



YOU ARE THE CHAMPIONS: QUEEN RELEASES NEW VERSION OF THEIR ROCK CLASSIC TO RAISE MONEY FOR HEALTH WORKERS

SPIDER-MAN IN VENOM 2? TOM HARDY SHARES A FAN-MADE POSTER ON INSTA OF HIS FACE-OFF WITH THE WEB-SLINGER

Pandemic to be around for 2 years: US report

'Corona Will Start To Fizzle Out When 2/3rd Of Population Is Infected And Herd Immunity Sets In'

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Washington: The novel coronavirus will be around for at least 18 to 24 months under any circumstances, a new US report has said, projecting that it will only start to fizzle out when roughly two-thirds of the population is infected and "herd immunity" sets in.

The report comes even as President Trump on Thursday made known his intention to seek reparations of up to \$1 trillion from Beijing, alleging that he has a "high degree of confidence" the novel coronavirus originated in a laboratory in Wuhan. The twin developments undercut any expectation that life — and international relations — will return to pre-2020 days any time soon.

The report by the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy released on Thursday, based on the study of previous pandemics, presents three possibilities, none of which see an immediate demise of the coronavirus. In the first scenario,



Labour union protests in front of Greek parliament in Athens

May Day with a twist!

At a time when workers of the world are bearing the brunt of the economic fallout of the widespread curbs, some saw it as more important than ever to show their solidarity on International Workers' Day. In Athens, Greeks wearing masks and gloves and standing six feet apart gathered outside parliament. Spanish unions held online events after courts struck down proposals to gather outdoors, while French planned to bang on pots and pans outside their homes at midday. President Macron acknowledged that this May 1 was "like no other". NYT

the pandemic will continue in a series of "peaks and valleys", gradually waning over time until it dies out in 2021. "The occurrence of these waves may vary geographically and may depend on what mitigation measures are in place," it states.

In the second "worse case scenario", the report says the current outbreak will be eclipsed by a much larger peak in the fall or winter of this year in

echoes of the 1918-19 Spanish Flu pandemic. Smaller peaks will follow before the infection rate is wrestled down with more lockdown measures. The best case scenario projects a "slow burn", with the pandemic gradually fading away with smaller and smaller peaks from now till 2022.

"Whichever scenario the pandemic follows, we must be prepared for at least another 18

to 24 months of significant Covid-19 activity, with hot spots popping up periodically in diverse geographic areas," the report warns, urging the government to level with public that pandemic will not be over soon and to prepare for the worst-case scenario two (no vaccine is available and herd immunity has not been met this year).

The sobering assessment came as many states in the US

Covid-19 is likely to generate antibodies, says Anthony Fauci

Most people who've had the coronavirus probably develop markers of the infection, according to top US expert Anthony Fauci. He said it would be "extremely unusual" if patients did not develop antibodies, which often bestow immunity on people. Other experts have cast doubt. "I'd be careful about saying people who get infected don't have any antibodies. It would be almost unprecedented." BLOOMBERG

beginning relaxing mitigation measures and federal social distancing norms ended, even though cases and deaths spiked. After dipping to below 1,500 deaths per day last weekend, the daily nationwide US toll has soared to over 2,300 per day over each of the last three days, with the overall tally nearing 64,000. One model from the Network Science Institute at Northeastern University is

now predicting that 1,00,000 Americans will have died by the end of summer.

The still rising toll, the economic distress and the criticism of his handling of the crisis is pushing President Trump into an increasingly tough stance towards China. Contradicting views of US intelligence that no assessment has been made on whether the outbreak began through contact with animals or if it was the result of an accident at a lab in Wuhan, Trump said he has seen evidence that gives him a "high degree of confidence" that the virus originated in a Wuhan lab.

The exchange was followed by leaks that Washington is considering a range of steps from stripping China of "sovereign immunity" in US courts to seizing or defaulting on US debts to China. Trump, however, indicated that he is in favour of a more moderate approach such as imposing massive tariffs on Chinese imports and ending flight of manufacturing jobs to the country.

STORIES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

Biden denies sexual assault allegation

Washington: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden on Friday categorically denied allegations from a former Senate staffer that he sexually assaulted her in the early 1990s, saying "this never happened". His first public remarks on the allegation came at a critical moment for the presumptive Democratic nominee as he tries to relieve mounting pressure after weeks of leaving denials to his campaign.

said she filed a complaint back in 1993. But she does not have a record of this alleged complaint. There is only one place a complaint of this kind could be — National Archives."

Republicans worried about President Donald Trump's increasingly precarious political standing are seizing on the allegation to portray Democrats as hypocrites who only defend women who allege wrongdoing against conservatives. They are digging in despite the fact that it could renew attention on the multiple sexual assault claims lodged against Trump.

Speaking about the allegation against Biden for the first time on Thursday, Trump said Biden "should respond".

The November contest will be the first presidential race of the #MeToo era. AP



CLEARING THE AIR

5G signal now available on top of Everest, says report

Beijing: Climbers to Mount Everest from the Chinese side can now enjoy high-speed 5G coverage after the world's highest-altitude base station started operation in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, the state media reported on Friday. Built at an altitude of 6,500 metres, the base station which became operational on Thursday, is located at the advance base camp of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, according to state-run telecom giant China Mobile.

The base station, along with another two that were previously built at altitudes of 5,300 metres and 5,800 metres respectively, realises the full coverage of 5G signal of Mount Everest on the north ridge as well as the summit, Xinhua news agency reported. Zhou Min, general manager of Tibet branch of China Mobile, said the facility will ensure telecommunication for mountain climbing, scientific research, environmental monitoring and HD livestreaming. PTI

US House panel wants Bezos to testify in antitrust probe

Washington: The US House Judiciary Committee on Friday called on Jeff Bezos, Amazon's chief executive, to testify before Congress, in a major escalation of its investigation into

to the country's largest technology companies. The testimony would allow lawmakers to question Bezos about accusations that Amazon abuses its market power in online retail, mistreats warehouse workers and hurts small businesses. In a letter to Bezos, lawmakers even threatened to subpoena him. An Amazon spokeswoman didn't offer a comment.

The decision to call Bezos to testify comes after an article in The Wall Street Journal detailed how Amazon employees had used data from third-party sellers to hone its private label offerings. Amazon executives have said that they did not believe the allegations were accurate, but an internal investigation has been launched. NYT



More than 1m recovered; WHO extends 'global emergency' alert

The WHO extended its declaration of a global health emergency on Friday. More than 3.27 million people around the world are infected and nearly a quarter million have died. However, in some good news, the number of people who have recovered from the infection crossed 1 million.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus defended the health agency's "timely" actions in declaring the coronavirus an international health emergency on January 30. "The declaration was made in enough time for the rest of the world to respond because there were at that stage only 82 cases of infection and no deaths outside China," Tedros said. The WHO had used the days before declaring the global emergency as time to visit China to learn more about the new virus.

Meanwhile, Beijing parks and museums reopened. All tickets for Forbidden City were sold out for weekend holiday. Russia's case tally rose by record 7,933 cases and stood at 114,431. Toll rose to 1,169. NYT & AGENCIES



Countries	Infected	Death	185 countries/regions hit
United States	10,82,411	63,127	32,76,373+ infected globally
Spain	2,13,435	24,543	
Italy	2,07,428	28,236	2,35,290+ have died
United Kingdom	1,78,684	27,583	
France	1,67,303	24,410	10,39,588+ have recovered
Germany	1,63,331	6,632	
Turkey	1,22,392	3,258	
Russia	1,14,431	1,169	
Iran	95,646	6,091	
Brazil	87,187	6,006	

Source: Johns Hopkins University

Pak speaker tests positive for Covid, had hosted Iftar party this week

Islamabad: Pakistan's National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser has tested test positive for the novel coronavirus, raising fears that other high-ranking officials, including PM Imran Khan, whom he had met earlier in the week, may have also contracted the disease. Ignoring social distancing protocol, the PTI lawmaker had hosted an Iftar dinner last Monday, which was attended by a number of politicians and dignitaries. The speaker is the latest Pakistani politician — and third PTI leader — to test positive for coronavirus.

"I have put myself in self-quarantine," Qaiser posted on Twitter late on Thursday. Qaiser said his entire family had been tested and his son and daughter had tested positive. Qaiser had met PM Imran Khan on Monday. It was not immediately clear if Khan will be tested. Pakistan reported 990 new cases in the last 24 hours on Friday, taking the number of infections to 17,439, the health ministry said.

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

AROUND THE WORLD

Madonna tests +ve for antibodies: Will breathe in 'Covid air'

Madonna says she wants to breathe in "Covid-19 air" after testing negative for coronavirus. The singer says she has the right antibodies to protect her from contracting the disease. "I took a test the other day," the 61-year-old said on a video posted to her Instagram. "And I found out that I have the antibodies so tomorrow I'm just going to go on a long drive in a car, roll down the windows and I'm going to breathe in the Covid-19 air." The CDC says it is still unclear whether antibodies will make you immune to the virus or prevent you from getting infected again. In March, Madonna called coronavirus "the great equaliser" in a sombre nude video taken in the bath.

The taste of travel: Airline delivers in-flight meals Ural Airlines has begun deliv-



MEGHAN LOSES ROUND 1 OF SUIT TO BRITISH TABLOID

In a setback to Prince Harry and Meghan in their bitter legal battle against the British tabloids, a high court judge struck down key claims on Friday in a lawsuit that Meghan brought against the Mail for publishing a letter she sent to her father. Justice Mark Warby said the newspaper wouldn't be judged on whether it had "acted dishonestly" by leaving out certain passages of the letter

ring in-flight meals to travel-deprived Russians who miss the thrill of a catering cart rolling down the aisle. The airline said the initiative was meant to provide people with "the taste of travel without leaving your home". Russia has grounded all international flights.

TIMES SPORT

SNAP SHOTS

Oly clash: 2021 Badminton World meet rescheduled

The 2021 badminton World Championships will move from its August slot and begin in late November to avoid a clash with the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics next year, the game's governing body said on Friday. The tournament will be held from Nov. 29 to Dec. 5 in the Spanish city of Huelva, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said in a statement.

PGA alters playing status guidelines: The PGA Tour is changing its qualification guidelines for next season by allowing more golfers to retain their eligibility status even if they had an off season in 2019-20. Normally, golfers who don't finish in the top 125 of the FedEx Cup standings will lose their PGA spots for the next season. But because of the shortening of the 2019-20 season due to the Covid-19 pandemic, organizers are now allowing exempt players to retain their playing status for 2020-21 regardless of where they finish.

Jagshaanbir joins Points Park varsity basketball team: NBA Academy India product Jagshaanbir Singh has been signed by the Point Park University men's basketball team as its overseas player for the 2020-21 season. The seven feet tall centre was most recently at Golden State Prep in California. Jagshaanbir was part of the first-ever class selected to participate in the NBA Academy India.

Sania nominated for Fed Cup Heart award: Indian tennis star Sania Mirza on Thursday became the first Indian to be nominated for the Fed Cup Heart Award from the Asia/Oceania Zone along with Indonesia's Priska Medelyin Nugroho. Sania had recently made a comeback to Fed Cup after four years. The winners will be determined by online voting by fans which will go live on May 1 and will go on until May 8.

Murray wins Virtual Madrid title: Andy Murray won the Virtual Madrid Open title on Thursday, helped by a semifinal walkover when opponent Diego Schwartzmann, logging in from Argentina, suffered a connection glitch. Murray downed Belgium's David Goffin in the final. In the women's final, Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands beat Fiona Ferro of France. AGENCIES

Oz says no to saliva, sweat to shine ball

New Delhi: Australia will not allow the use of saliva or sweat to shine the ball once cricket training resumes in the post Covid-19 world, says a framework released by the federal government regarding the staged return of sports amid the pandemic.

There is speculation that use of saliva to shine the ball will be stopped to cut down the risk of the highly contagious infection with reports even suggesting

COVID GUIDELINES

that the ICC is considering the possibility of allowing the use of artificial substances to polish the red ball under the supervision of umpires.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in consultation with medical experts, sporting bodies and federal and state governments, has come up with guidelines, restricting the use of saliva and sweat to shine the ball.

The framework, which outlines a staged return to play, has three stages — Level A, Level B and Level C. Currently, restrictions on sport are outlined as be-



ing at "Level A", which restricts all training except that of the individual kind.

But in little more than a week from now, restrictions will be moved to "Level B" which will allow the following: "Nets — batters facing bowlers. Limit bowlers per net. Fielding sessions —

unrestricted. No warm up drills involving unnecessary person-person contact. No shining cricket ball with sweat/ saliva during training."

The third and final "Level C", to be permitted later in the year, is outlined as: "Full training and competition. No ball shining

with sweat/ saliva in training." The framework also provides guideline for training and management of illness in elite sports.

'Minimal contact'

"The approach to training should focus on 'get in, train, get out', minimising unnecessary contact in change rooms, bathrooms and communal areas. Prior to resumption, sporting organisations should have agreed protocols in place for management of illness in athletes and other personnel," it said.

"Individuals should not return to sport if in the last 14 days they have been unwell or had contact with a known or suspected case of Covid-19. "Any individual with respiratory symptoms (even if mild) should be considered a potential case and must immediately self-isolate, have Covid-19 excluded and be medically cleared by a doctor to return to the training environment."

"Athletes returning to sport after Covid-19 infection require special consideration prior to resumption of high intensity physical activity." PTI

India's moment of glory in AFC youth meet

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Hyderabad: Forty-six years ago, the Indian youth football team created history by becoming joint champions with Iran in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Youth Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand from April 15-30, 1974.

It remains the last trophy that the country won at the Asian level.

A series of disappointing performances in competitions had led to the Indian government deciding not to grant permission

for such tournaments. However, the All India Foot-



Captain Shabbir Ali with the 1974 AFC Youth Championship trophy. Coach SA Salam (left), manager Dilip Ghosh (right) and coach Arun Ghosh (second from right)

ball Federation (AIFF) managed to persuade the government to grant permission in 1974. Shabbir Ali was named captain and Prasun Banerjee the vice-captain.

Recounting the event to TOI on Thursday, Ali said, "Other teams did not think much of us when we arrived in Thailand. All the teams used to eat together and other teams were dispassionate towards the Indians. But as the team played well in the group stage

and continued their good performances, other teams became curious and started respecting us."

Sharing memories of team spirit, Ali said, "Since the tea at the hotel we were staying in was expensive, manager Dilip Ghosh used to prepare tea for the players every morning. The manager and the coaches stuck closely with us throughout the tournament and kept encouraging us even when nobody expected much from the team."

Road to victory: OF: Bt Singapore 4-1 via penalty shootout. SF: Bt Thailand 2-1. Final: drew 2-2 with Iran to share the trophy.

India lose top spot in Test rankings

New Delhi: India lost the top spot in the ICC Test rankings to Australia on Friday, dropping to third after their stupendous 2016-17 record was eliminated from the annual update as per rules.

India yielded the top spot in Test rankings for the first time since October 2016 but continue to lead the World Test Championship, a league comprising six series played by each of the top nine sides.

India dropped in the ladder largely because the record of 12 Tests victories and just one Test defeat in 2016-17 was

removed in the latest chart, the ICC said in a statement. Virat Kohli's men had won all five series during that period including against Australia and England. On the other hand, Australia had lost to South Africa as well as to India in the same period. Australia not only moved to the top of the Test rankings but also grabbed the No.1 spot in the T20I list for the first time while England continued to lead the men's ODI rankings after the annual update, which eliminates results from 2016-17. Australia (116) are followed by New Zealand (115) and India (114). AGENCIES

Shooter Anish set to grab Tokyo berth

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Bengaluru: The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) is yet to freeze the world rankings amid the coronavirus pandemic but it appears that India's young pistol shooter Anish Bhanwala will make the cut for the Tokyo Olympics based on his world ranking. Though top shooters expressed surprise at the ISSF's stand, they felt the world body can always under the damage. "It's surprising why they have not done it so far. But it

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appears Anish, ranked 12th now, is getting the Olympics quota in men's rapid fire pistol based on his world ranking. For the Olympics test event, his entry came by name. Those ahead of him have either grabbed the quota or won't make the cut through the ranking route," sources told TOI.

World rankings

A total of 12 places, six each for men and women, are awarded by the world body based on the world rankings. As per the original plan, the ISSF was to go by the world ranking dated May 31, 2020 and the highest ranked athlete who has not yet qualified in any event will win an individual quota place, provided that the athlete's country has not won any quota place in that particular event. These quota places are allocated by name. Anish's ambitions of grabbing a quota place for India was thwarted when the World Cups scheduled in New Delhi and Munich were cancelled due to the pandemic.