



## NEW HIGH

Nora Fatehi celebrates the event of garnering 14 mn followers on Instagram with a throwback video

LEISURE P2



## UP'S 'PERVERT' COP

The SHO, who was video-recorded masturbating in front of female complainants, has been terminated from service

TWO STATES P7



## MYSTERIOUS DEATHS

Experts are unable to understand the reason behind the deaths of African elephants

INTERNATIONAL P10

# China's anti-India move blocked in UNSC

The US was the second nation after Germany to defer the statement over Karachi attack. The delay was to "send a message" to Pakistan that it cannot, on one hand call former al-Qaeda chief Laden, a "martyr" and link India to the attack

AGENCIES

**United Nations, July 2:** A UNSC statement condemning the recent terror attack in Karachi was twice stalled by the US and Germany, delaying its issuance to give a "message" to Pakistan over it blaming India for the incident and Prime Minister Imran Khan calling Osama bin Laden a "martyr", according to sources.

The 15-nation UN Security Council issued a press statement Wednesday to condemn the "heinous and cowardly terrorist attack that took place in Karachi, Pakistan, June 29, 2020, which resulted in several people killed."

Pakistan's 'all-weather ally' China drafted the statement, which was put under a silence procedure, under which if no member state raises any objections to the draft within a specified time period, it is considered adopted.

Germany was the first to break the silence procedure, delaying the issuance of the press statement. The deadline was extended till 10 AM July 1 (local time) and it was then that the



US broke the silence for the second time, further delaying the statement from being issued.

Sources said that the delay was to "send a message" to Pakistan that it cannot on the one hand call former al-Qaeda chief Laden, who masterminded one of the biggest terror attacks in the world and was killed by the US Navy Seals in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbottabad, a "martyr" and link India to the Karachi attack, and on the other hand expect unequivocal condemnation of the attack against it.

India had hit out at Pakistan Foreign

## WORLD GANGING UP AGAINST CHINA

**LONDON:** British PM Boris Johnson held China in "clear and serious breach" of the Sino-British agreement under which Hong Kong had been handed over to the Chinese authorities. "If China imposes its national security law, the British government will change its immigration rules and allow any holder of these passports from Hong Kong to come to the UK for a renewable period of 12 months and be given further immigration rights, including the right to work, which could place them on a route to citizenship," he wrote in an article. The US too has warned China that it will not stand idle while it "swallows" Hong Kong into its "authoritarian maw," a day after Beijing imposed a "draconian" national security law in the former British territory.

Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi for his "absurd comments" linking India to the terror attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange building in Karachi.

In a strongly-worded response, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said that Pakistan cannot shift the blame on India for its domestic problems, and unlike Pakistan, India has no hesitation in condemning terrorism anywhere in the world including in Karachi.

Further, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had called Laden a 'sha-

heed' during a statement in Pakistan Parliament.

Sources said that the sentiment was shared among Council members that one cannot call a global terrorist a martyr and on the other hand expect unequivocal condemnation of the terror attack. Sources added that the delay in issuing the press statement was to "send a message that you cannot have it both ways."

They added that the "message has gone to them" that they cannot be irresponsible about these things. The sources said one cannot say anything

one wants and get away with it and expect the international community to come to its assistance when one wants it. "That is the message."

Using a standard template for condemning all terrorist attacks, the UNSC said that its members "underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice and urged all states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of Pakistan and all other relevant authorities in this regard."

The members of the Security Council also reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Four heavily armed militants, believed to be from a banned Baloch terror group, on Monday made a brazen attempt to take over the Pakistan Stock Exchange building in Karachi, killing four security guards and a police officer before being shot dead by security forces.

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## AFTER KAALIA

# State plans 'Balaram' for landless farmers

- The new scheme will ensure credit flow to landless farmers and sharecroppers
- The quantum of loan is envisaged to be around ₹1,040 crore
- The credit will be extended through JLGs and it will benefit 7 lakh landless cultivators in two years



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** After KAALIA (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation), the state government in collaboration with NABARD will implement a new scheme christened 'Balaram' this year with a view to ensure credit flow to landless farmers.

A decision in this regard was taken at a high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy at the Lok Seba Bhawan here Thursday.

Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment secretary Sourabh Garg outlined the different facets of the proposal designed together with NABARD.

The credit facility will be provided to the landless farmers on the basis of 'social collateral' through joint liability groups (JLGs). The credit would be available to the sharecroppers as normal crop loan. The rate of interest and interest subvention would be as per the existing norms of the state government.

NABARD Chief General

Manager A Chandra Sekhar said, "This scheme is the first of its kind in the country. Through this scheme, the real field-level agricultural activities will have credit inflow of around ₹1,040 crore."

Each bank would finance at least 10 JLGs in a year. There are around 7,000 branches of different banks and Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS) in the rural and semi-urban areas. Each JLG would comprise five members.

Loan to each group could be extended up to ₹1.60 lakh. It is targeted to cover around 7 lakh landless cultivators through 1.40 lakh JLGs within a period of two years. The Institute of Management & Advance Global Excellence (IMAGE) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) would be the nodal agencies at the state and district levels, respectively.

It was decided to incentivize the Krushak Sathis and VAWs through ATMA for formation of JLGs, linking them to banks, mobilizing disbursement of credit and facilitating repayment of the loan.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Can't we cancel elections too? The result can be declared by taking average of previous polls!

# DEITIES' GOLDEN ATTIRE



Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath adorned in gold ornaments on their respective chariots at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir as part of the Suna Beshra ritual, Thursday. For the first time, the unique ritual was performed without the congregation of devotees due to the COVID-19 restrictions

PHOTOS: ANIL KUMAR SAHOO

# 162 killed as Myanmar jade mine caves in

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Yangon, July 2:** At least 162 people were killed Thursday in a landslide at a jade mine in northern Myanmar; the government and rescue workers said, the latest in a series of deadly accidents at the sites in recent years.

A statement from the Ministry of Information gave the death toll as 116, while Khin Maung Win, chairman of the Thingaha rescue group working at the site, said the number of the dead surpassed 113.

Khin Maung Myint, a lawmaker from Hpakant, where the accident occurred, said 54 people were injured and sent to hospitals.

The Hpakant area in Kachin state is 950 kilometers north of Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, and is the center of the world's biggest and most lucrative jade mining industry. A November 2015 accident also left 113 dead and was considered the country's worst. In that case, the victims died when a 60-meter-high mountain of earth and waste discarded by several mines tumbled in.

# Govt clears ₹38.9K cr to purchase weapons

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 2:** Amid the tense situation at the border with China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday approved a proposal for procurement of 21 MiG-29 fighter aircraft, along with upgradation of 59 Mig-29s, and 12 more Su-30 MKI aircraft.

To strengthen the armed forces for defending the borders, the Defence Acquisition Council meeting, chaired by Rajnath Singh, accorded approval for capital acquisitions of various platforms and equipment required by the three services.

"Proposals for an approximate

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday approved a proposal for procurement of 21 MiG-29 fighter aircraft, along with upgradation of 59 Mig-29s, and 12 more Su-30 MKI aircraft



While the MiG-29 procurement and upgradation from Russia is estimated to cost ₹7,418 crore, the Su-30 MKIs will be procured from HAL at an estimated cost of ₹10,730 crore

cost of ₹38,900 crore were approved," a Defence Ministry statement said. While the MiG-29 procurement and upgradation from Russia is estimated to cost ₹7,418 crore, the Su-30 MKIs will be procured from HAL

at an estimated cost of ₹10,730 crore.

Focused on indigenous design and development, these approvals include acquisitions, amounting to ₹31,130 crore, from Indian industry. These equipment will be manufactured in India by the Indian defence industry with participation of several MSMEs as prime tier vendors.

The indigenous content in some of these projects is up to 80 per cent of the project cost. A large number of these projects have been made possible due to transfer of technology by the Defence Research & Development Organisation to indigenous industry.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	35843.70 ↑ 429.25
NIFTY	10551.70 ↑ 121.70
DOLLAR	74.85 ↓ ₹0.95
EURO	84.50 ↓ ₹0.40
GOLD	₹48,145 ↓ ₹122
SILVER	₹48,000 ↓ ₹770

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	36.5°C	37.0°C
MIN	27.2°C	25.0°C
Humidity	94%	85%
Rainfall	0.1mm	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

## WHAT IS PLASMA THERAPY

Convalescent Plasma Therapy is an experimental procedure where plasma from the blood of a recovered COVID-19 patient is transfused to a critically ill coronavirus patient. The blood of a person who has recovered from COVID-19 develops antibodies. When injected into the blood of another patient, these antibodies are supposed to help that person fight the infection.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Taking a cue from Kerala, New Delhi and Maharashtra, the state government has decided to start plasma therapy to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients. It has also decided to set up a plasma bank will also be set up for this purpose.

A decision in this regard was taken at a high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, Thursday.

Das directed the concern offi-

A BJP LEADER AND SIX MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAVE TESTED COVID POSITIVE IN BHUBANESWAR. ALL THE SEVEN PERSONS HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO A CITY HOSPITAL



cial to constitute a technical committee to outline the treatment plan for plasma therapy as well as prepare detailed guidelines for successful introduction of this treatment in the state.

The committee will also create awareness among the people regarding the plasma therapy and submit a detailed report to the government, sources said.

In pilot phase, plasma therapy will be introduced in SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) and Ashwini Hospital in Cuttack and SUM and KIMS hospitals in Bhubaneswar.

Meanwhile, the government has also decided to use antiviral drug FaviFlu and Remdesivir to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Meanwhile, the state reported two more COVID-19 fatalities Thursday taking the death toll due to the disease to 27 in the state, while the total tally rose to 7,545 with 229 fresh cases, a health department official said.

Two men, aged 49 and 57, succumbed to the disease at the COVID hospitals in Ganjam and Angul districts, he said.

# leisure



## VANILLA IN SOUP FOR PLANNING CONCERT

Rapper Vanilla Ice is gearing up to perform at a 2,500-capacity concert in Texas despite the rise in COVID-19 cases in the state. However, his plan amid the lockdown is being severely trolled on social media.

## JASON MOMOA TO VOICE FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

Aquaman star Jason Momoa will voice the character of Frosty the Snowman in an upcoming live-action film of the same name. At the moment, Momoa is in negotiations to star as Frosty the Snowman in the film, reports *variety.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesh says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

**TAURUS**  
This day your mind is likely to be blissfully drawn towards your personal friends and family members. Your warm and intimate relationships will stay uppermost in your mind and fill the day, not leaving room for anything else.

**GEMINI**  
You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today. You will have to waste a lot of time in fulfilling the demands made by those around you. However, the more demands you fulfill, the more their expectations will rise, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet with success.

**LEO**  
You will be busy on the work front today. It is a good day for those who are self-employed. Housewives will remain extremely busy with household matters. You will be able to work according to your desire though, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will be really very tough today, like a man of steel, but there is enough warmth in your heart. Forbearance, positivity and extremely artistic abilities will predominate. Ganesh advises you to pursue the arts in your studies. Your deep insight into life will help you in serving society in a better way.

**LIBRA**  
You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesh. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot of interesting discussions.

**SCORPIO**  
For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesh. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

**CAPRICORN**  
You are beaming with optimism and positive energy. Such strong vibes will penetrate through the day and maintain the energy level right till the end. Not everyone is blessed with such spirit, so will certainly have an upper hand at work, be it your profession or business, says Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
The cupid may strike you today! The singles may feel the energy and excitement of budding romance. Equally blissful day for the married couples, too, as they will spend quality time with each other.

**PISCES**  
Unexpected expenses are likely to crop up today. There are strong indications that you will set out upon a journey or a picnic to some nearby place, without too much prior planning. However, the journey will be comfortable and your travel plans will go off without a hitch.



**Grooms these days are arriving with just a handful of baratis, all wearing masks while the brides' families are no more greeting them with garlands but with hand sanitisers**

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar:** Marriage, since ages, has been considered as one of life's most memorable events. Reason: It is believed to be a union of two souls. Therefore, the occasion is incomplete without loud music, elaborate food menu, colourful decorations and of course processions that are attended by hundreds of guests.

However, the outbreak of novel coronavirus has

# New normal at nuptials during lockdown



compelled people to have simpler nuptials. The groom these days is arriving with just a handful of baratis, all wearing masks while the bride's family is no more greeting them with garlands but with sanitisers in hands. The pandemic has certainly created an unprecedented situation. So much so, that a newlywed couple in Sundargarh shunned Hataganthi, one of the most important rituals of a Hindu wedding.

The offers from the wedding planners have also been changed with things like 'Thermal Screening for Guests', 'Mandatory Hand Washing Stations', 'Hand Sanitizers' and 'Special N95 Masks for guests' are being added to the existing facilities.

A few girls who tied the knot during the lockdown shares their experience with OrissaPOST.

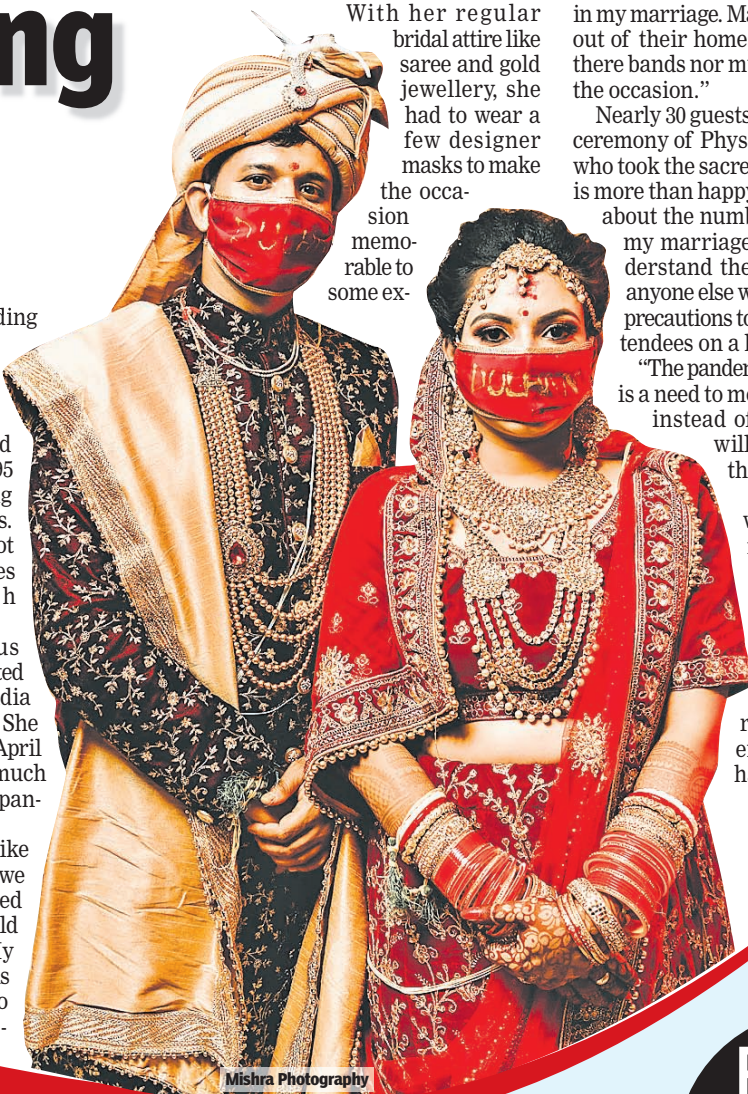
Pooja Mishra, a famous model who has also represented the state in Femina Miss India contest got married June 29. She was all set to take the vow in April and the date was finalised much before COVID-19 turned a pandemic, says Pooja.

"However, it got delayed like other social events. Finally, we managed to do it with limited people in attendance. We could invite a very few guests. My cousins and some close friends also couldn't make it to the mar-

riage due to travel restrictions. Hopefully, things will turn normal in next couple of months when we can arrange a proper reception."

There are no prizes for guessing about her wedding wardrobe.

With her regular bridal attire like saree and gold jewellery, she had to wear a few designer masks to make the occasion memorable to some extent.



Mishra Photography

Banker Sasmita Sahoo who also got hitched during the lockdown period says, "We had enough masks, gloves and bottles of hand sanitiser ready for our invitees to ensure safety but the turnout was thin in my marriage. Many didn't dare to come out of their homes. Expectedly, neither there bands nor musical programmes on the occasion."

Nearly 30 guests attended the wedding ceremony of Physician Khusboo Arora, who took the sacred vow June 19. But she is more than happy. "I have no complaint about the number of guests attended my marriage. Being a doctor, I understand the situation more than anyone else which is why we took all precautions to keep the number of attendees on a hold," says Khusboo.

"The pandemic can't stop life. There is a need to move on against all odds instead of complaining which will make us victorious in the long run," she adds.

Subham Mishra, a wedding photographer from the city, says, "The pandemic has badly affected our profession. Earlier, apart from the D-Day clicks, we used to have shoots during pre-wedding events, receptions and other ceremonies which is not happening now."

## Saif gets trolled for playing 'victim' card

**Mumbai:** Saif Ali Khan declared in an interview that he has been a victim of nepotism, but he only ended up being a target of memes and trolls in social media.

"Nepotism in its purest form is something that even I have been a victim of.. I am not going to take names but somebody's dad has rung up and said don't take him in the movie" Saif said in a recent interview.

However, the comment did not go down well with netizens. Trolls and memes started targeting the actor, who is the son of renowned actress Sharmila Tagore and late cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi. "Saif Ali Khan: I am the victim of nepotism. Memers: Is this a joke?," reads a meme.

"His mother bought him the National Award over Shah Rukh Khan in Swades. He'd even tried to trivialize the Nepotism debate at an Award Show," tweeted a user.

"Congratulations #SaifAliKhan. You just graduated from the Ananya Pandey institute of Struggle!!," reads another sarcastic tweet.



## Nora garners 4mn followers on Insta

**Mumbai:** Dancing sensation and actress Nora Fatehi has hit 14 million mark on Instagram, and to celebrate she has shared a moment that she believed has changed her life.

She posted a video in which she is seen doing a belly dance.

Recalling the moment, Nora wrote: "Celebrating 14 million with a throwback of this video which changed my life forever! Impromptu solo during my performance for Miss India awards 2018 Bangalore.. this video broke the internet and got me Dilbar."

"I didn't prepare for my solo, it was on the spot. I was just feeling the music. And for good luck I wore the same outfit in the Dilbar video too. Thank you for 14million, what a journey," she added.

In a short time, Nora has established herself as one of the best dancers in the industry with hits such as *Manohari* in *Baahubali: The Beginning*, *Dilbar* in *Satyamev Jayate* and *O saki saki* in *Batla House*.

## Rashmi unveils her Tamas look

**Mumbai:** Actress Rashmi Desai has shared the first poster from her upcoming project, *Tamas*.

In the poster, we can see Adhvik Mahajan and Rashmi. While Adhvik strikes an intense close-up, Rashmi dons an ethnic look, hair neatly tied and a dupatta on her head.

A user commented: "You look so beautiful. Can't wait to see you in

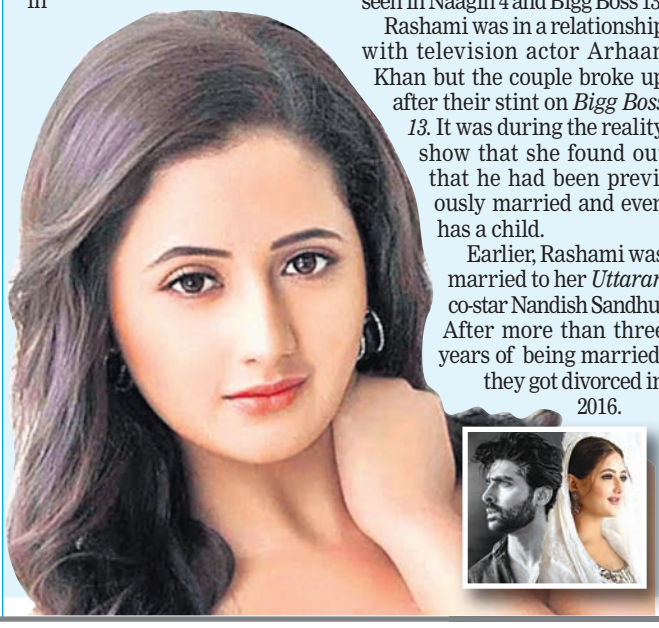
*Tamas*."

Another one commented: "Elegant."

Without revealing more details, Rashmi shared that *Tamas* will release July 7. Rashmi was last seen in *Naagin 4* and *Bigg Boss 13*.

Rashmi was in a relationship with television actor Arhaan Khan but the couple broke up after their stint on *Bigg Boss 13*. It was during the reality show that she found out that he had been previously married and even has a child.

Earlier, Rashmi was married to her *Uttaran* co-star Nandish Sandhu. After more than three years of being married, they got divorced in 2016.



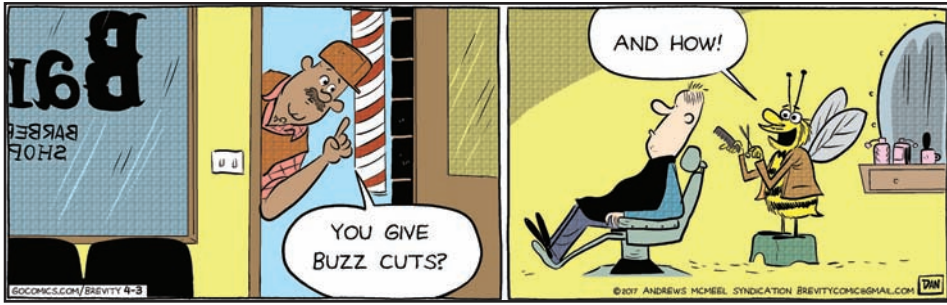
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

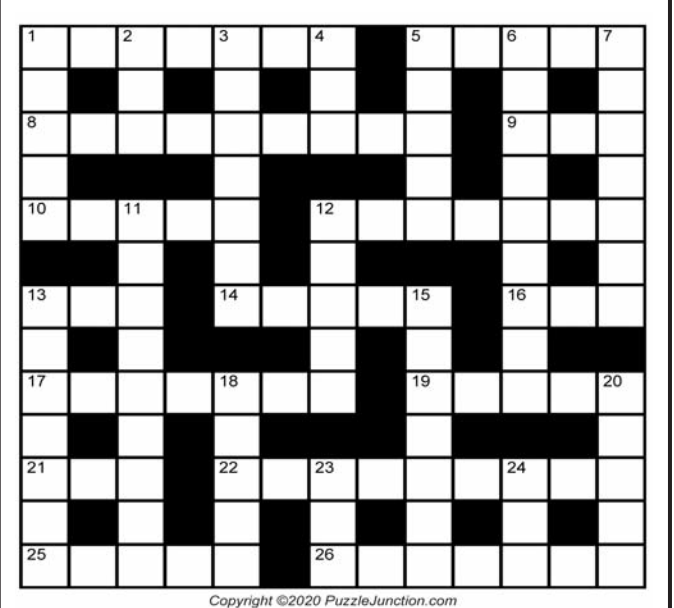


### BREVITY



### FUN post

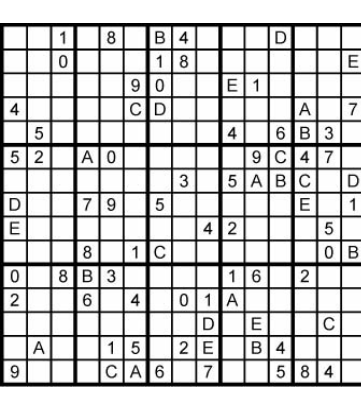
### CROSSWORD



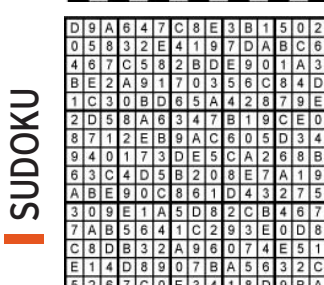
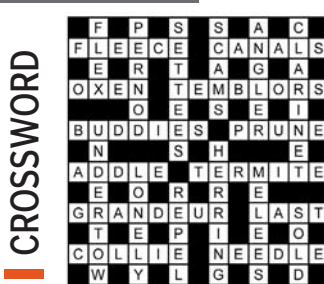
- Copyright ©2020 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Reggae relative
  - 5 Gossiped
  - 8 Devoted to a cause
  - 9 Believer's suffix
  - 10 Kind of wave
  - 12 Infinite
  - 13 Racket
  - 14 Architecture type
  - 16 French flower
  - 17 Reading room
  - 19 Toboggans
  - 21 Children's game
  - 22 Great ape
  - 25 Newspaper section
  - 26 Astronaut's concern
- Down**
- 1 Military trainee
  - 2 Preceded
  - 3 Preserved in brine
  - 4 Passé
  - 5 Dulled by forfeit
  - 6 Sign of surrender (5,4)
  - 7 Loathes
  - 11 Beach vehicle (4,5)
  - 12 Premature
  - 13 Strikes out
  - 15 Rhine port
  - 18 Hacienda brick
  - 20 Type of disposition
  - 23 Ventilator
  - 24 Youngster

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## FIGHTING VIRUS

Volunteers sanitise Toshali Bhawan in the wake of novel coronavirus outbreak, Thursday

## DEVOTIONAL SONG

A group of Srimandir servitors present a devotional song programme in front of the chariots in Puri, Thursday



# Disaster-resilient power infra in twin city

### RING SUPPLY SYSTEM WILL ENSURE 24X7 QUALITY POWER SUPPLY AT ALL VOLTAGE LEVELS

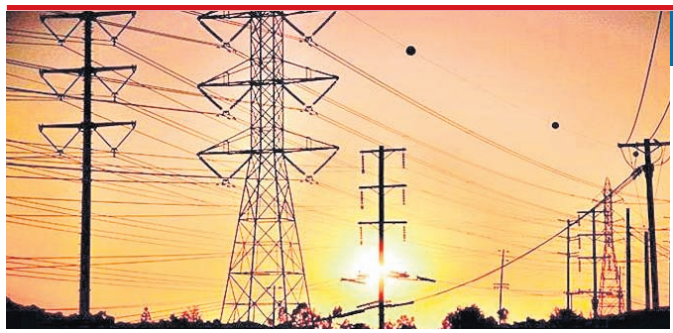
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** If things go as per plan, the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack would have advanced and disaster-resilient power supply system (underground cabling) by December 2020, official sources said.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy here, Thursday. "Work out advanced implementation schedule for each phase of the work and resolve the ground level issues as and when they crop up through active coordination among the departments of Energy General Administration, GRIDCO and executing agency," the Chief Secretary said. Tripathy also directed OPTCL (Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited) to expedite the implementation through close and coordinated monitoring. "Target was set to complete the project by December 2020," he said.

GRIDCO chairman Sourabh Garg said, "The entire power transmission and distribution system will be upgraded and 20 new sub stations of various capacities will be set up under the project."

The Rs 1,600-crore project to be funded by the state government would include installation of 220-



Disaster-resilient 33-KV substations are also being installed in Unit VIII, Bargarh, Bapujinagar, Master Canteen, Satyanagar, Sahidnagar, Kharavel Nagar, Ranihat and Badambadi areas in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

## INFRA OVERHAUL

The ₹1,600-crore project of the state govt would include installation of 220-KV sub-stations at Pratappur Shasan, Baliana, Gothpatana, Godisahi, Cuttack

132-KV sub-stations are coming up in Unit VIII, Mancheswar, Bargarh, Satyanagar, Nayapali and Brajabiharipur

KV sub-stations at Pratappur Shasan, Baliana, Gothpatana, Godisahi, Cuttack (near Bailashi Mauza), Garg said.

Similarly, 132-KV sub-stations are coming up in Unit VIII, Mancheswar, Bargarh, Satyanagar, Nayapali and Brajabiharipur, he stated.

Besides, disaster-resilient 33-KV substations are also being installed in Unit VIII, Bargarh, Bapujinagar, Master Canteen, Satyanagar, Sahidnagar, Kharavel Nagar, Ranihat and Badambadi areas in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

OPTCL managing director Sanjeeb Singh said underground cabling is being laid in many areas of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. He said

till today, around 90 per cent of the scheduled work has been completed. Target was set to complete the entire projects in different phases by December end. More than 10 lakh consumers will benefit under the new system, he added.

Additional Chief Secretary and Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena, who attended the meeting, said the system should be developed which can withstand wind speed of 300 km per hour.

Energy secretary NB Dhal said the new system would meet electrical load demand up to 1300 MW. It would ensure 24x7 quality power supply at all voltage levels because of the ring supply system. Besides, it would also reduce transmission

and distribution losses, electrical accidents, operation and maintenance costs and improve the aesthetic look of the city.

A few days ago, the state government had decided to put in place disaster-resilient power infrastructure in the cyclone prone districts of the state with an investment of Rs 19,000 crore.

Four districts – Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore – would have disaster resilient power infrastructure with a total investment of Rs 11,000 crore in the first phase. In the second phase, five districts – Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, Ganjam and Gajapati – would have the kind of power infra at an estimated cost of Rs 8,000 crore.

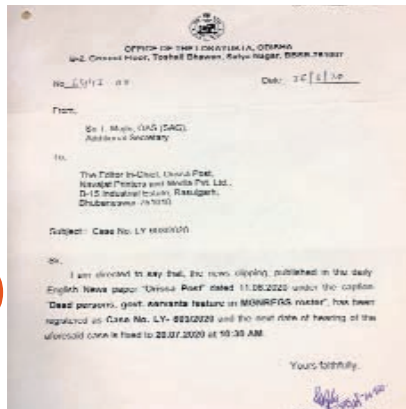
# Lokayukta to hear case on MGNREGS irregularities

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Taking a serious note of lapses in implementation of MGNREGS published in this newspaper, the state Lokayukta has suo motu registered a case (LY-603/2020) and has scheduled the hearing to July 20, 2020, a report said Thursday.

The OP report, published June 11, 2020, had stated that while the government had been laying a lot of stress on creating jobs for migrant workers and locals under MGNREGS during the lockdown, the scheme had allegedly been an instrument of massive irregularities in Hatadihi block of Keonjhar district. The report claimed lakhs of rupees had been embezzled through fake muster rolls while no work had been done in reality.

What was shocking was that the scammers had shown dead people, government servants, migrants and elderly people on records whom work had been provided and wages paid. The scam was reported from Sholapata village of Shalania panchayat. As per official records, work of a farm pond was awarded in the name Adhikari Nayak, 70. The cost



The letter issued by the Lokayukta

estimated was Rs1.5 lakh. The project had not been approved by the Gram Sabha.

The work code was 2403009/IAF/10518773. It was stated that the work was executed between May 27 and June 9 with the help of 95 job card holders. Accordingly, muster rolls were doctored. In the second week, the job card holders were paid Rs 1,449 for seven days. Serial number 3956 in the muster roll was assigned to a dead person.

## Dead persons, govt servants feature in MGNREGS roster

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Hatadihi, June 10:** Though the government has been laying stress on creating jobs for migrants and locals under MGNREGS during the lockdown, the scheme has allegedly been an instrument for massive irregularities in Hatadihi block of Keonjhar, a report said.

The report said lakhs of rupees have been embezzled through fake muster rolls while no work had been done in reality. Shockingly, the scammers have shown in records that dead people, government servants, migrants and elderly people were provided work and their wages were paid.

Such scam was reported from Sholapata village of Shalania panchayat. As per official records, work of a farm pond at an estimated cost of Rs 1.5 lakh has been awarded in



Report say lakhs of rupees have been embezzled through fake muster rolls while no work had been done in reality

the name of 70-year-old Adhikari Nayak. The work code is 2403009/IAF/10518773. It was stated that the work was executed between May 27 and June 9 with help of 95 job card holders. Accordingly, muster rolls were doctored. In the second week, the job card holders were paid Rs 1,449 for seven days. The serial number 3956 in the muster roll was assigned to a dead person. A teacher named Satyabrat

The screenshot of the OP report

# e-Classes for college, varsity students to start July 13

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The state government, Thursday, directed all the universities and colleges in the state to start online teaching for students from July 13, 2020.

In a letter, Higher Education department commissioner-cum-secretary Saswat Mishra asked the higher education institutions to set up a helpline for teachers to frequently contact students telephonically to counsel them in this crisis. This will also help students regarding queries on various matters such as online teaching, examinations, projects and assignments and scholarships. This apart, issuance of books to students from libraries shall be facilitated.

The letter also says that the teachers shall form WhatsApp and email groups of students. A group should not exceed 32 members. The teachers shall provide softcopy of notes/textbooks/reference to students either through WhatsApp or email for study at home. Good digital study material are also available

## ONLINE STUDY



Teachers shall conduct online class with students for 2-3 hours a day for three days in a week

They shall form WhatsApp and email groups with each group not exceeding 32 members

THE ONLINE CLASSES MUST BE CONDUCTED BY TEACHERS FROM THE COLLEGE PREMISES

in e-PG Pathashala, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course), Odisha State Open University, website etc.

Teachers shall conduct online classes with students for 2 to 3 hours a day for three days a week. The online classes must be conducted by teachers from the college premises.

Government-run universities and colleges shall carry out their official work, (except teaching in physical classroom mode and running of hostels) with 50 per cent em-

ployee strength from July 1 to August 31, the letter read.

The head of the higher education institutions shall decide the roster arrangement of all teachers, officers and non-teaching employees to ensure that only 50 per cent of employees attend office/duty on any given day. Moreover, the department also asked the institutions to complete evaluation/alternative evaluation of final year/ semester students and publish their results by August 31, 2020.

# Cong for Assembly session during August third week

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Senior Congress legislator Narasingha Mishra, Thursday, urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to convene the monsoon session of the Assembly in third week of August to resolve some crucial issues emerged in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.

"We extended full support to you to combat Covid-19, be it adjourning the Assembly or outside the House. Unconditional support was extended to state government for public interest. But after lapse of more than three months, the results of all the steps taken by state government have disappointed us," Mishra wrote to Naveen.

Now, more than 7,000 people have been infected with the novel coronavirus and the number is increasing alarmingly every day, he said. Admitting that Odisha is in a better position as compared to some other states, the Congress leader said, "But at the same time some other states have performed better than us. We have failed to provide medical facilities to large sections of people. Doctors are not available in healthcare centres."

Even in Bhubaneswar doctors are afraid of recording blood pressure of patients, he said, adding, "In my district of Bolangir, doctors do not come to the hospital and also are not available in PHC & CHC." While unemployment problem



Unconditional support was extended to state government for public interest. But after lapse of more than three months, the results of all the steps taken by state government have disappointed us

NARASINGHA MISHRA | CONGRESS LEADER

has become acute, the condition of returnee migrants is becoming bad to worse while farmers are unable to sell their paddy. Moreover, prices of essential commodities have been sky-rocketing, he stated.

"Democratic values have gone to dustbin. Constitutional rights have been curtailed. People's representatives are not being taken into confidence. It is therefore necessary to convene the Assembly session by 3rd week of August 2020 to discuss various problems of people and try to find out solutions jointly for welfare of the state," he added.

The last session of Assembly was cancelled in mid-March before the scheduled due to the outbreak of the deadly virus.

## Thakur appointed Home dept spl secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Senior IPS officer and IG, Operations, Amitabh Thakur was given additional charge of special secretary to the state Home department.

The additional charge was given to Thakur after closure of Covid-19 control room opened at Home department to facilitate safe return of migrant workers from other states to Odisha. The IPS officer successfully managed the return of over 6 lakh people during lockdown, said official sources.

Patribadu, Suarabadu and

# Deities to be offered delicious drink today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, July 2:** Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra would be offered delicious drink on their respective chariots as part of the Adharapana ritual Friday.

The ritual would be performed without the congregation of devotees, in accordance with the Covid-19 restrictions, on the Grand Road, said an official of Srimandir administration.

As per Srimandir tradition, the special drink would be offered to the deities in nine cylindrical earthen pots reaching up to their lips, therefore earning the ritual the name of Adharapana.

According to researcher Naresh Chandra Dash, earlier the sweet drink used to be offered to the deities in 12 pots – three on Bahuda Dashami, three on Ekadashi, three on Dwadashi, two for Ram and Krishna on Lord Balabhadra's chariot and one pot for Madan Mohan on Lord Jagannath's chariot.

Nowadays, the drink is being offered in nine pots, three pots for each deity, on a single day, Dash said.

Authorities of Raghav Das Mutt, Badaodia Mutt and the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTAT) each supply three pots and the ingredients for the preparation of the sweet drink.

As per the tradition, process for the Adharapana ritual begins immediately after the completion of Madhyahna Dhoopa.

Cheese, milk, sugar, banana, camphor, nuts, black pepper and extracts from holy basil are kept on each chariot. Then three earthen pots reaching up to the lips of the deities are kept on each chariot.

Mahasura servitors prepare the drink by mixing the ingredients with the holy water collected from a well in front of Chhaumi Mutt near the Lions' Gate of Srimandir.

Patribadu, Suarabadu and



The three chariots at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir in Puri, Thursday

OP PHOTOS

The special drink would be offered to the deities in 9 cylindrical earthen pots reaching up to their lips

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As per the tradition, process for the Adharapana ritual begins immediately after the completion of Madhyahna Dhoopa

Garabadu servitors perform the puja on the three chariots. A Bhog is then offered to the deities by Palia Pujapanda servitors. After the Bhog is offered, the pots are broken before the deities and the drink is spilled away on the chariots.

It is believed that the spillover drink is for the subsidiary deities placed on the chariots, evil spirits and ghostly bodies. "The evil spirits are satiated once they consume the Adharapana. Therefore, devotees are forbidden to partake the drink," Dash said.

## Trinity sparkles in golden attire

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Puri, July 2:** Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra were Thursday adorned with gold ornaments by the servitors on their respective chariots. The administration had imposed curfew and no devotee was allowed to witness the Suna Beshha of the deities due to the Supreme Court directives in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Early Thursday morning, servitors performed Mangal Alati, Mailama, Tadaplaga, Abakash, offered Gopal Bhog and thereafter Sakaladhoopa was offered followed by Madhyahnadhoopa.

The process for Suna Beshha began in the afternoon about 4 pm. Bhandar Mekap (assistant treasurer of temple) in presence of Pattajoshi Mahapatra, Deulakaran, Pratihari and temple police opened the Bahar Bhandar (outer treasury compartment).

They brought out ornaments and jewellery of three deities kept in three separate boxes amid tight security and handed them over to



Servitors carrying gold ornaments to the chariots, Thursday

the servitors on the three chariots with an acknowledgement of inventory they received.

Three separate dresser units called Simharies along with some senior Daita servitors dressed the deities in gold ornaments.

It took about one and half hours from 4 pm to 5.30 pm to complete the golden adornment ritual.

Apart from placing huge tiaras on their head and a number of necklaces of various sizes on their necks the deities were given limbs like feet, hands, ear lobes and their insignia. While Lord Jagannath was decorated with conch and chakra, Balabhadra was decorated with a gold plough.

# 'Heart needs special care during nCoV crisis'

MANISH KUMAR, OP

## CARDIAC HEALTH FIRST

Since heart is part of the respiratory system, the viral infection can directly affect the heart functioning and for people living with blocked arteries other obstructive ailments are likely to develop more severe forms of the novel coronavirus



Several cardiologists are now evading elective heart surgeries to reduce the risk of Covid-19 by exposing the patients to hospitals

With minor change of lifestyle, cardiac patients can avert the chances of the developing disease and keep their heart and overall health normal

According to Das several cardiologists are now evading elective heart surgeries to reduce the risk of Covid-19 by exposing the patients to hospitals.

"We are trying to avoid unimportant surgeries as of now to reduce the chances of Covid-19 threat to our patients. We are now taking care of mainly emergency cardiac surgeries," he added.

Das explained that as heart is part of the respiratory system, the viral infection can directly affect the heart functioning and for people living with blocked arteries other obstructive ailments are likely to develop more severe forms of the novel coronavirus.

Other cardiologists claim that with minor change of lifestyle, car-

diac patients can avert the chances of the developing the disease and keep their heart and overall health normal.

"First of all, they need to follow the most basic hygiene practices and must abide social distancing and mask wearing norms. They should also never skip their medicines at this time at any cost," said Dr Sarat Behera, a Cardiologist from AMRI Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

"It is also important for cardiac patients to eat well-cooked and hot food and also attempts should be made to eat more nutritious food which can supplement important nutrition to them which in turn can help them in fighting the disease more effectively," Behera added.

## BMC OFFICIALS SEAL NURSING HOME IN CITY



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** In yet another case of local healthcare homes violating SOPs (Standard Operation Procedure) the civic authority here ordered sealing of a nursing home at Baramunda Housing Board Colony for gross negligence of COVID-19 guidelines.

The Ruchika Nursing Home in Baramunda was earlier given a show-cause notice by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) after a surprise check-up found the hospital violating the mandatory guidelines as given by the civic authority. Failing to comply with the notice, the BMC ordered sealing of the nursing home.

"The hospital was violating several COVID-19 guidelines including mandatory usage of masks and enforcement of social distancing. During an inspection, it was found that the nursing home staff was not following established protocols for COVID-19 issued by the administration," said Zonal District Commissioner (South West), Rabi Narayan Jethy. As per the order, BMC also said that the hospital will be completely closed to the general public. However, the indoor patients who are already in the hospital will be taken care of till they are discharged.

## Record buying of tribal goods this year: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The state government has procured minor forest produce from tribals and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) worth Rs 28 crore this season, TDCCOL, the nodal procurement agency of the government said Thursday.

The Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation (TDCCOL) is implementing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme.

The government agency is procuring primarily 13 predominantly tribal districts such as Sal Seed, Seeded Tamarind, Char Seed, Hill Brooms from them at the MSP decided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The department claims that it has procured MFP worth Rs 28.10 crore and created a record.

"This year TDCCOL has procured so far 13300 MT of MFPs worth Rs 28.10 crore which far exceeds the total value of procurement in last six years taken together. Total value of MFPs which was procured in last six years was only Rs 4.09 crore," a statement from the department said.

# 229 more contract virus in state

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Two more COVID-19 positive patients succumbed to the disease taking the total casualty to 27 in Odisha while virus cases surged to 7545 with 229 fresh positive cases during the last 24 hours.

State Health department Thursday stated that two patients, 49-year-old male of Ganjam district and 57-year-old male of Angul district have died during treatment in hospital.

With the two fresh deaths, the virus toll in Ganjam district rose to 15 followed by Khordha (5), Cuttack (4) and one each in Puri, Bargarh and Angul.

Official sources said out of 229 new cases reported from 19 districts in the state, 193 were from the quarantine centres and the rest 36 are local contact cases.

Ganjam district has reported maximum 1567 cases, 510 active cases and highest number of 15 deaths. The district also reported maximum number of 1041 recoveries from the disease.

The state government had already declared a weekend shutdown in all the ten districts where the virus load is more and closed all the educational institutions till August 31.

Meanwhile, Puri district Collector

<b>7,545</b>	<b>Total cases</b>
<b>2,008</b>	<b>Active cases</b>
<b>5,502</b>	<b>Recoveries</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
<b>2,74,672</b>	<b>Samples tested</b>

## 13 fresh cases in Capital; 5 local contacts

Bhubaneswar reported 13 fresh cases of COVID-19 in last 24 hours, informed Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Thursday. Out of 21 COVID new cases reported in Khordha district, 13 cases belong to Bhubaneswar. While 5 cases are local contacts, 8 have been detected from home quarantines. The government today also banned the entry of common people into the three main official premises - The Lok Seva Bhawan, Kharvela Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan and Rajiv Bhawan housing all important departments. The state capital has registered a sharp rise in positive cases over the past few days. So far 332 positive cases and five deaths were reported from the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area. Although 192 patients were cured but still 135 active cases are under treatment.

Balwant Singh Wednesday declared five containment zones in Puri following detection of twelve corona positive cases. Puri railway station has been

declared a containment zone as four persons living in railway premises tested positive for the virus. The fire station has been declared a containment zone as three firemen tested positive.

## Khurda Municipality office sealed

Khurda Municipality officials have closed the municipality office till July 5, after an employee tested positive Thursday for COVID-19. Sources said, the employee is a resident of Telenga Sahi area under Ward No.15 of the Khurda Municipality. The Telenga Sahi locality has also been declared as a Containment Zone. During contact tracing municipality officials have come to know that the infected person had come in contact with 33 others in the recent past. The Khurda district administration has ordered municipality officials to collect the swab samples of those 33 persons and their family members for testing. They have also been asked to stay in home quarantine till the test reports come.

was declared containment zone as one was found to be corona positive.

Harihar nagar located on the rear side of Gundicha temple was also declared a containment zone following detection of one Corona positive case. Two persons were found positive from Sarvodaya nagar of the city, the report said.

## Cong urges OHRC to probe tribal's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) leaders Thursday met Odisha Human Right Commission (OHRC) chairman seeking justice for a tribal woman who died after she was allegedly raped in Malkangiri district.

The gruesome incident had taken place in Malkangiri district headquarters police canteen. The tribal woman was raped May 7 this year. The woman subsequently succumbed to her injuries.

OPCC spokesperson Nishikanta Mishra alleged that that it is a sensitive case and police is not being serious about it. "Therefore we urge OHRC to immediately take necessary steps including independent investigation by the OHRC into the case and take steps as deemed appropriate, issue notice to police and seek report in the matter and direct government to ensure the physical and psychological safety of the victims' family," Mishra said.

Earlier, the general Secretary of the state unit of BJP, Lekhashree Samantasinghar, and other party leaders met Odisha Human Right Commission (OHRC) chairman June 24 seeking justice for the victim. As per the complaint, the tribal



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

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

The victim was later shifted to Sahid Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital at Koraput. However, her condition didn't improve and she died while being taken to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur May 11.

The victim's husband lodged an FIR with police in Malkangiri May 9 and alleged that the woman had been raped. He sought a proper inquiry into the incident. But, police didn't take any step.

## Panic in judicial bodies after lawyer tests +ve



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, July 2:** Panic hit Orissa High Court and other judicial establishments in the Millennium city after a lawyer attached to the Criminal Court Bar Association tested positive for Covid-19, a report said Thursday.

As a result, all the lower courts in the city as well as the offices of Civil and Criminal Courts Bar Associations have been shut down in view of a massive outbreak.

The matter came to fore after Jyotindriya Mohanty secretary of the Cuttack Bar Association informed the interim committee of Orissa High Court Bar Association about the development, Wednesday. He has informed in writing about a bar member being infected and other members coming in his contact.

Members have been advised to strictly follow social distancing norms and any violation would force the bar authorities to announce a shutdown in the bar

## NHRC seeks ATR on rape & abortion case from DM, SP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked Sundargarh District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police to submit action-taken report (ATR) in connection with the sensational rape and forced abortion of a minor girl by cops at Biramitrapur.

The commission, while hearing a plea which was filed by activist Himanshu Kumar Nayak based on a report published in Orissa POST, asked the district administration to inform the commission about the compensation awarded to the victim along with all the related proofs within four weeks.



The NHRC also warned that it can take coercive action against the authorities in case they failed to send the report within the stipulated time under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

Meanwhile, DGP Abhay had also apologised to the survivor for the shameful conduct of the IIC and other cops involved in it. The dismissed IIC of Biramitrapur Police station, Ananda Chandra Majhi, was arrested by the state crime branch from Handapa area in Angul Wednesday.

## MUD-PUDDLING



Butterflies take in salt and minerals from the ground near Vani Vihar Square, Bhubaneswar

## Odia girl gets plum UN post

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** Odia girl Baisali Mohanty who brought laurel to the state by winning the prestigious High Profile Achievement Award as best graduate student at Oxford University, England, has done Odisha proud again after being appointed as United Nations Policy Officer. She took charge of her new assignment recently.

After earning her Master's Degree in International Studies from Oxford University in 2016, Baisali was selected to join the prestigious International Civil Service of United Nations, the world's most presti-



Baisali Mohanty

gious civil service. From early 2018, she has been serving as the OIM Officer in the UN Mission for the Rohingya at the coastal town of Cox's Bazar on Myanmar-

Bangladesh border where over 10 lakh Rohingya refugees are being taken care of by the UN in world's largest refugee camp.

Baisali was born in the holy city of Puri to eminent women activist & author Manasi Pradhan and Ex Chief Engineer Radha Binod Mohanty, an IIT alumnus. Baisali completed her schooling at Blessed Sacrament High School in Puri and KIIT International School in Bhubaneswar. She did her graduation at the prestigious Lady Shriram College, Delhi, before earning her Master's Degree at the coveted Oxford University writing her dissertation on Nuclear Diplomacy.

## CLASSIFIED

### LOST

All concerned that one Original Lease Deed bearing No. 6958/88 Dt.26.07.1988 of our Company M/s. Bhargavi Enterprises Private Limited has been lost. If any person finds this, please handover the same on the following Mobile No. 9861386410 or if any one misuse the said document, our company shall not be held responsible.

We would like to inform that, our Two Original Money Receipt 1. 067302050, Dt.19.11.2008, Amount Rs.1,78,160/- and 2. 068862021, Dt.03.07.2010, Amount Rs.1,68,814/- Security deposit with

WESCO, BED, Bargarh has been lost elsewhere and the same is not traceable now. Shree Krishna Fabsin Pvt. Ltd., Rly. Station Road, Bargarh.

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit I Ratna Manjari Pradhan, Wife of Subash Chandra Pradhan, Vill/P.O.- Talagarh, P.S.- Bantala, Dist.- Angul hereby declaring that my Date of Birth wrongly mention as 18.07.1978 in the service record of my Husband Army No. - 14638441 N Rank have instead of 18.07.1977.

Hence the Date of Birth may be read/corrected to 18.07.1977 to avoid all future litigation.

## Handwashing no more a priority in Silver City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, July 2:** Handwashing norms have been pushed to backburner in various business and healthcare establishments in Silver City with the state government easing the curbs on lockdown, a report said Thursday.

This has happened due to lack of regular monitoring by the district administration and concerned authorities for which various government and private establishments are no more following the rules on handwashing. As a result, handwashing is no more a priority for these establishments as visitors easily enter their premises without cleaning their hands with liquid soap or sanitisers.

Sources said, handwashing was made compulsory in various establishments during the initial phase of lockdown in March. Then,



every business and healthcare establishments were asked implement the handwashing norms strictly without any fail.

In that phase, even hospital or business establishments which

were found to be violating the norms were penalized. Every business house and healthcare institutions were asked to keep water and liquid soap at the entry points. They were also mandated to ask the vis-

Due to lack of regular monitoring by the district admin, various government and private establishments are flouting norms on handwashing

Cuttack Municipal Corporation stated that raids will be conducted soon to make every establishment abide by handwashing rules

itor to clean their hands before entering their premises. However, with passage of time, regular supervision has become a low priority for these establishments.

Handwashing has become a forgotten lore even for many of the hospitals in the city. However, it seems it was never a priority for them.

New water supply points were created and liquid soaps kept at SCB

Medical College and Hospital premises to help patients and attendants wash their hands before entering various wards and outdoor units in the hospital premises.

However, a reality check by this correspondent found liquid soaps missing from the water supply points with patients and visitors no more following the rules. This is not a lone case but the situation is same in every government and private hospitals in Cuttack. Even many private hospitals do not have provisions for handwashing in their premises.

When contacted, Abinash Rout, enforcement officer Cuttack Municipal Corporation said raids will be conducted soon to make every establishment abide by the handwashing rules. Moreover, if needed, action will be taken against the establishments violating the norms, he added.

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# 3 more dists join weekend shutdown

**BATTLE STEPPED UP AGAINST COVID**



An area under Digapahandi block in Ganjam shut down

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, Bolangir, Nayagarh, July 2:** In view of the rising COVID-19 infection cases in Bargarh, Bolangir and Nayagarh, the administrations in these districts have declared weekend shutdowns in their districts, Thursday. From July 4 the weekend shutdown will be enforced in the three districts. With 14 deaths and 1041 recoveries, Ganjam has the highest number of 416 active cases. Taking another step as a precautionary measure to stop the

## NO VEHICLES ON GANJAM ROADS TILL JULY 31

**CHHATRAPUR:** Despite various measures to contain the spread of coronavirus, the virus is spreading its tentacles to more areas in Ganjam.

With 14 deaths and 1041 recoveries, Ganjam has the highest number of 416 active cases.

Taking another step as a precautionary measure to stop the spread of Covid-19, the district administration banned the movement of vehicles in the district till July 31. However, the district administration has given a green signal to the residents to ply those with agriculture, goods, and health purposes.

Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange has requested people not to travel

## Digapahandi in throes of community spread

**Digapahandi:** Covid infection cases are increasing alarmingly in Ganjam district while the district administration has intensified efforts on active contact tracing and focused on right execution of preventive measures.

On the other hand, fears of community transmission prevailed in Digapahandi area with new local infection cases.

Meanwhile, Covid has claimed another life in the district, taking the

tally to 16. The health department tweeted Thursday that a 49-year old person died during treatment.

On the other hand, fears of community transmission of the virus prevailed in Digapahandi area after four people tested positive at Khamri village Thursday.

Sarpanch Santosh Kumar Patra, making use of the DM's power, has announced a shutdown of the village for seven days.

Reports said, an elderly person

of the village was indisposed and admitted to a private hospital in Vishakhapatnam where he tested positive for Covid. Three members of his family were in quarantine. Their swab test reports were found positive Wednesday.

Collector Vijay Amruta Kulanga has ordered to shut temporary medical centres (TMCs) in various panchayats and to operationalise newly formed cluster temporary medical centres (CTMC) in the district.

## 4 of DSP's kin test +ve for Covid-19

**ATHAGARH:** Four family members of a deputy superintendent of police (DSP), Athagarh sub division, in Cuttack district, tested positive for the coronavirus. The DSP had earlier tested positive for the disease.

Berhampur community health centre (CHC), medical officer, Dillip Kumar Das informed this Thursday.

Das said that a couple of Dhaipur area while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bhubaneswar had contracted the virus. After contact tracing, swab samples from 125 persons were sent for test. Of them, reports of 17 persons came out positive. They include four members of the DSP's family and Athagarh block's ex-chairman.

## Beneficiaries draw no benefits from RSBY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Banarpal, July 2:** Even though there are so many central and state government schemes to provide free health services to people, eligible people of Banarpal block in Angul district have reportedly been deprived of such benefits.

Banarpal community health centre (CHC) has drastically failed in delivering any benefits under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) to eligible beneficiaries.

Card holders of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana are entitled to get medicines up to Rs 30,000. In case the hospital where the card holder is undergoing treatment does not have the required medicines the authorities are required to procure the medicines from outside. But the cardholders in Banarpal block have been deprived of such benefits for two years now.

Similarly, under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, the beneficiaries are entitled to get free health services at any government hospital. People can have this facility in hospitals in Cuttack and



Bhubaneswar. But the beneficiaries of Banarpal block have been deprived of this service since December, 2019.

While there are about 30,000 BPL beneficiaries in the block, 20,000 of them have cards and are eligible to get free health services. But the beneficiaries visiting the CHC allege that they are not getting any benefits even though they have cards. To avail benefits, the procedure is to enter the details of a card in the computer installed at the hospital office. This has been stopped at Banarpal CHC.

When contacted, chief health officer of the CHC Sankarshan Gahana admitted that patients are not getting any benefits under the yojanas. "The government has withdrawn both the yojanas from this CHC. If these yojanas are reintroduced, the beneficiaries will start getting the facilities," he informed.

## Farmers hit hard by low rainfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, July 2:** The district has received 28 per cent less rainfall in June this year compared to the corresponding period in 2019. More importantly, the industrial complex of Kalinganagar has received 64% less rainfall in June 2020 compared to what it had in June 2019.

According to a report of the 'Odisha Rainfall Monitoring System', the industrial complex including Danagadi block, Duburi and Pankapal localities have witnessed normal rainfall for seven days in June.

"As the SPCB has no control over the industrial units and rampant pollution is on in the region, this has resulted in scant rainfall here," local intelligentsia opined.

A survey conducted by 'Greenpeace India' in January found Paradip,



Kalinganagar, Rourkela and Talcher as the five most polluted towns in Odisha. Man-made climatic changes has led to scant rainfall in Jajpur district. Allegedly, low quality of pollution control equipment installed at several industrial units and the unholy nexus between SPCB officials and industrial houses have caused acute

air and water pollution in the district, locals said.

Poor rainfall has badly affected agricultural activities. Sadly, some trees were felled recently by BRPL to make space for a road within its campus. Locals alleged that, man-made changes in climatic conditions have a link with scanty rainfall in June this year. It was forecast that the district would witness 238.5 mm rainfall in June. But, 10 blocks recorded 172.34 mm of rainfall. Only Dharmasala block has normal rainfall limits recording 239mm rainfall. Contacted, regional officer of Kalinganagar SPCB, Pramod Kumar Behera said, "The link between rainfall and pollution is debatable. It cannot be expressed by simply taking into account the local pollution level. However, SPCB is on toes to curb pollution in Jajpur district."

## KANDHAMAL: MAOIST CAMP BUSTED



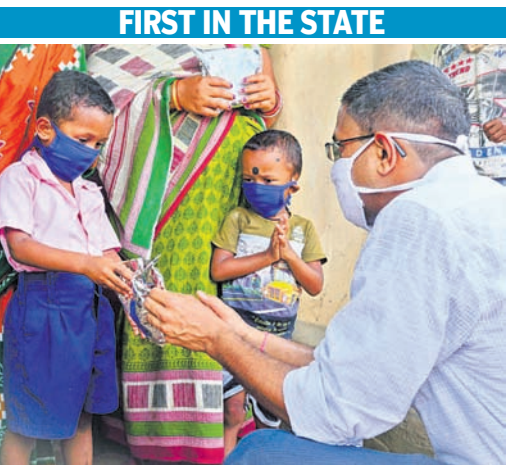
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kandhamal, July 2:** In a combat operation conducted by Special Operation Group (SOG) under Odisha Police, a Maoist camp was busted in Summarbandha forest area under Phiringia police limits in Kandhamal district, recently. Sources said the SOG-personnel got information that around 15-20 red rebels including five

women Maoists were present at the camp at Ladapadar Reserve Forest area. Acting on a tip-off, the SOG personnel carried out a combing operation in the jungle, June 29 when they came across the Maoist camp. Though they marched towards the camp, they did not face any opposition as the Maoists managed to escape from the spot in the dense forest.

That said, the team seized 15 kg explosives including a rifle, urea, gunpowder, Maoist pamphlets, walkie-talkies, digital cameras, infrared wildlife cameras, some documents, Maoist camouflage uniforms, some daily need articles. The SOG personnel also recovered 28 detonators, multimeters, bag, black caps, rechargeable battery, camp equipment, Maoist banners, posters and literature in the area, a press release stated Wednesday night.

## 'Ragi Laddus' for Anganwadi kids to boost immunity in Keonjhar



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, July 2:** In a bid to boost immunity of children in pre-school age group, the Keonjhar district administration has decided to include 'Ragi Laddu' in the morning snacks menu at all Anganwadi Centres in the district under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme.

This innovative programme of the district administration is a first of its kind among districts in Odisha. A meeting in this regard was held in the Durbar hall of the Keonjhar Collector's Office, Thursday.

In the meeting, Collector Ashish Thakare introduced the programme as 'Stronger Children With Millets Power!'.

It was decided that, two ragi laddus per week will be provided as morning snacks to pre-school children (aged 3 to 6 years) enrolled under ICDS in the district from July 2. The core objective of the programme is to improve the nutritional status of pre-school children and revive the age-old tradition of millet consumption, once preva-

### FIRST IN THE STATE



lent among the tribal communities of Keonjhar. The entitlement per child is 2 laddus of 20 gms per week. Inaugurating the pilot project, Thakare said "In the first phase the programme will cover 335 Anganwadi centres of Sadar block, later it will be expanded to Anganwadi centres of whole district."

"As the COVID protocols are currently in place, pre-cooked ragi laddu mix will be provided via home delivery for pre-school children. Laddus will be prepared at home by mothers and served to children until Anganwadi Centres are opened. About one lakh children under 3,257 Anganwadi centres in the district will be covered under this scheme till September 2020," he added. As women in the SHG groups will prepare the laddus, it will also provide an additional source of income to them. The programme will also en-

courage farmers for Ragi as they will be able to sell their produce at good prices. The total budget of the programme is set at Rs 1.5 crore per annum and this will be funded by the District Mineral Fund. The ragi laddu mix will be prepared by SHGs with experience. To reduce drudgery and ensure quality and hygiene standards, a ragi processing unit comprising a grader-cum-aspi-

rator and a destoner will be set up at the SHG-level. The district administration in partnership with A&FE, WCD&MS, ST & SC, M&BCW, FS&CW and technical support of NCDS, WASSAN and CSIR-CFTRI, implemented the programme. PD, DRDA Dr Uddhab Chandra Majhi, Orissa State Millet Mission, state program coordinator were present.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PARALAKHEMUNDI (R&B) DIVISION, PARALAKHEMUNDI**  
Telephone No. 06815-222542, E-mail ID: eerbparala@yahoo.com  
Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. E.E. PKD R&B Divn.-01/2020-21  
No. B-122: The schedule date of opening of the Bid Identification No. E.E. PKD, R&B Divn.-01/2020-21 04.07.2020 has been rescheduled to 06.07.2020 due to shutdown for COVID-19 on 04.07.2020.  
All other tender conditions remain unchanged.  
Sd./J. Executive Engineer  
Paralakhemundi (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34065/11/0002/2021

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In case the complaint is not received to your satisfaction, you may write at appellate.mum@tatatel.co.in  
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**Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. | Registered Office Address:** Voltas Premises, T.B. Kadam Marg, Chinchpokli, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 031 Corporate Identity Number: L64200MH1995PLC086354 Tel No: 1800 266 1515 | email id: 1515@tatatel.co.in

## Advisory to the Business Entities involved in sending Commercial Communication

As per the TRAI TCCPC Regulations, 2018, active participation from businesses/companies involved in the Commercial Communication is necessary in order to curb spam.

1. Businesses/Organizations have to take the following measures to protect their business interest and continue sending commercial communications via voice and/or SMS, to their customers/prospects:

- Mandatorily register themselves on the DLT platform/portal with at least one TSP as Principal Entity
- Registration of All Headers/SMS Sender IDs/numbers, from which they want to send Commercial Communication
- Call and SMS content templates of all Commercial Communications have to be pre-registered on the portal
- Submission of all existing subscriber consents (not older than six months) in the migration phase.
- Initiate consent acquisition and validation process through the portal of any TSP.
- All future consents will be obtained, verified and recorded digitally only.
- Any Commercial Communication, going forward, will only be permitted for entities/businesses/organizations who have registered themselves, their headers, templates and submitted consents, if any, on the portal.
- The Commercial Communication will be pre-verified with the Subscriber's Preference and/or Consent before being delivered to them.

- Businesses/Organizations sending commercial communications without registering themselves as Principal Entities and not complying with all of the above actions, will be in violation of the TRAI Regulation.
- All these actions will serve to protect the sanctity and authenticity of the commercial communication being sent by the senders.
- For registration as a Principal Entity, registration of headers, call/SMS templates, consent submissions etc; T&Cs and FAQs, refer the following TSP Websites/Apps.  
For registration as a Telemarketer, Principal Entity, Registration of headers, call/SMS templates, please visit the below link.  
<https://telemarketer.tatateleservices.com:8082/#/>  
For details of the Regulations, please visit the below link:  
<https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/RegulationUcc19072018.pdf>

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**Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. | Registered Office Address:** Voltas Premises, T.B. Kadam Marg, Chinchpokli, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 031 Corporate Identity Number: L64200MH1995PLC086354 Tel No: 1800 266 1515 | email id: 1515@tatatel.co.in

## Plantation programme at Police High School

**CUTTACK:** A plantation drive was organised by UDDAN Beyond Dreams, a non-profit charitable trust, on the premises of Police High School, here Thursday. DFO Sudarshan Patra was the chief guest. The school headmistress, teachers and volunteers took part in Vana Mahotsav. Prakash Nangalia, Lalitendu Mishra (trustees) and CEO Geeta Panigrahi, Sangram Patnaik, Swadesh Rath, Madhusmita Kar and Deepa Nangalia, were present at the event.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. 10-KUR-TRD-OT-2020-21, Dt. 22.06.2020  
**NAME OF WORK : OPERATION OF ISOLATORS ON LOADING / UNLOADING LINES AT NAYAGARH (NYG) STATION IN JAKHAPURA (JKPR) -JAROLI (JRL) SECTION FOR TWO YEARS.**  
Approximate Value in (₹) : 17,81,440.90, EMD (₹) : 35,600/-, Cost of Tender Document (₹) : 2,300/-  
Date and time of closing of tender : 1300 hrs of 14.07.2020.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete details including e-tender documents are available at <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) PR-130/L/20-21 Khurda Road

**OFFICE OF THE SR. GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRIC) UPPER INDRAVATI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, MUKHIGUDA**  
DIST.: KALAHANDI - 766026, E-mail: sgmel\_uhphe@ohpcld.com  
**ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A COMPANY OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)  
Regd. Office: OSPH & W.C. Building, Vanivihar Chhak, Janpath, Bhojanagar, Bhubaneswar - 751022, Tel.: 91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, 2542826, Fax: 2542102, E-mail: ohpc.co@gmail.com / md@ohpcld.com  
WEB: www.ohpcld.com, CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. UIHEP-14/2020-21 Date: 01.07.2020**  
No. CAD-230: Sealed tenders are invited in two parts i.e. (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price Bid in separate sealed envelopes from registered firms with minimum of 02 (two) years of relevant experience and fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per the tender specification for the work as mentioned below.

**WATCO OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, WATCO**  
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007, Odisha, India, Telefax: +91-674-2391444  
E-mail - mail@watcoodisha.in, md@watcoodisha.in  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
Bid Identification No. WATCO(W)-08/2020-21 Dtd. 01.07.2020  
WATCO No. 2431 Date: 01.07.2020  
01 Name of the work : 1. Supply and installation of 15mm dia Multijet Mechanical Water Meters at Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (Part) including replacement of defective water meters within 5 years of installation (Package-I)  
2. Supply and installation of 15mm dia Multijet Mechanical Water Meters at Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (Part) and Berhampur Municipal Corporation including replacement of defective water meters within 5 years of installation (Package-II)  
3. Supply and installation of 15mm dia Multijet Mechanical Water Meters at Rourkela Municipal Corporation including replacement of defective water meters within 5 years of installation (Package-III)  
4. Supply and installation of 15mm dia Multijet Mechanical Water Meters at Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation including replacement of defective water meters within 5 years of installation (Package-IV)  
02 Estimated cost : Package-I - Rs. 1432.36 Lakh  
Package-II - Rs. 1432.36 Lakh  
Package-III - Rs. 1432.36 Lakh  
Package-IV - Rs. 1432.36 Lakh  
03 Period of completion : 1 (One) Year  
04 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 5.00 PM of 28.07.20  
05 Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 PM of 28.07.2020  
06 Date & Time of opening of technical bids : 12.30 PM of 29.07.2020  
07 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Managing Director, WATCO, Telefax: 0674-2391444, E-mail: mail@watcoodisha.in, md@watcoodisha.in  
08 The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
Sd./J. (Managing Director) WATCO  
OIPR-13083/11/0007/2021

The first and the most important thing is to know that life is one and immortal. Only the forms, countless in number, are transient and brittle. The life everlasting is independent of any form but manifests itself in all forms. Life then does not die... but the forms are dissolved.



SRI AUROBINDO

# Middle-class in crisis

In the aftermath of the outbreak of COVID-19 in India and the multiple lockdowns resulted in loss of jobs by millions of workers. The government injected multiple doses of stimulus to help the poor and the underprivileged tide over this crisis. ₹20 lakh crore was said to have been earmarked under various heads to provide succor to these people. The massive allocations were also expected to revive consumption. However, a lion's share of this money purportedly aimed to benefit the rural poor. There was nothing much for the rural and urban middle classes. The middle class, especially the salaried individuals, a big consumption driver that formed a fulcrum of support for the Modi government in 2014 and 2019, was one of the worst-affected by the pandemic. They did not benefit much from the repeated package announcements by the Union finance minister and the Prime Minister, including the Income Tax rejig. Various policy initiatives by the Centre and the state governments, in various times, have injected dollops of aid for the village poor and the working class people of the country. Such massive handouts have created a look-to-the-government attitude for everything in rural India. They have made these people, especially agricultural labourers rather smug. They no longer have the urge or the urgency to go out and work in fields to feed their families. People who did not want to live off these freebies and wanted to earn more headed to urban areas to work in sectors as varied as construction, real-estate, sales and retail, among others. The exodus of working class people from rural areas to urban pockets created a crater of shortage of farmhands in rural areas. The affluent and the land-holding class were miffed as there was a shortage of labourers who worked in their fields. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), a flagship scheme by the UPA government, worked as a two-edged sword. While it alienated the rich from the government, the scheme could not deliver the number of work-days that it had promised to the beneficiaries, forcing the latter to migrate to urban areas for good income. This in a way created large-scale disillusionment against the UPA government. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had ridden this wave to come to power in 2014. However, a barrage of policies, pre and post COVID-19 outbreak, has fast alienated these people from the government and threatens to haunt the Modi government now.

There is palpable middle-class anger against this government. Their sustained neglect by the Centre has alienated them. The COVID-19 and the resultant migration of labourers to rural pockets have also had a telling impact on urban businesses. Earlier, there was plenty of labour available in urban areas. People were up for the ask at low wages. Now that millions of workers have left for their homes and they are no longer confident to come back, has hurt the labour market in urban areas - causing a temporary labour shortage. This is likely to push wages in urban areas. The small and medium entrepreneurs in urban areas who had already been hammered by a demand slump and are working with wafer-thin margins over past couple of years will see their wage bills go up - making their businesses further vulnerable. This could be bad news for the urban middle-class especially the salaried individuals. They supported the Modi government, hoping that it will help them with policies. The economic recession over past many years has shaken this. At present, the unrelenting rise in petroleum products has also broken their back. In a way, the rural focus of the NDA government has pushed the urban economy into uncertainty. The middle-class is beginning to get disenchanted. The chest-thumping jingoism of the government has long reached its limits and they no longer cut ice with them as it used to. The COVID-19 mismanagement and the Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh may prove the nemesis of the Modi government.

Jagan Chapagain & Andrew Steer

THE COMING YEAR REPRESENTS A CRITICAL WINDOW FOR INVESTING IN RESILIENCE, BECAUSE GOVERNMENTS WILL SPEND TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO RESTART ECONOMIES AFTER THE PANDEMIC

# TIME FOR PREPAREDNESS

FOCUS DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The world has been planning for the future in the mistaken belief that it will resemble the past. But as COVID-19 coincides with cyclones in South Asia and the Pacific and vast locust swarms in East Africa, the need to prepare for a world of unexpected shocks has become clearer than ever. Epidemics, floods, storms, droughts, and wildfires are all expected to become more frequent and severe, affecting hundreds of millions of people each year.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global wake-up call. And as leaders of international organisations, we understand both the grave threat and the potential opportunity for change that it represents.

In particular, COVID-19 and recent climate disasters have shown that we must step up investment in preparedness now, instead of waiting for the next crisis to hit. The choice is clear: delay and pay, or plan and prosper.

We know that investing in disaster preparedness is worth it - both in terms of human lives saved and economic returns. Research by the Global Commission on Adaptation, for example, shows that benefit-to-cost ratios for climate-adaptation investments range from 2:1 to 10:1.

To be sure, preparing for major shocks involves substantial outlays. Building resilience to climate impacts could cost \$140-300 billion annually by 2030, while meeting World Health Organisation minimum standards for pandemic preparedness will require up to \$3.4 billion per year.

But these sums are small compared to the costs of not being prepared. Natural disasters already cost hundreds of billions of dollars a year: with a 2°C increase in temperature, according to one estimate, damages from climate change could reach \$69 trillion by 2100.

The human cost is high, too. An analysis by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) last year found that doing nothing could increase the number of people who



As countries emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, world leaders will face a defining moment. By ramping up investments in disaster preparedness, they can shape their legacies and set humanity on a safer course

need international humanitarian aid because of floods, storms, droughts and wildfires every year - currently 108 million - 50 per cent by 2030. The total could nearly double, to 200 million people, by 2050.

Moreover, the coming year represents a critical window for investing in resilience, because governments will spend trillions of dollars to restart economies after the pandemic. The danger is that financial resources, and with it the political appetite for change, will then shrink. That is why now is the time for the rich world to help poorer countries reboot their economies and boost their resilience to future threats, including climate change.

One of the most important things governments can do today is invest in better collection and analysis of data on the disaster risks their countries face. Simply having 24 hours' notice of a storm's arrival or foreknowledge of an impending heat wave can cut the resulting losses by 30 per cent, while spending \$800 million on early-warning systems in developing countries would save \$3-16 billion per year.

For example, although Cyclone Amphan recently wreaked havoc

on India and Bangladesh and killed dozens of people, early-warning systems saved countless more lives. Accurate forecasts, along with decades of planning and preparedness, enabled the two countries to evacuate more than three million people and keep the death toll far lower than it would have been in the past.

Governments and international organisations are now working to make early-warning technology more accessible and effective through a new risk-informed early-action partnership. This initiative aims to make one billion people safer from disasters by 2025, partly by scaling up so-called forecast-based financing, which uses weather projections to give vulnerable communities the resources they need to prepare. Innovative financing schemes like these, which are supported by the German and British governments, among others, can save lives and reduce the damage when storms and heat waves hit.

But none of these solutions will be effective if funding and threat information don't reach the local level. Communities and local organisations are often the first responders in any crisis, and it is vital

that they be empowered to act. Before Cyclone Amphan made landfall, for example, the IFRC sent funds to the Bangladesh Red Crescent chapter, which helped 20,000 vulnerable people receive dry food and drinking water; first aid, safety equipment, and transportation to cyclone shelters. At the same time, the chapter helped implement COVID-19 safety measures, such as disinfecting shelters, making additional space available to allow for social distancing, and providing personal protective equipment.

Local communities are also often in the best position to identify effective solutions. After Typhoon Ondoy struck the Philippines in 2009, for example, people living in informal settlements worked with city officials to design resilient housing that could withstand future flooding.

As countries emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic over the coming year, world leaders will face a watershed moment. By ramping up investments in disaster preparedness, they can shape their legacies and set humanity on a safer course for the next decade and beyond.

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## WISDOM CORNER

- God will not look you over for medals, degrees or diplomas but for scars. - ALBERT HUBBARD
- Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself. - RUMI
- I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones. - ALBERT EINSTEIN

## WORDSWORTH

### Brainstorming

The Daily Mail ran a story that the Welsh Development Agency has sent its staff on training courses in which they were told not to use this expression for fear of upsetting a person with a mental illness or disability. Few of us would regard the word so negatively, though we might once have done so. That's because brainstorm has had two distinct senses, one created in Britain, the other in the United States. The British one is older, recorded in a medical dictionary compiled in 1894 by George Gould. He defined it as "a succession of sudden and severe phenomena, due to some cerebral disturbance", or in other words a transient fit of insanity. British writers used it in the following years, as PG Wodehouse did facetiously in Mike in 1909: "He's off his nut." "I know. But what did he do? How did the brainstorm burst? Did he jump at you from behind a door and bite a piece out of your leg, or did he say he was a tea-pot?"

### Brand

A report from the Institute for Public Policy Research, a London think-tank, advocates new approaches to countering racism and negative views on immigration. The report says at one point that Britain should be "re-branded as an inclusive concept". Originally brand just referred to a piece of burning wood, a word that goes back to Old English. By the 16th century, it had begun to be applied to something that happens as a result of intense heat. One such was brand-new, in which the sense is of a thing pulled new and fresh from the furnace. A closely-related idea is that of a mark created by touching something with a hot iron, as of a brand of ownership on an animal, a practice that almost certainly goes back further than recorded history. It was also used for the branding of convicted criminals, another course of action that was once common. So brand could have a strong negative sense of a mark of disgrace or a stigma (originally a Greek word that just means a brand). It's part of our linguistic conservatism that we can still speak of somebody being "branded a common criminal" centuries after the literal branding of criminals ended.

## LOL

### Mexican is at border

A US Border Patrol Agent catches an illegal alien in the bushes right by the border fence, he pulls him out and says "Sorry, you know the law, you've got to go back across the border right now." The Mexican man pleads with them, "No, noooo Senior, I must stay in de USA! Pleeze!" The Border Patrol Agent thinks to himself, "I'm going to make it hard for



him" and says, "Ok, I'll let you stay if you can use 3 English words in a sentence". The Mexican man of course agrees. The Border Patrol Agent tells him, "The 3 words are: Green, Pink and Yellow. Now use them in 1 sentence." The Mexican man thinks really hard for about 2 minutes, and then says, "Hmmm, Ok. The phone, it went Green, Green, Green, I Pink it up and sez Yellow?"

## SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

# Business friendly, environment unfriendly

Lekha Rattanani

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS THE BACKBONE OF ALL ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES AND SETS OUT A PROCESS THAT ASSESSES THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF A PROPOSED PROJECT

On March 23, as the country faced a complete lockdown that left millions of migrant workers stranded without food and shelter, India's Environment Ministry put out a draft proposal to amend the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), with a 60-day deadline that has now been extended to August 11 for public comments. The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020, seeks to replace the EIA notification of 2006 for all future projects.

The EIA is the backbone of all environmental clearances and sets out a process that assesses the potential environmental impact of a proposed project and decides whether it may or may not proceed or need modification. It has been described by the ministry as a planning tool to integrate environmental concerns into the developmental process from the initial stage. As such, it is supposed to work as a strong and independent gatekeeper of the environment, but in the process the EIA has also acquired the reputation of being a process that delays projects. The underlying principle at work here is preventing irreparable harm that

can be caused to sensitive eco systems by unrestrained business activity that uses technology to root out bionetworks that have taken several human lifetimes to evolve and become a part of our wealth of natural resources.

The EIA process works thus: following the environmental assessment by an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), a preliminary report is prepared, on the basis of which the public consultation process is put in place. At this stage, objections to the project, especially from those affected by it, are heard. After a further and final appraisal by the EAC, the project is sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, which is the regulatory authority.

All of this brings comfort to those who seek to protect the environment and demand strict enforcement of India's green laws but the entire process is seen as anti-business and a hindrance for faster growth. There have always been strong lobbies against the process of environmental clearance for projects and the changes now being suggested add to fears that this government has found a way to please business at the cost

of India's green wealth. This is not to argue that the EIA is always effective in protecting the environment but as a framework, it has stood strong in terms of its intention and its processes.

Consider that a compendium of gazette notifications, office memoranda under EIA notification, 2006, produced by the government runs into over 600 pages. This is a Hindi-English document, and even if you remove any superlatives, the compilation is long and tells us a lot about how the EIA has been changed, cut, corrected, explained and even twisted.

The latest of which came on April 15, when an amendment was introduced to ramp up availability and production of bulk drugs within a short span of time in the light of the pandemic. Further, in March 2017, the environment ministry issued a notification, providing a six-month window to get an environmental clearance "as a one-time opportunity" to units which had not obtained prior environmental clearances as was required. This was like an EIA amnesty scheme! The idea, the government announced, "is to take away the economic benefit

(if any) derived by the company due to violation and pay for the remediation of damage caused due to violation." It is as if damage to the environment can be paid off and sorted with a fine.

With this backdrop, the worry is that the proposed new version of the EIA under the guise of "streamlining" the process, seeks to clear the way for quite a different kind of unilateral goal - which is "ease of doing business". While ease of doing business is a desirable goal, achieving this and degrading the environment in the process doesn't say much either about the business or about the cost to the nation. Further, this comes at a time when the minister of industry and the minister of environment are one and the same, a clear conflict of interest that strikes at the very root of a framework that for years has been used to fight for the protection of the environment. The new EIA is the work of a government in a hurry to show that it is business friendly.

Lekha Rattanani is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press

THE BILLION PRESS

### Custodial deaths

Sir, Minimal accountability, disdain for court directives and abysmal conviction rates are factors that continue to "embolden" the Indian police in a different way. When an innocent, common man fears the police, it speaks volumes about his/her abject loss of confidence in the law enforcers. The Supreme Court guidelines in all cases of arrest or detention are clear-cut. Prevention of unnatural deaths in police or judicial custody, mainly due to police excesses, was the sole intention of the Supreme Court. A careful analysis of the number of custodial deaths unequivocally proves that the court directions are flagrantly flouted. In 2019, there were, on an average, five custodial deaths per month in India. The people of Tamil Nadu are up in arms over the custodial death of a father-son trader duo in police custody in Sathankulam town. The police picked the father for "violating" the lockdown rules, and when the son protested he, too, was rounded up. Subsequently, both died in quick succession in custody. Indian police assume they are 'powerful and privileged' if thrashing an arrested person defines 'power'. Augmenting investigative techniques, providing better facilities in rural police stations, refresher courses in wide ranging subjects, psychological counseling - all this are some ways to 'reform' the police. Ganapathi Bhat, EMAIL

### Digital strike on China

Sir, A mixed bag of reactions can be seen from the print and electronic media on the ban on Chinese apps. The ban has definitely hurt China where it has to hurt. China's outbursts can be seen in describing the ban on apps as violation of international rules. China has issued sermons to India stating that India has the responsibility to uphold the "legitimate and legal rights" of the international investors. The 59 apps banned include the highly popular TikTok and UC Browser. Chinese spokesman Zhao Lijian says "the Chinese government always asks the Chinese businesses to abide by the international rules". Does China think that there is need for abiding only international rules with respect to the businesses but can violate the border rules? By banning the apps, it would be wrong to think that India has been biting more than it can chew. Media and political adversaries of the Modi government should rally round the government in extending its moral support to combat the enemy countries. Criticizing every action of the government at this juncture will not be in the interest of critics also in the long run. KV Seetharamaiah, EMAIL

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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# College Street's iconic Coffee House reopens

## THE HERITAGE CAFÉ, FOUNDED IN 1876, IS LOCATED OPPOSITE PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, July 2:** The iconic Indian Coffee House in Kolkata's College Street area – a favourite joint of poets, writers, painters and artists over the years – reopened Thursday, 103 days after downing its shutters due to the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown.

As the gates of the heritage eatery opened at 11 am, around 25 customers, most of them regulars at the eatery, trooped in.

To ensure social distancing, arrangements were made for fewer than normal customers on the two floors of the eatery, a spokesman of Indian Coffee House said.

"We have disinfected the entire premises and made wearing masks mandatory for both patrons and staff," the spokesman said.

The authorities reopened the joint after holding talks with the local police station and health department over Covid-19 safety protocols and guidelines.

The eatery will be open from 11 am to 6 pm every day except Sundays. In the pre-Covid era, the Coffee House usually operated between 9 am and 9 pm.

"We are providing sanitiser to everyone at entrance, disallowing anyone not wearing masks, checking body temperature of patrons with a thermal gun and making our waiters wear gloves," the spokesman said.

Patrons are happy to be back to their favourite joint. "Whenever I used to visit College Street area earlier, I visited Coffee House. I befriended many people here over the years. We were heartbroken when it was closed down and we regularly inquired when it will open again," said Aditya Ghosh, one of the early visitors.

The place, a melting pot of people from the world of art and culture for decades, downed its shutters March 20 this year after the West Bengal government imposed lockdown.

Started as Albert Hall in 1942 by the Coffee Board, it was named



To ensure social distancing, arrangements were made for fewer than normal customers on the two floors of the eatery

The heritage eatery has been a favourite of poets, writers, painters, artists

It was frequented by author Sunil Gangopadhyay, poet Shakti Chattopadhyay and even American poet Allen Ginsberg during his sojourn to India

It was also visited by director Satyajit Ray, his film critic friend Chidananda Dasgupta, filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak and economist Amartya Sen

Coffee House in 1947 and was frequented by intellectuals such as author Sunil Gangopadhyay, poet Shakti Chattopadhyay and even American poet Allen Ginsberg during his sojourn to India.

It was also visited by director Satyajit Ray, his film critic friend

Chidananda Dasgupta, filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak and economist Amartya Sen among countless others. In 1958, the management decided to close down the Coffee House but it was re-opened the same year, thanks to the efforts of professors of the then Presidency College,

now Presidency University, and the Calcutta University. The two institutes are located in the vicinity of the eatery. Students and faculty from several colleges and universities also visit the joint, which has become integrated with the cultural heritage of the city.

# In the City of Joy, morning walkers are back on track

Rabindra Sarobar and Subhas Sarobar – two lakes surrounded by vast stretches of greenery – with certain curbs in place, will be open for three hours every day from 5.30 am



Around 1,500 people had visited Rabindra Sarobar Thursday morning, 700 more than what it was on the first day. The figures were more or less the same at Subhas Sarobar, too

SUDHIN NANDY | EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KMDA

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, July 2:** Morning walkers in Kolkata breathed a sigh of relief as the administration here reopened Rabindra Sarobar and Subhas Sarobar – two lakes surrounded by vast stretches of greenery – with certain curbs in place.

Both the lakes will throw open gates for three hours every day from 5.30 am.

Several people were seen stretching themselves or taking a stroll by the two lakes early Thursday.

Sudhin Nandy, the executive engineer of KMDA, said, "Around 1,500 people had visited Rabindra Sarobar Thursday morning, 700 more than what it was on the first day. The figures were more or less the same at Subhas Sarobar, too." Security personnel and KMDA staff are continuously manning the two lakes to ensure people abide by the safety guidelines, Nandy added.

Over the past two months, many green activists and fitness enthusiasts had been pleading with the

Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority – the custodian of the two lakes – to allow morning strolls by the waterside for a restricted period of time, official sources said.

"We have decided to give them a three-hour window every day after having ensured that necessary safety measures were in place," KMDA CEO Antara Acharya said.

Environmentalist SM Ghosh, a local resident and a regular at Rabindra Sarobar, said, "We carried sanitiser bottles during our walks by the lake, which had been out of bounds since the lockdown began. Morning walk will boost our immunity system."

He, however, rued that Cyclone Amphan had uprooted several trees in the 73-acre premises, home to a variety of bird species.

"Several broken branches are still lying inside the park. Those have to be removed. Air quality has substantially improved in the city, amid the lockdown and that is a welcome change," he added.

# Door-to-door Covid survey in Agra is on

AGENCIES

**Agra, July 2:** The Agra district administration has begun an extensive exercise for door-to-door survey in all areas to check the further spread of Covid-19. Two days ago, the state government had announced that all areas will be thoroughly screened to ensure the infection from the coronavirus was effectively stopped.

The survey began Wednesday in the city and will cover the whole district by July 5.

Teams of health workers will visit homes and conduct surveys, thermal screening and look for people with respiratory ailments. This exercise is considered necessary to reach out to people not only in the hotspots, but also in remote

areas of the district, who might be in the need of medical attention.

In the last 24 hours 14 fresh corona cases were reported in Agra and 17 from Mathura.

The death toll in Agra stands at 88. The total number of cases till Thursday morning was 1,241. The recovery rate is 83.07 per cent. The number of hotspots now is 52.

District Magistrate PN Singh said the markets would be permitted to remain open for an additional one hour in the evening.

In Mathura, the district administration has sealed the borders and deployed additional personnel to ensure no one entered the district for the annual Mudiya Poonau fair at Goverdhan.



The survey will cover the whole district by July 5

# 'PERVERT' COP GETS THE BOOT

The cop, who was video-recorded masturbating in front of female complainants, has been terminated from service

AGENCIES

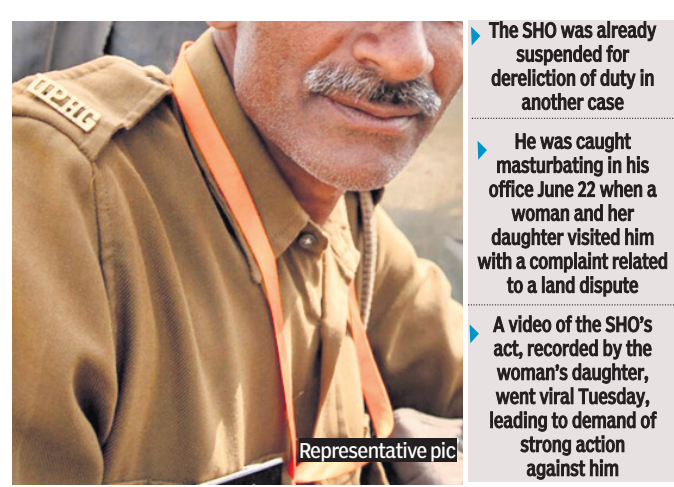
**Lucknow, July 2:** A day after being arrested, the station house officer (SHO) who allegedly masturbated in front of a woman and her daughter when they went to the police station to lodge a complaint has been terminated from service by the Uttar Pradesh police, a senior official said Thursday.

"The Police Inspector who indulged in perverted behaviour in front of a female complainant inside a police station in Deoria has been terminated from service. There will be zero tolerance towards anyone violating the dignity of women. No one is above law," Additional Director General (ADG), Law and Order, Prashant Kumar said.

An FIR was registered against Inspector Bism Pal Singh and he was arrested Wednesday, Deoria Superintendent of Police Shripati Mishra said.

Inspector Singh had been absconding since Tuesday and a reward of Rs 25,000 was declared for his arrest.

Singh, who was Bhatni Police Station (Deoria) SHO, was caught



Representative pic

masturbating in his office June 22 when the woman and her daughter visited him with a complaint related to a land dispute, police said.

The SHO was already suspended for alleged dereliction of duty in another case related to his posting at Salempur and was attached to the police line.

A video of the SHO's vulgar act, recorded by the woman's daughter, went viral Tuesday, leading to demand of strong action against him. An FIR was registered against the

The SHO was already suspended for dereliction of duty in another case

He was caught masturbating in his office June 22 when a woman and her daughter visited him with a complaint related to a land dispute

A video of the SHO's act, recorded by the woman's daughter, went viral Tuesday, leading to demand of strong action against him

police inspector at the same police station after the video surfaced.

He has been booked under the charges of voyeurism, outraging the modesty of a woman, and public servant disobeying law, the Deoria SP had said.

"Singh indulged in vulgar acts while talking about the land dispute. The woman's daughter made a video and showed it to other members of her family," the complaint filed against him said.

# BJP MLA to give free masks if one deletes Chinese applications

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, July 2:** Former Uttar Pradesh Minister and BJP legislator from Bahraich, Anupama Jaiswal has announced that she will provide free face masks to all those who delete Chinese applications from their mobile phones.

The Bahraich MLA, Anupama Jaiswal, was Minister of State for Basic Education in the Yogi Adityanath government

India June 29 banned 59 apps with Chinese links, saying that they were prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

Jaiswal said, "After banning of 59 Chinese apps in the country, I have started this campaign of providing free face masks for those who delete these apps."

The campaign is being run with the help of the party's local Mahila Morcha unit. Jaiswal was Minister of State for Basic Education in the Yogi Adityanath government.

She was dropped from the council of ministers in last year's reshuffle.

# Amphan victims come to blows for relief aid

The stampede-like situation was witnessed at Kultali in South 24 Parganas, one of the worst-hit areas

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, July 2:** The South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal Thursday witnessed a near-stampede like situation as thousands of people queued up in front of a local BDO's office to submit documents for Amphan relief. A few villagers were injured in the melee.

The incident took place in Kultali, one of the worst-hit areas by the cyclone Amphan. They were also seen fighting for their turns.

There was complete chaos as people made a dash for the counters at around 10 a.m. when the gates of the BDO office were finally thrown

open. Local sources said that there were hardly any police personnel to maintain the line at the BDO office. Earlier, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had asked all the district administrations to prepare a list of villagers who have been affected by the cyclone, following widespread protests in various districts over distribution of compensation packages.

State Food Minister Jyotipriyo Mallick, however, dubbed the chaos as a "BJP-sponsored incident."

Meanwhile, state BJP President Dilip Ghosh said that people have lost faith in the government. "Many genuine names went missing in the list owing to corruption. So they were confused. One day they are hearing they need to submit papers with the panchayat and the next day they come to know that they need to submit the documents with the BDO. This is what happens when the system is not right," said Ghosh.



The whole chaos was orchestrated by the BJP. It was a BJP-sponsored incident

JYOTIPRIYO MALLICK | FOOD MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

DILIP GHOSH | PRESIDENT, BJP, WEST BENGAL UNIT

# UP'S WILD WILD WEST

## Are the endangered swamp deer back

### SPOTTED IN NORTH INDIA, THE SPECIES IS ALMOST EXTINCT IN SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES

AGENCIES

**Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh), July 2:** Once infamous for hunters and poachers, Muzaffarnagar, a town located midway between the Delhi-Dehradun highway, is once again nature's paradise where a large herd of swamp deer; a critically endangered species, was spotted lately.

Found in north India, and now extinct in several countries, the discovery was a pleasant surprise. "I was on inspection (this Sunday) when I suddenly spotted a large herd of this endangered deer species near Jansath, (a tehsil in Muzaffarnagar)."

"By the next day our team of experts discovered 143 swamp deer. We almost found a treasure trove," says Sanjay Kumar, Commissioner of Saharanpur Range of Uttar Pradesh.

Innumerable poachers in the past few decades back hunted for this rare species and almost wiped it out from the marshy wetlands in western Uttar Pradesh and foothills of the Himalayas bordering Terai area.

Wildlife experts, who have been provided drone fitted cameras to sight more such herds around the wetland, told IANS that swamp deer could have migrated from Jhilmil lake, a marshy grassland near Rajaji National Park in Haridwar.

Till Wednesday evening around 150 swamp deer, including a good number of fawns were spotted and with the help of drones the overall count of deer in 18,000 hectare of



The deer have a happy time



marshy wetland in Haiderpur was now likely to exceed 250.

In fact, the Haiderpur wetland, a 45-minute detour from Muzaffarnagar town, is home to 290 species of birds. Every year the place is home to one of the largest congregation of grey leg goose and bar headed goose in India.

"Acknowledging such rich biodiversity in Haiderpur, a proposal was recently sent to the state government to declare this as a 'Ramsar site' (wetland of International importance). But now, after spotting a large herd of rare swamp deer, we also want to declare it as Swamp

THE RARE SPECIES WAS ALMOST WIPED OUT FROM THE MARSHY WETLANDS IN WESTERN UP AND FOOTHILLS OF THE HIMALAYAS BORDERING TERAI AREA DUE TO POACHING MENACE

WILDLIFE EXPERTS SAY THE DEER COULD HAVE MIGRATED FROM JHILMIL LAKE, A MARSHY GRASSLAND NEAR RAJAJI NATIONAL PARK IN HARIDWAR

of swamp deer was reduced to 86 when Madhya Pradesh launched conservation work in the Kanha National Park to protect this rare species.

Similar efforts were also made by the Uttar Pradesh government which gave a new lease of life to this large deer species found in marshy wetlands.

The Yogi Adityanath government is also contemplating to declare the 33,000 acre of Shivalik Forests Reserve under the Saharanpur Division as Tiger Reserve.

On the basis of camera trap findings, movement of tigers was discovered in the forest reserve which adjoins the Rajaji National Park. The Census (2018) reveals that Uttar Pradesh has a tiger population of 173, while neighbouring Uttarakhand state has 442 tigers, a majority of them seen in Jim Corbett and Rajaji national park.

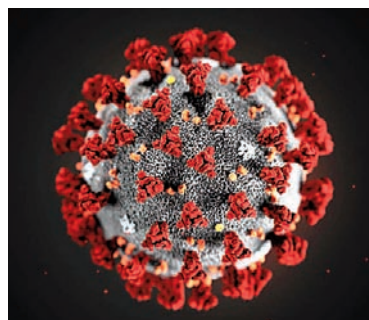


Narendra Modi and his govt are blinded by rage, hatred and revenge against the Congress leadership. Unnerved by political activism of Priyanka in UP, Modi govt has stopped even further by issuing house vacation notice. Such frustrated attempts will not deter us

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

BEATING COVID

Extracts from tea and Haritaki, commonly known as Harad, have the potential to act as therapeutic options against COVID-19 infection, a new study by the IIT-Delhi has found



of the day quote

I have decided to not celebrate my birthday this year as a mark of respect for our soldiers who laid down their lives

RAM VILAS PASWAN | UNION MINISTER

Modi ji's most trusted man Mr Rakesh Asthana, IPS, has been implicated as a recipient of bribe money which has been exposed in Sandersara diary. I am flagging the attention of Narendra Modi Ji, but Congress party's leader Ahmed Patel Ji has been grilled for 3 consecutive days by ED to unearth the nexus between Patel Ji and notorious Sandersara case

ADHIR NANJAN CHOWDHURY | CONGRESS LEADER

I congratulate the organisers of the annual Ganesh festival for the decision to call off the celebrations this year and instead organise a plasma donation camp over the 11 days

P. CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Two elephants found dead

Coimbatore: Two elephants were found dead in this district, one due to gunshot wounds near Kandiyur and the other following suspected ill-health while the carcass of another jumbo was found in nearby Nilgiris, forest department officials said Thursday. Two people, both brothers, taken into custody for questioning in connection with the Kandiyur case, were arrested for shooting the elephant to death in their farm in Mettupalayam, about 45 km from here, they said.

Lightning kills 26

Patna: Twenty-six people were killed after being struck by lightning across Bihar Thursday, officials said. More than 100 people have died due to lightning strikes in the state in the last one week, they added. According to the state disaster management department, the casualties were reported from eight districts -- Patna, Samastipur, East Champaran, West Champaran, Sheohar, Katihar, Madhepura and Purnea. Samastipur accounted for the highest number of seven deaths, followed by Patna (six), East Champaran (four), Katihar (three), Sheohar and Madhepura (two each) and West Champaran and Purnea (one each), the department said.

Woman ends life

New Delhi: In a shocking incident, a woman committed suicide with her two children on Thursday by jumping in front of a train in East Delhi's Mandawali area, the police said. The woman and her two daughters died on the spot, while her third child, a one-year-old boy, survived with injuries. "We received a call at around 4 a.m. on Thursday. It appears to be a case of suicide. The woman and her two minor daughters have succumbed to the injuries. One year old boy has survived. We are investigating the matter," said DCP Railways, Harendra Singh.

3 electrocuted

Jaisalmer (Rajasthan): Three persons, including a couple, died allegedly of electrocution in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district while they were working near a tube well, police said Thursday. The incident occurred at Veeramdevra village in Pokaran area of the district on Wednesday morning when the trio was working near a tube well.

MUMBAI AIRPORT SCAM

CBI RAIDS GVK GROUP PREMISES

The case pertains to the alleged siphoning off Rs 705 crore from the funds of the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), a joint venture under public-private partnership (PPP) between the GVK Airport Holdings Limited and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) besides other investors, by showing inflated expenditure, under-reporting of revenues, fudging of records among others, the officials said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: The CBI has carried out searches at the offices of the GVK group in Mumbai and Hyderabad after registering a case against its chairman, Venkata Krishna Reddy Gunupati, in connection with alleged irregularities to the tune of Rs 705 crore in the running of the Mumbai airport, officials said.

The agency operation was conducted Wednesday and continued till late in the evening, they added. The case pertains to the alleged siphoning off Rs 705 crore from the funds of the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), a joint venture under public-private partnership (PPP) between the GVK Airport Holdings Limited and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) besides other investors, by showing inflated expenditure, under-reporting of revenues, fudging of records among others, the officials said. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Gunupati, a director in MIAL, his



son GV Sanjay Reddy, managing director in MIAL, the companies MIAL, GVK Airport Holdings Limited (a GVK group company) and nine other private companies allegedly used to camouflage the inflated figures through sham deals and unidentified AAI officials, they added. On April 4, 2006, the AAI entered into an agreement with MIAL for the modernisation,

upkeep, operation and maintenance of the Mumbai airport. It is alleged that the promoters of the GVK group in MIAL, in connivance with their executives and unidentified AAI officials, resorted to siphoning off funds using different ways, the officials said on Wednesday.

The agency has alleged that they siphoned off funds showing execution of bogus work contracts to

nine companies in 2017-18, causing a loss of Rs 310 crore. The promoters of the GVK group allegedly misused the reserve funds of MIAL to the tune of Rs 395 crore to finance their group companies, the CBI has alleged.

The agency has alleged that the group inflated the expenditure figures of MIAL by showing payments to employees at their headquarters and group companies, who were not involved in the running of MIAL, causing a revenue loss to AAI. In the complaint, the inflated expenditure figures are pegged at Rs 100 crore, which may take the total sum involved in the alleged scam to Rs 805 crore, but this has not been included in the FIR by the CBI.

The agency has attached the complaint to the FIR and the figures of the alleged scam may increase during the probe, the officials said. The promoters allegedly under-reported the revenue earnings of MIAL by entering into contracts with related parties and meeting their personal and family expenses using MIAL funds, they said.

MP Cabinet expanded, Scindia camp wins big



Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel administers oath to Mahendra Singh as a Cabinet minister in the State Cabinet, at a ceremony at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is also seen

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, July 2: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inducted 28 new ministers Thursday including 12 from Jyotiraditya Scindia's camp. Of the 22 Congress MLAs who resigned from the Congress to join the BJP, 14 are now in the expanded ministry.

The total strength of Scindia's camp in the ministry is now 14 as two former MLAs were already inducted in the cabinet. Officiating Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at a function in the Raj Bhawan. Meticulous observation of COVID-19 protocol marked the 45 minute ceremony.

THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF SCINDIA'S CAMP IN THE MINISTRY IS NOW 14 AS TWO FORMER MLAs WERE ALREADY INDUCTED IN THE CABINET

AMONG THOSE INDUCTED ON THURSDAY, 20 ARE OF CABINET RANK AND EIGHT ARE MINISTERS OF STATE

Among those inducted on Thursday 20 are of cabinet rank and eight are ministers of state. Former ministers included from the BJP are Gopal Bhargava, Vijay Shah, Jagdish Devda, Yashodhara Raje Scindia, Bhupendra Singh, Brajendra Pratap Singh and Vishwas Sarang. From Scindia camp, Bisahul Singh, Aidal Singh Kansana Imarti Devi, Prabhuram Choudhary, Mahendra Singh Sisodia, Pyadyumna Singh Tomar, Hardeep

Singh Dang, Rajwardhan Singh Dattigaon have been taken as cabinet ministers.

While Brajendra Singh Yadav, Girraj Dandotia, Suresh Dhakad and O.P.S. Bhadoria from Scindia camp were inducted as ministers of state. From BJP Prem Singh Patel, Om Prakash Saklecha, Usha Thakur, Arvind Bhadoria and Mohan Yadav were also inducted as cabinet ministers.

While Bharat Singh Kushwaha, Inder Singh Parmar, Ramkhalavan Patel and Ram Kishore Kavre took oath as ministers of state. Those inducted from Scindia camp had resigned as legislators in March which led to the toppling of 15-month-old Kamal Nath Government.

All of them will contest by-polls likely to be held in the state soon. Twenty four assembly seats are vacant in the state assembly. Besides Chouhan, senior BJP leaders including Scindia and union minister Narendra Singh Tomar among others were present on the occasion.

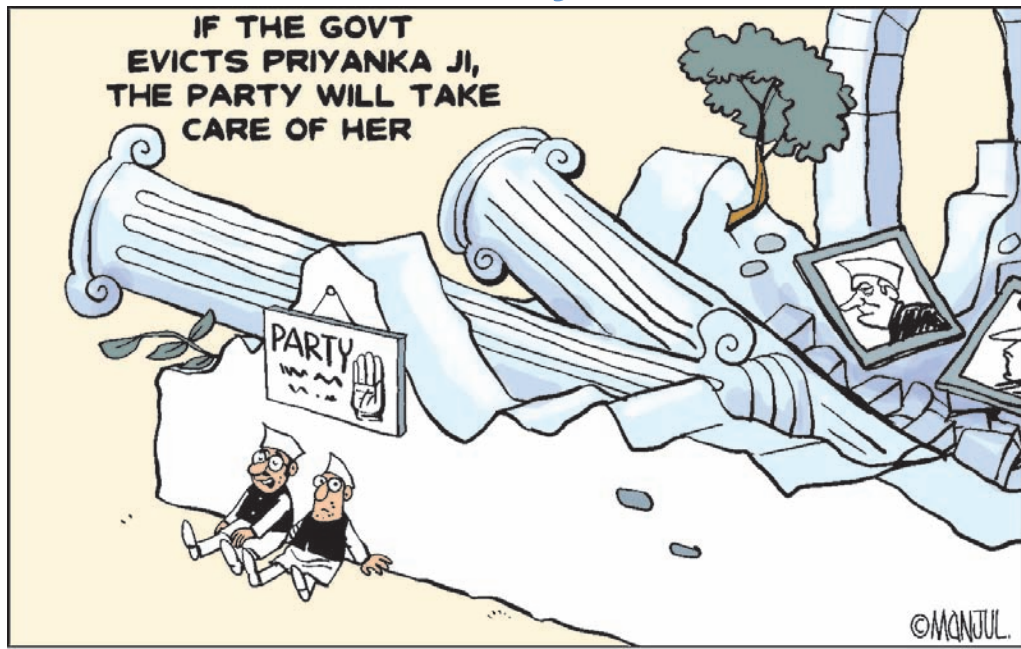
The initial "mini" expansion of the Chouhan cabinet took place on April 21 with the induction of five ministers, including two former Congress MLAs close to Scindia - Tulsi Silawat and Govind Singh Rajput. Chouhan took oath as chief minister for a record fourth term on March 23 this year, after Kamal Nath resigned from following rebellion by 22 MLAs of the Congress. The total strength of Chouhan's cabinet is now 34 including chief minister. It has only one vacancy now as the total strength of the ministry as per the constitutional norms should not exceed 35.

Priyanka to shift to Lucknow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 2: The government order asking Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to vacate a Delhi bungalow is set to speed up her shifting base to Lucknow, where party veteran Sheila Kaul's house was renovated months back for her, according to politicians here. "Work has started in the house today. It has been almost six months since the renovation was done and it is being spruced up further to suit her. This indicates that she will be coming soon," party legislator Deepak Singh said here on Thursday. Uttar Pradesh Congress spokesperson Lalan Kumar indicated that the decision was made even before she got the notice to vacate the government bungalow in Delhi.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



5 cops held, face murder charge

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 2: The Tamil Nadu Police's Crime Branch-Crime Investigation Department (CBCID) have arrested five suspended policemen working in Sathankulam police station in Tuticorin district for the murder of P. Jeyaraj and his son J. Bennicks, officials said.

The CBCID also altered the first information report (FIR) registered on the death of Jeyaraj and Bennicks as a murder case from the earlier charge of suspicious death. Police have registered the case as two separate murders while security has been provided for Revathy, the policewomen who had deposited before a Magistrate that the father and son were beaten throughout the June 19 night by the police at Sathankulam police station.

The court also ordered that Revathy be given leave with pay. The five arrested policemen are: Inspector Sridhar, Sub-Inspectors

TN CUSTODIAL DEATHS



Balakrishnan and Raghu Ganesh, Head Constable Murugan and Constable Muthuraj.

The police nabbed Sridhar at Gangaikondan while he was trying to escape in his car. Ganesh was sent to custody till July 16 on late Wednesday. The Madras High Court's Madurai Bench which suo moto took up the case, appreciated CBCID for nabbing the policemen.

The action of CBCID has created the impression that justice will be delivered, it said, as it adjourned the case. According to Inspector General, CBCID, Shankar, 12 teams have been formed to carry

out the probe into the custodial death of father and son Jeyaraj and Bennicks.

Meanwhile Abraham Mathai, founder of Harmony Foundation and former Vice Chairman of Maharashtra State Minorities Commission, welcomed the arrest of the policemen and altering the FIR to murder case. He also said the outstanding intervention by the court has now set a precedence that the courts of justice can halt the tide of impunity that has been trying to take root lately.

He said the order to the court to revenue officials to take over the Sathankulam police station only proves that the high court was more than convinced that the police station was a "den of savages". Jeyaraj and Bennicks had been booked for not closing their mobile shop in time on June 19 by the Sathankulam police. They were sent to judicial custody and lodged in Kovilpatti jail on June 21.

GOOD NEWS

Voting rules changed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 2: The Centre has allowed voters above 65 years and Covid-19 positive people under home or institutional quarantine to use postal ballot to cast their votes in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a gazette notification issued last month, the Law Ministry gave its nod for amending the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules 2020.

The decision follows the Election Commission's June proposal in which it had requested the Ministry to enlarge the ambit of use of postal ballot facility to people aged 65 years, reducing it from 80 years, and those under quarantine or home isolation due to Covid-19. Medical research has shown while people of all ages can be



infected by coronavirus, elderly people and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) are more vulnerable to the disease. According to a Health Ministry advisory, citizens above 65 years have been advised to stay indoors due to coronavirus. On the recommendation of the ECI, on October 22, 2019, the amendment enabling postal ballot facility to senior citizens (above the age of 80 years) and for persons with disability, was introduced to provide them the choice of voting from the comforts of their homes.

WILL ASSESS FEASIBILITY OF EXAM: ICAI

PNN, AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 2: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) informed the Supreme Court Thursday that it would assess the feasibility of conducting CA exams, scheduled between July 29 and August 16, in view of the spike in number of COVID-19 cases across the country and consult states and examination centres on this issue.

The ICAI's counsel told a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar that cases of coronavirus have increased and some of the states have extended the restrictions imposed amid the spike in the number of infection.

He sought time from the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna, for contacting examination centres to access the ground situation and explore the feasibility of conducting the exams.

The top court was hearing through video conferencing a plea which has challenged the 'opt out' option provided by the ICAI to the candidates alleging that it "arbitrarily" discriminates between the aspirants in the May cycle of CA examination. The apex court, after hearing the submissions, said it would hear the matter on July 10.

On June 29, the apex court had observed that ICAI should be flexible in conducting exams amid the COVID-19 pandemic and take care of candidates' concerns.

It had suggested that option for change in examination centre should be made available to the candidates till the last week before the scheduled exams considering the fact that an area may become a containment zone due to the coronavirus situation.

New bride shunning chores, not cruelty: Delhi HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 2: The Delhi High Court has observed that it is the duty of the husband's family to make a new bride feel at home and has held that her conduct of trying to remain in her room or not showing initiative in doing household work cannot be described as cruelty.

"As such conduct of the wife of being interested in remaining in her room or not showing initiative in doing household work can by no stretch of imagination be described as cruel behaviour and that too upon the husband," held a Division Bench of the high court presided by Justices Hima Kohli and Asha Menon. The court said that a new bride would be hesitant in her new

surroundings and it is always for the husband's family to make the new bride feel at home and accepted as a family member.

The bench passed the observations while dismissing an appeal filed by one Vishal Singh who had approached the high court against the order of the trial court which had dismissed his appeal for dissolution of marriage with Priya under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Vishal and Priya got married in 2012 and though the marriage was duly consummated, no child was born to the parties. The husband has alleged that since the beginning of the marriage, the attitude of the wife was not positive as she declined to consummate the marriage



or attend the marriage ceremonies till some time had passed.

The husband further contended that in 2013, Priya left his home with all her jewellery and valuables with her brother and brother-in-law and almost after a week,

asked him over the phone to read the letter she had left under the mattress which contained shocking disclosures.

She also informed him that she would not return back and preferred to live her life with her lover,

as both were planning to get their marriage registered. However, she was brought back to her husband's place by her brother but the Appellant did not allow them to enter the house and the Respondent went back to her paternal house. After this, the woman kept apologizing for her conduct by calling the Appellant up on her phone, at the same time, she claimed to be happy in the company of the brother of her brother-in-law and only after all this, the man filed the appeal before the trial court, Vishal submitted.

While considering the said appeal, the High Court noted that the most serious allegation leveled by the man against Priya was her adulterous life.



of the day quote

I think there is no community spread of coronavirus in Maharashtra. The state government has been able to trace almost every COVID-19 patient and his or her source of infection



RAJESH TOPE | MAHA HEALTH MINISTER

Now you can hear about only two 'Cs' - Coronavirus and China. We believe in peace and solve problems through discussion, but if somebody casts an evil eye on India, we will give a befitting reply. If our 20 jawans have sacrificed their lives, then the toll is double on the Chinese side



RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD | UNION MINISTER

It is shocking to see COVID-19 patients being turned down by the hospitals due to lack of beds. The government has failed in its duty to protect the citizens



H D KUMARASWAMY | FORMER KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Pakistan violates ceasefire

Jammu: Pakistan again violated ceasefire on Thursday on the line of control (LoC) in two sectors in J&K's Poonch district by using automatic gunfire and mortar shelling. Colonel Devender Anand said, "At about 9.30 a.m. today Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC in Shahpur and Kirni sectors of Poonch district. "Indian army retaliated befittingly". For over a month, Pakistan has been violating the bilateral ceasefire on the LoC in J&K with impunity.

Lightning kills 3

Ballia (Uttar Pradesh): Three persons were killed and 12 injured when lightning struck in Sikandarpur and Bhimpura areas of the district. The lightning struck Wednesday. According to the government spokesman, ten people were working in the fields in Mahthapar village when lightning struck. All of them received burn injuries and have been hospitalised.

Four die

Tuticorin(TN): Four people were asphyxiated in the district Thursday when they were engaged in cleaning of a septic tank in a nearby village, police said. The incident happened in Chekkarakudi village, 25 km from here, when two of the deceased first entered the tank to clean it and died. When the other two entered the tank to check, they were also asphyxiated, they said. A case was registered and a probe is on, they added.



Rail is the only lifeline of the poor and the government is taking it away from them. Snatch whatever you want to. But remember, the people of the country will give a befitting reply

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

ASI MONUMENTS TO BE REOPENED

All ASI protected monuments will be reopened for the public from July 6, the Union Culture Minister Prahlad Patel said Thursday



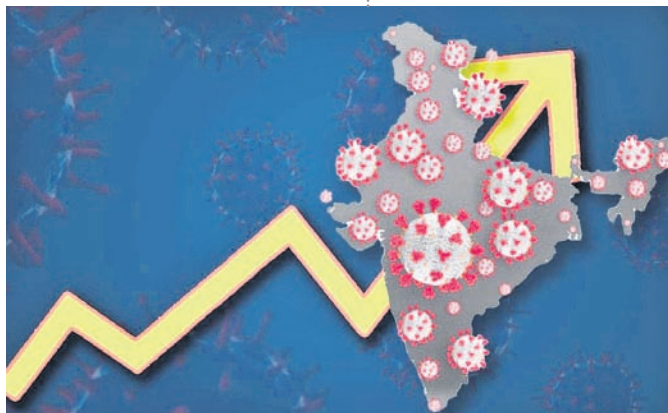
COVID-19 CASES CROSS 6L MARK

STEADY RISE

IT TOOK 110 DAYS FOR CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY TO REACH ONE LAKH, WHILE JUST 44 DAYS MORE TO GO PAST THE SIX LAKH MARK

COUNTRY'S CASELOAD INCREASED TO 6,04,641 THURSDAY, WHILE 434 PERSONS HAVE SUCCEDED TO THE DISEASE IN THE LAST 24 HOURS

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECOVERIES HAS FAST OUTGROWN THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 2: India's COVID-19 tally zoomed past six lakh Thursday with a single-day increase of 19,148 cases, just five days after it crossed the five lakh mark, while the death toll rose to 17,834, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

With a steady rise, the number of recoveries stands at 3,59, 859 while one patient has migrated. There are 2,26,947 active cases of coronavirus infection presently in the country.

"Thus, around 59.52 per cent of patients have recovered so far," an official said. The total number of confirmed cases included foreigners.

This is the sixth consecutive day when coronavirus infections increased by more than 18,000. There has been a surge of 4,14,106 COVID-19 cases from June 1 till date.

According to the ICMR, the number of tests for detection of the disease crossed the nine million mark Thursday.

A cumulative total of 90,56,173 samples have been tested up to July 1 while 2,29,588 samples have been tested on Wednesday, the apex health research body said. Of the 434 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, 198 are from Maharashtra, 63 from Tamil Nadu, 61 from Delhi, 21 each from Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, 15 from West Bengal, nine from Madhya Pradesh, eight from Rajasthan, seven each from Telangana and

Delhi govt starts plasma bank

A plasma bank to treat novel coronavirus started functioning in Delhi Thursday, with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying that COVID-19 patients can donate their plasma 14 days after recovery. Addressing an online media briefing, Kejriwal said the eligibility for being a plasma donor is "very strict", and hoped that with this bank the number of COVID-19 deaths will decrease in the national capital. The government has set up the plasma bank at the state-run Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS). The chief minister said people who have recovered from the virus can contact 1031 and WhatsApp number -- 880007722 -- where they can get details for plasma donation. The donor will also be given an appreciation letter.

Karnataka, six from Andhra Pradesh, five from Punjab, four each from Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, three from Bihar and one each from Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Maharashtra has reported the highest number of cases at 1,80,298, followed by Tamil Nadu at 94,049, Delhi at 89,802, Gujarat at 33,232, Uttar Pradesh at 24,056, West Bengal at 19,170 and Rajasthan at 18,312 according to the ministry data.

State-wise distribution is subject to further verification and reconciliation, it added.

Modi, Putin vow to boost ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the coronavirus crisis Thursday and resolved to strengthen the Indo-Russia ties for jointly addressing the challenges of the post-COVID world.

During a telephonic conversation, the two leaders agreed to maintain the momentum of bilateral contacts and consultations, leading to the annual bilateral summit to be held in India later this year.

The Prime Minister conveyed his keenness to welcome Putin in India for the bilateral summit.

The leaders took note of the effective measures undertaken by the two countries to address the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed on the importance of closer India-Russia ties for jointly addressing the challenges of the post-COVID world, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

Putin thanked Modi for the phone call and reiterated his commitment to further strengthening the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries in all spheres.

During their conversation, Modi congratulated Putin on the success of the celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the victory of the Allied Forces in the World War



The Prime Minister conveyed his keenness to welcome Putin to India for the bilateral summit

2, and also for the successful completion of the vote on constitutional amendments in Russia, the statement said.

The Prime Minister noted the participation of an Indian contin-

gent in the military parade held in Moscow June 24 as a symbol of the abiding friendship between the people of India and Russia.

An official statement issued by the Russian side said the two leaders discussed topical issues on the Russian-Indian agenda and confirmed their mutual commitment to further strengthening the privileged bilateral strategic partnership and close cooperation both in the bilateral format and within international organisations and associations.

BABRI TRIAL

Uma Bharti appears before CBI court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 2: Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti Thursday appeared in person before a special court here conducting trial in the 1992 Babri mosque demolition case.

The special CBI court is currently recording the statements of 32 accused under CrPC section 313 (court's power to examine the accused), a stage in the trial that follows the examination of prosecution witnesses. The 61-year-old saffron clad BJP leader is the 19th accused to depose before the court in the over 27-year-old case.

Thirteen other alleged accused, including former deputy prime minister LK Advani and senior BJP leaders MM Joshi and Kalyan Singh are yet to be examined at this stage. Their lawyers have indicated to the CBI court that they prefer to appear through video conferencing.

The mosque in Ayodhya was demolished in December 1992 by 'kar sevaks' who claimed that an ancient Ram temple had stood on the same site. The CBI court is conducting day-to-day hearings to complete the trial by August 31, as directed by the Supreme Court.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



A farmer plants paddy saplings on a field in Nadia district, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Man ends life after failing to buy smartphone

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala/Guwahati, July 2: In a shocking incident, a day labourer committed suicide by hanging himself at his house in western Tripura after he failed to provide an Android smartphone to his daughter for her online studies.

Sepahijala district police chief Krishnendu Chakraborty said that 45-year Sukumar Bhowmik after being pressured by his 15-year-old eldest daughter for an Android smartphone, bought an ordinary mobile phone. "When Sukumar gave the new mobile phone to his

daughter, she refused to accept it as she needed an Android smartphone for her online coaching. Sukumar's wife and daughter also scolded him for not buying an Android smartphone," Chakraborty said Thursday.

The officer said that Sukumar tried to pacify his wife and daughter, telling them that he did not have the money to purchase the costly Android phone but they continued to berate him. His daughter broke the new mobile phone by throwing it on the ground.

Sukumar's close relatives said that feeling humiliated by the abuse heaped on him by his daughter and

he failed to attend online classes and examinations in the absence of a smartphone. The boy reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree near his house.

According to Assam police the boy, a resident of Salbari village under Runkhata police station in Chirang district, was a student of class ten at Tukrajhar High School. "The student was supposed to attend the online classes. After the COVID-19 pandemic induced lockdown and shutting down of educational institutions, many schools across the country have started online classes," a police official said in Guwahati.

he failed to attend online classes and examinations in the absence of a smartphone. The boy reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree near his house.

According to Assam police the boy, a resident of Salbari village under Runkhata police station in Chirang district, was a student of class ten at Tukrajhar High School. "The student was supposed to attend the online classes. After the COVID-19 pandemic induced lockdown and shutting down of educational institutions, many schools across the country have started online classes," a police official said in Guwahati.

Indian paramilitary to induct transgenders

Working upon the modalities, the Ministry of Home Affairs has sought suggestions from the Central Armed Police Forces on the matter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 2: The Indian government has decided to induct members of transgender community in the country's elite paramilitary forces ending discrimination against the marginalised section.

Working upon the modalities in that direction, the Ministry of Home Affairs has sought suggestions and comments from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) on the matter. The ministry is working on the proposal to commission the "third gender" as officers in the paramilitary forces.

It has sought opinion of all CAPFs on the modalities on implementation of commissioning third gender officers as Assistant Commandants.

The ministry in a letter to CAPF on July 1, under the subject "Central Armed Police Forces (Assistant Commandants) Examination 2020-Comments on draft rules regarding" sought suggestions from the forces over the issue.

It stated: "...the comments for incorporating the issues on transgender as Third gender along

with Male/Female in the rules of CAPF (AC) Examination, 202 is yet to be received from CRPF, ITBP, SSB and CISF"

The ministry says that the forces are "once again requested to examine" the issue and furnish comments on July 2, 2020 positively for taking a final view on the matter.

Recently, the Indian government has taken several steps for upliftment of transgender community. On March 17, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Rattan Lal Kataria in Lok Sabha stated that in order to provide for protection of rights of transgender persons and their welfare, recently, The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, has been enacted with effect from January 10, 2020.

"As per clause 14 of the Act, the appropriate Government shall formulate welfare schemes and programmes to facilitate and support livelihood for transgender persons including their vocational training and self-employment," the minister stated.

The lawmaker also stated that during 2019-20, an amount of ₹5 crore has been allocated for the welfare of transgender persons.

Mental health needs greater attention: WHO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Early identification of mental health conditions, recognition of suicidal behaviours, and appropriate management through a multi-sectoral approach is important, even as we continue to focus on arresting the further spread of the pandemic

DR. POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH | REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WHO SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

New Delhi, July 2: With the coronavirus pandemic still accelerating, impacting lives and livelihoods and causing fear and anxiety among people, the World Health Organisation Thursday called upon countries in the South-East Asia Region to pay a greater attention to mental health and suicide prevention.

Stigma related to COVID-19 infection may also lead to feeling of isolation and depression, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, said.

She said another precipitating factor impacting the mental health amid COVID-19 could be domestic violence, which is reported to have increased during the lockdowns imposed by almost all countries in the region to



slow the spread of the virus.

"Hitting lives and livelihoods, the pandemic is causing fear, anxiety, depression and stress among people. Social distancing, isolation and coping with perpetually evolving and changing information about the virus has both triggered and aggravated existing and pre-existing mental

health conditions which need urgent attention," Singh said.

Early identification of mental health conditions, recognition of suicidal behaviours and appropriate management through a multi-sectoral approach is important, even as we continue to focus on arresting the further spread of the pandemic, she underlined. Singh said suicide claims almost 8,00,000 lives every year globally and is the leading cause of death among young people aged 15-29 years.

Evidence shows that for each adult who dies of suicide, there are more than 20 others attempting suicide, the WHO Regional Director said. The WHO South-East Asia Region accounts for 39 per cent of global suicide mortality, she said.

"Though preventable, suicide is a serious public health problem.

Survivors of suicide attempts and their family often face stigma and discrimination in many forms. The impact of suicide on families, friends and communities is devastating and far-reaching," Singh noted.

In these challenging times, we must work towards providing a comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social-care services in community-based settings, as outlined in the WHO South-East Asia Region's Suicide Prevention Strategy, she said.

As individual vulnerabilities and socio-cultural factors differ between and within populations, the Regional Suicide Prevention Strategy guides countries on strategising and planning for suicide prevention through a multi-sectoral public health approach, she added.



**Good to see India ban 59 popular apps owned by Chinese firms, including TikTok, which counts India as one of its largest markets**  
NIKKI HALEY | AMERICAN DIPLOMAT

## NORTH KOREA NAMED 39TH MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRY

North Korea ranks among the most dangerous places to live as its people are exposed to high risks of natural disaster, poverty and social injustice, a report showed Thursday



### of the day quote

**We got hit very badly, worse than any country, with regard to the number of coronavirus cases and the number of deaths**



ANTHONY FAUCI | AMERICAN PHYSICIAN

**Nothing can replace being in the classroom, so ever since schools, colleges and nurseries closed to most children, we have been working hard to ensure they can reopen as soon as possible**



GAVIN WILLIAMSON | UK EDUCATION SECRETARY

**Libyan Prime Minister Fayez Serraj has indicated his commitment to a dialogue within the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and expressed interest in a political solution based on elections**



STEPHANE DUARRI | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPOKESMAN

### SHORT TAKES

#### 'Smoking linked to higher risk of virus'

**London:** The World Health Organisation says smoking is linked to a higher risk of severe illness and death from the coronavirus in hospitalised patients, although it was unable to specify exactly how much greater those risks might be. In a scientific brief published this week, the UN health agency reviewed 34 published studies on the association between smoking and COVID-19, including the probability of infection, hospitalisation, severity of disease and death.

#### Pfizer, BioNTech show promise

**New York:** A COVID-19 vaccine candidate, tested by the American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, and the German biotech firm BioNTech SE, is safe, well-tolerated, and can generate antibodies in people, according to a study. The research, which is published in the preprint server medRxiv and is yet to be peer-reviewed, describes the preliminary clinical data for the candidate vaccine -- nucleoside-modified messenger RNA (modRNA), BNT162b1.

#### Ethiopia unrest: Dozens killed

**Addis Ababa (Ethiopia):** More than 80 people have been killed in unrest in Ethiopia after a popular singer was shot dead this week, the state-run Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation says. He was buried Thursday amid tight security. The deaths reported Wednesday, citing police in the Oromia region, followed the killing of Hachalu Hundessa Monday. He had been a prominent voice in anti-government protests that led to a change in leadership in 2018. Angry protests, including three bomb blasts, followed his death in the capital, Addis Ababa.

#### Fire at Iran nuke site

**Dubai:** A fire and an explosion struck a building above Iran's underground Natanz nuclear enrichment facility early Thursday, a site that US-based analysts identified as a new centrifuge production plant. The Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran sought to downplay the fire, calling it an "incident" that only affected an under-construction "industrial shed," spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said.

# Australia may offer safe haven to Hong Kongers



A woman reacts after she was hit with pepper spray deployed by police during a rally in Hong Kong

PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

**Melbourne, July 2:** Prime Minister Scott Morrison Thursday said Australia was "actively considering" an offer of safe haven to Hong Kong residents threatened by the imposition of a controversial security law by China that gave it sweeping powers over the former British territory.

Amidst global anger and outrage in Hong Kong, Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday signed the legislation soon after lawmakers voted unanimously to adopt the law that will allow Beijing to crackdown against dissent, criminalising sedition and effectively curtailing protests with punishments up to life in prison.

Hong Kong police Wednesday arrested several people under the law, which came into effect Tuesday, as thousands of agitators defied tear gas and pepper pellets to protest against the legislation. Prime Minister Morrison told reporters

## Scott Morrison said Thursday federal cabinet will look at a number of proposals on how to best help Hong Kong nationals who may look to move to Australia

that he was disturbed by the crack-downs on protesters in Hong Kong. Replying to a question on if Australia would offer a safe haven for Hong Kong residents, he said, "We are considering (it) very actively and there are proposals that I asked to be brought forward several weeks ago."

The Prime Minister said the Cabinet would soon consider "to provide similar opportunities" to what the UK has offered to Hong

Kongers.

"When we have made a final decision on those arrangements I'll make an announcement, but if you're asking are we prepared to step up and provide support, the answer is yes," Morrison said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on 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. The 50-year agreement, in effect, offers Hong Kong a "one country, two systems" principle, guaranteeing it the rights and freedoms that do not exist in mainland China.

Morrison said, "We think that's important and very consistent with who we are as a people and very consistent practically with the views that we have expressed."

In view of China moving ahead with the national security law, the US said it will stop exporting American-origin defence equipment and will take steps towards imposing the same restrictions on US defence and dual-use technologies to Hong Kong as it does for China's mainland. Canada has updated its travel advice for Hong Kong, saying the new legislation could put Canadians at an increased risk.

In a statement Wednesday, Foreign Minister Marise Payne said, "The eyes of the world will remain on Hong Kong." China rejects criticism of its actions in Hong Kong, on what it says are internal matters.

# Hundreds of elephants found dead in Botswana

## Botswana is home to a third of Africa's declining elephant population

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Gaborone, July 2:** Mystery surrounds the "completely unprecedented" deaths of hundreds of elephants in Botswana over the last two months, a media report said.

No one knows why the animals are dying, with lab results on samples still weeks away, the BBC report said Wednesday citing the government as saying.

Niall McCann of the UK-based charity National Park Rescue, told the BBC that his colleagues in the southern African country had spotted more than 350 elephant carcasses in the Okavango Delta since the start of May. Local conservationists first

alerted the government in early May, after they undertook a flight over the delta. "They spotted 169 in a three-hour flight. To be able to see and count that many in a three-hour flight was extraordinary."

"A month later, further investigations identified many more carcasses, bringing the total to over 350."

"This is totally unprecedented in terms of numbers of elephants dying in a single event unrelated to drought," he told the BBC. In May, Botswana's government ruled out poaching as a reason, noting the tusks had not been removed.

There are other things which point to something other than poaching. "It is only elephants that are dying and nothing else," McCann told the BBC, adding: "If it was cyanide used by poachers, you would expect to see other deaths."



# Two Indian-Americans among '2020 Great Immigrants' honourees

AGENCIES

**New York, July 2:** Two renowned Indian-Americans who have contributed towards the efforts in mitigating the COVID-19 health crisis are among the 38 immigrants honoured by a prestigious American foundation ahead of US Independence Day commemoration this year.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and oncologist Siddhartha Mukherjee, and Professor of Economics at Harvard University Raj Chetty have been named by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as '2020 Great Immigrants' honourees, the Corporation said in a statement Wednesday.

Born in New Delhi, Mukherjee is a noted biologist, oncologist and the author of several acclaimed books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning 'The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer'.

Since 2009, he has served on the faculty of Columbia University, where he is associate professor of medicine and a practising physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.



Siddhartha Mukherjee & Raj Chetty

In 2014, Mukherjee was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honours.

In May, he was selected by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on a 15-member Blue-Ribbon Commission focusing on improving telehealth and broadband access in response to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Raj Chetty who was born in New Delhi, has been one of the youngest professors to be granted tenure in Harvard's history. In addition to his position as the William A.

Ackman Professor of Economics at Harvard University, Chetty directs Opportunity Insights, a research lab that aims to identify barriers to economic and social mobility and develop scalable policy solutions to overcome them, the Corporation said.

He helped launch a resource to monitor the real-time economic impact of COVID-19 on people, businesses and communities across the United States. This tool enables policy makers to make evidence-based decisions that balance vital public health priorities with the economic needs of their communities, it said.

In 2020, the corporation honours 38 naturalised citizens "who have enriched and strengthened our nation and our democracy through their contributions and actions," it said.

The corporation said a third of this year's honourees are helping the global health crisis recovery efforts by serving as nurses and doctors, as well as scientists who are striving to find effective treatments and a vaccine for COVID-19.

## RAGING INFERNO



Firefighters work at a forest fire site in the Republic of Sakha also known as Yakutia, Russia Far East. The fire has already destroyed over a million hectares of forest

PTI PHOTO

# Putin to remain Russia Prez till 2036

REUTERS

**Moscow, July 2:** Russians opened the door to Vladimir Putin staying in power until 2036 by voting overwhelmingly for constitutional changes that will allow him to run again for President twice, but critics said the outcome was falsified on an industrial scale.

Official results published Thursday, after 100% of ballots had been counted, showed that the former KGB officer who has ruled Russia for more than two decades as president or Prime Minister had easily won the right to run for two more six-year terms after the current one ends in 2024.

That means Putin, 67, could rule until the age of 83. The



Central Election Commission said 77.9% of votes counted across the world's largest country had supported changing the consti-

tution. Just over 21.2% had voted against, it said.

Ella Pamfilova, head of the commission, said the vote had been transparent and that officials had done everything to ensure its integrity. Opposition politician Alexei Navalny had a different view and called the vote an illegitimate and illegal show designed to legitimise Putin's presidency for life. "We'll never recognise this result," Navalny told supporters in a video.

Navalny said the opposition would not protest for now because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, but would do so in big numbers in the autumn if its candidates were blocked from taking part in regional elections or their results were falsified.

## 746 HELD AS CRIME CHAT NETWORK CRACKED IN UK

AGENCIES

**London, July 2:** A top secret encrypted communications system used by criminals to trade drugs and guns has been busted in a joint operation carried out by UK security officials, resulting in 746 arrests.

The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) said Thursday that it successfully broke into EncroChat, a major provider of encrypted communications offering a secure mobile phone instant messaging service, as part of Operation Venetic -- dubbed one of the largest law enforcement operations of its kind which also led to considerable criminal cash, firearms and drugs being seized.

"This operation demonstrates that criminals will not get away with using encrypted devices to plot vile crimes under the radar," said UK Home Secretary Priti Patel.



"The NCA's relentless targeting of these gangs has helped to keep us all safe. I congratulate them and law enforcement partners on this significant achievement."

"I will continue working closely with the NCA and others to tackle the use of such devices -- giving them the resources, powers and tools they need to keep our country safe," she said.

EncroChat had 60,000 users worldwide, with around 10,000 in the UK, and its sole use was to coordinate and plan the distribution of illicit commodities, money laundering and plotting to kill rival criminals.

Since 2016, the NCA said it has been working with international law enforcement agencies to target EncroChat and other encrypted criminal communication platforms by sharing technical expertise and intelligence.

# 'Meghan felt unprotected by royals while pregnant'

MEGHAN'S LAWYERS REVEAL HOW KENSINGTON PALACE'S GUIDELINES LEFT HER FEELING 'UNPROTECTED' AS TABLOID'S PUBLISHED 'FALSE AND DAMAGING ARTICLES'

REUTERS

**London, July 2:** Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, felt "unprotected" by the British royal family while she was pregnant with her son Archie, according to London High Court documents filed as part of her legal action against a tabloid newspaper.

Meghan, wife of Queen Elizabeth's grandson Prince Harry, is suing publisher Associated Newspapers over articles its Mail on Sunday newspaper printed last year which included parts of a handwritten letter she had sent to her estranged father, Thomas Markle, in August 2018.

Markle and his daughter have not spoken since he pulled out of ap-



pearing at her wedding to Harry in May 2018 after undergoing heart surgery and following news he had

staged photos with a paparazzi photographer. The Mail justified publishing the letter by saying five un-

named friends of Meghan, who gave birth to Archie in May 2019, had put her version of events in interviews with the US magazine People. Her legal team say it was untrue she had authorised or arranged for her friends to tell People about the letter. "The Claimant had become the subject of a large number of false and damaging articles by the UK tabloid media, specifically by the Defendant, which caused tremendous emotional distress and damage to her mental health," her lawyers said in a submission to the High Court.

"As her friends had never seen her in this state before, they were rightly concerned for her welfare, specifically as she was pregnant, unprotected by the Institution, and pro-

hibited from defending herself."

The couple are now living in Los Angeles after stepping down from royal duties at the end of March. Harry said he had fallen out with his elder brother, Prince William, and Meghan has spoken of a lack of support when pregnant and as a new mother.

The trial for Meghan's case is not expected this year. But in May, the judge rejected part of her claim that the paper had acted dishonestly and stoked the rift with her father. On Wednesday, Harry said he regretted racism was "still endemic" in society in comments for The Diana Award, established in memory of his late mother, Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash in 1997 while fleeing paparazzi.



FB is deeply committed to investing in and nurturing India's digital economy, with a particular focus on helping small businesses, helping the agenda of job creation with a commitment towards working with other players in the ecosystem  
AJIT MOHAN | MD, FACEBOOK INDIA

## NPCI TO BUILD ₹500 CR SMART DATA CENTRE

The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, will develop its smart data centre in Hyderabad at an investment of ₹500 crore



## of the day quote

Stamp duty on mutual funds will have little to no impact on retail investors unless they invest several crores of rupees for less than 3 months. However, corporate investors investing several crores for few days to a month in categories such as overnight funds may see some impact



VIDYA BALA | CO-FOUNDER, PRIMEINVESTOR

We are really going to focus in the short term on promoting ease of doing business whether it is paperwork, import-export procedures, all. It is a big laundry list. These steps will make it easier for 'Make in India' and exports



COLIN SHAH | CHAIRMAN, GEM AND JEWELLERY EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

With an aim to contribute towards circular economy, Danone has developed a roadmap towards achieving 100% recyclable packaging by 2025. In addition to that, we will continue to innovate and create products and solutions that promote healthier diets



HIMANSHU BAKSHI | MD, DANONE INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Petrol, diesel prices remain unchanged

**New Delhi:** Fuel prices seem to have gone for a longer pause after rising in 22 of the past 26 days as oil marketing companies (OMC) kept the pump prices of petrol and diesel unchanged again Thursday. In the national capital, petrol price Thursday stood at ₹80.43 per litre and diesel at ₹80.53 a litre, same level as Tuesday and Wednesday when the OMCs went for a pause and kept the prices unchanged.

### State MSME gets new principal secy

**Bhubaneswar:** Satyabrata Sahu has joined as new principal secretary of MSME, on his return from Central deputation. After his joining, Sahoo met with MSME and Energy minister Dibya Shankar Mishra and chief secretary Asit Tripathy. Before leaving for central deputation, he had earlier worked as secretaries in various departments of the state government and performed as district collectors in KBK districts. He belongs to the 1991 IAS batch.

### Tata Power to raise ₹2,600 cr

**New Delhi:** Tata Power Thursday said its board has approved a proposal to raise ₹2,600 crore through issuance of preference shares to its promoter Tata Sons. "The board of directors of the company approved issuance of equity shares through a preferential issue to the promoter, Tata Sons, at a price of ₹53 per equity share for an aggregate sum of ₹2,600 crore, subject to shareholder approvals," a regulatory filing said.

### SBI donates ambulance

**Bhubaneswar:** On the occasion of 65th Bank Day, State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle, donated an advanced life support ambulance to AIIMS Bhubaneswar. The ambulance was handed over by CGM, SBI, Bhubaneswar Circle, Ruma Dey to the AIIMS Director Geetanjali Batmanabane, DGM, Zone I, Anand Bikram, DGM Zone II Kundan Jyoti and DGM & CDO Anup Sinha were also present on the occasion.

# CLL trade unions call for a three-day strike

ODISHA IS LIKELY TO INCUR REVENUE LOSS OF ₹70 CR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The mining operations in Mahanadi Coal Fields in Angul district came to a halt after the trade unions of Coal India Limited (CIL) began a three-day nationwide strike from Thursday protesting against the government's decision to allow commercial mining of coal by private companies.

Coal production and coal supply has been disrupted due to the strike. Besides protesting against the inclusion of private players, the trade union is also opposing the separation of the state-run firm's exploration, and planning and design-arm Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDIL) from the company, among other issues.

Earlier in February this year, Central government allowed private companies to mine the fossil fuel for commercial use, thereby wiping out the monopoly of state-run Coal India Ltd.

Due to the stoppage of mining operations, state-owned power plants NTPC and NALCO may face crisis of fuel supply and also expected that other power plants from several parts of the country will soon see fuel storage.

### STATES MAY SUFFER ₹319 CR IN REVENUE LOSS

According to the report, the strike could hit around 4 million tonne of coal output and coal-bearing states may suffer an estimated revenue loss of ₹319 crore. Due to strike, Odisha is expected to face



Coal production and coal supply has been disrupted due to the strike

Earlier in February 2020, the Central government allowed private firms to mine the fossil fuel for commercial use, thereby wiping out CIL's monopoly

The strike could hit around 4 MT of coal output and coal-bearing states may suffer an estimated revenue loss of ₹319 crore

the maximum loss of around ₹70 crore in three days. Other mineral-rich states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will also likely to incur severe losses due to the shutdown.

According to the sources, Chhattisgarh may incur a loss of ₹66 crore, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand may see a hit of around ₹61 crore each. The mining halt will cause a loss of ₹27 crore to Maharashtra. Likewise, West Bengal is expected to lose ₹23 crore and Uttar Pradesh ₹11 crore.

In December, 2019, Coal Minister

Pralhad Joshi said in Parliament that the government collected ₹2.03 lakh crore as revenue from Coal India from 2013-14 up to 2018-19. Of the total revenue received, the maximum of ₹4,826.43 crore was mopped up in 2018-19.

In 2017-18, the revenue stood at ₹44,046.57 crore, while in the preceding fiscal, it was ₹44,068.28 crore, the minister had said.

In 2015-16, the government collected ₹29,084.11 crore in revenue from the PSU, whereas in the preceding fiscal, the figure stood at ₹21,482.21 crore. In 2013-14, the revenue was at ₹19,713.52 crore, he said.

# GOLD SALES TAKE A HIT IN STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, July 2:** The continuous rising of gold prices in the state has been a reason of concern for the sellers as the sales are dropping every day. As on Thursday the price for 10 grams gold for 22 carats was ₹49, 080. However, the price for 10 grams of 24 carats was ₹50, 280 in Bhubaneswar.

Expressing concern over drop in sales, Secretary of Odisha Jewellery Association (OJA) Mahesh Verma said, "Since the airlines are cancelled to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, gold imports has been hit significantly. All import services has also been shutdown."

Verma also said that the stand-off between India and China in

the Himalayas has affected the market share due to which price of gold is increasing from past few days. "The gold industry is facing a serious crisis due the current situation. Also, due to the lockdown, people don't have enough money for which they prefer to spend money wisely than going for gold," he said.

The association had expected a rise in the sale of gold from April 15-July 6 considering it being a marriage season. However, jewellers have to wait a little to see gold sales getting back on track.

Odisha imports gold from Mumbai, Surat, Ahmadabad, Coimbatore, and Kolkata among others. Verma said that they import 80% gold from Mumbai itself. He also said that Odisha on an average imports nearly 750 tonne of gold in a year.

## COVID EFFECT



## BIZ BUZZ

### Indian Bank appoints FGMO in City

**Bhubaneswar:** Indian Bank has started a new Office of Field General Manager at Bhubaneswar with effect from June 1, 2020. GM B Suribabu has taken over the charge of FGMO, Bhubaneswar. Prior to this, he was heading Saptagiri Gramen Bank in Andhra Pradesh as its Chairman. Suribabu joined in Indian bank in the year 1988 as a clerical officer and having work experience in various capacities in Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh. The Bhubaneswar FGMO Office is working for 3 states: Odisha, Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh, with 7 zones in Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Raipur, Jabalpur, Satna and Bhopal. These zones have 520 branches and business mix of ₹50,000 crore under its command area.



### India-funded Chabahar Port sets new record

**New Delhi:** The strategic Chabahar Port in Iran achieved a new milestone by handling a record 76 TEUs of cargo, said Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. Chabahar port, located in the Sistan-Balochistan province in the energy-rich Iran's southern coast, lies outside the Persian Gulf and is easily accessed from India's western coast, bypassing Pakistan. "Chabahar Port is scaling up its operations drastically. India Ports Global Ltd terminal loaded 76 TEUs (twenty foot equivalent unit) all refrigerated for India. This is a record single loading and is a milestone in growth path of Chabahar Port," Mandaviya said. Transit of export consignment from Afghanistan through Chabahar commenced in February 2019 as trickle and has now started showing a healthy upward trend, he said terming the port as a game changer. IPGL terminal on June 30 loaded 76 TEUs for India which is a record single loading.



### Canara Bank distributes PPE kits

**Bhubaneswar:** Canara Bank, Circle office Bhubaneswar as part of its CSR program has distributed PPE KITS to the police personnel engaged in Traffic control activity in the city on the occasion of 115th Foundation Day of the bank. The PPE kits were handed over to Sudhanshu Sarangi, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack by GM BL Meena, Circle Head of Canara Bank Bhubaneswar Circle. Sanjay Kumar Singh (Addl. Commissioner), Sagarika Nath (DCP Traffic) along with Joginder Singh Ghangas (DGM), SN Panda (AGM) and other officials of Canara Bank were also present. The noble step is highly appreciated by the beneficiaries. Meena also informed that CSR-initiated social activities will continue in future as well.



# IndiGo expects traffic to bounce back in 5 months

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

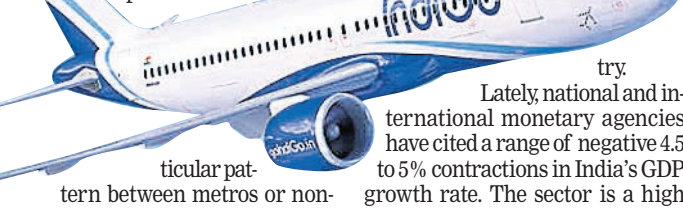
**New Delhi, July 2:** Despite COVID-19 induced economic challenges, senior executive of airline major IndiGo estimates a bounce back in domestic passenger traffic within the next 5 months. Accordingly, the airline's Chief Commercial Officer, William Boulter is encouraged by the fact that demand has sustained since the restart of operations May 25.

Passenger air services were suspended March 25 due to the nationwide lockdown to check the spread of COVID-19. Presently, airlines are only allowed to deploy 45% of their total capacity to service domestic routes.

Even with capped capacity, domestic airlines were able to ferry around two million passengers during the past one month. "People travel for a number of different reasons, many of which can be seen as

## ECONOMIC FALLOUT

"essential," Boulter told IANS. "The encouraging aspect right now is that demand is sustained over the past weeks since restart, it was not a case of a few days' pent up demand. Passengers are moving over all the routes we are operating, there is no par-



ticular pattern between metros or non-metros." The airline offers close to 350 commercial flights daily, due to the capped capacity norms.

At present, the aviation sector is suffering from the fallout of COVID-19 outbreak and the consequent nationwide lockdown which is im-

plemented to curb the pandemic. Besides, the outbreak has induced economic con-

traction and heavily impacted the travel industry.

Lately, national and international monetary agencies have cited a range of negative 4.5 to 5% contractions in India's GDP growth rate. The sector is a high frequency indicator of country's economic growth.

A rebound in passenger traffic and aircraft movement will be taken as a sign of an eventual revival in the overall economy.

On international operations,

Passenger air services were suspended March 25 due to the nationwide lockdown to check the spread of COVID-19. Presently, airlines are only allowed to deploy 45% of their total capacity to service domestic routes

Boulter said that restart is dependent on a number of factors but the airline is "ready and waiting".

Last month, Directorate General of Civil Aviation had issued a circular extending the suspension on scheduled commercial international flight operations to and from India till July 15.

However, Centre in the past has hinted at the prospects of a bilateral

bubble arrangements", which will allow some international operations between countries.

Apart from domestic services, the airline is operating several charter services each day, either as part of the Vande Bharat mission, or for individual entities and corporations.

The airline has also expanded its international and domestic cargo operations. It has launched cargo operations to China, Singapore and Malaysia. The move to haul cargo assumes significance as the airline has a massive domestic network and the largest aircraft fleet in India.

"Cargo demand has been buoyant on many routes, owing to the lack of the normal passenger aircraft belly space, and has supported our "cargo-in-cabin" charters, where with some minor equipment and procedural changes we have been able to carry significant payloads on our A320 and A321 passenger aircraft," he said.

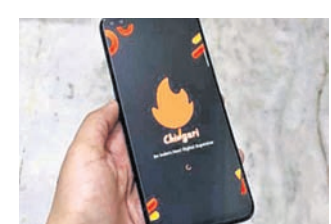
## Chingari to ramp up hiring after Tik Tok ban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** Homegrown short video sharing app Chingari Thursday said it is working on significantly ramping up its headcount to 200 people in the next few months to meet the manifold growth in traffic and user addition on its platform. The Bangalore-headquartered company claims its app downloads have already crossed the one-crore mark from 5 lakh last month.

"We have been witnessing massive growth three weeks prior, which has accelerated further after the government's ban (of 59 Chinese apps). We already have over 1.1 crore downloads and 70 lakh users everyday on our platform," Chingari's co-founder and Chief of Product Sumit Ghosh told PTI.

The app gained further prominence after industrialist Anand Mahindra tweeted about the company, saying: "I hadn't ever downloaded Tik Tok but I have just downloaded Chingari... More power to you..."



Chingari's rival app TikTok was among those banned by the Indian government earlier this week. The government said these apps were "prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country."

Ghosh said Chingari is now scaling up its operations and plans to put in place a 100-member team for content moderation in the next six months.

## 'India needs ₹50-60L cr FDIs to boost economy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** India needs foreign direct investments worth ₹50 to 60 lakh crore and the money can be tapped mainly through infrastructure projects as well as MSME sector to accelerate the wheels of coronavirus-hit economy, according to Union minister Nitin Gadkari.

Emphasising that at this juncture Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the need of the hour, the senior minister said such funds would benefit the country as there is a need for pumping in liquidity into the market.

Economic activities have been significantly disrupted in the wake of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns that were in place to curb spreading of infections.

"Country at this juncture needs liquidity. Without liquidity our economy's wheel will not accelerate... ₹50-60 lakh crore foreign investment is needed in the country under present circumstances to boost the economy," the Road Transport, Highways and MSME Minister told PTI.

Infrastructure sector including highways, airports, inland waterways, railways, logistic parks, broad gauge and metro, apart from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) can attract large scale foreign investment, he noted.

"FDI in MSME, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and banks are needed... in the highways sector, we are trying to bring foreign investment," he said.

Gadkari further said that talks are on with investors from Dubai and the US for various sectors, including MSMEs.

"Some MSMEs are already listed on the BSE. I have talked to investors in Dubai and the US to come and invest in such MSMEs based on their three-year turnover,



We need to boost our technology for increasing growth and need to focus on enhancing exports. PM Modi's thrust is also on reducing dependence on imports and boosting exports. In this infrastructure can play a crucial role

NITIN GADKARI | ROAD TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND MSME MINISTER

GST track record, IT record and good rating. Investing in these can result in rich dividends as these do exports also," he said.

"We need to boost our technology for increasing growth and need to focus on enhancing exports. The Prime Minister's thrust is also on reducing dependence on imports and boosting exports. In this infrastructure can play a crucial role," he said.

While noting that the present situation is very serious as the entire world is facing problems, Gadkari stressed on the need to work on a war-footing basis on infrastructure front.

Further, the minister noted that public private partnerships can help harness huge funds and would have a cascading impact by generating more employment and boosting the economy.

Besides, the minister said that 22 green highways were being built, including the ₹1 lakh crore Delhi-Mumbai Expressway on a new alignment.

## HUL rechristens skin care brand

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, July 2:** Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)'s flagship skin care brand Fair & Lovely will now be known as Glow & Lovely. "HUL today announced the next step in the evolution of its skin care portfolio to a more inclusive vision of Positive Beauty, and introduces Glow & Lovely, the new name for the Fair & Lovely brand," the company said.

Over the next few months, Glow & Lovely will be on the shelves, and future innovations will deliver on this new proposition. The Men's range of Fair & Lovely will be called 'Glow & Handsome'.

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) had earlier announcing it will stop using the word 'Fair' in the flagship brand 'Fair & Lovely' with a "more inclusive vision of beauty". The brand is committed to celebrating all skin tones, HUL said.

## The flagship skin care brand Fair & Lovely will now be known as Glow & Lovely

HUL had announced the re-branding of its flagship brand Fair & Lovely. Taking forward the brand's journey towards a more inclusive vision of beauty, the company will stop using the word 'Fair' in the brand name 'Fair & Lovely'. The new name is awaiting regulatory approvals and HUL expects to change the name in the next few months.

The brand is committed to celebrating all skin tones.

The Fair and Lovely brand has been criticised by some sections for promoting fairness as a symbol of beauty in an Indian milieu where diversity of skin tones is prevalent.



PROMISING A WIN AGAINST QATAR WOULD BE SUICIDAL, CONCEDES STIMAC  
**'WE'LL PLAY NOT TO LOSE'**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** India's draw against Asian champions Qatar in a World Cup qualifier last year was one of their best results but coach Igor Stimac does not want to put pressure on his players by promising a victory in the return leg.

India will play Qatar in Bhubaneswar October 8 before taking on Bangladesh (away match) November 12 and Afghanistan in Kolkata November 17.

India are already out of contention for a berth in the 2022 World Cup but they are still in the reckoning for the 2023 Asian Cup as it is a joint qualification campaign. The 52-year-old Stimac said promising victory against Qatar will be suicidal but his side will play not to lose the match.

"With strong belief in what we do and a clear mindset, everything

lies, and the leagues won't kick-off either. So the task which we are facing before the World Cup Qualifiers is enormous," he said.

Due to the pandemic, the domestic season has been pushed back by two months with the transfer season set to run from August 1 to October 31. Both the Indian Super League and I-League will begin only after that.

It is still not clear and the Asian Football Confederation is not in a position to say now if the upcoming scheduled matches will be played in front of spectators. But Stimac said playing behind closed doors against Qatar and Afghanistan will be a 'great disadvantage' for hosts India.

"Everyone knows how important our supporters are to us all the way back from the start. I just pray that everything settles down until October. The team looks forward to playing in front of a full house - both in Bhubaneswar, and Kolkata," said the former Croatia defender who was a part of the bronze winning team in 1998 World Cup.

He also said that the summoning of the national camp before the matches will be in line with government directives.

"Initially there would be tests conducted on all the (national camp) attendees which will help us to gauge how much professional and serious they were during their stay at home during the COVID-19 period.

"We intend on going in for a rigorous training, and all throughout we aim to focus on tactical points for the Qatar game which will be adjusted to our capacities at that stage."

Stimac said he was in constant touch with the national team players during the ongoing pandemic, instructing them to stay safe and execute daily training regime.

is possible. We are certainly not going to come out on the pitch to lose the game. But to promise victory against Asian champions and such a great team as Qatar would be suicidal," Stimac told PTI in an interview from his home in Croatia.

"We are in the process of building up a new respectable team and I am trying to avoid putting our youngsters under extra pressure so they can enjoy their football and gain experience for the future."

With international friendlies and competitive matches unlikely to be held in the next few months, Stimac said his players face an 'enormous' task ahead of their game against Qatar.

"The (ongoing) long break isn't a concern for us. Under current circumstances - the COVID-19 pandemic - there's no possibility of organising any international friend-

**Sanchez helps Inter rout Brescia**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Milan, July 2:** Alexis Sanchez set up two goals and scored a penalty as Inter Milan thrashed relegation-threatened Brescia 6-0 to consolidate third place in Serie A.

Inter were already 3-0 up at half-time thanks to the penalty and goals from Ashley Young and Danilo D'Ambrosio. Roberto Gagliardini, Christian Eriksen and Antonio Candreva netted after the break Wednesday.

Inter moved seven points above fourth-place Atalanta, which hosts Napoli Thursday. It is eight points behind league leader Juventus. Brescia remained eight points from safety.

Inter Milan needed to win to hold off hard-charging Atalanta in the race for third and took the lead in the fifth minute when Young was left unmarked to volley in Sanchez's cross.

Sanchez got on the scoresheet himself 15 minutes later, striking a penalty into the bottom left corner after Victor Moses was tripped by Ales Mateju.

Inter confirmed earlier in the day that the Manchester United forward will remain on loan until the end of the Serie A season.

Inter all but wrapped the match up on the stroke of halftime when D'Ambrosio headed in Young's cross. And Sanchez set up another seven minutes after the break with a free-kick which was headed in by Gagliardini.

Inter coach Antonio Conte brought on Candreva, Eriksen and Romelu Lukaku midway through the second half and the latter two combined for Inter's fifth in the 83rd minute, with Eriksen tapping in after Lukaku's effort was parried. Candreva finished off the scoring five minutes later.



ALEXIS SANCHEZ

Chelsea new kit's introduction party spoiled as Yarmolenko's late goal helps Hammers stun Lampard's men 3-2 to boost English Premier League survival bid  
**Out of the Blues!**



**SUPER SUB:** Andriy Yarmolenko (No.7) is surrounded by his teammates after scoring West Ham's winner; Willian (R), in new Chelsea kit, rushes to the centre with the ball without wasting any time after scoring from the penalty spot, Wednesday



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, July 2:** Andriy Yarmolenko boosted West Ham's hopes of staying in the Premier League by clinching a 3-2 victory over Champions League-chasing Chelsea.

The substitute completed a counterattack started by Declan Rice in the 89th minute Wednesday to send West Ham three points clear of the relegation zone with six games remaining.

It had looked like being a night of frustration for David Moyes' side, which was denied an opener after a lengthy VAR review. That was followed at the other end by conceding a penalty that was converted by Willian.

Although Tomas Soucek leveled in first-half stoppage time and Antonio put the hosts in front at the start of the second half, Willian looked like recovering a point for the Blues when he netted for a second time in the 72nd minute.

With the loss, fourth-place Chelsea is now only two points ahead of Manchester United and Wolverhampton in the pursuit of

Champions League qualification. It halted Chelsea's momentum after beating deposed champion Manchester City last Thursday and then reaching the FA Cup semifinals by eliminating Leicester Sunday.

They couldn't blame a hostile atmosphere, though, as more than 60,000 seats were empty at the Olympic Stadium due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

But the wait for a VAR ruling seems even longer when the stadium falls completely silent - as it did in east London for more than three minutes after Soucek's celebrations were curtailed.

Soucek scrambled the ball into the net after connecting with a corner from Bowen in the 34th minute. But the VAR ruled that Antonio, who was flat on the ground looking away from goal, was in an offside position and obstructing the view of Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

The lengthy delay to assess the footage showed it wasn't a clear decision to make, which only deepened the West Ham irritation. But the coaches and players are told to

maintain social distancing rather than confronting match officials.

Play resumed and soon there was a penalty ruling that went against West Ham and survived a VAR review when Christian Pulisic's fell over after being caught by Diop. Willian converted from the penalty spot to compound West Ham's frustrations.

But in stoppage time, Chelsea were beaten at another set piece as Soucek headed in from Bowen's corner. Chelsea was picked apart again six minutes into the second half, with a slick move down the left.

Rice played a one-two with Fornals before passing to Antonio on the edge of the penalty area. Antonio was nudged over by Antonio Rudiger but, rather than appealing for a penalty, he got back up on his feet. As the ball was recycled, it found its way to Bowen on the right and he squared for Antonio to slide it into the net.

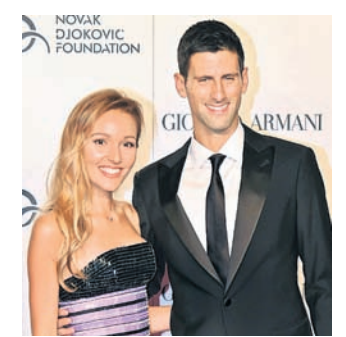
Chelsea equalized when Willian's free-kick hit the inside of the post and beat the outstretched goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski. Pulisic thought Fabianski had been beaten again with a low shot but it crept wide of

**FOXES GO DOWN**

**London:** Leicester once looked certain of returning to the Champions League, but is now winless in four games after a 1-2 loss to Everton Wednesday. Four years after their shock run to the title, Leicester had been enjoying another standout season. Until January at least. When the Foxes beat Newcastle on New Year's Day, they were 15 points clear of sixth place. Now they are only three in front of Wolverhampton. Leicester have only won two of their 11 league games since January 1, with five losses. The latest came after Richarlison struck 10 minutes in and Gylfi Sigurdsson doubled Everton's lead six minutes later with a penalty. Kelechi Iheanacho's second half-goal couldn't spark a Leicester recovery.

the post. The miss proved costly. Rice seized possession on the edge of his own area and launched a high pass to Antonio on the halfway line. The ball was sent crossfield to Yarmolenko, who cut past Rudiger and struck into the bottom corner.

**Djoko, his wife test negative for COVID-19**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Belgrade, July 2:** Novak Djokovic and his wife have tested negative for the coronavirus, his media team said Thursday, 10 days after announcing they had contracted the disease.

The top-ranked player tested positive for the virus after playing in an exhibition series he organized in Serbia and Croatia amid the pandemic. No social distancing was observed at the matches in Belgrade and Zadar, Croatia.

"Novak Djokovic and his wife Jelena are negative for COVID-19. That was shown by the results of the PCR tests that both had in Belgrade," his media team said in a statement.

Both Djokovic and his wife had no symptoms and were in self-isolation in the Serbian capital since testing positive, the statement said.

Djokovic was the fourth player to come down with the virus after participating in the matches in Belgrade and Zadar. The others were three-time Grand Slam semifinalist Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki. Djokovic's coach, Goran Ivanisevic, has also said he has the virus.

**Former BCCI secretary slams Manohar**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rajkot, July 2:** Former BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah hit out at the outgoing ICC chairman Shashank Manohar urging him to take time off and reflect on the 'kind of damage' he has inflicted on Indian cricket.

Manohar Wednesday stepped down after two two-year terms as he got feelers about majority opposing a third term for the former BCCI president.

The BCCI in all these years has believed that Manohar orchestrated move was to dismantle the 'Big Three' model where England, Australia and India shared the larger pie of the revenue.

"Shashank ji must be having



Shashank Manohar



Niranjan Shah

mixed feelings from what could have been done for the promotion of cricket at international level and what was done to cricket in

India during his tenure," veteran Shah, who has been BCCI secretary said in a statement.

"In the relaxed phase now he

may evaluate his tenure as Chairman of ICC and also as of BCCI that has been the platform. He may appraise what damage was done to Indian Cricket and BCCI during his tenure," Shah further added.

Shah believes that under the present BCCI leadership, it will have a strong, beneficial and constructive representation at the ICC.

"BCCI went through much turmoil in last couple of years. And ICC during these years took undue advantage to damage cricket of India and BCCI in all possible manner.

"However, I am fully confident that present strong and worthy leaderships of BCCI shall have strong, beneficial and constructive representation and initiatives at ICC," added Shah.

**When Grant's life was at risk for giving advice**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, July 2:** Former Pakistan batting coach Grant Flower has alleged that ex-skipper Younis Khan had once held a knife to his throat when he tried to offer him some advice during a tour of Australia.

Asked about the tricky characters that he has had to coach in his career, the 49-year-old Zimbabwean, who was Pakistan's batting coach from 2014 to 2019, recalled Younis.

"Younis Khan... quite tough to master," Flower, who is currently serving as Sri Lanka's batting coach, said during a conversation with brother Andy and host Neil Manthorp on the 'Following On Cricket Podcast'.

"I remember one incident in Brisbane, during the Test, at breakfast, I tried to give him a bit of batting advice ... But he didn't take kindly to my advice and brought a knife to my throat, with Mickey Arthur sitting alongside, who had to intervene."

"Yeah, it's been interesting. But

that's part of coaching. It makes it a hell of a journey, and I've really enjoyed it. I've still got a lot to learn, but I'm very fortunate to be in the position I am," Flower said.

Younis was recently appointed as batting coach for Pakistan's on-going tour of England. The 42-year-old former batting star hasn't yet responded to Flower's claim.

The incident with Younis is likely to have happened during the opening Test of Pakistan's tour of Australia in 2016 at Brisbane where the batsman had scored a duck in the first innings but managed a 65 in the second essay.

He had ended the tour with a fine 175 not out in the third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground in January, 2017. Pakistan, however, lost the three-Test series 0-3.

Flower also singled out Pakistan opening batsman Ahmed Shehzad as another 'interesting' character. "He's a very skilful batter, but quite rebellious. Every team has got their rebel. Sometimes it makes them better players, sometimes maybe not so," said Flower.

**Tributes pour in for late Weekes**

*Former India cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble led the way in paying tribute to legendary West Indies cricketer Everton Weekes after he passed away, aged 95, at his Christ Church home in Barbados Wednesday*

**SACHIN TENDULKAR:** Sir Everton Weekes is no more! Had heard many stories about his batting along with the other legendary 2Ws. You will be missed Sir. Rest in peace

**ANIL KUMBLE:** Saddened to hear the passing of WI legend Sir Everton Weekes. Had met him during the ICC conference in Barbados. He remembered a conversation we had during his time as match referee. Condolences to his family and friends

**VVS LAXMAN:** Heard about the passing away of West Indies legend Sir Everton Weekes. He was one of the greats of the game. My condolences to his family and loved ones



**MICHAEL ATHERTON:** Very sad to learn about the passing of Sir Everton Weekes. A humble man who wore his greatness lightly

**WASIM JAFFER:** Heart goes out to the family and friends of Sir Everton

**Weekes made his Test debut at age 22 against England at Kensington Oval in 1948 under the captaincy of George Headley**

**He played 48 Tests and scored 4,455 runs at an average of 58.61, including a world record five consecutive centuries in 1948 - scores of 141 against England in Jamaica, followed by scores of 128, 194, 162 and 101 in India. In his next innings, he made 90**

Weekes. He is the only Test batsman to score five consecutive Test centuries. He was also part of the famous three W's of @windiescricket along with West Indies greats Sir Clive Walcott and Sir Frank Worrell. #RIP"