

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, JULY 2 | 2020

### /OLUME 10, ISSUE 91 | www.orissapost.com

### AMID DE-ESCALATION TALKS China deploys more troops along LAC

Two divisions of troops, each comprising 12,000 soldiers, along with heavy artillery are deployed on the Chinese side of the LAC

TAUTING AND AD E- THE COUNTRY

**BAHUDA YATRA** 

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, July 1: The Bahuda Yatra-re-

turn car festival-of Lord Jagannath

and his siblings was organised here

Wednesday in the absence of devotees.

and amid tight security and curfew.

The Holy City was virtually shut-

down to prevent gatherings in view

As the divine siblings - Lord

Jagannath, his elder brother Lord

Balabhadra and their sister Devi

Subhadra - embarked on their re-

turn journey to reach the Lions

Gate of Srimandir, the adminis-

tration appealed people to stay

home and watch the rituals on TV

The three deities ended their annual

nine-day sojourn to Srigundicha by

of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: Talks between the Indian and Chinese military delegates to resolve the border issue in Eastern Ladakh went on for around 12 hours, sources said. The meeting which started at 10.30 am ended at 11 pm Tuesday night, the sources said.

However, amid this de-escala-tion attempt, Indian intelligence agencies said Wednesday that Chinese People's Liberation Army has brought in troops of two more divisions along the Line of Actual Control near the disputed areas. The PLA troops have been deployed on the Chinese side of the LAC. This will escalate the matter

even though South Xinjiang military chief Major-General Liu Lin



had agreed to disengage troops from Galwan Valley during talks with Indian counterpart, Lieutenant General Harinder Singh, the commander of Leh-based XIV corps.

"In total, China has deployed around 24,000 soldiers more in the eastern Ladakh region," said

sources, adding that a division comprises of 12,000 soldiers. Sources further stated that the Chinese forces have also brought in heavy guns, tanks and fighter aircraft across the Line of Actual Control in a bid to aggravate the border situation. India is closely watching the development across the Line of Actual Control and has decided to carry out mirror deployment in the region. Moreover, it may be mentioned here that the Tuesday-meeting was third such one between the two sides. The last two meetings at Corps Commander-level were held June 6 and June 22. While Tuesday's meeting was held in Chushul on the Indian side, the previous two took place in Moldo on the Chinese side.

"All contentious areas during the current stand-off were discussed to stabilise the situation,' the sources said. China has agreed to move back in Pangong Tso but they did not. India claims Line of Actual Control at Finger 8 and Chinese are sitting between Finger 4 and Finger 5. Similar, differences exist in Depsang and Demchok.



12 PAGES | ₹4.00

### CHSE +2 exams cancelled, CBSE model followed

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The

state government, here Wednesday, cancelled examinations for all Plus-II pending subjects, conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), due to the spread of Covid-19 in the state.

The government also announced an alternative method of assessment, similar to the one announced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). School and Mass **Education minister Samir** Ranjan Dash said, "Examinations for all the pending papers of all streams – Arts, Commerce, Science and vocational education - have been cancelled.

Three chariots reach **CB arrests IIC hiding in woods** 

Srimandir Lions' Gate ■ Biramitrapur IIC traced from Angul forest ■ Odisha police apologises to minor rape survivor PNN & AGENCIES

> Bhubaneswar, July 1: Odisha Police's Crime Branch Wednesday arrested the inspector in-charge (IIC) of Biramitrapur police station from a forested area in Angul in connection with the sexual assault case involving a minor girl.

rested Ananda Chandra Majhi, dismissed Inspector and accused in this case from forested area under Handapa PS of Angul district. He will be produced before judicial court now. Well done Crime Branch of Odisha Police," (sic)

apology to the minor rape survivor

suspension June 26 for his alleged involvement in the rape and abortion of the 13-year-old girl, police said.

DGP Abhay Wednesday, they said. "His conduct was shameful. Our apologies to the young girl," the DGP

tweeted. Crime Branch probe into the incident. ranch visited Biramitrapur and

Accused IIC Ananda Chandra Maihi

Raiboga police stations in Sundargarh district as part of the investigation.

The inspector and some policemen are accused of raping the girl over a period of four months while a government doctor is accused of terminating her pregnancy at Biramitrapur Community



A police team on patrol duty found the girl roaming near a bus stand after she failed to return home from Biramitrapur.

When she was brought to the police station, the inspector allegedly raped her and released her the next morning, the complaint said. After that she was often called to the police station and allegedly repeatedly raped by some policemen, including the inspector.

The girl became pregnant after which her foetus was aborted, the complaint said. Six persons, including the inspector, doctor and the girl's stepfather, have been named as accused in the FIR. Kavita Jalan, the deputy inspector

general of police (Western Range), is supervising the case.

DGP has dismissed Inspector Ananda Chandra Majhi former IIC of Biramitrapur Police Station from service. His conduct was shameful .Our apologies to the young girl

-tweet by DGP ODISHA

erage of the marks in theory obtained in three papers will be awarded in the theory papers whose examination have not been conducted.

**REPLICATING CBSE** 

For the students who have appeared in the examination in only three papers, the average of the marks in theory obtained in best of two papers will be awarded in the theory papers whose examination have not been conducted.

For the compartmental exams where candidate has appeared all the required papers, marks will be declared basis of their performance. The department would try to publish the results by July 31, he added. "If the students are not

It may be mentioned here happy with their marks,

SJTA sources said the Mangal Alati ritual of the deities was performed at the Adapa Mandap of Srigundicha temple at 3.50 am Wednesday. Lord Sudarshan, the holy weapon of Lord Jagannath, was the first to reach the chariot through Pahandi, followed by Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra. Lord Jagannath was the last to as-

"All the deities were placed on their respective chariots through Pahandi procession by 9.55 am. Gajapati king Dibyasingha Deb performed the Chhera Pahanra ritual with a golden broom at 10.25 am. The pulling of chariots began at 11.25 am, at least 35 minute ahead of the schedule," said a Srimandir MORE P3

### The three chariots at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir, Wednesday

cend his chariot.

"Crime Branch has traced and ar-Odisha DGP Abhay said in a tweet.

The Odisha police also tendered an Wednesday.

The accused IIC was placed under He was dismissed from service by

The DGP had Tuesday ordered a A four-member team of the Crime

New Delhi, July 1: Jet fuel or

ATF price was hiked by 7.5 per

cent Wednesday, the third increase

in a month, while petrol and diesel

rates were unchanged for the sec-

national capital, according to a price

notification by state-owned oil mar-

This is the third straight in-

AGENCIES

ond day in a row.

Aviation turbine

fuel price was hiked

by ₹2,922.94 per kilo-

litre, or 7.48 per cent, to

₹41.992.81 per kl in the

keting companies.

### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



Meet my star cast... who are also my cousins. We are making a movie against nepotism.

### **UPSC** aspirants can change exam centre

New Delhi: The UPSC has allowed candidates for Civil Services (preliminary) examination, 2020 scheduled to be held October 4 to change their exam centres in view of coronavirus MORE P9 pandemic.

SENSEX **35414.45** 🕇 498.65

10430.00 127.90

₽ ₹0.10

VARIATION

**1** ₹0.02

₹592

₹ 850

Forecast

Partly cloudy sky

MARKET WATCH

INDEX

NIFTY

EURO

GOLD

WEATHER

MIN

max 36.5°

95%

Nil

SILVER

DOLLAR 75.80

84.88

₹48.170

₹48.801

СТК

36.4°(

85%

2mm

BOL

LPG price hiked for 2nd month
in a row, ATF price up by 7.5 pc

cent) increase June 16.

Simultaneously, non-subsidised cooking gas LPG rates were increased by Re 1 to ₹ 594 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital. On the other hand, petrol and diesel prices were unchanged for the second day in a row.

Petrol and diesel This, after diesel prices were rates scaled a new unchanged for the high after prices were hiked 22 times in just second day in a row over three weeks. While the diesel price has been

hiked on 22 occasions since June 7, petrol price has been raised on 21 occasions.

crease in ATF prices in a month. The cumulative increase since the Rates were hiked by a record 56.6 OMCs started the cycle June 7 toper cent (Rs 12,126.75 per kl) June tals to ₹9.17 for petrol and ₹11.14 for 1, followed by ₹5,494.5 per kl (16.3 per diesel

### Attention! Now, you have to pay more for banking services

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: From Wednesday many banking services and norms changed. These changes are going to directly impact bank customers. In order to give people some relief during the pandemic, the government had relaxed some rules of financial services like bank transaction charges after exhausting free cash withdrawal limit on ATM. minimum account balance.

The relaxation was announced for three months — April, May, June — the deadline was June 30, 2020.

### **Bank deposits:**

Bank account holders will get a lesser amount on bank deposits in terms of interest rates. Savings account minimum balance:

savings account (depending upon bank to bank). The amount varies from bankto-bank. ATM cash withdrawal rules:

The SBI has waived off service charges for all ATM transactions made not only on SBI ATMs but other bank ATMs as well but it was till Tuesday. SBI allows eight free transactions to its regular savings account holders to transact in a month. Different banks have different ATM withdrawal rules

From July 1, all bank customers will have

to maintain a minimum balance in their

#### **Account Freeze:**

Reportedly, a bank account may become frozen if the banking customer fails to submit documents needed to continue the banking services



that these examinations were scheduled between March 23 and March 28.

The Department of School & Mass Education took the decision following the Unlock 2.0 restrictions imposed by the Centre on reopening of educational institutions across the country in view of growing number of Covid cases.

The Minister added that at this juncture it is too risky to conduct exams when the cases were on a rise

He informed that for the students who have appeared in the examination in more than three papers, the av-

tions 2020 in the streams of Arts, Science, Commerce and Vocational course had been postponed by the CHSE with effect from March 23 till further orders due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

provement in the exami-

nation after the Covid-19

CHSE will conduct an op-

crisis is over," Dash said.

tional examination in the

subjects whose exams were

scheduled to be conducted

from March 23, 2020 to

March 28, 2020 as soon as

conditions are conducive

as assessed and decided by

Earlier. Plus II examina

the state government.

US hit by wave of big ticket bankruptcies The bankruptcies this year have already gone past the number and volume seen in 2008, when began global financial crisis

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: The US is witnessing a wave of bankruptcies of erstwhile storied names especially in the retail and energy sector due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The bankruptcies this year due to Covid-19 have already gone past the number and volume seen in 2008, the year of the global Financial Crisis.

The biggest bankruptcy has been Hertz, the car rental company.

The bankruptcy list is dominated by sectors like restaurants, construction, real estate, healthcare, oil and gas, retail, transportation, agriculture, banking and financial services and telecom.

Major US retailers J.C. Penney, Neiman Marcus, J. Crew, Gold's Gym, True Religion Apparels,



among others, have filed for bank-(Reorganization Bankruptcy) of ruptcy under Chapter 11 the US Bankruptcy Code in the past

#### few months.

Analysts expect more bankruptcy filings in industries like retail and the energy sector, which have been hit by lower demand.

Chesapeake Energy, a shale oil company, filed for bankruptcy protection Sunday. With assets of roughly \$16.2 billion and liabilities of \$11.8 billion, the filing represents the fourth-largest bankruptcy this year.

The other big bankruptcies include Latam Airlines, Frontier Communications, Intelsat, McDermott International, Whiting Petroleum, Avianca Holdings Diamond Offshore Drilling, Extraction Oil and Gas, Hornbeck Offshore, Foresight Services, Unit Corporation, Chuck E Cheese, Stage Stores, LSC Communications and **Quorum Health** 



- The precious metal had the best quarter, April-June, in more than four years in terms of price rise
- Internationally, gold price is near an eight-year high, trading at around the \$1,800/oz
- Experts predict that with the current trend, gold may reach historic levels around ₹65,000 per 10 gm in two years' time

### GOLD PRICES ALL-TIME HIGH

### ₹48,982

MCX Gold hit fresh all-time high per 10 gm Wednesday; rallying nearly 24 pc this yr

- Fear of second wave of Covid, easy liquidity by Central banks across the globe (which has pushed interest rates down) and trade war between USA and China are making gold an attractive hedging option
- Analysts expect domestic futures to touch ₹52,000 per 10 gm in the next few months till Diwali























### **LOCKDOWN MAKES JAMIL LESS IGNORANT**

Actress Jameela Jamil feels the COVID-19 has helped her become a less ignorant person. In an interview with Grazia magazine, Jameela spoke about how the ongoing pandemic changed her perspective about life.

### WAITING FOR SMITH **UNVEILS LINES OF LOVE**

British singer-songwriter Harry Lloyd, also known as Waiting For Smith, has released his song Lines Of Love which was inspired by a long-distance phone call. The song is a plea for someone to hold on through a difficult time in their life.



### FORTUNE **FORECAST**

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

You need to be very cautious today, says Ganesha. The results of a lot of hard work over a long time may be undone by one impulsive decision. After a stressful morning, you could just wish to spend time with children, playing their childish games.

### TAURUS

This day, you will be able to express and communi cate your ideas and feelings very convincingly, assures Ganesha. All those to who come in contact with you today will be clear, and appreciative about whatever you tell them.

GEMINI

Your sensitive and emotional nature will prove to be a problem for you. Hence you need to control your emotions. Tread carefully when it comes to personal relationships. You need to wait for a better time before you think of proposing to that special someone, savs Ganesha

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

CANCER You will be in a joyous mood. You will be delighted in whatever task

you do. Financial matters will confound you, with even a petty issue causing tension.



serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focussed and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning

### 

Ganesha advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work

### 

Ganesha says that you will be able to attain a huge benefit because of your nature to take chances. Higher ups in the office will take notice of your skills and ability to work well. Seniors in your office will promote and inspire you to give your best Ganesha says this is not a good time to get into a direct fight with anyone since it will lead to more problems and issues.

### **Multi-million dollar TV deal for Priyanka**

Los Angeles: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has signed a two-vear multimillion dollar. first-look television deal with the global streaming platform Amazon. A general meeting with

Amazon Studios head Jennifer Salke led to the first-look deal. 'Priyanka and I bonded

over a shared passion for diverse global storytelling," Salke said, adding: "Priyanka is drawn to exciting original content and characters that can resonate globally. She's a powerhouse producer; and we are thrilled to collaborate with her for years to come." "My quest really is to be

able to tell female stories, work with creators from around the world and create a cross-pollination of storytelling," Priyanka said. adding: "Amazon is such a great partner to do that be-

**ELNAAZ TO** 

**RAISE FUNDS** 

**FOR MIGRANT** 

**WORKERS** 

Berlin: Sacred

Games actress

Elnaaz Norouzi

is going to cele-

brate her birth-

day by doing a

Ahead of her

birthday July 9,

Elnaaz will raise

good deed.

cause their reach and outlook is so global. My Amazon television deal is a global deal, so I can do Hindi language, I can do English language, I can do whatever language I want." Presently, Priyanka is also

collaborating with Amazon on two television projects. The first is *Sangeet*, an unscripted series co-produced with her hus-

band, Nick Jonas. The other project is Citadel. Anthony and Joe Russo's spy series in which she will star with

Richard Madden.



In the images, the actress is seen wearing a shimmery top, has kept her hair G open and has completed the look with subtle make-up and pink lip colour.

In the first picture, Jacqueline is looking sideways, and in another she stares right into the camera while gazing outside the window.

Recently, the actress shared that the COVID-19 pan-

too short. We need to value each day to the fullest and make the most of each day we are living," Jacqueline said. On the work front,

Jacqueline recently made her digital debut in the web series

Mrs Serial Killer and launched an online dance com petition, Home Dancer.

### City TikTok users not ready to bargain on national security

**BLOCKING OF CHINESE MOBILE APPLICATIONS SOUNDS LOGICAL GIVEN THE UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION OF** THE PLA AND THE SUBSEQUENT **KILLING OF INDIAN SOLDIERS ON LAC, SAYS ACTRESS ANNIE ANUBHUTI** 

### CHAITALI SHOME, OP

Bhubaneswar: With addition of millions of users every month worldwide, the Chinese mobile application TikTok was gradually becoming an addiction for countless teens and twines. However, it was often alleged that the app, despite providing a platform to the youth to showcase their skills, caused more harm than good to them. Therefore, the ban imposed by the Centre on several Chinese mobile apps including TikTok Monday to deal with the threat to country's 'sovereignty and

security' came as a relief to many.

In the backdrop of Sino-Indian standoff, some avid users. including a few celebrities, of this Chinese app tell Orissa POST on how they view the restrictions

Actress Manaswini who has more than 127K followers on Tik Tok says, "This popular app certainly offered a platform to the youth, those living in rural pockets in particular, to showcase their skills. However: I am with my country and my heart bleeds for our soldiers who made supreme sacrifices in the Galwan Vallev in eastern Ladakh. We need to stand by the government and sav 'no' to all those which



me hone my dancing and acting skills. But there is no question of compromising with the security of my country. Therefore, the ban on the Chinese apps sounds logical given the unprovoked aggression of PLA and killing of our bravehearts," says Anubhuti.

"Now, we should pull our shocks up to develop indigenous apps that can compete with the ones churned out by Chinese," she adds.

Charan who works with a local IT company as a software developer has been extremely critical of TikTok for long. "I am really excited with the blocking of this app as it will surely save precious time of the youth who used to spend hours shooting short clips," says the jubilant pro-

grammer. He goes on to add. "I don't think

the ban will have much an impact on Indians as they can still reveal their skills using apps like Bolo Indya which already

has clocked 100K + downloads in a short span. Then there are other popular Indian apps such as Roposo, Chingari and Share Chat also.'

Lifestyle coach Riddhi Varma who recently launched her online counseling sessions for the youth feels that it is just a matter time the youngsters overcome this TikTok madness. 'We have enough talent in our country to develop something better than this time-consuming Chinese app," adds Varma.

Homemaker Madhusmita Parekh who is also a TikTok star says she is now searching for other options to show her skills on social media platforms.



money to help feed six to seven thousand families of Indian migrant workers. This will be done in association with an NGO. Whatever money is raised by Elnaaz and her fans. will directly go to the NGO for

the cause. "A few weeks back I saw a video of some migrant workers crying and saying that they don't even have money to eat roti. It was such a heartbreaking video. I am helping the ones I know around me but there are so many more who need help," she said. "I'm so fortunate and could survive and live well for one more year. I needed to give back. India has given me the life that I have now, I want to thank the people with this small gesture.' added the Iran-born and German-raised actress.

Numbai: Actress Jacqueline Fernandez feels cinema is the most beautiful fraud in the world. "Cinema.. the most fraud in " fraud in the world... inside looking

out," Jacqueline posted on Instagram along with pictures of herself.



what you see. Remember believing in rumours may lead to ugly situations. Your efforts to be different and stand out would pay off well, predicts Ganesha.

### SAGITTARIUS

The day begins on a bright note and you decide to flaunt your sunny side up, foresees Ganesha. At home front, sharing of work with your partner will keep the home atmosphere peaceful and harmonious. Both of you discover a joy is cleaning and cooking together.

### **CAPRICORN**

At times you are very direct in your approach and often end up hurting your near ones badly.

Today, you'll bandage some old wounds and make efforts to restore old relation ships, says Ganesha. But, your struggle to improve rapport may not be as successful as you want it to be.

### 

Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quicksand, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today.



### PEANUTS



OH NO!

### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**





THE-DEEPEST-HOLE-IN-THE-WORLD ADDICTION BEEN GOING?



TikTok. Annie Anubhuti is another actress who has 134K followers on TikTok. "I have no hesitation in admitting that the app has helped

are Chinese.

I believe, we

enough tal-

ents in our

country to

design a bet-

ter app than

have





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### SUDOKU

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

D				4						В	1	5		
			3					9		D	Α		С	
			С		8		В		Е		0	1		3
В		2							5		С	8		
			0						4	2				Е
				Α		3				1		С		
			2		в	9		С		0				
9							Е	5					8	В
6		С			5			0	8		7		1	
				0				1	D	4			7	5
					Α	5	D	8	2			4		7
2	А		5	6				2	9		Е			
	8			3				6		7				
	1	4				0			А				2	С
				С				4			D	9	В	А







BOTTOM AGAIN.



WHY IS IT YOU ALWAYS RIP YOUR PANTS ON THE DAY EVERYONE HAS TO DEMONSTRAT A MATH PROBLEM AT THE CHALKBOARD?

Ū









### PRAYER TIME

An elderly woman offers prayers to Lord Jagannath from a distance near Srimandir, Wednesday

### **DANCE & DEVOTION**

Artistes perform Odissi at Saradhabali near Srigundicha temple ahead of the pulling of chariots, Wednesday



### **ORGANISATIONAL RESTRUCTURING** Anang, Acharya, 6 others given sr VP posts in BJD

The party may induct about 20 general secretaries and as many secretaries in the new team soon

SC empowerment.

tional secretary.

team, sources said

the source said.

Naveen appointed senior leader

Sanjay Das Burma as general sec-

retary, (headquarters). Earlier,

Jajpur MLA Pranab Prakash Das

was appointed as the organiza-

Appointment of new office bear-

ers was put on hold due to Covid-

19 pandemic. Since today is an aus-

picious day, Naveen started

induction of new leaders in the

president for the eighth consecutive

term in February this year. BJD

sources said the party may appoint

about 20 general secretaries and

team. The regional party will soon

organisations — students, youth

Naveen was reelected as the BJD

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: On the auspicious occasion of Bahuda Yatra, Chief Minister and BJD President Naveen Patnaik started re-shaping his team by appointing new vice-presidents.

For the first time since inception of the BJD in 1997, the party has appointed senior vice-presidents as office bearers.

Senior leaders Anang Uday Singh Deo, Bijayshree Routray, Prasanna Acharya, Prasanna Patasani, Prafulla Samal, Lal Bihari Himrika. Ananta Das and Bimbadhar Kuanr have been appointed as senior vice presidents of the BJD, party general secretary (media affairs) Manas Ranjan Mangaraj said in a press note.

Similarly, Mangala Kisan, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Debi Prasad Mishra, Bikram Keshari Arukha, Usha Devi, Pramila Mallick, Badri Narayan Patra, Pradip Kumar Amat and Padmanabha Behera were appointed as new vice-presidents.

The new vice-presidents have been given charge of various programmes of the party.

Mangala Kisan has been given as many secretaries in the new charge of tribal empowerment & minority affairs while Soumya Ranjan restructure its three key frontal Patnaik will be responsible for art, culture & human resources develand women wings-and form comopment. Likwise, Debi Mishra will mittees for various district units, be in charge of Odisha: Mo Parivar

### MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 1: With the petrol and diesel prices shooting above ₹81 per litre, several home delivery service providers here have increased the delivery charges while many are planning to revise tariffs.

Several mobile application platforms and other service providers are citing the fuel price hike as the reason for increasing their charges and shifting the burden to customers. Many of the service providers who were providing free home delivery service have also started increasing their charges.

"Owing to increase in fuel prices, per packet milk cost will see an increase by 50 paise on MRP which will be included in delivery charges

### **FUEL PRICE HIKE**

from July 6. This is required to support the delivery team," an update from HomeXpress, home delivery app for milk and groceries, told its customer.

Several other players have also joined the fray. "Earlier, we were providing free home delivery but now we have started charging ₹20 per delivery for below ₹1,000 orders. The fuel price hike has increased our overhead expenditures," another retail brand said requesting anonymity.

"Many middle class salaried employees, engaged in private sector, have been receiving half the salaries from their employers due to rev-

enue loss. At this juncture, the double whammy will add more costs monthly and it may compel citizens to venture out more for shopping,' said Nitya Panigrahi, a housewife from Bhubaneswar.

Home delivery charges go up in City Govt hikes bus fares

Debasis Mohanty, a civil service aspirant from city said. "The repercussions of hiked fuel prices are already felt. Several essential items have become costlier by a few rupees. Several traders are now feeling the pinch of fuel price hike.'

While several of the home delivery operators have already escalated their charges, some are now planning to revise their charges based on assessment of their businesses and additional costs likely to be incurred due to fuel price hike.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Following

a continuous rise in fuel prices, the

state government, Wednesday,

hiked bus fares for passengers.

The increase in ticket prices is

for across the categories and has

been implemented through

the automatic fare adjustment

partment in a notification said that

the fares of ordinary and express

buses have been increased by 2

fare has been increased by 4 paise

For deluxe and AC buses the

The Commerce and Transport de-

mechanism.

paise per km.

per km.

Now, ordinary buses will charge 72 paise/km while express buses will charge 75 paise/km

Deluxe buses will charge ₹1.05/km as against ₹1.01 p/km

charge 75 paise/km. Earlier the fares were 70 p/km and 73 p/km respectively.

On the other hand, deluxe buses will now charge ₹1.05/km as against ₹1.01 p/km. Similarly, air conditioned buses will charge ₹1.27 per km as against ₹1.23 per km earlier. The fare was revised due to in-

crease in diesel price from ₹73.42 per litre June 16 to ₹78.67 per litre July 1, official sources said. The bus fares in the state were

Now, ordinary buses will charge 72 paise/km while express buses will last revised June 16.

### Elderly can consult docs online through Sachetak app

Bhubaneswar, July 1: With a view to protecting senior citizens from the novel coronavirus, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday, organised an awareness programme at Biju Patnaik Park here to help the elderly people understand the functionality and benefits of the Sachetak app.

bv

The app, developed Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), and commissioned by BMC, exclusively meant for the co-morbid and senior citizens in the Capital city.

More than 50 senior citizens of the city attended the first edition of the programme between 6am and 7am with a lot of enthusiasm and curiosity to know about the mo-

spoke about how the app helps in consulting doctors online.

### **BENEFITS OF BSCL'S APP**

Helps in exploring resources shared on Covid protection Consulting a doctor online for specific diseases

Viewing responses from doctors Viewing updates on Covid guarantine and

positive cases in your ward as well as other wards and Bhubaneswar and Odisha

Updating the profile if necessary Share feedback & refer friends and family

> Zone participated in the workshop and helped senior citizens personally in addressing their queries and downloading the app on the spot.

"It's a very good initiative by BMC to protect the vulnerable people (adults/senior citizens) as they become more prone to infections due to several factors. We cannot avoid some of these risks but as a society, we have to learn and obey the guidelines and cooperate with the government for the larger good," said RB Nayak, 73, a retired IAS officer, who

### How to download it

he Sachetak app is currently available for download on the Google play store of android phones and one can view it on www.sachetakapp.in. Users can register themselves using their mobile number and a one-time password (OTP). After registering, one has to enter the age, occupation, ward of residence in Bhubaneswar, address, comorbidity or existing diseases, any type or surgery etc. caregiver and doctor details. This database will help identify people at risk. The BMC can also use this data to plan healthcare camps in advance for a particular area where vulnerable groups are present.

attended the programme and was seen downloading the Sachetak App. The app helps the civic body in keeping track of the vulnerable section of the society in the city.



programme, Arukha environment, Usha Devi social welfare, Pramila POST NEWS NETWORK Mallick women empowerment, Badri Patra regional development, Amat Sashakta Odisha and Behera

bile application. During the hour-long programme, Water Resources department joint secretary and senior supervising officer, Covid-19, BMC, Subrat Panda joined the event as chief speaker and

"As elderly population and senior citizens are most vulnerable to Covid-19, they should use this app extensively to consult with specialist doctors without stepping out of their homes," Panda advised.

Similarly, Zonal Deputy Commissioner of BMC South East Zone, Ansuman Rath, too addressed the occasion and urged senior citizens to take precautions even at home such as wearing masks, avoiding exposure to those who cough or sneeze and to avoid unnecessary

visits to public places.

"The Sachetak app will prove to be a really helpful tool for senior citizens to avail basic medical services as well as in the dissemination of essential information related to Covid-19. Such programmes will be conducted on a regular basis at different places in order to reach out to the senior citizens of the city to ensure their safety and well-being," Rath explained.

Besides, Covid sachetaks and community organisers of South East



Lord Balabhadra. Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath being taken to their chariots from Srigundicha temple in Puri through Pahandi procession. Wednesday







Lord Sudarshan being taken to the chariot

Gajapati king Dibyasingha Deb performs Chhera Pahanra ritual

Hundreds of servitors pull Taladhwaja chariot of Lord Balabhadra towards Srimandir



Darpadalan chariot rolls on the Grand Road

### Deities to glitter in golden attire today

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 1: Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra would be adorned with Suna Besha (golden attire) on their chariots at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir here Thursday.

However, the unique ritual would be performed without the congregation of devotees on the Grand Road due to the Covid-19 restrictions, said an official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

As per the legend, Suna Besha ritual of the deities was introduced during the reign of Gajapati king Kapilendra Deb. This ritual is also called as 'Bada Tadhau Besha' of Lord Jagannath, said a researcher.

### **UNIQUE RITUAL**

he unique ritual would be performed without congregation of devotees on the Grand Road due to the Covid-19 restrictions

Servitors would collect gold and silver ornaments from the outer chamber of Ratna Bhandar amid tight security Thursday morning

As per the tradition, the three deities are adorned with gold and silver ornaments as part of the Suna Besha ritual, he added.

SJTA sources said servitors would collect gold and silver ornaments from the outer chamber of Ratna Bhandar, temple treasury room, amid tight security Thursday morning. The ornaments would be spruced up in the presence of Bhandar Mekap and skilled goldsmiths.

"Servitors would adorn the deities with the ornaments between 4pm and 5 pm. The deities will appear in golden attire for two to three hours." said the temple official.

The district administration has imposed curfew at the stretch from Market Square to the Lions' Gate for the organisation of Suna Besha ritual. "Security personnel would be on high alert during the ritual. Security cordons would be thrown around the three chariots. We urge the devotees to witness the Suna Besha ritual on television," said SJTA chief administrator Krishan Kumar.



Nandighosa chariot on its way to Srimandir

### **OrissaPOST** THURSDAY | JULY 2 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

### downtown

### State entering critical phase in Covid fight: CM

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: With the return of seven lakh plus migrant workers to the state and the beginning of the monsoon season, the state is entering into a critical phase on its fight against COVID-19, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said here Wednesday.

While interacting with party MLAs through video conferencing, Naveen said, "Odisha is in a better state in our fight against COVID. We have one of the highest recoverv rates in the country and one of the lowest mortality rates anywhere. We still have a long way to go and we have entered the most challenging phase in our fight against COVID-19.'

Stating that nearly seven lakh people have returned to the state after lockdown, he said, the state could manage the situation due to its unique concept of temporary medical camp facilities.

The state government has borne the train charges and has disbursed ₹2000 to each person in quarantine from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). In addition, 14 days food and all other facilities were provided free of cost, Naveen said.

This facility of the government is provided to all residents of Odisha irrespective of their financial status and all Odia people have availed



Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain interacts with CM Naveen Patnaik through videoconferencing PIC: TWITTER

the benefits, he said. Apart from this, he said, the state government has provided 4-month ration and pensions in advance while Mission Shakti groups provided 2.5 crore meals to vulnerable people. "From setting up COVID hospi-

tals to making medical equipment available and training of manpower. we have done it in record time. Whether it is lockdown or shutdown, our approach has been scientific. And our strategy has been community-based with monitoring through advanced technology,"

the Chief Minister said. Due to the efforts of sarpanchs, community institutions, Covid war-

Nilanjana Mukherjee, Associate

Vice President, Operations and

Administration of the hospital

said, "As a responsible corporate

riors and sacrifice of 4.5 crore people, Odisha became a model state in COVID management, he said. adding, "We've further decentralized our monitoring system to the ward level." "All of you are leaders and respected in your areas. People look up to you in these crucial times. This situation of Corona pandemic will be your biggest challenge in pub-

lic life as it concerns lives and deaths of people," he told the legislators. He asked the MLAs to scale up Jeevan Bindu programme, engage party workers in all COVID related works, spread awareness on masks & social distancing and to take care of elderly people.

### PARRYING THE PANDEMIC

he state government has borne the train charges and has disbursed ₹2000 to each person in guarantine from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund

n addition. 14 days food and all other facilities were provided free of cost

Odisha government has provided four-month ration and pensions in advance while Mission Shakti groups provided 2.5 crore meals to vulnerable people

As no public gathering is allowed in this situation, the party lawmakers were asked to use other methods to reach out to people.

About 50,000 COVID Care Committees at ward level have been formed and provided with ₹10,000 each from CMRF. Each panchayat will have Covid Care Home for which ₹50,000 is sanctioned for every home, Naveen said MLAs.

"You are very important. People have reposed faith in your leadership. In your every act, every move, every step you should inspire our workers and people at large to follow COVID guidelines and take care of themselves and their families," he said.



CMC commissioner Ananya Das flags off battery-operated vehicles meant for waste collection in Cuttack, Wednesday

### Vehicle sale slumps in June

Cuttack: Around 43,300 vehicles were sold in Odisha in June compared to 64,000 units in the same month last year, an official of State Transport Authority said Wednesday, attributing the slump to coronavirus-induced lockdown. The vehicles sold this year include 34,000 two-wheelers and 3,000

four-wheelers. The nation went into a lockdown March 24. "Vehicle showrooms among the commercial establishments had been closed to curb the spread of the virus. The showrooms, however, resumed operations May 4 and the state recorded a sale of around 15,193 vehicles," said the official.

### IMD predicts heavy rainfall for 4 days

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday said heavy rainfall is likely to lash several parts of the state during next four days.

The monsoon was reactivated in the state. A cyclonic circulation also lay over interior Odisha and its neighbourhoods at 0.9 km above the mean sea level.

Under its impact, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Nawarangpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Sundargarh and Jharsuguda, Thursday.



In the same time, thunderstorm with lightening will also occur at a few places of Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sonepur, Boudh, Kandhamal, Bolangir, Nayagarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts Thursday.

Heavy rainfall will occur at some places of Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jajpur and Dhenkanal districts while Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jajpur and Dhenkanal districts will witness heavy rain on the next day, the IMD said.

### AMRI Hospitals holds health camp for cops

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The AMRI Hospitals in Bhubaneswar Wednesday conducted health screening of police personnel who are toiling hard to help the citizens fight COVID 19 outbreak

A special team of doctors and para-medical staff was deployed to conduct their health screening at Khandagiri Police Station and AMRI City Centre at Saheed Nagar Wednesday where around 100 police personnel got their health checked and underwent physician consultation.

healthcare service provider, AMRI Hospitals has extended its helping hand by launching this initiative. Being a COVID warrior, it is our duty to stand by other COVID warriors and overcome this crisis as a team.

Under the programme, police personnel of Bhubaneswar will receive complementary basic health check up services at AMRI City Centre, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar for the next few days.

### GREENER TOMORROW



### **ECoR launches** awareness drive on COVID-19

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Wednesday launched a week-long awareness drive at all the stations in its jurisdiction to sensitise rail users and employees on the measures required to keep the coronavirus at bay

The campaign was launched at the zonal headquarters here, divisional headquarters at Visakhapatnam, Khurda Road, Sambalpur and other railway units like loco sheds and carriage workshops, said an official.

Inaugurating the week-long awareness drive, ECoR general manager Vidya Bhushan said, "During this pandemic situation, we should follow precautionary guidelines for our safety whenever going out for any essential work

He said since the pandemic is first-of-its-kind in recent times, everyone should be alert and take all precautions like proper hand washing/sanitisation. use of face masks and maintain social distance so that infection due to COVID-19 could be prevented.

### State's nCoV tally up to 7,316 AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The state reported 251 new COVID-19 cases Wednesday, taking Odisha's tally to 7,316, a health department official said. A 52-year-old COVID-19 patient

died in Ganjam district, but the state government attributed the death to terminal lung cancer. '... to inform that a 52-year-old

male COVID positive patient of Ganjam district passed away due to terminal cancer of the lungs with brain metastasis," the department said in a statement.

Seven other coronavirus patients had died earlier and their deaths were attributed to 'non-COVID reasons', the official said, adding that the state has so far confirmed 25 deaths due to coronavirus. Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 14 fatalities, followed by five in Khurda, four in Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh and Puri, he said.

Of the total 251 fresh COVID-19 cases, 208 have been detected from quarantine centres where people returning from different states are lodged for preliminary observation and care. Their contact tracing is underway, he said.

Ganjam district reported the highest of 102 new cases, followed by 32 in Cuttack, 26 in Khurda, 14 in Nayagarh, 12 each in Puri and Bargarh and 10 in Malkangiri. Twelve other districts reported single digit cases. With another NDRF personnel testing positive for the infection, the number of disaster response personnel testing positive for COVID-19 has risen to 294. The number of infections in the BSF is 53, the official said The state tested 5,247 samples



over last 24 hours, taking the total number of tests conducted so far to ,70,678

#### City sees 12 fresh cases in last 24 hrs

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday said that 12 more people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the City in ast 24 hours.

While four of them are home quarantine cases, eight are local contact ones. "Further contact tracing is still continuing. Primary contacts and nearby houses are being quarantined, sanitised and will be under active surveillance (sic)," the civic body said, adding that all positive cases have been shifted to dedicated COVID hospitals.

According to a notification issued by BMC, as of Wednesday morning, 332 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 192 have recovered. While there are 135 active cases, four persons succumbed to the disease.

Active cases: 1,930 Recoveries: 5,353 Deaths: 25 Tests: 2,70,678

### **Curbs on movement** from 9 pm to 5 am

n a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19, the twin city police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi Wednesday directed prohibition of movement for all non-essential activities between 9 pm and 5 am in Cuttack as well as in Bhubaneswar till July 31, an official statement read. The move came just a day after the state government prescribed guidelines for Unlock 2.0.

from Ganjam, 31 from Jagatsinghpur, 26 from Balasore, 25 from Cuttack, 12 from Jajpur, 12 from Khurda, three each from Kendrapara and Sundargarh, two from Keonihar. and one each from Bhadrak and Nayagarh. With this, total recoveries in the state now stand at 5,353. According to state government as of Wednesday, 7,316 people have so far been tested positive for COVID-19 in the state out of which 1.930 cases are active. 5.353 have recovered and 25 persons have died. Another eight persons died of comorbidities while undergoing COVID-19 treatment.

Lensmen plant a sapling near Barabati Fort in Cuttack, Wednesday OP PHOTO

During the drive, demonstration was being done on proper hand washing and sanitising procedure. This apart, Railway Medical Director, Dr A Senapati, demonstrated on proper way to wear mask. Face masks were also distributed on the occasion

Liquid soap and alcohol-based hand sanitisers were provided at the entrance of the platforms and at other railway establishments.

### 164 recoveries

The health and family welfare department Wednesday said that 164 persons, who earlier tested positive for COVID-19, have recovered and are being discharged.

Out of the 164 persons, 48 are

The Met department said, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at one or two places over Deogarh, Angul, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Sonepur, Bolangir, Nuapada, Nawarangpur, June 4.

Besides, some pockets of Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts will receive heavy downpour, June 5.

the students, 1,500 masks were delivered to the district administra-

tion a day before the 'Bahuda Yatra'

based on the colours of the three

chariots of the Trinity, i.e.

Nandighosha, Darpadalan and

Taladhwaja. So, most of the masks

green-red pattern.

had a vellow-red, black-red and

The colours of the masks were

### **CLASSIFIED**

### LOST

I, Prakash Chandra Nayak, S/o.- Bhimasen Nayak, At-Dihapur, P.O.-Chapamanik, P.S.-Brahmagiri, Dist.- Puri announced that I have lost the original RSD No.- 525 Dt.09.02.1998. Executed by Narayan Das in favour of Sibanarayan Mahasuar and RSD No.- 3777 Dt. 27.09.1999. Executed by Sibanarayan Mahasuar to Laxmipriya Khuntia while returning Puri to Brahmagiri by Auto on Dt. 22/06/2020. If any kind hearted person found the same please contact above Address or Mob.-9439007410.

### Parents' outfit moves **OHRC over e-classes**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The Odisha Abhibhabak Mahasangha wrote to the Odisha Human Rights Commission chairman Bimala Prasad Das Wednesday demand-

ing its intervention in the issue of around 38 lakh students out of 60 lakh students of the government schools in the state not being able to get online teaching and classes which was accepted by School and Mass Education Minister

Samir Ranjan Dash recently. Chairman of Mahasangha, Basudev Bhatt alleged that this is the violation of the RTE Act and the government should provide online



of coordination in pro-

in Odisha, he said.

don't have android phones and lack of network are being denied the right to get education. Most of this students are from poor family and can't afford the internet facility on their own, for them the government must do something. Due to lack

viding online education, some students in other states such as West Bengal, Assam and Kerala committed suicide. This can happen

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Even though no devotees got a chance to attain the Bahuda Yatra of the Trinity this year, students, staff and the authorities of the Government ITI in Bhubaneswar are feeling blessed as the face masks worn by 1,500 sevayats (servitors) at the Bahuda festival in Puri Wednesday were supplied by the institute.

Principal Jeetamitra Satapathy said this is a great honour for our institution as the Puri district administration had chosen us to provide stitched masks for 1,500 servitors.

'Though it was a difficult task, it is the blessings of Lord Jagannath and efforts of our students and staff due to which our institution was able to provide masks to the servitors within time," added Satapathy.



They design masks for Srimandir servitors

Notably, Puri District Collector Balwant Singh had requested the premier institute of the state to make the masks for the servitors and delivered those on time. Sources said, students and staff at the institute rallied around and deliv-

provide masks to the servitors within time ered the JEETAMITRA SATAPATHY masks on PRINCIPAL OF GOVERNMEN ITI IN BHUBANESWAR

time. According to

Satpathy, the institution got the order last Friday. Due

Ten student volunteers of the Government ITI's Dress Making Trade stitched the masks while five students did the packaging.

It can be stated here that the institute has got 14 trades and most of them are in high demand as it has one of the finest workshops and laboratory facili-

to the joint efforts of the staff and

ties and a well-knit industry linked placement system in place.

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STAT

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









## **Massive violations of lockdown norms in Ganjam**

**RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION GO FOR A TOSS IN GANJAM AS CROWDS SWARM** AROUND MARKET PLACES LITTLE CARING FOR THE NEED TO ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING NORMS

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 1: Restrictions triggered by the spread of coronavirus have gone for a toss as people in Silk City rushed to stock up essentials with the lifting of the four day shutdown, Wednesday.

All market places in the city witnessed unprecedented crowds with people resorting to panic buying violating social distancing guidelines imposed by the Centre and the state government

The fact that the district has turned out to be a Covid hotspot in the country seemed no worry for locals. Apprehending further spread of the disease, the district administration had imposed a complete shutdown in the city for four days

### The Covid positive cases are alarmingly rising in Ganjam while the virus has spread its tentacles in 35 areas under BeMC

### starting from Saturday.

People were seen crowding various markets, vending zones, grocery stores, fruits shops, garment stores. Shops selling sports items and books also witnessed unprecedented crowds. Temples were seen opened with people crowding outside violating social distancing norms on the occasion of 'Bada Ekadashi' and

Police checking mask-wearing by bikers and commuters in Berhampur

Bahuda Yatra. The District Collector mon people have tested positive for has repeatedly warned the shopthe virus. This has spread a fear of keepers to abide by the curbs and imcommunity transmission in the plement six conditions as advised city and the district. by it. However, none seems to be Meanwhile, 1472 persons have

tested positive for the virus while The number of Covid positives 14 persons have died of the disease in the Silk City is increasing every in the district. Observers claimed day. People testing positive for the that violating guidelines would cause a further spread of the disease. virus have been identified from 35 areas under the Berhampur The district administration and police have intensified checking and Moreover, six localities have been verification. However, that has failed declared containment zones while to be of any use as people continue to violate social distancing norms corona warriors like doctors, nurses. health workers, police and comand other guidelines.

ELIHOOD MATTE

OPD of Nalco hopsital being sealed

by COVID-19. His wife also tested positive for having coronavirus infection. These developments have

### 2 locals, Covid warrior infected

Baripada: Even as COVID infection cases are on the rise in Mayurbhani, the administration is worried about local infections are coming up in some areas. Five people tested positive for COVID Wednesday while two of them were due to local infections. The total tally of the infection has touched 213 Wednesday. One infected is a COVID warrior. Badasahi, Karanija, Bijatala, Rasgobindapur blocks and Baripada town have reported one infection each. The person infected with the virus in Baripada is a COVID warrior. The district administration has started contact tracing of the local infection cases.



### POST NEWS NETWORK

Athagarh, July 1: Forest officials of Athagarh Forest Division in Cuttack district Tuesday arrested the mastermind of the pangolin smuggling racket from Dhenkanal. Briefing the media here Wednesday, Athagarh Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sasmita Lenka identified the accused as Shyamsundar Behera of Badamba area. He is the headmaster of a primary school at Kayalapada panchayat under Tangi-Choudwar block.

Giving details of the arrest, the DFO said that a special team of forest staff had recently rescued a pangolin near Madhusudan Setu while it was being taken on a scooter and arrested a person.

"During the interrogation of the arrested person, we came to know that the chain of the pangolin racket is linked to Angul and Redhakhol. In the course of the investigation, five persons were arrested from Angul and Dhenkanal.

From the statement of the five arrested persons, we found that Behera was the mastermind of the racket. As he frequently changed his SIM cards, we were unable to trace his whereabouts.

With the help of the cyber police, we finally nabbed him yesterday,' the DFO added. She said the accused will be for-

warded to the court after the interrogation.

Half-done bridges trouble people

It may be noted here that forest



During the probe, it was learnt that the chain of the pangolin racket is linked to Angul and **Redhakhol. In the course** of the probe, 5 persons were arrested from **Angul and Dhenkanal** 

officials of the Athagarh division had busted a big pangolin smuggling racket November 19, 2019 and arrested six persons.

Pagolin scales were recovered from the arrested people. The arrested admitted their involvement in trading of the reptiles and their scales in and outside the state

### Woman ends life at quarantine centre

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 1: Police recovered the body of a migrant woman who allegedly committed suicide at a quarantine centre in Balasore.

The body was found hanging from a tree inside the premises of a quarantine centre at Jayarampur village Tuesday night. The woman along with her family returned from Hyderabad June 20. She was put in guarantine at Jayarampur High School.

Officials in charge of the quarantine facility failed to notice that the woman had gone missing for sometime.

the body and launched a probe Wednesday

They are also trying to find out the reason as to why the woman took the drastic step. Police also blamed security personnel at the quarantine facility for the mishap, even as Covid infection cases in the district are alarmingly increasing.

adhering to the rules.

Municipal Corporation.

On being informed, police seized

in fringe areas of Malkangiri and Koraput. In the absence of bridges, life comes to a standstill for days together. After bridges were built across

POST NEWS NETWORK

parts of Malkangiri.

Malkangiri, July 1: Even seven

decades after Independence, lack

of commuting infrastructure has

been a major problem in the hilly

and remote areas of the bordering

crossed by multiple rivers, this in-

conveniences people in the absence

of bridges. Though work of some

bridge projects were undertaken

years ago, their construction moves

Saptadhar rivers leave life miserable

at a snail's pace, a report said. Every year, floods in Kadigada and

Even as these areas are criss-

rivers in 2002, commuting problems were sorted out to some extent. However, people living in Kalimela



Construction of a bridge moving at a snail's place in Kalimela

It was learnt that the contractor on disaster management May 7 and has failed to complete the work in laid stress on expediting bridge time while no action is being taken against him

Another bridge project near MV-

11, Korukunda and Tarlakota villages

projects. Åfter the bridge near MV-11 was completed, a decision at the meeting was taken to inaugurate that within seven days. However, a month has since passed, but it has not been dedicated to people. Some ancillary works are yet to be completed. Vehicles negotiate with an old culvert near the bridge. Subash Chandra Patra, the executive engineer of the roads and buildings department, said some works are yet to be completed and its inauguration has delayed.

OP PHOTO



A man hawking aluminum utensils for a living at Kacheri Square in Sambalpur, Wednesday

### Swab tests of 141 Nalco staff conducted after DGM's death BANARPAL: Swab tests of 141 staff of Nalco were conducted Wednesdav at a stadium on its campus. Office premises of a deputy gen-

state

eral manager (DGM), outpatient department (OPD) the of company's hospital, staff canteen were sanitised and sealed as well to prevent any spread of COVID-19 infection. The company authorities have started contact tracing of the DGM. Nalco staff and locals are known to be panicky.

Reacting to this and seeking anonymity, a senior official said, Some specific locations in the campus have been shut for coming two days. Swab tests were conducted of persons who were suspected to have

come in contact with the DGM." A DGM of Nalco had died

### triggered fear among staff as well as local residents in the area. Monday night after he was attacked

### Tribals seek end to old land dispute



POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, July1: Land dispute between scheduled tribe and nonscheduled tribe has remained un-

resolved for over 20 years in Daringbadi of Kandhamal district. Locals of Kutlari, Gadma and other villages in Jhijariguda panchayat accused the administration of failure to sort out the land issue that started in 2000.

The land dispute between the two communities is becoming rather acute with sporadic tension in the area, a report said. Some lands, being cultivated by the ST people over years, have been acquired by non-tribals.

Upset over the long pending issue, people of Gadma and Kutlari recenrtly held a meeting in this regard. After the meeting, they drafted a letter and sent it to the District Collector, seeking immediate steps by the district administration to resolve the issue.

They pointed out that tribals have farmland of 300 acres in the area since 1999 They have been eking out their living by doing cultivation. But some non-tribals forcibly occupied their land though fraudulent means. Though they had taken the legal route, the issue has not been settled till date.

The tribals demanded that steps be taken to reclaim their land from non-tribal people and land pattas be issued to them.

Padhan Mllick, a villager, said, 'Memoranda were submitted by tribals to the Collector, southern range RDC, local police, tehsildar and the revenue inspector in this regard.'

However, Brahamanigaon IIC Ranjit Kumar Muni said the situation in the area has been stable. "Due to COVID situation, we have taken some time. Talks were held between the two sides. I will talk to the local tehsildar for solution to the issue," the IIC said.

and Potteru panchayats have to suffer a lot in the absence of bridges on Tamasa river.

Locals have been demanding a bridge across the river near Kanyashram. In view of the problem, the government had undertaken construction of a bridge two years ago, but only 30 percent of the work was completed.

### ₹22-crore allocated for Khallikote cluster varsity

Berhampur: Five years after it was set up in Ganjam, construction of a permanent campus of the Khallikote Cluster University has started. Rs 22 crore will be spent for the project to be spread over 20.2 acres of land at Satchit Vihar. Its foundation stone was laid by Governor Ganeshi Lal through videoconferencing at Pallur Hills Wednesday. It is stated that construction of the administrative block and auditorium block will be completed in 18 months.

has remained incomplete. Once completed, the bridge will facilitate communication between Malkangiri and Balimela via Chitrakonda.

"The rate at which the bridge work at Tarlakota and Korukunda is being carried out, it may not be completed before monsoon hit the area." locals rued. The district administration had held a meeting



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** 

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** 

**MECHANICAL DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR-3** 

### Nuapada farmers 'gingerly' over crop failure

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, July 1: Even as the district administration expected to harvest a good ginger crop this year, farmers in the district were disappointed that government-supplied seeds have failed to germinate up till now, a report said

The climatic condition of the district helps farmers go for ginger cultivation. However, 30 per cent of the government-supplied seeds this year have failed to germinate. Taking the matter seriously senior officials in the district agriculture department are moving from door to door to take stock of the situation.

Ginger cultivation had started in the district on the advice of District Collector Madhusmita Sahoo. The district agriculture department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) to-



Farmers preparing beds for ginger cultivation in Nuapada

gether coordinate with farmers for ginger cultivation here, department sources informed. In this connection, about 45 local

farmers from Bhera, Saliha, Kodomeri, Jengera and Kotenchuan villages were provided with 50kg of ginger seeds each by the Agricultural

OP PHOTO

About 45 farmers of Bhera, Saliha, Kodomeri, Jengera and Kotenchuan villages were provided with 50kg of ginger seeds each by ATMA

Officials of the agriculture department said, farmers have not followed the proper procedure. If the seedlings do not germinate, fresh ones will be provided

Technology Management Agency (ATMA). Likewise, 22 farmers of Palsabhadar village were provided with ginger seeds by MAFCC. Ginger

seeds supplied to farmers are known to be of Subhadra variety -- a hybrid type.

Even though farmers went by the guidelines issues by the district agricultural department issued from time to time, the seeds did not germinate even after over 20 days.

Department officials said, farmers have not followed the proper procedure. Things will be clear after eight to 10 days. If the seedlings do not germinate, fresh ones will be provided. Hybrid varieties of seeds were purchased from Koraput".

Nuapada deputy director of agriculture Javed Mohammed, assistant agriculture officers Himanshu Kumar Mohapatra, Narendra Mishra, including agricultural scientist of KVK Nuapada Lakhanlal Meena and several others visited the farmlands.





### power post

### FOCUS CHINA

Daily we must aspire to conquer all mistakes, all obscurities, and all ignorance. THE MOTHER



### The eco cycle

he Kerala government has brought in sharp shooters to kill a tiger in Pathanamthitta. The tiger has allegedly killed one person who tried to stop it from killing the cattle tied near the human settlement. By the time this article comes out, the young tiger will probably have been shot dead - for no fault of his.

The authorities and forest department have been on a rampage for six months killing wild boars in Pathanamthitta at the behest of farmers. The tiger has nothing left to eat. So now he attacks cattle. Everywhere tigers have supposedly become man eaters - whether Chandrapur, Yawatmal or Pilibhit, it is because wild boars have been systematically killed for months before that.

The most foolish thing that governments can do is to kill wild boars. They are the main ecosystem engineers in India. Not only are they the prey of large cats, the wild boar, because of their large size and frequent rooting for food, have a significant effect on the forest floor. They disturb the soil, creating ideal conditions for germination of seedlings. They also help disperse seeds because these often pass intact through their digestive tract and are pushed into the soil. One of their most useful functions, and the reason we are particularly interested in the species, is that they eat bracken or coarse ferns which no other species can di-

gest. They also dig it up for bedding material. This stops it from spreading across the forest floor and preventing the growth of seedlings. Insect larvae, earthworms and snails are usually the staple food in the diet of wild boar.

But farmers keep complaining about the increase in wild boar population. And the reason for that is governments have systematically killed all the wolves. In the 1990s, an illiterate posing as a Chief Wildlife Warden (after retirement he boasted of the number of elephants and tigers he had killed during his tenure) ordered the killing of the last wolves in Uttar Pradesh. So, boars have few predators left.

Nature is so convoluted that each thing ties into another. You harm one creature anywhere and its repercussions are felt at the other end of the world. Just as the wildlife markets, and the disgusting food habits of the Chinese in one city, have led to a worldwide pandemic.

Let me give you a few pathways that nature takes.

The Bahamas are islands and, like all islands, they will sink as the oceans

rise. So many islands have already quietly slipped into the ocean like Dwarka - two from Sundarbans have gone in the last ten years. They need to be protected from high tides, from erosion of the bottom and sides. Most of these islands are protected by mangroves, the magical trees that line the coasts with their roots in the waters and prevent the seas from gobbling the land up by holding the soil in place and protecting the land from storms. You see them in Goa – you used to see them in Gujarat, but 87 per cent have been removed because one company needed to earn money through making ports that no one uses. They are being cut in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. At a time when most countries are replanting them, we have not replaced a single one. It is amazing that we have not recognised that this is the main keystone species that keeps the world intact. Mangroves are also the nursery for all fish. So, no mangroves, no fish or sea animal. If politicians want to benefit the fishermen community, the first thing they could do is to replant and protect mangroves.

Anyway, mangroves need fish urine to survive. According to a study by the University of Michigan published in the journal Science Advances on mangroves in the Bahamas, large fish such as snappers roam the mangroves looking for food. They urinate through their gills and the urine contains nitrogen, which fertilizes the mangrove trees and algae growing on their roots so they can grow lush and feed fish, crabs and other animals. These sea creatures are caught to feed people. But snappers are the most popular victims for the sport of spear-fishing and for anglers throughout the Caribbean. The biggest fish, the ones with the most beneficial effect on the mangroves, are the ones that are usually caught for the dinner table. The study estimated that if 50 per cent of the snappers were caught by fishermen, the amount of nitrogen in the mangroves would decrease by 69 per cent. The mangroves would dwindle and the island will submerge faster. In the meantime, fish will all disappear. There are thousands of other cases where one species shapes the surrounding ecosystem. These species are called ecosystem engineers. Ecosystem engineers are "organisms capable of controlling the availability of resources for other organisms by modifying the physical environment.'

## **HITTING WHERE IT HURTS**

hina known historically as the middle kingdom is an ancient land like India. A cradle of civilization that gave the world the wisdom of Confucius and Lao Tzu, China historically was a peaceloving, inward-looking country ruled by dynasties with thriving trade relations with the rest of the world. Its scholars travelled far and wide. It built historic world heritage monuments like the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

Major Priyadarshi Chowdhury

**GIVEN INDIA'S VAST POWER IN SOCIAL MEDIA SPACE AND THE SOFT POWER IT ENJOYS IN THE** WORLD, INDIANS **CAN PLAY A** VITAL ROLE IN WINNING THE

WAR EVEN **WITHOUT** FIGHTING

Not too long ago before the rise of Europe, India and China accounted for the bulk of world trade and wealth. Unfortunately, India lost its independence to the British. and China was humiliated repeatedly by losing out in the devious scheming of the Europeans, the Japanese and even the Russians. The nineteenth-century was a century of great shame and humiliation for a proud people during which it lost much of its prestige and even territory such as having to give Hong Kong to the British to buy peace. At the beginning of the twentieth century, there was a nationalist re-awakening led by western educated scholar Sun Yat-Sen which resulted in the end of the last ruling dynasty and establishment of the Republic of China.

Unfortunately, Yat-Sen's premature demise plunged the country into a civil war. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) led by its chairman Mao Tse-tung won the bloody civil war against nationalists led by General Chiang Kai Shek. Soviet Russia under Stalin helped Communists. Subsequently, the Communists took over Tibet driving the Dalai Lama to India. fought a war in the Korean peninsula, captured vast territories of East Turkmenistan (now known as Xinjiang, where a crackdown on the ethnic Muslim Uighur population is underway).

In the eighties, China took over Hong Kong which was a British colony since 1840. In 1962, China fought a short bloody war with India. It fought a war with Vietnam in the seventies and even threatened to go to war against the Soviets once the former allies fell out in their competition to dominate the Communist world. China



India needs to mobilise all liberal democracies to stop trading with the CCP regime until it agrees to reform itself. Only by ostracising the regime. the world can tame the beast which otherwise may lead humanity to the next World War

enabled the infamous Khmer Rouge regime led by Pol Pot in Cambodia. Mao in his zeal to develop China into a superpower implemented plans such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution which saw terrible human tragedies. All in all, the death of some seventy million Chinese citizens during peacetime far exceeds the casualties caused by Stalin and Hitler.

In early seventies, a meeting between President Nixon and Mao opened China's door to the western world. But it was only after Mao's death and accession of Deng Xiaoping to the leadership that China started to reverse its Communist economic policies. While it favoured trade, enterprise and private capital, it retained strict control over speech, information, and security. It forced foreign companies to share their intellectual property and technology in order to set up shop in China. It didn't allow companies like Google, Facebook or Twitter to operate in the country, but developed its own alternative social media platforms.

Chinese products were made cheap by hidden government subsidies. It manipulated its currency to get trade advantage. Its practice of dumping of goods in overseas markets drove competitors to bankruptcy. While these anomalies have been well known for long, the world - especially its major trading partner, the USA expected

China to gradually reform itself. However, China proceeded in the opposite direction under the leadership of Xi Jinping.

As China prospered economically, it simultaneously suppressed any voice for freedom and democracy. The most egregious being the crushing of the 1989 democracy movement by its violent actions against student protesters at Tiananmen Square. It jailed Nobel laureate and widely respected peaceful dissident Liu Xiaobo, who died in custody. CCP's one-China policy has been its cornerstone of diplomacy. China claims Taiwan to be part of its territory and threatens to take it over. In Hong Kong, as we write, CCP is ready to crush the demand for full-fledged democracy by implementing a draconian national security law July 1.

In context of the recent conflict in eastern Ladakh. India has its task cut out to hold the formidable Chinese back and not add to the lost territory of Aksai Chin that China has occupied since 1962. The unfortunate incidents of Galwan valley have given rise to unprecedented anti-Chinese feelings among Indians in spite of the surprisingly subdued tone of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With a trade deficit of around 50 billion US dollars, China has a lot more to lose than India as public sentiment demands that Chinese goods, services, software, and capital be replaced by alternatives.

The CCP's handling of the coro-

navirus pandemic has given rise to worldwide suspicion that the regime and the WHO could have done more to prevent its spread. There are calls for probe, fixing of accountability, and even reparation. With the regime under pressure from the USA, Australia, and the EU, one would have thought it would be prudent for them to lie low and bide their time. But true to Sun Tzu's advice in the 'The Art of War', deception is the key to CCP's game plan and they seem to have adopted the principle that 'attack is the best form of defence'. Thus the regime is hitting out at once in all directions at the same time projecting a dangerous muscular power. With India despite being an equally populous country and a potential future rival not possibly able to match the PLA's might, it's important for Indians to think of alternative ways to hit the CCP where it would hurt it the most.

It is high time Indians attacked the CCP using social media in a way that exposes the regime. Indians need to come together to highlight each of the issues discussed above in a way, that in spite of its huge propaganda machinery. China will have nowhere to hide its deeds. Indians can counter the propaganda by making common cause with all those that are fighting for just demands against the CCP, be it the Uighurs or Hong Kong's protesters. India needs to mobilise all liberal democracies to stop trading with the CCP regime until it agrees to reform itself. Only by ostracising the regime, the world can tame the beast which otherwise may lead humanity to the next world war: Given India's vast power in social media space and the soft power it enjoys in the world, Indians can play a vital role in winning the war even without fighting.

The hapless people of China deserve to be told the truth about the heinous crimes of their ruling regime. It's time the CCP regime is dismantled to make way for a liberal democratic and happily united China that can truly fulfil its historic destiny to lead the world.

The author is a retired officer of the Indian Army decorated with Saurya Chakra for his valour fighting terrorists on the border.

### SPECTRUM DIGITAL DIVIDE Why Indian education can't go online



humans to learn a simple lesson interfering with a species for no reason and with an astounding lack of

knowledge leads to a problem with every other species as well



For instance, the beaver makes dams in small rivers. Once their dams are built and water pools come into being, the landscape changes and a new ecosystem is born with different amphibians, fish and birds.

African Savanna elephants are the biggest boon for tree dwelling lizards. When they break twigs and branches, they leave crevices in the trees. These crevices become the homes and breeding places for tree lizards. Tree lizards eat insects like termites and spiders and are, in turn, eaten by other lizards and snakes.

Asian elephant dung piles not only act as nutrients for plants and fungi but, surprisingly, dozens of species of frogs are found in them. They are accompanied by beetles, ants, spiders, centipedes, crickets: a whole world in itself, according to a study "Shit Happens to be Useful! Use of elephant dung by Amphibians" published in the journal Biotropica.

The most famous case of animal engineers is the wolves of Yellowstone Park. In the 1930s all the wolves of the park were shot dead. The consequences? The elk population in the national park increased and they ate all the undergrowth of the area stripping it bare. Riverbeds were targets and their juicy grass, and saplings disappeared. This desolate landscape did not even provide enough food for the birds, so they left. Beavers that depend on the tree saplings on riverbanks too disappeared. The elk ate all the juicy berries, so the trademark of the area, the bears, got much fewer. Without any vegetation to hold them in, the rivers broke their banks and started flooding the area. The park was an utter mess with very few species in it.

In 1995, wolves caught in Canada were released in Yellowstone Park. The elk population reduced, and they stopped coming out freely to the riverside because they were scared of the wolves. The willow and poplar saplings grew back and within a few years the riverbanks became stable again. The beavers returned and created little ponds with their dams. The amphibians returned and so did the birds. The bears are in better health.

The wolves are now, unfortunately, being shot again by illegal ranchers who farm their cattle near Yellowstone Park and want the park destroyed so that their cattle can have more place to feed. From 147 wolves, there are now only 100 left. And as they diminish, the park will go back to being a mess again.

How long will it take humans to learn a simple lesson - interfering with a species for no reason and with an astounding lack of knowledge leads to a problem with every other species as well.

> To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in, www.peopleforanimalsindia.org

Rajashree Mohapatra **IF GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE ONLINE EDUCATION WITHOUT** NECESSARY

**SUPPORTIVE MEASURES. THE** PREVAILING **DISPARITY IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD COULD TRANSLATE INTO WIDENING EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITIES AMONG LEARNERS** 

stem the spread of COVID-19. most educational institutions have been shut since the end of March. It is still difficult to predict when schools, colleges and universities will reopen. There are a few options other than to shift to digital platforms from the traditional face-to-face mode of classroom learning. But Indian education can't go online with only 8 per cent of households with young members having access to a computer with internet connection.

The major challenge of remote learning is disparity in access from electricity and internet connections to devices like computers or smartphones. Access to electricity is crucial for digital education, both for powering devices as well as for connecting to the internet. Mission Antyodaya, a nationwide survey of villages conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2017-18, showed that 16 per cent of India's households received one to eight hours of electricity daily, 33 per cent received 9 to 12 hours, and only 47 per cent of households received more than 12 hours a day The digital divide is evident



across class, gender and region. Among the poorest 20 per cent households, only 2.7 per cent have access to a computer and 8.9 per cent to internet. In case of the top 20 per cent households, the proportions are 27.6 per cent and 50.5 per cent. While 24 per cent of Indians own a smartphone, only 11 per cent of households possess any type of computer; which could include desktop computers, laptops, notebooks, palmtops or tablets. According to the 2017-18 National Sample Survey report on education, only 24 per cent of Indian households have access to internet. While 66 per cent of India's population lives in villages, only a little over 15 per cent of rural households has access to internet. For urban households, the pro-

portion is 42 per cent.

### Merely moving classrooms online would not mean effective remote learning. One-to-one interactions among peers and teachers are important for learning

Teachers and school administrators have been advised to continue communication with students through virtual lectures or massive open online course portals. However, both teachers and students are facing unprecedented challenges. If the governments continue online education without necessary supportive measures, the prevailing disparity in the virtual world could translate into widening educational inequalities among learners. Merely moving classrooms online would not mean effective remote learning. One-toone interactions among peers and teachers are important for learning. On a digital platform, how students learn and communicate with others is largely dependent on the readiness of both teachers and students to accept digital learning. In the case of distance education, the onus of learning is more on students, which requires discipline.

Learning demands a conducive environment. However, not all students have a quiet space for learning at home. While 37 per cent of households in India have one dwelling room, it would be a luxury for many to attend lectures in an undisturbed environment. Having online classes on a regular basis has a cost implication too, as students have to bear the cost of internet services. There is no communication yet from governments on whether they are going to reimburse students or provide free or subsidised data packs.



### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 105 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

### rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### **Untenable Nepal**

Sir, Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli has lost the confidence of his own country. Due to anti-India remarks, top leaders of Nepal have demanded his resignation. The behaviour and action of Nepal are 'neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate' at present. It shows Nepal is facing an untenable condition. The India-Nepal bilateral ties came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80km long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand May 8. The current political situation is not good for both countries. It would be better if Nepal initiates talks with India at the earliest, resolve bilateral issues and resume the good neighbourly relations again

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (M.P.)

### **Triple crises**

Sir: India is currently faced with three serious national crises- the coronavirus is increasing its strength, the economy refuses to pick up after the lockdown and China refuses to retreat from the areas it has occupied on our side of the LAC. During such a situation, leadership gets tested. The nation wants to know what are the strategies the government is adopting for combating the COVID-19 pandemic, for economic recovery and for dealing with the Chinese aggression. With regard to combating COVID-19, the Centre has adopted the strategy of delegation of responsibility to the state governments and local authorities. Economic crisis would be left to market forces. Brute silence and occasional boldness would be the response to the Chinese aggression. With regard to the current state of COVID-19 transmission in the country, it seems the government has simply washed its hands off. There has been no proactive action, planning or even information sharing. Unfortunately, the Opposition has not been able to corner the government. It is feared that we are heading to be among the highest coronavirus infected countries in the world. With regard to economic recovery, claims about V-shaped recovery have made a U-turn. Take the border situation. China has occupied a substantial area of strategic land on the Indian side of the LAC and it won't retreat. Instead of taking the nation into confidence, the PM bluffed and then blustered. What is required at this juncture is a national movement to tackle the triple crises that the country faces. The population must be surveyed and the spread of COVID-19 be tracked. A team of researchers is needed to assess the economic condition. Finally, weneed a group of patriotic people to give true information to the people regarding the dispute with China must be solved in diplomatic ways. Venu GS, KOLLAM









### 'Courts not to solve your personal issues'

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 1: After the tussle between the Centre and Arvind Kejriwal government again popped up in the courtroom over the representation of Delhi Police in matters concerning northeast Delhi

riots, the Delhi High Court while taking a strong note of the same remarked "courts are not here to solve your personal issues"

"Courts aren't here to solve your personal issues...Instead of wasting the time of the public, you both should concentrate on greater

issues, the country is already dealing with grave and tough times," said a single judge bench of the high court presided by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait.

The court's observation came while it was hearing a petition filed by the Delhi Police seeking cancellation of bail granted to the owner of Rajdhani School owner Faisal Farooqui in a case relating to the riots.

During the course of hearing, while the court was about to hear the matter, Delhi government counsel Rajesh Mahajan raised objections on the point that the said petition is non-maintainable as the authorisation of the Standing Counsel's office was not taken by the Centre.



'We wish to file an identical pethat the Lieutenant Governor can tition with the said prayers as the not authorise counsels to appear for Delhi Police without the aid current petition isn't maintainable," Mahajan told the court adding

> ALBAUGCHA RAJA OR KING OF LALBAUG IS

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**HC SLAMS CENTRE, DELHI** in the matter on the directions of the L-G. 'On every occasion.

Ministers. Opposing his submis-

they come and create noise. This is nothing legal and is only political. Lawyers shall not indulge in such a thing. It's a serious matter and we are not able to argue because of this," Lekhi argued before the court.

Following which the court became furious and said, "This controversy can't continue. What is this drama going on? You people

are creating ruckus in the court. This isn't acceptable."

He then asked the lawyers, "How can you change your stance like this, why Mr Rahul Mehra

didn't appear before the court today. You can't appear as per your pleasure. This can't continue like this, I'll

impose costs. The court also asked the ASG to place on record the letter which authorised him to appear in the present case. The matter was adjourned post lunch. When the hearing of the matter resumed post lunch, the court was informed that the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) is not comfortable in appearing in the said matter.

### NO LALBAUGCHA RAJA IN MUMBAI Situation improves but

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 1: First time in its 86-year history, the famed and iconic Lalbaugcha Raja will not be installed during the upcoming 11-day Ganeshotsav, official sources said here Wednesday.

It will be replaced by a small idol of around 3-4 feet for the traditional 'puja' and other ceremonies, at the 127-year-old 11-day Ganesha festival. which starts on August 22.

This will be in adherence to an appeal by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to celebrate Ganeshotsav 2020 with more devotion and less pomp in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

"This year, we shall celebrate Ganeshotsav as 'Arogyautsav' with 11-days of blood and plasma donation camps, donate Rs 25 lakh to the CM Relief Fund for corona aid. help families of the soldiers martyred in the recent India-China border skirmish and Maharashtra Police personnel who lost their lives in the ongoing war against virus," Sudhir Salvi, Secretary, Lalbaugcha Raja Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Mandal (LRSGM) told mediapersons.

Lalbaugcha Raja or King of Lalbaug is among the most popular and most visited Ganesh idols in Mumbai. Every year, millions of

# MORE DEVOTION, LESS POMP

devotees, including celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan, Shilpa Shetty Sonu Sood, Ajay Devgn and others visit the famed pandal of Lalbaughcha Raja to get blessings of the deity.

Every day, 80,000 to 1 lakh people visit the pandal. During the festival, devotees offer donations in crores, including gold and silver ornaments being offered to the 'King of Lalbaug', as per the report.

In view of Thackeray's plea, all Ganeshotsav Mandals in the state took a voluntary decision to restrict the height of Ganesha to less than four feet, first time in over four decades since the trend of gi-

gantic idols started. The normal imposing, 15-feet

plus tall idol of Lalbaugcha Raja, and other mega-idols in Mumbai. Pune and other cities will be conspicuous by their absence in the Maharashtra Ganeshotsav celebrations. A majority of the mandals will

have subdued celebrations with small, manageable idols as there will be no huge processions or the elaborate immersion ceremonies at seafronts or other water bodies, as decided by the government.

Besides concentrating on social activities related to the pandemic, many huge mandals will make

arrangements to offer online "aarti", "puja" or "darshan" to the devotees to avoid crowds.

During a video conference with various Ganesh mandals, Thackeray asked them to set an example before the world about celebrating the festival in a simple way while keeping in mind their social responsibility. Ganeshotsav is the most popular festival in Maharashtra. The pandals set up by various mandals in Mumbai and other places in the state attract thousands of devotees

during the festivity. The 10-day festival begins on 'Ganesh Chaturthi', which falls on August 22 this year.

## 'no room for negligence'

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 1: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday reiterated that the situation in the capital city is now under control and not adverse as it was a month ago but warned that there is no room for complacency as the coronavirus is unpredictable.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal asserted that the situation is in-check due to increase in number of beds, testing, recovery rate and decrease in the death rate due to the coronavirus.

"The situation is under control and not as adverse as it was a month ago. This is due to our concerted efforts," he said, asking people to follow the social distancing norms and wear masks religiously.

He added, "Situation is improving in Delhi in the last few days. However, there is no room for complacency. This virus is unpredictable. We must continue our efforts with more vigour."

The Chief Minister, however, hinted that the situation predicted by his government a month ago did not turn out to be accurate.



'We had predicted that by June 30, there will be one lakh total cases and sixty thousand active cases, but now there are only 26,000 active cases, almost one-third. With the help of people, doctor, nurses, we have now controlled the situa-

tion," he added. Last month, he had projected an exponential growth in the city's COVID cases. "We would hit one lakh cases and would require 15,000 beds by June 30," he had warned. "There was fear. We have now arranged 15,000 beds in Delhi, but

there are only 5,800 people admitted right now. One month ago, there were only 8,500 beds. The number of COVID-19 patients is decreasing," Kejriwal added.

The 51-year-old leader further said that the recovery rate is also improving. One month ago, 38 per cent had recovered which has now improved to 68 per cent, he said.

He went on to say that the daily cases have also come down. "On June 23, the city recorded 4,000 new cases and yesterday only 2,200 tested positive.'

### Thackeray prays for a 'miracle'

Speaking after the 'mahapooja', Thackeray said he prayed to Lord Vitthal to make the

### Sec 144 imposed in Maximum City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 1: Mumbai police on Wednesday issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC in the city restricting movement of people in public places, and said the measure was taken to check

rising COVID-19 cases. Mumbai



## and advice of the Council of

MAHA TOP BRASS **REVIEW SECURITY** 

THREATS TO TAJ HOTELS

### country coronavirus-free

### AGENCIES

Pune, July 1: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Wednesday performed the 'mahapooja' of Lord Vitthal at Pandharpur on Ashadhi Ekadashi and said he prayed for a miracle to overcome the coronavirus crisis.

Ashadhi Ekadashi, an important day in the Hindu calendar, is the 11th lunar day of Ashadha month.

I prayed to Mauli. We want to see a miracle. Show us a miracle. Human beings have given up. We don't have medicine. There is nothing. How to go on with life by covering the mouth with a strip, Thackeray tweeted after the 'mahapooja' at 2 am along with wife Rashmi.

Lakhs of warkaris (devotees of Lord Vitthal) from across Maharashtra and several other states throng the temple town in Solapur district each year on Ashadhi Ekadashi.

There were only a handful on Wednesday after the state authorities cancelled the annual 'wari' pilgrimage - characterised by people walking to Pandharpur with palanquins -

due to spiraling coronavirus cases

Maharashtra's coronavirus case tally rose to 1,74,761 on Tuesday with addition of 4,878 new patients while the death toll mounted by 245, including 57 fatalities in Mumbai, to 7,855, state health department said. Thackeray and his wife per-

formed the 'mahapooja' wearing face masks. Speaking after the 'ma-

hapooja', Thackeray said he prayed to Lord Vitthal to make the country coronavirus-free.

His son and state minister Aaditya Thackeray was also present at the 'mahapooja'. During the ritual, Aaditya apparently felt uneasy and returned to his car parked outside the temple for some time.

'Warkari' couple Vitthal Badhe and Anusuya Badhe, from



AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 1: Maharashtra

government has issued a circu-

Section 144 imposed to check rising COVID-19 cases. With 903 new patients reported on Tuesday, coronavirus case tally

in Mumbai increased to 77,197 while death toll rose to 4,554 with 93 more fatalities. The order says curbs on movement for non-essential work came into force from Wednesday and shall remain so till July 15, unless withdrawn earlier.

The order prohibits presence or movement of one or more persons in public places or gathering of any sort, a senior police official said. Police have prohibited gatherings of any sort, including at religious places subject to stipulations, he said.

The order said movement of one or more persons in areas designated as containment zones by the municipal authorities is prohibited, except for essential activities, supply of essential goods and medical emergency.

ment of one or more persons in

Sukha Singh Chhabra with his kin

### 103-YEAR-OLD VANQU

Thane: In a huge relief for his anxious family comprising many greatgrandchildren, a sprightly 103-year old Sikh man here vanquished Covid-19 and has returned home to savour the victory, close relatives said. He is Sukha Singh Chhabra, who was wheeled out of Kaushalya Medical Foundation Trust Hospital on Monday in Thane -- and is ranked as India's oldest ICU survivor of Covid-19. Chhabra's 86-year old younger brother Tara Singh, who was also infected, spent days in the ICU, has now been shifted in the ward, awaiting discharge from the hospital in a couple of days.

the city between 9 pm to 5 am, except for medical emergencies, the official said, adding emergency services, government and semigovernment agencies and their officials on duty are exempted.

Establishments providing essential services like food, vegetables, milk supply, medical and grocery stores, hospitals, medicines, pharma and related establishments are also exempted, the official said.

Mumbai, July 1: A day after two Taj Group hotels in Mumbai got security threats from Pakistan, the Maharashtra government carried out a high-level security review meeting, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said here Wednesday.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

"I have discussed and reviewed the security preparedness with Director-General of Police Subodh Jaiswal and Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh in detail," Deshmukh told mediapersons.

An unidentified caller, claiming to be from the terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba early Tuesday threatened to carry out bomb attacks at the iconic Hotel Taj Mahal Palace in Colaba and the Taj Lands End in Bandra.

Taking no chances, the police have launched a full-scale probe including tracking the number/s from which the calls came, barely 24 hours after the terror attacks on Pakistan Stock Exchange rocked Karachi Monday.

On its part, the Indian Hotels Co. Ltd. (IHCL) which owns the Taj hotels said they had immediately alerted the authorities after getting the calls and are extending their full support and cooperation to the investigating agencies.

Incidentally, the Hotel Taj Mahal Palace was one of the targeted sites by 10 Pakistani gunmen who created mayhem during the November 26, 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

### Maha's diktat to babus: No Marathi, No Pay Hike

OFFICERS ALSO NEED TO MAKE AN ENTRY OF THEIR USAGE OF THE MARATHI LANGUAGE IN THEIR ANNUAL CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

any official failed to adhere to the new rule, he may face delay in their annual increment.

"Maharashtra Government issues Government Resolution (GR) directing officers to use Marathi for their official communications. Officers who fail to adhere to the GR may face delays in their annual increment," news agency ANI tweeted along with the circular."If officers are found not using the Marathi language in their confidential reports, then their annual increment will not be given to them,"stated the order.

This government resolution was issued by Marathi Bhasha Vibhag based on the 1986 government resolution of the General Administration Department.

"Many departments are still issuing circular, government resolutions etc in English language. Websites of many departments are also only in English language. Similarly, many municipal corporations are issuing notices, letters, applications and samples only in English. Complaints in this regard have been raised by the public representatives time and again," stated the circular as reported by Hindustan Times. The state govt had passed a law

making Marathi language a mandatory subject in schools in the budget session in February. Marathi language will become a compulsory subject from the academic year 2020-21 for classes 1 to 6 in schools of different mediums and education boards in Maharashtra, the state government had said earlier.

Former principal secretary Mahesh Zagde welcomed the decision. "If you're working in Maharashtra, you must communicate in Marathi. In the past, government issued warnings, but they had no impact. Now, it seems the government has taken a serious view," Zagde said. A former bureaucrat said nothing is wrong in issuing orders in English, but the same must be available in Marathi in a reasonable period. "All orders issued by chief secretary Ajoy Mehta are in English, entire state is waiting for Marathiversion of these orders," the bureaucrat said.

lar to all government offices stat-

ing that Marathi language should

be used for all official communi-

cation. The notice also said that if



BAR WAR





**Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told the** PM at an event that lakhs of jobs are being provided in small and medium industries. But the reality is that weavers, who are the pride of Varanasi, PM's parliamentary constituency, are today forced to live by pledging their jewellery and houses. All their work has come to a standstill during the lockdown PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

### **687 INDIANS RESCUED**

A total of 687 Indians stranded in Iran were brought to V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Tuticorin Wednesday by Indian Navy Ship Jalashwa, a defence official said

HC paves way for minor's abortion



A division bench of Justices K K Tated

while hearing the girl's petition filed

undergo medical termination of

her 25-week pregnancy

and the petitioner and her family

could then decide if they want to

care of the baby or put him/her up

should be able to take care of the

The board said the petitioner

for adoption

and Milind Jadhav gave the order Tuesday

through her father, seeking permission to

petitioner".

girl's petition filed through her fa-

ther, seeking permission to un-

dergo medical termination of her

tim of rape and a case against the

perpetrator is lodged at the Vakola

police station in Mumbai. Provisions

of the Medical Termination of

Pregnancy Act do not permit a

woman to terminate pregnancy, if

have to seek the high court's per-

As per the plea, the girl is a vic-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

the abortion.

25-week pregnancy.



The tragedy that the bodies of COVID-19 victims being thrown into trenches in Ballari,

Karnataka is height of cruelty and an insult to humanity. Though incidents related to inhuman cruelty with corona patients are rampant but guilty of Ballari must be punished by the state government

MAYAWATI BSP CHIEF

Governments are trying to "manage the perception" about coronavirus infections and give a sense that the problem is not as bad as it is RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

Best wishes to all doctors on #DoctorsDay. We express our gratitude to the doctors for their selfless service in

The nation admires and salutes your professionalism and sacrifice in the service of fellow citizens RAM NATH KOVIND PRESIDENT

### SHORT TAKES

### Six of family hospitalised

Kannauj: Six members of a family have been hospitalised at Miyaganj in Kannauj district of Uttar Pradesh after they consumed a dish made of hemp (bhang), a variety of cannabis, police said Wednesday. The family mistook the dried leaves of hemp to be fenugreek (methi). According to police, on Tuesday, one Naval Kishore gave the weed to his neighbour Om Prakash's son, Nitish, saying that it was dried fenugreek. Nitish gave the leaves to his sister-in-law Pinky who apparently made a curry with it. The family consumed the dish and after some time, their condition started deteriorating. Om Prakash, somehow, managed to inform his neighbours and soon the entire family fell unconscious. The neighbours informed the police and the

### **SIMMERING TENSION BLOW TO CHINA**

INDIA TO BAN CHINESE COMPANIES FROM **HIGHWAY PROJECTS. SAYS GADKARI** 

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: India will not allow Chinese companies to participate in highway projects, including those through joint ventures, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said Wednesday amid border standoff with China.

Gadkari also said the government will ensure that Chinese investors are not entertained in various sectors like Micro. Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The senior minister's assertions assume significance against the backdrop of border standoff between India and China in Ladakh that also saw the death of 20 Indian Army personnel last month.

Amid escalating tensions, the government on Monday banned 59 apps, mostly having Chinese links, citing threats to national security.

'We will not give permission to joint ventures that have Chinese partners for road construction. We have taken a firm stand that if they (Chinese companies) come via joint venture in our country, we will not allow it," Gadkari said in an interview

The Road Transport, Highways and MSME minister said a policy will be out soon banning Chinese firms and relaxing norms for Indian companies to expand their eligibility criteria for participation in

highway projects. Currently only a few projects which were undertaken much earlier involve some Chinese partners. When asked about this, the Minister said that the new decision will be implemented in current and future tenders. With respect to existing tenders and future bids, Gadkari said rebidding would be done if there are any Chinese joint ventures.

'We have taken a decision to relax norms for our companies to ensure that they qualify in bidding



in large projects. I have directed the Highways Secretary (Giridhar Aramane) and NHAI Chairman (SS Sandhu) to hold a meeting for relaxing technical and financial norms so that our companies can qualify to work," he said.

Elaborating on the decision, Gadkari said if a contractor can qualify for a small project, he can also qualify for a large project. "Construction norms are not good so I have asked to change it. We are changing it so that we can encourage Indian companies," he added. According to him, qualification norms for projects are being rationalised to ensure Indian companies do not require to enter into pacts with foreign partners to grab projects. "Even if we have to go for foreign joint venture in the areas of technology, consultancy or design, we will not allow Chinese," the

Minister said. About the MSME sector, Gadkari said the effort is to enhance the capacity of local production but at the same time foreign investment is being promoted. However, he made it clear that despite decision to encourage foreign investment, Chinese investors would not be allowed. "For upgradation of technology, research, consultancy and other works, we will encourage foreign investment and joint ventures in MSMEs but in case of Chinese we will not entertain them," he said.

Mumbai, July 1: The Bombay High Court has permitted a 17-yearold rape victim to terminate her 25-week pregnancy despite a report submitted by the civic-run KEM Hospital here advising against A division bench of Justices KK Tated and Milind Jadhav gave the order Tuesday while hearing the mission to do so. healthy baby could be delivered

The victim, in her plea seek-

ing permission to undergo medical termination of pregnancy, said her mental and physical health is at risk. The court last week directed the petitioner to appear before the medical board of the KEM Hospital in Mumbai for examination and sought a report from the board.

The board in its report advised against termination and said if it has crossed 20 weeks and she will the pregnancy is continued, a

### **COVID IMPACT**



A city road wears a deserted look during Unlock 2.0 in Coimbatore, Wednesday

### Patanjali to sell its drug Tripura to launch immunity drive as 'immunity booster' INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

#### Agartala, July 1: In an effort to curb the spread of coronavirus, the Tripura government will soon



**CONTAINING CORONA** 

baby with psychological support the petitioner and her parents are and counselling. The bench in its not willing or are not in a position order, however, noted that in the to take responsibility of the baby present case the pregnancy was then the state government and the caused by rape and hence, there agencies concerned will have to is no doubt that continuance of assume full responsibility of the this pregnancy "is causing a grave child, the court directed.

### **BENGAL BJP CHIEF HECKLED**

injury to the mental health of the

the petitioner to undergo medical

termination of the pregnancy. "In

case the child is born alive during

the termination procedure and if

Therefore, the court permitted

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, July 1: West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh was allegedly attacked by Trinamool Congress backed miscreants at Rajarhat-New Town located on the north-eastern fringes of Kolkata.



The incident took place when the state BJP president went there with his supporters to talk to people in the locality. "I went there with some of my supporters to talk to people and had tea at Rajarhat market area. But Trinamool supporters stopped me on the way and heckled my party men. When my security personnel tried to stop them, the miscreants also heckled them. I have shifted to a new house in the area. Local Trinamool supporters must be having some serious problems with that. I don't understand why," Ghosh said.

He further alleged that some of nis party members were beaten



fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.



district hospital.

family was rushed to the

### Girl ends life

Kanpur (UP): In a bizarre incident, a girl, student of class 10, ended her life Tuesday merely because her friend had scored more marks than her in the UP Board examinations. The incident took place in Kalyanpur police circle. The victim, Amisha (15), had scored 83 per cent marks while her friend had got 85 per cent marks. SSP Kanpur **Dinesh Kumar told reporters** that no suicide note had been found and the girl's family said that she was upset after the results of the Board examinations were announced last Saturday.

### UP MLA weds again

Gorakhpur (UP): Aman Mani Tripathi, an independent legislator from the Nautanwa Assembly seat, got married for the second time on Tuesday night at a hotel. Aman Mani married Oshin Pandey of Madhya Pradesh and the wedding was a small private affair. The legislator's sisters and other relatives attended the wedding. His parents, Amar Mani Tripathi and Madhu Mani Tripathi, are serving a life term for the murder of a poetess Madhumita Shukla and are in jail.

### Boy kills self

Ranchi: A 13-year-old boy committed suicide after denied new Andriod mobile phone in Jharkhand's Gumla district on Wednesday, police said. According to Police, 13year-old Alok Kumar, son of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of police Jaymangal Kharia, consumed insect killing tablets to kill himself.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Haridwar, July 1: The Union AYUSH Ministry Wednesday said Patanjali can sell Coronil but only as an immunity booster, days after yoga guru Ramdev's company launched it as a medicine for COVID-19 and is now calling it a product to "manage" the disease.

Pataniali Avurved Ltd said there is no disagreement now between it and the Union ministry, which had last week asked it not to sell the ayurvedic drug till the issue it examined. At his press conference in

Haridwar. Ramdev lashed out over the flak he received after the launch of the drug, saying some people are hurt by the "rise of Indian culture". 'I want to tell people who want to try these medicines that there is no



Ramdev claimed that the ministry had asked him to use the term "Covid management

in place of "Covid treatment" and he is following the instruction

restriction on their sale now and they will be available in a kit everywhere in the country from today," Ramdev said, referring to Coronil and the two other products Patanjali is promoting together. The company claimed that the

AYUSH Ministry has "categorically agreed" that Patanjali had "appropriately worked on COVID-19 management"."Now there is no difference of opinion between AYUSH Ministry

and Patanjali," it added in a statement. The ministry confirmed that Patanjali can sell the product but not as a cure for the disease."AYUSH Ministry has only given permission to sell this particular formulation as immunity booster and not as a medicinal cure for COVID-19," it said.

Ramdev claimed that the ministry had asked him to use the term 'Covid management" in place of 'Covid treatment" and he is following the instruction. Even while backtracking on describing Coronil as a "treatment" for COVID-19, the company stuck to its claim that its trial on mild to moderately ill patients was successful.

The company's statement said the trial, conducted after the necessary approvals, showed 100 per cent recovery of patients within seven days.

start free distribution of Vitamin-Cenriched juice and fruits among people in urban areas to increase their immunity, a minister said here Wednesday.

Tripura's Law and Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath said the state government will spend Rs one crore to implement the "Programme for boosting public immunity in the urban areas in COVID-19"

Nath, who is also the spokesman of the Tripura government, said the state cabinet finalised the programme on Tuesday, to be implemented by the Urban Development and Rural Development departments.

"Involving the SHGs (Self-Help Groups), the urban local bodies including municipal corporations and municipal councils, the Vitamin-C enriched juice and fruits would be distributed free

among the people in a bid to increase their immunity to prevent the coronavirus infection. "While the scheme would in-

PTI PHOTO

crease the people's immunity, the farmers would be able to sell their fruits including pineapples and lemons at reasonable prices," the minister said. Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb in a tweet said that a healthy society is the foundation for the socio-economic development of any state. "Keeping this in view, our gov-

ernment has decided to introduce a public immunity boosting programme in urban areas for next one month." Deb, who also holds the health department portfolio, said that the fruits would be directly purchased from the farmers.

ule. "It has been five months since

I have not seen my family and I am

not even able to talk to them due to

my erratic shift timings," she said.

then you are actually scaring them

because even if I cough during my

conversation, they really get

scared...their first question is 'are

Agreed Pooja Iyer, a psycholo-

gist working at a COVID facility,

who said that the biggest challenge

for her is to counsel COVID pa-

tients while covered in PPEs as

there is no eye contact. "The most

important thing during the coun-

selling is eye contact and that is

missing due to the PPE. We use

gestures, head nods and speak loudly

so that the patients could hear us,

she said.

you feeling okay'," she added.

...It feels like if you talk to them

by Trinamool-backed goons. "They also vandalised some of our ve hicles," he said. "My party colleagues will lodge a complaint with the local police. I will also inform the Kolkata Police commissioner about the incident," Ghosh added. Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress' Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandopadhyay said that it was a small incident.

### **MODI QUITS WEIBO**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has quit Chinese social media platform Weibo, the BJP said Wednesday, with its general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh saying that Modi has sent out a "strong message" at the border, on economic front and now at "personal level too".

"After govt move of banning 59 Chinese Apps, PM Narendra Modi exits from Chinese social media platform WEIBO also. Strong message at the border, on economic front & at personal level too," Santhosh said. Sources have said Modi decided to quit Weibo, which he had joined in 2015, as soon as the decision was taken to ban 59 Chinese apps in India.

They added that Weibo has a more complex procedure to quit for accounts of important personalities which is why an official process was initiated. For reasons best known to the Chinese, there was a great delay in granting this basic permission, they said.

The prime minister had 115 posts on Weibo, and it was decided to manually delete them and after much effort 113 posts were removed, they said. The two posts left were those where Modi had photos with Chinese President Xi Xinping, they noted, adding that it is difficult to remove posts on Weibo in which pictures of Xi feature.

### WARRIORS ON THE FRONTLINE

### Fighting corona challenging, say health workers

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Treating COVID-19 patients, providing them psycho-social support to help keep them calm and dealing with the constant fear of contracting the infection are some of the many battles that the country's healthcare workers are fighting daily since the outbreak of the pandemic.

On National Doctor's Day, some of the women healthcare workers working at dedicated COVID-19 facilities across the country shared their experiences of emerging as the frontline force in fighting the virus that has claimed over 16,000 lives and infected 5.6 lakh people

across the country. For Nimrat Kaur, a doctor who pursued the Master of Public Health



programme from Johns Hopkins University in the US, working at a dedicated COVID-19 facility in Patna has been challenging not only mentally but also physically. This pandemic is not dedicated

to one class or one group of people; it is for everybody so there is a constant fear among doctors too because we are in the middle of (coro navirus) positive patients and they are panicky. We assure them that their testing positive does not mean the end of the world," the 32-yearold said over phone.

Kaur, who has been a part of different projects of Doctors Without Borders in coordinating emergency

response across Indonesia, Cambodia. Laos, the Philippines and Vietnam, said she treats about 25 COVID patients daily in her shifts which are 12-hour long.

"I have a very weird biological clock which I am literally setting and resetting every few days. We have a 12-hour shift so you can't stick to one personal routine," she said. 'When I get up I do a little stretching because standing in PPEs (personal protective equipment) for 12 hours at a stretch is really exhausting. Our breaks are not really scheduled or aligned with our lunch breaks as we cannot come out at leisure," she added.

Kaur last met her family five months ago and it is not very often that she is able to talk to them because of her erratic work sched-









India's fight against corona proved effective because of the early lockdown announced by Prime **Minister Narendra Modi** JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER

### **RAJNATH MAY VISIT LADAKH**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to visit Ladakh Friday to review India's military preparedness in view of the bitter border standoff with the Chinese army in the region, sources said



uote

The way we all stayed at home on March 22 during the Janata curfew announced by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, in the same way we would stay at home from 5 am on Sunday to next day 5 am

BIPLAB KUMAR DEB

In next two years, drinking water will be made available to every household in Bundelkhand YOGI ADITYANATH UP CHIEF MINISTER

Only banning some apps will not give results. We want to give China a befitting reply. How we do it -- the

central government now has to decide

MAMATA BANERJEE BENGAL CM

### SHORT TAKES

### Kolkata shocker

Kolkata: In a shocking incident, the body of a septuagenarian who died of Covid-19 kept lying in his city home for two days ago before it was taken away by Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Wednesday, the National Doctor's Day. Mohan Mallick, 71, died at his apartment in Amherst Street area around 3 pm on Monday. Family sources said that Mallick returned home from a local market and suddenly succumbed to his illness. The family called a doctor who came wearing PPE kit and took blood samples for Covid-19 test. He reportedly asked the family to wait for the test report to arrive. Since no one took the responsibility to keep the body till then, the body kept lying in the apartment even as family members desperately trying to contact police, health and civic body authorities.

### Seven killed

### Terrorists kill CRPF jawan, civilian; toddler rescued

As people scurried for cover, 60-year-old Bashir Khan who was travelling with his grandson in his car abandoned the vehicle and made an unsuccessful attempt to run for safety but was killed, officials said

ists were holed up inside the mosque.

As people scurried for cover, 60-

year-old Bashir Khan who was trav-

elling with his grandson in his car

abandoned the vehicle and made an

unsuccessful attempt to run for

safety but was killed, officials said,

narrating the sequence of events.

toddler crying next to his grand-

When CRPF personnel saw the



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, July 1: Terrorists hiding inside a mosque opened fire at a CRPF patrol team in Jammu and Kashmir's Sopore town on Wednesday, killing a jawan and a civilian whose three-year-old grandson narrowly escaped the hail of bullets and was rescued by security forces, officials said.

father's body, some of them made The incident in north Kashmir's a dash to rescue him as their colapple town, about 50 km from here, leagues opened fire to cover them. took place a little after 8 am. Three The incident triggered intense de-Central Reserve Police Force troopbate with Khan's son alleging that ers were injured in the attack. his father was pulled out from the which led to panic in the area. The car and killed by security forces, a CRPF personnel, on routine patrol charge denied by the CRPF. duty, returned the fire but the ter-

Images of the weeping child near rorists managed to flee from the his grandfather's body were circulated widely on social media, intensifying the debate.

It is not clear how many terror-

"The civilian was killed by terrorists and all the noise on social media is being orchestrated from across the border." Additional Director General of CRPF Zulfikar Hasan told reporters in Sopore.

CRPF and other security forces have the utmost regard for places of worship and no one could even think that terrorists would use the mosque as a hideout, he said, and complimented the jawans for their patience and presence of mind during the encounter. Later in the day, police officials went inside the mosque along with prominent citizens of the area and saw the bloodstains in one part of the mosque building.

CRPF head constable Deep Chand Verma, who was injured in the attack along with three of his colleagues, was declared brought dead to the hospital. "One needs to wonder how a man sitting 50 km away from the site of encounter come to this conclusion that such a thing had happened," an official said, responding to allegations by Khan's son who lives in Mustafabad locality in Srinagar's HMT area.

The son said his father left for Sopore along with his grandson at 6 am for some personal work. The CRPF also issued a statement detailing the events. "Militants hiding in the attic of a nearby mosque started firing indiscriminately on the troops resulting in injuries to four CRPF personnel," it said.



Tamil Nadu CM announces relief of ₹3 lakh for families of those who died; ₹1 lakh for the severely injured and ₹50K for those with less severe injuries

### AGENCIES

Neyveli, July 1: Six men were killed and 16 others injured when a boiler exploded at the NLC India's thermal plant here Wednesday, an official said.

Home Minister Amit Shah, expressing anguish over the loss of lives, spoke to Chief Minister K Palaniswami and assured all possible help. While preliminary inputs from the explosion site said two people died, the toll has gone up to six now, the NLC official said. "Six men have died. Sixteen peo-



The mishap occurred at the fifth ple who sustained injuries have been rushed to a hospital in Chennai," he said. The six deceased men, aged between 25 and 42 years, were contract workers.

unit of the thermal power station-II (210 MW x 7) when workers were in the process of resuming operations this morning.

lice personnel there (Sathankulam

PS) using lathis."". Due to this there

were blood stains on the lathis and

a table and she said they (stains)

should be collected immediately

as they (policemen) could try to

The JM alleged non-cooperation

He further submitted that

Revathy did not sign on her state-

erase them." the report said.

### Father, son beaten all night: Cop

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tuticorin(TN), July 1: Personnel at the Sathankulam police station here thrashed a deceased fatherson duo the whole night there, with lathis used for allegedly assaulting them and a table carrying blood stains, a woman head constable attached to the station has told a judicial probe.

Mentioning Head Constable Revathy's statement in a four-page report to the Madras High Court Madurai Bench, the Judicial Magistrate probing the deaths said she feared receiving threat if she revealed the facts.

The Madras High Court, which has taken up the matter of the



by the personnel at the police station, including when he sought handing over of the lathis and said death of the duo-- P Jevarai and Bennicks, alleged victims of pothe cops heeded to his demand only lice torture, had on Tuesday transafter being 'compelled'. One of them ferred the probe to the CB-CID even fled the place by scaling a wall under DSP Anil Kumar. It had also when sought for his lathi. ordered protection for Revathy and

her family. In her statement, Revathy told the JM that the two persons were "beaten up the entire night by po-

ment immediately and did so after a long time upon being assured of her safety.

### Priyanka asked to vacate bungalow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The government Wednesday asked Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to vacate her bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi within a month, saying she is not entitled to the facility following withdrawal of her SPG\_ protection.

According to an order issued by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, Priyanka Gandhi was asked to vacate her official bungalow by August 1 failing which "it will attract damage charges/penal rent as per rules". The ministry asked her to also pay the rent for the period she takes to vacate her official accommodation. The government had in November last year replaced the Special Protection Group (SPG) cover of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her children Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, with Z-plus security by the CRPF. "Consequent upon withdrawal of SPG protection and grant of Z+ security cover by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which does not have provision for allotment/retention of government accommodation on security grounds to you (Gandhi), the allotment of Type 6B House No. 35, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi is hereby cancelled w.e.f 01/07/2020. "One month concessional period on the same rent up to August 1 is allowed as per rules," the Directorate of Estates said in its order.

### UPSC aspirants can change exam centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

area, the officials said.

New Delhi, July 1: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has decided to allow candidates for Civil Services (preliminary) examination, 2020 scheduled to be held on October 4 to change their exam centres in view of coronavirus pandemic.

an additional or enhanced capacity intimated by the respective centres for accommodating additional candidates.

The time window for submitting revised choices of centres will be operational in two phases -- July 7-13 (till 6 pm) and July 20-24 (till 6 pm) on the Commission's website ttps://upsconline.nic.in.

down. Mah

### **SPIKE IN CASES COVID: JUNE WORST MONTH** Manipur and Nagaland are among

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: India Wednesday recorded the highest single-day jump of 507 COVID-19 deaths and also a majority of cases--close to four lakh--in June to make it the worst month for the country prompting some states to go for varying degrees of lock-

arashtra, Delhi and Tamil

same time, the recovery rate was

also steadily improving to touch

It is for the fifth consecutive

day that coronavirus cases have

increased by more than 18,000.

The country has seen a surge of

3,94,958 infections or nearly 68

per cent of the total in June, ac-

cording to an analysis of the min-

stands at 2,20,114, while 3,47,978 peo-

ple have recovered, and one patient

has migrated, the data showed,

indicating that around 59.43 per

cent of patients have recovered so

The number of active cases

nearly 60 per cent.

istry data.

far.



the states which have extended the lockdown beyond June 30 for varying periods up to July 31 without any more relaxations. The second phase of 'Unlock

also came into force from Wednesday after the month-long 'Unlock 1', a graded exit from the national lockdown imposed on March 25, ended on Tuesday. Though there will be "phas

re-opening" of activities that

had been barred to contain the

spread of coronavirus, educa-

tional institutions, Metro rail

services, cinema halls and gyms

will continue to remain shut.

Political, academic, cultural, re-

ligious, sporting events and other

large congregations will also

continue to be prohibited in

Domestic and international

(under the Vande Bharat mission)

flights and passenger trains, al-

ready operational in a limited

manner, will be further expanded

in a calibrated manner, accord-

ing to the Ministry of Home Affairs

Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan,

meanwhile, launched his gov-

ernment's fortnight-long "Kill

Corona" campaign, which aims

to screen every household in the

Madhya Pradesh Chief

Unlock 2' phase

(MHA) guidelines.

state for the infection.

Guwahati: Seven more people were killed in floods and landslides across Assam, taking the death toll in the deluge and related incidents to 33, a government report said Wednesday. Nearly 15 lakh people in 21 of the 33 districts of the state are affected by floods, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said in the report. Three persons lost their lives in Barpeta district, while one person each died in Dhubri, Nagaon, Nalbari and Cachar districts, it said.

.....

### **New MP Governor**

Bhopal: Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel took oath as Governor of Madhva Pradesh Wednesday at a ceremony at Raj Bhawan here. Patel was given additional charge as Madhya Pradesh governor following the illness of incumbent governor Lalji Tandon. Chief Justice of the Madhva Pradesh High Court Ajay Kumar Mittal administered the oath of office to Patel in the presence of Chief Minister Shivrai Singh Chouhan, some other state politicians and officials, the Rai Bhawan spokesperson said.

### Naxals surrender

Raipur: Altogether 18 Naxals, four of them carrying cash rewards on their heads, surrendered Wednesday ir Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, police said. The rebels, including a woman, turned themselves in before Dantewada Collector Dipak Soni, Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava and **CRPF** officials at Bhansi police station, and expressed desire to lead a normal life and contribute in development of their area, they said.

The opportunity to change the centres will also be applicable to Indian Forest Service (preliminary) examination, 2020 which will change the centres also be held along with the Civil Services exwill also be

amination all over applicable to Indian India on the same date **Forest Service** as per the revised (preliminary) schedule. examination, 2020 Keeping in view the

large number of candidates and requests received for change of exam centres, the Commission said it was decided to give them an opportunity to submit revised choice of centres.

"The option to change the centres for Civil Services (Main) Examination. 2020 and Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2020 is also being made available to the candidates," the Commission said.

The requests for change in exam centers will be considered against

The candidates are advised to visit the website and submit their choices of centres for the above examina-The opportunity to

tions, if required. The UPSC also clarified that requests for change of centres will be considered based on the principle of "first-apply-first allot" basis and once the capacity of a particular

centre is met with, the same will be frozen. The candidates who cannot

get centres of their choice due to the ceiling will be required to choose centres from the remaining ones, it said. All the conditions and eligibility mentioned in the examination notice issued on February 12 of the **Civil Services (Preliminary)** Examination, 2020 and the Indian Forest Service Examination, 2020 will remain unchanged.

Nadu have accounted for over 70 per cent of 17,400 coronavirus deaths, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The data updated at 8 am on Wednesday also showed that 18,653 new infections were reported in 24 hours taking the tally to 5.85.493. At the

India reported its first case of coronavirus on January 30 from Kerala when a student who had returned from Wuhan, China tested positive. It is now the fourth worst-affected country in terms of cases after the US, Brazil and Russia.

Health officials in Karnataka reported the country's first COVID-19 death on March 12 after samples of a 76-year-old man, who was a suspected coronavirus patient and passed away two days earlier, tested positive for the disease

In a bid to halt the rapid surge in new infections, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal,

classes be held in sub-divisional

schools," Shukla said."We need a

**NO STRONG NETWORK** 



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pithoragarh, July 1: Kunwar Singh Kutiyal complains there are no Indian mobile towers within several kilometres of Uttarakhand's Vyas Valley, near the Indo-Nepal border, where he lives, and he has to depend on Nepalese infrastructure to connect to the world outside.

A resident of Kuti village of the Valley, he said he noticed that the Nepalese government recently provided Wi-Fi facilities in Changru village on its side of the border to strengthen communication for their security personnel deputed at a post there. "We also need such facilities in our villages. We need to depend only on Indian communication facilities." he said

Kutiyal is not a lone voice press-

ing this demand. He represents thousands of villagers of three localities -- Vyas Valley, Chaundas valley and Dharchula sub-division -- in this district who have no connectivity due to the lack of Indian mobile towers. Some of them somehow manage to procure Nepalese SIM cards and use them to get Internet and phone connectivity by latching onto Nepalese network. "Around 40,000 villagers in about 40 villages in these localities have no connectivity. Around 3,000 of

them rely on Nepalese Internet connection," Dharchula Sub-Divisional Magistrate AK Shukla said on Tuesday. He said that poor connectivity also hampers implementation of flagship government schemes in the border villages.

"Due to the lack of proper network



facilities in most parts of Dharchula sub-division, payments related to MGNREGA works cannot be made

strong and dependable network for communication at Dharchula border with Nepal," the SDM said.

The Vyas Valley is adjacent to Indian territory of Kalapani, which Nepal recently claimed as its own. Villagers have approached the administration several times in the past with the demand to bolster mobile network infrastructure and submitted a number of memorandums, Shukla said.

There is just one low-capacity BSNL mobile tower at Dharchula which barely meets even the town's requirements, he said. A section has tried to justify the poor connectivity, saying it is meant to deny Internet access to smugglers and criminals operating in the border, but it does not hold much ground as Nepalese network is widely available in the area, Shukla said. "In the light of these facts, the

communication policy at the Indo-Nepal border needs to be reviewed as better communication facilities to border people is the need of the hour," the SDM said.

The Congress MLA from Dharchula, Harish Dhami, said he has offered his MLA funds to create communication facility in the area. "I am ready to give whatever money is required for installing basic infrastructure of communication at the Indo-Nepal and India-China border," Dhami said.

According to residents of the Vyas Valley, three Nepalese mobile companies cover around 186 km length (north-south), from Kalapanito Pancheshwar, with their mobile towers at different locations.



### **OrissaPOST** THURSDAY | JULY 2 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR international

People could be fined if they refuse to be tested for coronavirus SCOTT MORRISON AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

US SLAMS CHINA

'sad day" for the people in Hong

countermeasures, including ending

defence and dual-use technology

as those deemed to be masterminds

behind the crimes, could receive a

maximum punishment of life im-

prisonment. Hong Kong's leader

strongly endorsed the new law in

a speech marking Wednesday's

23rd anniversary of the handover

of the territory — officially called

the Hong Kong Special

exports to the territory.

Kong and warned China of new

**PROUD MOMENT FOR INDIA** 

Kritika Pandey, the 29-year-old Indian author who won the 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, has voiced her hope that the award would help "more people trust their daughters and their dreams."





As I watch the Pandemic spread its ugly face all across the world, including the tremendous damage it has done

to the USA, I become more and more angry at China. People can see it, and I can feel it

DONALD TRUMP US PRESIDENT

Two Koreas should not revert from hard-won progress and accomplishments in their relations

MOON JAE-IN SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

Do you see why we oppose social media like YouTube. Twitter, Netflix etcs? Turkey is not a banana republic. We will snub those who snub this country's executive and judicial bodies RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN TURKISH PRESIDENT

### SHORT TAKES

### **52 Killed in Ethiopia protests**

Addis Ababa: At least 50 people were killed in Ethiopia's Oromiya region in protests following the fatal shooting of a popular singer, a regional spokesman said on Wednesday, laying bare splits in the prime minister's political heartland ahead of next year's polls. Musician Haacaaluu Hundeessaa was shot dead on Monday night in what police said was a targeted killing. Protests reflecting anger at the killing of a popular figure and a sense of political marginalisation broke out the next morning in the capital and other towns and cities in the surrounding Oromiya region.

### **Rainstorm batters** China, 14 killed

Beijing: Torrential rains battered southwest China's Sichuan province, killing at

## **HK police arrest dozens as** 'anti-protest' law kicks in

The arrests come as thousands took to the streets Wednesday on the 23rd anniversary of Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997

### AGENCIES

Hong Kong, July 1: Hong Kong police made their first arrests Wednesday under a new national security law imposed a day earlier by China's central government, as thousands of people defied tear gas and pepper pellets to protest against it.

Police said nine people were arrested under the law, including a man with a Hong Kong independence flag and a woman holding a sign displaying the British flag and calling for Hong Kong's independence.

Others were detained for possessing items advocating independence. Further details were not immediately available. Hong Kong police said on Facebook that they arrested more than 300 people on various charges, including unlawful assembly, possession of weapons and violating the national security law. The arrests come less than 24 hours after the law was imposed by China following last year's antigovernment protests in the semi-autonomous territory. The law took

effect on Tuesday at 11 pm. The arrests come as thousands took to the streets Wednesday on the 23rd anniversary of Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. For the first time, police banned this year's annual march. Protesters shouted slogans, lambasted police and held up signs condemning the Chinese government and the new security law. The new security law deepened concerns in Hong Kong and abroad about the semi-au-



A man lies on the ground as he is detained by riot police

tonomous territory's future. The law, imposed by China following anti-government protests

in Hong Kong last year, makes secessionist, subversive, or terrorist activities illegal, as well as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs. Any person taking part in secessionist activities, such as shouting slogans or holding up banners and flags calling for the city's independence, is violating the law regardless of whether violence is used.

Administrative Region — from The most serious offenders, such British colonial rule.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson Wednesday held China in "clear and serious breach" of the Sino-British agreement under which Hong Kong had been handed over to the Chinese authorities and confirmed that a citizenship route will now be offered to Hong Kong's British National (Overseas) passport holders. Addressing his weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons, Johnson said China's new National Security Law is a threat to the rights and freedom of the region and in direct conflict with Hong Kong Basic Law. The UK has committed to make it easier for the estimated 350,000 Hong Kong residents who are British National Overseas (BNO) passport holders to come to the UK, as well as nearly 2.6 million others who are eligible to BNO status. Under current rules, they are entitled to visa-free access to the UK for six months but under a new "bespoke" system this will be further extended.

### Protest vs Africa's 1st vaccine test shows fear

Demonstrators reflect long-running fears among some in Africa over testing drugs on people who don't understand the risks

ASSOCIATED PRESS Johannesburg, July 1: Protester



Washington, July 1: President Donald Trump Wednesday dismissed as "Fake News" allegations that Russia offered bounties for killing American troops in Afghanistan. He said news stories about the allegations were made up to "damage me and the Republican Party.' Lawmakers have been demanding answers over the allegations, and Democrats have accused Trump of bowing to Russian President Vladimir Putin at the risk of US soldiers' lives. Trump tweeted Wednesday that he had not been briefed on intelligence assessments that Russia offered bounties because there wasn't corroborating evidence. Those intelligence assessments were first reported by The New York Times. then confirmed to The Associated Press by American intelligence officials and others with knowledge of the matter: "The Russia Bounty story is just another made up by Fake News tale that is told only to damage me and the Republican Party," Trump tweeted. The President's national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, said the intelligence wasn't brought to the president's attention initially because it was unverified and there was no consensus among the intelligence community.

### **UNAWARE OF 'REALITY'**



Children watch a rally through a home window fence as Palestinians call for a 'day of rage' to protest against Israel's plan to annex parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in Gaza City

### Support in US for India France freezes banning Chinese apps

Last week, US National Security Advisor, Robert O'Brien had said that the Chinese Government is using TikTok for its own purposes



AGENCIES

on 59 Chinese apps, including the popular TikTok, has been widely

owned social media platform with over 40 million American users. probably a lot of your kids, and younger colleagues, accounts criticising the CCP (Chinese

### role in NATO naval force

### AEGNCIES

Paris, July 1: France announced Wednesday that it is suspending its involvement in a NATO naval operation in the Mediterranean Sea after a standoff with a Turkish warship, amid growing tensions within the military alliance over the conflict in Libya.

A ministry official said France wants NATO allies to "solemnly reaffirm their attachment" to the arms embargo on Libya, which is being policed in part by a European Union naval operation. France has accused Turkey of repeated violations of the UN arms embargo on Libya and branded the Turkish government as an obstacle to securing a ceasefire in the North African nation, which Turkev firmly denies.

France is also calling for a crisis mechanism to prevent a repeat of an incident earlier this month between Turkish warships

### 'Russia bounty allegations are fake news'

AGENCIES

Washington, July 1: India's ban

least 14 people and leaving 10 missing, authorities said. The Mianning county has been badly hit by the torrential rains since Sunday. The heavy rainstorm has killed at least 14 people and left eight missing on Tuesday in the Mianning county, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Currently, 5,660 people are in temporary settlements in Yihai Townshin and Gaovang sub-district in the county, the report said.

### Remembering the fallen

United Nations: UN chief Antonio Guterres paid tribute to 77 United Nations personnel, including five Indian peacekeepers, who lost their lives in the line of duty between March and December 2019 at a solemn ceremony commemorating their bravery. Secretary-General Guterres paid the tributes through a video message during the annual Memorial Service on Tuesday to honour the UN personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty between March 16 and December 31, 2019.

against Africa's first COVID-19 vaccine trial burned their face masks Wednesday as experts note a worrying level of resistance and misinformation around testing on the continent.

Anti-vaccine sentiment in Africa is "the worst I've ever seen." the CEO of the GAVI vaccine alliance, Seth Berkley, told an African Union vaccine conference last week.

"In general, people in Africa know the diseases and want to protect each other." he said. "In this case, the rumor mill has been dramatic." The trial that began last week in Johannesburg is part of one already underway in Britain of the vaccine developed at the University of Oxford, Some 2,000 volunteers in South Africa are expected to take part.

It's important that vaccines be tested in Africa to see how they perform in the local context, professor of vaccinology Shabir Madhi, leader of the new COVID-19 vaccine trial in South Africa, told reporters and others in a webinar Sunday.

But the small band of demonstrators who gathered Wednesday at the University of the Witwatersrand, where the trial is based, reflect long-running fears among some in Africa over testing drugs on people who don't understand the risks.

The Ethiopian director of the World Health Organisation, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, called the comments "racist" and a "hangover from a colonial mentality" The head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, John Nkengasong, called the remarks "very disgusting" and "condescending."

Fellow protesters sang and danced with banners saying "We not guinea pigs" and "No safe vaccine." "If you want to test, test in the areas which they call the epicenter of the world," demonstrator Sean Goss said.

noted in the US, including by some prominent lawmakers, who have urged the American government to follow suit as it is believed that the short video-sharing app is a

major security risk to the country. India on Monday banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including TikTok and UC Browser, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country. The ban, which comes in the backdrop of India's current stand-off along the Line of Actual control in Ladakh with Chinese troops, is also applicable for WeChat and Bigo Live.

"India bans TikTok and dozens of other Chinese apps in the wake of deadly clash," powerful Republican Senator John Cornyn said in a tweet as he tagged a news report in The Washington Post. Republican Congressman Rick Crawford tweeted that "TikTok must go and it should have been gone yesterday.

Last week, US National Security Advisor, Robert O'Brien had alleged that the Chinese Government is using TikTok for its own purposes. "On TikTok, a Chinese-

Communist Party) and Beijing's policies are routinely removed or deleted," O'Brien said in his public remarks.

At least two bills are pending in the US Congress to ban federal government officials from using TikTok on their cell phones, reflecting such a sentiment can gain momentum in the US after India's decision. "Would that be the same Chinese TikTok that was used to tank attendance at the Tulsa Rally? tweeted Peter Navarro, Assistant to the US President for Trade and Manufacturing Policy, as he tagged a news report from The New York Times on India's decision to ban these Chinese social media apps. Fox News anchor Laura Ingraham urged the US to do the same. "LEAD-ING THE WAY, WHERE'S THE U.S.? India bans dozens of Chinese apps including TikTok" she said in a tweet.

The list of Chinese apps that have been banned by India also include Helo, Likee, CamScanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call - Xiaomi, Clash of Kings as well as e-commerce platforms Club Factory and Shein.

and a French naval vessel in the Mediterranean. NATO is investigating what happened. France says its frigate Courbet was "lit up'



geting radar when it tried to approach a Tanzanian-flagged civilian ship suspected of involvement in arms trafficking. The ship was being escorted by three Turkish warships. The Courbet backed off after the confrontation. France claims that under NATO's rules of engagement such conduct is considered a hostile act. At the time, the French frigate was part of the Sea Guardian mission, which is helping to provide maritime security in the Mediterranean. Turkey has denied harassing the Courbet. Turkey's ambassador to France was questioned in the French Senate and defended Turkey's actions as peaceful and crucial to restoring stability to Libva

### ANOTHER nCoV WAVE TO COST 340 MN JOBS: ILO Russians vote

### Good news for Indian students

London: Indian students are among the biggest group of international students set to benefit from an extended post-study work visa offer for PhD students as well as a more streamlined visa process, announced by the UK government on Wednesday. As part of a wider Research and Development Roadmap, the British government has pledged to make it easier for international graduates to secure skilled jobs in the UK and contribute to its economic growth.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

#### United Nations, July 1: The ILO has warned that if another COVID-19 wave hits in the second half of 2020, there would be global working-hour loss of 11.9 per cent equivalent to the loss of 340 million full-time jobs.

According to the 5th edition of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work, the recovery in the global labour market for the rest of the year will be uncertain and incomplete.

The report said that there was a 14 per cent drop in global working hours during the second quarter of 2020, equivalent to the loss of 400 million full-time jobs.

The number of working hours lost across the world in the first half of 2020 was significantly worse than previously estimated. The highly uncertain recovery in the second half of the year will not be enough to go back to prepandemic levels even in the best scenario, the agency warned. The baseline model - which assumes a rebound in economic activity in line with existing fore-

casts, the lifting of workplace restrictions and a recovery in consumption and investment projects a decrease in working hours of 4.9 per cent (equivalent to 140 million full-time jobs) compared to last quarter of 2019.



It says that in the pessimistic scenario, the situation in the second half of 2020 would remain almost as challenging as in the second quarter. "Even if one assumes better-tailored policy re-

The new figures reflect the worsening situation in many regions over the past weeks, especially in developing economies

Regionally, working time losses for the second quarter were: Americas (18.3 per cent), Europe and Central Asia (13.9 per cent), Asia and the Pacific (13.5 per cent), Arab States (13.2 per cent), and Africa (12.1 per cent)

sponses - thanks to the lessons learned throughout the first half of the year – there would still be a global working-hour loss of 11.9 per cent at the end of 2020, or 340 million full-time jobs, relative to

the fourth quarter of 2019," it said.

The pessimistic scenario assumes a second pandemic wave and the return of restrictions that would significantly slow recovery. The optimistic scenario assumes that workers' activities resume quickly, significantly boosting aggregate demand and job creation. With this exceptionally fast recovery, the global loss of working hours would fall to 1.2 per cent (34 million full-time jobs).

The agency said that under the three possible scenarios for recovery in the next six months, "none" sees the global job situation in better shape than it was before lockdown measures began

Moscow: A vote on amendments to Russia's constitution that could allow President Vladimir Putin to hold power until 2036 entered its final day Wednesday amid widespread reports of pressure on voters and other irregularities. For the first time in Russia, polls were open for a week to bolster turnout without increasing crowds casting ballots amid the pandemic a provision that Kremlin critics denounced as an extra tool to manipulate the outcome. Putin is all but guaranteed to get the result he wants following a massive state propaganda campaign and the opposition's failure to mount a coordinated challenge.















The dependence on foreign apps with their own agenda for a variety of reasons must stop RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD MINISTER

### **US FIRMS ADD 2.4 MN JOBS**

US companies added nearly 2.4 million jobs in June, according to a private survey, a large gain that still leaves total employment far below its pre-pandemic levels. The payroll company ADP said that small businesses reported the biggest increase, adding 9.37.000 jobs. Construction firms, restaurants and hotels also posted large gains in hiring



**VODA IDEA POSTS RECORD ₹73,878 CR** 

New Delhi, July 1: Vodafone

Idea, the country's third largest tele-

LOSS IN FY'20

AGENCIES

### WB offers \$750mn loan for COVID-hit MSMEs

With Microsoft coming into the fold, Noida and Greater Noida will become a maior destination for

electronics and IT in the country SIDHARTH NATH SINGH MSME AND EXPORT PROMOTION MINISTER, UP

uote

Combining our respective technology strengths (Hitachi and Power India) will bring us new market

opportunities and enable us to deliver greater customer value N VENU MD. HITACHI ABB

POWER GRIDS INDIA

With demand gradually coming back in the market and with strong support from our dealer partners as well as the hard work of our SBUs (Strategic Business Units), we have been able to keep up with customer expectations NAVEEN SONI SENIOR VP, SALES AND SERVICE, TKM

### SHORT TAKES

### PhonePe records 150% growth

Bangalore: Digital payments platform PhonePe Wednesday said that it has seen over 150% growth in loan EMI repayments category on its platform since March this year. The Ioan EMI repayment category provides users with the convenience of making repayments at will or by setting up an auto-debit on a specified date. PhonePe currently has over 60 lenders integrated into its platform. including providers of microfinance, housing loans, consumer durable loans and short term liquidity loans, among others.

### Hero MotoCorp sales dip 27%

New Delhi: The country's largest two-wheeler maker

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$750 million MSME Emergency Response program to support increased flow of finance into the hands of India's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), severely impacted by the

COVID-19 crisis. The MSME Emergency Response program will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 15 lakh viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs, a World Bank statement said. "This is the first step among a broader set of reforms that are

needed to propel the MSME sector over time," it said.

The \$750 million loan from the International Bank for **Reconstruction and Development** (IBRD), has a maturity of 19 years including a 5-year grace period. The statement said that the World

Bank Group, including its private sector arm - the International Finance Corporation (IFC), will support the government's initiatives to protect the MSME sector by unlocking liquidity and strengthening NBFCs and small finance banks and enabling financial innovations. This program will support the

government's efforts to channel liquidity to the MSME sector by de-risking lending from banks and



Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to MSMEs through a range of instruments, including credit guarantees.

The initiative will also support the government's refinance facility for NBFCs. In parallel, the IFC

The MSME Emergency Response program will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 15 lakh viable **MSMEs to help them** withstand the impact of the current shock

is also providing direct support to SFBs through loans and equity, it added.

'The MSME sector is central to India's growth and job creation and will be key to the pace of India's economic recovery, post COVID-

19. The immediate need is to ensure that the liquidity infused into the system by the government is accessed by MSMEs," said Junaid Ahmad, World Bank Country Director in India. He added that the overall fi-

nancing ecosystem for MSMEs also needs to be strengthened. "This operation seeks to achieve both these objectives by further-

ing the role of NBFCs and SCBs as effective financial intermediaries and leveraging fintech to broaden the reach of finance into the MSME sector," Ahmad said. The World Bank has so far com-

mitted \$2.75 billion to support India's emergency COVID-19 response, including the new MSME project.

com operator, Wednesday reported a staggering Rs 73,878 crore of net loss in fiscal ended March 2020 - the highest ever by any Indian firm after it provisioned for Supreme Court mandated statutory dues.



The firm, which has to pay Rs 51,400 crore dues after the apex court ordered the non-telecom revenues to be included in calculating statutory dues, said the liability has "cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern".

In a regulatory filing, Vodafone Idea (VIL) reported widening of March quarter net loss to Rs 11,643.5 crore. Its losses stood at Rs 4,881.9 crore in the same period a year ago and Rs 6,438.8 crore in previous October-December quarter.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) estimates the firm's adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues at Rs 58,254 crore for period up to FY 2016-17, but the company put the dues at Rs 46,000 crore "after adjustment of certain computational errors and payments made in the past not considered in the DoT demand.

### FACTORY ACTIVITY **CONTRACTS FOR 3RD** STRAIGHT MONTH

#### REUTERS

Bangalore, July 1: India's manufacturing activity contracted for a third straight month in June, albeit at a much shallower pace, as demand and output continued to suffer from three months of lockdowns to quell the spread of the coronavirus, a private survey showed.

The virus has infected over half a million people in the world's second-most populous nation, stalling economic activity, but Wednesday's survey suggested the worst may be over for the economy, at least for now.

### **MPACT** GST collection in Q1 dips 59% PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: GST revenue collection in June stood at Rs 90,917 crore, up from Rs 62,009 crore mopped up in May and Rs 32,294 crore in April. The goods and Services Tax (GST) mop up was 9 per cent lower on a y-o-y basis in June, while it was 62 per cent down in May and fell 28 per cent in April. GST collections for the first quarter (April-June) of this fiscal de-

clined 59%, when compared to the same quarter last year as lockdown imposed to contain spread of COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted economic activity.

"The revenues during the financial year has been impacted due to COVID-19, firstly due to the economic impact of the pandemic and secondly due to the relaxations given by the government in filing of returns and payment of taxes due to the pandemic. However, figures of past three months show recovery in GST revenues," the finance ministry said in a statement.

States like Punjab. Chhattisgarh. Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka witnessed growth in collection in June over last year.

North Eastern states like Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh too witnessed Increase in revenue during the month.

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June, this year stood at Rs 90.917 crore of which

### **GST Revenue Collection**

(in₹Crores) for June 2020 7.665 Total Collection GST Revenue 40,302 23.970 IGST Revenue 40,302



**Compensation Cess** 7,665 Central GST is Rs 18,980 crore, State

GST is Rs 23,970 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 40.302 crore (including Rs 15,709 crore collected on import of

goods) and Cess is Rs 7,665 crore, the statement said. "The government collected gross

#GST revenue of Rs 90,917 crore in June 2020, which is 91 per cent of the collections in June 2019," Office of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a tweet.

During the month, the revenues from import of goods were 71 per cent and the revenues from domestic transaction were 97 per cent of the collections from these sources during the same month last year.

The government has settled Rs 13,325 crore to Central GST and Rs 11,117 crore to State GST from Integrated GST as regular settlement.

The total revenue earned by central government and state governments after regular settlement in June, stood at Rs 32,305 crore for Central GST and Rs 35.087 crore for the State GST.

### 'Address issues faced by biz in tax compliance' New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday asked

GST officers to foresee the issues faced by domestic businesses and address them proactively so that they can compete on a global scale



and build a self-reliant India. In a message to tax officers on the third anniversary of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Sitharaman also said there is scope for easing compliance further for taxpayers, especially MSMEs. Asking taxmen to focus on the clarion call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an 'Atmanirbhar

Bharat', she said for this motto of self reliance tax, especially GST, administration will have a large role to play.

Centre cancels BSNL's 4G upgradation tender THE DEPARTMENT OF **TELECOMMUNICTIONS** 

(DoT) IS LIKELY **TO ISSUE A FRESH TENDER IN THE** NEXT TWO WEEKS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: In yet another move to keep Chinese technologies companies at bay, the Centre has cancelled the 4G upgradation tender for BSNL as it has decided to come up with fresh specifications for the upgrade process, sources said. The Department of

Telecommunictions (DoT) is the next two weeks.

the fresh tender may not allow Chinese companies to participate.

As the border tussle with China escalated last month and around 20 soldiers lost their lives, the government had last month asked both BSNL and MTNL not to use equipment of Chinese makers in their upgrading process to 4G facilities.

Huawei and ZTE are the major Chinese telecom equipment makers working with Indian telcos

likely to issue a fresh tender in

People in the know said that

Connecting India

and they would be the hardest hit by the decision. The impact may be felt in terms

of the much-awaited 5G trials in the country. After much deliberation, the Centre last December decided to

allow Huawei to take part in the 5G trials. The cancellation of tender for

BSNL's 4G upgradation comes after the Centre Monday banned 59 Chinese apps including TikTok, WeChat and UC Browser. A statement by the Ministry of

Electronics and IT said that the decision was taken since "there is credible information that these apps are engaged in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order"

Hero MotoCorp Wednesday reported 26.88% dip in sales last month at 4,50,744 units as compared to the same period of last year. The company's dispatches last month, however, grew fourfold when compared to May this year. The company had sold 6,16,526 units in June 2019 while it has despatched 1,12,682 units in May 2020.

### New VAT comes into effect in Saudi

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's decision to raise the valueadded tax (VAT) rate to 15% came into effect Wednesday on all goods and services subject to it in markets across the Kingdom, after a royal decree was issued May 11, state-media reported. The Saudi General Authority of Zakat and Income called on all taxpayers who are registered in the VAT to verify the readiness of their facilities, and learn about all transitional provisions related to raising the tax rate, by reviewing the guidelines, Gulf News quoted the state-media report as saying.

### Jet fuel price hiked by 7.5%

New Delhi: Jet fuel or ATF price Wednesday was hiked by 7.5%, the third increase in a month, while petrol and diesel rates were unchanged for the second day in a row. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was hiked by Rs 2,922.94 per kilolitre (kl), or 7.48%, to Rs 41,992.81 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification by state-owned OMCs. Rates were hiked by a record 56.6 per cent (Rs 12,126.75 per kl) June 1, followed by Rs 5,494.5 per kl (16.3%) increase June 16.

### Tata Steel Mining bags 2 chromite leases in state

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Tata Steel Mining Limited (TSML) completed the mining lease execution for two leases: Kamarda Chromite Mine and Saruabil Chromite Mine in Jajpur district in Odisha, June 26, 2020. The agreements were executed by Jajpur Collector and District Magistrate Ranjan Kumar Das and TSML Managing Director

MC Thomas. The Government of Odisha granted leases of two chromite mines for a period of 50 years. Among the commercial leases expired March 31, 2020, and auctioned, these are the first leases to be converted into mining leases, across India.

Thomas said: "We thank Odisha government for processing these approvals in less than 30 days from the date of letter of intent (LoI).

After becoming the highest bidder, the company was given a vest-



ing order by the Odisha government in May 2020. TSML completed all steps such as upfront payments, execution of Mine Development and Production Agreement (MDPA) as well as maintained all other eligibility criteria. The government, in its part,

granted vesting order with all the clearances for two years as well as declared the company as a successful bidder before formally communicating the grant order thereby enabling the lease for execution.

### BIZ BUZZ

### FB strengthens partnership team

New Delhi: Facebook Wednesday announced to appoint senior Samsung executive Francis Jose, former Amazon Alexa head Manohar Hotchandani and ex-Viacom and Fox executive Paras Sharma as three new directors to join its growing Partnership team in India. The trip would help lead strategic partnerships and initiatives to support Facebook's continued growth in India with an overall aim for driving better value for business partners. Facebook said in a statement. "Francis, Manohar and Paras are not only

leading industry talents but also share Facebook's passion to create unique experiences that drive business value for our partners and bring the world closer together," said Manish Chopra, Director and Head of Partnerships. Facebook India.

### BMW facility 'Next' launched in Cuttack

Bhubaneswar: BMW Group India Wednesday announced the launch of BMW facility 'Next' in Cuttack. OSL Prestige now represents BMW and BMW Motorrad in the largest full-fledged integrated retail and service facility in eastern India. The new facility showcases the exclusive range of both BMW cars and BMW Motorrad motorcycles. New facility will be headed by Charchit Mishra as dealer principal. The facility is designed to stimulate an emotional con-

nect with consumers across all touch points. Acting President of BMW Group India Arlindo Teixeira said, "BMW Facility is a modern reflection of our desire to delight our customers in every aspect. The unison of BMW and BMW Motorrad presents a gateway to experience both brands. OSL Prestige has been a trusted BMW partner and we have strengthened our relationship further by appointing them as a dealer partner of BMW Motorrad also in one of the most promising markets in India.

### UCO Bank gets new Zonal Head

Deposit ratio of the Bank.

Bhubaneswar: Arupananda Jena, GM joined as the Zonal Head of UCO Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone. In addition to this, Jena will also work as SLBC Convenor for the State of Odisha. Prior to this, he was working at UCO Bank Head Office, Kolkata. Jena had joined as a clerical officer in UCO Bank in 1990 and served in different capacities in various places across India and abroad. He has a vast and rich experience of working in different branches/offices of the Bank including working at International Department and Corporate Credit Department of Head Office. During the present assignment his thrust area would be to increase the Credit



While the Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, increased to 47.2 last month from 30.8 in May it was still below the 50-mark separating growth from contraction. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected 37.5.

"India's manufacturing sector moved towards stabilisation in June, with both output and new orders contracting at much softer rates than seen in April and May. However, the recent spike in new coronavirus cases and the resulting lockdown extensions have seen demand continue to weaken," noted Eliot Kerr, an economist at IHS Markit

### APPS TURN RESTLESS FOR BIG LEAP MEDI

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

coming rush.

New Delhi, July 1: The ban on 59 Chinese apps has given homegrown app developers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create world-class products across chat, short videos, and photo/video sharing segments and led by ShareChat, desi apps are now scouting for fresh finds to invest intelligently into scaling their platforms and handle the up-

In a country where nearly 300

million people are on Facebook,

another 400 million on WhatsApp

and over 120 million on Chinese

app TikTok, not to forget the millions

who are hooked to Instagram,

Twitter and Snapchat, there has

not been a single social media plat-

form to date with its roots in India that has created headlines globally. The time is ripe to rise to the oc-

casion and show that Indian programmers can build top-notch social media apps right here, without going to the US or other countries. The regional language social

media platform ShareChat is changing the way in which the next billion users will interact on the internet. With over 1 billion monthly Whatsapp shares, users spend more than 25 minutes daily on the platform.

ShareChat has a user base of over 60 million monthly active users spread across the country and available in 15 languages including Hindi, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Bengali, Odia, Kannada, Assamese, Haryanvi,



Rajasthani, Bhojpuri and Urdu.

The Bangalore-based regional language social platform has become so popular that even Twitter came onboard when the four-yearold company raised \$100 million in its Series D round of funding last year. "ShareChat is silently leading a

social media revolution with a strong focus on regional outreach keeping its Bharat connect pristine, said Berges Y Malu, Director, Public Policy,

'We welcome the move from the government against platforms that have had serious privacy, cyber security and national security risks. We expect the government to continue their sup-As port for the Indian Chingari is startup ecosystem," setting new Malu added in a benchmarks, a lot of statement. investors are showing Public is a interest in our app. We are video-only social holding crucial discussions to platform and get a good investor(s) on has already regboard so as to scale up our istered 50 million free-of-cost social platform users, with more than one million BISWATMA NAYAK I BANGALOREvideos being BASED PROGRAMMER created every month.

ShareChat.

According to Azhar Iqubal, Founder and CEO of Public, we have immense talent and resources in India and the vacuum created by this ban is a great opportunity for Indian app makers to launch products that have the potential to do well globally.

Public is currently available in five Indian languages: Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil and Telugu, and aims to have over 100 million users by the end of the year.

Indians have rushed to download social app Chingari, a desi alternative to Chinese TikTok, which is witnessing nearly 1 lakh downloads and over 2 million views per 59 Chinese apps over national security concerns.











### sports

## CR7 tracer bullet



ROCKET OF A SHOT: Cristiano Ronaldo strikes from outside the box to score for Juventus against Genoa, Tuesday

Not to be outdone, substitute

Douglas Costa made it 3-0 by curl-

ing in a shot from beyond the area

inside the far post as Genoa's de-

fense looked on helplessly. Andrea

Pinamonti then pulled one back

while playing together only once be-

fore the break for the coronavirus

pandemic. Since the restart, they've

Three days after coming back

to beat Fiorentina 2-1, Lazio did it

again to beat Torino by the same

score. Ciro Immobile and Marco

Parolo scored second-half goals to

cancel out an early penalty from

Bellotti's penalty and means the

striker will miss Saturday's game

against AC Milan with a suspension.

error with an expert finish shortly

after the break to raise his total to

29 goals in 29 games - on pace to

break Gonzalo Higuain's Serie A

Immobile also matched his per-

sonal best for a Serie A season set

two years ago. Parolo scored the win-

ner with a deflected shot from just

beyond the area. Torino is 14th,

six points above the drop zone.

record of 36 goals in 2015-16.

But Immobile made up for his

A handball from Immobile led to

Dybala and Ronaldo had scored

for Genoa from a tight angle.

three games.

Andrea Bellotti.

Lazio comeback

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, July 1: Cristiano Ronaldo scored with a long-range rocket on a night when each Juventus goal was more spectacular than the other in a 3-1 win at relegation-threatened Genoa.

Chasing a record-extending ninth straight Serie A title, the victory restored Juventus' four-point lead over Lazio, which won 2-1 at Torino earlier Tuesday.

Since losing the Italian Cup final to Napoli in a penalty shootout, Juventus has won all three of their league matches in the restart.

Paulo Dybala opened the scoring shortly after the break by evading three defenders before firing in a low shot that Genoa goalkeeper Mattia Perin, who is on loan from Juventus, could only get a weak hand on.

Seven minutes later it was Ronaldo's turn. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner gathered a pass near midfield, charged toward the goal and unleashed a blistering effort from 22 yards (meters) into the top corner past the outstretched Perin.

It was Ronaldo's first goal in open play of the restart after converting penalties in his previous two matches, and it raised his total to 24 in 25 Serie A matches this season.

### Bruno brace lifts Man Utd at Brighton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Indian sprinter concedes that her

**PEOPLE LOOKING AT THE SPRINTER AND HER PARTNER DIFFERENTLY** 

DUTEE NOT AT ALL BOTHERED



Her family had objected to the re-

lationship and her older sister even

threatened to disown her, but Dutee

has been unruffled, expressing her

desire to settle down with the

of the world you must show courage

because the world has always taken

time to accept all good things," she

said. "So please do not be afraid

because it is your life and your

After her public disclosure, Dutee

became the first Indian woman

track and field athlete to clinch a

gold in the World University Games

by winning the 100m dash in a time

She is a national record holder

in women's 100m with a time of

11.26 seconds. She also won a silver

each in 100m and 200m in the 2018

"For all who are in love but afraid

other," she added.

woman.

happiness.

of 11.32 seconds.

Asian Games.

Lionel Messi goes for an iconic

Panenka' to reach the landmark

Manohar steps down from ICC chief's post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ganguly are the main contenders even though the former India skip-

BARCA LOOSE MORE GROUND IN TITLE HUNT AS THEY HELD BY ATLETICO COURTESY MIDFIELDER'S SPOT KICKS propels Juventus SAUL MAULS CATALANS' SOUL

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, July 1: Saul Niguez spoiled Lionel Messi party as the former's spot kicks helped Atletico Madrid hold Barcelona 2-2 at Camp Nou. As a result, the Catalans's title hopes dealt with a major blow.

Messi scored his 700th career goal for club and country before Atletico came back to draw in the Spanish league. Barcelona's third draw in four rounds left it in second place, one point behind leader Real Madrid, who have a chance to extend their lead at the top when they take on Getafe.

Barcelona were two points ahead of Real when the league was halted in March because of the coronavirus outbreak. While Real has won five of five since the resumption after a three-month stoppage, Barcelona has only won three of six. The pressure is increasing on coach Quique Setien.

Barcelona struck first in the 11th minute Tuesday when Atletico striker Diego Costa inadvertently redirected a corner by Messi into his own net.

Costa's night got worse shortly after when his penalty was blocked by Marc-Andre ter Stegen. Atletico, however, got to retake the spot kick when a video review determined that the Barcelona goalkeeper had moved off his line too early. Saul scored together in three out of Niguez stepped up instead of Costa on the second attempt and converted to level the score in the 19th.

Messi restored the hosts' lead in 56th by coolly scoring a penalty in the 'Panenka' style, chipping it softly past goalie Jan Oblak. The goal



700TH A `PANENKA'

Barcelona: Lionel Messi finally netted his 700th career

goal Tuesday against Atletico Madrid to join a select

feat. It's a disappointing night for Barcelona with the

landmark for Messi. Only Romario, Gerd Muller, Pele,

Josef Bican, Ferenc Puskas and Cristiano Ronaldo have

reached 700 career goals before which highlights how

Ronaldo is leading the chart with 723 goals. Messi has

another very special record. Considered as one of the

GOATs, Messi now just needs 14 more goals to surpass

band of just six other players to have achieved the

title slipping further away but another incredible

rare Messi's latest feat is. Among active players,

now scored 630 goals for Barcelona and 70 for

Argentina which means he's also closing in on

Pele's landmark of 643 goals for a single club.

was Messi's 630th club goal to go with 70 for his Argentina. It was also his league-leading 22nd goal of the season

Atletico responded again through the speed of forward Yannick Carrasco, who was tripped by Nelson Semedo and sent Saul back to the spot. Ter Stegen got a hand on his penalty but not enough to keep it out. Diego Simeone's Atletico remained undefeated in the six matches since

the competition resumed. It stayed in third place, 12 points behind Madrid.

Simeone left forward Joao Felix on the bench until the second half in favor of the in-form midfielder Marcos Llorente, who is thriving in support of the attack.

Llorente led the attack early on, but Carrasco with his speed on the left flank proved to be the visitors' biggest weapon. Twice the Belgian

forward burst into the box on a counterattack and was taken down by late tackles from Arturo Vidal and Semedo.

League spot. Rekindled hope Mallorca's 5-1 rout

eased to a 3-0 at relegation-threatened

Leganes to strengthen its hold on

fourth place and the last Champions

of Celta Vigo rekin-

gation.

dled its hopes of

avoiding rele-

Mallorca's

season

biggest vic-

ory of the

moved it

into 18th

place, five

points

behind

Celta,

which

is cling-

ing to

safety in

17th.

Setien opted for leaving Messi and Luis Suarez alone up front and adding an extra midfielder in youngster Riqui Puig, keeping forwards Antoine Griezmann and Ansu Fati on the bench. Puig had one of his best performances for Barcelona, showing his passing and ball control skills as he linked up well with Messi and his other teammates Messi helped

put

Barcelona ahead when he struck a corner low and hard at the near post, where Costa tried to clear it but instead let it hit the inside of his leg. The ball bounced off the turf and

left Oblak no chance Before his penalty, Messi almost curled in a shot from the right side that came inches from bending into the far cor-

chance to get the winner came from Vidal, who fired a shot just by the post with 20 minutes to go. Sevilla win PS-9 with ease Oliver Torres scored a brace as

ner of the goal. Barcelona's best

Sevilla

JADEJA RATED AS INDIAN TEST -**CRICKET 'MVP'** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brighton, July 1: Bruno Fernandes scored twice to lead Manchester United to a 3-0 victory over Brighton to maintain their push for Champions League qualification.

The 25-year-old January signing has now scored in two of the three Premier League games since the season resumed after the three-month pandemic-enforced suspension.

United took the lead in the 16th minute Tuesday when Mason Greenwood broke inside from the right and outfoxed his marker before firing in his sixth goal of the league campaign.

Fernandes then curled a free-kick over the bar before turning home the second goal from the edge of the box in the 29th minute after being teed up by Paul Pogba. Brighton players argued that the ball had gone out of play earlier in the move but the goal was allowed.

Fernandes was on target again five minutes into the second half Nemanja Matic played a long ball for Greenwood to collect in space, and his deep cross was finished off emphatically by Fernandes, bouncing off the ground past goalkeeper Mat Ryan.

United moved back into fifth place, which will secure Champions League qualification if secondplace Manchester City's two-season European ban is upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

revelation of being in a same-sex relationship last year led to people looking at her 'differently' but insists that it doesn't bother her one bit.

The 24-year-old Dutee, considered the fastest Indian woman right now, has asked those in same-sex relationships to be courageous and stand firm.

'One may fall in love anytime and with anyone. One does not decide that based on caste, religion or gender." Dutee said in an online interaction with US Consul General in Hyderabad Joel Reifman.

In May last year, Dutee had revealed that she was in a relationship with a woman from her village in Odisha. She had said that 'coming out of the closet' was better than 'hiding' her personal life from the public.

"My partner supported me every time and I have chosen her for my







#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 1: Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara has been asked to record his statement in front of a special investigating unit of the Sports Ministry probing allegations that the country's

2011 World Cup Final loss to India was fixed, local media reported here. Sri Lanka's sports

ministry last month ordered an investigation into former sports minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage's allegation that the national cricket team's loss to India in the 2011 WC final was fixed by

'certain parties' Sangakkara was captain of the Sri Lankan team at that time. According to local newspaper 'Daily Mirror',

which quoted SSP WAJH Fonseka, a Special Investigation Division of the Ministry of Sports has asked Sangakkara to record his statement. Sangakkara has been asked to appear before the unit Thursday at 9

am, according to the report. The special unit also recorded state-2011 ments from Sri Lanka batting legend WC FIXING Aravinda De Silva, who was chairman of ALLEGATIONS

the selection committee at that time, and the opening batsman of that match Upul Tharanga The Special Investigation

Division, June 24, recorded a statement from Aluthgamage, who said that his early assertion was actually a suspicion which he wants thoroughly probed.

## starting here July 8.

Stokes was Tuesday named captain for the opening Test against West Indies in place of Root, who has taken leave to be with his wife for the birth of their second child.

Having never led a side in firstclass cricket, star all-rounder Stokes will be captaining the national team for the first time in his career when England and West Indies lock horns in the opening Test of the threematch series at the Ageas Bowl.

is a talisman, isn't he? He leads from the front anyway. He is con-

Dubai, July 1: Shashank Manohar Wednesday stepped down as the International Cricket Council's (ICC) first independent chairman, ending a stint which coincided with the BCCI losing its influence in the world body.

Manohar took charge as ICC chairman in November 2015. His deputy Imran Khwaja, from Hong Kong, will be the interim chairman.

"ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar has stepped down after two, two-vear tenures at its helm. The ICC Board met today and agreed that Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja will assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson until a successor is elected," ICC stated in a release.

The process for the election of the next chairperson is expected to be approved by the ICC Board within the next week. Former ECB chairman Colin Graves and India's Sourav

per's candidature depends on whether Supreme Court would allow him to continue as BCCI President by relaxing the cooling off norms mandated by the Lodha reforms.

Former Cricket West Indies head Dave Cameron, New Zealand's Gregor Barclay, Cricket South Africa's Chris Nenzani have also shown interest at different times.

As per the current constitution, Ganguly's six years as office-bearer in state and BCCI end July 31 and he is qualified to take over the ICC chairmanship.

Manohar, as per ICC rules, could have stayed for another two-year term as a maximum of three terms are allowed for an independent chairman. The 62-year-old had previously been the BCCI President twice – first stint was from 2008 to 2011 and second time from October, 2015 to May, 2016, a part of which coincided with the ICC chairmanship. New Delhi, July 1: Flamboyant all-rounder Ravindra Jadeia has been named as India's most valuable Test player in the 21st century by the Wisden magazine.

With an MVP rating of 97.3, the 31-year-old Jadeja was also rated as the second most valuable Test player worldwide, behind only Sri Lanka legend Muttiah Muralitharan.

"It has been a dream to play for India and above that when you are rewarded for being the most valuable player, you feel even more blessed," Jadeja said.

Jadeja has played in 49 Tests, scoring 1,869 runs with one century and 14 fifties to his name. He has picked up 213 Test wickets.

Based on analytics provided by CricViz, each player in world cricket has been awarded an 'MVP rating' using a statistical model to rank their 'match impact' compared to their peers.

### **Expectations high from skipper Stokes**

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Southampton, July 1: England coach Chris Silverwood believes star all-rounder Ben Stokes will make up for a great leader when he replaces Joe Root as captain for the first Test against the West Indies

England's World Cup hero Ben

"I think he will do a great job. He



scious of the people around him job in Joe Root's absence," as well so I think he will do a great Silverwood was quoted as saying by 'The Guardian' newspaper.

'We know he has got an aggressive nature but equally there is a good cricket brain in there as well. I think he will be quite vocal about what moves he is making out there.

"I'm looking forward to working with him from a coaching point of view. I will extend him the same courtesies I do Rooty. He will have a lot of say in what is going on and he will play a big part in giving his opinions across selection as well,' he said.

Silverwood also revealed that Jos Buttler will be Stokes deputy in the opening Test. The English coach is not reading much into Stokes' lack of leadership experience.

"He's been Rooty's right-hand man for a while now. I know Rooty does turn to him a lot. He's been involved in a lot of talks we have be-hind the scenes," Silverwood added.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159







