Sushant Singh Rajput calls himself a 'fighter' in his final movie Dil Bechara, striking an ironic note with reality LEISURE P2



An elephant from Tamil Nadu has her own fan base on the Internet thanks to her unique hairstyle

TWO STATES | P



Hundreds of scientists say coronavirus is airborne, ask WHO to revise

recommendations INTERNATIONAL

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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY, JULY 7 | 2020

Sino-Indian troops retreat 2 km each

AGENCIES

Leh, July 6: Both Indian and Chinese troops have retreated two kilometres each along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Galwan Valley, where 20 Indian and unknown number of Chinese soldiers were killed in a violent face-off last month.

Top official sources told IANS that both sides retreated two kilometres simultaneously Sunday, following several rounds of talks which had begun after the clash June 15. The disengagement between Indian and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) happened as per the agreed terms in the Corps Commander's meeting.

With the retreat from both sides, a four kilometre no-man zone has been created. "Four kilometres in the highly mountainous terrain like Galwan valley, deprives both sides to see each other's installations and reinforcements," sources said.

The two sides have also agreed sources said, not to do any aerial surveillance of the retreated area, to rebuild trust which was badly damaged due to the June 15 bloodbath.

"As a result, neither side would really know what the other side is doing," a military source said.

Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft generally used for maritime patrol and reconnaissance, had been pressed into service in Ladakh for high altitude surveillance. The P-8Is carried out sim**TENSION DEFUSING** sides have also agreed sources said, not to do any aerial surveillance of the retreated

With the retreat from both sides, a four kilometre no-man zone has been created along the border

CREDIT TO ARMED

FORCES, SAYS CONG

NEW DELHI: In wake of reports that

Chinese Army has retreated two km

behind the Line of Actual Control (LAC),

the Congress, which has been question-

ing the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

Chinese transgressions, Monday credited

the armed forces for the development.

"We know that the PLA can't withstand

the Indian forces, so they have retreated

tions," party spokesperson Pawan Khera

ilar surveillance operations during

the 2017 India-China standoff in

moved tents and structures at PP14

and rearward movement of vehicles

However, sources said PLA has re-

but the PM has to reply to tough ques-

said at a press conference here.

Doklam in Sikkim.

PLA has removed tents and structures at PP14 and rearward movement of vehicles of the PLA were seen

The retreat Sunday is limited to these areas and not other contentious points along the LAC

of the PLA were seen at general area Galwan, Hotsprings and Gogra.

The retreat Sunday, sources said, is limited to these areas and not other contentious points along the LAC. Around 30,000 troops of Indian Army are in an eyeball-toeyeball confrontation with Chinese troops along the LAC in Ladakh, following the additional deployment of three brigades since the violent face-off last month.

Modi Friday made a surprise visit to Ladakh during which he said the era of expansionism is over and that the history is proof that "expansionists" have either lost or perished.

The comments were seen as a clear message to China that India is not going to back off and would deal with the situation with a firm hand.

NSA Doval and Chinese FM agree on troops' withdrawal

NEW DELHI: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a telephonic conversation Sunday during which they agreed on disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at the earliest, the Ministry Chinese FM Wang Yi of External Affairs said.

Doval and Wang are special representatives for border talks between the two countries. In a statement, the MEA described the talks as "frank and in-depth exchange of views" and said they agreed that both sides should complete the ongoing disengagement process along the LAC "expeditiously".

The troops of India and China are engaged in an eight-week standoff in several areas in eastern Ladakh including Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley and Gogra Hot Spring.

The MEA said both sides agreed that it was necessary to "ensure at the earliest complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC and de-es-



NSA Ajit Doval

calation from India-China border areas for full restoration of peace and tranquility."

"In this regard they further agreed that both sides should complete the ongoing disengagement process along the LAC expeditiously. The two sides should also ensure a phased and stepwise de-escalation in the India-China border areas," the MEA said.

It said Doval and Wang re-affirmed that both sides should strictly respect and observe the LAC and should not take any "unilateral action" to alter the status quo and work together to avoid any incident in the future that could disturb peace and tranquility in border areas.



Naveen's 3 mantras to win COVID battle

POST NEWS NETWORK

JSW Cement

CONCREEL HD

Bhubaneswar, July 6: With a spurt in COVID-19 cases, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday gave three mantras, Tyaga (sacrifice), Sanjam (restraint) and Srunkhala (discipline) to people to win the fight against the pandemic.

In a video message addressed to people, Naveen said, "This year Mahaprabhu's Rath Yatra made history. All rituals were conducted smoothly. Ahead of the festival, I had said the whole world has enthroned eyes on Puri. With the blessings of the Lord, we have succeeded and set an example for the whole world."

Stating that there is no comparison of the restraint

and the sacrifice of Puri people, Naveen said, "Sacrifice is the greatest devotion and it strengthens the relationship between the devotee and the God." Puri has shown the way to the whole world, he pointed

"Lord Jagannath Himself came out to show the way to restraint and discipline. So in order to win the COVID war, we have to take the path of sacrifice, restraint and discipline. These are the three weapons that will lead us to victory in the Covid war," he told people.

Referring to the rise in cases, the Chief Minister said India ranks third in Covid infection and it is increasing by 1 lakh every four days.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He is the scientist who has been asked to create corona vaccine in 6 weeks

Bishnu Das no more

treatment in the hospital over past

few days after a brain stroke. The

six-time MLA was first elected to

Jagatsinghpur on a Janata Dal

ticket in 1990 and again got re-

constituency four times in a row

from Janata Dal (once) and BJD

(thrice). In 2019, he successfully

ticket. He was also elected to

contested from Tirtol seat on a BJD

Rajya Sabha in 2016. Das resigned

from Rajya Sabha in March 2017

after being appointed as deputy

Board. He had also served as

school and mass education

MARKET WATCH

minister.

chairman of Odisha State Planning

BHUBANESWAR:

Senior BJD leader

passed away at a

private hospital

was undergoing

Bishnu Das Monday

here. He was 66. Das

State Assembly from

elected from the same

and Tirtol MLA

DCP denies snooping on media & whistleblowers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The Commissionerate Police has reportedly directed police stations (PS) under its jurisdiction to trace out whistleblowers in the forces who let out sensitive information to media. The department faced many embarrassing moments over last few months because of such leakages. Many news items published in dailies have become a headache for the department.

However, the DCP has strongly denied this charge, saying, "No such orders related to collection of CDRs of police station staff in Bhubaneswar have been given to IICs. This is completely absurd.

Sources in the police, however, told this newspaper that the DCP in-charge has asked IICs of police stations here to keep a vigil on forces trying to share information with media. Many alleged that leakages of police misdeeds like the visit by some officers to Puri flouting the state government norms reported by OP might have been the reason for the sudden instruction by the higher-ups.

Sources said that the IIC of a very busy police station has in a recent meeting sought the call details of staff, especially those in the lower ranks. Sources also added that phone numbers of media persons are also being trapped to ascertain the whistleblowers.

WOMAN SLAPS SEXUAL SLUR ON AYUSH DIR

BHUBANESWAR: In a brazen case of sexual harassment at workplace, a woman employee of the state Ayush directorate here accused the director of the institute of coercing her to keep sexual relationship with him. The victim has lodged a complaint at the Mahila police station in this regard. Sources said, the 25-year- old lady of Kendrapara works as a contractual worker on an outsourcing basis at the directorate. She alleged that director Bibhu Prasad Sarangi, a senior OAS officer, used to put pressure on her to have sexual relationship with him which she refused many times. Subsequently, Sarangi allegedly sent obscene videos and texts to the WhatsApp number of the victim from June 28. He also verbally abused and threatened the victim when she blocked Sarangi on the WhatsApp. Sarangi also threatened to dismiss her when she objected to Sarangi's advances who sent vulgar videos and messages to her again Friday. Finding no other way, she finally sought the help of the commissionerate police seeking justice and stringent action against the director. Police have also started investigation into the matter after registering a complaint. Media reports also revealed that the directorate has no women cell where such cases can be registered.

STATE CORONA TALLY 9,526; DEATH TOLL 38

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The state's Covid -19 tally climbed to 9,526, with 456 more people testing positive for the deadly virus while two other patients succumbed to the disease taking the state's death toll to 38, a health department official said Monday.

The two deceased persons hailed from Ganjam and Jajpur districts. While the COVID-19 death toll of Ganjam district has mounted to 21, Jajpur registered its first such death. The deceased included a 77year-old man hailing from Ganjam, who was suffering from hypertension, and a 64-year-old man from Jajpur district, also a patient of diabetes.

This apart, the health department said 10 COVID positive patients have also died, but the cause of their deaths was due to other reasons. In a separate tweet, Ganjam District Collector VA Kulange said: "We lost our four COVID Warriors (people who work among the positive patients). Entire district administration is with their families. We request all people in Ganjam to follow social distancing norms. By doing this you will help our COVID warriors in fighting this war."

Kulange did not mention when the four deaths took place in Ganjam



India 3rd highest in world at 7 lakh +ves

NEW DELHI: India Monday overtook Russia to record the world's thirdhighest number of coronavirus infections at nearly 700,000, even as its hardest-hit state said it will allow hotels to reopen this week. Health ministry data from the world's second-most populous country showed more than 23,000 new cases Monday, down slightly from Sunday's record increase of almost 25,000. There have been almost 20,000 deaths in India since the first case was detected there in January. India now trails only the United States and Brazil in the number of COVID-19 cases and it has recorded eight times as many cases as China, where the virus was first identified in late 2019. But its death rate per 10,000 people is still a low 0.15, compared with 3.97 in the US and 6.65 in the UK, according to Reuters.

district. He, however, mentioned that an Anganwadi worker, a junior contractual teacher, a junior engineer and a teacher have succumbed to the infectious disease. Of the 38 COVID-19 deaths so far

in Odisha, Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 21, followed by seven in Khurda, four in Cuttack and one each in Jajpur, Gajapati Sundergarh, Puri, Bargarh and Angul, the report said. With the detection of new cases,

the COVID tally in Odisha increased to 9,526, the official said, adding that 309 cases have been reported from different quarantine centres while 147 persons are local contacts. Contact tracing and a followup action is underway, said the department. Of the new cases, the highest 166 were detected in Ganjam followed by Jajpur (57), Bargarh (33), Nabarangpur (24), Jagatsinghpur (23) Khurda (21), Sundergarh (20) and 17 other districts reported less than 20 cases.

With the detection of new cases. the number of active COVID-19 cases in the state increased to 3,254 while 6,224 patients have so far recovered in the state. Odisha Sunday conducted 4,827 tests, taking the total number of tests so far to 2,97,234 in the state.

Meanwhile, the OPD of Sishu Bhavan in Cuttack was shut after detection of a COVID-19 case. The unit will remain closed till further order, said hospital superintendent Dr Saroj Satpathy.

MLA tests Covid +ve; all house panel meets stop

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Balasore, July 6: BJP MLA Sukanta Kumar_ Nayak tested positive for coronavirus Monday, becoming the first legislator in Odisha to get infected by COVID-19, officials said Monday.

The MLA from Nilgiri Assembly constituency will be admitted to a COVID-19 Hospital in Balasore, they said. "Yes, I have tested positive for COVID-19 today," he told PTI over phone.

Nayak had attended some meetings in his constituency and was also present at the funeral of ex-MLA from Balasore Madan Mohan Dutta, he said. In view of the rising number of COVID-19 cases across the state, Odisha Speaker SN Patro has announced suspension of all scheduled meetings of various committees of the house.

Nayak had attended meetings in Bhubaneswar and in his home constituency apart from participating in a gathering of women selfhelp groups. He also took part in a meeting at Chhatrapur village. A senior officer of Balasore district said a contact-tracing exercise is underway to identify people with whom Navak had been in close contact. Balasore sub-collector Harischandra Jena said his office is being sanitised as the MLA had visited the place two days ago.

He appealed to people not to visit government offices for the time being unless very urgent. Balasore district has reported 412 COVID-19 cases, of which 324 patients have recovered from the disease. Meanwhile. Union minister Pratap Jena, who visited the MLA, has gone into a home quarantine.

Mentioning that both the ministry of health and the Odisha health department have cautioned that the month of July would be crucial in tackling the COVID-19 crisis, the Speaker said the decision to suspend the Assembly committee meetings has been taken keeping in mind the rising number of coronavirus cases across the state.

Meetings of several standing committees of the house were held last month, he said. Replying to a question, the Speaker said, "The monsoon session of the Assembly was supposed to be held in August end or September. We will act in accordance with the decision to be taken by both the Centre and the state government."

8 lakh Indians to leave Kuwait post quota Bill

AGENCIES

bill is constitutional.

According to the bill, Indians

should not exceed 15 per cent of

Kuwait's population. This could re-

sult in 800,000 Indians leaving

Kuwait, as the Indians constitute the

largest expat community in the

country, totalling 1.45 million, the

Gulf News reported, citing a lead-

ing Kuwaiti newspaper. The cur-

rent population of Kuwait is 4.3

INDEX VARIATION SENSEX 36487.28 10763.70 156.30 NIFTY ₹0.09 DOLLAR **74.77** EURO 84.60 ₹0.61 ₹48,121 ₹75 GOLD SILVER

WEATHER CTK 32.6°C Irace cloudy sky

could be forced to leave Kuwait after a parliamentary committee approved a draft expat quota bill seeking to gradually slash the number of foreign workers in the Gulf country, according to media reports. The National Assembly's legal and legislative committee has determined that the expat quota

million, with Kuwaitis making up 1.3 million of the population, and expats accounting for 3 million.

Amid a slump in oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a spike in anti-expat rhetoric as lawmakers and government officials call for reducing the number of foreigners in Kuwait.

Last month, Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Khalid

Indians should not exceed 15 per cent of Kuwait's population. This could result in 800,000 Indians leaving Kuwait

The Indian community constitutes the largest expat community in the country, totalling 1.45 million

The current population of Kuwait is 4.3 mn, with Kuwaitis making up 1.3 mn of the population, and expats 3 mn Al Sabah proposed reducing the

number of expats from 70 per cent to 30 per cent of the population, the report said. Assembly Speaker Marzoug Al-Ghanem told Kuwait TV that he and a group of lawmakers will submit to the Assembly a comprehen-

sive draft law calling for a gradual reduction of expats in Kuwait. Kuwait has a real problem in its

adding that what is more serious is that 1.3 million of the 3.35 million expats "are either illiterate or can merely read and write", the people Kuwait does not really need, the Kuwait Times reported.

"I understand that we recruit doctors and skilled manpower and not unskilled laborers. This is an indication that there is a distortion. Visa traders have contributed in increasing this figure," Ghanem said. The Speaker said the draft law they intend to file will propose to impose a cap on the number of expats, whose numbers must decrease gradually by stating that this year expats will be 70 per cent, next year 65 per cent and so on, the report said. The expat quota bill will now be referred to the con-

tion. It states that the Indian expatriate community should not exceed 15 per cent of the national population, which means around 800,000 of them might be required to leave Kuwait, the Arab News reported. According to the Indian embassy

in Kuwait, there are about 28,000 Indians working for the Kuwaiti Government in various jobs like nurses, engineers in national oil companies and a few as scientists.

The majority of Indians (5.23) Lakh) are deployed in private sectors. In addition, there are about 1.16 lakh dependents. Out of these, there are about 60,000 Indian students studying in 23 Indian schools in the country. The bill will now be transferred to the respective committee before a plan is created.

population structure, in which 70 per cerned committee for considera-**FRESH STATUTE** cent are expats, the Speaker said, Dubai, July 6: Some 8 lakh Indians



NICK CORDERO DIES BATTLING CORONAVIRUS

Broadway theatre actor Nick Cordero, 41, known for his roles in Rock Of Ages, Waitress and others died after battling nCoV complications over several months. He passed away Sunday. His wife, Amanda Kloots, made the announcement on her Instagram account, reports variety.com.

RIHANNA PUTS MUSIC ON HOLD FOR BEAUTY LINE

Pop star Rihanna has pushed plans to release new music to concentrate on her skincare range. The singer, 32, has trademarked her new line as Buff Ryder, and sources suggest that she wants to become a beauty billionaire after Covid-19 destroyed the music industry, reports thesun.co.uk.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

Logic and reasoning will hold court, while creative ity takes a backseat today. There are challenges at work, but you are a dynamo and will meet them upfront. All tensions will be relieved by the loving touch of your near and dear. Such is life, sums up Ganesha.

TAURUS

This one of those ordinary days that, somehow. do not turn out too well. Unexpected expenses, that could totally upset your budget, cannot be ruled out. Something or the other is likely to give you an uncomfortable stomach upset.

Today will prove to be an emotional and engaging day for you, predicts Ganesha, Fortune will favour you, though your emotions may cloud your reasoning and slow down your progress. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods to make the best use of your knowledge.

Today, you will use money to fulfil your needs. If there is anything that according to you needs changing, you will throw some money to get it changed. Your loved ones will celebrate your financial gains and spend some more of it in the process.

LEO

Maybe it is the weather, or just one of those days, but today, you are extremely prone to wild mood swings, says Ganesha. You must remember that nothing is permanent, except change. So go with the flow and do not get caught in the undercurrent of the changes that are taking place all around you.

Something you

VIRGO

achieve in a most unexpected manner will make you very happy today. But your happiness may possibly be marred by getting agitated about the problems you are facing. LIBRA

Love is in the air, and passion lurks right around the corner. So keep your eyes and ears open, because you may soon find yourself entrapped in a passionate love episode. But the price of new love is always steep, and your beloved may burn a hole in your pocket.

SCORPIO

You shall groom yourself all prim and proper today. The thought of how you are likely to capture the imagination of people - both at work and at social gathering. Cash will exit left, right and centre from your pockets on account of fun and entertainment.

............

SAGITTARIUS

You take the path of spirituality for the peace of mind and to stay away from the daily humdrum of life. You will not only seek love, but also spread love around you. In a nutshell, a pleasant day in store for you, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Certain revelations about a relationship will draw your attention; you will find it intriguing and will spend a good amount of time trying to solve the mystery, says Ganesha. Besides, your impressive communication power will help dissolve conflicts that may have risen because of misinterpretation.

............

AQUARIUS

You have managed to carve a niche for yourself. Today, you may see the tangible benefits of all your past hard work. But business rivals may poke and pinch; even your health may trouble you. However, you will manage to smile and take things in the right spirit, approves Ganesha.

PISCES

You are unlikely to be your calm and lucid self today. You will likely catch yourself worrying unnecessarily and putting in more efforts than required at work. However, some leisure time will come your way in the evening wherein you will regain your usual perspective, says Ganesha.

Sushant's final movie trailer strikes ironic note with reality

Mumbai: "I am a fighter". Thats how late actor Sushant Singh Rajput describes himself in the trailer of his final movie Dil Bechara, striking an ironic note with reality.

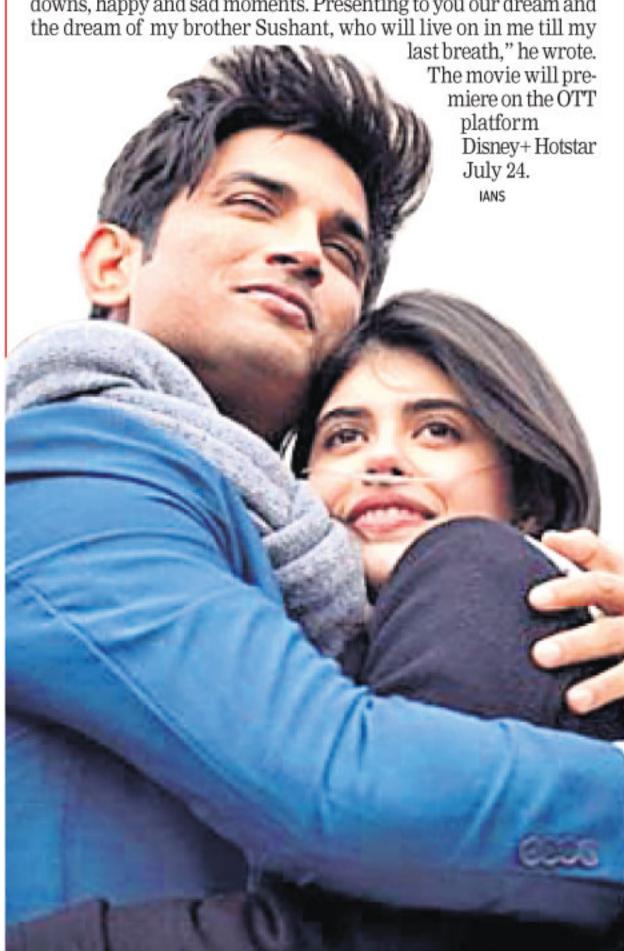
The trailer of the film, which pairs him opposite budding actress Sanjana Sanghi, was released Monday.

Dil Bechara is the official remake of 2014 Hollywood romantic drama The Fault In Our Stars, based on John Green's popular novel of the same name. It narrates a fairytale love story with a tragic ending. The film follows a young couple in love, as they meet and fall

for each other. The tragedy about the story comes with the fact that he has a brush with osteosarcoma, while she is fighting thyroid The story then takes the audience on an emotional ride as they

embark on a bittersweet journey in a bid to live life to the fullest. In the trailer, Sushant comes across as a happy guy, who is in love with life and wants to spread cheer.

Casting director Mukesh Chhabra is making his directorial debut with Dil Bechara. "Finally after such a long wait, 2 years of my life. So many friendships close to my heart, so many ups and downs, happy and sad moments. Presenting to you our dream and



Sushant Singh Rajput and Sanjana Sanghi in upcoming movie Dil Bechara

Legendary composer Ennio Morricone dead doing her favourite things

winning Italian composer Ennio

Morricone, known for his work in

The Good, The Bad And The Ugly.

Mission, has died. He was 91.

The Untouchables and The

The Italian musician, who received honourary Oscar in 2007, got the epithet 'The Maestro' during the course of his over five decade-long career Los Angeles: Los Angeles: Oscar-

Mumba: Actress Ishita Dutta has been engaging in painting and sketching lately, which are part of her favourite things. "I am sketching and paint-

ing. They are among my favourite things. I am also bingewatching my favourite shows online and trying out my cooking skills. It's such a bliss to be able to find time to do things that you love," she said. "I have been asked

is gaining weight because of all the amazing food I am making so I take that as a compliment, but ves I do miss going out to restaurants with friends and family," she added. She is aware that it is very important for people to stay home right now, and not go out unless absolutely necessary in times of the Covid pandemic. "So guys please stay at home

to cook less as my family

The Italian composer, who scored music in more than 500 films, died in Rome following complications from a fall last week, which caused a hip fracture, reports hollywoodreporter.com. and be safe," she said. Morricone is known for creating haunting, yet inventive scores to express emotions to dialogue-free tension in the spaghetti Westerns directed by Sergio Leone.

Soon after the news of his demise, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte tweeted: "We will always remember, with infinite gratitude, the artistic genius of the Maestro #EnnioMorricone. It made us dream, emotion, reflect, writing memorable notes that will remain indelible in the history of music and cinema." Morricone, whose first instrument

was the trumpet, won an Oscar for his work on Quentin Tarantino's The Hateful Eight (2015) and was also nominated for his original scores for Terrence Malick's Days Of Heaven (1978), Roland Joffe's The Mission (1986) and Giuseppe Tornatore's Malena(2000).

Indian music director AR Rahman, actors Farhan Akhtar and Randeep Hood and many others from the Hindi film industry paid rich tribute to



Rajkummar salutes dreams, aspirations

Mumbai: Actor Rajkummar Rao says he has seen big dreams in life, and he salutes everyone else's aspirations. Rajkummar took to Instagram, where

he shared a selfie he had clicked at the balcony. In the backdrop of the selfie, towering buildings can be seen in his selfie. "In oonchi imaraton

se oonche sapne dekhe hai mainai. Aapke, mere, hum sabke sapnon ko salaam. (From these tall buildings, I have seen big dream. Salute to yours, mine and everyone else's dreams)." Actress Prachi Desai took to the

actor's comment section and wrote:

"Salaam".

His girlfriend, actress Patralekhaa, dropped a heart and hug emoji on the comment section.

Speaking about his work, Rajkummar was last seen on screen in Made In China. He currently has a bag full of projects such as Ludo, RoohiAfza and Chhalaang. The actor will

also be seen sharing screen space with Priyanka Chopra Jonas in an adaptation of the Man Booker Prize winning novel The White Tiger. IANS

Webinar held on *Urban forests for livable cities*

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: A series of studies reveals that proximity to green space more often than not improves one's physical and psychological well being. But unfortunately, trees are being felled mindlessly in the name of development projects such as road expansion and industries in most of the cities in India.

Though late, the Centre has taken some measures to address the issue. In a bid to create forest in urban areas, it has launched Nagar Van or Urban Forest Programme in 200 Corporation cities of India.

month on World Environment Day, importance forest for the city up to 68 per cent by 2050. "A World the state in the last three years.

Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said that there are definitely a large number of gardens in many cities but not forests which is why the

Union Minister for Environment,

government has made such a move. Back of

home, members Odisha Environment Society (OES) Sunday con-

initiative at this digital seminar, the environmentalists shared their thoughts on how to make the project a success. Quoting an UN report on the

dwellers. Welcoming government's

occasion,

OES secre-

tary Jaya

Krushna

Panigrahi

said, 55 per

cent of

world's popducted a webinar titled Urban forests ulation resides in urban areas, a Attending an online event last for livable cities to underline the fraction that is expected to swell

CROSSWORD

Bank report also suggests that population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census,___ was 11.4 per cent. This count has increased to 28.53 per cent and 31.16 per cent respectively during 2001 and 2011 census. In 2017, the numbers has further escalated to 34 per cent. On the other hand, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) says, we are losing 18.7 million acres of forests annually, equivalent to 27 soccer fields every minute," added Panigrahi.

Taking part in the webinar, Additional PCCF Abhay Kant Pathak said the government had planted 31.25 lakh trees in various cities of

SUDOKU

0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

SOLUTIONS

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row,

column and box must contain the numbers

PEANUTS



SOMEDAY, WHEN WE'RE MARRIED, AND IT'S A RAINY DAY, I'LL MAKE A FIRE IN THE FIREPLACE, AND WHILE YOU'RE PRACTICING THE PIANO, I'LL BRING US SOME TEA AND TOAS

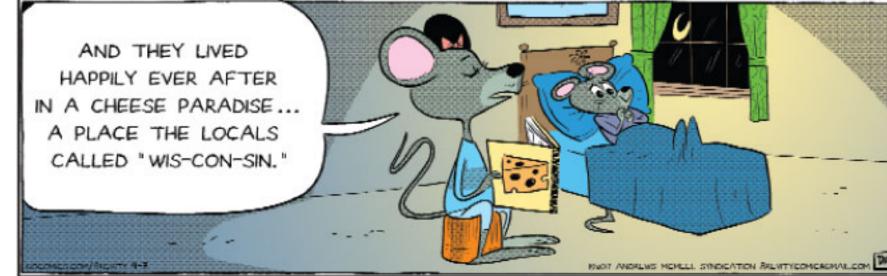




CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN

Across

- 1 Spoon, e.g.
- 5 Kimonos
- 8 Western movie staples
- 10 Packed away 11 Refuse
- 13 Pickle type
- 14 Philander
- 15 Throbs
- 19 Analyse

- 21 Sine or cosine 23 Personal quirk
- Down
- Knock down
 - 3 Small bag
 - 2 Conceit

Copyright @2020 PuzzleJunction.com

24 Most bears,

26 Manicurist's

greetings

board

27 Military

- 4 Chaise follower

17 Middle

18 Court contest 20 Chapel vow (1,2)22 Desert sight

6 Martial arts

7 Beer mugs

12 Skier's fear

16 16th century

small vessel

9 Behold

award (5,4)

25 Bandicoot

SUDOKU

CROSSWORD

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



RISKY RIDE

Throwing norms to the winds, three persons travel on a moped in Bhubaneswar, Monday

MONSOON TREAT

Black plum being sold near AG Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday



WATCO work bane of BSNL customers

AVIRAL MISHRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Residents of Sahid Nagar here are facing a telecommunication blackout as WATCO's (Water Corporation of Odisha) ambitious project of '24x7 water supply' being undertaken in the area is cutting into telephone

Aiming at improvement in and round-the-clock supply of water to residents, the WATCO had initiated the project for 14 selected ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) across the state in May this year. The work at Sahid Nagar began this week with digging up of the roads through excavators and JCB machines.

> ସହିଦନଗର ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ପାଣି ପାଇପ ବିଛାଉଥିବା ସଂସ୍ଥା BSNL ର ତାର ସବୁ କାଟି ଦେଇଛି, ଶହ ଶହ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଫୋନ ୫ଦିନ ହେଲାଣି ଅଚଳ, SDO କହୁଛନ୍ତି ଆହୁରି ୧୫ଦିନ ଲାଗିବ ଠିକ୍ ହେବାକୁ ।

> > @BSNL_OR ଏଡଲା ନଦେବା ର

କ୍ଷତି ଭରଣା କିଏ କରିବ??

However, giving scant regard to the existing underground cables laid by the BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited), the agency which is undertaking the work under contract (under the WATCO) has reportedly ripped apart the telecom cables during the initial phase of laying of the water supply pipes.

"It has been five days since our landlines have been out of order. The BSNL's landlines are an important part for LAN (Local Area Network) internet connections for which we pay heavily. More than 100 households are now being deprived of the phone connection," a resident of Sahid Nagar said this taking to Twitter.

While telecom woes of residents of Sahid Nagar have just begun, people of Pokhariput, Unit-6 and other **LANDLINES DEAD**



WATCO work in progress at Sahid Nagar

areas too have had their share of worries when the project began earlier in May. The project which

aims at improving efficiency in drinking water supply in the city will see works at Sahid Nagar over by September end. The project is estimated at about Rs 12 crore in its phase-wise development. Responding to the issue, BSNL,

General Manager, DK Behera said, "We too are facing heavy losses due to the works but we are in coordination with the authorities concerned. The restoration works have been slow as our hands are tied after the outbreak of the pandemic. With lesser workforce and necessary infrastructure the repairs are taking time."

Aiming at improvement in and round-the-clock supply of water to residents, the WATCO had initiated the project for 14 selected ULBs across the state in May this year

The work at Sahid Nagar began this week with digging up of the roads through excavators and JCB machines

However, giving scant regard to the existing underground cables laid by the BSNL, the contract agency has reportedly ripped apart the telecom cables during the initial phase of laying of the water supply pipes

However, understanding the grievances of the people, Behera said that the customers who are facing inconveniences will not be charged until the restoration of the services. "People can write and submit applications to the local office to avail the rebates," Behera added.

Meanwhile, WATCO's General Manager Guru Charan Das stated that they have been aware of the issue but termed the loss as 'concomitant feature' of the project works. "Bhubaneswar is a complicated city. There are intricate underground networks of which we are mindful. However, sometimes paths cross and destruction is unavoidable," he said.

2 IMPOSTERS HELD

POST NEWS NETWORK

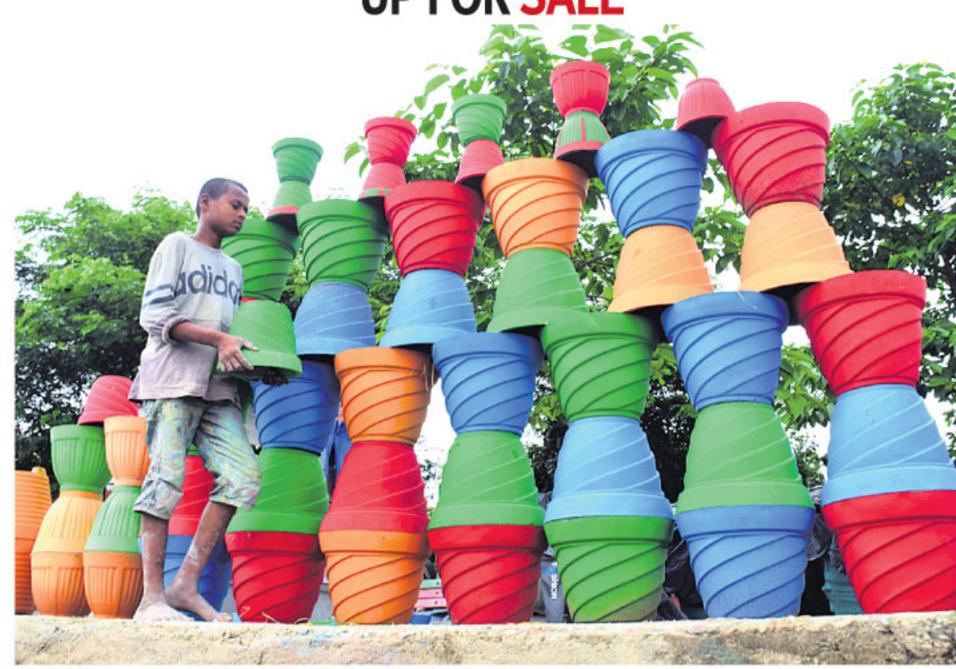
Bhubaneswar, July 6: Commissionerate Police, Monday, arrested two miscreants for extorting money from the commuters posing as RTO officials.

The miscreants were Soumya Ranjan Rout alias Somu, 29, of Dadha under Barang police limits in Cuttack and Chandra Sekhar Das, 40, under Bari PS in Jajpur. The accused have been staying under Chandrsekharpur police station.

Das works as the driver of the official vehicle on rent used by the IG of Railway Protection Force. Das and Rout Monday brought the vehicle from the garage by falsely claiming that the IG RPF has some work. They also changed the vehicle's original number plate with a fake one and also fixed a yellow beacon atop the vehicle.

However, they were caught while demanding money from a truck by impersonating RTO officials on the flyover near Nayapalli PS.





A youth stacks up flowerpots at Khandagiri in Bhubaneswar, Monday

4 solar parks in Sambalpur, Boudh soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: In another step towards production of carbonneutral green energy, the state government has decided to set up 275 mega watt (MW) capacity solar parks at four locations in Sambalpur and Boudh districts.

This was discussed at a high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy in Lokseva Bhawan Monday.

Green Energy Development Corporation (GEDCOL) chairman Bishnupada Sethi said, "State needs to produce 1500 MW of solar power by 2022 to meet the renewable power obligation (RPO). The state is now able to produce solar power at competitive price of around Rs 2.71 per unit. Hence, it is commercially feasible to ramp up commercial production through GEDCOL."

As of now, around 474 MW on-grid

RENEWABLE ENERGY BOOST



State needs to produce The state is now able to 1500 MW of solar power by produce solar power at 2022 to meet the renewable competitive price of power obligation around ₹2.71 per unit

solar power plants have already been installed in different parts of the state through GEDCOL and Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA).

GEDCOL has set up plants of 362 MW through both the public and private investments while

OREDA has installed on-grid capacity of around 112 MW. In addition to this, OREDA has projects of 460-MW capacity in pipeline.

GEDCOL to

develop 275

MW capacity

solar parks at

four locations

in Sambalpur

and Boudh

500-MW

capacity

districts and

floating solar

projects over

Lama on birthday

large water

reservoirs

It was decided in the meeting that GEDCOL would develop 275 MW capacity solar parks at four locations in Sambalpur and Boudh

districts and 500-MW capacity floating solar projects over large water reservoirs in partnership with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).

Sethi appraised that GEDCOL

has expedited steps for 19-MW ca-

pacity on-grid rooftop solar plant and 08-MW ground based solar plants at different places. The proposal for removing the

present MW limitation for OREDA was also approved in the meeting.

Reviewing the progress made so far, Tripathy directed the officials to work out a detailed road map with time lines for enhancing solar power production on commercial basis. He directed the officials to adopt latest technology for reducing the cost of production.

Further, he directed to develop OREDA and GEDCOL as professionally equipped commercial bodies in renewable energy sector.

House Committee meetings suspended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Keeping in view the spread of novel coronavirus, the Odisha Assembly has suspended the meetings of various committees scheduled for July this year.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Assembly Speaker Surya Narayan Patro said meetings of several

standing committees of the House were held last month. As the number of cases is rising in the country as

well as in Odisha, it was decided to cancel all the meetings scheduled to be held this month, he said.

"The last Assembly session was concluded in March this year. Accordingly, the monsoon session was supposed to be held in August end or September, he said, adding,

"We are discussing with the Speakers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha regarding holding of the Assembly session. We will act in accordance with the decision to be taken by the Centre as well as the state government."

Commenting on this development, Opposition chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi (BJP) said, "I think it is not a good decision to suspend

the meetings of standing committees. The meetings of House panels were convened

after due deliberations with various members and all kinds of guidelines and social distancing norms were followed during the meetings."

As very few members ranging from 7 to 12 were attending the meeting, there was no problem in holding such meetings, Majhi stated.

Offline sale of country liquor from today Naveen greets Dalai

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 6: The state government Monday allowed counter sale of country liquor, as per a notification.

Over-the-counter sale of out still liquor and extra neutral alcohol (ENA)-based liquor have been allowed from Tuesday in non-containment zones, it said.

The home delivery of the country liquor, which was allowed from July 1, will also continue, it added.

Shops will remain open from 7 am to 6 pm and the consumption of liquor inside the premises of the stores will not be allowed.

In order to regulate the crowd, the retailers will have to erect barricades wherever required. and also employ additional manpower with specific responsibility to ensure regulation of queue, maintenance of social distancing norms by the customers, the notification said.

The retailers have also been

REVENUE ENHANCEMENT EXERCISE



 In order to regulate the crowd, the retailers will have to erect barricades wherever required, and also employ additional manpower with specific responsibility to ensure regulation of queue

asked to ensure that all the staff

The shops have been asked not

to sell liquor to those without

masks and violating social dis-

Local police and Excise de-

tancing norms.

in their shops use a face mask.

Shops will remain open from 7 am to 6 pm in non-containment zones and the consumption of liquor inside the premises of the stores will not be allowed

The shops have been asked not to sell liquor to those without masks and violating social distancing norms

 The home delivery of the country liquor, which was allowed from July 1, will

also continue

partment staff will remain watch-

ful and district magistrates are au-

thorised to close the shops in case

Foreign liquor shops were al-

lowed to operate from July 1 from

of any violation, it said.

7 am to 6 pm.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday wished Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

The Chief Minister also posted his picture with the Dalai Lama on his official Twitter handle.

"Warm wishes to His Holiness @DalaiLama on birthday. May you be blessed with good health and long life, spreading love, compassion and peace in the world," Patnaik tweeted.

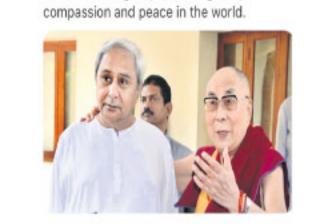
Recently, the Dalai Lama had written to Patnaik and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressing his sympathy for the loss of lives and property in the two states ravaged by cyclone Amphan in May.

The Dalai Lama has been living in India ever since he fled Tibet in

• Currently expanding its infrastructure by adding new berths & mechanisation

W W W . G O P A L P U R P O R T S . I N

Naveen Patnaik @ @Naveen Odisha 9h Warm wishes to His Holiness @DalaiLama on birthday. May you be blessed with good health and long life, spreading love,



1959. The Tibetan government-inexile operates from India and over 1,60,000 Tibetans live in the coun-

The Tibetan spiritual leader has visited Odisha several times and had met Patnaik at his residence in November 2017.

There is a Tibetan settlement at Chandragiri in Gajapati district of the state, sources said.

CITY MALL BEAUTIFICATION ROW

BJP trains its gun on BMC commissioner



BJP leader Babu Singh (C) and party leaders at the presser in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Alleging irregularities in allowing a shopping mall near Kalpana Square to undertake beautification work, the state BJP Monday demanded immediate removal of BMC commissioner Prem Chandra Choudhary.

Addressing a press conference here, Bhubaneswar BJP president Babu Singh alleged that the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was protecting the builders as a result the builder was able to encroach the land in front of the mall for beautification work.

"It was decided at a high-level meet-

ОР РНОТО ing at Chief Secretary-level to construct a flyover from Mausima temple to Kalpana

not allow beautification work at Kalpana square in 2012. Despite all, the BMC authorities have allowed the builder to undertake its project," he alleged. Singh wanted to know under which cir-

Square. Therefore, the executive engineer

concerned had informed the BMC to

On the other hand, the government has decided to raise boundary walls of heritage sites like State Museum, BJB College and Bhanjakala Mandap along with BMC's own building for road expansion

cumstances the BMC allowed the builder

BJP leader Babu Singh wanted to know in which circumstances BMC allowed the builder to undertake beautification work

project, he added.

Reacting to BJP's allegations, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, "Singh has come forward to level such allegations to cover up the violations made by BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, who has violated Covid norms many a times while organising political meetings. An FIR has been lodged against her."

Both the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister has appealed to the people to strictly follow the Covid-19 guidelines and instructed the authorities to take strong action against the violators, Mohanty said. However, the local MP was seen violating the norms repeatedly, he added.

Babu Singh has called the presser to divert the attention of public from this issue, the BJD leader stated.

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Skilled migrants unwilling to work under MGNREGA

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 6: With the state government creating 20 crore person days' work for returning migrants under the MGNREGA scheme, various civil society organisations have slammed the nature of job creation with heavy dependence on the mass employment

As per govt report, over 5.43 lakh migrants have returned to the state so far. Though many of them have chosen to work under MGNREGA. some of them are reluctant to work under the scheme as they were skilled workers and manual labour will contravene with their self-respect and dignity.

As per MNREGA portal data, only 38.91% of the 1.75 crore workers registered as of July 6, have got work under the scheme.

In many places, returnees are still staring at severe uncertainty fearing loss of livelihoods. Besides, social ostracisation and discriminatory treatment have made their lives tougher.

"On returning to the villages, migrants face a host of issues. Money lenders are demanding interest on the loans they availed last year," says Bidyadhar Suna, a local social activist and member of people's collective in Bolangir, a district which is listed among the 11 most migration-prone districts in Odisha.

Many workers are hesitant in taking up jobs under the scheme due to ill health and physical weakness. A 42-year-old resident of Antarla village under Muribahal block of Bolangir district, Sanyasi Sunani was working as brick maker in different states since last 20 years. He was working in Telangana when the pandemic struck. After returning to the village, he is living in acute

LIVELIHOOD WOES



As per MGNREGA portal data, only 38.91% of the 1.75 crore workers registered in Odisha, got work under the scheme

Besides, some of them are reluctant to work under the scheme as they are skilled workers and manual labour will contravene their dignity

distress as he is unable to work under MGNREGA due to health issues. I require financial support to start a small business," he lamented.

Similar is the case of Umesh Bagarti, a construction worker from Bolangir who is working as a wage labourer since childhood after dropping out from Std 8 due to poor financial condition of the family. He was working as a daily wager in Mumbai with his elder brother who works there as a mason in construction sites. He reached home by traveling in a bicycle from Mumbai along with other co workers. They are yet to receive wages from the

company. "MGNREGA is not the only solution to restore livelihood of returnee migrants in the state. A large percentage of these people cannot work under MNREGA. They should be provided with credit linkages. The

state should do more to develop entrepreneurship. There are thousands of educated youth who have returned to their villages now. The government should focus on upgrading their skills which will make them self-employed," said social activist Saroj Kumar Barik.

Arun Prasad Dihudi, an expert on mass employment schemes, said, "The payment system on MNREGA is still terrible. The Act states that Govt should provide work to people who need it. However, in reality, people work when Govt desires. Also, MNREGA wage in Odisha is comparatively low."

Chief secretary Asit Tripathy said, "The state had announced a Rs 17,000 crore package to provide employment and income generation opportunities to the worst affected sections including the migrant workers and farmers."

Rapid antibody tests to resume in City ,

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Amid rising COVID-19 cases in the capital city, BMC is all set to commence rapid antibody tests from this week.

"A target has been set to conduct 2000 to 2,500 tests. Micro plans are being made on how and in which areas the test will be conducted. It is a part of the serological survey. A team from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will collaborate with the existing teams here for conduct of the tests," informed Bhubaneswar Municipal

BP Nanda new

DG of railway

POST NEWS NETWORK

of Railway Board.

health services

New Delhi, July 6: Dr Bishnu

Prasad Nanda, an Odia officer

hailing from Dhenkanal, has taken

over as the Director General

Railway Health Services(DG RHS)

Nanda secured all India 1st po-

sition in Combined Medical Services

Examination of UPSC in 1983 and

was selected for the Indian Railway

Medical Services. He joined Indian

Railway Medical Services in

November 1984.On completion of

probation, Dr Nanda was posted as

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer

at Chhindwara Health Unit in

Madhya Pradesh under Nagpur Division and later transferred to

Hatia Railway Hospital, Ranchi

Subsequently, he was trans-

ferred to Mancheswar Railway

Hospital, Bhubaneswar. Dr Nanda

did his Post Graduation in ENT

from Mumbai University, Bombay

from 1994-97 and was posted as

ENT specialist at Adra Divisional

Railway Hospital where he had

served for 15 years from 1997-2012.

where he served for seven years.



Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary.

"We are trying to start it towards the end of this week," Chaudhary added while briefing reporters here today. The BMC Commissioner,

however, clarified that without micro-planning he won't be announcing the date.

On being asked whether BMC was planning a shutdown in Bhubaneswar in view of the spike in COVID-19 positive cases in the area under its jurisdiction, the Municipal Commissioner said that we should not go by rumours and earlier whenever such announcements have been made those have been made on the basis of wellthought-out orders.

"As of now, there is no discussion this week on this account. If such an order comes from the government after reviewing the situation we will implement it. But from my side I have nothing to tell on that,"

Chaudhary said. Earlier, the state administration had already received 6,000 rapid testing kits from the Indian Council

of Medical Research (ICMR) in the

first phase. A total of 838 samples were collected for tests on the first day of the first phase. Tests in the city were being done with the help of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation.

State registers 262 recoveries POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: As many as 262 persons who were earlier tested positive for COVID-19 recovered Monday, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department tweeted.

According to the department, the recoveries include 73 from Ganjam, 49 from Gajapati, 25 from Jagatsinghpur, 16 from Rayagada and 15 from Cuttack. Similarly, 14 persons from Bargarh, 13 from Khurda, 12 from Bhadrak, 12 from Puri, eight from Kendrapara and four each from Jajpur and Sundargarh have recovered from the viral infection.

Moreover, three people each from Angul Balasore, Nayagarh and Nabarangpur and one each from Boudh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput and

Mayurbhanj have recovered, Monday, said the department. With this, the number of active

COVID-19 cases in the state stand at 2,990, while 6,486 patients have so far recovered in the state so far. added the official.

Odisha Sunday conducted 4,827



tests, taking the total number of tests so far to 2,97,234

Sources said the outpatient department (OPD) of Sardar

> Total cases: 9,526 ctive cases: 2,990 Recoveries: 6,486 Deaths: 38

Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Paediatrics (Sishu Bhawan) in Cuttack was shut after detection of a COVID-19 case. The unit will remain closed till further order, hospital superintendent Saroj Satpathy said.

Twin cities record 20 cases

As many as 17 persons were tested positive for COVID-19 in areas under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), while three persons were detected coronavirus positive in Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) jurisdiction, Monday.

"Of the 17 cases, 10 are local contact ones, five are quarantine cases and two are COVID warriors," the BMC said in a tweet, adding that four persons who were earlier tested COVID-19 positive recovered Monday.

The CMC, on the other hand, took to the Twitter to say, "The three COVID cases include one each from paid quarantine, home quarantine and a COVID Warrior."

SCRIBES' MEMO TO **GUV FOR LOK SEVA BHAWAN ENTRY**

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 6: Close on the heels of state government barring the journalists to enter to Lok Seva Bhawan and official buildings, a delegation of scribes from Bhubaneswar, Monday, sought the intervention of Governor Ganeshi Lal in the issue.

The delegation, led by senior journalist Pradosh Patnaik, met the Governor and submitted a memorandum urging him to direct the state government to allow the accredited journalists to enter Lok Seva Bhawan for reporting.

The state government has prohibited the journalists from entering the Lok Seva Bhawan and its annex buildings like Kharavela Bhawan, Krushi Bhawan and Rajiv Bhawan for reporting on governance.

The scribes apprised the Governor that debarring journalists from reporting has created a chasm between the govt and people

Patnaik drew the attention to the Governor on the state government's 'infringement of freedom of press' by debarring the accredited journalists from reporting on governance.

The scribes apprised the Governor that debarring the journalists from reporting on governance has created a chasm between the government and people and it was not in the interest of democracy.

He said the Governor gave a patient hearing to the submissions of the journalists and assured them of talking to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the issue. The Governor told the journalists that he would write a letter to the state government asking the latter to restore their rights in compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.

SHRAVAN SANS **DEVOTEES**





Shiva shrines across the state, including Lingaraj in Bhubaneswar and Lokanath in Puri, wear a deserted look on the first Monday of the Hindu month of Shravan as the state government has banned this year's Bol Bom Yatra due to the COVID-19 outbreak

State to plant 6.30cr saplings this monsoon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: A massive plantation drive of 6.30 crore seedlings is being planned across 1.30 lakh hectare of land, Minister of Forest & Environment Bikram Keshari Arukh said on the occasion of Van Mahotsav Week.

People across the state observe this week from July 1 to July 7. However, no special function was organised by the department due to

restrictions amid the pandemic. He said, "According to a survey, the state has forest coverage of 36.14 percent. Also from 2015 to 2019 the forest coverage has increased

VAN MAHOTSAV WEEK



to 1160 square kilometer. The data shows that the state has done better than other states in forest management." Around 13 thousand forest safety committees are working over 12000 square kilometer forest area. The state gov-

ernment had launched Biju Patnaik award for their appreciation.

In 2019-20, the green cover has been enhanced in 68.35 hectares of forest land. This apart, plantation drives were launched in around 3,000 kilometer wayside area. Around 3.75k saplings have been distributed in Bhubaneswar. Also in 2019-20, around 17 thousand hectares of forest land has been rehabilitated and restored, the minister

claimed. The state government has also collaborated with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for enhancing forest ecosystem. Last year

in 25 thousand hectare forest land

had been restored. Similarly, in another project under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Managemnt and Planning Authority (CAMPA) around 8.16 lakh hectare bamboo forest and 3.23 lakh natural forest area has been restored in 2019-20. In seven forest ranges in the state, 4 thousand hectares of forest land has been used for medicinal forest and plants, he said.

On the occasion, the minister inaugurated plant sapling kiosks at Jagannath Vihar area and also launched a sapling distribution

programme.

TRIBAL WOMAN'S DEATH

BJP team to visit Malkangiri today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: A six-member team of the state unit of BJP will visit Malkangiri Tuesday to meet the family members of a tribal woman who died May 11, 2020 after she was allegedly raped at a police canteen at Tekapada in the district.

The team includes state The victim's Bharatiya Janata Party husband (BJP) vice president Balabhadra Majhi, found severa Malkangiri MLA Aditya injuries on Majhi, Umerkote MLA Nityananda Gond, party her body and spokesperon Sonali Sahoo suspected it and general secretary of BJP women's wing Babita to be a case

of rape They will also enquire as to what caused the death of the woman and why police could not arrest the culprit two months after the incident.

The BJP leaders headed by general secretary of the state unit of BJP, Lekhashree Samantsinghar, and other party leaders had June 24 met Odisha Human Right Commission (OHRC) chairman seeking justice for the family members of the victim.

As per the complaint, the tribal woman was working as a help in the police canteen. A lady police officer reportedly informed the woman's husband that the victim was taken ill and admitted to Malkangiri district headquarters hospital (DHH) May 7. The woman's husband rushed to the DHH and

found her in an unconscious state. The victim's husband also found several injuries on her body and suspected it to be a case of rape.

The victim's husband lodged an FIR with Malkangiri police May 9 and alleged that the woman had been raped. He sought a proper enquiry into the

incident. But, police didn't take

any step. Soon after the woman's death, po-

lice hurriedly formed a team to probe the incident. Malkangiri Superintendent of Police told the media that the woman was undergoing treatment for various ailments and the allegation of rape would be investigated, said the complaint.

ANUBHAV DEFENDS TWEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 6: In a series of tweets, Kendrapara MP and actor Anubhav Mohanty reacted to the controversy surrounding his tweet to Salman Khan which 'begged for a like' for an image that he posted on social media.

"Nobody can force me to fit into the image they want me to portray! Have I ever supported any crime? Have I ever even said that anyone is above the law? NEVER.

What's wrong if I request or "beg" for a LIKE from a great actor whom I have admired since my childhood!" Mohanty said in a

He also tweeted "By the blessings of all, I am the proud people representative of Kendrapara, Odisha. I have completed a year only as your Lok Sabha MP as a BJD MP. My sincere hard work & parliamentary performance is there in the public domain."

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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.

What ails healthcare in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 6: Amid the COVID-19 crisis, healthcare has gone for a toss in Balasore district as over half of the sanctioned posts of doctors are lying vacant.

Even to the extent, there is hardly any doctor on duty at some of the hospitals in the district. Some of the departments in hospitals go without doctors, with no one available for consultation.

Hundreds of people especially the poor incur huge expenses in private hospitals and clinics, as they have no other choice.

The situation has not changed even after the establishment of Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital (FMMCH) in the district, two years back. The precarious condition of the district's healthcare has rather aggravated.

There are 373 sanctioned posts of doctors in Balasore. However, only 183 doctors are on duty. About 190 posts have been lying vacant for several years.

Even as 146 posts of doctor have been lying vacant in remote areas of the district, 44 posts are vacant in the district headquarters hospital (DHH).

The DHH has no specialists for



consultation in crucial departments like gynecology, obstetrics and pediatrics. Moreover, there are no doctors in x-ray, leprosy, ENT, anesthesiology, surgery, orthopedics wards, while the post of blood bank officer remains vacant.

There are also vacancies of posts like medical officer (prison), medical officer (reserve police barrack) and health officer of Balasore Municipality. On the other hand, eight sanctioned posts of senior medical officers and 22 sanctioned posts of general duty medical officers have not been filled up for past

several years.

Super-specialty facilities are not available at FMMCH, since the days when it was established. Previously, dean of the institute Dr Pratap Rath was looking after patients in neurosurgery department. However, after he retired in January this year, the post was not filled up.

Similarly, super-specialty departments like cardiology, nephrology, pediatric and surgery have not yet opened in FMMCH. As a result, most patients of the district are being compelled to travel to hospitals in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

क्या-न चः मठ मं वर्षानः

ନଦିର ଖୋଲା ରହିନ

The healthcare scenario has not changed even after the establishment of Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital (FMMCH) in Balasore district, two years back but has rather aggravated

over 146 posts of doctor have been Ulying vacant in remote areas of Balasore district, 44 posts are vacant in the district headquarters hospital (DHH)

Cuper-specialty facilities are not available at FMMCH, since the day of its establishment for which patients of cardiology, nephrology, pediatric and surgery departments are being compelled to travel to hospitals in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar

Over 40 critical patients were being referred to outside hospitals every day, prior to COVID-19 outbreak in the district. For the fear of getting infected, very few patients come to hospitals now. Despite that, 20 to 25 critical patients are being referred nowadays.

Balasore chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Dulalsen Jagadev said, "We are facing the problem in treating local patients. However, we have sought approval in writing from Health Department higherups for allowing us to fill up existing vacancies."

Covid scare

SAMBALPUR VARSITY **CLOSED FOR A WEEK**



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 6: In view of the rising COVID-19 cases in Sambalpur district, the authorities of Sambalpur University at Jyoti Vihar here today decided to close down the varsity for a week starting Tuesday.

The university will remain closed from July 7 to July 13, a letter issued by the office of the registrar said Monday. The order said as a preventive measure it is decided to close the university office and PG departments from July 7 to July 13. All the employees have been asked to stay at home and to keep their mobile phones switched on and remain available on urgent notice or call. The employees who are not coming to office will work from home, the order added.

The order said any further development in this regard will be posted on the university's website.

Biramitrapur IIC sent to 12-day custody

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, July 6: IIC of Biramitrapur police station Anand Chandra Majhi, who was produced before the special POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) court Monday, was sent to judicial custody till July 18.

Odisha Police's Crime Branch arrested the IIC July 1 from a forested area in Angul in connection with the sexual assault case involving a minor girl in Sundargarh.

The Crime Branch had taken him on a four-day remand after his arrest with prior permission from a local court. However, the local court had asked the Crime Branch to produce the accused in the POCSO court.

The accused also applied for bail in the POCSO court, but the court rejected his appeal and sent him to judicial custody. The court also directed the Crime Branch to record the statement of the two witnesses under Section 164 of the CrPC.

The victim had come to witness a fair at Biramitrapur area March 25 but it was cancelled at the last moment due to the lockdown. The girl failed to return home and was

roaming near the bus stand when a police patrolling team saw her and

brought her to the police station. Inspector Majhi allegedly raped her on the top floor of the police station. She was dropped at her home the next day. However, she was called to the police station regularly and raped by the inspector and other police officials.

As the minor became pregnant, the cop illegally and forcibly terminated her pregnancy.

Six persons, including the inspector, doctor and the girl's stepfather, have been named as accused in the FIR.

DIG (western range) Kavita Jalan is supervising the case.

Youth hacks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Monday.

father to death

R Udayagiri, July 6: A youth allegedly hacked his father to death

over a family feud at Pejapani village under Mohana police limits

in Gajapati district, police said

Durman Sabara, 55. The accused

Kepas Sabar, eldest son of the de-

ceased from his first wife, sur-

rendered at Mohana police sta-

registered a case and launched

an investigation after sending the

The incident occurred after

Durman, who was living with his

second wife, tried to assault his first wife following a tiff. Kepas flew into

a rage and attacked his father

with a sharp-edged weapon killing

body for post-mortem.

him on the spot.

tion along with the weapon used

in the crime, the same night. Police

The deceased was identified as

Woman teacher hacked to death

MISCREANTS ALSO ATTACK THE TEACHER'S **HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER, LEAVING THEM** CRITICALLY INJURED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharmasala, July 6: Miscreants hacked a woman teacher to death and injured her husband and daughter at Sarangkiran in Mirzapur panchayat under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district late Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as 52-year-old Tarulata Mallick. Her injured husband and daughter were first rushed to Dharmasala community health centre (CHC) and then shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack as their condition deteriorated.

Tarulata, daughter of Charan Biswal of Sarangkiran village and wife of Anil Kumar Mohanty of Mirzapur village, was a teacher at Anant Kumari High School. The couple and their daughter were living at a rented house at Mirzapur.

Like any other day they had their dinner and retired to their bedrooms for the night. It was while they were asleep miscreants broke into the house and hacked Tarulata

edged weapon. Tarulata died on the spot. They even did not spare her daughter and attacked her with an iron rod. Thereafter they left the place leaving the father-daughter duo crawling on the ground.

cries, neighbours came to their rescue and immediately rushed them Sahu and a forensic team reached the CHC for post-mortem. Police said a case has been registered and the

> Tarulata and her husband with a sharp-edged weapon while they were asleep. Tarulata died on the spot



Hearing Anil and his daughter's

to Dharmasala CHC. Later, they were shifted to SCBMCH. DSP Chinmay Nayak, IIC Saroj Kumar spot and launched an investigation. The body was sent to Dharmasala culprits will soon be arrested.

Miscreants broke into the house and hacked



Dhenkanal, July 6: A 70-year-old priest attached to one of the prominent temples in Dhenkanal town tested positive for COVID-19. This revelation has sent shock waves among the residents here.

The district administration and the endowment department, meanwhile, sanitised the temple.

According to Pradyumna Tripathy, Inspector, Endowment Department, the infected priest was present in the temple on Rath Yatra and Bahuda Yatra days. He was not given any charge due to his ill health condition. So the administration has already started the process of tracing out those who came in contact with the priest, he said. Sub-collector Saphalya Mandit Pradhan, said all the priests of the temple have been asked to stay



Amid closure of temples and ban on Bol Bom for Covid-19, a woman offers holy water outside the gate of a Shiva temple in Sambalpur while others look on,

under home quarantine. New priests would be appointed in place of the home quarantined ones to ensure the rituals go uninterrupted. "Once the process of contact tracing is over, their swabs will be collected for test," he added.

Sources said the priest had gone to a Bhubaneswar based private hospital for check up as he had been suffering from a chronic illness. The hospital authorities had collected his swab samples and he was found to have contracted the coronavirus.

What makes people more fearful is that a female relative of the priest who was working at a hospital in the district is a high suspicion case. Meanwhile, chief district medical officer Dr Sujata Mishra said the hospital has been completely sanitised.

Covid-19 patient escapes from Nabarangpur hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, July 6: A COVID-19 infected person here in this town has escaped from a hospital, District Collector Ajit Kumar Mishra said Monday.

The infected person was admitted to the COVID-19 hospital at the district headquarters town, July 3. However hospital authorities are yet to find out the reasons behind his escape. The superintendent of the hospital has lodged a com-

plaint against the patient at the Nabarangpur Town police station. Personnel from the police station have already started a probe into the matter. With 24 new cases detected from the district Monday, the total tally of COVID-19 patients went up to 79.

The district currently has 49 active cases, while 29 have recovered from the disease so far. One person being treated for COVID-19 has died due to other ailments

Virus takes a toll on puppet artistes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 6: The puppet artistes of Palakana and Mantripada villages in Sadar and Derabisi blocks of Kendrapara district are passing through an acute financial crunch due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

To compound their problems, the artistes have also not received the financial assistance announced by both the state government and the Centre. They have appealed to both the state government and the Centre to help them out with financial aid. The majority of Odisha's puppet artistes reside in these two villages. Artistes of Palakana are renowned for puppets made up of coloured threads while those from Mantripada are known for Sakhi Kandhei.

An artiste of Mantripada village Sridhar Singh said, "I had received advance from over 50 parties to conduct puppet shows between March and July. However, not a single show could be conducted because of the lockdown restric-

tions. So I had to return the advances I had taken from the parties." Puppeteer Fakir Singh of Palakana

village also had a similar opinion to

offer. "This typical art form thrives only in a very few villages of the district. Despite the fact that puppetry does not fit into modern scheme of living and people have several other sources of entertainment, puppet shows are still popular in rural areas across Odisha," said Fakir. Reacting to this, district culture officer Chandrakant Nayak said, "A few puppet artistes were paid allowances, as per provisions of the state government. We are expediting the process to include many more. A plan to utilise the talents of puppet artistes in different awareness programmes of the Odisha government is underway."

Sakhi Kandhei shows are performed by the puppet artistes with the help of three wooden sticks. Similarly, thread-made puppet shows are conducted with the help of fine wires. 'Gopa Leela' puppet gloves have earned name and fame across the state.



Dip in livestock population raises concern here

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 6: Livestock population is declining at a rapid rate in Kendrapara, a predominantly agricultural district. This has raised concern as it might seriously affect the district's economy.

Police officials at the crime scene

The situation has arisen despite the implementation of the Centre sponsored Rashtriya Krushi Vikash Yojana and various schemes of the state government.

According to the 2000 census, the district had 9, 24,396 cattle and buffaloes, 1, 24, 590 goats, 38,886 sheep, and 1, 38,500 poultries. In 2012, the cattle population declined to 3, 65,890; the goat population to 1,07,829; the sheep population to 14,885; and the poultry population declined to 1,30,829.

Animal husbandry officials said that there is a 12 per cent drop in the bovine population while the population of other livestock has also declined. Rearing livestock is the main source of livelihood for 3,05,868 households living in rural parts of



the district. Moreover, people use the excreta of these livestock to prepare manure and pesticides for agriculture. The rearing of livestock and use of their excreta as manure and pesticides helps in maintaining the ecological balance. The 1999 Super Cyclone caused untold sufferings for the residents by killing their livestock. After the catastrophe various schemes were implemented to help the farmers overcome the loss.

However, the reality is far from the

projection. RTI activist Pratap Kumar

Mohanty said a person requires 250 gm of milk daily for upkeep of his health but only 65 gm of milk is available per head. This finds mention in the 2016 statistical survey report of the National Diary Development Board (NDDB), he said.

An integrated cattle development programme was launched in the state by the agricultural department in collaboration with NABARD in 2005. The NABARD invested Rs 27, 072, 34 by the end of this financial for establishment of 3,230 cat-

nimal husbandry officials said that Athere is a 12 per cent drop in the bovine population while the population of other livestock has also declined

neople use the excreta of these livestock to prepare manure and pesticides for agriculture. The rearing of livestock and use of their excreta helps in maintaining the ecological balance

The need for a livestock-based economy is crucial for Kendrapara which is prone to natural calamities but due to lack of government efforts farmers are forced to migrate to other states in search of livelihood

tle rearing units and 380 milk production units. However, the huge investment has failed to make any impact. The district produces 35,000 litre of milk daily out of which 31,000 litre goes to OMFED.

Environmentalist Hemant Kumar Rout said the breeding capacity of Kendrapara sheep is more in comparison to other sheep in the state.

These sheep can give birth to two to three kids. However, there is no scheme to help increase their population. The need for a livestockbased economy is crucial for Kendrapara which is prone to natural calamities. However, due to lack of government efforts for livestock development farmers are forced to migrate to other states in search of livelihood, Rout said.

He alleged that over 1,000 hectare of pastureland is under encroachment in the district. However, the revenue department is not taking any action in this regard

CDVO Prasanna Kumar Patnaik said the adoption of modern agricultural practices is the reason behind the decline in livestock population in the district.

He however, ruled out the decline in livestock population in villages in comparison to other districts. He said all the schemes of the state government and the Centre are being implemented in the district to help increase livestock population.



Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God.

SRI AUROBINDO



PLAGUES IN THE MAKING

completely new threat seems to be emerging from China to harm human health in the form of a pandemic even as the world is fighting hard to overcome the coronavirus. Reappearing in the form of bubonic plague - or Black Death as it was called earlier- that had killed millions of people in the 14th Century, the virus' origin this time is in the northern part of China in the Mongolia region. An alert has gone out against birds that could carry the virus.

News sources say only a couple of infections have been reported, but truth might be different. China set off the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic similar to Covid-19 in Year 2002, and it killed around 800 people worldwide and then regressed somehow. A repeat of virus threats from China goes to show something is seriously wrong with the way of life and governance in this dictator ruled country. If China continues the way it is going, it can pose a great threat to the rest of the world and humanity as a whole. In this context, a Tweet by US President Donald Trump saying -'China has caused great damage to the United States and the rest of the World!'rings true.

Bubonic plague had surfaced in small ways in recent years as also the previous century, and claimed lives in the African continent. It did not spread on a massive scale. This time, since it has originated in China, the world needs to be doubly alert. The Chinese are probably doing two things. One, they are consuming various kinds of animals, insects and birds that may be passing on peculiar diseases of those species on to human beings. On mutating, these infections are proving deadly to mankind. Second, it is also possible that China is researching into very many types of diseases for its military usage. In a new world conflict situation, conventional military tactics could be replaced by biological warfare.

Shi Zhengli, a Chinese expert in SARS-like coronaviruses of bat origins at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and well known as 'bat-woman', has said that coronavirus is just the tip of the iceberg. She also added that Covid-19 was very similar to a coronavirus sample named RaTG13 obtained in Yunnan in 2013. Also, interestingly, between Covid-19 and this recent spotting of Bubonic plague, the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reports a bad new strain of influenza among the top disease threats that experts are watching for, even as the world attempts to cope with the current coronavirus pandemic. This new virus has been named A/H1N1 pdm09. This is similar to the Swine Flu that spread globally in 2009. Such reasons make China a huge threat to global peace and stability.

Also, people's movement from China to the outside world is on a large scale due to the massive trade and business interests it has spawned over the recent years. What started as China Town in the United States is a common sight across continents now, in the form of Dragon Mart etc, employing hundreds of thousands of Chinese who frequent into and out of China at regular intervals. This is also the reason why Covid-19 spread fast into several continents and turned life upside down everywhere. Chinese ingenuity is such that they explored business opportunities linked to Covid-19 too in the form of massive supply of equipment to face the epidemic, and make big money.

World Health Organisation (WHO) that is tasked with monitoring healthrelated scenarios worldwide failed to fathom the grave implications of Covid-19 spread at the very start, sometime around December 2019. By then, with no restrictions in place on international travel as should have been the case, the virus went places and set itself on a destruction course. While US president Donald Trump might have erred in more ways than one in the initial stages of the virus spread in the US, part of the blame for this was also the casual manner in which WHO approached the matter.

In a steadily worsening scenario, India has reached the third position in the world in terms of the number of infections so far – rising at a rate of 25,000 infections a day, as latest records showed. Brazil and the US remain the two other worst-hit nations, while Russia is also fighting the virus in a massive manner. The world as a whole will take a decade's time to get back to where

Curiously, with China unleashing plague after plague, its leadership is showing no remorse and is rather busy fishing for trouble almost everywhere. As latest reports show, it is raising the heat in Bhutan again in an attempt to usurp territory, which is bound to open another front for India to tackle in view of the treaty that Bhutan and India have signed in relation to regional security. The US has sent a strong message to China by demonstrating its might in the South China Sea at this juncture. Word was spread in India on Monday that China is pulling its troops out of Galwan Valley. However, such reports have no way to be verified and satellite images being put up cannot easily be understood by untrained people.

WISDOM CORNER

it lost the way forward at the start of this year.



There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter **CHARLES DICKENS**

It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets.

Every neighbouring state is an enemy and the enemy's enemy is a

ARTHASASTRA

WORDS**WORTH**

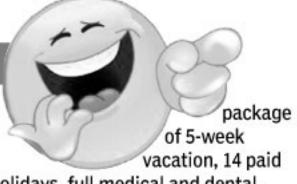
STROP

trop with the meaning of throwing a hissy fit or losing one's temper is It is a definitely a British creation and it's reasonable that the American A Word A Day hasn't heard of it. This sense is unconnected with the strop you mention, which is probably from Latin stroppus, a thong (it also has the sense of a strap, unsurprising since strap is in origin a late sixteenth century dialect form of strop). Here's a recent example of the British word, about a former British television chat show host, the late Russell Harty: "[He] will no doubt be best remembered for his interview with Grace Jones who threw a diva-ish strop that resulted in the singer slapping Harty across the face for not paying her enough attention." Strop is fairly recent as words go, only appearing in print in the 1970s. We're sure that it originated as a back formation from the adjective stroppy. In Britain a stroppy person is badtempered and argumentative. In South Africa, Australia and New Zealand it has overtones of somebody who is rebellious and hard to control. The most probable origin suggested by the experts is that it's a much-messed-about version of obstreperous. That's not as unlikely as it sounds. The English Dialect Dictionary records several versions of the word at the end of the 19th Century, including obstropolous and obstropilous.

LOL

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

neaching the end of a job interview, The Human Resources Officer asked a young Engineer fresh out of MIT, "And what starting salary were you looking for?" The Engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer enquires, "Well, what would you say to a



holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50 per cent of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years say, a red Corvette?" The Engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" And the interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

FOCUS CHINA

TRADE AFTER GALWAN



Ajit Ranade

WE HAD STARTED REDUCING THE TRADE DEFICIT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, WHICH WAS A HOPEFUL SIGN. **ALL THAT WILL HAVE TO BE RESET IN THE LIGHT OF THE** LADAKH **HOSTILITIES**

₹orty years ago, India and China had roughly the same economic size, measured as GDP in dollars. Today, China is five times bigger. This growth has been mainly due to China's single-minded focus on exporting its products to the West. China opened the doors to foreign direct investment, created largesized special economic zones for such investment, fast tracked approvals, built necessary infrastructure to ensure port and airport connectivity, and even large-scale dormitory style accommodation for millions of its workers. As a result, foreign companies rushed in, created largescale employment for Chinese workers, and made China a lowlabour-cost source for exporting their products to the whole world.

This, though, is a simplified version of a complex story. It wasn't only foreigners who were investing, but state-owned Chinese enterprises too. The GDP was growing at 10 per cent per year, but wages were held nearly constant. So, most of the gains of the economic growth were going to capital, not labour. This meant the state. Since the economy had a high savings rate, thanks to a repressed financial sector, the entire amounts saved were re-invested. Thus, China had an investment to GDP ratio at a peak of more than 50 per cent. Even today, it is around 44 per cent.

As a result of this high and sustained growth, the per capita income of a Chinese citizen is five times that of an Indian. The official poverty rate defined as spending less than two dollars a day is only 0.5 per cent, whereas in India it is 20 per cent. The massive shift of labour from agriculture to industry moved nearly 200 million workers from one to the other in one generation.

This is the kind of growth story that India would like to emulate. But our political systems are totally different. Even then, India implicitly put its faith in investmentdriven growth, setting up of special economic zones, building infrastructure albeit as public pri-



It's not clear what the Chinese stand to gain by their resort to the policy of expansionism. They will certainly stand to lose access to a market which is ranked fifth or sixth for them. In a world facing a slowing international trade, why would they hurt their own exporters?

vate partnership and so on. These policy efforts have yielded less bountiful results here than for our northern neighbour. But the unspoken desire to emulate Chinese economic growth remains in the minds of policy makers and Indian businessmen.

This was reflected in the growing trade, commercial and investment ties between the two countries. In 2001, India was ranked number 19 as an export destination for Chinese exports. But 15 years later, India's ranking rose to six, inching closer to even five. It showed that the Chinese producer was giving importance to India. Even the Indian entrepreneur was sourcing more and more from China, mainly for the huge cost advantage as compared to Europe or America. In 1999, only 5.8 per cent of India's imports came from China, but that climbed to 41 per cent by 2015. So, not just electronics, chemicals, telecom or power equipment but also everything else from agarbattis, Ganesha idols and readymade garments were being imported.

Most tellingly, India began importing active pharmaceutical intermediates (APIs) from China. The APIs are crucial imports required for India's dynamic and world-leading pharmaceutical industry which exports generic drugs (i.e. those whose patents have expired). These low-cost generics help keep healthcare costs low for India as well as for our trading partners.

India's import dependence on China continues. Across sectors, India's China dependence for its imports is as follows: in electronics 45 per cent, in capital goods including boilers and turbines 32 per cent, in organic chemicals 38 per cent, in furniture 57 per cent, in fertilizers 28 per cent, in automotive parts 25 per cent and in APIs 68 per cent. This import dependency will be difficult to shrug off in the short term.

India-China trade is more than 100 billion dollars but asymmetrically in favour of China. Similarly, despite a bitter trade war, Sino-US trade is still about 650 billion dollars, though the Americans seem to have been able to tilt it somewhat in their favour. It is not possible for India to do the same with China. This is because while India's dependence is about 35 per cent, China's reciprocal dependence is not even 2 per cent. So, we cannot withhold certain key export items just like what America can.

The only option for India is to wean its dependence away from China. This will unfortunately increase the cost for the consumer

in India. Even if China is selling below cost (which is called "dumping" according to WTO rules, and is a crime), the end-user in India enjoys lower priced goods. It is also important to note here the statement by Tim Cook, the Chief Executive of Apple, the world's most valuable company. Apple's value of production in its Chinese factories is about 220 billion dollars of which about 185 billion dollars is exported. But Cook said that he is in China not because of lower cost, but because he cannot source that talent anywhere else.

It may be true that China's 40year history of export-led growthwas initially all about low cost labour, an undervalued currency, and perhaps all kinds of subsidies like cheap power, land and capital. The fact now is that China has got an edge in technology and quality as well. In fields like Artificial Intelligence, electric cars and solar energy it has emerged as one of the top global players.

So, for India, this poses a difficult challenge. The border conflict and the death of soldiers in Ladakh have triggered trade sanctions against China. The banning of Chinese apps was swift and has supposedly hurt the parent Chinese company. A Chinese newspaper quoted a damage in the value to the tune of 6 billion dollars. Border conflicts cannot be solved by trade sanctions. It is not clear what the Chinese stand to gain by their resort to the policy of geographical expansionism. They will certainly stand to lose access to a market which is ranked fifth or sixth for them.

In a world facing a recession, and slowing international trade, why would China hurt its own exporters? Even then, the Indian strategy of moving away from Chinese dependence is not going to be easy. Ironically, we had started reducing the trade deficit in the past three years, which was a hopeful sign. All that will have to be reset, in the light of the Ladakh hostilities.

> The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow at Takshashila Institution. THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SCIENCE

Gene therapy, the future medicine



Bhubanananda Sahu

GENE THERAPY IS THE DNA-BASED MEDICINE WHICH, WHEN INJECTED INTO THE BODY. **REPLACES THE FAULTY GENE WITH HEALTHY ONE IN** THE AFFECTED **TISSUE AND IT CURES THE** DISEASE PERMANENTLY

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

and suggestions, preferably by email,

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had taken a landmark step in the history of human discovery to approve a gene therapy drug called Luxturna for the first time, to be directly administered in patients to cure a genetic disease for lifetime. This drug was to cure the childhood blind disease called Leber's congenital amaurosis (LCA) caused by mutation in gene retinal pigmented epithelium 65. The news was released in December 2017, and it encouraged research to develop more drugs for different genetic incurable diseases. This resembled a science fiction as seen in the 2014 movie 'Transcendence'.

Since then, there is rapid development of gene therapy products with more efficacy and long sustainable cure with no toxicity, by way of modifying the carrier. The carrier is a virus and the FDA-approved gene therapy product Luxturna, that was developed in recombinant adeno-associated virus 2 serotype. This was approved only after a year of assessment of the III clinical trial. Long-term sustainability cure is noticed in newly modified AAV carrier.

This writer and his colleague published a paper in Human Gene

Therapy, in May, 2019, wherein we showed that, using a different virus isotype and modified genome, longterm sustainable vision restoration is possible in preclinical trials in mice. Gene therapy is DNA-based medicine which, when injected into the body, replaces the faulty gene with healthy one in the affected tissue and it cures the disease permanently. This can be achieved via ex vivo and/or in vivo strategy using virus. There are many types of virus used for inserting genetic material into the body.

Viral gene transfer was discovered for first time by Joshua Lederberg who got Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1958. Joshua demonstrated that the virus called bacteriophage can transfer the genetic material to bacteria. After many researches, a special kind of virus was found which is associated with other viruses for propagation. This special virus is called adeno-associated virus (AAV) as it is associated with adenovirus (AdV) for its replication. The AdV is found in the adenoid (nasopharyngeal tonsil) of humans.

The AAV was accidentally discovered as a contaminant in the culture of human AdV by two groups in 1960 in a lab at Baltimore. The

AAV is a non-enveloped, single strand DNA genome either positive or negative-sensed whose genetic material is about 4680 base pairs. The wild-type AAV is nonpathogenic as it needs a helper virus such as AdV for its replication. It took quite a long time to use AAV for gene therapy. The first gene transfer to human by AAV was approved in 1989 and first therapeutic study done in 1990 to adenosine deaminase deficiency patients with severe combined immunodeficiency. The result was not great.

LCA is severe retinal dystrophy that affects the patient from childhood. It was a long quest for developing a gene therapy cure for a genetically inherited disease in the USA. It took 20 years after identification of gene for approval of gene therapy drug for LCA. The gene for LCA was first discovered in 1997. Several groups also made attempts to perform gene therapy in mice deficient with RPE65 and obtained success. After preclinical success in dog and mice, first attempt was made by two groups in 2008. The University of London reported treatment of 3 subjects by AAV 2/2 vector containing the human RPE65 cDNA driven by human RPE65 promoter. There was no significant visual improvement in the first group and slower visual function improvement in second group. However, a study provided the basis for further gene therapy. In 2012, UPENN/UFL published the gene therapy result wherein visual sensitivities of retina improved significantly in treated region with a sustained result for 3 years.

A peer-reviewed research published in The Lancet a while later changed the look of the whole gene therapy community where trial found greater efficacy and safety and clinically meaningful and statistically significant improvements in patients and their ability to navigate independently in low-to-moderate light conditions. After this, FDA approved first gene therapy drug for treatment for a genetic disease. We are now in a great time with new technology to cure diseases. Recently, this technology is also used to develop vaccine for Covid-19.Boston's Massachusetts Eye and Ear and Massachusetts General Hospital are now moving ahead to develop vaccine for coronavirus using AAV technology and planning for clinical trial later this year.

The writer is Research Specialist with UMASS Medical School, WORCESTER, MA, USA.

Balaram Yojana

are most welcome to contribute letters postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion

Sir, The Balaram scheme for the landless farmers in Odisha is a good step in the right direction. The state government in collaboration with Nabard will implement the scheme this year with a view to ensuring credit flows to landless farmers. Credit would be available to sharecroppers in the form of loans. The rate of interest and the interest subvention would be as per the existing norms of the state government. The scheme is the first of its kind in the country and this is proof of the importance that the government accords to its farmers. Through the scheme, the real fieldlevel agricultural activities will have credit inflow of around Rs 1,040 crore. Each bank would finance at least 10 (joint livelihood groups) JLGs a year. There are about 7,000 branches of the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society in rural and semi-urban areas. Each JLG would comprise five members. The scheme, it is said, will benefit 7 lakh landless cultivators in two years. Beyond partylines, every-

body should get the facility. *Hitesh Kumar Parida*, PANIKOILI, JAJPUR

Lawlessness in UP

Sir, A batch of eight police personnel has been killed brutally by don Vikash Dubey and his associates in Uttar Pradesh. Such is his heinous crime that if he and his men are awarded capital punishment, that will be too little. Uttar Pradesh is a state known for its absolute lawlessness. Things are going too far, and with political patronage, of course. Dacoits become elected people's representatives in UP by way of booth seizures. The state must be further split into many, and order restored.

> Naresh Mandal, BHADRAK

TV debates, anchors

Sir, Impartiality and neutrality are the hallmarks of ideal journalism. Professional ethics and integrity are the benchmark of perfection of the electronic media. But, sadly, TV debates see anchors enforce their views on panelists. The job of the anchor is just to moderate discussions. But, in many cases the anchor wants to be a hero or heroine. This is shameful. Some prestigious Hindi TV channels are doing this in the worst format. An anchor is supposed to be unbiased, ethical, non-partisan, unequivocal and straight forward. The dissenting voice is hardly accepted in TV debates. Let the quality of debate be maintained. And, let no interference encouraged. TV debates should enhance neutrality and freedom of expression.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

A paradigm shift in poll issues

RAJASTHAN'S LOCAL ELECTION: Health, education and jobs to replace 'bijli, sadak, paani' slogans

AGENCIES

Jaipur, July 6: Will Covid-19 divert the attention of politicians towards crumbling sectors of health, education and jobs from their once favourite issues of 'bijli, paani, sadak'? These three— electricity, water and road-have been raised by them during elections held in India since years.

Yes, say leading politicians from Congress and BJP in Rajasthan confirming that the trends have emerged showing a paradigm shift in their approach.

Even the government officials confirm that they can see the subtle change in politicians' working these days, no matter if he represents a ruling party or an opposition party of the state.

"The summers have gone off smoothly during Covid-19 era without any protest being staged on roads against water and power supply which surprises us. Also, none of the parties or leaders has come forward to stage any protest against poor roads which once used to be a regular ritual in the state," said a senior official working for the Rajasthan government since the last 25 years.

Speaking to IANS, he said, "We are wondering how the summers have passed off smoothly without witnessing any serious protests against water and power which had become symbolic for the water crisis in Rajasthan. Now it's clear that all these protests were politically motivated and showed a grim picture. This time, when most of the employees were packed within their houses during lockdown and were operating from home, we ensured that water supply remained smooth in each and every corner of the state like every year."

"However, this season sounded different because there is no unwanted stress on our team from politicians who wanted to garner political mileage by staging protests on roads leaving other urgent issues aside. We are glad that the health issue

stands at priority which till date was the most ignored one," he added.

Even BJP state spokesperson Laxmikant Bharadwaj opined that issues have changed for the party in corona times. He said, "In coming times, the elections, it seems, shall be contested raising fresh issues of health, education and employment. The crumbling health sector is being discussed

with each and every person in present circumstances since last few months.



become prior is-

sues for political

parties.

'Bijli paani de na sake, woh

sarkar nikammi hai.' Now, the slo-

gan shall be 'Rozgar, chikitsa, naukri

de na sake woh sarkar nikammi

Also it will change the trends

for politicians. Those who were

busy poking their noses in other mat-

ters will now first think of their own

Congress PCC vice-president

this time...

Archana Sharma said that priori-

well-being, he added further.

hai.'

Earlier, the slogan was

COVID-19 Crisis RAJASTHAN

Further, the education sector is also being exposed as institutes are insisting parents to pay

heavy fees even at a time when classes are suspended showing it in poor light. Thirdly, employment also has emerged as a core issue with the majority of people feeling insecure looking at unemployment figures soaring high and people losing

Congress state spokesperson

comes education and looking at

Even in 21st century

The number of people who

died while cleaning sewers

and septic tanks in the country

increased by almost 62 per

2019, according to a reply

cent from 68 in 2018 to 110 in

given by the Social Justice and

Empowerment (SJE) Ministry

is an increase of over 61 per

cent from 2018, and the

since 2015.

to the Lok Sabha this year. This

highest number of such deaths

state to provide insurance cover of

₹50 lakh to government and non-gov-

ernment personnel engaged in the

gestions from the civic body may-

ors, chairpersons, councilors and

others. He also released two posters

to create awareness among the peo-

Urban Development and Housing

Minister Shanti Dhariwal said the

state government was going to in-

troduce the Indira Rasoi Yojana

in all the civic bodies to realise the

Chief Minister's resolve that nobody

food will be made available to the

poor at a subsidised rate of ₹8 per

plate in the permanent canteens.

said the state had acquired the ca-

pacity to do 40,000 coronavirus

Health Minister Raghu Sharma

Under this, two-time nutritious

At the meeting, Gehlot took sug-

fight against the pathogen.

ple against the virus.

should sleep hungry.

tests per day.

Priorities and issues for everyone

have changed in this Covid-19 era.

ARCHANA SHARMA VICE-PRESIDENT, CONGRESS PCC

We all would like our students to

study smart in these tough times so next

unemployment data, jobs will also be on our

local bodies are about to expire ties and issues for everyone have changed in this Covid-19 era. "The crumbling health infrastructure Chowdhary of the entire world is right in front also opined of us. So definitely, it shall be the that health, biggest issue for everyone. We all and jobs will

parishad and panchayat samiti polls as terms of 129

be on our priority list," she said. So, coronavirus, it seems, is bringing something positive in these circumstances, said the government

Rajasthan will soon see gram panchayat, zilla parishad and panchayat samiti polls as terms of 129 local bodies will end in August.

The crumbling health sector is being

present circumstances since last few

LAXMIKANT BHARADWAJ | STATE SPOKESPERSON, BJP (RAJ)

being exposed as institutes are

discussed with each and every person in

months. Further, the education sector is also

insisting parents to pay heavy fees even at

would like our students to study smart in these tough times so next comes education and looking at unemployment data, jobs will also

official, adding that it's good to see leaders diverting their attention from age-old and fabricated subjects which were made political issues during every poll.

When will Tamil Nadu heave a sigh of relief?

FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE STATE HAD BEEN RECORDING OVER 4K **CORONA CASES DAILY AND MONDAY, THERE WERE 3,827 NEW CASES**

AGENCIES

Chennai, July 6: As many as 3,827 more persons tested positive for coronavirus in Tamil Nadu over the past 24 hours, taking the state's total tally to 1,14,978, the Health Department said Monday.

The state had been reporting over 4,000 cases daily for the past few days. The state now has 46,833 active cases since 61 more casualties took the state's death toll to 1,571.

On the positive side, 3,793 patients were cured and discharged, increasing the total numbers to 66,571. The number of infected children in the state in the age group 0-12 went up to 5,668.

State capital Chennai continued to head the Covid-19 infection table with 1,747 new cases, and a total tally of 70,017. The active cases in the city stand at 24,052 and discharged patients in Chennai at 2.573.

Follow SMS, 3Cs in unlock phase As Chennai opened up to the unlock phase Monday after a 17day intense shutdown, civic authorities asked people to strictly adhere to SMS-Soap (hand hygiene), Mask and Social distancing and avoid 3Cs - Closed or confined spaces, Crowded spaces and Close contact.

People who have to travel must necessarily wear masks. They should also avoid the three Cs to effectively reduce the infection rate, a senior official at the Greater Chennai Corporation said.

"The spread of the coronavirus could be contained only when we take precautionary measures," he "People participation in fight-

ing against the pandemic is the key to overcome #Covid. Pls do not misuse the relaxation given by Govt in the interest of your own safety and the society," State health minister Dr C Vijayabaskar tweeted.

As large number of people stepped out of their houses in sev-

IN CHENNAI, SEVERAL TEXTILE OUTLETS AND SMALL SHOPS AT T NAGAR REOPEN AFTER THE INTENSE LOCKDOWN ENDED SUNDAY

THE KASIMEDU FISHING HARBOUR ALSO PULSATED WITH ACTIVITY

▲ S A PROPHYLACTIC MEASURE, ATHE ADMIN CAUTIONS TO FOL-LOW SMS-SOAP (HAND HYGIENE), MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING AND AVOID 3CS - CLOSED OR CONFINED SPACES, CROWDED SPACES AND CLOSE CONTACT

eral parts in the metro Monday in the unlock phase, health officials had to caution the people not to throw caution to the wind.

Several textile outlets and small shops in T Nagar, a shopping haven, and other parts of the city reopened after the intense lockdown ended Sunday. The Kasimedu fishing harbour here pulsated with activity.

A senior health official said many among the 15 zones in Chennai Corporation have shown signs of recovery from Covid-19.

"Sustained surveillance, testing, tracing, isolation and quarantine and increased compliance to masks and social distancing, alone would help us to break the chain of virus,' he said.

Successful plasma therapy on 18 Covid-19 patients

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu has successfully performed plasma therapy on 18 Covid-19 patients at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital here, a senior Health official said Monday.

The convalescent plasma clinical trial had begun here in May as per Indian Council of Medical Research guidelines. The process involves infusing

blood from recovered persons to those affected with coronavirus. Incidentally, the Delhi government had last week launched the country's first plasma bank.

"There have been no complications so far. They are doing well," the official said about the 18 patients. The therapy has been possible due to the donation of plasma from patients who had recovered from Covid-19.

Further trials would require plasma donation from the patients who have fully recovered from the virus, the official said.

Sources said the authorities were in a predicament as there is still some apprehension among those who recovered in donating their plasma. Further, those with co-morbid health conditions cannot donate.

Sewerage cleaning only by machines, directs CM Gehlot



AGENCIES

Jaipur, July 6: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Monday directed the officials to ensure that no sanitation worker had to enter the chamber to clean the sewer lines, adding that the work should be done by machines.

Holding a meeting through video conference with public representatives and urban bodies, Gehlot said there should be no deaths during cleaning of the sewerage lines.

"This work should be done entirely by machines," Gehlot said. He instructed all the district Collectors and civic authorities to ensure that no sanitation worker had to enter the chamber to clean the sewerage lines.

Gehlot underscored that the sanitation workers had played a big role in keeping the city, streets and neighbourhood free from the deadly coronavirus disease (Covid-19) by risking their lives.

He said the dedication with which the sanitation workers and the public representatives of the urban bodies had worked, the government had been able to "prevent" the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

According to the Chief Minister, Rajasthan's pride has "increased" in the country due to the hard work of the doctors, nurses, anganwadi workers, police, sanitation workers and urban bodies in the battle against Covid-19.

He said Rajasthan was the first

WITH A SWAGGER HAIRSTYLE, THIS JUMBO IS BREAKING THE INTERNET **Bob-cut Sengamalam's**

photos have over 10k 'likes' on Twitter and many in the comments section share their experiences of meeting the elephant

AGENCIES

Coimbatore, July 6: An elephant from Tamil Nadu has her own fan base on the Internet, thanks to her unique hairstyle. Sengamalam, the elephant, lives at the Rajagopalaswamy Temple in the town of Mannargudi, but her bobcut hair has earned her fans across the country. Photos of the ele-



phant, which is fondly called 'Bobcut Sengamalam', have captured the Internet's attention once again after they were posted on Twitter a day ago by Indian Forest Service officer Sudha Ramen.

According to Mannai Online, Sengamalam was brought to the Rajagopalaswamy Temple from Kerala in 2003. Her mahout, S Rajagopal, is responsible for her unique fringed hairstyle-which requires a lot of maintenance and care.

"She is famously known as 'Bob-cut Sengamalam' who has a huge fan club just for her hairstyle," wrote Ms Ramen while sharing the pictures that have now gone viral on the microblogging platform.

The photos have collected over 10,000 'likes' and many in the comments section shared their own experiences of meeting the elephant.

"Sengamalam is like my child. I wanted her to have a special look," Sengamalam's mahout, Rajagopal, told a daily in 2018.

IIT-M readies nano-coated filter for corona warriors

Chennai, July 6: A nano-coated filter for healthcare workers treating Covid-19 patients has been developed by re-

searchers at IIT-Madras. The filter's coating properties are optimised for effiremarkable achievement

cient removal of sub-micron sized dust particles in the air, a press release from the institute said Monday. The nano-coating can be posi-

tioned according to the need to enhance surface/depth filtration for healthcare workers or public responders, professor K Arul Prakash of the Department of Applied Mechanics, IIT-Madras, said.

"The novel filter with multiple

nano-coating can filter particles of the order of one micron size, which is a remarkable achievement," he was quoted as saying in the release.

The use of the filter

purification sys-

tem in operation

theatres, cabin air

filters for the

The

in face masks can ennovel filter with hance particle filmultiple tration efficiency. nano-coating can filter The filter can be particles of the order of used in respiraone micron size, which is a tor devices, air

K ARUL PRAKASH | PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED

> comfort and health of air pas-

sengers and air filters for armoured vehicle engines. The work of developing the filter has been funded by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and the nano-coated filter is in the process of being field tested in practical applications.

In desert state, these farmers are minting green

AGENCIES

Udaipur, July 6: At the time when the coronavirus has severely impacted the livelihood of millions of farmers across the country, 100 farmers in Dungarpur, Rajasthan, are celebrating their bumper produce.

These farmers from Surata gram panchayat saw a production of about 1,03,580 kg of vegetables, out of which 70,350 kg have been sold to generate an additional income of around ₹25.38 lakh till now.

Under the aegis of e-PAHAL (Promotion of Agricultural and Horticulture for Advancement of Livelihoods), a social project, 100 farmers were helped and trained for 'WADI' development.

PAHAL encourages the farmers to maximize the use of small land dwellings to produce seasonal vegetables and fruits in three tiers, i.e. below the ground, at shrub level and creepers at height. Doing so allows producing more from less (land) while being more resilient to pests – as monoculture tends to be.



WADI promotes water efficiency for farming as a tool to improve

agriculture and food security for small and marginalised farmers. The objective is to introduce profitable vegetable cultivation to meet the local demand and simultaneously generate additional income for the farmers and secure their liveli-

It also helps in resolving the issue of malnutrition and many other

social and economic issues for these poor tribal families while enhancing the green cover of the area.

Even during the crucial Covid-19 lockdown period of April and May, when the country was trying to deal with scarcity of essentials, the farmers of Dungarpur produced around 24,580 kg of vegetables and have already sold more than 17,050 kg. This generated an additional income of ₹5.88 lakh for them.

Inder a social project, farmers Uare encouraged to maximise the use of small land dwellings to produce seasonal vegetables and fruits in three tiers

The three tiers being: below I the ground, at shrub level and creepers at height

Doing so allows producing more from less (land) while being more resilient to pests - as monoculture tends to be

Surata earlier was dependent on vegetables supply from Modasa, Gujarat, Now around 60 to 70 per cent of vegetables need is met locally due to ePAHAL and the vegetables are farm fresh.

"No one wants to leave the family and search for work in neighbouring states. But we had no choice. I have to feed my children, my family. But once I enrolled for PAHAL project, my life has changed. I am able to earn substantial additional income, which has improved my

go to school regularly and I am able to provide them with good food. My future is secure," says Kanti Lal, an ePAHAL farmer. Pari of village Dol Kunjela is

living conditions. My children now

happy that her husband is staying with family now and also earning good money. "PAHAL by DS Group has kept my family together. My husband used to go to Gujarat for four months in a year to work as a daily wage labourer, now, we all are staying together and we have a secure livelihood, with an additional income too," she says.

So far, 100 farmers have enrolled in ePAHAL and another 200 tribal farmers residing in Surata and nearby gram panchayats are in the process of being enrolled.

The DS Group project team has a well set selection process that includes availability of water for the irrigation, suitable land for the Wadi, past track record of farm practices, interest for diversified (agricultural based interventions and willingness to sell vegetable.

national



Looking at the historical evidences, it will be appropriate to grant GI tag to Basmati produced in the state which will keep the interests of state's farmers intact SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MP CM

ASI MONUMENTS REOPEN

Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb and a host of other centrally-protected monuments in Delhi were reopened for visitors Monday after being shut for over three months due to the COVID-19 crisis, officials said

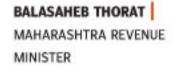


The COVID-19 situation in Thane and adjoining areas in Mumbai Metropolitan Region

is alarming and coordination among government agencies will have to be improved and testing numbers increased to get on top of the crisis

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | BJP LEADER

There is no bickering within the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi





teams at the primary health centres and community health centres to collect samples of suspected coronavirus patients

VISHWAJIT RANE GOA HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

60 policemen quarantined

Bilaspur: Sixty policemen were quarantined in Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh after a rape accused they brought from Karnataka was detected with COVID-19 Monday, an official said. The Civil Lines police station has been sealed and declared a containment zone, while swab samples of all the personnel have been sent for testing, Bilaspur Superintendent of Police Prashant Agrawal said.

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Covid patient ends life

Pune: A 55-year-old coronavirus positive man Monday allegedly committed suicide in an educational institute hostel being used as a COVID care centre in Pune, police said. The man was found hanging from the ceiling at around 11am by his son and two others who shared the room and had stepped out to have breakfast within the facility, a Kondhwa police station official said.

2 DRG men hurt

Dantewada: Two District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel sustained minor injuries Monday when an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxals went off in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, police said. The incident took place at around 10:30am in a forest under Katekalyan police station limits when a DRG team was returning to base after destroying a Maoist transit camp, said an official.

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Man killed

Thane: A 26-year-old man was killed after his car rammed into a road divider and then hit a tree in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said. The accident took place around midnight in Teen Hath Naka area of the city when the man was travelling with some family members in the car. He apparently lost control over the wheels, following which the car rammed into the road divider and then hit a tree on the roadside, an official from Naupada police station said.

Two drown

Bhadohi (UP): Two men drowned while taking a holy dip in river Ganga here Monday, police said. The incident took place in Gopiganj area when Priyanshu Tiwari (19) and Sachin Tiwari (21) slipped into deep water while bathing at Semradnath Ghat. The locals managed to pull the two men out of the river but both had

Migrants to give make-over to UP schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 6: The Uttar Pradesh education department has decided to employ migrant workers in all 75 districts to give a makeover to government - run primary and upper primary schools in the state.

Under the project, called 'Mission Kayakalp', the migrant workers will be engaged in construction of boundary walls, gates, fencing of kitchen gardens and developing playgrounds in primary and upper primary schools.

Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Prayagraj, Sanjay Kumar Kushwaha, where work under the project has begun, said, "The project is being funded by gram panchayats under Mahatma Gandhi

'MISSION KAYAKALP'



National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS). The department has set September 30 as a deadline to complete these projects."

In Prayagraj district, the plan is being implemented in around 85 per cent of the

3,479 of primary and upper primary government schools. State project directorate of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan was provided with details of the work being undertaken in 846 out of the 1,050 schools.

Last month, three migrant workers from Hyderabad, quarantined in a primary school at Narainpur village in Unnao district, spent their time in painting and ended up giving a complete makeover to the school premises.

Their initiative even found a mention in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at the launch of the 'Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana'. The three workers, Vinod, Arun and Kamlesh, (belonging to nearby villages) worked as painters in Hyderabad and had returned to their home state

on April 22 amidst the lockdown.

"We were bored with the routine of just eating and sleeping. We asked the village head if we could do some work in the quarantine centre itself. However, he denied permission because making us work would have been a violation of quarantine protocols," the workers said.

After considerable persuasion, the village head Raju Yadav gave them some paint and other raw material and allowed them to paint the school where they had been quarantined. It may be recalled that in April this year, the state government had directed officials to ensure that migrant workers returning from other cities during the lockdown are offered jobs in their native villages.

Covid positivity rate stands at 6.73%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 6: As India on Monday inches towards 7 lakh cases, the Centre Monday said the national positivity rate of COVID-19 infected patients is 6.73 per cent, while Punjab with only 1.92 per cent positivity rate is lowest among eight states and Union Territories (UTs) showing improvement.

The positivity rate is based on the tests per million people. A total of 6,859 people were found positive in tests of one million people across the country, reveals a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) data.

The government called it a joint effort of the central as well as the state and UT governments to effectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. As part of the coordinated efforts, the ministry said the union government emphasised on increasing testing, prompt contact tracing and timely clinical management of the cases. It has also helped the states to sig-

nificantly ramp up testing capacities, it said. "This has resulted in reduced positivity in the country. Currently the national positivity rate stands at 6.73 per cent." The information was shared

when a record over 24,248 new cases and 425 deaths were reported in the country in the last 24 hours, pushing the total tally to 6,97,413 with 19,693 deaths as it surpasses Russia to become the country with third-highest coronavirus cases.

As per the data collated till July 5, Pondicherry, Chandigarh, Assam,



Tripura, Karnataka, Rajasthan. Goa and Punjab with their positivity rates are lesser than the national average and tests per 10 lakh population is higher than the national average.

Among these eight states and UTs, Pondicherry is on top with 5.55 per cent positivity rate followed by Chandigargh (4.36 per cent), Assam (2.84 per cent), Tripura (2.27 per cent), Karnataka (2.64 per cent), Rajasthan (2.51 per cent), Goa (2.5 per cent) and Punjab (1.92 per cent).

In Delhi, the government said, efforts being made by the UT were significantly bolstered by the central government to ensure an increase in testing. Tests were ramped up through increased RT-PCR testing along with the new Rapid Antigen Point-of-Care (POC) tests which gives results in only about 30 minutes.

As a result of concerted and focused efforts by the Centre to augment efforts, the data said the average number of samples being tested per day has increased an average of 18,766 samples per day between July 1 and 5.

Congress launches counter-attack

New Delhi, July 6: The Congress Monday accused the BJP of resorting to "cheap distractions and stunts" to "manage headlines" during the India-China border crisis, after the ruling party attacked Rahul Gandhi for not attending meetings of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

The opposition party also said that had the BJP government spent its energy in fighting China and supporting the armed forces, it would not have to "lie" and "mislead" the country on Chinese transgressions at the border.



The Congress' counter came after BJP chief J P Nadda took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi who has been firing salvos at the Modi government daily over the border stand-off. Nadda had said that Gandhi does

not attend a single meeting of Standing Committee on Defence but continues to demoralise the nation and question the valour of armed forces.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala hit back at Nadda, saying his "insidious comments" are making him look like a "poorer version of malicious BJP spokespersons"."Had the BJP and the Modi Government spent its energy in fighting China and supporting our Armed Forces, you wouldn't need to lie on Chinese transgressions to mislead the nation," he said on Twitter.

Congress spokesperson Pawan

Khera said the government has not called any meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence for the last over three months at a time when there has

been tension at the border in Ladakh. He claimed that the BJP is "rattled" because its "flimsy" and "individual-centric" foreign policy has failed and is resorting to "cheap diversionary tactics". "Why resort to such cheap distractions. China is making incursions into Indian territory at 6-7 points in Ladakh and the prime minister is giving a clean chit to China, saying 'there has been no incursion and no one has occupied our land or post," he said.

Universities can hold

final term exams: MHA

New Delhi, July 6: The Ministry

ademic institutions to conduct ex-

aminations during the ongoing

In a statement, the MHA said it

has sent a letter to the Union Higher

Education Secretary permitting

universities and institutions to

are to be compulsorily conducted

as per the UGC guidelines on ex-

aminations and academic calendar

for the universities and as per the

Standard Operating Procedure

(SOP) approved by the Union

Ministry of Health and Family

by universities and higher edu-

cation institutions in the country

have been suspended since March

during the coronavirus-induced

lockdown which first began on

Various examinations conducted

Welfare," the statement said.

"The final-term examinations

conduct examinations.

of Home Affairs (MHA) Monday

allowed universities and other ac-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

'Unlock 2' phase.

UNIQUE PROTEST



Congress leaders carry lanterns while participating in a protest against the TRS government over alleged irregularities in electricity bills in Hyderabad, Monday

DALAI LAMA TURNS 85

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharamshala (HP), July 6: The Dalai Lama Monday turned 85, his birthday celebrated through prayers here at the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile which also condoled the deaths of Indian soldiers in the recent clash with Chinese troops.

In his message to the Buddhist community from his home in McLeodganj, the Tibetan spiritual leader asked people to recite the "om mani padme hum" mantra. With this practice, you will create some roots of virtue that you can dedicate to me - Avalakiteshvara's messenger — to live for 110 or 108 years or so, the Dalai Lama said in a message to the community.

This year, the celebrations remained a low-key affair due to restrictions imposed by the government in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. Prayers marked the occasion at the community's main temple in McLeodganj.

The Tibetan spiritual leader too



The Tibetan spiritual leader said it was not possible to hold a large celebration due to the pandemic

said it was not possible to hold a large celebration due to the pandemic. "And it's not necessary either," he said, asking his followers to recite the mantra if they wished to celebrate the occasion.

In a statement, the Tibetan parliament-in-exile said, "We pray with great hope that His Holiness the Dalai Lama may live for a hundred

aeons, that all his wishes may be seen fulfilled with spontaneity, and that the just cause of Tibet may be seen to prevail with indubitable

certainty." It said the Dalai Lama was just 24 when he entered India from Tibet on March 17, 1959, almost a decade after China began the armed invasion of Tibet.

"The Dalai Lama adopted broadmindedness and fortitude when the Chinese government acted with brutality and violence, relying only on the non-violent method that ensured no harm to the other side," the central Tibetan administration, also known as the Tibetan government-in-exile said.

As the situation in Tibet became "even more critical and dangerous", it became "inevitable" for His Holiness the Dalai Lama to leave, it said. The statement said the People's Liberation Army of the communist-ruled China continued to make "attempts to encroach into India from all across its border areas".

Locusts unleash new lifeline

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 6: Every cloud has a silver lining, and this holds true for a particular community these days with locust swarms descending like plague across states. The 'bandwallahs' in several districts of Uttar Pradesh have truly turned adversity into opportunity. Completely out of work since the lockdown began in March with most weddings and ceremonies cancelled they now are in hot demand to shoo the swarms away.

The wedding season, too, did not bring any work because the marriages were held on an extremely low key with limited guests and no room for singing and dancing. These out-of-work bandwallahs have found a new job for themselves now. They are contacting farmers and taking up the job to drive away locusts by playing loud music.

Gopi, a member of the Golden

Adversity as opportunity

Brass Band in Kanpur, said: "The farmers are booking us to drive away locusts. We are getting paid anything between Rs 7,000 to 12,000 per night. We stay in the village where we get the booking and as soon as locusts are seen in the vicinity, we start playing loud music and the swarm goes away."

He said that farmers find hiring a band party more economical than beating utensils to create a din. A farmer in Unnao district, Gajendra Singh, said that beating a utensil does not create music that is loud enough to scare away locusts.

TMC opposes move for voters above 65 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

March 25.

Kolkata, July 6: The Trinamool Congress Monday urged the Election Commission to revoke the decision to allow people aged above 65 to vote via postal ballot, saying it was "arbitrary and un-

constitutional". In a letter to the poll body, the Mamata Banerjee-led party also said the decision, which was taken last month in view of the coronavirus outbreak, poses a "threat" to the Indian democracy.

"We consider this move of wanting those above 65 years of age to vote through postal ballots as arbitrary, malafide, unconstitutional, and ex-facie a violation of Right to Secrecy of Vote, Right to Free and Fair Elections, and Right to Health of the Citizens of India," TMC general secretary Subrata Bakshi said in the letter.

HOMELESS AGAIN IN TWILIGHT YEARS?

FUNDING DRIES UP FOR OLD AGE HOMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Living out their twilight years in old age homes, thousands of elderly persons across the country could lose the roof over their heads with funds for their donation-dependent refuges drying up in the last few months.

As businesses collapse and incomes shrink in the extended lockdown and post lockdown phase, many old age homes have been forced to trim their budgets for essentials such as rations and medicines and some fear they could be looking at closure if the financial crisis continues.

"Old age homes, especially the smaller and mid-sized ones, have traditionally depended on donations from local philanthropic individuals and business communities. With the lockdown and economic recession, the same has totally dried up," HelpAge India CEO Mathew Cherian said.

Many institutions might be forced to shut shop due to the "drastic fall in their overall incomes", he added. According to HelpAge India, a nonprofit organisation working for the disadvantaged elderly, there are nearly 1,500 old age homes in the country, housing nearly 70,000 people.

Other than the luxurious en-



things running smoothly. The stakes claves for the affluent, most sen ior care homes depend on donaare high for the residents, some of tions, in varying degrees, to keep them taking on jobs such as clean-

beds without assistance as their homes are forced to dispense with daily help. Compelled by circumstance, they

ing, washing, cooking and making

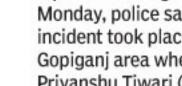
came in for various reasons - dysfunctional families, financial constraints or the need for companionship in the last years of their lives. The fear that the life they have finally settled into might be taken

ical and emotional security. Shashi Malhotra, 73, is one of those who said he doesn't know where he will go if his home closes down. The former inspector with the sales tax department separated from his wife

away imperils their sense of phys-

in 2008 and hasn't seen his sons in 12 years. With the impending challenges of old age and no family to turn to, he registered himself in an old age home run by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). It has been a decade since he

moved to the home in south Delhi's Govindpuri locality. "This is better than home. I feel happy and secure," he said. That this could be taken away from him is a thought almost too much to bear, Malhotra said. The DMRC home, which houses Malhotra and 20 others over the age of 55 free of cost, has undergone a budgetary cut of almost 30 per cent.



died by then, police said.

national



These policies will be studied by the **Harvard Business School. Future HBS case studies** on failure: 1. Covid19. 2. Demonetisation.

3. GST implementation

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

NITISH'S FIRST VIRTUAL RALLY

Chaubeypur station officer Vinay

Tiwari in the raid, meant to arrest

Vikas Dubey following a complaint

by local businessman Rahul Tiwari

that he was thrashed the alleged

Sunday, police arrested Vikas

Dubey's alleged accomplice

Dayashankar Agnihotri, who said

that the gangster had summoned

his men after learning from some-

one at the police station that po-

licemen were on their way to ar-

rest him. Hours after the failed

raid on Thursday-Friday night, po-

lice had killed two alleged ac-

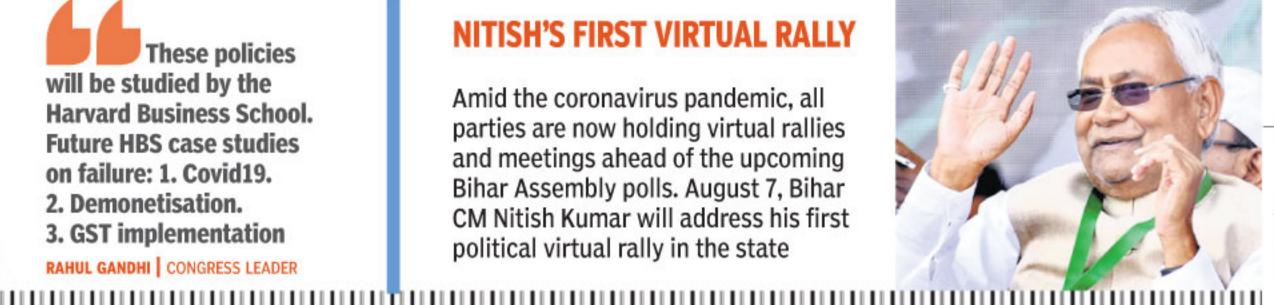
complices of the gangster in an

encounter. Vikas Dubey, however,

remained on the run.

gangster.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, all parties are now holding virtual rallies and meetings ahead of the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls. August 7, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar will address his first political virtual rally in the state



On behalf of the people of India, I extend warm wishes and felicitations to H.E. @Azali officiel, Govt. (President Azali Assoumani) and the people of Comoros on the occasion of Comoros' 45th Independence Day

M VENKAIAH NAIDU VICE PRESIDENT

There has been a spike in demand for plasma over the past 4-5 days, after the opening of a plasma bank in



ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Several industries sacking workers at a time when the government is



UDDHAV THACKERAY MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Man dies in UP

Lucknow: A 45-year-old man died after he fell from the second floor while coming out of a lift in Sarojini Nagar locality here on Sunday night. "The deceased Gokul and his supervisor Akash went to the third floor of the factory for some work. They got into the lift on their way back. When they reached the second floor, the lift stopped due to a technical snag. Gokul opened the channel gate of the lift to come out. However, he lost control and fell down on the ground from a height of around 30 feet. He suffered serious injuries and died on the spot," said Anand Shahi, the SHO of Sarojini Nagar.

Body recovered

Muzaffarnagar: The body of a local financier, declared absconding since he was accused last week of killing his business associate, was found in a drain near his home, police here said Monday. Anuj Choudhary's body was recovered on Sunday evening in Shantinagar locality here, they said. June 30, Amit Kumar's body was found in Choudhary's residence. In a complaint, Kumar's family had alleged that he was killed by Choudhary over a financial dispute. A case was registered against Choudhary who had gone absconding, SHO Yogesh Sharma had then said.

Criminal nabbed

New Delhi: A criminal involved in 26 cases of dacoity, robbery and attempt to murder was shot in the leg during an encounter with the Delhi Police and arrested. Sunny Dabas a known bad character of Prem Nagar police station has absconding for some time. The encounter took place at Barwala road in Narela Industrial Area in Outer North Delhi on Sunday night.

used Singh for sensitive info'

The NIA alleged that Davinder Singh was "in touch with certain officials of Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi through secure social media platforms. Investigation revealed that he was being groomed by Pakistani officials for obtaining sensitive information"

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, July 6: The NIA Monday filed a chargesheet against six people, including suspended Jammu and Kashmir police officer Davinder Singh and a top Hizbul Mujahideen leader, for allegedly waging "war against India" with the help of Pakistan-based terrorists and members of the country's high commission in Delhi, officials said.

The 3,064-page chargesheet, filed in a Jammu court under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various sections of the Indian Penal Code, names selfstyled commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen terror group Syed Naveed Mushtaq alias Naveed Babu and his alleged network of aides.

If all the charges are proved in the court, the accused can be punished with death or a life sentence. The others named are Naveed Babu's brother Syed Irfan Ahmad as well as the group's alleged overground worker Irfan Shafi Mir, alleged accomplice Rafi Ahmad Rather and businessman Tanveer Ahmad Wani, former president of the Line of Control Traders Association.

According to the National Investigation Agency, the accused were part of a deep-rooted conspiracy hatched by the Pakistanbased Hizbul Mujahideen and Pakistani state agencies "to commit violent acts and to wage war against the Union of India".

Detailing the conspiracy, the NIA alleged that Deputy Superintendent of Police Singh, who is in a jail here, was "in touch with certain officials of Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi through secure social media platforms. Investigation revealed that he was being groomed by Pakistani



officials for obtaining sensitive information". It said in the chargesheet that the probe in the case has brought "on record that the Pakistani establishment has been devising all possible ways and means to fund, arm and sustain the terrorist activities of the banned terrorist organization Hizbul Mujahideen".

The "so-called leadership" of the banned terror group, including its chief Syed Salahuddin, his deputy Amir Khan, operational head Khursheed Mehmood and financial head Nazar Mehmood besides officials of the Pakistani establishment were extending support to Hizbul Mujahideen cadres based in Jammu and Kashmir, the chargesheet stated. It comprises 3,017 oral and doc-

umentary evidences, the officials said. Singh was arrested on January 11 this year along with Naveed Babu, Rather and Mir, an advocate, when their car was intercepted by Jammu and Kashmir police near Qazigund on the national highway connecting the Valley with the rest of the country.

A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of an AK-47 rifle, three pistols and a cache of ammunition and explosives.

'Pak officials 3 more cops face the music

Police Monday also increased the reward for Dubey's arrest to ₹2.5 lakh, up from the ₹1 lakh offered earlier. UP Director General of Police H C Awasthy said police are conducting raids to track down the gangster

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur/Lucknow, July 6: Uttar Pradesh police have suspended three more of their men, suspecting that they tipped off Vikas Dubey whose gang members killed eight policemen in an ambush at a village near Kanpur last week.

Police Monday also increased

the reward for Dubey arrest to ₹2.5 lakh, up from the ₹1 lakh offered earlier. UP **KANPUR** Director General of Police H C Awasthy said ENCOUNTER police are conducting raids to track down the gangster, based on information they get.

Police had earlier suspended Vinay Tiwari, station officer at Chaubeypur station and were examining the possibility that he informed Dubey that a police team was heading to his Bikru village to arrest him.

The gangster, who has faced about 60 criminal cases over the years, then allegedly set up an ambush for the policemen, killing eight of them in the early hours of Friday Kanpur's Senior Superintendent of Police Dinesh Kumar P said more Chaubeypur policemen have now been suspended.

"Three police personnel

have been suspended for their suspected role in leakage of information," he said. They are subinspectors Kunwarpal and Krishna Kumar Sharma and constable Rajiv. "A preliminary enquiry has been initiated against the three suspended policemen," he said. Superintendent of Police (Rural Area) has been asked to probe the matter. He said an FIR would be lodged against the suspended policemen if the inquiry showed their involvement in the attack at Bikru village.

A police officer said all three policemen had accompanied the then

BJP MLA attends party; probe on INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, July 6: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Monday said that he would enquire into two 'parties', one organised by a BJP MLA on Sunday (July 5), amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic during which Goa has witnessed a spike in cases. Sawant's assurance of an enquiry, came a day after a video of a North Goa BJP MLA attending a party with 20odd workers, in a sea-fronted house at the beach village of Calangute went viral.

In the video, most of the guests at the party were seen not wearing masks or maintaining social distancing. The party, which was held on Sunday, comes at a time when the state has witnessed a Covid-19 spike, even as Sawant on Sunday, had also urged people not to unnecessarily venture out of homes and even attend family functions, in order to stem the rising count of Covid-19 cases.

When asked if his office would order a probe into the event organised by a ruling MLA, Sawant said: "We will enquire into it".

Ports Minister Michael Lobo also said, that the North Goa district administration had not given any permission to hold such private parties. "If anyone, including BJP members have attended any party, action will be taken under Section 188 (disobeying public servant)," Lobo said. Section 144 continues to be imposed across Goa in view of the pandemic.

SEEKING BLESSINGS



Priests worship Lord Shiva on the first Monday of the holy month of Shravan, at Nakuleswar Bhairab Mandir in Kolkata, Monday PTI PHOTO

Congress leader _ tests Covid +ve

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mangaluru (Karnataka), July Veteran Karnataka Congressman B. Janardhana Poojary tested positive for coronavirus and is under treatment at a private hospital in Karnataka's port city, an official said Monday.

"Poorjary, 83, is under treatment here after he tested positive for Covid on Sunday," party leader Ravi Gowda said. Mangaluru is about 360km west of Bangalore in the southern state. "Poojary is bet-ter and responding to treatment in the hospital. Specialist doctors are attending to him in view of his advanced age," Gowda said.

Gulf returnee jumps quarantine, shifted to hosp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathanmthitta (Kerala), July 6: A Gulf returnee was chased and overpowered by health officials in protective gear and police in a busy market area here on Monday after he allegedly turned violent on being questioned about loitering without wearing a mask, as a video of it went viral.

The health workers wearing the full personnel protection equipment gear tied the hands and legs of the man, allegedly drunk, using bandage cloth, put him on a stretcher and shifted him to a hospital in an ambulance.

The incident occurred at the St Peter's junction in the town this afternoon when the man, supposed to be in home quarantine, came to the market area in a two-wheeler and created a scene after being questioned by police.

The health workers wearing the full personnel protection equipment gear tied the hands and legs of the man, allegedly drunk, using bandage cloth, put him on a stretcher and shifted him to a hospital in an ambulance

Police said a case under section IPC 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease danger to life), under the Kerala Epidemic Act and the Police Act has been registered against the man who had returned from Riyadh on Saturday and advised home quarantine.

Earlier, noticing the man moving around without the mask, police on patrol duty stopped him and learnt he had returned from the Gulf on Saturday along with his wife.

antine and was violent, health officials were immediately informed, Pathnamthitta police said. At least four health workers

Since he refused to go on quar-

wearing the PPE overpowered him after a chase as he tried to escape, running across the busy road. A video of the incident was

widely shared on social media. The area where the incident took place has been disinfected, police said.

As per the COVID-19 protocol, people returning from foreign countries and found to have no symptoms during screening have to remain under home quarantine for 14 days.

COVID PATIENT GOES MISSING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, July 6: A 71-year-old COVID-19 patient has gone missing from the newly-commissioned Global Hub Corona Hospital in Thane city, police said Monday.

A Kapurbawdi police station official said a missing person complaint has been filed and teams were out to trace the elderly patient. "The man was first admitted to Kalwa hospital and then shifted to Global Hub Corona Hospital late night on June 29. His family was quarantined at the time. When they came out of isolation and started looking for the man, they could trace him and filed a complaint late Sunday night," the official said.

The Global Hub Corona hospital is a temporary facility with 1,024 beds and was inaugurated a couple of weeks ago by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Doctor's letter from jail stirs controversy

'IT IS HELL HERE'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mathura (UP), July 6: A fourpage hand-written letter by suspended Gorakhpur doctor, Kafeel Khan, has stirred up a hornet's

The letter which narrates the 'hellish' conditions of the Mathura prison where he is presently lodged for participating in anti-CAA protests, claims that about 150 inmates are sharing a toilet. Mathura jail senior superintendent Shailendra Maitri, on the other hand, has questioned the veracity of the letter.

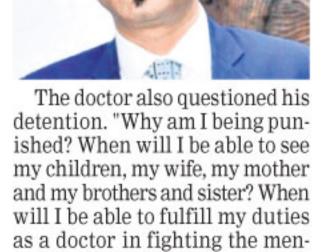
"Kafeel denies having written any letter. We screen all the outgoing mails, and did not see any such letter written by

Kafeel. And after the lockdown began, no one has been allowed to meet the inmates. So, how did the alleged letter go out?" he asked. Kafeel, in the letter

to his family, has written, "With just one attached toilet and 125-150 inmates, the smell of their sweat and urine mixed.

with unbearable heat due to electricity cuts, makes life hell over here. A living hell indeed." He further wrote, "I try to read

but cannot focus due to suffocation. Sometimes I feel that I might fall due to dizziness. The entire barrack seems like a fish market full of all kinds of smells. People are coughing, sneezing, farting, urinating and sweating. Some people snore, some fight, some scratch themselves."



ace of coronavirus?" he asked. Kafeel's brother Adeel Ahmad Khan, said that the The letter which letter was written by narrates the Kafeel on June 15

'hellish' conditions of the Mathura prison where he is lodged claims that about 150 inmates are sharing a toilet

and had reached them on July 1. Adeel claimed that the letter was sent by post. Kafeel Khan was booked for his alleged inflammatory remarks at an anti-CAA protest at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on December 13, 2019.

He was arrested from Mumbai on January 29 this year and was granted bail on February 10 by a court in Aligarh. But, on February 13, the UP government invoked the National Security Act (NSA) against him, ensuring that he remains behind the bars.

Kafeel Khan first hit the headlines in August 2017 when he was blamed for the deaths of 30 children due to oxygen shortage in the BRD Medical college in Gorakhpur.

Rural India finds ways to bridge digital divide Janan village, Gujarat, has started mind accessibility by the students,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: In a newly acquired daily ritual, students in Haryana's Jhamri village open their textbooks at the sight of the "teaching cart" that arrives near their homes, filling the vacuum left by closure of schools due to the lockdown and lack of digital infrastructure such as feeble internet connectivity.

To maintain social distancing, the students take notes from their homes as a teacher imparts lessons using the loudspeaker attached to the cart. The innovative way to ensure that students catch up with the syllabus they have missed since classes were suspended has been initiated by Satyanarayan Sharma, who runs a school in the village in the state's Jhajjar district.



"The bigger issue is not the effect on students' learning levels but that they should not drop out," Sharma said. "I have arranged for a loudspeaker system on a cart. The teachers turn-wise go with the cart and park it at a feasible location and impart lessons from there. It cannot

match up to classroom learning but will ensure some learning," he

Such carts are normally used for taking out wedding processions in villages. Now converted into a 'teaching cart', it is parked at various locations decided by keeping in

so that at a time at least a few of them living in the vicinity can hear the teacher who announces lessons while sitting inside it.

Such strange new ways of educating school students are not uncommon in the country's rural parts. The lockdown induced by COVID-19 in March prompted schools and colleges to move to the virtual world for teaching and learning activities. But weak internet penetration has turned e-education into a distant dream for many children in the rural areas.

As per official statistics, there are over 35 crore students in the country. But it is not clear how many of them have access to digital devices and the internet.

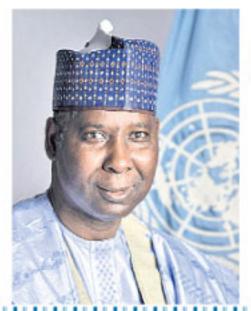
Ghanshyambhai, a teacher in

using the public announcement system of the village panchayat to share stories, songs, guidelines for parents on how to deal with children during the lockdown, importance of exercising and much more. "During this challenging time,

we can't expect students to just grab their parents' smartphones and start attending classes," he said. He said while it is not possible to explain complex subjects like mathematics through loudspeakers, the method is at least ensuring that learning is not totally disrupted.

"I also announce when I'll be at Panchayat Bhawan so students or parents who want to clear any doubts or to interact can see me there, while maintaining social distance," he added.

international



US' sharpens attack

Launching another scathing

China for causing "great

attack on China, US President

Donald Trump Monday blamed

damage" to the United States

coronavirus crisis. "China has

caused great damage to the

United States and the rest of

the world!" Trump tweeted, in

America's 244th Independence

Day, Trump had also said that

the country was doing great

until it got hit by a virus that

Pak's health min

Pakistan's health minister Dr

Zafar Mirza said Monday that

he was tested positive for the

becoming the latest senior

to be hit by the deadly virus.

the Prime Minister on health

services, said that he was

Mirza, the special assistant to

experiencing "mild symptoms"

minister in the country

tests positive

novel coronavirus.

and was taking all

precautions.

an oblique reference to the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing the second

'Salute to America' on

came from China.

and across the globe due to the

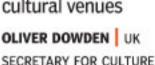
India is a very important country in the world in terms of technology, in terms of people, in terms of ideas and it also has been a very strong member of many other international organisations TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE | UN GENERAL

bachelor party in the Austrian Alps ended with a snake bite on the tongue and a trip to a hospital

A German man's

STRANGE BACHELOR PARTY



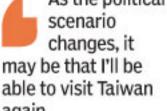






LIU XIAOMING | CHINESE

DIPLOMAT





SHORT TAKES

17 killed during I- Day weekend

Chicago: At least 17 people were killed and 63 others injured in Chicago over the Independence Day holiday weekend as a result of gun violence. The victims included a seven-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy, reports Xinhua news agency. This is the third week in a row that involved the death of a young child. A 20-month-old boy and a 10-year-old girl were killed in separate shootings last week; and a week earlier, five children were fatally shot, the Chicago Tribune reported Sunday.

■ 13 UK varsities on brink of collapse

London: An estimated 13 UK universities, educating around 5 per cent of students in the country, would not be able to survive the coronavirus pandemic lockdown without a government bailout support, a new report claimed Monday.

Pak summons **Indian diplomat**

Islamabad: Pakistan Monday summoned a senior diplomat from the Indian High Commission here to register a "strong protest" over the alleged ceasefire violations by the Indian forces along the Line of Control (LoC). The Foreign Office said in a statement that due to "indiscriminate and unprovoked firing" in Nikial Sector Sunday five civilians, including three children, sustained serious injuries.

Lanka extends polling time

Colombo: Sri Lanka Monday extended the time for the twice-postponed August 5 parliamentary elections by one hour after conducting several mock polls in adherence to the safety guidelines due to the coronavirus pandemic. The polls will take place between 7am to 5pm local time, which is an hour's time extension for voters to visit the polling station, election commission officials said. In the previous elections, the voting was conducted

China criticizes US

between 7am and 4pm.

Beijing: China Monday accused the US of flexing its military muscles in the South China Sea by conducting joint exercises with two US aircraft carrier groups in the strategic waterway. Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the exercises were performed "totally out of ulterior motives" and undermined stability in the area.

BUBONIC PLAGUE ALERT IN CHINA

AGENCIES

Beijing: July 6: Authorities in China's northern Inner Mongolia region have stepped up precautions after a herdsman was confirmed at the weekend to have the bubonic plague.

The man was in stable condition at a hospital in Bayannur, the city health commission said in a statement.

The commission has forbidden the hunting and eating animals that could carry plague - particularly marmots - until the end of the year, and urged people to report any dead or diseased rodents. The Yersinia pestis bacteria can be transmitted to humans from infected rats via fleas.

Though the highly-contagious plague is rare in China and can be treated, at least five people have died from it since 2014, according to China's National Health Commission. Another suspected



case involving a 15-year-old was reported on Monday in neighbouring Mongolia, China's state news agency Xinhua said. The boy had a fever after eating a marmot hunted by a dog, Xinhua said.

Two other cases were confirmed in Mongolia's Khovd province last week involving brothers who had eaten marmot meat, the agency said added. Some 146 people who came into contact with the pair have been quarantined.

FACE THE FEAR

People wear compulsory protective masks as they enjoy a ride in Thorpe Park, after it reopened, in Chertsey near

NCP meet on Oli's future postponed

Surya Thapa said the meeting was

postponed until Wednesday. The

reason for the deferment for a third

The development came as China's

ambassador Hou Yangi met with the

senior leader of the NCP and for-

mer prime minister Madhav Kumar

Nepal Sunday. The activities of the

time was not revealed.

Record rise in global coronavirus cases

The overall number of global COVID-19 cases has increased to more than 11.4 million, while the deaths have soared to over 533,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University. On Monday morning, the total number of cases stood at 11,409,805, while the fatalities rose to 533,684, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update. Meanwhile, Australian officials are closing the border between Australia's two most populous states from Tuesday for an indefinite period as they scramble to contain an outbreak of the coronavirus in the city of Melbourne.

NEW SPY SATELLITE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, July 6: Israel announced the successful launch of a new spy satellite Monday that will help it monitor Iran's nuclear activities as the Israeli foreign minister hinted that his country may have been behind a fire that damaged an Iranian nuclear site last week.

ISRAEL LAUNCHES



The "Ofek 16" satellite gives Israel what officials described as an additional tool in keeping tabs on many threats from across the region, joining a fleet of Israeli spy satellites that have been launched over the past two decades. While officials did not identify specific threats, arch-enemy Iran, which Israel accuses of trying to develop nuclear arms, is first among them.

The launch came a day after Iran finally acknowledged that a mysterious fire last week damaged a new centrifuge assembly center at its Natanz nuclear site, with suspicion immediately falling on Israel. Iranian officials had initially sought to downplay Thursday's fire, calling it an "incident" that affected an "industrial shed."

44 killed by floods in southern Japan

NATURAL DISASTER SINCE TYPHOON HAGIBIS KILLED ABOUT 90 PEOPLE IN OCTOBER

Japan's southwestern island of Kyushu Monday, with at least one more river bursting its banks, as the death toll from three days of floods and mudslides rose to 44, including 14 at an old people's home.

Evacuation orders were issued for more than half a million island residents, as well as evacuation advisories for tens of thousands more in western Japan, broadcaster NHK said. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said

the rain was forecast to head east by Wednesday and ordered roundthe-clock search and rescue operations. Ten people were missing, NHK said. TV pictures showed streets turned into rivers rushing by at waist high, a collapsed bridge, upturned cars and a helicopter winching a man to safety from an inundated house.

The old people's home was flooded in the island's central prefecture of Kumamoto. NHK did not give details. "I urge all citizens to carefully follow the information

provided by local authorities and stay alert to take actions to protect their own lives," Abe said at the start of a government task force

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said 40,000 members of the Self-Defence Force were involved in rescue missions.

He added that evacuation centres were also working on preventing the spread of the coronavirus by distributing disinfectant and asking evacuees to self-distance.

The Mona Lisa back at work

BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, AS MANY AS 50,000 PEOPLE PER DAY TOURED THE LOUVRE IN THE BUSIEST SUMMER MONTHS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 6: The Mona Lisa is back in business. Paris' Louvre Museum, which houses the world's most famous portrait, reopened Monday after a fourmonth coronavirus lockdown.

Face masks are a must and visitor numbers will be limited, with reservations required.

About 70 per cent of the giant museum - 45,000 square meters (484,000 square feet) of space, or the equivalent of 230 tennis courts - housing 30,000 of the Louvre's vast trove of works is again accessible to visitors starved of art in lockdown. "It's very emotional for all the teams

that have prepared this reopening," said Jean-Luc Martinez, the museum director. The bulk of visitors to what

was the world's most-visited museum before the pandemic used to come from overseas, led by travelers from the United States. Americans are still barred

from the European Union that is gradually reopening its borders. The Louvre is hoping the reopening will attract visitors from closer to home, including the Paris region, but is bracing for a plunge in numbers.

Martinez said the museum was expecting just 7,000 visitors on the reopening day.



Hong Kong: Facebook, WhatsApp and Telegram will deny law enforcement requests for user data in Hong Kong as they assess the impact of a new national security law enacted last week. Facebook and its messaging app WhatsApp said in separate statements Monday that they would freeze the review of government requests for user data in Hong Kong, "pending further assessment of the National Security Law, including formal human rights due diligence and consultations with

FB, others, block govt requests on HK user data

international human rights experts."

Hundreds of scientists tell WHO Covid is 'airborne'

Chinese envoy have been increas-

communist party.

ing in Kathmandu in the wake of

the growing turmoil in the ruling

The differences between the two

factions of the NCP - one led by Oli

and the other led by party's execu-

tive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal

'Prachanda' on the issue of power-

sharing - intensified after the prime

minister unilaterally decided to

prorogue the budget session of

The Prachanda faction, backed

by senior leaders and former Prime

Ministers Madhav Nepal and

Jhalanath Khanal, has been

demanding Oli's resignation.

Parliament Thursday.

AGENCIES

statements.

London, Britain

Kathmandu, July 6: A crucial

meeting of Nepal's ruling com-

munist party to decide the political

future of embattled Prime Minister

K P Sharma Oli was postponed

until Wednesday, a day after the

Chinese ambassador met a senior

leader amidst intra-party rifts and

calls for his resignation over his

style of functioning and anti-India

The meeting of the Nepal

Communist Party's 45-member pow-

erful Standing Committee was

scheduled to be held on Monday.

Prime Minister's press advisor

New York, July 6: More than 200 scientists from 32 nations have written to the WHO, saying there is evidence that the coronavirus is airborne and even smaller particles can infect people, a significant departure from the UN health agency's claims so far that COVID-19 is spread primarily through coughs and sneezes.

A report in The New York Times says that clusters of infections are rising globally as people go back to bars, restaurants, offices, markets and casinos, a trend that increasingly confirms that the virus lingers in the air indoors, infecting those nearby.

"In an open letter to the WHO, 239 scientists in 32 countries have outlined the evidence showing that smaller particles can infect people, and are calling for the agency to revise its recommendations," the report said, adding that the researchers



plan to publish their letter in a scientific journal next week.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has long held that the coronavirus is spread primarily by large respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or

sneezes. In its latest update dated June 29 on the coronavirus, the WHO said airborne transmission of the virus was possible only after medical procedures that produce aerosols, or droplets smaller than 5 microns. The guidance that the

What if coronavirus is airborne?

If the airborne transmission is a significant factor in the pandemic, especially in crowded spaces with poor ventilation, the consequences for containment will be significant. Along with the already prescribed methods - masks, social distancing, washing hands - people will have to introduce a host of new measures to stop the infection.

Ventilation systems in schools, nursing homes, residences and businesse: may need to minimize recirculating air and add powerful new filters.

Masks may be needed indoors, even in socially distant settings

health agency has given to deal

with the virus, such as wearing

masks, maintaining social distance

and frequent handwashing, since the

pandemic first broke is based on its

claim that the virus spreads through

large droplets when an infected

Health care workers may need N95 masks that filter out even the smallest respiratory droplets as they care for coronavirus patients

to kill viral particles floating in tiny droplets indoors

person coughs and sneezes. As the pandemic spread across the world, a lag by the global health agency in issuing critical guidelines was seen as hampering efforts to control the outbreak.

Ultraviolet lights may be needed

The new package will be available across the country, including 33 million pounds to Northern Ireland, 97 million pounds to Scotland and 59 million pounds to Wales and ensure the future of many multi billion-pound industries are secured.



THE FLOODS ARE JAPAN'S WORST REUTERS Tokyo, July 6: Torrential rain hit







PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 6: UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak has unveiled a 1.57-billion pounds rescue package of emergency grants and cheap loans for arts, culture and heritage industries to help them weather the impact of coronavirus lockdown.

Thousands of organisations across a range of sectors including the performing arts and theatres, heritage, historic palaces, museums, galleries, live music and independent cinema will be able to access the funding boost put in place on Sunday night. "Our worldrenowned galleries, museums, heritage sites, music venues and independent cinemas are not only critical to keeping our economy thriving, employing more than 700,000 people, they're the lifeblood of British culture," said Sunak.

"That's why we're giving them the vital cash they need to safeguard their survival, helping to protect jobs and ensuring that they can continue to provide the sights and sounds that Britain is famous for." he said in a statement.

The Indian-origin finance minister indicated that many of Britain's cultural and heritage institutions have already received financial assistance to see them through the pandemic including loans, business rate holidays and participation in the Coronavirus Job Retention or furlough scheme, introduced by him earlier this year at the height of the pandemic.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said the new package represents the "biggest ever one-off investment in UK culture" and will provide a lifeline to vital cultural and heritage organisations across the country hit hard by the pandemic. "From iconic theatre and musicals, mesmerising exhibitions at our world-class galleries to gigs performed in local basement venues, the UK's cultural industry is the beating heart of this country," said UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

business



What has happened is that the pandemic has opened up a lot of opportunities for developers and the people. **Customers have understood the** necessity of a home and for developers it has opened up, if not luxury, budget segment residences T CHITTY BABU | FOUNDER, AKSHAYA HOMES LTD

GOLD MAY TOUCH NEW HIGH

The price of gold in the spot and futures markets remained soft for the 4th consecutive day Monday, but during the corona period the fundamentals of the precious metal are strong due to which it may touch a new high later this year. Considering investors interest, gold's price is expected to cross ₹52,000/10 gm by Diwali



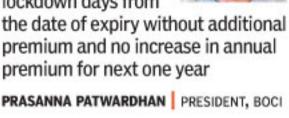


pandemic has brought to the fore the need for a health insurance cover for all. We are happy to tie up with

Karur Vysya Bank and offer a wide variety of need based health insurance policies for the bank's customers

ANAND ROY MD, STAR HEALTH AND ALLIED INSURANCE

We urge IRDAI and the government to extend vehicle insurance validity equal to number of lockdown days from





in 2020-21 to make sure that we are not stressed from a cash flow or a liquidity perspective

GAURAV KUMAR | CFO, APOLLO TYRES

SHORT **TAKES**

NHAI to rank highways

New Delhi: To improve highways, a ranking system will be introduced based on performance audit of roads, NHAI said Monday. NHAI has been mandated the task to develop, maintain and manage National Highways, the arterial roads of the country, for inter-state movement of passengers and goods. "In its effort to improve the quality of roads, NHAI has decided to undertake performance assessment and ranking of the highways in the country," NHAI said in a statement. "The criteria for the assessment have been broadly categorised in three main heads," it said.

No merging CBDT, CBIC

New Delhi: The government is not considering any proposal to merge the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the Finance Ministry said Monday. The said merger was one of the recommendations of the Tax Administration Reforms Commission (TARC), headed by Parthasarathi Shome, which submitted its report in 2016. The ministry in a statement said, "The government has no proposal to merge the two Boards created under the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963."

April tea output down by 54%

New Delhi: India's tea production declined 54% to 39.02 million kg in April due to the nationwide lockdown to control COVID-19, according to data from the Tea Board. The output had stood at 84.49 million kg in the corresponding month last year. Out of the total tea production of 39.02 million kg in April, about 33.79 million kg were CTC (crush-tear-curl) variety, 4.74 million kg orthodox variety and 0.49 million kg were green tea.

CEAT launches S95 face masks

Mumbai: RPG group company CEAT Tyres Monday announced its foray into the PPE segment with the launch of anti-pollution S95 mask, GoSafe, amid an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the country. The six-layered washable and reusable mask, priced at ₹249 per unit, are available across its exclusive branded stores 'CEAT Shoppe' and also on various ecommerce websites, the company said in a release.

uote US' move to cost Indian IT cos ₹1,200 cr: Crisil

H1-B VISA BAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 6: Banning of the H1-B visas by the US will cost domestic IT companies ₹1,200 crore and have a marginal 0.25-0.30% impact on their profitability, a domestic rating agency said Monday.

An increase in local hiring over the last few years since the US the largest market for Indian IT companies - started curbing the visa issuances will help limit the impact on the Indian IT companies now, Crisil Ratings said.

It can be noted that last month, the visas used by Indian tech professionals to work out of the US were suspended by the Donald Trump administration as it looked

Under new rules

announced by India in

April, all investments

neighbouring countries

need to be approved by

New Delhi, July 6: The government

is reviewing around 50 investment

proposals involving Chinese com-

panies under a new screening pol-

icy, three sources familiar with the

Under new rules announced by

India in April, all investments by

entities based in neighbouring

countries need to be approved by the

government, whether for new or ad-

ditional funding. China is the biggest

of these investors and the rules

drew criticism from Chinese in-

vestors and Beijing, which called the

aimed at curbing opportunistic

takeovers during the coronavirus

outbreak. However, industry ex-

The new investment rules were

policy discriminatory.

matter told Reuters.

REUTERS

by entities based in

the government,

whether for new or

additional funding

to arrest the rising unemployment. Crisil, however, said that the marginal impact will be over and above

the 2.50% decline in IT companies' profits because of the COVID-19 pandemic and added that operating profitability is seen at in 23%FY21as

an

per

H1-B visa issuances contribute less than 5% of the US onshore workforce of the top 5 listed Indian IT firms, which account for 60% of the industry revenue analysis of ANUJ SETHI | SENIOR 15 top firms' DIRECTOR, CRISIL performance. The US move

New

on the H1-B and L1 visas will have limited impact be-

'GOVT REVIEWING 50 INVESTMENT

PROPOSALS FROM CHINESE FIRMS'

lateral relations since a clash along

the countries' contested border last

month, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, could further delay ap-

"Various clearances are required.

We are being a bit more cautious as

one would imagine," said a senior

Indian government official in New

Delhi, when asked about the im-

pact on investment applications

India's industries department

under the commerce ministry,

which drafted the new policy, did not

respond to a request for comment.

the companies whose investments

are pending approvals, due to con-

fidentiality concerns. The official,

and two other sources, said about

40-50 applications involving fund-

ing from a Chinese investor have

been filed since the rule change

One of the sources said that mul-

and are currently under review.

The sources declined to name

since the border clash.

provals.

cause of the lower reliance on the entry system by hiring locally, it

fected.

including the Indian consulates in

China, have been communicating

with investors and their repre-

sentatives to seek clarifications on

Alok Sonker, a partner at Indian

law firm Krishnamurthy & Co, said

at least 10 Chinese clients had

sought his advice in recent weeks

for investing in India, but were

waiting for more clarity on the pol-

"Uncertainty in timelines for

the investment approval is dis-

suading parties, both Indian and

Chinese, from proceeding with busi-

mostly Chinese, mobile apps in-

cluding Bytedance's TikTok and

Tencent's WeChat, in its strongest

move yet targeting China in the

online space since the border cri-

sis erupted last month. The move

has potentially dented big Chinese

businesses' expansion plans for

the South Asian market.

Last week India banned 59,

ness as usual," Sonker said.

the proposals.

icy outlook in India.

Zooming of the denial rates to 39% in FY20, up from 6% in FY16, had led to

said, adding that renewals

of the visas will be unaf-

lower reliance on the visas by the local IT companies, it said. "New H1-B visa issuances con-

tribute less than 5% of the US onshore workforce of the top 5 listed Indian IT firms, which account for 60% of the industry revenue. On the other hand, the share of local hires in their US onshore employee mix has steadily increased from 30-35% in fiscal 2017 to about 55-60% in fiscal 2020," its senior director Anuj Sethi said. With IT firms aiming to increase the share of local talent, especially with digital skills, the transition impact is expected to be marginal for them, he added.

The US has proposed a transition of the existing H1-B visa issuance to a merit-based programme (criteria

decided on quantum of salary rather than the lottery system currently) or a potential increase in minimum

salary floor, it noted. Assuming employee requirements through new visa approvals (6,137 units in fiscal 2019) are completely met via local hiring and considering a 25 per cent premium for local hiring over the H1-B route, the additional cost burden on IT firms may not exceed ₹1,200 crore, it said. "Additionally, with higher share

for capping new visas at 85,000 to be

of employees working from home and with continued restrictions on mobility due to the pandemic, the onshore requirements of IT firms are likely to be lower," its director Sameer Charania said.

IOC, ONGC, other PSUs to implement ₹3.57L cr projects



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Oil PSUs such as IOC and ONGC are implementing about ₹3.57 lakh crore worth of projects across the entire hydrocarbon value chain that will further enhance energy accessibility, create jobs and boost the economy, the Petroleum Ministry said Monday.

In Twitter posts, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said out of ₹3.57 lakh crore being spent on 859 projects, over ₹60,000 crore will be invested during fiscal 2020-21.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other senior officials of the ministry "reviewed the ongoing oil and gas projects started by PSUs since the resumption of economic activities from April 20, 2020".

"As on 1st July 2020 work on 859 projects worth about ₹3,57,000 crore involving in refinery, exploration and production, marketing infrastructure, pipelines, city gas distribution network and in the entire value chain of oil and gas is going on in full swing," it said.

The ministry, however, did not give a timeframe for the investment of ₹3.57 lakh crore.

Mylan gets DCGI nod for remdesivir

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 6: Pharmaceutical major Mylan NV Monday said it has received approval from Indian drugs regulator DCGI to manufacture and market its remdesivir for restricted emergency use in the country for the treatment of COVID-19. The drug will be priced at ₹4,800 per 100 mg vial and would be available to the patients this month, it added.

The company joins domestic pharma firm Cipla and Hetero who have already received permission from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to manufacture and market remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19.

The DCGI has approved the company's remdesivir 100 mg per vial for restricted emergency use in India as part of the regulator's accelerated approval process to address urgent, unmet needs amid the evolving the COVID-19 pandemic, Mylan said in a statement.

The drug is approved for the treatment of suspected or laboratory confirmed incidences of COVID-19 in adults and children hospitalised with severe presentations of the disease, it added. "The drug will be launched under the brand name 'Desrem' in India and will be available to patients in July at a price of ₹4,800, which is more than 80 per cent less than the price at which the branded version of this product will be avail-



The drug will be priced at ₹4,800 per 100 mg vial and would be available to the patients this month

able to governments in the developed world," Mylan said.

The company will manufacture remdesivir in India at its injectables facilities, which also make products for the US and have been inspected by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for compliance with good manufacturing practices, it added. "The approval by DCGI in India represents the first for Mylan in these 127 markets," Mylan said. The company continues to work extensively toward expanding emergency use access for patients in the 127 low- and middleincome countries where it is licensed by Gilead Sciences to do so, it added.

RIL 1st domestic firm to cross ₹11.5Lcr m-cap mark



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 6: Reliance__ Industries Limited Monday added another feather to its cap as its market valuation crossed ₹11.5 lakh crore mark, the first by any domestic company.

The market heavyweight stock jumped 3.57 per cent to close at ₹1,851.40 on the BSE. During the day, it rose by 3.94 per cent to a record high of ₹1,858.

On the NSE, it gained 3.75 per

cent to settle at ₹1,855. The company's market valuation rose by ₹40,508.8 crore to ₹11,73,677.35 crore at close of trade

on the BSE. In terms of volume, 9.49 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 2 crore on the

NSE. Gains in Reliance Industries' shares were also instrumental in taking the BSE 30-share index higher by 465.86 points, or 1.29 per

cent, to close at 36,487.28. Reliance Industries, the country's most valued firm, last month became the first Indian company to cross the ₹11 lakh crore market valuation mark.

Shares of Reliance Industries on Friday rose by nearly 2 per cent after announcement that Intel Capital will buy 0.39 per cent stake in Jio Platforms. The stock has gained over 22 per cent this year so far.

ecutives say a deterioration in bitiple Indian government agencies. '200% INCREASE IN CYBER **INCIDENTS IN 2 MONTHS'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 6: There has been a 200% rise in cyber incidents in India in the last two months, but those cannot be blamed to Chinese actors, chief information security officer in the Prime Minister's Office, Gulshan Rai, said Monday.

He, instead, blamed a shift in the service sector to work from home (WFH) due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the heightened incidents, saying people are "mindlessly" downloading unverified applications which may lack security features.

Ties between India and China have hit a new low following the violent clashes in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh, which left 20 Indian army personnel dead. In reaction, India has banned 48 Chinese apps on security concerns.

"It is certainly true that during



the last couple of months, the cyber incidents (like) hacking systems have gone up significantly. Somebody may say more than 200 per cent (increase), that's the figure which is available," Rai said during an interaction organised by payments company EPS here.

"...there is no evidence as of now that the attacks have gone up due to the tensions between the two countries (India and China)," he added. Rai said there are dedicated agencies which are monitoring the situation and also preventing the attacks.

Coal India workers' strike cuts output by 56%

New Delhi: State-owned Coal India suffered an average daily production hit of 56% during the three-day strike by workers against the government's move to open the sector to private players, an official said. A union leader of Coal India had earlier claimed that there was substantial hit in coal output during the strike days. The coal workers were on strike from Thursday to Saturday in protest against the government's move to open the coal sector for commercial mining. The aver-



age daily production by the PSU on the three days was 5,73,000 tonnes, which is 44% of the last 10 days' average production (from June 22 to July 1) of 12,96,900 tonnes, the official said. The coal ministry official said production could take place even on strike days as Coal India employs around one lakh contract workers.

BIZ BUZZ

Swiggy integrates with Scootsy

New Delhi: Food ordering and delivery platform Swiggy Monday said the company has integrated premium on-demand delivery platform, Scootsy, and its restaurant partners with the Swiggy platform. Through the curated selection on the company's homepage, users in Mumbai can now access premium gour met experiences delivered by its premium fleet of independent pick-up and delivery partners, Swiggy said. Swiggy acquired Scootsy in 2018 for around ₹50 crore and had said at that time that the Mumbai-based firm will continue to operate as an independent app after the acquisition. This integration allows Swiggy to build on Scootsy's premium value proposition, its understanding of the niche consumer segment and existing capabilities in curating and delivering premium service offerings, the statement said.

NTPC bags ATD Best Awards

Bhubaneswar: NTPC Limited, the country's largest power generating company has been honoured with ATD BEST Awards by the Association for Talent Development (ATD) in USA. NTPC has bagged this award for the 4th time in a row for its Human Resource Practices. The ATD BEST Awards recognises employee talent development practices that affect enterprise-wide success to use talent development as a strategic business tool for enhanced results. A NTPC official said that the company has been

successful in creating an ecosystem that empowers employees to enhance their skill sets. Established in 2003, the BEST Awards Winners' Circle includes small and large private, public, and not-for-profit organisations from around the world. With a total installed capacity of 62,110 MW, NTPC Group has 70 power stations.



PANDEMIC PROMPTS KIRANAS TO GO DIGITAL

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 6: Kirana stores are emerging as the hub that helps maintain regular supply of essentials as cities struggle to get back to their normal rhythm and many such neighbourhood stores are considering greater technology adoption, according to a report.

The report is based on a survey by consultancy firm EY that gathered insights through 27 qualitative interviews across 12 cities in India, 5 metros and 7 non-metros with participants who represent small and big kirana across a diverse socio-economic background.

Stating that there is a renewed trust in hyper-local communities,



ADOPTING INNOVATION

The report is based on a survey by consultancy I firm EY that gathered insights through 27 qualitative interviews across 12 cities in India, 5 metros and 7 non-metros

▲ ccording to the survey, 20% of the kirana store Howners across metros and non-metros have started leveraging online platforms to get a steady supply of goods and assistance in deliveries

the local stores both in metros and non-metros

EY's latest report "Sentiments of India-Pulse of the country, Kiranas" said 40% of respondents (kirana store owners) want to partner with online delivery and supply platforms as they feel it can help them grow and

tide over in these testing times.

Commenting on the findings, EY India Partner - Customer Experience and Design Thinking, Shashank Shwet said, "amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the kirana stores have

emerged as local unsung heroes servicing the community at large. The kirana store owners have taken a lot of effort to keep up with the changing demands of the crisis and managing their day-to-day supplies."

Moreover, he said, "the way that these kirana store owners have adopted to innovation and digital technologies, such as digital payments, changing operating models and reduced friction towards technology, to cope up with the pandemic is highly commendable."

According to the survey, 20% of the kirana store owners across metros and non-metros have started leveraging online platforms to get a steady supply of goods and assistance in deliveries.

"Kiranas have proven themselves to be both agile and resilient, being able to bear the brunt of an unforgiving pandemic. Lacking other means, they have created a simplified online journey using chat apps

as a medium of taking orders, providing contactless delivery and then receiving payments through digital platforms," the EY survey said.

The pandemic has also led to a renewed trust in the local kirana store with a surge in new consumers visiting the local stores both in metros and non-metros with 79% of respondents in non-metros and 50% in metros state that there are new consumers coming to their store post the lockdown period, according the the survey.

"These are consumers who would earlier shop online or from supermarkets, are now preferring to buy from local kirana stores to avoid long queues and there is a semblance of trust and traceability," EY said.

MSG SENDS YELLOW SUBMARINE DEEPER

Suarez equals

Kubala record

egualling Ladislau Kubala on

194 goals for Barcelona thanks

to his finish against Villarreal.

Barca's No.9 had beaten Josep

Samitier's 184 goals earlier this

season, October 29 after scor-

ing against Valladolid, but now

he's on the podium alongside

the Hungarian. The Uruguayan

above him in the table of scor-

ers: Lionel Messi, with 630 and

Cesar, with 232. With 38 more

goals, Suarez will become the

second highest scorer in the

history of the club.

lineup in the last two games, while

only has only two players

Vila-Real: Luis Suarez has

reached another record,

Attacking troika of Messi, Suarez & Griezmann inspire Barcelona to thrash Villarreal 4-1, but still four points behind leaders Real Madrid

Argentine had one effort ruled out

for offside after a thrilling team

move and then hammered the bar

Atletico, a move described in the Spanish media as an act of humilning forward. Griezmann was named in the lineup against a Villarreal side who had won five of their last six

with a late free-kick. Pique reacted to Messi's goal being disallowed by appearing to make a puppet gesture after Real Madrid recently benefitted from VAR decisions but the defender said he meant nothing by it, adding that he had made the gesture due to a rush of adrenaline.

bining well with Messi and Suarez. He adorned his performance with a

17-year-old Ansu Fati added a fourth in the second half with a low strike. For Barca defender Gerard Pique, delivering such a slick performance was as satisfying as returning to winning ways. "It was crucial to get the three

points to stay in the hunt but the way we played was important too because that's a part of our identity so we need to keep playing like that until the end of the season," he Barca's confidence was rocked by

draws with Celta Vigo and Atletico Madrid while the sense of instability at the club deepened amid reports captain Lionel Messi was unhappy with the state of affairs and did not want to stay beyond his contract.

There had been also been plenty of speculation surrounding coach Setien after he had brought Griezmann on in added time against iation against the World Cup-win-

games and was lively from the kick off, helping force the opening goal as well as working tirelessly in midfield and com-

sumptuous goal, receiving a back-heeled lay off from Messi and Messi also pro-

coolly delivering a chip that skimmed off the crossbar and NIKE into the net. duced an outstanding performance but failed to score as

EPL CHAMPS LIVERPOOL MAKE TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO ANFIELD

Reds ground Aston Villa



ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, July 6: They walked out to another 'Guard of Honour', with a huge rectangular banner high up in the Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand reading: 'Liverpool FC-Champions Again'. Liverpool's players were back home at Anfield for the first time since winning a first English league title since 1990. It was a triumphant return, too.

Lacking the intensity and precision that brought the team the title in devastating fashion, Liverpool still

managed to eke out a 2-0 win over Aston Villa to move in sight of a slew of records to cap one of the best ever top-flight campaigns.

Second-half goals by Sadio Mane and Curtis Jones secured a 17th straight win at Anfield, with just two more needed — against Burnley and Chelsea — to complete a 100 percent home record that would be unprecedented in the Premier League.

Four wins from the last five matches and Liverpool will also pass Manchester City's record from 2017-18 of 100 points in one season.

Not that Jurgen Klopp is neces-

sarily counting. "The only thing I can say is there's no chance to win records if you constantly think about records. We don't want records. We want the three points," said the Liverpool

manager. That's something Liverpool almost always manage to obtain, however it plays. Eager to rebound from a 0-4 loss at Manchester City Thursday where their attitude was widely questioned, Klopp's players were again not at their best without the backing of their fans inside an empty stadium.

But they eventually ground Villa down with a resilience and relentlessness that Klopp has forged in his team. Mane swept home a finish off the underside of the crossbar in the 71st for his 16th league goal of the season before Jones converted a shot from 10 meters out in the 89th after a nod-down from Mohamed Salah for his first Premier League goal.

"Jurgen Klopp teams don't take their foot off the gas," Villa manager Dean Smith said, acknowledging the impact made by the three Liverpool substitutes -Jordan Henderson, Georginio Wijnaldum and Roberto Firmino who came on after an hour.

With second-place City losing 0-1 hours later at Southampton, Liverpool is on course to win the league by a record margin. The lead is currently 23 points, four more than the biggest ever final margin set by City in 2017-18.

ADAMS' MOMENT OF MAGIC SINKS MAN CITY

Southampton: Che Adams scored from a spectacular long-range lob for his first goal for Southampton to earn a surprising 1-0 win over Manchester City in the Premier League. Making his 30th appearance of a frustrating first season at the club, Adams pounced on a loose ball after City defender Oleksandr Zinchenko was dispossessed. Adams struck a curling first-time effort from around 40 meters that sailed over stranded goalkeeper Ederson Moraes and into an unguarded net in the 16th minute. Southampton then relied on a series of wonderful saves by goalkeeper Alex McCarthy to consign City to a third straight away defeat in the league - the first time that has happened to a team managed by Pep Guardiola in his distinguished coaching career. The result left second-place City 23 points behind already-crowned champion Liverpool with five games remaining.



Southampton climbed to 13th place and is assured of another season in the Premier League.

New Zealand offers to host IPL after UAE, SL Juwara goal guides

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

minutes later.

REUTERS

Vila-Real (Spain), July 6: Barcelona responded to a trying week by pro-

ducing a scintillating display to

thrash Villarreal 4-1 away Sunday

and stay alive in the La Liga title race.

last two matches to hand more mo-

mentum to league leaders Real

Madrid but Sunday's win took them

to 73 points after 34 games, four be-

hind their arch-rivals who won 1-

0 at Athletic Bilbao earlier in the day.

put Barca in front in the third

minute, with Villarreal's Gerard

Moreno levelling on the rebound in

the 14th before the visitors restored

their lead through an outstanding

curling strike from Luis Suarez six

Antoine Griezmann stretched

Barca's advantage just before the

break with a sublime chip, having

been dropped from the starting

An own goal from Pau Torres

The Catalans had drawn their

New Delhi, July 6: New Zealand is the latest country after UAE and Sri Lanka which has offered to host the IPL in case the billion dollar league can't be played in India due to rising cases of coronavirus.

The postponement announcement of the T20 World Cup, to be held in October-November in Australia, is imminent, creating a window for the IPL.

The BCCI has already zeroed in on the end September-early November window for the IPL. The board's first choice is staging the tournament at home but that is looking increasingly unlikely with India have the third largest case

load of coronavirus cases behind

Brazil and USA. "Staging the event in India has to be the first choice but in case it is not safe to have it, then we will look at the overseas options. UAE, Sri Lanka and New Zealand have also offered to host the IPL," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"We will sit down with all stakeholders (broadcaster, teams, etc) and take a call. The safety of the players is paramount. There will be no compromise on that," the official

Questions will be raised if IPL happens in WT20 window: Inzy

Karachi: Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Hag has said that guestions will be raised if IPL is slotted in the window allotted to

ICC World T20 in Australia, which in all likelihood will be cancelled in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The ICC is yet to decide the

fate of the T20 World Cup in Australia which is scheduled to take place from October 18 to November 15. "There are rumors that

the World Cup was clashing with the IPL and the Australia-India series, therefore, it (World T20) won't take place," Inzamam said

in his YouTube channel Sunday. "The Indian board is strong and has control in the ICC. If Australia says that we cannot hold the

time, then questions will be raised," he said. "Another thing is the ICC should not be allowed to give priority to private leagues

(IPL) on international cricket. This will lead to young players forcing on private leagues other than international matches."

World Cup because of the pandemic, then their stance will be easily accepted, but if any such kind event happens during the same

The IPL has been held overseas in the past. The entire 2009 edition was staged in South Africa due to the general election back home and partially in the UAE in 2014 due to the same reason.

However in 2019, despite elections, BCCI managed to schedule the IPL in India avoiding clashing with poll dates in various states. The UAE again is the front-run-

ner to host the tournament if it happens overseas. Sri Lanka is a costeffective option while New Zealand, which has been largely free from COVID-19, but practical feasibility is an issue. With New Zealand, India has a

seven and half hour time difference and even if it starts at 12:30 pm in the afternoon, maximum officegoers (even those who work from home) will miss the action.

Apart from Hamilton to Auckland, which can be covered by road, places like Wellington, Christchurch, Napier or Dunedin will require air

Bologna past Inter

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, July 6: Teenage substitute Musa Juwara helped Bologna come from behind to win 2-1 at Inter Milan in a pulsating Serie A game which saw both teams reduced to 10 players and the Nerazzurri miss a penalty.

Juwara canceled out Romelu Lukaku's opener before Musa Barrow scored the winner 10 minutes from time. Inter remained third in Italy's top tier but is just a point above Atalanta, which won 1-0 at 10-man Cagliari.

The Nerazzuri were looking to cut the gap to second-place Lazio to one point and took the lead in the 22nd minute. Lautaro Martinez headed Ashley Young's cross off the right post but Lukaku was on hand to tap in the rebound.

Barrow came close to equalizing early in the second half but his effort hit the right post. It appeared as if Bologna had thrown away the match when midfielder Roberto Soriano was shown a red card for dissent in the 57th and then moments later the visitors gave away a penalty when Mitchell Dijks tripped Antonio Candreva.

However, Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski parried Martinez's tame penalty and then

reacted swiftly to also stop Roberto Gagliardini's follow-up.

The penalty was among a number of chances Inter missed and it was left to rue its profligacy as Bologna leveled in the 74th. An awful clearance from Gagliardini came out to Juwara who fired it in powerfully for his first Serie A

Moments later, Inter was also down to 10 men when defender Alessandro Bastoni was shown a second yellow for a foul on Juwara and sent off.

Barrow netted the winner three minutes later, finishing off a counterattack with an angled drive which squirmed under Samir Handanovic.

Atalanta, on the other hand, extended their club record run of successive league wins to eight. Cagliari thought it had taken a surprise lead when Giovanni Simeone curled into the far corner but it was ruled out for handball.

Cagliari's chances of getting something from the match diminished in the 26th when teenage defender Andrea Carboni was shown a second yellow card and sent off for a shove on Ruslan Malinovskiy and Luis Muriel converted the resulting penalty.



CONNECTION WITH FAKE T20 GAME

Punjab police arrest alleged match-fixer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, July 6: Punjab police Monday arrested alleged matchfixer Ravinder Dandiwal in connection with a T20 match played in Mohali district but streamed online as a game in Sri Lanka.

The game held last month had caught the attention of BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, the police and Sri Lanka Cricket.

"Ravinder Dandiwal, who has

emerged kingpin in the entire racket, was arrested Monday," Singh, Deputy

Superintendent Police.

Kharar, told PTI. He said that Dandiwal was arrested from Punjab.

"He has been arrested in connection with ongoing investigations into the T20 match that was played, in which already two arrests have been made. His role into the entire racket is being further probed," said Singh about Dandiwal, from whom police have seized some laptops, mobile phones and documents.

Preliminary investigations reveal that Dandiwal, an original resident of Rajasthan, had organised fraudulent tournaments in the past as well, said Singh.

Police had got vital clues about Dandiwal from the two other accused, Pankaj and Raju, arrested Thursday.

The 'Indian Express' had reported Friday that the game played June 29 took place in Sawara vil-

lage, 16 km from Chandigarh, but was streamed as 'Uva T20 League' match in Sri Lanka's

Badulla city, home of the Uva Province Cricket Association (UPCA). Both UPCA and Sri Lanka

Cricket have denied their involvement in the league. While Punjab Police officials had earlier said an investigation is currently on to ascertain if a betting syndicate was involved, the BCCI had asserted that it is keeping an eye, but only to the extent

of getting details of those involved.

Absurd allegations against Virat based on conjectures: Cornerstone



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 6: Third parties with 'vested interest' are trying to malign India captain Virat Kohli's image with conflict of interest allegations based on conjectures, CEO of talent management firm Cornerstone Bunty Sajdeh said Monday, defending his client.

Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) life member Sanjeev Gupta has alleged that Kohli is conflicted as he occupies two posts captain of the Indian team and director of a venture which has codirectors linked to Cornerstone Sport and Entertainment Private Limited that has on board, several

of his teammates.

BCCI Ombudsman DK Jain has said he 'will examine' the complaint by Gupta, who has levelled similar charges against other players in the past which were deemed 'infructuous'.

"This is with reference to the recent conflict of interest speculations surrounding Virat and in a statement to PTI

Cornerstone. It is unfortunate to repeatedly see Virat's name being dragged into absurd allegations every now and then," Sajdeh said Sajdeh said allegation of conflict is nothing but conjecture.

"Such speculations are based en-

tirely on conjecture, nothing more.

Virat is a contracted, exclusive client of Cornerstone exactly like the rest of our esteemed talent roster." he asserted.

"And as a responsible agency, we once again reiterate that there is no question of any conflict of interest with Virat or any other of our talent for that matter. But third parties with whatever vested interests prefer to think otherwise," he added. Kohli does not have a role in

Cornerstone Sport and Entertainment Private Limited. He is, however, a director at Cornerstone Venture Partners LLP and Virat Kohli Sports LLP along with Sajdeh, whose official name is Amit.

But the documents provided by Gupta to back his charge have always been available in public domain. He had also filed similar complaints against Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman, which were deemed 'infructuous' by Jain.

"I request them to simply check all facts before jumping to their own conclusions. We carry out our business in a very professional and transparent manner which can be easily verified from the documents filed with public authorities from time to time. This is all we have to say on this matter once and for all."

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