 1983 team. You set the benchmark for us to achieve the same in 2011. Look forward to India becoming a world champion in all sports

REAL REGAIN TOP SPOT



Real Madrid players congratulate each other after a goal against Real Mallorca, Wednesday

REUTERS

Madrid, June 25: Real Madrid eased to a 2-0 home victory over Real Mallorca on Wednesday thanks to goals in each half from Vinicius Jr. and Sergio Ramos to stay in charge of the La Liga title race ahead of Barcelona.

Brazilian youngster Vinicius opened the scoring with a cool finish in the 19th minute after missing an earlier chance and he hit the crossbar later in the first half.

Captain Ramos doubled Madrid's lead with a superb free kick, curling the ball over the wall and into the top corner to score his eighth goal of the league season and his 10th in all competitions.

Real's fourth win in a row since the season returned took them back to the top of the table on 68 points after 31 games, level with Barcelona

but ahead of the Catalans due to their superior head-to-head record.

Real coach Zinedine Zidane made four changes after Sunday's controversial 2-1 win at Real Sociedad, recalling Eden Hazard to partner Vinicius and Karim Benzema while handing Gareth Bale a first start since February.

Benzema and Vinicius formed a lively partnership and quickly found holes in Mallorca's defence. Vinicius is often criticised for his poor finishing and squandered an early chance by taking too long to get his shot away but soon compensated by keeping his cool to beat Manolo Reina from close range after Bale laid the ball off.

He was played in by Benzema in a blistering counter-attack but instead of producing a simple low finish he tried an audacious chip which hit the bar.

Romero youngest La Liga debutant

Madrid: Real Mallorca forward Luka Romero became the youngest player to make his La Liga debut after the 15-year-old came off the bench in his side's 2-0 defeat at Real Madrid Wednesday. Aged 15 years and 229 days, Romero came on in the 83rd minute to break a record lasting over 80 years held by former Celta Vigo player Francisco Bao Rodriguez, known as Sanson, who made his first La Liga appearance in 1939 aged 15 and 255 days. The son of Argentine lower league player Diego Romero, the forward was born in Mexico but represents Argentina at youth level and has been at Mallorca's academy since age 10, having moved to Spain aged two.

Vaishali stuns ex-World Champ



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, June 25: Young Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali pulled off an upset win over former World Champion Antaoneta Stefanova in first leg of FIDE chess.com Women Speed Chess Championships but the country's top player Koneru Humpy bowed out in the opener.

The Chennai-based Vaishali will take on International Master Munkhzul Turmunkh of Mongolia

in the quarterfinals.

Vaishali registered a 6-5 win over Bulgarian opponent late on Wednesday after having beaten strong players like Valentina Gunina and Alina Kashlinskaya in the qualifying stages.

Reigning World Rapid Champion Humpy meanwhile went down 4.5-5.5 to her Vietnamese rival in the first round. The scores were level at 3.5 points after the first two segments but the Vietnam player won the

first two games of the final phase to secure a spot in the last eight.

Vaishali was delighted to put it across Stefanova. "Yeah, it was great to play a former World Champion and defeat her," she told PTI.

"I was leading the match after one hour with 5.5-2.5 then in the bullet segment (but) internet got disconnected and I lost on time in an equal position," she said after managing to pip her rival in a close finish.

The Chennai player will meet Turmunkh in the last eight clash later Thursday.

The Grand Prix will consist of four legs, with a total of 21 participants. Each of the 21 players participates in three out of four Grand Prix legs. Each GP is a 16-player knockout event. In each Grand Prix leg, every player scores cumulative grand prix points according to the position in the final standings.

The two players who score the highest number of cumulative grand prix points in all three Grand Prix legs qualify for the Super Final to be played July 20.

37 summers ago...

The Indian cricket team, 37 years ago, scripted history by beating the mighty West Indies in the final of the 1983 World Cup at Lord's. 'Kapil's Devils' stopped the West Indian juggernaut, who were targetting their third world title on the trot. India's 43-run win is engraved in the hearts and minds of every cricket follower in the country and Friday, Indian cricketers took to social media to recall that historic day

HONESTLY, WE DID NOT FEEL THAT MUCH PRESSURE. IT WAS EVERYTHING TO GAIN AND NOTHING TO LOSE SCENARIO. BECAUSE FAVOURITES WERE WEST INDIES, THEY WERE 75 & 79 CHAMPIONS AND ROCKSTAR TEAM, DOMINATING WORLD CRICKET, SO WE THOUGHT IT WAS A BIG DEAL MAKING IT TO THE FINALS ITSELF

KRIS SRIKANTH

THAT WAS OBVIOUSLY THE DEFINING MOMENT OF OUR CAREERS. I THINK I WILL TAKE THIS EUPHORIA, THIS PRIDE WITH ME TO THE CREMATION GROUND. THIS WAS SOMETHING WHICH SEEM JUST LIKE YESTERDAY. IT BROUGHT INDIA ON THE WORLD MAP AND IT BECAME A SUPER-POWER. IT WAS A STEPPING STONE FOR MANY YOUNGSTERS. IT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE EXPRESSED IN WORDS AND IS SOMETHING THAT WE ARE TOO EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED... ALL 15 OF US

KIRTI AZAD

IT'S ONE OF THE GREATEST THINGS TO HAVE HAPPENED FOR INDIAN CRICKET. I REMEMBER KAPIL DEV WAS SO GOOD AND HE WAS THE MAN OF THE TOURNAMENT ALMOST. WE DEFIED ALL ODDS TO WIN AGAINST THE MIGHTY WEST INDIES. KAPIL WAS BRILLIANT THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT

DILIP VENGSAKAR

IT WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEAT WEST INDIES. THEY WERE NOT INVINCIBLE. THEY WERE NOT GOD. NO DOUBT, THEY WERE THE BEST TEAM BUT DEFINITELY NOT GOD. AND THAT'S WHY I SAY THAT OUR TITLE WIN IN 1983 WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST VICTORIES IN WORLD CRICKET BECAUSE AFTER THAT TEAMS LIKE AUSTRALIA, SRI LANKA AND PAKISTAN ALSO WENT ON TO WIN THE WORLD CUP

MADAN LAL

