



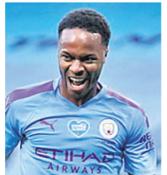
PERSONAL WIN
Actor Sushmita Sen says, *Aarya* is a personal win as it took a lot to transcend layers of disappointment

LEISURE P2



FRANCE GETS NEW PM
President of France Emmanuel Macron Friday named Jean Castex as the country's new PM

INTERNATIONAL P10



CHAMPS GO DOWN
After getting a 'Guard of Honour', EPL champions Liverpool suffer a 0-4 defeat to Man City

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Ace dance guru Saroj Khan dies

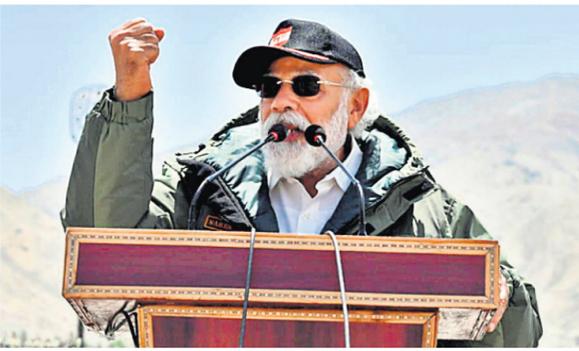
Mumbai: Choreographer Saroj Khan, the feisty 'Masterji' of Bollywood who stormed into a largely male bastion with her dance moves in numbers like 'Dhak Dhak' died following a cardiac arrest at a hospital here early Friday. She was 71. The three-time National Award winner had been admitted to the Guru Nanak Hospital in Bandra on June 20 after she complained of breathing issues. Khan, who helped remould the coy Bollywood heroine into the bold, unapologetically sensual one made the career of many a star in the 1980s and 1990s.

Pak bus mishap claims 19 lives

Lahore: At least 19 people, mostly Pakistani Sikh pilgrims, were killed when a mini-bus carrying them ramed into a train at an unmanned crossing in Pakistan's Punjab province Friday. The mini-bus carrying Sikh pilgrims, who were returning from Nankana Sahib in Punjab, hit the Shah Hussain Express which was coming from Karachi to Lahore at Ferozabad, some 60 kms from here, at 1.30 pm, officials said. Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) spokesperson Amir Hashmi told PTI that at least 19 people, most of them Pakistani Sikhs, were killed in the collision.

ERA OF EXPANSIONISM OVER: PM

Leh, July 3: Sending a strong message to China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said the era of expansionism is over and that India's enemies have seen the fire and fury of its armed forces. He made a surprise visit to Ladakh in the midst of a tense border standoff between Indian and Chinese armies in a number of areas in the region. In an address to troops, Modi paid glowing tributes to the 20 Indian soldiers



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during his visit to Nimu forward post in Ladakh

Enemies of Mother India have seen our soldiers' fire and fury
NARENDRA MODI | PM

killed in the Galwan Valley clashes and said tales of the bravery and valour of the armed forces are echoing in every part of the country. Bharat Mata's enemies have seen your fire and fury, Modi said in an ap-

parent reference to the Galwan Valley clashes. He said bravery is a pre-requisite for peace and that the weak can never accomplish it. The prime minister said the world has taken note of India's strength due to the exemplary bravery of the armed forces in the recent weeks, adding history is proof that expansionists have either lost or perished. The era of expansionism has come to an end. This is the era of development...History has proved that expansionist forces have either lost or were forced to turn back, he said. He further said, Your courage is

Japan backs India on Ladakh

In a strong support to India over its border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, Japan Friday said it opposed "any unilateral" attempts to change the status quo in the region. After a meeting with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Japanese Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki said Japan hoped for peaceful resolution of the row through dialogues. "Had a good talk with FS Shringla. Appreciated his briefing on the situation along LAC, including GOI's policy to pursue peaceful resolution. Japan also hopes for peaceful resolution through dialogues. Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo," he said on Twitter.

higher than the heights where you are serving today. When the safety of the country is in your hands, then there is a belief. Not only me, but the entire nation believes in you. We all are proud of you. The prime minister was accompanied by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and Army Chief Gen MM Naravane.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks. The tension escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash in Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

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NEET, JEE-Mains deferred to September by HRD Min

New Delhi, July 3: The HRD Ministry Friday postponed medical and engineering entrance exams NEET and JEE to September in view of the spike in COVID-19 cases.

Keeping in mind the safety of students and to ensure quality education we have decided to postpone JEE and NEET examinations. JEE-Main examination will be held between September 1-6, while JEE-advanced exam will be held September 27. NEET examination will be held September 13, said Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nihank'.

The medical entrance exam National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) was scheduled for July 26, while the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Mains for ad-

mission to engineering colleges was to be held from July 18-23. JEE-Advanced, which is conducted for admission to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), was scheduled for August 23. **CISCE announces assessment scheme**
The Council for the Indian School Certification Examination (CISCE) Friday announced the assessment scheme for pending class 10 and 12 exams which have been cancelled amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the scheme, candidates will be assessed based on best three percentage marks obtained from among the subjects for which board exams have been conducted and the marks of their internal assessment as well as project work will be taken into account.



Don't complicate border tension: China

Beijing: Complication of tension at the Sino-Indian border should be avoided, China said Friday, within hours of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Ladakh in the backdrop of the ongoing hostile situation between the two Himalayan neighbours. The Chinese foreign ministry also said New Delhi should avoid "strategic miscalculation on China." "India and China are in communication and negotiations on lowering the temperatures through military and diplomatic channels. No party should engage in any action that may complicate the situation at this point," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, said at the regular ministry briefing on Friday.

Eight cops killed by gangsters in Kanpur

Kanpur, July 3: Eight Uttar Pradesh Police personnel, including a deputy superintendent of police, were killed and seven others injured in an encounter with criminals in Kanpur, officials said Friday. In a separate encounter, police killed two criminals during a combing operation.

Inspector General of Police, Kanpur, Mohit Agarwal said, "Two persons identified as Prem Prakash Pandey and Atul Dubey were killed in a separate encounter in Nivada village and a pistol, which was taken away by criminals from policemen in earlier encounter, was recovered." The first encounter took place when a police team was approaching to arrest Vikas Dubey, a history-sheeter facing 60 criminal cases, in Dikru village under the Chaubeypur police station on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, police said.

As the police team was about to reach the hideout of the dreaded criminal, a hail of bullets was showered on them from a building rooftop, leaving Deputy Superintendent of Police Devendra Mishra, three sub-inspectors and four constables dead, the officials said. Giving details of the incident, Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police H C Awasthi said the notorious criminal might have got an inkling of the impending raid. Dubey's henchmen put up mas-



Oppn tears into Yogi govt

Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh, including the Congress, the BSP and the Samajwadi Party Friday lashed out at the Yogi Adityanath government, saying no one is safe in the state. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took to Twitter to condole the deaths of the police personnel. "In UP, law and order has become very bad and criminals have no fear. From common man to policemen, no one is safe," she said. Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav said, "The BJP government in UP is doing 'natak' (drama) of small encounters in fear that it stand exposed. This will affect morale of the force and their anger will increase."

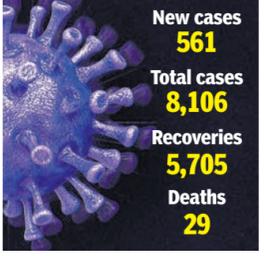
sive roadblocks to prevent the police personnel from proceeding towards their hideout. As the police team was caught unawares, the criminals fired at them from a building rooftop leading to the deaths, Awasthi said.

Highest daily spike in state's virus cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 3: Odisha Friday reported its highest single-day spike of 561 COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 8,106, while the death climbed to 29 with two more fatalities, a health department official said.

Two men, aged 66 and 40, died of the disease at a COVID hospital in Ganjam district, he said. "Regret to report the demise of two COVID positive patients. One was suffering from hypertension and the other was a diabetic patient. They died during treatment," the health department official said.



Of the 29 deaths in the state, Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 17, followed by five in Khurda, four in Cuttack, and one

Govt fixes price for COVID tests

Following the decision to adopt plasma therapy treatment for serious COVID patients, the state government has allowed four private laboratories in Bhubaneswar to test people for the deadly disease at ₹2,200. The four labs are Apollo Hospitals, SUM hospital, InDNA Life Sciences Private Limited, KIIT and GenX Diagnostics, Sahid Nagar. "After careful consideration, the government has been pleased to fix up the maximum price for RT-PCR Covid-19 test by the ICMR approved private laboratories @₹2200 (including GST and all other incidental charges)," read a notification issued by the Health and Family Welfare department, Friday.

each in Bargarh, Puri and Angul, he said. Eight other coronavirus patients had died earlier but their deaths were attributed to "non-COVID reasons", the official said. Of the new 561 patients, includ-

ing an NDRF staffer, 425 were reported from quarantine centres where people returning from other states are lodged for preliminary observation and care, while 136 others were detected as a result of the contact-tracing exercises.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I kept it towards border but the beloved leader wants it facing towards our countrymen

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	36021.42	↑ 177.72
NIFTY	10607.40	↑ 55.70
DOLLAR	74.83	↓ ₹0.05
EURO	84.08	↓ ₹0.44
GOLD	₹48,025	↓ ₹133
SILVER	₹49,071	↓ ₹133

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.8°C	36.0°C
TEMP MIN	27.5°C	26.4°C
Humidity	94%	79%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

INDIA SUSPENDS SCHEDULED INT'L FLIGHTS TILL JULY 31



A Long March-4B carrier rocket, carrying a high-resolution multi-mode imaging satellite, is launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, China

New Delhi, July 3: The aviation regulator DGCA said Friday it was extending the suspension of scheduled international passenger flights in the country till July 31 but added that some international scheduled services on selected routes may be permitted on a case to case basis. Scheduled international passenger flights were suspended in India on March 23 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Modifying its June 26 circular that stated that scheduled international passenger flights will remain suspended till July 15, 2020, the regulator said on Friday it has decided to extend the deadline to July 31, 2020. "However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case to case basis," said the circular by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). India is in talks with the US, Canada and countries in the European and Gulf regions to establish "individual bilateral bubbles" which will allow airlines of each country in the pact to operate international flights, said Airports Authority of India chairperson Arvind Singh Thursday.

2 Indian coronavirus vaccines set for human trials

AFTER BHARAT BIOTECH'S COVAXIN, ZYDUS CADILA WAS GIVEN THE APPROVAL FOR HUMAN TRIALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 3: As Zydus Cadila was given the approval for human trials of the coronavirus vaccine contender days after Bharat Biotech got a similar green light for its vaccine Covaxin, India is now set for human studies of two coronavirus vaccines.

Aiming to launch an indigenous COVID-19 vaccine by August 15, the Indian Council of Medical Research has written to select medical institutions and hospitals to fast-track clinical trial approvals for the vaccine candidate Covaxin

AUGUST 15 DEADLINE

Aiming to launch an indigenous vaccine by August 15, ICMR has written to select medical institutions and hospitals to fast-track clinical trial approvals

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is derived from a strain of SARS-CoV-2 isolated by ICMR-National Institute of Virology

being developed in collaboration with Bharat Biotech.

Twelve clinical trial sites have been identified at present and the apex health research body has asked the medical institutions and principal investigators to ensure that the subject enrolment is initiated no later than July 7.

The COVID-19 vaccine candidate Covaxin, developed by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the ICMR and the National Institute of Virology (NIV), had recently got the nod for human clinical trials from the DCGI. Noting that this was the first in-

dependent vaccine being developed by India, ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava in his letter to principal investigators of the 12 sites said that it is one of the top priority projects which is being monitored at the top-most level of the government. It is envisaged to launch the vaccine for public health use latest by August 15 after completion of all clinical trials. BBIL is working expeditiously to meet the target, however, final outcome will depend on the co-operation of all clinical trial sites involved in this project.

You have been chosen as a clinical trial site of the BBV152 COVID

vaccine. In view of the public health emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic and urgency to launch the vaccine, you are strictly advised to fast track all approvals related to initiation of the clinical trial and ensure that the subject enrolment is initiated no later than July 7, Bhargava said in the letter. The letter warned that any non-compliance will be viewed very seriously.

Kindly note non-compliance will be viewed very seriously. Therefore, you are advised to treat this project on highest priority and meet the given timelines without any lapse, the letter stated.



DUFFY SLAMS 365 DAYS

Singer Duffy has slammed erotic drama *365 Days* for glamorising the 'brutal reality of sex trafficking, kidnapping and rape'. The singer has reportedly penned an open letter to Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, and condemned the platform for its decision to stream the controversial film, terming it as an 'irresponsible' move.

KATE SHUTS DOWN TROLL

Actress Kate Beckinsale has hit back at a troll who asked why she dates men who are old enough to be her children. The 46-year-old was first linked to Goody Grace, 23, in April this year, and since then romance has been in the air.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may want to wear your power suit, says Ganesh. If you notice people bending and bowing a bit, understand that your hard work has paid off! If not, then you need to get more organised. Either way, there's work to be done.

TAURUS
You will win the heart of your family members today, forecasts Ganesh. Try and delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Job aspirants may look forward to belated success in interviews. Ganesh advises you to take abundant precautions in all critical matters.

GEMINI
Interactions with member of the opposite sex may yield positive and pleasurable results today. Public servants will get the much-needed encouragement and moral support from bosses and family members. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problem you set your mind to.

CANCER
Today, you are likely to remain open-minded while dealing with others. However, it doesn't mean that you will always be soft on others. Later in the day, your approach may be different and stubborn.

LEO
Pack your bags, and don't forget the sunscreen and the shades. Look at the stars today — Ganesh foresees for you a strong prospect of going on a tour. If not an individual backpacking adventure, then an elaborate family holiday, but travel you shall.

VIRGO
You will pen down the things to be done today. However, Ganesh suggests that just making a note of them is not enough; you need to set practical goals according to priority. Moreover, Ganesh warns that items you mark on the top of the list will demand immediate action.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that your day today will be extremely busy and as a result you will be agitated today. Your happy nature will have to bear the brunt of the sad circumstances and situations that life will shower on you but you will be able to face the situation with your inner strength.

SCORPIO
Negative thoughts are likely to surround you today, try to avoid it. You may feel lonely and left-out when the day begins. However, a long list of activities and responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout the day. There are possibilities that you may land up in tricky situations, but you have the knack of handling things gracefully.

SAGITTARIUS
Beauty therapies or a new hair do, pick one; makeover and personal grooming is on your mind. Once you decide to shop, nothing in the world can stop you. You have decided to de-stress yourself with shopping. Clothes and jewellery is what your wardrobe is awaiting for, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
The day will sail smooth, but your mind will break havoc by forcing you to act on the spur of the moment, says Ganesh. However, this will not ruin your reputation with bosses and peers. You may also see some of your dreams come true, but don't fly too high; you may climb up the ladder of success but with every step you leave behind there is always one more to go.

AQUARIUS
With no major highs or lows, you will have a balanced day today. You will handle everything with great efficiency and Ganesh gives you a pat on your back for that. Continue to work hard for the day as your efforts will get noticed and not only that, you will also understand the value of your hardships.

PISCES
A good day awaits you. You will finish your work and beat your deadlines by miles on account of the luck favouring you. There are chances that a family holiday, which has been in the planning for a long time, will eventually come to fruition today, says Ganesh.

CELEBS MOURN DEATH OF 'MASTERJI'

Mumbai: All through Friday, Bollywood continued to pay condolences to the late Saroj Khan.

Here's what the celebrities have written:

Amitabh Bachchan: T 3582 - Prayers.. haath jude hai, mann ashant.

Hema Malini: Ace choreographer and unique personality Saroj Khan is no more. A personal loss to all artists who have worked with her & to the entire film industry. I have myself danced to her vibrant choreography in many films like *Mrig Trishna* which is an alltime favourite with me.

Akshay Kumar: Woke up to the sad

news that legendary choreographer #SarojKhan ji is no more. She made dance look easy almost like anybody can dance, a huge loss for the industry. May her soul rest in peace.

Sanjay Dutt: This news has left me heartbroken. Saroj ji was not just a legend but also a humble person. We shared a beautiful relationship & worked in many films together. Her contribution to the industry is irreplaceable as there was no one who could dance like her. Om Shanti.

Ajay Devgn: Being a technician's son, I've always known that cinema is as much about a behind-the-scenes person as it is

about actors. RIP Saroj ji. You were an institution; your craft inimitable. Condolences to your family.

Mahesh Babu: Saddened to hear about the demise of ace choreographer #SarojKhan... Her timeless classics will continue to inspire generations to come. The end of an era... Heartfelt condolences to her family and loved

ones. RIP Saroj Khan.



Saroj's last Instagram post was in memory of Sushant

Mumbai: Saroj Khans last Instagram post was interestingly about Sushant Singh Rajput.

On June 14, shortly after Sushant's death, Khan, an active social media user, had posted to say how much she loved watching the actor in all his film. She also expressed shock and sadness over his suicide.

The post is now trending across social media platforms, after Khan's demise in the early hours of Friday.

"I had never worked with you @sushantsinghrajput but we have met many times. What went wrong in your LIFE? I'm



shocked that you took such a drastic step in your life. You could have spoken to an elder which could have helped you and would have kept us Happy looking at you. God bless your soul and I don't know what your father and sisters are

going through. Condolences and strength to them to go through this Time. I loved you in all your movies and will always love you," Khan wrote in her post addressed to Sushant. With her post, she had posted a black-and-white

picture of Sushant. Three-time National Award-winning choreographer Saroj Khan passed away after a cardiac arrest at around 1.30am Friday. She was 71. Khan was diabetic and had complained of breathing problem last month, following which she was admitted to Mumbai's Guru Nanak Hospital. Over the past few weeks, she had been experiencing multiple health issues, though she had tested negative for Covid-19. She breathed her last at around 1.30 am, family sources said. The last rites were performed at Malad burial ground. IANS

ones. RIP Saroj Khan.

Shilpa Shetty Kundra: A LEGEND has left us. Can't forget the moment I first met you when you came to choreograph *Kitaabe* (*Baazigar*) and I burst out crying (I was a huge fan of your work) I couldn't believe you were actually standing in front of me. Then came '*Churake dil*', which was a milestone in my career... and many more. You set the benchmark so high, taught me 'how' to express... a technician par excellence... No one shot women like you, you were the best!

Parineeti Chopra: When you think 'choreography', you think Saroj ji. When

you think 'heroine', you think Saroj ji. I think she gave the term Bollywood heroine its true meaning. Creator of legends, and a legend herself. RIP Ma'am. We will celebrate you forever.

Sonali Bendre Behl: I've lost a guru today. So talented... an amazing woman and a fantastic dancer to whom I learnt so much from. I remember coming into films with no dance training and no understanding of how songs were shot. Masterji, who had never worked with such a skinny non-dancer before, took me under her wing and straightened me out for *English Babu*

My heartfelt condolences to the family.

Disha Patani: For every girl, dancing on songs choreographed by Saroj ji was an integral part of growing up, music that let them dream and revel in their dreams of Bollywood. RIP Master ji #SarojKhan.

Preity Zinta: So sad to hear that Saroj Ji is no more. Broken heart. Masterji taught me how to lip sync a song, dance gracefully & become a hindi film heroine. Her priceless expressions & her quest for perfection was a master class for me when I started out #RIP #SarojKhan. Folded hands I will miss you. #legend Broken heart. Broken heart.

Sushmita Sen: Aarya is a personal win

Mumbai: For Sushmita Sen, *Aarya* is not just a professional choice, but a personal win.

"*Aarya* is a personal win. It is amazing how much it has taken for me to transcend layers of disappointment and pat my own back and remind myself '*apna time aayega*,'" Sushmita said. The actress made her comeback with *Aarya*, which delves into how organised crime and

betrayal run deep in a family. It is about how her protagonist *Aarya* is pulled into the narcotics business when her family is threatened.

Talking about the success of the show, she said: "The universe conspired for this show to come my way. The script, ace director Ram Madhvani and his amazing team is a soul connect for me. We think alike on many levels. *Aarya* is a character

with many layers. In season one we haven't even scratched the surface of the character and we have 5 seasons written. You can't imagine what's to come after."

"For the first time in my career, and I say this with immense pride and love, when I look at *Aarya* as a whole, it is very difficult for me to choose one scene. I have too many moments in it that I sit there and I forget it's me and

I say I love this *Aarya*. She has got so many things that I have and so many things I wish I had. *Aarya* is not just a performance but a soul," she added.

Asked what were the things she discovered about herself while making *Aarya*, Sushmita said: "Every time I went on the set and essayed a character, it was a lot of projection rather than feeling. The kind of commercially inclined projects I did, didn't

really help me grow a whole lot.

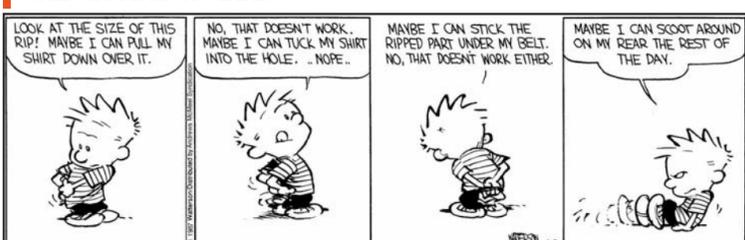
"So I never really discovered Sushmita in a film. These 10 years made me an observer of life. While filming *Aarya*, I had to no longer portray or project. I had to be. We were not allowed to use glycerin to cry. Every emotion had to be portrayed then and there and the best way you could reach the emotion was to feel it," she said. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9				10	
11	12			13	
14					
15		16		17	18
19					
20		21			22
23				24	

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Across

- 7 Shade provider
- 8 Subtlety
- 9 Throbs
- 10 Exec's note
- 11 Shows up
- 13 Poetic Muse
- 15 Acclaim
- 17 Disembodied spirit
- 20 Mine entrance
- 21 Type of missile (3-2-3)
- 23 Cavort
- 24 Computer animations
- 4 Uneasy feeling
- 5 Carpenter's tool
- 6 Sabre
- 12 Bullfight participants
- 14 Sanction
- 16 Number one
- Hun
- 18 Weather prediction
- 19 Polka, e.g.
- 22 Clothes presser

Down

- 1 Hawaiian island
- 2 Rich, frothy, creamy dessert
- 3 Whodunit

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

C	A	L	Y	P	S	O	J	A	W	E	D
A	E	T	U	A	H	E					
D	E	D	I	C	A	T	E	D	I	S	T
E	K	E	T	E							
T	I	D	A	L	E	N	D	L	E	S	S
U	E	A	F	F	T						
D	I	N	D	O	R	I	C	L	I	S	
E	E	L	O	A							
L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	L	U	G	E	S
E	U	D	O	O	U						
T	A	G	O	R	A	N	G	U	T	A	N
E	G	B	I	N	O	N					
S	T	Y	L	E	R	E	N	T	R	Y	

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

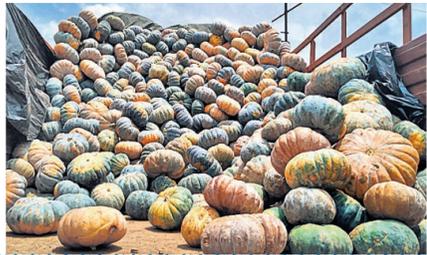


MOTHERLY LOVE

A cow feeding its calf alongside the PMG road in Bhubaneswar, Friday

VEGETABLE TRADE

A truckload of pumpkins reaches a godown at Chhatra Bazar wholesale market in Cuttack, Friday



LOCKDOWN BOON FOR CYBER CROOKS

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 3: The Capital city has witnessed a rise in cybercrime cases during the nationwide lockdown between March and June. Though there is no consistent rise in the cases from March to June, the data from April to June hints at a sharp rise in the cases wherein the cyber crooks have cheated the denizens on several pretexts.

The trend was also predicted by several agencies dealing with cyber security due to extensive use of on-line platforms during the lockdown.

As per sources, eight cybercrime cases were reported at various police stations in the Capital city in March. While three cybercrime cases were reported at Airfield police station, Jatni police station witnessed registration of two such cases in March. Similarly, one case each was reported at Sahid Nagar, Shree Lingaraj, and Capital Police stations in March.

The spike in cybercrime cases is attributed to closure of shops and business establishments and restricted banking hours. However, only one case was reported at Infocity police station in April.

The cyber crooks again became active in the month of May which saw as many as seven cases.

Chandrasekharpur police station recorded two cybercrime related cases while one case each was reported at Sahid Nagar, Nayapalli, Chandaka, Airfield and Baliana police stations in May.

In June, the Capital city again saw



CITY SCENARIO

A majority of cybercrime cases reported during March to June period pertains to cheating on the pretext of expiry of Paytm KYC and fake advertisements with reputed wine shop images, claiming online sale of liquor

In June, the Capital city again saw a surfeit of cybercrime cases which touched a whopping 17

NCRB data revealed that Odisha Police managed to submit charge-sheets for only 219 out of 2006 cyber crime cases pending with it in 2018

CYBERCRIME IN CAPITAL CITY				
MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
08	01	07	17	33

a surfeit of cybercrime cases which touched a whopping 17. Sources said four cybercrime cases were reported at Chandrasekharpur police station while Khandagiri police received three cases. Airport and Capital police stations received two cases each in June.

Similarly, five other police stations in the city received one case each in June too.

It is also pertinent to mention here that many victims have filed their cases with the state cyber cell at Cuttack.

A majority of cybercrime cases reported during the period pertains to cheating of denizens on the pretext of expiry of Paytm KYC and fake advertisements with reputed wine shop images, claiming online sale of liquor.

Meanwhile, the Crime Branch of Odisha Police immediately issued an advisory cautioning people on the Paytm KYC related crimes. The advisory informed public about the modus operandi followed by the cyber fraudsters and ways to keep them at bay.

Sources also claimed that the Commissionerate Police is yet to arrest any of accused in these cases.

A police officer on the condition of anonymity said, "How could we find time to solve the cybercrime cases when we are busy day in and day out to ensure stricter enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines?"

That apart, many also admitted their lack of expertise in handling complicated cybercrimes and the need for obtaining technical training to the officials.

Meanwhile, the proposed cyber police station in Bhubaneswar is yet to get operational.

Speaking on the issue, Crime Branch ADG Souendra Priyadarshi said, "The inauguration of the cyber police station in Bhubaneswar delayed as the whole police department has been engaged in Covid-19 duty. Action against cyber criminals will be streamlined following the establishment of the cyber police station. However, people should also remain alert without relying on police only."

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2018 indicates police inefficiency in dealing with cybercrime related cases. The data revealed that Odisha Police managed to submit charge-sheets after completing investigations in only 219 out of 2006 cyber crime cases pending with it in 2018. Investigations of around 75 per cent cybercrime cases were pending in 2018, the NCRB data reveals.

The NCRB report also says, Odisha witnessed 317 cybercrime cases in 2016 while the number soared to 824 in 2017 and 843 in 2018. The sources revealed that Odisha police recorded 864 cyber cases till September 2019.

BMC puts curbs on entry of workers from outside state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 3: Taking cognisance of spike in Covid-19 cases, mostly from hospitals and one industrial unit, the civic authority here Friday issued fresh advisories and imposed restrictions on engagement of workers from outside the state till July 31. Speaking to media, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary, said recently an industrial organisation had sourced labourers from outside Odisha of whom 34 were tested positive for the killer virus.

"In view of public safety and to contain the spread of novel coronavirus, it is ordered that any business organisation like industrial, construction, hotels/hospitality, contractors (both government and private) shall not bring any worker/labourer from outside the state to BMC area till July 31, 2020," said a BMC notification issued by the Commissioner.

However, no restriction was imposed on bringing workers from within the state albeit with quarantine norms. "All the industrial establishments and others have been asked to engage locally available workers/labourers. If any organisation has already brought workers from outside the state, they need to put their workers in 14-day quarantine. The business owners will have to conduct Covid-19 test of the workers at their own cost if anyone of them develops symptoms and inform the test result to BMC," Chaudhary said.

The BMC officials further advised industrial units to not bring



The BMC officials further advised industrial units to not bring workers from Covid hotspot districts like Ganjam, Gajapati, Balasore, Cuttack and Jajpur

No business organisation like industrial, construction, hotels/hospitality, contractors shall bring any labourer from outside the state to BMC area till July 31, 2020, says the BMC order

workers from Covid hotspot districts like Ganjam, Gajapati, Balasore, Cuttack and Jajpur. The establishments should rather opt for workforce from non-hotspot districts till further orders. BMC officials said in a statement.

Norms for OPD and IPD cases

Meanwhile, the BMC also issued fresh advisory for hospitals in Bhubaneswar suggesting isolation of patients coming to Outpatient Department (OPD) and Inpatient Department (IPD) from various hotspot districts.

Issuing a SOP for the OPD and IPD cases, the BMC strongly recommended triaging of patients at entrance and not allowing them to mix with other patients or attendants. Patients who are under testing will inquire for adequate accommodation arrangement for

isolation and if any such shortage the government quarantine will be provided.

"The hospitals should segregate patients coming from hotspot districts and keep all their details. If any person has symptoms, he/she will be tested and if they have accommodation facility in Bhubaneswar where they can stay in isolation till declaration of the test results. It will be the concerned hospital's responsibility to contact the nodal officer of BMC and take them to institutional quarantine facility," Chaudhary said.

It is pertinent to mention here that there has been a spurt in COVID-19 cases reported from Bhubaneswar in the past few days. Of the 26 new COVID-19 cases reported from Khurda district in the last 24 hours, 24 are from Bhubaneswar.

MADHU BABU PENSION YOJANA

Monthly pension for third gender gets nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 3: Keeping its promise made in the 2019 election manifesto, the BJD government has decided to provide monthly pension to transgender under the social security scheme, Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY).

Briefing the reporters here Friday, Social Security and Empowerment of Person with Disability (SSEPD) Minister Ashok Chandra Panda said, "In the 2019 election manifesto, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) had promised to include transgender in MBPY. Keeping the promise, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the proposal to cover TGs in the pension scheme."

The TGs have to register on the department's official website <http://ssepd.gov.in/> to avail of the benefit. All eligible transgender will be covered under the scheme and will get monthly allowance will vary from Rs 500 to Rs 900 de-

pending on their age, he said, adding, 4,000 to 5,000 TGs will be covered under the scheme.

Panda said that in view of Covid-19 pandemic, the government has already provided four months pension (April, May, June and July) to the 48 lakh beneficiaries of MBPY. It has also decided to provide an additional amount of Rs 1,000 to the beneficiaries soon.

"The funds have already been sanctioned and will be released soon," the minister said. After examining the situation post-July, the government may again provide the beneficiaries four months' pension in advance, he added.

Welcoming the decision, All Odisha Kinnar Mahasangh president, Meera Parida, said, "It was a long-standing demand of our community. I would like to thank the Chief Minister for fulfilling the promise he had made. It will certainly help our community to join the mainstream and lead a dignified life."

Agriculture deputy dir lands in Vig net

Bhubaneswar: A senior official in Agriculture department has been arrested by the state Vigilance for possessing unaccounted cash worth Rs 11.73 lakh, an official said Friday. The sleuths of the anti-corruption wing of Odisha Police claimed to have arrested PK Mohanty, the deputy director in Agriculture department at Jeypore in Koraput district, near Deoghathi Thursday. On the basis of specific information regarding collection of cash by the official as illegal gratification from multiple sources, Vigilance sleuths had kept a close watch on Mohanty, said a release by the state Vigilance. Accordingly, the vehicle in which he was travelling to Bhubaneswar from Jeypore via Koraput was intercepted near Deoghathi Thursday. A sum of Rs 11.73 lakh was found in his possession which he could not account for satisfactorily, the release said, adding that a case has been registered against Mohanty in this connection and he has been arrested.

Deities to return to sanctum sanctorum today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 3: Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are all set to return to the Ratnabedi (bejewelled throne) at the sanctum sanctorum of Srimandir on the occasion of Niladribije Saturday.

The annual Car Festival of Srimandir deities will culminate with the reinstallation of the deities on the Ratnabedi Saturday, said an official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

Devotees would have the opportunity to get Mahaprasad from Sunday onwards. However, the 12th century shrine would remain shut for people due to the Covid-19 restrictions, added the official.

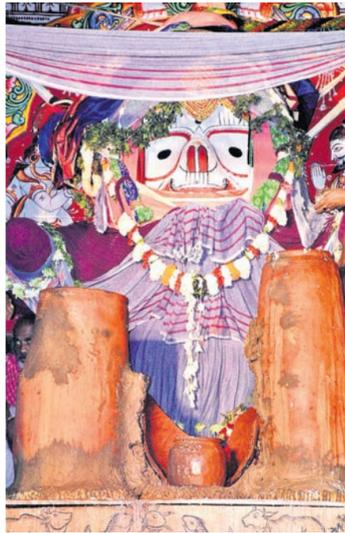
The temple administration has made all arrangements for reinstallation of deities at the sanctum sanctorum.

As per the tradition, the Srimandir deities travel to the Srigundicha temple for an annual sojourn on the occasion of Rath Yatra.

Their return to the Lions' Gate of Srimandir on the occasion of Bahuda Yatra (return Car Festival) and spend three days on their respective chariots.

The deities are adorned with gold ornaments in a unique ritual called 'Suna Beshha' and offered a delicious drink called Adharapana on their respective chariots at the Lions' Gate. They return to the sanctum sanctorum on the occasion of Niladribije.

"The deities would be taken to the sanctum sanctorum through Pahandi procession. As per the



Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath being served a special drink on their respective chariots at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir as part of the Adharapana ritual, Friday

NILADRIBIJE RITUAL

The temple administration has made all arrangements for reinstallation of deities at the sanctum sanctorum

Ahead of the Niladribije ritual, authorities of Bada Odia mutt would sanctify the Ratnasinghasan and hang a specially-made canopy called 'Kanakmundi Chandua' on it

schedule, the Pahandi procession will start by 4pm Saturday," said the official.

Ahead of the Niladribije ritual, authorities of Bada Odia mutt would sanctify the Ratnasinghasan and hang a specially-made canopy

called 'Kanakmundi Chandua' on it.

The mutt authorities would also raise a Dhwaja (flag) atop the Neelachakra wheel of Srimandir. "Bada Odia mutt has been sanctifying Srimandir Ratnasinghasan

since the reign of Gajapati king Prataprudra Dev. We use sandalwood paste, camphor, musk and some other aromatic substances to sanctify the throne. The whole process usually takes at least two hours," said Bada Odia mutt pontiff Bansidhar Das Goswami.

The pontiff further revealed that they have prepared a special canopy for the Ratnabedi.

Notably, this year's Rath Yatra, Bahuda Yatra, Suna Beshha and Adharapana rituals were conducted without the congregation of deities due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

TIMELINE FOR NILADRIBIJE

- Mangal Alati on chariots -4am
- Mailam-Tadap Lagi -4.30am
- Abakash -5am
- Beshha Sesha -5.30am
- Gopal Ballav -6.30am
- Sakala Dhupa -7-8am
- Mailam -8.30am
- Maha Snana, Sarbanga -9.30am
- Beshha Sesha -10am
- Madhyana Dhupa -10.30-11.30am
- Mailam, Beshha -11.45-12noon
- Sandhya Alati -12.15pm
- Sandhya Dhupa 12-1.30pm
- Charabandha 1.30-3pm
- Simhasan Majana 3.30pm
- Puspanjali 3.50pm
- Pahandi -4-10pm
- Daitapati Sarbanga -1am
- Srimukha Khandua -1.10am
- Charamala opening -1.15-2.15am
- Sudarshan Simhasan Bije 2.30am
- Srimukha Khandua Mailam -2.30am
- Chaka Pochha -2.45pm
- Madhab, Sridevi & Bhudevi Simhasan Bije -3.10am
- Mahasana Sesha 3.30am
- Roshna Homa -3.35am
- Chandan Lagi -3.45am
- Surya Puja -4am
- Bada Simhar Beshha -4.15am
- Bada Simhar Bhoga -4.45am
- Ratra Pahuda -5am

Rare celestial event 'planet parade' to occur after 37 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 3: A series of rare and unique celestial events will take place in July and August which are popularly known as 'planet parades'. Although there is no scientific definition for 'planet parade', it is being widely used in astronomy to denote an event that takes place when planets of the solar system appear in a row.

Subhendu Pattnaik, Deputy Director, Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar said that three most commonly used definitions are: When planets line up on one side of the Sun, as seen up above the plane of our Solar

system, is termed as 1st kind of planet parade. Alignment of three planets on one side of the Sun is very common and can be seen for many days in a year.

Similarly, alignment of four planets occurs once a year, five planets — once in every 19 years, and all eight planets — once in about 170 years. Secondly, when some planets appear in a small sector of the sky at the same time regardless of their visibility conditions, from Earth's point of view we term the event also as a planet parade.

This kind of a planet parade had last happened April 18, 2002, when all planets of the Solar system that are visible to the naked eye



lined up in a row in the evening sky. Such planet parades will also take place in July 2020, and in March and June of 2022.

On July 4, 2020, a rare and unique planet parade will take place. All

the planets of the Solar system — Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune plus the dwarf planet Pluto — will line up on one side of the Sun. This will be a planet parade of

On July 4, 2020, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune plus the dwarf planet Pluto will line up on one side of the Sun

the first type as described above. The last such parade of planets of this type occurred in 1982, and the next one will be in 2161 and 2492.

Forty-five minutes before sunrise July 19, 2020, the moon and five planets will be visible spread across the morning sky for about 30 minutes which can be observed with

naked eyes. Similarly, in August 2020, sky-watchers will be able to witness another unique type of planet parade.

At the beginning of the month, the elusive planet Mercury will appear in the morning sky with bright Venus. Similarly, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will be very bright enough to be spotted easily. Uranus and Neptune and dwarf planet Pluto (these three can be seen through telescope only) will be well placed in very favourable conditions for viewing in August.

Astronomers are excitedly waiting all over the world for this rare planet parade.

Ganjam worst hit, reports 17 deaths

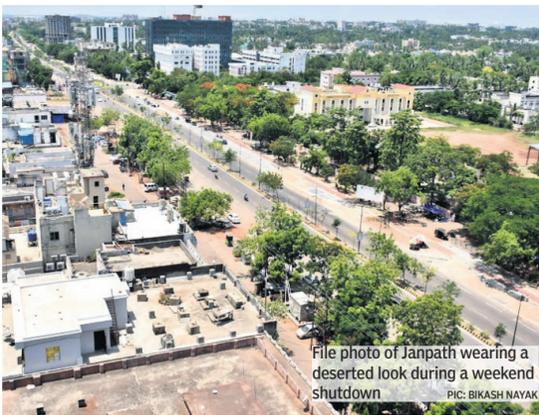
PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 3: Even as the state Friday reported two more Covid deaths taking the toll to 29, Ganjam district turned out to be the worst affected by the coronavirus as it has so far recorded 17 deaths.

According to a Health and Family (H&F) department official, the state Friday reported its highest single-day spike of 561 Covid-19 cases, taking Odisha's tally to 8,106.

Two men, aged 66 and 40, died of the disease at a Covid hospital in Ganjam district, said the official.

"Regret to report the demise of two COVID positive patients. One was suffering from hypertension and the other was a diabetic. They died during treatment," the official said.



File photo of Janpath wearing a deserted look during a weekend shutdown
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Of the 29 deaths in Odisha, Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 17, followed by five in Khurda, four in Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh, Puri and Angul, said the official, adding that eight other coronavirus patients had died earlier but their deaths were attributed to non-Covid reasons.

The state had reported its first Covid-19 fatality in Bhubaneswar April 6. Of the new 561 patients, including a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) staffer, 425 were reported from quarantine centres where people returning from other states are lodged for preliminary observation and care, while 136 others

were detected as a result of the contact-tracing exercises. The contact-tracing exercises of the fresh patients are underway, the official said.

The NDRF staffer was placed under institutional quarantine after his return from West Bengal, where he had gone for restoration work in the wake of cyclone Amphan, the official said.

With this, the total number of disaster response personnel from NDRF/Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and Odisha Fire Services testing positive for the virus rose to 296.

The fresh cases have been reported

from 19 districts. Ganjam recorded the highest of 283 cases, the official said, adding that other districts that reported a high number of new cases are Cuttack (81), Rayagada (76), Khurda (26), Bargarh (21), Bolangir (19) and Mayurbhanj (10).

Out of 81 positive cases in Cuttack, 66 cases were detected from two hospitals. While 55 people were detected in Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre (AHRCC), 11 cases were reported from SCB Medical College and Hospital in the Silver City, said the official.

This apart, the state saw 203 recoveries Friday. Odisha now has

COVID STATS

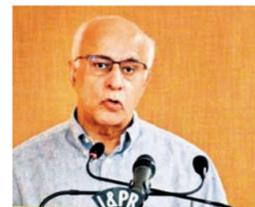
- While 55 coronavirus cases were reported from Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre, 11 cases were reported from SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack
- The total number of disaster response personnel from NDRF, ODRAF and Odisha Fire Services testing positive for the virus rose to 296
- As many as 24 new coronavirus cases were detected in Bhubaneswar Friday taking the city's COVID-19 tally to 369

Nuagon declared containment zone

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday declared Nuagon revenue village as containment zone a few hours after 10 COVID-19 cases were reported from the locality. An order issued by the civic authority demarcated Nuagon Homeopathic Dispensary to the houses of Laxmidhar Sahu and Bhubanananda Jena; from the houses of Laxmidhar Sahu and Bhubanananda Jena to the houses of Sudarshan Sahu and Shankar Sahu; from the houses of Sudarshan Sahu and Shankar Sahu to Nuagon Homeopathic Dispensary as containment area. BMC commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said that no one will be allowed to enter into the containment zone and the inhabitants within the containment zone will not come out. "All the residents of the zone will strictly remain at home. Besides, all shopping establishments, government and private institutions within the boundary of the containment zone will remain closed," BMC commissioner said.

45-day drive to trace, test nCoV suspects

POST NEWS NETWORK



Subrato Bagchi | COVID-19 SPOKESPERSON

Bhubaneswar, July 3: The state government Friday announced undertaking a 45-day special extensive drive to track, test and treat Covid-19 patients from the rural as well as slum areas in cities.

Subrato Bagchi, Chief Spokesperson of government (COVID 19), said that the special drive would focus on screening at every household in rural areas with the help of frontline workers who will roam around panchayats and track suspected cases of the disease.

"It will cover all the households in villages and slum areas in urban areas. In 45 days, ASHA workers will be roped in. The team will reach out to every household to trace people with Covid symptoms. We will also analyse other comorbidities," Bagchi said.

He also added, "Covid symptomatic patients will be taken to dedicated Covid hospitals while symptomatic but negative patients will be sent for home quarantine."

The official urged the people to cooperate with the government in the drive. Bagchi also said that in urban areas symptomatic persons should go for home quarantine.

"In urban areas, people who get any symptom of Covid-19 should go for home quarantine. Do not hide the symptoms. The government is the best institution to help you in these testing times."

go for home quarantine. Do not hide the symptoms. The government is the best institution to help you in these testing times. We have seen cases where a healthy person has been sent to ICU and ventilator was used within 24 hours."

Bagchi also said that the government has planned to scale up punishment for Covid-19 rule violations.

"We are now seeing people crowding markets in the evening and also not abiding by social distancing norm. We have planned to take strict action against those who violate the Covid-19 rules."

HC to hear only urgent cases in July

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 3: The Orissa High Court (HC) will hear only urgent cases through virtual hearing till July 31, a statement by the HC Registrar said Friday.

According to sources, the HC move came in a full court of the state's apex court here Friday. "Amid the coronavirus pandemic, stress is being given on virtual hearings as it would go a long way in reducing gatherings and subsequent spread of the viral infection on court premises. Hence, it will continue till July 31 and only urgent cases will be heard during the period," said the statement, adding that the practice is also applicable for lower courts.

Civil and criminal cases can be heard in districts reporting nil or minimal coronavirus cases, said the court. A district judge can take a call on hearings in areas which have been declared containment zones by district Collector or related official. This apart, the court proceedings will be shut Saturdays and Sundays in districts where weekend shutdown is already in force or is likely to be enforced. The HC will not hear urgent cases Saturdays in July.

Blood banks told to conduct HIV, HPV test of thalassaemic



HIV infection hits thalassaemic kids post blood transfusion

Bhubaneswar, July 3: The Odisha Directorate of Blood Safety of State Family and Welfare Department Friday directed all superintendents of government medical colleges and Chief District Medical Officers to take necessary steps for the conduct of HBV&HCV tests on all known thalassaemia patients getting regular blood transfusion at the blood banks across the state.

Instructing the CDMOs and superintendents of medical colleges, the directorate ordered, "You are hereby requested to conduct

HBV&HCV on all known thalassaemia patients getting regular blood transfusion. Create & share a database of thalassaemia patients with the above TTIs whose parents are negative for the same."

The director of Capital Hospital, BMC hospital in Bhubaneswar and RGH hospital in Rourkela were asked to abide by its order on the testing of thalassaemia patients for HBV and HCV.

All the above authorities have also been asked to create a database of victims which should also be shared with their parents who are found negative for the same infections.

TRADE UNION STIR



Members of various central trade unions hold a demonstration at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar to protest the anti-labour policies of the Centre and state government, Friday

Student held for brutal attack on principal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 3: Infocity police arrested a student on charges of brutally attacking the principal of Raja Madhusudan Deb Degree College at Patia here.

The accused was identified as Somanath Sutar, 21, alias Raja, a resident of Jajpur district. He has been staying in Ranganamata area under Mancheswar police limits.

Raja attacked the teacher as the latter had caught him red-handed while cheating during an examination around seven months back.

Raja harboured a grudge against the teacher and took revenge June 30, 2020. However, the arrest was made Thursday after an investigation.

Sources said the principal, Prashant Rout, had caught Raja, a BSc 2nd year student, while cheating in the exam and reprimanded him severely. Since then, the student was looking for an opportunity to exact revenge.

Raja entered Rout's residence situated in the college campus around 10pm and attacked him with a hammer before fleeing the scene.

EVICION IN CITY



BDA authorities pulling down illegal structures near NABARD office in Nayapalli area, Friday

CMC OFFICE NOW NO ENTRY ZONE

PNN/AGENCIES

Cuttack, July 3: The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Friday banned the entry of visitors into its office premises till July 17. This information was provided by CMC Commissioner Ananya Das in a notification. It said that the office of the civic body will remain out of reach for general public with imitate effect.

The decision has been taken as a precautionary measure in view of a spike in coronavirus cases in the city, Das said.

CMC authorities said that social distancing and wearing of masks will be enforced strictly in the Silver City from now onwards.

The civic authorities also declared that no offline services will be available till July 17. However, people can get their needs addressed through online services. They have to access the website www.ulbodisha.gov.in.

Services like payment of holding tax, certification of tradelicences, issue of marriage certificates, pub-



No offline services will be available till July 17, but people can get their grievances addressed through online

lic grievances and registration of birth and death certificates will be available under the Citizen Service category of the website. Grievances can be reported on www.ulbodisha.gov.in or via email which can be sent to cmcgrievance@gmail.com.

State to provide subsidised rice to special schools

Bhubaneswar: With an aim to ensure food security of students of special schools opened for children with disabilities, the state government has decided to provide subsidised rice to government-aided and private institutions. According to official sources, students of all special schools received subsidised rice under Welfare Institutions and Hostels Scheme with effect from October 1, 2017. However, the Centre has stopped releasing subsidised rice for government-aided/sponsored and private institutions/hostels from October 2018. The Union government is now providing rice to only government-owned schools. Therefore, the state government has decided to cover left out beneficiaries of the institutions/hostels out of the state pool, the source said here Friday. The students of government-aided and sponsored institutions will get the subsidised rice at Rs.6.30 per kg while the inmates of private institutions will have to pay Rs 9.30 per kg. As the cost of rice is Rs 32 per kg, the state will bear the remaining cost. About 9,798 beneficiaries will benefit from the scheme and Rs 4.29 crore will be spent in this regard in a year. *

Protest in City against liquor sale

Bhubaneswar: Milita Odisha Nisha Nibarana Abhijan (MONNA) Friday staged a demonstration here opposing the state government's order for sale of liquor both online and offline. Terming the decision as 'anti-people', MONNA said this will further escalate the Covid crisis in the state and appealed to the state government to ban liquor sale immediately. Padma Charan Nayak, president of MONNA, said, "The lockdown for one and half months had brought peace in villages across the state. The state government's decision to open liquor sale online and offline will further escalate the crisis in the state." He further said, "Covid-19 pandemic was an opportunity for both Union and state governments to completely ban the liquor but both have failed."

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

Brahmani no longer a boon for farmers, fishermen

Framers, mostly sugarcane growers, depend on the river to raise their crops. Without water production has come down

regain its former glory, several movements have been launched in the past. The 'Dweepanchal Unnayan Parishad', 'Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan' and several other social organisations had joined hands and launched the 'Brahmani Bancho Abhiyan'.

Memorandums were submitted to the district administration, local political leaders and concerned minister. In it there was an appeal to save the river.

So far nothing has been done. Hence the 'Brahmani Bancho Abhiyan' has recently handed over another memorandum to the District Collector.

The members including the outfit's president Loknath Das and ex-Bari block chairman Gagan Bihari Jena said the body will launch a prolonged agitation if immediate steps are not taken to revive the Brahmani river.

50 years on, Ret riverbed turns hunting ground for sand mafia



Kesinga: Sand mafia has been ruling the roost in Ret riverbed under Kesinga block in Kalahandi district while the sand ghats have not been leased out for 50 years, a report said.

Truckloads of sand are illegally extracted from the river and transported

every day. The sand mafia has engaged tractors, mini trucks and excavators in the riverbed at Themara and Matia villages to carry on their unauthorized sand mining, locals lamented.

They pointed out that tractor owners in nearby areas are the beneficiaries of

this illegal mining.

"The Kesinga tehsil has not leased out sand ghats at Themara and Matia for 50 years. Mafia has been on a free run over these years. The government is losing crores of rupees towards revenue," they said. Sand, a minor mineral, is in high demand for brick kilns, road and house constructions.

As the tehsil and police administration have closed their eyes to illegal sand mining, the government loses revenues in crores, they rued. Locals alleged that though they have repeatedly drawn attention of RIs and officials to the problem, the administration is not taking any action.

When asked about such mining, Utkola revenue inspector Agnisikha Nayak said a proposal to float tenders on the sand ghats has been sent to the top level.

After the tender process is finalized, illegal sand mining will be stopped, she added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, July 3: Once regarded as a lifeline for people of this block in Jajpur district, the Brahmani river no longer enjoys the same reputation.

Farmers of 22 panchayats including Serpur, Mandari, Chandanpur, Bainshiria, Sahupada, Ishanapur, Swainkhand, Golkund depend entirely on the water of Brahmani

river. Similarly, there are hundreds of fishermen who earn their livelihood from the river.

But the livelihood of these farmers and fishermen are in threat due to accumulation of silt in the river. Dredging of the Brahmani river has not been carried out in recent past. The administration is also showing little interest to revive the river. The flow of water in the river has been reduced to a

trickle. Most of the time in a year, the river is dry.

Framers, mostly sugarcane growers, depend on the river to raise their crops. However, without water the production has come down substantially and with it their income. With no water in the river, there is no fish to catch. Sugarcane farmers and fishermen are facing a huge financial crunch.

To save the river and help it

Section 144 imposed on 14 Shaiva peethas

FIGHT AGAINST COVID



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, July 3: In order to prevent a probable spread of COVID-19 infection in Dhenkanal, the district administration banned performance of 'Jalalagi' ritual by Kanwaris (devotees of Lord Shiva) at all 14 Shaiva peethas here, ahead of Shravan Mondays.

Keeping in mind the upcoming Mondays of Shravan falling in July and August, Section 144 was imposed for dates like July 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 and August 2, 3 (including Sundays). Kanwaris pick

up first rain water from different river ghats within the district or outside and walk down the distance up to their desired temples. Mostly, they queue up at the Shaiva peethas for performing Jalalagi ritual, right from wee hours of Sunday night.

Notably, the Shaiva peethas in Dhenkanal district where entry of devotees has been banned included Sri Chandrasekhar Jew at Kapilash, Unnakotishwar at Latadeipur, Maa Ramachandri-Kanakeswar at Nadhara under Odapada block, Naganatheswar at Badanagena under Sadar block,

Keeping in mind the upcoming Mondays of Shravan falling in July and August, Section 144 was imposed on July 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 and August 2, 3 (including Sundays)

Paschimeswar at Gangadharprasad area, Rameswar at Tentulisingha under Kamakhyanagar block, Kapileswar at Hatuari, Swarneswar at Sibulaposi, Buddheswar at Bhuban, Swarneswar at Kualo under Parjang block, Ranjagola under Hindol block, Uddheswar at Rakala, Mataleswar at Mahatala and Ugreswar at Chittalapur, official sources informed.

All sub-collectors in Dhenkanal district as well as endowment officials concerned have been duly communicated about imposition of Section 144 at these shrines, the district administration sources added.

Covid violators pay ₹1.56L fine in 2 days

Berhampur: Amid flouting of Covid norms with impunity, Berhampur police collected fines worth Rs 1,56,600 from violators over last two days. SP Pinak Mishra informed this in a tweet Friday. COVID-19 situation in Ganjam district has been deteriorating with each passing day. And the district administration is pulling out all stops to contain the spread of the virus. With the four-day long shutdown coming to an end, police patrolling and checking have been intensified; ensuring people wear masks and adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. Berhampur police carried out checking at different locations in the city from Wednesday 6 am to Thursday 6 am. During this period, 561 COVID-19 violators were caught for not wearing masks and Rs1, 12, 200 was collected from them towards fine. Meanwhile, police caught 222 persons for not wearing masks during its checking from Thursday 6am to Friday 6am and collected Rs 44, 400 from them as fine. Similarly, a fine amounting to Rs 69, 500 has been imposed on 139 traffic rule violators. Mishra shared the above mentioned information Friday in a tweet.

Rayagada village reports 74 Covid cases

Rayagada: Even as Covid infections are rapidly rising in Rayagada district, Collector Pramod Kumar Behera said that as many as 74 persons in a village of this district tested positive for coronavirus Friday. Locals were panicked over possible community spread while the administration has started contact tracing in the area.

A couple and their son had earlier tested positive for Covid and were said to be a super spread of the virus in the area. 13 people who had come in contact with them had tested positive.

The district reported 76 total COVID-19 positive cases Friday. Of them, 74 were reported from Bijaypur village of Shirijholi panchayat under Gunpur block.

Of the remaining two, one is a youth from Rayagada urban area. After returning from New Delhi he had been staying in a quarantine centre. The other one is a 35-year-old male from Gunpur urban area. While he does not have any travel history, the district health department has started preparing a list of the persons he had come in contact with.

Of the 74 COVID-19 fresh patients, 45 are females and the rest males. There are nine such patients who are above 60 years of age. Similarly, they include four



patients who are aged below ten years.

Earlier, 13 positive cases were detected from the same village. They had contracted the virus from a family comprising husband, wife and a daughter that had returned from Andhra Pradesh.

20 of them were sent to JK Pur Covid Hospital while 56 others were admitted to Gunpur Covid centre. With the fresh detection, the district's tally has gone up to 115. While a total of 17 patients recovered from the disease till Thursday, as many as 98 patients are undergoing treatment at COVID-19 hospitals.

Forest dept begins probe after people feast on croc

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 3: Days after some villagers feasted on a full-grown crocodile at Kaldapalli panchayat under Padia police limits in Malkangiri district, the forest department took serious note of the incident and started a probe into the matter. A person was arrested Friday at MPV-61. The accused was identified as Sanjay Sardar, who had made the video viral.

Several others involved in the act are absconding, said Kalimela ranger Ramchandra Madkani

The crocodile had killed a boy while he was bathing in Saberi river some days ago.

The forest department's action came after video displaying villagers distributing the meat of the reptile and arranging a dinner went viral in social media. Wildlife activists and animal lovers had condemned the act and demanded action against the people.

Kalimela ranger Ramchandra Madkani and other forest officials went to the village and looked into



the issue.

However, the villagers refused to have committed the gruesome act. It was alleged that the villagers had killed the reptile out of anger as it had killed a 10-year old boy.

On the other hand, Malkangiri DFO Pradip Devidas Mirase has formed three teams to investigate matter.

The DFO said that if the matter is verified on the basis of the media reports and departmental reports,

action will be taken against the accused as per the Wildlife Protection

Act.

It was learnt that a number of incidents were reported recently about domestic animals like cows and goats missing near Saberi river of Kaldapalli village.

The villagers suspected that a crocodile was behind the killings and decided to take the matter in their hands.

Some youths of the village managed catch the 10-ft-long crocodile after chasing it in a boat. They shot a video, showing the crocodile hung from a tree to die.

Child labourers engaged in canal work, 11 rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 3: The administration rescued 11 child labourers, who were engaged by a contractor in a canal renovation work near MV-08 in Malkangiri district, a report said.

The District Child Welfare Committee, officials of the labour department and police got to know of the child labourers engaged at the canal work site. They conducted raids in the area and rescued them.

The report said, despite a legal framework against the child labourers, such illegal act has been rampant in many remote pockets of this Maoist-hit district.

"In the last four days of raids, about 30 child labourers were rescued from different places," Ashok Kumar Patnaik, the chairman of the district child welfare committee said.

He also said that legal action will be taken against the middlemen, contractors and people who are indulging in such illegal activities.

The rescued child labourers will be rehabilitated, he added. However, locals alleged that no action has been taken against the contractor. All the rescued children were from economically backward families in the locality. Experts said poverty is not the only reason behind these children turning child labourers in the area.

They observed that in most cases, lack of parental care and guidance rather than economic condition is the reason behind their becoming child labourers.

Water resources dept's JE office a haunted house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, July 3: Despite being in a flood prone area like Bari sub division in Jajpur district, the office of the junior engineer, which is under Bari sub division water resources department of Jaraka division, has been lying closed for long.

While rainy season has already set in, no official has visited the office leaving people clueless about what they will do in case there is a flood.

According to sources, with an objective to protect residents on the south side of Brahmani river, river embankments were constructed on the both sides of the Brahmani and the Birupa rivers at the estimated cost of Rs 14.021 lakh in 2011-12.

There is also a junior engineer office at the site and while a junior en-



gineer is supposed to carry out checking on the condition of the embankments, no official is visiting the office, making it a haunted house. The office premises have now been covered with wild bushes.

As a lone staff, Debendra Nayak, the watchman of the office, had been taking care of the office till 2017 when he retired. Since then the post is lying vacant. At a time when the government is laying emphasis on strength-

ening of river embankments owing to the possible flood situation, the utter neglect meted out to the office and there being no official to bring the problems of the area to the notice of the higher officials have made the local residents exasperated.

They alleged, "The office building has turned out to be a den of antisocials. Due to lackadaisical attitude of the officials, the purpose for which the building was constructed has not been fulfilled and the money spent on the construction of the building has gone down the drain."

When contacted, junior engineer, water resources department, Bari, Sibananda Panigrahi said lack of infrastructure makes it impossible for any official to work there. The matter was often taken up with the higher officials but to no avail.

यूनियन बैंक
Union Bank of India

आंध्र प्रदेश
Andhra Corporation

DEMAND NOTICE

OVERSEAS BRANCH, KOLKATA
9, India Exchange Place, 2nd Floor, Kolkata-700001
Phone No. 033 - 22315048, 22301384 / 9485 / 1389
E-mail : overseaskolkata@unionbankofindia.com

Ref. No. : UBI/OVS/UTONPA/NOTICE13(2)/DEC19 Dated : 13.12.2019

To,

- M/s. Unitriveni Overseas
 - 25/22, Prince Ghulam Mohd. Shah Road, Golf Gardens, Kolkata - 700 095.
 - PLOT No. 150, Chapajhar, P.O. : Malipada, Dist. Khurda, Odisha - 752018.
 - Plot No. 03, 05, 07, Mouza - Choto Nabagram, Vill - Chhotolalpur, Raniganj - Chhatna Road, P.S. - Gangal Ghati, Dist - Bankura, WB - 722133.
 - Flat No. 303C, 3rd Floor, Dulce Apartment, Govinda Prasad Unit 32 Mouza, P.S. - Saheed Nagar, Tahsil - Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khurda, Odisha - 751007.
- Arijit Bhattacharya, (Partner & Guarantor of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas), S/o. Ranajit Bhattacharya, CL 64/FL 2, Salt Lake, Sector II, Block - CL, Bidhannagar East, Kolkata - 700091, M - 93312 57693.
- Indrajit Bhattacharya, (Partner & Guarantor of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas), S/o. Ranajit Bhattacharya, CL 64/FL 2, Salt Lake, Sector II, Block - CL, Bidhannagar East, Kolkata - 700091, M - 98314 60616.
- Ranajit Bhattacharya (Guarantor of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas), S/o. Dulal Chand Bhattacharya, i) CL 64/FL 2, Salt Lake, Sector II, Block CL, Bidhannagar East, Kolkata - 700091, M - 93395 38197. ii) 25/22, Prince Ghulam Mohammed Shah Road, Golf Green, Kolkata - 700095.
- Swati Bhattacharya (Guarantor of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas), W/o. Ranajit Bhattacharya, i) CL 64, Salt Lake, Sector II, Block CL, Bidhannagar East, Kolkata - 700091. ii) 25/22, Prince Ghulam Mohammed Shah Road, Golf Green, Kolkata - 700095.
- Avijit bhattacharya (Guarantor of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas), S/o. Rebat Kumar Bhattacharya, i) 49, Charu Chandra Place, 1st Floor, East Russa Road, Kolkata - 700033, M - 98311 23505. ii) C-16, 4th Floor, Sand Head Co-Operative Housing Society, 164/78, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata - 700045, M - 9831123505.
- Soma Bhattacharya (Guarantor of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas), W/o. Abhijit Bhattacharya. i) 49, Charu Chandra Place, 1st Floor, East Russa Road, Kolkata - 700033, M - 98311 23505. ii) C-16, 4th Floor, Sand Head Co-Operative Housing Society, 164/78, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata - 700045
- Sutapa Jishnu Mitra (Guarantor of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas), i) Block No. 2, Vloc, Villa Banglow, Unity Compound, Juhuara Road, Near Citizen Hotel, Santacruz West, Mumbai - 400049. ii) 10/2, Ramchandra Biswas Lane, Ranaghat, West Bengal - 741201. iii) Flat No. 402, 4th floor, DN Oxy Park, Tower Aster, Dumduma Mouza, Tahasil - Bhubneswar, P.S. - Khandagiri, Dist - Khurda, Odisha - 751030. iv) 106/2, at 6th floor DN Oxy Park Apartment in Tower -1, Dumduma Mouza, P.S. - Khandagiri, Tahasil - Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khurda, Odisha - 751030.

Sub. : Enforcement of Security Interest Action Notice u/s 13(2) under SARFAESI Act in connection with Credit facilities enjoyed by M/s. UNITRIVENI OVERSEAS with our Overseas Branch.

Dear Sir / Madam,

We have to inform you that your loan account, M/s. UNITRIVENI OVERSEAS with our Overseas Branch has been classified as Non Performing Asset as on 30.11.2019 pursuant to your default in making repayment of dues/interest. As on 30.11.2019, a sum of Rs. 14,09,97,411.00 (Rupees Fourteen Crores Nine Lac Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Eleven only) together with contractual rate of interest with monthly rest is outstanding in the account, as shown below and the same may also be exhibited by the Statement of Accounts from the enclosed herewith for your perusal :

Sl. No.	Nature	Limits	Amount	O/s in Running Ledger as on 30.11.2019	Interest in Dummy Ledger as on 30.11.2019	Total
1.	PC/PCFC @MCLR3M + 1.40%	10,00,00,000.00	10,00,00,000.00	11,99,95,411.00	0.00	11,99,95,411.00
2.	FDBP/FUDBP (LC DA up to 90 days) @MCLR3M + 1.15%	7,00,00,000.00	7,00,00,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Import / Inland LC (DA up to 90 days)	3,00,00,000.00	3,00,00,000.00	10,02,000.00	0.00	10,02,000.00
4.	w/w Bank Guarantee / LOC		2,00,00,000.00	2,00,00,000.00	0.00	2,00,00,000.00
Total			20,00,00,000.00	14,09,97,411.00	0.00	14,09,97,411.00

In spite of our repeated demands you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in the account and you have not discharged your liabilities.

This is therefore to call upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a total sum of Rs. 14,09,97,411.00 (Rupees Fourteen Crores Nine Lac Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Eleven only) together with contractual rate of interest with monthly rest is outstanding in the account, as shown below and the same may also be exhibited by the Statement of Accounts from the enclosed herewith for your perusal :

Description of the Secured Asset :

- Stock situated at factory / godown premises of M/s. UNITRIVENI OVERSEAS at Plot No. 150, Chapajhar, P.O. - Malipada, Dist - Khurda, Odisha - 752018.
- Piece and parcel of Land, admeasuring 22.43 cotta and single storied building, admeasuring 1158 Sq.ft. situated at 25/22, Prince Ghulam Mohammed Shah Road, Golf Green, Kolkata - 700095 in the name of Sh. Ranajit Bhattacharya and Smt Swati Bhattacharya. Bounded By : North - KMC Road, South - KMC Road, East - KMC Road, West - Premises No. 25/12.
- Piece and parcel of Flat No. C-16, admeasuring 650 Sq.ft, 4th Floor, Sandhead Cooperative Housing Society Ltd, 164/78, Prince Anwar Shah Road (Lake Garden), Kolkata - 700045 owned by Sh Avijit Bhattacharya and Smt Soma Bhattacharya. Bounded By : North - Society's Open Space / Road, South - Society's Stair, East - Society's Court-yard / Block B, West - Flat No. 3rd 15.
- Piece and parcel of Flat No. 1062, admeasuring 1725 Sq.ft, at 6th floor DN Oxy Park Apartment in Tower -1, Dumduma Mouza, P.S. - Khandagiri, Tahasil - Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khurda, Odisha - 751030, owned by Mrs. Sutapa Jishnu Mitra. Bounded By : North - Drain, South - Road, East - Plot No. 466, 465, 535, 534, 532, West - 469, 468, 515, 516, 530, 529.
- Piece and parcel of Flat No. 402, admeasuring 785 Sq.ft, 4th floor, DN Oxy Park, Tower Aster, Dumduma Mouza, Tahasil - Bhubneswar, P.S. - Khandagiri, Dist - Khurda, Odisha - 751030, owned by Mrs. Sutapa Jishnu Mitra. Bounded By : North - Drain, South - Road, East - Plot No. 466, 465, 465, 535, 534, 532, West - Plot No. 469, 468, 515, 516, 530, 529.
- Piece and parcel of Flat No. 303C, 3rd Floor, Dulce Apartment, standing over Plot No. 1555 and 1554, Khata No. - 1057/2253, Govinda Prasad Unit 32 Mouza, P.S. - Saheed Nagar, Tahsil - Bhubaneswar, Dist - Khurda, Odisha - 751007, in the name of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas. Bounded By : North - Plot No. 2150, South - Plot No. 1556, East - Road, West - Plot No. 1342.
- Piece and parcel of Plot No. 03 of area 734 decimals, Khatian No. 150/1, J.L.No. - 51, Mouza - Sudarshanpur & Plot No. - 06, 07, Khatian No. - 224/1, J.L. No. - 54, Mouza - Choto Nabagram, Vill - Chhotolalpur, Raniganj - Chhatna Road, P.S. - Gangal Ghati, Dist - Bankura, WB - 722133, in the name of M/s. Unitriveni Overseas. Bounded By : North - Property of Owner, South - Raniganj- Chhatna Road, East - Road, West - Property of others.

A) Please note that if you fail to remit the dues within 60 days and if Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of Law/Debt recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you.

B) You are requested to note that as per Sec. 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained / prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the Bank. Please also note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences.

Yours faithfully
Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

FOCUS NATION

DEMOCRACY, DICTATORSHIP



Democracy can succeed only when there exists an exceptional leader who can secure the willing cooperation of the people without having to buy them out. But such leaders are far and few

democracy can also be equally oppressive as was the case with Hitler. In the end, neither democracy nor authoritarian rule guarantees good governance. The UNDP said in its Human Development Report of 2010: "Why is there less optimism about democracy than in the euphoric period just after the Cold War? Democracy has not produced dividends in lives of ordinary people in too many countries. Income inequality and poverty have risen sharply in Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union, sometimes at unprecedented rates. Poverty has continued to increase in more democratic Sub-Saharan Africa. Many newly democratic regimes in Latin America seem no better equipped to tackle the region's high poverty and inequality than their authoritarian predecessors."

The end result seems to be as follows. Authoritarian regimes are 'extremist'. They can produce good results as present-day China or bad results as Mao Zedong's China. Democratic regimes, on the other hand, generally produce only mediocre results unless they are predicated on the loot of others.

Why should industrial countries then promote democracy in developing countries so vehemently? The answer lies in that democratic leaders are more amenable to being purchased. They need money to contest elections. It is beneficial for them to accept corruption money in foreign countries. This is not to argue that we must give up democracy and embrace an authoritarian regime. But let us realise democracy is no automatic solution to good governance. It can just as well be its opposite. But good governance in democracy is more difficult than in dictatorship. Fundamentally, democracy is an inefficient form of government. But this inefficiency can be covered up if huge resources are flowing in from other countries. We should apply our minds to securing good governance within democracy but without exploiting others. That is the challenge before us.

The writer is a former professor at IIM Bangalore

The Western countries are haranguing China for espousing dictatorship rather than democracy. Might it be, though, that China's path may be true and that of the West false?

The espousal of democracy by the West appears to be predicated on exploitation of others. The first known democracy in the Western World was that of Greece. The same Greek city states regularly organised military campaigns for looting their neighbours. The luxury of participating in long "democratic" debates was made possible only by the wealth that came in through these looting campaigns. Greek democracy collapsed when the neighbours also acquired the iron weapons and could no longer be looted at will. The Roman Empire likewise looted the people outside the borders. The loot brought by the Roman armies from other lands made it possible to distribute goodies to the citizens. The Roman democracy collapsed as new areas to loot were not accessible.

The second wave of democracy came in the Middle Ages led by England. The English government was able to 'buy' the loyalty of its subjects by providing them with many benefits. Legislations like the Factories Act provided for limited number of work hours and other relief to British workers. This led to higher cost of production. That, however, did not hurt the English economy because colonial loot was pouring in from across the globe. A year before Karl Marx's death in 1883, his close colleague Friedrich Engels wrote to Russian politician Karl Kautsky: "The workers gaily share the feast of England's monopoly of the world markets and the colonies." The monopoly of the world markets and loot of the colonies provided England with the money to "buy out" the loyalty of its subjects. The inefficiency of democracy was covered by this loot.

Democracy in the US till the 19th Century was based on newly-discovered bounty of gold and oil of the mid-West; on the wanton killing of the native Indians; and on the exploitation of black slaves

brought from Africa. In the 20th Century, that country launched many wars for extracting the resources of the poor countries including those in Iraq and Bosnia. It has regularly deposed popular leaders of developing countries like Salvador Allende of Chile and installed leaders favourable to the US. The introduction of patents protection in WTO has made it possible for American MNCs—which were leading in technological advances at that time—to protect their economic interests in foreign lands.

The US has derived huge incomes from wars such as those on Iraq by exporting arms at a high price and importing oil at cheaper rates. US MNCs are roaming around the globe selling their patented goods at high prices. Democracy appears to have succeeded only when there existed an external source of income. The wealth of Western democracies and the poverty of third world are but two sides of the same coin. If that is the case, then democracy cannot succeed in the developing countries. One cannot 'buy' the loyalty of its people when the countries' wealth is being transferred to the developed countries by patents and unfair trade. No wonder, Bhishma says in Shanti Parva: "Democracies destroy them-

selves due to infighting. Democracy can succeed only when the head person quietly takes others into confidence. The authorities should repress those who deviate from the consensus." In other words, democracy can succeed only when there exists an exceptional leader who can secure the willing cooperation of the people without having to buy them out. But such exceptional leaders are far and few.

Normally, the elected heads have to provide financial benefits to the people to secure their support. The Union Government can buy the support of Mamata Banerjee only if it can provide a hefty financial package for West Bengal. Now, if the money is obtained from taxing other states, then people of the other states would revolt. But if the money is obtained from, say, colonisation of Timbuktu, then there is no problem. The people of Timbuktu will be impoverished and democracy will flower in India. History might say the short duration in which democracy was the norm was built on international injustice; and the Chinese path of dictatorship was the one that was durable. That is not to venerate authoritarianism. It can be hugely oppressive as was in Stalin's Soviet Russia and Mao Zedong's China, for example. But



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

HISTORY MIGHT SAY THAT THE SHORT DURATION IN WHICH DEMOCRACY WAS THE NORM WAS BUILT ON INTER-NATIONAL INJUSTICE; AND THE CHINESE PATH OF DICTATORSHIP WAS THE ONE THAT WAS DURABLE

New ways of Railways

Its earnings seriously dented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Railways has announced a series of austerity measures. These range from a freeze on creation of new posts, rationalisation of manpower at workshops, shifting outsources work to CSR and moving ceremonial events to digital platforms to cutting down on the use of stationary by half.

According to sources, the Financial Commissioner of the Railways recently wrote to general managers of all zones on this. Apparently, the traffic earnings of the railways dropped by 58 per cent at the end of May as compared to the corresponding period last year.

Under the austerity drive, the zones have been asked to control expenditure by reducing staff cost and rationalising their tasks, review contracts, reduce energy consumption and cut administrative and other costs. The Financial Commissioner has also recommended that all work be transferred to the digital space and all correspondence done through secure emails.

No-promotion cop

In a column on June 10, I had reported that senior IPS officer and director of Telangana State Academy Vinoy Kumar Singh was 'unhappy' and had threatened to resign from the service. He has kept his word. Singh has put in his papers. In a letter to the Union Home Secretary, Singh said that he does not want to be a "burden on the government".

According to sources, Singh stated he was seeking premature retirement from the service effective from October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Those in the know say that Singh's exit was expected ever since he was overlooked for promotion as Director General of Police (DGP), although he was eligible. Earlier in May, in a letter to the state chief secretary Somesh Kumar, Singh had reportedly complained that though he was empanelled for the post of DGP three months ago, the government had still not taken up the matter of his promotion.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Singh is a 1987-batch IPS officer and has alleged that officers of the 1986 batch of regular recruits of Telangana cadre were promoted three years ago without clear vacancies. Similarly, IAS officers of the 1989 batch of Telangana cadre were also promoted without clear vacancies. IPS officers of the 1989 batch of many states, including Andhra Pradesh, were promoted long back.

He has reportedly stated that after retirement, he would like to work for reforms among the people of Telangana. Seems like he's hinting at a new career.

Shamed in uniform

In the aftermath of the alleged custodial deaths of P. Jeyaraj and his son J. Bennix at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, the Madras High Court passed an unprecedented order directing the district collector to depute revenue officials to take control of the Sathankulam police station, where the incident happened. The deaths had shocked the nation once the details of torture and police brutality came to light.

Apparently, this is the first time since the Indian Police Act came into existence in 1861 that a court has ordered for a police station to be taken over by revenue officials. The court further initiated criminal contempt action against Additional SP D. Kumar, deputy SP Prathapan and constable Maharajan for destroying evidence, not cooperating with the investigation and intimidating the judicial team conducting the probe.

The Tamil Nadu government has ordered a CBI inquiry into the deaths of Jeyaraj and his son following a public outcry. Other steps will follow. The Tiruchy range DIG V Balakrishnan has reportedly released 80 cops with 'anger' issues from duty and asked them to undergo behavioural therapy for a month. This coincides with a major reshuffle involving 39 senior IPS officers. But the state's cops can't live down this disgraceful behaviour easily.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. **CONFUCIUS**
- There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded. **MARK TWAIN**
- Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. **HELEN KELLER**

WORDSWORTH

Stillicide

The word is not one of that melancholy collection ending in -cide that refers to an act of killing or something that kills (suicide, pesticide), since it comes from a different Latin verb, caedere, to fall. The first part is from Latin stilla, a drop; the English word is a reformulation of Latin stillicidium, falling drops. The Latin word could mean in particular the drip of rain from the eaves of a house, which is exactly equivalent to an ancient meaning of our eavesdrop. This meaning led to the main historical sense of the word, a legal term in Scots law. If a householder let rain fall from his eaves on to the land of a neighbour, he needed the neighbour's permission. John Erskine explained this in 1754 in his Principles of the Law of Scotland: "No proprietor can build, so as to throw the rain water falling from his own house immediately upon his neighbour's ground, without a special servitude, which is called stillicide." (Servitude is another term for easement, a special permission relating to access to land.) It's not a word much encountered these days. When it appears it has the sense of falling water, not the legal one. It is in a poem in Vladimir Nabokov's Pale Fire: "Stilettoes of a frozen stillicide", one of a collection of unusual words in that section that also includes shagbark, torquated, vermiculated, preterist, iridule, and lemniscate.

LOL

DOCTORS MEETING

A group of psychiatrists were attending a convention. Four of them decided to leave, and walked out together. One said to the other three, "People are always coming to us with their guilt and fears, but we have no one that we can go to when we have problems." The others agreed. Then one said, "Since we are all professionals, why don't we take some time right now to hear each other out?" The other three agreed. The first then confessed, "I have an



uncontrollable desire to kill my patients."

The second psychiatrist said, "I love expensive things and so I find ways to cheat my patients out of their money whenever I can so I can buy the things I want." The third followed with, "I'm involved with selling drugs and often get my patients to sell them for me." The fourth psychiatrist then confessed, "I know I'm not supposed to, but no matter how hard I try, I can't keep a secret..."

SPECTRUM DIGITISATION

Building forward with digital agriculture

The COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping societies around the world, in part by accelerating the digital revolution that was already underway at the year's beginning. Corporations have instituted mass teleworking. International gatherings now take place online, students learn remotely and digital payments are further edging out cash.

But with technology influencing our lives more than ever, there is a risk that it will spread unevenly, entrenching existing inequalities and leaving the world's poorest people further behind. That is not inevitable. Digital technologies can help end global poverty and hunger faster, including in rural parts of developing countries, where the majority of people earn their living from agriculture.

Digital agriculture – whereby farmers use mobile phones and other digital technologies to access customised, actionable agricultural information in real time – could revolutionise how these communities secure and improve their livelihoods. By making the right investments today while many agricultural extension officers are restricted from visiting farmers

in person, we can kick-start digital adoption and start to close the income gap that has long held rural areas back. It should go without saying that family farmers need timely, accurate information as much as any small enterprise does. That is why governments in developed and developing countries have for decades supported farmers with public information campaigns. The world's longest-running radio drama, The Archers, was created in the 1950s to help farmers increase agricultural productivity following the rationing and food shortages during World War II.

Today, most farmers in the world's remotest places have mobile phones, and thus are equipped to receive targeted advice through simple text or voice messages, even without access to the Internet. For example, in Odisha, Precision Agriculture for Development delivers customised, crop-specific, free agricultural advice to almost 800,000 farmers through their phones. There is extensive, rigorous evidence that such advisories – delivered at scale and low cost – can change farmers' practices for the better. There is also growing evidence to show that farmers who are empowered with digi-

tal information will increase their yields, incomes, and resilience against shocks. A recent paper co-authored by one of us (Kremer) in Science demonstrates that farmers who received digitally delivered recommendations were 22 per cent more likely to adopt the recommended agrochemical inputs, yielding \$10 in benefits for every \$1 spent.

Moreover, while farmers rely on mobile phones to receive market information, access bank accounts, and monitor weather forecasts, digital technologies offer a host of other opportunities for poor, rural communities. With support from the United Nations International Fund for Agriculture Development, remote sensors have been deployed to help farmers optimise water and fertilizer levels for their crops, and drones are being used to identify plants in poor health so that remedial action can be taken.

Innovations in digital agriculture also can help farmers increase their yields and incomes by adopting locally suited seeds and fertilizer, protecting crops from diseases and pests, adapting to climate change, selling at best possible price, and accessing financial services. All of these applications can

expand farmers' opportunities and reduce their risks. In fact, digitisation has the potential to transform the agricultural sector in developing countries. But doing so will require further innovation and strong partnerships between governments, businesses, and farmers, as well as a regulatory environment to ensure technology remains affordable and accessible.

With the pandemic still running its course, now is the time to think about not just building back, but building forward. By accelerating investment and innovation in digital agriculture, we can protect the world's poorest people from some of the worst effects of the current crisis. When we all emerge from lockdown, one hopes we will have already laid the foundation for building a fairer, more prosperous, and sustainable future.

Michael Kremer, a Nobel laureate in economics, is Professor of Economics at Harvard University. Gilbert F. Hounbo, former PM of the Republic of Togo, is President of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development. @PROJECT SYDICATE

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

One Nation, One Ration

Sir, the PM's offer of One Nation One Ration plan for distribution of food-grains via fair price ration shops is a welcome step. But, the government will require to take more steps to help the countryside as also the poor in urban areas. Many are jobless, and they have no means of income. Also, farmers must get remunerative prices for their produce, there should be more support to the migrants for re-employment after the lockdown, and liberal help to the corona warriors who worked day and night to check the spread of the pandemic. More importantly, corrective steps are needed to get the national economy back on the right track, so that all people will be benefited.

Biswajit Bhoi, CUO, KORAPUT

Ban on TikTok

Sir, the Union Government's decision to ban 59 Chinese apps including TikTok is a digital strike that will hit China to some extent. The Chinese hegemony over electronic and software equipment in India needs to be broken over the course of the next few years. Total ban is not possible, though. The Gandhian way was to boycott foreign goods and use Swadeshi products. This is also what the PM's Atmanirbhar Bharat movement aims at. Here is an opportunity for the people to exhibit patriotism as our courageous soldiers are fighting against the Chinese aggression. This would also encourage other nations of the Asian sub-region, the lands of which all have been forcibly occupied by China over the years, to join hands and face China collectively.

Sanjib Das, CUTTACK

Odia serials, black magic

Sir, our Constitution stresses on rationality and scientific temper. But, several Odia TV serials are spreading the messages of black magic and unscientific temper among their viewers. The spread of untruth and blind beliefs is misleading our society. Such mindless exhibition of tantra and black magic should not be encouraged by viewers too. This is not entertainment but a trap. We as a society become more fearful and less motivated. This affects our thinking process. Black magic hardly has a place in a civilized society. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had encouraged the society to develop a scientific temper. Television serials on the themes of ghosts and evil spirits should be banned. Let scientific temper prevail.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

BMC begins to retreat after 90-day corona war in Dharavi slums



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 3: After what is billed as a major triumph in the 90-day war against the novel coronavirus in Dharavi, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has slowly started a cautious retreat from Asia's biggest slum which reported its first Covid-19 case-cum-death April 1.

"We have closed two isolation facilities in Dharavi as cases have significantly reduced there and we don't want to waste resources. Of the total 3,800-beds capacity in eight quarantine centres, we have reduced the numbers by 1,000 to touch around 2,800 beds," G/ North Assistant Municipal Commissioner Kiran Dighavkar told IANS.

These include 700 beds put up at the sprawling Dharavi Municipal School and 300 beds at the Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex that falls in BMC's G/ North Ward, he said.

In fact, Dighavkar, said the BMC's 200-bed ICU hospital in Dharavi is occupied by only 78 patients at present and the area has "ample quarantine and treatment facilities" available anytime for the remaining 23 per cent active cases, with few new ones coming up daily.

The heartening developments come after Mayor Kishori Pedekar

told IANS June 21: "The Dharavi 'tension' is off our heads now. We have worked really hard to bring it to this level and it has given excellent results with the local peoples' full support." Simultaneously, the never-say-die people of this once 'red-hotspot of the pandemic' - which made headlines in the global media - are now quietly hugging the 'new normal', despite the same congestion, overcrowded living and working quarters, serpentine queues at public toilets, narrow bylanes, stench and squalor plus the monsoon madness.

After the initial days of airily dismissing the pandemic, a sense of seriousness and responsibility is evident among the locals after they witnessed 2,300-plus cases and 82 deaths, pointed out Dharavi businessman Salim Memon.

"That was because it was impossible to maintain physical distance and isolation, due to the sheer numbers - more than 800,000 people crammed in barely 2.25 sq km. Now, nearly 50 per cent of the migrants have left, affording Dharavi some much-needed breathing space," Dharavi Rehabilitation Committee President Raju Korde told IANS.

However, he says, it is time to wage the next level of war for re-development of Dharavi, which has been pending for 16 years.

Virus, streaming apps spark fears for cinemas

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mumbai, July 3: An actor's face tattooed on his arm, Sandeep Bacche's devotion shocks few in India where stars enjoy semi-divine status. But even here the hallowed silver screen may be losing its shine to streaming services and pandemic fears.

"Whenever things get better and theatres begin operations, I will watch three movies a day for sure just as a way to celebrate," said the Mumbai rickshaw driver, who is recovering from the virus himself.

But others may not join the party.

With cinemas shut for months due to a coronavirus lockdown, and little prospect they will reopen soon, frustrated film producers have turned to the likes of Amazon, Netflix and Disney+ Hotstar to release films online.

"Gulabo Sitabo", starring Hindi film legend Amitabh Bachchan, premiered on Amazon Prime last month. Other Hindi movies have followed a similar route, as have the huge Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam language film industries.

This has sparked fury from cinema operators.

INOX Leisure Ltd, India's second-largest multiplex operator,

warned producers of possible "re-tributive measures".

"Movie stars are not made on the small screen but on the silver screen," Siddharth Jain, INOX executive director, told AFP.

But, noting the financial might of the competition, he said: "No business model in the world can compete with free money and Netflix is nothing but free money."

Shoojit Sircar, who directed "Gulabo Sitabo", told AFP that "a digital release was a tough decision" but financial constraints pushed him to do it.

"A lot of technicians are dependent on me," Sircar said.

"Cinema magic cannot be replaced by TV, iPad or laptop experience. But I needed to move on."



Prime's director of content for India, insisted the company was not looking to put cinemas out of business.

"Theatres play an important role in film distribution and we aren't looking to change that," he told AFP.

But he added: "As technology continues to change that landscape, customers' preferences of what to watch and where will continue to evolve."

Cinemas meanwhile are getting ready for the end of lockdown, which will come with strict rules that will further eat away at their profit margins.

Some seats will have to be left empty and cinema halls will have to be thoroughly disinfected after every show. The lavish menus and blankets will probably have to go.

But it is not all doom and gloom.

"The cinema experience is ingrained in our blood... (it) will never go out of fashion," Mumbai-based film trade analyst Girish Johar told AFP.

For diehard fans like Bacche, the heady pleasures of the silver screen are simply too irresistible.

Even in the coronavirus treatment facility, the 41-year-old still needed his daily fix of Hindi cinema, he said.

He found it on the YouTube app on his phone, which he still uses - a sign that the pandemic's impact on viewing habits may linger for a while longer.

Movie stars are not made on the small screen but on the silver screen
SIDDHARTH JAIN | INOX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFFORDABLE ENTERTAINMENT

India has the world's most prolific film industry, churning out nearly 1,800 releases in 2018. Stars are worshipped like gods, with fans building temples and making pilgrimages to their homes.

Going to the cinema also remains a hugely popular and affordable pursuit, with 75 rupees (\$1) buying three hours of entertainment in an air-conditioned movie theatre. Some of the higher-end multiplex cinemas have menus that include biryani being delivered to your recliner, and blankets to snug-

gle under if the air conditioning is too cold.

But with more than half of India's population under 30, and many of them consuming entertainment on mobile phones, the likes of Netflix were starting to make inroads even before the coronavirus.

Hotstar, the market leader now owned by Disney, boasted 300 million active monthly users in 2018 - offering some content for free and other shows only to subscribers.

The shutdown has only accelerated the shift.

For years Mumbai-based teacher Nigel D'Souza, 27, was one of the

holdouts, preferring to watch films in cinemas.

But when India went into lockdown in late March, he bit the bullet and subscribed to both Amazon Prime - aggressively priced in India at just 129 rupees per month - and Netflix. He is now hooked.

"It was very cheap... as we don't spend money on expensive popcorn or travel," he said.

Furthermore, he found he "could binge-watch any number of movies... without worrying about the virus".

VIRUS MEASURES
Vijay Subramaniam, Amazon

Farmer leaders oppose 'anti-federal' Ordinances

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, July 3: Leaders of major farmers' unions of Punjab have unanimously passed a resolution urging the central government to reconsider and withdraw 'anti-farmer' and 'anti-federal' Ordinances and its proposed amendments to the Electricity Act.

Participating in a virtual meeting convened by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, the unions said the recently promulgated Ordinances

and the proposed amendments to the Electricity Act of 2003 are perceived as being strongly anti-farmer.

"These Ordinances and the proposed amendment are also a direct attack on the federal fabric of the country and, therefore, must be withdrawn," they said, in a unanimous resolution passed at the end of the meeting. Underlining the need to protect Punjab and its farming needs, Amarinder Singh earlier said "we all must unitedly stand together notwithstanding our political affili-

ations." He said he was fully prepared to take any steps necessary to protect the interests of the state and farmers, as he had done over the SYL water sharing issue. The Chief Minister assured the farmers' representatives that he was ready to make any sacrifices needed to protect the farmers from these 'anti-farmer' and 'anti-state' ordinances. Singh had last month urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review three ordinances promulgated by the Centre in connection with the agriculture sector.

This Mumbai centre treats Covid patients for ₹1,000/day

Probably the cheapest such facility in the country, Pawan Dham charges ₹1,000 per day for full COVID-19 treatment, which includes lodging

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 3: Amid unending complaints of fleeing by private hospitals and medicos, a centre in north-Mumbai stands out like an oasis of hope for panicky COVID-19 patients.

Over the past couple of months, the Pawan Dham charitable centre in Kandivali west has become a refuge for those infected by coronavirus, even as this middle-class region was recently declared a new 'hotspot' after Dharavi slum was on the steady route to 'recovery'.

"At the Pawan Dham, patients are being charged Rs 1,000 per day for full COVID-19 treatment. This includes lodging-boarding, but they have to pay for certain variables like external tests," North Mumbai Bharatiya Janata Party MP Gopal Shetty told IANS.

The brainchild behind the project, Shetty says it was the outcome of the desire of the Jain spiritual leader

Namramuni Maharaj, who wanted it to serve the needy masses during this global pandemic. Accordingly, Pawan Dham - originally a religious-cum-social services centre - was converted into a private dedicated COVID-19 treatment charitable facility, informed its member, Nitin Sunderji Shah, a businessman who oversaw the implementation of the project.

"There are 70-beds in this centre and so far we have already treated and discharged around 200 completely cured patients from here," Shah said, adding that with the good reputation it has earned, there is already a long waiting list of patients seeking admission.

The centre is manned by a 70-strong army of corona warriors comprising medicos, nurses, support staffers, management functionaries and others who dedicatedly serve in three shifts.

"Till date, only one critical patient had to be shifted to a government facility. Otherwise, all those who approached

the centre in time have happily gone home, fully recovered," Shetty pointed out. On how the centre manages the treatment with such nominal charges, both Shetty and Shah claim it's the cheapest such facility in the country, possible "with the blessings of Namramuni Maharaj, who inspired many to willingly come forward with donations" to run the centre for the yeoman services it is rendering in these difficult times.

A patient, who spent around Rs 8,000 for eight days at the centre and returned home fully recovered this week, said the treatment comprised an initial counselling by the doctors to "prepare" the patient for the entire COVID-19 course.

"Many get terrified when they test positive and believe they're going to die. So, it's imperative to calm them first to enable them to respond to the treatment well and also keep their equally jittery families free of worry," he explained.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, CHAKAPAD
No. 1603 Date: 02.07.2020
TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from intended from the C and D class of registered State Governments and Contractors of equivalent Grades/Class Registered with Central Government/MES/Railways, to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-1 Agreement form, for execution of Buildings i.e. civil works. For execution of 2 (Two) numbers of Kalyanmandap work in PANASPADAR, KUSUMANDI, G.P. & PANDUGUDA, BAPALMENDI(L), G.P. under Panchayat Samiti Chakapad, Kandhamal District.

The detailed terms and conditions of tender call notice can be obtained from official website of Kandhamal District, <http://kandhamal.nic.in> from 06.07.2020, 11 A.M. to 20.07.2020, upto 5 P.M. The bids shall be received through Registered Post/Speed Post only with AD, on or before Dt. 20.07.2020 upto 5.00 P.M. The authority will not be held responsible for any Postal delay in delivering of the bid documents or non-receipt of the same.

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Chakapad Block

TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. 3192/CW/2020 Date: 03.07.2020

No. n-05: Sealed tender in the prescribed form to be eventually drawn-up in PWD Form P-1 (Percentage Rate Bids) in conformity with Detailed Tender Call Notice are invited by the District Project Coordinator, RTE-SSA, Koraput on behalf of Government of Odisha for tenders for construction of AWC Buildings in SDF NALCO Fund 2019-20.

Sl. No.	Block	Name of AWC	EMD Rs.	Tender Cost Rs.
1	Nandapur	Harjan Sahi	6,700.00	4,000.00
2	Nandapur	Badapadar	6,700.00	4,000.00
3	Sunabeda Mply	Kumbhariput (Pitaguda)	6,700.00	4,000.00
4	Sunabeda Mply	Alamguda	6,700.00	4,000.00
5	Sunabeda Mply	Chikapur	6,700.00	4,000.00
6	Sunabeda Mply	Gandhinagar-II	6,700.00	4,000.00
7	Sunabeda Mply	QA Zone	6,700.00	4,000.00
8	Semiilguda	Beheaguda (Pakjhol)	6,700.00	4,000.00
9	Semiilguda	Luhaba-1 (Subai)	6,700.00	4,000.00
10	Semiilguda	Malidusura-1 (Renga)	6,700.00	4,000.00
11	Semiilguda	Admunda (subai)	6,700.00	4,000.00
12	Semiilguda	Podapalam (Rajput)	6,700.00	4,000.00
13	Semiilguda	Kutugam (Daleiguda)	6,700.00	4,000.00
14	Semiilguda	Renga-1 (Renga)	6,700.00	4,000.00
15	Semiilguda	Putsil (Dudhari)	6,700.00	4,000.00
16	Semiilguda	Doraguda (Hataguda)	6,700.00	4,000.00
17	Semiilguda	Bhejaput-IV (Charangul)	6,700.00	4,000.00
18	Semiilguda	Kendumaliguda (Padmpur)	6,700.00	4,000.00
19	Semiilguda	Charagaon-II (Pitaguda)	6,700.00	4,000.00
20	Sunabeda Mply	Daleiguda (Pitaguda)	6,700.00	4,000.00
21	Sunabeda Mply	Jangamput (Pitaguda)	6,700.00	4,000.00
22	Kotpad	Dulupursahi	6,700.00	4,000.00
23	Kotpad	Bemasahi	6,700.00	4,000.00
24	Kotpad	Mirgansahi	6,700.00	4,000.00
25	Koraput	Mastiput	6,700.00	4,000.00
26	Koraput	Badachindri Majhisahi	6,700.00	4,000.00
27	Koraput	Rangabalkumbha Baghasahi	6,700.00	4,000.00
28	Jeyapore Mply	Purunagada	6,700.00	4,000.00
29	Jeyapore Mply	Hatapada	6,700.00	4,000.00
30	Jeyapore Mply	Ganganagar	6,700.00	4,000.00
31	Jeyapore Mply	Jayanagar	6,700.00	4,000.00
32	Jeyapore Mply	Jamunaguda	6,700.00	4,000.00
33	Jeyapore Mply	Bandhaghat	6,700.00	4,000.00
34	Jeyapore Mply	Mandiabandhasahi	6,700.00	4,000.00
35	Jeyapore Mply	Parabedasahi	6,700.00	4,000.00

The tender documents will be available in the district website i.e. (www.koraput.nic.in) from 03.07.2020 to 23.07.2020 upto 5.00 P.M. and can be downloaded from the website.

The tenders will be opened at 11.00 A.M. on 24.07.2020.

Other details can be seen in the District website www.koraput.nic.in.

Sd./- District Project Coordinator
RTE-SS, Koraput
OIPR-27035/11/0004/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
"e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, NAYAGARH (R&B) DIVISION, NAYAGARH WORKS DEPARTMENT
TENDER CALL NOTICE
E-mail: pwdoffngd34@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. EE-Nayagarh (R&B) Division- Online 01/ 2020-21
No. B-132: The Executive Engineer, Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single/Double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building & Road work as detailed in the table below:

- Nature of Work : Building Works.
- No. of Work : 4 Nos.
- Tender Cost : To be remitted online through a process as mentioned in DTCN.
- Class of Contractor : As mentioned in DTCN
- Available of Bid Document : From Dt.09.07.2020 10.00 AM to in the Website Dt.20.07.2020 Up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt.21.07.2020 at 11.00 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Executive Engineer, Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh
OIPR-34138/11/0001/2021

OFFICE OF THE DEAN & PRINCIPAL SAHEED LAXMAN NAYAK MEDICAL COLLEGE KORAPUT - 764020, KORAPUT, ODISHA
Tel. 06852-250101/ E-mail: slnmchkoraput.od@gov.in
No. 2198/LIB-20 Dated the 03 July, 2020
TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. E-97: Sealed tenders are invited from the Registered firms for "Subscription of Journals" (Indian & Foreign) (Medical) for the financial year 2020-21 in two bid system (Technical & Financial) so as to reach the Office of the undersigned on or before 28.07.2020 at 5.00 P.M. through Speed/Regd./Courier Post only. The detailed tender paper, terms & conditions and list of Journals can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs.1000/- + GST @ 18% Cash (Non-refundable) at the Accounts Section. The details are also available in the website www.slnmch.nic.in, www.koraput.nic.in. Those who will download the tender documents from website should enclose a DD for Rs.1000/- + GST @ 18% towards cost of tender paper in favour of Dean & Principal, S.L.N. Medical College, Koraput.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel of the tender in full or parts at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Dean & Principal
SLN Medical College, Koraput
OIPR-10121/11/0009/2021

GOVT. OF ODISHA No. A-166
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DRAINAGE DIVISION, KHORDHA
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO - 01/ 2020-21

- Name of Works : Structure works & Earth work
- Total No. of Works : 03 Nos. individual works.
- Estimated cost of Individual works : Varies from 64.95 lakhs to 84.92 lakhs.
- Period of completion : 09 calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of Bid in the portal : From 10.00AM of 06.07.2020 to 20.07.2020 up to 5.00PM.
- Date & time of receipt of Bids in the portal : From 10.00AM of 06.07.2020 to 20.07.2020 up to 5.00PM.
- Date and time of opening of Technical Bid : 21.07.2020 at 11.30 AM.
- Date and time of opening of Financial Bid : 28.07.2020 at 11.30 AM
- Date for draw of Lottery : On Dt.05.08.2020 at 12.00AM (if required)
- Name of the Procurement : Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Khordha.
- Bid Identification No. EEDD-KHR-01/2020-21 Further details can be seen from the Govt. Portal of Tender (website) www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./ Executive Engineer
Drainage Division, Khordha
OIPR-32363/11/0001/2021

Covid didn't turn bitter for kinnow growers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, July 3: The Covid-induced lockdown did not turn out bitter for kinnow - a citrus fruit resembling orange - growers and farm labourers of Punjab and Haryana as they got handsome returns from the natural fruit droppings.

A few years back the self-aborted small oranges, once considered agricultural waste, were either left in the fields to decay or dumped unsentimentally at nearby roadsides. Now they are being procured for medicinal purposes.

Farm experts told IANS this season the aborted or immature droppings locally called 'ker' with diameter less than 1.8 cm from kinnow trees between May and June were unbelievably high owing to frequent climatic variations in the past. And the droppings have ensured strong financial sup-



port to the farmers and part-time labourers amid critical financial crunch.

For nearly 25,000 farmers in Punjab's Fazilka district, Haryana's Sirsa district and some pockets in Rajasthan the semi-dry droppings turned out to be windfall as they fetched Rs 50 a kg by selling the produce to a Himachal Pradesh-based firm, Hindustan FarmDirect Ingredients Private Ltd, that is creating value through horticulture waste. Estimates say the dropping material worth Rs 30 crore was pur-

tonnes of kinnow every winter that fetches Rs 15-18 a kg. "This time the self-aborted small kinnows were high owing to temperature variations during the last winter and this summer," Naresh Bishnoi, who owns a 50-acre orchard in Abohar, told IANS.

"The flowering (in April) was good, so was the dropping of the immature fruits. We were initially apprehensive that no firm would come forward this time amidst lockdown to buy them from the growers," he said.

One acre normally has 200-225 trees of kinnows. A grower normally earns Rs 15,000 per acre by selling the sun dried droppings at Rs 50 per kg, say farmers.

Also hand-picking of aborted oranges from the farms, their packaging and transportation at and from the procurement centres created jobs amid the lockdown.



I was young when the party (BJD) was in power. Still, if there were any mistakes, I apologize for that
TEJASWINI YADAV | BJD LEADER

'PUBG GAME EXPOSES CHILDREN TO CRIME, NEGATIVE THINKING'
PUBG exposes children to a world of crime and negative thinking, a top scientist has warned amid calls in some quarters to ensure that online games, particularly for kids, comply with best international standards, regulations and practices



of the day quote

I was asked 128 questions based on allegations but yet no proof was found against me. The agency was satisfied by my replies but the questioning is a result of political vendetta. I don't know under whose pressure they are working
AHMAD PATEL | CONGRESS LEADER

All what Vijayan has done is nothing but rhetoric and when the time came to really act, Vijayan has badly faltered, especially the way the diaspora was being handled when the pandemic struck
KC JOSEPH | CONGRESS MLA IN KERALA

(PM) Going to Ladakh, meeting soldiers and encouraging them has definitely boosted the morale of the Army
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

5 youths drown in Maha waterfall

Palghar: Five youths, aged 18-22 years, drowned in the popular Kal Mandavi Waterfalls near the Jawhar town here Thursday evening, officials said. They were part of a 13-strong group of youngsters who decided to go for a picnic and some entered the waters to swim. As they were swimming, strong currents built by the waterfall swept five of them into deep waters and they could not be traced.

Man held for killing daughter

Aurangabad: A 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his minor daughter and hiding her body in a sugarcane field at a village in Maharashtra's Beed district. The police Wednesday nabbed Prakash Kashinath Bhangre for allegedly killing his 14-year-old daughter Sheetal Dadasaheb Toge, assistant inspector Maheshkumar Tak of Wadvani police station said. The victim, who was married and lived in Chikal Beed, went missing June 28, and her body was recovered from a sugarcane field two days later.

Baby thrown by father recovers

Kochi: The two-month-old baby girl, who was flung away by her father last month, has recovered and will be discharged Saturday, according to the doctors treating her. The incident took place June 17, when 40-year-old Shaiju Thomas, injured his 54-day-old daughter by hitting her on the head and flinging her on the bed. The baby then went through anxious moments and a surgery was also performed on her injured head. Following the improvement in her condition, the stitches on her head have now been removed.

Terrorist killed in Srinagar

Srinagar: One terrorist was killed and a CRPF jawan was injured in an encounter at Malbagh in Srinagar Thursday night. The firefight broke out after a joint team of the police and the security forces cordoned off the area on the basis of a specific intelligence input about the presence of terrorists there. As the security forces zeroed in on the place where the terrorists were hiding, they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter.

Short timeline for India vaccine test raises doubts

New Delhi, July 3: The chief of India's top clinical research agency said in a leaked letter circulated Friday it envisaged launching a novel coronavirus vaccine by August 15, prompting derision from some health experts who questioned the timeline. Dozens of vaccine candidates are at various stages of development around the world to control the coronavirus pandemic. One candidate, from India's Bharat Biotech, which is being developed with the Indian Council of Medical Research, was this week approved for Phase I and Phase II clinical trials. "It is envisaged to launch the vaccine for public health use latest

by August 15, 2020, after completion of all clinical trials," ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said in the letter, dated July 2 and addressed to institutions involved in the trials. Phase I and Phase II trials typically test the safety of a drug before it enters Phase III trials that test its efficacy. Each phase can last months, if not years, but regulators globally have been fast-tracking trials on medicines and vaccines aimed at tackling the coronavirus, which has infected more than 10.89 million people globally and killed more than 520,066, according to a Reuters tally. The Indian vaccine project was being monitored "at the topmost level of the government", Bhargava said in the letter, which was widely



circulated on social media. A Bharat Biotech spokesman declined to comment but an ICMR official, who asked not to be identified, said the letter was a private communication and was being misinterpreted. Anant Bhan, a doctor and public health researcher, questioned the speed of the trial suggested in the letter and asked if its efficacy was being decided in advance.

"To my knowledge, such an accelerated development pathway has not been done EVER for any kind of vaccine, even for the ones being tried out in other countries," Bhan said on Twitter. "Even with accelerated timelines, this seems really rushed, and hence with potential risks, inadequate attention to process." Several other health experts also questioned the proposed launch date of the vaccine. The ICMR official said the aim was to complete all trials on the vaccine candidate by August 15. He did not say exactly when he thought the vaccine might be launched for public use. "The letter is something and interpretation is something (else)," the official said.

No imports, as China may use power equipment as 'Trojan Horse': Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 3: Power Minister RK Singh Friday said that India will not import power equipment from China, amid a border standoff with China. During a virtual press conference with state counterparts, he also asserted that the equipment imported from China and Pakistan would not be permitted especially on the basis of inspection. He further said state discoms should not give orders for supply of equipment to Chinese firms. "We manufacture everything here. India imported ₹71,000 crore worth power equipment including ₹21,000 crore from China," Singh said in the state Energy Ministers' conference chaired by him this morning in his opening remarks. He said: "This huge import of power equipment is something we cannot tolerate that a country will transgress into our territory...we will not take anything from China and Pakistan."



The senior minister's assertions assume significance against the backdrop of border standoff between India and China in Ladakh

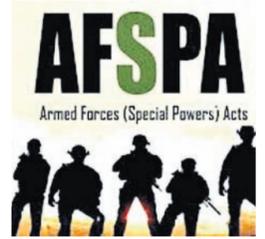
Power Minister RK Singh asserted that the equipment import from China and Pakistan would not be permitted especially on the basis of inspection. It is a pity that tower elements, conductors, transformers and parts of meters are imported, which are manufactured and available here, he said. The senior minister's assertions assume significance against the backdrop of border standoff between India and China in Ladakh that also saw the death of 20 Indian Army personnel last month. The minister also announced about a new scheme for funding discoms which would subsume three schemes - UDAY, DDUGJY and IPDS. Under the new schemes states would have to give a plan for reducing losses of discoms. The Minister said funds under the scheme would not be released as loan or grants to those discoms which would not adhere to loss reduction trajectory. "We have to make discoms viable. You have to do it through a PSU or a private player like Delhi did," he noted. He said the period of outstanding dues would be extended till May, 2020 as against March, 2020 under the liquidity infusion scheme.

He further said, "We will not give permission for import from Prior Reference countries. We are affected. There could be malware or trojan horse in those (imports from China) which they can activate remotely (to cripple our power systems)." Singh further said that it is a pity that tower elements, conductors, transformers and parts of meters are imported, which are manufactured and available here. He further stated, "Your discoms order equipment from Chinese companies. We request you not to order from Chinese companies." He stressed that under the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission India will not import any equipment from China which is available here and will go for inspection of imported equipment. Under inspection, the government can deny import of equipment. The senior minister's assertions assume significance against the backdrop of border standoff between India and China in Ladakh that also saw the death of 20 Indian Army personnel last month. The minister also announced about a new scheme for funding discoms which would subsume three schemes - UDAY, DDUGJY and IPDS. Under the new schemes states would have to give a plan for reducing losses of discoms. The Minister said funds under the scheme would not be released as loan or grants to those discoms which would not adhere to loss reduction trajectory. "We have to make discoms viable. You have to do it through a PSU or a private player like Delhi did," he noted. He said the period of outstanding dues would be extended till May, 2020 as against March, 2020 under the liquidity infusion scheme.

Nagaland a 'disturbed area', AFSPA extended

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kohima, July 3: The Union Home Ministry has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland for another six months, officials said here Thursday. According to an official of the Nagaland Home Department, the mountainous state, bordering Myanmar, has been under the AFSPA for the past several decades. In a notification, Joint Secretary, MHA, Satyendra Garg said that the Central government is of the opinion that the area comprising the whole of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary. "Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (No. 28 of 1958), the Central government hereby declares that whole of the said state to be a 'disturbed area' for a period of six months with effect from June 30, 2020 for the purpose of that Act," said the notification, issued Tuesday. The Nagaland government official said that the state has been requesting the Central government to resolve the long-ending Naga issues, involving the numerous outfits. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland



(Isak-Muivah), which had several rounds of negotiations with the Indian government in Delhi as well as outside India after signing a ceasefire pact in August 1997, is one of the most influential rebel groups in the northeastern region. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had signed a "framework agreement" with its leadership in 2015. Nagaland Governor RN Ravi is also the Centre's interlocutor to hold talks with NSCN-IM and other Naga outfits. Recently, Ravi had written to Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on the "deterioration of law and order in the state". The Nagaland government, however, in a series of statements, claimed that the state is in a normal situation.



Twenty-two out of thirty-three districts in Assam have been inundated by the waters from Brahmaputra river affecting at least 16 lakh people
REUTERS PHOTO

Bangla traders block Indian imports at Petrapole border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 3: No exports to Bangladesh via the Petrapole border took place Thursday due to an ongoing agitation by Bangladeshi traders and their workers, demanding that India allow imports from the neighbouring country. The agitators, who began their stir Wednesday blocking the entry of Indian trucks for several hours, claimed that the border will remain sealed until India allows import. "Today, there was nil export from India via Petrapole," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Chairman (East) Sushil Patwari said and sought the intervention of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee into the matter. Some trucks with perishable goods diverted their cargo to Gojadanga,

West Bengal-based exporters have already sought CM Mamata Banerjee's intervention into the matter



a smaller land port in the North 24 Parganas. "We have not allowed any truck to enter Benapole. This will continue until India resumes import of our goods," Benapole C&F Agents Staff Association secretary Sajidur Rehman said. Benapole is the place across the border from Petrapole. "Our exporters and a lot of workers associated with exports are suffering due to delay from the Indian side to allow shipments from us," Rehman

said. West Bengal-based exporters have already sought Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's intervention into the matter. "Indian manufacturers, including MSMEs, are running short of essential supplies and raw materials as imports are not allowed. Since Bangladesh has allowed entry of Indian goods, it is required to import their cargo to keep the trade balance moving," Patwari said in a letter to the Chief Minister.

Migrants' identification limits foodgrain distribution to 13%

ONLY 13 PER CENT OF THE FOODGRAINS ALLOCATED UNDER THE 'AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT' SCHEME HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED WHILE IN STATES LIKE ANDHRA PRADESH, TELANGANA AND GOA, THERE HAS BEEN NO DISTRIBUTION AT ALL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 3: Migrant workers have caught the attention of the nation during the ongoing corona pandemic, but it has become difficult for the states to distribute free foodgrains to them. Only 13 per cent of the foodgrains allocated under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' scheme have been distributed while in some states such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Goa, there has been no distribution at all. Under the 'Self-reliant India' scheme, the Central government has allocated 8,00,268 tonnes of foodgrains for distribution in May and June for the migrant workers. But by

the end of June, only 1,07,032 tonne of foodgrains were distributed. Thus, only 13.37 per cent of the total food grains allocated was distributed. Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan had allocated 8,00,268 tonnes of foodgrains for the migrants during May and June, based on an estimate of eight million migrant workers across the country, but only 15.2 per cent of the May quota was distributed as against the 11.6 per cent of the June quota. However, in May and June, Rajasthan distributed 95.1 per cent of the allocated foodgrains to migrant workers. The Union minister, however, says



the purpose for which this scheme was launched has been fulfilled, but himself acknowledged that due to lack of accurate data of migrant workers with the states, the distribution of foodgrains could not be estimated. Recently Paswan said the objective of this free foodgrain distribution scheme launched for migrants was to ensure there was no starvation in the country and the needy could avail of the foodgrains.

During the corona pandemic, the number of stranded migrants in various states was estimated to be nearly eight crore, but according to ministry figures 1,21,62,028 people across the country availed of the scheme in May while the beneficiaries in June were only 92,44,277. Instead of eight crore migrant workers, the data of even one crore could not be collected. However, experts say the main reason for the low foodgrain distribution under the scheme was its strict conditions, which made it difficult to identify the beneficiaries. As per the terms and conditions, the persons eligible for the scheme could be the same who were not the beneficiaries of the public distribution system under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) or the beneficiaries of other schemes of grain distribution. The Central government had made a provision to provide free five kg of foodgrains each to the eligible migrant workers and one kg of gram each to their family under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' scheme. Similarly, for the NFSA beneficiaries, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) has been started under which five kg of foodgrains and one kg of pulses are being distributed to each beneficiary since April. Seeing the usefulness of this scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the extension of this scheme.



BJP's Jammu & Kashmir unit is of the opinion that statehood should be given back when the time is favourable. We want J&K to be restored to a full state's status. Home Minister Amit Shah himself said while granting UT status that work would be done to get full statehood back very soon. The Assembly is yet to be constituted and delimitation for UT is pending

RAM MADHAV | BJP LEADER

LOCKET CHATTERJEE TESTS COVID POSITIVE

BJP MP Locket Chatterjee Friday said she has tested positive for COVID-19. In a tweet, the general secretary of the BJP's West Bengal unit said she has mild fever



of the day quote

Today's visit to Leh by Modi is a good one; he met the injured soldiers. But if one looks back, then Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi visited areas of (border) friction over a dozen times and one needs to see it (Modi visit) in the same way

AK ANTONY | FORMER DEFENCE MINISTER

There is a downward trend in Delhi, but it does not mean that we will not do anything to address the situation. We have to be prepared for all situations. I pray to God that this downward trend continues, and that the vaccine is discovered as soon as possible

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The government has purchased corona related equipment (medical), worth more than Rs 3,000 crore. Prima facie it looks the government has paid more price than the market price

SIDDARAMAIAH | LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SHORT TAKES

Tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi: A medium-intensity earthquake of magnitude 4.7 jolted Alwar district in Rajasthan Friday, tremors of which were felt in parts of north India including Delhi-NCR, the National Centre for Seismology said. According to the NCS, the quake occurred at 7 p.m. at a depth of 35 kilometres. The tremors of the quake were also felt in Delhi-NCR, triggering panic among people. There were no immediate reports of loss of life or property.

FIR lodged

Patna: The father of a man who recently died here after showing coronavirus-like symptoms has been booked for violating guidelines issued in the wake of the pandemic at the wedding ceremony, which had set off the biggest infection chain in Bihar, the district administration said Friday. The FIR was lodged late Thursday against Ambika Chaudhary, whose son died on June 17, two days after he tied the knot while running a high fever, it said in a statement. The body was cremated by family members before the authorities could get wind of the episode. But, testing camps were set up at the Deehpali village falling under Paliganj block and out of 259 samples that were collected, 95 tested positive.

Two killed

Begusarai (Bihar): Two men travelling on a motorcycle were killed after they were run over by a speeding truck in Bihar's Begusarai district Friday, police said. The incident took place on Lohia Nagar rail overbridge in the morning, Lohia Nagar police outpost-in-charge Ram Pratap Paswan said.

Mob booked

Thane: A mob of 30 people has been booked in Uttan area of Bhayander in Thane district for allegedly stopping a medical team from taking three COVID-19 patients to hospital, police said Friday. The incident happened Tuesday night, Uttan police station assistant inspector Satish Nikam said.

₹13 lakh looted

Raigarh: Unidentified robbers Friday looted Rs 13 lakh from a cash van after shooting dead its driver and injuring a security guard in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh, police said.

RECOVERY RATE CROSSES 60%

Early detection of COVID cases has resulted in increasing daily recoveries. During the last 24 hrs, a sharp rise of recoveries was observed with 20,033 COVID patients having been cured, taking the cumulative figure to 3,79,891, the ministry said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 3: Early detection and a timely clinical management of COVID-19 cases have resulted in increasing daily recoveries, with the recovery rate of coronavirus patients crossing 60 per cent in the country Friday, the Union health ministry said.

The recovery rate of COVID-19 patients stands at 60.73 per cent, the ministry said as the number of India's coronavirus cases soared by over 20,000 in a day for the first time, taking the country's tally to 6,25,544, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 18,213 with 379 new fatalities.

"Early detection and timely clinical management of COVID-19 cases have resulted in increasing daily recoveries. During the last 24 hours, a sharp rise of recoveries was observed with 20,033 COVID-19 pa-



tients having been cured, taking the cumulative figure to 3,79,891," the ministry said in a statement.

Presently, there are 2,27,439 active coronavirus cases in the country and all are under medical supervision, it added. A high-level review meeting on COVID-19 preparedness was held by the cabinet secretary with the states and Union territories on

Friday, the ministry said.

"Coordinated efforts at all levels of government for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 are showing good results with a consistently increasing gap between recoveries and active cases," the ministry said. As on date, there are 1,52,452 recovered COVID-19 cases in the country, which is more

than the number of active cases, it added.

In accordance with the "test, trace, treat" strategy and with various measures taken recently to remove all impediments to COVID-19 testing and facilitate widespread testing by the states and Union territories, there has been a steady rise in the number of samples tested for the disease every day, with close to 93 lakh tested till date, the ministry said.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 92,97,749 samples were tested for COVID-19 up to July 2, with 2,41,576 of those tested on Thursday. This has also been possible due to the ever-expanding network of testing laboratories in the country, the ministry underlined. The country currently has 1,074 laboratories for COVID-19 testing -- 775 government-run and 299 private -- it said.

Marines' case: Centre moves SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 3: The Centre has moved the Supreme Court seeking closure of judicial proceedings here against two Italian marines' accused of killing two Indian fishermen, off the Kerala coast, saying that it has accepted the recent ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at the Hague which held that India is entitled to get compensation in the case but can't prosecute the marines due to official immunity enjoyed by them.

In February 2012, India had accused two Italian marines, Salvatore Girono and Massimiliano Latorre, on board the MV Enrica Lexie -- an Italian flagged oil tanker -- of killing two Indian fishermen who were on a fishing vessel off Kerala coast in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

LIFE HIT



City roads wear a deserted look after the state government declared complete lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus in Guwahati, Friday

PTI PHOTO

NEET quota: Sonia writes to PM

Sonia Gandhi said in the letter that reservation for OBC candidates under the all-India quota is restricted to the Central institutions only

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 3: Interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Union government to extend reservation for OBC candidates in the all-India quota for medical and dental seats to state/UT medical institutions.

Sonia Gandhi said in the letter that reservation for OBC candidates under the all-India quota is restricted to the Central institutions only. "As per the data compiled by the All India Federation of Other Backward Classes, since 2017, OBC candidates lost over 11,000 seats in all-India quota due to non-implementation of OBC reservations in state/UT medical education institutions," she wrote in the letter.

The interim Congress President drew the Prime Minister's attention in the matter of denial of reservation to OBC candidates under the all-India quota being filled through the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in state/UT medical education institutions.



She said that the 93rd

Constitutional Amendment envisages special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward class or for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in admission to educational institutions, including private institutions, whether aided or unaided by the state, other than the minority educational institutions.

But denial of reservations to OBCs in state medical institutions under the all-India quota, being administered by the Government of India, violates the very objective of the 93rd Constitutional Amendment and is a barrier to access to medical education for the deserving OBC candidates.

Under the all-India quota, 15 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent seats are reserved for SC, ST and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) candidates, respectively, in both Central and state/UT medical education institutions.

LOCKDOWN HELPED ACHIEVE 95% OF CLEAN AIR TARGET

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 3: The coronavirus-induced nationwide lockdown has resulted in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore achieve 95 per cent of their 2024 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) targets in a short span of 74 days, according to an analysis.

In a bid to improve the air quality, the National Clean Air Programme was proposed in 2019 with an aim to reduce particulate matter, which is too small to be filtered out of the body, by 20-30 per cent by 2024.

Researchers from Respirer Living Sciences and Carbon Copy analysed the average air quality during the four phases of the national lockdown in the four cities. PM 2.5, PM 10, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, and benzene were tracked to monitor the implementation of

DIP IN AIR POLLUTION



the programme.

The entire data was sourced from air quality monitors set up by the state pollution control boards under the aegis of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

According to the study, the restrictions on economic activity between March 25 and June 8 saw pollution levels plummet across the country and offered researchers an opportunity to track baseline pollution levels.

Pak killed 14 Indians in last six months

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 3: The government said Friday that 14 Indians have been killed while 88 others have been injured by Pakistan in over 2,400 unprovoked ceasefire violations along the Line of Control in the last six months.

"This year, till June 2020, 14 Indians have been killed and 88 Indians have been injured in more than 2,432 unprovoked ceasefire violations carried out by Pakistani forces," official sources said.

India and Pakistan had agreed to ceasefire along the LoC and



International Border (IB) in 2003. However, India alleges that Pakistan has been continually violating the terms of the understanding.

Official sources said that the Ministry of External Affairs has registered its strong protest with Pakistan for the continued unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the LoC and the IB.

The government also conveyed its strong concerns at the continued support being extended by the Pakistan forces for cross-border infiltration of terrorists, including through covering fire.

Despite these concerns having been shared, including through the channel of Director Generals of Military Operations, the Pakistan forces have not ceased such activities, sources said.

WINGED MENACE HOW THIS RAJ TOWN IS FIGHTING LOCUSTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, July 3: Staying connected on WhatsApp, buying firecrackers in abundance, having a loud music system in your house, waiving dupattas or saafas when locusts attack and you sense danger, this Rajasthan town is well prepared for the winged beasts anytime they decide to swoop down.

These are also part of the tips being recommended by Behror Kisaan Sangharsh Samiti to the farmers who have been battling the locusts attacks frequently "as administration, till date, has failed to inform or update or warn us of any probable locust attacks," said the farmers.

Crops worth in lakhs have been damaged by locusts in this small town falling under Alwar district and farmers have therefore decided to

stand up on their own to fight the menace, Vijay Yadav from Behror Kisaan Sangharsh Samiti said.

"Among the recommended guidelines by our Samiti, we have asked them to stay connected with farmers/people of neighbouring villages on WhatsApp as they can keep them updated about locusts movement.

"Farmers should not depend on administration as they have failed to inform us of any locust attack. Now, let's stay connected with farmers of other villagers who can predict the wind direction and eventually inform us if locusts are coming towards our villages," Vijay Yadav said.

"All farmers should check their WhatsApp every hour," says the first point. The next point is to buy firecrackers in huge stock which can be burst as and when locusts at-



tack their village.

The third point says that loud music should be played by the neighbourhood at the maximum volume to shoo away the swarm that has so far spread out to at least nine heartland states, including the national

capital region.

In the fourth point, they have recommended that the tractors horn should be in working condition to be played to its maximum capacity. Siren arrangement should also be there with farmers, as this

year the nation is battling its worst-ever desert locusts attack.

Keep vessels of iron, bronze etc ready to be beaten when locusts attack, says the fifth point, even as the central government has undertaken spraying of insecticide initiative in these west, central and north states. The sixth point says that women and men should start flying their dupatta/saafa in the air while screaming to inform them about locust attacks. The locusts rest between 7 pm and 9 pm -- at this point, all farmers should unite and shoo them away, they should never be allowed to rest, says the last point.

Vijay Yadav further said that many farmers in Behror incurred huge losses due to locust attacks. "Surprisingly, none of the officials alerted us of any probable attack of Locusts in Behror which was quite strong on July 2," he added.

international

of the day quote

However, there is only one area where we are not seeing that much improvement, which is in Sindh, especially Karachi



ASAD UMAR | PAK'S MIN FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT

Hungary will not allow citizens from non-European Union (EU) countries, except for Serbia, to enter the country in wake of an EU recommendation



VIKTOR ORBÁN | PRIME MINISTER OF HUNGARY

The road is stony and a lot of good will and readiness to compromise from all sides will be required to achieve our aim



ANGELA MERKEL | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

SHORT TAKES

Blast rocks Turkish factory

Ankara: An explosion at a fireworks factory in northwestern Turkey on Friday killed four people and injured at least 97 others, officials said. There were 186 workers at the factory outside the town of Hendek, in Sakarya province, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca told reporters. Koca, who travelled to the area along with two other ministers, said the explosion killed four workers while 97 others were hospitalized. Sixteen of the injured were later discharged, he said, adding that of the remaining workers, just one was in critical condition.

ISIS terrorist jailed for life

London: A female Islamic State (ISIS) supporter was Friday sentenced to life imprisonment after pleading guilty to terrorism charges, including a plot to bomb London's famous St. Paul's Cathedral. Safiyya Amira Shaikh, a 37-year-old Muslim convert who was born Michelle Ramsden, was arrested in October last year following an undercover operation by counter-terrorism officers.

Philippines warns China

Manila: The Philippine foreign secretary warned China Friday of "the severest response" if ongoing Chinese military exercises in the disputed South China Sea spill over to Philippine territory. Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr said China's People's Liberation Army has been staging exercises off the Paracel Islands since July 1 and Chinese maritime officials have prohibited all vessels from navigating within the area of the maneuvers.

SL port workers end protest

Colombo: Workers at the strategic Colombo Port on Friday ended their protest against the alleged "Indian pressure" to prevent Sri Lanka from developing a deep-sea container terminal of the country's largest and busiest port following a meeting with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The workers on Thursday threatened to go on an indefinite strike if the government allowed a foreign country to develop the Eastern Container Terminal (ECT). Rajapaksa held crisis talks with the trade unions at his house in the south this morning, as per some sources.

Jean Castex named as new French PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 3: French President Emmanuel Macron Friday named Jean Castex, who coordinated France's virus reopening strategy, as the country's new Prime Minister. Castex, 55, is a career public servant who has worked with multiple governments. France's gradual reopening plan has been seen as generally successful so far.

Many government members are expected to be replaced in the reshuffle. In an interview given to several local newspapers Thursday, Macron, said he is seeking a "new path" to rebuild the country for the two remaining years of his term. He praised Philippe's "outstanding work" in the past three years. "I will need to make choices to lead (the country) down the path," he said. The reshuffle comes days after a green wave swept over France in local elections. Macron saw his young centrist party defeated in France's biggest cities and failing to plant local roots across the country.

As the pandemic was peaking in the country in March and April, authorities came under fire for the lack



of masks, tests and medical equipment. Before that, Macron's pro-business policies, widely seen as favouring the wealthier, had been hampered by the yellow vest economic movement against perceived social injustice. This winter, weeks of strikes and street demonstrations against a planned pension overhaul disrupted the country. In addition, Macron's efforts to boost job creation have been swept away by the economic and social consequences of the country's lockdown. The unemployment rate that fell from 9.2 per cent at the beginning of Macron's term in 2017 to 7.6 per cent earlier this year — its lowest level since 2008 — is now expected to increase steadily.

19 killed in Pak train-bus collision



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, July 3: At least 19 Pakistani Sikh pilgrims were killed when a mini-bus carrying them rammed into a passenger train at a railway crossing in Pakistan's Punjab province Friday, officials said. There have been conflicting re-

ports about the death toll as police and rescue officials confirmed 20 dead while the railways put the figure at 15.

But the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) insisted that a total of 29 people, including 19 Sikh pilgrims, lost their lives in the accident. However, the police and ETPB

Khashoggi murder trial begins

AGENCIES

Istanbul, July 3: A Turkish court has opened the trial on Friday of 20 Saudi officials indicted over the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a step his fiancée hopes will shed more light on his death and reveal where his body was hidden.

The indictment by Istanbul prosecutors accuses the former deputy head of Saudi Arabia's general intelligence, Ahmed al Asiri, and former royal court adviser Saud al Qatani of investigating "premeditated murder with monstrous intent", the prosecutor's office said in March.

It says 18 other defendants carried out the killing by suffocating Khashoggi, who had grown increasingly critical of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. All 20 defendants are expected to be tried in absentia.

FB will remind users to wear masks

FB will also include additional prevention tips and links to public health agencies in its COVID-19 Information Center

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, July 03: Facebook said Thursday it would offer reminders to its users to wear protective masks, responding to the latest surge in US coronavirus cases, which has sparked renewed fears of containing the pandemic.

The social network giant said it would include the alerts at the top of feeds on Facebook and Instagram, starting in the United States with plans to expand in the future.

"With the rise in COVID-19 cases in the US, we're putting an alert at the top of Facebook and Instagram to remind everyone to wear face coverings," the company said in a statement.

Twitter appeared to join in the call for masks with a sardonic



The pandemic continues to profoundly affect peace and security across the globe
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

TWITTER DROPS 'MASTER', 'SLAVE' FROM ITS ALGORITHMS

Twitter has joined efforts to do away with racially loaded terms such as master, slave and blacklist from its coding language in the wake of the death of African-American George Floyd and ensuing Black Lives Matter protests



US nCoV cases hit new record

The overall number of global COVID-19 cases has increased to over 10.8 million, while the deaths have soared to more than 520,000

AGENCIES

Washington, July 3: The United States reported more than 55,000 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, a new daily global record for the coronavirus pandemic, as infections rose in a majority of states.

A surge in coronavirus cases over the past week has put President Donald Trump's handling of the crisis under the microscope and led several governors to halt plans to reopen their states after strict lockdowns.

The daily U.S. tally stood at 55,274 late Thursday, topping the previous single-day record of 54,771 set by Brazil on June 19. Coronavirus cases are rising in 37 out of 50 U.S. states including Florida, which confirmed more than 10,000 new cases on Thursday. That marked the state's largest daily spike so far and a level that exceeded single-day tallies from any European country at the height of the outbreak there. California, another epicenter, saw positive tests climb 37% with hospitalizations up 56% over the past two weeks. Texas Governor Greg Abbott, a Republican who has previously resisted calls to make face



masks mandatory, on Thursday ordered them to be worn in all counties with over 20 coronavirus cases.

Texas reported nearly 8,000 new cases on Thursday. New infections were rising in 37 out of 50 U.S. states in the past 14 days compared with the two weeks prior, according to a Reuters analysis. The United States has now recorded nearly 129,000 deaths, nearly a quarter of the known global total. The wave of new cases has several governors halting or back-pedaling on plans to reopen their states after months of strict lockdowns, closing beaches and canceling fireworks displays over the upcoming Independence Day weekend.

'STILL IN THE FIRST WAVE'

"We are not out of this crisis. We are still in the first wave of this crisis. It requires some level of personal responsibility," California Governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, said at a daily briefing on the pandemic. The sweeping business shutdowns earlier in the pandemic devastated the US economy and threw millions of Americans out of work, leaving governors reluctant to take such draconian steps again, even if the lifting of restrictions likely touched off the new outbreak.

However, employment remains 14.7 million jobs below pre-pandemic levels.

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS



A combination photo shows dead elephants in Okavango Delta, Botswana May-June, 2020

REUTERS

HK files first charges under new law

REUTERS

Hong Kong, July 3: A man carrying a "Liberate Hong Kong" sign as he drove a motorcycle into police at a protest against the territory's Chinese rulers became Friday the first person charged with inciting separatism and terrorism under a new security law.

Beijing imposed the legislation on the former British colony earlier this week despite protests from Hong Kongers and Western nations, setting China's freest city and a major financial hub on a more authoritarian track.

Critics say the law - which punishes crimes of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces with up to life in prison - is aimed at crushing dissent and a long-running campaign for greater democracy.

Police say 23-year-old Tong Ying-kit rammed and injured some officers at an illegal protest Wednesday. A video online showed a motorbike knocking over several officers on a narrow street before the driver falls over and is arrested.

The rallying cry appears on placards, T-shirts, and post-it notes stuck to walls around Hong Kong.

China's parliament adopted the security law after sometimes violent protests last year triggered by fears Beijing was stifling freedoms, guaranteed by a "one country, two systems" formula agreed when Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Authorities in Beijing and Hong Kong say the law aims at a few "troublemakers" and not wider rights that underpin the city's role as a gateway for capital flows in and out of China.

ENGLISH PUBS ARE REOPENING - THEY WON'T BE THE SAME

AGENCIES

London, July 3: Asking people in English pubs to keep their distance is going to be tough after they've had a few of their favourite tipples. Pub managers will have to be resourceful come Saturday when they and other parts of the hospitality industry in England open their doors to customers for the first time since March 20, provided they meet COVID safety requirements.

Many cash-starved pubs will take the plunge anyway, though they will be very different from what they were when they shut down given the need to ensure everyone is safe — from registering customers upon entrance to making

sure tables are far enough apart to meet social distancing rules.

The pandemic is an existential threat to most of England's 37,500 pubs. The Chandos, and countless others, have benefited from government measures, notably a wage support scheme that prevented mass firings. Around 90 per cent of pub staff were furloughed under the scheme, according to the Beer and Pub Association.

Reopening offers hope to publicans like Kolltveit, but margins are tight. Kolltveit wants to think people will abide by the rules, given the pandemic is still ongoing, and says his pub can survive for around five months without further help—



provided it runs at 50% of maximum capacity and there's no second spike in contagions or a new lockdown on

businesses. When they reopen, pubs will need to ensure table service, a move that halts the cherished tra-

FRESH QUARANTINE GUIDELINE

The UK Friday said that it would allow a quarantine-free international travel to some low-risk countries falling in its green zone list of an estimated 50 nations. UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said that the US will fall within the red zone. India's classification is yet to be confirmed. While the complete list of the estimated 50 low-risk countries is yet to be released, European countries of Germany, France, Spain and Italy have been confirmed as being within the green zone.

dition of the English boozier — crowding and chatting around the bar. Guests will be limited to groups of six and, where possible, sit side by side to reduce any risk of contagion that may come from shouting too loudly.

They will be spaced at least one meter (3.3 feet) apart and be en-

couraged to take other measures to keep themselves safe, such as using hand sanitizers. The wearing of masks, even by staff, is optional. Pub staff will also have to register the names of customers at the door — and keep them for 21 days — to assist in any efforts to trace virus contagions.

business

of the day quote

The unprovoked attack by the Chinese on Indian soil on our brave jawans has been a huge wake up call and a clarion call for action. We (The JSW Group) have a net import of \$400 mn from China annually and we pledge to bring this down to zero in the next 24 months

PARTH JINDAL | MD, JSW CEMENT

We welcome the move from the government against platforms that have had serious privacy, cybersecurity and national security risks. We believe this move will help create a level playing field (for Indian platforms)

BERGES MALU | PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR, SHARECHAT

India is a key market for us and we are confident that under RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, Fortune India will reach even greater heights

ALAN MURRAY | PRESIDENT AND CEO, FORTUNE MEDIA GROUP

SHORT TAKES

NCLAT closed till July 10

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has suspended work till July 10 due to sealing of its premises after finding one of its staff COVID-19 positive. The tribunal in a notice dated July 2 said all court works, including the virtual hearing of cases and filing, would remain suspended as some members of the staff have come in direct contact with the affected person.

Office space leasing dips 36%

New Delhi: Gross leasing of office space across seven major cities declined 36% in the first half of this calendar year as corporates deferred plans to expand amid uncertainties over the COVID-19 pandemic, according to realty consultant Colliers. "Office gross absorption across the top-seven cities touched 16.7 million sq feet, a drop of 36% y-o-y, led by CoV-induced economic slowdown and slow decision making by occupiers," Colliers International India said in a statement.

SunSource bags solar project

New Delhi: SunSource Energy has bagged 1.95 MW solar PV power plant project with 2.15 MWh battery energy storage station (BESS) project which would power four islands of Lakshadweep. Once commissioned, this will be the largest solar project in Lakshadweep and will power its 4 different islands: Agatti, Kavaratti, Bangaram, and Thinnakara, it said. SunSource Energy has won 1.95 MW solar PV power plant project with 2.15 MWh BESS in Lakshadweep through an auction conducted by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

COAI DG steps down

New Delhi: Telecom industry body COAI's director general Rajan S Mathews has quit the organisation, and handed over the charge to former TSSC CEO S P Kochar. Mathews has been advocating for favourable policy for the telecom industry since the last 10 years. "I have been here for the last 10 years. Now, it's time for me to go back and be with family in the US. I have handed over the charge to the new regime today," Mathews said.



The OPEC+ group of oil producers is expected to start easing oil output cuts from August as previously agreed. The global oil market might achieve a balance between supply and demand in July but could still face a shortage of crude oil

ALEXANDER NOVAK | ENERGY MINISTER, RUSSIA

FOREX RESERVES RISE BY OVER \$1.27 BN

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$1.272 billion during the week ended June 26 to \$506.838 billion from \$505.566 billion reported for the week ended June 19, the RBI's weekly statistical supplement said



Service sector downturn loses further momentum in June: PMI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 3: India's services sector activity remained in deep downturn in June as the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed intakes of new work orders and disrupted business operations, a monthly survey said Friday.

The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index was at 33.7 in June, up from 12.6 recorded in May.

Despite the rise, the Indian services sector activity contracted for a fourth successive month in June. A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

"India's service sector continued to struggle in June as the country's coronavirus crisis worsened," said Joe Hayes, Economist at IHS Markit.

"Simply put, the country is gripped in an unprecedented economic downturn which is certainly going to spill over into the second half of this year unless the infection rate can be brought under control," Hayes added.

The death toll due to COVID-19 in the country has increased to 18,213 and the number of infections has spiked to 6,25,544, according to the health ministry.

Hayes further said though some companies have seen activity stabilise, but this is most likely just reflecting closures and temporary suspensions. While this will have contributed to a rise in the PMI figures, "this certainly isn't a promising sign."

"A large fraction of the survey panel are still reporting falling ac-



tivity and order book volumes, reflecting an intensely challenging domestic picture in India," Hayes noted.

According to the survey, the slower rate of decline was reflective of some stabilisation in activity levels, with around 59% of firms reporting no change in output since May. Meanwhile, "only 4% registered growth, while 37% recorded a reduction," it said.

Meanwhile, total new orders fell at a sharp pace during June, which firms attributed to reduced consumption habits. In some instances, customers had closed their businesses due to the unfavourable environment. Besides, there was yet another steep drop in export sales.

On the prices front, for a third

India is gripped in an unprecedented economic downturn which is certainly going to spill over into the second half of this year unless the infection rate can be brought under control

month running, Indian service providers reported a reduction to their input costs in June and lower expenses were passed through to clients via discounts during the month.

The survey said employment across the Indian service sector fell during June. Job losses were attributed to lower business requirements, although some companies reported poor staff availability.

Meanwhile, the Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, rose to 37.8 in June, up from 14.8 in May, but still below the crucial 50 level which separates growth from contraction.

COVID IMPACT Domestic air traffic to decline by 41-46% in FY21: Icra

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 3: The recommencement of commercial passenger flight services in a graded manner is unlikely to help the domestic aviation industry recover in the current financial year with domestic air traffic expected to shrink by 41-46% and international travel demand by a negative 67-72% y-o-y owing to COVID-19, said a report.

The domestic passenger flight services restarted from May 25 after a two months hiatus due to the lockdown in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. The international operations, however, remained suspended since March 22 for similar reasons.

"As per our study, though restricted recommencement of domestic air traffic has begun, this will in no case help the industry to recover the lost ground in FY2021. However, H2 FY2021 will witness some recovery, with Q4 FY2021 witnessing a degrowth of just 3-14% y-o-y in domestic traffic with improved passenger load factors (PLFs)," ratings agency Icra said.



Icra said it expects the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak to be more profound and long lasting on international travel compared to domestic travel, and "overall FY2021 is expected to witness around 41-46% degrowth in domestic passenger traffic"

Intel to buy ₹1,895 cr stake in Jio Platforms

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 3: Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Industries has said that it has secured ₹1,894.50 crore from Intel Capital by selling a small stake in its technology venture, adding to a slew of investments since April that has crossed ₹1.17 lakh crore.

The investment arm of computer chip giant Intel Corp picked up 0.39% in Jio Platforms Ltd - the unit that houses India's youngest but largest telecom firm Jio Infocomm and apps.

Intel Capital, which is the 12th marquee firm to invest in the digital unit, values Jio Platforms at ₹4.91 lakh crore, the company said in a statement. "Intel Capital joins the list of marquee firms who have recently invested in Jio Platforms, taking the total investment amount to ₹1,17,588.45 crore," it said.

The Jio Platforms deal spree began April 22 with Facebook investing ₹43,573.62 crore in the company for a 9.9% stake. Since then deals have been announced regularly with likes of General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, Silver Lake, ADIA buying stake in Jio Platforms.

The Intel deal takes the total stake sold to 25.09%.

The stake sale together with a record ₹53,124 crore rights issue has helped the oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance deleverage balance sheet and reduce net-debt to



zero earlier than its March 2021 target.



Intel is a true industry leader, working towards creating world-changing technology and innovations. Intel Capital has an outstanding record of being a valuable partner for leading technology companies globally

MUKESH AMBANI | CHAIRMAN AND MD, RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

Jio is expected to use its 388 million mobile phone subscribers as the cornerstone of an e-commerce and digital services business to rival Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart.

Intel Capital invests globally in innovative companies with a focus on disruptive technology areas like cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and 5G - opportuni-

ties where Jio is also innovating and investing for growth.

Intel has operated in India for more than two decades and employs thousands of employees at its design facilities in Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and MD of Reliance Industries, said, "Intel is a true industry leader, working towards creating world-changing technology and innovations. Intel Capital has an outstanding record of being a valuable partner for leading technology companies globally."

Vedanta observes electrical safety week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Lanjigarh, July 3: Vedanta's Alumina Refinery at Lanjigarh observed the National Electrical Safety week recently to reinforce the importance of adhering to safety norms while handling the electrical equipment and machinery. The alumina refinery upholds the highest standards of safety and with the onset of monsoon; the plant has stepped up its electrical safety preparedness.

The week-long observation, commenced from June 26, 2020, included different activities like electrical safety trainings for the employees, safety quiz for employees and associate partners, electrical safety model presentation and field electrical safety campaign.

On the concluding day of the National Electrical Safety Week, Rakesh Mohan, COO, Vedanta Limited,

Lanjigarh unit said, "Adherence to the highest safety standards governs our operations and is a way of life for us. It is working towards bringing in even more sophisticated technologies and practices in the near future for its electrical installations to attain a benchmark in industry standards."

Vedanta Lanjigarh has a 90MW cogeneration power plant, which supplies electricity to the 2MTPA alumina refinery. The alumina refinery has well-equipped 22 indoor substations with connected load of approximately 100MW. The electrical installations comply to both inter-national and national standards of safety. Pramendra Singh, Area Incharge from Powermech Projects Limited, one of the associate partners of Vedanta Lanjigarh says, "The plant is equipped with all safety mechanisms and is taking up several initiatives to ensure electrical safety."



Tough times for gold industry in state



Bhubaneswar: The lockdown and rising gold prices has affected the sale of gold in Odisha. Jewellers in the state expected that the current financial year may be a tough year for the industry. MD of Arundhati Jewellers Brahmananda Meher said, "The COVID-19 pandemic is a critical situation and it is also the period when there is uncertainty in business". Meher also said, that buying jewellery neither is a necessity nor is it a top priority for customers owing to the complications that the pandemic has caused. "More or less we are expecting 50% sales in both Q1 and Q2 of the current FY as compared to the same period last fiscal. However, Meher expected that the industry may take its pace during the festive season. "Industry may take an uptrend during the upcoming auspicious occasion of Dusshera and Diwali followed by marriage season if normalcy is restored," Meher said.

BIZ BUZZ

HSBC shuts down industrial metals biz

London: HSBC Holdings Plc has decided to close its industrial metals business, finds Reuters as Europe's largest bank pushes ahead with plans to cut around 35,000 jobs. HSBC was a small player in industrial metals. It exited the business in 2005 but had in recent years began



to make a slow re-entry, with around 2-3 staff in the unit. Returns were too low to justify its continuation, sources said. "We remain focused on growing our leading position in precious metals," an HSBC spokesman said, declining to comment further. The 35,000 job losses from HSBC's staff of 2,35,000 are part of a wider restructuring to cut \$4.5 billion in costs as profits fall and economic forecasts point to a challenging time ahead.

Union Bank gets new regional head



Bhubaneswar: Shankar Hembram joined as the new Regional Head of newly formed Union Bank, Regional office, Baleswar. Prior to this assignment, he was heading Sambalpur Region of the erstwhile Andhra Bank. During his long 32 years of banking experience, Hembram has worked in different places with different capacities. During his tenure as the Regional Head of Baleswar Region, Hembram is likely to focus on Agriculture, Emergency Credit line to MSME, SHG, Retail borrowers and recovery. As a Regional Head he will chalk out strategy for the Business growth of the region.

I-T refunds worth ₹62,361 cr issued to 20.44 lakh taxpayers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 3: The income tax (I-T) department has issued refunds worth ₹62,361 crore to over 20 lakh taxpayers between April 8 and June 30. This includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds amounting to ₹23,453.57 crore issued to 19.07 lakh taxpayers and corporate tax refunds amounting to ₹38,908.57 crore to over 1.36 lakh taxpayers during this period.

"The income tax department has issued tax refunds at a speed of 76 cases per minute from April 8 to June 30, 2020. During this period of just 56 weekdays, the Central Board of Direct taxes (CBDT) has issued refunds in more than 20.44 lakh cases amounting to more than ₹62,361 crore," an official statement said.



These refunds have been directly deposited into the bank accounts of the taxpayers and no taxpayer had to approach the Department to request for release of refund.

The CBDT further asked taxpayers to provide immediate response to e-mails of the department so that refunds in their cases too could be processed and issued right away.

BYTEDANCE ANTICIPATES LOSING OVER \$6BN, SAYS REPORT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

INDIA APP BAN



Describing India's ban of 59 China-developed apps as unprecedented, the report said it is a huge blow to the global expansion of TikTok with India being its largest market in terms of users outside China

BESIDES TIKTOK, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT BANNED 58 OTHER APPS WITH CHINESE LINKS, INCLUDING THE POPULAR UC BROWSER, WECHAT, VIGO AND HELO TO NAME A FEW

THE \$6 BILLION AMOUNT IS MOST LIKELY MORE THAN THE COMBINED LOSSES FOR ALL THE OTHER CHINESE APPS BANNED BY INDIA

likely more than the combined losses for all the other Chinese apps banned by India, China's Caixinglobal.com reported, quot-

ing sources close to the company's senior management.

ByteDance became one of China's latest homegrown tech-

nology companies to run into growing resistance from foreign governments wary of the perceived ties to the Chinese government and

concerns about protecting user data, it said.

Describing India's ban of 59 China-developed apps as unprecedented, the report said it is a huge blow to the global expansion of TikTok, which is touted as the most popular Chinese app overseas. India is its largest market in terms of users outside China, where the service is called Douyin.

The ByteDance apps banned were its short video platforms TikTok and Vigo Video, as well as its social networking app Helo. Tencent's messaging platform WeChat and five of its other apps were also banned. Other big tech China firms, including Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Baidu Inc., also had their products banned.

All the 59 apps have now been removed from Apple Inc. and Google LLC's app stores for the Indian market.

TikTok was downloaded in India 611 million times in this year's first quarter, equating to 30.3% of its total downloads worldwide in the quarter and nearly double the total number of India downloads for all of 2019, the report quoted another publication, SensorTower, as saying.

The consequences of India's latest decision could be more long-lasting, analysts told Caixin.

Responding to the Indian government's move, TikTok said it would fully comply with the decision. ByteDance employs over 2,000 full-time local staff in India.

After getting a 'Guard of Honour', Liverpool lose 0-4 to Manchester City in first game as English Premier League champions



Manchester City team members give 'Guard of Honour' to champions Liverpool before the match

HONOURED, HAMMERED

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, July 3: As they stepped onto the pitch, Liverpool's players were given a 'Guard of Honour' from Manchester City. It was the only time they looked like Premier League champions Thursday.

"I think they drank a lot of beers in the last week," City manager Pep Guardiola said. The dethroned champions made sure there was an abrupt comedown from the partying.

A merciless attacking display sparked by City scorers Kevin De Bruyne, Raheem Sterling and Phil Foden consigned Liverpool to a 0-4 loss exactly a week after their 30-year title drought ended.

"They were quicker than us in mind - we lacked fluidity," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "Isn't it nice another team can be champions when Man City play so well?"

The slack defending and lack of sharpness from Liverpool was perhaps forgivable from players who had spent the previous 31 rounds establishing an unprecedented 23-point lead to become England's earliest champions.

Such an emphatic loss is not how Liverpool wanted to close out such a memorable season. Especially when there are still has enough games to overhaul City's record 100-point haul from 2017-18.

Klopp wasn't as downbeat as the result suggested - despite Liverpool going a fifth away game in all competitions without scoring.

"I saw a brilliant attitude. I saw boys who were fighting with all their effort," he said. "We didn't behave like somebody who became champions a week ago."

night to forget for so many Liverpool players - particularly Joe Gomez, who dragged Raheem Sterling down to concede a penalty converted by Kevin De Bruyne in the 25th minute.

"We tried to play football, taking risks," Guardiola said, "because they are the best team I ever faced



Raheem Sterling (L) rejoices after scoring for Manchester City as Liverpool players wear a dejected look at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, Thursday

claimed next season.

Receiving a pass from Foden, Sterling took the ball past Gomez with left boot before using his right to knock in City's second in the 35th minute.

Sterling and Gomez reunited in a Premier League match for the first time since Liverpool's victory over City at Anfield in November that was followed the next day by a training camp altercation while they were on England duty.

After being run ragged in central defense, Gomez was substituted at halftime. Before the break, City still had time to produce a third.

The technique in the buildup would have had fans on their feet - if they were not prohibited due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead fewer than 300 people inside the Etihad Stadium could savor the counterattack that was capped by Foden playing a one-two with De Bruyne before raising the ball into the net past Alisson.

It summed up Liverpool's night that the fourth goal came from an own goal after another blistering City attacking move. De Bruyne picked out Sterling who turned

Andrew Robertson and sent in a shot that was deflected into his own net by Alex-Oxlade Chamberlain.

Only VAR spared Liverpool a greater humiliation in stoppage time when a handball by Foden was spotted in the buildup to Riyad Mahrez putting the ball in the net.

Consider it a message from City. "Next season started today," said Sterling, who has won the Premier League twice since leaving Liverpool five years ago, "and we did well." There is still unfinished business for City before pandemic-delayed conclusion to the season in August.

City plays Arsenal in the FA Cup semifinals and has a 2-1 lead over Real Madrid after the first leg of the Champions League's interrupted round of 16.

"We were disappointed at times this season having lost some games we shouldn't have," Sterling said. "So we had a test against the new champions and (a chance) to make a point."

Real close in on title

REUTERS

Madrid, July 3: Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos kept his nerve to score a late penalty and secure a hard-fought 1-0 home win over Getafe Thursday for a sixth consecutive La Liga victory to take his side one step closer to winning the title.

Ramos coolly passed the ball into the net to break the deadlock in the 79th minute after Dani Carvajal was felled by the trailing leg of Getafe's Mathias Olivera, who was earlier denied a penalty after being knocked over by Carvajal.

The late strike felt harsh on Getafe, who had squandered a couple of chances to take the lead, but Zinedine Zidane's side once again saw out a difficult game to capitalise on Barcelona's 2-2 draw with Atletico Madrid Tuesday.

Real, who have not won the title since 2017, lead the table on 74 points, four ahead of Barca with five games left and have a superior head-to-head record over the Catalans which would give them the trophy if both teams finished the season level on points.

Madrid were without joint-record signing Eden Hazard through injury and their fitness troubles continued when defender Raphael Varane was forced off in the first half with a head injury. Eder Militao replaced him.

Real's neighbours Getafe have a reputation for being one of the toughest teams to break down in the league which they certainly lived up to and Madrid struggled to carve



Sergio Ramos wheels away in celebration after scoring Real Madrid's winner against Getafe, Thursday

out many clear chances.

Their best effort before the penalty fell to Vinicius Jr., who busted a gut to get on the end of a cross but failed to generate enough power to beat Getafe keeper David Soria.

Real's Thibaut Courtois made an outstanding early save to repel a deflected shot from Getafe's Xabier Etxeita and watched on as Jaime Mata fired narrowly over the bar after a giveaway from Madrid defender Ferland Mendy.

Messi calls off contract renewal

REUTERS

Barcelona, July 3: Barcelona captain Lionel Messi has reportedly called off negotiations over renewing his contract with the club and is ready to leave the Catalans when his current deal expires in 2021. It was reported by Spanish radio station 'Cadena Ser' Friday.

The report said Messi and his father Jorge had begun discussing renewing his last deal with the club, which was signed in 2017, but that he no longer wishes to stay at the Camp Nou.

The report added that Messi is angry about leaked media reports that appeared to make him seem responsible for events at the club, such as the January sacking of coach Ernesto Valverde, and that he is frustrated about the squad's lack of quality.

The Argentine's representatives and Barcelona did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Messi, who turned 33 last month, scored his 700th career goal Tuesday against Atletico Madrid, but the milestone strike ended in disap-

MAJOR BLOW TO BARCA

pointment as Barca drew the game 2-2 in the latest blow to their bid to retain the Spanish title.

Barca trail Real Madrid by four points in the title race with five games remaining after Real beat Getafe 1-0 Thursday.

Previously known for his shy personality off the pitch, Messi has become more vocal in his criticism of the club in the last year.

In January he hit out at sporting director Eric Abidal, who he said had implied players had led to Valverde being

sacked. In a February interview with newspaper Mundo Deportivo, he declared the team were not good enough to win this season's Champions League.

Then in April he criticised the board for implying players were not willing to accept a payout to help the team's financial difficulties during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hamilton fastest in first practice for Austrian GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spielberg (Austria), July 3: Formula One (F1) World Champion Lewis Hamilton posted the fastest time Friday in the first practice for the season-opening Austrian GP.

The British driver was 0.356 seconds ahead of his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas on the 4.3-kilometer (2.7-mile) Red Bull Ring circuit in Spielberg nestled at the foot of the Styrian mountains in southern Austria.

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen, who has won the past two races here, was third quickest and 0.602 behind Hamilton in damp and overcast conditions.

Both Ferrari drivers struggled for speed, with Charles Leclerc 10th quickest and Sebastian Vettel only 12th. Ferrari is racing with the same car it used in pre-season testing in February and has not made any upgrades, while Mercedes and other teams have.

Austria is hosting back-to-back races as part of an eight-race European swing, after the season was postponed for four months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

NEWS IN BRIEF

No Europa League spot for Swiss Cup champions

Bern (Switzerland): The winner of the Swiss Cup will be denied a traditional entry into the Europa League because of an overcrowded schedule caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the country's football association said Friday. The Swiss Cup, which was stopped at the quarterfinal stage, will not resume until after the August 3 entry deadline set by UEFA for next season's Champions League and Europa League. The Swiss soccer association said UEFA refused several requests to extend the deadline. The winner of the competition was due to enter the third qualifying round of the Europa League. That place will now go to the third-place team in the Swiss league, which had been due to join the first qualifying round.

Cancer-stricken Dingko recovers from COVID-19

New Delhi: Asian Games gold-winning former boxer Dingko Singh has recovered from COVID-19, testing negative for the deadly virus Friday over a month after the cancer-stricken legend was hospitalized in Imphal. Back at his home, but in isolation for the next fortnight, Singh spoke to PTI about the ordeal he endured, including five positive tests since his hospitalisation in the last week of May. "It was a very difficult one month. I can't thank enough the doctors and nurses, who treated me. I am indebted to them for life," the enigmatic former boxer, who is also battling liver cancer, said. "I tested positive five times during my stay in hospital. It was very traumatising because I would see people, who came after me, leave before me," he recalled.

Curran tests negative for coronavirus

Southampton: England all-rounder Sam Curran Friday tested negative for coronavirus, making him eligible to return to training, the country's cricket board announced. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said the 22-year-old will return to training in a day or two. Curran, who went into self-isolation in his hotel room at the Ageas Bowl after he felt ill, had given his sample Thursday. "He will now return to training over the next 24-48 hours and will be closely monitored by the team doctor," the ECB said in a statement. Curran will undergo another test Sunday along with the rest of the squad.

Bowling to Smith, AB a challenge: Kuldeep

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 3: Australia's Steve Smith and retired South African swashbuckler AB de Villiers are the two batsmen, India's leg-spinner Kuldeep Yadav finds most challenging to contain.

Yadav, who went through a prolonged lean patch in 2019, said both the batsmen have unique abilities. "Smith plays me mostly off the back foot. He plays the ball very late as well, so it becomes challenging to bowl to him," Yadav told Deep Dasgupta in the latest episode of Cricketbaazi on 'ESPNCricketInfo'.

"In ODIs, AB de Villiers is a good player. He has a unique style. Now that he's retired, it's a good thing!



I learnt about this aspect (reading the pitch) after I started playing with Dhoni. He was very good at setting the field as well. That's why I never paid attention to field placement when I bowled with Dhoni keeping the wicket. He would understand where the batsman could try to hit me and set the field accordingly. It helped me bowl with more confidence... since the time he has not played ODI cricket, this has gone missing as well

KULDEEP YADAV

But other than him, I haven't found any other batsman who I am scared

will hit me for a lot of runs," he said. Yadav said he shares a special

SL POLICE CALLS OFF FIXING PROBE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 3: The Sri Lankan Police Friday ended its investigation into allegations that the country's 2011 World Cup final loss to India was fixed, saying it found no evidence after recording statements of stalwarts like Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene.

Former sports minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage had alleged that the final, which India won, was fixed by 'certain parties' leading to an inquiry by the Special Investigation Division of the Police.

"We will be sending a report to the Secretary, Ministry of Sports who directed us. We have concluded the investigation following an internal discussion held today," Jagath Fonseka, police superintendent Fonseka, in charge of the special investigation unit on prevention of offenses relating to sports, told reporters.

According to Fonseka, the 14-point allegations levelled by Aluthgamage, could not be corroborated. "We see no reason why players must be further questioned," Fonseka added.

Fonseka's investigation unit interviewed Aravinda de Silva - the

then chairman of selectors, Sangakkara - the captain at the final. Upul Tharanga - one of the openers and Mahela Jayawardene. De Silva and Sangakkara, the sitting president of the MCC, were quizzed for over six and 10 hours respectively by the police, which led to protests outside SLC office Thursday.

Fonseka said the three cricketers, who gave statements, had adequately explained the reasons for sudden team changes in the final - one of the accusations made by Aluthgamage.

The former sports minister had raised doubts about four changes in team selection in the final.

"We felt that summoning all players to give statement would create an unnecessary uproar," Fonseka said adding that despite Aluthgamage's claims the ICC hadn't pursued the matter.

The quizzing of players drew public ire and the former sports minister was subjected to criticism for raising the issue after nine years of the event.

Aluthgamage claimed that he believed that players were not involved but couldn't prove how could a match be fixed without involvement of the participants.

