

8 lions of Hyd zoo test Covid positive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

THE first confirmed case of animals contracting Covid-19 in the country has been reported in Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park (NZP), where eight Asiatic lions - four male and four female - have tested positive for the virus.

According to the zoo and Forest department officials, all eight felines have been responding well to treatment and have almost recovered. The incident came to light after zoo veterinarians noticed mild symptoms, including dry cough, nasal discharge, and loss of appetite, among the eight lions almost a fortnight ago.

"As soon as we noticed symptoms in the animals in lion safari enclosures, we decided to send samples to check for viral infections," said VVL Subhadra Devi, curator, NZP. The first nasal and oral discharge samples of the animals were sent to the Labora-

tory for the Conservation of Endangered Species at CSIR's Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (LACONES-CCMB) in Hyderabad on April 24.

"We conducted RT-PCR tests from the collected samples, that confirmed what is perhaps the first Covid positive case among felines in the country. For further inquiry, the samples were also sent for genome analysis, which confirmed that the infections were not caused by the new variant of Covid-19," Rakesh Mishra, director, CCMB, told Express. He added that it was possible that the virus might have been transmitted to the animals from their caretakers, who might also have been infected.

Measures to take care of the animals

The zoo officials said that all the eight lions were now responding well to the treatment given to

them. "The lions have now been isolated from other animals at the zoo, and are receiving due care and necessary treatment. They are also responding well to the treatment and recovering," says Dr S Kulkrety, APCCF and Director of Zoos, Telangana. Additionally, animal keepers taking care of the big cats have also been provided with PPEs.

The moats are kept well ventilated and sanitised regularly.

Stating that collection of swab samples from animals was difficult and was done by the 'squeeze cage method,' Dr Rakesh said, "The animals have to be tranquillised to get a sample. We will now test the lions' faecal samples. This can be a useful method of testing for both captive and free-ranging animals."

Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan, scientist-in-charge, LACONES-CCMB, added, "We have to carefully document the different

symptoms that Coronavirus causes in animals, as well as develop non-invasive ways to procure samples from animals."

New regulations to come up for animals

In the wake of the rapid spread of Covid-19 in the country and the possibility for it to get transmitted to animals, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on April 30 had issued an advisory to close all zoological parks, national parks, tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries in the country. As part of the next steps, new guidelines are being further developed in consultation with experts. Additional information shall be issued as warranted. Based on experiences with animals in zoos elsewhere in the world that were found to be SARS-CoV2 positive last year, there is no factual evidence that animals can further transmit the disease to humans, the press release added.

Covid guidelines for jails

Bhubaneswar: The Directorate of Prison and Correctional Services has issued guidelines to all the jails across the State to prevent the spread of Covid-19 among its personnel and inmates. It has also asked the agencies like police, excise and forest officials to conduct RT-PCR tests of the accused and they will be allowed to be lodged in jails only if their reports are negative. The department on Tuesday released the prison statistics of last year. According to the statistics, 626 prisoners were provided legal aid and 738 received education facilities like elementary, higher education and computer courses.

Fire at building in city

Bhubaneswar: A major fire broke out at a two-storied building on KIIT Road in the city on Tuesday evening. The building houses a gift shop and a bakery on the ground floor and a restaurant on the first floor. Odisha Fire Service officers said the blaze erupted in the gift shop due to an electric short circuit and later it engulfed the entire building within no time. "The fire was controlled and extinguished completely after over two hours," said a fire officer. No one was injured in the mishap and further probe is on, he added.

Summer vacation for colleges till May end

Bhubaneswar: Amid surge in Covid-19 cases, the Odisha government on Tuesday announced early summer vacation for higher educational institutions in the State. In a letter to Vice Chancellors of all State universities and principals of government and non-government degree colleges, Higher Education department Secretary Saswat Mishra stated that the vacation will continue till May 31. During this period, all online classes and exams will remain suspended, he said. The Secretary, however asked college and university authorities ensure all arrangements for functioning of the institutions during the vacation including the Covid-19 related lockdown/shutdown.

Bihar imposes lockdown after HC nudge

PATNA: A day after the Patna High Court slammed the Bihar government for its poor handling of the second wave of the pandemic and sought to know whether it was enforcing lockdown or not, the administration on Tuesday announced imposition of lockdown from May 5 to May 15.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the Crisis Management Group presided over by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The Patna High Court had on Monday asked Advocate General Lalit Kishore to talk to the chief minister on the urgent need of the lockdown.

When contacted, Kishore told PTI he has intimated the High Court about declaration of the lockdown to check the spread of the virus. The state saw 10 per cent positivity rate in last one week. The lockdown decision was welcomed by the political parties, but the main opposition RJD attacked the government claiming it was made after the infection has spread in villages.

Soon after the crisis management group meeting, the CM announced the decision, following which Chief Secretary Tripurari Sharan along with senior police and administration officers held a press conference to announce the Modalities.

PTI

HC quashes school merger plan

FROM P1...

The Court endorsed the contention of the petitioners that the decision to merge government primary schools with UP schools is highly arbitrary as that would put the small children into great difficulty. As per the notification, schools with students less

than 40 were to be merged with bigger nearby schools known as lead schools. As per the plan, integration of primary, UP and high schools with the nearby bigger schools will ensure fully functional schools with increase in number of teachers per class and concentrated investment of resources, it stated.

FROM P1...

Besides, all passengers from two states alleged at Bhubaneswar or Jharsuguda airports or at railway stations in the State will be mandatorily subjected to institutional or paid quarantine for 14 days at facilities identified by the dis-

trict collectors and municipal commissioners.

The SRC, however, said any person who has been successfully vaccinated (two doses) and produces the certificate or RT-PCR negative test report within 48 hours of entering Odisha will be allowed home quarantine for seven days. If there is no suita-

ble facility for home quarantine, such persons may opt for institutional or paid quarantine.

Those found violating home quarantine will have to undergo institutional quarantine for seven days, he added.

The SRC said persons coming on emergency work for management of Covid-19 by govern-

ment and private hospitals or coming in for any work permitted by Odisha government will be exempted from this order. However, such persons will have to strictly follow Covid guidelines and perform minimum travel only to do the task for which he or she has been drafted, he added.

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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites tenders from eligible Bidders for the tenders listed below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Enquiry No.
1	Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of RMUs in East,	BESCOM/BCP-1270/2021-22/East
2	West, North and South Circles of BESCOM	BESCOM/BCP-1271/2021-22/North
3		BESCOM/BCP-1272/2021-22/West
4		BESCOM/BCP-1273/2021-22/South
5	Procurement of LT Aerial Bundled Cables of size 3x95+1x70+1x16 Sq.mmm (Short Term Tender)	BESCOM/BCP-1274/2021-22
6	Rectification / Repair of faults in the 11kV UG Cable in East,	BESCOM/BCP-1275/2021-22/East
7	West, North and South	BESCOM/BCP-1276/2021-22/North
8		BESCOM/BCP-1277/2021-22/West
9		BESCOM/BCP-1278/2021-22/South

Bid Documents available: **05.05.2021 onwards to 04.06.2021 15:00 Hrs.** Last date for Bid Submission: **04.06.2021 15:00Hrs.** for Sl. No. 1 to 4 & 6 to 9, And for Sl. No. 5, **20.05.2021 15:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **05.06.2021 15:15Hrs.** for Sl. No. 1 to 4 & 6 to 9, And for Sl. No. 5, **21.05.2021 15:15Hrs.** The Tender documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal website: <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk contact numbers: **91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or email at support@eproc.karnataka.gov.in

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V.O. CHIDAMBANAR PORT TRUST
TUTICORIN-628 004

(INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION)

No.MEE-CMPE1-MIS-CONVE-V1-20(60768) Dated : 5 /5/2021

The Board of Trustees of V.O.Chidambanar Port invites Application from interested parties (Applicants) in accordance with the Request For Qualification (RFQ) for the project "Conversion of 9th Berth as Container Terminal through Public-Private Partnership on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Basis".

Name of Work	Conversion of 9th Berth as Container Terminal through Public-Private Partnership on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis at V.O.Chidambanar Port.
Indicative Project Cost	Rs.434.17 Crores.
Sale of RFQ Document	05.05.2021 to 17.06.2021
Last date of receiving queries regarding RFQ	29.05.2021
Pre-Application Conference	03.06.2021 at 11.00 hours
Last date for submission	Up to 15.00 hours on 18.06.2021
Date of opening	15.30 hours on 18.06.2021
Validity of Tender	180 days from the last date fixed for submission of Tender

For Minimum Eligible Qualifying criteria Applicants may visit Port Website: www.vocport.gov.in. RFQ document can be obtained from the office of Chief Mechanical Engineer, V.O.Chidambanar Port Trust at Tuticorin on submission of a demand draft (Non-refundable) drawn in favour of Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer, V.O.Chidambanar Port Trust payable at Tuticorin of Rs.59,000/- including GST (Rs. 1000/- extra for postage / courier charges).

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MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 30.06.2020 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.09.2020 and MSGB, EMI & SME SUVARNA due up to 31.03.2021 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 12.05.2021 & 13.05.2021 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 12.05.2021 - GAJAPATI DISTRICT - PARLAKHEMUNDI: F1000, F1005, F1006, F1008, F1009, F1010, F1011, F1013, F1020, F1021, F1023, F1025, F1027, F1030, F1031, F1032, F1034, F1035, F1041, F1044, F1045, F1046, F1049, F1052, F1056, F1062, F1063, F1064, F1067, F1074, F1076, F1080, F1086, F1089, F1096, F1098, F1101, F1102, F1110, F1114, F1115, F1118, F1124, F1125, F1132, F1134, F1145, F1146, F1152, F1153, F1157, F1160, F1172, F1175, F1176, F1177, F1179, F1180, F1181, F1185, F1190, F1191, F1197, F1213, F1224, F1234, F1236, F1237, F1238, F1239, F1240, F1241, F1242, F1243, F1244, F1245, F1246, F1247, F1248, F1249, F1250, F1251, F1252, F1253, F1254, F1255, F1256, F1257, F1258, F1259, F1260, F1261, F1262, F1263, F1264, F1265, F1266, F1267, F1268, F1269, F1270, F1271, F1272, F1273, F1274, F1275, F1276, F1277, F1278, F1279, F1280, F1281, F1282, F1283, F1284, F1285, F1286, F1287, F1288, F1289, F1290, F1291, F1292, F1293, F1294, F1295, F1296, F1297, F1298, F1299, F1300, F1301, F1302, F1303, 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