



## MEMORY LANE

Actor Kareena Kapoor who completed 20 years in showbiz shares a still of her first shot from *Refugee*

LEISURE P2



## CONMAN CAUGHT

The accused was inspired by movie 'Catch Me If You Can' and swindled ₹50 lakh from 15 firms

TWO STATES P7



## CHINA OKAYS HK LAW

China's parliament passed national security legislation for Hong Kong Tuesday

INTERNATIONAL P10

# Modi extends free ration till Nov end

MENTIONS CHHATH, DIWALI IN SPEECH

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for another five months till November-end to help the poor in view of the upcoming festivals like Diwali and Chhath.

The PM made the announcement in his sixth address to the nation in four months since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and started getting out of hand.

"Keeping needs of expenses of people, it has been decided that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana should now be extended till Diwali and Chhath Pujas. The scheme will be extended till the end of November," the Prime Minister said during his 16-minute address.

Modi said that more than ₹90,000 crore will be spent in the expansion of the scheme and around 80 crore people across the country will be provided free ration - 5 kg wheat or 5 kg rice.

The Prime Minister also said every family will also be provided 1 kg gram (chana) under the scheme every month.

Explaining the expenses, the



Prime Minister said it comes to almost one and a half lakh crore if the expenses of the last three months are added to it. Though the country is currently in 'Unlock 2' mode to help revive the stagnant economy, the Prime Minister requested people to keep precautions and follow the guidelines.

The Prime Minister addressed the nation for the second time in a span of three days as the nation headed towards a scarier and worse state of coronavirus outbreak pushing the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 5,66,840, with the number of fatalities inching closer to 17,000-mark.

On an average, there are around 18,000-20,000 Covid-19 cases reported every day and while the central government might be on the brink of coming up with a vaccine soon, the worry is still imminent given the expanse of the country and its demographic divide.

# NIGHT CURFEW EASED

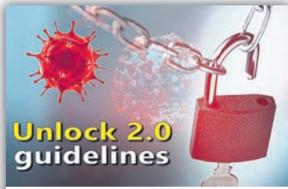
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The state government Tuesday relaxed the night curfew and announced to go ahead with the weekly shutdowns in high-incidence districts of the state in July.

Releasing the new guidelines under Unlock 2.0, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy said the government has worked on the Centre's Unlock 2.0 norms and has decided to cut the night curfew hours. But the weekly shutdowns in high burden districts of the state will continue. The rules will come into effect from July 1. Tripathy clarified that the older rules for COVID 19 in containment zones will continue as usual but there will be some relaxations in non-containment zones.

"We have revised the timings of night curfew. Now the night curfew will be imposed from 9 pm to 5 am," Tripathy said. "All shops, commercial establishments, offices, institutions and movement of individuals shall remain closed/prohibited between 9 pm and 5 am throughout the state, except for essential activities," he said. Tripathy, however, stressed that besides emergency services all industrial units and construction activities could be operational during this period. Staff of IT companies will also be allowed during this period.

The government has also proposed continuation of the weekly shutdowns. The 10 high burden districts that will continue to observe the weekend shutdowns include Ganjam, Gajapati, Khurda, Cuttack, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore,



- Night curfew across the state changed to 9 pm to 5 am
- Weekly shutdowns to continue in 10 hotspot districts
- Opening of shopping malls to be decided by local bodies
- Edu institutes, gyms, swimming pools, large gatherings banned.
- Industrial units, IT sector employees allowed during night curfew

Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Jharsuguda.

A notification in this regard claimed that some of the activities such as international flights, cinema halls, gyms, swimming pools, theatres, assembly halls, social, cultural or political congregation will not be allowed across the state. The government said hotels and restaurants will be allowed to operate as per the norms of the Centre but restaurant services will be open for in-house guests only. "Restaurants and hotels are permitted for home delivery/ takeaways of food. Dhabas along roads will provide takeaway services only," the new norms said.

As for opening of shopping complexes, the government said it has to be decided by the local authority based on

## COUNTER SALE OF LIQUOR ALLOWED

BHUBANESWAR: The state government will allow over-the-counter sale of liquor from Wednesday after more than three months, and one needs to book a time-slot through an online system for buying alcoholic beverages from the outlets. The liquor shops across the state will remain open from 7 am to 6 pm, according to a notification issued by the excise department Tuesday. The government allows the counter sale of liquor in OFF and ON shops in addition to the ongoing home delivery of these items from July 1, the notification said. An online system for generation of e-token and booking of time-slot has been developed by the Odisha State Beverage Corporation with the National Informatics Centre to regulate crowd at the shops, it said.

local conditions. The government clarified that there would be no hindrance to inter-state and intra state movement of passengers.

"There shall be no curbs on inter-state and intra-state movement of persons and goods. No permission, approvals, permits, passes will be required for such movements," the notification said. The government, however, has allowed the local authorities to impose more restrictions, if required. The Chief Secretary said in hotspot districts, Collectors can shut down markets, offices and transport, if required, based on assessment of local conditions.

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# Crime Branch to probe rape in PS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Director General of Police Abhay Tuesday ordered a Crime Branch (CB) probe into the rape of a minor tribal girl at Biramitrapur police station in Sundargarh and her subsequent abortion.

The DGP, in his official Twitter page, said, "I have ordered the Crime Branch to take charge of investigation of Raiboga police case no 41/2020 (rape and POCSO Act Case). The Crime Branch team has already left for Sundargarh."

CB ADG SK Priyadarshi told media that a four-member CB team, led by a lady DSP, left for Sundargarh Tuesday to take charge of



Accused IIC Anand Ch Majhi

the probe. The ADG said the case is sensitive as police personnel are involved in the case. Biramitrapur poIIC has been placed under suspension after the incident.

The Child Welfare Committee had filed a complaint with Raiboga police against six persons including IIC Anand Chandra Majhi, a doctor, step father of the victim and three others in connection with the incident.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why 59? Banning 56 apps could have sent out a more effective message... to the voter

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	34915.80 ↓ 45.72
NIFTY	10302.10 ↓ 10.30
DOLLAR	75.79 ↑ ₹0.13
EURO	84.97 ↓ ₹0.41
GOLD	₹48,640 ↑ ₹396
SILVER	₹49,200 ↑ ₹1077

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.6°C	35.6°C
TEMP MIN	25.0°C	23.5°C
Humidity	68%	66%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain likely

# Ban on apps: Xi govt reaches out to India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 30: A day after India banned 59 apps with Chinese links for engaging in activities which are "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity" of the country, China Tuesday voiced strong concern over the move, and said the Indian government has the responsibility to uphold the "legitimate and legal rights" of international investors.

India Monday banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including the hugely popular TikTok and UC Browser, for engaging in "activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order". The ban also comes in the backdrop of the current stand-off along the Line of Actual control in eastern Ladakh with Chinese troops.

Reacting to India's ban of the Chinese apps at a Chinese Foreign Ministry briefing here, spokesman Zhao Lijian said, "China is strongly concerned about the relevant notice issued by the Indian side. We are checking and verifying the situation."

"I want to stress that the Chinese government always asks the Chinese businesses to abide by international rules, local laws and regulations in their business cooperation with foreign countries," he said. "The Indian government has the responsibility to uphold the legitimate and legal rights of the international investors including the Chinese ones," he added.

## Another deadly flu virus identified in China: Study

BEIJING: A new flu virus strain, identified among pigs in China, is becoming prevalent among workers in the swine industry, according to a study which says the pathogen has "all the essential hallmarks of a candidate pandemic virus." The study, published in the journal PNAS, is based on a surveillance of pigs in China from 2011 to 2018, and found that the influenza virus strain, with genetic material termed as G4 genotype, has become predominant in swine populations since 2016. According to the scientists, including those from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, these G4 viruses bind to receptor molecules in human cells, and can replicate in the outer layer of the respiratory system. They demonstrated that the newly identified virus can efficiently infect ferrets via aerosol transmission, causing severe clinical symptoms in them like sneezing, wheezing, coughing, and a mean maximum weight loss ranging from 7.3 to 9.8 per cent of the mammals' body mass.

India's Information Technology Ministry said Monday that it has invoked its power under section 69A of the IT Act and rules, and has decided to block 59 apps in view of information available that they are "engaged in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order."

# No 'sindoor' no marriage: HC

AGENCIES

Guwahati, June 30: The Gauhati High Court has granted divorce to a man whose wife refused to abide by Hindu culture prevalent in eastern part of the country, that of smearing vermilion on her head and wearing conch shell bangles.

In an observation of a kind, the top court in Assam said the reluctance to wear 'shankha' (conch shell bangle) and 'sindoor' (vermilion) as have been the tradition and custom among the Hindu married woman, the petitioner's wife's action amounted to a kind of rejection to accept the marriage. A division bench com-



prising Chief Justice Ajai Lamba and Justice Soumitra Saikia observed "under the custom of Hindu marriage, a lady who has entered into marriage according to Hindu rituals and customs, and which has not been denied by the respondent (woman) in her evidence, her refusal to wear 'shankha and sindoor' would project her to be un-

married and/or signify her refusal to accept the marriage with the appellant (man).

"Such categorical stand of the respondent points to the clear intention of the respondent that she is unwilling to continue her conjugal life with the appellant.

"Under such circumstances compelling the appellant husband to continue to be in mat-

rimony with the respondent wife may be construed to be harassment inflicted by the respondent upon the appellant and his family members.

"This evidence although available before the Family Court during the evidence adduced, was not taken into account during the discussion in the impugned judgment. As such the Family Court erred in evaluating the evidence in the proper perspective," HC's 12-page order said.

According to a High Court official Tuesday after hearing a marital petition, earlier filed by a man, the Division Bench June 19 set aside the order of the Family Court which had rejected the man's appeal for divorce.

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**ANNE HATHAWAY ON NOLAN'S WORK ETHICS**  
Actress Anne Hathaway who was seen as Batman's nemesis Catwoman in Hollywood filmmaker Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight Rises*, says the director does not allow chairs on his sets as he feels that "if they're sitting they're not working", reports *variety.com*.

**'WHITE PRIVILEGE' KEY TO LENA'S SUCCESS**

Actress Lena Dunham has admitted that her 'white privilege' helped her find success with the series *Girls* at an age of 23. The actress took to social media to respond to the criticism coming her way, indicating that her early success in Hollywood was linked to her privilege, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
A new acquaintance will make you feel happy today. You must remember that things don't have to be expressed explicitly; a word or a song from deep within can make a bigger impact. Ganesha says today is the right time to do something which will be more rewarding in the long-term.

**TAURUS**  
This day could be full of surprises, mostly unpleasant, fears Ganesha. Nothing is likely to turn out as planned and expected. There will be sharp and sudden twist and turns, unexpected shocks and setbacks all day long.

**GEMINI**  
You will feel the need to pursue your passions today. You will give more time to your family and will spend as much time as possible with your children and will bestow your love and affection on them. You will be in an imaginative and romantic mood today.

**CANCER**  
Sometimes acting a little eccentric and adopting an approach that you will usually not helps you redefine your style, says Ganesha. Go ahead and do that today! Although you will be open to adapt and bring in some revolutionary changes, you will make sure to follow a proper pattern.

**LEO**  
Financial gains will make you happy today. You will have the opportunity to participate in social functions. All your work will get completed as per schedule. You will be able to channel your energy effectively, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Logic as well as emotions will hold sway in your relationships today. Emotionally you will feel a little confused and will swing between your feelings and what is actually expected of you.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says that today is going to be an unforgettable day for all those people who are in love or a romantic relationship. If you plan to propose to your beloved today is a good opportunity for it as success will come easily to you.

**SCORPIO**  
Despite a secured job and a harmonious home environment, you are still looking for something else. Long-term, financial security keeps bothering you. And your worries are solved to some extent as unexpected monetary gains are on cards today, predicts Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Tedious day in store for you as hectic work is likely to keep you one toes; this is not-so-good-news. And well, it's time for some good news now. You will do so much running around for your work, that you will actually shed a few kilos of weight. Celebrate by treating your taste-buds, but with low-cal food!

**CAPRICORN**  
Pain and fun, both are the two sides of a coin and today, you will experience both of them in equal amount. You may have to slog yourself to earn money, but be careful and don't drain yourself out, advises Ganesha. You will get what you have wished for, however, you need not try your luck too much.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will receive some good news today. Whatever has been in the pipe line may come out in the open and you'll see the desired output, feels Ganesha. Courageous and patient, you can deal with the toughest of challenges with an ease and Ganesha gives a pat on your back for that.

**PISCES**  
Your day today will be like a tug-of-war competition. Try to come out on top in this competition. Ganesha advises you not to underestimate your enemies. It is advisable to find a solution or avoid conflict so that you don't need to waste your energy in this.

## Kareena clocks 20 years in showbiz; turns nostalgic

**Mumbai:** Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, who made her Hindi film debut with JP Dutta's *Refugee*, has completed 20 years in the industry Tuesday. Taking to Instagram, Kareena went down memory lane and shared a still of her first shot from her first film. "My first shot was at 4 am... I woke up this morning at 4, looked in the mirror, and said to myself that this was the best decision I could have ever taken. 20 years of hard work, dedication, and self-confidence," Kareena wrote. *Refugee* also marked the debut of actor Abhishek Bachchan. Thanking the team of *Refugee*, Kareena added: "I am extremely grateful to all my fans for all your love, support, and strength... Thank you #JPDutta for my life in the movies... @bachchan for being the sweetest co-star... and every single person involved in this film." "#20YearsAndNotGivingUp," Kareena concluded. She made her space in the industry with films like *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, *Chameli*, *Aitraaz*, *Omkara*, *Jab We Met*, *3 Idiots* and many others.



## Celebs welcome ban on Chinese apps

**Mumbai:** The government's decision to ban 59 Chinese applications, including TikTok, has been lauded by a lot of celebrities from film and TV industry. Malaika Arora considers the move as the 'best news' she has heard in lockdown so far. "Finally, we will not be subjected to people's ridiculous videos," she wrote on Instagram Stories. According to Shararat fame Karanvir Bohra, blocking of Chinese applications is a great start. "Finally some good news," wrote actor Kushal Tandon who has been protesting against these of Chinese applications, especially TikTok. Calling it the 'best news' actor Ashmit Patel said, "It made my day". Actress Nia Sharma tweeted, "Thank you for saving our country. This virus named TikTok should never be allowed again," while actor Nikitin Dheer shared advantages of banning Chinese applications. However, it seems music composer Vishal Dadlani is not impressed by the government's decision. He tweeted: "Banning Apps is to China, what Taali/Diyas were to coronavirus." The Centre Monday banned 59 Chinese applications over national security concerns amid strained India-China relations after the death of 20 Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley clash with Chinese PLA troops in eastern Ladakh.

## Vidya auditioned 75 times for Parineeta

**Mumbai:** Composer Shantanu Moitra of *Parineeta* recalled seeing actress Vidya Balan in a very vulnerable state when she was rejected 75 times for her starring role in the film. Directed by Pradeep Sarkar, *Parineeta* was an adaptation from the Bengali novella of the same name by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. The film also starred Saif Ali Khan, Sanjay Dutt and Dia Mirza. Looking back at the experience of working on the film, he said: "The fondest memory I have about *Parineeta* is that of an incredible girl who was sitting with us at Vidhu Vinod Chopra's office... We slowly became friends. "I asked her what she was doing and she said she was here for audition. I'm talking about Vidya Balan. This story is for those people who think that enough is enough, let's give up. The girl auditioned about 75 times and got rejected every single time. Can you imagine her self-worth? Then Pradeep would tell Vinod to try a new look because the previous one wasn't working," added Moitra. But ultimately the Kahaani actress bagged the role and the rest is history.



## Local startups should be promoted: Chingari co-founder

**BHUBANESWAR:** Centre's decision to block 59 Chinese mobile applications, including Tik Tok, over national security concerns has wided the userbase of Chingari App, a homegrown short video sharing platform founded by three Bangalore-based programmers. Significantly, Biswatma Nayak, one of the founders of this application is a native of Adaspur in Cuttack district. The application that allows the users to download and upload videos, chat with friends, interact with new people and share content is trending on social media with Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra coming out in its support. Cine celebrities of the likes of Adah Sharma, Jacqueline Fernandez, Ishita Dutta and others are also among the users of this app which has taken the social media by storm. Nayak, also the Chief Executive Officer of the company who presently lives in Bangalore, shared his thoughts with Orissa POST on the growing pop-

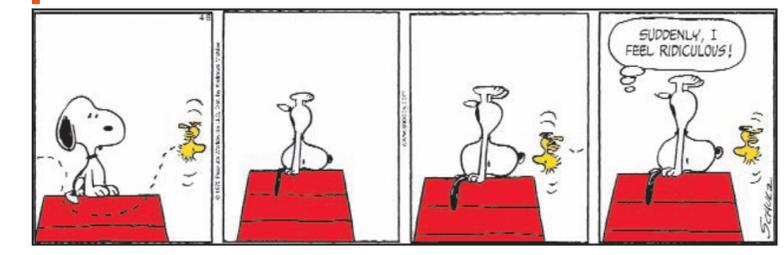
ularity of Chingari, said to be a better alternative to Chinese Tik Tok and his other plans. "Initially, we got lukewarm response from the users when the application was launched in 2018. However, the userbase grew steadily with people started disliking the Chinese products," said Nayak who founded the company along with Sumit Ghosh from Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) and Karnataka's Siddharth Gautam. The app has been downloaded more than 3.5 million times in the last few days following a bloody clash between India and China on the border that resulted in deaths of 20 Indian soldiers. "We are witnessing nearly 50,000 hits a day for our app which is available in multiple languages such as English, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi, Bangla, Gujarati, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada and Odia," claimed Nayak. His team made a thorough research on the mindset of social media users in the country before developing the application. They also put some additional features such as news feed and multi-player option to add more value and to make it look different from Tik Tok. Besides, they enable the users score points that they can redeem later; explained the Chingari co-founder. "We are now planning to add other



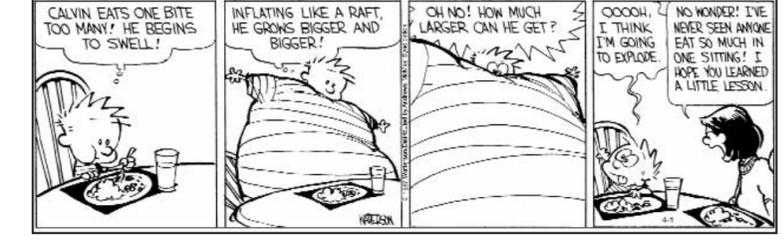
features like live streaming and on-line payment system in the application. We will also collaborate with local news channels to expand our userbase," he added. Asked about app's USP, Nayak said, "Users often complain about the vulgar content of Tik Tok. Therefore, we have a team of dedicated people in place to screen the content. We keep a tab on the quality of content and don't approve videos that look indecent or vulgar. This is one of those things that has contributed in our steady growth." Nayak who has studied engineering in ITER, SOA University after doing his Plus II at Royal College of Science and Technology, Bhubaneswar, said there is a need to promote local startups and ideas to make the country self dependent. Asked about the reason behind picking up such an unusual name for the application, he explained, "Chingari means spark which can bring a revolution. Ours is a spark that supports India's #boycottchineseapps & #boycottchineseproducts campaigns."



**PEANUTS**



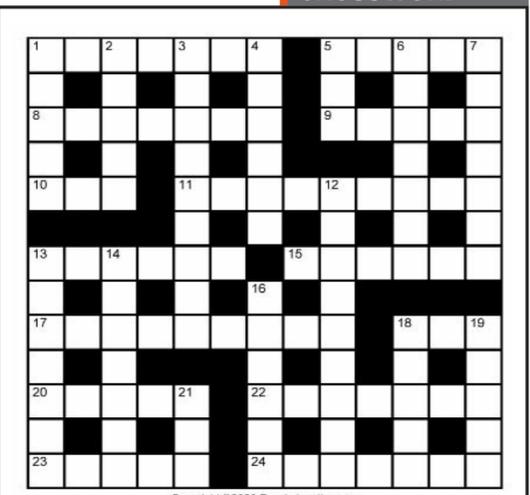
**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**BREVITY**



**FUN post CROSSWORD**

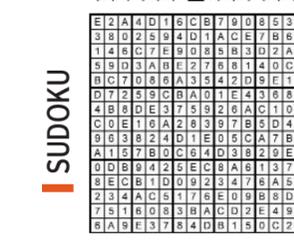


- Across**  
1 Century parts  
5 Bran, etal.  
8 Tempted  
9 Aquarium fish  
10 Jar part  
11 Blows up  
13 Keyboard instruments  
15 Investigates  
17 Very small  
18 Scottish cap  
20 Pizzazz
- Down**  
22 Spear with three prongs  
23 Like most beaches  
24 East China Sea feeder  
1 Inhabit  
2 Quoted  
3 Broad-leaved trees  
4 Composed
- 5 Blubber**  
**6 Place to unwind**  
**7 Slips by, like time**  
**12 Scandinavian**  
**13 Portentous**  
**14 Nickname**  
**16 Summer in the rainforest?**  
**18 Pick up the tab**  
**19 Kind of joint**  
**21 It's cut and dried**

**SUDOKU**



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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**PARCHED BIRDS**

Pigeons quench their thirst from a water pot at AG square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

**FELICITATION CEREMONY**

Senior officials of Cuttack Municipal Corporation felicitate sanitation staff of the civic body at an event at Darghabazar, Tuesday



# Counter sale of liquor resumes today

DISTRICT COLLECTORS HAVE BEEN AUTHORISED TO CLOSE THE SHOPS THAT WOULD VIOLATE COVID-19 NORMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 30:** The state government will allow over-the-counter sale of liquor from Wednesday after more than three months, and one needs to book a time-slot through an online system for buying alcoholic beverages from the outlets.

The liquor shops across the state will remain open from 7 am to 6 pm, according to a notification issued by the Excise Department Tuesday.

The government allows the counter sale of liquor in OFF and ON shops in addition to the ongoing home delivery of these items from July 1, the notification said.

An online system for generation of e-token and booking of time-slot has been developed by the Odisha State Beverage Corporation with the National Informatics Centre to regulate crowd at the shops, it said.

The liquor shops in the state have remained closed since March

**AFTER 3 MONTHS' HIATUS**



The liquor shops across the state will remain open from 7 am to 6 pm

ON-shops will be allowed to operate as OFF-ones as this will increase the number of outlets and thus help check overcrowding

The retailers will erect barricades wherever required and also engage additional manpower with specific responsibility to manage a queue of customers

22 in the wake of the lockdown.

Retailers have also been asked to ensure that consumers book time slots to visit their outlets and give adequate publicity for the same, an official of the department said.

The excise licensees have also been directed to adhere to social distancing norms and health safety measures to contain the spread of the disease, he said.

"ON-shops will sell liquor but no one will be allowed to consume

alcoholic beverages within the premises of these outlets. They will have to follow MRP and other norms applicable for OFF-shop owners," the official said.

According to the notification, the ON-shops will be allowed to operate as OFF-ones as this will increase the number of outlets and thus help check overcrowding.

The retailers will erect barricades wherever required and also engage additional manpower with

specific responsibility to manage a queue of customers and maintain social distancing norms, he said.

They will need to ensure that all the staff at their shops use face masks, he added.

Local police and excise staffers will monitor these outlets across districts. "The district Collectors have been authorised to close these shops in case of violation of COVID norms," the official said.

The Odisha government had allowed home delivery of Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL) May 25.

A total of 1,508 IMFL OFF and ON shops participated in the process of home delivery, the official said.

Apart from these licences, five tech-firms have executed 17.33 lakh home delivery orders during this period and sold 20.59 lakh litre of IMFL and 20.81 lakh litre of beer across the state, the official added.

The government had also allowed home delivery of country liquor from Monday.

# Burdened by BMC: Private hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 30:** In the wake of rising COVID19 cases from slums areas, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) came out with an order for private hospitals operating from their jurisdiction.

Among the conditions set are accommodating the hospital employees residing in their premises for 14 days at a stretch and their testing for the viral disease.

A number of them said that stricter norms directed by the BMC are almost impossible to comply with for small and medium sized hospitals. They also expressed concern over the loss of revenue and logistic issues after the order came into light.

"A number of norms are very tough for the hospitals to comply with. They want all health workers from slums to reside in hospital campuses. BMC has also directed rotation of med teams in 14 days and mandated their COVID-19 tests after the period," said Dr Biswajit

**A number of private hospitals said that stricter norms directed by the BMC are almost impossible to comply with for small and medium sized hospitals**

Mishra, Director, Jagannath Hospital in the city.

"This system will entail recruitment of more staff which will be difficult art this situation. The whole idea also emanates from the assumption that any COVID-19 case detected in hospitals is due to the fault of the medics," he added.

Another director from a medium sized hospital from the city said, "We cannot deny treatment to the patients coming to us. It is not the health worker who spreads the disease but a patient. We try our best to prevent it." "Private hospitals have suffered massive losses due to COVID 19 outbreak. Most of them

are earning 10 per cent of their usual business and they have to maintain their staff too. Under such conditions, the restrictions imposed by the BMC and public shaming have created an atmosphere of fear among the patients," said Dr Ajay Mishra, President of All Odisha Private Medical Establishment Forum (AOPMEF).

"The norms have made it tough for the hospitals to manage daily affairs. We have submitted a memorandum to the government regarding our woes," he added.

Dr Brundaban Nayak, another director from a private hospital said, "When our employees return from slums and contract the disease how would anybody know whether the person got the infection from a patient in a hospital or from someone he had interacted in the slum area,"

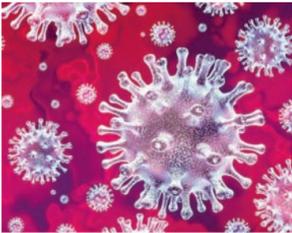
# Covid audit must in govt offices

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 30:** Observing the potential of the Covid-19 pandemic, the General Administration (GA) and Public Grievance department, Tuesday, instructed all government departments in the state to conduct weekly Covid audit to control the spread of infection in public offices.

"As you are aware, Covid infection in any government office has serious implications which would compromise on the ability of the government machinery to fight the pandemic. Hence, it is advised that each department will appoint a senior officer as the COVID Compliance Officer who will ensure implementation of COVID protocol," the directive from the GA department mentioned.

As per the directive, the officer



As per the directive, the officer will conduct daily office inspection with regard to the instructions contained in the COVID protocol and submit a weekly COVID audit report to the head of the office

Upon receiving the report, the Head Office will initiate suitable corrective measures as deemed fit besides taking stringent disciplinary action against willful defaulters

will conduct daily office inspection with regard to the instructions contained in the COVID protocol and submit a weekly COVID audit report to the head of the office. Upon receiving the report, the Head Office will initiate suitable corrective measures as deemed fit besides taking stringent disciplinary action against willful defaulters.

by senior officers from other departments to examine the level of compliance and report submitted to GA & PG department," the directive added.

Furthermore, the department also instructed that all offices shall perform the official work with 50 per cent of their staff strength in view of sudden rise in infection in the state.

# Srimandir repair to end by July 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 30:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will complete the repair works at Srimandir by July 2, an official said Tuesday.

According to sources, the central agency usually undertakes repair works at the 12th century shrine every year when the deities are on a nine-day sojourn in their aunt's place—Gundicha temple.

"Everything is fine inside the shrine. The ongoing repair works at the shrine's sanctum sanctorum by ASI and Works department will be completed by July 2," a senior ASI official said.

The central agency along with Works department officials had inspected the several structures on the shrine complex including Bhoga Mandap, Nata Mandap, Jagamohan and the temple kitchen June 25.

# All set for deities' return journey

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, June 30:** The state government would deploy as many as 70 platoons of armed police personnel and 400 security officers for the smooth conduct of Bahuda Yatra, said Additional Director General of Police (Crime Branch) Soumendra Priyadarshi.

Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are all set to return to the Lions' Gate of Srimandir from Srigundicha temple here after ending their nine-day sojourn July 1. The three chariots—Nandighosa, Taladhwaaja and Darpadalan—have been thoroughly examined by the experts and pulled to the Nakachana Gate of Srigundicha temple ahead of the Bahuda Yatra, said an official of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

The Bahuda Yatra of Srimandir deities would be organised without the congregation of devotees on the Grand Road, in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions, added the official. "All rituals of the deities were performed as per the schedule at the Adapa Mandap of Srigundicha temple Tuesday. The deities would be taken to their respective chariots through Pahandi processions at 8 am Wednesday," said a servitor.

As per the schedule, pulling of the chariots would start at 12 noon. Srimandir sources said the three chariots would be pulled to the Lions' Gate of the 12th century shrine by Wednesday evening.

"If required, we will arrange lighting facility to continue the



The Bahuda Yatra of Srimandir deities would be organised without the congregation of devotees on the Grand Road, in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions

The three chariots have been thoroughly examined by the experts and pulled to the Nakachana Gate of Srigundicha temple ahead of the Bahuda Yatra

chariot pulling after the sunset. The Suna Besha ritual of the deities would be performed on their respective chariots Thursday," said Srimandir public relations officer Laxmidhar Pujapanda.

The state government would deploy as many as 70 platoons of armed police personnel and 400 security officers for the smooth conduct of Bahuda Yatra, said Additional Director General of Police (Crime Branch) Soumendra Priyadarshi. "The Bahuda Yatra and all other rituals including Suna Besha, Adharapana and Niladribje would be conducted without the congregation of devotees. All roads and streets connecting the Grand Road would be sealed for the Bahuda Yatra. The Holy City and the entire Puri district have been placed under curfew for the festival," Priyadarshi added. He further revealed that the state government has conducted coronavirus tests on all servitors

**BAHUDA YATRA SCHEDULE**

RITUAL	TIME
Mangal Alati	4am
Mallama	4:15am
Tadap Laagi	4:30am
Rosha Homa	4:30am
Abakasha	5:00am
Surya Puja	5:15am
Dwarapala Puja	5:30am
Besha Sesa	5:30am
Gopala Ballava, Sakala Dhupa	5:45am-6:45am
Senapata Lagi	7:00am to 7:30am
Mangalarpan	7:45am
Bahuda Pahandi	8am to 10am
Besha Sesa	9am to 10:30am
Chhera Panhara	10:30am to 11:30am
Charamala Phita and Horse fitting	11am to 12noon
Pulling of chariots	12 noon

who are scheduled to participate in the Bahuda Yatra. "Servitors with negative test reports would be allowed to pull the chariots. Devotees have been urged to see the festival on television," Priyadarshi added.

# WOMEN POWER



Police Commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi flags off patrolling on scooters by policewomen at the office of Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police, Tuesday. DCP Akhlesvar Singh is also seen

# Evaluation of Class X papers over: BSE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, June 30:** Evaluation of answer-sheets of annual High School Certificate (HSC) Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) has come to an end June 30 and results will be declared by end of July.

Informing this Tuesday, BSE Secretary Ramashis Hazra said, "The evaluation is expected to be error-free and the result will be out by July end. The final date of the declaration of the results will be announced by BSE July 15."

According to Hazra, most out of the 400 evaluation centres have already submitted the evaluated copies at the BSE office. However, evaluation of answer-sheets is still underway at a few centres and they will submit the copies by July 1, added Hazra.

The result will be uploaded on the BSE website. Earlier, in view of the weekend shutdown in June, the BSE had decided to suspend the evaluation of matric examination answer scripts Saturdays and Sundays in 11 districts of Odisha.

# Green activists see red over coal block allocation in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 30:** Environmentalists from the state have opposed the allocation of coal blocks in the state to private players and sought the intervention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in this regard.

Prafulla Samantara, a leading environmentalist and president of Lokshakti Abhiyan, said that the CM must oppose the alleged unilateral decision of the Union government like other neighbouring states and should not hand over the natural resources to private players.

"The decision to give the natural resources into the hands of private players is against the federal structure of the country and it snatches away the voice of the state in the whole process. Three states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra have already raised their objections to the move. Now time is ripe for the CM to oppose it," he said.

He also added, "The Jharkhand government has even moved the Supreme



Samantara claimed that close to 33,000 acres of forest and agricultural lands will be put under threat by the action while putting into questions the livelihood and shelters of thousands of people

Court against the undemocratic move. It has alleged that the state was not taken into confidence while taking this decision. The petition also cited the threat the projects pose to the tribal community."

Senior journalist Rabi Das said that

coal is directly linked to electricity and the whole plan to hand over the natural resources to the private players can prove costly for the state. He demanded withdrawal of coal auction and closure of mining activities in forests and agricultural lands of the state.

"In Chenipada area people of 20 villages have been opposing to mining on agricultural land for the last 15 years. The state government has constitutional responsibility to protect our non-renewable resources as well as the sustainable livelihood along with states federal power," Samantara said.

# CURBS ON BUSES, TRAINS

The state Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), meanwhile, imposed restrictions on the movement of buses and trains to Puri district for the conduct of Bahuda Yatra and Suna Besha. "No passenger train and private or public buses other than those carrying personnel on government duty/police and vehicles on emergency services shall be allowed to enter the jurisdiction of Puri district during the period from 9 pm June 30 to 11.30 pm July 2," said the SRC order.

**HAPPY DOCTORS' DAY**  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

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SKY-ROCKETING FUEL PRICES

Modi govt insensitive to people's sufferings: Left parties

Press Trust of India
Bhubaneswar, June 30: Leading Left parties Tuesday staged a demonstration here against rising fuel prices and demanded immediate rollback of the hike, a day the Congress held a sit-in to press for reduction in petrol and diesel rates.



Workers and leaders of Left parties demonstrate at Master Canteen Square

"The manner in which the fuel prices have been hiked recently shows that the Narendra Modi government is utterly insensitive towards the sufferings of people, whose financial backbone has

The manner in which the fuel prices have been hiked recently shows that the Narendra Modi government is utterly insensitive towards the sufferings of people, whose financial backbone has been broken because of the coronavirus outbreak." CPI state secretary Ashish Kanungo said.

ASISH KANUNGO | CPI STATE SECRETARY

Noting that repeated and "unjust" hike in fuel rates has a cascading impact on different sectors, the Left party leaders said it

has led to considerable increase in prices of essential commodities, compounding the miseries of the common people. "Since June 7 till June 24, the central government has consecutively increased the prices of petrol and diesel, leading to a further hike of Rs 10.48 per litre for petrol, and Rs 8.50 per litre for diesel and Rs 8.50 per litre for petrol," they said. While crude oil prices have gone down over the last few months, fuel prices skyrocketed in India as the Centre seeks to "indulge in extortion", the Left party leaders alleged. Demanding immediate measures for rollback of the hike in fuel rates, they also sought a special financial package for people in view of the Covid-19 crisis.

DGP initiates action against two cops who visited Puri

Cops in the soup for visiting Puri fest



POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, June 30: The Director General of Odisha Police (DGP), Abhay, has taken disciplinary action against two errant officers who had visited Puri to witness Rath Yatra June 23, brazenly violating the prohibition orders by the state government.

A DSP deployed at Khurda and an ACP in Bhubaneswar UPD of Commissionerate Police had visited Puri during Rath Yatra despite prohibitory orders

OP IMPACT
The officers also did not visit Puri alone but were accompanied by some journalist friends from Bhubaneswar.

ENTRY CURBS AT BMC, BDA OFFICES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: In view of the rising coronavirus cases in the Capital city here, the civic authority here restricted entry of general public to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) for a period of 15 days.



The order comes into force from June 30 onwards. Making the announcement, BMC Commissioner stated that the decision has been taken to discourage public interaction on account of rising Covid cases in the city.

"We have appealed to the people to avail the services of BMC and BDA online. All the services of the Corporation and BDA are available online. Besides, the 1929 toll-free number is fully functional. Furthermore, strict enforcement of social distancing and wearing of masks will be ensured from today," the Municipal Commissioner said.

Earlier, the entire BDA building was disinfected and some employees were asked to remain in home quarantine after a security guard was tested positive.

SNATCHERS HAVE FIELD DAY IN CAPITAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: After a lull, bike-borne miscreants unleashed terror in the Capital city as two separate cases of chain snatching were reported Tuesday.

The Commissionerate Police started investigations into the matters after the submission of two separate complaints at Kharavela Nagar and Nayapalli police stations.

According to sources, two bike-borne looters snatched away the gold chain of a lady bank employee, Illima Pattajoshi, near the RBI colony while she was on her way to the bank at Nayapalli. The incident occurred at a place which is just a few metres away from the police station. The looted gold chain weighing 10 grams has been valued at around Rs 50,000.

Meanwhile, the whole episode was captured in the CCTV installed near the RBI colony. Similarly, two bike-borne miscreants decamped with the gold chain of a housewife identified as Sushmita Priyadarshini Acharya near her residence under Kharavela Nagar police station. She was on her way home from the market Tuesday morning.

Notably, the bike-borne miscreants had turned a major headache for the Commissionerate Police in 2019.

Two more deaths take Covid toll to 25

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 30: The state reported two more Covid-19 fatalities Tuesday, taking the death toll due to the disease to 25, while the number of cases crossed the 7,000-mark with 206 fresh ones, a Health department official said.

Two women aged 48 and 39 years succumbed to the disease at a dedicated Covid hospital in Ganjam district, he said.

"Regret to report the death of two COVID positive patients of Ganjam district while under treatment in hospital. The 39-year-old woman was also suffering from chronic kidney disease," the official said.

Of the 25 deaths so far in Odisha, Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 14, followed by five in Khurda, four in Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh and Puri, he said.

Seven other coronavirus patients had died earlier but their deaths were attributed to "non-COVID reasons", the official said.

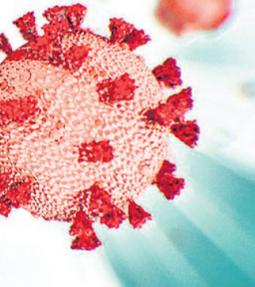
The state had reported its first Covid-19 fatality in Bhubaneswar

INVISIBLE ENEMY

Two women aged 48 and 39 years succumbed to the disease at a dedicated Covid hospital in Ganjam district

Of the 25 deaths so far in Odisha, Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 14, followed by five in Khurda, four in Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh and Puri

Seven other coronavirus patients had died earlier but their deaths were attributed to "non-COVID reasons"



April 6. He said 206 more people, including a man from the National Disaster Response Force, tested positive for Covid-19, raising the state's infection tally to 7,065.

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

With this, the number of disaster response personnel testing positive for the virus increased to 293. Nine BSF jawans were also infected with the disease, the official said.

Of the 206 cases, 192 were detected from quarantine centres where people returning from other states are housed for preliminary observation, while fourteen others

Record 243 recoveries

The Health department Tuesday said that 243 persons who were earlier tested positive for the virus have recovered and are being discharged. Out of the 243 persons, 59 are from Gajapati, 41 from Ganjam, 38 from Khurda, 17 from Kandhamal, 15 from Jharsuguda, 10 from Sundargarh, eight each from Bhadrak, Jajpur and Kendrapara, seven from Koraput, six each from Bargarh and Mayurbhanj, five from Jagatsinghpur, four each from Cuttack, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur, two from Balasore and one from Kalahandi.

The fresh cases were reported from 22 districts. Malkangiri recorded the highest of 36, he said.

Other districts that reported a high number of new cases are Jajpur (28), Koraput (18), Cuttack (17), Jagatsinghpur (17), Bolangir (16) and Deogarh (15).

BPUT STUDENTS WANT FINAL SEMESTER EXAM SCRAPPED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Students under the Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) Tuesday staged a dharna after the university made an announcement to conduct final semester examination for 2019-20 academic year through online.

The students said that holding exams during the coronavirus pandemic will endanger their lives. They also said that many of them stay outside the state and it will be difficult for them to appear physically for the exams due to lack of transport facilities.

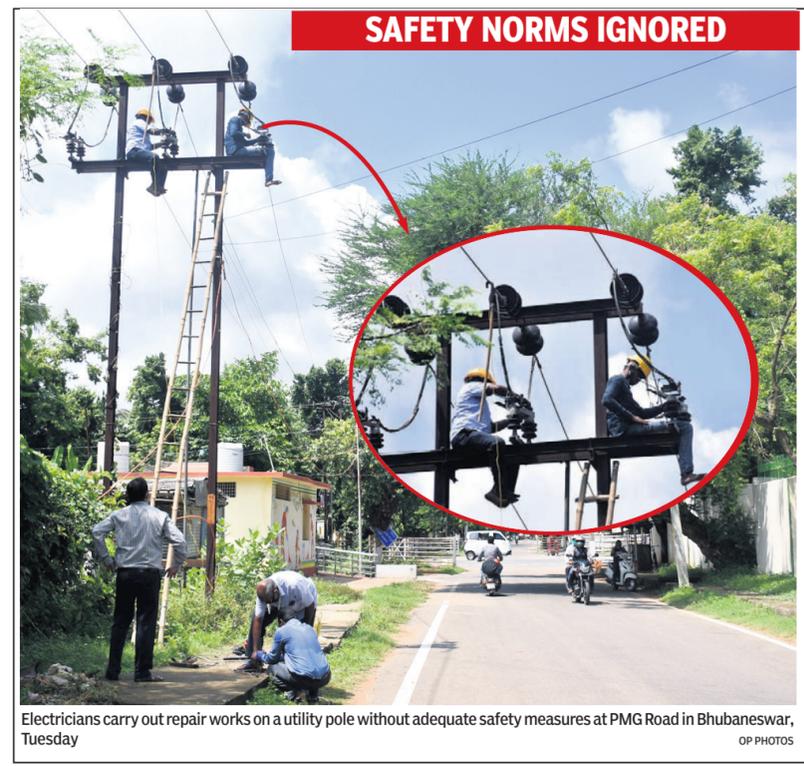
The students urged the varsity authorities to promote students on the basis of results of previous semesters and internal examinations like other reputed educational institutions. Moreover, the students have also opposed holding an online exam, evaluation of answer-sheets and declaration of result through a third party in Telangana.

Earlier, Monday, a group of BPUT students had demonstrated a peaceful protest while wearing masks and maintaining social

The students urged the varsity authorities to promote students on the basis of results of previous semesters and internal examinations

distancing. Notably, the Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) Sunday released the schedule for final semester (regular) examination for 2019-20 academic year. BPUT authorities said that the final semester examination for all courses, which were delayed owing to COVID-19 outbreak, will be conducted online. For this, the authorities will take the help of Artificial Intelligence Proctored Platform along with manual proctoring when needed.

The examination for various courses will start July 9 and conclude July 29. While the first sitting will be held from 10am to 12 noon, the second sitting will be held from 2pm to 4pm.



Electricians carry out repair works on a utility pole without adequate safety measures at PMG Road in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Athgarh NAC now containment zone

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, June 30: After two people tested positive for COVID-19 in Athgarh Notified Area Council (NAC) in Cuttack district, the district administration has declared the area as containment zone for four days, Cuttack collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani said Tuesday.

The containment zone tag will remain in force from 2pm June 30 till 6pm July 3 in 18 wards of the NAC.

The areas under containment zone are all the roads connected to State Highway-65 in the East zone of the NAC, Athgarh NAC, Birakishorepur to Dorada Square in the West Zone of the NAC, Chandabali Square to Barabati Hotel at Kantol in the North Zone of the NAC and Chandabali Square to Kaitha Square, Dhaipur, Chandabali Square to Radhaballapur in the South Zone of the NAC.



Movement of both vehicles and locals have been totally prohibited to and from the containment zone. Local residents have been instructed to stay at home. Besides, all shops, business establishments, government and private institutions will remain closed during the containment period.

It also said that the supply of medicines and essential goods will be ensured by the block administration.

It may be mentioned here that Cuttack district reported 17 positive cases Tuesday.

ECoR upgrades tracks for better mobility



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Capitalising on the restrictions imposed on train movements during the lockdown, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) is executing long pending maintenance and infrastructure upgrade works without affecting the rail services.

The ECoR has completed the works at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar railway stations by laying ballast tracks after dismantling washable apron. These works would have re-

quired suspension of train movements for a number of days on Howrah-Chennai busy route.

Speed restrictions of 15 kmph down main line at Bhubaneswar and up main line at Cuttack have been removed by laying the ballast track with the help of heavy machinery. These restrictions were existing due to damaged washable apron and laying of ballast track after dismantling washable apron. This was long pending as traffic block on busy Howrah-Chennai trunk

route was very difficult.

In the initial stages of lockdown, the passenger trains were completely suspended and later, only special trains like Shramik Special, interstate and intra-state trains are running. Speed restriction at both the stations has been removed. The speed will be raised to 110 kmph after consolidation of track. This will be highly beneficial to increase the traffic mobility. This is also in tandem with the Railway Ministry's mission to increase the speed of the trains.

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# 29 more BSF jawans test positive for Covid-19

# Tusker turns furious in Kapilash Zoo

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, June 30:** Twenty-nine more BSF jawans have tested positive for COVID-19 in Maoist-hit Malkangiri district, a senior official said Tuesday.

Earlier, nine BSF jawans were diagnosed with the disease in Nabarangpur district.

The 29 who tested positive for the virus in Malkangiri had returned from Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, Malkangiri Collector Manish Agarwal said.

"Of the 36 more positive cases detected in Malkangiri district, 29 are from the BSF, accommodated in the Malybanta Boys Hostel, Jr. Science College & Girls Hostel," he tweeted.

Four of the 36 patients in Malkangiri were under quarantine at a temporary medical centre in the district following their return from other states.

Three others were undergoing home-isolation, the collector said.

Altogether 38 BSF jawans have tested positive for COVID-19 in Odisha, while as many as 293 disaster response personnel were found to have contracted the disease after

**MATTER OF CONCERN**

The 29 who tested positive had returned from Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, Malkangiri Collector Manish Agarwal said



**FOUR OF THE 36 PATIENTS IN MALKANGIRI WERE UNDER QUARANTINE AT A TEMPORARY MEDICAL CENTRE IN THE DISTRICT FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN FROM OTHER STATES**

**A total of 38 BSF jawans have tested positive for Covid-19 in the state, while as many as 293 disaster response personnel were found to have contracted the disease after their return from West Bengal**

their return from West Bengal, where they had been deployed for restoration work post cyclone

Amphan. Malkangiri has reported 96 COVID-19 cases so far, of which 52 have recovered.

## VSSUT sealed after lecturer tests +ve

**SAMBALPUR:** Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) in Burla in this district has been sealed for two days following the

death of a lecturer's husband reportedly due to Covid-19 and the former also testing positive for the virus, a report said Tuesday. The university has been sealed for two days, Atal Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of VSSUT said. The university premises will be sanitised Wednesday, the VC said. According to sources, the deceased was the hus-

band of a 53-year old lecturer working in the civil engineering department of VSSUT in Burla. The lecturer's husband breathed his last while undergoing treatment at the Talcher Covid Hospital, Monday. He had reportedly travelled to corona hotspot Ganjam to perform

the last rites of his mother-in-law. Contact tracing is on and all those who came in contact with the lecturer will undergo test for the virus. The incident has sparked panic on VSSUT premises.



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, June 30:** Rakesh, the tusker which has been spending time in solitary captivity at the Kapilash Zoo in this district, has once again turned violent.

The pachyderm is currently confined in a special wooden enclosure. The elephant's sudden change of behaviour has put the wildlife personnel in a quandary. They are now thinking of releasing the elephant in a nearby jungle.

The tusker was a source of terror in Talcher area, where it had reportedly killed six people. Officials of the forest department then tranquillised the pachyderm before relocating it to the zoo.

Rakesh was brought January 21 this year to Kapilash Zoo. Since his arrival he was kept in a special enclosure with all his legs chained. However, Rakesh broke three of the chains. After that the zoo authorities used stronger chains to tie his legs.

In the process of breaking the chains, Rakesh developed a wound on a leg. It was successfully treated by veterinarians from OUAT, Bhubaneswar. However, he then developed fresh wounds on his back. While these wounds were being treated, the pachyderm was hit by fresh infections on his wounded leg.

The zoo authorities then built another special wooden enclosure for Rakesh at a cost of Rs 6,00,000. This was done so that the chains could be removed and Rakesh could move around freely.

However, in the recent past, the elephant's behaviour has turned violent once more. Time and again the animal is trying to break the enclosure. These actions are keeping the zoo authorities on tenterhooks. They are worried over the mayhem the pachyderm may cause

## Worry for forest dept

The tusker was a source of terror in Talcher area, where it had reportedly killed six people.

The pachyderm is currently in solitary confinement in a special wooden enclosure in Kapilash zoo

The elephant's sudden change of behaviour has put the wildlife personnel in a quandary, who are now thinking of releasing it in a jungle

if it manages to break free.

Dhenkanal DFO Bimal Prasanna Acharya attributed the tusker's violent behaviour to prolonged captivity.

"Rakesh has been in captivity for over six months now. Wild elephants usually are not accustomed to such a situation. They move around freely. This is for this reason Rakesh is turning violent frequently," Acharya opined.

Acharya said the animal will soon be released in a jungle.

# INFECTED BANK OFFICIAL ADDS TO ADMIN'S WOES

**DHENKANAL:** A COVID-19 infected bank official has left the Dhenkanal administration worried. He is suspected to have been an agent of the virus transmission.

Before the swab report of the bank official was available to the health department, he had visited several places of the town including the district headquar-

ters hospital (DHH) and several clinics.

The officials carried out contact tracing Monday. Meanwhile, the administration has sealed a pathological laboratory at Kunjakant, two medicine shops at Mahaveer Bazaar and Jawahar Chowk, a private clinic at Gudisanali and room-36 of the DHH.

All these placers were sanitised while a doctor of the DHH and a doctor of a private clinic were told to remain in home quarantine.

Five family members of the bank official and 23 others who had come in contact with him have been sent to a quarantine centre.

Collector Bhumes Chandra Behera said the bank official

had come to his sister's house at Bhagirathi Bihar in Dhenkanal. Being sick, he had sought treatment at different clinics.

After his health status came to the fore, the administration has taken up several preventive measures in the areas the bank official had visited.

## Bridge across Baitarani on verge of collapse again



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Anandapur, June 30:** A bridge across river Baitarani in Anandapur is on the verge of collapse as three of its spans have gone down recently, a report said.

Repairing of the bridge was done in July 2019 at an expenditure of Rs 39 lakh. After the recent incident came to the fore, a team of technical experts from the Anandapur Works Department inspected the bridge and warned that it is in danger.

"One of the spans, which has gone down was provided support with the help of wooden blocks by the department last Wednesday. The heights of the spans are 57 metres each and affected ones will be repaired soon. The spans were broken because of excessive movement of heavy vehicles on the bridge," assistant executive engineer of Keonjhar Works Department, Sameer Kumar Adhikary informed.

After discussing the matter with the District Collector Ashish Thakare and local administration officials, information signages have been put up at both sides of the bridge to restrict the movement of heavy vehicles. Chances are that the bridge could get damaged further if movement is not restricted, Adhikary said. A fresh estimation will be done for complete repair of the bridge soon. The department higher-ups have been communicated on the need of a new bridge here, as an alternative for connectivity, Adhikary added.

This bridge connects national highway (NH-53) with NH-20 in the region, but has been facing structural threat time and again. Lives and properties of local commuters are at stake, locals said.

# Lack of marketing spells doom for black rice farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhuban, June 30:** Lack of marketing facilities coupled with the coronavirus-induced lockdown has hit the cultivation of black rice (locally known as 'Debanha') in Dhenkanal district, a report said.

The paddy is cultivated in the first week of June and harvested after five months. The plant grows up to six-feet high and the colour of the rice is black.

The indigenously produced rice is a panacea for several diseases due to its medicinal and nutritional values. The rice is rich in vitamins B and E, niacin, calcium, magnesium, iron and zinc and has high demand in the northeast and eastern regions.

It also works like an antioxidant in the body. Black rice is available in markets at more than Rs 500 per kg but the price can come down if more cultivation is taken up in the state.

The rice is mainly cultivated in Kenduguda village under Bhuban block but lack of marketing facilities has hit its cultivation. Moreover, the lockdown has spelled doom for farmers with the harvested crop lying unsold in their homes.

Kenduguda has acquired a special name in cultivation of black rice 'Debanha'. The rice is mostly cultivated in the northeast state of Assam and Himachal Pradesh and the best variety of seeds are available in those states.

Kenduguda farmers with support from farmers of these states and assistance of the agriculture department have taken up black rice cultivation for the last three years.

The cultivation of this paddy variety which initially started on 10 acre of land is now cultivated on 40 acre of land. A farmer said the cultivation of black rice is carried out

## RICH IN NUTRITION



The rice is rich in vitamins B and E, niacin, calcium, magnesium, iron and zinc and has high demand in the northeast and eastern regions of the country

THE INDIGENOUSLY PRODUCED RICE IS A PANACEA FOR SEVERAL ILLNESSES DUE TO ITS MEDICINAL AND NUTRITIONAL VALUES.

THE VARIETY IS MAINLY CULTIVATED IN KENDUGUDA VILLAGE UNDER BHUBAN BLOCK IN DHENKANAL DISTRICT

by using organic manures instead of chemical fertilizer.

The organic manure is prepared by making a mixture of cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, karanja leaves, begunia leaves, arakh leaves and neem leaves which help in increasing the soil fertility as well as harvest.

Cooked black rice increases immunity and is useful for cancer, hyper-tension and diabetic patients. It acts like a blood purifier and destroying toxins in the body keeps the liver and kidneys healthy. It also helps reduce fat and soothes the digestive system.

Farmer Karunakar Parida said one can reap maximum profit with minimum spending. A sum of Rs 8,000 is spent per acre on cultivation of black rice while the return is six times the expenditure.

The high return on investment has prompted farmers to take up cultivation on additional 30 acre land.

The farmers have harvested over 200 quintals of rice this year but are unable to sell it as traders are not turning up due to the lockdown.

Farmer Chakradhar Parida said lack of government support has dampened their interest in cultivation. Moreover, the paddy needs special machine for milling. A miller in Kankadahada block has this machine but farmers are finding it difficult to travel there for milling.

Farmer Jaladhar Parida said they have written to the district administration and agriculture department to install a machine in the block and make arrangements for marketing facilities but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

Dillip Kumar Mishra, block agriculture officer, said the problem has arisen due to the lockdown but will be resolved soon as the department has contacted firms to procure the rice from farmers.

# COMMUTING HERE IS FRAUGHT WITH RISK

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, June 30:** Overcrowded boats ferrying people with support of a hanging rope is a routine scene at Charibatia ghat of river Mantei in Chandbali block of Bhadrak district.

Their daily plight is ascribed to the absence of a bridge across the river. Mishaps often occur during boat rides, but the administration has allegedly turned a blind eye to the issue.

People in riparian pockets in Basudevpur, Tihidi and Chandbali blocks have long been suffering from commuting woes in the absence of a bridge.

With boats, the ghat provides a major shortcut route for people to different places of the three blocks.

Residents of villages like Balimunda, Bideipur, Kismatkrushnapur, Laxmidaspur, Balimeda, Jagannathprasad, Padmapur, Sugo, Edatal, Lunga under Basudevpur block, Sahada, Sabaranga and Goramati under Bhadrak block and several villages under Tihidi and Chandbali block have no option other than travelling in country boats daily from this ghat.

Locals said this is the place where Mahatma Gandhi had crossed the river and spent night at Charibatia during the freedom struggle against the British rule.



## SAFETY NORMS GO FOR A TOSS

People in riparian pockets in Basudevpur, Tihidi and Chandbali blocks have long been suffering from commuting woes in the absence of a bridge across river Mantei

With boats, the Charibatia ghat provides a major shortcut route for people to different places in the three blocks

The boat rides are always fraught with risk while mishaps have occurred in past as safety measures have been thrown to the winds

Now, as COVID-19 infections continue to increase, adhering to social distancing norms during boat rides is impossible

The state government has declared this place as Gandhi Smaraki Peetha. The East India Company used this river and ghat for cargo transportation, particularly from Charibatia ghat to Jamkunda in Balasore. A sluice gate built by the British government stands testimony to the maritime history of the region.

The sluice gate is still intact. Locals lamented that such a long used maritime route has been neglected with people having to suffer a lot while commuting.

A rope has been hanging across the river and the boatmen oar the boats

by clutching the rope, they pointed out. "We have a constant fear of drowning. But with no other option we have been dependent on this facility for the last 25 years," a local resident said.

Some locals blame official apathy for the delay in the construction of bridge project. Tenders have been floated for the project in the past, but no contractors have shown interest in taking up the work.

The boat rides are always fraught with risk while mishaps have occurred in the past as safety measures have been thrown to the winds.

Last year, a boat had drowned along with a biker and his bike. He was rescued later.

Now, as COVID-19 infections continue to increase, adhering to social distancing norms during boat rides is impossible.

Locals alleged there have been no efforts for construction of a bridge.

When asked about the bridge project, PD (DRDA) Madhusudan Das said tenders have been floated several times for the bridge construction in the past, but no contractors are taking part in the bidding process because of low bidding price.

REGD. NO. D. L. -33004/99

**भारत का राजपत्र**  
**The Gazette of India**

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-27022020-216438  
CG-DL-E-27022020-216438

**असाधारण**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**  
भाग-II खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (II)  
**PART II-Section 3-Sub-Section (ii)**  
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित  
**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

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सं. 798] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, फरवरी 27, 2020/फाल्गुन 8, 1941  
No. 798] **NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020/PHALGUNA 8, 1941**

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**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**  
**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

**S.O. 872(E).**— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening / two lane with paved shoulder / four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH-49 in the stretch of land from Km. 271 to Km. 296 (At-Jashipur, PO-Khairi, P/s. Jashipur, Dist - Mayurbhanj) in the district of MAYURBHANJ in the State of ODISHA, hereby declares its intention of acquire such land. Any person interested in the said land, may within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Competent Authority of Land Acquisition in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling NH49 in the stretch of land from Km. 271 to Km. 296 (At - Jashipur, PO-Khairi, P/s- Jashipur, Dist-Mayurbhanj) in the district of MAYURBHANJ in the State of ODISHA

State: ODISHA		District: MAYURBHANJ			
Sl. No.	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
<b>Taluk : Jashipur</b>					
<b>Village : Jashipur</b>					
1	1737/3633/3887	Private	Dahi - I	0.0040469 (Hectare)	0.0040469
2	1737/3633/3905	Private	Dahi - I	0.0040469 (Hectare)	0.0040469
3	1737/3633/3907	Private	Dahi - I	0.0080938 (Hectare)	0.0080938
4	1737/3633/3935	Private	Gharabari	0.0080938 (Hectare)	0.0080938
5	2068	Private	Dahi - I	0.067042 (Hectare)	0.067042
6	2069	Private	Dahi - I	0.0404694 (Hectare)	0.0404694
7	2070	Private	Dahi - I	0.0404694 (Hectare)	0.0404694
8	2129	Private	Pala - II	0.0445164 (Hectare)	0.0445164
9	2130	Private	Sarad - II	0.0768919 (Hectare)	0.0768919
10	2131	Private	Sarad - II	0.0364225 (Hectare)	0.0364225
11	2132	Private	Sarad - II	0.0283286 (Hectare)	0.0283286
12	2133	Private	Sarad - II	0.0040469 (Hectare)	0.0040469
13	2133 / 3876	Private	Sarad - II	0.0768919 (Hectare)	0.0768919
<b>Total</b>				<b>0.4330</b>	<b>0.4330</b>

[F.No.NHAI/11013/Odisha/NH-6/L.A./Notification/3(a)/3A6]  
RAJESH GUPTA, Dy. Secy.

All religions have some truth in them, but none has the whole truth.



SRI AUROBINDO

# Address To Nation

The nation commenced Unlock 2.0 Tuesday. Word from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the eve of the Phase Two is one of reassurance on many fronts. He has extended the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana free food programme benefiting some 80 crore people – mostly the poor – for five more months up until November end. This is the most important requirement of the present times, despite the huge costs involved.

The lockdown for the past three months has turned life upside down for all segments of society and the worst-hit are the poor who live on daily wages. Life is slowly returning to near-normal in most parts of the country, the exceptions being big cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai and Ahmedabad. The government would do well to stretch facilities for the poor to the healthcare sector too in more pronounced ways. Presently, sources claim that good quality health assistance is gradually vanishing in India. Except for the super-rich and rich, the poor as well as the middle economic class are highly disadvantaged while trying to avail reasonable quality healthcare. The lockdown has affected private medicare service providers in such a manner that they more often than not, decline admission to patients. Deaths due to such refusals are being noticed across the country. Whether the hospitals are overwhelmed with inflow of patients or are they waiting to net the big fish is a point that is extremely debatable. Unraveling the truth in this matter even in later times may become impossible.

Notably, the PM has also given an assurance to firm up the One Nation One Ration plan, which would essentially be of help to the large number of migrant labourers and their families. Many of them, with no ration card in areas where they work away from their homes, had difficulty availing government's free and subsidized facilities. The government's response to the needs of migrant labour walking back home was much delayed. The Shramik trains started late in the overall timeframe. While Indian government sponsored aircrafts initially flew in thousands of businessmen, vacationers and students for free from distant lands, the poor migrant labour had to pay through the nose from the very beginning. For Tuesday's speech, there were expectations that the PM would make some announcement on India's preparedness at the northern border region, where China is itching for a confrontation. However, the PM concentrated mostly on the COVID-linked lockdown scenario. His mention that the nation's sovereignty and integrity will be protected at all costs seemed slightly disjointed.

For sure, the government is hard-pressed on two fronts at the same time – fighting the pandemic unleashed on the world by China, and the red nation's propensity to grab its neighbour's land. India is posing as if it is ably standing its ground but only time will tell.

## WISDOM CORNER

- Man must be disciplined, for he is by nature raw and wild. **IMMANUEL KANT**
- In childhood be modest, in youth temperate, in adulthood just, and in old age prudent. **SOCRATES**
- The greatest fear in the world is the opinion of others, and the moment you are unafraid of the crowd, you are no longer a sheep, you become a lion. A great roar arises in your heart, the roar of freedom. **OSHO**

## WORDSWORTH

### Sternutatory

A sternutatory is a substance that induces sneezing. The word is also an adjective: if you want to be grand about it, you can refer to sneezing as the sternutatory reflex or as sternutation. Both words come from Latin sternuere, to sneeze. Sternutation appeared first in English in 1545, in a medical work on midwifery, The Byrth of Mankynde, Otherwise Called the Womans Booke; it referred to infants troubled with "sternutation and sneesyng". Sternutatory often turned up in old herbals, here about the herb mountain arnica: Its principal use at present is as a sternutatory. The root is perhaps the strongest of all the vegetable errhines, white hellebore itself not excepted. Sternutatories were believed to help expel noxious influences from the body. Writers outside the medical field found sternutatory to be usefully humorous, if somewhat ponderous. The word can be found in some modern dictionaries because the term was taken over in the early twentieth century to describe an agent used in chemical warfare that causes irritation to the nose and eyes, pain in the chest, and nausea.

### Stick-in-the-mud

Stick-in-the-mud, it is said, comes from the English habit of burying convicted pirates up to their necks in mud at low tide. This sounds unlikely, but intriguing. And, how on earth did it come to mean a boring person? Well, fact is, there was never any such procedure for punishing pirates, or anybody else for that matter. Even in older times that would have been regarded as cruel and unnatural punishment. They were just hanged at Tyburn, like any other self-respecting criminal. Secondly, the more prosaic, but much more probable, answer is that it is just the most recent of a number of expressions of similar type implying being stuck in or held fast by something. Earlier examples were to stick in the briars and to stick in the mire, which were used for a person who has got himself into a difficulty or trouble from which he is having trouble extricating himself. Stick-in-the-mud seems to have been modelled on these earlier forms but was first recorded in 1733 with essentially the modern meaning: a person who is stolid and unimaginative, content with his lot and unprepared to make an effort to improve it.

### Sticky wicket

That's a wonderfully inventive story, with just enough truth about it to stop one for a moment. It's true that, before toilet paper, people did at times use sponges on sticks (the Romans did, for example), but they were never called wickets. The real explanation is either more mundane or more esoteric, depending on whether you live in a country that plays the ancient game of cricket or not. A wicket was originally (and can still be) a small door or grille, especially one cut into a larger door. It was borrowed in the early eighteenth century to refer to the three wooden sticks called stumps that form the structure at which the bowler aims and which the batsman must defend. In the usual double-ended game there are two sets, 22 yards apart. By a further extension, the word came to apply to the ground between them (we're now some way from a small door, but the sequence is plain). After rain, the ground becomes soft and the ball bounces more erratically, making it more difficult for the batsman. To be on one, figuratively speaking is to experience great difficulty.

## LOL

### BOX OFFICE

A lawyer is standing in a long line at the box office. Suddenly, he feels a pair of hands kneading his shoulders, back, and neck. The lawyer turns around. "What the hell do you think you're doing?" "I'm a chiropractor, and I'm just keeping in practice while I'm waiting in line."



"Well, I'm a lawyer, but you don't see me screwing the guy in front of me, do you?" (A chiropractor is a practitioner of the system of complementary medicine based on the diagnosis and manipulative treatment of misalignments of the joints.)

Ashutosh Das Sharma

**EATING RIGHT, MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WEIGHT, FLUSHING YOUR SYSTEM WITH ADEQUATE WATER, AND AVOIDING INGESTION OF CARCINOGENS WOULD HELP IN KEEPING THE DNA DAMAGING TOXINS AT THE MINIMUM AND TAKE CARE OF THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF CANCER**

He was a man in his forties. When he noticed that the ulcer in his mouth won't heal, even after several weeks of existence, he knew it wasn't just another ulcer'. Visit to oncology clinics, numerous tests, biopsy, expensive scans, and equal number of counselling sessions went on through the subsequent weeks. He had known the diagnosis long before the doctor conveyed it. It is Cancer.

And before the meaning of this singular word in its entirety could sink in, a gross plan of treatment that he will require is explained to him. An extensive surgery that would remove the bulk of the disease, along with the adjacent part of the jaw, cheek and the neck. As soon as the wounds are healed, a long, recurrent course of radiation and chemotherapy will follow. The entire treatment would take about eight to ten weeks, at the least.

The treatment is intensive as well as expensive. In fact, this is one of the most expensive treatments available in this country. In a case like this, the approximate cost of the entire treatment is Rs2 to 4 lakh in a non-profit, trust based, well equipped hospital. This cost might swell up to two to four times in a corporate hospital, and may be many folds further for some other types and stages of cancer.

All these estimates are without taking into consideration the cost of travel, accommodation and inadvertent medical expenditures. And this is only the financial aspect of the treatment cost. Add to this the disruption in the patient's, and sometimes one or multiple family member's vocation, education, impact of this disruption on the socio-economic status of the family, and the protracted psycho-social aftermath. And above all, the unaffordable/unbearable uncertainty of the outcome of cancer treatment.

The moment it is diagnosed, or even 'strongly suspected', all the joy, all the plans, the very flow of life seems to come to an eternal pause. Celebrations are canceled, calendars are unchecked, and schedules are unmade. This whole

## FOCUS LIFESTYLE

# TOLL OF A TUMOUR



**Most types of cancers are lifestyle-related. From the day we are conceived as a zygote and start multiplying to become a fully formed being till death, the cells (and DNA) in our body are at constant threat of damage by the byproducts of their own metabolism. The DNA gets damaged, genes get mutated, and finally the cell that is being regulated by this DNA becomes rogue. Thus, a cancer cell is produced**

'expense' is what makes this disease so dreadful, and it's treatment so abhorrent. This is the toll a tumor (tumour) takes on life.

Mutations of genes, the fundamental cause of cancer, can be practically translated into 'misfortune' or 'bad-luck' in common language. It can happen to anyone, though with different probabilities, and scares everyone equally. When it does, it strikes like a thunderbolt, mostly unexpected, invariably devastating. This is a very depressing, discomfiting and morbid probability to calculate. And it can become a recurring nightmare if you are, for some reason, 'addicted' to worrying about it. The reason for this nightmarish fear is the notion that it is impossible for us to fend for ourselves, or, when it gets to us, it's even more difficult to shake off.

Most types of cancers are lifestyle-related. From the day we are conceived as a zygote and start multiplying to become a fully formed being till death, the cells (and DNA) in our body is at constant threat of damage by the byproducts of their own metabolism. The DNA gets damaged, genes get mutated, and finally the

cell that is being regulated by this DNA becomes rogue. Thus, a cancer cell is produced.

This cell then starts on an over-ambitious growth cycle of its own, dissociated from the rest of the body, indifferent to its needs and concerns, disregarding the biological laws of growth and inhibition, to become a tumor. This tug of war between the all-important DNA and the metabolic toxins goes on as long as we are breathing life. Our body does have a cleansing system to counter the damaging metabolic byproducts, reverse the DNA damages, and an immune system to eradicate cancer cells thus formed. Cancer risk reduction is nothing but taking the right side in this tug of war. Helping the body with the cleansing and scavenging of toxins, or at least, not overburdening it, and, helping the immune system in combat. As simple as that!

Eating right, maintaining a healthy weight, flushing your system with adequate water, and avoiding ingestion of carcinogens would help in keeping the DNA damaging toxins at the minimum and take care of the primary cause of cancer. Physical activity, stress

reduction, hydration, and again, a healthy diet rich in antioxidants (they prevent oxidative damage to the cells) will keep your immune system intact and ready to counter.

Risk reduction strategies do protect us, though only partially, against the theoretical probability of getting into the problem. Sadly the truth is, most of life's problems lie outside the realm of probabilistic distribution. That's the weirdness of the science of statistics: it gives assurance to the masses, but only uncertainty to individuals. Being able to mitigate, in case it does strike, is the other half that completes the preparedness against "cancer threat".

Like any other "disaster management" strategy, a person must be psychologically and resource-wise ready to fight cancer in the unfortunate scenario of actually confronting the disease. This not only makes the blow less impactful, it helps to stand the ground without ever losing hope during, and after, the exhausting treatment. It helps in asserting the situation just like another health problem and not something that has announced the end of life.

If you are financially unprivileged, don't worry. Either the government, one of the many charity organisations or a hospital trust would cover the cost of treatment for you. If you are privileged, don't worry, period. But, if you lay somewhere in between, hanging by the thin thread of your salary, brace yourself! Make arrangements. Get yourself and the family insured.

And finally, tobacco! No discussion on cancer is complete without adequately demonizing tobacco, and strongly discouraging its use. Remember, the actual price of tobacco is not written on the box. There are so many hidden costs. So, the next time you go for your nicotine fix and reach out to pay for it, remember, the change in your pocket will not be enough. The toll of a tumor will definitely be much more than you can ever afford.

*The writer is a practicing Oncologist at Balco, Raipur.*

## IN JEST THIS

# Be fair to your own skin tone, after all



Melvin Durai

**COMPANIES SEEM TO BE REALISING WHAT I HAVE KNOWN MY ENTIRE LIFE: BEAUTY COMES IN ALL SKIN TONES**

I was pleased to learn recently that Unilever has decided to rename its "Fair & Lovely" products.

"We are fully committed to having a global portfolio of skin care brands that is inclusive and cares for all skin tones, celebrating greater diversity of beauty," Sunny Jain, president of Unilever's beauty and personal care division, said in a statement.

Let me take this opportunity to applaud Unilever for this "Sunny" message. It is truly heartwarming to hear that the company plans to care for all skin tones, even mine. I am looking forward to the company's new skin-care products: "Dark & Proud," "Dusky & Husky," and "Tanned & Grand."

I am not going to hold my breath, however, especially since the Press Trust of India (PTI) has reported that Unilever is seeking trademark registration for the name "Glow & Lovely."

What they are planning to do, apparently, is replace the word "Fair" with "Glow" on a variety of products, including creams, soaps, lotions and beauty masks.

Before you know it, you will see a matrimonial ad like this: "Parents



**In fairness to Unilever, it's important to point out that they plan to do more than just replace "fair" with "glow"**

of Telugu doctor seek alliance from well-educated brides from reputable families. Must be slim, at least 5 feet, 2 inches, and extremely glowing."

The uncle of a prospective bride will soon call the father of the groom:

Groom's father: "Tell me more about the girl. Is she very good-looking?"

Bride's uncle: "She is very good cooking. She can cook everything: veg, non-veg, Indian, non-Indian, healthy, non-healthy. She has shared her recipes on the internet and received glowing reviews."

Groom's father: "Glowing reviews? Very good. But is she as glowing as her reviews?"

Bride's uncle: "Oh yes, she is even glowing in the dark."

Groom's father: "Does she use Glow & Lovely?"

Bride's uncle: "Oh no, she does not need it. She is already glowing too

much. That's why she uses a cream called 'Less Glow, More Lovely.'"

Groom's father: "She does not like to glow?"

Bride's uncle: "She likes to glow, but she was suffering from excessive glow. When she went out at night, some people mistook her for the street lamp. Many insects would start flying around her."

In fairness to Unilever, it's important to point out that they plan to do more than just replace "fair" with "glow."

"We will also continue to evolve our advertising, to feature women of different skin tones, representative of the variety of beauty across India and other countries. We want Fair & Lovely to become a brand that celebrates glowing and radiant skin, regardless of skin tone," Jain said.

Whether you're dark-skinned or light-skinned, you can have glowing and radiant skin. That's the message

that Unilever is apparently going to convey. I'm eager to see whether the company that created "Fair & Lovely" products can actually convince women, as well as men, that it's okay to be "Dark & Glowing."

Unilever is not alone in taking steps to celebrate diversity and stop contributing to India's (and much of the world's) obsession with light skin. According to CNN, two other companies are also fighting "fair."

Johnson & Johnson will stop selling "Fine Fairness" brightening serum under the Neutrogena brand. It will also discontinue its "Clear Fairness Cream," marketed in India by the brand Clean & Clear. L'Oreal, the world's biggest cosmetics company, plans to remove words such as "white," "fair" and "light" from its products.

As a dark-skinned man who has never tried to lighten his skin, I'm pleased that these companies seem to be realizing what I have known my entire life: beauty comes in all skin tones.

You can be "White & Lovely," "Brown & Lovely" and "Black & Lovely." Don't let any company — or the father of the groom — tell you otherwise.

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### COVID, cash transfer

Sir, The COVID-19 pandemic has arrived unannounced and its departure too is unknown. The crisis has affected a paradigm shift from rich to poor countries and from urban to semi-urban and rural pockets. Thereby, this is terminating all the economic activities and leading to severe food shortage. The middle and low income countries across the globe are now under the rim of hunger and food shortage. The World Food Programme estimated that 138 million people worldwide need food assistance, compared to 97 million in 2019. The stay of COVID-19 till the year-end could soar the size of the hunger-hit population to 200 million, with a rise of 82 per cent than pre-COVID times. However, Latin America is the worst affected region where the hunger rate has spiked three-fold due to COVID-19. In East Africa, food shortage is imminent, owing to locust invasion to ripened crops. To bail people out of the crisis, the World Food Programme must be supported with humanitarian efforts from governments in the form of cash-transfers which could help the poor purchase edibles in the local market etc. This would also help improve local economies.

*Santosh Kumar Satapathy, PARALAKHEMUNDI*

### Children, army

Sir, The Congressional mandated 2020 Trafficking in Persons Report of the US State Department has noted that Maoist groups in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are forcibly recruiting teenagers to handle weapons and improvised explosive devices. They are used particularly for cooking, carrying daily use materials and collecting information regarding movement of security forces. They are also imparted military training. Minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy stated in a written reply to Lok Sabha the same. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the common links to trafficking are forced marriages, child labour, domestic work and sexual exploitation. Now, Naxals are recruiting children for their causes. They are targeting poor rural areas and recruiting teenage boys as child soldiers with the promises of food and better life in the camps. In Jammu and Kashmir, some terrorist outfits are also doing the same. To prevent this, the government must give nutritious food and set up dispensaries, schools etc in remote areas.

*Hitesh Kumar Parida, JAJPUR*

# DiCaprio's flick inspired this 23-year-old man for every wrong reason

Jay Soni was inspired by movie 'Catch Me If You Can' to commit forgery to the tune of ₹50 lakh from 15 different firms over last 4 years

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, June 30: A 23-year-old man has been arrested here in Gujarat for allegedly cheating 15 different firms of at least ₹50 lakh through forgery in the last four years, crime branch said Tuesday.

The accused, Jay Soni, was inspired by Hollywood movie 'Catch Me If You Can' to commit the crime which involved forging documents and hiding his real identity to fraudulently withdraw money from banks, according to crime branch.

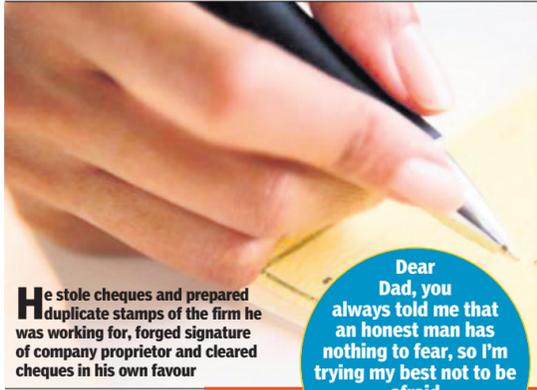
Soni was arrested Monday after a detailed probe into his modus operandi which involved not leaving behind any clue about his real identity or whereabouts, said a release.

At least seven complaints of cheating and forgery were filed against Soni in Ahmedabd, two in Vadodara and six in Jaipur in Rajasthan, it said.

This is the first time since 2016 that Soni, who has allegedly siphoned off lakhs of rupees from bank accounts of companies where he used to work, has been picked up. He has been involved in cheating of over ₹50 lakh, the crime branch said.

"It all started in 2015 when Soni

## CRIMINAL MINDS



He stole cheques and prepared duplicate stamps of the firm he was working for, forged signature of company proprietor and cleared cheques in his own favour

Dear Dad, you always told me that an honest man has nothing to fear, so I'm trying my best not to be afraid

FRANK ABAGNALE JR. (A QUOTE FROM THE MOVIE)

First, Soni learnt accounting and auditing

He then learnt basics of computer from YouTube

Soni prepared a forged PAN card and Aadhaar card with a fake name and address using MS Paint

He purchased SIM cards with the forged documents to open bank accounts

With a fake identity, Soni gave interviews for accountant or auditor

and his father Ramesh Soni watched the movie 'Catch Me If You Can', which was based on the life of American cheque forger and con-man Frank Abagnale, the release said.

Soni is a native of Khedbrahma in Gujarat.

"Both Soni and his father stud-

ied in an English medium school. After watching the movie, they decided to make money using forged cheques. First, Soni learnt accounting and auditing. He then learnt basics of com-

puter from YouTube and prepared a forged PAN card and Aadhaar card with a fake name and address using MS Paint application," it stated.

Soni purchased SIM cards with the help of the forged documents to open bank accounts, the release said, adding that his father had

helped him in buying SIM cards. Armed with a fake identity, Soni used to give interviews for the post of accountant or auditor.

"While working in office, Soni used to steal cheques and prepare duplicate stamps of the firm he is working for. He used to forge the signature of company proprietor and clear cheques in his own favour," the crime branch said.

Soni then used to transfer that money into other bank accounts or mobile wallets.

He would resign after committing the crime, it said.

Since he used to submit forged documents and ID proofs, police often could not identify or trace him despite collecting information from his employers and banks.

After a thorough investigation, crime branch officials finally located him to his residence in Udaipur in neighbouring Rajasthan.

He was kept under watch and was arrested as soon as he landed in Ahmedabad for a job interview, the release said.

Soni's father had been arrested in 2003 by city police for selling stolen vehicles.

# Who is killing Raj's golden goose of tourism

SQUABBLES AMONG BABUS AND LAWMAKERS IN THE STATE IS BLEEDING THE RTDC

AGENCIES

Jaipur, June 30: In Rajasthan they are "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs," feels a key minister of the Ashok Gehlot Cabinet as the Tourism Department is stuck in an ongoing deadlock between the bureaucracy and the government.

State Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh has shot a series of tweets recently to reflect his dissatisfaction with the working in his department, though that did not have much of an effect.

Speaking to IANS, Vishvendra Singh said: "I am keen to generate revenues by bringing in PPP initiatives to boost domestic tourism. I want to see quick implementation of new tourism policy and turn the bleeding RTDC into a milching cow."

"However, it seems, I have no powers to churn the system, RTDC is bleeding, employees have no salaries for the last few months, there is no chairman in RTDC and I have no powers to intervene. Hope the higher-ups are listening," he said adding, "Padharo Mhare Des", our tagline, will lose its meaning if things don't fall into place."

Singh, June 26, took to Twitter to show the stalemate on. He said that the department has failed to bring out a new Tourism policy in last one and half years after the Gehlot government came to power in 2018.

Not just there was no fresh policy introduced under the Congress government, but even no fresh hiring took place. "Despite changing two



The tourist figures have already tumbled after the Covid outbreak and successive lockdowns. The tourism industry lies in shambles but the officials won't budge and prefer to act blind

VISHVENDRA SINGH | TOURISM MINISTER, RAJASTHAN

Managing Directors, there are no plans of RTDC revival on paper," said Singh, who is said to be from Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot's camp.

The minister, who shares his Ministry with two others – a Minister for State and an Art and Culture Minister – has complained that his department, which expected to propel the economy being the most vibrant in terms of at-

tracting tourists from all over the world, is in fact not prepared at all for the new normal whenever that kicks in.

"The tourist figures have already tumbled after the Covid outbreak and successive lockdowns. The tourism industry lies in shambles but the officials won't budge and prefer to act blind," he said in one of his tweets.

Singh demanded changes and tagged the Chief Minister in a tweet, saying, "For a very long time, going against my nature and work ethic, I kept silent on many things but my CM @ashokgehot has always advocated transparency and honesty and I am now forced to share the shortcomings of the tourism department."

Seeking Gehlot's support, he said: "Yes, I look forward to your support in some drastic but necessary decisions in the near future to save the

interests and livelihoods of millions of people engaged in tourism and related industries in #Rajasthan."

The tourism sector was trifurcated in December 2018, breaking all past traditions after the formation of the new government. Tourism, art and culture departments were given three ministers against one minister system in earlier BJP and Congress regimes.

All three departments though were put under one principal secretary, who is also the Chairman of RTDC.

Vishvendra Singh is the state tourism minister, Govind Singh Dotasara is minister of state for tourism (apart from being the state minister for education) and B.D. Kalla is Minister for art and culture, but also enjoys bigger portfolios like Power and PHED.

"Too many cooks spoil the broth! Same goes the case with Rajasthan tourism," said a senior official expressing anonymity.

It's not only the minister, but the tourism stakeholders in Rajasthan are equally upset with continuous slashing of funds for the sector. Funds around ₹100 crore have been allotted since last two years, which was earlier ₹179.23 crore for 2018-19 under the BJP government.

Rajasthan faces stiff competition from states like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala who generally spend big to attract tourists; we also need to follow them on marketing, promotion and advertising, said travel expert Sanjay Kaushik.

# Naroda Patiya riots convict is attacked but won't file plaint

In June 2018, the HC convicted Bharwad in the 2002 riots case and sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for stone pelting and arson

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, June 30: A 52-year-old man convicted by the Gujarat High Court in the 2002 Naroda Patiya riots case and currently out on bail was allegedly attacked by two assailants outside his house here, police said Tuesday.

Despite the attack on late Monday night, the victim, Umesh Bharwad, a resident of Krushnanagar, has refused to file any complaint or give statement to the police, said Assistant Commissioner of Police, F division, JK Zala.

Bharwad, who suffered minor injuries, received treatment at civil hospital here, he said.

"When the local police approached Bharwad in the morning at the hospital, he refused to give a complaint or statement about the attack. Thus, no FIR has been lodged in this regard," said Zala.

Local residents told reporters that as soon as Bharwad reached home on his motor-bike, two men came on a scooter and started hitting him with a rod and a sharp weapon. The duo then fled the spot immediately.



When the local police approached Bharwad in the morning at the hospital, he refused to give a complaint or statement about the attack. Thus, no FIR has been lodged in this regard

JK ZALA | ACP, F DIVISION, AHMEDABAD

In CCTV footage of the incident, Bharwad is seen trying to escape the sudden attack outside his house.

In June 2018, the High Court convicted Bharwad and two others in

the 2002 Naroda Patiya riots case and sentenced them to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for offences such as stone pelting and arson.

Sixteen others were also convicted by the court at that time in the case.

Sources revealed that Bharwad was recently granted bail by the Supreme Court on medical grounds.

# Unlock 2.0: Schools, colleges, Metro in Raj to remain closed

The order issued by the Home Dept also says that swimming pools, gyms and shopping malls will also remain closed in the state till July 31

AGENCIES

Jaipur, June 30: In 'Unlock 2' starting from July 1, schools, colleges, coaching institutes, metro rail, cinema halls and international airlines will remain closed in Rajasthan till July 31, the state government announced Tuesday.

The order issued by the Home Department also said that swimming pools, gyms and shopping malls will also remain closed in the state till July 31.

The lockdown in containment zones and prohibition of certain activities in areas outside the con-

MAX 50 PEOPLE ALLOWED IN WEDDING FUNCTION

MAX 20 PEOPLE CAN PARTICIPATE IN A FUNERAL

RELIGIOUS PLACES WITH DAILY GATHERING EXCEEDING 50 PEOPLE TO REMAIN SHUT

tainment zone has been extended till July 21, said the order, citing the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines released Monday.

The order also said that no re-

laxation of any kind has been permitted in containment areas of hotspots and cluster/curfew areas. The movement of individuals for non-essential activities shall remain completely prohibited from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., in line with the Central guidelines.

Training institutes of the Central and state governments might start functioning from July 15, and shall adhere to SOPs issued by Department of Personnel & Training.

Also, all religious places of worship in urban, municipal and rural areas which have had daily gatherings of over 50 people shall remain closed while places seeing people less than 50 have been allowed to open.

The order issued by Additional Chief Secretary Home, Rajeev Swaroop, also said that special permission is mandatory for any wedding function where the limit of guests is 50. Similarly, 20 people are allowed in a funeral.

Those flouting the norms will face heavy fines, it says. Face covering and social distancing are termed under standard safety precautions and as per the order, the District Magistrate shall enforce the common safety prescriptions through fines and penal action under the Epidemic Disease Ordinance.

Those above 65 years of age and children under 10 years are advised to stay at home and move out only for essential or health purposes.

## LIVING WITH COVID



Students undergo temperature scanning as they arrive to appear in Rajasthan boards (10th standard exam), amid Covid-19 pandemic, in Bikaner, Tuesday

# Man kills stray pup for not letting him sleep

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, June 30: It had been just two days that a waiter in a Kutch resort strangled his pet puppy and Monday, another such incident surfaced from Porbandar.

A 23-year-old man clubbed to death a stray puppy in Jhundala locality of the coastal town; reason—his sleep was disturbed.

The accused, Rahul Chawda, was detained Monday after an animal rights activist approached the cops.

During a preliminary interrogation, Chawda said that he was spending sleepless nights due to

the constant whining of the puppy and therefore, he had decided to kill it. "While Chawda was hitting the puppy with the bat, one of his neighbours shot his act on his smartphone and uploaded the clip in social media, which went viral. When animal rights activist Jiva Ratadia came across the video, he approached us with the complaint," said HN Chudasama, sub-inspector, Kamalabaug police station.

"When I went to Chawda's house and confronted him, he and his mother verbally abused me and dared me to approach the cops," said Ratadia.

Chawda has been booked under Sections 429, 294 (B) and 114 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 11 (1) (I) of IPC dealing with cruelty against animals.

Sources said Chawda works with a private firm in Porbandar. It may be mentioned here that Friday, Khumkilli Sangataam from Nagaland, who worked as a trainee waiter in a resort in Adipur, was arrested for killing his pet puppy after it soiled his room. The accused recorded his whole act and shared the video with his friends. He also got arrested after the video went viral.

# 51 weapons worth ₹1.5 cr seized, 14 held in ATS raid

Among those held during the raids is one Digvijaysinh Zala of Halvad town of Morbi district, who had acquired 14 imported guns

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, June 30: As part of a drive against the illegal firearm network in the state, Gujarat Anti Terrorism Squad arrested 14 people and seized 51 weapons worth ₹1.5 crore, an official said Tuesday.

June 19, the ATS arrested nine persons, including gun house owner Tarun Gupta, whose interrogation revealed names of several others who had acquired weapons illegally.

Following this, the ATS raided several places and arrested 14 people, and recovered pistols, sports rifles and double barrel guns among others worth ₹1.5 crore, an ATS release said.

Among those held during the raids was one Digvijaysinh Zala of Halvad town of Morbi district, who had acquired 14 imported guns in the recent past and sold an automatic pistol to Gupta, the agency said.

Another key accused held during the raids was Mukesh Bhukiya, owner of Jay Ambe gun house in Mandal in Ahmedabad district, and part of Gupta's network, it added. Bhukiya bought six revolvers and two pistols from Gupta in the past, it said.



## of the day quote

We will be stricter. I have just instructed the police that if need be, for those not wearing masks, the fine amount will be increased and those who do not follow these instructions will also be put in jail

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

From the media reports, we are constrained to infer that the tearing hurry that the ECI displays is on account of the impending Bihar Assembly elections scheduled to be held in November 2020

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

Uttar Pradesh is suffering from a law and order problem besides coronavirus. As corona tests are being deferred, the exact situation is unknown, and it is difficult to assess when the disease will reach its peak

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY SUPREMO

## SHORT TAKES

### Two terrorists killed in Kashmir

**Srinagar:** Two terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in South Kashmir's Anantnag district Tuesday morning. The encounter took place in the Waghma village. The police in a statement on Twitter said: "Waghma Encounter Update: 02 #unidentified terrorists killed. Search is going on. Further details shall follow." The Army and the police had launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) on the basis of specific information about the presence of terrorists. As the cordon was tightened the terrorists fired at the security forces triggering the encounter.

### K'taka HC shut for sanitisation

**Bangalore:** The Karnataka High Court in the city centre remained closed Tuesday for sanitisation of its entire complex, an official said. "In a late-night decision, Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka ordered that judicial, non-judicial and administrative functions of the High Court would be suspended on June 30 for sanitisation of the entire complex," said Registrar General Rajendra Badamiker in a closure order.

### UP STF arrests imposter

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) has arrested an imposter from Jharkhand who ran an extortion racket in several states. The STF said that the accused Ranjan Kumar Mishra, arrested on Monday, has been duping government officials, engineers and project managers in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and Kerala since 2008. He had even posed as a former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and extorted Rs 40 lakh from another political leader.

### Pak violates ceasefire

**Srinagar:** Pakistan resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation on the Line of Control (LoC) Tuesday in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district. Army sources said Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in Naugam sector of Kupwara district Tuesday morning. They used firing by small arms and shelling by mortars to violate the ceasefire in Naugam sector.



**Facts don't lie. BJP says: Make in India. BJP does: Buy from China**  
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## NETIZENS, TIKTOKERS WELCOME DECISION ON BANNING CHINESE APPS

Soon after the Indian government banned 59 Chinese apps, including Chinese short-video making app TikTok over national security concerns, netizens on social media platforms hailed the government's decision



# DCGI approves India's first COVID vaccine candidate for human trials

**New Delhi, June 30:** Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for human trials, making it India's first domestic candidate to get the green light from the government's drug regulator as cases surge in a country with more than 1.3 billion people.

The Drug Controller General of India - CDSCO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare granted permission to initiate Phase I & II Human clinical trials after the company submitted results generated from preclinical studies, demonstrating safety and immune response. Human clinical trials are scheduled to start across India in July 2020.

Human clinical trials are scheduled to start across the country in July for the vaccine, which was developed and manufactured in Bharat Biotech's facility at Genome Valley in Hyderabad, India. The SARS-CoV-2 strain was isolated in NIV, Pune and transferred to Bharat Biotech. The indigenous, inactivated vaccine developed and manufactured in the company's Bio-Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) High Containment facility located in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.

Announcing the vaccine development milestone, Dr Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director said: "We are proud to announce COVAXIN, India's first indigenous vaccine against COVID-19. The collaboration with ICMR and NIV was instrumental in the development of this vaccine."

Dr Ella added, "The proactive support and guidance from CDSCO has enabled approvals to this project. Our R&D and Manufacturing teams worked tirelessly to deploy our proprietary technologies towards this platform."

She further said, "The proactive support and guidance from CDSCO has enabled approvals to this project. Our R&D and Manufacturing teams worked tirelessly to deploy



**Phase I & II human clinical trials are scheduled to start across the country in July for the vaccine**

The indigenous, inactivated vaccine developed and manufactured in the Bharat Biotech's Bio-Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) High Containment facility in Hyderabad

our proprietary technologies towards this platform." Expedited through national regulatory protocols, the company accelerated its objective in completing the comprehensive pre-clinical studies. Results from these studies have been promising and show extensive safety and effective immune responses. India, which lags only the United States, Brazil and Russia in total cases, reported close to 20,000 new infections Monday, according to data from the country's Health Ministry.

More than 16,000 people have died from the disease since the first case in India in January — low when compared to countries with similar numbers of cases.

## HONOUR KILLING

### Man kills 17-year-old daughter over affair

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bahraich (UP), June 30:** A 17-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her father in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district over an affair she was having after her marriage, police said Tuesday.

The accused, Subhash, allegedly slit his daughter's throat as she was unwilling to record statement against her lover, Chhotkai, in a case filed by him June 20, Superintendent of Police Vipin Mishra said. The father was arrested on Monday, he said. The girl was married off some days ago but she was living with her father, the SP said, adding she had an affair with Chhotkai. The SP said a probe has been ordered into the child marriage.

Chhotkai was sent to jail June 23 after a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint lodged by Subhash.

The SP said Subhash also registered an FIR against Chhotkai's uncle Ibrahim and others for allegedly murdering his daughter. He said Subhash was allegedly upset with his daughter as she "brought a bad name to" his family due to the affair.

## TUTICORIN CUSTODIAL DEATHS

# Madras HC transfers case to CBCID

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, June 30:** The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court Tuesday directed the Crime Branch Crime Investigation Department (CBCID) to take over the probe into the custodial death of father and son in the Tuticorin district.

It's an interim measure to protect evidence till the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) takes up the case, as decided by the Tamil Nadu government.

P Jeyaraj and his son J. Bennicks had been booked for not closing their mobile shop in time on June 19 by the Sathankulam police. They were sent to the judicial custody and lodged in Kovilpatti jail June 21.

Jeyaraj died June 22 night and Bennicks on June 23 morning in the judicial custody, allegedly due to the police torture. The court, which took suo moto cognizance of the case, observed that there were chances of the evidence being tampered with and appointed CB-CID Deputy Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar to handle the case.

On Monday, the court had ordered the Revenue Department officials to take over the Sathankulam police station to protect evidences from tampering.



The court also said there was prima facie evidence to register a murder case against the Sathankulam police officials. The preliminary post-mortem report pointed to various injuries on bodies of Jeyaraj and Bennicks.

Meanwhile, the court asked the three policemen — Additional Superintendent of Police D. Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police C. Prathapan, and constable Maharajan — to file their explanations in four weeks, while hearing the criminal contempt case initiated against them.

The high court also took a serious view of the report by the Kovilpatti Judicial Magistrate who said Maharajan made a very disparaging remark against him while the other two officers were present.

All the officials at the Sathankulam police station have been shifted out.

# Sterling Biotech: ED questions Ahmed Patel again



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 30:** Three days after questioning senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, a close aide of party interim Chief Sonia Gandhi, a team of Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday once again arrived at his residence to question him in connection with the alleged multi-core bank fraud case by the Gujarat-based Sterling Biotech.

A team of financial probe agency officials arrived at the 23, Mother Teresa Crescent road here Tuesday morning to record Patel's statement under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

An ED source related to the development told this news agency, "The agency had questioned Patel on Saturday but they were not satisfied with the answers. So they have once again come to his residence to record his statement." Patel, who is also a Rajya Sabha

MP and Congress treasurer, said after the questioning for eight hours Saturday, "Instead of taking action against China, dealing with Covid-19 pandemic, they are attacking opposition. (Prime Minister) Modi and (Union Home Minister) Shah's people came and questioned me and I replied to their questions."

Last year, the ED had questioned Patel's son Faisal Patel about his relations with the Sandesara brothers (Chetan Jayantilal Sandesara and Nitin Jayantilal Sandesara), owners and promoters of the Vadodra-based pharmaceutical firm.

The ED had also confronted Faisal with the statement of Sunil Yadav, an employee of the Sandesara group, in which he had alleged that the son of the Congress leader took his friends to a farm house for party and all the expenses were borne by Chetan.

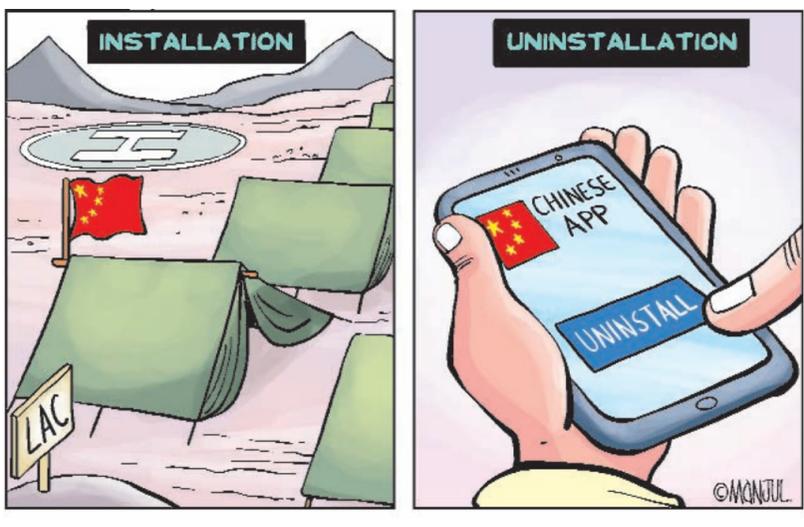
The ED suspected that Faisal and his brother-in-law Irfan Siddiqui were close to the Sandesara brothers.

On July 30 last year, the ED had questioned Patel's son-in-law and advocate Irfan Siddiqui in connection with the probe.

According to ED officials, Yadav alleged that Siddiqui and Faisal were given code names by Chetan Sandesara. "Chetan and Gagan referred to Siddiqui as Irfan Bhai," he said.

Irfan's code name was 'i2' and Faisal 'i1', Yadav had said. He also said, Faisal would take his friends to Puspanjali Farms for party and all the expenses were borne by Chetan Sandesara.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



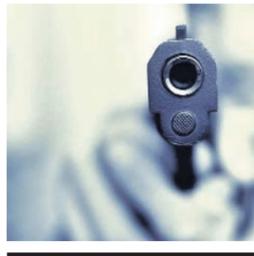
## UP politicians on KLF's hit list: ATS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 30:** A number of Uttar Pradesh politicians are on the hit list of the Khalistan Liberation Front (KLF). This was revealed by two members of the KLF to a team of UP Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS).

The interrogation happened Monday in New Delhi. According to sources, during interrogation, the KLF members, who were arrested by the special cell of the Delhi police on June 28, told the ATS team that they had set up a training camp in western Uttar Pradesh.

They also admitted to have prepared a list of political leaders of Uttar Pradesh who were on their target. The KLF members, identified as Gurtej Singh (41) and Lovepreet (21), told the ATS team that they were



**A number of Uttar Pradesh politicians are on the hit list of the Khalistan Liberation Front**

planning to execute targeted killings in northern states.

The special cell officers said that both of them were close to the Pakistan-based ISI handler Abdullah and Avtar Singh Pannu of the 'Sikhs For Justice', a banned outfit. "Gurtej was assigned the job of engaging youths in west UP for carrying out

subversive activities. He had indoctrinated Lovepreet along with five others," said an officer.

Additional Director General of Police, UP ATS, Dhruva Kant Thakur, meanwhile, confirmed that "some of the leaders of the state were on their list." However, he refused to divulge further details.

# Indian Gen Z, millennials will wait to return to work: LinkedIn

Older professionals appear keen on stepping out into the post COVID-19 world while younger professionals are not rushing to embrace it

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 30:** Unlike older professionals, nearly one in three Gen Z and millennial workforce in India would continue to work remotely until they feel safe from COVID-19, a new LinkedIn survey said Tuesday.

As the business landscape resumes, older professionals appear keen on stepping out into the post COVID-19 world while younger professionals are not rushing to embrace it.

The findings reaffirmed this difference in perception as 38 per cent of Gen X and 29 per cent of Baby Boomers said they will willingly

return to the workplace as soon as they are allowed.

"Whereas 1 in 3 Gen Z (29 per cent) and millennials (32 per cent) said they will continue working remotely until they feel safer about being around others," said the LinkedIn Workforce Confidence Index.

Varied levels of digital prowess could be one of the reasons behind such contrasting outlooks from different generations.

"Younger workers are adept in using digital means of communication. Senior professionals may find it challenging to hire and manage performance of remote teams," said HR expert Abhijit Bhaduri.



India's workforce is also beginning to feel more confident about their personal finances as one in four

professionals expect their earned incomes (25 per cent) and personal spending (26 per cent) to increase

in the next six months.

In fact, about one in three professionals also expect their personal savings (31 per cent) and personal recurring debt payments (29 per cent) to increase in the next six months.

"While some businesses in the digital space are seeing growth, the actual financial impact on India Inc will only become clear when listed companies unveil their results for the quarter ending June 30," said leadership Coach Harsh Johari.

Based on the survey responses of 1,351 professionals in India, the findings showed more than half (55 per cent) of Indian professionals

think being exposed to people neglecting safety precautions is a key concern.

Nearly 58 per cent of millennials and 56 per cent of Gen X professionals are shown being concerned about the same problem.

About 42 per cent millennials are concerned about commuting to work while nearly half (46 per cent) are worried about eating and sharing resting/collaborative spaces.

The report also showed that inadequate space between workstations is cited as another primary concern with returning to work, as it could make it tough for professionals to practice healthy measures of social distancing.

## of the day quote

Army officials are also confirming that such an incident had occurred. 20 persons (soldiers) were martyred (in Galwan Valley). Ten Army personnel, including officials, were arrested and later released, but the PM is saying nothing had happened. Then who is speaking the truth?

DIGVIJAYA SINGH | CONGRESS LEADER

There is no work in UP, which is why everybody has been forced to return to their previous places of work. According to data, around 1.5 lakh people from UP have already returned to Mumbai

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

The whole country has appreciated the decision of the @narendramodi govt to ban 59 Chinese Apps. This will give fillip to Indian Startups & they will come up with better versions very soon. This is a right step towards #AtmaNirbharBharat

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR | UNION INFORMATION & BROADCASTING MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Lightning kills 7

**Ahmedabad:** Seven persons, including two children, were killed in separate incidents of lightning strike in Gujarat's Saurashtra region that witnessed heavy rainfall Tuesday, police said. A 35-year-old woman and her 12-year-old son were struck by lightning at their farm in Rakka village at Lalpur in Jamnagar district, while two women were killed at Viramad village in Devbhoomi Dwarka district, an official said. In similar incidents, three persons died in lightning strike at two villages in Botad district, he said.

### Woman gangraped

**Chhatrapur (MP):** A 20-year-old speech-impaired woman was allegedly raped by four minors, the youngest of them aged 11, in Chhatrapur district of Madhya Pradesh, police said Tuesday. The minor accused were detained on Monday and a case has been registered against them at Gaurihar police station, superintendent of police Sachin Sharma said.

### Terrorists held

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Police Tuesday said that it had foiled a major bid by Pakistan-backed terrorists to target socio-religious leaders and disturb the state's communal harmony with the arrest of three members of Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF). Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta said the terror module was operating in various parts of the state at the behest of pro-Khalistani elements based in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the UK. He said one .32-bore pistol, along with seven cartridges, has been seized from the accused, identified as Sukhchain Singh, Amritpal Singh and Jaspreet Singh. Their accomplice, Lovepreet Singh, was arrested recently by Delhi Police along with other KLF members.

### Three arrested

**Hyderabad:** Days after a video of a monkey being hanged to death from a tree in Khammam district went viral, three people have been arrested in connection with the incident. According to Sathupalli Forest Range Officer A Venkateswarlu they filed a Preliminary Offence Report (POR) under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 against the perpetrators and they were arrested Monday.



It is good that Modi government is protecting privacy of 130 crore Indians by banning 59 Chinese apps

PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN | CONGRESS LEADER

## ASSAM CRACKS THE WHIP

The Assam government has banned the use of spiked bits or yokes with spikes on horses and directed district veterinary officers to enforce the prohibition under the cruelty provisions to the Drought and Pack Animals Rules, 1965



# France conveys 'steadfast support'

French Defence Minister Florence Parly reiterated her country's deep solidarity with India and expressed her readiness to visit India to follow up on bilateral talks to deepen defence ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 30:** French Defence Minister Florence Parly has written a letter to her Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh, condoling the death of 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan Valley, and offering to visit India to boost bilateral strategic cooperation, French diplomatic sources said on Tuesday.

Referring to the death of the soldiers, Parly conveyed to Singh in the letter on Monday her "steadfast and friendly" support along with that of the French armed forces in these "difficult circumstances".

"This was a hard blow against the soldiers, their families, and the nation. In these difficult circumstances, I wish to express my steadfast and friendly support, along with that of the French armed forces," the



sources quoted her as saying. The French defence minister conveyed her condolences to the entire Indian armed forces as well as to the grieving families, they said.

Recalling that India is France's strategic partner in the region, she reiterated her country's deep solidarity with the country and expressed her readiness to visit India

to follow up on bilateral talks to deepen defence ties, the sources said.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks, and the tension escalated manifold after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash in Galwan Valley on

June 15. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

Defence and strategic ties between India and France have been on an upswing in the last few years. India is likely to receive on July 27 the first batch of six Rafale fighter jets from France. The jets are expected to significantly boost the combat capability of the Indian Air Force.

India had signed an inter-governmental agreement with France in September 2016 for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around ₹58,000 crore. The aircraft is capable of carrying a range of potent weapons. European missile maker MBDA's Meteor beyond visual range air-to-air missile and Scalp cruise missile will be the mainstay of the weapons package of the Rafale jets.

# Coronavirus: TN surpasses Delhi

Recording nearly 4,000 cases in the last 24 hours, Tamil Nadu has surpassed Delhi to regain the second spot among the list of worst-hit states by the pandemic



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 30:** With 18,522 people testing positive for coronavirus in a single day India's COVID-19 tally climbed to 5,66,840 Tuesday while the death toll rose to 16,893 with 418 new fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

Recording nearly 4,000 cases in the last 24 hours, Tamil Nadu has surpassed Delhi to regain the second spot among the list of worst-hit states by the pandemic, while Karnataka also recorded more than 1,100 overtaking Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

Maharashtra remained the highest contributor to the single day rise, registering over 5,200 coronavirus infections. Delhi saw an increase of 2,084 cases. The number of active cases stands at 2,15,125, while 3,34,821 people have recovered, and one patient has migrated, according to the updated data at 8 a.m.

"Thus, around 59.07 per cent of patients have recovered so far," an official said. The total number of confirmed cases includes foreigners. This is the seventh consecutive day that coronavirus infections have increased by more than 15,000.

The country has seen a surge of 3,76,305 infections from June 1 till date. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 86,08,654 samples have been tested up to June 29 with

2,10,292 samples been tested Monday. Of the 418 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, 181 are from Maharashtra, 62 from Tamil Nadu, 57 from Delhi, 19 each from Gujarat and Karnataka, 14 from West Bengal, 12 from Uttar Pradesh, 11 from Andhra Pradesh, nine from Haryana, seven from Madhya Pradesh, six each from Rajasthan and Telangana, five from Punjab, three from Jharkhand and one each from Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

Of the total 16,893 deaths reported so far, Maharashtra accounted for the highest 7,610 fatalities followed by Delhi with 2,680 deaths, Gujarat with 1,827, Tamil Nadu with 1,141, Uttar Pradesh with 672, West Bengal with 653, Madhya Pradesh with 564, Rajasthan with 405 and Telangana with 253 deaths.

The COVID-19 death toll reached 232 in Haryana, 226 in Karnataka, 180 in Andhra Pradesh, 138 in Punjab, 95 in Jammu and Kashmir, 62 in Bihar, 39 in Uttarakhand and 22 in Kerala.

Jharkhand has registered 15 deaths, Chhattisgarh 13, Assam 11, Puducherry 10, Himachal Pradesh nine, Chandigarh six, Goa three and Meghalaya, Tripura, Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh have reported one fatality each, according to the Health Ministry.

## Andhra official held for assault

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati, June 30:** After a public uproar, the Andhra Pradesh police on Tuesday arrested a government official, since suspended from service, on charge of brutally assaulting a differently-abled woman colleague in office after she advised him to wear a face mask.

The incident occurred in the Tourism Department's office in Nellore on June 27 but came to light on Tuesday after the shocking visuals recorded on CCTV surfaced on the social media.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation announced the suspension of Deputy Manager C.A. Bhaskar who assaulted the woman colleague. The Nellore police said the official was booked the same day under Indian Penal Code Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 355 (assault or criminal force with intent to dishonour person) and 324 (Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means).

## IIM-L STUDY CHOCOLATES MOST SOUGHT ITEM FOR LOCKDOWN HAUL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, June 30:** A study conducted by the Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow (IIM-L) has found that nearly 42 per cent consumers stocked chocolates in their homes during the lockdown period.

Consumers purchased and stocked chocolates to keep the children happy and also as a dessert. The survey, conducted by IIM's Centre for Marketing in Emerging Economies (CMEE), also threw light on shopping habits and lifestyle of consumers during lockdown.

It showed that during the first phase of lockdown, 39 per cent consumers experimented with newer brands which were usually not in their purchase list. Their willingness to compromise on their preferred brands increased to nearly 54 per cent in the



second round of lockdown, allowing newer brands to establish themselves in the market.

Nearly 75 per cent people stocked rice and 65 per cent stocked wheat flour. In the vegetable category, people stocked up on onion and potato that have a longer shelf life compared to green vegetables.

The study further stated that health and hygiene consciousness rose remarkably during the lockdown and 40 per cent consumers purchased surplus stocks

of items like sanitary napkins, nappies and tissues while 39 per cent bought disinfectants and 36 per cent purchased cleaning agents in excess.

Consumers also focused on boosting immunity and purchased supplements like vitamin C and amla (gooseberry).

The survey, conducted on 931 people from metros, tier I and II cities through social media platforms, also studied how people spent their time during lockdown.

## Gas leak: 2 dead, 4 hospitalised



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**The incident occurred at Sainor Life Sciences Private Limited, a pharma company located at Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City in Parwada on the city outskirts around 11:30 pm Monday**

**Visakhapatnam, June 30:** Two persons died and four others took ill in a gas leak at a pharmaceutical unit in Visakhapatnam Monday night, the second industrial disaster to strike the port city in less than two months.

The incident occurred at Sainor Life Sciences Private Limited, a pharma company located at Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City in Parwada on the city outskirts around 11.30 p.m. Monday. However,

it came to light only in the early hours of Tuesday.

Revenue Divisional Officer P. Kishore said at the scene that Hydrogen Sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) leaked while it was being pumped from one reactor to the other. Initially, the

leaked gas was suspected to be benzimidazole. Six people working there inhaled the gas. While two persons died, four others were shifted to a hospital, where condition of one of them is stated to be critical.

The deceased were identified as shift incharge R. Narendra, 33, and chemist M. Gowri Shankar, 26. The condition of L.V. Chandrashekar, a helper, was critical. He was kept on a ventilator. The other affected persons were out of danger and they were identified as P. Anand Babu, a helper, and D. Janaki Rao and M. Surya Narayana, both chemists.

Visakhapatnam Superintendent of Police R. K. Meena and District Collector Vinay Chand visited the plant. The collector has ordered an inquiry into the incident. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy enquired about the incident. As a precautionary measure, the factory has been closed.

## MONSOON HAVOC



A family shifts to a safer place from the flood-hit Baghmari village near Kaziranga in Nagaon district of Assam, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

## Taj hotels' security beefed up

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, June 30:** Security forces went into tizzy after the iconic Hotel Taj Mahal Palace near Gateway of India and Hotel Taj Lands End in Bandra received threats of terror attacks, official sources said, here Tuesday.

A threat call was received by the Hotel Taj Mahal Palace around 12.30 a.m. and the Hotel Taj Lands End. The police swiftly beefed up security outside both the hotels and have launched investigation into the calls.

The call was purportedly made from a number in Karachi, Pakistan, and the caller, who reportedly claimed to be a Lashkar-e-Taiba operative, threatened to blow up the hotel with bombs. While the Mumbai Police have not yet commented on the issue, the Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) that runs the Taj Group issued a statement in afternoon.

"We are proud to be a part of the fabric of this nation and the safety of our guests and associates is of paramount importance to us. We immediately alerted the authorities on receiving these calls and are providing full support and cooperation to the investigating agencies," said an IHCL spokesperson.

"Our safety and security teams have ensured that all our protocols and guidelines are being followed towards safeguarding lives and assets. We would like to reassure our guests and associates that adequate steps are being taken towards the safety of the premises," the spokesperson said.

The hotel was among the prime targets of Pakistani terrorists during the November 26, 2008 terror strikes. Coming barely 24 hours after the attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi on June 29, the authorities took the threat calls seriously.

## WHEN PANIC STRIKES

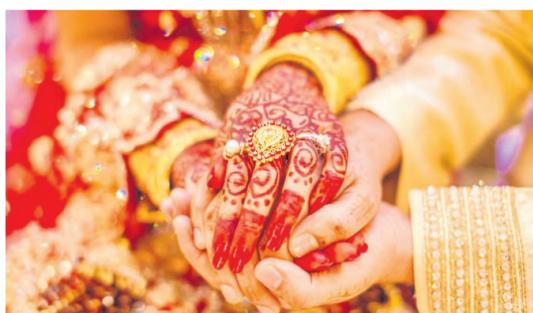
# Wedding sets off biggest Covid infection chain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, June 30:** A wedding ceremony in rural Patna a fortnight ago where the groom was running high fever, two days before he died and his body cremated without being tested for COVID 19, appears to have set off the biggest infection chain in Bihar so far, health department officials said Tuesday.

More than 100 people have tested positive in Paliganj sub-division of Patna district, about 55 km from the state capital, in the last few days, out of over 350 who have been tested upon contact tracing, they said. Fifteen of his relatives who attended the wedding tested positive for the contagion and apparently infected others.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said the groom was a soft-



ware engineer based in Gurugram and had returned home for his marriage in the last week of May. A few days after the 'tilak' ceremony, he started showing symptoms of the disease.

June 15, the date of wedding, he was running high fever and wanted the ceremony to be deferred, but relented upon the insistence of family members who made him swallow paracetamol tablets and go

through the rituals.

June 17, his condition deteriorated significantly and family members made a dash to AIIMS, Patna, but he died on the way. The body was cremated in a huff, without the authorities being informed. But someone telephoned the district magistrate and narrated the whole episode. All close relatives of the deceased, who attended the ceremony, were tested on June 19. Of them 15 tested positive, the officials said.

As a measure to contain the spread of the disease, a special camp was set up at the village where the marriage took place on June 24-26 during which samples of 364 people were collected. Of them, 86 tested positive, the officials added.

The sudden explosion of the dreaded coronavirus has triggered

panic in the area. Although most who tested positive were asymptomatic, they have been admitted to isolation centres in Bihta and Phulwarisharif.

Block Development Officer Chiranjeev Pandey said Meetha Kuan, Khagari Mohalla and parts of Paliganj Bazaar have been sealed for thorough sanitisation. Patna district happens to be the worst-affected in Bihar with 699 confirmed cases till date and five casualties, according to figures provided by the administration. The number of active cases is 372.

On Monday, when the state witnessed its biggest single day spike with 394 cases, Patna district accounted for more than 20 per cent of these. About eighty cases were reported from Paliganj alone.



**We must work fast because we've already seen the vertiginous drop in GDP and we know that people are worried now about their jobs and their businesses**  
BORIS JOHNSON | UK PRIME MINISTER

## CELLULAR NETWORKS TO DETECT COVID-HIT AREAS

In the fight against COVID-19, researchers have developed a strategy to use data from existing cellular wireless networks to identify areas that are at greater risk of disease



## of the day quote

**We want an open, sovereign Indo-Pacific, free from coercion and hegemony. We want a region where all countries, large and small, can engage freely with each other, guided by international rules and norms**  
SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIA PRIME MINISTER

**The United States is forced to take this action to protect US national security**  
MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

**The main downside risk to India's growth forecast is the continued spread of the pandemic as the health crisis has not yet been contained**  
CHANG YONG RHEE | DIRECTOR OF THE IMF'S ASIA AND PACIFIC DEPARTMENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Iran sentences ex-scribe to death

**Tehran:** Iran sentenced a once-exiled journalist to death over his online work that helped inspire nationwide economic protests that began at the end of 2017, authorities said Tuesday. Ruhollah Zam's website and a channel he created on the popular messaging app Telegram had spread the timings of the protests and embarrassing information about officials that directly challenged Iran's Shiite theocracy. Those demonstrations represented the biggest challenge to Iran since the 2009 Green Movement protests and set the stage for similar mass unrest last November.

### 1 killed, 2 hurt in shooting

**Jacksonville:** A targeted shooting outside an Amazon facility in Jacksonville, Florida, left one person killed and two others slightly wounded Monday, authorities said. The 20-year-old man who was fatally shot was waiting in line outside the Amazon warehouse to apply for a job, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief Brian Kee said during a news conference.

### Record low nCoV deaths in Italy

**Rome:** Italy registered a record low of six COVID-19 fatalities over the past 24 hours, national health authorities said. The country had not seen such a limited daily death figure since February 24 -- in the very first phase of the pandemic at national level -- when it had registered five fatalities within a total of 219 cases assessed, reports Xinhua news agency.

### Unrest in Sudan

**Cairo:** Sudanese protesters returned to the streets on Tuesday to pressure transitional authorities, demanding justice for those killed in the uprising last year that led to the military's ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir. As the rallies got underway, police used tear gas to disperse protesters marching on a road leading to the airport in the capital, Khartoum. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

### PIA loses millions

**Islamabad:** After dubious licenses scandal involving pilots, another scam hit the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) with its officials making about 8 million PKR in the sale of tickets for special flights to Europe.

# China in fresh border dispute with Bhutan

BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE HAD A BORDER DISPUTE SINCE 1984

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Beijing / New Delhi, June 30:** Continuing with its expansionist agenda, China has now created a new border dispute with Bhutan, one of India's traditional ally.

At a virtual meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the first week of June, Beijing objected to the grant for Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) in eastern Bhutan's Trashigang district bordering India and China, claiming that the location was disputed.

Even as the rest of the world is struggling with the the coronavirus pandemic, which originated in Wuhan city of China's Hubei



province, Beijing has been aggressively attempting to alter the status quo in East China Sea, South China Sea and with India in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh. As per Strat News Global, the GEF Council gathered to decide on funding for various environ-

mental projects across the world, was shocked by China's objection and instantly rubbished it.

The majority of the GEF council members supported Bhutan's view and the draft summary of the chair was approved by the council and despite objection from the Chinese council member, the work programme was adopted.

The council refused to record China's reason for objection, saying that the footnote would only record that China objected to the project. However, the Chinese council member said that he would need time to consult with his higher ups to come to a view on the matter. The reasons were included in

the highlights of the discussion, which is a less formal record, and not in the chair's summary, Strat News reported. The draft summary of the chair mentioned in the footnote that "China abstains and does not join the Council decision on this project."

The Bhutan government has since issued a formal letter to the GEF council, strongly opposing the references questioning the sovereignty of Bhutan and its territory on the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary in the documents of the council's session. Bhutan has urged the GEF council to purge all references of China's baseless claims from Council's documents.

# PUTIN A STEP AWAY FROM GOAL



AGENCIES

**Moscow, June 30:** Russian President Vladimir Putin is just a step away from completing his main political project of the year - constitutional changes that would allow him to extend his rule until 2036.

A nationwide plebiscite on the amendments that would reset the clock on Putin's tenure and enable him to serve two more six-year terms is set to wrap up Wednesday after a week of early balloting. For the first time in Russia, polls were open for a week to help reduce crowds and to bolster turnout amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Putin is all but guaranteed to get the result he wants following a massive campaign to get Russia's voters to say "yes" to the changes. However, the plebiscite intended to consolidate his hold on power could end up undermining his position because of the unconventional methods used to boost participation and the dubious legal basis for the balloting.

Gleb Pavlovsky, a political analyst and former Kremlin political consultant, said Putin's unremitting push for holding the vote despite coronavirus infection levels remaining high reflects the Russian leader's potential vulnerabilities.

The Russian president, who has been in power for more than two decades - longer than any other Kremlin leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin - said he would decide later whether to run again in 2024. He argued that resetting the term count was necessary to keep his lieutenants from "darting their eyes in search for possible successors instead of normal, rhythmic work."

# 'NO DOUBT' INDIA WAS BEHIND PSX ATTACK: IMRAN

REUTERS

**Islamabad, June 30:** Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan told parliament Tuesday he had no doubt that India was behind an attack on the stock exchange building in the southern city of Karachi.

Four gunmen armed with grenades attacked the Pakistan Stock Exchange on Monday, killing two guards and a policeman before security forces killed the attackers.

"There is no doubt that India is behind the attack," Khan said in his address to parliament - a charge that India had denied a day earlier.

Khan offered no evidence for his allegation, but he said there had been intelligence reports warning of attacks in Pakistan and he had informed his cabinet about the threat.



The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), a separatist insurgent group from the southwestern province of Balochistan, claimed responsibility for the attack in a message on Twitter. Khan said Pakistan's intelligence agencies had successfully preempted at least four major attacks in the country, two of which targeted Islamabad - but he said it was not possible to stop all such attacks.

The gunmen carried a heavy supply of arms and equipment and security officials believe they planned to storm the stock exchange building and take hostages. Khan termed their failure to do so and the rapid response by security forces, as a "big victory".

# Nepal's ruling party seeks Oli's resignation

AGENCIES

**Kathmandu, June 30:** Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's recent anti-India remarks and claim that efforts are being made to oust him after his government redrew Nepal's political map has backfired, with top leaders of the ruling Nepal Communist Party demanding his resignation on Tuesday.

As soon as the powerful Standing Committee meeting of the Nepal Communist Party started at the Prime Minister's Official residence at Baluwater Tuesday, former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' slammed Prime Minister Oli for the remarks he made Sunday. "The Prime Minister's remarks that India was conspiring to remove him was neither politically correct, nor diplomatically appropriate," he said. "Such a statement by the Prime Minister may damage our relations with the neighbour," he warned.

Prime Minister Oli, 68, Sunday claimed that there have been various kinds of activities in the "embassies and hotels" to remove him from power. He said some Nepalese leaders were also involved in the game. Accusing the southern neighbour and leaders of his own party by the Prime Minister was not appropriate, a senior leader of the party quoted Prachanda as saying during the meeting. Prachanda told Oli that it was not India but him who had been seek-



K P Sharma Oli

ing his resignation both as party chair and prime minister, the NCP leader said. Besides Prachanda, senior leaders Madhav Kumar Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal, Bamedev Gautam and Narayankaji Shrestha also asked Prime Minister Oli to provide evidence of his accusation and asked to quit the power, he said. What the Prime Minister spoke was objectionable and inappropriate, they said. They also asked the Prime Minister to name the leaders who were behind the conspiracy to remove him.

They said the Prime Minister should resign on moral grounds as he spoke such "undiplomatic and nonpolitical remarks." However, the Prime Minister who was also present at the meeting, did not make any comment.

Nepal this month completed the process of redrawing the country's political map through a Constitutional amendment, incorporating Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belong to it.

# CHINA APPROVES NATIONAL SECURITY LAW FOR HONG KONG



Pro-China supporters hold Chinese national flags during a rally to celebrate the approval of a national security law for Hong Kong

AGENCIES

**Hong Kong/Beijing, June 30:** China's parliament passed national security legislation for Hong Kong Tuesday, setting the stage for the most radical changes to the former British colony's way of life since it returned to Chinese rule 23 years ago.

Details of the law - which comes in response to last year's often-violent pro-democracy protests in the city and aims to tackle subversion, terrorism, separatism and collusion with foreign forces - were yet to be released.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam nevertheless welcomed the law's passage and said it would come into effect later Tuesday, giving the city's 7.5 million people little time to digest what is expected to be highly complex legislation. Amid fears the law will crush

the global financial hub's freedoms, and reports that the heaviest penalty under it would be life imprisonment, pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong's Demosisto group said it would dissolve.

"It marks the end of Hong Kong that the world knew before," Wong said on Twitter. The legislation pushes Beijing further along a collision course with the United States, Britain and other Western governments, which have said it erodes the high degree of autonomy the city was granted at its July 1, 1997, handover.

The United States, already in dispute with China over trade, the South China Sea and the coronavirus, began eliminating Hong Kong's special status under US law Monday, halting defence exports and restricting technology access. China said it would retaliate. Lam, in a video message to the United

## Grave step

Britain said it was deeply concerned by reports that China's parliament had passed national security legislation for Hong Kong, describing it as a "grave step". "We are deeply concerned by unconfirmed reports that Beijing has passed the national security law," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said. "This would be a grave step." "Once we have seen the full legislation, we will make a further statement," Raab said

Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, urged the international community to "respect our country's right to safeguard national security". Authorities in Beijing and Hong Kong have repeatedly said the legislation is aimed at a few "troublemakers" and will not affect rights and freedoms, nor investor interests.

The editor-in-chief of the Global Times, a tabloid published by the People's Daily, the official newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party, said on Twitter the heaviest penalty under the law was life imprisonment. As the law was passed in Beijing, the Chinese People's Liberation Army garrison in Hong Kong held a drill which included exercises to stop suspicious vessels and arrest fugitives, according to the Weibo social media account of state-run CCTV's military channel.

# Koalas may be extinct in NSW before 2050

The once-thriving herbivorous marsupial animal, native to Australia, has been ravaged by habitat loss, disease and climatic events in recent years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Sydney, June 30:** Koalas will face extinction in Australia's New South Wales (NSW) state before 2050 due to the continuous destruction of their habitat and frequent natural disasters occurring in the region, according to an official report published Tuesday which urges greater environmental protection.

According to ecologist Oisín Sweeney's research, some 15,000 to 20,000 koalas were in NSW which suffered devastating bush-



fires during the southern summer, while a report by the region's parliamentary committee said that the exact number of the species are difficult to establish, Efe news reported. According to

the report, the bushfires killed at least 5,000 koalas and added that, "the ongoing destruction of koala habitat through the clearing of land for agriculture, development, mining and forestry has severely impacted most koala populations in the state over many decades".

According to the report, the years before these bushfires, the koalas in the region already were facing difficult situation due to periods of droughts and fragmentation of their habitats as a result of human development.

# 45.8mn 'missing females' are from India: UN

AGENCIES

**United Nations, June 30:** India accounts for 45.8 million of the world's 142.6 million "missing females" over the past 50 years, a report by the United Nations said Tuesday, noting that the country along with China form the majority of such women globally.

The State of World Population 2020 report released on Tuesday by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world organisation's sexual and reproductive health agency, said that the number of "missing women" has more than doubled over the past 50 years - from 61 million in 1970 to a cumulative 142.6 million in 2020.

Of this global figure, India accounted for 45.8 million missing females as of 2020 and China ac-



counted for 72.3 million. "Missing females" are women missing from the population at given dates due to the cumulative effect of postnatal and prenatal sex selection in the

past, the agency said. "Between 2013 and 2017, about 460,000 girls in India were 'missing' at birth each year. According to one analysis, gender-biased sex se-

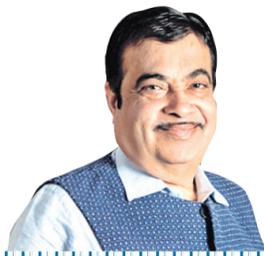
lection accounts for about two-thirds of the total missing girls, and post-birth female mortality accounts for about one-third," the report said. Citing data by experts, it said that China and India together account for about 90-95 per cent of the estimated 1.2 million to 1.5 million missing female births annually worldwide due to gender-biased (prenatal) sex selection.

The two countries also account for the largest number of births each year, it said. The report cites data by Alkema, Leontine and others, 2014 'National, Regional, and Global Sex Ratios of Infant, Child, and under-5 Mortality and Identification of Countries with Outlying Ratios: A Systematic Assessment' from The Lancet Global Health.

According to their analysis, India has the highest rate of excess female

deaths, 13.5 per 1,000 female births, which suggests that an estimated one in nine deaths of females below the age of 5 may be attributed to post-natal sex selection. The report said that successful education-related interventions include the provision of cash transfers conditional on school attendance; or support to cover the costs of school fees, books, uniforms and supplies, taking note of successful cash-transfer initiatives such as Apni Beti Apna Dhan' in India.

A recent analysis revealed that if services and programmes remain shuttered for six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an additional 13 million girls may be forced into marriage and 2 million more girls may be subjected to female genital mutilation between now and 2030.



**India needs to enhance its cargo carrying capacity to reduce logistics cost and convert old aircrafts of Defence into cargo carriers**  
**NITIN GADKARI** | UNION MINISTER, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

## FISCAL DEFICIT AT 58.6% OF BUDGETARY TARGET

India's budgetary fiscal deficit for the April-May 2020-21 period stood at ₹4.66 lakh crore, or 58.6 per cent of the budget estimates (BE).



## of the day quote

In view of the prevailing situation, it has been decided to further extend the timelines for compliance with the regulatory requirements by DPs and RTAs

**AJAY TYAGI** | CHAIRMAN, SEBI

We request the govt to investigate investments made by Chinese companies in various Indian startups to ensure that the data is not being transferred to Chinese investors

**PRAVEEN KHANDELWAL** | SECRETARY GENERAL, CAIT

We are committed to protecting users from abuse on our platforms, especially when it comes to information about elections

**SUNDAR PICHAI** | CEO, GOOGLE

# Cyberspace war to have network effect

REUTERS

**Mumbai, June 30:** India is extending a fight with China from the Himalayan mountains into cyberspace. ByteDance's hugely popular video-streaming app TikTok is among 59, mostly Chinese, ones banned by New Delhi on national security concerns. It significantly narrows a top growth market for Chinese technology firms and may embolden other governments to shut them out. But the network effects could be messy all around.

Giants from Alibaba to Xiaomi have made significant inroads on the subcontinent. For Beijing-based ByteDance, India has been the biggest driver of TikTok installs, accounting for 611 million downloads, or 30% of the total, according to SensorTower. Cutting off new users, and existing ones as they try to install updates, will sting its mooted valuation of \$110 billion. And the company faces a similar backlash in the United States where lawmakers are also suspicious about Beijing's access to consumer data. Monday's ban will raise pressure on TikTok's new

## NEW INVESTMENT RULES



**FOR BEIJING-BASED BYTEDANCE, INDIA HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST DRIVER OF TIKTOK INSTALLS, ACCOUNTING FOR 611 MILLION DOWNLOADS**

**IN TOTAL, 18 OF INDIA'S 30 UNICORNS HAVE CHINESE FUNDING, GATEWAY HOUSE, A MUMBAI-BASED THINKTANK RECKONS**

**HOWEVER, NEW INVESTMENT RULES AND RISING ANTI-CHINA SENTIMENT MAY SLOW THE OVERALL FLOW OF CAPITAL FROM CHINA AND HURT GROWTH**

boss, former Disney executive Kevin Mayer, to make a clean break from its Chinese parent.

For now, Chinese companies are slightly safer as investors in home-grown Indian peers. Notably, the blacklist excludes the country's most valuable startups, including the \$16 billion payments giant Paytm, backed by Ant Financial, as well as education star Byju's, which counts

Tencent as an investor. In total, 18 of India's 30 unicorns have Chinese funding, Gateway House, a Mumbai-based thinktank reckons. But new investment rules and rising anti-China sentiment may slow the overall flow of capital from the People's Republic and that will hurt growth.

The sovereign nature of the ban will make it hard to reverse and may embolden others to act against

Beijing, which is busy picking fights from the South China Sea all the way to Australia and Canada. The U.S backlash against telecoms equipment maker Huawei, for example, has spread globally. And politicians in India, Italy and beyond have all raised the wall to Chinese capital in recent months. The immediate danger is a retaliation beyond cyberspace: India depends

## TikTok, Helo say will comply with ban

Chinese short-video making app TikTok and vernacular social networking platform Helo who have millions of users in India Tuesday said they are in the process of complying with the government order to ban 59 Chinese apps and are not sharing any data of Indian users with the Chinese government. The government Monday banned apps like TikTok, SHAREit, Helo, WeChat, UC Browser and Xiaomi's MI Community over national security concerns as India-China bilateral relations remain strained after the death of 20 Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley clash with Chinese PLA troops in eastern Ladakh.

on China for hard-to-substitute imports - active pharmaceutical ingredients, for example. The military and virtual brawl will spill over to other realms.

## CORE INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT PLUNGES BY OVER 23 PC



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 30:** Output pace of India's eight major industries plunged in May 2020 by over 23 per cent, official data showed Tuesday. However, the rate of fall in the Index of Eight Core Industries decelerated on a sequential basis on account of partial opening of economic activities during May 2020.

On a sequential basis, the Index of Eight Core Industries for May 2020 declined by 23.4 per cent (provisional) compared to decline of 37 per cent (provisional) during the previous month of April 2020.

The eight core industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity. The ECI comprises over 40 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

"In view of nationwide lockdown during April and May 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic, various industries viz. coal, cement, steel, natural gas, refinery, crude oil etc. experienced substantial loss of production," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

"Final growth rate of Index of Eight Core Industries for February 2020 is revised at 6.4 per cent."

## SHORT TAKES

### Industrial workers' inflation down

**New Delhi:** The retail inflation for industrial workers dipped to 5.1 per cent in May due to lower prices of certain food items and kerosene oil. The retail inflation for industrial workers is measured through Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW). "Inflation based on all items stood at 5.10 per cent for May, 2020 as compared to 5.45 per cent for the previous month (April 2020) and 8.65 per cent during the corresponding month (May 2019) of the previous year," a labour ministry statement said.

### Sebi levies ₹40L fine on company

**New Delhi:** Sebi has imposed a penalty totalling ₹40 lakh on Maitreya Plotters and Structures Pvt Ltd and its directors for not complying with the market regulator's earlier directive. A fine of ₹15 lakh has been levied on Maitreya Plotters and ₹25 lakh on its directors-- Varsha Madhusudan Satpalkar and Janardan Arvind Parulekar. Sebi, in March 2013, had passed an interim order directing Maitreya Plotters and Structures Pvt Ltd.

### SBI launches Yono branches in cities

**Mumbai:** State Bank of India (SBI) Tuesday said it has launched 'Yono' branches in select cities, aimed at driving adoption of digital banking among its customers. Yono is the lender's digital banking app. The bank has launched Yono branches in Navi Mumbai, Indore and Gurugram, one in each city, as part of its pilot, a release said. "We believe the Yono branch will enable and empower customers to adopt digital banking to enjoy all banking services with ease," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said.

### EV mkt may see lower demand

**New Delhi:** Electric vehicles market in India may experience a shift as consumers seek affordable products amid COVID-19, and it could make manufacturers resume production for conventional vehicles, according to a report. The report - Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-COVID-19 Opportunities in India's Energy and Mobility Sectors - is prepared by government think tank Niti Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute. It also said there may be delays in electric vehicles (EV) production as manufacturers focus on reviving demand.

## Fuel prices pause; more relief likely

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 30:** Fuel prices have gone for a pause after rising on 22 of the past 24 days as oil marketing companies (OMC) kept the pump prices of petrol and diesel unchanged Tuesday.

In the national capital, petrol price Tuesday stood at ₹80.43 per litre and diesel at ₹80.53 a litre, same level as Monday when the OMCs had increased the price of the two fuels by five paise and 14 paise respectively.

Sources in public sector oil companies said that consumers could get relief from the regular price rise of the two petroleum products in coming days as the pause Tuesday could be replicated in several of the coming days due to softening of global oil prices.

Also, the companies have covered most of the shortfall arising when for 82 continuous days (from March 14 to June 6) petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged while government substantially raised taxes on the products.

Starting from June 7, petrol price



has increased by ₹9.17 and diesel by ₹11.14 in the national capital. In the other cities the magnitude of increase was similar.

For the last six to seven days, the quantum of daily increase has fallen from 60 paise per litre to less than 20 paise per litre. With global oil prices remaining around \$40 a barrel, any fall in oil prices now may result in fuel consumers actually getting the benefit of a cut on petrol and diesel prices.

In a historic development, the price of diesel surged above that of petrol in the national capital during this period. It continues to remain higher even though on Saturday the quantum of petrol price hike was higher than that of diesel.

## Loan recasts to only defer problem, NPAs may zoom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 30:** Amid reports of the RBI mulling restructuring of loans, global rating agency S&P Tuesday said that a loan recast will only defer NPAs recognition and not solve the problem.

The agency also said operational outages and the recession because of the pandemic will have a deeper and longer impact on lenders than previously assumed, and estimated the gross non-performing assets ratio to rise up to 14 per cent in FY2021 from the 8.5 per cent in FY2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic may set back the recovery of India's banking sector by years, which could hit credit flows and, ultimately, the economy, the agency said.

The coronavirus pandemic has led to prolonged lockdowns and a chilling of economic activity, forcing the RBI to declare a six-month voluntary moratorium on loan repayments till September.

The RBI, which had stopped the practice of loan forbearance, is reportedly mulling to reintroduce re-



structuring with a few safeguards. Restructuring may not resolve the problem. It may just defer NPL (non performing loans) recognition, as it did a few years ago," the agency said.

It reminded that in the past, rampant restructuring had led the RBI to come up with an asset quality review and withdrew forbearance on the majority of restructured loans, leading to exceptionally high credit costs on banks. In its base case, the agency expects slippages or the addition to the NPAs to come at 6

per cent during the fiscal. If the RBI allows for restructuring of loans, it may reduce the loan slippages this fiscal, it noted.

Loan recoveries will be set back by "years" because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will lead to a spike in the industry's non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio, it said.

The NPAs of the Indian banks will shoot-up to 13-14 per cent at the end of FY2020-21, up from the 8.5 per cent in FY2020, Standard & Poor's credit analyst Deepali Seth-Chhabria said.

## BIZ BUZZ

### India's 17% coal fleet 'not competitive'

**New Delhi:** In India, 17 per cent of the 283 GW coal fleet is set to become uncompetitive in 2020, rising to 50 per cent in 2022 and 85 per cent in 2025, international researchers said Tuesday.



They say phasing-out and replacing uncompetitive coal plants with renewable energy plus storage would generate savings of \$2 billion in 2020, \$8 billion in 2022, and \$17 billion in 2025. Researchers of Rocky Mountain Institute, Carbon Tracker Initiative and Sierra Club in a report offer financial data and specific tools for making global coal phase-out feasible. The report, 'How to Retire Early: Making Accelerated Coal Phase-Out Feasible and Just', reveals that new renewable energy is already cheaper.

### Microsoft joins hands with Accenture

**New Delhi:** Microsoft Tuesday announced to collaborate with global professional services company Accenture to host the third edition of the Accenture Ventures Challenge for B2B startups in India. This year's edition will recognise startups in India in four categories: supply chain resilience, channel shift to digital commerce, systems resilience and responsible technology. Microsoft in February launched the "100x100x100" programme to bring 100 companies to commit \$100,000 each for enterprise-ready solutions from 100 business-to-business (B2B) startups.



### Zomato 'Gold' becomes 'Pro'

**New Delhi:** Zomato has doubled down on its Gold subscription programme amid the Covid-19 crisis as the foodtech unicorn renamed the dining membership as Zomato Pro after signing up about 50 per cent more restaurant partners. Zomato announced extra perks like priority delivery and a money-back guarantee programme. All Zomato Gold members across 10 countries will automatically get upgraded to Zomato Pro starting August 1, the company said. "We have signed up approximately 50 per cent more partner restaurants on," Zomato co-founder Gaurav Gupta wrote in a blog.



## FITCH CUTS INDIA'S GROWTH PROJECTION FOR FY 2021-22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 30:** Fitch Ratings Tuesday cut India's growth forecast for 2021-22 fiscal to 8 per cent from 9.5 per cent projected last month.

It, however, retained its projection of Indian economy contracting by 5 per cent in the current fiscal. Indian economic growth stood at an estimated 4.2 per cent in 2019-20.

In its June update of Global Economic Outlook, Fitch projected Indian economy to grow 5.5 per cent in 2022-23.

In India, where authorities imposed one of the most stringent lockdowns globally to try to halt the spread of the virus, measures are being relaxed only very gradually; with a limited policy easing response and ongoing financial sector fragilities, we have pared our 2021



forecast to 8 per cent from 9.5 per cent in the previous GEO. Fitch said. In May update to the outlook, Fitch had projected 9.5 per cent growth in 2021-22.

S&P has forecast a 5 per cent contraction in the fiscal year starting April, and the growth to recover to 8.5 per cent next fiscal.

Moody's expects India's real GDP to contract by 4 per cent in fiscal 2020 due to the shock from the coronavirus pandemic and related lockdown measures, followed by 8.7 per cent growth in fiscal 2021 and closer to 6 per cent thereafter.

# China's biggest gold fraud, 4% of its reserves may be fake

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New York, June 30:** China is at the centre of the discovery of what may be one of the biggest gold counterfeiting scandal in recent history.

According to a report in Zero Hedge, not only does it involve China, but it emerges from a city that has become synonymous for all that is scandalous about China: Wuhan itself.

The 83 tons of purportedly pure gold stored in creditors' coffers by Kingold as of June, backing the 16 billion yuan of loans, would be equivalent to 22 per cent of China's annual gold production and 4.2 per cent of the state gold reserve as of 2019.

In short, more than 4 per cent of China's official gold reserves may be fake. And this means that no other Chinese gold producers and jewelry makers are engaging in similar fraud, the report said.

In early June, Mingsheng Trust, Dongguan Trust and a smaller creditor Chang'an Trust filed lawsuits against Kingold and demanded that PICC P&C cover their losses.

PICC P&C declined to comment to Caixin on the matter but said the case is in judicial procedure. A source from PICC P&C told Caixin that the claim procedure should be initiated by Kingold as the insured party rather than financial institutions as beneficiaries. Kingold hasn't made a claim, the Caixin



source said. In total, Kingold pledge tens of thousands of kilograms of gold to no less than 14 creditors amounting to just under 20 billion yuan.

The Zero Hedge report said that this exposes just how multi-faceted fraud is in China: capitalizing on pre-existing cronyism and connections with China's powerful army, the founder of Kingold was allowed to

## Several billion in gold bars never existed and yet resulted in a cascade of subsequent cash flow events

basically do anything he wanted, no questions asked, including counterfeiting over 83 tons of gold bars to get billions in funds to participate in China's housing bubble, only for a series of unexpected events to unwind the frauds one after another and expose the type of sordid scandal that is at the heart of most Chinese "enterprises" and business ventures.

As for the gold, several billion in gold bars never existed and yet resulted in a cascade of subsequent cash flow events allowing tens of billions in funds to be released, "benefiting" not only founder Jia, but China's broader economy.

Which is terrifying: because whereas just after the financial crisis China was engaged in building ghost cities, everyone knew these were a symbol of demand that would never materialize, even if the cities themselves did exist. However, it now appears that a major part of China's subsequent economic boom has been predicated on tens of billions in hard assets - such as gold - which simply do not exist, the report said.

# IPL should sever ties with Chinese sponsors: Wadia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia Tuesday called for a gradual end to Chinese sponsorship in the Indian Premier League amid escalating tensions between the two countries owing to the violent clash in eastern Ladakh earlier this month.

Calls for boycotting Chinese products have intensified after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the Galwan Valley clash June 15. The Chinese have so far refused to share details of the casualties they suffered.

The incident prompted the BCCI to call a meeting of the IPL Governing Council to review Chinese sponsorships but that meeting is yet to take place. India, Monday, banned 59 Chinese apps.

"We should do it (sever ties with Chinese sponsors in IPL) for the sake of the nation. Country comes first, money is secondary. And it is the IPL, not the Chinese Premier League. It should lead by example and show the way," Wadia told PTI Tuesday.

"Yes it would be difficult to find sponsors initially but I am sure there are enough Indian sponsors who can replace them. We must have all the respect for the nation and our government and most importantly for the soldiers who risk their lives for us," said the known Indian businessman.

The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs to carry out a brutal attack on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a surveillance post by China on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control in Galwan.

The incident was the biggest confrontation between the two militaries after their 1967 clashes in Nathu La when India lost around 80 soldiers while the death toll on the Chinese side stood well over 300.

Chinese mobile phone maker Vivo is the IPL title sponsor and it



pays the BCCI ₹440 crore annually for the five-year deal ending in 2022.

Other companies involved in the IPL – Paytm, Swiggy, Dream 11 – have Chinese investments. Not just the IPL, the teams too attract Chinese sponsorship.

While Wadia made his stance clear, other teams, including Chennai Super Kings, said they will be happy to go with whatever the government decides.

"It will be tough to replace them initially but if it has to be done for the sake of the nation, we should do it," a CSK source told PTI. Another team owner said: "Let the government decide first, whatever they decide, we will follow."

However, Wadia said it is not right to await government's directive on the controversial subject as "it is our moral responsibility to stand with the nation at this hour".

"If I was the BCCI president, I would say find me an Indian sponsor for the upcoming season. Indian companies need to step up and see the same benefits and opportunities that Chinese companies have seen in the IPL, which is the best T20 league in the world."

Asked about the Chinese sponsorship in IPL teams, Wadia said: "The teams too should be given time to replace their Chinese sponsors. As I said, there are enough Indian companies which can replace them."

# FOR STOKES, STYLE MATTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 30: Star all-rounder Ben Stokes says he won't change his playing approach even if he is handed England's captaincy in the absence of regular skipper Joe Root for the Test series-opener against the West Indies.

Vice-captain Stokes is being speculated to replace Root, who is taking leave to be with his wife for the birth of their second child, for the first Test at Southampton from July 8.

"I hope that I always try to set the example in terms of attitude and commitment. If I am in charge that's not going to change the way that I go about things," Stokes was quoted as saying by the BBC.

Stokes had a phenomenal run in the past one year as he helped England to World Cup final victory and played a key role in his side's stunning Ashes win over Australia at Headingley.

The 29-year-old, who has played 63 Tests since 2013, says positivity influences his conduct on the field and that will continue.

"In terms of how I want to influence the game, I try to have a positive effect with the ball or bat in my hand. No matter what I do in terms of choosing what to do in a situation, it will always be the

positive route," the Durham all-rounder said.

If Stokes is given the captaincy, he will be first all-rounder since Andrew Flintoff to lead England and 81st skipper overall. He was named vice-captain in 2017 but he lost the position following the Bristol nightclub incident that year.

"Getting the opportunity to captain England is a huge honour – even if it's only the once you can still say 'yeah, I've captained England'. It's a huge honour to think about, and something I'm really looking forward to if the opportunity presents itself, but also at the same time I know I'm only stepping in for the one game because of Joe's personal situation."

Stokes does not have experience of leading a side but would bank on support from his experienced players. "We've got some really experienced guys out in the field who I can use. I'd like to think that I'll be quite an open captain and wouldn't want to just think that my way is the only way," he said.

"There are 11 guys out on the field, so why not get 10 other opinions on something that you're thinking about?"



IN TERMS OF HOW I WANT TO INFLUENCE THE GAME, I TRY TO HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT WITH THE BALL OR BAT IN MY HAND. NO MATTER WHAT I DO IN TERMS OF CHOOSING WHAT TO DO IN A SITUATION, IT WILL ALWAYS BE THE POSITIVE ROUTE  
BEN STOKES

# Bowlers now up against better batting units, feels Jayawardene



If you look at the top 10 wicket-takers in modern day cricket all of them played in that era (first half of his career). I missed out on Walsh and Kapil as I started just after that. There was Murali, Warne, McGrath, Kumble, Bhajji, Saqlain, Akram, Waqar, their numbers speak for themselves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 30: Sri Lankan great Mahela Jayawardene has tremendous respect for the legendary bowlers he faced in his heydays but feels the current lot of pacers and spinners is up against better batting units.

Former captain Jayawardene played as many as 652 international matches across formats during a career spanning close to two decades. At the peak of his career, international cricket was flooded with world-class bowlers, something many feel is not the case now.

"We are yet to see if the current crop of bowlers will hit the numbers that their predecessors did... The present bowlers are probably up against better batting units," Jayawardene said during an 'ESPNews' videocast with Sanjay Manjrekar.

On facing bowling attacks across two decades, the legendary batsman said, "If you look at the top 10 wicket-takers in modern day cricket all of them played in that era (first half of his career). I missed out on Walsh and Kapil as I started just after that."

"There was (Muttiah) Murali (

Muralitharan), (Shane) Warne, (Glenn) McGrath, Anil (Kumble), Bhajji (Harbhajan Singh), Saqlain (Mushtaq), Wasim (Akram), Waqar (Younis), their numbers speak for themselves. The bowlers I faced in my career improved tremendously over the years."

Jayawardene revealed that he started out in cricket as a fast bowler cum batsman and recalled the time when he was allowed by his parents to skip his exams to play in Hong Kong Sixes, a six-a-side slam-bang tournament in the pre-T20 era.

"I was really proud of my parents as that became my stepping stone because I performed well in that tournament. In school cricket I was a fast bowler and batted at number three, but unfortunately, like all youngsters that time we were not put through proper training and fitness programme..."

"... so later on when I improved and started playing first-class cricket, I had to give up fast bowling because I had some issues with my back. The advice was that I need to concentrate on my batting and not so much on my bowling, so I became a slow off-cutter."

Speaking further on his move to give up fast bowling, he said, "I

took the decision to give up bowling to have an effective career. I was fortunate to not miss a series because of a serious injury. No modern player plays without some type of niggle or other."

Asked about the illustrious former teammate Muralitharan, Jayawardene said the spin great was a difficult bowler 'to convince to do something he didn't want to'.

"Murali was a champion bowler even though he went about his game differently to others. Warne probably didn't have the variety that Murali had. Murali knew exactly what he was doing and believed in grinding a batsman down."

"Initially, Murali refused to bowl from around the wicket to right-handers, but once he tasted success from bowling around the wicket, we couldn't stop him from doing it."

As the discussion turned to his long-time colleague Kumar Sangakkara, Jayawardene had only words of appreciation. "He changed the way he batted over the years. The last six-seven years the numbers that he put on the board was phenomenal. I don't think any modern day cricketer has done that."

# Pak, Eng squads pass latest virus tests, says ECB

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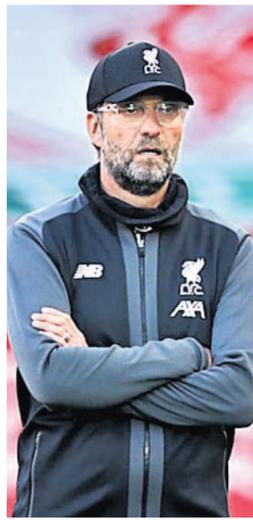
Southampton, June 30: The England and Pakistan cricket squads passed their latest coronavirus tests. All 20 players and 11 staff in the Pakistan squad have tested negative for COVID-19 since arriving Sunday, the England and Wales Cricket Board said Tuesday.

Pakistan is in a two-week quarantine in Worcester for a Test and Twenty20 series in August. All of England's players and management also were negative in their third round of tests Monday. They are in Southampton preparing for the first test next week against the West Indies.

Meanwhile, six Pakistan players picked for the tour who tested positive last week and had to stay home have tested negative for a second time in three days and have been cleared to join the squad in England.

The six were opening batsman Fakhar Zaman, allrounder Mohammad Hafeez, legspinner Shadab Khan, wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan and fast bowlers Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Hasnain.

# Reds don't need heavy spending: Klopp



AGENCIES

Liverpool, June 30: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp says he does not expect to spend heavily in the transfer window ahead of next season and sees a bright future for several youngsters looking to break into a strong main squad.

The Premier League champions had looked favourites to sign German striker Timo Werner from RB Leipzig before the 24-year-old opted for Chelsea.

Klopp said the upcoming transfer window was likely to be more subdued than in previous years due to the impact of COVID-19 on clubs' finances.

"COVID has influenced both sides with ins and outs, that is completely normal, and it's just not likely that it'll be the most busy summer in the world," he told reporters.

"We can't spend millions and millions because we want to, or we

# Mercedes to use black cars

REUTERS

Stuttgart, June 30: Formula One (F1) champions Mercedes unveiled black-liveried cars for the 2020 season Monday as part of a public pledge to further improve diversity within the team and the world of motorsport.

Mercedes have traditionally raced in silver throughout their time in Formula One but will switch to black and have 'End Racism' emblazoned on the halo of both cars.

The team said the Black Lives Matter movement has "shone a searching light on how much we need new measures and actions in

the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination".

The new livery will make its debut when Britain's world champion Lewis Hamilton and Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas feature in the season-opening Austrian Grand Prix Sunday.

"Racism and discrimination have no place in our society, our sport or our team: this is a core belief at Mercedes," Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff said in a statement here.

"But having the right beliefs and the right mindset isn't enough if we remain silent. We wish to use our voice and our global platform to

speak up for respect and equality, and the Silver Arrow will race in black for the entire 2020 season to show our commitment to greater diversity within our team and our sport."

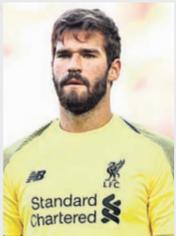
Mercedes said only three per cent of their workforce identified as belonging to minority ethnic groups, while just 12 per cent are women.

Six-times Formula One champion Hamilton said: "It's so important that we seize this moment and use it to educate ourselves whether you are an individual, brand or company to make real meaningful changes when it comes to ensuring equality and inclusivity."



# ALLISON THANKS KLOPP

Liverpool: Liverpool goalkeeper Allison thanked coach Jurgen Klopp for giving him the 'opportunity to become a legend' at the club. Allison joined Liverpool last season and helped the club win the Champions League and the Premier League in his time at Anfield. "The maximum respect I can have for a person, I have for him," the Brazilian goalkeeper told Liverpool's official website. "There's not many words that I could describe, maybe in Portuguese I can do that better! But yeah, he means, I think, everything for this club, for the squad. He brought us together here, he gave me the opportunity to come to Liverpool, he makes me feel special inside. My teammates make me feel special inside and the supporters also, everybody, but the boss has a special place in everything I think for everybody – for the club and also for the supporters because he gave his life to achieve those things that we are achieving. I will always respect him, have big respect for him, and also be thankful to him for bringing me here and giving me the opportunity to become a legend here for Liverpool."



think it's nice to do. We never wanted that. The problem with a strong squad is how do you improve a strong squad in the transfer market?" Klopp added.

"You have to be creative... We try to find solutions internally and there's still a lot to come: we have three or four players who can make big steps."