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**THERE WILL AFTER ALL NEVER BE ENOUGH PARKING SPACES OR ROADS**  
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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Landslide at Sokpay blocks Dikchu-Gangtok road



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA DIKCHU, 19 JUN:** Heavy rain has triggered a landslide at Sokpay, Lower Rakdong, East Sikkim on the Dikchu-Gangtok axis blocking the road today at around 1 pm.

Vehicular traffic on this stretch has been diverted to Ipsing-Samdong road while some commuters have opted for transshipment at this spot. Traffic is expected to resume by Saturday evening.

## 16 more beat Corona in Sikkim; COVID cases down to 49

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 19 JUN:**

The total number of active COVID-19 cases in Sikkim has come to 49 with the discharge of 16 more patients on Friday after their COVID-negative status was confirmed in repeat testing. No new cases were reported today.

Out of the 70 cases reported so far in Sikkim, 21 have recovered and have already been discharged from hospital.

In his daily health bulletin on Friday, Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa Tshering Bhutia, informed

that the sixteen patients who had tested negative a day earlier were tested again for a confirmation test. After all of them tested negative again, they were discharged from hospital on Friday.

Good news for the State continued with confirmation from the Secretary that no fresh cases were detected today from the 294 samples screened today – seven TruNat tests and 287 RT-PCR tests.

As for the patients discharged today, he informed that 15 are from South Sikkim and one from West Sikkim.



## Slips and slides begin

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 19 JUN:**

Incessant rain over the past few days has left roads across the State littered with slips and slides disrupting traffic.

Among the more severely affected is Soreng sub-division in the West Sikkim.

SDM Soreng, Himmat Rai, informed over the phone that the Budang to Chumbong road is blocked at Kilometres 1, 5 and 8 where a jhora has broken its banks and brought down boulders and muck. Road-clearing machines have been dispatched to clear the road, he informs.

Similarly, the road formation has been damaged at KM 10 along the Chakung-Khaniserbong road as well.

Meanwhile, other roads are trafficable despite several minor slips, Mr Rai said.

SDM Rangpo, Prem Kamal Rai, in turn informed that a house was washed away at Singley-bong under

turn to pg 02

## Weekly closure of bazaars reinstated

**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 19 JUN:**

The State Government has reinstated the system of weekly closure of bazaars in town areas for example MG Marg on Saturdays, Lall Bazaar on Thursdays, etc. This closure system had been suspended when shops were allowed to reopen after the lock down.

**MEGNA BASNETT**

The wood carving legacy of Sikkim is unique and extremely rich which is deeply rooted to the Himalayan regions unparalleled geography, culture and tradition. Over the years, the practice of wood carving, particularly in Sikkim, has been maintained through various projects and schemes of the State Government. These schemes aim to protect and promote the delicate art of wood carving along with showcasing this art form to people across the globe.

There are many wood carvers/artisans in Sikkim and one of them is 48-year-old Da Tshering Lepcha. Hidden away in the small village of Lungkh-iyia, under Rongbul gram panchayat unit, surrounded by green organic fields is the location of Da Tshering's wood workshop. The shop is a tiny shed which is filled with various kinds of woods and apparatus with which Da Tshering has been designing, producing and selling, different kinds of wood work. Mr. Tshering, a father of two children, acquired

## The Woodcarver

his wood carving skill at the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom (DHH) technical institute located in Namchi, South Sikkim. In the year 1994 he completed the wood carving course. He belongs to the first batch which received this self-reliant professional training.

Da Tshering's career spans two decades. His talent with wood is popular amongst the locals and he is a master in producing varied wood furniture pieces like choktsis (foldable table), cabinets, altars, ornate

wooden screen, lamp stands and decorative bamboo arts. These pieces are elaborately designed with eight lucky signs of Buddhism, motifs of birds, dragons, snow lions and many more. These designs are carved in tooni' (toona celiata), rani chaap' (Macalia Exelsa), and 'okher' (Walnut) woods.

Explaining the process of wood carving, Da Tshering draws the art work on a piece of paper to begin with after which he traces this art on the wood surface. He then uses his

carpentry tools to engrave the designs onto the wood. He then elaborately paints in bright colours resulting in exquisite wood creations. He added that crafting choktsis or any other wood produce takes a fortnight to one or two months based on the design requested by the customer. These carvings also require a great deal of precision, creativity and firm hands.

Of late, Da Tshering has started focusing on building handmade contemporary functional multipurpose cabinets

turn to pg 02



21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

**International Day of Yoga (IDY)**



## Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family

"Yoga is good for community, immunity and unity. In the midst of Corona crisis, Yoga has assumed even greater importance as it helps strengthen the respiratory system."

Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister



**Learn and practice Yoga from the safety of your home. Befriend Yoga to defeat diseases and dispel stress. Stand together in solidarity with the rest of the world at 7am on the 21<sup>st</sup> June of 2020 by joining the harmonious performance of Yoga from your home.**

For guidance on harmonious performance of Yoga based on Common Yoga Protocol, tune into the following channels of Doordarshan at 6:15am on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2020:  
DD National, DD News, DD Bharati, DD India, DD Urdu, DD Sports, DD Kisan, all Regional Languages Satellite Services (RLSS) Channels and all Regional Kendras  
You may also join live on the Facebook handle of the Ministry of AYUSH- [facebook.com/moayush/](https://www.facebook.com/moayush/)

For more details about IDY- 2020 and CYP, check out: [www.yoga.ayush.gov.in/yoga/](http://www.yoga.ayush.gov.in/yoga/)

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[www.ayush.gov.in](http://www.ayush.gov.in)

[www.un.org/en/observances/yoga-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/yoga-day)

<https://twitter.com/moayush>



## SLYA thanks govt for naming school after Thekong Munsolong

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 JUN:

Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Ong Shejum [Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association] has expressed heartfelt gratitude towards the State Government for renaming Yuskam Senior Secondary School as Thekong Munsolong Senior Secondary School.

The renaming of the school after one of the greatest legendary figures of the Lepcha community greatly restores the pride and the glory of the Lepcha community, SLYA conveys in a press release issued today.

"Thyukung Munso-long whose realm also belonged to the West Sikkim is the greatest literary figure among the Lepcha community, who is regarded as to have invented the Lepcha Script. By bestowing such due recognition to the Lepcha Community by the Government of Sikkim, the government has instilled a deep sense of confidence and optimism among the Lepcha community that shall go a long way in the upliftment and the development of the Lepcha community," the release details.

## BJP Sikkim to hold virtual rally



### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 JUN:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh is organizing a virtual rally on Saturday. Following the guidelines of COVID-19, the party is trying this unique way to interact with the people, informs a BJP press release.

The release adds that Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and Mi-

nority Affairs [Independent charge], Kiran Rijju will address the people of Sikkim from New Delhi. It is added that the Minister will cover various issues of the State in his address which will be telecast live on different social media platforms.

BJP state-unit has appealed to the people of Sikkim to join the programme through social media.

## Anti-China protests rock West Bengal

KOLKATA, JUNE 19 (PTI):

Members of the INTUC here hanged an effigy of Chinese President Xi Jinping as anti-China protests continued in West Bengal on Friday against the killing of 20 Indian soldiers, including two from the state, in a clash with Chinese troops in Ladakh's Galwan Valley.

Leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also led a candle light march in memory of the soldiers at his constituency Baharampur during the day.

In the city's Bowbazar area, around 20-30 members of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the trade union wing of the Congress, carried placards in Mandarin denouncing the Chinese action in Ladakh.

They hanged the effigy of the Chinese president on the B B Ganguly Road in the city.

"We want to convey

the deep anguish and pain among people of this country against the unprovoked attack by China on our soldiers and the loss of Indian lives. We want the Narendra Modi government to take decisive action," one of the protesters said.

In Baharampur, Chowdhury said the entire nation stands firmly with the bereaved families in this hour of grief.

Meanwhile, people came out on the streets in large numbers calling for a boycott of Chinese products.

In the protests since Thursday, Chinese flags and posters of the Chinese president were burnt in various parts of the state.

Havildar Bipul Roy of Alipurduar district and Sepoy Rajesh Orang of Birbhum were among the soldiers killed in the clash with People's Liberation Army of China in Galwan Valley on Monday night.

## Medium intensity quake in NE

SHILLONG, JUNE 18

(PTI): A medium intensity earthquake measuring 5 rocked the north eastern states on Thursday, officials said.

The tremor took place at 7.30 pm and was tracked at a depth of 80 km from the earth's surface at a place in Champai

district of Mizoram, an official at the Regional Seismic Centre here told PTI.

The tremor was felt in Shillong and all major cities in the north east, the official said.

The state police said there was no immediate report of any damages in Meghalaya.

# South District Task Force organizes series of competitions



NAMCHI, 19 JUN (IPR):

South District Task Force for COVID-19 under District Administration Center, Namchi is organizing a series of competition for people currently lodged at Facility and Home Quarantine Centres. The competition is divided into five categories namely:

- 1) Essay Writing
- 2) Painting
- 3) Poetry
- 4) Singing

5) Various forms of Exercise

For Essay Writing, Painting and Poetry individuals staying at institutional quarantine center are only eligible to take part. Essay Writing is limited to 500 words and for Poetry the entrants can also submit a video of their recitation which is supposed to be under one minute to the respective Quarantine Centre In-Charge. The Quarantine Centre will provide with the materials for these three categories which is limited to



English and Nepali language.

As for singing and other various forms of Exercise persons under Facility and Home Quarantine can take part. They will have to submit a video of them performing this activity which is restricted to one minute.

The first, second and third prize for these contest are Rs. 5000, Rs. 3000 and Rs. 1000 respectively and the last date for submission of the content is on 30 June.

## All party meeting discusses border tension with China

NEW DELHI, JUN 19

(PTI): An all-party meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the situation along the India-China border on Friday saw leaders of major political parties putting across their views on the sensitive issue.

The virtual meeting began with participants paying tributes to the 20 Indian soldiers killed in the violent face-off with Chinese troops in East Ladakh earlier this week.

Prime Minister Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar were seen standing in silence as a mark of respect for the fallen army men.

Singh and Jaishankar spoke on the stand-off at the meeting, according to early visuals.

BJP chief J P Nadda,



Congress president Sonia Gandhi, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, TRS leader K Chandrashekhara Rao, JD (U) leader Nitish Kumar, DMK's M K Stalin, YSR Congress Party's YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray were among those who attended the meeting.

The government had invited presidents of major political parties for the meet.

Opposition parties, including the Congress, have been asking the government to be transparent about the situation on the border and slammed its handling of the issue.

Modi has asserted that the sacrifice of Indian soldiers will not go in vain.

Defence Minister Singh had said that Indian soldiers displayed exemplary courage and valour in the line of duty and sacrificed their lives in the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

## BJP clinches lone Rajya Sabha seat in Manipur

IMPHAL, JUN 19 (PTI):

BJP candidate Leisemba Sanajaoba won the election to the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Manipur on Friday, defeating the Congress nominee in a high-voltage political drama.

Sanajaoba, the titular king of Manipur, received 28 votes, officials said.

Congress candidate

T Mangi Babu got 24 votes, they said.

The win will be a major boost to the ruling BJP-led coalition in the state which was on a sticky wicket after the rebellion of nine MLAs.

Three BJP MLAs of the nine, who have resigned from the primary membership of the party and the post of

the legislator, did not cast their votes.

Four National People's Party (NPP) ministers, who had withdrawn their support to the ruling coalition, have, however, exercised their franchise.

Lone Trinamool Congress MLA T Robin Singh, who also pulled out of the N Biren Singh-led dispensation, also did

not cast his vote.

Three Congress defectors -- Ksh Biren Singh, S Bira Singh, Surchandra Singh -- were not allowed to cast their votes as cases are pending against them.

One recently disqualified MLA was also barred from taking part in the voting process.

Manipur has 60 assembly seats.

## Meeting discusses new PMEGP guidelines

GANGTOK, 19 JUN (IPR):

A coordination meeting was conducted in the Office of Director (MSME) regarding the new guidelines of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) with the members of KVIC, SKVIB and DICs on 28 of May, 2020.

PMEGP is implemented by KVIC, a statutory organisation under the administrative control of Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency at the National level and through KVIC, SKVIB and DICs at the state level.

The role of District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) as constituted under clause

11.9 of the scheme Guidelines is discontinued henceforth for recommendation of proposal to the financing Banks. The implementing agencies KVIC, SKVIC and DICs will be forwarding the viable proposals to the banks directly for taking credit decision.

The Director, MSME requested the implementing agencies for the aggressive awareness of the scheme to the unemployed youth of the state.

The unemployed youth/entrepreneurs may apply directly to the portal <http://www.kviconline.gov.in/pmegportal> for availing the PMEGP benefit.

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### The Woodcarver..

infused with traditional designs to sustain in the wood carving industry. These works of arts are sold for Rs 8000 to Rs 25,000 depending on the order placed by the various patrons. Da Tshering remarks, that nowadays it has become extremely challenging and expensive to procure wood due to environmental concerns.

However, he adds that in future he would want to become an instructor and assist in imparting his knowledge and skills of wood carving craft to prospective students so that this ancient art can be preserved.

### Slips and slides begin....

Central-Pendam constituency this afternoon. The damages are being assessed and required support will be provided to the affected family, he adds.

Speaker, LB Das, who is also the area MLA, adds that he has directed the concerned authorities to immediately take protective measures and reach relief to the affected family.

## Antyeshti Kriya



The Antyeshti Kriya or Funeral Rites of Late Neetu Devi who passed away on 04 Jun, 2020 will be held on 22 Jun, 2020 at her residence in Tadong (near Science block of SRM University). All friends, well-wishers, cousins are requested to attend the same.

**Sunil Prasad (Husband)**  
**Chandan Prasad**  
**- Brother in Law**

**Kanchan Prasad - Brother in Law**  
**Amit Prasad - Brother in Law**  
**Rupa Prasad - Sister in Law**  
**Nisu Prasad, Payal - Daughter**  
**Tushar Prasad - Son**

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### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College.  
Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

### LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

### LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501, 62970-03235, 98320-48410

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## ViewPoint

## Yoga – Community, Immunity and Unity

RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'

On 11 Dec, 2014, at the initiative of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, during his UN General Assembly address on 27 Sept, 2014, United Nations declared 21 June as the International Day of Yoga (IDY) or World Yoga Day. What made this resolution global and spectacular is its universality and acceptability. The world is divided by geography and united by yoga is evident from the fact that more than 177 countries supported International Day of Yoga whereas 175 countries co-sponsored the resolution, which is the highest number of co-sponsors in any United National General Assembly resolutions of this kind till date. The initiative was proposed and implemented by a country in the UN body in less than 90 days, which is also the first time in the history of the UN General Assembly. PM Modi has wonderfully accomplished the vision within six months of being in power what we could not accomplish in the last 73 years since independence- 'true recognition of our 5000 years old heritage of yoga'. He has truly summarized by

stating that yoga is a symbol of universal aspiration for health and well-being. It is health assurance in zero budget. Yoga has shown the way the world from illness to wellness.'

"Yoga" is not a religion. It is a science of well-being, youthfulness and seamless integration of mind, body and soul". It reflects harmony and peace for humanity, which is the message of Yoga to the world. It is the journey of the self, to the self and through the self.

Maharishi Patanjali is known for his treatise on Yoga, entitled "Patanjali Yoga Sutra". Shri Aurobindo is credited with translating the essence of Yoga and Yogic practices from celebrated Hindu scriptures like Bhagwad Gita and the Upanishads. BS Iyengar and Maharishi Paramhansa Yogananda are widely regarded for disseminating the important knowledge of Yoga around the world through important spiritual scriptures and by their disciplined and inspirational lives. Swami Vivekananda is credited for being the greatest proponent of Yoga in the West. He was a key figure in the introduction of the

Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. His words on Indian philosophy and spiritualism are still resonating in Chicago.

Today Yoga is considered to be one of the most successful products of globalization. It is the most widely celebrated festival about human-consciousness and wellbeing. Yoga festivals are organized all over the world irrespective of region and religion. It is the most secular chord today connecting the divided world with a focus of health and happiness. When the world falls apart Yoga brings people, family, society and nations together have the most potent unifying force in the world.

It is heartening to see that Yoga is the most commonly used complementary health approach in the west and the world is realizing the benefits of Yoga in their lives. The report published by the US National Library of Medicine discovered that Yoga combined with meditation helped to delay the ageing process and prevent the onset of many diseases. Practising Yoga can enhance the mood of a person and also increases one's life span. Yoga not

only helps in treating physical health but also the emotional and mental wellbeing. It not only adds years to your life but life to your years. Research findings show that practising Yoga causes molecular changes that encourage the circulation of immune cells. Yoga also helps ease depression. Yoga has always been an integral part of Health and Physical Education. The world has adopted a holistic approach towards health and Yoga will be part of an 'experiential learning' rather than a part of instructive

education. There is even talk that Yoga could become a competitive sport at the Olympics after the US successfully registered the discipline as an official sport.

From Hollywood to Haridwar, ordinary people to celebrities, everyone has taken serious note of the benefits of practising Yoga amid the pandemic crisis. I belong to the Himalayan state Devbhoomi Uttarakhand which has been the cradle of Yoga and Ayurveda. The whole world is looking up to us for seeking the course in pandemic crisis. When the world is confined to the four walls, Yoga has emerged as

the most effective health tool to enhance immunity and maintain a balance of life. Ideally, we would have been celebrating the International Yoga Day with fervour like previous years but due to COVID-19, we are expected to adopt social distancing and celebrate the Yoga Day with our family in restricted domains. I appeal to the entire nations and world community not to allow COVID-19, diminish the spirit of World Yoga Day which we have achieved in the last five years. Various reports and case studies have proved that Yoga and meditation is the best therapy to counter the psychosocial impact of COVID-19. Yoga has various "pranayama" that strengthen the respiratory system. Studies need to be conducted as to how "Pranayama" can counter the effects of Novel Coronavirus. Yoga is truly a panacea for community, immunity and unity. Yoga, Ayurveda and Adhyatma have been our message to the global community for ages and perfectly relevant today. Yoga is undoubtedly the gateway to global peace and harmony.

[The writer is Union Minister of Human Resource Development, GoI]

## Sikkim pays homage to Indian army martyrs

GRACE KEREN GURUNG  
GANGTOK, 19 JUN:

Sikkim paid homage to the 20 martyred soldiers with a special observance here at MG Marg on Friday. Twenty soldiers were killed in a clash with the Chinese PLA at Galwan Valley in Ladakh on the night of 15 June, it may be recalled.

At the observance at MG Marg, butter lamps were offered to photographs of the 20 martyrs and a two-minute silence observed to pay respect to soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

Governor Ganga Prasad joined the Shradhanjali programme accompanied by UD&HD Minister Arun Upreti and Gangtok MLA YT Lepcha.

The Governor hailed the soldiers for their bravery and extended condolences to their families.

He assured citizens that the sacrifice will not go in vain.

"India is a peace-loving nation and has always maintained peaceful relationships with its neighbours but will not tolerate such acts. India today is not what it used to be back in 1962. India now is fully equipped and capable to defend the nation," he said.

To the residents of Sikkim, the Governor said, "Although Sikkim shares a border with China, there's no need



to worry. I request the residents of Sikkim not to panic as our Jawans are competent to protect each and every part of the country. In the defensive hands of our Jawans,

no harm can come to our border areas. If we ever encounter an attack, we won't tolerate it and respond in full defense."

"I pray for the souls of the brave and pray for

their families. May god give them the strength to cope with the loss," the UDHD Minister added.

The Gangtok MLA also paid an emotional condolence.

## Dist-level review committees formed to fast-track farmer loans

GANGTOK, 19 JUN [IPR]:

With a view to process loans for farmers, screening of applications, feasibility assessment and monitoring of overall credit facilitation, the Department of Agriculture constituted District Level Review Committees in all districts of Sikkim.

The committee will be headed by the Joint Director, Agriculture Department, who has been designated as the Chair-

person of the Committee. District Development Manager, NABARD will be the Member Secretary in the committee to convene and coordinate the meeting of review committee.

Additionally, the Lead District Manager, Lead District Officer (RBI), Deputy/Joint Director Horticulture Department, Deputy/Joint Director Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Ser-

vices Department, Joint Registrar Co-operation Department have been designated as the Members of the Committee.

And also there will be a representative of the concerned District Collector as a member of the Committee.

The Chairperson of the District Level Review Committee may also co-opt additional member bank(s) as per the requirement.

## Goa Football Development Council to have its own club

PANAJI, JUN 19 (PTI):

The state-run Goa Football Development Council (GFDC) will form its own club to ensure that players' participation in competitive tournaments, a senior GFDC official said on Friday.

GFDC Member Secretary Aleixo da Costa told PTI that the council cannot field its team right now in the Goa Football Association (GFA) affiliated tournaments as it is not registered as a club.

"We will soon register ourselves as a club with the Sports of Authority of Goa (SAG) and will

launch our team in the tournaments, he said.

According to the official, the council already has 30 players who will represent the club.

"However, despite the ban, the council has been exploring various other opportunities due to which its players have currently made their way into several professional clubs and have even played for the nation," he claimed.

Da Costa said that the council has trained 4,500 players every year since 2012, creating a pool of talent through its 38 centres across the state.

## AAP not invited for all-party meeting called by PM Modi

NEW DELHI, JUN 19

(PTI): The AAP has not been invited to an all-party meeting called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the border conflict with China, two senior party leaders claimed on Friday.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh said the party has a government in Delhi and in Punjab, it is the main opposition party, but still the BJP does not want its opinion. "A strange ego-ridden government is running at the Centre. The Aam Aadmi Party has a government in Delhi. Punjab has a main opposition party. There are four MPs all over the country, but still the BJP does not want its opinion on such an important matter. What will the prime minister say in the meeting, the whole country is waiting for it," Singh also tweeted.

He also said that during a national emergency, all parties should

be brought together.

AAP leader and Delhi minister Gopal Rai said it is unfortunate that the AAP was not invited. "Instead of taking all the parties together, the BJP is using mathematical formulas to ascertain who should be invited and who should not be. It is unfortunate," he said. It has been learnt that all recognised national parties -- those with over five MPs in the Lok Sabha, leading parties from the northeast and parties with Union Cabinet ministers -- have been invited for the all-party meeting.

The meeting will take place on Friday and it comes against the backdrop of demands by the opposition seeking details of the violent face-off between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh which left 20 Indian Army personnel dead.

## 41 Units of blood donated to STNM Hospital



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 19 JUN:

Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch and Marwari Yuva Manch Prerna Branch, Gangtok in as-

sociation with Voluntary Blood Donors Association of Sikkim organised a day long Blood Donation Camp at Old STNM Gangtok today.

Total of 41 units of blood was collected for the STNM Hospital's Blood Bank. Gaurav Raj, who has donated blood 56 times supported the camp.

visit us at: [www.summittimes.com](http://www.summittimes.com)RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.

## NOTICE

Despite repeated requests to collect the material from Rural Development Department stores, few beneficiaries /allotment order holders have still not lifted the materials allotted to them. Hence all such beneficiaries are once again requested to lift the materials from the concerned stores by 30th June 2020 positively failing which the allotment orders issued to them before 15/06/2020 will stand cancelled. After this due date, the remaining stock available in the stores will be allotted to the needy beneficiaries.

Issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Superintendent Engineer  
Rural Development Department  
Government of Sikkim.

## Delhi seeks volunteers to fight coronavirus pandemic

NEW DELHI, JUN 19

(PTI): In view of surging COVID-19 cases in the city, the Delhi government will rope in NGOs, civil society organisations, NCC and NSS cadets and scouts for survey of coronavirus suspects, and surveillance and management of isolation cases.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to NGOs and individuals to join the fight against COVID-19 in large numbers.

"Delhi will fight Corona together. I appeal to all NGOs and individuals to join in this effort on a large scale," he tweeted.

Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev said in an order issued on Thursday that a web portal and dashboard will be developed for registration of NGOs, civil society organisations and individual volunteers for helping the district administration.

The volunteers need to be at least 18 years of age, physically fit and free from COVID-19.

The number of coronavirus cases in the national capital was close



to the 50,000-mark on Thursday, while the death toll has mounted to 1,969, authorities said.

"Considering the rising number of COVID-19 in NCT of Delhi, it has been felt necessary to involve NGOs, CSOs, individual volunteers, NCC cadets, NSS cadets, scouts etc for survey of COVID suspect cases, and surveillance and management of isolation cases and to establish a government-NGO coordination," said the order.

The volunteers and cadets may also be deployed in helpline assistance, looking after senior citizen and assisting at hospitals.

Those who have recovered from COVID-19 may also register to work as volunteers and the concerned district administration may use their services for confi-

dence building among people, said the order.

The district administration will obtain names and details of National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme cadets and scouts from respective organisation's headquarters, it said.

All NGOs, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), NCC and NSS cadets and individual volunteers will work under the supervision of concerned district surveillance officer or any other officer designated by the district magistrate. Orientation course and training will be imparted to them by the district administration.

A certificate of appreciation and participation will be given to each volunteer by the district magistrate in recognition of their services in fighting the virus.



What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

## Symptoms of nCoV

- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

## Treatment

- Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition.
- No vaccinations available as of now.
- Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected



## Precautions to Prevent nCoV

- Wash your hands often with soap.
- Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms.
- Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats.
- Avoid travel to nCoV affected places.
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome, and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.



If you seek help, you may call :  
-Toll free no. 104  
District surveillance Officer  
EAST : 7029372100  
WEST : 9593297809  
NORTH : 9641957468  
SOUTH : 7407691463  
New STNM  
AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM



## Improve Public Transport to Solve Traffic Problems

*There will after all never be enough parking spaces or roads*

For a brief while some years ago, Gangtok flirted with the idea of a ring road to decongest the capital's roads. Before congestion on the roads took over the hill, at the time when some planning could have been done, the slopes of Gangtok were congested with constructions, and buildings are now so densely packed that new roads, even ring roads of any practical use, will need engineering miracles to come through. But the fact that the planners were considering even improbable options to make getting around Gangtok quicker and less frustrating proves that the traffic situation needs immediate addressing. The oddity of odd-even rules for the roads attributed to Novel Coronavirus has made movement smoother, but it offers only temporary reprieve. Anyone who has travelled up to the main town area from any place further than 6th Mile, Tadong, during normal times has suffered traffic snarls which start jamming since as early as 9 a.m. It will be that time again very soon and traffic cops will become a hassled tribe in Gangtok, spending more energy directing traffic than checking traffic violations. Fact remains that traffic is a problem for Gangtok. Maybe the quickly accepted as obsolete traffic lights at Hospital Dara should be boosted back into service and more traffic lights installed at junctions which have become too heavily populated to be regulated by traffic cops alone.

Of course, it did not require this write up to bring home the point that traffic congestion is a serious problem; anyone who has fumed away irritating minutes stuck in what are now routine traffic jams, praying for parking space in town all the while, has lived the problem many times over.

Okay, so Gangtok has a problem. What are the possible solutions then? The obvious option is more roads. This, however, is not really an option because there is no place left to carve out new arteries or bypasses in the capital. Wider roads then? Unlikely, for the same reason as the one that has shot down the chance of more arterial roads. The parking lots already in place and the more which are coming up would release some dead space from the roads, but the number of vehicles is growing at a much faster clip than parking is being created, so roads will remain cramped. Also, parking lots do not anyway do much to ease the problem of [stagnant] traffic on the roads. There is another option, controlling the number of vehicles. To restrict the numbers by law would be unfair, even repressive, so an alternative approach to discouraging impulsive buyers has to be worked in.

Given the fact that more vehicles [or even the existing numbers for that matter] will require more traffic personnel on the streets and since this will cost money, why shouldn't those who create this requirement be made to pay. Since vehicles also pollute, and more vehicles means more pollution, and since polluting vehicles cannot be banned, it would only be fair that they pay a higher premium for the damage. Of course, this contribution cannot go directly into the required "heads" and could be collected at the time of registration. But even this Singaporean model of 'demand management' can be sidestepped by vehicle owners by making the purchases and registrations across the border.

The only effective traffic management option available to Gangtok for the present and eventually for all of Sikkim, is an efficient public transport system. For all the city-runner services, Gangtok does not have a public transport that even deserves mention. What the planners will also need to do is stop pampering vehicle owners by creating more parking spaces. If the political will can be found to give Gangtok a reliable public transport service, the next thing to do would be to make parking very expensive in Gangtok and penalties for unauthorized parking high enough to pinch. And then, the parking lots should be converted into public spaces for the young. Most of the parking lots were once parks used by kids, and these should be given back to them to open youth clubs, reading rooms, coaching centres or whatever use these blocks of concrete can be used for. This is more than just wishful thinking or impractical day-dreaming.

Just think about the amount of space that can be released and the congestion that can be ended if a truly efficient public transport system was given to Gangtok simultaneously with the policy initiative which makes parking vehicles in Gangtok extremely expensive and shrinks the places where visiting vehicles can be parked...

### WRITE US:

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# China and India's deadly Himalayan clash is a big test for Modi. And a big concern for the world

IAN HALL

THECONVERSATION.COM

Sometime on Monday, an Indian Army patrol skirmished with Chinese troops in the Galwan River Valley, high in the Himalayas.

According to reports, no guns were involved, but the fight left at least 20 Indian soldiers dead from injuries caused by stones, makeshift clubs, and falls down the steep cliffs of the valley.

Although standoffs and even fist-fights between Chinese and Indian troops have been relatively common in recent years, there have been no deaths on the disputed border for decades.

Such confrontations are usually defused by talks between commanders on the ground, leading to choreographed disengagements.

In this case, it appears those processes have failed, and at a moment when relations between China and India - both nuclear armed states - are already tense.

ORIGINS OF THE DISPUTE

When India gained its independence in 1947, it inherited unsettled frontiers with several neighbours.

That situation was exacerbated by Chinese leader Mao Zedong's decision to seize control of Tibet - which up to that point had been a buffer state - three years later.

More than a decade of failed negotiations to agree a border followed, to the frustration of all. Then, in October 1962, in the midst of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Mao ordered a sudden attack on Indian forces.

China decisively won this short "pedagogic war" - designed to teach New Delhi a lesson. It gained ground from India, but then withdrew its



forces, bringing them back close to their starting positions.

Since then, a "Line of Actual Control" (LAC) has, in effect, constituted the frontier.

Several more fruitless rounds of talks to settle an official border have taken place. And there have been several military standoffs, including one in 1975 that left four Indian soldiers dead.

MOUNTING TENSIONS AND THE THREAT OF WAR

The Galwan River Valley incident is by far the worst to occur on the LAC for some time. It also comes against a backdrop of several years of deteriorating relations between China and India, dating from the rise to power of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Since 2013, New Delhi has reported a series of incursions by Chinese troops into what it regards as its territory.

The visits of both Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in May 2013, and Xi in September 2014, were overshadowed by such incidents.

And in mid-2017, there was a ten-week standoff between Chinese and Indian troops in Bhutan, in a disputed area called Doklam (or Donglang).

During that crisis, Beijing openly

warned that if New Delhi did not pull back, it might go to war.

DISAGREEMENT OVER OTHER ISSUES

At the same time, China and India have quarrelled and competed over a number of other issues.

New Delhi has emerged as a vocal critic of Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and has tried to dissuade other states in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region from signing on to BRI projects.

India has complained about China's trade practices, pointing to a growing trade deficit with its northern neighbour, as well as Beijing's alleged attempts to influence the policies of smaller states such as Nepal.

Meanwhile, India has strengthened security ties with the United States, Japan and Australia among others - to Beijing's obvious irritation.

THE BIGGEST TEST YET

There can be little doubt that what just happened in the Galwan River Valley constitutes the biggest test yet faced by Narendra Modi's government.

India's prime minister has long been portrayed as a "strongman". This image has been burnished by

retaliatory strikes against Pakistani targets for cross border terrorism in 2016 and 2019, as well as by his government's apparent resilience during the Doklam crisis.

Indian public opinion is already angry with China over COVID-19 and in the wake of the deaths on the LAC, some media outlets, as well as opposition politicians, are calling for retaliation.

Modi's options are, however, constrained.

If he backs down, or even concedes the area around Galwan River Valley that some think Chinese soldiers are now occupying, he could face a political backlash from Indian voters.

If he orders some kind of military response, he risks a wider war. There have been persistent reports of troop build-ups right along the 3,500 kilometre frontier with China.

There is no guarantee a limited action would not escalate into something bigger, nor that India's friends and partners, including the US, would support such a move.

ALL EYES NOW ON CHINA

Much depends on what Beijing hopes to gain.

If Xi is simply seeking to humiliate India for perceived transgressions - and warn it off deepening ties with its security partners - he may now order his troops to pull back, having made his point.

But if he wants to redraw the border and send a message to others - in Taiwan, Japan, Southeast Asia, or elsewhere - that China is determined to take what it claims - then deescalating the situation will be very difficult for New Delhi.

*[the writer is Deputy Director (Research), Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University]*

## One metre or two? The science behind social distancing



LENA CIRIC

THECONVERSATION.COM

What constitutes a safe distance when it comes to the spread of COVID-19? The answer depends on where you live.

China, Denmark and France recommend social distancing of one metre; Australia, Germany and Italy recommend 1.5 metres, and the US recommends six feet, or 1.8 metres. The UK, meanwhile, is reconsidering its relatively large two-metre distancing rule, but has attracted criticism from top scientists for doing so.

The truth is, we don't yet know how far is far enough when it comes to coronavirus. A recent study found the virus in air as far as four metres away from infected patients in a COVID-19 ward. But another study, touted by the WHO, concluded that the risk of transmission becomes significantly lower with a distance of one metre or more from an infected person, reducing further with increased distance.

Why such a range of "safe" distances? That's because social distancing is a complex problem with many variable influencing factors. Here are four of the most important ones.

RESPIRATORY DROPLETS

When we breathe, talk, cough and sneeze, thousands of droplets are expelled from our mouth and nose. The size of these droplets varies - some may be millimetres in size and some might be many thousands of times smaller. The larger droplets, which carry more virus particles, settle more quickly due to gravity. The smaller droplets, carrying fewer particles, can remain suspended in the air for hours.

The number and size of droplets vary depending on the activity. A cough produces more droplets overall and a greater proportion of them are larger. Breathing produces fewer droplets overall and they are generally smaller. The speed with which the droplets leave your mouth and nose also influences how far they travel - sneeze droplets will travel furthest.

VIRAL LOAD

Viral load refers to the number of copies of the virus in a sample (for example, in the droplets that leave our mouth and nose). We know the number of virus copies in the respiratory samples of COVID-19 patients can vary from a few thousand to hundreds of billions per millilitre.

The viral load varies from one person to another, but also depends on what stage of the illness the patient is at. We also know that people without symptoms can shed the virus.

Knowing the viral load in respiratory droplets allows us to calculate how many virus particles people may be exposed to and whether this might be enough for them to become infected.

INFECTIOUS DOSE

The infectious dose is the number of copies of the virus that your body needs to be exposed to in order to develop an infection. When it comes to calculating a safe distance, the closer you are to an infected person, the more likely you are to be exposed to the infectious dose by breathing in virus-laden droplets.

The infectious dose for influenza strains varies from thousands to millions of copies. We do not yet know this number for SARS-CoV-2.

In time, further research on how the virus behaves in humans and other animals, and comparisons to other viruses will help to hone this number. In any case, we can be certain that the infectious dose will vary between different people.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Whether we are indoors or outdoors, in school, at work, on public transport or in the supermarket, the flow of air, ventilation, temperature and humidity will influence what happens to respiratory droplets.

Air currents will blow droplets around in various directions. Good ventilation will dilute the number of droplets in the air. Temperature and humidity will affect the rate at which water evaporates from droplets. All this will affect our understanding of how much distance to keep in different types of space.

COMPLEX SCENARIOS

With these four elements, we can begin to put together what makes a safe distance.

Let's start with this scenario: three people are in a room that is not ventilated. One of them is infected and two are not. One of the healthy people is standing closer to the infected person - for example, 80 centimetres away - and one is further away, say two metres.

The infected person coughs, producing a cloud of droplets. The larger droplets carrying more virus particles settle more quickly due to gravity. The smaller droplets carrying less virus travel further. So the person standing closer to the infected patient is at higher risk of being exposed to infectious droplets than the one standing further away.

Of course, the above scenario is overly simple. People move around. An open window may blow air in a particular direction. The infected person may cough repeatedly during a period of time. An air conditioner might recirculate air around a room. Room temperature and humidity may result in drying leading to smaller particles carrying higher concentrations of virus. Exposure to many smaller droplets over a longer period of time may be equivalent to exposure to a few larger ones in a short period.

There is an infinite number of scenarios and having one rule that applies to them all is impossible.

This means that different countries' rules are, ultimately, best guesses made on the basis of some of the factors described above. They cannot apply in all contexts.

It is very unlikely that you would be exposed to infectious droplets outdoors because of rapid air flow and dilution, but enclosed crowded indoor spaces are much more of a risk. We all need to do our bit to stop the spread of coronavirus, so keep your distance, preferably as far as you can.

*[the writer is Associate Professor in Environmental Engineering, UCL]*



## UN seeks urgent funding for pandemic aid transport

**UNITED NATIONS, JUN 19 (AP):** The United Nations food agency warned Thursday that without immediate funding its global transport system will stop delivering thousands of tonnes of masks, gloves and other critical equipment to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic to 132 countries by the third week of July.

Amer Daoudi, the World Food Program's director of operations and COVID-19 response, told a video press conference that its aircraft have also transported 2,600 humanitarian and health workers free of charge to 40 destinations across Africa, Asia and the Middle East since the pandemic began, and that service will also come to a halt.

As the virus continues to accelerate across many parts of the world, as we are seeing, these services become more and more vital and important, he said.

To meet the demand, he said the Rome-based WFP requested 965 million to sustain its transport services through 2020.

But so far it has received about 132 million only 14 percent even though the COVID-19 virus is not slowing down and the entire humanitarian and health community is relying on WFP's logistic services now more than ever, Daoudi said.

WFP services are expanding and demand is increasing. However, the funding is not, he said. With this funding level, the WFP common services will come to a standstill by the third week of July.

Daoudi said WFP has eight COVID-19 response hubs around the world connected by a global network of air and sea transport that so far have dispatched 15,000 cubic meters (about 530,000 cubic feet) of critical items to tackle the coronavirus to 132 countries on behalf of health and humanitarian organizations.

He said, for example, that one cubic meter (about 35 cubic feet) contains around 32,500 surgical masks, 1,650 safety goggles, 1,800 face shields and/or 30,000 examination gloves. Daoudi said 70,000 cubic meters (about 2.47 million cubic feet) of cargo are in the pipeline to be transported over the next six weeks on behalf of more than 30 organizations.

To do that, he said, between 120 and 130 large 747 cargo planes are needed, because each can only carry 650 cubic meters (about 23,000 cubic feet).

And this is only the tip of the iceberg, he said. Moving beyond the next six weeks the demand is quite huge and we are talking about delivering to over 132 different countries across the globe, so the urgency is there, the needs are there.

## 20 fresh COVID-19 cases in Tripura; count rises to 1,159

**AGARTALA, JUN 19 (PTI):** Twenty more people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Tripura, taking the state's tally to 1,159, Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb has said. Nine out of 130 samples

and 11 out of 1,250 samples have tested positive for COVID-19, Deb said in two separate tweets on Thursday. Of the 20 new cases, five were reported in

Khowai, four in Unokoti, three each in Sepahijala, West and North districts and one each in Dhalai and Gomati districts, he said, adding that most of the new patients have a travel

history.

Fifty-eight more people have recovered and were discharged from a COVID-19 care centre here on Thursday, officials said.

Of the 1,159 cases,

520 are active while 639 people have recovered, they said.

A total of 719 people are under institutional quarantine and 6,275 are in home isolation, the officials added.

## 165 fresh COVID-19 cases in Odisha; count rises to 4,677

**BHUBANESWAR, JUN 19 (PTI):** As many as 165 more people, including 11 disaster response personnel, have tested positive for COVID-19 in Odisha, taking the state's tally to 4,677, a health department official said.

Of the new cases, 140 were reported from quarantine centres where people returning from other states are housed while 25 infections were found during contact tracing, he said.

The new cases include 11 personnel of the disaster response teams that were sent to neighbouring West Bengal for restoration work following cyclone Amphan, the official said.



With this development, the number of disaster response personnel, including those from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and the Odisha Fire Service, infected with the disease has increased to

206, he said.

However, 11 Fire Service personnel and 13 NDRF men have recovered and were discharged from a COVID-19 hospital in Cuttack, officials of the two organisations said.

Of the 4,677 cases, 1,519 are active while

3,144 people have recovered. Eleven people have died of the disease so far while three patients have died due to other ailments, the health official said.

The new cases were reported from 17 districts, with the highest of 41 cases from Ganjam. It

## Northeast protests against China



**NEW DELHI, JUN 19 (PTI):** A group of people from Northeast India protested against China in southwest Delhi on Friday over the killing of 20 Indian soldiers in a violent border clash in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley, police said.

Around 20 members of Voice of Northeast, an organisation working for the people of the region, staged the protest at Teen Murti Marg, they said.

They shouted slogans

against China and left after 15 minutes. They had masks and maintained social distancing. No one was detained, a senior police official said.

On Monday night, 20 Indian Army personnel, including a colonel, were killed in a fierce clash with Chinese troops in Galwan Valley, the biggest military confrontation in over five decades that has significantly escalated the already volatile border standoff in the region.

## 32 Bangladeshis stranded due to lockdown sent back home



**KARIMGANJ (ASSAM), JUN 19 (PTI):** A total of 32 Bangladeshis, who were stranded in India due to the lockdown, have been sent back to the neighbouring country through a checkpoint in Assam's Karimganj district, a senior police officer said on Friday.

The foreigners-14 males and 18 females-

were stuck here for a long time and their visas were expired, Karimganj Superintendent of Police Kumar Sanjiv Krishna said.

In presence of BSF officials, they were sent back to Bangladesh through the Sutarkandi-Sheora checkpoint at the border on Thursday evening, he said.

Of the 32, eight were

studying at NIT Silchar in Cachar district and others came to India for medical purposes and got stranded due to the lockdown, he said.

The Bangladeshis were screened by a medical team of the district before sending them back, the SP said, adding that the policy directives of two countries were followed.

## Locusts attack crops, trees in Banda, Mahoba districts



**BANDA/MAHOB (UP), JUN 19 (PTI):** A swarm of locusts attacked trees and crops in several villages in Banda and Mahoba districts, farmers and officials said on Friday.

The swarm came from the jungles of the neighbouring Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh and entered Kartal, Bolharka, Ma-

harajpur, Manpur, Pukari, Ragoli and Babupur villages in Banda on Thursday evening, they said.

Farmers said the locusts attacked vegetables sown in one kilometre area in an hour and returned to the jungles in Madhya Pradesh.

An administration official said the information about the locust attack

was received an hour late but there is no information about any damage to crops; some trees have been damaged.

He said the local agriculture department officials have been asked to remain alert.

Deputy Director (Agriculture) G Ram said locusts were hovering over the jungles of Mahoba for three days and entered Bhagari, Bach-

chchar Kala, Nagaradang, Magrol and Saliya villages on Thursday but were chased away by farmers.

The agriculture department has sprayed pesticides and thousands of locusts have died due to it, he said.

Mahoba District Agriculture Officer Pramod Kumar said the swarm could again return. "We are alert and all preparations have been made," he added.

## Rio restarts soccer league next to field hospital for COVID

**RIO DE JANEIRO, JUN 19 (AP):** In a sign of the times, the first professional soccer match in South America in nearly three months was staged in a stadium only meters away from a field hospital for hundreds of patients of COVID-19.

Copa Libertadores champion Flamengo beat Bangu 3-0 in a local league game that was witnessed by fewer than 200 people in Brazil's historic 78,000-seat Maracan Stadium on Thursday night.

More than 47,700 people have died because of the new coronavirus in Brazil, and nearly 1 million have been infected. Rio de Janeiro state accounts for about 8,000 deaths, but authorities agreed to let soccer return this week after the number of available intensive-care unit beds showed slight improvement. Health experts predict Brazil's COVID-19 crisis will peak in August.

Goals by Giorgian de Arrascaeta in the 18th minute, Bruno Henrique, in the 66th, and Pedro Rocha in the 88th were celebrated with fist bumps.

Near the Maracan's gate 2, a field hospital with 400 beds for coronavirus patients reminded the small group

of people at the stadium why many health experts think it is too soon for soccer competition to resume.

A minute of silence was observed before kick off in a sign of respect to victims of COVID-19.

Rio soccer authorities did not allow mixed zone interviews with players after the match, also following health recommendations. But Flamengo coach Jorge Jesus spoke via video after the match.

Our society will have to adapt until we have a vaccine. What is important is to know how to live, respect the virus, but have no fear of it, the Flamengo coach said.

Soccer teams have the privilege of being constantly tested and working outdoors. Flamengo is working safely."

Flamengo players arrived wearing masks, and appeared to be excited to be back. They have practiced for three weeks, some days against recommendations. But some of their fans outside were protesting. Jumping and chanting with supporters of rival clubs, some fans also think it is too risky for soccer to return before Rio and Brazil have more control over the spread of the virus.

They also protested against President Jair



Bolsonaro, who indicated he would attend the match but did not. Soccer's early comeback in Brazil is a victory for the president, who sided with Flamengo in the lobby. Rodolfo Landim, the president of the club, was in the capital Brasilia on Wednesday with Bolsonaro when Rio's soccer organizers announced the match schedule.

Brazil's president is one of the few leaders in the world to downplay the risks of COVID-19.

Despite all the pressure to restart, there was no TV broadcast of the match. Flamengo and the Globo network do not have a deal for Rio state league matches, which means fans could only follow the game on a radio broadcast or on the internet.

Two other top Rio clubs have rejected the move to start games. Fluminense and Botafogo took the case to the state's sports court, which on Thursday denied their request for a

delay. The two clubs are considering taking action in the Brazilian sports court. Neither team is training for now.

The national championship, which was scheduled to start in May, has no date to begin. Clubs in other state leagues are considering a return next month if health authorities agree.

Club executives, the referee, his assistants, the media and a few others who entered the stadium had to undergo health checks.

All players had to go through a disinfection booth to be sprayed with sanitizer upon their arrival. They also had their temperatures taken by health staff.

Everyone except the players had to wear masks on the pitch. Replacements also had to abide by social distancing recommendations, with empty seats between players sitting on the bench. During halftime a group of staffers sanitized the bench once more.

## HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

**THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY**

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before. Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

**ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM**

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

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Real Madrid beats Valencia 3-0 to keep pace with Barcelona

**MADRID, JUN 19 (AP):** Karim Benzema scored twice and Marco Asensio added another on his return from a 10-month injury layoff as Real Madrid beat Valencia 3-0 to keep pace with leader Barcelona in the Spanish league.

The home win on Thursday left Madrid two points behind Barcelona, which defeated Legan s 2-0 on Tuesday for its second straight win after the pandemic break.

Madrid took control of the match after a lackluster first half in which Valencia had the most significant scoring chances and a goal disallowed by video review.

Benzema opened the scoring in the 61st minute after a pass by Eden Hazard, who again was decisive for Madrid in his second match after a long injury layoff.

Asensio, making his first appearance since a serious knee injury last year, scored with his first touch about 30 seconds after entering the match in the 74th.

That's the way to come back, his teammates could be heard saying during the goal celebration at the empty Alfredo Di St fano Stadium.

I couldn't wait to come back after so many months of hard work, said Asensio, who was injured in a friendly last July. I'm glad that I'm back and that I was able to score."

Asensio also set up Benzema's third goal with a one-touch cross on a counterattack and the French striker finished off the move sublimely using his right foot to flick the ball away from a defender and then his left to hammer it into the top of the net. It was the Frenchman's 16th league goal to leave him five behind scoring leader Lionel Messi.

It was the fifth double this season for Benzema, who passed Ferenc Puskas to become Madrid's fifth leading scorer all-time.

Valencia went a man down in the 89th after a straight red card was shown to South Korean midfielder Lee Kang-in for a foul on Madrid defender Sergio Ramos. A few moments later, midfielder Francis Coquelin had to leave injured after the team had already made all five substitutions.

Valencia is winless after the break and dropped to eighth place. It had the best chances early on, with Rodrigo hitting the far post after a breakaway in the 14th. His goal a few moments later was disallowed by video review after a close offside call. It was Madrid's second straight game at its training center, which is being used while the Santiago Bernab u Stadium remains under renovation until the end of the season.

#### REAL SOCIEDAD STALLS

Real Sociedad failed to regain fourth place after a 2-0 loss at Alav s in which it couldn't get a single shot on target.

Borja Sainz opened the scoring with a goal awarded following video review in the 56th, and Mart n Aguirregabiria sealed the victory deep in stoppage time at the Mendizorroza Stadium.

# All at stake as Championship gears up for its own World Cup

**BEN FISHER**

**LONDON, 19 JUN [THEGUARDIAN]:** On the face of it, it is not the most mouthwatering Championship ding-dong but if anything sums up the increasingly dog-eat-dog nature of the division it is confirmation that the bottom club, Barnsley, this week refused to allow Mallick Wilks to extend his loan at Hull for the remainder of the season for fear of strengthening a relegation rival. Looking after number one is the priority with nine games remaining, even if they are clinging on to their second-tier status by a thread and so, at the end of the month, Wilks will return to Barnsley, ineligible to join their fight for survival.

That is not even the worst bit as far as Hull are concerned given their captain, Eric Lichaj, and vice-captain, Jackson Irvine, will play no part in the run-in after failing to agree short-term extensions. Hull were in freefall when the season was paused in March – they hover a place above the relegation zone after taking two points from the past available 33 – and, despite welcoming back a handful of players from injury, they resume in an arguably bigger pickle.

Saturday's match at home to Charlton is seismic. Win for the first time since New Year's Day and they earn some respite; lose and they are in the mire. But Charlton badly need a pick-me-up, too; Lee Bowyer rallied his squad after Lyle Taylor opted out of playing for fear of jeopardising a "life-changing move"



and the club recently changed hands for the third time this season, though the takeover is yet to be approved by the English Football League.

That match is unlikely to be the most glamorous this weekend – third-placed Fulham's meeting with fourth-placed Brentford at Craven Cottage, when the division's leading goalscorers, Aleksandar Mitrovic and Ollie Watkins, go head-to-head in one of the first of 108 games across 33 days will probably win that prize – but it is impossible to overlook the clutch of clubs desperate to avoid relegation to League One at a time when the gulf between the divisions is widening amid a global pandemic. As a result, the lockdown brought bickering and infighting as self-interest assumed centre stage. The Championship is a captivating competition but, a vehicle to the Premier League, it is built on quicksand – 107% of revenue was spent on wages

last season.

Last week mid-table Queens Park Rangers allowed Marc Pugh to depart because they could not afford for him to trigger a 12-month contract extension, and Gary Sweet, the Luton chief executive, has warned his club could face "financial oblivion" if Nathan Jones, reappointed as manager last month, fails to steer them clear of relegation. Dropping into the third tier would be catastrophic for Stoke, Huddersfield or Middlesbrough, all of whom had designs of competing at the other end of the table but are dangling precariously above the bottom three. The outlook looks particularly bleak for Jonathan Woodgate, whose Boro side have won one of their past 13 matches and are the division's lowest scorers.

Leeds on the other hand appear to be crisis-free at the top of the table after racking up five wins (and five clean sheets) on the bounce

following a winter wobble and boast the best defence. In Calvin Phillips and Ben White, both of whom are on the radar of the England manager, Gareth Southgate, they possess two of the most exciting players outside the top flight, and the spine of the side is another year wiser.

This time last season Leeds ran out of puff and, even though Marcelo Bielsa has been working his players hard during lockdown, the prolonged break could prove a blessing in disguise. Leeds supporters may be unable to attend stadiums to watch their team attempt to get over the line but more than 15,000 fan cutouts will have a seat at Elland Road as the drama unfolds.

At West Bromwich Albion, who sit a point behind Leeds, Slaven Bilic has been referring to the run-in as a "small World Cup" and, given his experience at major tournaments with Croatia, that

bodes well. West Brom, too, are more than capable of going the distance, with Grady Diangana's return a major boon for the division's joint-highest scorers.

There is a good chance the top two could be out of sight within eight days of the restart but much hinges on a sometimes-erratic Fulham, who have the ammunition to make life interesting. Brentford, for whom Pontus Jansson is back fit, need to rediscover some rhythm to make sure of a top-six berth, while Nottingham Forest are fifth but have work to do having won one of their past six matches.

And then there is the Championship's piece de r sistance: a tantalising play-off race encompassing at least nine teams stretching as far down as 13th-placed QPR. Preston are primed, Bristol City can go close after Benik Afobe's return from injury and, across the Severn Bridge, Cardiff, who have been steady if not spectacular since Neil Harris took charge, are confident of mounting a challenge.

Meanwhile Millwall are free of expectation and have a kind run-in; a youthful Swansea side including the talented Conor Gallagher could yet click; it would be foolish to discount Derby, whose captain, Wayne Rooney, craves a fairytale finish; and Blackburn being overlooked for the initial round of televised matches suggests they are strangely unfancied. Predicting how the final table will look on 22 July is anyone's guess.

## Eyeing series against India and SA, England's women cricketers to return to training on Monday

**LONDON, JUN 19 (PTI):** Hopeful of a women's tri-series involving India and South Africa going ahead later this year, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has announced that 24 of its players will return to individual training from June 22.

The India women's team was supposed to travel to England for a bilateral series comprising three ODIs and three T20Is but the tour remains postponed for the time being.

The ECB has been trying to convince both the BCCI and the Cricket South Africa to agree to play a tri-series later this year but nothing has been finalised as yet.

"The players will return across six venues, initially training on their own before progressing to small group training. Squads for specific formats will be named in due course, subject to confirmation of the proposed series," the ECB said in a statement.

The training sessions will take place under the same medical guidelines and bio-secure conditions as have been in place for England Men.

The players will train

at National Performance Centre, Loughborough; Emerald Headingley, Yorkshire; The Kia Oval, London; Bristol County Ground, Bristol; Chester Boughton Hall CC, Lancashire; and the 1st Central County Ground, Hove.

"We remain hopeful of playing cricket this summer and it's exciting for this group of players to be able to return to training," Jonathan Finch, Director, England Women's Cricket, said.

"We've had great support from the First-Class counties with the use of their venues, and we're grateful to them for that, and hopefully this is one step closer towards England Women returning to the field this summer."

The players named for training:

Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Katherine Brunt, Kate Cross, Alice Davidson-Richards, Freya Davies, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Georgia Elwiss, Katie George, Sarah Glenn, Kirstie Gordon, Amy Jones, Heather Knight, Emma Lamb, Nat Sciver, Anya Shrubsole, Bryony Smith, Linsey Smith, Mady Villiers, Fran Wilson, Lauren Winfield, Issy Wong, Danni Wyatt.

## Fans in the stands for IndyCar in Iowa, with some reassigned



**NEWTON (US), JUN 19 (AP):** There will be spectators in the stands at Iowa Speedway for two IndyCar races next month, with some fans who have already purchased tickets being moved to different seats.

IndyCar said Thursday that a limited number of tickets will be available for the races at the short oval July 17 and 18. It could be the second weekend in a row when the open-wheel series has spectators for its races.

About 5,000-6,000 tickets will be available each night at the Iowa track that is just under a mile long and has more than 25,000 permanent seats. Groups will be separated by at least six feet in order to align with state guidelines for COVID-19.

There were no fans in the massive grandstand at Texas when IndyCar opened its pandemic-delayed season there June 6, and no spectators will be allowed at the next race on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on July 4. Tickets are being sold for races July 11 and 12 at Road America, a four-mile, 14-turn road course in Wisconsin where fans can more easily be spread out.

All previously purchased tickets for the Iowa race weekend will be honored, including season tickets. But seating will be reassigned for all existing ticketholders in order to follow safe social dis-

tancing guidelines.

Iowa is racing in its originally scheduled spot this season, though a second 250-mile race was added there as part of several adjustments made to the IndyCar schedule.

Texas, which was supposed to be the ninth of 17 races, was held on its original date as the season opener. There will also be a doubleheader at Laguna Seca Speedway in California in September.

Races were canceled at Long Beach, California, Barber Motorsports Park in Alabama, Circuit of the Americas in Texas and a planned doubleheader in Detroit. The race in St. Petersburg, Florida, that was supposed to be the season opener March 15 is now set as the finale Oct. 25. The Indianapolis 500 was postponed from its traditional Memorial Day weekend slot and is now set for Aug. 23.

There will be enhanced hygiene and safety precautions for all fans at Iowa. All guests will be screened in their vehicles with contactless temperature checks before entering the parking areas and only essential racing personnel will have access to the infield.

Hand sanitizer and face coverings will be distributed to each guest when they enter the track, and enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be implemented throughout the facility over the course of the weekend.

## All cricketers fail but great ones cope by deciding it was not their fault

**VIC MARKS**

**LONDON, 19 JUN [THEGUARDIAN]:** RC Robertson-Glasgow, cricket writer nonpareil, once famously asked: "Who ever hoped like a cricketer?" As England's chosen 30 prepare to pack their bags for the monastic retreat that is now the Hilton hotel at the Ageas Bowl, they will be full of hope after a prolonged absence from the game.

Both Jimmy Anderson with his 151 caps and the eight players yet to make their debut will be bubbling with enthusiasm as they start to hone their skills again. But they will also wonder whether the magic is still there after their lay-off. In their quieter moments they will be all too aware that the runs and wickets do not come automatically. In their nightmares they might not come at all.

So a gloomy corollary to Robertson-Glasgow's question occurs to me: "Who ever failed like a cricketer?" The simple fact is that cricketers fail all the time, even the good ones. For the professionals there is the ruthless evidence in black and white for all to see on the scorecard: J Root b Cummins 0 (Old Trafford, 2019), B Stokes b Boult 0 (Auckland, 2018).

It happens to the very besteven to Bradman. As EJ Thribb would have

it: "Bowled Hollies O. So farewell then, Sir Don." However, Bradman endured the agonies of failure less frequently than any batsman that has ever taken guard. Apparently he was once asked by an aspiring young cricketer how best to come out of a rough trot and replied: "Sorry, son. Can't help you there. It never really happened to me."

I decided to check this out; in his 52 Tests Bradman never went more than five innings without scoring a half-century. This glimpse of failure took place at the start of the 1934 tour of England, whereupon he compensated in the final two Tests with innings of 304 and 244. Point proven? I thought so. Then I had a look at Joe Root's record after 92 Test appearances; he has never gone more than seven innings without reaching 50. The difference seemed surprisingly small.

However, the thesis stands. Great batsmen fail; moderate batsmen fail quite a lot; poor batsmen fail frequently yet they still come back for more. It is no wonder that the game can be such a source of torment. A cheap dismissal is like dying a little death – though not in the French sense. All is well with the world; you are in charge, dismissing the ball from



your presence, dictating the course of the match and then one mistake, one brilliant delivery, one moment of ill fortune and it's all over – barring a successful review in an international match.

I'm not sure any sport recreates such distress so frequently. We might remember Devon Loch losing his footing in the 1956 Grand National, Doug Sanders missing that putt to win the Open at St Andrews in 1970, the famous penalty shootout misses of Stuart Pearce, Chris Waddle and Gareth Southgate. For those with shorter memories I suppose there is also David Luiz's nightmare on Wednesday night. But these are freakish events (the last one so recent that one so cheap jokes at the Brazilian's expense are appropriate).

Every cricketer has to be prepared to cope with the pain of sudden failure on just about every day of his professional life. No wonder dressing rooms suddenly become noisier, more relaxed places when the rain starts pouring down. It means that the chances of failing on that particu-

lar day are fast receding.

No one fails so obviously or so publicly as a batsman dismissed within moments of arriving at the crease, which helps to explain why cricket can be such an agonising game to play and a mesmerising one to witness. In my experience the great players often cope with bleak failure by deciding that it wasn't really their fault.

In my early days I would revel in the explanations of Ian Botham ("Should have tried to hit it harder and I would have cleared him"), Viv Richards ("missing leg, man") and Brian Close ("wrong-flavoured chewing gum delivered by 12th man"). The great players cannot allow their self-belief to be dented by any suggestion of their own frailty. Which makes sense; if they did, they wouldn't be so great.

Of course that impression of infallibility can be just that: an impression. Just once I remember Botham going out to bat after saying: "There's no way I'll get a run here." That was on a dank day at Old Trafford in May 1981 just after his tour of the Caribbean as captain of England. Michael Holding was bowling fast for Lancashire against Somerset and Ian had not yet exorcised his memories of that tour. He was indeed out for a

duck (mind you, he then bowled Somerset to victory along with Joel Garner).

By the same token I once earwigged a mid-pitch conversation between the Warwickshire openers of that era, Dennis Amiss, by then a veteran and one of England's most prolific and dependable batsmen, and KD Smith, a relative novice. To my surprise it was Amiss who was anxiously seeking reassurance: "Is my bat coming down straight, KD? Are my feet moving properly?"

Nothing can be guaranteed. At the start of one season, my Somerset colleague, Peter Roebuck, an established county batsman at the time, queried how he was ever going to score another run. I tried to reassure him by saying that he would score 1,200 runs in the season at an average close to 40 – as usual. This did not seem to help much. But come September that is what he did. It is so much easier looking on.

So it is clear to me that Root will probably top England's batting averages this summer because he is our best batsman and Anderson, provided he stays fit, will add substantially to his 584 wickets because he is our best bowler. But neither of them are certain about that and this is what drives them on.



## The extreme hotel hygiene awaiting tourists in Spain

(CNN) — It's breakfast time, which means I need to get my temperature checked, put on my face mask, smother my hands in alcohol disinfectant and wear a pair of plastic gloves.

That's all before I have coffee.

Welcome to the Riu Concordia -- part of a hotel chain headquartered in the Spanish holiday island of Mallorca.

It's been specially chosen to greet some of the nearly 11,000 German visitors heading here as part of a pilot program to test coronavirus precautions and reopen Spain's tourism economy.

RIU Hotels has invested in a slew of new protocols.

In our lobby, a thermal camera scans guests when they walk in through the sliding doors: Keep it cool and you get the green light to enter.

But if your temperature gets too high, reception gets a discreet red alert.

"The world is going to see us as an example. A positive example," hotel director Sergio Navarro told CNN.

"We feel very brave to show the world our product. And people are doing a fantastic effort so far, guests are responding so well."

Still, when an alarm goes off in the middle of my coffee, I wonder briefly if the thermal camera has caught someone sneaking in with a fever. Just a fire alarm test, as it turns out.

The staff are relentlessly cheerful. When I tell my waiter I'm breakfasting alone, he congratulates me for choosing "the safest option."

My cutlery is safely sealed and there are signs all around reminding me to stay two meters apart from other guests.

Navigating the breakfast buffet is tricky though. I need to follow the red arrows on the floor to avoid colliding into others.

Predictably, I go the wrong way in an attempt to get to the fresh fruit.

A smiling attendant kindly guides me back towards the tempting croissants and pastries I had only narrowly escaped on the first round, but only after giving me another squirt of gel disinfectant.

All the guests around me are German. The hotel has been booked by tour operator TUI, the world's number one tour business.

"Destination Experience Representatives" with turquoise shirts and the smiling TUI logo mill around the lobby and pool as more reassurance for guests.

The precautions and extra care are understandable -- tourism has plummeted during the pandemic and there's a lot to prove for tour operators and hotels.

"Our first flights from Germany to Mal-

lorca have been sold out within 36 hours and our guests enjoyed the warm welcome," TUI said in a statement to CNN.

"We are very pleased to be the first operator to fly holidaymakers to Mallorca again."

On my way out of the breakfast area, I trip over the mops of no less than two aproned cleaning ladies furiously disinfecting the floors.

One of them proceeds to polish the potted palms in the lobby with alcohol spray.

All this hyper hygiene has not put a damper on the holiday vibes though.

A group of laughing young men heads to the beach toting pink and yellow inflatable beds past the disinfectant stations in the lobby.

In fact, the biggest impediment to holiday fun seems to be the sheer number of media crews desperate to tell a good news story, CNN included. A clutch of German media traveling alongside some holidaymakers has been documenting every step of their vacations.

"It's a little bit complicated how it all works," concedes one tourist, Rene Fuessem, as he tries to remember how many times he'd had his temperature checked.

That hasn't dimmed his enthusiasm for Mallorca.

While basking by the hotel pool, Fuessem says he especially likes the friendly staff and buffet service. All the guaranteed space makes it more enjoyable.

"The beach for example," he says. "Before the beaches were full. The shops were full. Now? Nobody is there."

Plenty of space to roll out the beach towel is nice.

But there's also something sad about seeing bars and clubs boarded up, their terrace chairs stacked inside.

A boardwalk that would normally be thumping with music is eerily quiet.

Across from the glittering blue of our hotel pool, we can see another shuttered hotel with brown sludge collecting inside its emptied out swimming pool.

At the boardwalk, one shop owner selling beachwear sweeps away the miniature dunes of sand that have collected at the store's doors during the lockdown.

He doesn't expect to sell anything, he says. "I'm just bored of sitting at home."

No-one knows how much of the economy can recover by reopening the islands to tourism again.

But the pilot program is a start.

As I watch a yellowy pink sunset along the long curve of Palma beach, I realize I'm starting to feel a kind of kinship with these brave test pilots of coronavirus tourism: It's a tough job but somebody's gotta do it.

# Nearly 80 million people forcibly displaced globally at the end of 2019: UN

**UNITED NATIONS, JUN 19 (PTI):** Nearly 80 million people were forcibly displaced globally by the end of 2019 as a result of war, violence, persecution and other emergencies, according to the United Nations.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, in its annual report on displacement released on Thursday noted that an additional 11 million people were newly displaced in 2019 alone, with developing countries the worst-hit. The number is almost double the total figure over the past decade.

While 2.4 million sought protection outside their country, 8.6 million were newly displaced within the borders of their countries. Many displaced populations failed to find long-lasting solutions for rebuilding their lives, with only 317,200 refugees able to return to their country of origin and only 107,800 resettled in third countries, the UNHCR said in the report released ahead of World Refugee Day on June 20.

The global displacement number of 79.5 million or one in every 97 people on the planet at the end of 2019 is almost double the number of people in crisis registered a decade ago, it

noted.

"This almost 80 million figure -- the highest that UNHCR has recorded since these statistics have been systematically collected, is of course a reason for great concern. This is approximately one per cent of the world's population, we have never reached this very significant percentage," UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi said.

Speaking to journalists in Geneva, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees chief noted that although the issue of displacement affects all nations, data showed that it was poorer countries which hosted 85 per cent of those forced from their home.

"This continues to be a global issue, an issue for all States, but one that challenges most directly the poorer countries -- not the richer countries -- in spite of the rhetoric," he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reminded countries of their fundamental obligation to protect the nearly 80 million people worldwide forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution and other crises.

In his message to mark the World Refugee



Day, the UN chief also praised those nations and communities hosting refugees and internally displaced people, often amid their own economic and security challenges.

"We owe these countries our thanks, our support and our investment, he said.

While refugees and internally displaced people are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary-General commended them for stepping up on the frontlines of response.

"From camps in Bangladesh to hospitals in Europe, refugees are working as nurses, doctors, scientists, teachers and in other essential roles, protecting themselves and giving back to the communities that host them, he said.

Numerous emergencies old and new are behind the massive people flows, from Afghanistan to Central African Republic, to Myanmar, with hotspots including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso -- and the wider Sahel -- and the continuing fallout in Syria, after nearly a decade of civil war, the report said.

About 73 per cent of the 79.5 million on the move have sought shelter in a country neighbouring their own, Grandi said, dismissing the regularly politicised misconception that most migrants and refugees target richer countries far from home.

Nearly seven in 10 of those displaced came from Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar, he said.

"If crises in these countries were solved,

68 per cent of global forced displacement would be on its way to being solved," Grandi said.

Asked about the impact of COVID-19 on mass population movements, he said it would "no doubt" push more people into crisis.

"I am very worried and we've said it to a lot of different governments that have asked us the question," he said.

"The livelihoods crisis...the increased poverty of these populations, in my opinion -- coupled with lack of solutions to a situation of conflict and in situations like the Sahel, with a deterioration of security -- there's no doubt it will increase population movements in the region but also beyond, towards Europe," Grandi said.

Since the global health crisis began, the

## South Africa has the continent's highest Covid-19 cases. Now it has another pandemic on its hands

(CNN)Early on Sunday morning, the mutilated body of a 42-year-old woman was found in Eersterust, a middle-class township in Pretoria, South Africa. Two days earlier, residents in the Soweto township of Johannesburg discovered the body of another young woman under a tree. And just over a week ago, a heavily pregnant 28-year-old was found hanging from a tree on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

The three women were among the latest victims in a surge of violence against women in South Africa which the country's president has described as a "pandemic."

"As a man, as a husband, and as a father, I am appalled at what is no less than a war being waged against the women and the children of our country," said President Cyril Ramaphosa in a nationwide television address Wednesday.

More than 20 women and children have been murdered in South Africa in recent weeks, he added. "These women are not just statistics, they have names, they have families and friends," he said as he read out the names of the victims.

In an earlier statement on Saturday, he said the killings show that perpetrators have "descended to even greater depths of cruelty and callousness."

South Africa has one of the highest femicide

rates anywhere in the world. More than 2,700 South African women and 1,000 children were killed last year, according to police figures.

According to Ramaphosa, around 51% of women in the country have experienced violence at the hands of their partners. Cases have spiked since the country eased some coronavirus lockdown restrictions in June.

"We note with disgust that at a time when the country is facing the gravest of threats from the pandemic, violent men are taking advantage of the eased restrictions on movement to attack women and children," the President said.

Fatimata Moutloatse, founder of the Black Women's Caucus said South Africa had been battling with issues of gender violence, inequality, and unemployment, and the pandemic could push the nation to the brink.

"We have a crisis, and the lockdown restrictions are amplifying it," Moutloatse said.

'We want accountability'

In September 2019, Ramaphosa announced measures to tackle violence against women following the rape and murder of university student Uyinene Mrwetyana in a string of femicide cases.

Mrwetyana had been sexually assaulted and killed in a Cape Town post office. Her death sparked widespread



protests and re-ignited the conversation around gender violence.

In response, Ramaphosa pledged \$75m to strengthen the criminal justice system and provide better care for victims. In his Wednesday address, he also called on lawmakers to process a series of amendments including minimum sentencing, and stiffer bail conditions for perpetrators.

Only justice and the swift prosecution of cases will demonstrate that government commitment to women's safety, women rights activist Ngaa Murombedzi, from advocacy group Women and Men Against Child Abuse, told CNN. "It's not enough for the president to say we won't tolerate violence. We want accountability. The government cannot just be saying they are taking a strong stance when they're not acting. They need to put action with those words," Murombedzi said.

Deep-rooted problem

But Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, says the South African government alone cannot tackle the crisis alone.

Nkoana-Mashabane said authorities also need the help of communities to end the silence around gender violence and expose abusers.

"We are aware that this fight is bigger than the government, and we need communities to

helps us curb this epidemic. Communities can play a big role in curbing this epidemic by reporting incidents of abuse to local organizations, and South African Police Service (SAPS)," Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Police spokesman Kay Makhubela agrees.

Makhubela said women need to report aggressive partners to the police.

"If people see there are signs of aggressiveness and violence, they

agency has also reported an increase in the number of Rohingyas moving from Bangladesh and Myanmar, towards Malaysia and other States in South East Asia.

That in my opinion is linked more than COVID-19 once again by the very stagnant situation of the Rohingya issue, Grandi said. No solution, great poverty and lack of opportunities in the camps in Bangladesh, now maybe also couple with the lockdown that was made necessary by COVID that has added to the hardship.

For the first time, Venezuela's 3.5 million displaced people feature in the UNHCR report, accounting in part for the significant rise, compared with the 2018-19 data.

In terms of the ages of those affected, the UN agency estimates that around 30 to 34 million of the world's 79.5 million forcibly displaced, are children. Of the near 80 million people cited in the report, 26 million are refugees; 20.4 million come under UNHCR's mandate and 5.6 million are Palestine refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

must report to the police before incidents like this happen. Immediately they see signs of danger, they must report it," Makhubela told CNN.

But some experts say a culture of domestic violence is deep-rooted in South Africa's apartheid era where women and children faced high levels of violence and that criminal justice and policing systems alone cannot fix the problems.

Gareth Newham, Head of the Justice and Violence Prevention program at the Institute of Security Studies told CNN not much will change as long as men hold onto patriarchal beliefs that suppress women.

"Now, we need programs for men at their early childhood that educate them about different attitudes and they'll see women as their equals and will be less likely to use violence at all when they grow up," Newman said.

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# Cop drama 'The Rookie' to address police brutality in new season

LOS ANGELES, JUN 19 (PTI):

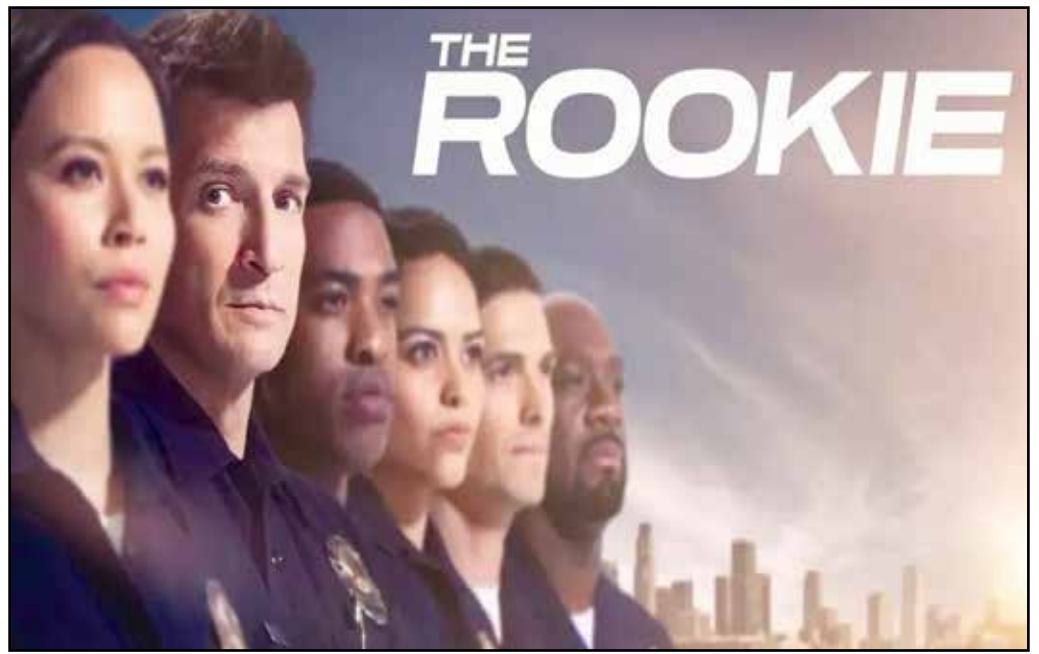
The third season of "The Rookie", a police procedural comedy-drama series, will explore the burning issue of cop brutality following the death of George Floyd and the subsequent protests over systemic racism and abuse by the forces.

The ABC network show, which stars Nathan Fillion as John Nolan, the oldest rookie in the LAPD, is the latest series to see an overhaul in its depiction of the police and its procedures.

Karey Burke, network's entertainment president, said that show's creator Alexi Hawley has brought in a number of experts to discuss the issues around policing in America in 2020, reported Deadline.

"Alexi Hawley is a really thoughtful ally and partner and has been in the writers' room for some time, already planning to address the current conversation going on around police work.

"I'm impressed with his thoughtfulness and leadership about hearing and



adapting the current conversations to the storylines. It's a diverse writers room and I'm hearing that the conversations going on in that room are inspired and give me hope that the show will address and not ignore the conversations around policing," Burke said.

The show also stars Mekia Cox, Alyssa Diaz, Richard T. Jones, Titus Makin, Melissa

O'Neil and Eric Winter.

It is produced by Entertainment One (eOne) and ABC Studios.

Hawley executive produces with Mark Gordon, Fillion, Michelle Chapman, Jon Steinberg, Bill Norcross and Terence Paul Winter.

Recently, Paramount Network cancelled its long-running police series "Cops" and HBO Max temporarily

removed Civil War classic "Gone With The Wind" due to its controversial depiction of black people and overt positive view of slavery.

The development comes as media companies reap-praise content in the wake of protests over police brutality and systemic racism after the death of Floyd, an African American man killed by Minnesota Police last month.



**MAMA-DAUGHTER PHOTO!** The cute pair, Kulture Kiari Cephuss & Cardi B poses together during Teyana Taylor's listening party in Beverly Hills.

## 'Aarya' is a character-driven series: director Ram Madhvani

**NEW DELHI, JUN 19 (PTI):** Director Ram Madhvani says the intention behind adapting Dutch series Penozo for the Indian audience in Aarya was to tell a character-driven story that delves into family dynamics.

Madhvani's 2016 film Neerja, a biopic on slain Pan Am flight attendant Neerja Bhanot, explored the emotion of loss through the mother-daughter story and in the new series, starring Sushmita Sen in the titular role, the character struggles with dilemma.

The story revolves around Aarya Sareen, a happily married woman whose world turns upside down when her husband is shot. She gets to know that he may have been involved in an illegal drug racket which now threatens her family.

Madhvani said he and his wife loved the story as it had an amazing female character at the centre.

She is strong and there is vulnerability. As she faces obstacles, she becomes somebody she didn't want to. It was a character-driven series that attracted us towards it. I am happy Sushmita (Sen) agreed to do the show as she

embodies the strength and vulnerability of the character, he told PTI.

The director, who initially wanted to make a film on Penozo after watching it nine years ago, said he has taken the plot from the original and set it in the Indian cultural context.

It is an Indian family. It was meant to be a feature length film but it didn't work out. I am happy that we didn't make it into a feature film. It was a big disappointment at that time but now I am happy, he said about the series that started streaming from Friday on Disney+Hotstar VIP.

Madhvani, an advertising professional-turned-director, said the thriller format came as a bait to hold audiences' attention while exploring the family dynamics in the story.

The good thing about thrillers is that they are plot-driven. As a director, I'm interested in relationships like a hijack film like 'Neerja' is a family drama. Here, it's a crime thriller in family space. I am interested in family relationships. The thriller element makes sure you don't switch it off, he said.

Aarya also features Chandrachur Singh, Namit Das, Manish Chaudhary and Sikander Kher.

## Joanne Froggatt to star in Apple podcast 'The Harrowing'

**LOS ANGELES, JUN 19 (PTI):** "Downton Abbey" star Joanne Froggatt is set to lead her first podcast, a supernatural thriller titled "The Harrowing".

The Golden Globe winner will feature as Sergeant Jackie O'Hara on the show, which will be available on Apple Podcasts from June 25, reported Deadline.

"The Harrowing" follows the supernatural events on a remote Scottish island over Easter, when a girl and mysterious stranger vanish and only O'Hara is left to recount what happened.

"It was an absolute pleasure to work on this dark, supernatural thriller. The pull between good and evil, and heaven and hell sets the tone for this incredible story," Froggatt said.

The eight-part show, written by Mark Healy, comes from TV content production company Fremantle's podcast label Storyglass.

It is executive produced by Fremantle's director of global drama, Sarah Doole, and Storyglass creative director Robert Delamere. Ben Walker is attached as producer.

## Jon Hamm, Nicholas Hoult board sci-fi comedy 'Alpha Gang'

**LOS ANGELES, JUN 19 (PTI):** Hollywood actors Nicholas Hoult, Jon Hamm and Andrea Riseborough are set to star in sci-fi comedy Alpha Gang, from director duo David and Nathan Zellner.

The film also features Charlotte Gainsbourg, Mackenzie Davis, Sofia Boutella and Steven Yuen, reported Variety.

David Zellner has penned the script, which centres on aliens sent on a mission to conquer Earth.

However, their plan for Earth domination comes close to derailing as they catch the human disease of emotion and start to feel joy, fear, empathy and love.

I've been wanting to make this film for a long time a genre mashup of sci-fi, action and comedy. Nathan and I couldn't be more excited about the incredible cast joining us for this wild ride., said David.

Adele Romanski and Sara Murphy will be producing the film via their banner PASTEL.

The project is heading to Cannes market next week, with Protagonist Pictures handling international sales.

Shooting is set to take place next year in Eastern Europe.

## Sushant Singh Rajput's Instagram account memorialized



**MUMBAI, JUN 19 (PTI):** Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's memories will continue to be celebrated as Instagram has memorialised his account, adding remembering to his bio.

Rajput, 34, known for films like "Kai Po Che!", "MS Dhoni: The Untold Story", "Chhichhore", was found dead in his Bandra apartment on Sunday, sending shockwaves in the film industry and elsewhere.

Days after his untimely demise, Instagram added remembering to his account bio and memorialised it as a place to remember the actor's life.

According to the photo-video sharing website, no one can log into a memorialised account. The posts the deceased person shared,

including photos and videos, stay on their page and are visible to the users they were shared with.

Also, once the account is memorialised, no one will be able to make changes to any of the existing posts or information.

The actor's last post on the social media platform was a tribute to his late mother on June 3.

Rajput's death is being investigated by the Mumbai Police and so far statements of over 13 people, including actor's family members and close friends, including actor Rhea Chakraborty and casting director Mukesh Chhabra, have been recorded.

The police have also sent a letter to Yash Raj Films seeking details of the contracts it had signed with him.

### ARIES:

You can't get a caterpillar to become a butterfly overnight, can you? So why would you rush the process of transformation? Today, the cards are urging you to celebrate where you are, right now and in this moment, rather than focusing on the version of yourself you consider whole and perfect. In the golden words of Sophia Bush, "You're allowed to be both a masterpiece and a work-in-progress."

### TAURUS:

It's a 'World, hold on!' kind of day in the Taurus HQ. You're too busy writing a manual on 10 ways to love yourself better. The truth is, loving yourself, flaws and all, hasn't always come easy to you, but growing up has made you realise all the ways in which you are unique—precisely what you are celebrating today. The cards also speak of serendipitous encounters and happenstance. Something you have been hoping and praying for could just work out in your favour, and in the most unexpected way.

### GEMINI:

If you like it then you've gotta put a ring on it. This time, we're talking about the home/studio you've got your eyes on rather than a person (unless they come as a pair!). Property-related matters are taking centre stage today, Gemini. The good thing is, both you and your family (or your partner) are on the same page about this haven. For others, this may be a time of giving their home a make-

over. Consider turning to a colour therapist or feng shui expert to get pro tips on how to raise the vibrations in your sanctuary.

### CANCER:

You can either make peace with where you are and continue to live your life confined to a box or indulge your curious nature. If the cards are anything to go by, you will choose the latter. This weekend in the Cancer HQ is dedicated to the art of learning. From mixed martial arts to the history of ancient Egypt, the possibilities are endless. Let the stirrings of your heart propel you in the right direction.

### LEO:

They say everything fades away. While this phrase holds true for the physical body, which goes from dust to dust, it does not define everything in our life. Let me tell you what doesn't fade away: the work you do on yourself or what the yogis defined as 'tapasya'. Now, more than ever before, you are moving beyond your physical identity and recognising the radiance that is inherent to your soul. But does that mean you shun the 'human' aspects of your existence? Anything but, Leo.

### VIRGO:

It's funny how our self-worth is so dependent on how other people perceive us. As a result of this, we dedicate our lives to pleasing external forces and end up relinquishing

our power. Recognising this pattern is the first step to transforming it, Virgo. Just for today, say 'no' even when it makes you uncomfortable. Set a boundary. Stand up for yourself. An internal configuration will help you redirect your energy towards the things that truly matter.

### LIBRA:

You can put a balm on your wounds for temporary respite, but does that really make the pain go away? You already have the answer to this one, Libra. Today, you're being asked to brave the murky realms of emotions; to understand the root of the trauma that has resurfaced

### SCORPIO:

Time for truth tea, Scorpio: the given situation is not in your hands. You've done what you thought was best and that is enough. It's time to surrender to the cosmic intelligence with the inner knowing that everything will ultimately transpire in your favour. Remember, self-isolation does not equal emotional isolation. You need your support system more than ever before.

### SAGITTARIUS:

Sometimes, you need to put on a kaftan, channel your inner flower child, and observe your life from the sidelines. Shakespeare was damn right when he said, "All the world's a stage". You understand that practicing non-attachment at a time like this is the secret to maintaining your sanity. This is also a time of Great Awakening.

### CAPRICORN:

We're so obsessed with the idea of 'the destination', we forget the magic lies in the process. Capricorn, think of yourself as the medium rather than the door: Remember, you are a conduit of creative energy. A channel through which the Universe expresses itself. If you've been hiding behind a cloak of invisibility, you will find the courage to let yourself be seen and heard. PS: The centre stage is where the action is at!

### AQUARIUS:

Making money for the sake of making money doesn't cut it anymore. You're thinking of ways to support the local communities, to give back to those who do not have a source of sustenance in this time of uncertainty. Some of you may feel deeply connected with the animal kingdom. Have you been thinking of the welfare of street dogs or cats? Now is the time to contribute in a way that feels right to you.

### PISCES:

Spirituality is no longer a weekend pursuit, it is a way of life. The lockdown has provided you with a wonderful opportunity to come to yourself. Looking for ways to deepen your meditation this weekend? Visualise yourself as a pillar of light connecting the heavens to the Earth. As this radiant beam of light makes its way down your body, imagine it activating your chakras and transforming you into a rainbow bridge. Pisces, you are a conduit for creativity.