

TOPSY-TURVY LIFE
Actor Taapsee Pannu says she has seen numerous ups and downs in everything she has tried to attempt in life
LEISURE P2

MESSIAH FOR MIGRANTS
A Punjabi in Dubai has taken charity to new heights by launching chartered flights for migrants
TWO STATES P7

RECONSTRUCTION PLAN
Notre Dame Cathedral will be rebuilt just the way it stood before last year's devastating fire
INTERNATIONAL P10

Silencing inconvenience, encounter

The deaths of eight police personnel could have been 'avenged' by upholding the law and holding Dubey accountable in court



UNDUE PROCESS: Police and media at the encounter site where gangster Vikas Dubey was killed when he allegedly tried to escape from the spot following an accident, near Kanpur, Friday

Kanpur, July 10: Hours after Uttar Pradesh police Friday gunned down gangster Vikas Dubey, accounts about the extra-judicial killing and videos of the moments leading up to it raise serious questions about the credibility of the official version of events. Police claim he was trying to flee after the car carrying him from Ujjain overturned on an isolated stretch of the highway on the outskirts of the city. The encounter has snatched the opportunity to interrogate and prosecute Dubey in a manner that would reveal the various networks invol-

CAR TRIED TO AVOID CATTLE, FLIPPED: STF
Hours after gangster Vikas Dubey was shot dead in what the Uttar Pradesh police said an escape attempt after an accident, the Special Task Force gave its version of the incident that has raised several questions. Vikas Dubey, wanted for the murder of eight policemen a week ago, was being taken to his hometown Kanpur when the car he was in overturned on the wet highway, the UP Special Task Force (STF) said. The car flipped when the driver, "tired after a long journey" swerved to avoid a herd of cattle that had suddenly appeared on the road, said the STF statement. Five policemen were seriously injured and dazed by the accident. "The brazen criminal Vikas Dubey took advantage of the situation and snatched a gun from inspector Ramakant Pachauri and ran towards the kachcha road," the STF said.

ing politicians and the police force that have allowed him to carry out his criminal activity all these years. The SUV met with the accident at Bhaunti in Kanpur district, toppling on the road which was slippery after the rains, police claimed. The car was part of a small convoy of police vehicles. Police said the gangster snatched a pistol from one of the policemen injured in the accident and was shot when he opened fire while

trying to flee, an account being questioned by opposition parties. Six policemen, including two from the Special Task Force, were hurt in the accident and the exchange of fire around 6 am, an official said. Dubey was the sixth man to die in a police encounter after the ambush he allegedly masterminded in Kanpur's Bikru village past midnight July 2, killing eight policemen who had come to arrest him. Madhya Pradesh police arrested Vikas Dubey outside the Mahakal temple in Ujjain Thursday morning. He was handed over to an Uttar Pradesh police team late in the evening. Kanpur Range Inspector General Mohit Agarwal said Dubey fled from the car with an injured policeman's pistol. He was chased and surrounded by policemen and was asked to surrender. When he started firing with an "intention to kill", police opened fire in self-defence, Kanpur police said. A press release said he was immediately taken to a hospital, where he died during treatment. Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Medical College principal Dr R B Kamal said he was brought dead to the hospital. "Dubey sustained four bullet injuries, three in the chest and one in the hand," he told. Opposition parties targeted the BJP government after the encounter. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the encounter as well as the ambush in which eight policemen died last week. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the crim-



Uttar Pradesh ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar addresses a press conference

QUESTIONS AROUND

- 1 Why was the car carrying the gangster switched before the encounter?
- 2 Why was the media stopped 2 km from the site of the incident?
- 3 Why did eyewitnesses say they heard gunshots but don't mention any accident?
- 4 Why was a dangerous criminal not handcuffed?

inal is now gone and asked what about those who had "protected" him. Her party has demanded a judicial probe in the entire Vikas Pandey episode. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said it was not the car that had toppled but the encounter had saved the state government from toppling, had facts come to light. **MORE P8**



India, China agree on total disengagement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 10: India and China Friday held a fresh round of diplomatic talks on the border row in eastern Ladakh and reaffirmed to ensure complete disengagement of the troops in the region for full restoration of peace and tranquility along Line of Actual Control. The Ministry of External Affairs said the talks were held under the framework of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC). It said the two sides reaffirmed to ensure complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC for full restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas in accordance with bilateral agreements and protocols. They also agreed that of bilateral relations it was essential to maintain enduring peace and tranquility in the border areas, the MEA said in a statement. The Indian delegation at the online talks was led by the Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs while the Chinese side was headed by the Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department in China's foreign ministry. They reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas including the progress made in ongoing disengagement process.

PLA has withdrawn troops from 3 friction points in line with a disengagement understanding

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Well, we're fearless when we face a criminal... especially if he is unarmed

Delivery of Apache choppers complete

New Delhi: In the midst of India's tense border standoff with China, US aerospace major Boeing delivered the final five of the 22 Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force around two weeks ago, and the entire fleet is now part of the assets deployed in key air bases along the Line of Actual Control, officials said Friday. Boeing said it completed delivery of all 22 Apache and 15 Chinook military helicopters to the IAF and is fully committed to meet the operational needs of the Indian armed forces. India is one of 17 nations to select the Apache and has the most advanced variant, the AH-64E Apache. **P8**

Five more districts in state rid of Reds

Bhubaneswar, July 10: The Odisha government has approved the removal of five districts from the Left Wing Extremism affected Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme, said Director General of Police Abhay here Friday. Briefing the media, Abhay said that the state government approval follows a proposal sent by Odisha Police in this regard. The districts which will be out of the SRE are Angul, Boudh, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Nayagarh, said Abhaya. This recognises improved security situation in these districts. Meanwhile, Abhay said that recently a good trend of more and more hardcore Maoists shunning violence has come to notice. As many as 13 ultras surrendered before the security forces in 2019 while 19 Maoists have already left their arms till now this year. He urged the left ultras to join the mainstream by leaving violence. He requested the Maoists to take advantage of the various rehabilitation schemes being run by the state government to integrate them into the mainstream. Odisha has been experiencing the scourge of Naxal activities for more than three decades. As many as 19 of the 30 districts of Odisha districts were declared as SRE district, sources said. In April 2018, six districts - Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati and Ganjam - were declared as free from Maoist activities and these districts were removed from the Central government sponsored Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme.



A TOTAL OF 11 DISTRICTS OF ODISHA HAVE SO FAR BEEN ASSESSED TO BE FREE OF MAOIST ACTIVITIES IN A SPAN OF TWO YEARS



A view of 750 MW Rewa solar power plant, Asia's largest green energy project, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing in Madhya Pradesh, Friday

Another record daily spike in state

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Odisha Friday registered its highest single-day spike of 755 COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 11,956, while the death toll mounted to 56 with four more patients succumbing to the infectious disease, a health department official said. Detection of 755 more positive cases is a record in Odisha since the first case was detected in the state March 15, the official said. While 508 of the new cases were reported from different quarantine centres, remaining 247 are local contacts. Contact tracing and follow-up action is underway, he said. In a statement, the department said, Regret to inform the demise of 4 COVID positive patients while under treatment in hospital. Two other COVID patients died due to other causes. The number of COVID-19 positive patients succumbing to other diseases increased to 17, the official said. With this, the number of COVID-19 fatalities in Odisha mounted to 56 while the states hotspot Ganjam district accounted for 34 deaths, the official said.

CISCE declares board results; no merit list

New Delhi, July 10: The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) Friday announced results for class 10 and 12 exams even as it decided against bringing out a merit list this year in view of 'exceptional circumstances.' While the board recorded a pass percentage of 99.34 per cent for class 10 exams, up by 0.8 per cent since last year, the pass percentage for the class 12 exams stood at 96.84 per cent, recording a marginal increase. The board had to cancel its pending exams in view of the spike in COVID-19 cases and the result has been calculated on the basis of an alternative assessment scheme decided by it.



"Given the exceptional circumstances, this year CISCE will not be publishing a merit list for either the ICSE or ISC year 2020 examinations," CISCE Chief Executive and Secretary Gerry Arathoon said. "This year has been exceptionally difficult for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple national and states' lockdowns, coupled with many other related problems," he added. As per the results announced, a total of 2,06,525 candidates have cleared the class 10 exams, known as the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), while 1,377 candidates have been unsuccessful. The class 12 exams, called the Indian School Certificate (ISC) exam, have been cleared by 85,611 candidates while 2,798 students have been unsuccessful. **MORE P2**

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	36594.33 ↓ 143.36
NIFTY	10768.00 ↓ 45.50
DOLLAR	75.39 ↑ ₹0.27
EURO	85.12 ↑ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹49,028 ↑ ₹150
SILVER	₹51,256 ↑ ₹165

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	33.8°C	34.8°C
TEMP. MIN	26.5°C	25.0°C
Humidity	88%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

India's SMEs plan does little to save them

Mumbai, July 10: India re-opened for business in June after months of lockdown but for thousands of small entrepreneurs in the country, the blow has been devastating. Businesses from textiles to sports goods and furniture are shuttered or working at a bare minimum, and cows roam streets that would be normally packed with workers and vehicles. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme to help small businesses back on their feet through \$40 billion of government-guaranteed loans is too little and may not be enough to save the many companies that form the backbone of India's economy, nearly three dozen entrepreneurs Reuters spoke to across the country said. Some said their business was so hamstrung by the pandemic that taking on new debt made little sense. They would rather the government had helped them by cutting the goods and service tax or waive off the interest on loans.

WORST AFFECTED
Small businesses that account for nearly one-quarter of India's \$2.9 trillion economy and employ more than 500 million workers are the worst affected by the pandemic
35% of the 650 million small businesses across the country could shut down soon in the absence of government support

company based in Meerut made steel furniture for hotels and schools, said he had fired eight of his 10 workers and was thinking of shutting down the operation. "It would be better for me to close the unit than to run from pillar to post to get a loan," said Ashok, who did not want to give his full name. He said his banker told him his creditworthiness is low as his business is struggling. The Finance Ministry, which has made the loan support scheme the centerpiece of the rescue effort, did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on the problems faced by businessmen. Small businesses that account for nearly one-quarter of India's \$2.9 trillion economy and employ more than 500 million workers are the worst affected by the pandemic.

Nearly 35% of the 650 million small businesses across the country could shut down soon in the absence of government support, the Consortium of Indian Associations said in a letter to Modi's office seen by Reuters. "We have not got a single rupee relief from the government," said Sanjeev Rastogi, a garment manufacturer in Meerut who is running his factories at 25% of the production capacity. Rastogi has incurred a loss of 3.5 million rupees in the last two months and believes he may have to close down his business in the next three months. Rastogi is making last ditch efforts to remain in business. "Otherwise, I will sell the factory at any price to save some money for my retirement."



NIALL HORAN'S LOCKDOWN LOVE STORY

One Direction star Niall Horan has been reportedly in a romantic relationship with designer shoe buyer Amelia Woolley. The singer has been dating Amelia for the past two months after they bonded during lockdown.

LUCKY BRITTANY SNOW

Actress Brittany Snow got married to Tyler Stanaland in March, and she feels extremely lucky to have tied the knot before isolation orders were put in place due to Covid pandemic.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Curl, massage, clip, tweeze, polish, gloss, condition... today, will you attempt to shed your old skin. A dream date may have you in jitters but Ganesh suggests that you take it easy. True relationships are not sealed by glossy kisses alone!

TAURUS
Fortune favours the brave and you will wake up feeling gutsy. Your performance will peak today and you will reap the benefits of real estate and construction business. Your peers and boss will extend all the support you need.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to rack your brains to get things done. But your modesty will not do you any good. You will have to show that you are the boss, even if you are not. Your extraordinary brilliance will translate into exceptional performance and will save the day.

CANCER
Today, you are likely to be brimming with love and compassion. However, certain negative thoughts will spoil all your good work. But don't fret! Your efforts won't go wasted and you will get the desired results sooner or later, says Ganesh.

LEO
On some days, the sun doesn't seem to have risen from the east, and neither does it seem you have gotten up on the right side of the bed. You start your day in a tensed atmosphere in the morning, caused by some annoyance on the part of one of your family members. But the day is not as bad as it seems.

VIRGO
The artist, the comedian and the showman in you are all set to take the floor today. Entertain people and set the evening ablaze with your arsenal of jokes and gags, says Ganesh. But save valuable time and energy for other pressing matters and responsibilities too.

LIBRA
Monotonous is the word to describe the way things have been till now, but no more, says Ganesh. It might be a very good idea for you to take a break from things around you and go on a small trip. Invigorate yourself with a small picnic with family and friends.

SCORPIO
Investing in real estate could yield maximum profits today, says Ganesh. An unusual gain from speculative trade is also on the cards. But you may need to spend time in the waiting room, before a more profitable opportunity comes by. You may just reinvent yourself to a happier self and savour every moment of life, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Setting for a new, better employment will help you fast-track your career growth. A telephonic interview might ring in a new offer. A lucrative deal with an MNC would serve well. Your dedication and devotion to work will also peak today, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
It may seem too far-fetched, but your boss will bank on your brilliance and unmatched abilities to get respite from the existing problems, says Ganesh. Moreover, much to the dismay of your rivals, you will have your way and gain popularity by winning the hearts of your clients.

AQUARIUS
You will come out top in whatever you choose to do, and success will smell honeysuckle sweet! Naturally, recognition and rewards await you. Take your friends to that trendy cafe; you needn't wait for a reason to party, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You are likely to be grinding yourself under at the workplace today. A turning point will arise in romantic liaisons, though if the evening awaiting you is anything to go by, it is something you should welcome wholeheartedly, says Ganesh.

LOYOLA STUDENTS SHINE; THREE SECURE 98.8% IN ICSE

POST NEWS NETWORK

ICSE, ISC results 2020 announced

BHUBANESWAR: The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) Friday announced the results for annual Class X and XII boards.

Students can visit the official websites of the CISCE and check their results online at cisce.org and results.cisce.org. To get their results through SMS, candidates will need to type ICSE or ISC followed by their seven-digit unique ID code and send the message to 09248082883.

Schools affiliated to CISCE will be able

to access their students' results by logging into the CAREERS portal using the principal's login ID and password.

Students will have to use their course code, candidate UID, and index number. They will be required to collect their original marksheet from their respective schools.

Like every year, students of Loyola School performed remarkably well in the ICSE and ISC exams. In Class X board exam, Sivam Mohapatra, Veda Raju and Ibtesham Azmi Khan – secured 98.8% marks, while Jyotirmoy Patra secured 98.2 per cent. Prananya Rath and Tamojit Bera were close third



with 98 per cent marks.

In the ISC (Arts stream), Sumedha Ray secured 95% marks, Ranya Deb 94.5% and Ambrita Mishra 90.7%. In the ISC (Commerce stream), Aniket Mohanty secured 89.7% marks, while Kanyaka Samantara obtained 95.7% marks followed by Sipra Swagatika

Mishra (95%) and CV Anish (91.5%) in the in ISC (Pure Science stream).

In ISC (Bio Science stream), Lasya V obtained 96.7% marks followed by Asutosh Sahoo (96%) and Abhisha Behera (94.7%).

Students of Stewart School also performed well in their ICSE and ISC exams as all the students who appeared for these examinations were successful. A total of 180 students appeared for the exams and 52 of them obtained 90 per cent and above. Kiran Mahapatra of the school secured 99.5% marks in ICSE, while Prakash Sarangi obtained 96% marks in ISC.

MANOJ OPEN TO PLAYING VIKAS DUBEY ON BIG SCREEN

Mumbai: Actor Manoj Bajpayee says it would be interesting to portray the dramatic life of UP gangster Vikas Dubey on big screen.

On Friday, after the news of the alleged encounter of a dreaded gangster, netizens started discussing the possibility of a Bollywood movie on the same.

Producer Sandeep Kapur also suggested that a film with Manoj Bajpayee playing the role of the gangster should be made.

"What has happened today in the encounter is beyond cinematic and dramatic experience. @BajpayeeManoj how about playing Vikas Dubey in your next? You'll kill it! #VikasDubey #Encounter @DrKumarVishwas," Kapur tweeted.

Reacting to it, Manoj said: "I have been hearing that a lot of people are discussing me in the role. If the character and script are nice, then playing any real life character

would be fun. The said person's life has been very theatrical and it would be very interesting to bring his life to the big screen. Let's see what happens. I am excited to play this character."

It is being reported that Sandeep is in process of acquiring the rights to make the biopic of the gangster.

On the work front, Manoj is seen in the critically acclaimed movie *Bhonsle*. It is the story of a man struggling to navigate a solitary life in self isolation.

Bhonsle revolves around a police constable played by Manoj Bajpayee, who tries to help migrants in their battles with the local politicians. The film also addresses the concerns of various ethnic groups and highlights the issues that

they face in order to survive in a city like Mumbai.

IANS

Taapsee: Have seen countless ups and downs

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu says she has seen numerous ups and downs in everything she has tried to attempt in life.

Taapsee took to Instagram, where she shared a throwback image from the time when her team Pune Seven Aces won the Premier Badminton League (PBL).

"Getting back to what I started..... 2020 has been very disturbing. For many reasons but the fact remains that time waits for nobody. Or a better way to look at it, this too shall pass," she wrote alongside the image. The picture features Taapsee sporting pigtailed dressed in a blue jacket and pink t-shirt.

Remembering this moment when my team won its first tie in PBL after almost everybody thought we'r done. Losing back to back was obviously not how any of us imagined it to be. This victory definitely brought that smile on my face but also reassured that bad times don't last n if you hang on to hope and positivity you are bound to see a successful tomorrow."

She added: "Have seen countless ups and downs in everything I tried to attempt in life but trust me the success tastes sweetest after you have had a taste of failure. Big hug n a bigger smile to sail through this time. ##Throwback."

Taapsee made her acting debut with the 2010 Telugu film *Jhummadi Naadam*. She was later seen in films like *Chashme Baddoor*, *Pink*, *The Ghazi Attack*, *Judwaa 2* and *Badla* among many others.

After giving a stellar performance in *Thappad*, she will be seen in *Haseen Dilruba*, *Rashmi Rocket* and *Shabaash Mithu* over the coming months. IANS

Farah recalls choreographing Sushant

Mumbai: Director-choreographer Farah Khan Kunder remembers choreographing late actor Sushant Singh Rajput for the title track of *Dil Bechara*, and says all she can see is how alive and happy Sushant looks in it.

The title track was launched Friday. "This song is particularly close to me because it was the first time I was choreographing Sushant... we were friends for a long time but never worked together," she wrote on her Instagram along with stills from the song.

"I had also promised Mukesh Chhabra that when he makes his directorial debut I would do a song for him.. I wanted the song to be done as a 1 shot song because I knew Sushant would be able to do it perfectly."

"I remembered Sushant had once come to a reality dance show that I was

judging as a celebrity guest and that's the only time the celebrity guest danced better than the contestants on that show.. we rehearsed a whole day and then finished shoot in half a day! As a reward for nailing it perfectly all Sushant wanted was food from my house which I duly got for him," she recalled.

Farah says the song holds a special place in her heart.

She said: "I see the song and all I can see is how Alive, how happy he looks in it.. yes this song is very special to

me.thank u @castingchhabra for including me on this journey of ursa #missusushantsinghrajput."

"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. Budding actress Sanjana Sanghi stars opposite Sushant in the film. Casting director Mukesh Chhabra is making his directorial debut with the film. Sushant's last film "Dil Bechara" will premiere on a streaming platform on July 24. IANS

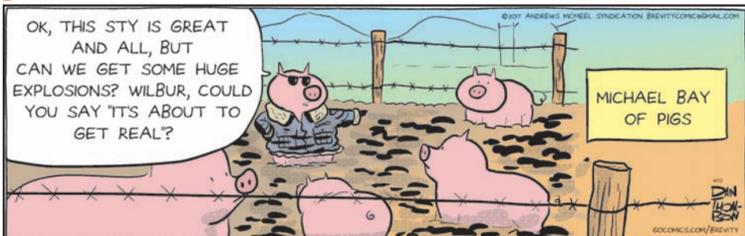
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

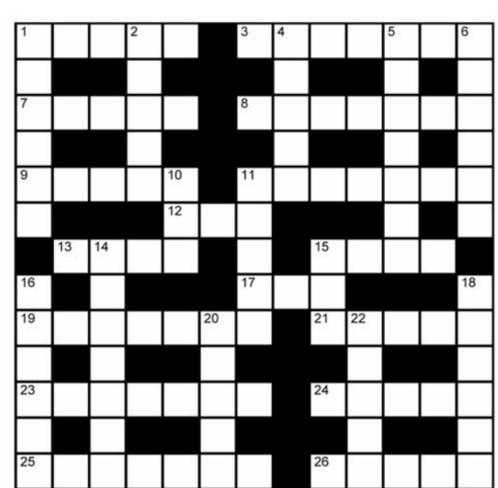


BREVITY



FUN post

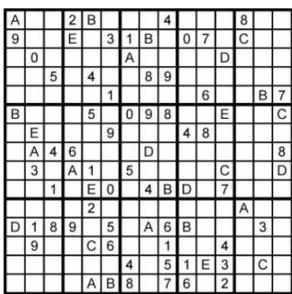
CROSSWORD



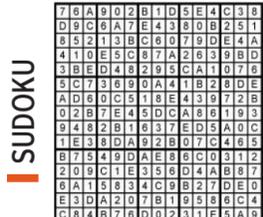
- Across**
- 1 Sacred song
 - 3 Entrances
 - 7 Tasteless
 - 8 Tallest living quadruped
 - 9 Convolute
 - 11 Complain
 - 12 "___ questions?"
 - 13 Do damage to
 - 15 Cordon bleu
 - 17 Paltry amount
 - 19 Neat
 - 21 Dinner dish
 - 23 Dashes
 - 24 Navigate
 - 25 Cougar
 - 26 Sponge
 - 5 Cordial
 - 6 Film parts
 - 10 Tartan cap
 - 11 Wanderer
 - 14 Fireplace piece
 - 15 Trophy
 - 16 Chit-chat
 - 18 Look for
 - 20 Unit of petrol
 - 22 Numbers game

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



POWER PLANT

Creepers grow on an electricity transmission tower near Souchana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

DAILY GRIND

Fishermen busy weaving fishing nets on the beach in Puri, Friday



SCB to be state's plasma therapy hub

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: With a sharp hike in COVID-19 cases in the state, the government is taking expeditious steps to develop SCB Medical College and Hospital as a hub for plasma therapy.

Speaking to reporters here, Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) director Ajay Kumar Parida Friday said plasma therapy treatment will start at four hospitals in the state very soon.

Within next 10 to 12 days, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will inaugurate four such facilities at SCB Medical College and Hospital, KIMS, SUM Hospital and Ashwini Hospital, he said, adding, preparations are underway to make SCB a hub of plasma therapy.

The government has also decided to enhance the Covid testing rate in the state, the director said after attending a meeting held under the chairmanship of additional chief secretary (ACS) PK Mohapatra.



RAMPING UP TESTING

Four facilities such as SCB, KIMS, SUM Hospital and Ashwini Hospital will be inaugurated by the CM over next two weeks

From 5,000 RT-PCR tests today, the target has been set to ramp up the testing capacity to 6,000 per day

(NHM) director Shalini Pandit will brief the Chief Medical Officers and microbiologists on the guidelines with regard to the technicalities of the antigen tests to be carried out in district headquarters hospitals from next week.

In the next few days, the ethical committee's approval, standard operating procedure (SOP), and formulation of state-specific guidelines for plasma therapy will be completed, he added.

The ILS director said at present, more than 5,000 RT-PCR tests are being conducted per day and the target has been set to ramp up the testing capacity to 6,000 per day.

"Keeping in view the rising number of COVID cases, the discussions hovered over how the testing capacity can be ramped up. Last week, 5,600 to 5,700 tests were conducted per day and in order to

bridge the gap, it has been decided to increase the tests to 6000 per day," he said.

The government has also decided to conduct 2,000 antigen tests in the state per day. In this regard, the state government would procure 1 lakh rapid antigen test kits. It has so far received 30,000 antigen test kits.

He said National Health Mission

CONG DEMANDS PERSONAL TAX WAIVER FOR ONE YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: In view of the impact of Covid-19 on economy, state Congress president Niranjana Patnaik Friday urged the state government to waive personal taxes collected in urban and rural areas for one year.

"I would like to make some recommendations to Odisha government which is taking austerity measures to tackle the financial stress caused by Covid-19," Patnaik said.

He asked the government to exempt personal taxes for next one year, both in urban and rural areas.

"If the government can reduce tax on liquor, why it cannot exempt personal taxes paid by people in the state?" he asked.

He appealed to the state government to tell people about the reality of the state's financial con-



If the government can reduce tax on liquor, why it cannot exempt personal taxes paid by people in the state, asks Niranjana

dition.

The government should also do a survey on the vacancies in various departments and reserve 85 per cent of jobs in local industries

for Odia youths, he recommended.

The Congress leader also demanded the government transfer Rs 750 per month to every unemployed youth.

Protesting the Centre's decision to conduct UG and PG final year examinations, Patnaik said, "At a time when Covid-19 cases are rising exponentially, the decision to conduct exams is questionable. The future of our students depends on their grades. The government must look into the matter and resolve the issue for the betterment of students."

Similarly, online education is not feasible for common man in Odisha. The syllabus has been reduced by 30 per cent after putting students through stress for last 4 months. "Why did the government not consult experts earlier? Does the government see everything through a political lens?" he asked.

Assembly shuts down for one day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: The State Assembly was shut down for a day (Friday) after the family member of an employee tested positive for COVID-19, Speaker Surya Narayan Patro said.

"Family member of an official of Deputy Speaker's office was found Covid positive. Therefore, we have declared the Assembly shut down for a day. As Saturday and Sunday are no work days due to weekend shut-down, the Assembly Secretariat will reopen Monday," Patro said.

The swab sample of the employee has also been sent for test and he has been asked to inform the office about the test report, Patro said. The Speaker has already suspended meetings of various house panels

after an MLA tested positive for COVID-19. The employees, who were on duty during a committee meeting attended by the concerned MLA, have been asked to stay in home quarantine, he said. "The employees have also been directed to undergo swab test. We will decide the further course of action after getting their test reports," Patro added.

Government chief whip Pramila Mallick said "The Chief Minister has asked all BJD members to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Obeying his order, the party members are avoiding congregation and we are not holding any political programme," she said, adding that the official discussion is being taken place with participation of only three members, when required.

BEAUTIFYING CITY



Artisans are drawing graffiti on the walls of Siharpur overbridge in Cuttack as part of a beautification drive by the civic authorities, Friday

Govt put on notice over animal cruelty

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 10: The Supreme Court Friday issued notice to the Centre and 12 states including Odisha to declare 'illegal and unconstitutional' the barbaric practices like stuffing crackers in food items and chalked off sticks to ward off wild animals. The court said this while hearing a petition seeking directions to the authorities.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde and comprising Justices RS Subhash Reddy and AS Bopanna issued the notices while taking up the petition filed by Shubham Awasthi.

The petitioner sought a direction to the Union government to bring in necessary amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 to enhance punishment for causing cruelty against animals.

Awasthi also stated that the governments should fill the vacancies in forest forces and upgrade the forest forces with modern equipment for effective management and propagation of necessary awareness pertaining to human-animal conflicts.

It was prayed that the Centre should issue guidelines to all the states for animal census to understand the need of the wildlife and take appropriate measures to protect them. The petitioner pleaded with the court to direct the Union government and states to issue



The petitioner sought a direction to the Centre for necessary amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

guidelines for tracking of elephants in order to save them from the threat of extinction and cruelty against them.

The petitioner contended that the cruelty with which elephants are treated nowadays is a far cry from what it was like in ancient India. Citing the barbaric incident of Kerala, where an elephant ate a pineapple filled with crackers in Palakkad, the petitioner contended that it was quite common for locals to use fruits filled with crackers to ward off wild boars and other animals which may destroy standing crops.

The petitioner urged the court to direct the Centre for scientific/alternative measures to ward off wild animals which may pose threat to standing crops and human settlements.

1,129 minor mineral sources pinned down for exploration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: In its bid to meet the rising demand of minor minerals like sand and stone, the state government has identified 1,129 new sairat sources that will be explored soon.

This was informed at a meeting in Lok Seva Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy.

Revenue & Disaster Management Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said within last couple of months 1,129 new sairat sources have been identified in different districts. With this, the total number of minor mineral sairats has increased to 4,965 in the state.

As per earlier decisions of the government, the directorate of minor minerals has been made functional within a very short period of time. "Enhancement of legally operational sources will have triple benefit of ensuring supply of material for construction sector which



is labour intensive, containing the theft of minor minerals and increasing the collection of revenues," Tripathy said.

He sought identifying the sand rich riverbeds on the banks of major rivers like the Mahanadi, the Baitarani, the Bramhani, the Rusikulya and the Subarnarekha in cooperation with the departments of water resources, forest & environment and prepare scientific plans for sand mining.

It was decided at the meeting to allow inter-state transportation of sands through a competitive bidding process.

The Chief Secretary further sought to strengthen enforcement activities for checking the theft of minor minerals. District Collectors and SPs were directed to utilize the services of Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF) and sharpen the squad activities for the containment of illegal lifting of minerals.

Available data show, in the first phase, ten sections of OISF have been provided 10 locations in 8 minor mineral rich districts. The places include Cuttack Sadar, Baranga, Jaleswar, Anandapur, Chhatrapur, Bhanjanagar, Dharmasala, Tangi and Ranapur. Besides, one section has been deployed for Jharsuguda, Lakhanpur, Brajarajnagar on a rotation basis.

Director Minor Minerals Bibhuti Bhusan Das said revenues to the tune of around Rs 37.11 crore have been collected in April and May this fiscal from minor minerals. Tripathy directed scaling up of annual revenue generation to Rs 1,000 crore from minor minerals.

Covid warrior cop wins laurels

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, July 10: A sub-inspector (SI) of police in Berhampur won laurels from several quarters when he resumed duty after recovering from Covid-19 infection. Even Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated SI Bibhuti Bhusan Sathy, a native of Balediha village of Banpur block in Khurda district,

sources said.

Earlier, Sathy had postponed his wedding to do his duty as a Covid-19 warrior in April. According to sources, Sathy was in home quarantine after the detection of Covid-19 symptoms in him in June. Later, he tested positive for the deadly virus and shifted to a Covid hospital.

Sathy resumed duty July 3 after his recovery from infection.

Man threatens lady with morphed obscene pics

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: An unidentified cyber criminal forced a 27-year-old female to talk to him by threatening to share her morphed obscene pictures on various social media platforms. The victim has lodged a complaint with the Khandagiri police in this regard.

According to sources, the woman, a resident of Khandagiri area, alleged that the culprit sent some obscene photos and messages to her Whatsapp account. The accused had morphed the images by pasting

the lady's face on vulgar photos. He asked the victim to have a conversation with him else he would post the morphed pictures on various social media platforms.

Police have started investigation into the matter by registering a case (380/20) under various sections of IPC and IT Act in this regard. Similarly, some cyber criminals duped a person on the pretext of updating his expired Paytm account. The complainant from Bhitatangi area of the city has lodged a complaint at the Airfield Police Station here. More than ten

The accused sent some obscene photos and messages to the victim's Whatsapp account.

He had morphed the images by pasting the lady's face on vulgar photos

cases of Paytm KYC fraud have been registered at various police stations in the city over last two months.

According to his complaint, he received a call allegedly from the customer care center of the Paytm, falsely claiming about the expiry of

the Paytm account due to the non-submission of KYC (Know Your Customer) documents.

Subsequently, the victim gave all the KYC-related details to the accused cyber criminals June 10. He also deposited Rs 5 in the account given by the fraudsters for opening a fresh UPI, Yono account. A few days later, he was shocked to find out withdrawal of Rs 6 lakh from his bank account shared with the cyber criminals.

Police have registered a case based on the complaint filed by the victim.

SEASONAL FRUIT



People buying custard apples from a roadside vendor in Malgodown area of Cuttack, Friday

Odia scientist invents 'organic energy' from wastes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 10: An Odia scientist and his team invented organic sources of energy by using waste materials like bio-oil, biochar and pyrogas.

The researchers working under the leadership of Sanjeev Kumar Karmi are working at Sardar Patel Renewable Energy Research Institute (SPRERI) in Gujarat. All the three sources of energy have been invented following a single methodology. The findings of the team could be epoch-making as well as major sources of energy for India.

"Our team had been conducting research over last three years and the inventions will be presented

before the government very soon. The whole world is under pressure due to rising energy prices. Then one has also to consider the effects of pollution and climate change. So the SPRERI team decided to find solutions to these perennial problems," said the young scientist.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has borne the expenses of this project. According to the unique research methodology, argon and nitrogen gases are exposed to organic wastes through a pyrolysis process to create the three organic sources of energy - bio-oil which is a substitute of petrol and diesel, pyrogas which is mostly used in spice industries and biochar which is widely used in agricultural sector, Sanjeev added.



Sanjeev said that up to 15 kg of organic wastes can be processed through pyrolysis in an hour, which could simultaneously produce about 40 per cent of bio-oil, 25 per cent of

Our team had been conducting research over last three years and the inventions will be presented before the government very soon. The whole world is under pressure due to rising energy prices. Then one has also to consider the effects of pollution and climate change

SANJEEV KUMAR KARMI | ODISIA SCIENTIST

30 per cent of biochar and 20 per cent of pyrogas. The team has plans to improvise the pyrolysis process in future days.

India could turn out to be a major energy-rich and self-reliant country

in the world by adopting this methodology. Simultaneous production of the three organic sources of energy will bring in energy security in the world, the research team opined.

Sanjeev belongs to Tebhapadar village under Biramaharajpur block in Subarnapur district and is the son of Biswanath Karmi and Kamalini Karmi. Eldest child of the family, he completed his schooling from Sonepur. Later, he joined Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT), for his doctorate degree.

Sanjeev has worked as a research scholar at RWTH-Aachen University in Germany, Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and universities in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Covid spread alarming; toll climbs to 56

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: The state Friday registered its highest single-day spike of 755 Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to 11,956, while the death toll mounted to 56 with four more patients succumbing to the infectious disease, a Health department official said.

Detection of 755 more positive cases is a record in Odisha since the first case was detected in the state March 15, the official said.

While 508 of the new cases were reported from different quarantine centres, remaining 247 are local contacts. Contact tracing and follow-up action is underway, he said.

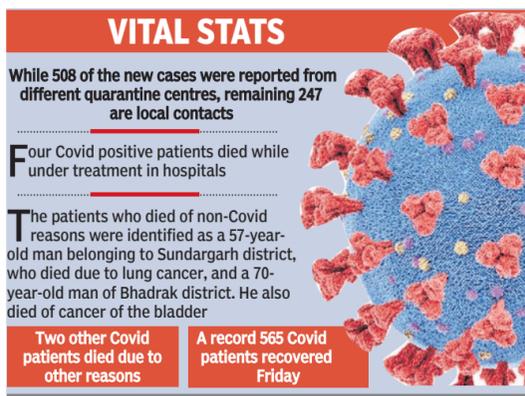
In a statement, the department said, "Regret to inform the demise of four Covid positive patients while under treatment in hospital."

Two other Covid patients died due to other reasons. The number of Covid-19 positive patients succumbing to other diseases increased to 17, the official said.

The patients who died of non-Covid reasons were identified as a 57-year-old man belonging to Sundargarh district, who died due to lung cancer, and a 70-year-old man of Bhadrak district. He also died of cancer of the bladder, the official said.

With this, the number of fatalities due to the deadly virus in Odisha mounted to 56 while the state's hotspot Ganjam district accounted for 34 deaths, the official said.

Ganjam was followed by Khurda (eight), Cuttack (five) and one each



from Angul, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Gajapati, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Puri, Rayagada and Sundargarh districts.

The new positive cases have been reported from 23 districts.

Ganjam reported the highest 320 new cases followed by Jajpur (86), Sundargarh (62), Khurda (59) and Cuttack (55). Other districts were: Angul (three), Balasore (nine), Bargarh (one), Bhadrak (two), Balangir (12), Deogarh (four), Dhenkanal (four), Gajapati (30), Jagatsinghpur (five), Kandhamal (two), Kendrapada (five), Keonjhar (32), Koraput (5), Malkangiri (18), Mayurbhanj (12), Nayagarh (16), Puri (11), and Sambalpur (two).

Meanwhile, a record 565 Covid patients recovered Friday.

"Achieving a record high discharge of Covid positive cases for

three days in a row, now, we are happy to share that a record 565 Covid patients have recovered on 10.7.2020! With this, the total recovered cases of Odisha surge to 7972! 185 from Ganjam 85 from Rayagada (sic)," the Health and Family Welfare department tweeted.

With this, the number of active cases in state stands at 3,911, while 7,972 patients have so far recovered from the disease. Odisha has so far recorded 11,956 Covid cases.

45 NEW CASES TAKE CAPITAL CITY'S TALLY TO 602

The Capital city's Covid tally reached 602 with 45 more testing positive for the viral infection Friday, an official said.

"Out of the 45 cases, 35 are from quarantine centres while 10 are

Police Seva Bhawan shut for 48 hours

The Commissionerate Police, Friday, announced closure of Police Seva Bhawan for 48 hours from 9am, July 11 to 9am July 13 as a preventive measure against spread of Covid-19.

The staff and visitors working at the Police Seva Bhawan have been asked to not visit the building during the closure period. However, the building will also be sanitised before the closure.

Announcing its decision, the Commissionerate Police tweeted, "Police Seva Bhawan will remain closed for staff and visitors for 48 hours from 9 AM of 11 July to 9 AM of 13 July as a preventive measure coinciding with official holidays on second Saturday & Sunday. Prior to closure building will be sanitized."

from local contacts. On the other hand, six more persons in the City recovered from the disease," the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation tweeted.

With this, the number of active Covid cases in the City mounted to 286. While 308 persons in the Temple City have recovered from the viral infection,

seven have succumbed to it so far, added the civic body.

Cops involved in rape, death of tribal woman: BJP

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 10: BJP state unit vice president Parvati Parida Friday alleged involvement of police officials in the 'rape' and subsequent death of a tribal woman working at Malkangiri police headquarters canteen in May.

As per the allegations, a tribal woman working at Malkangiri police headquarters canteen was sexually assaulted by more than one May 7 last and when she fell unconscious she was rushed to hospital where she succumbed to the injuries May 11 last.

Although her husband lodged an FIR alleging that his wife was gangraped and killed, no action was taken till date. The BJP had already moved the OHR and the National Commission for ST in this regard.

Parida, who led a party delegation to Malkangiri for an on-the-spot assessment of the case, told newsmen that police are fully responsible for the death of the woman.

She alleged that police are pressuring the doctor who treated the woman to change the medical report to suppress the case and give a clean chit to the culprits.

She said though there is provision to register cases under the ST/SC Prevention of Atrocities Act and file chargesheet against the culprits, the cops are sitting on it.

Parida threatened that BJP will continue its agitation till all the accused in the Malkangiri case are arrested under the ST/SC Prevention of Atrocities Act.

Sahitya Akademi declares winners for 2015, 2016

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Odisha Sahitya Akademi Friday announced the list of winners for the years 2015 and 2016 in nine categories of literary works.

The winners were declared by Akademi chairman Harihar Mishra. For 2015, the winners are: Nityananda Panda for novel 'Gotie Jodi Gaanra Kahani', Pabitra Panigrahi for short story 'Gagara Muhana', Binapani Panda for poetry 'Godhuli Geeta', Sanjay Hati and Naveen Kumar Parida for drama 'Manchamaya Natua' and 'Natua O Anyanya' respectively, Panchanan Mishra for the essay and critical analysis 'Sahitya Samalochana Tattwika O Prayogika Prasanga', Dharanidhar Panigrahi for biography 'Louhmanava Sardar Patel', Bijay Kumar Mohanty for translation 'Tathapi Kichhi Rahijiba', Rabindra Biswal for children's literature 'Gachhatie O Geetatie' and

Manoj Mohanty for lyrical writing 'Prati Palakare Tume'.

For the year 2016, the winners are: Laxmipriya Acharya for novel 'Amba', Devdas Chhotray for short

The winners will be awarded at a ceremony once the Covid-19 pandemic subsides



story 'Ramaku Maribara Panchati Upaya', Bhagban Jaysingh for poetry 'Pheranti Ghara', Fakir Singh for drama 'Atmalipi O Anyanya', Prasanna Kumar Swain for essay and critical analysis 'Alochana Prasanga', Surendra Kumar Maharana for biography and travelogue 'Professor Navin Kumar Sahu' & Pradosh Patnaik for biography and travelogue 'Chalichhi...Chilibi Napadibi Thaki', Sarada Ratha for translation work

'Meghabahana', Debendra Choudhury for children's literature 'Chuin Chadhei', Satyanarayana Mishra for lyrical writing 'Mishra Raaga'.

The winners will be awarded at a ceremony once the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.

ECoR biz devpt units to boost freight traffic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Business Development Units (BDUs) have been set up in East Coast Railway (ECoR), both at Zonal and Divisional levels, to bring railways closer to industry and trade bodies in order to increase the Railway's share in the transportation needs of various sectors.

The BDU set up at zonal level by GM, ECoR, Vidya Bhushan, will be a four-member unit comprising Chief Freight Transportation Manager Sanjay Mishra as convener; Chief Commercial Manager (Freight Services), PC Sahoo; Chief Rolling Stock Engineer (Freight), SP Singh; and Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer, B K Mishra, as members.

BDUs have also been formed in all the three divisions of ECoR at Khurda Road, Visakhapatnam and



Sambalpur, comprising the branch office members from relevant fields - from operating, commercial, mechanical and finance departments - and coordinated by Senior Divisional Operations Managers.

BDUs will have frequent interactions with trade and industries to know about the existing transportation patterns and also to attract more traffic to Railways. It will facilitate industry, trade representatives and rail freight customers to get in touch with the Railways at appropriate zonal and divisional levels. BDUs will serve as a nodal point for expeditious clearance of

their proposals for freight movement, which will benefit both the customers and the Railways.

BDUs will interact with the customers and industries and explore ways to increase miscellaneous non-bulk goods traffic, along with strengthening Railway's share in traditional commodities being carried at present. Proposal received, shall be promptly analysed and developed and immediate assistance will be sought from Zonal Railways and Railway Board, if required. The unit will focus to meet Indian Railway's target of doubling the freight traffic of by 2024.



Unit-1 market in Bhubaneswar witnesses a heavy rush Friday ahead of the weekend shutdown

OP PHOTO

Rights body moved over deaths at isolation ward



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: A delegation of state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Friday approached the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHR) seeking justice for a migrant couple who died at an isolation ward of a Covid hospital in Jagatsinghpur earlier this month.

The delegation, led by former Jagatsinghpur MP and BJP's state unit Scheduled Caste Morcha president—Bibhu Prasad Tarai, informed the commission that a woman migrant worker, who returned home amid the coronavirus pandemic to Jagatsinghpur, was found dead a few hours after her husband died in an isolation ward of a Covid hospital in the district.

The couple—Nirlipta Bhola and his wife Subhadra Swain of Katijanga village under Erasama police limits in Jagatsinghpur—was sent to the quarantine centre in the coastal district after they returned from Telangana June 30. It was July 1 afternoon when Swain rushed Bhola to a Covid hospital

after he complained of uneasiness.

"Swain requested the doctors to attend a choking Bhola, but to no avail. Later, the duo was allotted a room at the isolation ward of the Covid hospital. Things, however, turned upside down when Bhola died at the isolation ward the day after—July 2. Unable to reconcile with her husband's death, Swain slit her wrist and hanged herself at the isolation ward," said the petitioner.

The petition further said that before resorting to the extreme step, Swain left behind a heart wrenching audio clip that took social media by storm.

"In the audio, the hapless lady not only lamented her loss but also held the doctors responsible for the same," said the petitioner.

The delegation urged the commission to intervene in the issue and take action against those found guilty. "This apart, the commission should direct the state government to facilitate a compensation of Rs 30 lakh to the bereaved family," the petitioner urged the commissioner.

EVICION DRIVES IN CAPITAL AMID PANDEMIC DRAW FLAK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: The civic authorities' move to continue with eviction drives here amidst the spread of Covid-19 has drawn flak from several quarters.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), last week, conducted a series of eviction drives in the city. The drive at Tarini Basti near Damana Square grabbed the attention as 431 houses of poor families were scheduled to be demolished and the squad had reached the spot.

"It is a matter of concern that the state government and its agencies such as the BMC and Bhubaneswar Development Authorities (BDA) made a forcible attempt July 6 to displace poor families of Tarini Basti. The authorities would have been successful if the people of the slum hadn't resisted. We condemn such undemocratic action of the government," said Biswapriya Kanungo, a social activist here.

Kanungo further added that during the pandemic, when the state and Union governments are persist-

ently appealing to people to stay at home to check the spread of Covid-19, it is an irony that people are being rendered homeless. "It is also an in-principle decision of the government of Odisha to safeguard slum dwellers that are lifeline of cities. The same has already been reflected in Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003 and The Land rights of Slum dwellers Act, 2017," he added.

Notably, Chief Justice of Orissa High Court had earlier directed the state and its agencies including

Municipal Corporation/Council/Board not (to) take any action for eviction, and demolition in respect of the property, over which any citizen has physical or symbolic possession until July 15.

A senior BMC official said, "The drives have mostly targeted the illegal structures such as cabins, tin stalls bamboo shed hotels and others. Notices and intimation process had been done much before the lockdown but the illegal structures remained there."

Heavy rain warning for four days

Bhubaneswar: Predicting heavy rain and thunderstorm, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued yellow warning for next four days. The IMD predicts thunderstorm with lightning at a few places of coastal Odisha and Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal, Deogarh, Angul districts, Saturday. Similarly, thunderstorm will occur at some places over the districts of south coastal Odisha.

'Export-oriented fishing units hit by pandemic'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) Friday organised a 'Farmer-Scientists Interaction' in virtual mode on the occasion of National Fish Farmers' Day.

Saroj Kumar Swain, Director, ICAR-CIFA, briefed the importance of Fish Farmers' Day. Swain said, "Fish and fish products that are highly dependent on international trade suffered quite early in the development of the pandemic from the restrictions and closure of global markets, whereas fresh fish and shellfish supply chains were severely impacted by the closure of the food service sectors (e.g. hotels, restaurants and cater-



ing facilities)."

"JK Jena, deputy director general (Fisheries Science) said that fisheries institutes are extending technical help to farmers and fishers of the country during the Covid-19 lockdown. He also motivated the

scientists to reorient the research strategies to come out with solutions for the farmers to mitigate the pandemic situation.

On the occasion Jena launched a WhatsApp number - 7790007797- and email helpline,

IN A NUTSHELL

Scientists were urged to reorient the research strategies to come out with solutions for the farmers to mitigate the pandemic situation

WhatsApp number - 7790007797- and email helpline, ask.cifa@icar.gov.in, launched for the farmers

The fish farmers should regularly sanitise farm equipment including boat, feed tray and nest used for fishing

ask.cifa@icar.gov.in, for the farmers.

Former director, ICAR-CIFA, and former vice-chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, SD Tripathi, stressed the threat of invasive species in the Indian fisheries and aquaculture. He said that

there is no evidence to suggest that the novel coronavirus affects fish or any other aquatic animal nor the pathogen is transmitted through fish. However, it is advisable to take ample precautions to avoid transmission and spread of Covid-19 among the farmers during the operations.

The coronavirus can survive 8-12 hours on any hard surface including agricultural equipment, upto 24 hours in water and more than 24 hours under ice cold conditions, he said.

He also stressed upon the need for creating public awareness on the safety of the cultured fish during this Covid times. The fish farmers should regularly sanitise farm equipment including boat, feed tray and nest used for fishing.

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9 LAKH SAL TREES TO BE AXED IN JODA

As OMC expands dumping yard, Kaliapani locals fume

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 10: About nine lakh sal trees in the jungle near Gandhalpada village of Guali panchayat under Joda block in Keonjhar district will be felled as the jungle area has been identified for iron ore excavation.

One of the nine green field mineral blocks, this area has the highest deposit of 314.37 MT iron ores. If operation starts, 241,558 hectares of area will be excavated. Of the total mines area, sal jungle stands on 181.461 hectares.

This area comes under Joda mining area and is roughly 1 km from Sundargarh border. While seven new mines are located in this area, the mining of iron ores is getting delayed due to vehement protests by local residents.

Meanwhile, the government is learnt to be mulling on a fresh auction. This month these mines will reportedly go under the hammer.

Once these mines are leased out, the mining activities will have detrimental effect on the jungle.

According to some environmentalists, the mines will not only see the sal trees being felled but cause extensive damage to the flora and fauna. This apart, the forest dwellers, who live on minor forest produces, will also lose their age-old sources of earning.

The forest department sources said the trees that have a girth of 30 cm are considered trees. Others with less than 30 cm girth are not taken into account.

Environmentalist and president, Keonjhar Citizen Forum, Kiran Shankar Sahu said a tree takes a



ECOCIDE IN THE MAKING

■ If mining operation starts, 241,558 hectares of area will be excavated. Of the total mines area, sal jungle stands on 181.461 hectares

■ Joint director of mines, Joda mining circle, Salil Kumar Behera said there are two proposals for mining in the area. After auction, an estimation will be carried out on how the forested area will be affected

minimum of 60 years to get a girth of 30 cm. So these nine lakh trees are more than 60 years old. If the mines are started after felling of the trees, what will happen to the habitat of elephants, he asked, adding that this will only increase human-elephant conflicts.

"The auction of the mines was stalled due to people's objection. The proposal for fresh auction is unfortunate," he added.

According to local residents more than the estimated nine lakh trees will be axed because smaller trees are not being taken into consideration. "Elephants, bears and other animals and birds will lose their habitats. The man-animal conflicts will increase manifold. From these proposed mines, while the government and leaseholder companies will get immense benefits, local people and forest dwellers will get nothing but air pollution," they al-

leged. Every day on an average 5,000 trucks ply in Joda mining area. Similarly, about 50MT iron ores are being transported from this area. With so many trucks plying, people here are being constantly subjected to air and water pollution. This apart, the roads are also in a deplorable condition and riddled with craters and potholes. Moreover, people are also suffering from various respiratory diseases due to air pollution.

Sources say about 10,451.39 hectares of forest land were lost to the mining activities. But no compensatory plantation has so far been carried out. The district has 110 mines, which is 31.28 per cent of the total iron mines in the state.

The environmentalists in the district have a common observation that after some years pure oxygen will be a rarity in the area.

When contacted, joint director

of mines, Joda mining circle, Salil Kumar Behera said there are two proposals for mining in that area. After auction, an estimation will be carried out and only then it can be said how the forested area will get affected.

Keonjhar divisional forest Officer Santosh Joshi said after getting the lease of mines and before carrying out any mining activities, permission from the forest department is most. Then only the department will start counting how many trees are to be felled and estimating what will be the possible adverse impact on the jungle. It is too early to say how many trees are going to be axed due to the proposed mines. Similarly, District Collector Ashish Thakare pleaded his ignorance, saying he has no information about the extent of damage the new mines will cause to the jungle.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 10: Residents of Hatasahi village of Kaliapani panchayat under Sukinda block in Jajpur district are facing serious problems due to the location of a dumping yard belonging to the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). The dumping yard, which is approximately 30 metres away from the village, is also expanding thereby reducing the distance between it and the village.

"OMC authorities of the South Kaliapani unit are expanding the dumping yard area, thereby encroaching into village land. They are also carrying out mining activities close to the village. Frequent blasts at the mining site are damaging our houses," residents of Hatasahi village said.

"The collusion between influential people with the management of the South Kaliapani mines and



OMC authorities has added to the woes of local residents. Neither the OMC authorities nor the district administration is doing anything to help the displaced people," the villagers added.

Residents of Hatasahi village have been staying there for more than 60 years now. They have received threats whenever they have protested against the mining activities. The villagers said that they have been paying taxes to the revenue department for their respective land areas. Yet their woes continue to increase.

Social activist Parbati Patra and more than 200 villagers of Hatasahi

have already written July 1 to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking rehabilitation and adequate compensation for the displaced. The NHRC has filed a case (No-1730/18/24/2020) in this connection and asked the managing director of OMC to submit a reply within four weeks. The distance of the mining site is said to be approximately 70 to 80 metres away from Hatasahi village. Frequent tremors in the area due to blasts have led to cracks developing in houses. Pollution due to the mining activities is also causing respiratory problems to the villagers.

When asked on this issue, regional manager of OMC at Jajpur Road Prasanna Kumar Swain said, "There are demands from Hatasahi villagers to rehabilitate them. We have duly communicated their demands to our higher-ups. Necessary steps will be taken as per instructions of the OMC head office."

Indravati mega lift irrig project unveiled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatana, July 10: Good news for farmers of drought-prone areas of Kalahandi. The Indravati mega lift irrigation project launched irrigation service on a trial run in Jaypatana, Koksarara and Dharmgarh blocks recently.

According to the lift irrigation department, 92, 816 hectares of farmland will be irrigated in the current



system. Now, 5,400 hectares in Jaypatana block were irrigated on launching day.

Chief engineer (Construction wing) of Indravati Lift Irrigation Project, Padmanabh Panda said that irrigation through the two canals were launched with 9.83 cusec water through the left canal and 5.12 cusec through the right canal being released from the Hati barrage to the farmlands.

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Ganjam tally close to 3,500 with 320 new cases

BATTLE AGAINST COVID



POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, July 10: The migration-prone Ganjam district is close to registering 3,500 Covid-19 positive cases. The Covid-19 hotspot district reported 320 new cases Friday. The current Covid-19 cases in Ganjam districts stood at 1,674. So far 1,707 people have recovered from the disease.

The death toll in the district went up to 34 with four new fatalities at the TATA Covid-19 hospital at Sitalapalli in this town. All the four victims were males aged 41, 58, 48 and 32. Among them

the 48 and 32 years old men were suffering from diabetes while the 41-year-old man was suffering from hypertension. However, the 58-year old man succumbed to Covid-19 only.

Some relief is expected as the district has received anti-viral drugs including Favipiravir and FabiFlu tablets as well as Remdesivir injections from the Health Department of Odisha.

Meanwhile, the five-day shutdown in two municipalities, 16 NACs and all the block headquarters is continuing in the district.

12 Covid warriors infected in Sundargarh

Rourkela: Even as Covid-19 cases are rapidly surging in Rourkela and other parts of the Sundargarh district, 12 Covid warriors were infected with the deadly virus, a report said.

Given the alarming situation, the district administration has ordered weekend shutdowns in the city till July 31. The weekend shutdown will come into effect from July 11.

Of the 62 Covid cases detected in the last 24 hours in the district, 12 of them are Covid warriors.

The official Twitter account of the district administration said that of the 62 new cases, 2 are at BBSR Covid Hospital, 12 are Covid warriors, one local contact at Kuarmanda, 34 are contacts of previous positives and 13 are returnees from outside the district. Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pawan Kalyan ordered for the weekend shutdown in Rourkela (both Rourkela Municipal Corporation area and Steel

Township area) and Kalunga Industrial area in the outskirts of Rourkela every Saturday and Sunday till July 31 under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, Disaster Management Act, 2005 and COVID-19 Regulations 2020.

The restriction will be imposed on intra-district movement of both public and private transportation. Opening of shops and commercial establishments will not be allowed.

The district administration has also instructed private and government organisations to close their operations during the weekend shutdown period.

Movement and assembly of people for two days of every week have been also banned by the district administration.

The Collector said the shutdown was announced in the Steel City so as to take preventive measures such as active surveillance, contact tracing and social distancing against the deadly virus.

Two hundred health teams, each comprising a doctor and two Anganwadi workers are carrying out contact tracing, door-to-door health screening in the areas. Besides the teams are also ensuring isolation of suspected cases in the shutdown areas. Essential

services have been exempted from the shutdown.

District Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange has provided 24X7 Covid-19 helpline number; 8118066370 for people showing symptoms of the virus or facing issues during the home quarantine.

Three scribes test positive for virus

Berhampur: Three journalists in Berhampur city of Ganjam district have tested positive for COVID-19, Friday.

Out of the three journalists one is a photo journalist and two are reporters.

All the four journalists have been admitted to the dedicated TATA COVID hospital in Sitalapalli and are undergoing treatment.

Sources said the journalists had gone to cover a crime at Berhampur Circle Jail June 30 as the police had arrested Kulu Patra Sahi on the charge of selling cannabis filled cigarettes. Later, when jail authority carried out a COVID-19 test of Kulu, he was found to be positive.

The scribes contracted the virus from Kulu while covering the story.

However, there are 20 other journalists, 15 staff of Sub Collector Berhampur and 10 Excise staff present at the jail. But their test report came out negative.

The spread of the infection among journalists in the city is concerning, health officials admit.

Contact tracing of the journalists has been started, stated health department.

The members of the Press Club here have wished for their speedy recovery.

Paper flowers bail out florists at Covid times



POST NEWS NETWORK

Banarpal, July 10: At a time when florists do not get fresh flowers to decorate marriage gates, pandals and cars in the wake of coronavirus outbreak, flower decorators of this place in Angul district have found a novel way to tackle the situation. They are using paper flowers to carry out the decorations.

According to Pitambar Pradhan, a florist, the paper flowers may not smell like fresh flowers. However, when it comes to beauty, they are in no way inferior to the real ones.

Seconding him, Ganga Kumar, another florist, said, "Before lockdown, our hands were full of orders. for 21st day ceremonies, sacred thread ceremonies, marriage functions and meetings. But after March when Covid restrictions were enforced, we are in trouble."

He added, "Restrictions are still

there for ceremonies, festivals and meetings. People observe their family functions with limited guests. We used to bring the flowers from Kolkata, but now due to COVID-19 situation, that is a problem also."

The florists at one point of time failed to meet the requirements of customers with locally grown flowers. Then the idea of using paper flowers and festoons struck them. Now all the 10 florists here are using these brightly coloured paper flowers, they claimed.

Earlier, the florists would charge Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 for decorating a groom's car and for pandals and gates charges varied between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000.

Others said, "Now we may not earn as much by using paper flowers. But even then something is better than nothing. Many are jobless. We are lucky by earning something at this crisis times,"

DFO suspends forester, guard for jumbo's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 10: A day after the decomposed carcass of an elephant calf was found at Siddhamatha reserve forest under Barbil range in Keonjhar district, DFO Santosh Joshi has suspended Guali forester Bidyadhar Bahara and forest guard Saroj Nayak Friday.

Exact reason for the death of the calf is yet to be ascertained.

The DFO stated that the two were suspended for delay in knowing the death of the calf and dereliction of duty.

Though the cause of death is not known, it is suspected that it had died about 15 days ago. It warrants an investigation into how the patrolling team could not know the death of the calf even after several days in the area.

According to the forest department, the calf is a male and aged between two and three years. DFO Santosh Joshi and Barbil ranger Madhusudan Patra started an investigation into its death.

In last few days, five elephants were found dead or killed in different forests.

Notably, two elephants were found electrocuted inside Gurubeda reserve forest under Champua

DERELICTION OF DUTY



The calf was suspected to have died about 15 days ago, but patrolling team could not know its death even several days after the incident

range in the district, June 14. The investigation revealed that poachers had laid electric wires to kill boars, but two elephants came in contact with electrically charge wires and lost their lives.

Deaths of elephants one after another have raised questions on the safety of animals in the mineral-rich district while mining has been a major cause for habitat loss.

Head to Keonjhar for wild mushrooms

DURING THE RAINY SEASON, FOREST DWELLERS COLLECT WIDE VARIETIES OF MUSHROOMS SUCH AS RUTUKA, BIHUDUNI, BALI CHHATU, KUTA CHHATU, PICHA, MANDA, PATURA, MAHAMUNI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 10: Come rainy season, busy street sides and markets witness local residents of Keonjhar's forest selling varieties of freshly grown mushrooms. This rainy season is no different either.

Mushroom growth accelerates during the rainy season and to top it all forest dwellers have great knowledge of the locally grown varieties of mushrooms. They have acquired the skills to instantly identify which one is fit for consumption and which ones are poisonous.

During this rainy season it has been a routine for them to go to the jungles in groups carrying bamboo baskets to collect mushrooms early in the morning

According to them, mushrooms like 'Rutuka', 'Bihuduni', 'Bali Chhatu' and 'Kuta Chhatu' are the most delicious ones. This is the reason why these varieties of mushrooms are always in demand. However, mushrooms like 'Picha', 'Manda', 'Patura', 'Mahamuni', 'Bhanu', 'Angaru' etc are also available in markets. As their demand is comparatively less, their price



Tribal women selling wild mushrooms

is also less as compared to the above mentioned types of mushrooms.

These days, they can be found on any given day selling these varieties of mushrooms in markets and by the roadside.

While talking to **Orissa POST**, Raimani Naik, a forest dweller, says earlier they used to get huge quantities of varieties of mushrooms from backyards, farmlands and jungles. "Now we are no longer getting them in nearby areas. To collect them, we have to go into the interiors of jungles. Sometimes we come face to face with wild animals. Yet, we collect and sell them in nearby markets. If they are

cooked properly, its curry is as tasty as mutton curry," she claims.

However, they allege they are not getting a fair price for their mushrooms. Traders do buy these mushrooms from them and sell them to people in an exorbitant price. Mushrooms from here are transported to other districts and even to places out of the state.

According to Harekrushna Mahanta, an ayurvedic practitioner, mushroom is good for health. Vegetarians prefer it over any alternatives. But there are some poisonous mushrooms as well. So we have to be careful while buying them. During these days, incidents of people dying after consuming

some sorts of poisonous mushrooms are common.

Echoing the same, educationist Anil Kumar Das said that the quantity of naturally grown mushrooms has drastically come down over the years due to so many reasons including deforestation and climate change. To meet the demand, nowadays mushrooms are being cultivated. Straw mushroom and button mushroom are the most common ones. But they are nowhere near the taste that naturally grown mushrooms offer. This is the reason why visitors to this district make it a mental note to buy some of these mushrooms to their houses, he added.

Five lifers walk out for good conduct

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, July 10: It was a happy day for five convicts who were serving jail terms for over a decade at Bhadrak sub-jail. They walked out to freedom Thursday thanks to the state government's decision to release convicts who have been imprisoned for a long time and whose behaviour was found to be good.

Biswajaya Panda (64), Chandra Shekhar Panda (54), Panchanan Bal (72) of Chasakhanda village under Chandabali PS in the district, Sanatana Jena (46) of Baudapur village in the district and Karunakar Arakh (50) of Sarasad village under Bhandaripokhari police limit were released from the jail Wednesday night.

The jailer handed them their release letters, books on freedom fighters of Odisha and various items produced by jail inmates. He said, "Every sinner has a future and realizing this, the released convicts should repent for their crimes and lead an honest life."

Biswajaya, Chandra and Panchanana of Chasakhanda village were serving lifer for murdering a person of their village in 1988 due to political rivalry

What is God after all? An eternal child playing an eternal game in an eternal garden.

SRI AUROBINDO



Elusive Medical Commission

The National Medical Commission (NMC) was created last year to replace the previous scam-tainted Medical Council of India (MCI) for the development and regulation of all aspects of medical education, profession and institutions. Yet, despite the urgency displayed in creating the new regulator, the government has still not issued a notification on the appointment of the chairman of the commission.

Six months ago, the government named Prof. S.C. Sharma of AIIMS as the chairman of the new commission for three years. It has yet to issue the notification of his appointment. This inordinate delay has set off whispers in the babu corridors about the government's intentions.

According to sources, the delay is caused by the fact that the commission itself is yet to be constituted, since the selection committee recommendations for the other posts are still under consideration of the Health Ministry. So, according to them, the chairman's appointment can only be notified once the commission is constituted.

Under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, the commission will have a chairperson, 10 ex-officio members and 22 part-time members. Besides, Prof. Sharma, the only person appointed so far is R.K. Vats, the secretary-general of the board of governors of the Medical Council of India. He too was appointed as secretary of the commission for a tenure of three years.

Sebi succession saga

With Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chairman Ajay Tyagi's term ending next month, the race to find his successor has heated up. The tenure of Tyagi, a 1984-batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, was set to end in February but he was given a six-month extension to ensure continuity at the regulator due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

According to sources, several names are being floated as probable successors to Tyagi. Among them are Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) chairman Madhusudan Sahoo and Madhabi Puri Buch, who is whole-time member of Sebi. Also being mentioned are former corporate affairs secretary Injeti Srinivas and a few officials in the Finance and Corporate Affairs ministries.

Apparently, the government had already narrowed down some of the probable candidates in February before it decided to give an extension to Tyagi. Will the list be revised now? Will it include only bureaucrats? We'll have to wait and see.

Cracks in the alliance?

Mumbai police chief Parambir Singh recently transferred 10 deputy commissioners of police apparently without Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's knowledge. On learning about the move, Thackeray promptly ordered the state Home Department to cancel the transfer orders. The CM's office claims that it was wrong of Parambir to shift such a large number of DCPs without the CM's knowledge. Later, it turned out that Parambir had briefed Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on the transfers, who failed to inform Thackeray. Thackeray's alliance partner Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar had to step in to mollify the irate chief minister.

According to sources, during a meeting with the chief minister in the presence of NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Deshmukh argued that it was well within the powers of the Mumbai police commissioner to transfer officers without informing the CM. But the CM's office has taken the view that it not the rule-book but convention that is more important, which means that the transfers should have been discussed with Thackeray before the announcement.

Does this imply that there are cracks in the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance government in Maharashtra, in which the partners do not see eye to eye anymore on important issues of governance?

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

WISDOM CORNER

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

CONFUCIUS

You do not write your life with words...You write it with actions. What you think is not important. It is only important what you do.

PATRICK NESS

A person should not be too honest. Straight trees are cut first and honest people are screwed first.

CHANAKYA

WORDSWORTH

Subfusc

This word is almost unknown in the USA but may be found in literary writing in Britain. It was spotted by news in March 2006 that a poll of undergraduates in Oxford had overwhelmingly rejected proposals by the University authorities that they should no longer wear subfusc during examinations. The word emerged in the early years of the 18th Century. It means something dull, dark or gloomy and is related to the older fusk, long obsolete, for a dark brown or dusky colour. That's from Latin fuscus, dusky, which has also given us the rare adjective fuscous for a dark and sombre colour as well as the more common obfuscate, to render obscure, unclear, or unintelligible. Subfusc was taken directly from the Latin subfuscus; in this case the sub- prefix means "of the approximate colour" (two other examples are subalbidus, whitish, and subviridis, greenish). Around the middle of the 19th Century, the word began to be applied to the formal costume of Oxford undergraduates and later to that of students at other universities. Since the first example in the Oxford English Dictionary's entry is from the comic novel of Oxford life, Verdant Green by Cuthbert Bede, we may guess that its first application was intended to be humorous. But it has long since become standard, and appears in the current Oxford University regulations set down in 2002 by the Vice-Chancellor: "All members of the University are required to wear academic dress with subfusc clothing ... when attending any university examination." For men this is a dark suit and socks, black shoes, a white bow tie, and plain white shirt and collar; for women, a dark skirt or trousers, a white blouse, black tie, black stockings and shoes. To these have to be added a student gown and a mortarboard cap, though the latter may be carried rather than worn.

LOL

Tired of jokes

A story is told that there was a blonde who just got sick and tired of all the blonde jokes. One evening, she went home and memorized all the state capitals. Back in the office the next day, some guy started telling a dumb blonde joke. She interrupted him with a shrill announcement, "I've

had it up to here with these blonde jokes. I want you to know that this blonde went home last night and did something probably none of you could do. I memorized all the state capitals." One of the guys, of course, said, "I don't believe you. What is the capital of Nevada?" "N," she answered.



GAINS NOW, GRIEF LATER

FOCUS ECONOMY

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is printing notes and the government is borrowing that money to meet the shortfall in its revenues due to the pandemic. While this could be a justifiable response to the present crisis, there is more to it.

The three parts of government's economic policy are fiscal, monetary and debt. Technically, debt is considered part of monetary policy, but for our discussion we shall consider it separately. The fiscal policy entails the government collecting taxes and using that money to make the required expenditures. The monetary policy involves the RBI printing notes, supplying them to the banks, the banks buying bonds sold by the government, and the government getting that money.

The debt policy involves the government borrowing directly from domestic investors or foreign institutions like the International Monetary Fund. The government sells bonds and borrows money both in the monetary and debt policies; but, in the monetary policy, it is linked to printing of notes by the RBI while in debt policy there is no such linkage.

The burden falls on the people immediately if the fiscal approach is adopted. If, for example, the government increases the rate of GST from 18 per cent to 24 per cent, you and me—the consumers—will have to right away pay more for the mobile phone that we buy. In comparison the benefits from the expenditures can accrue today or in future. If the government uses the money to increase expenditures on MNREGA, for providing food subsidies or for providing assistance to small businesses to pay the employer's share of the provident fund, then the benefits will accrue immediately. The money will enter the pockets of the people here and now. On the other hand, if the same money is used to make bullet train, national waterway or sending a space mission to Mars, then the benefit will accrue after 3, 5 or 10 years because it will take time for such projects to be implemented. Therefore, under fis-



Whatever the costs of the pandemic, we must bear them ourselves and not encroach upon welfare of future generations. We should avoid monetary and debt; and follow fiscal policy

cal policy, the burden is borne immediately while the benefits accrue in part in the present; and in part in the future depending upon the nature of the expenditures. For this reason we are today reaping the benefits of the investments made by earlier generations in Indian Space Research Organisation, national highways, IITs and such projects.

The burden of monetary policy of the RBI printing notes falls in the future. Let us say there is currency of ₹100 crore in circulation in the economy and there are goods of ₹100 crore available for purchase in the economy. Now, let us say, the Reserve Bank printed an additional ₹10 crore of notes and the government got that money through the commercial banks. Now, the goods available in the market are of the same value as previously, namely ₹100 crore, but the notes in circulation have increased to ₹110 crore.

Naturally, a pen that was previously selling for ₹10 would now be sold for ₹11 because more number of notes are chasing the same amount of goods. However, it takes some time for the increase in price to take place. The money will be borrowed by the government, and an allocation will be made to, say, the Surface Transport Ministry. The ministry will call for tenders and issue them, the contractor will build the highway and raise the bill and the money will enter the economy at that time. Therefore, the burden of mone-

etary policy would fall in the future; while the benefits will accrue either at present if the money is spent on MNREGA or accrue in the future if the money is spent on making highways.

The burden of the debt policy also falls in the future. The interest paid on the money borrowed today is paid in the future just as a taxi owner borrows money today, buys the taxi and pays the interest on the loan later. Likewise, if the government borrows ₹10 crore today, the interest of ₹1 crore on the loan would have to be paid at the end of the year or after the moratorium. The commercial banks regularly provide a period of a few years before the interest payments are made. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank do the same. The burden of debt therefore falls in the future but the benefits accrue at present or in the future depending upon whether the money is used to pay for MNREGA or to make highways.

It is clear that the fiscal policy involves imposition of the burden on the people at present, while the burden of the monetary and fiscal policies falls in the future. The benefits, in all three cases, accrue at present or in the future depending upon the nature of expenditures. Let us assume for a moment, that the expenditures are made such that 50 per cent benefits accrue at present and 50 per cent accrue in the future. If these expenditures are made with fiscal policy, then 100 per cent burden

falls in the present while 50 per cent benefits accrue in the future. Thus, this leads to the transfer of present wealth to future as was done, say, by the establishment of the Indian Space Research Organisation by past generations while the benefits are accruing to us. In contrast, if these expenditures are made with monetary or debt policy, then 100 per cent burden falls in the future while 50 per cent benefits accrue in the present. Thus, this leads to transfer of wealth from future to present as was done, say, by the government borrowing from the International Monetary Fund in the 1990s.

This is the reason that the government likes monetary policy. The politicians can reap the benefits of providing subsidised food grains to the people today while the burden will fall on the future generations. On the other hand, following fiscal policy involves bearing the burden today for the benefit of future generations like the head of the family investing in the education of the children.

The second aspect is that monetary policy evades scrutiny. The fiscal policy immediately leads to people asking why they have to pay higher tax. They want answers. They try to scrutinise the corruption and waste in the government expenditures. They want the government to put its own house in order before imposing more taxes. The debt policy leads to lenders scrutinising the finances of the government such as is done by the rating agencies.

Thus, if the government wants to sell bonds on the international money market, the lenders ask questions about the high salaries paid to government servants. But monetary policy of printing notes by the RBI and borrowing by the government involves no scrutiny whatsoever. No wonder, the government likes it. Whatever the costs of the pandemic, we must bear them ourselves and not encroach upon the welfare of our future generations. We should avoid monetary and debt; and follow fiscal policy.

The writer is a former professor of IIM, Bangalore.

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Beyond Ladakh, issues to tackle with China

The disengagement in Ladakh has begun. China is stepping back from three contentious areas; Galwan, Hot Springs and Gogra. Everyone at home and abroad is cautioning New Delhi to carefully monitor the withdrawal; never to take the Chinese on their word, which they often go back on. Frankly, it is not yet clear where the Chinese had come to on the Indian side of LAC, and how far they are withdrawing.

Dr D K Giri

IT IS IN INDIA'S INTEREST THAT NEW DELHI AIDS THE PROCESS OF CHINA'S BREAK-UP

Critics argue that New Delhi lost ground in Galwan negotiations. On Chinese aggression in East Ladakh, Modi does a Nehru. New Delhi has given in too soon in pursuit of a quick de-escalation. Modi will be mentioned by historians as the first Prime Minister to lose to the Chinese without a fight.

Evidently, according to hardliners, China encroached Deshpangy-junction and Galwan's pp-14. By agreeing to a buffer zone on the Indian side of LAC, and to Indian patrolling to the west of the confluence of Galwan and Shyok rivers, India will practically stay out of Galwan valley. This confirms the new claim Beijing makes on the entire valley. The pro-government media began chest-thumping on

the withdrawal. They blaviate that New Delhi pushed the Chinese back beyond Indian territory without firing a bullet. It is the biggest victory led by the Prime Minister from the front. His saber-rattling speech to our soldiers at Nimbu, Ladakh not only echoed in Beijing but empowered smaller countries like Bhutan and Myanmar to stare back at the dictator Xi Jinping.

Fact is, Ladakh is the tip of the iceberg of China's insidious hegemonic designs. It is claiming territory from almost all of its neighbours, having illegally annexed countries like Tibet and Xinxiang. It occupies about 53,000 sqkm of Indian territory. Our aim should be to retrieve our land, liberate Tibet, and recreate the buffer (Tibet) between India and China. Only then, we should celebrate.

I know it is a tall order; but not an impossible task. It may sound absurd too and it did to some panelists. Recall what the wisest man of the world had said: "Only those who attempt the absurd can achieve the impossible." In any case, the Chinese empire would fall like the Soviet one did. Whether India works towards the disintegration of Chinese empire or not, it is inevitable. But it is in India's interest that New

Delhi aids the process of China's break-up. Modi has experienced, if not committed, a mistake twice, Doklam and Ladakh, in his six-year tenure at the helm. If he continues with China as business-as-usual, the tragedy is waiting to happen. Look at the most recent experience under Modi. After Doklam standoff, he hit top gear in making up with China. His informal summits in Wuhan and Mahabalipuram, deepening business ties, heavy imports from China, making our economy China-dependent, were all examples of short-sighted approach. Modi's foreign policy suffers from two perceptual flaws. One, Pakistan is India's enemy number one. Fighting Pakistan on terrorism and saving Kashmir has been the raison d'être of our foreign policy. Instead, it should have been China.

The second flaw is Modi's assertion of India's strategic autonomy and the Indian PM being one of the world leaders. This is a hangover of Nehruvian aspirations. One can be reckoned as world leader when the country(s) he leads is economically strong, politically credible and socially stable. India can boast of democracy and pluralism, but not of economy.

Nehru followed a nebulous non-aligned policy which collapsed when we signed the Peace and Security Treaty with Soviets in 1971. He trusted the Chinese and depended on the Soviets. Modi did no different. When the bulk of our trade is with Americans, and we share democratic polities with Europe, Australia, USA, South Korea, Japan and Israel who promise to stand by us in defense of our democracy, we walk into both Soviet and Chinese entrapment. Another imprudent strategy is to massively buy weapons from Soviets which they sell to Chinese as well. Why is this contradiction or compulsion?

Honestly, New Delhi should pitch its tent high; make necessary formal strategic alliances to take on China to a logical and satisfactory end, which is the retrieval of our land including Aksai Chin and Shaksgam. These recurrent skirmishes on LAC and Chinese's atrocious claim on Arunachal Pradesh would cease only when Jinping's China is made to bite dust like Hitler was. India cannot do it alone, however much weaponry it accumulates.

The writer is a professor International Politics, JMI.

Modern Book Depot

Sir, Ref. the write-up on Modern Book Depot completing 50 glorious years (OP, June 30). This takes me back to my post-graduation days in 1979-81. My Political Science professor at Utkal University had recommended us to go through two books, namely The Animal Farm and 1984 authored by George Orwell. The books had made their impact at global level then as the former dealt with restoration of democracy in the erstwhile USSR, opposing totalitarianism of Stalin; and the latter envisaging an imagined future in Great Britain when the world would fall victim to perpetual war, omnipresent government surveillance and propaganda. I had set out to search the books in the market. A friend suggested Modern Book Depot, and I rushed to it. Om Prakash, the young bookseller, then guided me with a brief introduction of the books. As a student, I too was offered a discount. I still remember he had assured me that on arrival of new books, he would contact me. It so happened that many of my classmates started visiting the shop to find out the new releases. What made me a booklover those days was Prakash's untiring zeal to read and let read attitude.

Sanjib Das, CUTTACK

JEE-Main exam

Sir, The news that the National Testing Agency (NTA) has decided to take a review of the January cycle of the JEE(Main) exam after the schools re-opened may be relevant but this new introduction of exams twice a year is not appropriate. The JEE(Main) was first conducted "twice a year" after its introduction in 2019 and raised a controversy in respect of "percentile" and "ranking" by conducting the two examinations the same year with a minimum gap of three and a half months. All important examinations like NEET(UG), CMAT, Civil Service, CBSE/STATE board examinations are supposed to be conducted once a year since long, and students as well as parents are used to this practice. There is no hue and cry against this prevailing tradition. Considering this and other factors, a high profile examination like JEE(Main) may also be conducted once a year, may be 'offline' and 'online'. Psychologically, it would be beneficial for students and parents. Appearing in same examination twice and remaining busy for the whole year increase stress and anxiety among students. The Ministry of Human Resource Development and NTA must orient their thinking in this line.

Ramdas Ray, BHUBANESWAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Punjab farmers to protest Union govt's Ordinances

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, July 10: Fearing the discontinuation of the MSP regime, a Punjab farmers' outfit will stage a statewide protest July 20 against the recently introduced three Union government ordinances.

BKU (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh claimed that the legislations are not in the interest of the farming community as the minimum support price (MSP) regime will be dismantled after a period of time. The Centre had recently introduced the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance; Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, which is being opposed by them.

Rajewal, whose outfit has given the call for the protest, said the companies, which have been "allowed to procure crop from farmers without paying any tax," will "exploit" growers in the absence of any "foolproof" dispute redressal mechanism. "Grain markets where farmers at present sell their crops



and farmers will be wearing masks in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic," he added. Earlier, accusing the Akalis of "selling Punjab's interests" by agreeing to what he dubbed the "anti-farm ordinances" brought forth by the Centre, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had said that he would take his fight against these steps to the Union government. Singh said he would soon write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek an appointment for a meeting with an all-party delegation from all Punjab parties, except the BJP. "No matter what (Akali Dal leader) Sukhbir Badal or the BJP say, once these ordinances are passed, the Centre's next step would be to end the MSP regime and dismantle the Food Corporation of India," warned the Chief Minister, pointing to the recommendations of the Shanta Kumar committee on the matter.

Underlining the need to save Punjab and protect its interests, the Chief Minister said the ordinances were 100 per cent against Punjab and anti-farmers, as agreed to by all political parties in the state, except the BJP and the Akalis.

"We will be following social distancing norms during the protest

at MSP will cease to exist after one or two years," he claimed. Rajewal said farmers were also against the fuel price hike. "It has been difficult to bear the cost of diesel at a time when the sowing of paddy is going on in the state," he said.

He said that farmers will also oppose the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 as it may adversely hit free power to different sections of society.

"We will submit memorandums to the district authorities during a three-hour-long protest starting at 10 am on July 20," Rajewal said here Thursday.

"We will be following social distancing norms during the protest

Alwar back in news for wrong reasons

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, July 10: Alwar, which has become the hub for many criminal gangs, is back in the news for all wrong reasons as dreaded gangster Vikas Dubey had allegedly managed to cross into Rajasthan from there on his way to Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain even as armed state police personnel were deployed at the inter-state border with Haryana.

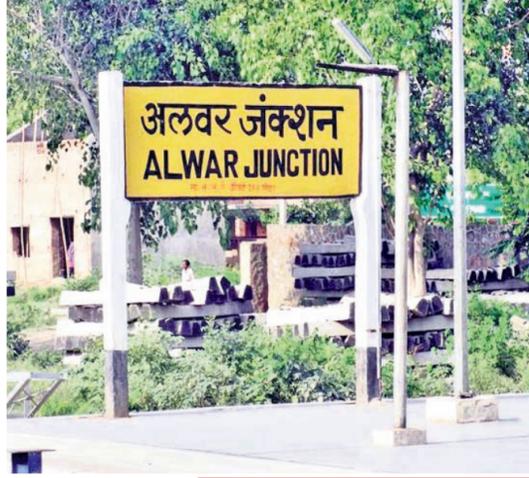
However, Alwar's Superintendent of Police Tejaswini Gautam Friday told IANS that police are yet to ascertain which route he had taken to reach Ujjain.

"There is no such confirmation on which way he took to reach Ujjain as there are many roads leading to Ujjain from Rajasthan," she said.

While sources said that Dubey travelled from Alwar, via Dausa and Kota, to reach Ujjain and was in contact with gangsters of Alwar, the police did not confirm this and said that they will investigate his route only if it is required.

Dubey was arrested from Ujjain's Mahakaal temple Thursday morning and was shot dead by the UP Police Friday as he was trying to flee while being taken to Kanpur.

While Wednesday, reports were pouring in about Dubey's presence somewhere in the NCR, the SP had



told IANS that Alwar and Mewat regions also come under the NCR and "therefore we are working on the theory of 'prevention is better than cure' by deputing our teams with arms and equipment to tackle any situation on the border with Haryana".

"As Rajasthan is connected to Delhi, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, there are possibilities of the dreaded criminal making an

inter-state movement and hence we have put our teams on alert mode," she said.

In Alwar, there are many gangs involved in serious crimes like extortion and murder. These include the Vikram Papla gang, the Jasram Gurjar gang, Laden gang, Chiku gang, amongst others, and all have a network in neighbouring states too.

They take refuge in Haryana and UP after committing crimes in

CRIME HOTBED

• Gangster Vikas Dubey, who was shot dead by UP police Friday, had allegedly managed to cross into Rajasthan from Alwar on his way to Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain

• In Alwar, there are many gangs involved in serious crimes like extortion and murder

• They take refuge in Haryana and UP after committing crimes in Rajasthan and the criminals from these two states take shelter in Alwar

• In September last year, criminal Papla Gurjar, locked up in Behror jail, had escaped after firing at the police with an AK-47

Rajasthan and the criminals from these two states take shelter in Alwar.

September 6 last year, criminal Papla Gurjar, locked up in Behror jail, had escaped after firing at the police with an AK-47.

Since then, the Rajasthan Police, including the Special Operations Group (SOG), are looking for him but he still remains untraceable.

13 officers infected after protest meeting



AGENCIES

Chandigarh, July 10: Two IAS and 13 PCS officers as well as two other government officials were confirmed positive for coronavirus in Punjab, officials said Friday, as the state battles surge in infections.

Punjab Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Tripti Rajinder Singh Bajwa underwent a COVID-19 test after an IAS officer, who has contracted the disease, was present in a meeting attended by him, the officials said.

"Two IAS officers and 13 Punjab Civil Services (PCS) officers have tested positive for coronavirus so far," an official of the Punjab Health Department said Friday. "The contact tracing in these cases is underway" another official said. Besides, a Senior Superintendent of Police and a Civil Surgeon have tested positive for the virus, officials said.

An official said samples of 34 PCS officers were collected and of which 13 tested positive and 16 negative. However, the reports in five cases are still pending, he added.

An IAS officer tested positive for the virus after his wife confirmed positive for the infection, the officials said. He Thursday had attended a meeting where Bajwa was also present. "I will undergo a test for coronavirus as my director has tested positive," he said Friday. Later during the day, the samples

War against virus

- Several PCS officers had attended a meeting of the Punjab Civil Services Officers Association in Chandigarh July 3 to protest against the arrest of a fellow official
- After several PCS officers and other senior officials got infected with the contagion, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh stressed the need to raise the guard to tackle the pandemic even further
- Punjab has been witnessing a surge in coronavirus cases with the state so far recording 7,140 cases and 183 deaths

of the minister were collected for testing, the officials said.

Several PCS officers had attended a meeting of the Punjab Civil Services Officers Association in Chandigarh July 3 to protest against the arrest of a fellow official.

After several PCS officers and other senior officials got infected with the contagion, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Thursday had stressed the need to raise the guard to tackle the pandemic even further. He had also asked Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan to issue standard operating procedures for the government officers' meetings or visits to other offices, making it clear that the spread of infection among the critical manpower due to the casual attitude was not acceptable.

Sanitising device to disinfect packed food items, currency

THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN SENT FOR PATENT AND THE NIT IS TYING UP WITH A PRIVATE COMPANY FOR COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF THE DEVICE

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, July 10: A timer-fitted sanitising device, which uses UV radiation to kill microbial pathogens, has been developed by the Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology in Jalandhar to disinfect a variety of articles including packed food and currency.

The portable box-shaped gadget is fitted with ultra-violet lights on the top and at the bottom.

It can sanitise packed food items and disinfect currency notes and credit cards besides sanitising papers, files, used masks and gloves, keys etc, the NIT said in a statement.

"Its UV radiation kills microbial pathogens like virus, bacteria or fungus deposited on the surface of any article when they were kept inside its drawer for sanitising," it said

"UV-C radiation technology is a known disinfectant for air, water and surfaces that can help mitigate the risk of acquiring an infection. All bacteria and viruses tested to respond to UV-C disinfection. At present UV light is used in many food industry applications as it is completely safe, low maintenance and does not require the use of any chemicals or pesticides," the statement said.

Designed by Director, NIT, Dr LK Awasthi and Associate Professor, Department of Instrumentation and

Control Engineering, Dr Kuldeep Singh Nagla, the device, is "completely safe for adults and children".

Awasthi said although there are some other such UV gadgets available in the market but this compatible sanitiser has some additional features which makes it more human friendly.

Nagla said the device is safe for the users because there is no exposure to them. "When the drawer is opened, the UV light automatically gets switched off. The perforated, acrylic sheets and lights are fitted in such a manner that items kept in it get disinfected from all angles.

"Besides being safe for use in homes and offices, it can be helpful for bankers too. They can protect themselves from viruses while handling currency notes which can also be carriers of various infections," he said. He said the user can set the timer as per the item and its size.

"For example, in banks, a cashier can place the currency notes and can set the timer for 120 seconds, the device will be automatically switched off after two minutes. Similarly, in case of packed food items, bottles etc. it can be set up to 300 seconds and sometimes above too," he said. An in-built fan regulates the temperature for safety.

Dr Awasthi said the product has already been sent for patent and the NIT is tying up with a private company for commercial production of the device.



Billionaire Punjabi charters repatriation mission in UAE

Surinder Pal Singh Oberoi is now a messiah for workers and tourists who have been stuck in the UAE due to COVID-19 travel restrictions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, July 10: No flight of fancy this! A billionaire Punjabi in Dubai has taken charity to new heights by virtually launching chartered flights to bring distressed compatriots back.

Philanthropist Surinder Pal Singh Oberoi is now a messiah for workers and tourists who have been stuck in the UAE due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. This week a first batch of 177 people returned to Chandigarh and reunited with their families. Three more flights have been lined up this month; four in August.

"We are arranging free charter flights mainly to repatriate low-income workers who have lost their jobs and they ran out of money," Oberoi, 64, a Dubai-based industrialist from a small town in Punjab, told IANS here Friday. He said the stranded Indians include tourists who came out on a shoestring budget and the money is running out. "We are giving priority to pregnant women, old, sick and families," he said.

The next scheduled chartered flights of SpiceJet, each carrying 177 passengers, are July 13, 19 and 25.

A flight costs Rs 40-42 lakh and is being paid by Oberoi-managed Sarbat Da Bhala Charitable Trust.

Oberoi, who went to Dubai in 1977 as a mechanic, is well



known for charity work. His trust saved more than 80 people convicted of various cases for crimes in the United Arab Emirates. It rescued a woman from Punjab who was sold as a domestic help in Oman.

In 2013, the trust had paid millions of dirhams as "blood money" to secure the release of 17 Indians who were on death row for killing a Pakistani man in the UAE. "With the grace of God my business is growing. I am giving back 98 per cent of my income to society by getting into social work and the rest two per cent is enough for me and my family to sustain a decent life," an elated Oberoi, who owns seven companies in Dubai, told IANS. Emotionally bonded with his roots, he said 75-80 per cent of the people who are coming in these specially arranged flights are those who are struggling to survive after being rendered homeless and penniless.

"For them, we have made arrangements to put stay in our shelter homes till they are repatriated," he said. Oberoi, the Chairman of the Apex Group of Companies who came to Dubai at the age of 20 in 1977 on a job visa and launched his own business in 1993, urged wealthy Indians in the UAE to help stranded people. He said

it is the spirit of the UAE that has encouraged him to be a philanthropist.

The Sarbat Da Bhala Trust, which does not raise any charity, is ensuring free food distribution to 60,000 families per month in Punjab and neighbouring states who have been affected amid the lockdown that came into effect March 23.

The supply of ration kits to sustain at least five members in a family will continue till September, trust spokesperson Manpreet Sandhu said.

He said the trust provided funds to the tune of Rs 20 crore to the local authorities, the Border Security Force (BSF) and various government departments to his home state to fight COVID-19. He said the trust got permission to operate four more chartered flights in August. "They will fly to the Chandigarh and Amritsar airports. We hope to fly back around 750 passengers this month and an equal number next month," trust volunteer Sandhu told IANS. "For the next month's flights, we have sought a list of stranded people from Indian Missions in the UAE. All flights will take off from the Ras Al Khaimah Airport," he said.

It's 'Vocal for Local' Raksha Bandhan in Raj

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, July 10: The 'Raksha Bandhan' festival this year will be celebrated with local flavour in Rajasthan, as many organisations in the state are following the Prime Minister's call for 'Vocal for Local'.

They have started making handmade 'rakhis', boycotting Chinese raw materials which till last year dominated the 'rakhi' manufacturing market.

Banswara will lead the show in this context as women there have pledged to use everything Indian and boycott China-made goods while tying 'Swadeshi rakhi' on their brothers' wrists. This is what Swati Jain and Sandeep Tripathi from Banswara, who run an NGO, Sparsh Sanshan, are trying to do. "On this Raksha Bandhan day, all sisters will pledge to use India made goods and shall boycott China



made goods while tying rakhis on their brothers' wrists," said Swati Jain.

The couple has been engaged in several social issues, including donating hair for cancer patients, renovating step wells and launching toy banks for kids, among other things. They have a big team, which is now involved in rolling out 'Swadeshi rakhis' ahead of the festival August 3, added Sandeep.

They have already started training people to make handmade rakhis using local raw materials. Besides Banswara, large scale rakhi production has started in Bharatpur too in attempt to boost the Aatmanirbhar Bharat' campaign.

Many people in Bharatpur are getting engaged in making rakhis using cow dung and Tulsi seeds while rejecting the Made-in-China materials. Himani, who is associated with rakhi making in the Shrigopesh Panchgavyashala and Research Centre, said, "Following the 'Vocal for Local' call given by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, we are making rakhis which can be sown in pots or gardens after their use. A Tulsi plant will come out of it as there is a Tulsi seed placed in the rakhi. These rakhis shall be much better than the plastic rakhis which posed an environmental threat."

The research centre is also training many people to make idols, pots and frames by using cow dung, said Himani. Vijay Ojha, also associated with the research centre, said, "Last time, we had supplied these cow dung made rakhis to places like Ujjain, Varanasi, Delhi and Jaipur. This year, we have already started receiving big orders from different places. We have 25 different types of rakhis," he said.

Besides Bharatpur and Banswara, a women self-help group is being trained in Ajmer to make rakhis using Indian raw materials.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING)
 Applications are invited for filling up of post of the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission, located at New Delhi. The details of eligibility conditions and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the post of the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website: www.persmin.nic.in. The last date for receipt of the completed applications in the Department is **31st July, 2020**.
 davp 32201/11/0001/2021



The culprit (Vikas Dubey) has been killed but what about crime and people who gave patronage? PRIYANKA GANDHI | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

SC ALLOWS SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY WHATSAPP, EMAIL, FAX

In a first, the Supreme Court Friday allowed the service of summons and notices, a necessity in almost all legal proceedings, through instant messenger like WhatsApp as well as by e-mail and fax



of the day quote

Opportunity in Adversity said the Prime Minister. The unholy nexus of BJP government with MNCs/companies of profiteering at the cost of people stands exposed. Government has removed face masks and hand sanitisers as essential commodities. Now, masks/hand sanitisers can be sold at any MRP

We are generally happy with the disengagement and de-escalation...People will keep a close watch on the Process and the Progress of disengagement...But let us remember, the declared goal is restoration of status quo ante as on May 5, 2020

A significant feature of India-Australia relationship is that we are in very exciting times. We have been close. But this is the moment. The virtual summit between two Prime Ministers elevated our bilateral relationship

SHORT TAKES

4 Maoists killed in Bihar

Patna: Four Maoists have been killed in an encounter with the paramilitary forces in West Champaran district in Bihar Friday. Several advanced weapons have also been recovered from the spot. The encounter took place in Charapaniya area of Valmikinagar. IG Sashatra Suraksha Bal (Patna) Sanjay Kumar told IANS that during the raids, the Maoists opened fire, after which the SSB personnel also retaliated.

Soldier killed in Pak firing

Jammu: A soldier was killed on Friday in Pakistan firing on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. Defence sources said army Havaldar, S. Gurning, sustained multiple injuries when Pakistan resorted to unprovoked firing and shelling on the LoC in Nowshera sector around 12.30 a.m. "He was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to injuries," the sources added.

Illegal arms factory unearthed

Muzaffarnagar: Police have unearthed an illegal arms manufacturing factory in Shamli and arrested one person after a brief exchange of fire, an official said Friday. During the encounter, the accused, identified as Salim, sustained a bullet injury following which he was taken to a hospital, SP Vineet Jaiswal said. Eight pistols along with raw material were found in the factory in Khurgana village, Jaiswal said. The accused used to supply illegal arms in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, police said.

K'taka CM under home quarantine

Bangalore: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has been home quarantined and his office-cum-residence here sealed after some of the staff there tested positive for coronavirus. According to a close aide of the CM, his office-cum-residence "Krishna" has been sealed for five days for sanitisation after some staff tested positive for the virus. This is the second time the office has been shut.

Why migrants' case was not taken up urgently

It is not for the apex court to take up every matter at the very first instance, especially in the backdrop that facts associated with the matter differ from one state to another: CJI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 10: Chief Justice SA Bobde Friday, citing migrant workers' case, said it is not for the apex court to take up every matter at the very first instance, especially in the backdrop that facts associated with the matter differ from one state to another.

The Chief Justice said, "People and lawyers' have expressed disappointment that the Supreme Court did not urgently entertain various matters such as migrant workers case etc." He added that the lawyers'

and people should know when facts differ from one state to another then under these circumstances it should not be the apex court that can hear the matter.

The Chief Justice termed it odd that the apex court has to explain this process to the lawyers instead of them being well-aware about this process and how it works. The Chief Justice indicated that these matters are fact-intensive which may vary from one state to another and maybe in districts in some cases.

"We find it very odd that we have to say it as a bench that it is for a



jurisdictional court to look into these facts and decide at the first instance," said the bench also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and R Subhash Reddy. The CJI said the parties should

move the apex court in the second instance which would provide benefit to the bench at the top court to see the HC judgment.

It seems that the comments by the Chief Justice was made to address the criticism of the apex court in the delay in taking up various issues connected to the migrant workers which included transportation to their native places, food and shelter in the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic.

Later the apex court took suo moto cognisance of the matter and issued a slew of directions.

More local nCoV lockdowns as cases near 800,000

REUTERS

Mumbai, July 10: India reported a record 26,506 new coronavirus cases on Friday as authorities re-imposed lockdowns in its most populous state and in an industrial hub, home to automakers, drug factories and brewers.

The new cases pushed India's tally to nearly 800,000 cases, the world's third-biggest outbreak, behind only the United States and Brazil in confirmed infections.

There have been more than 21,000 deaths in India since the first case was detected there in January, Union Health Ministry data showed Friday. New Delhi, along with Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu accounts for about 60% of its cases.

The Centre, anxious to jumpstart an economy crippled by the epidemic and put millions of people back to work, in early June eased an initial lockdown of the 1.3 billion population imposed in March. But rising new flare-ups of the virus has been forcing some major industrial towns and states to impose localised restrictions.

A nine-day curfew was imposed in Aurangabad, an industrial town in Maharashtra, to contain a spike in infections that has affected operations of automakers such as Bajaj Auto.

Boeing completes delivery of 37 military copters to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: In the midst of India's tense border standoff with China, US aerospace major Boeing delivered the final five of the 22 Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force last month, and the fleet has now been part of the assets deployed in key air bases along the Line of Actual Control, officials said Friday.

Boeing said it completed delivery of all 22 Apache and 15 Chinook military helicopters to the IAF and is fully committed to meet their operational needs of the Indian armed forces. The AH-64E Apache is one of the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopters, and is flown by the US Army. The Chinook is a multi-role, vertical-lift platform, primarily used for transporting troops, artillery, equipment and fuel.

India finalised a multi-billion dollar contract with Boeing to procure 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinooks for the IAF in September 2015.

Both the Apache and Chinook helicopters have been pressed into service as part of the IAF's deployment along the LAC in view of the bitter standoff with China in



Boeing said it completed delivery of all 22 Apache and 15 Chinook military helicopters to the IAF and is fully committed to meet their operational needs of the Indian armed forces

Both the Apache and Chinook helicopters have been pressed into service as part of the IAF's deployment along the LAC in view of the bitter standoff with China in eastern Ladakh

eastern Ladakh, officials said.

"With this delivery of military helicopters, we continue to nurture this partnership and are fully committed to working closely with India's defence forces to deliver the right value and capabilities to meet their operational needs," said Surendra Ahuja, Managing Director, Boeing Defence India.

India is one of 17 nations to select the Apache and has the most advanced variant, the AH-64E Apache. Defence and security ties between India and the US have been on an upswing in the last six years.

The bilateral defence trade touched \$18 billion mark in 2019, reflecting growing defence cooperation between the two sides. Both sides have also been pushing for joint

venture and collaboration between private sectors of the two countries in defence manufacturing.

In June 2016, the US had designated India a "Major Defence Partner," intending to elevate defence trade and technology sharing with New Delhi to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.

In a statement, Boeing said the AH-64E Apache has an improved modernised target acquisition designation system that provides day and night target tracking system.

"In addition to classifying air and ground targets, the fire control radar has been updated to operate in the maritime environment. It is uniquely suited to meet a commander's needs," the Boeing said

ONORC across India by January: Paswan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 10: Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan has reiterated that 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC) scheme would likely start working across India by January next year, ahead of its March 31 deadline.

Paswan said the ministry is trying to include all remaining States/UTs onboard of ONORC by January 2021. He said that earlier many States/UTs highlighted the challenges related to slow network connectivity.

In this regard, he informed that he has taken up the issue with the department of telecommunica-

tions (DoT) and there is a proposal to provide a free net connection to every gram panchayat for one year duration.

While interacting with reporters through video conferencing, the Minister said the balanced quantity of foodgrains and whole chana under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' scheme will now be distributed till August 31, 2020.

He welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for five more months till November 2020.

Paswan said, the Prime Minister started the two biggest food grains distribution scheme-PMGKAY and ANBA for poor and needy persons, so that no one sleeps hungry at the time of COVID-19 pandemic.



JUBILANT



Students pose for a photograph as they celebrate after the Indian Certificate of Secondary Examination (ICSE) results of Class 10 and 12 were declared in Patna, Friday

12 child labourers rescued in Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 10: The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights Friday rescued 12 child labourers from a garment factory and cycle-motorcycle mechanic shops in Gandhi Nagar area.

The children were not wearing masks and were working in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. A team led by the panel's Roop Sudesh Vimal provided them masks and sanitisers. The Commission and Delhi Police have sealed the establishments and arrested the contractor.

Statement of the rescued children will now be recorded at the sub-divisional magistrate's office, followed by medical tests including COVID-19 test. "Thereafter, the children will be produced before a Child Welfare Committee for the decision thereon. This will follow the legal proceedings," officials said.

Scientists worry dengue outbreak may aggravate nCoV crisis

SCIENTISTS WARN THAT COVID-19 AND THE MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE HAVE OVERLAPPING SYMPTOMS AND WORRY THE COUNTRY'S HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE WON'T BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THIS DOUBLE WHAMMY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: As dengue season sets in across large parts of India with the onset of the monsoon, scientists warn that COVID-19 and the mosquito-borne disease have overlapping symptoms and worry the country's healthcare infrastructure won't be able to cope with this double whammy.

The impact of a 'dengue-COVID-19' season would entail two different diagnostic tests and extract a huge toll on patients too, each disease making the other more complicated to deal with and perhaps more fatal.

While the number of COVID-19 cases races towards the 8,00,000 mark with 7,93,802 cases on Friday

and 21,604 fatalities, the incidence of dengue is also high.

Based on 2016-2019 data, virologist Shahid Jameel estimated that India gets about 100,000 to 200,000 confirmed cases of dengue each year.

According to the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), 1,36,422 dengue cases were diagnosed in 2019 and an estimated 132 people died.

"The virus is endemic and present around the year in southern India, and in monsoon and early winter in northern India," Jameel, CEO at DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, a public charity that invests in building biomedical sciences and health research framework, told this news agency. Both COVID-19 and have symp-

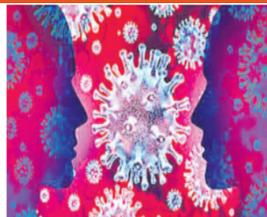
oms such as high fever, headache and body pain.

The dengue season may aggravate the COVID-19 situation as both viruses may supplement each other, warned Dhruvjayoti Chattopadhyay, virologist and vice chancellor of the Amity University in Kolkata.

"This situation is not yet well studied. But the information available from South America is dangerous and found to create a major challenge to their medical infrastructure," he said.

"The effect will be very critical. As major symptoms are overlapping, simultaneous infection will be much more fatal. Weakened immune systems will help the other to be more fatal." Once the dengue season starts,

SEASON OF TWO VIRUSES?



added virologist Upasana Ray, the infection spreads aggressively due to high prevalence of its mosquito vector, aedes aegypti.

"Each season, we experience heavy loads in the hospital wards due to dengue outbreak and those times it gets almost unmanageable.

So, have we thought about what will happen when we have two menaces to handle together? Both of them have overlapping symptoms. Are we geared to distinguish if a person has dengue or COVID-19?" asked the senior scientist, CSIR-IICB, Kolkata.

The challenges are many. Almost each patient with a three-day fever would need to undergo a test for dengue and another for the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19.

"Considering the current numbers of COVID-19 patients, will our hospitals have beds available for dengue patients? Or will only severe dengue cases be handled at hospitals?" she asked.

Explaining how the viruses manifest in the human body, Jameel said the dengue virus enters via a mosquito bite through the subcutaneous layer of the skin from where it reaches the lymph nodes that are rich in types of blood cells called monocytes, macrophages and dendritic cells.

of the day quote

There should be an unbiased probe under the supervision of the Supreme Court into the killing of policemen in Kanpur and the encounter of main accused Vikas Dubey while he was trying to flee when the police vehicle overturned



It's unfortunate that hysterical and untruthful stories against COVID-19 Govt Hospitals in Telangana are creating an exaggerated picture in the minds of many and preventing them from seeking timely treatment



COVID-19 has harmed a lot of people. Our students in schools, colleges, universities have been struggling. IITs have promoted students after cancelling exams. The UGC is creating confusion



RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

7 bombs found in Bikru village

Seven bombs have been found at the Panchayat Bhawan in Bikru village during a police search that has been continuing almost on a daily basis after the July 3 massacre in which eight policemen were killed.

Fire reported at Shastri Bhawan

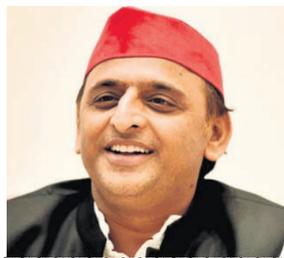
A minor fire broke out at one of the rooms in Shastri Bhawan here Friday morning, which was put out by firefighters within a few minutes.

Jumbo tramples man to death

A 60-year-old former Zila Panchayat member was trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district, an official said Friday.

Wanted criminal killed in UP

A wanted criminal carrying a reward of ₹50,000 was killed in an encounter in Bahraich district Friday, a senior police official said here.



Actually, the car (carrying Vikas Dubey) didn't topple. The UP government has been saved from toppling by secrets that would have been revealed

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

IISc DESIGNS ROBOTIC ARM FOR SPEECH, MOTOR IMPAIRED

An Indian Institute of Science research team has designed a robotic arm that can be manipulated by eye movement using a computer interface, to help people with Severe Speech and Motor Impairment



Panel proposes new regulator for non-personal data: Report

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 10: India should set up a data regulator and require companies to disclose how they collect and store data devoid of personal details or which has been anonymised, a panel tasked to draw up such regulations has said in a draft report seen by Reuters.

As India moves to tighten policies on its citizens' data held and processed by companies such as Facebook, Google and Amazon, it set up the panel last year to make recommendations on the regulation of "non-personal data".

This is a term for data viewed as a critical resource by companies that analyse it to build their businesses and describes information that is independent of personal details such as names, or anonymised to protect people's identity.

"There is a need to create a regulator or authority for data business, which provides centralized regulation for all non-personal data exchanges," the government-appointed panel said in the report.

As India moves to tighten policies on its citizens' data held and processed by companies, it set up the panel last year to make recommendations on the regulation of "non-personal data"

PRIVACY

This is a term for data viewed as a critical resource by companies that analyse it to build their businesses and describes information that is independent of personal details



A company collecting data beyond a yet unspecified threshold should register as a "data business" in India

Such a regulator would be armed with legal powers to request data, supervise data sharing requests and settle disputes, it added.

Panel chief Kris Gopalakrishnan, a founder of Indian technology giant Infosys, declined to comment on the 30-page undated draft, which has not previously been reported.

The panel is in the final stages of deliberation on the report before it is submitted to India's information technology ministry, a person familiar with the discussions said.

A company collecting data beyond a yet unspecified threshold should register as a "data business" in India, the report said, with government bodies also subject to

the need to disclose what information they collect and store, and how they use it.

The panel consulted companies such as Amazon, Microsoft and Uber, as well as some international experts, in drawing up the report, it said.

Regulation of non-personal data is just one of several areas for which India looks to hammer out policy, which will affect tech giants in a regulatory trend gathering momentum worldwide as nations step up efforts to control data.

India has drafted an e-commerce policy that also calls for a new regulator, while a separate privacy bill under review has upset tech companies.

Some data held by the private sector could be drawn on if needed to make policy and back wider social objectives such as healthcare, the panel said.

"The regulation of non-personal data would be driven by the need to unlock the value inherent in this form of data," it added.

LJP echoes RJD's stand on deferring elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: BJP ally LJP Friday joined the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal in expressing concern over holding the Bihar assembly polls amid a spread of COVID-19 cases, with its president Chirag Paswan saying it will put people at risk and may result in a very low voter turnout.

"Not only Bihar but entire country is affected by the coronavirus. It has impacted finances of the Centre as well as Bihar. Holding elections amid this will financially burden the state more," the Lok Janshakti Party chief tweeted.

He added, "The Election Commission should take a decision with a lot of deliberations. It should not happen that a huge population is put into danger. Polling percentage may also be very low if elections are held amid this pandemic which is not good for democracy."

However, he said his party is ready for the polls.

The state polls are due in October-November. The Election Commission has so far not made any official announcement about the schedule.

A few days ago, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had said that it would not be proper to hold the elections during the pandemic as he described the situation in the state as "scary".

Asked about whether he thought it would be proper to hold elections in time in view of the rising cases of the infection, he had said, "I think it would not be proper. The situation in the state is scary and the people have been left to fend for themselves in the face of the raging pandemic."

He also criticised the JD(U)-BJP combine for routinely holding virtual rallies whereby leaders of these parties have been interacting with workers across the state.

Both the BJP and the JD(U) have asserted that they are ready for the polls and have been holding organisational meetings.



India to resume patrols in Ladakh

So far, there has been a marginal thinning out of forces in the Finger 4 region by China though they continue to occupy the ridge-lines between Finger 4 and Finger 8



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 10: India will seek to patrol the portion of the Fingers Region along the Pangong Lake in Ladakh which it was prevented from doing after a large-scale Chinese incursion in the area once tensions between the two countries subside, government sources said.

India has traditionally claimed rights to patrol all eight spurs (referred to as fingers) in the disputed region and believes that the Line of Actual Control or LAC here rests at Finger 8. China, for its part, believes that the LAC lies at Finger 4 beyond which the territory belongs to them.

gagement proceeding successfully, there is hope that China will vacate the region between Finger 4 and Finger 8. Satellite pictures indicate that there are more than 186 Chinese tents and shelters which have been set up across the disputed region since the tensions began.

At least 186 Chinese pre-fabricated huts, shelters and tents were visible between 'Finger 4' and 'Finger 6'. Click here for a high resolution image. At the moment, Chinese and Indian forces have mutually withdrawn 2 kilometres each in the Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Gogra. Crucial talks at the Joint Secretary level of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination will continue talks towards an eventual restoration of the status quo across Ladakh before reports of Chinese incursions in five regions came in during the month of April.

MAN CHOPS OFF WOMAN'S HEAD, CARRIES IT TO POLICE STATION

AGENCIES

Patna, July 10: A man from the Jharkhand state of eastern India beheaded a woman and then carried her head to the nearest police station before telling officers she killed his son by practicing witchcraft.

The hair-raising incident took place at Mehandipur village in the Sahibganj district Wednesday. Police arrested the man.

Reports said a 25-year-old identified as Swadhin Tuddu, son of the accused Sakal Tuddu, 57, had died from a cough and cold three days earlier but the latter suspected the hand of the woman, Matlu

Chaurai, in his death. He suspected that his son had died only because of black magic practiced by her.

On Tuesday night, Sakal, accompanied by villagers, raided the house of the 55-year-old woman who was asleep along with her husband and daughter and chopped off her head with a sharp-edged weapon. Her family didn't react due to fear of being attacked.

The next morning, he walked to the nearest police station while clutching the severed head in one hand and the weapon in the other, and surrendered before the police. "This woman had killed my young son by practicing witch-

craft but I have avenged his death. Please arrest me," the accused told the policemen present at the station.

Witnesses said the policemen on duty were terrified by what they saw before they mustered the courage and took him into custody. Based on the information provided by him, the police rushed to the scene of the crime and recovered the body of the woman.

The accused told the police that the woman had told his son he would die in the evening and her words proved true. He didn't perform his son's last rites and kept his body at home until he took revenge for his death.

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

Swapna booked under UAPA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

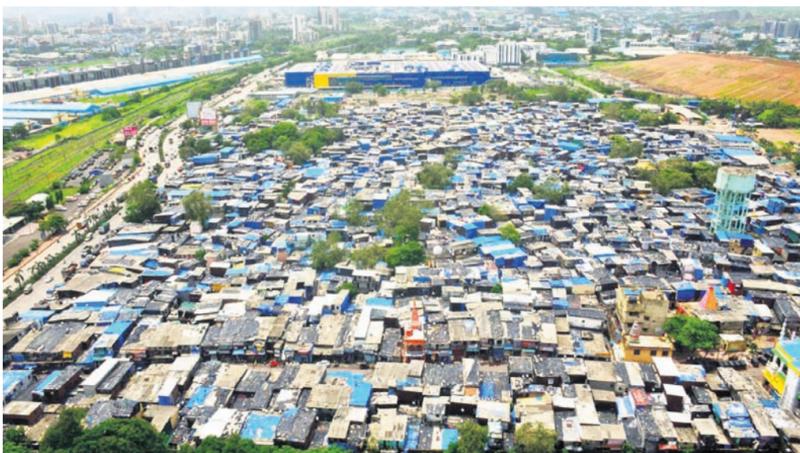
Kochi, July 10: A former woman employee of the UAE consulate, key suspect in the gold smuggling bid through diplomatic baggage, has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) informed the Kerala High Court.

Making the submission while opposing the anticipatory bail application of Swapna Suresh, who is on the run, the counsels for the Centre and the NIA said she had criminal antecedents and was 'involved' in arranging diplomatic papers for the smuggling of the over 30 kg gold seized by the Customs recently in Thiruvananthapuram.

Custodial interrogation of the woman was required to ascertain her role in the smuggling bid through the Thiruvananthapuram international airport, they said.

The counsel for the NIA, which has been asked by the Centre Thursday to probe the case, said there was a legal bar on high court entertaining anticipatory bail applications in cases investigated by the NIA.

UNDER SIEGE



An aerial view of a slum area in Turbhe, a containment zone, during an intensified lockdown by NMMC to curb the spread of coronavirus in Navi Mumbai, Friday

IN INDIA, PUBLIC HEALTH IS MANAGED AT A STATE LEVEL, AND SOME HAVE MANAGED BETTER THAN OTHERS

Why COVID cases in India are rising to multiple peaks

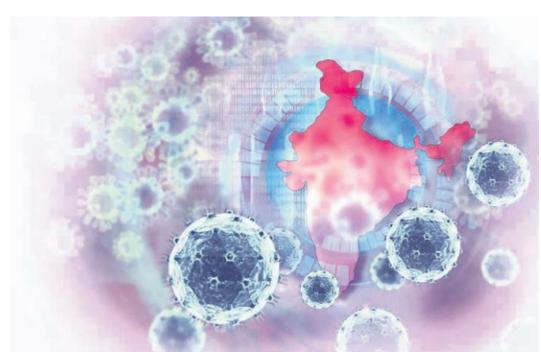
ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Delhi, July 10: In just three weeks, India went from the world's sixth to the third-worst hit country by the coronavirus pandemic, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. India's fragile health system was bolstered during a stringent months-long lockdown but could still be overwhelmed by an exponential rise in infections.

Here is where India stands in its battle against the virus:

Multiple peaks India has tallied 793,802 infections and more than 21,600 deaths, with cases doubling every three weeks. It's testing more than 250,000 samples daily after months of sluggishness, but experts say this is insufficient for a country of nearly 1.4 billion people.

"This whole thing about the 'peak' is a false bogey because we won't have one peak in India, but a series of peaks," said Dr Anant Bhan,



a bioethics and global health researcher. He pointed out that the capital of New Delhi and India's financial capital, Mumbai, had already seen surges, while infections had now begun spreading to smaller cities as governments eased restrictions. The actual toll would be unknown, he said, unless India

made testing more accessible. DUBIOUS DATA

The Health Ministry said Thursday that India was doing "relatively well" managing COVID-19, pointing to 13 deaths per 1 million people, compared to about 400 in the United States and 320 in Brazil. But knowing the actual toll in India

is "absolutely impossible" because there is no reporting mechanism in most places for any kind of death, said Dr Jayaprakash Mulyil, an epidemiologist at the Christian Medical College in Vellore who has been advising the government.

Official data shows 43% of the people who have died from the coronavirus were between the ages of 30 and 60, but research globally indicates that the disease is particularly fatal to the elderly, suggesting to Mulyil that many virus deaths among older Indians "don't get picked up" or counted in the virus fatality numbers.

'NO COORDINATION'

In India, public health is managed at a state level, and some have managed better than others. The southern state of Kerala, where India's first three virus cases were reported, has been held up as a model. It isolated patients early, traced and quarantined contacts and tested aggressively. By contrast, Delhi, the

state that includes the national capital, has been sharply criticized for failing to anticipate a surge of cases in recent weeks as lockdown measures eased. Patients have died after being turned away from COVID-designated hospitals that said they were at capacity. It led the Home Ministry to intervene and allocate 500 railway cars as makeshift hospital wards.

But as the capital rushes to conjure new beds, officials admit that they're worried about the lack of trained and experienced health care workers. According to Jishnu Das, a professor of economics at Georgetown University, there is "no central coordination" to move health care staff from one state to another, exposing India's relative inability to use data to guide policy decisions.

"The one big thing that we're learning from this pandemic is it takes any cracks in our systems and it drives a chisel to them. So, it's

no longer a crack, it's a huge chasm," Das said.

ROLE IN GLOBAL FIGHT

India has seven vaccines in various stages of clinical trial, including one by Bharat Biotech that the Indian Council on Medical Research pledged would have results from human trials by August 15, the country's Independence Day. The top medical research body quickly backtracked, but regardless of whether India comes out on top in the global race for a vaccine, the country will play a critical role in the world's inoculation against COVID-19.

The Serum Institute of India in the central Indian city of Pune is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer. India makes about 1,000 ventilators and 600,000 personal protective equipment kits per day, according to government think-tank Niti Aayog, making it the second largest kit maker in the world after China.



Italy will likely extend a state of emergency beyond its current deadline of July 31 due to the new coronavirus crisis
GIUSEPPE CONTE | ITALIAN PM

LANDMARK RULING

In a landmark case, the US Supreme Court has ruled that about half of Oklahoma state belonged to the Native Americans



of the day quote

Britain and India will be the energetic champions of free trade to boost small businesses
DOMINIC RAAB | UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

I have requested Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to annex Palestinian territory in the West Bank, as it would violate international law and threaten long-term peace efforts
EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH PRESIDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Singapore in 2018 went a long way in enhancing India's presence in the ASEAN region
JAWED ASHRAF | INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SINGAPORE

China vows action against US sanctions over Xinjiang

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington/Beijing, July 10: The US has imposed sanctions and visa restrictions on three senior Chinese officials, including the regional boss of the ruling communist party, for alleged human rights abuses targeting Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and members of other minority groups in the restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang province.

China is accused of mass detentions, religious persecution and forced sterilisation of Uyghurs and others in the resource-rich northwestern province. Authorities there are thought to have detained about a million people in re-education camps in recent years for "vocational training" to counter radicalism and separatism in Xinjiang.

The three senior officials named by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement were: Chen Quanguo, the communist party secretary of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and a member of the powerful Politburo; Zhu Hailun, party secretary of the Xinjiang political and legal committee; and Wang Mingshan, party secretary of the Xinjiang public



China is accused of mass detentions, religious persecution and forced sterilisation of Uyghurs and others in the resource-rich northwestern province

Chen is the highest-ranking Chinese official ever to be hit by US sanctions

security bureau.

Chen is the highest-ranking Chinese official ever to be hit by US sanctions. He is said to be the architect of China's harsh policies against minorities, and was previously in charge in Tibet. Former security official in Xinjiang, Huo Lijun has also been named in the list.

As a result of the US move, they and their immediate family members are ineligible for entry into America. It is now a crime in the US to conduct financial transactions with all of them, and they will have their US-based assets frozen.

"The United States is taking action today against the horrific and systematic abuses in Xinjiang and calls on all nations who share our concerns about the CCP's attacks

on human rights and fundamental freedoms to join us in condemning this behaviour," Pompeo said.

In a separate statement, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the US is committed to using the full breadth of its financial powers to hold human rights abusers accountable in Xinjiang and across the world.

"The United States will not stand idly by as the CCP carries out human rights abuses targeting Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and members of other minority groups in Xinjiang, to include forced labour, arbitrary mass detention, and forced population control, and attempts to erase their culture and Muslim faith," Pompeo said.

US BANS PIA FLIGHTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 10: The US has imposed a ban on Pakistan International Airlines flights for at least six months, citing dubious pilots' licenses, according to a media report Friday.

Tuesday, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) ordered its 32 member states to bar Pakistani pilots from working, following reports of fake licenses being issued to them.

The decision has been taken after 262 Pakistani pilots were grounded, whose licences the Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan had termed "dubious" in the National Assembly. The Express Tribune reported quoting sources that the US authorities have notified the national carrier of the ban through an email.

They added that the special flight licences obtained by the PIA had also been revoked. The US officials said that the ban had been imposed because of the recent issue of suspected pilots' licences in PIA.

PIA was allowed to operate 12 direct special flights to the United States of which the airline had operated seven flights. The paper reported that the permission for the remaining five flights had now been revoked, according to the sources.

NEW VISA RULE

US lawmakers seek reversal of decision



In its July 6 order, the ICE declared that non-immigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online or taking only online courses will not be permitted to take a full course load and remain in the United States

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, July 10: A group of 136 US Democratic congressmen and 30 senators, including Indian-origin Kamala Harris, has urged the Trump administration to reverse its "cruel" order that bars international students from staying in the country if they do not have in-person classes to attend.

The lawmakers, in separate letters to Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf and Acting Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Matthew Albence on Thursday, expressed concern over the ICE's recently announced modifications to the Student Exchange and Visitor Program.

The new guidelines have created panic among international students, a majority of whom come from China and India. In its July 6 order, the ICE declared that nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online or taking only online courses will not be permitted to take a full course load and remain in the United States.

The modifications also limited many students at normally operating schools from taking more than one class or three credit hours online in order to remain in the country.

The letter, signed by senators Robert Menendez, Cory Booker and Harris, the Indian-origin senator from California among others, expressed concern that the ICE's guidance is motivated not by the public health considerations, but rather by animus towards non-citizens and immigrants. It said that the move is a flagrant attempt to hold international students hostage in order to force schools to reopen even as COVID-19 cases are rising.

"The ICE's announcement of their plans to force out or deport international students who remain at US colleges and universities and who are taking a full online course load is cruel and unconscionable. These students are already in the United States, are established members of educational communities, and have been determined through the visa screening process to pose no danger to the United States," the senators wrote.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, there were over a million international students in the US. "We call out this policy for what it is: a cruel, senseless, and xenophobic attempt to use non-citizens as political pawns in order to financially coerce colleges and universities to reopen campuses this fall, despite what is best for public health. This policy is dangerous to the health and well-being of numerous communities," they said.

SHORT TAKES

UK relaxes quarantine rules

London: Travellers arriving in the UK from dozens of countries will no longer have to self-isolate for two weeks starting from Friday onwards. The rules were being relaxed for arrivals from 75 countries and British overseas territories. From Friday morning, people arriving in the UK from France, Italy, Belgium, Germany and dozens of other countries will no longer have to spend 14 days in quarantine. But people who arrived from those countries at an earlier point in the last two weeks will still be expected to complete their period of isolation, the government said. Friday, the UK government changed its advice for Serbia, no longer allowing travellers to return without quarantining.

Nepal bans Indian pvt news channels

Kathmandu: Nepal has stopped the transmission of all Indian private news channels except Doordarshan, accusing them of airing reports hurting the country's national sentiment. There was no immediate reaction from India on the issue. People familiar with the development said the Nepalese embassy in New Delhi apprised its views to the Indian government over coverage of Nepal's political developments by the Indian channels.

Seoul Mayor found dead

Seoul: The Seoul city government announced Friday that it has planned to hold a five-day funeral for Mayor Park Won-soon, who was found dead earlier in the day just hours after he was reported missing. The 64-year-old South Korean capital city's three-term Mayor was found dead in the woods of Mount Bugak near his official residence shortly after midnight, reports Yonhap News Agency.

Man charged with homicide

Fond Du Lac (US): A Mexican American man from Wisconsin is charged with homicide as a hate crime because prosecutors say he intentionally crashed his pickup truck into a motorcyclist and killed the man because he was white. Daniel Navarro, 27, of Fond du Lac, told investigators he had been harassed by co-workers and neighbors, and poisoned, drugged and verbally attacked by white people because of his race, authorities said.

Meet to decide Oli's future deferred

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, July 10: A crucial meeting of Nepal's ruling communist party to decide the political future of embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was Friday postponed once again, this time for a week, citing floods in the country, amidst calls for his resignation over his style of functioning and anti-India statements.

The meeting of the Nepal Communist Party's 45-member powerful Standing Committee was scheduled to be held on Friday. NCP spokesperson Narayan Kaji Shrestha told reporters that the meeting was deferred as the party is engaged in assisting rescue and relief operations, and minimise loss due to the landslides and floods that hit different parts of the country since Thursday following incessant rain.

At least 12 people have been killed in multiple landslides in Kaski, Lamjung and Rukum districts in the country's western part Thursday. Seven people lost their lives due to landslides in Sarangkot and Hemjan areas of the famous tourist spot Kaski district's Pokhar, according to officials.

It is the fourth time that the crucial NCP meeting has been postponed. On Wednesday the meeting was postponed to Friday.

Top NCP leaders, including former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', have demanded Prime Minister Oli's resignation, saying his recent anti-India remarks were "neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate."

The differences between the two factions of the NCP - one led by Oli and the other led by party's executive chairman 'Prachanda' on the issue of power-sharing - has recently intensified after the prime minister unilaterally decided to prorogue the budget session of Parliament.

The political future of Oli is now expected to be decided next week during the Standing Committee meeting.

NEW EXPERIENCE



Guests pose as they sit inside a tent hanging from a tree created by Dutch artist Dre Wapenaar, offering an unusual accommodation for tourists in the Belgian countryside near Borgloon, Belgium

Pasteurising breast milk inactivates Covid: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Toronto, July 10: Pasteurising breast milk at 62.5 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes inactivates the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19, making it safe for consumption by babies, a study claims.

According to the research published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, current advice for women with COVID-19 is to continue to breast-feed their own infants. In Canada, it is standard care to provide pasteurised breast milk to very-low-birth-weight babies in hospital until their own mother's milk supply is adequate, the researchers said.

"In the event that a woman who is COVID-19-positive donates human milk that contains SARS-CoV-2, whether by trans-

mission through the mammary gland or by contamination through respiratory droplets, skin, breast pumps and milk containers, this method of pasteurisation renders milk safe for consumption," said Sharon Unger, a professor at the University of Toronto in Canada.

The Holder method, a technique used to pasteurise milk in all Canadian milk banks at 62.5 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes, is effective at neutralising viruses such as HIV, hepatitis and others that are known to be transmitted through human milk, the researchers said.

In the latest study, the researchers spiked human breast milk with a viral load of SARS-CoV-2 and tested samples that either sat at room temperature for 30 minutes or were warmed to 62.5 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes.

DEADLIER THAN CORONA?

China warns of 'unknown pneumonia'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 10: China has warned its citizens living in Kazakhstan of a local "unknown pneumonia" which, it said, has a "much higher" fatality rate than the COVID-19 disease, prompting the Central Asian country to dismiss it as "fake news."

The "unknown pneumonia in Kazakhstan caused 1,772 deaths in the first six months of the year, including 628 people in June alone", the Chinese embassy in the central Asian country said in a statement on its WeChat platform on Thursday, adding that the fatalities also included Chinese citizens.

However, Kazakhstan has dismissed as "fake news" the warning put out by the Chinese embassy. "The fatality rate of the disease is much higher than COVID-19," state-run Global Times quoted the embassy's statement on Friday.

Many organisations including



Kazakhstan's health department are studying the "virus of this pneumonia", the embassy said. There has not been any indication whether this disease is related to the COVID-19. Some Chinese experts said that measures should be taken to prevent the pneumonia from spreading into China.

Reacting to this, Kazakhstan's health ministry termed the Chinese embassy statement as "fake news." "The information published by some Chinese media regarding a new kind of pneumonia in Kazakhstan

is incorrect," Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted the ministry as saying.

It said its tallies of bacterial, fungal and viral pneumonia infections, which also included cases of unclear causes, were in line with World Health Organisation guidelines. "The information published by some Chinese media regarding a new kind of pneumonia in Kazakhstan is incorrect," the ministry said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that, "We would like to get more information. China hopes to work with Kazakhstan to fight the epidemic and safeguard the public health," he said. Kazakhstan borders China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The embassy is reminding the Chinese citizens in Kazakhstan to raise their awareness of measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Notre Dame Cathedral will be restored to original design

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, July 10: Notre Dame Cathedral will be rebuilt just the way it stood before last year's devastating fire.

No swimming pool or organic garden on the roof of the medieval Paris monument, or contemporary glass spire, or other modern twists. And to stay historically accurate, it will again be built with potentially toxic lead.

That's the verdict reached by French President Emmanuel Macron, the cathedral's present-day architects and the general in charge of the colossal reconstruc-

tion project for one of the world's most treasured landmarks.

Macron, who wants Notre Dame reopened in time for the 2024 Olympics, had initially pushed for a contemporary touch atop the cathedral, prompting eye-catching proposals from architects around the world.

But Macron came around to the traditionalists' argument, and approved reconstruction plans for the 12th century monument that were presented Thursday, according to a statement from state agency overseeing the



project. The plan includes recreating the 19th-century spire by Viollet

No modern twists

form and a restoration of the cathedral in its latest state," the statement said.

That means the state Notre Dame was in the afternoon of April 15, 2019, before fire broke out beneath its roof, toppling its spire, consuming the roof and threatening the rose-windowed twin towers that keep the cathedral upright.

More than a year later, the structure remains unstable. It took nearly a year to clear out dangerous lead residue released in the fire and to get to the point where workers could start removing scaffolding that had been in place before the fire for a previous resto-

vation effort. Actual reconstruction won't start until next year.

The reconstruction plan presented Thursday says it will replicate original materials "to guarantee the authenticity, harmony and coherence of this masterpiece of Gothic art." Those materials originally include tons of lead, which is raising concerns among health and environmental groups.

Toxic lead spewed by the fire forced schools in the area to close and prompted a lengthy, painstaking cleanup effort of the historic neighbourhood on an island in the center of Paris.

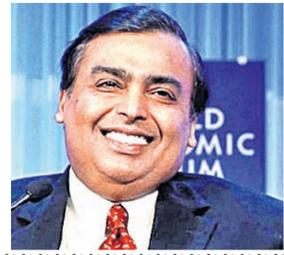
business



Both Sony and Epic have created businesses at the intersection of creativity and technology and they share a vision of real-time 3D social experiences that will lead to a convergence of gaming, film, and music
TIM SWEENEY | CEO, EPIC GAMES

AMBANI GETS PAST BUFFETT

Chairman of Reliance Industries Mukesh Ambani with a net worth of \$68.3bn has surpassed Warren Buffett's \$67.9bn to become the eighth richest person in the planet. He had a rollercoaster year, cutting a string of deals for Jio Platforms, undergoing wild swings in his wealth



of the day quote

Zoom understands its obligation to its users and takes security and privacy incredibly seriously. The company had announced a 90-day plan during the course of which Zoom released over 100 new features focused on privacy, safety and security



VELCHAMY SANKARLINGAM | PRESIDENT, PRODUCT AND ENGINEERING, ZOOM

As part of our commitment to providing a safe airport experience during COVID-19 pandemic, we are happy to announce that now passengers and visitors can avail themselves of a fully contact-less car parking experience with the collaboration with NPCI and NETC



PRADEEP PANICKER | CEO, GHIAL

The UK Export Finance (UKEF) has a credit limit of £4bn for India which Indian companies can avail for their overseas projects but they should have 20% of the components sourced from the UK



RAHUL TABHANE | COUNTRY HEAD (INDIA), UKEF

SHORT TAKES

PC shipments grow 2.8% in Q2

San Francisco: Led by Lenovo and HP, worldwide PC shipments reached 64.8 million units in Q2 of 2020, a 2.8% increase from the same period last year, according to preliminary results revealed by Gartner Friday. The PC market returned to growth as vendors restocked their channels and mobile PC demand increased after a significant decline in the first quarter of the year due to COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions.

MNRE issues fresh advisory

New Delhi: The renewable energy ministry Friday issued a fresh advisory against fraudulent websites claiming to be registration portal for PM-KUSUM scheme. "It is recently noticed that two new websites have recently cropped up illegally claiming (to be) registration portal for PM-KUSUM scheme," the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) said in a statement. According to the statement, the two websites are <https://kusum-yojana.co.in> and <https://www.onlinekusumyojana.co.in>.

Housing sales dips 67% in April-June

New Delhi: Housing sales fell 67% at 21,294 units across nine major cities during April-June due to outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown, according to data analytics firm PropEquity. Recently, property consultant Anarock had released its data that showed an estimated 81 per cent fall in sales at 12,740 units across seven cities during April-June this year.

Union Bank reduces MCLR

Mumbai: State-run Union Bank of India Friday announced reduction in its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 20 basis points across tenors. The new rates are applicable from July 11. The revised one-year MCLR stands at 7.40% against 7.60% earlier, the bank said in a release. Three-month and six-month MCLR have been cut to 7.10% and 7.25% respectively. This is the 13th consecutive rate cut by the lender since July last year.

Room for more fiscal support in India in near term: IMF

AGENCIES

Washington, July 10: A top IMF official has said that there is room for more fiscal support in India in the near term, particularly for vulnerable households and SMEs, given the severity of the country's economic situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vitor Gaspar, Director of the International Monetary Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department, told PTI that a complete and successful implementation of the existing support measures (in particular, food provision to households) is of paramount importance.

"Given the severity of the economic situation, in the near-term there is room for more fiscal support,

particularly for vulnerable households and SMEs (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises)," he said.

Over the medium-term, India will continue to have a very limited fiscal space, and a credible and well-communicated consolidation plan will be urgently needed once the coronavirus pandemic subsides, Gaspar said.

The economic impact of the COVID-19 in India has been substantial and broad-based, he said, adding that high frequency indicators point to a sharp decline in economic activity, as reflected in the industrial production, business sentiment (in the purchasing managers index), vehicle sales and trade.

In the June World Economic Outlook (WEO), growth in fiscal



year 20/21 was revised down to -4.5 per cent, he said.

The downward revision compared with the April WEO was driven primarily by the continued rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in India.

"This led the International

Monetary Fund to make specific two adjustments. First, the assumed length of the partial lockdown was extended somewhat. Second, and more important, we made more conservative assumptions about the speed of recovery given that the health crisis has not yet been contained," Gaspar said in response to a question.

He said that the near-term growth outlook in India continues to be clouded by the global and domestic slowdown and uncertainties relating to the evolution of the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the senior IMF official, India's general government fiscal deficit is projected to reach 12.1 per cent of the GDP in fiscal year 20/21, primarily due to weak tax revenues, as well as a denominator effect associated with the negative projected nominal GDP growth -- as with all other macro variables, estimates are highly uncertain.

"Consistent with this, and the deterioration in economic activity, India's public debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to reach about 84 per cent

this fiscal year," Gaspar added.

According to Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, the contagion has infected over 12 million people and killed more than 554,000 across the world.

The US is the worst affected country with over 3.1 million cases and more than 1,33,000 deaths. India's COVID-19 caseload stands at 7,93,802 with 21,604 deaths.

The COVID-19, which originated in China's Wuhan city in December last year, has also battered the world economy with the International Monetary Fund saying that the global economy is bound to suffer a "severe recession".

Scientists are racing against time to find a vaccine or medicine for its treatment.

Given the severity of the economic situation, in the near term there is room for more fiscal support, particularly for vulnerable households and SMEs

VITOR GASPAR | DIRECTOR, FISCAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, IMF

Auto component sector rev may fall by 14-18% in FY21: ICRA

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 10: Weak demand across domestic original equipment manufacturers, replacement market and exports could lead to a decline of 14-18% in revenues of auto component sector in 2020-21, according to ratings agency ICRA.

It noted that while the auto components industry has been hit due to COVID-19 and lockdown, mission critical replacement parts like batteries and tyres would be less impacted.

"Automobile volumes are expected to decline by (around) 15-16% in FY2021; within this, passenger vehicle demand will decline by 22-25%," ICRA said in a statement.

The year will be tough for commercial vehicles (CV) too, given the slowing economic growth, cur-



rent overcapacity in the CV space and tight financing environment amid price increases due to transition to BS-VI emission norms, it added.

However, the ratings agency said, "Two-wheeler sales could benefit as people prefer personal transport and are wary of public transport, easy retail credit availability; and

expectations of better demand in rural and semi urban markets, which were relatively less impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions."

ICRA research expects the recovery of the auto components sector to be gradual and slow-paced, with the industry pinning hopes on revival in rural income to support growth in the festive season and thereafter, it added.

Commenting on the situation, ICRA Senior Group Vice-President Subrata Ray said, "Domestic automotive production declined by (around) 14.7% in FY2020 and is expected to witness double-digit decline in FY2021 as well. The after-market component demand which accounts for 18% of the industry turnover; is also expected to be subdued in the near term, the exception being components like batteries."

Auction of 11 mineral blocks put on hold

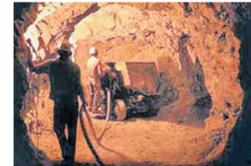
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: The government has put on hold the auction of 11 mineral blocks, including two gold mines, besides keeping in abeyance sale of four blocks. The blocks on hold for auction are in Madhya Pradesh, while the mines kept in abeyance are in Jharkhand, according to a document of the mines ministry.

However, the mines ministry did not specify the reasons for putting the sale of blocks on hold and in abeyance. Among the blocks put on hold for auction, two are gold mines, five limestone, three basematel and one bauxite block, the document said. Of the mines kept in abeyance, two are bauxite blocks and one each of limestone and dolomite.

The notice inviting tenders of all 15 blocks was issued in January 2020.

One mineral block was auctioned last month, while four more mines were put on sale this month.



All the five blocks in Gujarat and Karnataka have reserves of 667.2 million tonnes. The Centre had recently asked states having mineral resources to identify at least five new mining projects for auction with pre-embedded clearance on a pilot basis, with a view to expediting the sale process as well as operationalisation of the blocks.

The mines ministry had recently released guidelines for the auction of mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances as it explored ways to address the key issue of delay in mining production due to lack of various approvals such as forest and environment permissions.

Textiles and apparel sector on state's focus list: Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 10: Textiles and apparel manufacturing is one of the focus sectors of Odisha and companies like Aditya Birla Fashion, Shahi Exports, and several others have already set up their manufacturing base in the state, said Diba Sankar Mishra, State Industries and MSME minister.

Mishra Friday participated in Invest India Exclusive Investment Forum for textiles and apparel sector. The event saw registrations from nearly 300 global textiles and apparel companies.

The minister also highlighted the abundant availability of well-recognized skilled labour force for the sector at one of the most competitive wage rates in Odisha. Mishra informed the participants regarding the strong logistical base in the state for facilitating export-imports through Paradip, Dhamra and Gopalpur ports.

Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries and Nitin Jawale, MD, IPICOL also participated in the event.

Sharma exhibited a presentation showcasing the investment opportunities in the State. He informed the participants that new world-class infrastructure facilities are being developed in Odisha including

Technical Textiles Park at Bhadrak, Odisha Textiles Park at Dhamra and proposed Garments & Apparel Park at Malipada. "With these new infrastructure facilities, there are brighter-than-ever prospects for textiles and apparel industry," he said.

Head of Manufacturing, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. Jayarajan KR shared experience of the company's investment journey in the state with the participants. During the event, officials from Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Punjab and Tamil Nadu also highlighted the investment opportunities in their respective states.



ODISHA STATE GOVERNMENT

BIZ BUZZ

T-Hub partners with MeitY, Digital India

New Delhi: T-Hub, an initiative by the Telangana government for startups, Friday said it has joined hands with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Digital India for helping hardware and IoT startups across the country. T-Hub will lead Digital India's Scale Up program for hardware and IoT startups across India, a statement said. The aim is to help provide scale up opportunities to the startups and make them ready in terms of product, investment and new market access, it added. About 10-15 startups with leading-edge solutions in mobility, energy, agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, consumer, healthcare, medtech, smart cities and logistics and supply chain sectors will be shortlisted.



Zomato expects July net loss under \$1mn

New Delhi: Foodtech unicorn Zomato expects its net loss in July to be under \$1 million even as COVID-19 has set it back by about a year in terms of the size of the business, the company said in its annual report Friday. For June, it posted EBITDA loss of \$1.5 million, while revenue hit \$17 million. Zomato said its revenue in FY20 grew by 105% to reach \$394 million as compared to \$192 million in FY19 while the costs grew by only 47% in the corresponding period. For FY19, Zomato posted EBITDA loss of \$277 million which increased to \$293 million in FY 20.



PNB, Cuttack gets new Circle Head

Bhubaneswar: Sibananda Bhanja joined as the new Circle Head of Punjab National Bank (PNB), Cuttack Circle. The circle was newly formed after merger of UBI & OBC with PNB. This new circle is having jurisdiction over 75 branches covering Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Angul and Dhenkanal district. Prior to this new assignment, Bhanja was working as AGM at ARMB, New Delhi. He joined PNB in 1989 as an officer and worked in Haryana, West Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand in different assignments with excellence. Out of his total banking experience, he is having 28 years exposure in branch level by serving the Customers directly. During his tenure as the Circle Head, Bhanja will focus on providing financial support as per the guidelines of Ministry of Finance to Retail, MSME and Agriculture sector.



SIBANANDA BHANJA

Cinema exhibition industry suffers ₹5K cr loss

Presently, cinemas and multiplexes continue to remain in the list of prohibited activities under the Centre's Unlock 2.0 guidelines

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Mumbai, July 10: The COVID-19 triggered restrictions on cinema exhibition industry has not only disheartened movie goers, but axed several thousand jobs and cost the industry an estimated ₹5,000 crore in revenue. The sector has been one of the hardest hit due to COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions implemented to curb its spread.

Presently, cinemas and multiplexes continue to remain in the



COVID EFFECT

list of prohibited activities under the Centre's Unlock 2.0 guidelines.

In an interview to IANS, movie exhibition major Inox Leisure's Chief Executive Alok Tandon said, "The industry on an average collects about ₹1,000 crore a month of 'Box Office' and on an average gen-

erates about ₹500 crore a month of ancillary revenues."

"Keeping in mind that the lockdown has been effective for more than 100 days now, which is about 3.5 months, the cinema exhibition industry would have accumulated losses worth ₹5,000 crore so far."

According to Tandon, associated businesses such as pre and post-production, make-up artists, graphics, film set fabrication, film crew, events, marketing, F&B services have all been impacted due to the restrictions.

"With the production and exhibition of movies coming to a halt, the industry was bound to witness some job losses," he said without divulging any estimates.

As per industry data, the multiplex industry in India employs more than 200,000 people directly and accounts for nearly 60 per cent of revenues of the film business.

On the way forward, Tandon elaborated that the industry expects to regain business momentum and sentiment post resumption of operations.

"We believe it will be a matter of

a couple of blockbuster, and we will be back to our usual operational numbers," he said.

"We are rightfully relying on the unshakable passion of the Indian movie lovers, who are yearning to step out and spend time enjoying the giant screen experience."

Furthermore, he cited that industry has sent representation to the Centre for immediate re-commencement of operations and a support package.

"We have requested for financial support in the form of salary subsidies during the lockdown period, interest-free loans for three years, exemptions from various taxes and duties, like GST, Show tax, LBETs and Property taxes for a period of one year from the date of operations, waiver on electricity minimum demand charges for one year and auto renewal of licenses and permits for the next one year," he said.

Sebi rejigs advisory committee on MFs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 10: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has revamped its committee that advises the capital markets regulator on matters related to regulation and development of mutual fund industry.

The 20-member advisory committee on mutual funds is headed by Usha Thorat, former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a latest Sebi update showed.

Earlier in 2013, the panel had 15 members and was headed by Janki Ballabh, former Chairman of SBI.

The members of the committee include officials of various fund houses like Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd President Sanjay Sapre, Kotak Mahindra AMC MD Nilesh Shah and Canara Robeco AMC CEO Rajnish Narula, SBI Mutual Fund Independent Trustee Sunil Gulati and Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund Independent Trustee Director Brij Gopal Daga.

Besides, Dharendra Kumar CEO of Value Research India, Kailash Kulkarni CEO of L&T Investment Management, KN Vaidyanathan Executive Vice President at M&M, Ashish Chauhan, MD and CEO at BSE, Ananth Narayan Associate Professor of Finance at SPJIMR and NS Venkatesh CEO of Association of Mutual Funds in India are also part of the panel.

Red Devils march on

Manchester United become the first team in the Premier League to win four successive matches by a margin of three or more goals after seeing off Aston Villa 3-0



SIGH OF RELIEF: Paul Pogba (R) is ecstatic after scoring against Aston Villa, his first goal for Manchester United in 15 months

Birmingham, July 10: Bruno Fernandes converted a contentiously awarded penalty to set Manchester United on their way to a 3-0 win over Aston Villa that featured a first goal of the season by Paul Pogba and another impressive strike by teenager Mason Greenwood. With this victory, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side became the first in the division's history to win four successive matches by a margin of three goals or more as they extended their unbeaten run to 17 games in all competitions. United eased to a fourth straight Premier League win Thursday but

only after going ahead in controversial circumstances in the 27th minute, with the visitors earning a penalty for a trip on Fernandes even though the playmaker appeared to commit a foul himself on Villa defender Ezri Konsa. Fernandes sent goalkeeper Pepe Reina the wrong way for his seventh goal since joining from Sporting Lisbon in January and he also set up Pogba for United's third goal in the 58th minute with a pinpoint pass from a corner. Pogba did the rest, curling home from the edge of the area for his first goal in any competition in an injury-plagued season for the Frenchman. The goal was Pogba's first Premier

League goal in 15 months. Greenwood scored in between, his fourth goal in the last three games, and it was another demonstration of the 18-year-old forward's ability to score off either foot. This time it was with his right, as he collected Anthony Martial's short pass at the end of a quick counter-attack and smashed in a rising finish from the edge of the area. United stayed in fifth place but moved to within a point of fourth-place Leicester with four games remaining. A fifth-place finish will be enough to qualify automatically for the Champions League this season unless second-place Manchester City manages to get

their two-year European ban overturned in the courts. United will play Leicester in the final round of the season July 26. In this form, it is hard to imagine them not finishing in the top four. Villa dropped to next-to-last place Thursday and is four points from safety as the team looks to avoid relegation after just one season back in the top flight. The impact January signing Bruno has had on United is clear to see and this was another awesome display from the playmaker. He has now had 28 goal involvements in 27 league goals this season with Sporting CP and United, scoring 15 and providing 13 assists.

Sevilla rally past Bilbao

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, July 10: Sevilla rallied in the second half to beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1 in the Spanish league, moving closer to a Champions League berth.

The come-from-behind victory in Bilbao Thursday left Sevilla tied on points with third-place Atletico Madrid and increased their gap to fifth-place Villarreal to six points with three rounds to go. Only the top four qualify for next season's Champions League.

It was the third league win in a row for Sevilla. It had drawn four straight before that. Ninth-place Athletic, which lost ground in the fight for a Europa League spot, opened the scoring through Ander Capa in the 29th but the visitors bounced back with goals by Ever Banega from a free-kick in the 69th and Munir El Haddadi from a header in the 74th.

League leader Real Madrid hosts relegation-threatened Alaves needing a win to regain a four-point advantage over second-place Barcelona, which Wednesday got to within a point of the top after defeating last-place Espanyol 1-0.

Japanese teenager Takefusa Kubo scored late to help Mallorca beat Levante 2-0 at home, keeping alive the team's hopes of escaping relegation.



KEEPING HEADS HIGH: Munir El Haddadi rejoices with a Sevilla teammate after heading the winner against Athletic Bilbao, Thursday

The 19-year-old Kubo, who is playing on a loan from Real Madrid, hadn't scored since a league match in November. Colombian forward Cucho Hernandez also scored for Mallorca. The victory moved Mallorca within three points of Alaves, which has lost five straight ahead of its trip to face leader Real Madrid Friday. Mallorca has won two of its last three matches. It next visits Sevilla.

Levante stayed in 12th place. Eibar stayed four points from safety after being held to a 0-0 draw at home by second-to-last-place Leganes. Leganes stayed six points from safety with three rounds to go. Last-place Espanyol was relegated for the first time after 26 straight seasons in the top flight after the loss at city rival Barcelona Wednesday.

Barca or Napoli await Bayern

REUTERS

Nyon, July 10: Bayern Munich will face Barcelona or Napoli in the quarterfinals of the Champions League, if they can defend their three goal lead against Chelsea in their last 16 second leg game.

The Champions League will resume in August after being halted in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic with a 'Final Eight' tournament being held in Lisbon after the remaining second-leg games from the last 16 ties are decided.

UEFA held the draw for the one-leg quarterfinals and semifinals at their headquarters in here, Friday. Two quarterfinals were set by the



draw with Germany's RB Leipzig facing Atletico Madrid and Italian club Atalanta up against Paris St Germain.

The rest of the draw depends on the outcome of the second-leg ties

in the last 16. Barca drew 1-1 at Napoli in the first leg and will host the Serie A side at the Nou Camp August 7 or 8.

Bayern are strong favourites to make the last eight having beaten Chelsea 3-0 at Stamford Bridge in the first leg of their tie.

Real Madrid or Manchester City will face Olympique Lyonnais or Juventus. City lead Real 2-1 heading into the return leg at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester while Lyon defend a one goal lead when they travel to face Juve in Turin.

The path to the semifinals opens up the possibility of Pep Guardiola facing his old club Barcelona if both teams progress to the last four

BOWLING 'REVERSE' REVERSE SWING Jimmy began the trend: Tendulkar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

sition is different on both occasions. According to Tendulkar, when he checked Anderson's wrist position, he saw him bowling the reverse outswinger but with wrist position of conventional inswinger, which is unheard of.

"What I experienced, over a period of time, that he would hold the ball as if he was bowling outswinger; but the release point, he would try and bring the ball back in. And number of batters would look at the wrist position, and what he has actually done, he's shown you that he's bowling inswing, but the imbalance between both sides of the ball would take the ball away from you," he added.

Tendulkar said by changing his wrist position quickly Anderson forces the batsman to commit to a shot. "What he has done is, he's got you to commit to play, for an inswinger and the ball, after covering almost three-fourths of the length of the pitch, starts leaving you. "But you had already committed, because you've seen that inswing position, and that is something which was new to me. Nobody had done that," he asserted.

Tendulkar said several bowlers including Stuart Broad have started using the same trick to trouble the opposition batters but it was Anderson who started the trend. "Now number of guys, you see their shine, and what they're trying to do - I spotted even Stuart Broad trying to do that at some stage, but Anderson started this long time ago. So I rate him very very highly. One of the best exponents of reverse swing," he said.

Anderson is England's leading wicket-taker in Test cricket, with 871 international wickets to his name.

Shaw needs to be more disciplined off the field: Jaffer



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 10: Former India opener and domestic stalwart Wasim Jaffer has compared Prithvi Shaw to the great Virender Sehwag but also said the Mumbaier needs a more disciplined lifestyle off the field.

After an impressive Test debut against the West Indies, Shaw was handed an eight-month ban for a doping violation. After the completion of the ban, he returned to competitive cricket and played during India's tour of New Zealand ear-

lier this year. "I also feel his lifestyle off the field, he (Shaw) needs to probably get more disciplined there. He has the game to succeed at the international level but he needs to be a lot more disciplined outside cricket also," Jaffer told former India opener Aakash Chopra on the latter's 'YouTube' channel.

Jaffer, who is the highest run getter in Ranji Trophy, said once set, Shaw has the ability to demolish the best of bowling attacks.

"I think he (Shaw) is a special player, without a doubt and the

(kind of) shots he plays. If he gets going, he has the ability of Virender Sehwag, who can completely demolish the attack," added Jaffer, who announced his retirement in March this year.

According to Jaffer, Shaw needs to understand his game better as he falls into the trap laid by the opposition. "But somewhere I feel, he needs to understand (his game), where he needs to take a little bit of backseat. He has been out couple of times on short balls and he falls into that trap. He needs to understand that," signed off Jaffer.



CHASE, DOWRICH HOLD FIRM; ENGLAND CONCEDE 34-RUN LEAD AT TEA

West Indies take command

AGENCIES

Southampton, July 10: Roston Chase (27 batting) and Shane Dowrich (30 batting) helped West Indies take a 31-run first-innings lead in the first Test against England here Friday as the visitors reached 235/5 at tea on Day 3.

Chase was showing no inclination to take any risk at all. He has been impenetrable as this pitch slows down further. Run-scoring was not too easy either at the moment, but that could change with the new ball now available.

Resuming on 57/1, the touring side lost the wickets of Shai Hope (16) and Kraigg Brathwaite (65, 125b, 6x4) but added 122 runs in the sunshine at an empty Rose Bowl to close in on England's first-innings total.

Post lunch, Shamarrh Brooks (39) got out when he edged one to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler off a James Anderson delivery. His partner at the other end Chase looked calm, but yet again he lost another partner; Jermaine Blackwood (12) who became Dom Bess' (2/51) second victim. However, that was the last laugh for the home team as Chase and Dowrich didn't allow the England bowlers to cash in on something. The pair has already added 49 runs for the unbroken sixth wicket.

Earlier, England's fast bowlers couldn't generate the same movement achieved by the West Indies' pace artillery over the first two rain-affected days, with the two quickest - Jofra Archer and Mark Wood - awaiting their first wickets.



CRUCIAL BREAKTHROUGH: Ben Stokes roars in delight after dismissing Kraigg Brathwaite (not in pic) as Roston Chase looks on

Indeed, it was spinner Bess who claimed the first wicket of the day in his first over, finding Hope's edge for Ben Stokes to take the catch at slip. Hope had just been given a reprieve after being trapped in front of his stumps by Archer. The on-field umpire awarded an lbw but replays showed Archer overstepped the crease for a no-ball.

Stokes (1/24) took the other wicket, trapping Brathwaite in front. The tourists reviewed and the DRS stayed with the umpire's call. Brief scores (till tea): England 204; West Indies 235/5 (Kraigg Brathwaite 65, Shamarrh Brooks 39; James Anderson 2/42, Dom Bess 2/51). Match to continue.



Kraigg Brathwaite raises his bat after completing half century, Friday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigombam replaces Ahmad as HI president

New Delhi: Hockey India (HI) president Mohd Mushtaq Ahmad has resigned from his position citing personal commitments, a development that was expected after the Sports Ministry asked him to quit, declaring his election violative of the national sports code's tenure guidelines. HI Executive Board named Manipur's Gyanendro Nigombam, who was senior vice-president in the federation, as the officiating president in Ahmad's place. The Sports Ministry had found that Ahmad had violated the tenure cap guidelines of the code in the 2018 elections, when he took charge of the president's position.

Perez fastest in first practice for Styrian GP

Spielberg: Racing Point driver Sergio Perez posted the fastest time in the first practice session for the Styrian Grand Prix Friday. He was 0.096 seconds quicker than Red Bull driver Max Verstappen and 0.222 ahead of Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas, who won last Sunday's season-opening Austrian GP. World Champion Lewis Hamilton for Mercedes was fourth quickest in sunny conditions at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. After struggling in qualifying last week, Ferrari added a new front wing but Sebastian Vettel was only 10th fastest. The session was briefly interrupted after about 30 minutes, when the engine on Nicholas Latifi's Williams car cut out and he pulled over to the side.

ATK MB to retain green & maroon jersey

Kolkata: The board of ATK Mohun Bagan Friday decided to retain the iconic green and maroon jersey which has been synonymous with the 131-year-old legacy of the football club. The name of the club will be changed to ATK Mohun Bagan while the logo will have the iconic Mohun Bagan boat with addition of 'ATK' to it. "The culture and tradition which has made the brand a household name has been preserved. The logo retains its essence. The addition of ATK within the logo ensures that the fast growing and passionate following built on a short but highly successful period is also being carried forward," the merged entity said in a statement.

Number of batters would look at the wrist position (of bowlers), and what he has actually done, he's shown you that he's bowling inswing, but the imbalance between both sides of the ball would take the ball away from you

