



LOVE NOTE

Ranveer is the centre of her universe, says actress Deepika Padukone in a wish to her hubby on his birthday

LEISURE P2



A RITZY AFFAIR

Telangana begins razing old Secretariat in Hyderabad to build a new one with ₹400 cr expense

TWO STATES P7



US ARMY TO HELP INDIA

US military will continue to stand strong in relationship to a conflict between India and China: WH

INTERNATIONAL P10

Talcher fert plant work, given to Chinese firm, halted

POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, July 7: Work on the ₹13,277 crore Talcher fertiliser and coal gasification project, which was awarded to China's Wuhuan Engineering Company in September 2019, has been halted because of technical reasons, people aware of the development said.

A massive boycott of Chinese goods across India has come in the way of the Chinese firm immediately mobilising technicians, equipment and site workers, they added. The COVID-19 pandemic and visa issues have also added to their woes.
The project is the first in India to employ coal gasification technology for production of urea. Coal gasification

is a process that converts coal into synthesis gas.
"The project is on. Any call, if at all, will be taken by the competent authorities depending on how India-China relations unfold. Although the project is key to reducing India's dependence on imported urea, national interest is supreme," one of the people cited above, who works

in an economic ministry, said.
Sino-Indian tensions shot up after a violent brawl between Chinese and Indian soldiers June 15 along the Line of Actual Control in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in which 20 Indian Army personnel and an unspecified number of Chinese troops were killed.
The state-owned Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL) awarded the lump-sum

turnkey (LSTK) contract project to Wuhuan Engineering September 17, 2019 after a global competitive bid. TFL is backed by four state-run companies Gail India, Coal India, Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. GAIL, CIL and RCF hold 31.85% equity each in the company while the balance 4.45% is held by FCIL.

5-day shutdown in all Ganjam ULBs, 5 blocks

POST NEWS NETWORK
Chhatrapur, July 7: For a hassle-free door-to-door Covid-19 screening in Ganjam, Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange Tuesday declared a complete five-day shutdown in all urban local bodies (ULBs) of the district and five block headquarters from July 9 to July 13, Tuesday.

The ULBs to remain under shutdown include Berhampur Municipal Corporation, Hinjili Municipality 16 NACs as well as Shergad, Dharakote, Sanakhemundi, Jagannathprasad and Patrapur block headquarters in the district, informed Kulange.

However, agriculture, goods transportation, health-care services and other essential works including home delivery services will continue in these areas.
Kulange said a total of 200 teams comprising at least a doctor and two Anganwadi workers have been formed to carry out screening in the area. Each team needs to do a screening of at least 150 households. "The total number of families in our NACs is 59,220, while 72,000 families come under the Berhampur

Municipal Corporation (BeMC). The total population in NAC areas is 30, 6391 while the same under the BeMC is around 4 lakh," he said. Out of 200 teams, 100 will be at work in BeMC area while the remaining will carry out screening in other ULBs. "We will do quality screening. Every family member must be at their house during the screening.
All members of the households will undergo a thermal screening, oxy-pulse screening (pulse and oxygen, during the drive. The blood pressure of every member will be recorded. Any person with symptoms will be taken for isolation, testing and treatment.

Moreover, a list of people having diabetes, hypertension, kidney and tuberculosis-related ailments will be prepared to help them get healthcare service and telemedicine facilities.
A WhatsApp group of above patients will be formed to provide them with healthcare and medical consultation facilities, the Collector said. People have two days to buy grocery and other essential items. He also advised people not to hide COVID symptoms.



SHORT TAKES

Diesel at new high

New Delhi: Diesel price in the national capital Tuesday touched an all-time high following a rate hike after a week-long hiatus. Diesel price Tuesday was increased by 25 paise per litre, according to a price notification of state-owned oil marketing companies. This took the retail selling price of diesel to ₹80.78 per litre in the national capital - the highest ever. In Bhubaneswar, the diesel price inched up to ₹78.92 per litre. There was no change in petrol price for the 8th straight day, and it continues to be priced at ₹80.43 per litre. Rates vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT. Petrol and diesel prices were last revised June 29. In last one month, diesel price has gone up on 23 occasions.

Brazil Prez Covid +ve

Rio de Janeiro: Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro says he has tested positive for COVID-19 after months of downplaying the virus' severity. Bolsonaro confirmed the test results while wearing a mask and speaking to reporters in capital Brasilia. "I'm well, normal. I even want to take a walk around here, but I can't due to medical recommendations," Bolsonaro said. The president has often appeared in public to shake hands with supporters and mingle with crowds, at times without a mask. He has said that his history as an athlete would protect him from the virus, and that it would be nothing more than a "little flu" were he to contract it. He has also said that there is no way to prevent 70% of the population falling ill with COVID-19, and that local authorities' measures to shut down economic activity would cause hardship.

Govt puts freeze on expenses, fresh recruitment



COVID AUSTERITY

- Purchase of new vehicles banned for 2 years
- Ban on first class AC travel, foreign tours
- No new scheme allowed except for health schemes
- Posts remained vacant for 5 years will be abolished
- Ban on creation of new posts except for H&FW dept

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, July 7: A huge shortfall in revenue collection has forced the state government to issue austerity measures to minimize administrative expenditures in the state.

"We are going through a crisis of unprecedented nature due to COVID-19. It has posed challenges in every sphere of our life. The state government has been fighting the pandemic with all its might to minimize the casualty. However, nation-wide lockdown/shutdown has resulted in shortfall of revenues," Finance Secretary Ashok Meena told all secretaries and heads of departments.

At the same time, huge expenditure is needed for the Covid management, employment generation and ensuring livelihoods for the most affected sections of society, he said. All administrative departments were asked to prioritize their spending to keep the expenditure within the resources available with priority to making fiscal space for Covid-19 related expenditure.

The government has imposed a complete ban on purchase of new vehicles for the next two years. Travel outside the country and air travel in business class using government funds have been banned. In exigencies, approval of authority one level higher than the present delegation would be required for journey by air. The officers have asked to avoid official tours. "There shall be a complete ban on journey by train in 1st class AC by government officers. New hiring of vehicles would require concurrence of the finance department.

No officer while on tour shall be allowed reimbursement for occupancy in any hotel in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai except when the home department has regretted availability of accommodation in respective government Bhawans or Niwas," read the circular.

The government has also put a complete ban on creation of new posts except for health & family welfare department. In case there is an absolute necessity for creation of posts, the government will consider it only against abolition of equivalent posts with concurrence of the finance department.

All redundant posts that have remained vacant for more than 5 years will be abolished automatically. All administrative departments have been asked to issue formal abolition orders by July 31, 2020 and furnish a report to finance department and GA department.

Similarly, departments can't engage consultants, outsourcing and retired government employees without prior concurrence of the finance department.

Except for Health and Family Welfare department, no department can implement new state scheme/project. However, if a new scheme is required for emergent public service, it can be taken up following specific concurrence of finance department. The government has also announced capping of expenditures on existing state schemes except for schemes relating to livelihood in agriculture & allied sectors and expenditures for combating Covid-19 for the current financial year 2020-21. A ban was issued for purchase of new equipment except for medical purposes.

Covid care comes under Mo Sarkar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: With the state's Covid tally crossing the 10,000-mark Tuesday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik included Covid management under 'Mo Sarkar' programme.

While reviewing the Covid -19 situation in the state and actions taken in this regard, Naveen told officials to receive feedback from patients and frontline workers on a regular basis.

The CM also directed district Covid observers and officers to interact with patients and frontline workers. He said direct feedback from stakeholders will help the government improve Covid -19 care in Odisha.

Patnaik told officials to keep families informed on the health status of Covid patients. It was alleged that once patients are admitted at Covid hospitals, family members remain in the dark about their health status. The state government, October 2 last year, had launched the Mo Sarkar programme to take feedback from people on government officials, police and medical practitioners.

In view of Covid infecting more frontline workers like doctors, nurses, anganwadi workers, teachers and others, Patnaik said all such "Covid Warriors" must be properly trained on how to protect themselves against the highly infectious virus while dealing with patients and suspected cases.

VIRUS WORRY

CM asks babus to receive feedback from patients and frontline workers

Officials told to keep families informed on the health status of Covid patients

Direct feedback from stakeholders will help govt improve Covid management

After several non-Covid facilities including Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre and SCB reported positive cases, he asked authorities to make antigen tests mandatory for all patients in hotspot districts. He also asked the chief secretary to keep in touch with the Centre and ensure fewer trains and flights come to Odisha from Covid -19 hotspots like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

In the absence of proper medicines or vaccines, testing and identification of patients is important, Patnaik said, adding three lakh Covid -19 tests, including 1 lakh alone in RMRC, Bhubaneswar, have been conducted so far. There are 19 laboratories engaged in Covid-19 tests and this would be increased in the coming days. Corona virus tests will also be available in Puri, Angul, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi and Keonjhar, officials informed the Chief Minister at the review meeting. **MORE P4**

30% cut in Classes 9 to 12 CBSE syllabi

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 7: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has rationalised the syllabus by up to 30 per cent for Classes 9 to 12 for the academic year 2020-21 to reduce course load of students amid the COVID-19 crises, Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' announced Tuesday.

The curriculum has been rationalised while retaining the core elements, "Looking at the extraordinary situation prevailing in the country and the world, CBSE was advised to revise the curriculum and reduce course load for the students of Classes 9 to 12.

"To aid the decision, a few weeks back I also invited suggestions from all educationists on the reduction of syllabus for students and I am glad to share that we received more than 1.5K suggestions. Thank you, everyone, for the overwhelming response," Nishank tweeted.



WORKLOAD LIGHTER

"Considering the importance of learning achievement, it has been decided to rationalise syllabus up to 30 per cent by retaining the core concepts," he added.

The Union minister said the changes made in the syllabi have been finalised by the respective course committees with the approval of the curriculum committee and the Governing Body of the Board. "The heads of schools and teachers have been advised by the

- Teachers advised by the board to ensure that topics that have been reduced are explained to students
- The reduced syllabus will not be part of the topics for internal assessment and year-end board exam
- For Classes 1 to 8, the NCERT has already notified an alternative calendar and learning outcomes

board to ensure that the topics that have been reduced are also explained to the students to the extent

required to connect different topics. However, the reduced syllabus will not be part of the topics for internal assessment and year-end board examination.

"Alternative academic calendar and inputs from the NCERT on transacting the curriculum using different strategies shall also be part of the teaching pedagogy in the affiliated schools," a senior official of the HRD ministry said. For Classes 1 to 8, the National Council of Education Research and Training has already notified an alternative calendar and learning outcomes.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16 when the central government announced a nationwide classroom shutdown as one of the measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. A nationwide lockdown was announced March 24, which came into effect the next day. The government has eased several restrictions during the lockdown.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	36674.52	↑ 187.24
NIFTY	10799.70	↑ 36.00
DOLLAR	75.04	↑ ₹0.35
EURO	NA	↑ ₹NA
GOLD	₹48,643	↑ ₹418
SILVER	₹50,043	↑ ₹253

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	31.6°C	32.4°C
MAX	31.6°C	32.4°C
MIN	26.3°C	24.8°C
Humidity	94%	92%
Rainfall	14.2mm	Nil
		Forecast
		Generally cloudy sky

After India, US looks at banning TikTok, other Chinese apps

AGENCIES

Washington, July 7: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said the US is "certainly looking" at banning Chinese social media apps, including TikTok, days after India blocked the popular video-sharing platform.
India banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including TikTok and UC Browser, June 29, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.
During an interview Monday with Fox News' Laura Ingraham, Pompeo said that he and President Donald Trump are taking the reports seriously after he was told by the host that India had already banned the app and Australia is considering doing so.

"We are taking this very seriously and we are certainly looking at it. We have worked on this very issue for a long time, whether it's the problem of having Huawei technology in your infrastructure -- we've gone all over the world and we are making real progress getting that out -- we had declared ZTE a danger to American national security," Pompeo said.
"With respect to Chinese apps on people's cell phones, I can assure you the United States will get this one right too," he said, adding that he did not want to dive into specifics and potentially "get ahead" of any presidential announcement.
"But, it is something we are looking at," he said, going on to warn Americans that they should be cau-

CORNERING THE DRAGON

- India banned 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok and UC Browser June 29
- Pompeo's remarks on Chinese apps came amid growing US tensions with Beijing
- The US has banned Huawei from their 5G networks over concerns of security



tious in using TikTok, lest they want their private information "in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party." Pompeo's remarks on the Chinese social media apps came amid growing tensions in bilateral ties with Beijing on a range of issues, including on the coronavirus outbreak and the controversial national security law imposed in Hong Kong.
The US has banned Huawei from their 5G networks over concerns of security and Washington has been pressuring other countries to restrict the operations of the Chinese telecom firm.
The recent ban by India on Chinese apps has been widely noted in the US and some prominent lawmakers have urged the American

government to follow suit as it is believed that the short video-sharing app is a major security risk to the country.
Republican Congressman Rick Crawford tweeted that "TikTok must go and it should have been gone yesterday." US National Security Advisor, Robert O'Brien had alleged that the Chinese Government is using TikTok for its own purposes.
"On TikTok, a Chinese-owned social media platform with over 40 million American users, probably a lot of your kids, and younger colleagues, accounts criticising the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) and Beijing's policies are routinely removed or deleted," O'Brien said in his public remarks.

leisure



BERRY NOT TO PLAY TRANSGENDER

Actress Halle Berry has pulled out of a transgender role she was supposed to play in an upcoming film. Over the weekend, the Oscar-winning actress revealed she would 'probably' play a transgender man in her next film, reports *hollywoodreporter.com*.

BRAD PITT BOARDS BULLET TRAIN

Hollywood superstar Brad Pitt will be leading David Leitch's upcoming assassin action thriller *Bullet Train*. Based on the popular Japanese book *Maria Beetle* by Kotaro Isaka, *Bullet Train* is about a group of hitmen and assassins with conflicting motives on a train in Tokyo, reports *hollywoodreporter.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

High hopes and expectations are a good thing as long as they can push you to give your best. You will plan with care and perform admirably. But you may be focused on impressing a member of the opposite sex! Don't get carried away, says Ganesh, especially while taking decisions.

TAURUS

Stress might take its toll on you today. Ganesh foresees a demanding and difficult day. There may be a need for solitude to spend time with yourself. In relationships, you will look for a common ground to live and let live, says Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today, resolving issues will be a tough task, but you will be able to accomplish it nonetheless. It may take time, but don't lose hope. Persistence and hard work will be rewarding. The grind will increase your understanding of the things happening around you.

CANCER

Today, in all likelihood, is going to be a challenging and complicated day for you, says Ganesh. You are likely to be a little short on confidence; either that, or you may be feeling a little subdued.

LEO

Today, you are defined by high hopes and expectations. It makes you incredibly calculative, and you weigh all pros and cons before taking any decision regarding work. The upshot of this is that your performance in financial transactions will be phenomenal.

VIRGO

Settling and resolving issues will be a long-drawn process today, says Ganesh. However, keep at it because the results will be well worth the efforts you put into it. You will feel more capable to look at things from others' perspective today. Loosen your grip on your wallet, as you may end up taking your sweet-heart on a shopping spree.

LIBRA

Ganesh foresees that today you will chart out your future course of action, so that any steps you take from thereon leads only to success. Sudden and unexpected profits are also on the cards as on the professional front, increased reputation and rewards knock on your door.

SCORPIO

Today will consist of varying highs and lows at work and in confrontations, predicts Ganesh. At work, you may end up quarrelling with your peers. You will be reasonable in your views and still you will find yourself on the receiving side of the argument. Evening will compensate for the tough day as you kick back and relax in the company of loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS

The fountain of creativity will be gushing within you today. You may strive to take on new challenges later in the day. Workplace may offer economic gains later in the evening. But do not neglect your health, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

Power is a privilege of a few. It's a day for those of you in power, of governance and the national purse, says Ganesh. A marvellous day awaits all civil servants and government employees. The dealings you will undertake will materialise and earn you distinction; rewards for the commendable efforts you have put in the past may also come.

AQUARIUS

You may not want to, but you have to pay the bills! Okay, so you can't even remember what you bought, and are cursing the loony credit cards. However, this may persuade you to be a bit more organised. There is no harm in taking ideas from others, suggests Ganesh.

PISCES

Keeping a tab on your expenses ought to be a priority today. Learning to distinguish between your needs and your wants will be vital if you wish to avoid unnecessary extravagances, which you will invariably end up regretting later, says Ganesh.



'YOU ARE CENTRE OF MY UNIVERSE'

Mumbai: In her latest Instagram post, Deepika Padukone has turned on the mush factor for hubby Ranveer Singh, who turned 35 Monday. Deepika posted a black and white picture where the couple is seen making a champagne toast. Along with the picture, she left a love note.

"The light of my life. The centre of my universe. I wish you good health and peace of mind in abundance. As for the rest, I'll tell you



in person! I Love You! #happybirthday." Deepika wrote the image, which currently has a whopping 2.5 million likes on the photo-sharing website.

Deepika and Ranveer started dating while filming *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela* in 2012. The two were later seen sharing screen space in *Bajirao Mastani* and *Padmaavat*. The couple tied the knot in 2018 at the picturesque Lake Como in Italy.

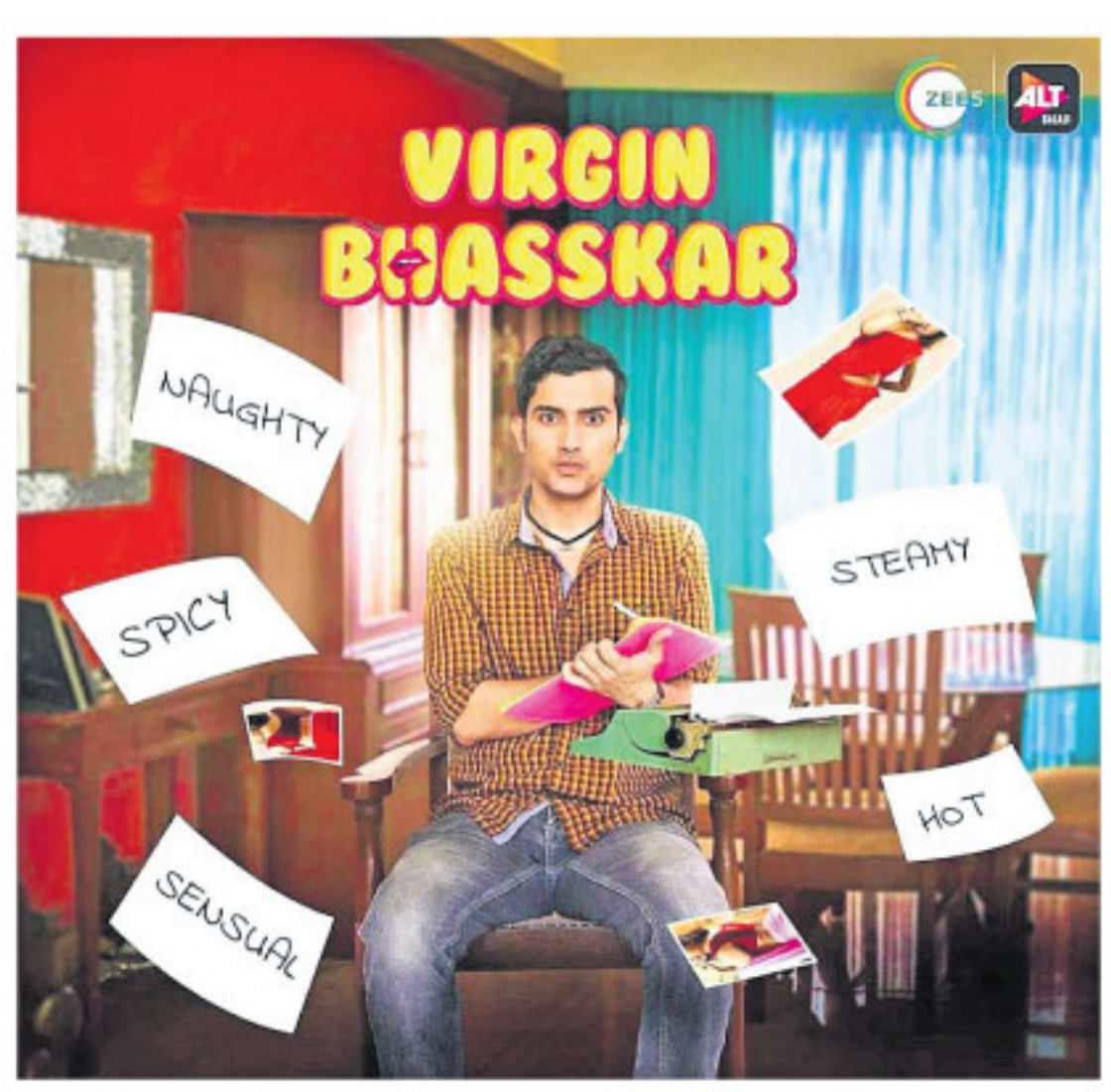
Kiara makes most of every sunset

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani has been soaking in the mellow sun lately, going by her latest social media post.

Kiara's new Instagram image sees her enjoying the sunset at a swimming pool. "Making the most of every sunset," she captioned the image, which currently has over 1.3 million likes on the photo-sharing website.

Kiara has several films lined up in the coming months. She stars in the comedy film *Indoo Ki Jawani*. She will also be seen opposite Sidharth Malhotra in *SherShaah*, which is based on the life of Param Vir Chakra recipient army captain Vikram Batra.

She has also has *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. The film is a follow-up of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, directed by Priyadarshan and released in 2007. The original film was an official remake of the 1993 Malayalam film *Manichitrathazhu*.



Virgin Bhasskar to get Season 2

Mumbai: The rom-com web series *Virgin Bhasskar* has been renewed for season two.

Actor Anant Joshi, who plays the central role of Bhasskar Tripathi, said: "I am so excited and elated to hear that ALTBalaji and ZEE5 are coming up with the second season of *Virgin Bhasskar*. Since the release of the show, I have been receiving some really positive feedback from fans through their mails and messages speaking about how much they've loved the show as well as them telling me how eager they are to see what will happen ahead."

Season one saw Anant as Bhasskar Tripathi, a man who wants to lose his virginity to the love of his life. Bearing the constant taunts of being a virgin, Bhasskar channels his frustration and feelings through an adult novel which turns out to be a bestseller. But his 'Bad Boy' character doesn't go down well with his lady love Vidhi, played by Rutpanna Aishwarya. The second season carries the story forward.



Lockdown art an ode to artists' resilient spirits

Online art exhibition *The Spirit Remains Unlocked* is a step into a new recalibrated world going increasingly digital, says curator Lubna Sen

New Delhi: A remote arts residency that began on the first day of the nationwide lockdown, featuring 30 artists confined in homes and studios in a multitude of locations, has culminated in an extensive online exhibition *The Spirit Remains Unlocked*.

The exhibit goes live from Sunday, and presents unique vignettes of artists' experiences of these unprecedented times we face. With temporary closure of exhibition spaces and a COVID-19 downturn faced by artists as the backdrop, the online exhibition had artists who were forced to focus on what they do best - create art.

A celebration of the resilience and unrestrained creative spirit of artists, the exhibition is curated and conceived by art curator and consultant Lubna Sen. The exhibition and a virtual gallery tour can be accessed on heartroute.com from July 5 to August 15. As per the curator, *The Spirit Remains Unlocked* is a step into a new recalibrated world going increasingly digital.

"We are going through an unprecedented time in our lives.

We are faced with a calamity which has turned our lives upside down, forcing us to question our old world order and affecting the vulnerable sections of our society in ways that perhaps was never imagined. The COVID-19 pandemic will also have a far reaching effect on the economy and the art world will be of no exception. The immediate cascading effect of this downturn is already being faced by the artists. With all major physical events coming to a pause, artists are losing opportunity to showcase and promote their works, something which is vital for their survival," shared Sen.



Nitasha Jaini's Lockdown Drawing

How the artists have individually processed the time in lockdown is reflected in their works. On view is *Imperceptible Warriors* by Venkatesh Sabbaravapu that captures the plight of migrant labourers who lost their livelihood in the

cities and were forced to walk back to their villages. Nitasha Jaini's *Lockdown Drawing* series touches upon domestic violence inflicted upon victims forced to co-exist with their tormentors under the same roof.

Rahul Swami's digital art, *Finding a Better You* expresses how this time led us to discover better versions of ourselves. Giving out hope, a photograph by Vijay Singh, of a young woman peering out from indoors is aptly titled, *Window of Hope*.

Ready to showcase to the world what 'unlocked spirits' can do, *The Spirit Remains Unlocked* is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to feel one with the artists and the larger humankind, and relive in their depictions your own multifaceted experiences of braving the lockdown.

Fresh trouble for Humane Sagar

Angul: Odia singer Humane Sagar has again landed in trouble by allegedly singing an anti-feminist song *Chhendipada Rani*. The release of the song has sparked an atmosphere of tension in Angul.

This happened after a case was registered against him for allegedly singing a song called *Jhia Nuhe Tu Coronavirus*. Sagar later apologised for it on social media. Chhendipada Yuva Manch in Angul district has lodged a written complaint with the police, alleging the song is derogatory towards women.

They have demanded to ban the song across Odisha with immediate effect and also called for action against the music director cum lyricist. Expressing resentment over Humane Sagar's song, a member of the association said, "We will hit the streets if the song makers are not arrested and the song is not banned. We urge everyone not to like and share the song on social media platforms."

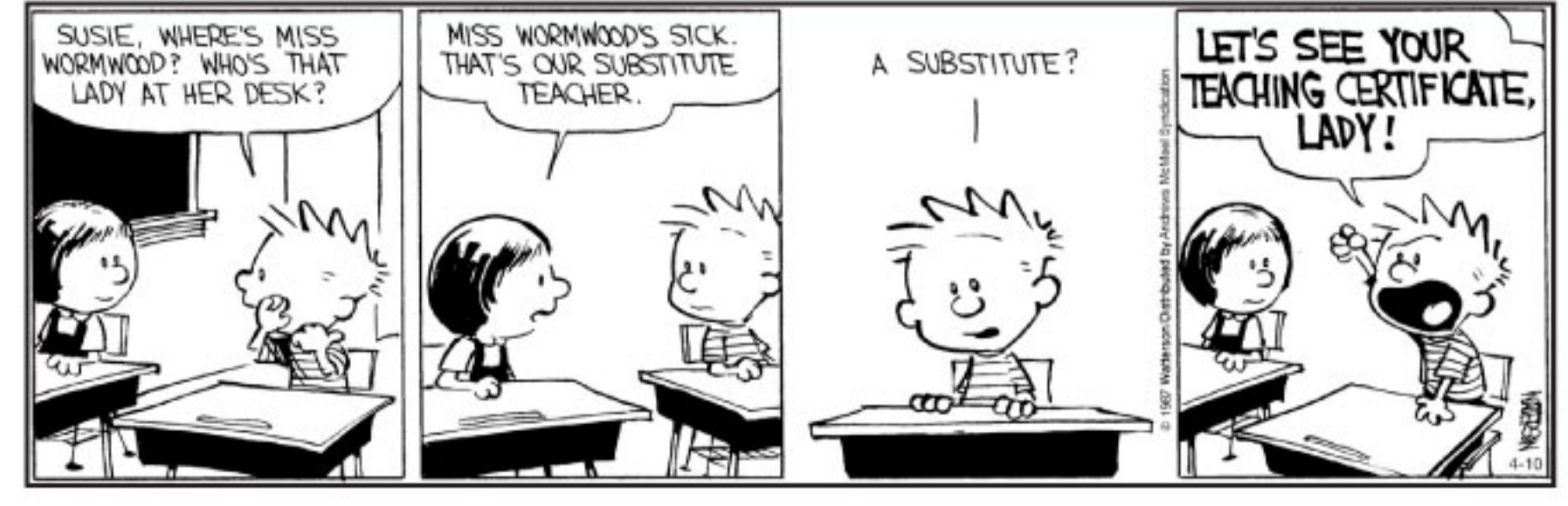
"Humane Sagar will not be allowed to perform at any cultural event in the district in future," the member warned.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8				9		
10		11	12			
						13
14	15		16	17		
			18			
	19	20		21	22	
23				25	26	
24						27
28				29		

Copyright ©2020 PuzzleJunction.com

- Across**
- 1 Type of crisis
 - 5 Hosiery material
 - 8 Risk taker
 - 9 Vigour
 - 10 Supped
 - 12 Deep ravine
 - 14 Mollycoddle
 - 16 Sheen
 - 19 Large edible ray
 - 21 Draws fire
 - 24 French farewell
 - 25 Deer's headdress
- Down**
- 1 Russian
 - 2 Fiend
 - 3 Feverish
 - 4 Madden
 - 5 Paramour
 - 6 Viper
 - 7 Foil relative
 - 10 Ignoramus
 - 11 Salon supply
 - 13 Son of Rhea and Cronus
 - 15 Assignment
 - 17 Samovar
 - 18 Make fizzy
 - 20 Sharp as a tack
 - 22 Hippodrome, e.g.
 - 23 Highland toppers
 - 26 Stocking part
 - 27 Boozer

SUDOKU

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

3	D	7	C		0	1	6	8
8	1	E		5	B	9		4
7		0	3				E	C
		5	8					
E	3	4		2		1		
	2	7	8	4	4	0		5
	9	E		B		D	A	3
7	A	4		8	B	A	0	
8		1	5	2	A	A	4	D
B	9	D	C		1			
9	B	D				2	4	
C	3	0	B	A			2	
E	6	5			0		9	
5			2	E			8	
		3		1	7	5	6	

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

UTENSIL ROBES
P G A O L T
SHOOTOUTS ATE
E T R A C N E C I
TRASH GHERKIN
V E E B S
DAILY ACHES
C L T A L
EXAMINE RATIO
N N D N A A
T I C O M N I V O R E S
R H I E A I
E M E R Y S A L U T E S

SUDOKU

0	7	8	3	9	8	4	1	2	6	0	5
0	6	4	0	2	0	7	5	8	1	0	6
0	9	8	1	4	2	0	0	3	7	8	0
5	2	8	7	0	3	8	9	4	0	6	1
3	E	1	5	0	0	6	8	A	7	2	4
4	8	2	7	C		0	1	6	8		
8	1	E		5	B	9		4			
7		0	3				E	C			
		5	8								
E	3	4		2		1					
	2	7	8	4	4	0		5			
	9	E		B		D	A	3			
7	A	4		8	B	A	0				
8		1	5	2	A	A	4	D			
B	9	D	C		1						
9	B	D				2	4				
C	3	0	B	A			2				
E	6	5			0		9				
5			2	E			8				
		3		1	7	5	6				

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



TREE IS LIFE

A plantation drive in progress at Sri Jagannath Sanskrit University in Puri to mark the 71st Vana Mahotsav, Tuesday

SHUTDOWN & CITY

A woman carrying a bundle of hay on her head in Zobra area of Cuttack during the shutdown over Covid-19, Tuesday



Airing service issues on social media act of indiscipline: Govt

The GA dept claims that Rule 7 of Odisha Government Servants' Conduct Rules prohibits govt servants from making any communication in the public, press or media

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The General Administration (GA) department has warned the government employees against airing their service related grievances on social media or on any form of media.

It said that such acts go against the service rules and appealed to the government servants, including contractual employees, to approach the authority concerned in the government for the same. It also barred them from talking to any newspaper, TV channels about their service related issues.

"It has come to the notice of the government that government servants, especially contractual employees, are using social media to ventilate their service-related grievances to the authorities. This is an act of indiscipline, besides being indecorous and violative of Government Servants' Code of Conduct," the department told the heads of all departments in a letter.

It also added, "Thus, it is implicit that the government servants are duty bound to ventilate service related grievances only through the Controlling authority or the Appointing Department/ Authority following prescribed procedure and not otherwise."

The GA department especially asked the departments concerned to ensure their employees do not use social media to rake up the issue. The department said, "...using so-

GA DEPT GAG ORDER

- The GA dept letter says such acts go against the service rules and appealed to the government servants, including contractual employees, to approach the authority concerned in the government for the same
- The GA dept asked the departments concerned to ensure their employees do not use social media to rake up the issue

cial media for the service related grievances and making reference to higher authorities contravenes official conduct and is construed as deliberate misconduct, which entails major penalty proceedings..."

The heads of departments have now been asked to ensure compliance to the government order. "The above facts may be impressed upon all Government employees, including contractual, through the respective controlling authorities with an advice to desist from use of social media for ventilating related issues," the letter from the GA department said.

The department claims that Rule 7 of the Odisha Government Servants' Conduct Rules especially prohibits government servants from making any communication in the public, press or media regarding policy or action

of the state.

"The advisory issued under the above reference of this department is explicit on the restriction for government servants from writing articles & releasing statements in print/electronic media on the subjects that are critical of the government," the department said.

The order has not gone down well among the human rights activists. Rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo said, "Some rules cited by the government are void. The government servants are also citizens of the country and they also enjoy their democratic rights. In the case of Prof B Ramachandra Vs State of Odisha in Supreme Court, the apex court had allowed the government servants to broadcast their views and said that it was their fundamental right to speak out as citizens of the country."

Stone missing from Ratnasinghasan: Servitor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, July 7: A piece of stone was found missing from the Ratnasinghasan (bejewelled throne) at the sanctum sanctorum of Srimandir, alleged Ipsit Pratihari, a servitor, here Tuesday.

Pratihari claimed that the stone was in front of the idol of Lord Jagannath. Besides, the images of lotus petals had been engraved on the stone, he said.

However, an ASI official on conditions of anonymity claimed that Pratihari's allegation is baseless.

"The state government should launch a probe to find out who had removed the stone from Ratnasinghasan. The probe should unearth when did the incident occur and what was the reason behind it," Pratihari told the media.

PRATIHARI CLAIMED THAT THE STONE WAS IN FRONT OF THE IDOL OF LORD JAGANNATH.



BESIDES, THE IMAGES OF LOTUS PETALS HAD BEEN ENGRAVED ON THE STONE, HE SAID

However, an ASI official on conditions of anonymity claimed that Pratihari's allegation is baseless

He further claimed that the vacant place caused by the removal of the stone has been filled with concrete. "The state government should find out the persons involved in

this incident and take stern action against them," he said.

It is worth mentioning here that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been looking after the

structures of Srimandir for last several years. Officials of the ASI usually inspect Srimandir sanctum sanctorum, Jagamohan, Natamandap and kitchen during the Rath Yatra and carry out repair work.

This year also, the ASI officials inspected the shrine and carried out some repair work during the annual festival.

"Who had been given the responsibility by the Srimandir administration to carry out the repair work during this year's Rath Yatra? Whom did the ASI officials report after carrying out the repair work? Everything in this regard should be made public," Pratihari said. Dillip Baral, a devotee, has also urged the Chief Minister to launch an investigation into the alleged incident.

LUSH VEGETATION



A herdsman grazing buffaloes near Daya river on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Plaint over fake news on actor Bijay Mohanty



Members of Orissa Cine Artistes' Association lodge a complaint at Capital Police station, Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: Many actors and artistes from Odia film industry expressed their anguish over the rumours spread on social media about veteran actor Bijay Mohanty's demise and requested all concerned to not post such fake news on social media.

The Orissa Cine Artistes' Association, Tuesday, lodged a complaint with Capital Police demanding stringent action against the website and social media handles spreading rumors regarding the death of Mohanty.

Actor Sabyasachi Mishra took to social media saying, "A wrong/fake news is spreading about Bijay Mohanty Sir. He is fine and doing good! Kindly don't post such articles and news for the sake of few

likes. Everyone who has posted such posts, apologize and delete the posts. Long live Bijay Sir."

Akhil Pattnaik, another actor, said that veteran actor Bijay Mohanty is all right and is with us. "I will request all to not spread this fake news on social media otherwise we have to take some strict action against them." He added that Bijay Mohanty is a role model for Odisha. "He is our pride, so if anyone tries to spread such news, we will not backtrack from taking legal action against his or her name," he added.

Veteran actor Bijay Mohanty who was under treatment at a Hyderabad-based hospital earlier returned to Bhubaneswar June 14 and was under treatment at a city-based hospital and presently is under treatment at his residence.

FIR says BMC commissioner flouted pandemic guidelines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: A social activist here Tuesday lodged an FIR against Bhubaneswar Municipal Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary alleging violation of Covid-19 guidelines.

The complainant accused Chaudhary of participating in public gatherings and series of other violations during the weekend lockdown.

Sanjukta Panigrahi, the activist and a member of Civil Society here, filed the FIR against the BMC Commissioner at Capital Police station. In the FIR, Sanjukta alleged that the BMC Commissioner conducted a series of interactions and meetings with senior citizens at different places in the city during the two-day shutdown and also

It was alleged that Chaudhary conducted a series of interactions with senior citizens

attended public gatherings in different parks here.

"As the senior citizens are quite vulnerable to the dreaded disease, the Chief Minister has advised them not to step out and stay safe. Astonishingly, Chaudhary, who has been appointed to enforce and monitor Covid-19 guidelines, blatantly violated the guidelines during shutdown and posed serious threat to the spread of the virus and endangered public life," the FIR mentioned.

It's worth mentioning the BMC Commissioner, Saturday, had ad-

ressed an awareness gathering here over Sachetak App which had about 100 citizens participating including 50 senior citizens.

Stating clause 8(e) of the government order, which prohibits congregation of more than seven persons, Sanjukta requested the police to start an inquiry and take legal action against him.

However, refuting the allegations, Chaudhary stated that certain provisions allow a municipal commissioner to conduct a gathering that is beneficial for the public. "We are most concerned about the safety of our people. The public meets have been arranged for creating awareness among senior citizens who are most vulnerable to the disease and it was done with proper social distancing," he added.

Sexual harassment: Ayush dir files counter complaint

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: In a twist to the issue of sexual harassment allegation against the director of Ayush directorate here, the accused Tuesday lodged a counter complaint.

Accused director, Bibhu Prasad Sarangi, working under the state Health & Family Welfare depart-

ment lodged the complaint at Capital Police station accusing the woman employee of trying to falsely implicating him in a fabricated case. Sarangi also alleged that the woman employee with the help of her male friend has plotted to malign him. He rubbished the allegations of sending obscene messages and videos to the victim through WhatsApp.

He claimed that the obscene materials were not sent from his phone. He also urged the police to send the vulgar materials along with the voice call recordings to the forensic lab for examination. He asserted that recently the directorate came to know about grave irregularities in the appointment of the victim's alleged male friend as a programme manager

Motivational speaker found dead on tracks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The body of social activist and reportedly a motivational speaker Aditya Dash was found on the railway tracks near the Lingaraj Temple Road station here under mysterious circumstances Tuesday morning.

Dash popularly known as 'Manab Premi Aditya Dash' was a resident of Talasarada village in Boudh district. He was staying at Trilochan Vihar in Sundarapada area of the city.

Dash was quite popular among the youngsters for his motivational speeches on the video sharing website, YouTube. His YouTube account has been subscribed by around 42,000 people while his Facebook account has more than 81,000 followers.

Dash's motivational speeches on both the platforms made him very popular.

Dash was also known for his various philanthropic activities like organisation of blood donation camps, antiliquor movements and arranging shelters for elderly destitute. Dash had also founded a non-government organisation, 'People for Seva'. He was running an old-age-home at Trilochanpur and had recently purchased land for the same.

He had tied the knot with Bidyashree of Khapuria in Cuttack



His wife Bidyashree told the media that Dash was under severe mental pressure. He was unwilling to go outside just a few days before the incident

district June 8.

Bidyashree told media persons that Dash was under severe mental pressure. He was unwilling to go outside just a few days before the tragic incident.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) has started an investigation into the incident after registering a case (22/20) of unnatural death in this regard.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS DJ, sound system fall silent; many in penury

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 7: People engaged in DJ and sound system business have been living a life of misery due to the Covid-19 restrictions imposed by the Centre and state government.

Many DJ and sound system operators have urged the state government to look into their plight at the earliest.

According to sources, the Silver City has around 250 entities which provide DJ and sound systems for wedding ceremonies and other social and religious ceremonies like Durga Puja, Ganesh Puja, Kali Puja and immersion festivals.

Firms dealing in DJ and sound systems usually do brisk business during the wedding seasons, par-

The Silver City has around 250 entities which provide DJ and sound systems for wedding ceremonies and other social and religious ceremonies

ticularly during the months of April, May and June every year. "We usually get orders from private individuals and puja committees or clubs during eight months in a year. We do not get any booking during the rainy season. Wedding season matters a lot for our business and livelihood," said the owner of a DJ and sound system firm owner.

According to him, Covid-19 re-



The govt has not announced any assistance for people associated with DJ and sound system business in state. We urge the state govt to look into our plight

CHANDAN DAS | SAI SHRADHA SOUNDS OWNER

strictions that were clamped down in March have prevented many people from organising social and cultural ceremonies. As a result, people associated with DJ and sound system business have been ren-

dered jobless. These people are now facing difficulties to feed their families, sources said.

"The Union and the state governments have eased the lockdown norms for many sectors. But, the re-

strictions imposed on social and cultural ceremonies are still in force. The government has not announced any assistance for people associated with DJ and sound system business in state. We urge the state government to look into our plight," said Sai Shradha Sounds owner Chandan Das.

Some DJ and sound system firm owners claimed that they were providing remunerations to their employees during the nationwide lockdowns over Covid-19.

"We have been sitting idle for the last four months. The Covid-19 restrictions have taken a heavy toll on our livelihood. The state government should consider our difficulties and take appropriate action," said Saishree Sounds chief Anil Kumar Patra.

TEMPLE MEET



A meeting of Srimandir Chhatisha Niyog and Temple Managing Committee underway at Niladri Bhakta Niwas in Puri, Tuesday

op photo

GOVT EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR MV TAXES



The department admitted that the VAHAN server, which is used by online users to access information and pay dues, has slowed down

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The Commerce and Transport department has decided to extend the deadline for deposit of Motor Vehicle (MV) Taxes for goods carriage in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak and other associated reasons.

The department also admitted that VAHAN server, which is used by online users to access information and pay dues, has slowed down.

“Due to lockdown declared by the Union and state governments to prevent spread of Covid-19, the vehicle owners are unable to pay Motor Vehicle tax and additional tax for the month of July 2020 in case of stage carriers and contract carriages within the grace period,” the department notification said.

It added, “The owners of goods carriages are not able to pay the MV tax/additional tax for the quarter April-June, 2020 within the extended grace period i.e. June 30 due to slow down of VAHAN server.”

The department said that all such taxes could not be paid this month. It said that goods carriages can pay the quarter dues by July 15, stage carriages can pay it till July 31.

“Considering the difficulties faced by the vehicle owners, the government has been pleased to extend the grace period for payment of Motor Vehicle Tax/additional tax of the state/contract carriages for the month of July 2020 and for goods carriages for the quarter April-June, 2020 upto July 15, 2020,” the department notification said.

PRIs, ULBs to get ₹23,848 crore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The state government has decided to allocate Rs 23,848 crore to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as per the recommendations of Fifth State Finance Commission.

This was finalised at the High Level Monitoring Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy here recently.

Finance Secretary Ashok K Meena, who was present at the meeting, said a total of Rs 23,848 crore would be transferred to these local self-government bodies over a period of six years from 2020-21 to 2025-26.

The PRIs will get around Rs 15,715.60 crore whereas the ULBs will receive an amount of around Rs 8,132.52 crore during this period, he said.

Out of the total, Rs 7,321 crore would be provided under the head of devolution, Rs 9,678 crore under assignment of taxes and Rs 6,849 crore as grant-in-aid.

The funds will be transferred in

5TH FINANCE COMMISSION GRANT



ULBs were asked to diversify their revenue base and achieve 6 per cent increase in annual revenue generation

PRIs will get ₹15,715.60 crore whereas ₹8,132.52 crore will be disbursed among the ULBs during 6 years starting from the current FY

Out of the total, ₹7,321 crore would be provided under the head of devolution, ₹9,678 crore under assignment of taxes and ₹6,849 crore as grant-in-aid

THE FUNDS WOULD BE UTILISED FOR PROJECTS LIKE DRINKING WATER, WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES, SANITATION, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, SOLAR POWER, CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND OTHERS

two tranches. The first installment will be sent during May-June of each financial year while the second installment will be disbursed during October-November of the same year. The second installment would be released only after completion of the 30 per cent of the

work taken up under the first tranche, sources said.

Chief Secretary Tripathy has directed the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and ULBs to expedite implementation of projects and maximise outcomes of the expenditure. He directed the ULBs to diversify their

revenue base and achieve six per cent increase in annual revenue generation.

Further, he directed the officials to release the funds directly to the GPs, Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads through PRIASOFT integrated with online Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) system.

The PRIs and ULBs have been asked ensure timely submission of utilisation certificates as per specifications of the Finance department. Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mohapatra directed the self government bodies to take up need based projects having revenue generation potential so as to make them sustainable in the long run.

It was decided in the meeting that the funds would be utilised for the projects like drinking water, water harvesting structures, sanitation, solid waste management, solar power, construction of primary school buildings, maintenance of health sub-centres, roads, culverts, creation of water bodies in urban areas, establishment of water quality testing labs, etc.

ECoR utilises lockdowns for infra revamp



18 LHSs have been completed at various places, including closure of three manned level crossings by providing alternate ways

Five girders of 36-metre span have been launched at the road over bridge in Bhadrak-Khurda Road Railway Section

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Tuesday said that it has utilised the lockdowns judiciously to upgrade and maintain its infrastructure.

During lockdowns, passenger train services were suspended except for special trains and Shramik Specials that were used to carry stranded migrants. Operation of freight and parcel trains continued to operate.

Emphasis was on execution of long-pending construction and maintenance works which required traffic blocks of long duration. Taking lockdown period as an opportunity, ECoR has taken up many safety and passenger amenity works, without affecting the train services.

Various safety-related works were prioritised. During the period, 18 Limited Height Sub-ways (LHSs) have been completed at various places, including closure of three manned level crossings by providing alternate ways. Five girders of 36-metre span have been launched at the road over bridge (ROB) in Bhadrak - Khurda Road Railway Section.

Apart from these, renewal of 167-km railway line, 7.5km sleepers, 356 numbers of glued joints, rebuilding of 49 bridges and repair of 2,557 wagons have been done. FOB girders were commissioned at Charbatia and Gurudijhatia stations in connection with 3rd and 4th line work between Salegaon-Rajathagarh; at Kapilas Road in connection with Bhadrak-Nergundi 3rd line work and at Talcher Road station in connection with

Sambalpur-Talcher doubling work.

Preparatory jobs related to Non-interlocking in connection with Safety related modernisation work in Kottavalasa-Koraput-Kirandul (KK) line have been completed in addition to 657 major over head equipment (OHE) scheduled works and track circuit maintenance work at 298 locations. Similarly, 32,500 cubic metre rock blasting work in KK line has been accomplished in connection with doubling of this line. Completion of the pending work will increase safe mobility of trains. These works would have required suspension of rail traffic and taken a long duration during normal times.

On passenger amenities front, many important projects have been executed during this lockdown. FOBs at six stations, lifts at four stations, Divyangjan Toilets at eight stations, platform surface concreting at eight stations, platform height raising at eight stations, additional platform sheds at six stations have been commissioned along with provision of 534 stainless steel benches at various stations, and development of two stations as Adarsh stations.

For passengers' convenience, circulating areas and waiting halls at 10 stations have been improved during the period.

These apart, many more safety and maintenance works related to electrical, mechanical and signals have been taken up. “Train journey has become safer and comfortable in recent years and ECoR is taking all the measures for the maximum satisfaction of its customers and passengers,” said ECoR sources.



Fire Services personnel sanitise the premises of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Tuesday



Training session on Covid care

Cuttack: As many as 51 healthcare experts from several Covid care facilities across the state took part in a special training session on coronavirus here, Tuesday. Organised by the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department at the old auditorium of SCB Medical College and Hospital here, the session aimed at extending special care to cancer patients so as to protect them from being infected with Covid-19. SCB principal Dattaswar Hota, superintendent Annada Prasad Patnaik, Pulmonary Medicine head MR Patnaik, and Medicine head BN Mohapatra, Cuttack Municipal Corporation commissioner Ananya Das and AHRCC director Lalatendu Sarangi were among those who attended the training session.

Govt to review decision on varsity semesters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: A day after Ministry of Home Affairs in a letter to Union Higher Education Secretary allowed conduct of examinations by universities and colleges, the state Higher Education department's decision of cancelling the final semester examinations now looks irrelevant.

In the letter, it is said that the final semester examinations are to be conducted mandatorily as per the UGC guidelines and as per the SOP approved by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government Tuesday said that it will take a call on the issue after a thorough review of the situation. Talking to Orissa POST vice-chairman of

the Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) Ashok Das said that the decision taken by the ministry is being analysed by the government who is aware of the situation and understands the problems of the students and their health in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

“A decision to conduct the final semester examinations of the undergraduate (PG) and postgraduate (PG) streams will be taken after a thorough review,” he added.

Meanwhile, the final semester examination will be conducted by the universities at the end of September. Earlier, Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo June 11 had announced the cancellation of final semester examinations of UG and PG students.



State's Covid-19 tally crosses 10,000-mark

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 7: The total number of Covid-19 cases in state crossed the 10,000-mark Tuesday with 571 fresh infections, while the toll climbed to 42 as four more people succumbed to the disease, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The state's tally stands at 10,097, added the official.

While fresh cases were detected in 21 districts, deaths were reported from Ganjam (three) and Cuttack (one). In Ganjam, two men, aged 70 and 60, who were also suffering from diabetes, died. Another 53-year-old man also died in the district. A 48-year-old man suffering from chronic liver disease and diabetes died in Cuttack.

Two more persons who tested positive for Covid-19 died, but the H&FW department attributed their deaths to cancer. With this, the number of people who were diagnosed with Covid-19 but died due to other reasons has risen to 12.

These cases include an 80-year-old man from Cuttack who was suffering from prostate cancer with metastasis, and a 45-year-old man of Mayurbhanj who was suffering from oesophageal cancer.

In Odisha, Ganjam has reported the maximum number of deaths—

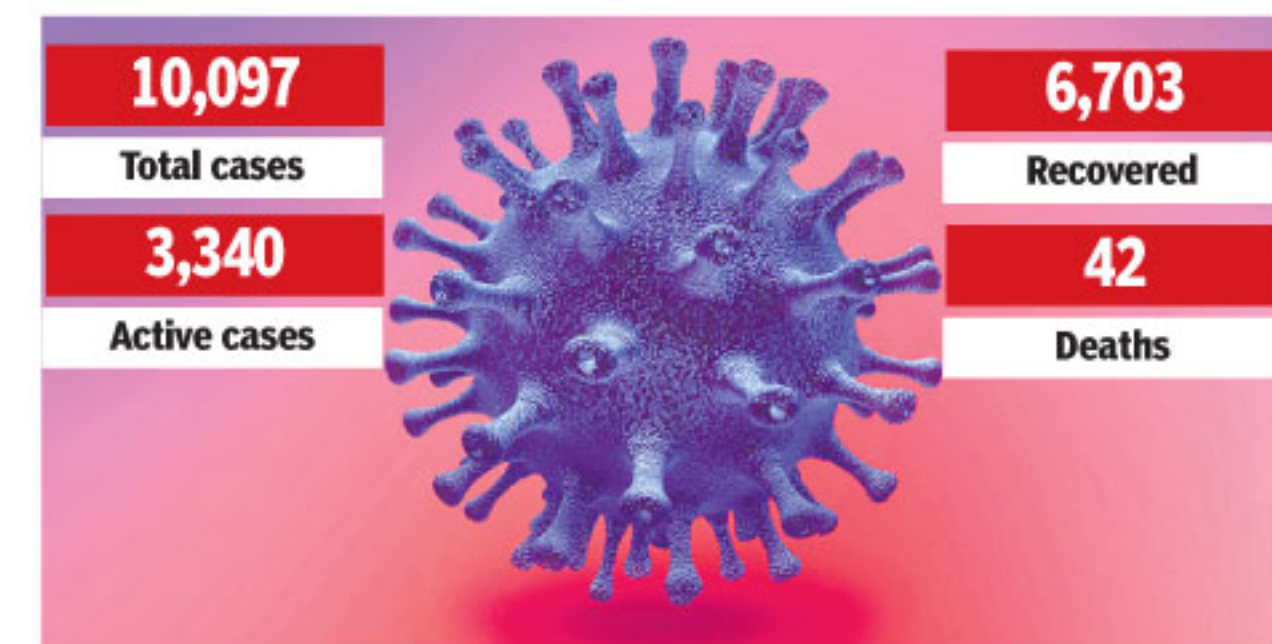
24. Khurda has reported seven deaths, Cuttack five, and Angul, Bargarh, Gajapati, Jajpur, Puri and Sundargarh one each, the official said. Of the 571 new cases, 403 were reported from different quarantine centres while 168 were local contacts, the official said, adding that contact tracing and follow-up actions are underway.

Ganjam reported the highest number of fresh cases at 273, followed by 56 in Gajapati, 51 in Sundargarh, 37 in Khurda, 29 in Cuttack, 28 in Balasore, 17 in Jagatsinghpur, 16 in Jajpur, 14 in Mayurbhanj and 10 in Rayagada. Eleven other districts reported fresh cases in single digit, according to the official.

Meanwhile, 217 persons who had earlier tested positive for the novel coronavirus have recovered. Out of the 217 persons, 96 are from Ganjam, 18 from Khurda, 16 from Balasore, 15 from Mayurbhanj, 13 from Bargarh, 12 from Keonjhar, eight from Jharsuguda, seven from Malkangiri, six from Jajpur, five each from Angul and Cuttack, four each from Dhenkanal and Puri, three from Jagatsinghpur, two each from Kendrapara and Sonapur and one from Bolangir.

With this, there are 3,340 active cases in the state and 6,703 patients have so far recovered from the viral infection.

In the last 24 hours, 5,546 Covid-



19 samples were tested and a total of 3,02,780 tests have been conducted in the state so far, the official said.

Bhubaneswar Covid tally at 479

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday said that 29 more people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in the Capital city. While 14 of them are home quarantine cases, another 14 are local contact ones. The remaining patient is an employee of a Covid hospital.

According to a notification issued by the civic body as of Tuesday morning, 479 persons have tested positive for Covid-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 277 have recovered. While there are 195 active cases, six persons succumbed to the disease.

5 fresh cases from Silver City; tally 198

The Cuttack Municipal

Corporation (CMC) Tuesday said that five more people have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 24 hours. Among them, three are home quarantined cases, one is institutional quarantine case and the remaining one has contracted the virus locally, CMC said on Twitter.

The institutional quarantine case is a 26-year-old female and had been quarantined at an isolation ward of SCB Medical College and Hospital. Of the three home quarantine cases, two – a male (10) and a female (35) – were from Shankarpur Colony, Badambadi and the remaining one is a 29-year-old female from Fandi Road, Mangalabag.

The one who has contracted the virus locally is a 65-year-old female from Kanika Raod. With this fresh addition, the total number of cases in CMC area has increased to 198.

Of them, 174 patients are currently undergoing treatment at dedicated Covid hospitals and 22 have so far been discharged from hospitals after recovering from the disease. The city's Covid-19 toll stands at two.

Tech Mahindra office in City sealed

BMC enforcement squad Tuesday sealed Tech Mahindra office located at Maitri Vihar in Chandrasekharpur area here after seven employees tested positive for the novel coronavirus, said a top BMC official. BMC zonal deputy commissioner Pramod Prusty said that 67 employees of the company have been instructed to stay under home quarantine till July 20 as a precautionary measure. The office has been sealed till July 17, he added.

“The office has been sealed after seven of the employees working there tested positive for Covid-19. The infected persons were working in the office and had come in contact with several others in the office,” said Prusty. It may be mentioned here that contact tracing of the infected persons has already started by BMC officials. Fire services teams have started a sanitisation drive at the office premises. Earlier, a software company in Niladri Vihar area was also sealed. June 4 after an employee of the software firm tested positive for the deadly virus.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Brahmani set to become national waterway

JE suspended over MGNREGS scam

Centre lauds Berhampur ITI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, July 7: River Brahmani, the lifeline of undivided Dhenkanal district, will be included in the national waterway project to help facilitate coal and fertilizer transport through water route, a report said.

The project will help in development of industries and agriculture apart from boosting tourism in Dhenkanal and Angul districts.

This was stated here by Mines, Steel, and Works Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick. The minister said the state government has written to the Centre to immediately make the project operational.



NEW HOPE

- The national waterway project in Brahmani river will help in development of industries and agriculture apart from boosting tourism in Dhenkanal and Angul districts
- The Sarangdhara bridge between Dhenkanal and Kamakhyanagar and Baji Rout bridge between Dhenkanal and Bhuban will be renovated. The bridges 6 metre in height and 35 metre in width will be raised to 9 metre in height and 62.07 metre in width as per Central guidelines
- The river will have water flowing above three metre when it becomes a national waterway. The water flowing above three metre will help in ensuring irrigation facilities for farmland all round the year

Brahmani passes through Dhenkanal, Angul and Jajpur districts. As part of this project, two of the major bridges across the river in Dhenkanal district will be renovated to help ships sail under them.

The Sarangdhara bridge between Dhenkanal and Kamakhyanagar and Baji Rout bridge between Dhenkanal and Bhuban will be renovated.

The bridges 6 metre in height and 35 metre in width will be upgraded

to 9 metre in height and 62.07 metre in width as per Central guidelines.

Similarly, construction of two more proposed bridges at Kaluria in Gondia block and at Sarang in Talcher block will be constructed, Manoranjan Biswal, executive engineer of works department, said.

This will help ships to sail in the river. In the first phase, the waterway will start from Samal barrage in Angul district and pass through Dhenkanal district to reach Paradip

and Dhamra ports.

Earlier, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had hinted at including the river in the national waterway project when he was here at Kamakhyanagar Stadium to lay the foundation stone for renovation and up-gradation of National Highway-53, February 2.

Gadkari had said transportation of goods through the waterway is needed for development of the state for which the Centre has invested Rs

5,000 crore for development of the waterway.

Reports said various industries in both Dhenkanal and Angul districts have come up near the banks of Brahmani with several farmlands lying nearby.

The river will have water flowing above three metre when it becomes a national waterway. The water flowing above three metre will help in ensuring irrigation facilities for farmland all round the year.

The irregularities were reported from Sholapata village of Shalania panchayat in a farmpond work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 7: Days after the state Lokayukta suo motu registered a case (LY-603/2020) regarding alleged lapses in implementation of MGNREGS at Sholapata village in Shalania panchayat under Hatadihi block in Keonjhar district, the district administration suspended JE of the block Sudhakar Panda Tuesday.

Collector Ashish Thakre placed the JE under suspension over the alleged scam. This was stated through a notification Tuesday evening.

Orissa POST had first carried the news a few days ago. The Lokayukta has fixed July 20 as date for hearing of the case.

The Orissa POST 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. The report claimed lakhs of rupees had been embezzled through fake muster rolls while no work had been done in reality.

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 estimated was Rs 1.5 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 cardholders. 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.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, July 7: Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey has lauded the efforts of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Berhampur in bringing out an UVC sole sanitiser and an UVC sanitiser to combat Covid-19 pandemic, Tuesday.

This was stated here by principal Rajat Kumar Panigrahi, Tuesday.

Pandey appreciated the efforts of students and staff of Berhampur ITI for producing the two low cost items, which he termed were 'remarkable' in the battle against Covid-19. The minister gave a certificate to the ITI. This concept will create thousands of entrepreneurs throughout the country to make the products which were earlier coming from China and other countries, the minister said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had praised the ITI's efforts in his 'Man Ki Baat' programme and Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank also appreciated the team.

The ITI has produced a host of products like aerosol box, face seal as protection against coronavirus and distributed them to corona warriors.

Maoist gunned down in Kandhamal

AGENCIES

Phulbani, July 7: A Maoist was gunned down during an exchange of fire with security forces in a dense forest in Kandhamal district, a day after four of them were shot dead in an encounter in the same area, a senior police officer said Tuesday.

The exchange of fire took place when a team, comprising personnel of the Special Operations Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF), launched a combing operation in the forest in Tumudibandha area Monday night, Kandhamal Superintendent of Police Prateek

Maoist poster triggers panic in Mayurbhanj

BARIPADA: A few days ago Raruan police had recovered a Maoist poster at Baria village under Sukruli block in Mayurbhanj district. Another similar poster was found in the village Tuesday, which left the villagers panicked, a report said. Police seized the poster. In the poster, Maoists have allegedly asserted that they will kill two people to prove their power. "We will see how police will protect you from us. We do what we say," the poster read. The poster undersigned by 'Bhagwan' was found on the wall of Parsuram Behera's house.

Singh told reporters.

As the security personnel approached a hideout where 15-20 Maoists were present, the ultras opened fire and a gun battle ensued, Singh said, adding that the Maoists fled from the scene and disappeared deep into the forest taking advantage of darkness.

During the search operation carried out by the forces in the area in the aftermath of the gun battle, the bullet-riddled body of a Maoist was found, he said.

Two country-made guns, some ammunition, Maoist uniforms, bags and literature were found at the site.

Efforts are on to identify the dead, suspected to be a member of the Bansadhara-Nagavali-Ghumusar (BNG) division of the banned CPI (Maoist).

Combing operation has been intensified by security forces in the area after the encounter as part of ef-

orts to track the fleeing Maoists. Sunday, four Maoists, including two women cadres, were gunned by the security forces during an exchange of fire in the same forest. Singh said three of the four slain Maoists have so far been identified.

While one of them was a state committee member of BNG division, having a bounty of Rs 20 lakh, two others including a woman carried Rs 4 lakh rewards each. Another slain woman is yet to be identified.

Last week, a Maoist camp was busted and explosives were seized by security forces in Phiringia area of Kandhamal.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik spoke to Singh over telephone and appreciated his efforts and his team in containing Maoist activities in the district.

Patnaik assured him all support in this regard, an official of the Chief Minister's Office said.

People lose sleep as jumbos go on rampage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, July 7: Even as there was no let-up in elephant menace in Champua range of Keonjhar district, the forest department has a tough time in containing the mayhem. People in forested pockets of this range have lost their sleep over the marauding elephants, a report said.

Farming community was worst affected by the menace. With paddy crops and vegetables being trampled and destroyed on a daily basis, farmers have voiced their concern and demanded effective steps against the problem.

After a brief hiatus, the animals have started their mayhem in Chamakpur, Sridharpur, Kodagadia and Raghuala under Champua range.

The animals have damaged houses of Sama Munda, Budhuram Munda and Chitta Mahakud under Balibandh section while the houses of Binod Barik, Hemanta Kalindi and Satyaban Behera under Champua section suffered damage.

"As farming season has just started, the animals have eaten rice and paddy stocked inside the houses," the villagers lamented.

Locals alleged that their economic condition was shattered by routine visits of the elephants.

Their demanded immediate deployment of elephant squads and right assessment of the damage.

Champua ranger Ghasinath Patra said the forest department is keeping a strict vigil on the animals.

Doctor who terminated minor's pregnancy held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, July 7: In a major development in the Biramitrapur rape case the government doctor who carried out the abortion of the minor victim was arrested by the Odisha Crime Branch, Tuesday.

The accused was identified as Dr Debasish Ghosh. Ghosh, who was posted in Biramitrapur Community Health Centre, allegedly terminated the victim's pregnancy at the CHC following the instruction of Biramitrapur IIC Anand Chandra Majhi, June 15.

Ghosh was questioned by the Crime Branch team at the Biramitrapur police station Tuesday morning, following which he was arrested.

The minor became pregnant after she was repeatedly raped for over four months by the now dismissed IIC Majhi and four others.

A POCOSO court had sent the IIC to judicial custody till July 18 and rejected his bail plea Monday.

The victim had come to witness



Police producing accused doctor in court

a fair in Biramitrapur area March 25 but it was cancelled at the last moment due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown. The girl failed to return home and was wandering near the bus stand when a police patrolling team saw her and brought her to the police station. Inspector Majhi allegedly raped her on the top floor of the

police station. She was dropped at her home the next day. However, she was called to the police station regularly and raped by the inspector and other police officials for four months.

When the minor became pregnant, the IIC illegally made her abort her pregnancy with the help of the doctor.

Covid patient who escaped from Nabarangpur hospital readmitted



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, July 7: Nabarangpur police Tuesday caught a COVID-19 patient who had escaped from the COVID-19 hospital here after scaling the hospital's boundary wall.

He was again put at the COVID-19 hospital and his treatment is going on, Collector Ajit Kumar Mishra said Tuesday. The infected person from Umerkote area was admitted to the COVID-19 hospital at the district headquarters July 3. During breakfast hours, he cashed in

on not being watched over, stealthily came out of his ward and escaped from the hospital after scaling the boundary wall. Finding him missing from his bed and after being confirmed of him having been escaped from the hospital, superintendent of the hospital Dr Santosh Kumar Nag lodged an FIR at Nabarangpur police station.

Under the guidance of SP Nitin Kushalkar, a team of Nabarangpur police Monday night visited the patient's village under Benora panchayat under Umerkote block and caught him from his house.

His escape has added to the worries of the district administration which is now engaged in contract tracing of the person.

Woman labourer murdered on steel plant premises

POST NEWS NETWORK

Odapada, July 7: A woman contractual labourer was murdered on the premises of Tata Steel BSL plant under Kantabania police station in Dhenkanal district.

The deceased was identified as Jolly Sahu, 30, a resident of Badam under Barkote police limits in Deogarh district.

Achyutananda Das of Telkoi in Keonjhar district is alleged to have killed Jolly. The two were said to be in a relationship.

The security guards of the plant nabbed Das when he was trying to escape from the premises. Later, they handed him over to the police.

Kantabania IIC Niranjana Sethy said they have registered a case and launched



The security guards of the plant nabbed Achyutananda Das when he was trying to escape after committing the crime

BSL plant. The two had reportedly developed a close relationship while working at the plant. Das would often come to Jolly's rented house in an inebriated condition and forcibly take away money from her. Earlier, Jolly had also reported such incidents at the police station.

At 2:30pm Monday, when Jolly and three other labourers were resting inside the plant Achyutananda came to them and before they could sense his motive he attacked Jolly on her head with a rod.

Profusely bleeding, Jolly was rushed to Dhenkanal district headquarters hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.

The labourers have demanded a probe as to how the accused entered the plant without gate pass.

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A Gold Rated State PSU)

O/o. SR. GENERAL MANAGER, RENGALI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, RENGALI
P.O.: RENGALI DAM SITE, DIST.-ANGUL (ODISHA), INDIA, PIN- 759105
TEL.: 06760-277214, FAX: 06760-277324, Email: sgme1500@gmail.com
CIN: U40101OR1995GGC003963

No.: OHPC/RHEP/TWPUR-III-1098/3406 Date: 06.07.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. RHEP-12/2020-21

No.: CAD-248: Sealed tenders are invited in two part i.e. (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price Bid in separate sealed envelopes from the reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers/channel partners for supply of the following materials as mentioned below.

Description of Materials/ Services	Cost of Tender Paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD in shape of DD/Banker's Cheque only (Refundable) in Rs.	Period of availability of tender at OHPC website (Sale) From	Last date & Time of receipt of Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Techno Commercial Bid
Replacement of Defective and Corroded Cooling Water Pipeline with New Pipeline of Generator Transformer of Unit No. I to V of RHEEP, Rengali	Rs. 7,08,0/- (Rs. 5000/- + GST @ 18%)	Rs. 19,300/-	Di.13.07.2020 to Di.24.07.2020 (Upto 04.00 PM)	Upto 04.30 PM Di.24.07.2020	At 04.00 PM Di.27.07.2020

For details of the tender documents, terms and conditions please visit our website www.ohpcld.com

Sd./- Unit Head, RHEP, Rengali
OIPR-04005/11/0009/2021

WORKS DEPARTMENT No.: B-142

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION, UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA

E-mail ID: eeppwdrkl@gmail.com

Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 07/2020-21 Date: 03.07.2020

- Number of Works : Total 3 (Three) Number of works
- Estimated Cost : Rs.11.18 lakhs to Rs.43.85 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : Three to Four Calendar months each
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : 17.07.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 30.07.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bid : 06.08.2020 at 11.30 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer (R&B) Division, Rourkela, Uditnagar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Sd./- Executive Engineer
R&B Division, Rourkela
OIPR-34068/11/0006/2021

EAST COAST RAILWAY

HIRING OF VEHICLE

E-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-2020-06, Dt. 02.07.2020

Name of Work/ HIRING OF ONE ROAD VEHICLE ON CONTRACT FOR OFFICIAL USE OF DIVISIONAL SIGNAL & TELECOM ENGINEER/SAMBALPUR FOR A PERIOD OF 03 (THREE) YEARS.

Tender value: ₹11,32,064.62, EMD: ₹22,700/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹2,360/-.

Date & time of Tender Closing: 1500 hrs of 24.07.2020.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Note:- The prospective tenderers are advised to revise the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)
PR-140/L20-21 Sambalpur

Sikkim University

SU/REG/Acad/F-1/13/2019/Vol-III/290 Date: 08.07.2020

ADMISSION NOTICE

Sikkim University announces admission for the Academic Year 2020-21 for Post-Graduate Programmes in the following departments.

- Anthropology (MA/M.Sc.)
- Bhutia (MA)
- Botany (M.Sc.)
- Chemistry (M.Sc.)
- Chinese (MA)
- Commerce (M.Com.)
- Computer Application (MCA)
- Economics (MA)
- Education (MA, M.Ed)
- English (MA)
- Geography (MA/M.Sc.)
- Geology (M.Sc. and M.Sc. in Environmental Science)
- Hindi (MA)
- History (MA)
- Horticulture (M.Sc.)
- International Relations (MA)
- Law (LLM)
- Lepcha (MA)
- Limbu (MA)
- Management (MBA)
- Mass Communication (MA)
- Mathematics (M.Sc.)
- Microbiology (M.Sc.)
- Music (MPA)
- Nepali (MA)
- Peace and Conflict Studies and Management (MA)
- Physics (M.Sc.)
- Political Science (MA)
- Psychology (MA/M.Sc.)
- Sociology (MA)
- Tourism (MTTM)
- Zoology (M.Sc.)

The advertisement notice for Under-Graduate, M.Phil and Ph.D programmes will be notified separately. The details of courses and other admission procedure to be followed are available on University website at www.cus.ac.in. Last date for submission of online application form is 31.07.2020 (upto midnight).

Sd./- Registrar
davn 21318/11/0001/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, PHASE-II, 2ND FLOOR, BHUBANESWAR

Mail Id. seccbbsr@gmail.com

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.1 of 2020-21

No. (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 1st July 2020

No.B-140:- The Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B), Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number of Composite Building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in:<https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 PM of 10.07.2020 to 5.00 PM of 24.07.2020. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11:00 AM of 27.07.2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B), Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd./-Er.G.C.Sahu, Superintending Engineer
Central Circle (R&B), Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34005/11/0003/2021

FOCUS NATION

BIG HOPES, BITTER TRUTHS



Confronting us is a neighbour, China, with a comparable population and depth of civilization but which built itself into a great power status on "Atmnirbharta" or self-sufficiency, which Prime Minister Modi dreams for India

(The Arab world, China are all ours; Hindustan belongs to us. Never mind if we don't have a roof over our heads, the whole world is ours)

The song taunts Nehru's "Hindi Chini bhai bhai", non-alignment, Afro Asian solidarity as much as it does "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

Summon a procession of these images in the mind's eye and note the stunning continuity in the march of the dispossessed millions beginning with the lockdown of March 24 upto, say, mid-May when a sort of fatigue set in - human kind cannot take too much tragedy. The country has, in the meantime, accumulated 138 billionaires and millions upon millions below the poverty line - in the 73 years of independence. Confronting us is a neighbour, China, with a comparable population and depth of civilization but which built itself into a great power status on "Atmnirbharta" or self-sufficiency which Prime Minister Modi dreams for India. Give me an egalitarian system guaranteed by the Rule of Law, and my comparisons stand withdrawn. The hawkishness which informs the current chorus, "India of 2021 is not the India of 1962", ignores the accompanying truth: China of 2021 is not the China of 1962. It is challenging the United States. Author of the much discussed, "Destined for War", Graham Allison, Professor of Government at Harvard, has used "Thucydides Trap" to describe the Sino-US jockeying. The truth to be distilled from the great Greek historian's analysis and record of the 30 years' war between Sparta and Athens (Peloponnesian wars) yields an abiding truth: when an established power is challenged by a rising power, conflict occurs.

Supposing the established power is preoccupied and is craftily inclined to downgrade the game and shift it notionally to another ballpark? It projects the Thucydides logic to operate on the two Asian giants. This would give the US an elevation, a notional perch above the Asian combatants. But it takes two to clap: where is the rising challenger?

IANS

A clue to the future of Sino-Indian relations lies in the different ways the two ancient civilizations came out of their respective cocoons into the modern world in 1947 and 1948.

Indifference to the debates in the British Parliament preceding the Indian Independence Act in July 1947 may lead to faulty conclusions. Prime Minister Clement Atlee's was an elaborate exposition, on why Independence was being bestowed on India. The plan of June 3 is, after all, known as the Mountbatten plan. At the request of Indian leaders, he stayed on as the first Governor of Independent India.

It was all very chummy to the very end. The friendship with Mountbatten was so deep that the Nehrus, particularly, Vijaylaxmi Pandit, were regular visitors to Broadlands, his family Estate in Hampshire. India's first Prime Minister nursed the friendship with great care: he was even averse to observing the centenary of 1857 because "Dickie" was still alive.

Mao Zedong, meanwhile, was going through the rigours of the Long March across China recorded in Red Star over China by Edgar Snow in 1937. In 1942 when Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek (and Madame Chiang Kai Shek) visited India as the Supreme Commander of the Allies during World War II, Mao Zedong's Communist army was laying plans to chase him out towards Taiwan. China had come through the purgatory of a revolution, heavy US support to the Generalissimo notwithstanding.

It followed that the two countries would embark on different development routes too. Friends have helped me refresh my mind on that dry theme by furnishing two classic, period movies on India's first decade and Breaking with Old Ideas on China during Mao's Great Leap Forward.

In the Chinese film, the regional committee of the party appoints one of its energetic non-academic cadres, with experience of land, as principal of an Agricultural College. The traditional teachers, most of them veterans of one of the many stretches of the Long March,

resent the new principal's mobilisation of students and peasants to shift the Agricultural College from an urban to a rural location. The principal believes this would provide greater synergy between knowledge and its application in agriculture and animal husbandry. The new college is actually built by students and peasants.

There is a delicious exchange between the principal and faculty: should a chapter on Mongolian horses be replaced by a study of buffaloes who were falling ill in the area. Buffaloes win the day. We would be justified in screwing up our noses at frequent references to "Mao's thoughts" if they had been in the way of a \$10 trillion edifice which is what China eventually is today: I would invent Gods to bow before if our economy were even a fraction of that sum, with one proviso: can we honestly claim that we have shown fidelity to our Constitution - Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity - with a sense of achievement.

Reverting to the movies: transition from Chetan Anand's debut movie with haunting melodies by Ravi Shankar, Neecha Nagar (Shanty Town) in 1946 to Bimal

Roy's Do Bigha Zameen (small land holding), 1953, only amplifies rural distress, aggravated by exploitation in the name of development. The ruling classes dispossess the peasants of their meagre holdings, with promises of an elusive housing project here and an industrial unit there, forcing rural folk (as in Do Bigha Zameen) to turn to cities to eke out an existence.

Not only is the dream of hope in Neecha Nagar, at the cusp of independence, shattered but it leads consistently to disappointments as post-independence decades pass. Raj Kapoor, of course, deserves salutations: in Awara and Shree 420, he inaugurates a trend in popular cinema to look at "Inequality", straight in the eye. In this he is 50 years ahead of Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century".

A popular song dwells on all the houses cornered by the rich while "we sleep on footpaths". It is graphically summed up by Sahir Ludhianvi in "Phir Subah Hogi" (The Dawn will break).

Cheen o Arab hamara Hindostaan hamara Rehneko ghar nahen hai Saara Jahaan hamara.



Saeed Naqvi

THE HAWKISHNESS WHICH INFORMS THE CURRENT CHORUS, "INDIA OF 2021 IS NOT THE INDIA OF 1962", IGNORES THE ACCOMPANYING TRUTH: CHINA OF 2021 IS NOT THE CHINA OF 1962

BORDER STORY

Before getting angry for the mistakes of others one should always remember one's own mistakes.

THE MOTHER



We are told there is a thaw in tensions in the Galwan Valley. After the death of 20 Indian soldiers in a skirmish with the Chinese PLA soldiers mid-June, the border face-off between India and China had drawn international attention. Reports claim that after a discussion between India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, both troops withdrew about 2 kms on each side. While this is the story produced by the Indian media susceptible to certain inducements, other reports claimed that a flash flood occurred in river Galwan, forcing troops of both countries to withdraw to higher dry grounds. Nevertheless, the so-called easing of tension may not be as comfortable as it is painted. Social media has produced sample of a report of Sunday July 15, 1962 of a prominent national English daily which had reported similar Chinese troop withdrawal with the heading 'Chinese Troops Withdraw from Galwan Post'. Below that line was a sub-heading that read 'Delhi Warning has 'Telling Effect''. This hilarious self exposure can't be overlooked because less than a month after the publication of this news in 1962, the Chinese army launched a full-fledged assault against India. That was the Sino-Indian war of '62.

Currently, the withdrawal of the PLA seems to be very similar in tactic.

And we in India are being, similarly told how our government is in total control of the situation as it was in 1962. Undoubtedly, India of 2020 is not the same as '62. However, China too, has emerged as a global military power over these years. Gone are the days of occupying a whole different country as used to happen till mid 20th Century. Germany under Adolf Hitler had occupied not only France but Belgium, Poland, Holland and most of Europe. Similarly, Japan under Tojo had occupied not only Philippines and Burma but also China.

Obviously, China would not be interested in making India an occupied country. Today's military needs are limited but economic requirement is unlimited. If China wants a certain strip of Indian land, it is clearly with a view to use it for strategic purposes. China's dreams of becoming a global power must be including a situation where its neighborhood plays complete second fiddle to Beijing's whims and fancies. It possibly will not desire India to emerge as a military launch-pad for Western powers. The recent signing of an accord between India and Australia which permits both nations to use each other's military infrastructure could be acting as a thorn in China's underbelly. The world is aware that Australia is no military power that anyone would bother about. However, as all major past wars across the globe have proven, from World War I, WWII, Korea-Vietnam, up to the Middle East wars which can be taken as examples, Australia has always acted as a vassal state to allied Western militaries. Reports have appeared in sections of Indian media that an unnamed spokesperson of the White House has supposedly claimed that the US is prepared to intervene militarily in favour of India should there be a confrontation with China. On the same day, the New York Times has carried a story which states that the US and other Western countries have, since long, wanted to persuade India to join them and become a closer military and economic partner in confronting China. While this proposition might sound bright to a section of the Indian officialdom as well as the populace, the pitfalls of such a coalition can be easily verified from many instances of history. Some of the best examples are South Korea and the former South Vietnam. Such a situation could turn India into the main battlefield since Western forces would expect to use India's military infrastructure in case of a direct war with China. Using Asia as a test case has always been a favourite pastime for Western military powers. The greatest example is the Second World War where, although Germany was the toughest Axis power, yet it was Japan which had two atom bombs dumped on it. Obviously, Europe could not have been nuked. Keeping these points in mind, one can easily visualize how India could get battered if it allows foreign military to operate from its soil.

War is a foolish game where no one truly wins. In these modern times, it is more so. While China has a massive appetite for growth, it can have ample space on earth without stepping on the toes of India. Similarly, India too has to become wiser and understand that a unified and cohesive society at home gives an image of unity of purpose. That image is capable of taking any nation to great heights where nobody wishes to mess with it. Along with this, India has to build and strengthen its domestic military-industrial prowess if it has any dreams for future growth as a nation to contend with.

Piate
Tathagata Satpathy

WISDOM CORNER

- Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect). MARK TWAIN
- Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
- The king shall lose no time when the opportunity waited for arrives. ARTHASASTRA

WORDSWORTH

Struthonian

This is a modern weird word, used a few times after the late Arthur Koestler invented it in 1963, but now extremely rare. His aim, in an article he wrote in Encounter magazine in that year, was to describe pundits who prefer honest self-deception to ignoble truths. It figuratively refers to individuals who hide their head in the sand. You may recall one animal that's famous for its in-sand head-burying, at least in legend, so you won't be surprised to learn that struthonian is from the Latin struthio, an ostrich. Related to it is the standard - albeit technical - English struthious, or of like an ostrich. An ancient, rare and defunct name for the bird, by the way, was struthiocamel, from Latin struthiocamelus. The Romans took it wrongly from Greek strouthokamelos, literally "sparrow camel" or, more loosely, "camel-bird" (the scientific name of the ostrich to this day is struthiocamelus). Another Greek name for the ostrich was megasstrouthos, big sparrow or big bird. In later Latin its name became avisstruthio, the struthio bird. Incidentally, ostrich also ultimately comes from avisstruthio, since the v changed later to a vowel and was further mangled in its passage through Old French (much the same thing happened with French oiseau, bird, also from avis via the late Latin aucellus). The only recent example of struthonian one can turn up is in the journal of the Royal United Services Institute dated July 2007: "Even if looking into the future can be demonstrated usually to be futile, you still need to practise; you might get better, and one day you strike lucky and you hit a tipping point. As the wisdom of snooker players informs us: 'The more I practise, the luckier I become'. Being struthonian is not an option."

LOL

Camping in desert

An illiterate father goes with his educated son on a camping trip to the desert. They set up a tent and fall asleep. A while later, the father wakes up; and he wakes up his son. Asks the father: "Look up ... and what do you see?" Son: "I see a million stars in the sky."



Father: "What does that tell you?"

Son: "It means there are billions of galaxies in the Universe." The father suddenly slaps his son, saying, "Idiot... Someone has stolen out tent...and you are not seeing what is near to you and teaching me school lessons! Stupid!"

IN JEST THIS

Human aging is still a big mystery

Carl Reiner, a great American comedian, recently passed away at the age of 98. What struck me the most, while reflecting on his life, was how active and productive he continued to be even in his 90s. He created a Twitter account in 2012 and tweeted several times a day to almost 400,000 people, some of whom knew him only as "that crazy old guy on Twitter".

On May 28, for example, Reiner tweeted, "Spent 3 hours in the dentist's office this morning thinking about how Trump, our inept President, is causing me a thousand times more pain than my very 'ept' dentist."

I doubt that I will live until the age of 98, but if I do, I hope I don't have to spend three hours in the dentist's office. I hope I'm not sitting there in pain, pleading with the dentist: "Please fix my teeth well, so they last another 12 years. I don't want to be back here until I'm 110."

I've already spent countless hours in dentists' offices, and here's something I truly believe: for every hour that I've spent in a dentist's office, I've lost one month from my lifespan. During my lifetime, I've spent



We are still learning so much about aging. Until now, we thought that dogs age seven times faster than humans

at least 100 hours in dentists' offices, which means that my life will be about eight years shorter.

I'm not trying to pick on dentists. Some people don't mind going to the dentist, so it doesn't cause them any stress and probably doesn't affect their lifespans. Who knows, perhaps it even gives them a longer life. After all, the health of your teeth is connected to overall health. But in my case, each visit to the dentist undoubtedly shrinks my life, not to mention my bank account.

If you are skeptical, please find a scientist to conduct a study about this. They've already conducted studies about other "risks" that reduce our lifespans. For example, they've found that smoking one cigarette will reduce a person's

lifespan by about 10 minutes. In the case of my children, smoking one cigarette would reduce their lifespans by about 80 years. That's what I tell them, anyway.

We are still learning so much about aging. Until now, we thought that dogs age seven times faster than humans. A dog that had lived for a decade was said to be 70 in human years. It turns out, however, that this simple math can't accurately capture the complexities of aging.

Researchers at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine found that in the early years of a dog's life, it ages at a much faster rate than humans, but this aging process slows down considerably as the dog matures.

"This makes sense when you think about it - after all, a nine-month-old dog can have puppies, so we already knew that the 1:7 ratio wasn't an accurate measure of age," researcher Trey Ideker said.

The aging of humans also varies considerably, depending on many factors, including how much time a particular human has spent in a dentist's office. That's why you'll see people who are 80 but look 40, and people who are 50 but look 80.

If you exercise regularly and follow a strict diet, you will probably add a few years to your life. If you serve as the leader of a national government or political party, you will probably subtract a few years from your life.

Nelson Mandela was 95 when he died in 2013, which is quite amazing, considering that he led a political party, served 27 years in prison and was president of South Africa for five years. Without all the stress and pressure, the heavy burden of leading a movement, he might still be living today, especially if he took good care of his teeth and didn't have to spend much time at the dentist's office.

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, opinions and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

UGC, exams

Sir, With the increase in Covid-19 cases, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines to conduct exams before September with the home ministry's permission. States like Maharashtra, Odisha, Haryana and Rajasthan have decided to scrap exams for graduating students and are trying for alternative models for promotion on the basis of past results. This shows that there is no common policy on this. Online exams may not be feasible to all locations. Governments are working to contain the virus spread. This is time to wait, not jump the gun. A pan-India plan on various academic examinations is needed so that there will be equal opportunity for all students and the academic society. We need to rethink on this aspect. For parents, what matters most is their children's future vis-à-vis education and jobs.

Biswajit Bhoi, BARGARH

Better health

Sir, We are faced with the worst of a pandemic. This is a period for all to maintain better personal health and hygiene. Most people in rural areas are using open well-water for drinking and preparing food. The health department is urged to provide bleaching powder and halogen tablet for cleaning of open wells and their surroundings through Anganwadi and ASHA workers. Drains in rural areas need to be kept clean this year.

Santosh Kumar Mohanty, CUTTACK

Sushant's suicide

Sir, When high tide runs after us, we need to just lower our head with humility to let it pass. Apparently, actor Sushant Singh Rajput acted in a different way. Therefore, he could not find courage inside to fight the challenges thrown at him by the nepotistic underbelly of the Hindi film industry. Further, the lockdown owing to the novel coronavirus accentuated his problems. His frustration could not find expression in some more creative ways, forcing him in a way to bottle up all the negative emotions deep inside his system. This exploded within, resulting in his suicide. Those who have played dirty tricks with the actor should be identified and punished. Governments both at the Centre and the state would need to look into the business of Bollywood more closely to offer a level playing field to all irrespective of their place of birth, family lineage.

Bikash Choudhury, BHUBANESWAR



T'gana Guv interacts with pvt hosps but CS, babus stay away

KCR's govt has come under severe criticism for the state's handling of the Covid situation

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, July 7: At a time when Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao is coming under mounting criticism from the opposition for his alleged failure to check the spread of coronavirus in the state, Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan is asserting herself by calling meetings over the situation. The top officials, however, gave the meeting a miss. According to Raj Bhavan sources, the Chief Secretary was preoccupied with the some other meeting and could not make it.

In a move that is likely to irk the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government, the Governor Tuesday interacted with the managements of private hospitals treating Covid patients amid increasing public complaints about lack of beds and excessive billing by them. Soundararajan tweeted Monday



POWER-PLAY TUSSLE

Some of the Guv's recent moves and statements on handling of Covid and testing haven't gone down well with the TRS govt

Some ruling party leaders have taken exception to the Guv holding meetings on subjects like education and health without informing officials

During a meeting with health experts, she had expressed views on a number of issues including testing

The TRS feels that her remarks are providing ammunition to the Oppn to target the govt

that she will be interacting with private hospitals regarding Covid management and public grievances about beds, billings, testing etc.

According to a tweet from Soundararajan's handle, she interacted with various hospitals include Care Hospitals, AKIMS

Hospital, Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital, Sunshine Hospitals, Kamineni Academy of Medical Science, Virinchi Hospitals, Global Hospital, Apollo Hospitals, Malla Reddy Narayana Hospital, Yashoda Hospitals and Continental Hospitals.

She had also tweeted Monday that she called the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Health to discuss the Covid situation prevailing across the state.

However, it is learnt that both the officials conveyed that they will not be able to visit Raj Bhavan due

to their prior engagements. "I am continuously on this job at various levels in the last three months," Soundararajan tweeted in response to a citizen hailing her initiative. She wrote that she gave suggestions to the government, visited Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), discussed with Health University's Vice Chancellor, member of Telangana State COVID team and superintendents of Covid care government hospitals.

"True" was her reply to a comment by someone that the first citizen of Telangana has taken Covid seriously.

She replied "noted" to various suggestions including the suggestion to re-impose lockdown in Hyderabad in view of the big spike in Covid cases in the state capital.

Sunday, she voiced concern over the growing number of Covid cases in the state.

Why BSF is keeping an eye on Petrapole

Sunday, cross-border trade resumed through Petrapole-Benapole land port three days after Bangladeshi exporters blocked imports. But, the route is again in news not because of trade-related issues but human trafficking!



AGENCIES

Kolkata/New Delhi, July 7: Petrapole Integrated Check Point (ICP) on India-Bangladesh border - a major bilateral commerce source of the two neighbouring countries - saw an annual trade of over ₹21,380 crore in 2018. However, now it is on surveillance by Indian agencies and the border guarding force BSF for human trafficking, sources said.

Activities of human trafficking gangs were noted soon after the trade between India and Bangladesh resumed through the Petrapole-Benapole ICP - the issue which has led to discontent brewing in India's eastern neighbour with whom New Delhi has worked hard to improve ties.

Based on intelligence inputs, the Border Security Force (BSF) - which is mandated to guard 4,096 km India-Bangladesh border - has arrested six Bangladeshi nationals in five instances since June 20, defended attempts to intrude into India and freed them from the clutches of human traffickers, an official familiar with the development said.

The official, requesting anonymity said the human smugglers have adopted a new method. "They are using the coaches of the goods trains for human trafficking," he said.

The BSF has raised the issue with senior Railway officials and told them to ensure when the goods train coaches are emptied, then these should be checked and sealed properly to avoid illegal intrusion into the compartments.

Of the six intruders held so far by the BSF since June 20 include two children below 18 years, who were trafficked to India. Besides, three Bangladeshi nationals, who were hiding in mirchi bags in a cargo train going to Bangladesh, were arrested from Petrapole railway station.

Year	Biz through the ICP (in crores)
2014	₹ 15,187
2015	₹ 16,340
2016	₹ 18,501
2017	₹ 18,798
2018	₹ 21,380

Trade through ICP Petrapole between Jan and June last year was ₹4,859 crore

Monday, at 1.25 p.m. a freight train was coming from Bangladesh to India, when 179th Battalion of BSF personnel checked the train engine number 16265 and bogie number 3009869455 on the information of the intelligence branch of BSF, a middle-aged man was found hiding in it.

"The BSF immediately took him into custody. On questioning, he revealed his name as Mohammad Abu Tahir (41), a resident of Burburia, Komila (Bangladesh)," the official said.

Tahir informed the BSF that he was told by the trafficker to sit in a vacant bogie and that he came to India to get a job with the help of another broker named Akbar Mandal, who lives in Petrapole area.

After earning money, the official said, Tahir wanted to go to Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan. "The captured intruder has not yet provided any specific information on the questioning but it seems to be a case of human trafficking as Petrapole has a network of human traffickers who are able to extract a sizeable amount from innocent people. They do illegal businesses," the official said.

The arrested intruder was handed over to GRP Bongaon for further legal proceedings.

The ICP Petrapole is located about 80 kms from Kolkata while

THE STANDOFF

The West Bengal government has allowed goods from Bangladesh through Benapole Land Port in Jashore, three days after Bangladeshi exporters blocked imports. Export and import activities through Benapole-Petrapole land port resumed Sunday evening, after a three-day disruption in the wake of a strike enforced by Bangladeshi traders. The local exporters made the retaliatory move after India's decision to send goods to Bangladesh while halting imports. The trading organisations at the Benapole land port July 1 stopped the import of Indian goods protesting against the refusal of entry to Bangladeshi export items on the Indian side.

Benapole is the corresponding place in Bangladesh. The foundation stone of the ICP was laid on August 19, 2011 and the cargo complex of ICP Petrapole was operationalised February 12, 2016.

Through the ICP, India exports cotton fabrics, synthetic fibres, motor vehicle chassis, two wheeler/motorcycles/scooters, non-alloy steel, machinery parts, yarn, books and papers, iron and steel products and, cereals and other food products. However, India imported jute products, knitted fabrics, betel nut, rice bran, fish, zinc plate, cotton rags, lead, readymade garments and re-processed plastic agglomerates.

The total trade through ICP Petrapole between January and June last year was ₹4,859 crore. The trade through the ICP was ₹21,380 crore in 2018; ₹18,798 crore in 2017; ₹18,501 crore in 2016; ₹16,340 crore in 2015; and ₹15,187 in 2014.

Alipur apartment in Kolkata sealed

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 7: The Kolkata Police Tuesday sealed a posh high-rise in the city's affluent neighbourhood of Alipur to tackle the rapid spread of Covid-19 infection in the area.

Police sources said that Satyam Apartment, located on 3, Alipur Road, has been completely sealed Tuesday morning as at least 65 people, including 53 residents, have tested Covid-19 positive in the past three weeks in the same apartment.

The complex houses as many as 64 flats, accommodating over 250 residents. There are also 22 offices in the same building.

"Police picketing has been arranged both at the entrance and exit points of the building since Tuesday morning. Officers of the local Alipur police station also carried out a sensitisation drive in the locality, urging people to take all precautionary measures to fight the pandemic situation," police sources said.

Atin Ghosh, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) administrator, who is also in-charge of health, said the spread of Covid cases is much higher in the up-scale and middle-class apartments as compared to the slum areas.

"In slums, people are much more cautious about their health as compared to residents living in high-rises and individual residences," Ghosh said.



SATYAM APARTMENT LOCATED ON 3, ALIPUR ROAD, HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SEALED TUESDAY MORNING

65 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 53 RESIDENTS, HAVE TESTED COVID-19 POSITIVE IN THE PAST THREE WEEKS IN THE SAME APARTMENT

THE COMPLEX HOUSES 64 FLATS, ACCOMMODATING OVER 250 RESIDENTS

THERE ARE ALSO 22 OFFICES IN THE SAME BUILDING

Cop first tests Covid -ve, later +ve; succumbs

THE DECEASED SI WAS POSTED AT CHATTERJEEHAT POLICE STATION IN HOWRAH'S SHIBPUR AREA OF KOLKATA

KOLKATA: A Sub-Inspector posted at Howrah police commissionerate adjoining Kolkata died of Covid-19 at a city-based hospital Tuesday, a police official said.

The deceased Sub-Inspector Gautam Patnyak was posted at Chatterjeehat police station in Howrah's Shibpur area.

Police sources said that Patnyak had complained of ill-health last week and was admitted to a city hospital with suspected Covid-19 symp-

tom. But he initially tested negative.

Through doctors and medical staff advised him to undergo treatment at the hospital Patnyak forcibly got himself discharged and returned home. He again fell ill and was again admitted to Kolkata's MR Bangur Hospital where he tested Covid-19 positive about three days ago.

"His condition was critical. He died today," the official from the Howrah police commissionerate

said. Patnyak is the first corona casualty from the Howrah commissionerate.

Sources said that as many as 160 personnel of Howrah district police have tested corona positive in four months, of which many have been cured and discharged.

Strict guidelines are being followed at all police stations and investigation centres to tackle the pandemic amongst police in the district.

Bengal to impose total lockdown in containment zones from tomorrow

The new restrictions will be imposed in all the containment zones from 5 pm July 9

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 7: The Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government Tuesday decided to impose complete lockdown in all the designated Covid-19 containment zones across the state from July 9.

According to sources in the state secretariat Nabanna, the new restrictions will be imposed in all the containment zones from 5 p.m. July 9.

No business activities will be allowed in the containment zones, so that the spike in the number of fresh Covid-19 cases can be checked. All government and non-government offices will remain closed.

There will be strict restrictions on public movements in all the



While there were at least 18 containment zones and 1,872 isolation units in Kolkata, 10 more containment zones are added to the list

market areas that fall under the containment zones and isolation units. Only emergency services will be kept out of the total lockdown purview. Wearing a mask is also mandatory before stepping out of homes.

"Wear a mask whenever in public. Mask is a must," Kolkata Police Commissioner Anuj Sharma

tweeted. There are at least 18 containment zones and 1,872 isolation units in Kolkata. At least 10 more containment zones were added to the existing list Tuesday evening.

Total lockdown will also be imposed in Malda's 49 municipal wards from Wednesday to handle the rise in new Covid-19 cases in the district.

CLINICAL TRIALS OF POSSIBLE COVID VACCINE BEGIN

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, July 7: The process of conducting clinical trials for Covaxin, a vaccine candidate for Covid-19, began Tuesday at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) here, a top official of the state-run medical facility said.

"We will select healthy individuals and draw blood and send the blood samples to designated labs in New Delhi. They will give the green signal. Then, the medicine people will examine and the first shot of the vaccine will be given due observation," NIMS director Dr K Manohar said.



The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has identified 12 clinical trial sites such as medical institutions and hospitals, including NIMS, and has asked their principal investigators to ensure that the subject enrolment is initiated no later than July 7.

"Everything will be sent to ICMR, where data is analysed. We have already started the screening of individuals. We will first take audio visual consent of the individual," the medical officer added.

Asked about the total number of individuals required for the clinical trial, Manohar said at least 30 are needed. The clinical trials proposal was already placed before the NIMS hospital ethics committee.

The Drug Controller General of India recently granted permission to initiate Phase I & II human clinical trials for Covid-19 Vaccine Covaxin- being developed by Bharat Biotech, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology (NIV).

TELANGANA BEGINS RAZING OLD SECRETARIAT IN HYD

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, July 7: A week after the Telangana High Court cleared decks for construction of a new complex for Telangana state Secretariat, the state government Tuesday started demolishing the existing buildings.

Authorities deployed bulldozers, earthmovers and other machinery for the demolition work which began in the early hours of Tuesday.

Police erected barricades on the roads leading towards the secretariat and diverted the vehicular traffic. The restrictions in the busy area near Hussain Sagar lake in the heart of the city led to traffic jams at various points.

People on their way to offices and workplaces were caught unaware. Some of them were seen arguing with the policemen.



The government also declared holiday for the secretariat employees working from temporary offices at BRK Bhavan near the old premises.

With the demolition, one of the few surviving symbols of Hyderabad

heritage will also become history. One of the buildings was constructed in the 1888 during the times of Seventh Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last ruler of erstwhile Hyderabad State. Known as Saifabad Palace and built in European ar-

A RITZY AFFAIR

Tuesday, the CMO released the design of the proposed secretariat building saying it may be approved

The govt plans to complete the work by June 2, 2021

Mumbai-based architect Hafeez Contractor has designed the five-lakh square feet complex to be built at a cost of ₹400 crore

chitecture, it used to house the office of Nizam's Prime Minister till Hyderabad's accession with the Indian Union in 1948.

Subsequently, the palace designated as 'G' block (Sarvathitha) served as the office of the chief ministers of undivided Andhra

Pradesh up till N.T Rama Rao.

His successor M. Channa Reddy built the 'C' block and shifted the chief minister's office and all his successors till undivided Andhra Pradesh's last Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy functioned from there.

The 'G' block, one of the last surviving pieces of architecture of Nizam's administration has since been lying unused and reduced to dustbin to dump old furniture.

After bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the blocks were distributed between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for their secretariats. 'C' block was one of the buildings allotted to Telangana but Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao has been functioning from his official residence 'Pragati Bhavan'. He went on record that the Vaastu of the entire secretariat

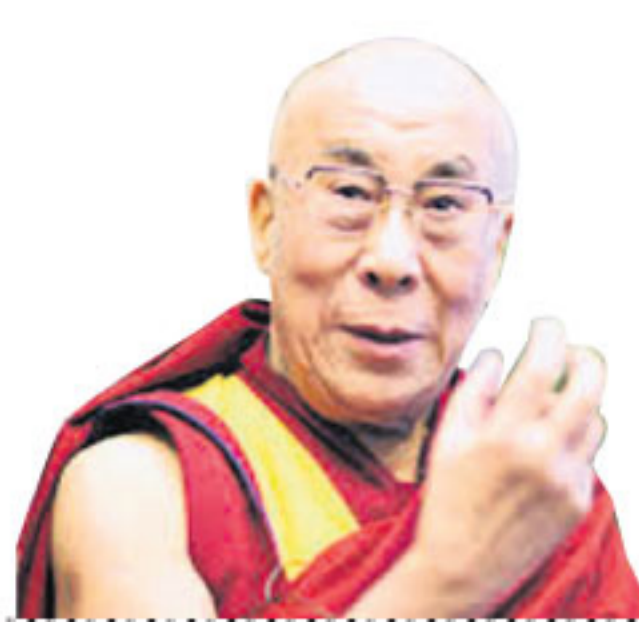
complex is inauspicious.

He initially planned to acquire Bison Polo ground in Secunderabad to build a new secretariat but had to drop the proposal as the defence ministry refused to hand over the land to the state government.

It was June 27 last year that the Chief Minister had laid the foundation stone for the new secretariat. Subsequently, secretariat was temporarily shifted to BRK Bhavan.

As Andhra Pradesh had already shifted its capital to Amaravati, the new government of YSR Congress Party handed over the secretariat buildings in Hyderabad to Telangana.

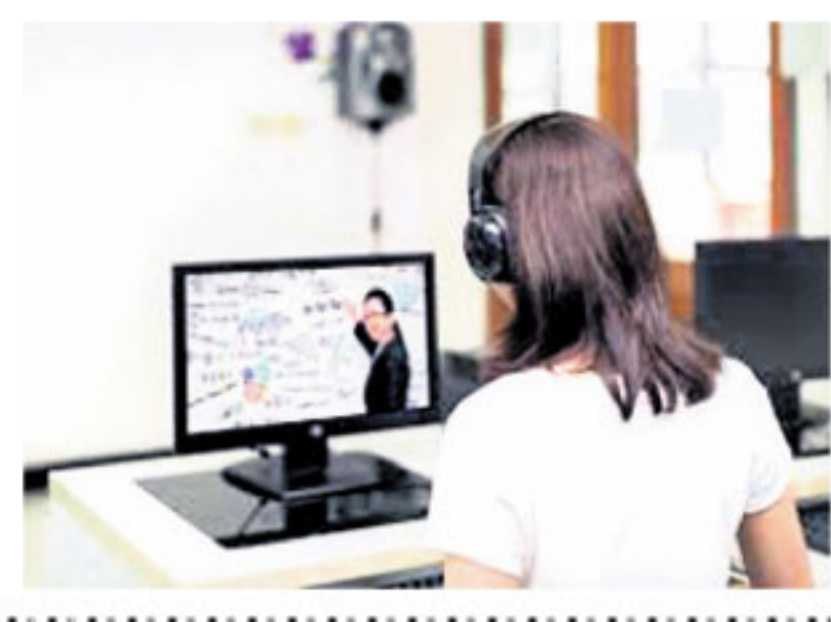
However, the Telangana government could not go ahead with the demolition as some leaders of opposition parties and concerned citizens moved the High Court, seeking direction to the government not to demolish the existing structures.



Climate change and the current pandemic, which threaten us all, are challenges that teach us that we must work together and make a concerted effort to reach our common goal of a more caring and more peaceful world
THE DALAI LAMA | TIBETAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

GUEST TEACHERS FOR ONLINE CLASSES

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Tuesday instructed schools to involve guest and contractual teachers in the implementation of the new teaching-learning plan



of the day quote

The May-June status cannot become the new normal
SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS LEADER

There are no disagreements among the three allies - Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Congress -- and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is doing a great job, paying attention to the smallest details
SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP

Respected Prime Minister will you tell that why are our forces leaving our motherland?
RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

Man dupes nurse of ₹34 lakh

New Delhi: A 36-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly duping a nursing officer at AIIMS of ₹34 lakh on the pretext of marriage, police said Tuesday. The accused, identified as Mohammad Sadik Imran, was nabbed from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh Monday with the help of mobile phone and technical surveillance, they said. Police said the matter was reported to them by the woman at the Mehrauli police station in South Delhi March 3.

Teen raped by FB friend

Mumbai: A 13-year-old girl from Agripada in central Mumbai was allegedly kidnapped and raped by her Facebook friend, police said Tuesday. The police Monday arrested the 22-year-old man accused and four of his aides in separate raids at Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and rescued the victim, an official said. The victim went missing from her home July 1, following which her mother lodged a complaint, the official said.

Nitish's niece tests nCoV+ve

Patna: A close relative of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who had been staying at his official residence in Patna, has tested positive for COVID-19, highly placed sources said today. The sources told news agency PTI that test reports of the relative - the niece of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, came out on Monday after which she was taken to the isolation ward at a hospital in Patna for treatment.

Dissidents elect new SAD chief

Chandigarh: Dissident Akali leaders Tuesday elected Rajya Sabha MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa as the Shriomani Akali Dal (SAD) President at a meeting in Ludhiana, "removing" Sukhbir Singh Badal from the top post. Dhindsa and his son and former state finance minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa were expelled from the SAD in February this year for "anti-party" activities. The Dhindsas joined hands with the party's dissident groups, including the SAD (Taksali).

Ex-HSCL CMD, others booked

New Delhi: The CBI has booked Moyukh Bhaduri, an ex-CMD of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, an NBCC subsidiary, and others for allegedly demanding over ₹1 crore bribe in the construction of National Sports University, Manipur, officials said.

Chinese troops remove structures in Hot Springs, Gogra: Sources

Gogra and Hot Springs are among the key friction points where the two armies were in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation for the last eight weeks

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 7: Chinese military removed temporary infrastructure and continued gradual withdrawal of troops from face-off sites in Hot Springs and Gogra in eastern Ladakh for the second consecutive day Tuesday, and the Indian Army is keeping a strict vigil on their rearward movement, government sources said.

Gogra and Hot Springs are among the key friction points where the two armies were in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation for the last eight weeks. The sources said the mutual disengagement of troops at the two friction points is likely to be completed within two days, and that there has been "substantial" withdrawal of forces by Chinese military from the areas.

The disengagement process began Monday morning after a nearly two-hour telephonic conversation between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday during which they agreed on an expeditious withdrawal of troops from the area.

Doval and Wang are Special Representatives for the boundary talks. The sources said the Indian Army is not lowering its guard in view of the disengagement process in the area and will continue to maintain high-level of alertness to deal with any eventualities.

They said the two two Armies are expected to hold further talks later this week after the first phase of disengagement process is completed. As per the decisions



arrived at corps commander-level talks June 30, the two sides would create a minimum buffer zone of three kilometer in most of the areas where they were locked in a standoff.

The Chinese military has already removed tents and withdrew its personnel from patrolling point 14 in Galwan Valley, the sources said adding the Indian Army is carrying out a thorough verification of the Chinese pull back.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in the bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last eight weeks.

The tension escalated manifold after the killing of 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan Valley June 15.

The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details. According to an American intelligence report the number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35.

Both sides have held several rounds of diplomatic and military talks in the last few weeks to ease

IAF carries out night time patrol

In a demonstration of its aerial prowess, the Indian Air Force is carrying out night time combat air patrols over the mountainous eastern Ladakh region as part of its decision to maintain a high-level of readiness notwithstanding disengagement of troops by China from a number of friction points in the area, government sources said on Tuesday. The frequency of day and night operations by frontline fighter jets is a signal that India will continue to put pressure on China until the status quo ante is restored in all the areas in eastern Ladakh including Pangong Tso, Gogra and Hot Springs, they said.

tension in the region. However, there was no visible sign of any end to the standoff till Sunday evening. Sources said the breakthrough was achieved at the Doval-Wang meeting.

Three more arrested for Kanpur ambush

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Kanpur, July 7: Police Tuesday arrested three more people for the killing of eight policemen in an ambush at a village near Kanpur, amid a simmering controversy over gangster Vikas Dubey's alleged links with police and politicians.

Police appointed an Inspector General to probe into an unverified letter that surfaced on social media, purportedly written weeks before his death by Deputy Superintendent of Police Devendra Mishra. It had alleged links between the Chaubeypur station officer and the gangster.

Police said there is no trace of the letter in their records, but they will continue to investigate the matter. DSP Devendra Mishra, posted as the Bilhaur circle officer, was among the eight policemen gunned down allegedly by the henchmen of Vikas Dubey in his Bikru village when they went to arrest him past midnight last Thursday.

Chaubeypur station officer Vinay Tiwari, mentioned in Mishra's unverified letter, is among the four policemen suspended for their possible role in tipping off the gangster about his arrest. Police Tuesday said they have arrested three more people -- Dubey's relative Shama, neighbor Suresh Verma and domestic help Rekha.

Rekha's husband Dayashankar Agnihotri, a key member of the Dubey's gang, is already behind bars, arrested Sunday after an encounter in which police shot him in the leg.

Police have named 21 people in the FIR registered after the attack. The FIR also mentioned 50-60 unidentified people. The Kanpur police released the photos of 15 crim-



Inspector General (Civil Defence) Amitabh Thakur asked UP police chief to probe the then Kanpur SSP Anant Deo, now a DIG, to whom the purported letter was sent

inals said to be close to Dubey. They are putting up posters carrying the pictures of these alleged criminals, most of them carrying a reward of ₹25,000 for their arrest. Vikas Dubey, with a reward of ₹2.5 lakh on him, remains elusive. His posters too have been plastered at road toll plazas, including those in Unnao, Kanpur Nagar, Auraiya, Fatehpur and areas near the India-Nepal border.

Police have issued alerts in Lakhimpur Kheri, Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Bahraich and Gorakhpur to stop Vikas Dubey from escaping across the border into Nepal.

Lucknow Range IG Lakshmi Singh Tuesday began a probe into the letter purportedly sent by DSP Devendra Mishra by visiting the office of Circle Officer (Bilhaur), the post held by him. The IG questioned the staff, checked records and computer data, said an official.

ASI MONUMENTS REOPEN; FOOTFALL LESS THAN 100

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: A day after monuments across the country reopened their doors for visitors following a gap of more than three months amid coronavirus-induced lockdown, only a handful of people visited these sites.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which opened its monuments and museums on July 6 has capped visitor entry at every site from 1,000-2,500 per slot --9 am to 12 pm and 12 pm to 6 pm, officials said.

Tickets to visit these places can be booked online. ASI's top sites which generate the maximum footfall and revenue have been hit hard. According to officials, around 60 visitors bought tickets



for Qutub Minar in Delhi which had a capping of 1,500 visitors per slot, Tuesday. The afternoon slot, which is the most sought-after timing, saw only 28 tickets booked till 4 pm. On normal days, the site gets around 8,000-12,000 visitors per day.

At Red Fort, the most popular destination for domestic and foreign tourists in the national capital, the footfall barely reached 100, with just around 51 tickets booked for the afternoon slot.

Popular monuments like Jodhpur's twin forts--Chittorgarh Fort and Kumbhalgarh Fort--recorded a footfall of around 150 each, while the Gwalior Fort in Bhopal, Bellary Fort in Hampi and the Mattancherry Palace Museum in Thirissur saw no visitors in the afternoon slot and a handful in the forenoon slot, officials said.

The officials, however, admitted that low footfall was expected at most of these sites given the current mood of the country.

CROSS-BORDER DRUGS SMUGGLING

Govt tells customs to invoke NDPS Act in all cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: Taking serious note of cross-border smuggling of drugs, the government has asked the customs department and its intelligence agencies to invoke the stringent NDPS Act in all such cases, officials said Tuesday.

The move is aimed at providing "effective deterrence" to cross-border smuggling of drugs, they said. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance or NDPS Act, 1985 has strict penal provisions like rigorous imprisonment of at least ten to a maximum of 20 years with a fine ranging from ₹one to two lakh.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), which comes under the Finance Ministry, has issued a directive asking chiefs of its two intelligence agencies -- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI) -- and others in this regard.

"I am directed to state that the Hon'ble Home Minister (Amit Shah) has directed in all cross-border narcotics drug cases affected by the customs formations, NDPS Act, 1985 should also be invoked under which customs officers are duly empowered to provide effective deterrence to cross-border smuggling of cases," the directive said.

The Act has, however, specified commercial quantities of narcotics, to invoke harsh punishment under it, which is 100 grams in case of cocaine, 250 grams in case of heroin and 20 kg for Ganja among others, the officials said.

'Bhansali couldn't work with Sushant due to date issues'

Rajput (34) was found hanging at his suburban Bandra residence June 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 7: Mumbai Police Tuesday said Hindi film industry director Sanjay Leela Bhansali was planning to cast late actor Sushant Singh Rajput in four films, but due to unavailability of his dates the movies were offered to other actors.

The Bandra police, who are probing professional rivalry angle in the case of Rajput's death, recorded the statement of Bhansali Monday. During questioning, it came to light that Rajput was not able to work with Bhansali as his dates were not available, said a senior police officer probing the case.

The police are probing why Rajput was not able to do films with Bhansali and are examining his contracts with other production houses. All important de-

tails in the case are being investigated, the official said, adding that the police have so far recorded statements of 34 people, including Rajputs family members, close friends and colleagues.

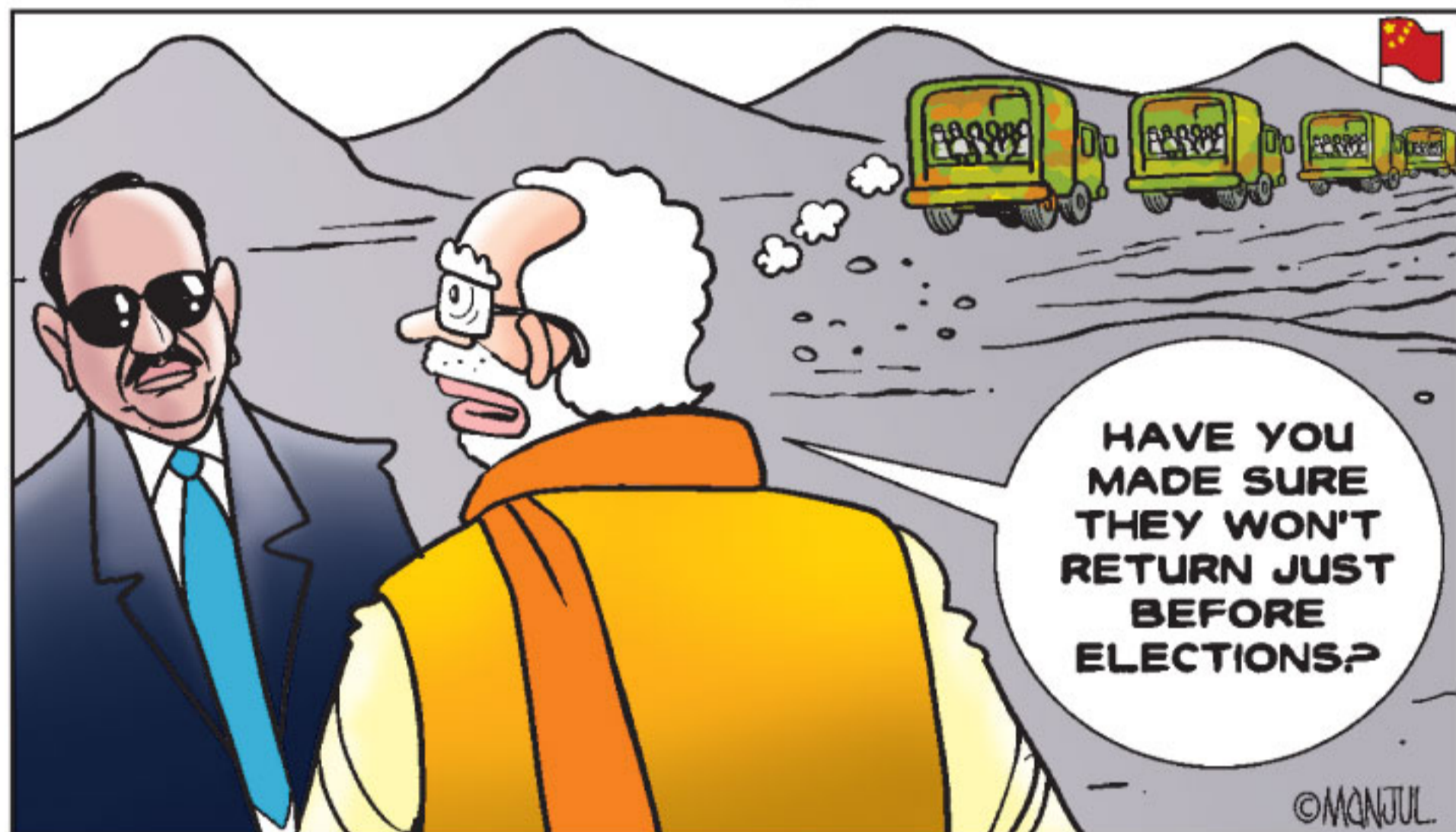
The police are also waiting for a response from Twitter on the alleged tweets posted from Rajputs micro-blogging handle and circulated on social media just before his death, he said.

The official also said the CCTV footage of the building where Rajput resided has been taken into custody for investigation. There was no CCTV installed in the late actor's house, he added.

The police earlier sent viscera from the actor's body, and the gown which he allegedly used to hang himself for chemical and forensic analysis at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in suburban Kalina. The forensic lab report is awaited, the official said.



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Face masks, sanitisers not essential items

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 7: Face masks and hand sanitisers are no more essential products as their supply is sufficient in the country and, therefore, are now kept out of the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Consumer Affairs Secretary Leena Nandan said Tuesday.

On March 13, the Union consumer affairs ministry had declared face masks and hand sani-

tisers as essential commodities for 100 days to boost supply and prevent hoarding of these items in its fight to check the spread of coronavirus.

"These two products were declared as essential items till June 30. We are not extending further as there is enough supply in the country," Nandan told PTI.

A decision in this regard was taken after consultation with the state governments, she said. "We

have checked with all states and got information from them that there is sufficient supply of these two items. There is no supply concern," she added.

Masks (2-ply and 3-ply surgical masks, N95 masks) and hand sanitisers were brought under the Essential Commodities Act, empowering states to regulate production, distribution and prices of these items and also crackdown on hoarding and blackmarketing.

CYBER CRIMINALS' LOCKDOWN TACTICS

During the lockdown when many are working from home, the cyber frauds seem to have taken this as an opportunity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 7: A criminal is a fast learner. He keeps upgrading his skills in line with his changing surroundings, making it difficult for the law enforcing agencies to keep pace.

Those involved in white collar crimes are even harder to trace and arrest as unlike other criminals they can commit a crime without being physically present near the victim. Now it seems that cyber criminals have fast adapted to the country's state of lockdown and evolved new tactics to dupe people.

From impersonating an identity on social media platforms like Facebook or Instagram to luring people for jobs in the government



sector; from emotional blackmail to pretending to be bank officials, they do it all. During the lockdown when many are working from home and spending more time on mobiles and computers, the cyber frauds seem to have taken this as

an opportunity. Recently, a man was arrested from Mathura in Uttar Pradesh for impersonating the identity of the victim's senior on Facebook and asking him for ₹60,000 for the treatment for his wife who he claimed

was hospitalized. The victim, a Delhi resident, obliged and ended up transferring ₹58,000 to the PayTm wallet of the accused. The matter came to light when the victim called his senior.

In another case, a woman was duped of ₹34 lakhs as a man who developed a friendship with her on so-

cial media turned out to be a cheat. He not just emotionally blackmailed her on the promise of marriage but also went to Leh and Ladakh with her. The man was arrested from Vijayawada.

Political commentator and policy analyst Sanjaya Baru was cheated of ₹24,000 on the pretext of online delivery of liquor in June. Baru was also the media advisor to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"The irony is people don't divulge details to strangers in the real world but in the virtual world they trust easily and part with their personal details which are later misused by the cyber criminals. The key word is caution. One has to be cautious while interacting on social media, said Anyesh Roy, DCP Cyber crime.



National interest is paramount. Government of India's duty is to protect it
RAHUL GANDHI
 CONGRESS LEADER

TOTAL SHUTDOWN IN PARTS OF MALDA

Total shutdown would be imposed in English Bazar and Old Malda (WB) towns for a week, starting Wednesday in the wake of the rising cases of COVID-19, officials said



of the day quote

If you look at the figures of murders in the country, UP has been on top for the last three years. An average of 12 murder cases occur every day

PRINYANKA GANDHI VADRA
 CONGRESS LEADER

Vikas Dubey is now being termed as a terrorist and it is important for everyone to know about those leaders who were giving him protection

SUNIL SINGH SAJAN | SP MLC

India shouldn't budge an inch till status quo ante restored at Indo-China border

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY
 LEADER OF THE CONG PARTY IN LOK SABHA

India's COVID tally crosses 7-lakh mark

"India has a recovery rate of more than 61% and a mortality of as low as 2.78% in spite of being a country," Vardhan said

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 7: India's COVID-19 tally raced past the seven-lakh mark Tuesday after a single-day spike of 22,252 infections, five days after crossing the six-lakh post, while the death toll breached the 20,000 mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

It took 110 days for coronavirus infections in the country to reach the one-lakh, while just 49 days more to go past the seven-lakh mark.

This is the fifth consecutive day that COVID-19 cases have increased by more than 20,000. The country's coronavirus infection caseload increased to 7,19,665 on Tuesday, while the death toll climbed to 20,160 with 467 persons succumbing to the disease in the last 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of recoveries stands at 4,39,947, while there are 2,59,557 active cases of coronavirus infection presently in the country. "Thus, around 61.13 per cent of patients



have recovered so far," an official said. The total number of confirmed cases included foreigners. According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 1,02,11,092 samples have been tested up to July 6 with 2,41,430 samples being tested on Monday.

Of the 467 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, 204 are from Maharashtra, 61 from Tamil Nadu, 48 from Delhi, 29 from Karnataka, 24 from Uttar Pradesh, 22 from West

Bengal, 17 from Gujarat, 11 each from Telangana and Haryana, nine from Madhya Pradesh, seven from Andhra Pradesh, six from Jammu and Kashmir, five each from Rajasthan and Punjab, two each from Bihar, Kerala and Odisha and one each from Arunachal Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Of the total 20,160 deaths reported so far, Maharashtra accounted for the highest 9,026 fatalities followed

FATALITY RATE PER MILLION LOWEST IN WORLD: CENTRE

India's total number of coronavirus cases and fatalities per million population is one of the lowest in the world, the Union health ministry said Tuesday. Referring to the 'WHO Situation Report-168' dated July 6, the ministry said India's COVID-19 cases per million population is 505.37 as against the global average of 1,453.25. Chile has witnessed 15,459.8 COVID-19 cases per million population, while Peru has 9,070.8 cases per million people. The US, Brazil, Spain, Russia, the UK, Italy and Mexico have 8,560.5, 7,419.1, 5,358.7, 4,713.5, 4,204.4, 3,996.1 and 1,955.8 cases per million, respectively, according to the WHO report. The United Kingdom has 651.4 COVID-19 related deaths per million population, while the metric for Spain, Italy, France, the USA, Peru, Brazil and Mexico is 607.1, 576.6, 456.7, 391.0, 315.8, 302.3 and 235.5 deaths, respectively, the WHO report said.

by Delhi with 3,115 deaths, Gujarat with 1,960, Tamil Nadu with 1,571, Uttar Pradesh with 809, West Bengal with 779, Madhya Pradesh with 617, Rajasthan with 461 and Karnataka with 401.

The COVID-19 death toll reached 306 in Telangana, 276 in Haryana, 239 in Andhra Pradesh, 169 in Punjab, 138 in Jammu and Kashmir, 97 in Bihar, 42 in Uttarakhand, 38

in Odisha and 27 in Kerala.

Jharkhand has registered 20 deaths, Chhattisgarh and Assam 14 each, Puducherry 12, Himachal Pradesh 11, Goa seven, Chandigarh six, Arunachal Pradesh two and Meghalaya, Tripura and Ladakh have reported one fatality each, according to the Health Ministry. More than 70 per cent deaths took place due to comorbidities, it said.

Govt to release safety guidelines for filmmaking



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: The government is coming up with a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for shooting films in India in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and is also set to provide incentives for production to accelerate restarting of film-making, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said Tuesday.

Speaking at the inauguration of FICCI FRAMES 2020, a convention on the business of entertainment, Javadekar said all stakeholders need to work together to make progress and harness the soft power of India - media and entertainment.

"Government is coming up with a standard operating procedure for shooting films in India in the light of the pandemic," the Information and Broadcasting minister said. Javadekar also said that more than 80 foreign film producers have taken advantage of the film facilitation office. They have got a single window clearance for shooting their films in India, Javadekar said.

He said the discussions at FICCI FRAMES' would certainly throw up new and innovative ideas that can be acted upon. Virtual inaugurations are the new normal and those virtual spaces are the new places for real partnerships, Javadekar said.

India faces more Pakistan ceasefire violations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 7: For the first time, the Indian military finds itself stretched between the border with China where it is locked in an intense stand-off with the PLA and the border with Pakistan where it faces incessant cross-border firing from the hostile Pakistan army.

Pakistan increased bombardment of Indian territory, violating the Line of Control (LoC) ceasefire agreement as China started transgressions in eastern Ladakh, creating a two front war-like situation for India.

Last month when India and China were engaged in dispute at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, Pakistan increased its bombardment across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. As at Galwan valley near LAC, 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed on June 15 in their worst clash in over four decades, around 13 to 14 ceasefire violations were reported from various parts of LoC.

In June, a total 411 cases of ceasefire violation were reported. In May, 382 instances of ceasefire violation took place, and in April, 387 and in March, 411. February saw 366 ceasefire violations, and January, the number was 367.

SHORT TAKES

Rajnath reviews border situation

New Delhi: Amid ongoing tension at the borders with China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a review meeting with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) officials Tuesday to discuss the improvement of infrastructure near Line of Actual Control with China and Line of Control with Pakistan, sources said. "Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the ongoing projects with DG BRO (Border Road Organisation) and other senior officials at a meeting in South Block today," the Ministry of Defence said.

SC grants interim bail to Chandra

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted interim bail to Unitech Ltd promoter and former Managing Director Sanjay Chandra, who has been behind bars for nearly three years in the homebuyers' case. A bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud allowed Chandra's release for one month since his parents are not keeping well and are hospitalised. The court was told that Chandra's 78-year-old father is infected with Covid-19 and admitted in ICU.

Ex-CEO of co-op bank found dead

Bangalore: A former CEO of a cooperative bank, which was being probed for alleged financial fraud, was found dead in his car here, police said Tuesday. Police suspect that Vasudeva Maiya may have committed suicide by consuming poison but they hastened to add that the exact cause death would be known only after detailed investigation.

Criminal killed in encounter

Bhadoli (Uttar Pradesh): A criminal carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on his head was killed by the police in an encounter in Bhadoli district in the wee hours of Tuesday. The criminal, identified as Deepak Gupta, had over 14 cases of heinous crimes registered against him.

Kamal launches poll drive

Ujjain: Former chief minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath arrived here for 'Darshan' of Mahakal before the start of his campaign for the mini-midterm elections involving 24 assembly seats in the state. The Ujjain visit was due on July 3 but was washed out due to heavy rains.

MUMBAI AIRPORT SCAM

Money laundering case against GVK group, MIAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a money laundering case against the GVK group, the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) and others to probe alleged irregularities to the tune of ₹705 crore in the operations of the Mumbai airport, officials said Tuesday.

The central probe agency has filed the enforcement case information report (equivalent of a police FIR) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act after studying a recent CBI FIR filed against the same entities. The ED will probe if funds were laundered to amass personal assets and if proceeds of crime were generated by the accused, they said.

"We have not received any notice from the Enforcement Directorate," a spokesperson for



GVK said. The CBI case pertains to the alleged siphoning off ₹705 crore from the funds of 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 ED, according to officials, is expected to summon company officials to record their statements and

it may also attach their assets under the PMLA after some stages of investigation are completed.

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.

The AAI entered into an agreement with MIAL on April 4, 2006 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 in multiple ways, the CBI had said early this month.

NIA makes 7th arrest in Pulwama terror case



AGENCIES

Srinagar, July 7: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested seventh person in connection with the last year's terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district in which 40 CRPF personnel were martyred.

Bilal Ahmed Kuchey, a resident of Hajibal of the Kakapora area in the Pulwama district, was taken into custody July 5 for harbouring and extending logistic support to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists in the Pulwama attack.

Kuchey was produced before a NIA special court in Jammu Monday and was remanded to the 10-day custody.

According to the NIA, the main perpetrators stayed in Kuchey's house and he introduced them to other 'over ground workers', who provided them safe stay and aided in the planning of the attack.

Kuchey, who runs a sawmill, is accused of providing high-end mobile phones, used by JeM terrorists

3 security personnel injured in encounter

Three security force personnel were injured in an encounter with militants in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, police said. A police official said that a militant was believed to have been killed during the encounter as he was shot at when he tried to jump from a house. However, the body of the militant is yet to be retrieved. On a tip off about presence of militants in Goosu village of Pulwama, security forces launched a cordon and search operation, the official said.

to communicate with the Pakistan-based JeM leadership as well as among themselves for giving final touches to the plan and its execution. The NIA said the mobile phone was also used for recording Adil Ahmed Dar's video clip that became viral after the attack.

Earlier this month, the NIA arrested sixth accused Iqbal Rather, 25, a resident of Budgam, who facilitated the attack and helped key conspirator Muhammad Umar Farooq reach

Kashmir after he infiltrated into the Indian territory in April 2018. On 14 February 2019, a convoy of vehicles carrying security personnel on the Jammu Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a suicide bomber at Lethpora in the Pulwama district, martyring 40 troopers.

THIEVES IN PPE SUITS

BURGLARS DRESSED IN FULL PPE GEAR BROKE INTO A JEWELRY SHOP IN MAHARASHTRA AND FLEE WITH 780 GMS OF GOLD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Satara, July 7: Burglars wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) kits broke into a jewellery shop in Satara district and walked away with 780 gm gold, police said Tuesday.

CCTV footage from the shop, located in Phaltan area, shows the burglars taking hold of the gold jewellery from the show-cases and cupboards within, police said.

The footage of the 2-day-old in-



cident during the coronavirus-induced lockdown shows the burglars wearing caps, masks, plastic jackets and hand-gloves taking the jewellery from the display cases.

A case has been registered at the Phaltan police station after a complaint by the jewellery shop owner, who said the burglars took away 78 'tola' (one tola is 10 gm) gold, police said.

The shop owner said the burglars broke in through the shop wall, police said. Maharashtra is one of the worst affected states in India due to coronavirus. So far the state has recorded a total of 2,11,987 Covid 19 cases. The state has 87699 active cases and 9026 fatalities.

Monsoon active in plains, showers in parts of north India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 7: The monsoon continues to remain active in the plains across the country though sluggishness persists in northwest India. However, there is a possibility of rain in some places in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, western Uttar Pradesh and south and east Rajasthan in the next 24 hours.

According to the private weather forecaster Skymet Tuesday, there may be scattered showers in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana in the next 24 hours. However, in Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, western Uttar Pradesh and south and east Rajasthan monsoon may remain sluggish with the possibility of rain in some places.

According to Skymet, the monsoon may weaken in Gujarat but moderate-to-heavy rain may continue at some places in Saurashtra while in Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Kerala the monsoon may remain active in some parts, leading to heavy rain in these areas.

Konkan, Goa, coastal Karnataka, central Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha may receive light-to-moderate rainfall. Some parts of Konkan Goa, Odisha, Kerala, eastern and central Uttar Pradesh, north-eastern Madhya Pradesh, sub-Himalayan region West Bengal, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Assam received moderate-to-heavy rain.



According to the private weather forecaster Skymet Tuesday, there may be scattered showers in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana in the next 24 hours

However, in Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, western Uttar Pradesh and south and east Rajasthan monsoon may remain sluggish with the possibility of rain in some places

Light-to-moderate rain was recorded at some places in Bihar, western Uttar Pradesh,

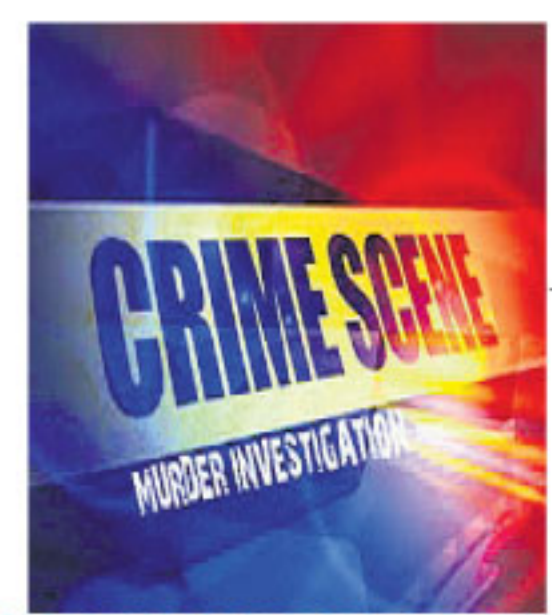
Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, south-eastern Rajasthan, eastern region of Gujarat, central Maharashtra, coastal Karnataka, Vidarbha, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Lakshadweep. Some areas of Haryana and Punjab also received light-to-moderate rainfall. Mumbai and its neighbouring areas received moderate to heavy rains in the last 24 hours, the IMD said Tuesday and predicted intermittent intense showers over the next day.



Equality does not put anyone on the back foot; it puts us all on the same footing - which is a fundamental human right
MEGHAN MARKLE | QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH TRUST VICE-PRESIDENT

9 DEAD DURING I-DAY WEEKEND SHOOTINGS IN NYC

More than 40 shooting incidents took place in New York City during the Independence Day weekend, killing at least nine people, local authorities said



of the day quote

The United States has to take a different path with regard to China as the previous policy of helping them open up their economy with the belief that this would lead to more political freedom has not worked
MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE

The Dalai Lama is a messenger of hope, whose spiritual guidance has been a vital force to advance warm-heartedness and compassion, promote religious harmony, secure human rights and preserve the language and culture of the Tibetan people
NANCY PELOSI | SPEAKER OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

It is too early to fully assess the implications of COVID-19 on the terrorism landscape. But we know that ISIL, al-Qaeda, their regional affiliates - as well as neo-Nazis, white supremacists and other hate groups - seek to exploit divisions and conflicts
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

At least 8 killed in plane collision

Spokane (US): At least eight people, including three children, were killed when two airplanes collided over a scenic mountain lake in northern Idaho, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office has said. One of the aircraft was a float plane operated by Brooks Seaplane of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, while the second airplane was a Cessna 206 that was carrying at least two people, the sheriff's office said.

Japan flood toll rises to 52

Tokyo: Japan's disaster management agency says the death toll from recent flooding has risen to 52 and at least a dozen others are still missing. Pounding rain since late Friday in Japan's southern region of Kyushu has triggered widespread flooding. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said 51 of the dead confirmed as of Tuesday morning were from riverside towns in the Kumamoto region. One person was found dead in Fukuoka.

Undersea tremor felt in Java

Jakarta: A deep undersea earthquake hit off the coast of Indonesia's main island of Java Tuesday, but no injuries or serious damage was reported. The US Geological Survey said the earthquake measured 6.6 magnitude and was centered about 94 kilometers north of Batang, a coastal town in Central Java province. It was about 528 kilometers deep. The Indonesian Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said the tremor was 6.1 magnitude and was unlikely to trigger a tsunami.

Pyongyang rejects talks with US

Seoul: North Korea Tuesday repeated it has no immediate intent to resume dialogue with the United States hours before US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun was to arrive in South Korea for discussions on the stalled nuclear diplomacy. In a statement released through Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, senior North Korean foreign ministry official Kwon Jong Gun also ridiculed South Korea's "nonsensical" calls.

Researchers identify compounds that halt nCoV replication

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, July 7: In a fight against COVID-19 pandemic, the researchers have found several existing compounds that block replication of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) within human cells grown in the laboratory.

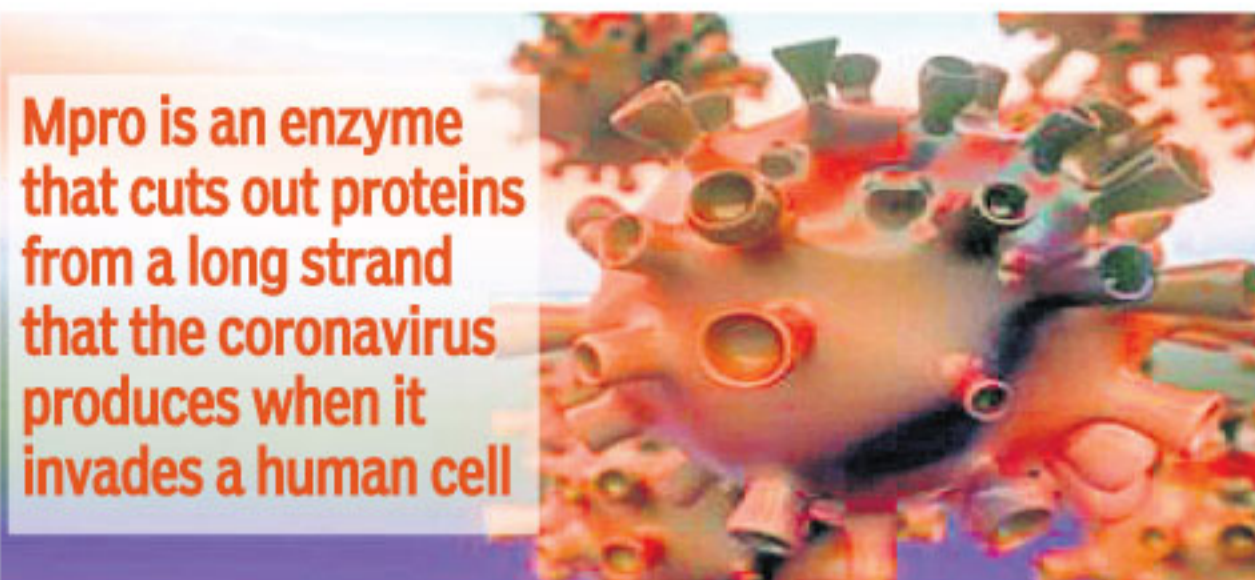
According to the study published in the journal Cell Research, the inhibitors all demonstrated potent chemical and structural interactions with a viral protein critical to the virus's ability to proliferate.

"With a rapidly emerging in-

fectious disease like COVID-19, we don't have time to develop new antiviral drugs from scratch," said study researcher Yu Chen from the University of South Florida in the US.

"A lot of good drug candidates are already out there as a starting point. But, with new information from studies like ours and current technology, we can help design even better (repurposed) drugs much faster," Chen added.

The most promising drug candidates - including the USFDA-approved hepatitis C medication bocoprevir and an investigational



veterinary antiviral drug known as GC-376 - target the SARS-CoV-2 main protease (Mpro).
Mpro is an enzyme that cuts out

proteins from a long strand that the virus produces when it invades a human cell.
Without Mpro, the virus cannot

replicate and infect new cells. Mpro represents an attractive target for drug development against COVID-19 because of the enzyme's essential role in the life cycle of the coronavirus and the absence of a similar protease in humans.

Since people do not have the enzyme, drugs targeting this protein are less likely to cause side effects, they explained.

The research team identified four leading drug candidates as the most potent and specific for fighting COVID-19. These inhibitors rose to the top after screening more than 50 existing protease com-

pounds for potential repurposing. These are Boceprevir, a drug to treat Hepatitis C, GC-376, and an investigational veterinary drug for a deadly strain of coronavirus in cats, which causes feline infectious peritonitis and Calpain inhibitors II and XII, investigated in the past for cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and other conditions, also showed strong antiviral activity.

"All four compounds were superior to other Mpro inhibitors previously identified as suitable to clinically evaluate for treating SARS-CoV-2," the study author noted.

'US military to stand with India in conflict with China'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, July 7: The US military "will continue to stand strong" in relationship to a conflict between India and China or anywhere else, a top White House official has said, after the Navy deployed two aircraft carriers to the strategic South China Sea to boost its presence in the region.

"The message is clear. We're not going to stand by and let China or anyone else take the reins in terms of being the most powerful, dominant force, whether it's in that region or over here," White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told Fox News.

"And the message is clear. Our military might stands strong and will continue to stand strong, whether it's in relationship to a conflict between India and China or anywhere else," Meadows said.

He was told that India banned Chinese apps because Indian soldiers were killed by Chinese troops last month and asked what's the mission of the two aircraft carriers - the Ronald Reagan and the Nimitz - and what America's mission is.

The troops of India and China are locked in an eight-week standoff



The message is clear. We're not going to stand by and let China or anyone else take the reins in terms of being the most powerful, dominant force: White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows

And the message is clear. Our military might stands strong and will continue to stand strong, whether it's in relationship to a conflict between India and China or anywhere else, he said

in several areas in eastern Ladakh including Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley and Gogra Hot Spring. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead as the two sides significantly bolstered their deployments in most areas along the LAC.

The Chinese military Monday began withdrawing troops from the Galwan Valley and Gogra Hot Spring

after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held lengthy talks Sunday. Doval and Wang are also the special representatives on the India-China boundary talks.

The US has sent two of its aircraft carriers to the South China Sea. "Our mission is to make sure that the world knows that we still have the preeminent fighting force on the face of the globe," Meadows said.

RIFT IN NEPAL RULING PARTY

Chinese envoy meets senior NCP leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, July 7: Amidst mounting pressure on Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli to step down, Chinese ambassador Hou Yanqi Tuesday intensified consultations with leaders of the ruling Nepal Communist Party to save him.

Hou met senior leaders and former Prime Ministers Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhala Nath Khanal within the past 48 hours as hectic negotiations for power sharing were going on between embattled Prime Minister Oli and disident group led by ruling party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda.'

The political future of 68-year-old Oli, known for his pro-Beijing leanings, will be decided Wednesday during the ruling party's Standing Committee meeting.

During the 45-minute meeting with Khanal on Tuesday, Hou expressed concern over disputes that has surfaced within the ruling party and suggested to work toward resolving the differences.

On Sunday, the Chinese ambassador met with senior NCP leader and former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and discussed the current political situation. She also called on President Bidya Devi Bhandari on the same day.

Both Madhav Nepal and Khanal held discussion with the Chinese envoy regarding the latest political situation in the country, aides of the two leaders said, without giving any details.

A number of political party leaders have termed the Chinese envoy's series of meetings with the ruling party leaders as interference in Nepal's internal political affairs.

US to force out foreign students taking fully online classes: ICE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, July 7: The United States has said it would not allow foreign students to remain in the country if all of their classes are moved online in the fall because of the coronavirus crisis.

"Nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the United States," US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement.

"Active students currently in the United States enrolled in such programmes must depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to a school with in-person instruction to remain in lawful status," ICE said.

"If not, they may face immigration consequences including, but not limited to, the initiation of removal proceedings."

ICE said the State Department "will not issue visas to students enrolled in schools and/or programmes that are fully online for the fall semester nor will US Customs

ICE said the State Department "will not issue visas to students enrolled in schools and/or programmes that are fully online for the fall semester"

and Border Protection permit these students to enter the United States."

F-1 students pursue academic coursework and M-1 students pursue "vocational coursework," according to ICE.

Most US colleges and universities have not yet announced their plans for the fall semester.

A number of schools are looking at a hybrid model of in-person and online instruction but some, including Harvard University, have said all classes will be conducted online.

Harvard said 40 per cent of undergraduates would be allowed to return to campus but their instruction would be online.

SCARE SQUAD



An actor dressed as a zombie performs during a drive-in haunted house show, performed by Kowagarasetai (Scare Squad), for people inside a car in order to maintain social distancing amid the spread of coronavirus at a garage in Tokyo, Japan
REUTERS PHOTO

Hong Kong security law sends chills through Taiwan

CHINA AND TAIWAN SPLIT IN 1949 AFTER NATIONALIST FORCES LOST A CIVIL WAR TO MAO ZEDONG'S COMMUNISTS, FLEEING TO THE ISLAND WHICH BEIJING HAS SINCE VOWED TO SEIZE ONE DAY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Taipei (Taiwan), July 7: The imposition of a sweeping national security law on Hong Kong has sent chills through Taiwan, deepening fears that Beijing will focus next on seizing the democratic self-ruled island.

China and Taiwan split in 1949 after nationalist forces lost a civil war to Mao Zedong's communists, fleeing to the island which Beijing has since vowed to seize one day, by force if necessary.

"The law makes me dislike China even more," 18-year-old student Sylvia Chang said, walking through National Taiwan University in Taipei.

"They had promised 50 years unchanged for Hong Kong but they are getting all the more heavy-

handed... I am worried Hong Kong today could be Taiwan tomorrow."

Over the years China has used a mixture of threats and inducements, including a promise Taiwan could have the "One Country, Two Systems" model that governs Hong Kong, supposedly guaranteeing key civil liberties and a degree of autonomy for 50 years after the city's 1997 handover.

Both Taiwan's two largest political parties long ago rejected the offer, and the new security law has incinerated what little remaining faith many Taiwanese may have had in Beijing's outreach.

Some now fear even transiting through Hong Kong, worried that their social media profiles could see them open to prosecution under the legislation.

The law "makes China look so



bad, distancing themselves even further from Hong Kongers, not to mention people across the strait in Taiwan". Alexander Huang, a political analyst at Tamkang University in Taipei, said.

"HK today, Taiwan tomorrow" Beijing has taken an especially hard line towards Taiwan since the 2016 election of President Tsai Ingwen of the Democratic Progressive Party, ramping up military, eco-

nom and diplomatic pressure. Tsai views Taiwan as a de facto independent nation and not part of "one China".

But the pressure campaign has done little to endear Taiwan's 23 million people.

In January, Tsai won a second term with a historic landslide and polls consistently show a growing distrust of China.

A record 67 per cent now self-identify as "Taiwanese" instead of either Taiwanese-Chinese or Chinese - a ten per cent increase on the year before - according to a routine poll conducted by the National Chengchi University. In 1992, that figure was just 18 per cent.

In recent decades Taiwan has morphed from a brutal autocracy into one of Asia's most progressive democracies.

Six shot dead in Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dhaka, July 7: At least six tribal activists were shot dead Tuesday in an ambush by a rival group in Bangladesh's restive Chittagong Hill Tracts, where scores have died in an insurgency in recent years, police said.

Gunmen attacked supporters of a splinter group off the Jan Sanhati Samiti (JSS) insurgent movement at Bagmara in Bandarban district, about 400 kilometres southeast of the capital Dhaka, according to officers.

The splinter group's district head was among the dead and three other people were critically wounded, SM Mobassher Hossain, deputy head of the Bandarban police, told AFP.

The JSS is the main insurgent group in Bangladesh's three Chittagong hill districts that include Bandarban.

It fought a battle with government forces that claimed about 2,500 lives in the area from the early 1980s until a peace treaty was signed in 1997.

Despite the accord and withdrawal of most troops from the region, unrest has continued as tribal groups demand key clauses of the deal be implemented, including dismantling the villages of Bengali settlers and army camps. In recent years insurgent groups have splintered, setting off in-fighting that has claimed scores of lives including several faction leaders.

In March last year seven people were killed during a battle in Bandarban.

Suicide cases increase in Nepal during lockdown

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kathmandu, July 7: At least 1,647 people have committed suicide during the lockdown period in Nepal which was imposed first imposed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, police said.

A total of 1,647 cases were filed as of June 27 in police stations all over Nepal, with an average of 18 people killing themselves every day since the enforcement of the lockdown, Xinhua news agency quoted the Nepal Police as saying Monday.

The number of suicide cases has jumped by a whopping 25 per cent as compared to the record maintained before lockdown.

A total of 414 people had committed suicide one month before the lockdown but now the number has reached an average of 549 suicides a month.

Jagannath Lamichhane, a global mental health rights activist, attributed the suicides to the falling economy during the pandemic.

"The uncertainty of economy has caused fear amongst the people," he said

He warned that if the government fails to support the public economically, more people will commit suicide.

"Daily wage workers were immediately hit as they have been displaced from city areas, now middle class or working class, small and medium sized entrepreneurs will feel the insecurity in the days to come," Lamichhane told Xinhua.

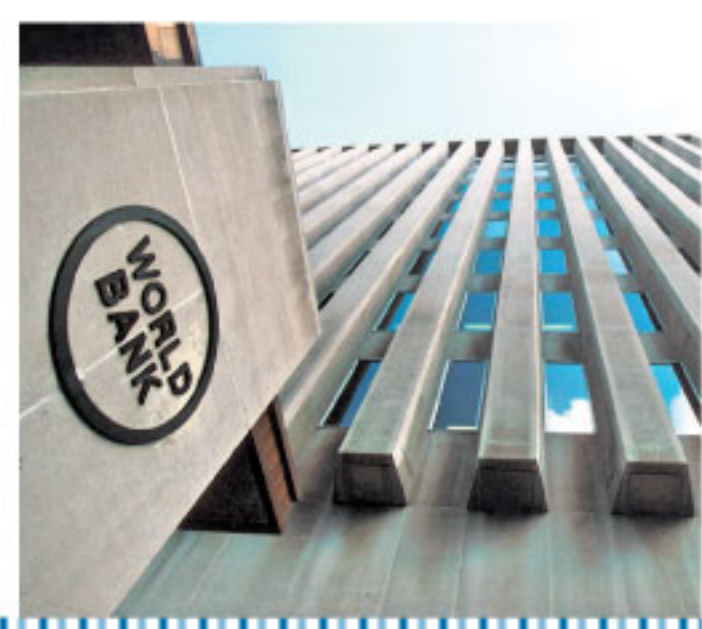
According to Lamichhane, the government needs to come up with an education campaign and for the long run it needs to introduce economic packages for people economically affected by the pandemic in Nepal.



Green shoots are visible and the economy, which has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, will bounce back soon
AMITABH KANT | CEO, NITI AAYOG

WB PROVIDES \$400MN TO SUPPORT NAMAMI GANGE

The Indian government and the World Bank Tuesday signed a loan agreement to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme that seeks to rejuvenate the Ganga.



of the day quote

The Finance Ministry is swiftly implementing various schemes announced under the ₹20.97 lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR | MINISTER OF STATE, FINANCE

India is an important digital power and will not compromise on its data sovereignty. Blocking 59 Chinese apps was a digital strike on China

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD | UNION MINISTER, IT & TELECOM

The income tax (I-T) department has notified tax exemption on interest, dividend and capital gain incomes of sovereign wealth funds and global pension

ARAVIND SRIVATSAN | ASSOCIATE, NANGIA ANDERSEN LLP

SHORT TAKES

HDFC slashes interest rates

Mumbai: The HDFC Bank has reduced the marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) on loans across tenors by 20 basis points with immediate effect. Following the reduction, MCLR of the bank will range from 7.10 per cent to 7.65 per cent. The bank's overnight MCLR now stands reduced to 7.10 per cent and its one-month MCLR is 7.15 per cent. One-year MCLR will now be 7.45 per cent, while three-year MCLR stands at 7.65 per cent.

Sebi's compliance deadline deferred

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi Tuesday further extended the deadline for issuers of municipal debt securities to comply with certain regulatory norms to July 31 in view of the COVID-19 crisis. The relaxation pertains to submission of investor grievance report, financial results and accounts maintained by issuers under ILDM Regulation. Sebi noted in a circular. In view of the situation arising due to COVID-19 pandemic, Sebi in March had extended the timeline for submission of these reports to June 30.

JioMeet unveils more features

New Delhi: Reliance Industries' unlimited free video conferencing app JioMeet Tuesday added additional security features to prevent Zoom-like attacks where hackers posted obscene images on screens. JioMeet, which allows up to 24 hours of free video conferencing that are encrypted and password-protected, has added a safety feature that gives the conference host to disallow guests from joining a meeting without sign-in and disclosing their identity. The feature was added particularly in light of reports of obscene images appearing on screens during online classes.

ICICI Bank to reward 80k staff

New Delhi: The country's second largest private sector lender ICICI Bank has decided to reward over 80,000 of its frontline employees with a salary hike of up to 8 per cent, sources said Tuesday. These employees form over 80 per cent of its overall workforce and the decision has been taken in recognition of the services rendered during the COVID-19 pandemic, the sources told PTI. The hike of up to 8 per cent is for the fiscal year 2020-21.

LIQUIDITY TO MSMEs RISES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 7: The finance ministry Tuesday said banks have sanctioned loans of about ₹1.14,502 crore under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSME sector reeling under the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, disbursements against this stood at ₹56,091.18 lakh crore till July 4 under the 100 per cent ECLGS for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May.

The latest numbers on ECLGS, as released by the finance ministry, comprise disbursements by all 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 20 private sector banks and 10 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

As of 4 July 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by PSBs and private banks stands at ₹1,14,502.58 crore, of which ₹56,091.18 crore has already been disbursed, the finance minister said in a tweet.

Under the ECLGS, the loan amounts sanctioned by PSBs increased to ₹65,863.63 crore, of which ₹35,575.48 crore has been disbursed

MEETING CREDIT NEEDS

LOAN AMOUNTS SANCTIONED BY PSBs INCREASED TO ₹65,863.63 CRORE, OF WHICH ₹35,575.48 CRORE HAS BEEN DISBURSED AS OF JULY 4

AT THE SAME TIME, PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS HAVE SANCTIONED ₹48,638.96 CRORE AND DISBURSED ₹20,515.70 CRORE

UNDER THE SCHEME, 100 PER CENT GUARANTEE COVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT GUARANTEE TRUSTEE COMPANY (NCGTC)

ON MAY 21, THE CABINET APPROVED ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF UP TO ₹3 LAKH CRORE AT A CONCESSIONAL RATE OF 9.25 PER CENT THROUGH ECLGS FOR MSME SECTOR

as of July 4, she said.

At the same time, private sector banks have sanctioned ₹48,638.96 crore and disbursed ₹20,515.70 crore.

Compared to 1 July 2020, there is an increase of ₹4,158.51 crore in the cumulative amount of loans sanctioned and an increase of ₹3,835.65 crore in the cumulative amount of loans disbursed, by both PSBs and private sector banks combined as on 4 July 2020, Sitharaman said.

Market leader SBI has sanctioned ₹20,628 crore of loans and disbursed ₹13,405 crore. It is followed by Punjab National Bank, which has sanc-

tioned ₹8,689 crore. However, its disbursements stood at ₹2,585 crore as of July 4.

The business units of Maharashtra have got the highest cumulative sanction of ₹6,856 crore from banks, while disbursement was to the tune of ₹3,605 crore as of July 4.

It is followed by Tamil Nadu, with sanction of ₹6,616 crore loans and disbursements of ₹3,871 crore.

On May 21, the Cabinet approved additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore at a concessional rate of 9.25 per cent through ECLGS

for MSME sector.

Under the scheme, 100 per cent guarantee coverage will be provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) for additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) borrowers in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line (GECL) facility.

For this purpose, a corpus of ₹41,600 crore was set up by the government, spread over the current and next three financial years.

US cos unwilling to pay digital tax

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 7: A lobby group representing U.S. technology giants has said its members are not yet ready to make the first payment of the country's digital tax due this week, urging New Delhi to defer the move.

India in March said all foreign billings for digital services provided in the country would be taxed at 2% from April 1, a move that caught U.S. technology firms off guard as they were battling the coronavirus pandemic.

The tax applies on e-commerce transactions on websites such as Amazon.com. Google in particular has been worried as the tax applies on advertising revenue earned overseas if those ads target customers in India. The first quarterly payment of the tax is due on Tuesday, but in a letter on July 6 lobby group U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) urged the finance ministry to defer the tax or postpone the date for payment.

The group argued the tax was "riddled with various ambiguities and interpretational concerns" and it wasn't clear on what amount the companies needed to pay the levy. "There are practical difficulties



Amazon in particular has been worried as the tax applies on advertising revenue earned overseas

in meeting this timeline," USISPF wrote to the finance ministry in the letter, reviewed by Reuters.

The finance ministry did not respond to a request for comment. USISPF's managing director for India, Nivedita Mehra, said the organisation had sent the letter to the finance ministry because it wanted to request help in resolving concerns of its member companies.

An Indian government source this week told Reuters that New Delhi was committed to implementing the tax. The tax, a so-called equalisation levy is seen aimed at taxing foreign companies which have a significant local client base in India but were billing them through their offshore units, effectively escaping the country's tax system.

Property prices fall 1-5% in April-June across top cities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 7: Property prices across top eight cities in the country declined 1-5 per cent in April-June quarter amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Magicbricks Propindex Report Q2.

The report said that in April prices slumped by 2-9 per cent, but later recovered.

It said that as India's economy has started getting back to a 'new normal' following the COVID-19 outbreak and the national lockdown, the real estate sector has also started to witness some green shoots as homebuyers are back in the market, though in lower numbers across tier-1 cities.

It suggests that the property buyer market sentiments are on the path to recovery with the buyer

searches on the property portal set to surpass the pre-COVID levels, indicating robust underlying fundamentals on the demand side.

Commenting on the Propindex, Sudhir Pai, CEO, Magicbricks, said: "India's real estate sector is on road to recovery. Prices have shown a marginal decline whereas demand has been steadily coming back. Actions have been taken by the government on the recovery package and the RBI has also reduced repo rates by more than 100 basis points since the lockdown. This augurs well for the industry."

"Our data suggests that search activity is almost back at pre-COVID levels and this is therefore the right time for developers to grab the attention of the homebuyers through attractive deals and offers," he added.

200% rise in cyber incidents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 7: There has been a 200 per cent rise in cyber incidents in India in the last couple of months but there is no evidence that the cases increased due to the tensions between India and China, former Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) in the Prime Minister's Office Gulshan Rai has said.

There have been larger cases of phishing, service issues and ransomware which have gone up. These cases have gone up not merely because of heightened tensions, these cases have gone up from January and February-end because of the culture of working from home, Rai, who retired recently, said at a webinar on Monday.

In the invitation sent by payments company EPS, which organised the webinar, Rai was identified as the



CISO and the moderator also identified him with the same designation during the session. An e-mail sent to the organisers seeking clarity did not elicit any response.

Rai also said that offices typically have necessary security measures taken in, and urged people to be more careful about what they download and stick to verified applications itself.

It is certainly true that during the last couple of months, the cyber incidents (like) hacking systems have gone up significantly.

Somebody may say more than 200 per cent (increase), that's the figure which is available, he said. There is no evidence as of now that the attacks have gone up due to the tensions between the two countries (India and China), he added.

He was responding to a query by a reporter that after the violent faceoff between India and China, there were a lot of reports that cyber attacks would increase on India's infrastructure and banking services.

Rai said there are dedicated agencies which are monitoring the situation and preventing the attacks.

Ties between India and China have hit a new low following the violent clashes in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh, which left 20 Indian army personnel dead. India has also banned 59 Chinese apps citing security concerns.

FAVOURITE FOR AIR INDIA OPS DIR UNDER FIRE



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 7: A frontrunner for Air India's Director Operations post has come under criticism from certain sections of the airline for his past record of siding with unions against the national carrier.

According to sources, the current Executive Director for Operations Captain R.S. Sandhu has in the past allegedly been hand-in-glove with a particular pilots' union.

"He was terminated once due to his close association with one of the pilots' unions. He had sided with this union during a strike. Now as a member of senior management, how can we trust him not to repeat the past incident?" sources said adding that Sandhu is one of the frontrunner candidates for the post.

"After the strike, he was reinstated back but only after a deal was struck between the management and the union. These past incidents are serious and must not be ignored."

When contacted, Sandhu did not give any comments or his version of events.

However, a senior Air India executive on condition of anonymity said: "He became a GM in 2018 and then officiated the post of ED Operations in 2019 and finally became an ED in 2020. In all this time he has taken impartial decisions and not been vengeful against anyone."

BIZ BUZZ

Maruti Suzuki partners with Axis Bank

New Delhi: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) Tuesday said it has collaborated with Axis Bank to offer easy vehicle financing options for potential car buyers. Under the partnership, Axis Bank will offer a variety of options to customers, including 100 per cent on-road funding for salaried customers for eight years, step-up EMI scheme starting at ₹1,250 per lakh and balloon EMI scheme with final EMI being 25 per cent of loan amount, the company said in a state-



ment. Besides, the company said as part of the partnership, customers can also choose low equated monthly installment (EMI) scheme for first three months starting with ₹899. These offers are valid up to July 31.

Tata Power to raise ₹2,600cr

New Delhi: Tata Power will seek shareholders' approval for a proposal to raise ₹2,600 crore via issuance of preferential shares to its promoter Tata Sons in an annual general meeting (AGM) later this month. The company has listed a special resolution for issuance of shares to Tata Sons on a preferential basis in the 101st AGM scheduled for July 30, stated a regulatory filing. Earlier this month, Tata Power board approved a proposal to raise ₹2,600 crore via issuance of preferential shares to Tata Sons. Under the proposal, about 49.06 crore shares will be allotted to the parent of the salt-to-software group at ₹53 per share—indicating 15 per cent premium to closing price on July 1.



Retailers see 67 pc fall in sales

New Delhi: Retailers witnessed 67 per cent decline in business during June 15-30 compared to the corresponding period last year, according to a survey by Retailers Association of India (RAI). In its latest business survey conducted on more than 100 big and small retailers, RAI said there has been no significant growth in business for retailers even during the second half of June. "During the same time frame, malls witnessed 77 per cent degrowth (year-on-year) on account of not being allowed to open uniformly across the country, high street retail showed degrowth of 62 per cent in business despite being allowed to open across India," RAI said in a statement.



Coke for localising beverage, enhancing ethnic drinks' portfolio

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 7: Beverage localisation along with enhancement of ethnic drinks' portfolio is the way ahead for Coca-Cola India, as it transforms from being a local to a hyper-local brand, a top company executive said.

Presently, the global beverage major's local arm manufactures all products in India, while almost all drinks' ingredients are sourced from here.

"We have our manufacturing operations in almost all states of India, employing local people and creating opportunities for them... our supply chain too is spread in all parts of the country," T. Krishnakumar, President, Coca-Cola India & South West Asia, told IANS.

FROM LOCAL TO HYPER LOCAL

PRESENTLY, THE GLOBAL BEVERAGE MAJOR'S LOCAL ARM MANUFACTURES ALL PRODUCTS IN INDIA, WHILE ALMOST ALL DRINKS' INGREDIENTS ARE SOURCED FROM HERE

HOWEVER, THE COMPANY WILL CONTINUE TO INTRODUCE BRANDS FROM ITS INTERNATIONAL PORTFOLIO AS WELL BUT MADE LOCALLY

"In fact, for the last few years we have gone from local to hyper local."

As part of the company's hyper-local strategy, Krishnakumar said: "We are advancing the beverage localisation and developing an ethnic portfolio to suit various regions."

"This portfolio approach of core,

local, hyper-local and fruit circular economy products remains at the heart of what we do."

Notably, the company recently introduced ethnic drinks like Vio spiced buttermilk and Minute Maid Nutriforce.

Besides introducing desi brands,

the company has increased its use of regional languages and platforms to market products.

Recently, West Bengal became the first Indian state where the entire portfolio and marketing initiatives of Coca-Cola's brands have been hyper-localised with the use of

Bengali language. "Coca-Cola India has been driving its hyper-local strategy not only with localised product launches but also through localised communication," he said.

"To kick-start the initiative, Coca-Cola has rolled out Bengali packaging labels for all beverages across its portfolio, which includes Coke, Sprite, Thums Up, Maaza, Fanta, Limca, Kinley, and Minute Maid."

However, the company will continue to introduce brands from its international portfolio as well but made locally.

"With the long-standing commitment as a 'Total Beverage

Company', premium international launches are a step towards driving growth by expanding the beverage choice to offer consumers a

wide array of functional beverages to cater to all their hydration needs," Krishnakumar said.

"We believe in catering to the needs and preferences of consumers and we will continue this journey going forward."

At present, the company offers a range of beverages, including Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Thums Up, Fanta, Limca and Sprite, amongst others. In addition, the Coca-Cola India system provides direct employment to 25,000 people and indirect employment to more than 150,000 people.

For the last few years, we have gone from local to hyper local
T. KRISHNAKUMAR | PRESIDENT COCA-COLA INDIA

'Vintage Wine' at 39

WI CAN'T LAST 5 DAYS, SAYS LARA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 7: Batting legend Brian Lara believes West Indies will need to adopt a proactive approach in the upcoming three-Test series against England and consider the matches as four-day games as the visitors doesn't have the firepower to last five days.

The 51-year-old former skipper said while West Indies' boast of a formidable bowling attack, their batting department is a concern, which is precisely the reason behind his statement.

The three-Test series between England and the West Indies starts Wednesday at Southampton in a 'bio-secure' environment, marking the resumption of international cricket which was shut-down in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They (West Indies) have to be able to pounce immediately. England are not beaten very easily at home and are overwhelming favourites," Lara was quoted as saying by BBC Sport.

"They have to hit the road running and stamp their authority on England. I don't think they can last five days, so they have to take these games in four days. They have to establish a lead and keep it."

Lara, who has scored a record 11,953 runs for the West Indies in 131 Tests, said adaptability to the English conditions would be key for



PHOTO: ESPNCRICINFO

West Indies, who are the holders of the Wisden Trophy after winning 2-1 in the Caribbean last year.

The former left-handed batsman said it would be a great achievement for West Indies if they can win the series as they have not won a series in England since 1988.

"It's going to be a series that's watched all around the world and everybody is hoping to see a competitive series," said Lara, who scored 34 Test centuries.

"It would mean a lot to all West Indians if they could win. If they play good cricket on the first day of the Test series, show they have the mettle to perform against England, that's the key."

The second and third Tests of the series will be played at Old Trafford in Manchester.



COINCIDENCE: (L) Debutant MS Dhoni looks closely at Khaled Mashud is about to complete the run out in an ODI between India and Bangladesh in 2004; (R) Dhoni's run out in the 2019 ICC World Cup semifinal against New Zealand, so far his last international and could possibly be his final game in India colours

Always wanted MSD to bat up the order: Ganguly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 7: MS Dhoni went on to become one of the best finishers in the game but on his 39th birthday former India captain Sourav Ganguly said the World Cup winning skipper would have been even more lethal if he batted higher in the order.

Ganguly, the current BCCI president, led a barrage of birthday wishes for 'captain cool'. "He's one of the great players of the world cricket, not just a finisher. Everyone talks about the way he finishes lower down the order. I always believed that he should bat up the order because he was so destructive," Ganguly said in a chat show hosted by young India opener Mayank Agarwal on BCCI's Twitter handle.

Ganguly who had handed Dhoni his international debut against Bangladesh December 23, 2004, recalled how he rose to fame with his 148 against Pakistan batting at Number three.

"It was fantastic. If you look over a period of time



joys every minute of being on field and our understandings been brilliant over the years because when I walked into the team the reason why he gave me chances because he believed that I played the right intention and I'll do anything for the team together," Kohli said.

"That's why the partnership is so special and even off the field he understands me fully I understand him completely. And I'm always up for listening to his advice on the field and it helps immensely to have someone of experience around. He is always going to be my captain in my head," said the India skipper.

Dhoni's CSK teammate, Dwayne Bravo, came up with a 'Helicopter Song' that chronicles the former India skipper's achievements in the game.

The charismatic Dhoni's presence was not limited to cricket only as several sportspersons including two-time Olympic medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar led the birthday greetings for the most successful Indian skipper. Greats of others sports including Olympic medal winning wrestlers, Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt, also wished Dhoni.

England were forced to cancel the two-Test series in Sri Lanka in March and fly back home after ending their second practice game midway due to the coronavirus pandemic.



12:20 PM - Jul 7, 2020 - Twitter for iPhone

Some notable wishes...

VIRENDER SEHWAG: Once in a generation, a player comes and a nation connects with him, think of him as a member of their family, kuch bahut apna sa lagta hai. Happy Birthday to a man who is the world (Dhoni-ya) for his many admirers

HARDIK PANDYA: Happy birthday to my Bittu (referring to Dhoni) from your Chittu. My friend who has taught me to be a better human being and stood by me in bad times @msdhoni

SURESH RAINA: Here's wishing a very Happy Birthday @msdhoni! to one of my favourite human, brother & a leader I could ever ask for! The man who has always played with his mind and heart. Thank you for all the inspiration Dhoni Bhai

VVS LAXMAN: Many more happy returns of the day to a man whose composure and patience continues to be an inspiration

Australia. Not those. They love him for the kind of character he is - rock-solid, trust-worthy, and fiercely loyal.

Just like Michael Jordan, one can expect that there will be one 'Last Dance' at least in Chennai Super Kings' Canary Yellow when the IPL happens.

He will again stride purposefully to the crease, try to take the game to the wire, pick up that weak uncapped Indian bowler and give him a crash course on 'how to handle pressure for dummies'.

Be rest assured, there will be a couple of cameos if not more. An 18-ball-30 or a 24-ball-40 may be.

The 'mind reader' in all will again rear its ugly head? Does that mean KL Rahul will open and Rishabh Pant will be carrying drinks? May be Dhoni will again have that wry smile.

Everyone will keep speculating and he will keep on smiling at the juvenile yet healthy obsession. It's time to raise the toast for the 'Birthday Boy'. Happy Birthday MS Dhoni.

His die-hard fans hate these kinds of discussions and the detractors continue with a smirk. They both argue knowing there's no closure and the man at the centre of it all goes on as if never bothered.

Often, wife Sakshi allows fans to get a sneak peek into his private life in which he can be seen taking daughter Ziva for a bike ride around his sprawling farm house or petting his canine. But to anyone looking for a peek into his mind, Dhoni remains out of bounds.

The white beard bothers the world but he sports it with that trademark mischievous grin. No wonder the last sentence of Mohammed Kaif's birthday wish drawing a programming error analogy was a killer on Twitter.

"The next MSD? Error 404 Next MSD will never be found," Kaif tweeted what millions believe.

Even without meeting, people love him obsessively, so it's hardly a surprise to see that from a superstar like Virender Sehwag to a fringe player like Kedar Jadhav the love and respect is heartfelt.

An emotional Jadhav recollected how he decided to catch more than 20 winks during an international flight only to wake up and be overwhelmed to find that the 'Man' was waiting to have dinner together.

A BCCI source confirmed that Pandya brothers, Hardik and Krunal, are on a charter flight from Baroda to Ranchi to wish Dhoni in person. "Hardik has always looked up to Dhoni and they share a special bond. Flight connectivity is limited due to the COVID-19 situation, so they have taken a charter flight and should be landing in Ranchi soon," the source told PTI.

His fans love him but these are people who respect him and that goes beyond the realms of 22-yards. Not because of the last over he gave to Joginder Sharma or the helicopter shot that won India the World Cup or the 148 against Shoaib Akhtar at Faisalabad or 224 on a sluggish turner against

in the history of one-day cricket, the best players can find the fence under pressure consistently. MS Dhoni was one of them and that's why he was special."

Asked whether it was him who picked Dhoni in the team, Ganguly said: "Ya that's true, but that's my job isn't it? That's every captain's job to pick the best and make the best team possible.

"You go by your instincts, you go by the faith on that player that he'll deliver for you. And, you know, I'm happy that Indian cricket got a Mahendra Singh Dhoni, because he's unbelievable," Ganguly said.

The International Cricket Council posted a video of the 2019 World Cup where Kohli, among others, said he immensely benefited from the 'special partnership' with Dhoni. "He just en-



MB clear all dues ahead of ATK merger

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 7: Mohun Bagan Tuesday said they have cleared the dues of players, coaches and support staff, just three days ahead of their official merger with Indian Super League side ATK.

ATK-Mohun Bagan will have their first Board meeting, to be attended by seven directors, Friday, signalling the launch of the joint venture. The meeting is also likely to finalise the club's name, logo and jersey.

Players of the reigning I-League champions had written to the club in May to clear their dues. The Mariners had then blamed the delay on the COVID-19-forced national lockdown. Bagan later promised to clear the dues by July 20.

"Mohun Bagan FC is happy to have fulfilled the commitment and wish the players, coaches and support staff a successful future," they said in a statement.

Core group shooters to resume training today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 7: Indian shooters bound for Tokyo Olympics will resume their training from Wednesday following Sports Authority of India's (SAI) decision to open the Karni Singh Shooting Range, which was closed since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Consequent to Unlock 2.0, with an eye on Tokyo Olympics, SAI in its endeavour to support Indian athletes for their Olympic preparation is opening Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range from July 8, 2020 for Olympic-bound shooters," SAI said in a statement Tuesday.

SAI said the full-intensity training of Indian shooters will start in a phased manner. "In the first phase, the facility would be opened only for athletes who have a probability of making it to the Olympics and form part of the core team of Indian shooting.

"All precautions as per the guidelines issued by the Government

and the SAI SOP would be strictly adhered to at the ranges to provide a safe training environment to the shooters and maintain social-distancing norms to prevent any transmission of the virus," it said.

As per the arrangement, shooters will have to book online training slots to avoid crowding at the range, which will have the facility of thermal screening in place.

The shooters will also need to download the Aarogya Setu application on their phone, the status of which would be checked at the entry gate.

"In addition, the operation of lanes and shooting stations has been restricted to ensure the social distancing norms between two shooters. Only 25/80 (10 metre), 25/50 (25 metre), 40/80 (50 metre) lanes for rifle and pistol and 03/06 shooting station in the shotgun ranges would be made operational to maintain 'Do Gaz ki Doori' and ensure social distancing," the SAI statement read.

KP 'would have picked' Jos over Ben

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, July 7: Former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen feels wicket-keeper batsman Jos Buttler would have been the better choice to cover for regular Test skipper Joe Root in the first Test against West Indies in Southampton starting Wednesday.

Stokes was named as England's stand-in captain after Root left the bio-secure bubble and returned to Sheffield for the birth of his second child. Root is expected to return for the final two matches of the series which are currently scheduled to be played at Old Trafford.

While many former cricketers agreed with the move, Pietersen thinks otherwise. "I wouldn't have picked Ben Stokes to stand in for Joe Root as captain. I would have picked Jos Buttler," Pietersen was quoted as saying by Betway.com.

"Stokes is the type of player that I was discussing earlier - he loves the crowd, and he's a proven performer in testing conditions with a lot of energy around him. These



DO IT YOUR WAY: ROOT TO STOKES

Southampton: Stand-in England captain Ben Stokes Tuesday revealed a classy message from regular Test skipper Joe Root ahead of the first match of the three-Test series against West Indies at Ageas Bowl starting Wednesday. "I haven't been given much advice, although there's been a lot of opinions flying around," Stokes told reporters as per metro.co.uk. "The best message I've received was when I got my photos done yesterday, with the blazer. Rooty just left a message on the hanger which said 'do it your way'." Stokes also said he will try to pick brains of some of the more experienced players in the side to help him on the field. He also stated that Root will be available for him from home despite being away from the team for family reasons.