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# Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Daily cases drop below-100 after a long while in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 07 AUG:**

For the first time in a very long while, the number of daily Covid cases in Sikkim came in under-100 today with the State reporting 94 new cases in the last 24 hours. The last time that the daily count had stayed below 100 was on 12 July last month when 90 cases were reported. But that was part of the Sunday anomaly in Sikkim when a lot fewer tests are conducted leading to fewer new cases being reported in data released on Mondays. In that sense, this drop in numbers is even more significant since the last time that fewer than hundred cases were detected on any day other than Sunday was in 24 June, a Thursday, when 92 cases were detected.

The 94 new cases reported in the Daily Report of Covid-19 in Sikkim released by the In-

tegrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department covering the 24 hours ending 8AM this morning, were picked up from the testing of 1,022 samples collected on Friday, giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 9%.

Unfortunately, three more persons succumbed to Covid in the last 24 hours, taking the state's Covid toll to 355. The second wave has been brutal for Sikkim, and 219 [62%] of these 355 deaths have occurred since 22 April, the day taken by this newspaper as the start of the second wave.

The data hints that the second wave might finally be ebbing in Sikkim. One must bear in mind that while the test positivity rate has been coming down, it will take at least another week for the deaths also to ease away since fatali-

ties usually come at a lag of two weeks or more from the day of infection. In the coming days, Sikkim can expect the number of recoveries to outnumber the number of new cases.

Since 28 Feb, 2020, Sikkim has recorded 27,746 confirmed cases of Covid-19, of which 20,588 infections happened in the second wave. This works out to the second wave contributing 74% of the State's total caseload, but noticeably fewer share of the deaths which works out to 12% lower in comparison at 62% of the total deaths.

As for the three deaths in the past 24 hours, while two were reported from STNM hospital, the third was recorded at District Hospital, Namchi.

Of the 94 new cases, 32 were detected in RT-PCR testing of 494 samples, while 61 tested positive in rapid an-

tigen testing of 525 samples and one more case was picked up in TruNat testing of three samples.

While 29 of these cases were registered in East District, 35 were registered in West District, 26 in South District and 04 in North District.

There are currently 3,090 active Covid cases in Sikkim, of whom only 113, around 3%, have symptoms severe enough to require hospitalisation. Of the 113 Covid patients currently in hospital, 15 were admitted in the last 24 hours while seven are in ICU facilities at STNM Hospital and CRH.

On the other hand, Sikkim's count of the recovered cases crossed the 24,000-mark today and stands at 24,023 as 251 more completing their prescribed period of isolation and returning to their normal lives on Friday.

## CM meets Rajnath, brings up Lachung's demand for re-evaluation of land taken by defence at Yume Samdong



**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG (IPR):**The Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang accompanied by Ministers, BS Pant, Dr MK Sharma and MP (Lok Sabha), Indra Hang Subba called on the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at his official residence today.

During the call on, the Chief Minister apprised the request of the people of Lachung Dzumsa of North Sikkim for the re-examination of land used by Defence at Yume

Samdong Zero point. He added that the area is of great religious significance to the people and is also a renowned pilgrimage and tourist destination. In this regard, he raised the request to shift the temporary camp from the current location to Shonkoten.

Concerning the establishment of Key Location Point (KLP) under Chungthang Sub-Division in North Sikkim on the land identified by the Defence Ministry, he informed

that the people are willing to provide land as per the State Government notified rates.

The Chief Minister also raised the subject of tunnelling from Sirwani to Gangtok, Sirwani to Legship and Sirwani to Namchi for which the DPR has been prepared by the Roads & Bridges Department, Sikkim and also requested for the increase of two more battalions of Sikkim Scouts of the Indian Army.

## CM calls on Union Minister Kiren Rijiju



**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG (IPR):** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang along with Ministers BS Panth and Dr MK Sharma, and MP (Lok Sabha), Indra Hang Subba called on the Union Minister, Kiren

Rijiju at his official residence, New Delhi today. They extended their best wishes to the Union Minister for being appointed as the Minister of Law & Justice and also discussed various other matters.

## CM discusses State's plans with Union Health Minister



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 07 AUG:** Chief Minister, PS Tamang called on Union Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, at his office in New Delhi today, a press release informs.

He briefed the Health Minister about the current scenario of the Health infrastructure in Sikkim and also provided updates regarding the COVID-19 situation and the vaccination process in the

state. The Union Health Minister expressed his delight on the vaccination status of Sikkim and assured every form of support to uplift the health sector in the state.

They also held discussions on several matters, including Namchi Hospital and further improving the health sector in the state by adding and enhancing multiple facilities and promoting Sikkim as a health tourism destination.

## Neeraj Chopra: The new Gold Standard of Indian sports

**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG [NDTV]:** By winning the gold medal in men's javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics, Neeraj Chopra joined Abhinav Bindra in a now two-person exclusive club of Indians to win an individual gold medal at the Olympic Games.

He also became the first athlete from India to win an athletics gold. The Tokyo gold that saw the Indian anthem being played in an Olympic medal ceremony for the first time in 13 years will undoubtedly catapult Neeraj Chopra's status to one of the country's greatest sporting heroes. Chopra's historic triumph in the Japanese capital on Saturday with a throw of 87.58m had been years in the making.

A medal in Tokyo had never seemed in doubt as the Indian continued to consistently improve his throws over the last few



years. It always seemed to be a question of which colour his medal would be.

With his biggest rival in Germany's Johannes Vetter struggling for form

in Tokyo and even failing to qualify for the final three throws in Saturday's final, the 23-year-old Neeraj Chopra's gold

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## CM places LT seat reservation issue before Tribal Affairs Minister

**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG [IPR]:** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang called on the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda at his official residence in New Delhi today.

The Chief Minister informed the Minister of Tribal Affairs regarding the historical significance behind the demand for Assembly seat reservation for the 12 left-out communities and Limboo-Tamang communities.

He submitted a memorandum stating that the pre-merger history of Sikkim and the reasons behind the demand with reference to the Tripar-



tite Agreement and Article 371F. Further, he also conveyed the aspirations of the people of Sikkim for the early resolution of the demands.

The Chief Minister also requested the Tribal Minister to take the matter up with concerned Ministries to provide

justice to the people of Sikkim and expressed his belief for the consideration of the long-pending demand and hoped for a positive response.

Ministers BS Panth, Dr M K Sharma and MP (Lok Sabha), Indra Hang Subba were also present on the occasion.

## Warm welcome at Rangpo for Olympian Tarundeep

**SAGAR CHETTRI**  
**GANGTOK, 07 AUG:**

Three-time Olympian, Tarundeep Rai received a warm welcome at Rangpo today on his return home after representing India in the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

This was the third Olympics for the Padma Shree and Arjuna Awardee archer. He has represented the country in Athens Olympic Games in 2004 and London Olympic Games in 2012.

On behalf of the people of Sikkim, Political Secretary to the CM, Jacob Khaling, Deputy Mayor of Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Tshering Palden Bhutia, Councillors of Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, president, Kuber Bhandari and other executive mem-



bers of Sikkim Olympic Association, representatives of different sports associations gave a warm welcome to Tarundeep at Rangpo guest house.

On the occasion, Mr Rai thanked the people of Sikkim for their support and encouragement to him and other members of Indian archery team in the Tokyo Olympics. He further thanked everyone for the warm reception.

"This is my third par-

ticipation in the Olympics but I am getting such a warm reception for the first time in the State after returning from the Olympics. Sikkim now has a good environment for sports and everyone needs to work together to maintain this environment," he said.

While sharing his experience of the Olympics, Mr Rai said that he was committed to winning a

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## IPL 2021: No quarantine for overseas players; Family members could be punished for bio-bubble breach, says report

**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG [NDTV]:** None of the international players competing in the IPL will have to serve quarantine but the franchise members and families could face punishment if there is a "bubble breach", according to the health and safety protocols released by the BCCI ahead of the T20 tournament which will resume next month at the UAE.

The remaining matches of the Indian Premier League, which was suspended in April after multiple bio bubble breaches, will now take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from September 19 with the Chennai Super Kings taking on defending champions Mumbai Indians.

"Breach of any Bio-Secure Environment protocols by franchise members or their families will be subject to disciplinary action by the BCCI," the governing body said in its Health and Safety protocols, a copy of which is in possession of PTI.

The IPL will see participation of players from across the globe, including from Australia, New Zealand, England, South Africa, West Indies and Bangladesh, among others.

According to the protocols, "All franchise team members must undergo a COVID-19 RT-PCR test, 72 hours before their scheduled flight ... All individuals must quarantine themselves and avoid contact with others after the RT-PCR test.

"All members whose RT-PCR test result is negative may travel to the franchise's city of choice," it stated, which means that there is no quarantine for international players.

The document also said, "depending on the country of flight departure, all international passengers arriving at Dubai airport are required to display a negative RT-PCR test report for sample taken between 48-72 hours before their scheduled flight.

"For passengers arriving from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan, it is mandatory that the COVID-19 PCR report includes a QR code linked to the original report for verification process," it added.

The document also laid down the process which the "franchise team members and their families would undertake" for "entering and remaining within the Bubble." "They may only leave the Bubble in unavoidable circumstances. However, for unscheduled visits prior permission must be sought from the BCCI Chief Medical Officer before leaving the Bubble.

"Re-entry to the Bubble is only permitted after completing 6 full days quarantine and confirmation that all 3 results of the RT-PCR tests for samples collected on day 2,4 and 6 are negative," stated the protocols.

# "Shameful": Hockey Captain on caste slurs at Vandana Katariya's family

**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG [PTI]:** The players come from all regions of the country, but they play for the Indian flag, underlined hockey team captain Rani Rampal, denouncing the "shameful act" of making casteist remarks against player Vandana Katariya's family after the team's loss in the Olympics semifinals.

Forward Vandana Katariya's brother, Chandra Shekhar, filed a police complaint that men danced and burst fire-crackers outside their home in the Roshnabad area of Haridwar in a gesture of mockery soon after the hockey team lost to Argentina. The accused also said the Indian team lost the game due to players from a particular caste, he said in his complaint.

"Whatever happened with Vandana's family was a shameful act. I just want to tell people to rise above casteism. Our religions are different, we come from different parts of the country but when



we play, we play for the Indian flag," team captain Rani Rampal said today.

Ms Rampal, 26, whose own father pulled a cart to feed his family, added: "This should never happen to any athlete, or a normal person."

She said the team had felt "so much love from people" despite not winning a first medal, but added that lessons had to be learned to end such abuse "if we want

make our country a sport-nation".

A third person in the case was arrested this morning, while two brothers, in their early 20s, were arrested on Thursday. The arrested men have been charged under section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal Code and the SC/ST Act, said an official.

"I won't like to comment on this matter. I have heard a little bit about it. I have spoken to my family and they said all is well with them. The police are investigating this," Ms Katariya said after the team's 3-4 loss to Great Britain in the bronze play-off.

Commenting on the issue, filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan said no matter the achievements, the

"burden of caste will always rear its ugly head".

"No matter how much we achieve in life, how many of our generations prosper, how rich & powerful we become, the burden of Caste will always rear its ugly head. It is the rock we carry up the Sisyphusian mountain of dignity. It is the one #VandanaKatariya carries," the director of Masaan tweeted.

## CM calls on Shipping Minister



**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG [IPR]:** Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang called on Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal at his office in New Delhi today.

It was a courtesy visit wherein the CM extended his best wishes to Mr

Sonowal for being appointed as the Minister in charge of the aforementioned departments and wished him a productive and successful tenure.

Ministers B.S.Panth, Dr M.K. Sharma and M.P. (Lok Sabha) Indra Hang Subba were also present on the occasion.

## Mizoram stares at fuel shortage amid border row, orders rationing

**AIZAWL, AUG 7 (PTI):** The Mizoram government ordered rationing the purchase of diesel and petrol as the movement of vehicles, including the tankers carrying fuel, continued to remain shut on National Highway-306.

The order issued by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department on Friday said that the state could face a huge crisis of fuel, which comes via neighbouring Assam, due to the inter-state border dispute.

"All filling stations are instructed not to issue petrol and diesel beyond the permitted quantities. Only those vehicles that go to filling stations will be issued oil," the order said.

The quantity of fuel that can be purchased at a time by heavy motor vehicles such as six, eight and twelve wheelers is capped at 50 litres, and 20 litres for medium motor vehicles like pick-up trucks.

Maximum three litres of oil is allowed for scooters, five litres for other two-wheelers, and 10 litres for cars, the order said.

Trucks carrying rice bags, oil and LPG will be

allowed to get fuel, which will be sufficient enough for up and down travel, it said.

Drawing of fuel in containers or gallon barrels from filling stations is strictly prohibited, it said.

The order also said that all filling stations will have to submit active stock positions to the state Legal Metrology Department every day.

They should not distribute oil without prior permission of the Supply Department when their stock position stands at 5,000 litres for petrol and 7,000 liters for high-speed diesel, it added.

All filling stations will be opened from 6 am to 6 pm from Monday to Saturday.

The movement of vehicles on the NH-306 continued to be shut even as the Assam government withdrew the advisory over travelling in Mizoram, following the border clash between the two Northeastern states, officials said.

As most of Mizoram's supplies come via Assam through the NH-306, the no movement of vehicles for the last two weeks has hit the resources, including essential items, they said.

## Area MLA visits Rethang and Middle Gyalshing schools

**GYALSHING, 07 AUG (IPR):** Minister-cum-Area MLA of Gyalshing Bermiok constituency, Lok Nath Sharma visited Rethang Primary School and Middle Gyalshing Secondary School on the third day of his constituency visit, today.

He interacted with the Headmaster of Rethang Primary School, Mojesh Bhutia and assured to address the demands placed before him including an additional infrastructure, renovation of existing school building and drinking water supply on phase wise manner.

Thereafter, the Minister also attended a meeting organised by the School Managing Committee of Middle Gyalshing Secondary School at its premises. The concerned Headmaster put



forth the demands pertaining to early completion of the construction of School Building, establishment of Library, Science Laboratory and other infrastructures.

The Minister took stock of the current work status and directed the concerned contractor to expedite the construction work. He also assured to take up the matter on pri-

ority and urged for cooperation and unity for the development of the school and the entire area.

The meeting also had the presence of President of Gyalshing Nagapanchayat and Executive Members, Additional Director(W) Education Department, School Head, School Managing Committee and concerned people.

## Johnson & Johnson's single-dose Covid vaccine approved in India

**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG [NDTV]:** US pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine has received emergency use approval in India, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted.

"India expands its vaccine basket! Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine is given approval for Emergency Use in India. Now India has 5 EUA vaccines. This will further boost our nation's collective fight against," he tweeted on Saturday afternoon.

The shot will be brought to India through a supply agreement with homegrown vaccine maker Biological E Limited.

"We are pleased to announce that on 7th August 2021, the Government of India issued

Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 single-dose vaccine in India, to prevent COVID in individuals 18 years of age and older," a Johnson & Johnson India spokesperson said.

The healthcare major got India's approval of its vaccine a day after it applied for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA). The company on Friday said that Biological E will be an important part of Johnson and Johnson's global supply chain network, helping to supply its COVID-19 vaccine Janssen through extensive collaborations and partnerships with governments, health authorities and organisations such as Gavi and the COVAX Facility.

Studies have shown that the Johnson & John-

son vaccine is 66 per cent effective in preventing cases of moderate to severe illness and 85 per cent effective against severe cases of COVID-19. It completely prevented hospitalizations and death four weeks after inoculation, according to studies.

With this, India has five Covid vaccines which have been given emergency use approval. The other four are Serum Institute's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russia's Sputnik V and Moderna.

India has crossed a milestone of administering 50 crore vaccine doses under the nationwide inoculation drive. With over 49.55 lakh vaccinations in the last 24 hours, India has so far administered over 50.1 crore doses.

### Warm welcome...

medal for the country in the Tokyo Olympics.

"I have won medals for the country at all levels but had not yet won an Olympic medal for the country, so I had prepared really well and gave my best," he expressed.

He mentioned that a good change has come in sports in the state so young athletes need to utilise these opportunities to hone their talent and skills to reach international levels and the Olympics in the near future. He appreciated the efforts and initiatives of the State government for sports and the welfare of sportspersons.

Mr Rai asserted that everyone needs to work together to bring out more Olympians from Sikkim. He also assured to extend his support and experience to the state in this context.

Political Secretary to the CM, Mr Khaling mentioned that the people of Sikkim are really proud that an athlete from a small State has represented the country three times in the Olympics.

The achievement of Tarundeep will definitely inspire and encourage young athletes to work harder and Sikkim will produce more Olympians in future, he stated.

Mr Khaling mentioned that the state government has been working in the sports sector on a priority basis. He added that the state government has not only been creating infrastructure and facilities of international level but it is also creating such facilities at the village level.

Earlier, GMC Deputy Mayor also congratulated Tarundeep for making Sikkim proud by participating in the Olympics.

SOA president, Kuber Bhandari stated that the achievements of Tarundeep Rai in his archery career are a source of inspiration for young athletes.

Sikkim got its first Olympian, Jaslal Pradhan in 1984 and then Tarundeep Rai only in 2004, after a long gap, he added. He asserted that everyone needs to work together to produce more Olympians from the State.

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### Neeraj Chopra...

medal was more or less assured after just the opening three throws.

However, Chopra's journey to being an Olympic champion wasn't always a smooth one. In 2018, when he qualified for the 2019 World Athletics Championships in Doha, he was harbouring aspirations of being a world champion.

But an injury to his right elbow that led to a surgery and a prolonged break from the sport meant Chopra had to give the event a miss. Out of action for the entirety of 2019, his Olympic hopes had seemed in danger when he returned to competition in early 2019.

Dispelling all those concerns over his elbow, Chopra immediately made the Olympic cut with a throw of 87.86m in Potchefstroom, South Africa. By then, he had cemented his status as one of the favourites for the Olympic title and despite the pandemic-enforced postponement of the Games, the Indian youngster didn't disappoint in Tokyo.

Earlier in 2016, Chopra had risen to fame with a gold medal at the World U-20 Athletics Championships. He proved his mettle at the senior level the next year with a gold at the Asian Championships in Bhubaneswar.

In 2018, before injury sidelined him late in the year, Chopra won the gold at both the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games. Just 23 years of age, Chopra will hope to continue landing more gold medals well beyond the Tokyo Olympics.

### LOST

I, Kalita Rawat R/o Soreng Dara Goan has lost my domicile at surrounding Soreng Bazaar tow months ago while processing renewal of my Trade License. If found and any information regarding the above documents can contact OC, Soreng Police Station, West Sikkim. My GD entry no is 21/SPS at Soreng Police Station dated 09.08.2019.

### BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER, SOUTH SIKKIM AT NAMCHI

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Pranita Gurung legally wedded spouse of No. 9427925F Rank: L/NK Name Dipesh Limboo presently residing at Upper Sripatam, P.O. Yangang & Ynagang, South Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm as under:

- That I have changed my name from Pranita Limboo to Pranita Gurung due to my surname has been recorded as GURUNG in my Aadhar Card , Pan Card and Electoral Identity Card.
- That my date of birth is 20/07/1999 (Twenty July Nineteen Hundred Ninety Nine).
- That both names "PRANITA GURUNG" & PRANITA LIMBOO" pertain to one and the same person.
- That I shall all the times hereinafter in all record, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transaction, private as well as under all occasion whatsoever be known as only PRANITA GURUNG
- That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge , information and belief. Nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

**Pranita Gurung Limboo DEPONENT.**

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## Mutual Respect Despite Everything

*The people have thumbed down divisions,  
now for the leaders to respect that*

It is unfortunate enough that people are communal by nature, in their prejudices internalized in environments we inhabit, but does one really require even organisations to keep trying to tease this inherent failing ever so often?

Some or the other attempt is always in play to whip up some scare with some high-pitched paranoia. To Sikkim's credit, the tenacity of the communal scaremongers has traditionally been matched by the pragmatism of its lay people. Organisations have constantly represented the interests of their office-bearers [and/ or silent promoters] and almost never the real concerns of the people they claim to [or are supposed to] represent; which is perhaps why they hyperventilate over issues which rarely receive mass, grassroots based endorsement. It is this disconnect which also ensures that Sikkim witnesses no communal flare-ups on the streets even though, if the press releases and press statements were to be believed, communities have been pushed around since ever since they had interest groups speaking for them.

Where one wants community leaders and organizations to function as bridges to connect with other communities and groups, most of them end up focusing on building walls, claiming uniqueness by othering everyone else and/ or playing the victim card ad-nauseum. And when this instinct plays out across groups, one is left only with echo chambers where resentments and fears get amplified and solutions and compromises get stonewalled.

The condition is of course not unique to Sikkim. The overlapping of community/ religion and politics has handicapped India since its birth in 1947. Intercommunity fault lines were exploited even in Sikkim during the movement for democracy in the 1970's. On hears of how rumours tried to pit one community against the other through in those tumultuous years and although some clashes did occur, these were more class-confrontations and not inter-community. The people did not turn communal even then. Communal issues flared up in 1979 as well with the Nepali seat issue but its promoters did not receive the endorsement of the people and communal politics was played in the open in 1994 as well, but did not translate too well in the ballot.

The Sikkimese people, it would hence be safe to vouch, have consistently rejected communal postures. Admittedly, there is an inherent communal streak in all people at an individual level, but the Sikkimese have done exceptionally well in ensuring that this does not become a pathological condition of the entire people. Unfortunately, not all community elders and leaders seem to have accepted this fact and continue to try and peddle prejudiced notions.

To end on a positive note, it is only for so long that the people's sustained refusal to put their futures in divisive ideologies even if they are individually proud of their communities or faiths will get through to those who have occupied positions of influence. Then, the leaders and elders will be forced to rethink their dug-deep positions and be forced to step out and reach out for genuine empathy and mutual respect.

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# Making Peace Between Israelis and Palestinians – is now the time for a different approach?

DAVID MEDNICOFF & RASLAN IBRAHIM  
*theconversation.com*

The violence in May 2021 between Israelis and Palestinians was the latest deadly eruption of a decadeslong conflict that has proved immune to attempts at forging a comprehensive peace. The Conversation asked two Middle East experts to assess what can be done now to promote peace. Scholars Raslan Ibrahim, assistant professor of political science and international relations at the State University of New York at Geneseo, and David Mednicoff, chair of the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, both imagine there's a way forward, though their scenarios are very different.

A PEACE PLAN BASED ON HUMAN RIGHTS – Raslan Ibrahim

Following the cease-fire between Israel and Hamas after the Gaza conflict, the international community has become more interested in promoting the peace process between Israel and Palestine.

So far, however, the traditional approach to conflict resolution has failed to achieve peace in Israel/Palestine. But as a scholar of human rights and the politics of the Middle East, I believe it's possible that a different approach, one that uses a human rights perspective on conflict resolution, could produce what the old approach could not.

Human rights are virtually absent in the peace agreements that have been made over the years between Israelis and Palestinians, despite the role of human rights abuses in the causes and consequences of this conflict. The Oslo Accords, signed in 1993, and subsequent peace processes demonstrate an almost complete divorce between the concepts of peace and human rights.

Multiple factors account for the exclusion of human rights in the Oslo Accords.

First, the relative power of Israel and its interest in security and stability – not human rights and justice for Palestinians – influenced the peace agreements.

Second, the Palestinian Authority, which serves as the Palestinian government in the occupied territories, tends to focus more on the Palestinian state and the right of national self-determination and less on other basic human rights, including civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights. Strikingly, the Oslo peace process led ultimately to the establishment of Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza that abuse the human rights of their own people.

Third, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is generally defined as a territorial conflict. That leaves human rights as a domestic issue that would not be addressed in negotiations.

Last, the mediators apparently adopted the traditional conflict resolution approach that regards human rights as irrelevant or even in contradiction with conflict resolution practices. Clearly, this perspective has failed to end the conflict.

In contrast, what are the main elements of the human rights approach?

The human rights approach asserts that the principles and practices enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenants – including equality and nondiscrimination; participation, inclusion and accountability; and the importance of the rule of law – should guide all stages of the peace process. Human rights principles also offer clear, objective criteria for monitoring the implementation of a peace agreement by the Israelis and Palestinians.

This approach calls for inclusivity and participation in the peace process, of not only the elites but also others, such as victims of the conflict, women's organizations and nongovernmental organizations.

The human rights approach aims to achieve a particular type of peace that would include negative peace – the absence of war and violence. It also aims for positive peace through addressing the root causes of the conflict and building institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Last, this approach seeks accountability and redress for victims of the conflict though a variety of mechanisms including truth commissions, reconciliation, criminal prosecutions and reparations. Past human rights abuses and injustice need to be addressed to achieve a legitimate and sustainable peace. Otherwise, the unaddressed grievances can be manipulated for future conflicts.

The human rights approach to conflict resolution is not a panacea. But it has distinctive advantages that help the negotiation process and can provide sustainable peace, security and human dignity for both Palestinians and Israelis.

A 'GRAND BARGAIN' – David Mednicoff

The recent flare-up in the unresolved Israeli-Palestinian conflict shows both that the issue is not going away and that prospects for real progress remain bleak.

Thoughtful commentators argue that long-standing hopes for separate independent states for Palestine and Israel have been dashed by the increasing Jewish Israeli settler presence in the West Bank and the lack of will or capacity of leaders on both sides to work toward a two-state agreement.

Many experts argue that the only way forward is to assume that the two-state solution is dead and pair that with pressure to improve the economic and political status of Palestinians in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

But can Palestinian rights actually improve in the face of Israeli state power and the world's inaction?

U.S. President Joe Biden's unexpected tendency to go big in domestic policy suggests the merit of at least considering a different and more ambitious approach to the Palestinian-Israeli dispute: a grand bargain.

This idea seeks to broaden the political scope of diplomacy to address the Palestinian issue in tandem with long-term goals shared by many Middle Eastern and global states. Those include regional stability, economic growth, conflict reduction, particularly in Yemen, and resolution of the Syrian refugee crisis.

In exchange for diplomatic relations with many states in the region, Israel would broker major material improvements, and ideally an acceptable territorial home, to Palestinians.

More specifically, a grand bargain would mean that Arab countries establish relations with Israel, and Israel would provide real political autonomy and facilitate investment and economic improvements for Palestinians. The broader region, hopefully including Iran, could focus on building trade, long-term growth and improved human security.

Current regional politics open the door to such an approach. To start with, Israel's new government after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's election defeat could benefit from an acceleration of stable economic and political ties with other countries in the region, which is likely only if Palestinians' conditions are addressed. Major Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and

Qatar, would be better off if they could openly pursue relations with Israel. Such a shift is possible because of the opening of official relations in 2020 between Israel and several other Arab states, including the United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, the power most known for being a major thorn in the side to both Israel and Saudi Arabia and other powerful Arab states, Iran, might just be open to toning down its more aggressive militarism in the Middle East if trade and other economic benefits of diplomatic normalization were on the table.

A grand bargain approach is risky and labor-intensive, because working with a range of parties requires attention to more issues and diverse perspectives.

Yet the shift among Arab governments in accepting Israel in the region, Biden's openness to large-scale policy, Iran's relative global vulnerability and the swell of global opinion against Israeli treatment of Palestinians could constitute enough favorable conditions to make this idea an innovative alternative to the dismal status quo.

A grand bargain approach could be initiated by the combined efforts of the U.S., Europe, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council states and would also likely require the engagement of Russia, Turkey and even China.

Admittedly, it would be a major uphill battle getting this range of countries to build support for major change from prominent Israelis, Palestinians and others. Yet a genuinely multilateral coalition could have the diplomatic connections and credibility to bring parties to work on a grand bargain.

Could the promise of greater overall stability and large-scale global economic aid allow key players to think broadly and cohesively toward a grand regional bargain?

Middle Eastern governments are hampered in significant ways by the fragile security, economic challenges and high military costs associated with the Palestinian and other regional conflicts. Apart from the direct loss of Israeli and Palestinian lives due to violence, the broader region is highly militarized and has lost trillions of dollars as a result of conflict. A benefit of the recent rapprochement between several Arab states and Israel is that more economic and political elites than ever before are working together and may have reason to prioritize regional prosperity over conflict.

As a scholar of Middle Eastern politics, I assume that the odds for a grand bargain in the Middle East are low. Yet Palestinians have sought to internationalize their plight precisely because they are stuck between a dead Oslo process and a vision for a one-state solution directly at odds with many Israelis' idea of a Jewish state.

To be sure, significant initiative from a wide range of parties would be needed to get this idea off the ground. Still, a grand bargain strategy, however challenging, offers hope of improving the long-term human security prospects of Palestinians, Israelis and others by favorably resolving their current dilemma, which might be paraphrased starkly as go big or no home.

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# Four Clothing Businesses That Could Lead Us Away From the Horrors of Fast Fashion

ELAINE L RITCH  
*theconversation.com*

It makes no sense to keep exploiting natural resources to feed an ever-consuming market, but this remains the nature of high-street fashion. Resources are finite - as is the space for landfill - but too often clothes shopping is about buying cheap soulless garments that end up being thrown away and not recycled.

The modern fashion business is too often about forgettable commodities that exist solely for the sake of consumption. And in 2020, online sales grew at their fastest rate since 2007. Given that online shopping returns often end up in landfill without even making it to anyone's wardrobe, this looks like a step in the wrong direction.

Many argue that, after the pandemic, we need to shift towards a circular economy in which waste and pollution are removed from the system. Here, then, are four examples of clothing businesses that have been using lockdown to put this ideal into practice.

MAKING CHILDREN SUSTAINABLE

Marketers view the early years of childhood as a golden opportunity for getting mums and dads to buy more stuff – not least because young children grow so fast. New parents are targeted with endless cute clothes and commodities for child-rearing, being constantly told that such purchases are essential to good parenting.

Many parents do turn to sharing networks to get some of the things they need secondhand – but one designer has come up with a different answer. London-based Ryan Mario Yasin, who won the James Dyson Award in 2017 for innovative problem solving, designs clothes that grow with the child.

Inspired by the Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake, who developed flexible pleating initially for ballet dancers, this revolutionary concept applies engineering principles to material.

Yasin's children's garments, which are branded Petit Pli, stretch to fit kids aged three months to three years – offering parents a sustainable alternative to disposable clothing. More recently he has also added unisex adult clothing to his collection, marketing this new range as clothes that are built to last.

Vigga is another operator that is trying to make children's clothing more sustainable, but in a different way. The Danish company offers a subscription-based rented clothing line for infants and small children.

Parents who subscribe to this service receive clothing every three months in the early years as their baby grows, and less frequently thereafter. When the clothes are returned to Vigga, they are washed and repaired for further use. This reflects a circular system where every garment is used several times, ensuring a lower environmental impact.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF MALL

In the small Swedish city of Eskilstuna, a few kilometres west of Stockholm, is the world's first recycling mall. Known as ReTuna Återbruksgalleria, all the clothes sold are recycled, while other products, including foods, are organically sourced or sustainably produced. The mall opened in 2015 and is deliberately located next to the town's recycling centre, which makes it a convenient destination for the shops in the mall to pick up materials for their businesses.

The idea was driven by local politicians with the ambition for Eskilstuna to be a good example of addressing the challenges of sustainability. Store owners and employees go through all the donated goods to see what can be repaired, fixed and converted for selling.

With close links to the local school, the mall also provides workshops, lectures and themed days to educate wider society on sustainability practice. And note that this encourages people into the physical space - a strategy that could be useful to draw shoppers back to UK high streets after the pandemic.

THE 'FOR DAYS' MODEL

US clothing firm For Days was inspired by the volume of clothing hoarded in consumer wardrobes. In acknowledging that we need to buy less, For Days encourages customers to send their old clothes in the post. It doesn't matter whether they were made by For Days in the first place, and people receive money-off vouchers for new items in return.

The whole approach is that nothing ends up in landfill. For Days sorts the donated clothes into colours and then mechanical recyclers convert them into new materials to be used to make new clothes. Clothes can be donated in any condition – which is important, considering the low quality of many fast-fashion garments. For Days is also carbon neutral, minimising waste with reusable packaging and carbon offsetting.

If the circular economy is to succeed, of course, consumers have to embrace it. The inevitable problem is that each of these four models is slightly more expensive than the mass market, and the rock-bottom prices of fast-fashion clothes have reduced the threshold that the average consumer would see as the maximum they would pay for something.

The trouble is that these higher prices reflect the true cost of resources, production and so on. So while such enterprises will attract consumers who are particularly concerned about sustainability and their carbon footprints, there will be limits to what they can achieve.

To get the majority of consumers onboard and truly move towards a circular economy, mass-market brands need to start pushing in the same direction. As the pandemic hopefully begins to move into the past, that is the big challenge for the future.

*[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Marketing, Glasgow Caledonian University]*



# Insurance regulator's reply sought as firm doesn't pay full for Covid death

**NEW DELHI, 07 AUG [PTI]:**

The Delhi High Court has sought responses of the Delhi government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) on a plea by a woman and her two children challenging an insurance firm's decision not to pay the entire insured amount on her husband's death after contracting COVID-19.

Justice Rekha Palli issued a notice to the Delhi government, IRDA, the National Insurance Company Ltd and Fortis Hospital at Shalimar Bagh, where the woman's husband died during treatment last year.

The court asked the authorities to file their replies within four weeks and listed the matter for further hearing on December 12.

The plea filed by Delhi resident Sunita Goel and her two minor children said her husband held a mediclaim policy, Parivar Mediclaim Policy, of the insurance company and the sum insured was ₹ 5 lakh.

The petition, filed



through Anupam Dwivedi, said the woman's husband, Gulshan Kumar Goel, contracted the coronavirus infection in the last week of June 2020 and was hospitalised days later on June 30 at Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh, and he expired on July 7, 2020.

The hospital raised a bill of ₹ 5.33 lakh, which was paid by the woman as the insurance company committed a breach of policy terms and escaped from its liabilities of paying the hospital expenses to the extent of

the sum insured, the plea claimed, adding that the hospital later refunded ₹ 1.95 lakh on grounds that it was charged extra.

It added that later on, the firm only reimbursed ₹ 1.31 lakh to her on grounds that as per rates fixed by the Delhi government, the total bill amount should have been ₹ 1.44 lakh.

The petitioners have also sought a compensation of ₹ 25 lakh from the insurance company and the hospital.

The family has sought a direction to the insur-

ance firm to reimburse the hospital bill amount, or as an alternative, the hospital be asked to return the money to her.

The plea further sought to direct the IRDA to take strict action against the insurance firm for violating its guidelines, framed for insurers to include the expense incurred on hospitalisation and treatment of COVID-19 patients, and to ensure its compliance so that no insurer may escape from their liability of making

payment. It also sought to direct the Delhi government to take strict legal action against the hospital for violating its June 2020 circular/guidelines which prescribed maximum per day package rates for treatment of COVID-19 patients in private hospitals here.

Further, the plea sought a direction to the government to ensure compliance of the circular within the territory of Delhi so that no private hospital may extort exorbitant charges for COVID-19 treatment.

## Singapore minister warns of more COVID-19 cases as economy opens up

**SINGAPORE, AUG 7 (PTI):** Singapore's Health Minister Ong Ye Kung has warned that more people will come down with COVID-19 as the trade and financial hub opens up its economy and moves towards treating the virus as an endemic.

"Our companies cannot grow if businessmen and managers cannot travel overseas to meet clients and partners. MNCs (multinational corporations) will find it hard to invest here if their people are not able to travel in and out of Singapore," the minister stressed.

"And if this continues, our ability to create jobs, earn a living will be seriously affected," The Straits Times quoted Ong as saying.

Warning that more people may contract the infection as Singapore opens up its economy, Ong said people must be "psychologically prepared" for this eventuality, even as the republic embarks on its four-stage plan to reach a new normal.

"But we can do our best to minimise the incidence of severe illnesses and deaths. It is, therefore, very important that we continue to vaccinate as many people as possible," he said.

The country will also continue differentiating among people by vaccination status, in an effort to protect the unvaccinated and limit their exposure to the virus, he added.

Starting next Tuesday, Singapore will embark on the first stage of this four-step reopening, dubbed the "preparatory stage", according to media reports.

This phase will see some easing of travel restrictions, with Singapore resuming entry approvals for fully vaccinated work-pass holders and their dependents.

Subsequently, fully vaccinated travellers from lower-risk countries will be able to serve their stay-home notice (SHN) at home or other suitable accommodations, rather than at dedicated facilities.

The Ministry of Transport is also working on plans to open up "vaccinated travel lanes" that would allow people to travel between Singapore and select countries without having to serve an SHN.

The SHN requirement will be replaced by frequent testing, Ong said.

The preparatory stage is expected to last about a month, until early September. By this time, about 80 per cent of the population should have received both vaccine doses, added Finance Minister Lawrence Wong.

Wong, along with Ong and Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong, co-chairs the multi-ministry task force tackling Covid. Singapore is set to move into "transition stage A". But this is premised on a high vaccination rate and stable overall situation, with no surges that threaten to overwhelm the healthcare system, Wong said.

In transition stage, Singapore will further increase the permitted size of events and ease border controls.

Measures to control the spread of COVID-19 will then on be eased in stages. Dining-in at F&B outlets will resume from Tuesday, only for fully vaccinated people in a group of five. The current group size for social gatherings will also be increased from two to five, said the Ministry of Health (MOH) in a press release on Friday.

Households will similarly be able to receive five distinct visitors per day.

However, people who are unvaccinated should remain in groups of no more than two to reduce the likelihood of transmission and severe infection, the Channel News Asia reported, citing the MOH release.

Unvaccinated children aged 12 and below can be included in the group of five as long as all children are from the same household, the ministry added. The announcement follows a mid-point review of Phase 2 (heightened alert) measures, with restrictions to be eased from August 10 and from August 19 if the coronavirus situation remains stable, said the MOH.

Apart from allowing dining-in for the vaccinated, measures will also be eased for this group of people for other higher-risk activities such as high-intensity sports with masks off, personal care services and larger events like marriages and worship services.

"Unvaccinated individuals with a valid negative pre-event test result or recovered individuals are of similarly lower risk, and may also join in such groups of up to five," said the MOH.

F&B outlets may only resume dining services if they are able to ensure that customers are fully vaccinated. Those that are not able to do so may only operate takeaway and delivery services.

Everyone can dine in at hawker centres and coffee shops from August 10, regardless of vaccination status, but only in groups of two.

Hawker centres and coffee shops provide convenient and affordable food services within the community. As these are open-air and naturally ventilated spaces, we will extend a special concession for both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons to dine in the hawker centres and coffee shops, said the Health Ministry.

Event sizes and capacity limits for large events will be increased.

This includes congregational and worship services, cinemas, live performances and spectator sports.

If all attendees are fully vaccinated, up to 500 people will be allowed at such events. The limit will be increased to 1,000 from August 19 if the COVID-19 situation remains under control.

If attendees are not vaccinated, only 50 of them will be allowed without pre-event testing.

This week, Singapore reported four Covid-linked deaths.

On Friday, the MOH reported 97 COVID-19 cases, 93 of whom were locally transmitted infections and four arrivals from abroad. In all, Singapore has recorded 65,605 COVID-19 cases.

## Meghalaya may reopen schools, colleges after mid-August: Education Minister

**SHILLONG, AUG 7 (PTI):**

Meghalaya is looking to reopen educational institutions after mid-August, Education Minister Lakhmen Rymbui said.

Speaking to reporters, Rymbui said there is a need to resume classroom teachings as soon as possible, especially in higher education institutions.

"About 50 per cent of students eligible to avail COVID-19 vaccination have taken the vaccine. This is expected to increase further by mid-August," he said on Friday.

"When everything has already started, and even the markets are opening, then why not

the schools? This is my personal opinion, but (the decision) will have to be collectively taken with the Health Department," he added.

He also urged the people to get themselves vaccinated to provide a safe environment for the students.

"I am very happy that every day about 10,000 people in the state are getting vaccinated," the minister said.

"So, I take this opportunity to urge the parents, and friends all over the state to let us give education to our children by vaccinating ourselves so that our society is more resistant to this coronavirus," he said.

## Mizoram stares at fuel shortage amid border row, orders rationing

**AIZAWL, AUG 7 (PTI):**

The Mizoram government ordered rationing the purchase of diesel and petrol as the movement of vehicles, including the tankers carrying fuel, continued to remain shut on National Highway-306.

The order issued by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department on Friday said that the state could face a huge crisis of fuel, which comes via neighbouring Assam, due to the inter-state border dispute. "All filling stations are instructed not to issue petrol and diesel beyond the permitted quantities. Only those vehicles that go to filling stations will be issued oil," the order said.

The quantity of fuel that can be purchased at a time by heavy motor vehicles such as six, eight and twelve wheelers is capped at 50 litres, and 20 litres for medium motor vehicles like pick-up trucks.

Maximum three litres of oil is allowed for scooters, five litres for other two-wheelers, and 10 litres for cars, the order

said. Trucks carrying rice bags, oil and LPG will be allowed to get fuel, which will be sufficient enough for up and down travel, it said.

Drawing of fuel in containers or gallon barrels from filling stations is strictly prohibited, it said.

The order also said that all filling stations will have to submit active stock positions to the state Legal Metrology Department every day.

They should not distribute oil without prior permission of the Supply Department when their stock position stands at 5,000 litres for petrol and 7,000 liters for high-speed diesel, it added.

All filling stations will be opened from 6 am to 6 pm from Monday to Saturday.

The movement of vehicles on the NH-306 continued to be shut even as the Assam government withdrew the advisory over travelling in Mizoram, following the border clash between the two Northeastern states, officials said.

## Tankers Strike Withdrawn Amid Fuel Crisis Across South Bengal



An Indian Oil Corp spokesperson confirmed that the strike was withdrawn but did not divulge the details of the deal struck with the fuel transporters.

The strike by fuel tankers was withdrawn on Saturday afternoon as the Indian Oil Corp put on hold the new transportation rates amid a crisis at hundreds of filling stations in south Bengal, their association said.

Hundreds of fuel pumps in south Bengal, including Kolkata, ran dry due to the strike that began on Thursday evening, dealers said.

The tankers' association at IOC's Mourigram depot in Howrah, which serves the region, was on strike over the reduction in fuel transportation rates as a new tender was floated.

"IOC extended the existing rates so that more

negotiations can take place and normal supply can be maintained," West Bengal Tankers' Association's Mourigram unit secretary Rajkumar Chatterjee told PTI.

An IOC spokesperson confirmed that the strike was withdrawn but did not divulge the details of the deal struck with the fuel transporters.

The strike affected around 900-1,000 fuel pumps in the region, impacting public transport, movement of essential supplies and private vehicles, the dealers said.

The strike was withdrawn at a time the IOC was planning to rush fuel to a few pumps from its Haldia and other depots to meet the demand in Kolkata, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Howrah, Hooghly and North 24 Parganas -- the urban agglomerate.

IOC has fuel depots in Haldia, Durgapur, Mouri-

gram, Malda and Siliguri in the state. The tankers' association was also protesting against the termination of services of 60 tankers.

"When costs are spiralling, how can IOC slash the fuel transportation rates? They also terminated services of 60 tankers in their new tender," association secretary Chatterjee said.

"The survival of many people is associated with these tankers," he added.

The IOC spokesperson earlier said that similar tenders were floated even for Siliguri, Durgapur, Haldia and Malda terminals in the last one year.

"Such a tender is floated every five years for the deployment of tank trucks and the last one was floated in 2014. The tender was due since April 2020, which was deferred due to requests from the transporters on account of the pandemic," he said.

## No new COVID-19 case in Andaman & Nicobar

**PORT BLAIR, AUG 7 (PTI):**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands did not record any new COVID-19 case in the last two days, a health official said on Saturday.

The COVID-19 tally in the union territory remained at 7,541, he said.

The archipelago now has only four active COVID-19 cases and all four patients are in the South Andaman district.

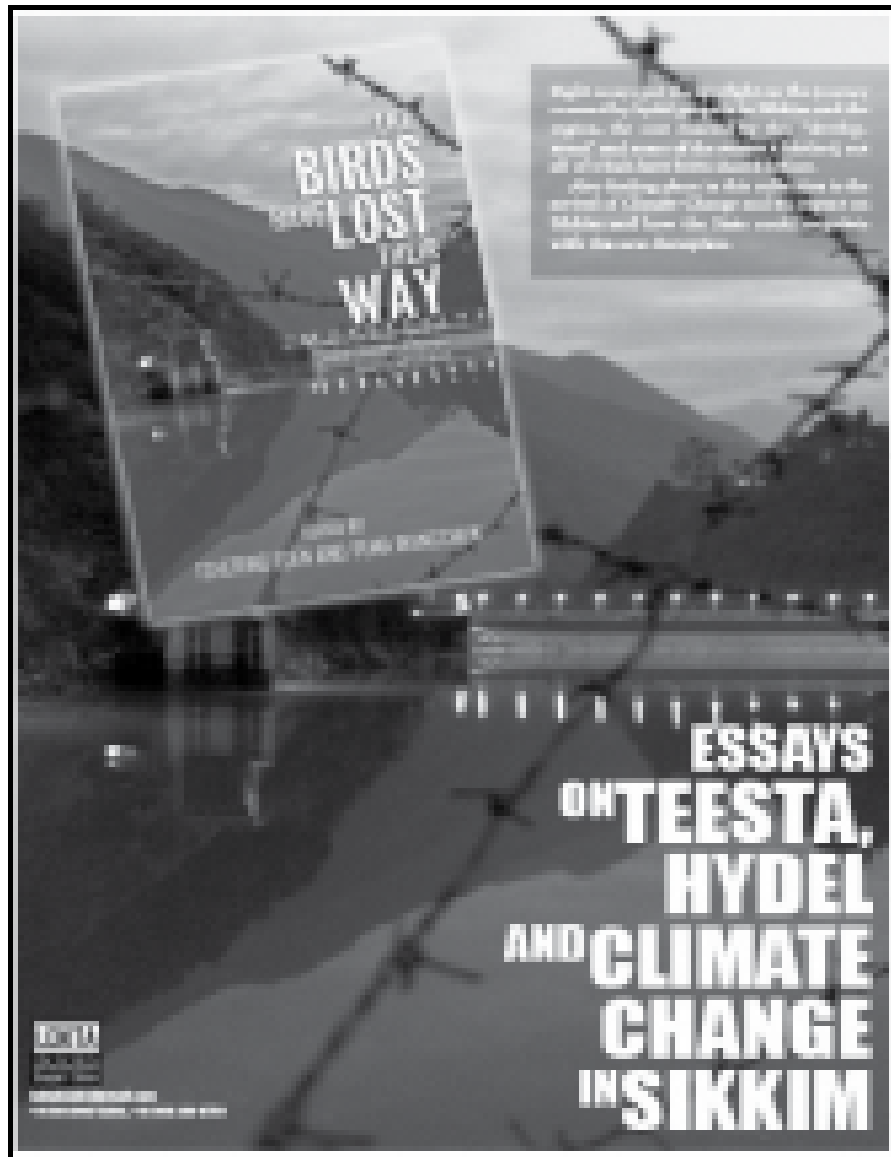
The other two districts - North and Middle Andaman and Nicobar - are now COVID-19 free, the official said.

A total of 7,408 people have recuperated from COVID-19 so far, he said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the union territory remained at 129 as no fresh fatality due to the disease was reported in the last 24 hours. So far a

total of 4,48,882 samples have been tested for COVID-19 and the cumulative test positivity rate is 1.69 per cent.

A total of 3,01,903 beneficiaries have been inoculated in the union territory so far, of which 2,06,707 people have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 95,196 have received both doses of the vaccine, he said.





# Aditi misses medal narrowly, ends 4th at Olympics



**TOKYO, AUG 7 (PTI):** India's Aditi Ashok missed a medal narrowly as she signed off 4th in the Olympic Games' golf competition after carding a three-under 68 in the weather-hit final round here on Saturday. The 23-year-old Bengalurean ended two

strokes off the pace with a total of 15-under 269, which was just one stroke below the medal bracket. It was a heartbreaking end to Aditi's campaign considering she started the day in sole second position. But it was nonethe-

less a massive improvement as she had finished tied 41st in the 2016 edition where golf made a comeback to the Olympics after over 100 years. In the final round, she fired five birdies -- on the 5th, 6th, 8th, 13th and 14th holes -- against two

bogeys on the 9th and 11th. The world number 200 Indian had her mother Maheshwari as her caddie. Overnight leader and world number one Nelly Korda clinched the gold medal with a 2-under 69 that left her 17-under overall and a shot ahead

of Japan's MoneInami (65) and New Zealand's Lydia Ko (65).

Inami and Ko competed in a play-off to decide the silver and bronze medal winners in which the former emerged triumphant.

On the play-off hole (par-4 18th), Ko dropped a bogey, while Inami managed to hold on for a par in overcast and damp conditions.

Play was disrupted for a while by a tropical storm after the leading pack had completed 16 holes but soon resumed at the par-71 Kasumigas-eki Country Club.

Aditi was in medal contention for a major part of the day but the two bogeys pulled her back while Ko surged ahead with a sensational nine birdies against just three dropped shots in her final round.

The other Indian in fray, DikshaDagar, finished her campaign at tied 50th after managing her first sub-par round of the week, a one-under 70, which left her with an aggregate total of 6-over 290.

## French push against domestic abuse may overlook some police



**PARIS (AP):** ChahinezDaoud was 31 years old in May when her former husband shot and burned her alive in the town of Merignac, near Bordeaux. Two months earlier, she had filed a complaint for domestic violence, but it was mishandled and no action was taken. She was among scores of women killed annually by a partner in France — 102 last year.

The police officer who took her complaint had himself been allegedly convicted of habitually beating his wife, according to a newspaper investigative report. This has spurred calls for action over the long-taboo subject of domestic violence by some French officers.

Yet despite a new official push to tackle domestic abuse, such violence by law enforcement remains unaddressed. Victims and lawyers are pushing for solutions such as training and independent internal police investigations.

"There were many human failings leading to my client not being protected," SolèneRoquin-Bardet, Daoud's lawyer, told The Associated Press. "This latest news is astounding."

Daoud's ex-husband had been in prison for domestic violence against her until December 2020. After his release, he attacked her again, and in March this year, she filed another complaint at the Merignac police station. But the police officer's filing was illegible and never got properly forwarded to court authorities, according to a state review of how the case was handled.

State inspectors wrote that there are "serious doubts regarding the care with which the danger evaluation documents were completed."

One key fact missing from the state inspection document: The officer who took her complaint had himself allegedly been found guilty in February 2021 of "habitual violence" against his ex-wife, the Canard Enchaîné, a reliable, well-sourced weekly, reported last month.

He received a suspended 8-month prison sentence and was in disciplinary proceedings when he took Daoud's complaint. Only after her killing was he moved out of a public-facing job, according to Canard Enchaîné.

For Daoud's lawyer, "there's a leniency by the hierarchy which tells itself that, in the end, taking complaints is not that big a deal."

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin this month made fighting domestic abuse a top priority.

Regarding the officer who took Daoud's complaint, he told the daily Le Parisien that "his superiors should not have allowed him to be in contact with the public."

In another layer of dysfunction, the officer's conviction was not disclosed to state inspectors reviewing the events leading to Daoud's death. Darmanin said the IGPN police oversight agency was investigating whether there was an intentional attempt to hide that. If so, he said, "sanctions will be taken."

Police stations in the region where Daoud was killed declined to comment, citing the ongoing investigation, or to say whether other complaints the officer took were under review. TheFrench Interior Ministry and the Ministry for Equality Between Women and Men did not respond to requests by The Associated Press for comment.

There are no known studies in France on the issue of intimate partner violence involving police, though the problem within law enforcement in France and elsewhere is not new. A 1991 U.S. study by Arizona State University professor LeonorBoulin Johnson found that 40% of a sample of 900,000 officers admitted to having committed domestic violence within

the previous six months.

British TV network Channel 4 released in May its own investigation on domestic violence by British police, saying more than 125 women reported their officer partners in the last two years. It cited a Freedom of Information request by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism that found that from 2015 to 2018 there were almost 700 reports of domestic violence involving police officers and staff in Britain.

In France, Sophie Boutboul and Alizé Bernard, a journalist and former victim of domestic abuse by a police officer, co-wrote a 2019 book on the subject.

Bernard's ex-partner received a suspended 6-month prison sentence for inflicting violence over two years, but the judge decided to keep the information off his disciplinary records. "I took it as preferential treatment," Bernard told the AP.

The officer continued to train police for arrests and self-defense and kept his service revolver. And he worked near Bernard's home. When driving, she would plan detours to avoid his patrol area.

"I was scared, scared of stumbling into him patrolling, scared of being arrested, scared of what could happen," she said. "When I crossed (his patrol area) I was always with someone with a phone ready to record. You can't live like that."

Journalist Boutboul found a pattern in women victims of police domestic violence.

"The fear will often be exacerbated by specific threats," Boutboul said, things like "I'm the law," "The complaint will come to my desk," "I know the prosecutor."

The lack of statistics pushed feminist organizations to petition the government to organize a national count of violence by police. More than 20,000 people have signed on in the past two weeks.

The online magazine Bastamag, which specializes in social and ecology issues and keeps a record of police-related deaths, said that since 1990 about 40 people, mostly women and children, were fatally shot by a partner or parent in the police.

Most killings happened off duty, with the officer using his service weapon. In 12 cases, the officers also killed themselves, according to Bastamag.

In 2017, France's national hotline for domestic violence counted 93 calls from partners of police officers out of 1,328 calls, the latest figures available.

The small police union SUD Intérieur is a rare voice within French law enforcement to speak about the issue. It has called for an independent authority to investigate police actions, replacing the internal General Inspectorate of the National Police (IGPN) that now oversees alleged misconduct.

"We can't ask that the police control the police," a union official said, reiterating what critics have long contended: That police officers are often sympathetic to members of their ranks, a tendency that can influence investigations. He asked not to be identified for fear of retribution.

Boutboul questions why officers found guilty of a crime can remain on the job. "Why aren't there automatic procedures when there's a complaint for violence against police?" Boutboul asked. The officer who took Chahinez-Daoud's complaint in March was only removed from that position after her death.

"He shouldn't be taking complaints. He's in front of women victims of violence like he himself perpetrated," Boutboul said. "It's a vicious circle."

## Germany wins gold in men's kayak four 500m

**TOKYO, AUG 7 (AP):** Germany has won the men's kayak four 500 meters to make Ronald Rauhe the first man to medal in canoe sprint in five Olympic Games.

The 39-year-old Rauhe is also the second-oldest gold medal winner in men's canoe sprint. Only Sweden's Gert-Fredriksson was older at 40 in 1960.

The German kayak was trailing Spain at the 250-meter mark before rallying to win by 0.226 seconds. Spain won silver and Slovakia won bronze.

The men's kayak four 500 at the Tokyo Games replaced the kayak four 1,000, which was held from 1964 to 2016.

## Man United midfielder Jesse Lingard tests positive for virus

**MANCHESTER, England (AP):** Manchester United midfielder Jesse Lingard tested positive for the coronavirus and will miss the team's pre-season match against Everton on Saturday, the club said.

"Unfortunately, Jesse Lingard is unavailable after testing positive for Covid-19. He is isolating in line with government and Premier League guidelines," United said in a statement on Saturday.

The 28-year-old Lingard went on loan to West Ham in January and scored nine goals in 16 league games, helping the Hammers earn a Europa League spot.

Leeds visits Old Trafford next Saturday in the season opener.

## I had doubts I would ever play for England again: Robinson

**NOTTINGHAM, AUG 7 (PTI):**Seamer Ollie Robinson, who grabbed his maiden five-wicket haul in his comeback Test against India after being suspended for offensive old racist tweets, termed the phase "toughest in his life as he had doubts" about his England future.

The 27-year-old's spectacular Test debut against New Zealand in June was mired in controversy after his racist and sexist tweets dating almost a decade back were discovered, earning him an eight-match ban, three of which had already been served.

After his apology, the Sussex seamer earned a recall at Trent Bridge and he confessed that he feared his England career was all but over.

"There was a time when I was speaking with my lawyers and we were looking at the fact I could be banned for a couple of years and never play for England again," Robinson said at the end of the day's play.

"In a couple of years, I would have been 30 and someone else could have come in and taken my spot. So there was definitely a time when I had doubts over my career, but luckily, it all came good today."

Robinson's career-best 5/85 meant that India's first innings lead remained under 100 as the hosts kept their hopes alive.

Terming the phase as the toughest of his life, he said: "Probably the toughest few weeks I've had in cricket, to be honest, or in my life actually. It affected not only myself but my family too. I've learned a lot now and I'm looking



to move forward."

He said he's a "different man" now from the person who wrote those as a "young, naive guy". "I was a young 18-year-old naive guy and I made a lot of mistakes, not just those tweets," he said.

"I have grown as a person a lot in that time. I have learned a lot and tried to develop myself as a person in the last 10 years."

"I am a father now as well and I have just tried to make myself the best person I can be and I hope people will be able to see that," said the bowler who idolisesAustrian great Glenn McGrath.

He further gave credit to his team for backing him fully during the difficult times.

"Everyone in England was very good. They did put their arm around me and helped me through a tough situation," he said.

He revelled alongside the master class of veteran England pacer James Anderson (4/54) as India were bundled out for 278 on day three here.

Robinson was also seen giving India half-centurion Ravindra-Jadeja a send-off, raising his finger to his lips.

"It was all friendly banter, we were just trying to get them out of their bubble and play a few shots."

"They were pretty defensive and I wanted KL Rahul to play some shots. It was all good fun out there."

"But it was important for me to show everyone that I am the real deal on the field and try to get the scrutiny off me."

"It was a proud moment for myself and my family -- a moment I'll cherish for a long time," he concluded.

## Monaco held by visiting Nantes 1-1 in French league opener

**MONACO, AUG 7 (AP):** Monaco was frustrated in a 1-1 draw with Nantes in the French league's season-opening game.

Desperate defending earned the visitor a point as Nantes goalkeeper Alban Lafont saved from AurelienTchouameni as the ball ricocheted around the penalty area on Friday. Monaco fin-

ished third last season and made a number of summer signings in its bid to win its first league title since 2017. German goalkeeper Alexander N bel failed to impress on his league debut following his loan move from Bayern Munich, and Dutch striker Myron Boadu, who joined from Alkmaar, should have

scored early on when he missed an open goal. Gelson Martins stretched to reach Brazilian defender Caio Henrique's cross for the opener in the 14th.

Manaco played with more intent, though it failed to build on its possession, and Jean-Charles Castelletto equalized for Nantes in the 42nd with a header to a corner. N

bel, who failed to break through at Bayern last season, remained rooted to his line.

Martins came closest in a second half of few chances before Lafont secured Nantes a point.

Paris Saint-Germain visits Troyes on Saturday and defending champion Lille plays Metz on Sunday.



# Fires rampage through forests in Greece; thousands evacuated

**THRAKOMAKEDONES, GREECE (AP):** Wildfires rampaged through some of Greece's last remaining forests for yet another day Saturday, encroaching on more inhabited areas after burning scores of homes, businesses and farms during the country's worst heat wave in three decades.

One of the massive fires threatened the Greek capital's most important national park and sent choking smoke across the Athens region, where authorities set up a hotline for residents with breathing problems. Thousands of residents and vacationers in areas where fires broke out days ago have fled by land and by sea.

In apocalyptic scenes overnight and into Saturday morning, ferries evacuated 1,153 people from a seaside village and beaches on Evia, an island of rugged, forested mountains popular with holidaymakers and campers, after approaching flames cut off all other means of escape. People clutched babies and carried elderly people on chairs as they boarded the small ferries to safety.

A local official in the southern Peloponnese region of Mani, the site of another major fire, estimated that 70% of her area had been destroyed.

"It's a biblical catastrophe. We're talking about three-quarters of the municipality," East Mani Deputy Mayor Drakoulakou told state broadcaster ERT, pleading for more support from water-dropping aircraft.

Fires described as the worst in decades also have swept through stretches of neighboring Turkey's southern coast for the past 10 days, killing eight people. The top Turkish forestry official said 217 fires had been brought under control since July 28 in over half of the country's provinces, while firefighters continued working Saturday to tame six fires in two provinces.

In Greece, the fire that broke out north of Athens killed a volunteer firefighter Friday. At least 20 people have been injured in blazes nationwide. The multiple fires have stretched the country's fire-



fighting forces to the limit as crews tackled the constant rekindling of several of the blazes, including the large fire burning outside of the capital.

The Greek government appealed for help through the European Union's emergency support system. Firefighters and aircraft have arrived from France, Ukraine, Cyprus, Croatia, Sweden and Israel, with more arriving Saturday from Romania and Switzerland. Egypt said Saturday it was sending two helicopters to Greece.

Greek Civil Protection chief Nikos Hardalias, speaking during a Friday evening briefing, said firefighters faced "exceptionally dangerous, unprecedented conditions" as they battled 154 wildfires this week, with 64 still burning into the night.

"Over the past few days, we have been facing a situation without precedent in our country, in the intensity and wide distribution of the wildfires, and the new outbreaks all over (Greece)," he said. "I want to assure you that all forces available are taking part in the fight."

The country has been baked by its most protracted heat wave in 30 years, with temperatures soaring to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). Temperatures eased Friday, but winds picked up, further exacerbating the situation.

Evacuation orders for villages and neighborhoods have been constant, sent by push alerts to mobile phones in affected areas, while police and firefighters have gone door-to-door urging people to leave homes in the path of the flames.

On Friday, shifting winds and new flashpoints caused the blazes to the north of Athens and on Evia to repeatedly change direction, in some cases returning to threaten areas that had narrowly escaped destruction earlier in the week.

After burning through forests and houses towards Lake Marathon, the capital's main water reservoir, a branch of the fire moved into the Mount Parnitha national park. The park, one of the last remaining substantial forests near Athens, still bears deep scars from wildfires in 2007.

The 38-year-old volunteer firefighter who died Friday had suffered head injuries after being struck by a falling electricity pole north of Athens. At least 20 people have required treatment nationwide, including two firefighters hospitalized in intensive care.

Authorities urged Athens residents to wear masks outdoors and to close windows in their homes due to the dense smoke clouding the capital. They also set up the free information for anxious callers to seek information about breathing difficulties.

The causes of the fires are under investigation. Hardalias said three people were arrested Friday — in the greater Athens area, central and southern Greece — on suspicion of starting blazes, in two cases intentionally. Police said the suspect detained north of Athens had allegedly lit fires at three separate spots in the area ravaged by the large blaze, which first broke out Tuesday.

Greek and European officials also have blamed climate change for a large number of summer fires burning through

southern Europe, from southern Italy to the Balkans, Greece and Turkey.

In Turkey's seaside province of Mugla, most fires appeared to be under control Saturday morning. While the latest government information from after midnight said there were still eight fires in the area, municipalities in Marmaris and wider Mugla province said cooling efforts were ongoing in areas where fires were brought under control.

Municipal officials in Antalya, on the Turkish Mediterranean, said a fire continued around the Eynif plain where teams of wild horses live. Fires in Manavgat, where fires raged for days, were reported to be under control.

In Italy, firefighters battling a wildfire in Reggio Calabria province found the bodies of a man and a woman in an olive grove. Italian news agency La Presse said Friday the two died of smoke inhalation.

Massive fires also have been burning across Siberia in Russia's north for weeks, while hot, bone-dry, gusty weather has also fueled devastating wildfires in California.

## Canadian government reaches deal with border guards

**TORONTO, AUG 7 (AP):** The Canadian government has reached a tentative agreement with the union that represents Canada's border agents just days before the Canada Border Services Agency is to begin easing COVID-19 travel restrictions on fully vaccinated U.S. citizens. The deal late Friday comes after a day-long work-to-rule campaign that spawned long lineups at the country's busiest border crossing points.

Members of the Public Service Alliance of

Canada's Customs and Immigration Union, which represents some 9,000 CBSA employees, had been without a long-term contract since 2018.

About 90% of front-line border workers are classified as essential employees, a designation that prevents them from walking off the job.

Instead, the union launched a broad series of job actions early today at Canadian airports, land borders, commercial shipping ports, postal facilities and office locations.

## Mexico's capital on highest COVID alert amid surge in cases

**MEXICO CITY, AUG 7 (AP):** Mexico City and a half-dozen of the country's 32 states are now on red alert as COVID-19 infections rose to their highest level ever.

As of Friday, Mexico had over 144,000 active coronavirus cases nationwide, 4.6% more than the previous peak during the country's surge in January.

The country has seen 243,733 test-confirmed deaths, but the country does little testing and studies of death certificates indicate the real toll is nearly 370,000. Nearly a quarter of the country is now on the highest level of alert, which requires some non-essential businesses to close and forces others to serve fewer customers at a time.

The federal Health Department said the capital is red on a color-coded alert system for the pandemic, but Mexico City officials claimed they were still on orange level, which allows wider

business activity.

We do not believe we should close economic activities, but rather accelerate the pace of vaccination," Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said.

The alert colours are determined by case loads, hospital bed availability and the rate of change in those and other factors, and there have been discrepancies between state and federal ratings before.

The states of Nuevo Leon, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima and Guerrero are also on red alert.

Hospitals across Mexico are now at 51% of capacity. But while cases numbers have exploded, hospitalizations and deaths are lower than during the surge in January, which pushed some hospitals to their limits.

Mexico has never had a European-style strict lockdown, nor has it required face masks, or testing or vaccinations for visitors.

# Seidel earns marathon bronze, predicted medal in 4th grade

**SAPPORO (JAPAN), AUG 7 (AP):** Maybe the person most surprised by the bronze medal in the women's Olympic marathon was the bronze medalist herself, Molly Seidel.

Even if a medal was something she did set as a goal all the way back in fourth grade.

For a class project, Seidel scribbled in black ink on the back of a decorated card: "I wish I will make it into the Olympics and win a gold medal."

Recalling that moment, she laughed and said: I was little bit off but still got the medal. I'm pumped for the bronze.

Seidel finished behind Kenyan marathoners Peres Jepchirchir and Brigid-Kosgei on a sweltering Saturday run through the streets of Sapporo at the Tokyo Games.

This was only her third marathon ever.

I was a little bit star-struck, said Seidel, who finished second at the U.S. Olympic marathon trials in February 2019 to earn a spot for Tokyo.

Being able to run with them, a lot of it is just staying calm, and not trying to think, Oh my gosh, you're running with the fastest women in the world.' It's just trying to be like, OK, focus on your race, focus and what you need to do, and stay in it.'

So that's what she did.

She hung with the lead pack. Then, world champion Ruth Chepngetich



dropped out on a hot day that led the race to be moved up an hour (Seidel found out night the night before at dinner and went straight to bed). It was down to four at one point with about four kilometers remaining when LornahSalpeter suddenly stopped and walked to the side of the road (she

would finish).

Seidel finished strong spurred on by a rare cheering crowd that lined the course to secure that medal.

To think, she was envisioning a top-10 finish, maybe top-five if things went right. She wasn't selling herself short, just looking at times. Her best was

2:25:13, and there were numerous runners with sub-2:20.

I wanted to go and just be that person that when you're racing and all these women were probably like, Who the hell is this girl? she said.

"Just trying to, like, stick my nose where it didn't belong and just kind of get after it. I mean, Olympics only happens once every four years, you might as well take your shot.

Right after the race, NBC helped facilitate a call to her relatives, who were watching in Wisconsin. I was just kind of overcome and started crying a little bit, said Seidel, who went to Notre Dame for college.

"This is the day you dream of your entire life. This is what it means to be an athlete." She said

she drew inspiration from teammates competing in Tokyo. Like her friend Courtney Frerichs, who earned silver in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Seeing your peers do incredible things kind of gives you the courage to go after it, Seidel said.





## Love Island Frontrunners Josh Goldstein and Shannon St. Clair Quit Show After Death of His Sister

Love Island's only exclusive couple, Josh Goldstein and Shannon St. Clair, left the CBS show together after Josh learned his sister had passed away: "I just need to be home with my family."

Tragedy has struck the Love Island villa, leaving the reality show's frontrunners heartbroken.

Josh Goldstein and Shannon St. Clair, who were the strongest couple after remaining together since day one of season three, announced they were leaving the villa during the Aug. 5 episode.

The islanders woke up to find Josh and Shannon's bed empty. The couple walked in the bedroom, holding hands, to share the sad news that Josh's sister had died over night.

"I just want to tell you guys that me and Shannon are going home today," Josh, 24, told his fellow CBS contestants. "Unfortunately, my sister passed away last night." He added, "Yeah, I just got word," seemingly from producers who informed him of her death. (The islanders film Love Island non-stop in Hawaii, typically without access to their cell phones and social media.)

The Sun reports that a Massachusetts coroner's office confirmed his sister Lindsey died Aug. 4, but no cause of death was revealed.

On air, Josh paid tribute to his sister. "She was an unbelievable person," he told his co-stars. "She was the reason I'm here, the reason I found Shannon and met all you guys. It's unexpected, but she lived an unbelievable life."

He continued, "I just need to be home with my family right now to support them. I just want to let you guys know that I'm so grateful to have met all of you, consider you all my best friends. We're going to see each other again. This

isn't it." The baseball player said he appreciates "the support and the friendships and the fun times and the laughs" that he has experienced over the past 22 episodes. "It's been unbelievable and an experience that I'll never for-

ing date.

After the couple's departure, castmates expressed their sympathy during one-on-one interviews. Through tears, Kyra Lizama reflected, "It's absolutely heartbreaking to see Josh and Shan-



get," Josh noted.

The islanders quietly gathered around the pair to hug them goodbye, with Cash Proudfoot telling them, "I'm so sorry."

The Love Island USA Twitter account wrote on Aug. 5, "We send our love and condolences to Josh and his family from all of us at Love Island. [heartemoji]."

Shannon and Josh were the only couple in the villa to go exclusive, after he asked her to be his girlfriend on the Aug. 4 episode, during their waterfall ziplin-

non leave." Cash added, "I couldn't even imagine what he's going through, what he's feeling."

Jeremy Hershberg said, "I'm just kind of in shock right now. He's obviously going to be missed in here, and I just can't wait to see him when I get out and be there for him."

Earlier this week, contestant Leslie Golden suddenly exited the dating show as well. The influencer later wrote on her Instagram Story that she left after doing something "a little illegal."

## Luis Guizman joins Tim Burton's Addams Family spin-off series

**LOS ANGELES, AUG 7 (PTI):** Actor Luis Guzman has been cast as Gomez Addams in filmmaker Tim Burton's live-action Addams Family spin-off series.

Titled "Wednesday", the Netflix show will focus on the character of Wednesday Addams, to be played by "You" star Jenna Ortega, reported Deadline.

Billed as a coming-of-age comedy, the series will be penned by "Smallville" creators Al Gough and Miles Millar.

It marks the TV directing debut for Burton, known for films like "Beetlejuice", "Edward Scissorhands" and "Alice in Wonderland".

The series will follow Wednesday's years as a student at Nevermore Academy, where she attempts to master her emerging psychic ability.

She is also trying to foil a monstrous killing spree that

has terrorised the local town, and solve the supernatural mystery that embroiled her parents -- Gomez (Guizman) and Morticia -- 25 years ago as she navigates new, complex relationships.

Gough and Millar will also serve as showrunners and executive producers. Burton will double up as executive producer.

Andrew Mittman, Kevin Miserocchi, Kayla Alpert, Jonathan Glickman for Glickmania and Gail Berman will serve as executive producers as well.

The series hails from MGM/UA Television.

The role of Gomez has previously been played by John Astin, Raul Julia and Tim Curry across mediums.

Hollywood star Oscar Isaac most recently voiced the character in the 2019 animated film, and will reprise the role in the upcoming sequel.

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## Melissa Benoist wraps shooting for 'Supergirl' season six



**LOS ANGELES, AUG 7 (PTI):** Actor Melissa Benoist has concluded filming for the sixth and final season of her The CW series "Supergirl".

The actor took to Instagram and shared a photo with fellow casts members Chyler Leigh and David Harewood as she bid farewell to the fans of the superhero series.

"Thank you for an incredible 6 years the cast who became family, everyone who worked on the show, all of you who watched us week after week. That's a wrap on @supergirlcw," Benoist wrote in the caption.

Based on the DC Com-

ics character Supergirl, the Melissa Benoist-led show had started its journey on CBS in 2015 before moving to The CW from second season.

The series followed Kara Zor-El aka Supergirl, who is Superman's cousin and one of the last surviving Kryptonians.

It is produced by Berlanti Productions, Warner Bros Television and DC Entertainment, with Jessica Queller and Robert Rovner serving as showrunners.

The cast also include Katie McGrath, Jesse Rath, Nicole Maines, Azie Tesfai, Julie Gonzalo and Staz Nair.



**FASHION FLEX!** The actress, Skai Jackson looks fab in a blue optical illusion dress and white boots while out for lunch in West Hollywood.

## Kajal Aggarwal finishes filming for 'Uma'



**MUMBAI, AUG 7 (PTI):** Actor Kajal Aggarwal on Saturday completed the shooting for her upcoming Hindi movie "Uma".

Billed as a slice-of-life film, "Uma" is directed by Tathagata Singha and produced by Avishek Ghosh (AVMA Media) and Mantraraaj Paliwal (Miraj Group).

The 36-year-old actor, who predominantly works in the south and has appeared in Bollywood films "Singham" and "Special 26", said working on Uma has been one of the most memorable experience.

My director Tathagata Singha, producer Avishek Ghosh, all the artists and technicians were wonderful. There are certain characters that just stay with you and Uma' is going to

leave me with a massive, beautiful hangover!

"This is one film which is all heart, I'm very excited about and will always cherish, Aggarwal said in a statement.

As per the official synopsis, the film is set in an aristocratic household with a wedding backdrop where the entire family assembles. The drama unfolds through the multifaceted characters in the house with the arrival of a stranger Uma.

The team shot the film in a start-to-finish schedule beginning in July in Kolkata, keeping the COVID-19 protocols in consideration.

"Uma" also features Tinnu Anand, Harsh Chhaya, Meghana Malik, Gaurav Sharma, Shriswara and Ayoshi Talukdar.

Aries:

How much is "too" much, Aries? Must you say yes to everything that comes your way? Chances are, you're overextending yourself at the moment, which in turn is taking a toll on your mental and physical health. So, step back for just a moment. Reassess the beliefs that have convinced you your worthiness is tied to how much you 'give'. Your lesson at the moment: learning to ask for support and perfecting the art of receiving in the process. Tip: You don't have to say yes to everything, beautiful.

Taurus:

What you're celebrating today is a landmark moment, beautiful, one that will put you on the map for all the right reasons. So, take a moment. Take a moment to lovingly gaze at your creations. Give yourself the pat on the back that you deserve. Given that change has been set into motion, a geographical move may be on the cards too. Remember, you will never truly feel prepared for this transition. Trust your gut and move forward and onwards nonetheless. Tip: You are celebrating a landmark moment today.

Gemini:

At any point of time, you have two options: to prolong the war or to give peace a chance. Something tells us you're in the mood to put your arms down today. So, practice active listening, Gemini. Hold space for an open and hon-

est conversation. That doesn't mean rejecting how "you" feel in the grand schemes of things. It simply means finding a way to convey your truth bombs in a manner that's firm yet gentle.

Tip: Put your arms down, beautiful.

Cancer:

Cancer, you have been exercising your manifesting muscles and your life is living, breathing proof of your powers. What the cards are urging you to do today is hit the pause button. Assess the things that have come to fruition and the things that are still in the nascent stages. The new moon tomorrow is providing all of us with the grand opportunity to plant new seeds with love and with intention, and nurture the seeds that have already been planted. PS: Spirit has got your back and is supporting you to create the best life that you can.

Tip: Plant new seeds with love and with intention.

Leo:

Cancer, you have been exercising your manifesting muscles and your life is living, breathing proof of your powers. What the cards are urging you to do today is hit the pause button. Assess the things that have come to fruition and the things that are still in the nascent stages. The new moon tomorrow is providing all of us with the grand opportunity to plant new seeds with love and with intention, and nurture the seeds that have already been

planted. PS: Spirit has got your back and is supporting you to create the best life that you can.

Tip: Plant new seeds with love and with intention.

Virgo:

An opportunity that didn't quite work out for you in the past is coming back into your life in a brand new form. Your hesitation is understandable, Virgo. But, your hesitation is also a sign that the given opportunity is challenging enough to make you stop and think. Word for the wise: don't forgo the chance to grow and evolve in a different direction. What the cards want you to remember is that you are prepared for this and that you have been preparing for a challenge of this magnitude for many lifetimes now.

Tip: Go forth and conquer, beautiful!

Libra:

Adulthood is overrated, Libra. Sometimes, you just have to take a break from the big, bad world outside and escape to the little world that exists inside your head. So, board the flight of fantasy, beautiful. Dream a little dream and engage in activities that nourish your imagination. Remember, creativity doesn't always have to have an end goal. Becoming one with the rhythm and flow of the Universe is your ultimate prayer to Universal forces.

Tip: Board the flight of fantasy, beautiful.

Scorpio:

Given your No-BS radar, it's hard to take you for a ride, Scorpio. Yet, every now and then, you allow others to take advantage of your inherent goodness. To repeat that tale of victimhood, so you show up for them at the cost of your own well-being. Pay attention to who these people are and the manner in which they are secretly manipulating your energy. 'No' is a complete sentence, beautiful, one that will liberate you from the vicious cycle you've been caught in for some time now.

Tip: Your instinct never lies.

Sagittarius:

What if we said that you are an open channel for love, healing, and abundance, and that everything you ever need will always be provided to you? You are beginning to see yourself as the co-creator of your reality, and it's oh-so-beautiful, Sagittarius! Today, the cards are also bringing your attention to the quote, "The more you give..."

Tip: You are an open channel for love, healing, and abundance.

Capricorn:

A daily affirmation that will serve you well: "I trust myself to create the abundance I deserve." Repeat these words out loud to yourself with unyielding faith in the Universe. Even better, write it down in your journal a few times or pin it up on your work desk as a reminder. It's time to

transmute the lack mentality, Capricorn. It's time to call in the blessings you truly deserve. What Spirit wants you to know: both your wants and your needs will be taken care of.

Tip: It's time to call in the abundance you deserve.

Aquarius:

What do you do when everything looks topsy-turvy? What do you do when things refuse to go your way despite your best efforts to get a handle on the situation? Do you descend into a downward spiral of negative emotions or grab the opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade? It's time to drop the tortured artist act, Aquarius. It's time to change the script around and title this chapter 'The Greatest Transformation of my Life'.

Tip: What will you make of your circumstances, beautiful?

Pisces:

The 'on-again, off-again' narrative is beginning to lose its allure. You're no longer chasing emotionally unavailable lovers. You're no longer interested in the idea of an impossible romance. You've got your feet on the ground, Pisces, and you want to make things work in the here and now. That's what makes your relationship oh-so-beautiful!

Tip: After a period of turbulence, you are experiencing stability in matters related to love and romance.