



FLOW OF EMOTION

Actor Rhea Chakraborty has finally acknowledged that it was SSR who made her believe in love

LEISURE

P2



BANGALORE LOCKED UP

Only 134 essential services to be operated across the city which accounts for 61 pc of state's active Covid cases

TWO STATES

P7



US JUNKS CHINA CLAIMS

The US announced a formal rejection of most of China's maritime claims in the SCS

INTERNATIONAL

P10

SHORT TAKES

CBSE Class X results today

Bhubaneswar: The Central Board of Secondary Education will announce the results of Class X annual examinations Wednesday. "My dear children, parents, and teachers, the results of Class X CBSE board exams will be announced tomorrow. I wish all the students best of luck," Union Human Resource Development Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank tweeted.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Google eyes Jio

Bangalore: Google is in advanced talks to invest \$4 bn for a stake in the digital arm of Reliance Industries, Bloomberg reported Tuesday, citing people familiar with the matter. Google declined to comment, while Reliance did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Investors, including Facebook and KKR & Co, have already poured in a combined \$15.64 billion for just over 25% in Jio Platforms.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX		variation
SENSEX	36033.06	↓ 660.63
NIFTY	10607.40	↓ 195.30
DOLLAR	75.48	↑ ₹0.19
EURO	86.02	↑ ₹0.55
GOLD	₹49,220	↑ ₹72
SILVER	₹52,594	↓ ₹ 454

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.2°C	32.2°C
MIN	25.4°C	24.0°C
Humidity	98%	89%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	

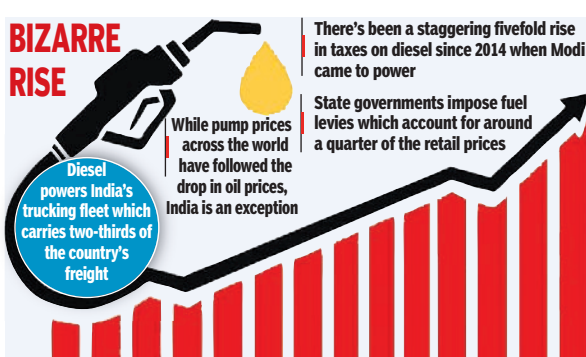
Modi's fuel-tax hikes putting spanners in India's recovery

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 14: Dilip Lamba, who owns a transport company in Jodhpur in western India, has had more than three-quarters of his fleet of 50 trucks idling for months. Dharampal Nambardar, a farmer who grows wheat and mustard seed in Haryana state, is worried he might not make any profit this year.

The main source of their anxiety is not Covid-19, however, but rather a surge in fuel prices. The central government has hiked import and excise taxes twice this year even as it imposed the world's biggest coronavirus lockdown. Retail prices for diesel – the lifeblood of India's economy – in New Delhi have jumped 30% since the end of April, while gasoline has risen 16%.

"Diesel makes up almost 70% of our operating costs," said Lamba, whose company



carries everything from cotton to cement to leather goods all over India. "Higher diesel prices mean higher freight charges. But customers aren't ready for it and we can't absorb the costs." The Centre raised levies on diesel and gasoline in March and then again in early May as the coronavirus battered the economy. There's been a staggering fivefold increase in taxes on diesel since 2014 when Narendra Modi

came to power, while those on gasoline have more than doubled. State governments also impose fuel levies, which account for around a quarter of the retail prices.

Taxes on the two fuels now account for almost two-thirds of what Indians pay at the pump, making Indian retail prices among the highest in Asia and almost double that in neighboring Pakistan. The high prices are adding an-

other headwind to an economy facing the biggest contraction in four decades. Diesel powers India's trucking fleet, which carries two-thirds of the country's freight, and is also essential for construction and agriculture. Gasoline, meanwhile, fills the tanks of millions of motorbikes ridden by lower-income Indians.

"While pump prices across the world have mostly followed the drop in oil prices since last year, India is an exception," said Senthil Kumaran, a senior oil analyst at industry consultant FGE. There appears to be little chance that Modi will take steps to curb the rising fuel prices even as global crude prices recover. This year's fuel levy increases are expected to generate about \$30 billion a year for the government at a time when coffers are being squeezed by less income and sales tax and higher spending on welfare programs.

Twin-city gets new DCPs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: In a reshuffle in the top police administration, the Odisha government Tuesday changed the Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack and appointed Soumendra Priyadarshi as the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Crime Branch, a notification said.

Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Uma Shankar Dash has been appointed as the new DCP of Bhubaneswar while Kandhamal SP Prateek Singh has been appointed as the DCP of Cuttack, it said.

Bhubaneswar DCP Anup Kumar Sahoo, who has already been elevated to the rank of Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP), and Cuttack DCP Akhilesh Singh have been posted as DIG, Intelligence and SP, Puri, respectively. Sagarika Nath, DCP, Traffic, Bhubaneswar, has been transferred as the SP of Sundargarh district while Soumya Mishra, working as SP Sundargarh, has been posted as the DCP, Traffic, in Bhubaneswar. Senior IPS officer Satyajit Mohanty working as the Director, Intelligence,

has been posted as Director General (Fire Service, Coast Guard and Home Guard).

M Akshya, on his return from central deputation, has been posted as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), Odisha Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHWC). Another senior officer Lalit Das, holding the post of CMD, OPHWC, has been posted as Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Communication.

Special Director, Intelligence, RK Sharma was posted as Director, Intelligence, the notification said. Inspector General of Police, Personnel, Praveen Kumar has been posted as IGP, Law and Order.

Sarthak Sarangi, SP, Vigilance has been transferred and posted as SP, CID, Crime Branch while Gajapati SP, Sarah Sharma has been posted in the Vigilance department.

Nuapada SP Vinit Agarwal has been posted as SP, Kandhamal while Deogarh SP Rahul Jain has been appointed as the SP in Nuapada district. Odisha Police Service (OPS) officer SC Jamadar, posted as the Additional Inspector General (AIG), Head Quarters, has been appointed as SP, Deogarh while TK Patnaik, SP, CID, has been posted as SP, Gajapati district, the notification said.



next move is not immediately clear. During the run-up to Tuesday's CLP meeting, his supporters insisted that he had no plans to join the BJP. They said their aim was a leadership change in Rajasthan. "Truth can be rattled, not defeated," Pilot tweeted in Hindi soon after he was sacked. Gehlot accused his former deputy of playing into the hands of the BJP. "I am very sad that horse-trading was going on," he said.

Pilot had kept away from the first CLP meeting Monday and sources said 18 other Congress MLAs had also skipped it, giving an indication of the dissident leader's strength. A video clip circulated by the Pilot camp appeared to show a group of 16 Congress MLAs. Pilot Sunday claimed the support of 30 Congress MLAs.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: The state government Tuesday decided to start plasma therapy to treat critically ill patients in three dedicated COVID-19 hospitals in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, officials said. The decision was taken at a review meeting presided by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The plasma therapy will be introduced in SUM Hospital and KIIMS hospitals in Bhubaneswar and Ashiwin Hospital in Cuttack, they said.

SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack has been chosen as the nodal centre for plasma therapy to be implemented for the first time in the state from Wednesday, said Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, PK Mohapatra.

He said plasma therapy has been helpful in reducing mortality rate in other states. The fatality rate in Odisha, however, is below one per cent and presently stands at 0.50 per cent, Mohapatra said.

During the review, the chief minister told the officials to focus on five selected districts - Ganjam, Cuttack, Khurda, Jajpur and Sundargarh which have recorded a surge in COVID-19 cases. "The situation in the five districts continues to remain challenging," an official said, adding that of the total 14,280 positive cases in the state, Ganjam accounted for 4,335 cases. Ganjam also tops the list of fatalities by reporting 44 of the 74 deaths in the state.

Interacting with the district observers, Patnaik asked them to augment the health

Ganjam towns sealed

CHHATRAPUR: The district administration Tuesday completely sealed all entry points to 18 towns including Berhampur and Chhatrapur in Ganjam district to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Moreover, travel from one town to another has been banned while residents have been asked not to leave their residences and visit other areas. The move has been done to break the chain of coronavirus in the district. Vehicles carrying essential commodities, food and government officials with valid ID cards as well as medical staff have been allowed to travel.

P5

care infrastructures in the five districts in view of the rise in COVID cases. Bhubaneswar in Khurda district, Cuttack and Ganjam districts have been badly hit by the COVID-19 following the return of many migrant workers from different hotspot states in the country and abroad, the observers informed Patnaik.

Referring to allegations of COVID victims' funerals not being done properly, Patnaik asked the authorities to ensure that last rites of the corona deceased are performed with dignity. While around 7,000 samples are being tested for COVID everyday at present in the state, the daily testing will be increased up to 9,000 within a week, the meeting was informed.

On training of the frontline workers like health workers, anganwadi workers and others, the state government has imparted training to above 5 lakh people.



Remuna MLA tests positive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 14: Another MLA in Balasore district tested positive for Covid-19 Tuesday. Remuna legislator Sudhanshu Shekhar Parida's swab was collected July 11 and his report came out positive Tuesday. He was informed about his Covid positive status by the health department.

The MLA was admitted to a COVID hospital. Meanwhile, contact tracing and active surveillance have started. Sources said Parida had recently come in contact with Nilgiri MLA who had earlier tested positive for the deadly virus. The Remuna legislator was under home

quarantine after coming in contact with Nilgiri MLA.

It may be noted here that Parida is the third legislator in the state to have contracted the deadly virus.

Earlier, two MLAs, Nilagiri and Salepur, tested positive for Covid.

Meanwhile, Balasore reported 8 more infection cases Tuesday. All the 8 infected people are local cases. They had contracted the virus after coming in contact with previously infected people.

Contract tracing of all these cases was started, said the district magistrate. The total tally of the Covid infection cases in the district touched 554 Tuesday.

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IDRIS ELBA DOESN'T BELIEVE IN CENSORSHIP

Actor Idris Elba doesn't believe in 'censorship' of racist old sitcoms, and says viewers should know that people made such shows. The actor opened up about diversity in television and the need for change in an interview with *Radio Times*, reports dailymail.co.uk.

HANNA GETS NOD FOR THIRD SEASON

Within weeks of the premiere of its second season, the Esme Creed-Miles starrer action drama series *Hanna* has been renewed for a third season. The show spins a new world from the story of Joe Wright's acclaimed 2011 film of the same name.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES



Positive thinking can change the world, and you could do with some today. No matter how tough the going gets, take it in your stride, says Ganesha. If you think you can do it, you will. You have the magic touch today to initiate a new business strategy.

TAURUS



Today is a perfect day to relax and enjoy your health, feels Ganesha. However, precaution should be the buzzword while dealing in money matters. You may develop a new interest in jewellers, artists, bankers and orators.

GEMINI



Today, your house gets a facelift – a new rug, matching cushion covers, or a brand new kitchen. This will take up most of your time. First, you will be busy furnishing and setting up your home, and then you will spend your time flaunting it to your friends, relatives, neighbours, bosses, colleagues, acquaintances.

CANCER



You are known for your ability to set the ball rolling. Once you set your mind to do something, it is generally considered done by your peers. Today, you are eyeing a few accomplishments on the monetary front. Most part of your day will go in dealing with financial transactions, and importing and exporting goods.

LEO



Some people have the world at their feet. And today, you are one of them, says Ganesha. With your gorgeous appearance and gregarious attitude, it is easy for you to open all doors with just a touch.

VIRGO



A shadow grows large in your mind today. An unknown fear will haunt your day, warns Ganesha. But be ready to take a hike. You are most likely to end up spending on your foreign associates.

LIBRA



It's a day of reaching new heights when it comes to finances. The cosmos favours money-lenders and stock marketeers. Call it the special touch that you give to all transactions monetary, but today you have the uncanny knack of raking in the moolah from all sources. Sit back and see your tenacity multiply your fortunes, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO



It's the same old rut today, says Ganesha. Nothing new, nothing exciting. People from the opposite sex, however, may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS



Those around you will be impressed by the leader in you. You are the general and others will rally at your call to arms. And all the while, you swing your sword and make your way to the top, defying all odds. Do not forget to let people have their own time and space. This will not only help you progress, but will boost their morale too.

CAPRICORN



The journey from defeat to success is driven by optimism. You will be very optimistic today – about your work, future and everything that can lead you to success, says Ganesha. You will also be very careful while dealing with day-to-day work, and will capitalise on every opportunity that can get you a step closer to your goals.

AQUARIUS



Things barely move today. But just like the proverbial tortoise, you seem to be winning the race, for many opportunities will come your way. There won't be any cash crunch, so you needn't lose sleep over that, says Ganesha.

PISCES



The focus will be on children today, says Ganesha. While they will be the cause of an unfair share of your headache, you will be surprised at their ability to step up to the occasion, with just a little amount of coaching.



Rhea finally breaks her silence on Sushant

Mumbai: Actress Rhea Chakraborty has shared that she will never come to terms with actor Sushant Singh Rajput not being around anymore.

For the first time since Sushant's demise, Rhea took to Instagram to express her state of mind and emotions through a moving note.

"You are the one who made me believe in love, the power of it. You taught me how a simple mathematical equation can decipher the meaning of life and I promise you that I learnt from you every day. I will never come to terms with you not being here anymore," she wrote on Instagram.

Rhea also shared two photographers from the happy moments that the two spent together.

She said: "My words are incapable of expressing the love we have and I guess you truly meant it when you said it is beyond both of us.

"Thirty days of losing you but a lifetime of loving you," she added, and signed off the emotional post by writing: "Eternally connected... To infinity and beyond".

IAN S



Esha's trouble with geography

Mumbai: Actress Esha Gupta says she is confused with geography now.

Esha took to her verified Twitter account and wrote: "Can someone please tell me where is Delhi situated? M confused with the geography now."

A social media user wrote on the comment section: "Hangover abhi tak hai kya (The hangover has not gone?)"

To which Esha replied: "Bhai hangover toh humare parosiyon ko hua hai shaayad (our neighbours have a hangover perhaps).. if you don't understand what m talking about, then keep quiet.. Jai Hind. "On work front, she was last seen as a police officer in the web show *REJCTX2*.

The second season of the series, directed and produced by Goldie Behl, also featured Masi Wali, Anisha Victor, Saadhika Syal, Ayush Khurana, Ridhi Khakhar, Prabhneet Singh, Pooja Shetty and Tanvi Shinde besides Esha and Sumet Vyas.

IAN S

RGV picks up one more Odia talent for *Thriller*

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: After Rourkela girl Apsara Rani, producer-director Ram Gopal Verma has picked up yet another Odia talent to introduce in his forthcoming movie *Thriller*.

The *Satya* director has signed Rock Kacchi from Umerkote in Nabarangpur district, who now stays in Kolhapur (Maharashtra), to play an important role opposite Apsara.

"Here are some THRILLING pics of Apsara Rani and Rock Kacchi," wrote Ramu in his social media account sharing an

image of the two actors.

According to sources, Rock's original name is Wajid Menon. The debutant actor, a fitness freak, also manages a restaurant chain. Besides, he also won Mr Glam Mahasahtra contest in 2018.

On the other hand, Apsara was brought up in Dehradun and presently lives in Hyderabad.

Recently, Ramu sparked a controversy saying he hadn't heard about Odisha since the state was hit by a 'hurricane' in

1999. The tweet did not go down well with netizens with many questioning his GK level.



Apsara and Rock during a shoot

Yajna at Amitabh's shrine for his recovery

Kolkata: Ever since their 'guru' has been hospitalised with Covid-19, Amitabh Bachchan fans in Kolkata have started praying for his speedy recovery. While the veteran actor was hospitalised Saturday evening, a yajna was performed at Kolkata's Amitabh Bachchan temple, which continued overnight till Monday morning.

"We performed the yajna through Sunday, and it ended early Monday. After that we have been continuously doing the Om Namah Shivay 'jap' in his name. When I go to bed

in the morning, my wife and son take over because it has to be performed continuously. We will continue with the 'jap' till he returns home, even if it takes 10 days or more," temple founder Sanjay Patodiya said.

Despite waterlogging in the area due to the ongoing monsoon season, the temple will be reopened August 2, a day that is celebrated by Amitabh's fans worldwide as the day of his 'rebirth', because on that day the actor recovered from the near-fatal accident he had suffered on the set of *Coolie* in 1982.

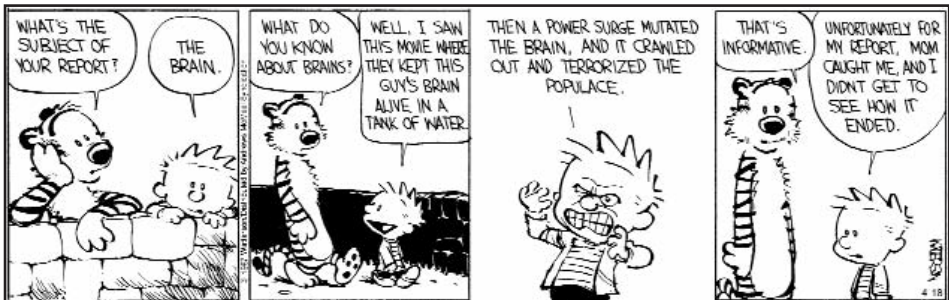
IAN S



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

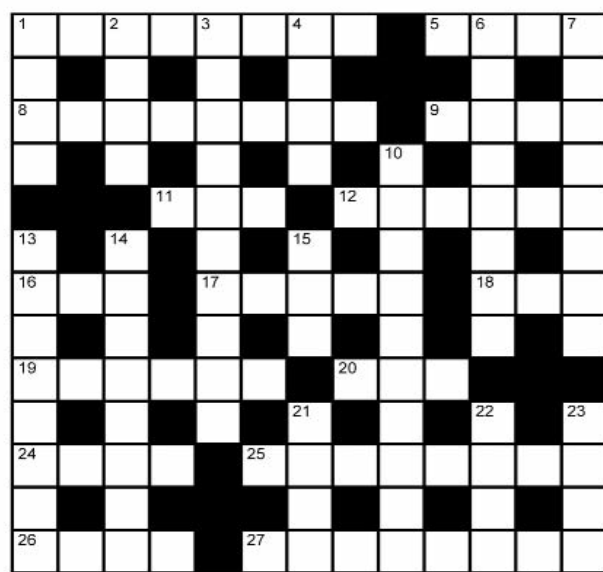


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

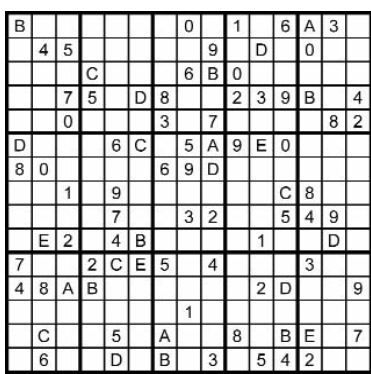
- 1 Italian seafood dish
- 5 Gusto
- 8 Commendation by the audience
- 9 Superhero accessory
- 11 Simple sack
- 12 Garden plants
- 16 Band performance
- 17 Soup scoop
- 18 Rocky prominence
- 19 Some brews
- 20 Eccentric
- 24 Streetcar
- 25 Junked
- 26 Facts and figures
- 27 Small couch (4,4)
- 3 New World oriole
- 4 Optimistic
- 6 Pass judgment
- 7 Type of map or chest
- 10 Well-worn
- 13 Quarantined
- 14 Not moving
- 15 Commercial
- 21 Audio effect
- 22 Fencing sword
- 23 Mine entrance

Down

- 1 Attired
- 2 Pool exercise

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



REMOVING SQUATTERS

Illegal structures near VSS Nagar puja mandap in Bhubaneswar being demolished by the civic authorities, Tuesday

RAIN-SOAKED CITY

Women hold umbrellas to save themselves from rain while walking on the Grand Road near Srimandir in Puri, Tuesday



Drug menace, loot challenges for new DCP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Puri Superintendent of Police (SP), Umashankar Dash, who would soon assume the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for Bhubaneswar would face several challenges like huge pendency of cases at the police stations, poor conviction rate, drug trafficking and loot in the Capital city.

Dash, a 2008-batch IPS officer, was conferred with Governors Medal for 2019 for rendering distinguished service as the SP of Puri. Many commended Dash for his work against the Maoists during his tenure in Maoist dominated areas of the state.

He also played a major role in handling of relief, law and order situation in cyclone-battered Puri after the cyclonic storm Fani hit



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He also played a major role in handling of relief, law and order situation in cyclone-battered Puri after the cyclonic storm Fani hit the coastal district in 2019

the coastal district in 2019.

However, Dash has to put in extra efforts to rein in the deteriorating crime scenario in the state capital. In view of the pandemic, it is now crucial to strike a balance while deploying forces to main-

tain law and order and enforcing Covid guidelines.

Speaking to Orissa POST, Dash said, "I will decide my future course of action after taking charge as the DCP, Bhubaneswar."

Similarly, the Commissionerate

Police has failed to put a leash on the drug peddlers in the city slums. This will be a major challenge before newly appointed DCP of Bhubaneswar.

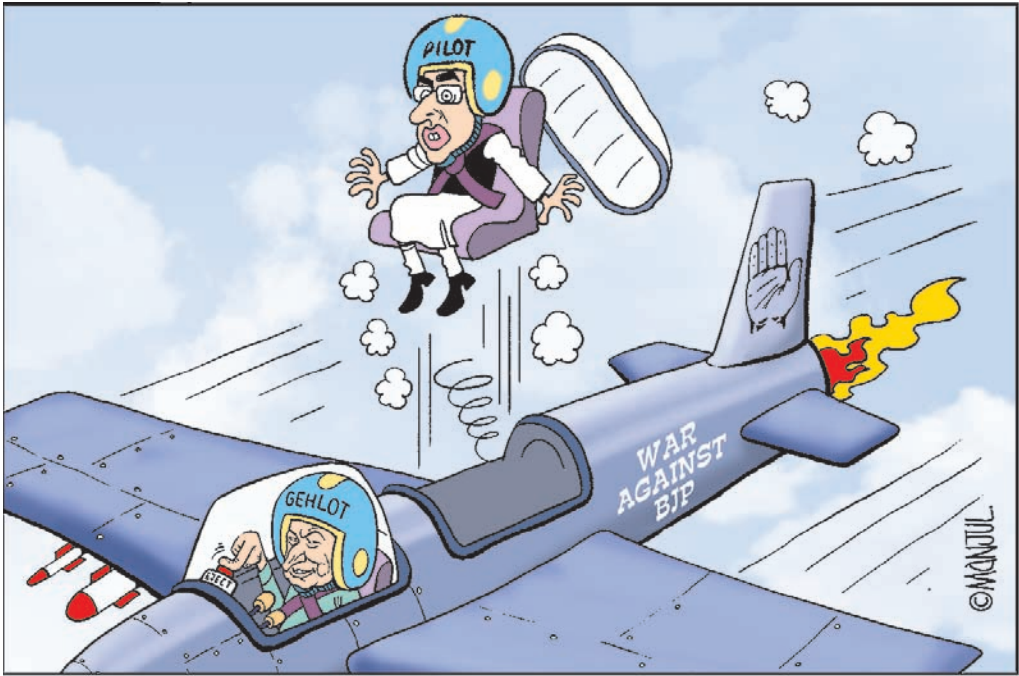
Similarly, the new DCP for Traffic, Soumya Mishra, has to take effective steps to address the traffic congestion in the city.

Mishra replaced Sagarika Nath who has taken many steps in the recent past including a letter to the Home department for lane driving on the National Highway connecting the twin cities.

Kandhamal SP Prateek Singh, who has been appointed as the DCP for Cuttack, has received accolades for his success in anti-Maoist operations in past few years.

He will face a tough challenge to maintain law and order amidst rapidly spreading Covid-19 infection in the silver city.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Now, public entry to HC restricted



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 14: Restrictions have been imposed on the entry of common people into the Orissa High Court premises here in the wake of rising Covid-19 infections in the Silver City.

Only lawyers and their clerks have been allowed to enter the HC by producing their identity cards. Orissa HC Registrar (Judicial) Lalit Kumar Das Tuesday sent a communiqué in this regard to the High Court Bar Association, sources said.

The communiqué highlighted that lawyers have been asked not to wear their black gowns to check the spread of novel coronavirus. As a result, security personnel deployed at the HC may find it difficult to distin-

Only lawyers and their clerks have been allowed to enter the HC by producing their identity cards

Orissa HC Registrar (Judicial) Lalit Kumar Das Tuesday sent a communiqué in this regard to the High Court Bar Association

guish between lawyers and common people.

"All the lawyers and their clerks should carry their identity cards with them while entering the HC," said the communiqué.

Notably, a few advocates practicing in some lower courts in the city and two employees of the Orissa HC have recently been tested positive for the deadly virus.

BMC seals 2 hotels in Capital for flouting Covid guidelines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Acting tough against violation of Covid-19 guidelines in the Capital city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Tuesday, issued closure notices to two hotels at Kharavel Nagar here who were found blatantly violating the norms.

The two hotels that were operating behind Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) office were found serving food to customers inside hotel dining space. The action came after a clear violation of Covid-19 guidelines, which allows hotels, restaurants and other eateries to operate only with 'take-away and home-delivery orders', was found.

"The guidelines for restaurants and hotels specifically mentioned that no dining options will be made available. This was done to discourage public gatherings and enforce social distancing. However, both the hotels were found to be violating the guidelines and thus were fined Rs 5,000 along with closure notice for 7 days," Zonal District Commissioner, Anshuman Rath. Rath also added that satisfac-



The two hotels that were operating behind BDA office were found serving food to customers inside dining space

The guidelines for restaurants and hotels specifically mentioned that no dining options will be made available

earlier given notices of failing to comply with the regulations.

BMC's move to step up enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines has come after the BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary, earlier said that the surge in virus cases is result of gross violation of the norms.

"The surge in Covid-19 cases is due to gross violation of health safety and social distancing norms and people coming from hotspot districts," Chaudhary had said.

"A total of 317 cases were reported between July 1 and 10. We found 61 of them were reported in various hospitals and 212 patients have travel history and come in contact with coronavirus patients detected earlier. Others are locals," Chaudhary earlier said.

tory undertakings from hotel owners have been taken and would be presented to the BMC Commissioner who would further reconsider opening of the eateries. Moreover, people present in the hotels at the time of inspection were sanitised and sensitised about the spread of Covid-19 under such circumstances. Meanwhile, a joint enforcement squad of the BMC and BDA, Tuesday, carried surprise checks at hospitals/clinics. The squads reportedly made checks for the enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines especially in hospitals that were

ECO-FRIENDLY FURNITURE



An artisan applies paint on cane furniture near Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Ganjam symbol of Covid mismanagement: BJP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: The state unit of BJP Tuesday lambasted the Odisha government for its alleged failure to combat Covid-19 in Ganjam district and its handling of frontline workers there.

Addressing a presser here, Tuesday, Odisha BJP spokesperson Bhrugu Buxipatra accused the state government of poor management of the disease in Ganjam district and claimed that many frontline workers in the district are deprived of adequate safety gears.

"The rising cases and deaths in Ganjam are reflective of the poor policies of the government. The government has failed to take the advice and help from medical experts and others. Rather some select IAS officers are taking all decisions leading to such fiasco," he said.

He also added, "A number of frontline workers like ASHA workers and others are deprived of PPE kits and safety gears. Many such workers have exposed themselves to the disease and contracted the



BJP leaders addressing the media in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

virus while working for the government. Some of them died too in the war against Covid due to government apathy."

The BJP demanded adequate beds in Covid hospitals and amplified testing of the community.

"The government had talked about serological survey in Ganjam. However, it is yet to begin. It has only 20 beds in ICUs and 20 ventilators. The testing there is also less. We demand at least 5,000 sample tests a

day in Ganjam alone and more beds in Covid hospitals," he said.

He also accused the state government of running the governance on Twitter rather than getting on board other experts and stakeholders in the fight against Covid-19.

The leader also said that not a single village is sanitised during the shutdowns and termed the shutdowns as futile exercise if sanitisation and mass tests are not done

The rising cases and deaths in Ganjam are reflective of the poor policies of the government. The government has failed to take the advice and help from medical experts and others. Rather some select IAS officers are taking all decisions leading to such fiasco

BHRUGU BUXIPATRA | BJP SPOKESPERSON

during such times.

"If a single village could not be sanitised during shutdowns, then what is the purpose of such shutdowns? People are being deprived of essential commodities and services," he added.

The leader of the saffron party also expressed concern over the deaths of journalists in Ganjam and urged the state government to consider hiking the compensation paid to the kin of deceased journalists to Rs 50 lakh.

Innovation key to revive sports ecosystem: Minister

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Tuesday, laid emphasis on the significant role that innovation, collaboration and technology can play in reviving the sports ecosystem during a videoconference with Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, and sports ministers and senior officials of other states and union territories.

He shared the initiatives that Odisha government had undertaken to resume sports in the state amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the possible way forward for its au-

The way ahead is unclear and it is going to be the administrators, policy makers, sports federations and other stakeholders who have to deliberate, step up and take a lead to usher in a new era in Sports

TUSHARKANTI BEHERA | SPORTS MINISTER



thorities and stakeholders to adopt.

"Today, owing to the unprecedented coronavirus crisis, sports fraternities across the nation are in a constant dilemma regarding the uncertain future," Behera

said.

"However, the recent relaxation by the Central government and guidelines laid down by the Sports Authority of India have brought in some positivity for all stake-

holders. The sports sector has to treat this as an opportunity to innovate, to rethink policies and to reassess priorities.

"Best practices from across the world are being considered to chart a course ahead," he added.

Behera also spoke about the initiatives adopted by the state to facilitate a partial but safe resumption of sporting activities. He also gave an insight into the detailed SOP as per the guidelines of the Union government across their sports facilities.

With athletes resuming training at Kalinga Stadium, Behera ex-

plained how they are accommodating them inside the complex in a phased manner.

With the state also set to host big-ticket events like FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in February-March 2021, he also spoke about the need of working closely with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the tournament and implement strictest of safety norms.

"The way ahead is unclear and it is going to be the administrators, policy makers, sports federations and other stakeholders who have to deliberate, step up and take a lead to usher in a new era in Sports," Behera said.

PORTAL LAUNCHED FOR ONLINE ADMISSION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: In a bid to simplify admission process of the differently-abled students in schools, the state government has introduced an online admission system for them.

This information was given by Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SSEPD) Minister Ashok Chandra Panda Tuesday. A portal was launched as part of the website of the department. The state government has di-

rected 103 special schools across Odisha to implement online admission systems for the academic year 2020-21.

Panda clarified that the decision has been taken considering the safety and interest of the differently-abled students during this coronavirus pandemic.

"With the help of the online admission system, both parents and students can maintain social distancing norms. A decision regarding how the schooling will be done is yet to be decided," Panda added.

543 fresh cases push virus tally past 14K

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: State's Covid-19 death toll mounted to 74 with four more patients succumbing to the disease, while Odisha's coronavirus count crossed the 14,000 mark with 543 fresh cases, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said Tuesday.

Two deaths were reported from Khurda district and one each from Ganjam and Cuttack districts, said the official.

The H&FW department took to the Twitter to say, "Regret to inform the demise of four Covid-19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

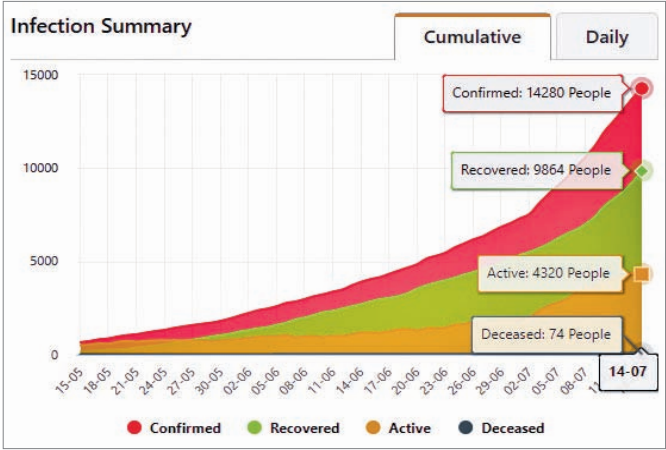
Three of the deceased were suffering from other ailments, including cancer, diabetes and heart disease, it added.

Besides, a baby boy from Sundargarh district, who was also tested positive for COVID-19, died due to other complications, the official said.

Ganjam district, state's coronavirus hotspot, accounts for the maximum number—44 fatalities, the official pointed out.

Twin cities report 78 cases

The twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar Tuesday reported 78



cases of Covid-19, official sources said. As many as 51 Covid-19 cases were detected from across the City here Tuesday, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) tweeted.

"While 35 are quarantine cases, 16 are local contact ones," the civic body said, adding that five persons who were earlier tested positive for the viral infection have recovered.

With this, the Capital city has 397 active cases, while 361 persons have so far recovered from the infection. Bhubaneswar saw a total of 769 coronavirus cases and 10 persons have so far succumbed to the viral

infection so far.

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation, on the other hand, took to the Twitter to inform that 27 Covid-19 cases were detected in its jurisdiction Tuesday.

While 20 cases were reported from institutional quarantine, four are home quarantine cases and three local contact ones, said the civic body.

With this, the Silver City has 150 active cases of coronavirus. Of the 291 coronavirus cases, 134 have recovered while seven persons have succumbed to the viral infection, said a CMC official.

Highest single-day recoveries in state

The state witnessed a highest single-day recovery of coronavirus cases with 609 persons recovering from the viral infection Tuesday.

The Health and Family Welfare department took to the Twitter to say, "Scaling new heights in the #COVID19 war, Odisha fights back with a record recovery of 609 Covid patients in a day! The total recovered cases of #Odisha now stand at 9864 (sic)..."

The recoveries include 268 from Ganjam, 135 from Sundargarh, 37 from Khurda, 32 from Cuttack, 25 from Balasore, 23 from Keonjhar and 18 from Mayurbhanj districts.

The fresh cases pushed the state's COVID-19 tally to 14,280, of which 4,320 are active, while 9,864 patients have recovered from the disease, the official said.

Infection-proof cover soon for bodies of nCoV suspects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 14: The bodies of patients dying at the isolation wards of SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here would be wrapped in infection-proof covers for the safety of relatives and attendants.

Many people are now reluctant to participate in the burial or cremation of bodies of patients dying at the isolation wards due to infection threat, sources said.


"Once somebody dies at the isolation ward of SCBMCH, his/her body would be wrapped in infection-proof cover. So, people will not face any problem in carrying out the last rites of their relatives," said SCBMCH superintendent Annada Prasad Patnaik.

Patnaik further revealed that there would not be any coronavirus test on patients dying at the isolation wards if the same was not carried out prior to their deaths.

"People were facing difficulties to receive the bodies of their relatives who died at the isolation wards due to delay in getting the Covid-19 test reports. The new guidelines will solve the issue," Patnaik said. It is worth mentioning here that

PREVENTING SPREAD AT SCB

The superintendent of SCB said there would not be any coronavirus test on patients dying at the isolation wards if the same was not carried out prior to their deaths



The incident caused panic among the patients who had been admitted to the other wards of the premier state-run healthcare facility

A person with coronavirus infection was admitted to the Covid ward of SCB Medical College and Hospital April 3

Subsequently, the lone coronavirus patient was shifted to a special Covid hospital

a few isolation and coronavirus wards were opened at SCBMCH in March first week. A person with coronavirus infection was admitted to the Covid ward of SCBMCH April 3.

The incident caused panic among the patients who had been admitted to the other wards of the premier state-run hospital. Subsequently, the lone coronavirus patient was shifted to a special Covid hospital,

sources said.

Since then, only suspected Covid-19 cases are being treated at the isolation wards of SCBMCH. The patients are being immediately shifted to the dedicated Covid hospitals once they are tested positive for the deadly virus, sources said.

Some patients have also died while being treated at the isolation wards of SCBMCH, sources added.

Ganjam school ignites young minds via ATL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: Gram Vikas High School at Kankia in Ganjam has been selected as Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) School for two consecutive months - May and June 2020.

The school has featured in top 5 schools of Odisha and top 150 schools of the country out of over 5,000 operational ATLs in India, as per a list released by 'Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog'.



The school has featured in top 5 schools of Odisha and top 150 schools of the country out of over 5,000 operational ATLs

The list of ATL Schools is released on the basis of innovative projects undertaken by the students, quarterly reports submitted to the Atal Innovation Mission, and the regular updating on ATL dashboard and social media pages.

Assembly Speaker Surya Narayan Patro had inaugurated the Atal Tinkering Lab in Gram Vikas High School, Kankia, in January this year. The school has received a monetary support of Rs 20 lakh from 'Atal Innovation Mission', a flagship program of the Niti Aayog, Government of India.

With the help of the money received, the school has established an ATL that is fostering curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds; and inculcating skills such as design mindset, computational

thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing among others.

"The establishment of ATL has introduced our students to a new realm of knowledge-domain, a new dimension of scientific learning, a place to self-satisfy one's queries and curiosities, to address their questions themselves," said the school authorities. It is helping the students in developing a culture of curiosities in their learning process. The subject of science is no more confined to classrooms teaching alone. Children can experience things and experiment scientific ideas in the ATL Lab.

The teaching of science is no more dependent on the conventional classroom lectures on merely the theoretical concepts of the subject of science. It has now got a practical touch. The students are now translating the theory of science they learn in the classrooms into actions. "Our school has been tirelessly working towards inculcating innovative and scientific skills in our students," the authorities added.

The 'Gram Vikas High School' has around 500 students, primarily consisting of children from the tribal communities.

Fitness certificate norms eased for govt vehicles

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 14: Now, government-owned vehicles can avail fitness certificates from any of the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across the state, an official of the State Transport Authority (STA) said Tuesday.

According to an order of the Transport Commissioner Tuesday, fitness certificates shall be issued by all RTOs to vehicles owned by state government and its agencies irrespective of their original place of registration in the state.

Fitness certificates shall be issued by all RTOs to state-owned vehicles irrespective of their place of registration

According to the official, after registration at a particular RTO, the vehicles of state government, PSUs and urban local bodies were usually sent to operate at different parts of the state considering the administrative requirement.

"Although the vehicles were allowed to ply within the jurisdiction of any RTOs across the state, they need to avail fitness certificate from the original RTO under which it was registered. Under such circumstances, it was a Herculean task for the government department to approach the particular RTO with the vehicle. It's a cumbersome process," said the official, adding that the new rule will ease the burden and save time as well.

IMD predicts heavy rain for 3 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 14: India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday said heavy rainfall will occur in some parts of the state for next three days.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Bargarh, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda while a few places in Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Sonepur, Sundargarh, Keonjhar and Malkangiri will receive heavy rainfall Wednesday.



Similarly, heavy rainfall would occur in a few pockets of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Rayagada and

Kalahandi districts, July 16, the Met department said.

A few places in Kandhamal, Gajapati, Boudh and Keonjhar districts will witness heavy downpour July 17. In the meantime, light to moderate rainfall will continue to occur at many places over the districts of Odisha.

In between 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, the highest 64.6 mm rainfall was recorded at Titlagarh, followed by 38.6mm at Bolangir, 29.8mm at Bhawanipatna, 18mm at Rayagada, 12mm at Chandbali, 6mm at Puri and 2mm at Gopalpur.

STUDIES & BIZ GO HAND IN HAND



A boy takes up study while waiting for customers of bamboo-made items near Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

WEBINAR ON MAINSTREAMING MIGRANT WORKERS

Govt needs to think beyond MGNREGS: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: July 14: As a little more than a million migrant labourers have registered with the state government's dedicated Covid-19 portal and a large number of them have returned back home, this is the time to map their skills to redraw livelihood strategies for them.

This was revealed at a webinar titled 'Mainstreaming Migrant Workers' organised by city based civil society outfits 'Focus Odisha Foundation' and 'Mahashakti Foundation' in collaboration with 'Migration Watch India' Tuesday.

In the webinar, experts opined that the government should work out both long-term and short-term strategies so that the livelihoods of migrant workers are secured which would help avert distress,

Experts said the govt should work out both long-term & short-term strategies so that the livelihoods of migrant workers are secured

human trafficking and re-migration through alternative pathways. The migrants, after losing jobs, are facing unemployment and poverty back home as uncertainty looms large all over.

Sandeep Chachra, executive director of Action Aid Association India, which works for the migrants, said the need for rebuilding livelihood strategies and ensuring social safety net for both returnees and informal workers working else-



where in the country - a huge community estimated to be one fourth of the total population of the country. Chachra further said, "We need to think beyond MGNREGS and explore alternative skill based livelihoods."

The experts stressed the need for ensuring legitimate entitlements of migrant workers as there has been large-scale resentment across the country following the alleged denial of their rights as

these communities facing identity crisis.

State head of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Abha Mishra, highlighted the need for mapping skills and knowledge of migrants. "This will enable us to draw a line between skilled and unskilled people and plan for the restoration of their livelihoods."

She further added that there is a need to think about developing natural industries like livestock and dairy development, focusing on nutri-gardens, organic farming besides emphasising agricultural and tourism development.

Convener of Covid-19 Civil Society Initiative and Migration Watch India Sudarshan Chhotaray while outlining the context described how the pandemic has exposed vulnerability of a large section of economically-backward population.

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Hati river erosion leaves riparian villages on edge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatana, July 14: Come monsoon, thousands of people living in riparian pockets along Hati river in Kalahandi district live in fear. Continuous riverbank erosion has posed threat to many villages. With no flood control measures till date, the river plays havoc to land, crop and properties, every year; a report said.

Erosion of riverbanks has been a major cause of concern of the people in Kalampur block.

“Floodwaters enter villages, and damage houses and crops. Over 10 houses have been flattened by the floodwaters over years. As the river keeps on advancing due to erosion, the houses of Jayram Ghi, Yudhistr Pujari, Bilat Majhi and Prasad Majhi have come to the brink of collapse,” the locals said.

Devastating erosion by the river has devoured vast tracts of arable land and the floods have left the farmlands sand cast.

The erosion of the riverbanks continues to be more devastating at Temara, Khengarguda, Biripur, Matikhala, Jampada, Karmel, Balichhada, Bankapala, Rasdumer and Sanakuti.

People in over 21 villages face the fury of the floods and river-



FLOOD FEAR

THE EROSION OF THE RIVERBANKS CONTINUES TO BE MORE DEVASTATING AT TEMARA, KHENGARGUDA, BIRIPUR, MATIKHALA, JAMPADA, KARMEL, BALICHHADA, BANKAPALA, RASDUMER AND SANAKUTI

IN 2010, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SANCTIONED RS 1.46 CRORE FOR EMBANKMENTS. A TENDER WAS FLOATED, BUT THE CONTRACTUAL AGENCY WHICH WAS AWARDED THE WORK DID NOT TAKE UP THE WORK IN TIME

bank erosion throughout the monsoon. Scores of villages remain cut off from the rest of the world for days together.

Local said: “Over 50 acres of farmland, including five acres each at Balichhada and Biripur, four acres at Karmel and two acres at Khengarguda have merged with the river over the last two decades.”

Samiti member of Balichhada, Bikash Behera, said, “Over the years, Hati river has eroded a stretch of 15 metres into my farmland.”

Last year, low-pressure induced floods left over 30 acres of land in the area sand cast. Over 140 acres of land under Junagarh block were sand cast. Locals rued that despite

repeated floods, the government is not taking up flood control measures like embankments and dykes at vulnerable areas.

The authorities of the OHPC-Indravati hydropower project often release water, which causes flash floods in riparian areas, locals added.

Samiti members Bikash Behera and Gajindra Bihar demanded that the funds sanctioned for the embankments should be utilised for flood control measures. They alleged no measure has been taken yet to check the erosion.

In 2010, the government had sanctioned Rs 1.46 crore for embankments. A tender was floated, but

the contractual agency which was awarded the work did not take up the work in time.

The department concerned floated tender for the second time. The previously selected contractual agency moved the Orissa High Court against the second tender. Executive engineer of the irrigation department, Prashant Kumar Das, said if the local people spare land freely, the embankment work would be possible. The water resources department has made stone-packing of the banks at some places.

The executive engineer of the water resources department was asked to prepare a detailed report on the plight of people in the area.

ANGLERS' PARADISE



Youths, sitting on a rock, catch fish at Deleipada ghat of Mahanadi river in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

73 yrs on, this village lacks electricity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpada, July 14: Residents of Adivasipada village in Baulakani panchayat under Mahakalpada block in Kendrapara district do not have basic facilities like electricity, even after so many years of Independence.

Over generations, the villagers have been using earthen lamps and Dibiri (kerosene lamp). Nearly, 10 families reside in this village, all of

whom are tribals. “Despite running from pillar to post, the power department authorities have not addressed our concerns. In the absence of power supply, students of this village fail to compete with their counterparts from other places,” said Jayanti Soren, Rashmita Soren, Gurucharan Soren and Anjali Soren. Incidentally all are student themselves.

The residents of Adivasipada have never used electrical appli-

ances like bulbs and fans. The roads do not have any electrification so they face immense problems. They have demanded immediate power supply to the village.

On being contacted, Marshaghai electrical division executive engineer Pradeep Kumar Das said, “At present, there is no plan of the government to provide power supply to the village. We will certainly include Adivasipada village when electrification of the area will be planned.”

Govt offices off limits for public till July 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, July14: Amid the worsening coronavirus crisis in Ganjam, the administration has restricted entry of public into all government offices in the district till July 31, informed Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange, Tuesday.

Some officials posted in Chhatrapur Collector office and DRDA office were infected with the virus Tuesday. For this the administration has taken the decision to restrict the entry of public into the government offices.

It is suspected the officials may have contracted the virus during their duty at various temporary medical centres (TMCs) which housed migrant returnees.

Some of the government officials have been admitted to COVID hospital at Sitalapalli. And the rest are undergoing home quarantine as they have demonstrated mild symptoms only.

Kulange said all public and private sector banks in the district will be open from 8 am to 3 pm. However customers will be allowed from 8 am to 1 pm only.

“If liquor shops are found flouting COVID-19 guidelines then they will be penalised with Rs 10,000,” added Kulange.

Meanwhile, the district has reported 188 new Covid-19 cases Tuesday, taking the tally to 4335.

The fresh cases included 12 corona warriors, five persons with travel history to other states and 171 persons with active contact with previous positive cases. All the new patients have been shifted to COVID hospitals, informed officials.

The district also reported one more COVID-19 death Tuesday. An 80-year-old male patient, who was also suffering from diabetes and heart disease, succumbed to the deadly virus.



37 corona warriors test positive

SUNDARGARH: In the last 24 hours, 52 more people were found COVID-19 positive in Sundargarh district. Out of them, 37 are COVID warriors, the district administration said, Tuesday. The administration also said that all the 37 COVID warriors were observing their 14-day quarantine period. After detection of the virus in their swab samples 15 corona warriors were shifted to COVID hospital in Rourkela, COVID Health Centre, NTPC Hospital and the remaining were asked to stay in home quarantine as they have developed mild symptoms. Out of the 15 other cases, six are returnees, seven are contacts of previous positive cases and two are local contact cases with symptoms.

GANJAM GETS ADDITIONAL 104 AMBULANCES TO FIGHT VIRUS

CHHATRAPUR: In its fight against coronavirus, the Ganjam district administration has recently added a fleet of 104 COVID-19 ambulances to the existing ones. While each block will have four such ambulances, four additional ambulances will be with Berhampur Municipal Corporation. Tata COVID-19 hospital at Sitalapali, MKCG Medical College and Hospital will have nine ambu-

lances each. Three of these ambulances will be used as hearses. Another 22 ambulances will be made available in the second phase and these ambulances will be equipped with oxygen support facility; it was learnt. Most importantly, these COVID specific ambulances have partitions that separate drivers from the patients. For the smooth management of

2 cannabis smugglers flee Covid hospital

BERHAMPUR: Two COVID-19 patients undergoing treatment at dedicated TATA COVID-19 Hospital at Sitalapalli in Ganjam district have been missing from the hospital since Saturday. A search was launched after the hospital authorities lodged an FIR with the local police Monday. The Excise Intelligence officials arrested two persons from Berhampur New Bus Stand on the charge of smuggling cannabis, July 3. After seizing huge quantities of cannabis from the duo, they sent the duo to Berhampur jail. As per the COVID-19 guidelines swab samples of the two marijuana peddlers had been collected for COVID-19. The test reports of the duo came out positive. Then the jail authority shifted them to the COVID hospital, July 10 for their treatment. However, two days after being admitted to the hospital, the duo fled from the hospital. According to the jail authority the peddlers are residents of Bhubaneswar. Police are searching nearby areas of Ganjam district and also in Bhubaneswar to nab the duo.



8 fever clinics come up in Berhampur

CHHATRAPUR: Amid rising COVID-19 cases in Ganjam district, the district administration Tuesday started eight fever clinics in Berhampur city. The clinics are situated at Aska Road, Aaga Sahi, Baikunthanagar, Goodshed Road, Khodasingi, Ambapua, Uttaramukhi and NST Road. The hospitals will be open from 8:00 am to 12:00pm every day, even during the weekend shutdown period. The patients with fever and flu-like symptoms can come to the hospital to take advice of doctors. They can also take medical opinions regarding COVID-19 symptoms from the hospital.



these vehicles, a round the clock monitoring cell is working at the regional transport office. People can avail the facility only for COVID-19 purpose by dialing 06811-263774. As the district has been reporting more number of COVID-19 patients and deaths in the state, the introduction of over hundred COVID-19 ambulances will go a long way in handling the crisis, locals observed.

‘Mo Upakari Bagicha’ to reduce corona impact on nutrition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 14: The Malkangiri district administration in its bid to combat the long-term nutritional challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and reverse migration of labourers is emphasising on the state government-sponsored ‘Mo Upkari Bagicha’ (My Beneficial Garden), a report said.

The programme aimed at eradicating malnutrition and providing livelihood has come as succour for scores of women in this district during these trying times.

Covid-19 spreading rapidly in this district has robbed the livelihood of the people. The Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) has come to the rescue of women through the state-sponsored programme ‘Mo Upakari Bagicha’.

The programme implemented by the district rural development agency (DRDA) aims at encouraging women in the district to grow vegetables and fruits at a minimal cost in the backyards of their houses to get fresh vegetables to meet their need



THE PROGRAMME AIMED AT ERADICATING MALNUTRITION AND PROVIDING LIVELIHOOD HAS COME AS SUCCOUR FOR SCORES OF WOMEN IN THIS DISTRICT DURING THESE TRYING TIMES

THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING ELABORATE PREPARATIONS TO PROVIDE JOBS TO MIGRANT RETURNEES AND WOMEN IN VILLAGES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVELIHOOD DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

and sell the surplus in the market to earn a living. The district administration is of the view that a well-developed nutrition garden is likely to supplement the daily dietary requirement of a vulnerable family, including pregnant women, lactating mothers and children.

Reports said over 4,000 women in 18 panchayats under Mathiili, Malkangiri, Khairput and Chittrakonda blocks have benefitted

from this programme in 2019-20 fiscal. Tasting success, the women are now eager to spread their area of cultivation. “Prompted by this success, the district administration is now implementing the programme on priority basis in Swabhimana (cut-off) Anchal to bring in change in the lives and livelihood of tribal women,” Balmukund Bhuyan, Project Director, DRDA said.

The district administration is making elaborate preparations to provide jobs to migrant returnees and women in villages who have lost their livelihood due to the pandemic. This year, the district administration plans to engage 35,000 women either individually or through self-help groups in this ‘Mo Upakari Bagicha’ programme.

The women will work and cultivate nutritious vegetables, greens and

fruits in their backyard gardens which they can use for self-consumption and sell the surplus in the market. This will boost rural economy.

Many children have died in past in the district due to malnutrition for which the administration aims at converging the state and Centre sponsored programme to check malnutrition with the help of these kitchen gardens, the Project Director said. The district has earned appreciation at state and national level for successful implementation of this scheme. The DRDA is providing financial and technical assistance as well as good quality seeds and saplings to the women working under the programme in various panchayats.

The women have been asked to abide by the Covid-19 safety norms and work in their gardens under the programme. The members of women SHGs are also being provided with training by the gram rojgar sevaks, Krushi Mitra, Prani Mitra and MBK outfits, he added.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWSS DIVISION, BERHAMPUR

Near Jarada Bunglow, PIN – 760004, Ph. 0680-2296344
eerwss_bam@nic.in, rwwssbam@gmail.com
Government of Odisha “e” Procurement Notice

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Bid Identification No. EERWSSBAM- 04 /2020-21
No. O-162: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Berhampur, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids in Single Cover & Double cover system according to the norm of “e” Procurement system in online mode for Supply, drawing, design, construction, testing and commissioning and maintenance of different PWS Schemes and electrification works in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTCN.

1	Name of the work	Execution of different works of different PWS. Scheme in Ganjam District.
2	No of Work (Tender)	34 Nos.
3	Estimated cost (Approximate)	From Rs.5.87 Lakhs to Rs.65.60 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	From 45 days to 210 days
5	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal	From 18-07-2020 at 11.00 hrs to 31-07-2020 up to 17.00 hrs
6	Last date & time for seeking clarification	27-07-2020 up to 17.00 hrs
7	Dt. of opening of Bid	05-08-2020 at 11.00 hrs
8	Late date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	31-07-2020 up to 17.00 hrs
9	Name & address of the Officer inviting tender.	Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Near Jarada Bunglow, Berhampur-760004, Dist. Ganjam, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Berhampur
OIPR-25035/11/0001/2021

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, ANGUL

Ph. (06764) 230431, Email- eephangu@yahooin
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

e-Procurement Notice for PH Works

Bid Identification No. EE PH Division Angul- 05/ 2020-21 Dt. 09.07.2020

1.	Name of the work	: P.H. Works.
2.	Nos of work	: 1 (One) No. of work (double cover)
3.	Estimated Cost put to tender	: Rs.82.05 lakhs
4.	Period of completion	: 4 (Four) Calendar Months
5.	Date & time of availability of bid document	: From 11.00AM of 15.07.2020 to 5.00 PM of 27.07.2020
6.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of 27.07.2020
7.	Date & time of opening of bid	: 11.00 AM of 28.07.2020
8.	Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	: Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Angul
9.	The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Sd./- (Er. Mrutyunjaya Pany)
Executive Engineer
P.H. Division, Angul
OIPR-13056/11/0001/2021

Murali M. Mallareddy, EMAIL

BANGALORE
LOCKED UP

ONLY 134 SERVICES AVAILABLE

THE CITY ACCOUNTS FOR 61 PC OF ALL ACTIVE CASES IN THE SOUTHERN STATE

AGENCIES

Bangalore, July 14: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has suspended all its operations for a week from July 15 to 21, owing to the Covid-induced lockdown here amid rising cases. Only 134 skeletal essential services will be operated, an official said Tuesday.

“BMTC bus services to the general public are suspended from Wednesday to next Tuesday. However, as per the orders of the government, BMTC will operate essential services for permitted activities during the lockdown period,” said an official from the road transport corporation.

During the lockdown, the city bus service will operate 134 essential services, excluding the containment zones for 12 hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Only selected essential services providers working in government departments and others, students attending examinations and those taking trains and flights will be allowed to move out.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has scheduled 1,100 buses Tuesday to facilitate the homeward journey of many people scrambling to go back.

As many as 20 pick-up points have been arranged by the road transport corporation to ferry the passengers to the interior districts. KSRTC Managing Director Shivayogi C. Kalasad held a video conference Monday and directed the officials to arrange sufficient number of buses, so that the public is not inconvenienced.

The transporter is deploying only local drivers and has also deputed senior officers at all the pick-up points for smooth operations.

Monday, the KSRTC operated 1,100 buses to destinations such as Davangere, Hosadurga, Yadgir, Hassan, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga and Pavagada.



It also ran buses to Tirupati and Ananthapur in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, ferrying a total of 32,000 passengers.

Similar to Monday, several migrant workers were also seen in the city Tuesday, rushing back home.

Many people were seen boarding KSRTC buses with their luggage while some people also made their own arrangements to cram their stuff into auto-rickshaws to reach home.

Several people were seen riding back home on two-wheelers.

Monday, Karnataka registered 2,738 new Covid-19 cases with the majority of them emerging from Bangalore, breaching the 40,000 mark for the state's tally to settle at 41,581, even as 73 people succumbed to the virus.

Bangalore accounted for the highest number of infections with 1,315 or 48 per cent of the new cases.

With the addition of new cases, the city tally rose to 19,702, out of

BMTC bus services to the general public suspended from Wednesday to next Tuesday

City bus service to operate 134 essential services, excluding the containment zones for 12 hrs between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m

Selectd essential services providers working in govt depts and others, students attending exams and those taking trains and flights allowed to move out

Bengaluru Metro contract labourers working on the Nagawara-Gottigere line have tested positive for coronavirus, an official said Tuesday.

“Eighty Bengaluru Metro contract labourers have contracted coronavirus. They were working on the Nagawara-Gottigere line,” a Metro official told IANS.

Following the infection, all the workers who are migrant labourers from different states, have been sent to a Covid Care Centre (CCC).

The development took place last week, resulting in the halting of the Metro construction work between Shivajinagar and Tannery road. The Nagawara-Gottigere Metro line falls under Reach 6 of Phase II.

Larsen and Toubro (L&T), the contractor building Reach 6 line, made the migrant labourers undergo a test for coronavirus after a worker suffered from high fever and tested positive for Covid-19. It tested nearly 200 workers for the virus.

which 15,052 are active.

Alarminglly, the city alone accounts for 61 per cent of all the active cases in the southern state.

Amid the surging Covid cases daily since July 1, the Karnataka government has decided to re-impose a total lockdown in Bangalore Urban and Rural districts from July 14 till July 22.

Meanwhile, as many as 80

Industries ask govt: Why don't you let us operate?

Bangalore has nearly 2.4 lakh registered units with an employment of 25 lakh and investment in the range of ₹40,000 crores

AGENCIES

Bangalore, July 14: Trade and industry bodies in Karnataka are miffed at the ‘unilateral’ lockdown government has imposed from July 14 to 22 without taking them into confidence, said an official Tuesday.

“Enforcement of lockdown of industries is likely to paralyse the state economy and severely impact industrial production and hamper attempts to restore normalcy,” said Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) president C. R. Janardhan.

He said the industrial sector contributes 26 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) which now will be affected by the lockdown as industries will be closed, impacting production, state GST collections and hitting jobs.

According to Janardhan, Bangalore alone contributes 70 per cent of the GSDP which is put under complete lockdown with minimal exceptions from Tuesday 8 p.m. to July 22.

“Many industries in Bangalore especially in the manufacturing sector have slowly started operating second shift in the last few days to fulfill orders. At this stage, another lockdown will destroy the morale of the management and workers,” he said.

Comparing Karnataka to Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra, Janardhan said Covid is more rampant in those states than here and no lockdown was imposed in



those states.

“In Pune, Chennai and Delhi social lockdown was imposed but industries were permitted to operate by adhering to norms prescribed as per the ministry of home affairs guidelines,” he said.

Similarly MSME, Kassia, hotel and Peenya Industry association members have also expressed their unhappiness over the lockdown.

An official from the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) said the sector has barely recovered from the lockdown and another lockdown will put it in great disadvantage.

“While it is certainly necessary for the government to take hard and effective measures to tackle

the worsening pandemic in the city, what worries us is the inevitable consequences of all this on the wholly beleaguered small industry sector which may end up completely shattered as a result,” he said.

According to the official, nearly 20 per cent of all the small and medium enterprise has shut down operations in the state due to the earlier lockdown. “Bangalore has nearly 2.4 lakh registered units with an employment of 25 lakh and investment in the range of ₹40,000 crores. This is excluding the unorganized sector which is close to the organised numbers. The economic and social impact will, therefore, be disastrous,” said the official.

The SME sector has appealed to the state government to allow at least one shift to function in the larger interest.

Alarmed by the surging Covid-19 cases daily since July 1, the Karnataka government has decided to re-impose a total lockdown in Bangalore Urban and Rural districts from July 14 till July 22.

Many industries in Bangalore especially in the manufacturing sector have slowly started operating second shift in the last few days to fulfill orders. At this stage, another lockdown will destroy the morale of the management and workers

CR JANARDHAN | PRESIDENT, FEDERATION OF KARNATAKA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Are Bengal varsities' VCs allowed for an e-meet with Guv?

The Governor/ Chancellor of state varsities has called for a virtual meeting with the VCs July 15 to discuss problems faced by students due to the pandemic

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 14: Vice chancellors of state universities Tuesday sought to know if it will be appropriate for Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to interact with them directly. A new law mandates that the governor routes all communication through the higher education department.

Dhankhar, who is also the chancellor of the varsities, has called for a virtual meeting with the VCs July 15 to discuss the problems faced by the students owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Referring to letters sent to the VCs by Raj Bhavan, the West Bengal Vice-Chancellors' Council, in a statement, solicited Dhankhar's advice on whether the rules provide for such interactions.

“The VCs are entitled to know if direct communication between the Governor and VCs was in accordance with Rule 8 (5) of the 2019 Act,” the statement undersigned by the secretary of the council,



Subiresh Bhattacharya, said.

The state Assembly had last year passed a legislation that enabled vice-chancellors to call meetings of their highest decision-making bodies in consultation with the higher education department and not the chancellor, as was the earlier practice.

The new rule further stipulated, “Every communication proposed to be made by the chancellor to any state-aided university shall be routed through the higher education department.”

Bengal Madhyamik Class X exam results are out today

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 14: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday announced that the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) Board Madhyamik Class X results for 2020 will be declared Wednesday.

The Class-X results are expected to be declared on the official website at 10 a.m.

“I want to congratulate all the candidates whose results will be announced tomorrow. Some students may not do well in the exam. But there is no reason to lose hope. They should prepare themselves and appear for the examination next year,” the Chief Minister said.

Around 10 lakh candidates, in-



The results are expected to be declared on the official websites, wbbse.org and wbresults.nic.in, at 10 am

cluding 5 lakh female students, appeared for the Madhyamik examinations this year. The examination ended in February but the results have been delayed owing to the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown.

Sources said that candidates can check their results on wbbse.org and wbresults.nic.in or the third-party website, examresults.net.

BJP MLA'S DEATH NOT MURDER, BUT 'SUICIDE'

MLA DEBENDRA NATH RAY'S DEATH: BJP OBSERVES 12-HR SHUTDOWN IN EIGHT NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL

AGENCIES

Kolkata, July 14: Amid opposition BJP's allegations over the ‘murder’ of party MLA Debendra Nath Ray, West Bengal Home Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay Tuesday said that prima facie it appeared to be a ‘case of suicide.’

Addressing a press meet at the state Secretariat Nabanno, Bandyopadhyay said that the state government would take the probe into the matter to its logical end. He said that the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was probing.

“The post-mortem suggests death due to hanging as noted above and is ante-mortem in nature. There was no other injury on his body. After preliminary investigation, the state police are assuming it a case of suicide,” he said, while quoting the post-mortem report.

Meanwhile, a 12-hour shutdown was observed in eight northern districts of West Bengal, amid sporadic disruptions by angry BJP supporters.

The shutdown was called to protest against the death of BJP legislator from North Dinajpur's Hemtabad, who was found hanging a few metres from his home near a local market Monday morning.

According to police sources, BJP activists took out rallies in Malda district and forcibly closed the district head post office. They also staged a sit-in to disrupt regular transport services in the district.

A group of BJP workers staged protests at the depot of North Bengal State Transport Corporation and also blocked the National Highway-34.

Similarly, BJP workers also hit the roads in Cooch Behar district protesting the incident.

Daily transport services were disrupted by BJP supporters at Ghughumari area in the district. As many as three buses were partially ransacked by irate political activists. At least 15 people were arrested in connection with the in-



BJP workers protest in Kolkata over the lawmaker's 'murder' in Kolkata

cident.

A minor clash also took place between BJP activists and Trinamool Congress supporters at Toofanganj in Cooch Behar district, police said.

Ray had joined the BJP in 2019. Earlier, he was elected on a Communist Party of India-Marxist ticket in 2016. The family members of the deceased BJP lawmaker

had alleged that Ray was ‘murdered’ for his political affiliations and demanded a thorough probe into the matter.

In Delhi, the BJP alleged Tuesday that ‘jungle raj’ prevailed in West Bengal, after a delegation of senior state party leaders met President Ram Nath Kovind here to demand a CBI probe into the death of Ray. According to police sources, BJP activists took out rallies in Malda district and forcibly closed the district head post office. They also staged a sit-in demonstration disrupting the regular transport services in the district this morning.

A group of BJP workers staged protests at the depot of North Bengal State Transport Corporation (NBSTCT) and also blocked the National Highway (NH)-34.

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Hemtabad MLA's death. Daily transport services were disrupted by BJP supporters at Ghughumari area in the district. As many as three buses were partially ransacked by irate political activists. At least 15 people were arrested in connection with the incident. A minor clash also took place between BJP activists and Trinamool Congress supporters at Toofanganj in Cooch Behar district, police said.

“The law and order situation in Bengal has reached an all-time low. We demand immediate resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. We want the CBI to probe into the incident of Debendra Nath Ray's mysterious death,” said Nisith Pramanik, a BJP MP from Cooch Behar.

The amended Land Reforms Act now permits non-farmers to buy farmland and grow food crops but they cannot use it for other activities

AGENCIES

Bangalore, July 14: Karnataka has made changes to the Land Reforms Act 1961 through an ordinance to allow non-agriculturists to buy and own farmland for farming, according to an official here Tuesday.

“The Land Reforms Act has been amended through an ordinance and notified after Governor Vajubhai R. Vala gave his assent to it Monday night,” a Revenue Department official told IANS.

It now permits non-farmers to buy farmland and grow food crops. But they cannot use it for other activities.

“Sections 79 A, B and C of the Act have been repealed, paving way for bona fide citizens to invest in farmland and take to farming as a hobby, passion or additional occupation, which is rewarding,” the official said.

The amended Act will enable the state to attract investment in the farm sector and boost food output. The farm sector's contribution to the state's gross domestic product

Though hundreds of people petitioned successive governments since 45 years to abolish the 'draconian' sections, they were ignored. I compliment CM Yediyurappa and Revenue Minister for this decision

KC RAMAMURTHY | RS MP, BANGALORE

(GDP) has been less than manufacturing and services sectors over the last two decades.

Criticism by farmers, the Congress and the Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) since the cabinet approved changes June 11 forced the state government to retain section 80 of the Act, with an amendment, to prevent sale of the dam water irrigated farmland.

“The ordinance has also added a new section (80A), which says relaxations under the Act will not apply to land given to farmers under the Karnataka SC and ST Act 1978,” the official said.

The changes permits mortgage of farmland only to the state-run institutions, firms, cooperative societies as specified in the Act. The ordinance also makes legal cases pending in courts against the sections amended redundant as the new Act addresses the concerns raised in them.

“Besides generating substantial revenue for the state government, the Act will now allow farmers who find the occupation non-remunerative and risky due to droughts/floods and labour shortage to sell their surplus land to urban buyers,” the official said.

Hundreds of people who have been in diverse professions, like business, services, manufacturing, hospitality, education, health and teaching, will get an opportunity to take to farming and serve the nation.



of the day quote

The then Congress government at the Centre levelled false and baseless allegations against me and filed a case (on Babri Masjid demolition) out of political animosity



KALYAN SINGH | SENIOR BJP LEADER

Today, a large part of the Indian news media has been captured by fascist interests. A hate-filled narrative is being spread by television channels, WhatsApp forwards and false news



RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

'Operation Kamal' will not affect the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in Maharashtra, though the BJP has been giving deadlines, and the next one is October



SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Bihar announces total lockdown

Patna: There will be a total lockdown in Bihar from July 16-31 to contain the spread of COVID-19, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi Tuesday announced. On his official Twitter handle, Modi said the 15-day lockdown will remain in force at all municipal, district, sub-divisional and block headquarters level and that guidelines were being prepared. The move comes close on the heels of recent spike in positive cases which had necessitated lockdowns, imposed by the local administrations, in several districts.

6 held for attacking cops

Bulandshahr: Six people were arrested for allegedly attacking a police team last week in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district, officials said Tuesday. The incident took place on Saturday evening, when the team tried to apprehend one Shahid, a resident of Sarai Kaaji locality in the Kotwali Nagar area, wanted in a murder case, they said. As soon Shahid, his brothers and some four-five men saw the police, they started fleeing. When policemen tried to stop them, they attacked them with bricks and stones, the officials said.

Woman poisoned to death

Muzaffarnagar: A woman was allegedly poisoned to death by her in-laws over demands for dowry in Shamli district, police said Tuesday. The victim, Afsana, was rushed to a hospital Monday where she was declared brought dead. According to a complaint filed by the victim's father, Yasin, Afsana was harassed by her husband and in-laws over dowry. A case has been registered against six people, including the victim's husband and in-laws.

Narcotics worth ₹8.5L seized

New Delhi: Customs preventive officers have seized narcotics, worth around ₹8.5 lakh, which were being smuggled into the country from the United States at the Delhi airport's new courier terminal, officials said Tuesday. The seizure was made from parcels that had come from the US and were declared to have been carrying N-95 face masks and headphones among others. The officers seized 650 gms of greenish-brown dried flowers of cannabis/marijuana and other narcotics.



Our doors are open for Sachin Pilot. Anyone who wishes to join the party and adapt to the ideals of the party, they are welcome

OM MATHUR | RAJASTHAN BJP LEADER

CENTRE ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE CLASSES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The HRD Ministry Tuesday announced guidelines for online classes by schools and recommended a cap on duration and the number of sessions in a day for students.

The guidelines have been framed by the ministry, following concerns raised by parents about schools conducting online classes like regular schools, which has increased children's screen time after the COVID-19 pandemic mandated a shift from classroom teaching to online learning as schools continue to remain shut for over four months. In the guideline called "Pragyata", the Ministry of Human Resource Development has recommended that the duration for online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes.

For Classes 1 to 8, the HRD Ministry has recommended two online sessions of up to 45 minutes each while for Classes to 9 to 12, four sessions of 30-45 minutes duration have been recommended.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to closure of schools and has impacted over 240 million children of the country who are enrolled in schools. Extended school closures may cause loss of learning.

"To mitigate the impact of the pandemic, schools will not only have to remodel and re-imagine the way teaching and learning have happened so far, but will also need to introduce a suitable method of delivering quality education through a healthy mix of schooling at home and schooling at school," HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said.

He said that the guidelines have been made with a focus on online education for students who are at home.

'PRAGYATA'



THE DURATION FOR ONLINE CLASSES FOR PRE-PRIMARY STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE FOR MORE THAN 30 MINUTES

FOR CLASSES 1 TO 8, THE HRD MINISTRY HAS RECOMMENDED TWO ONLINE SESSIONS OF UP TO 45 MINUTES EACH

FOR CLASSES TO 9 TO 12, FOUR SESSIONS OF 30-45 MINUTES DURATION HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED

"The guidelines have been developed from the perspective of learners, with a focus on online, blended, digital education for students who are presently at home due to the lockdown. These guidelines on digital education provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward online education to enhance the quality of education," Nishank added.

Universities and schools across the country have been shut since March 16, when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. A nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24, which came into effect the next day.

While the government has largely eased restrictions, schools and colleges continue to remain closed.

Sena targets BJP over creating political storm in Rajasthan

'Instead of pandemic, Chinese incursion, BJP busy with taking down Raj govt'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 14: Attacking the BJP over the political crisis in Rajasthan, the Shiv Sena Tuesday accused the NDA constituent of working to destabilise governments of its opponents and encouraging horse-trading in the Congress-ruled state.

An editorial in Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' asked the BJP what is it going to achieve with this political misadventure in the "desert", and said such moves will turn the country's parliamentary democracy into a desert.

Rajasthan is home to Thar desert, which is also partly spread in states like Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana.

The Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan is facing rough weather with his deputy Sachin Pilot declaring open rebellion against him.

Pilot has claimed the Gehlot government is in minority and that he has support of 30 Congress MLAs

in the 200-member state Assembly.

"The central power is working to destabilise (the state) governments of its opponents, the Shiv Sena alleged. The country is facing problems like a coronavirus-triggered collapse of the economy and 'Chinese intrusion' in Ladakh. The killing of 20 Indian soldiers in a face-off with Chinese troops in Galwan Valley is still afresh," it said.

Instead of solving these issues, the BJP is interfering in the internal bickering of the Congress and "encouraging horse-trading" in Rajasthan, the Sena alleged.

"What is the BJP going to achieve with this political misadventure, by causing a storm in the desert? Such steps will rather turn the parliamentary democracy into a desert," the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said.

"The BJP is ruling the entire country (is in power at the Centre). They should leave some states for

India-EU summit to focus on Chinese aggression

THE SUMMIT WILL PRIMARILY FOCUS ON WAYS TO EXPAND OVERALL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT, STRENGTHEN MULTILATERALISM AND HANDLE THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The 15th India-EU Summit which will be held July 15 is likely to see discussions on specific issues of growing Chinese assertiveness.

The summit will primarily focus on three broad areas - ways to expand overall economic engagement, strengthen multilateralism and handle the adverse impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

To a question on whether if the recent India-China border stand-off could come up, a source said, "Contemporary situation and developments will form part of the discussions but as of now it will be difficult to say. When the leadership talks at that level, the discussions take their own turn. There will be



clarity after the talks."

The two sides are also going to focus on enhancing global supply chains. India has been talking about creating alternatives to China as part of the supply chain.

"There has been talk of strategic autonomy which requires not being dependent for critical supplies on

the outside world. With that discussion going on the EU side and this phrase of diversification of supply chains or value chains is a very lively debate which you see either in the speeches of the European leaders and also in the context of individual countries in the European Union," the source said.

"This will be the background plus the status of our own bilateral negotiations will perhaps influence the agenda."

Healthcare will also feature as an important subset and will form part of the discussion.

Trade and investment

In the summit, the two sides are also expected to delve into finding a way forward to resume talks on the long-pending free trade agreement which is known as EU-India



POST-COVID RAILWAY COACH

Keeping up pace in fight against coronavirus, the Indian Railways has made a post-COVID-19 coach with design improvement to promote hands-free amenities, copper coated handrails and latches and plasma air purification for pandemic-free journey

LIFE AMID COVID



A couple takes a selfie at the Qutub Minar in the Mehrauli area of Delhi, Tuesday

REUTERS PHOTO

Another spike takes India's COVID-19 cases past 9 lakh

INDIA CROSSED THE NINE LAKH MARK FROM EIGHT LAKH WITHIN THREE DAYS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 14: India recorded a spike of more than 28,000 cases for the second consecutive day in the last 24 hours, pushing the tally to 9,06,752 cases with a death total of 23,727, the Health Ministry's data stated Tuesday.

India crossed nine lakh mark from eight lakh within three days. India had crossed the 8 lakh COVID-19 cases July 11.

According to data, India witnessed a spike of 28,498 fresh cases taking the total number of cases to 9,06,752 and with 553 deaths in the last 24 hours the total number of fatalities crossed 23,727. According to Health Ministry data, as many as 5,71,459 patients have recovered, over twice the number of active patients which stand at 3,11,565.

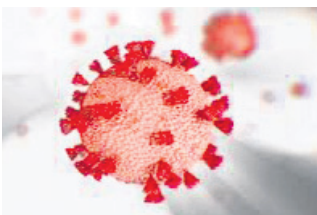
The rate of recovery has touched 63.02 per cent. India, however, remains the third worst-affected coun-

try after the US and Brazil.

During the last 24 hours, 2,86,247 samples were tested, as the testing lab network continues to expand. As on date, more than 1,194 labs have enabled people to undergo coronavirus tests.

Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state, with 2,60,924 cases and 10,482 casualties followed by Tamil Nadu with total 1,42,798 cases, including 2,032 deaths.

With 1,246 new coronavirus cases and 40 deaths in the last 24 hours, the national capital recorded a total tally of 1,13,740 cases and 3,411 deaths.



Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), they said.

The summit will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

PM Modi was scheduled to visit Brussels in March for the summit. But his visit was cancelled in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

The 27-nation EU is a strategically important region for India. The EU as a whole was India's largest trading partner in 2018.

India's bilateral trade with the EU in 2018-19 stood at \$115.6 billion with exports valued at \$57.17 billion and imports worth \$58.42 billion.

The defence and security cooperation between the two sides is also witnessing an upswing.

PM allows Priyanka to retain bungalow

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 14: In a statesman-like move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has agreed to a request to allow Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to retain the 35, Lodhi Estate Bungalow for some time. Just when people thought there is a witch-hunt against the erstwhile first family of Indian politics, the PM's move validated his large heartedness.

After the government directive to vacate the prime Lutyens real estate property in Lodi Estate, the Centre was approached to allow Priyanka Gandhi to stay there for some more time.

Sources close to developments revealed that when the matter was brought to Modi's notice, he said that her request most certainly be accepted.

Those who know Modi say that this is not the first time that he has gone out of the way and shown large heartedness towards a family that has left no opportunity to bad mouth him, demean him and use every trick out of the book to nail him. The general impression being that both sides have a visceral hatred for one another.

It was in 2011 when Sonia Gandhi had to travel abroad for health related treatment. That time, it was Modi who sent a bouquet of flowers to 10, Janpath. The Congress, which was keen to keep Sonia Gandhi's travel plans a secret, was not only surprised but was also compelled to share details about Sonia Gandhi's illness with the entire nation.

ASSAM FLOOD

Over 21.40L people affected; 85 dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 14: The flood situation in Assam has further worsened as another seven lost their lives in 24 hours, taking the death toll to 85. Over 21.40 lakh people in 26 districts have been affected in the deluge.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), two people drowned in flood waters in Golaghat district while one died in each districts of Lakhimpur, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Kamrup and Sivasagar.

The latest wave of floods in Assam has affected over 21.40 lakh people in 26 districts Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Sonitpur, Darrang, Baska, Nalbari, Barpeta, Chirang, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South Salmara, Goalpara, Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro), Morigaon, Nagaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong.

Barpeta is the worst-hit district with 5.44 lakh people being affected in the deluge, followed by 1.92 lakh in South Salmara, 1.30 lakh in Dhemaji, 1.18 lakh in Golaghat, 1.13 lakh in Darrang, 1.12 lakh in Bongaigaon, 92,000 people in Lakhimpur, 83,000 in Nalbari, 82,000 in Morigaon, 79,000 in Kamrup, 78,000 in Sivasagar district.

About 2,816 villages in the flood-hit districts are currently under water and the flood waters have submerged 1.21 lakh hectares of agricultural land.

SC may consider appointing probe panel

THE BENCH SAID IT MAY CONSIDER DOING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS DONE IN THE CASE OF ENCOUNTER OF FOUR ACCUSED IN THE GANG-RAPE AND MURDER CASE OF A VETERINARIAN IN TELANGANA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it may consider appointing a committee headed by a former judge to inquire into the encounters of gangster Vikas Dubey and his associates as well as the killing of eight policemen in Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh government told a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde that it would file a status report by July 16 detailing the steps taken by the authority on the matter.

The apex court was hearing the pleas on the incidents, including those seeking a court-monitored probe into the encounters.

The bench, also comprising

VIKAS DUBEY ENCOUNTER



Justices ₹Reddy and AS Bopanna, observed that monitoring of investigation is something which the



court is very reluctant to do.

The bench said it may consider doing something similar to what

was done in the case of encounter of four accused in the gang-rape and murder case of a veterinarian in Telangana. It had appointed an inquiry commission headed by a former apex court judge.

"List these matters on July 20. The petitioners-in-person are directed to serve a copy of their respective petition upon Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General appearing for the respondent(s), forthwith," the bench noted in its order. It said that Mehta, who was appearing for Uttar Pradesh, "may file reply affidavit" on the pleas by July 16.

Eight policemen, including DSP Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur when they were going to arrest Dubey and fell to

bullets fired from rooftops shortly after midnight July 3.

Dubey was killed in an encounter in the morning of July 10 when a police vehicle carrying him from Ujjain to Kanpur met with an accident and he tried to escape from the spot in Bhauti area, the police had said.

Four policemen, including an inspector posted in Nawabganj, were injured in the July 10 accident, IG, Kanpur Range, Mohit Agarwal had said. The police claimed that Dubey, the prime accused in the ambush in which cops were killed, was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead.

Prior to Dubey's encounter, five of his alleged associates were killed in separate encounters.

of the day quote

The envy of Rahul Gandhi is causing the destruction of the Congress. Rahul Gandhi does not allow young leaders to flourish. He creates an environment which creates rifts among party leaders, which he is then unable to control

UMA BHARTI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

But the coordination and dialogue between all three parties (Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP) is good now. There was a perception about lack of dialogue since CM Thackeray was completely dedicated to the fight against the coronavirus outbreak

BALASAHEB THORAT | MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

The suspected heinous killing of Debendra Nath Ray, BJP MLA from Hemtabad in West Bengal speaks of the gunda raj & failure of law and order in the Mamta government

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

One dead in AP pharma unit fire

Visakhapatnam: A man died and four others were injured in a massive fire that broke out at Visakha Solvents plant at Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City in Parwada on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam Monday night. Though authorities claimed Monday night that there were no casualties, a charred body was found in the debris Tuesday morning. He was identified as senior chemist K. Srinivas Rao.

Brutal murder caught on CCTV

New Delhi: In a shocking incident caught on camera in West Delhi, a 25-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by a juvenile and his two friends after the victim warned them not to perform bike stunts in Raghubir Nagar. According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Manish, a resident of Raghubir Nagar. All the three persons involved in the murder July 8 are juveniles, the police said, adding that they have been apprehended in connection with the incident.

Family of four found dead

Barabanki: Four members of a family were found dead inside their rented house at Awas Vikas area of Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki Tuesday. While the bodies of Lalit and his wife Preeti were found hanging from the ceiling in the living room, their two children, a boy, 12, and a girl, 8, were found in their bedroom, police said. The incident came to light at around 10 a.m. when the milkman knocked the door and did not get any response.

Another Dubey aide arrested

Kanpur: The Kanpur Police have arrested another member of the Vikas Dubey gang, Shashikant alias Sonu, Tuesday from the Mela Tiraha area in Kanpur. Addressing a press conference in Kanpur, Additional Director General (ADG) (Law and order) Prashant Kumar said that on the information provided by Shashikant, the police have recovered an INSAS rifle and 20 live cartridges from his house. This was looted by the miscreants from the police on the night of the incident.



I've decided to help families of the deceased or injured migrants for them to have a secure future. I feel it's my personal responsibility to support them

SONU SOOB | ACTOR

IMPOSTER ARRESTED

A man has been arrested by the crime branch of Shahjahanpur police for allegedly impersonating Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit



'Iran drops India from Chabahar rail project'

The development comes at a time when Iran is seeking to finalise a 25-year economic and security partnership worth \$400 billion with China

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 14: Iran has decided to move ahead with the construction of a railway line from Chabahar port to Zahedan without any assistance from India due to delay in funding. India has been dropped four years after the project was finalised as part of a broader trilateral agreement.

According to a report, the entire project will be completed by March 22 and \$400 million will be sanctioned by the Iranian National Development Fund for the project. The project, however, will be completed without any assistance from India.

The railway line project was part of India's commitment to the trilateral agreement with Afghanistan and Iran to build an alternate trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

The deal was finalised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tehran in 2016 after he signed an agreement with the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani.

Indian Railways Construction Ltd (IRCON) had promised assistance to the railway line project besides financing worth \$1.6 billion. However, the work was never started as the United States imposed sanctions on Iran.



DWINDLING TIES

The deal was finalised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tehran in 2016 after he signed an agreement with the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani

The entire project will be completed by March 22 and \$400 million will be sanctioned by the Iranian National Development Fund for the project

Indian Railways Construction Ltd had promised assistance to the railway line project besides financing worth \$1.6 billion

And while there was a waiver on US sanctions for the specific railway line project, India found it hard to pick equipment suppliers who were worried about possible action from the US.

IRAN-CHINA DEAL

The development comes at a time when Iran is seeking to finalise a 25-year economic and security partnership with China. The deal is worth \$400 billion.

The deal between Iran and China – if finalised – could result in a vast expansion of Chinese presence in various sectors of Iran in-

cluding banking, telecommunications, ports, railways and numerous other projects.

In return, China will receive heavily discounted supply of Iranian oil regularly for the next 25 years. An 18-page document listing the proposed agreement also talks about deeper military cooperation.

Considering that Iran has been an important strategically for New Delhi, the deal could hurt India's prospects in the region, especially at a time when its relations with China have soured further in the aftermath of the recent border standoff.

Ayodhya seers up in arms over Oli's crack

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 14: Saints and seers in Ayodhya are up in arms over the statement made by Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli that the real Ayodhya was in Nepal and Lord Ram was a Nepali

Mahant Narendra Giri, head of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), the apex body of saints, said that the statement made by the Nepal premier was 'unfortunate and mischievous'.

He told reporters that there were enough evidences to prove that the real Ayodhya was the one in Uttar Pradesh and Lord Ram was born here.

"No one should create any confusion on the issue," he warned.

Mahant Nritiya Gopal Das, president of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra, said, "Lord Ram was a 'Chakravarti' emperor. Many countries including Nepal were under his protegee. Ayodhya has links with Nepal from 'Treta Yug'.

Even today, a wedding procession goes to Janakpur from Ayodhya. Millions of years old tra-

dition has continued. It is not appropriate to speak on ancient tradition and the 'sanatani' system. Devotees of Lord Ram are not going to tolerate this. Nepal PM's statement is unfortunate."

Mahant Raju Das of the Hanuman Garhi temple in Ayodhya also slammed the Nepal's Prime Minister for making 'uncalled for statements'.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi should take up the issue and stop this kind of misinformation being spread all around by vested interests," he said.

Mahant Shashikant Das of Saryu Nitya Aarti, on the other hand said that he is writing to the prime Minister, urging him to intervene and prevent such misinformation campaigns.

"The Nepal Prime Minister is making such statements at the behest of China but he should know that it will not have any impact on the people of India who firmly believe that Ayodhya is the abode of Lord Ram," he stated.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad has also reacted sharply to Oli's statement on Lord Ram. Regional secretary of the VHP, Ambarish Kumar said, "Ayodhya is the birthplace of Lord Ram. This is mentioned in religious scriptures. Crores of Hindus have faith in him.



Children play on a swing tied to a tree branch during Unlock 2.0 in Gorakhpur, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

MAN TRIES TO KILL WIFE WHO CHANGED SEX TO GET MARRIED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 14: Four years back, a young man changed his sex. Three years on, she fell in love with a man. Both decided to marry. However, in a year tragedy struck and husband Gyanendra Shukla slit his wife's throat and left her to die.

The brutal attack took place in South Delhi's Amar Colony. Shukla expected his wife not to survive when he fled leaving her in a pool of blood. The woman not only survived but gathered enough strength to make a video call to her father and tell him about the gruesome at-



tack that took place July 11.

"The father made a PCR call from Gurugram, while the profusely bleeding wife dragged herself to the door and started knocking with a hammer to raise an alarm and get someone's help because her vocal chords were

slashed," said DCP South East Delhi RP Meena. Her neighbours shifted her to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Shukla was arrested the same day. He hails from Uttar Pradesh's Mahoba district.

His interrogation revealed that he got married March 13, 2019. Soon after marriage the relationship turned sour as he could not accept the outgoing nature of his wife. He lost confidence in the relationship and started suspecting his wife at every turn. He checked her messages and did not approve of her partying.

protested against the party at 10, Janpath but his grievances were not heard.

Tanwar, who was the party president in Haryana, was removed after pressure from former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Talking on the current crisis in the party, Tanwar said senior leaders don't want young leaders to grow and sabotage their endeavours. Tanwar, who is yet to join any party, said his political journey is on and he will take a decision at an appropriate time.

Scindia's revolt led to the fall

of the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh. After being sidelined by Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh and with the party high command not paying heed to his demands, Scindia joined hands with the BJP and is now an elected Rajya Sabha MP of the party. Chances are that he may soon be inducted into the Union Cabinet.

What's common between Tanwar, Scindia and Pilot is that they have all been close to Rahul Gandhi. While Tanwar and Pilot were made state presidents, the latter lost the CM's race against

Woman ends life at quarantine centre in Assam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Silchar (Assam)/Agartala, July 14: A 32-year-old woman, who was in institutional quarantine in Southern Assam's Hailakandi district along with her family on return from Bangalore, reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself, police said.

The husband of the deceased woman suspects that delay in the sample's report might have caused the suicide. A police official said that the woman was found hanging on Sunday night from the window of the washroom of a government school, which was earlier turned into a quarantine centre.

The woman, her husband and their eight-year-old son had returned to Hailakandi from Bangalore by flight June 28.

Police quoting the health officials said that after their return, swab samples were collected and sent to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital and all of them were put under quarantine.

Though the husband and son were tested negative but the test report of the woman was awaited due to the technical reasons. The health officials subsequently (after the suicide) conducted a rapid antigen test of the samples of the deceased woman and the result came negative. For more confirmation, the swab sample of the woman has been sent to Silchar Medical College and Hospital for RT-PCR test.

In Agartala, a 50-year-old woman had committed suicide last month under the government-run Govind Ballabh Pant Medical College and Hospital.

GenNext leaders leaving party worrying sign for Congress

WHAT'S COMMON BETWEEN ASHOK TANWAR, JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA AND SACHIN PILOT IS THAT THEY HAVE ALL BEEN CLOSE TO RAHUL GANDHI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 14: After Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sachin Pilot may be the next high-profile leader to leave the Congress unceremoniously at a time when the party is grappling to save its image and the government in Rajasthan, even as Congress observer Randeep Surjewala made a high-pitch appeal to Pilot to return to the party fold.

According to sources, Congress leaders have been asked to go soft on Pilot as the party wants to retain

him. Former Mumbai Congress president Sanjay Nirupam said, "The party doesn't suffer if a person leaves, but if one by one everybody starts to leave, who will remain in the party? The prime responsibility of the party leadership is to resolve the differences between the leaders."

Not just Scindia, who led a successful revolt against Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh in Madhya Pradesh by jumping ship to the BJP, now Pilot too seems to be mounting pressure on Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.



Before Pilot, former Haryana Pradesh Congress Chief Ashok Tanwar had announced his resignation from the party in October last year after being denied ticket in the Assembly polls. He even

protested against the party at 10, Janpath but his grievances were not heard.

Tanwar, who was the party president in Haryana, was removed after pressure from former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Talking on the current crisis in the party, Tanwar said senior leaders don't want young leaders to grow and sabotage their endeavours. Tanwar, who is yet to join any party, said his political journey is on and he will take a decision at an appropriate time.

Scindia's revolt led to the fall

of the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh. After being sidelined by Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh and with the party high command not paying heed to his demands, Scindia joined hands with the BJP and is now an elected Rajya Sabha MP of the party. Chances are that he may soon be inducted into the Union Cabinet.

What's common between Tanwar, Scindia and Pilot is that they have all been close to Rahul Gandhi. While Tanwar and Pilot were made state presidents, the latter lost the CM's race against

Gehlot. Similarly, Scindia lost the race for the Chief Minister's post to Kamal Nath.

There are worrying signs in the Congress; especially after former Union minister Kapil Sibal said that he was worried for the party.

While senior party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi hoped that an amicable solution will be reached soon, nothing of that sort has happened so far. Pilot seems to be adamant and the trigger for his revolt seems to have come after the SOG sent a notice to Pilot in a sedition case.



The US has the world's biggest COVID-19 testing programme which is better than countries like India, China and Brazil
DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

ROBOT COOKS

Robots that can cook - from flipping burgers to baking bread - are in growing demand as virus-wary kitchens try to put some distance between workers and customers



of the day quote

We can't have a normal country unless kids are back in school

MITCH MCCONNELL | UNITED STATES SENATOR



US was witnessing the new surge in the number of COVID-19 cases because the country never shut down entirely

ANTHONY FAUCI | AMERICA'S TOP INFECTIOUS DISEASES EXPERT



In Spain, political espionage is being carried out against political adversaries

ROGER TORRENT | SPANISH POLITICIAN



SHORT TAKES

NZ Oppn chooses new leader

Wellington: Long-serving lawmaker Judith Collins will lead New Zealand's opposition National Party into a general election against a popular government in just over two months, taking over from Todd Muller, who quit the leadership Tuesday citing health reasons. Muller shocked lawmakers in the right-of-center party when he issued a statement early Tuesday morning saying he was stepping down "effective immediately."

US eyes world power summit

Washington: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke Monday to his Russian counterpart about convening the leaders of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the State Department said. The department said Pompeo spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov about the possibility of a commemorative event "in the near future" that would involve President Donald Trump and the leaders of Britain, China, France and Russia.

Floods wreak havoc in B'desh

Dhaka: Flash floods triggered by incessant rainfall have left over 700,000 people marooned in Bangladesh, while inundating hundreds of villages and pushing the water levels of 14 rivers above the danger level, according to the media reports. The overall flood situation in Bangladesh has worsened in many districts in the country's north and north-eastern regions, causing immense suffering to people.

NZ sees lowest int'l arrivals

Wellington: The number of international arrivals in New Zealand in May 2020 was the lowest for any month since 1959, because of COVID-19-related border and travel restrictions, the country's statistics department Stats NZ said Tuesday. There were 5,600 arrivals in May 2020 compared with 4,700 in May 1959, according to Stats NZ.

Five US bases in Afghan closed

Kabul: A US official in Kabul said Tuesday that five American bases have closed in Afghanistan in compliance with the peace agreement it signed with the Taliban in February. According to the unidentified official, the bases were in Helmand, Uruzgan, Paktika and Laghman provinces, reports *TOLO News*.

Number of undernourished people declines in India: UN

THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD REPORT ESTIMATED THAT ALMOST 690MN PEOPLE GLOBALLY WERE UNDERNOURISHED (OR HUNGRY) IN 2019, UP BY 10 MILLION FROM 2018

AGENCIES

United Nations, July 14: The number of undernourished people in India has declined by 60 million, from 21.7 per cent in 2004-06 to 14 per cent in 2017-19, according to a UN report.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, released Monday said that there were less stunted children but more obese adults in India.

The report - considered the most authoritative global study tracking progress towards ending hunger and malnutrition - said that the number of undernourished people in India declined from 249.4 million in 2004-06 to 189.2 million in 2017-19.

In percentage terms, the prevalence of undernourishment in the total population in India declined



from 21.7 per cent in 2004-06 to 14 per cent in 2017-19, it said.

The two sub-regions showing reductions in undernourishment - eastern and southern Asia - are dominated by the two largest economies of the continent - China

and India.

"Despite very different conditions, histories and rates of progress, the reduction in hunger in both the countries stems from long-term economic growth, reduced inequality, and improved access to

US executes first federal inmate since 2003

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terre Haute (US), July 14: The US government Tuesday carried out the first federal execution in almost two decades, putting to death a man who killed an Arkansas family in a 1990s in a plot to build a whites-only nation in the Pacific Northwest. The execution came over the objection of the victims' family.

Daniel Lewis Lee, 47, of Yukon, Oklahoma, died by lethal injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana. The decision to move forward with the execution - the first by the Bureau of Prisons since 2003 - drew scrutiny from civil rights groups and the relatives of Lee's victims, who had sued to try to halt it, citing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. The decision to move forward with the execution - and two others scheduled later in the week - during a global health pandemic that has killed more than 1,35,000 people in the United States and is ravaging prisons nationwide, drew scrutiny from civil rights groups as well as family of Lee's victims.



Daniel Lewis Lee

Critics argued that the government was creating an unnecessary and manufactured urgency for political gain.

The developments are likely to add a new front to the national conversation about criminal justice reform in the lead-up to the 2020 elections. Lee's execution went off after a series of legal volleys that ended when the Supreme Court stepped in early Tuesday in a 5-4 ruling and allowed it to move forward. Numbers of state executions have fallen steadily since the last federal execution, according to data compiled by the Death Penalty Information Centre. States put to death 59 people in 2004 and 22 in 2019, nine of which were in Texas.

In a direct but largely symbolic challenge to Beijing, Pompeo says China won't be allowed to treat the strategic waters as 'its maritime empire'

AGENCIES

Washington, July 14: The world will not allow China to treat the strategically important South China Sea as its "maritime empire," the US has asserted, as it vowed to support worried Southeast Asian countries against Beijing's "campaign of bullying" to control the resource-rich region.

Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.



Beijing has impeded commercial activity like fishing or mineral exploration by countries like Vietnam and the Philippines, claiming that the ownership of territory belonged to China for hundreds of years.

Asserting that the "Chinese predatory world view" has no place in the 21st century, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Monday categorically rejected the territorial claims made by Beijing in the South China Sea. The United States, he said, stands with the international community in the defence of freedom of the seas and respect for sovereignty and rejects any push to impose "might makes right" in the South China Sea or the wider region. Pompeo said China cannot law-

fully assert a maritime claim - including any exclusive economic zone (EEZ) claims derived from Scarborough Reef and the Spratly Islands - vis-a-vis the Philippines in areas that a tribunal found to be in the Philippines' EEZ or on its continental shelf.

The US, he said, rejects any Chinese claim to waters beyond a 12-nautical mile territorial sea derived from islands it claims in the Spratly Islands (without prejudice to other states' sovereignty claims over such islands).

Also, China has no lawful territorial or maritime claim to (or derived from) James Shoal, an entirely submerged feature only 50 nautical miles from Malaysia and some 1,000 nautical miles from China's coast, Pompeo said. In the South China Sea, the US seeks to preserve peace and stability, uphold the freedom of the seas in a manner consistent with international law, maintain the unimpeded flow of commerce and oppose any attempt to use coercion or force to settle disputes, Pompeo said.

China slaps sanctions on Lockheed Martin



AEGNCIES

Beijing, July 14: China Tuesday announced sanctions on top American arms manufacturing firm Lockheed Martin in retaliation to the US State Department's approval of a request by Taiwan for the recertification of PAC-3 air defence missiles built by the company.

"China firmly opposes US arms sales to Taiwan. We urge US to earnestly abide by the One-China principle, stop selling arms to Taiwan and cut its military ties with Taiwan, so that it will not cause further harm to bilateral ties, peace and security across the Taiwan straits," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here. His remarks comes days after the US State Department last week approved Taiwan's request for the recertification of its Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) air defence missiles at an estimated cost of \$620 million.

In a statement Thursday, the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said Congress had already been notified of the possible sale. According to US media reports quoting DSCA, Taiwan has asked to buy parts to refurbish its PAC-3 missiles to support an operational life of 30 years.

Lockheed Martin Corporation is the main contractor for the deal. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Beijing will impose sanctions on Lockheed Martin in retaliation. "China has decided to take essential measures. We will impose sanctions on main contractor of this sale Lockheed Martin," he said. Analysts say China's sanctions may be symbolic as Lockheed Martin doesn't sell any weapon systems to China. On Monday, China imposed sanctions and visa bans on top US officials and politicians in the latest tit-for-tat confrontation in the steady deterioration of the relations between Washington and Beijing over Xinjiang and a host of other issues.

Indian newspapers published in 1966 recovered from French glacier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Jul 14: Indian newspaper copies with headlines such as "India's First Woman Prime Minister", referring to Indira Gandhi's election win in 1966, have been recovered from the melting French glacier of Bossons on the Mont Blanc mountain range in western Europe, 54 years after an Air India plane crashed there.

The newspapers belong to the residue of an Air India plane that crashed into Europe's highest mountain January 24, 1966, and were discovered by Timothee Mottin, who runs the cafe-restaurant La Cabane du Cerro at an altitude of 1,350 metres above the French resort of Chamonix.

"It's not unusual. Every time



we walk on the glacier with friends, we find remains of the crash. With experience, you know where they are. They are being carried along by the glacier according to their size," he said. The Air India Boeing 707 had crashed into the range after a verbal flight control miscommunication, leading to the loss of all 177 passengers and crew. Copies of the "National Herald"

and "Economic Times" are among a dozen newspapers discovered by Mottin, whose cafe is about 45 minutes by foot from the Bossons glacier, where the plane named after the Himalayan peak of Kangchenjunga mysteriously crashed over 54 years ago.

Mottin said he was lucky to discover the papers when he did because the ice in which they had been encased for nearly six decades had probably only just melted. Once the papers have dried out, they will join a growing collection of items from the crash that Mottin has put on display at his cafe to share it with visitors. Since 2012, there have been a number of finds relating to the 1966 Air India crash emerging from the melting ice caps.



GLOBAL SNIPPETS

British pub installs electric fence to keep people at bay

London: A pub in the UK has installed an electric fence in front of the bar to stop people getting too close to the staff in order to maintain social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a media report said. The Star Inn in Cornwall county took the drastic measure to



protect people from coronavirus, the Metro newspaper report said Monday. Landlord Johnny McFadden, who is also a farmer, said: "It's there for social-distancing. Before the fence, people were not following social-distancing and were doing as they pleased, but now people take heed to the guidance around social distancing."

Fines for not wearing masks in England shops

London: The UK government ended days of speculation and declared Tuesday that wearing a face mask or face covering will become mandatory in shops across England from July 24, as part of efforts to control the spread of coronavirus as the country eases out of lockdown. The enforcement powers for the new policy will be handed to the police and anyone failing to wear a face covering while shopping will be subject to a fine of up to 100 pounds, or 50 pounds if paid speedily within 14 days.



Protest in Pennsylvania

Allentown (US): Activists against police brutality expressed outrage and demanded accountability Monday after video emerged over the weekend of an officer placing his knee on a man's head and neck area outside a Pennsylvania hospital. Allentown police released a much longer surveillance video of the incident that showed the officer putting his knee on the man's head and neck area twice while he was being restrained a few steps from the emergency room entrance - the first time for eight seconds, the second for 20 seconds. The man appeared to be "suffering from a medical, mental health or drug and alcohol crisis," police said in a statement late Monday.



Oli, Prachanda hold fresh talks

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, July 14: Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and co-chair of the ruling communist party Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda Tuesday resumed talks after a six-day hiatus in a bid to save the party from a split in the wake of growing differences between the two factions led by them.

Prachanda's press advisor said that the "two chairs (of the Nepal Communist Party) have resumed discussions." The *Kathmandu Post* reported. They last time held one-on-one talks Wednesday.

The talks are taking place ahead of the crucial Standing Committee meeting Friday which is expected to determine the political future of the 68-year-old prime minister who has previously alleged that his de-



tractors were trying to remove him with India's help. The key meeting is taking place days after NCP executive chairman Prachanda said he will not allow the party to split and any attempt from anywhere to weaken its unity would hurt the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and natural disasters. Oli and Prachanda, who have held over half-a-dozen one-on-one meetings in recent days, are nowhere close to a power-sharing deal.

of the day quote

Until the vaccine comes, we certainly need life saving drugs. I think what we are doing across the world is to see how we can either repurpose drugs or develop new drugs to treat this pandemic

KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW | EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON, BIOCON

Investments have to be clearly prioritised and planned out in augmenting the revival of industries. They would go for cost optimisation around their current ways of operating in some of the key business areas and use the resources available in more efficient initiatives under the "new normal environment"

NIRMALYA GUPTA | MD, PROTIVITI INDIA

(Oil's) pricing pressures are locked in a holding pattern and will remain so until the coronavirus pandemic is brought under control. Until then, there will continue to be a lack of conviction in upside potential

STEPHEN BRENNOCK | OIL ANALYST, PYM

SHORT TAKES

Ficci partners with Swasth

New Delhi: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) Tuesday said it has partnered with Swasth, a not-for-profit consortium of healthcare players, to drive healthcare transformation. The partnership aims to promote knowledge sharing in telemedicine and digital health, Ficci said in a statement. The industry body added that it will also focus on promoting public-private collaborations.

US budget deficit hits all-time high

Washington: The federal government incurred the biggest monthly budget deficit in history in June as spending on programmes to combat the coronavirus recession exploded while millions of job losses cut into tax revenues. The Treasury Department reported Monday that the deficit hit \$864 billion last month, an amount of red ink that surpasses most annual deficits in US' history and is above the previous monthly deficit record of \$738 billion in April.

Dialysis on Wheels launched

New Delhi: NephroPlus Tuesday said it has launched 'Dialysis on Wheels' initiative to provide dialysis to patients inside an ambulance that comes to their homes. With the outbreak of COVID-19, both patients and nephrologists have started increasingly opting for home haemodialysis. This model is expected to bring down the cost significantly, which will lead to further adoption by patients, it said.

Contactless parking to expand

New Delhi: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Tuesday said it will expand its fully contactless parking solution with FASTag to cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore. It said the first-of-its kind contactless car parking facility at Hyderabad Airport received a huge response, prompting to take this service to other metros. The facility of 100% contactless and interoperable parking solution with NETC FASTag is currently being implemented by 10 FASTag issuing banks.



The chances of a quick return to normal, of the famed V-shaped recovery (in UK), is falling. It is likely to take years, not months, to repair the damage to the economy done by COVID-19

IAN STEWART | CHIEF ECONOMIST, DELOITTE

DICV ROLLS OUT 1000TH BSVI HEAVY DUTY TRUCK

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Tuesday achieved a production milestone of rolling out its 1,000th BS VI heavy duty truck from its facility near Chennai. The company, a subsidiary of Stuttgart-based Daimler, introduced BS VI-compliant range of trucks, buses in Jan, 2020



Walmart-led investors pump in \$1.2 bn in Flipkart

With the new investment, Flipkart group is now valued at \$24.9 billion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 14: A Walmart-led investor group Tuesday pumped in an additional \$1.2 billion into the ecommerce platform Flipkart Group to support its marketplace in the wake of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

With the new investment, Flipkart group is now valued at \$24.9 billion. The \$1.2 billion will be funded in two tranches over the remainder of the fiscal year.

"We're grateful for the strong backing of our shareholders as we continue to build our platform and serve the growing needs of Indian consumers during these challenging times," Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said in a statement.

Founded in 2007, the Flipkart Group includes Flipkart, digital payments platform PhonePe, fashion specialty site Myntra and eKart.

In 2018, Walmart invested \$16 billion for a majority stake in the group. "Since Walmart's initial investment in Flipkart, we have greatly expanded our offer through technology, partnerships and new services. We will continue innovating to bring the next 200 million Indian shoppers online," Krishnamurthy said in a statement. With a registered customer base of over 200 million, Flipkart recently surpassed 1.5 billion vis-



its per month and reported 45 per cent growth in monthly active customers and 30 per cent growth in transactions per customer for FY20.

Flipkart offers 150 million products across more than 80 categories, and has pioneered customer-centric services such as cash-on-delivery, no-cost EMI and easy returns.

PhonePe recently reported annualised total payments value (TPV) of \$180 billion on more than 500 million monthly transactions.

"Flipkart continues to leverage its culture of innovation to accelerate growth and enable millions of customers, sellers, merchants and small businesses to prosper and be a part of India's digital transformation," said Judith McKenna,

President and CEO of Walmart International.

The Flipkart Group last week invested ₹260 crore to purchase a significant minority stake in Arvind Youth Brands, a subsidiary of Arvind Fashions Ltd (AFL).

Arvind Youth Brands owns the popular Flying Machine denim brand that has been retailing on Flipkart and Myntra for more than six years.

With this investment, the Flipkart Group and Arvind Fashions will work collaboratively to identify opportunities and synergies to innovate and develop products with strong value propositions at attractive price points, the ecommerce platform said in a statement.

Alcohol-based hand sanitisers to attract 18% GST: AAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: The Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has said that a GST of 18% will be levied on all alcohol-based hand sanitisers.

Springfield India Distilleries had approached the Goa-bench of AAR to seek classification of hand sanitisers supplied by the company, and contended that the product is taxed at 12%. It also sought to know if sanitisers would be exempt from GST since it is now an essential commodity. The AAR, in its ruling, said since hand sanitisers manufactured by the applicant are of the category of 'alcohol-based hand sanitisers', an 18% GST would be applicable.

The authority further said that although the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has classified hand sanitisers as an essential commodity, the GST law has a separate list of exempted goods.

EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain



said the ruling is aligned to the view taken by GST authorities as well of a rate of 18 per cent being applicable on hand sanitisers.

Jain said the classification of hand sanitisers has been a matter of debate since inception, especially given the multiple entries in which it could warrant classification because of its composition and uses.

BIZ BUZZ

BSNL union to protest against 4G cancellation

New Delhi: The employees union of state-run telecom operator BSNL will stage protests across the country on Thursday on a host of issues including the cancellation of its 4G tender and non-

payment of salaries. All major unions are organising 'lunch-hour black-flag' demonstrations throughout the country under the banner of All Unions and Association of BSNL (AUAB), said a statement by AUAB. These demonstrations will be organised, by maintaining social distancing and by taking other precautions, like wearing of masks. The BSNL employees will also wear black-badges the whole day July 16.



WPI inflation contracts 1.81% in June



New Delhi: Prices in the wholesale market fell for the third straight month, declining 1.81% in June, due to sharp decline in fuel and power items even as food articles remained expensive. Inflation in May and April was (-) 3.21% and (-) 1.57%, respectively. In March it was 0.42%. "The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI), stood at (-1.81%) (provisional) for the month of June, 2020 as compared to 2.02 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year," the industry ministry said in a statement Tuesday. However, prices of food articles hardened with inflation at 2.04 per cent, as against 1.13% in May. While inflation in vegetables and onion stood at (-) 9.21% and (-) 15.27%, respectively; potato saw a spike in prices with inflation at 56.20%.

UK to purge Huawei from 5G by 2027

AGENCIES

London, July 14: Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered Huawei equipment to be purged completely from Britain's 5G network by 2027, risking the ire of China by signalling that the world's biggest telecoms equipment maker is no longer welcome in the West.

The seven-year lag will please British telecoms operators such as BT, Vodafone and Three, who had feared they would be forced to spend billions of pounds to rip out Huawei equipment much faster.

From the end of the year, it will be illegal for operators to buy any 5G equipment from Huawei, Britain's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Oliver Dowden told parliament.

He said the decision would mean a delay to the roll-out of 5G by two to three years, and add costs of up to 2 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion).

The United States had long pushed Johnson to reverse a decision he made in January to grant Huawei a limited role in 5G. London has also been dismayed by a crack-down in Hong Kong and the perception China did not tell the whole truth over the coronavirus.

Dowden said the cyber arm of Britain's GCHQ eavesdropping agency, the National Cyber Security Centre, had told ministers it could no longer guarantee the stable supply of Huawei gear after the United States imposed new sanctions on chip technology.

Telecoms companies will also be told to stop using Huawei in fixed-line fibre broadband within



The seven-year lag will please British telecoms operators such as BT, Vodafone and Three, who had feared they would be forced to spend billions of pounds to rip out Huawei equipment much faster

the next two years.

"This has not been an easy decision, but it is the right one for the UK telecoms networks, for our national security and our economy, both now and indeed in the long run," Dowden said.

"By the time of the next election, we will have implemented in law an irreversible path for the complete removal of Huawei equipment from our 5G networks."

Huawei said the decision was a political one which was about US trade policy and not security. It was bad for Britain and its phone users, it added. "It threatens to move Britain into the digital slow lane, push up bills and deepen the digital divide," a spokesman said.

Wipro to acquire Brazil's IVIA for \$22.4 mn

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 14: IT major Wipro Tuesday said it has signed an agreement to acquire Brazil-based IVIA Servicos de Informatica Ltda for about \$22.4 million (about ₹169 crore).

IVIA's local talent and long-standing relationships, combined with Wipro's global expertise, will help expand the information technology firm's geographical footprint in Brazil, Wipro said in a statement.

The acquisition will also help Wipro set up delivery centres in the northeast of Brazil leveraging IVIA's workforce, it added.

In a regulatory filing, Wipro said the purchase consideration was \$22.4 million, and the transaction is expected to be completed during the quarter ending September 30, 2020, subject to customary closing conditions.

IVIA is privately held and has a workforce of around 722 employees (as of December 2019). It had reported a net revenue of USD 13.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2019, it added.

Q1 profit up at ₹2,390 cr

The IT firm Tuesday posted a marginal increase in consolidated profit to ₹2,390.4 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2020. The company had posted a consolidated profit, attributable to equity holders, of ₹2,387.6 crore in the same period a year ago.

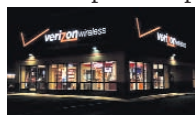
Airtel partners with Verizon to take on JioMeet, Zoom

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 14: Bharti Airtel Tuesday announced its partnership with US-based communication technology major Verizon to offer video conferencing solutions to enterprises in India under the brand name Airtel BlueJeans'.

The Airtel BlueJeans services will take on the recently launched JioMeet and the US-based Zoom.

BlueJeans is Verizon's enterprise-grade video conferencing service which helps people communicate and collaborate across mobile, desktop, browser and conference rooms.



Amazon India launches skill development prog

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 14: Amazon India Tuesday said it has launched a skilling programme under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) across its warehouses in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

The initiative has been launched with a pilot programme for 1,000 apprentices, and will be scaled further, Amazon India said in a statement. "The company aims at training youth whose learning journey or placement was impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic. Apprentices will be identified through various sources including NSDC-accredited training centres (DDU-GKY Centres) and the NSDC Skilling Database," it added.

"For us, skilling is not only meaningful but a sustainable and long-term approach. We are deeply in-



vested in creating opportunities for the youth which will help them secure gainful and skilled employment in the future. We are excited to launch the pilot program with 1,000 apprentices at our Fulfilment Centres and then scale further with

time," Amazon India Director of Human Resources (Customer Fulfilment) Swati Rustagi said.

During the six-month programme, the apprentices will be trained on warehousing and inventory management skills for the

the apprentices will be assessed by the Logistics Sector Skill Council and post the assessment, they will receive a certification.

After certification, the apprentices will be eligible to be considered for available seasonal and full-time employment opportunities.

In September 2019, Amazon India announced its partnership with Sol's ARC, an NGO, to train and create employment opportunities for young adults with autism and intellectual disabilities.

"It is encouraging to see large job creators like Amazon furthering our vision to enhance employability of the youth. We are confident that this apprenticeship program will help create a skilled workforce which will greatly benefit our communities and the economy," Anita Srivastava, Joint Director at Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship, said.

roles of warehouse associates and process associates, and will receive a monthly stipend in line with guidelines mandated under NAPS, the statement said. The curriculum will consist of a mix of classroom sessions, on-the-job learning and assessments held at the fulfilment centres in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, it said.

The training sessions will be conducted with high standard of preventive health and safety measures including social distancing and regular sanitisation, Amazon India said. At the end of the programme,

REAL ON CLOUD NINE

Los Blancos script ninth straight win post pandemic break beating Granada 2-1 as they are on brink of Spanish league title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, July 14: After their ninth successive win following the coronavirus pandemic break, Real Madrid are on the verge of reclaiming the Spanish league title. Real defeated Granada 2-1 Monday to move within two points of winning the trophy.

Ferland Mendy and Karim Benzema scored first-half goals to keep Real four points ahead of second-placed Barcelona with two rounds to go.

Real can clinch their first title since 2017 Thursday with a win at Villarreal, or if Barcelona lose points when they host Osasuna. Two draws in the final two rounds will also be enough to secure Madrid a record 34th league trophy.

“We are a step closer but we can’t relax, we haven’t won anything yet,” Real captain Sergio Ramos said. “There are still points to be won. We depend on ourselves and we have a game at home coming up, hopefully we can win it and celebrate the league title.”

Real was in control early in Granada and Mendy’s first goal since joining the Spanish club this season came from a beautiful angled shot into the top corner after getting past a defender inside the area in the 10th minute.

Benzema added to the lead six minutes later by scoring his 19th league goal with a right-footed strike into the far corner.

Granada, which was 10th in the standings, got on the board with a goal by Darwin Machis in the 50th and pressured to the end.

The hosts came closest to the equalizer with about five minutes left, when Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois had to make a difficult save and Ramos cleared a shot at the



ON A ROLL: Karim Benzema continues his goal-scoring form as he rejoices after his strike for Real Madrid against Granada, Monday

goal line. Real had not conceded a goal in its last five league matches.

Sevilla secured the final Champions League spot after Villarreal lost to Real Sociedad 1-2. The defeat left Villarreal nine points behind fourth-placed Sevilla with two rounds to go. Sevilla beat Mallorca 2-0 Sunday for their fourth straight win.

Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have the other berths in the Champions League. Sevilla last featured in the Champions League in 2018 when they were eliminated by Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals. They played in the Europa League in 2018-19 and this season, where they will face Roma in the round of 16.

Villarreal needed a win to keep alive their hopes of making it to the Champions League. It has won six of their nine matches following the pandemic break, but the home setback against Sociedad ended their chances of qualifying. It remains in good position to grab a Europa League spot, though, as it kept fifth place.

Sociedad also stayed in contention for the Europa League with its third win since the break, moving to seventh place. Willian Jose scored in the 61st minute and Diego Llorente in the 75th, while the hosts pulled closer through Santi Cazorla in the 85th.

Getafe stayed in sixth place after drawing at relegation-threatened Alaves 0-0. A late goal disallowed by video review kept Getafe from earning its second win since the league resumed after the pandemic stoppage.

Alaves has also won only once since the break and is winless in seven straight league matches. It is four points above the relegation zone.

OBAFEMI'S LATE EQUALISER FOR SOUTHAMPTON HANDS MANCHESTER UNITED CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFICATION BLOW TO DEAL WITH

Saints ruin Red Devils’ night



Michael Obafemi (No.20) wheels away in celebration after scoring Southampton's equaliser at Old Trafford as Manchester United players wear a dejected look, Monday

REUTERS

Manchester, July 14: Manchester United’s Champions League qualification hopes suffered a blow after an equaliser deep in stoppage time from Michael Obafemi earned Southampton a 2-2 draw in the Premier League here, Monday.

The Red Devils, unbeaten in 18 games in all competitions, were poised to move up to third after Anthony Martial’s 23rd minute strike had put them 2-1 ahead. They had fallen behind to an early Stuart Armstrong goal before Marcus Rashford equalised.

But on the day that second-placed Manchester City’s two-year ban from European football was overturned on appeal, meaning only the top four will qualify for the Champions League as usual, United’s late lapse left them fifth on 59 points.

Leicester City are fourth, ahead of United on goal difference, with Chelsea third on 60 points. City and title winners Liverpool have al-

ready secured Champions League places for next season.

Southampton took a shock lead in the 12th minute when Paul Pogba was robbed by Danny Ings just outside the area and Nathan Redmond’s cross found Armstrong at the back post where the Scottish midfielder slotted home.

Rashford then had the ball in the net, converting a low cross from Luke Shaw, but it was ruled out for offside although the United striker did not have to wait long to level.

Pogba played the ball in to Martial who held off two Saints defenders before poking the ball to Rashford and the striker made no mistake with a left-foot finish in the 20th minute.

Three minutes later United had the lead, Bruno Fernandes fed Martial on the left and the French international cut inside and smashed the ball home.

However, the home side never got a real grip on the game in midfield against a Southampton side that moved the ball well and con-

stantly pressed.

United had to finish the game with 10 men after Brandon Williams went off injured, with manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer having no substitute opportunities, and they failed to hold on to the three points when Obafemi turned in a poorly defended corner at the back post.

James Ward-Prowse’s in-swinger was flicked on by Jan Bednarek and Obafemi got in front of Victor Lindelof to find the decisive touch.

“The second half was a bit of a slog, we were not good enough on the ball. We brought pressure on to ourselves but we felt we did enough to win the game,” said United captain Harry Maguire.

“We have improved on defending set plays. We had a terrible record at the start of the season but have been really good on them. Can’t get let him get a header in when we have four men around the goal so have to look at it. We are disappointed at the moment but we dust ourselves down tomorrow,” he added.

Dada paved way for MSD’s rise, feels Sangakkara

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, July 14: MSDhoni edged out Sourav Ganguly as India’s greatest captain by the slimmest of margins in a survey conducted on Star Sports show ‘Cricket Connected’ in which the two captains were judged on eight parameters developed in association with ESPNcricinfo.

To celebrate the birthdays of two of India’s greatest leaders on the cricket field – Dhoni (July 7) and Ganguly (July 8) – Star Sports conducted the survey involving some of the biggest names in world cricket like Graeme Smith, Kumar Sangakkara, Gautam Gambhir, Irfan Pathan and Kris Srikanth.

The results were announced on the recent episodes of Cricket Connected English & Hindi. Dhoni’s performance with the bat while

captain proved to be the difference. In each category an average score was calculated from each panel members’ votes. After the results of each were totalled together, Dhoni was ahead by less than half a point.

Ganguly scored higher than Dhoni in four categories – captaincy away from home, transformational effects of captaincy on team, success of team handed over to the next captain and overall impact.

Dhoni scored more points in the four categories of captaincy at home, ODI captaincy, titles won and performance as batsman while captaining the team. The difference in points between the two greats came down to decimals.

“The biggest difference between Dada’s captaincy and MS’ captaincy is MS, the player for me. I think in that middle order, the ability to



close games, win games, finish games in that calm that he brought to the people around him. I think for me, that is probably the biggest difference between the two heroes, is MS Dhoni,” former South Africa captain Graeme Smith said.

“If Dada had an MS type player, his team was slightly more developed, I think you would have seen him win plenty more trophies. Dada was blessed to play or not blessed to play in an era where Australian cricket was at the forefront and dominating the world game as well which at the time the team had won the most during that period,” he added.

“You can be judged on a lot of things but sometimes you have to leave something behind and I think in that sense, Dada did a lot to create a wonderful legacy for others to inherit and MS benefitted from that,” added former Sri Lanka captain Sangakkara.

“Obviously, both these guys have taken Indian cricket forward, but just purely from an impact point of view, I can only talk about MS Dhoni because he was very serious about taking Indian cricket for-

ward,” said former India opener Gautam Gambhir.

“You are talking about two iconic figures and outstanding cricketers. It’s such small margins and it’s very difficult to debate, but I think, like Allan Border probably did in the early days of Australian cricket, setting them up for the success, I think that you have got to look at Dada here and say that what he did for Indian cricket was iconic,” opined Smith.

“MS, exceptional player, unbelievable captain, again, has moved Indian cricket forward. But the foundation for all of that was laid by Dada for me,” echoed Sangakkara.

Smith and Sangakkara picked Ganguly over Dhoni when it comes to Test cricket but both agreed that Dhoni is the man in white-ball formats.

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Inter move to 2nd position in Serie A



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, July 14: Two quick second-half goals lifted Inter Milan to a confidence-boosting 3-1 comeback win over Torino in Serie A. Inter moved into second place in the standings, although its title hopes are slim. League leader Juventus has an eight-point advantage with six matches remaining.

“Victories are important to raise morale and create a sense of certainty, especially for the players,” Inter coach Antonio Conte said.

“The work that we’re doing at the minute is important and it’s inevitable that every win acts as a reward for our efforts. When we don’t get the win, it’s really frustrating, especially because recently we’ve faced punishments that’s out of proportion with the mistakes that we make. But we’re on the right path.” Torino remained five points

above the relegation zone. It has a crucial match against direct rival Genoa Thursday.

Ashley Young and Diego Godin scored shortly after the break after a howler from Nerazzurri goalkeeper Samir Handanovic gifted Andrea Belotti the opener. Lautaro Martinez all but sealed the match.

Inter needed a win after two disappointing results. But it was Torino which took the lead in the 17th minute when Handanovic uncharacteristically spilled a corner, allowing Belotti the simplest of tap-ins.

Inter turned it around after the break as Martinez knocked down a ball for Young to fire in from close range, and three minutes later Godin headed in off the bar.

Inter extended their advantage in the 61st when Martinez’s shot took a deflection to loop over Torino goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu. Belotti hit the bar moments later.

HEART-WARMING GESTURE

Finch helps student in ‘remote learning’



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, July 14: Australian white-ball captain Aaron Finch helped a second grade student beat the lockdown blues by assigning the kid a cricket project through his school teacher, adding some joy to his daily routine.

With cases of COVID-19 rising in the state of Victoria and all the schools closed, remote learning has been a challenge for students in the absence of community sport. Around 7,00,000 students are not being able to attend school due to the pandemic. The country has reported over 9,000 cases and more than 100 deaths so far.

Cricket Australia’s official website, ‘cricket.com.au’, reported that “...learning from home in term two proved particularly challenging for young cricket lover Alex Altube, a grade two student at Blackburn

Lake Primary School in Melbourne’s east. At least it was until Finch stepped in to help.”

Through Alex’s teacher Kathryn Taylor, Finch sent the child a video message asking him to complete a ‘special project’ during lockdown.

Finch asked the second grade student to prepare a ‘cricket magazine’ with detailed explanation of the rules of the game, including the fielding positions and how to play.

As per Alex’s teacher Taylor, “The result was some of the best work he’d produced all year.” Taylor said Finch’s intervention also brought back enthusiasm in the child demeanour.

“He was pretty blown away to have Aaron Finch send him a personal message. (He was struggling) with the whole circumstance of being at home and not being able to participate in his normal sport ... that’s his outlet, usually,” Taylor was quoted as saying.

“Obviously he had a lot of support with it at home, but it was great work and he did come back to school quite engaged.”

Taylor said Alex is a big cricket fan and that’s why enjoyed the school project. “He’s a fanatical cricketer, he loves his cricket. That’s all they do all recess and lunch time, they talk about it. He’s a big fan and he enjoyed doing that side of things with his work.”

Holder second among Test bowlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, July 14: Jason Holder Tuesday attained the highest rating points by any West Indies bowler in 20 years, reaching a career-best second place in the ICC Test Player Rankings after leading his team to a famous win over England at Southampton.

Holder, who picked seven wickets including a haul of 6/42 in the first innings, is now on a career-best 862 rating points, the best for any West Indies bowler since Courtney Walsh’s tally of 866 in August 2000.

Indian cricketers, who have not taken the field since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have retained their positions in the top 10



of batsmen and bowlers rankings. Skipper Virat Kohli remains second in the batsmen standings behind

When Stokes sent WC Super Over stress up in smoke

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Christchurch, July 14: Star all-rounder Ben Stokes had sneaked off for a ‘cigarette break’ in order to calm his nerves ahead of the Super Over during last year’s epic World Cup final, an anecdote which finds mention in a new book on England’s triumph.

A year ago, England had claimed their maiden 50 over World Cup title after beating New Zealand by virtue of a contentious boundary count-back rule as scores were tied even after the Super Over. It was arguably one of the greatest finals in the Cup history.

On the first anniversary of that

historic triumph, excerpts from a book called ‘Morgan’s Men: The Inside Story of England’s Rise from Cricket World Cup Humiliation to Glory’ has revealed the pressure that Stokes felt on that day at Lord’s.

“Finding a quiet spot as the frenzy of the Super Over approached was hard in a ground packed out with 27,000 supporters and television cameras following the players from the middle, through the Long Room and up the stairs to the dressing room,” authors Nick Hoult and Steve James wrote and the excerpt has been published by stuff.co.nz.

“But Ben Stokes had played at Lord’s many times. He knows every



nook and cranny. As Eoin Morgan tries to bring calm to the England dressing room and sort out their tactics, Stokes nips off for a moment of peace.

“He is covered in dirt and sweat. He has batted for two hours and 27 minutes of unbelievable tension. What does Stokes do? He goes to the back of the England dressing room, past the attendant’s little office and into the showers. There he lights up a cigarette and has few minutes on his own.”

The 29-year-old Stokes was adjudged the Man of the Match for his unbeaten 84, plus eight runs in the Super Over, which helped England claim that momentous victory.