



**BYRON BAY LOCALS
PROTEST PLANNED NETFLIX
REALITY SERIES**
pg 08

**NO, VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS DON'T
TELL YOU HOW WELL YOUR IMMUNE
SYSTEM WILL PROTECT YOU FROM
COVID-19**
pg 04

**'DOWNTON ABBEY 2' BEGINS
PRODUCTION, DOMINIC
WEST JOINS STAR CAST**
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 06 | Issue 106 | Gangtok | Wednesday 21 April 2021

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

91 new cases after VRD Labs begin new week after Sunday off

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 APR:**

With both VRD Labs [where RT-PCR tests can be carried out] back in operation on Monday after a Sunday off, Sikkim registered another surge in Covid cases with 91 new cases of novel coronavirus reported in the last 24 hours.

Of the 91 new cases, only 11 were admitted in hospital today. The State now has 488 active Covid cases, 48 of whom are currently admitted in hospital with the rest having mild enough symptoms to prescribed only home isolation.

While 71 of the new cases were reported from East District, one was detected in West District and 19 in South District.

The 91 cases were picked up in the testing of 489 samples collected on Monday.

In the meanwhile, the number of recovered cases of COVID-19 improved to 6,021 with the discharge of four more persons from home isolations after completing their isolation period.



In his daily health bulletin on Tuesday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia, informed that 72 persons were found positive in the RT-PCR testing of 321 samples, while two more reported positive in TrueNat

testing of two samples and 17 samples returned positive for COVID-19 in rapid antigen testing of 160 samples.

14 new cases were reported from the Tadong area of Gangtok, which includes three from Greendale School Road,

three from Metro Point, two from 5th Mile-Tadong, two from Lumsey, two from Daragaon, one from Gairi Gaon and one from Tadong Bazaar.

Likewise, new cases reported from in and around the capital include four from

Shyari, two from Development Area, one from Kazi Road, two from Lower Burtuk, two from VIP colony, two from Chandmari, two from Development Area, two from Sichey, two from Deorali, one from Upper Tathangchen, one from Namnang, one from Housing Colony Arithang, one from Upper MG Marg, one from Decheling, one from near Bar-Pipal, one from AG Office quarters at Shyari, one from Pani House and one from Arithang.

Similarly, three persons from Majhitar, three from IBM-Rango, two from Ranaka, two from Dalapchand, two from Ranipool, two from Pakyong, one person from Saramsa, one from Martam, one from Rhenock, one from Chota Singtam, one from above Bhasmey Junior High School, one from Setipool, one from Singtam, one from Sumin, one from Channatar Rango and one from SMIT Majhitar in East District were also reported positive for COVID-19.

turn to pg02

Educational institutions shut till 30 Apr, CM announces

**GOVT
OFFICES TO
FUNCTION
WITH 50%
STAFF**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 APR:**

Chief Minister, PS Tamang today announced that schools and colleges in the state will remain shut till 30 April and that Government offices will function with 50% employees from 22 April onwards.

While speaking at the inauguration of the Fish Mela at MG Marg today, the CM said that these steps are being taken to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the people of the State to curtail

unnecessary travelling out of the State and asked them to strictly follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

Later in the evening, the Education Department took out a circular informing that all government, government aided [Centre and State] and private educational institutions, universities, colleges, tutorials, coaching institutes and hostels shall remain closed till 30 April.

The circular also informs that all activities related to the CBSE examinations slated to be held during this period shall be taken up after 30 April as per the convenience of the CBSE Centre Superintendents.

It further adds that online mode of education will continue during this period.

CM greets officers on National Civil Service Day

GANGTOK, 20 APR [IPR]: On the occasion of National Civil Service Day, Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang has sent greetings to all government servants of Sikkim.

In his message, the Chief Minister states, "The Civil Service system is the backbone of the administrative machinery of the country through which the government delivers its services to the public. It is the civil servants who can materialise the policies of the government of the day to meet the aspirations of the people and much depends on their probity in public delivery. Without their able participation in governance, a progressive

society would be a far cry". Further, he called upon the civil servants to give their best to society, become more public centric in their outlook and sympathetic to the needs of the people while dealing with them. He emphasised on focusing and improving IT-enabled services in the State which will make it easier for the public to go about their daily businesses online, without having to visit the office.

The Chief Minister extends his wholehearted gratitude to all civil servants and invites them for a joint effort to establish an efficient, ethical and accountable governance.

GJM factions continue to trade allegations of fomenting violence

**SMRITA KHAWAS
DARJEELING, 20 APR:**

After a peaceful election, the blame-game has begun in the Darjeeling Hills with the two factions of Gorkha Jammukti Morcha trading allegations.

It may be recalled that on Mondya night, at around 9PM, Bimal Gurung, who heads one faction of GJM, was attacked en route while returning from Sonada.

Asha Gurung, Mr Bimal Gurung's wife, while addressing the press said, "Yesterday, when our chief Bimal Gurung was returning from Sonada, some members



of the GJM [Binoy faction] led by Mahendra Pradhan attacked our party supporters. Three of our supporters were injured in the attack. And today we are here at Darjeeling Sadar police station to file a General Diary against them."

She also condemned

the statement given by Binay Tamang accusing her husband of fomenting violence in the hills.

Meanwhile, Darjeeling police called an all-party meet here today to bring all political leaders on the same page when it comes to maintaining peace in the Hills.

CM inaugurates two-day Fish Mela at MG Marg

GANGTOK, 20 APRIL (IPR): Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the two-day Fish Mela organised at MG Marg, Gangtok today.

The inaugural function was also attended by the Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, LB Das, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Advisors, Chairmen, Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Secretaries, Heads of Departments, Senior officials, and fish farmers.

The programme is being organised by the Directorate of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with National Fisheries Development



Board, Hyderabad, Government of India.

Different species of fish including the Rainbow Trout, Carp, Grass Carp, Amur Carp and other local indigenous fish are being displayed by the fish farmers of the State, following all COVID-19 safety protocols.

In his address, Chief Minister, Prem Singh Ta-

mang said that he is overwhelmed to see young entrepreneurs displaying different varieties of fish in the Mela. He also added that the purpose of organising the event is to encourage the youth to take up fisheries as a sustainable means of livelihood and also to promote fish farming in the State.

turn to pg02

India's devastating 2nd wave is driving global Covid surge

NEW DELHI, 20 APR [THEWASHING-TONPOST]: More than a year after the pandemic began, infections worldwide have surpassed their previous peak. The average number of coronavirus cases reported each day is now higher than it has ever been.

"Cases and deaths are continuing to increase at worrying rates," said World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Friday.

A major reason for the increase: the ferocity of India's second wave. The country accounts for about one in three of all new cases.

It wasn't supposed to happen like this. Earlier this year, India appeared to be weathering the pandemic. The number of daily cases dropped below 10,000 and the government launched a vaccination drive powered by locally made vaccines.

But experts say that changes in behavior and the influence of new variants have combined to produce a tidal wave of new cases.

India is adding more than 250,000 new infections a day - and if current trends continue, that figure could soar

to 500,000 within a month, said Bhramar Mukherjee, a biostatistician at the University of Michigan.

While infections are rising around the country, some places are bearing the brunt of the surge. Six states and Delhi, the nation's capital, account for about two-thirds of new daily cases. Maharashtra, home to India's financial hub, Mumbai, represents about a quarter of the nation's total.

In Delhi, many hospitals had shrunk their coronavirus wards - believing the worst was past - when the second wave struck.

On April 9, the city added 8,500 cases, a record in the pandemic. Four days later, it was 13,500. Four days after that, the number jumped to more than 24,000.

The soaring number of cases has overwhelmed hospitals. The city is facing an acute shortage of oxygen and nearly all its intensive care beds are full, Kejriwal said Monday.

Mohammad Shahzad, a 40-year-old accountant, was one of many desperately seeking care. He developed a fever and grew breathless on the afternoon of April 15. His wife, Shazia, rushed him

turn to pg02

**DEAR READERS,
IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING
YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE OR
WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
AT 9832556698 AND WE WILL ENSURE
THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.**



ICSE Class 10 board exam cancelled due to "worsening situation" of Covid

NEW DELHI, 20 APR [NDTV]: The ICSE Class 10 board examination has been cancelled due to the "worsening situation" of the coronavirus pandemic, the board said today days after it had made the exam optional.

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) board had just days ago postponed its Class 10 and 12 examinations after a nationwide Covid surge and requests from parents and students made them rethink.

"The safety and well-being of our students and teaching faculty is our topmost priority and of paramount interest," the board said in a circular.

The board had said that new dates for ISC Class 12 examination will be announced in June. While exams will be held for Class 12 students later, Class 10 students were allowed to either opt out or take the exam in offline mode later.

The board today cancelled the examination as the country records grim records and unprecedented spike in cases in the second and more deadly wave of Covid. Today is the sixth consecutive day India recorded over 2 lakh cases.

The ISC Class 12 examination, like its CBSE counterpart, will be held at a later date after the Covid situation improves. The CBSE has also cancelled examinations for Class 10 students.

CISCE also said that the Class 10 students will be marked by devising a "fair and unbiased" criterion. The date of results will be announced later, the board said, adding that Class 11 admissions and online classes must begin at the earliest at affiliated schools. The Class 10 exams were scheduled from May 4 to June 7.

Over 35 lakh students appearing for the board exams stand affected by the decision.

CM inaugurates...

Considering the potential of stream water in the state, he encouraged the youth to adopt pond fish rearing in their own locality which will not only generate income but will also meet the demand of the market. He further added that a separate budgetary provision will be made in the next budget for fish farmers in order to augment fish farming community in the State.

The Chief Minister stated that the previous year was a challenging phase due to the global pandemic and added that several steps have been taken by the Government of India and the State Government to face the challenges and threat posed by COVID-19.

The Chief Minister also informed that to curb the further spread of COVID 19 in the State, the Government will announce that all the Schools, Colleges will remain closed till April 30. He further said that all the Government Offices will function with 50% employees from 22 April 2021.

The Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang also appealed to the people of the State to curtail unnecessary travelling out of the State and asked them to strictly follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister Lok Nath Sharma marked the event as historic for the state. The programme has been organised to motivate fish farmers and unemployed educated youth towards fish farming to make themselves self-sufficient.

He stated that the fisheries, livestock, and agriculture farming would be an appropriate medium to ensure

COVID awareness literature distributed in South

NAMCHI, 20 APR (IPR): With the aim of creating awareness about COVID-19 disease, the availability of vaccination and COVID-19 appropriate behaviours, the South District Department of Information and Public Relations distributed various communication materials namely banners, pamphlets and posters in the office of District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police today.

"Teeka Nai Hamro Suraksha" is the underlying theme in these materials and urges the masses to get vaccinated and strengthen the fight against COVID-19.

Additionally, the de-



partment is also taking up awareness of COVID-19 via miking in and around the district.

The details in the communication mate-

rials includes the five-fold strategy which are Tracing, Testing, Treatment, Vaccination and COVID-19 appropriate behaviours. The commu-

nication also emphasizes on four golden COVID-19 rules which are to follow physical Distancing, wearing a face mask, frequently washing hand

and adoption of healthy immunity boosters.

Moreover, the said materials will be put in every nook and corner of the district.

India adds 2,59,170 new cases in single day, record 1,761 fatalities

New Delhi, Apr 20 (PTI) India's total tally of COVID-19 cases climbed to 1,53,21,089 with 2,59,170 new coronavirus infections being reported in a day, while active cases surpassed the 20-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

The death toll increased to 1,80,530 with a record 1,761 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Registering a steady increase for the 41st day in a row, the active cases increased to 20,31,977, comprising 13.26 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has dropped to 85.56 per cent.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,31,08,582, while the case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.18 per cent, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went

past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

According to the ICMR, 26,94,14,035 samples have been tested up to April 19 with 15,19,486 samples being tested on Monday.

The 1,716 new fatalities include 351 from Maharashtra, 240 from Delhi, 175 from Chhattisgarh, 167 from Uttar Pradesh, 146 from Karnataka, 117 from Gujarat, 83 from Punjab, 79 from Madhya Pradesh, 53 from Rajasthan, 46 from Jharkhand, 44 from Tamil Nadu, 41 from Bihar and 38 from West Bengal and 33 from Haryana.

A total of 1,80,530 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 60,824 from Maharashtra, 13,497 from Karnataka, 13,157 from Tamil Nadu, 12,361 from Delhi, 10,606 from West Bengal, 9,997 from Uttar Pradesh, 7,985 from Punjab and 7,437 from Andhra Pradesh.

One Day Administrative Camp at Yangthang



GYALSHING, 20 APR [IPR]: As part of the 'Ad-

ministrative at your door step' initiative by the Office of District Collector, District Administration, Rabdentse, a One Day Administrative Camp was also observed at Gram Prashashan Kendra, Lingchom Tikjek GPU under Yangthang Constituency, today.

A team headed by SDM (HQ), Anant Jain along with the Revenue Inspector, Satyam Basnett, District Project Manager, Information Technology, District e-Governance Society, Pempa Tashi Tamang, concerned departmental staff, Panchayats, representative from NGO and public at large attended the day long camp.

While deliberating upon the main objective of the initiative SDM

(HQ) informed that the motive behind conducting such camp was to create awareness and build confidence among the public regarding the easement and simplified process of the various administrative related works at their door steps.

Later, he also conveyed that after visiting all GPUs under Gyalshing subdivision, the District Collector Office would select one GPU and convert it into Model E-GPU, in which, the Panchayat office will process all documents in preliminary stage and send it to SDM office online for further approval. The main motive of this initiative is to sensitize the general public on the benefits of e-services of the administration and reduce the physical presence of the applicant

and thus implementing the e-office services for the convenience in this prevailing covid-19 situation, he added.

At the camp, various certificates like Economically Weaker Section, Married, Unmarried and others were processed and issued on the spot. The designated team also asserted with the hands on training to the GPU staffs regarding online processing of various certificates and sensitized on authentic procedures required for the work.

At the offset, SDM HQ, even took the detour of the GPK premises and applauded on the inner architectural design and encouraged them extensively for keeping the spirit of belongingness to the GPK even in near future.

COVID-19 vaccine policy discriminatory: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, APR 20 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at the government over its vaccine policy, alleging it is discriminatory and that there is no vaccine guarantee for the weaker sections.

He also said that there will be no free vaccines for those between the age of 18 and 45 years.

"No free vaccines for 18-45 yr olds. Middlemen brought in without price controls. No vaccine guarantee for weaker sections. GOI's Vaccine Discrimination- Not Distribution- Strategy," he said in a tweet.

The government on Monday announced that all adults will be eligible for COVID vaccination from May 1 while private



hospitals and states will be able to buy doses directly from manufacturers.

The decisions aimed at scaling up inoculation came as 25 lakh cases were added in just 15 days in the country and several states like Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan demanded that the age restriction of 45 years be removed for

the vaccination.

Under the third phase of the vaccination drive commencing next month, the vaccine manufacturers would be free to supply 50 percent doses to state governments and in the open market for which they will have to make an advance declaration of the price before May 1, according to an official statement.

91 new cases after...

Mr Bhutia informed that three more primary contacts at JNV Rabongla have also tested positive for COVID-19 in South District.

Likewise, he added that three from NHPC, two persons from Chemchey, two from Rabongla, one from Dong, one from Namthang, one from Rangeet Nagar, one from Namphing, one from Melli Bazaar, one from Lower Gurpisey, one from Tinzir, one from Turung and one Gauring Gaon were also found positive in South District.

He added that two tourists from Bangalore also tested positive in rapid antigen testing at Melli check-post and returned from the check-post after learning of their infection.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that one person from Omchung in West District and another person from Mangan in North District were found positive for COVID-19.

He added that a 31-year-old lady from Sombaria in West District and a 25-year-old lady from Burtuk in East District, have tested positive for COVID-19 but remain unreachable on their phones.

On the vaccination front, he mentioned that 093 persons were vaccinated for COVID-19 in Sikkim on Monday, of whom 3,567 received their first dose while 1,526 completed the vaccine schedule with the second dose.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

India's devastating...

to the nearest hospital. It was full, but staffers checked his oxygen level: 62, dangerously low.

For three hours, they went from hospital to hospital trying to get him admitted, with no luck. She took him home. At 3:30 a.m., with Shahzad struggling to breathe, she called an ambulance. When the driver arrived, he asked if Shahzad truly needed oxygen - otherwise he would save it for the most serious patients.

The scene at the hospital was "harrowing," said Shazia: a line of ambulances, people crying and pleading, a man barely breathing. Shahzad finally found a bed. Now Shazia and her two children, 8 and 6, have also developed covid-19 symptoms.

The streets are quiet across Maharashtra, where authorities have told people to stay inside and have shut nonessential businesses until the end of the month.

The stillness is deceptive.

Oxygen is in such short supply that tankers are hauling it in from other states. Patients still face a scramble to find available hospital beds.

From early morning until late at night, Prafulla Gudadhe's phone does not stop ringing. Each call is from a constituent and each call is the same: Can he help to arrange a hospital bed for a loved one?

Gudadhe is a municipal official in Nagpur, a city in the interior of Maharashtra. "We tell them we will try, but there are no beds," he said. About 10 people in his ward have died at home in recent days after they couldn't get admitted to hospitals, Gudadhe said, his voice weary. "I am helpless." In the western state of Gujarat, the second wave has swamped hospitals and crematoriums.

Outside the main covid-19 hospital in the city of Ahmedabad, ambulances carrying sick patients have waited for hours.

Every day, newspapers carry stories about the apparent mismatch between official figures and the actual death toll.

Kamlesh Sailor knows how bad it is. Worse than the previous wave of the pandemic, like nothing he's ever seen.

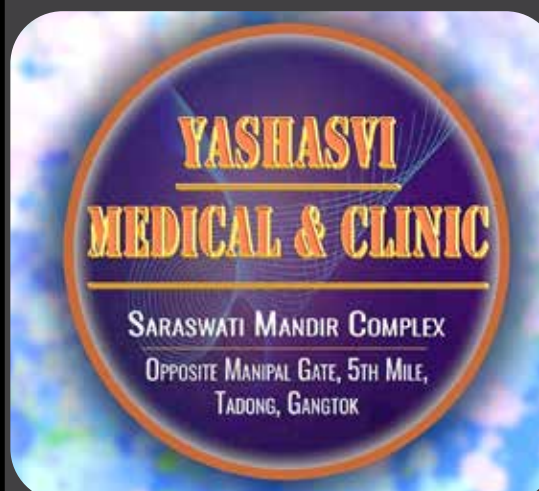
Sailor is the president of a crematorium trust in the city of Surat. Last week, the steel pipes in two of the facility's six chimneys melted from constant use. Where the facility used to receive about 20 bodies a day, he said, now it is receiving 100.

"We try to control our emotions," he said. "But it is unbearable."

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

4 katha land available for sale at Middle Palas, Siliguri. Price negotiable. Interested buyer may contact: 9647889596

YASHASVI MEDICAL & CLINIC, 5th Mile, Opposite Manipal Gate.



NEW CLINIC TIMING.

Doctor Available: (Monday- Saturday)

1. General Physician: 7 AM-9AM,
2. OBG & Gynecologist: 9-10AM.
3. Pediatrician: 8:30-9:30 AM.
4. Skin Specialist: 5-7PM.
5. Orthopaedic: 5-7 PM.
6. Cardio Specialist: 4-6PM.
7. Medicine (Gastrointestinal Specialist) :5-6PM.

Call For Appointment : 6294683018 / 7908242665

Capacity Building of SHG Federation functionaries and Block Staff

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 APR:

Two-day residential training program for Block Development Society (BDS) functionaries including president, secretary, treasurer, and Block Mission Management Unit Staff on book-keeping of BDS and Auditing of SHGs and WDS was organized by Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission, Rural Development Department at Janta Bhawan, Gangtok on 19 and 20 Apr, 2021.

The training program was attended by presidents, secretaries, and treasurers of BDS and SRLM Block level Staff from 14 blocks of North and East districts. Thematic staff from State Mission Management Unit were the resource persons for the training.

BDS bookkeepers were trained on proper



maintenance of books of records along with all the principles governing the functioning of BDS on the first day of training.

On second day of training, BMMU teams were trained on WDS and SHG auditing and the institutionalization of audit process for SHG institutions. In the concluding session,

Commissioner/RDD, Dr P Senthil Kumar highlighted the importance of bookkeeping by the community institutions and conduct of audit to oversee their performance and activities. He further stated that the process of Institutionalization of auditing is required for SHG and its federations for regu-

lar monitoring for their better performance and growth of WDS and SHG.

The need for block team to follow up the audit observation and corrections required to be made is very crucial for continual improvement in the functioning of SHG institutions. He also added the additional role of community insti-

tutions in carrying out awareness programs at community level amidst growing COVID cases in Sikkim.

In the program audit calendar for SHGs and its Federation was also finalized. The program was organized and conducted by the IBCB Division of Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission.

High Court questions Gujarat's claim on adequate beds for Covid-19



AHMEDABAD, 20 APR [PTI]: The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday questioned the state government's claim that there were enough beds for COVID-19 patients and sought to know why infected persons were still unable to get admitted, if beds were vacant.

In its submission on Tuesday, the state government informed the court that of 79,944 beds at COVID-19 hospitals and other care facilities in the state, 55,783 were occupied, while the rest were vacant.

Government lawyer Manisha Shah made the submission during an online hearing on a plea filed suo moto by the division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Bhargav Karia on coronavirus situation two weeks ago.

"Complaints are coming, maybe you are also receiving that patients are not being admitted because there is no vacancy in hospitals. Beds are not available. The figures shared by you suggest that even designated hospitals have vacant beds," the bench told the state.

"(If that is true) then why are people running around, finding sources and recommendations for getting hospitals beds and treatment?" the bench asked the state.

The court also raised concerns about people's claims that 108 ambulances are now taking considerable time to pick up patients who are in a critical condition.

Moreover, the court also sought to know why critical patients were not taken in by government hospitals, if they came in private vehicles instead of "108" ambulances.

In the government's defence, Ms Shah said that although beds were available at other facilities, some at a distance from patients' homes, people want to get admitted to specific hospitals, which results in full occupancy in those hospitals.

Ms Shah also assured the court that the government has ensured adequate supply of medical oxygen and there was no scarcity of the life-saving gas at present.

A special control room has been set up at the Chief Minister's Office to monitor the oxygen supply to hospitals, she added.

On a query raised by the bench about RT-PCR testing, Ms Shah informed that all districts have the facility to conduct these tests and the government conducts an average of 1.65 lakh tests, including around 75,000 RT-PCR tests, which are considered more accurate than antigen test.

Senior advocate Percy Kavina, who was allowed to share views of other High Court lawyers, expressed displeasure about the Centre's decision of discontinuing a scheme of providing insurance cover to "corona warriors" under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).

"Only 287 insurance claims were processed under the PMGKY, which is now being shut. Just 287 claims across the country? Though the new scheme is coming, but why not continue PMGKY?" Ms Kavina asked. After hearing all submissions, the court asked the government to file an affidavit and scheduled the next hearing on April 27.

Act on corruption complaints in 3 months: Vigilance body to departments



NEW DELHI, 20 APR [PTI]: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has asked all central government organisations to decide on corruption complaints against employees within three months.

The move comes after the anti-corruption watchdog noted with concern that corruption complaints were not being taken to a logical conclusion or the action taken on them were not being updated in the records.

It has been observed from the proposals being received by the commission for the purpose of vigilance clearance that complaints received against an employee gets registered or received and stays in the vigilance profile of the employee for a very long time, the CVC said in an order.

"This has led to a situation where the vigilance clearance is being delayed or denied for no fault of the employee," it said. All anonymous or pseudonymous complaints must be filed, the CVC said.

"Action on the remaining complaints against the employees

must be taken to the logical conclusion within three months of the date of receipt of the complaint," it said in the order issued on Monday.

A logical conclusion here implies that the decision shall be taken by the organisation to either file the complaint or register a vigilance case for further investigation or register a non-vigilance administrative action case for further investigation, the CVC said.

"As a pilot, to begin with, the backlog complaints received till December 31, 2020, shall be disposed of according to the guidelines issued in this circular and compliance reported by May 31, 2021," the anti-corruption watchdog said.

At the end of the third month from the date of receipt of a complaint against an employee and after deciding on the course of action, a copy of the complaint shall be made available to the employee concerned within 15 days through speed post, wherever the name is mentioned in the complaint, it said.

In cases where the employee's name is not

explicitly mentioned in the complaint, a copy of the complaint shall be made available to the staff concerned at the stage of registration of vigilance or non-vigilance case, the CVC said in the order issued to secretaries of all central government departments.

The purpose is to inform the employee that the complaint is being examined by the organisation, it said, adding that the staff shall also be informed that full opportunity would be given to him during the examination.

Once a decision has been made to take up the matter as a vigilance case, the organisation shall send its inquiry report to the commission or Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) seeking first stage advice within three months of registration of such regular case, the directive said.

"This timeline shall strictly be adhered to," it said in the directive issued to all chief executives public sector banks, enterprises, insurance companies and autonomous bodies, among others.

Assam issues guidelines to check spread of coronavirus

Guwahati, Apr 20 (PTI): In view of spiraling COVID-19 cases in Assam, the state government on Tuesday ordered to shut all markets and shops by 6 pm and permitted 50 per cent of non-official staff to work from home in the districts where there are 100 active cases or more.

Issuing a fresh set of guidelines, the Assam chief secretary Jishnu Barua ordered the deputy commissioners to strictly enforce the restrictions, which have been promulgated along with several penal provisions under various laws.

"Any person not wearing face mask and/or spitting in public places shall be fined to the tune of Rs 1,000," the order said.

Violations of the guidelines will attract penalty under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, IPC and other provisions.

"Our situation is not so alarming at this moment, it is still under control. But we can't say what will be the situation in the next 7-8 days," Barua said at a press conference here.

He said that after reviewing the situation and observing that there is a gradual increase in COVID-19 cases, the government has decided to implement the latest order with immediate effect and keep it in place till April 30.

"We will review the situation in the next 3-4 days and if the cases continue to rise, then we will come out with stricter guidelines," he added.

As per the guidelines all markets, malls, weekly bazaars and standalone shops other than pharmacies will have to down shutters by 6 pm.

"Except officers, only 50 per cent employees can work from office ... Pregnant women employees and women

with children of five years or below irrespective of their grade shall be allowed to work from home," the order said.

However, this will not be applicable for organisations providing essential and emergency services, law enforcement services and are engaged in election work.

Assam State Disaster Management Authority chief executive officer Gyanendra Tripathi said the order will be applicable in only those districts which have 100 or more active COVID-19 patients.

At present, 13 out of 33 districts in Assam have 100 or more active positive cases, a National Health Mission spokesperson said.

The order further said that gatherings in open spaces have been capped at 50 per cent or 400 persons, whichever is lower, while it will be 50 per cent in closed venues.

"Number of guests in private functions at private venues, including marriages to be restricted to 100 persons.

Funeral/last rites related gatherings should ensure not more than 20 persons for each deceased," it added.

Religious places can allow 20 persons per hour, while in the "iconic" places 50 persons can be allowed in an hour, the guideline stated.

In case of educational institutes not more than 50 per cent students can attend in person on any day and the schools should stagger class timings so that no large gathering of students takes place.

The order asked schools to opt for the online mode of teaching and said the education department will issue detailed guidelines in view of the COVID-19 precautionary measures.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Memo No: 465/PHED/CE

Dated: 16.4.21

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT for the scheme "Augmentation of Gyalshing Water Supply Scheme in West Sikkim".

The Chief Engineer, PHED, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites tender on Percentages Basis for the above named scheme from the eligible contractors. The details of the tender may be found on the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Sd/-
R.O.No. 27/IPR/Pub/classi./21-22
Date: 19.4.2021
Chief Engineer
PHE Department

Government of Sikkim
Department of Information & Public Relations

"I appeal to everyone to get vaccinated for the safety of oneself and others against COVID-19"
- Ganga Prasad, Governor of Sikkim

Do not believe in rumours being spread about the vaccine

Focus on the 5 fold strategy

Follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour

GANGTOK

Vaccine is safe

Thankyou Govt. of India for making this possible

I did not hesitate

#SikkimFightsCorona

#VaccineSavesLives

#Unite2FightCorona

Let's come together to make the Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative "Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi" successful and beat COVID-19

GANGTOK SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Sokaythang, Nगतok,
Sikkim - 737102

e-mail: gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com CIN - U930909WB2017SGC223807
FILE NI. 229/GSCDL/2019-20

Memo NO: 28/GSCDL/2021-22

Dated: 07/04/2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Gangtok Smart City Development Limited (GSCDL) is undertaking the work 'Construction of Multi Level Car Park cum Shopping Hub' at old STNM Complex (below NH). The preliminary Drawings of the project is uploaded in our website <https://smartcitygangtok.com>

Architects, Urban Planners and the General Public are requested to give their valuable feedback and suggestions for improvement of the drawing. Changes that are feasible within the scope of the work shall be incorporate at the time of finalizing the Drawings. However, GSCDL reserves the right to incorporate the changes. Comments and suggestions may be sent by email to ae3smartcity@gmail.com within one month of issue of this public notice, please.

Sd/-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

File No.208/GSCDL/2020-2021
Gangtok Smart City Development Limited
5th Floor Kissan Bazaar Building
Lall Bazaar Road
Gangtok Sikkim - 737102
E-mail: gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com
CIN - U930909WB2017SGC223807

Ref No. 51/GSCDL/2021-22 Dated: 19/04/2021

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF CITY DATA OFFICER UNDER GANGTOK SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up one post of City Data Officer (CDO) on contractual basis for a period of 6 months (Probation) + 1 Year (Full Time Contract with renewal) under Gangtok Smart City Development Limited. The job specification details along with qualification requirement, technical and professional skills may be downloaded from official website <https://smartcitygangtok.com>. Applications by eligible and willing candidates matching all the required criteria may be submitted to Nodal Officer, Gangtok Smart City Development Limited on or before 30th April 2021, 1600 hours.

Nodal Officer
Gangtok Smart City Development Limited

Work Harder at Inspiring Excellence

More attention should be diverted to stem the regression from privileges to entitlement

A recent discussion on ideas of identity teased about something which should have been obvious all along – a lot of the passion behind reinforcing and reasserting identities, as much as they may be about ideas of self and of belonging, are also about privileges which accrue when such claims fructify. Privileges, however, are only one step away from ingraining a sense of entitlement even instilling sloth, and that is where futures can get compromised.

Maybe the minds that should be applying themselves to finding solutions are too occupied with other pursuits or maybe because the fire in the belly is just not burning strongly enough, whatever the reason, measures aimed at securing the futures for the present and coming generations remain perennially short-term in Sikkim. We speak of employment here. Quotas, reservation and guaranteed employment are short-term measures; options put in place till such time that the 'local' workforce acquires the skills and training required for the wider opportunities available. Make these protections permanent and the policy ends up rewarding mediocrity because it stops placing a premium on excellence. Why, after all, will a 'local' work hard at becoming employable when the carrot of guaranteed placement keeps dancing in front of him/ her? In fact, to do so [work hard at becoming employable] would be seen as a waste of energy by many. But this approach is self-defeating. Sikkim is growing, both, in census figures and aspirations, and the job opportunities here will never be able to keep pace. Every job opportunity that opens in Sikkim in the next five years, once it is filled, will remain occupied on an average for the next thirty years. Even if all these job openings are made available only to locals, one still looks at an increasing number of job seekers entering the job market every year. School enrolments are up and the number of graduates has been consistently rising in the State, why, despite the density of "universities" here and one proper Central University, the State is in the process of establishing a state university as well because of the overflow. Given how young the pursuit of education is in Sikkim and the manner in which the population is growing, the number of job-seekers will keep multiplying every year. The State, even after 100% reservation, will soon run out of job opportunities.

The policy makers in government and noise makers outside have to realise that the solution is not in reserving jobs in Sikkim, but grooming generations to become employable anywhere in the world. Once that happens, jobs in Sikkim will automatically go to locals and this will come bundled with pride because they would have been earned on merit and not recommendations or old laws. This cannot happen though if people are spoilt for doles. It is not suggested that jobs in Sikkim should not be reserved for locals; what is being suggested is that celebrating protectionism only grooms mediocrity. Protections exist and should be maintained as a safety net, but aspirations have to be set much higher. One way to do this would be by fixing accountability not just on those who organise skill development programmes [by checking up on how many self-employed youth emerged from the training], but also following up on the funds the government invests on students by way of free education, text books, scholarships and other aids. It would not be a bad idea to release figures on how much the State spends on an average on its youth since the time they join school to the time they graduate. When the figure stares them in the face in black & white, maybe more of the youth will be inspired to put their education to better use than demanding a job from the government. If this happens, they will inspire more to follow in their footsteps. That is the chain reaction of achievers that the State has to aim at setting off, not pampering the youth with a policy that makes them lazy.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

No, Vaccine Side Effects Don't Tell You How Well Your Immune System Will Protect You From COVID-19

ROBERT FINBERG
theconversation.com

If someone gets a headache or feels a bit under the weather after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, it's become common to hear them say something like "Oh, it just means my immune system is really working hard." On the flip side, when people don't notice any side effects, they sometimes worry the shot isn't doing its job or their immune system isn't reacting at all.

Is there any link between what you can notice after a vaccine and what's happening on the cellular level inside your body? Robert Finberg is a physician who specializes in infectious diseases and immunology at the Medical School at the University of Massachusetts. He explains how this perception doesn't match the reality of how vaccines work.

WHAT DOES YOUR BODY DO WHEN YOU GET A VACCINE?

Your immune system responds to the foreign molecules that make up any vaccine via two different systems.

The initial response is due to what's called the innate immune response. This system is activated as soon as your cells notice you've been exposed to any foreign material, from a splinter to a virus. Its goal is to eliminate the invader. White blood cells called neutrophils and macrophages travel to the intruder and work to destroy it.

This first line of defense is relatively short-lived, lasting hours or days.

The second line of defense takes days to weeks to get up and running. This is the long-lasting adaptive immune response. It relies on your immune system's T and B cells that learn to recognize particular invaders, such as a protein from the coronavirus. If the invader is encountered again, months or even years in the future, it's these immune cells that will recognize the old enemy and start generating the antibodies that will take it down.

In the case of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, it takes approximately two weeks to develop the adaptive response that brings long-lasting protection against the virus.

When you get the vaccine shot, what you're noticing in the first day or two is part of the innate immune response: your body's inflammatory reaction, aimed at quickly clearing the foreign molecules that breached your body's perimeter.

It varies from person to person, but how dramatic the initial response is does not necessarily relate to the long-term response. In the case of the two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, well over 90% of people immunized developed the protective adaptive immune response while fewer than 50% developed any side effects, and most were mild.

You may never know how strongly your body's adaptive immune response is gearing up.

The bottom line is you can't gauge how well the vaccine is working within your body based on what you can detect from the outside. Different people do mount stronger or weaker immune responses to a vaccine, but post-shot side effects won't tell you which you are. It's the second, adaptive immune response that helps your body gain vaccine immunity, not the inflammatory response that triggers those early aches and pains.

WHAT ARE SIDE EFFECTS, ANYWAY?

Side effects are normal responses to the injection of a foreign substance. They include things like fever, muscle pain and discomfort at the injection site, and are mediated by the innate immune response.

Neutrophils or macrophages in your body notice the vaccine molecules and produce cytokines – molecular signals that cause fever, chills, fatigue and muscle pain. Doctors expect this cytokine reaction to happen any time a foreign substance is injected into the body.

In studies where neither recipients nor researchers knew which individuals were getting the mRNA vaccine or a placebo, approximately half of people aged 16 to 55 who received a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine developed a headache after the second dose. This reaction may relate to the vaccine – but a quarter of people who received just a placebo also developed a headache. So in the case of very common symptoms, it can be quite difficult to attribute

them to the vaccine with any certainty.

Researchers anticipate some reports of side effects. Adverse events, on the other hand, are things that physicians do not expect to happen as a result of the vaccine. They would include organ failure or serious damage to any part of the body.

The blood clots that triggered the U.S. to pause distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are a very rare event, apparently happening with one-in-a-million frequency. Whether they are definitely caused by the vaccine is still under investigation – but if scientists conclude they are, blood clots would be an extremely rare side effect.

WHAT COMPONENT IN THE SHOT CAUSES SIDE EFFECTS?

The only "active ingredient" in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is the mRNA instructions that tell the recipient's cells to build a viral protein. But the shots have other components that help the mRNA travel inside your body.

To get the vaccine's mRNA into the vaccinated person's cells where it can do its job, it must evade enzymes in the body that would naturally destroy it. Researchers protected the mRNA in the vaccine by wrapping it in a bubble of lipids that help it avoid destruction. Other ingredients in the shots – like polyethylene glycol, which is part of this lipid envelope – could cause allergic responses.

IF I FEEL SICK AFTER MY SHOT, DOES THAT SIGNAL STRONG IMMUNITY?

Scientists haven't identified any relationship between the initial inflammatory reaction and the long-term response that leads to protection. There's no scientific proof that someone with more obvious side effects from the vaccine is then better protected from COVID-19. And there's no reason that having an exaggerated innate response would make your adaptive response any better.

Both the authorized mRNA vaccines provided protective immunity to over 90% of recipients, but fewer than 50% reported any reaction to the vaccine and far fewer had severe reactions.

[the writer is Professor of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School]



COVID: Is it OK to manipulate people into getting vaccinated?

MAXIMILIAN KIENER
theconversation.com

Bored Panda, a website that publishes "lightweight and inoffensive topics", reports an allegedly true case from the US of a woman who refused to have her child vaccinated. The woman, who is described as a "conspiracy theory magnet", provided 15 reasons why vaccines are more harmful than the disease they protect against.

When the doctor realised that he wouldn't be able to dissuade her of her beliefs, he decided to present her with another one:

Have you considered the possibility that anti-vaccine propaganda could be an attempt by the Russians or the Chinese to weaken the health of the United States population?

The doctor deliberately deceived the woman and probably reinforced her belief in conspiracy theories by pretending to find them plausible himself. But the tactic worked. The mother consented to have her child vaccinated.

Right now, vaccination is key to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and regaining safe individual freedom. Yet a minority of people, like the woman in our example, still refuse vaccination on mistaken beliefs. But how far can we go to change their minds?

Would the doctor be justified in using similar tactics to make the woman consent to her own COVID-19 vaccination?

THE BEST-INTERESTS VIEW

Support for the doctor's unconventional approach might come from a view recently developed by philosopher Moti Gorin and colleagues. They argue that a patient's best interests should be a doctor's primary guide in influencing medical decision-making, at least in situations where the doctor cannot mitigate severe biases through an open conversation.

Gorin and colleagues think about best interests objectively: such interests should be understood according to professional standards, not just in terms of what happens to be a person's preference. And they emphasise that respect for a patient's autonomy doesn't "require that all patient preferences be honored, regardless of how informed or competent they are". Sometimes, we are allowed or even required to override them.

If we apply this view to our case, we seem to get a clear result: assuming that vaccination is in the woman's best interests and that the doctor cannot change the mother's mind through an open conversation, the manipulative counter-question was permissible and completely justified. But we might still feel uneasy.

After all, the doctor deliberately induced a false belief in the woman and deceived her about his intentions. For this reason, we should look for another perspective on this case.

THE DISQUALIFICATION VIEW

The early modern legal theorist Samuel Pufendorf can help here. In his work on contracts, Pufendorf claimed that consent is invalid and obtained impermissibly if the consent-receiver – in our case, the doctor – "disqualified" himself by violating the norms of his role.

A doctor is bound by professional norms, which include, at a minimum, the obligation not to deceive patients. But our doctor engaged in deception and thereby disqualified himself.

This "disqualification view" gives us a verdict directly in opposition to the best interest view of Gorin and colleagues. And it is this disqualification view that we ought to adopt.

The disqualification view, unlike the best interests view, remains faithful to central medical norms. Particularly during a pandemic where public trust in the medical profession is key, allegiance to such a norm must be secured.

It is simply not worth sacrificing central medical norms to change the minds of the few "conspiracy theory magnets" out there and thereby risking the erosion of public trust in the medical profession.

From the perspective of public health, the few people who strongly adhere to conspiracy theories do not pose a real threat. And from the perspective of their individual health, people's adherence to conspiracy theories, which are immune to rational circumspection, could justifiably be seen as their own responsibility rather than something doctors have to overcome by deception.

So, how far can we go to convince people who believe in conspiracy theories that their views are wrong? Well, rational persuasion should be a doctor's first choice. If this remains unsuccessful, there are still various other types of influence consistent with professional norms. For instance, a doctor could still nudge a person into deciding at a later point to cool down, frame information in a certain way, or make certain pieces of information very salient, for example, by using pictures and videos, at least as long as doing so assists balanced decision-making.

All of these influences can make a difference and be consistent with professional norms. Sometimes, however, they might not make a difference at all. If so, we should simply accept that.

[the writer is Extraordinary Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy, University of Oxford]

"Hollow, without substance": Mamata Banerjee on new central vaccine norms

NEW DELHI, 20 APR [NDTV]: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today criticised the Centre's new COVID-19 vaccine policy, calling it "hollow and without substance". She accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of allowing open market sales after depleting the stocks by sending shipments abroad.

In a letter to PM Modi, Ms Banerjee asked him to design an alternative policy that would help people buy doses at affordable rates.

"I'm informed that the Central government has announced the much-delayed 'universal' vaccine policy on 19th April, 2021, which appears to be hollow, without substance, and a regrettable show of evasion of responsibility... at the time of crisis," she wrote in the letter today.

"When the number of cases...is spiraling...the



Centre has chosen to tactically indulge in empty rhetoric..." she wrote, reminding PM Modi that he had not responded to her April 24 letter seeking permission for West Bengal to purchase vaccines directly.

The Centre yester-

day opened up vaccinations for all adults from May 1 and allowed state governments to procure stocks from the manufacturers as well as the open market. In recent weeks, several states had called for opening up the vaccination drive for people of

all ages and complained about vaccine shortage.

Ms Banerjee's letter today sought to punch holes in the Centre's revised vaccination policy saying it might lead to "unscrupulous mechanisms" in the market.

"The announcement

does not address major issues like the quality, efficacy, stable flow of supply...it (vaccine policy) appears to be based on market prices which may put the common people under huge financial burden," she wrote.

Addressing an election meeting in Murshidabad, the Trinamool Congress founder said PM Modi had exported vaccines to other countries to boost his image while states like Maharashtra, Delhi, Rajasthan, and West Bengal have struggled to get doses they required to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, PTI reported.

"Yesterday the PM said the medicine (vaccine) will be available in the open market. Where is the open market, where is the availability? You have already shipped out the majority of stock to foreign destinations," she alleged, according to PTI.

920 pigs die of African Swine Fever in Mizoram in less than a month



AIZAWL, 20 APR [PTI]: At least 920 pigs died due to African Swine Fever (ASF) in less than a month in Mizoram, an official said on Monday.

Four districts have been affected by the ASF that was first reported on March 21 from Lungsen village in south Mizoram's Lunglei district near the Bangladesh border, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department's Joint Director Lalhmingthanga told PTI.

So far, 577 pigs have died in Lungsen village,

and 32 died in the Electric Veng area of Lunglei town. Besides, 78 died in the Edentharr neighbourhood and 74 in the Armed Veng locality of Aizawl, he said.

Further, 159 pigs died in three villages of Mamit district, while a detailed report from Serchhip is awaited, he added.

Lungsen in Lunglei district, Zawlnuam in Mamit district, Keitum in Serchhip district have been declared as "infected" areas to stop further spread of the disease. In

Aizawl, three localities -- Bawngkawn, Armed Veng and Edentharr have also been identified as "infected" areas. Electric Veng, Salem Veng and Rashhi Veng in Lunglei town have also been declared as "infected" areas.

ASF is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease, affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages.

Experts said that it is not a threat to human health, and cannot be transmitted from pigs to human beings.

Overflowing sewer, dug-up road greet patients at some of Kathmandu's big hospitals

ANUP OJHA

KATHMANDU, 20 APR [KATHMANDUPOST]: On Friday Bishnu Khanal, 46, took his mother-in-law Narayani Nainawasti, 86, for her eye surgery to the TU Teaching Hospital, Maharajgunj, but when he stopped the taxi in front of the BP Koirala Lions Center for Ophthalmic Studies, he was shocked to see the overflowing sewage at its gates.

"It's stinking sewage, and I had to be very careful in crossing the leaked sewage as she could barely see what was there," said Khanal.

Like Khanal, hundreds of patients, dozens of doctors and hospital staff are compelled to put up with the foul smell and need to be extra careful while walking on the road. Not only for eye patients, the leaked sewage has troubled those who need to visit the emergency ward.

"People go to the hospital for treatment but the foul smell and this mismanagement makes normal people irritated. This is so embarrassing to see the stinking sewage on the premises of such a big and reputed hospital," said Khanal who came from Dhobichaur.

It's not only Khanal, Babulal Lama, 50, who has been running canteen on the premises of the eye hospital for the past seven years said the leakage of drain has been taking place for the past four years and the hospital administration has done nothing to resolve the problem.

Urban planners say that the drainage and garbage problem on the hospital premises should be managed by the hospital itself. "The hospital should be more sensitive about the issue," said Kishor Thapa, a former government secretary and an urban planning expert.

"Because of the foul smell, people hardly come to my canteen. Even doctors and staff are facing this problem but nobody bothers to repair the system," said Lama.

When the Post contacted Kamal Ghimire, administration chief of the Ophthalmic Studies, he acknowledged the problem and said the problem is beyond the hospital's capacity to solve. "We all are suffering, we are trying our best to solve this issue but we have failed about it," said Ghimire.

He blamed the Bhat-Bhateni Superstore, which has been constructing an annex at the hospital, for the sewage overflow. "Bhat-bhatani has been constructing an emergency building for TU Teaching Hospital, but it didn't consider the management of drainage, until Bhatbhatani opens it, the problem won't be solved," said Ghimire.

When the Post contacted Min Bahadur Gurung, the chairman and managing director of Bhat-Bhateni Group to inquire about the problem, he said the accusation is baseless. "As per our charity efforts, we are constructing a building for the hospital and have allocated Rs 150 million for the work, do you think we do not consider the drainage system?" said Gurung. "That is why there is no working condition in Nepal," Gurung added.

This is not only the case of the TU Teaching Hospital, the sewage problem has been a perennial problem for Bir Hospital, the country's oldest hospital. With multiple complaints from the general public, doctors

and staff from the Trauma Center and Bir Hospital, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited had said they had sorted out the problem a few months ago.

"But when it rains, the roads in front of the Bir Hospital and Trauma Centre get waterlogged with drain water," said Nanda Lal Sah, 40, who runs a juice shop below the overhead bridge that links the Khula Manch and the Bir Hospital. When the Post reached the area on Sunday, still the western side of the road, that is linked with Bir Hospital and Truma's footpath and up to New Road Gate, one could see the sewage with foul smell on the roadside.

"Now summer has come. It will be really difficult to breathe here if this sewage problem is not addressed properly," Shah said.

When the Post contacted Dr Peeyush Dahal, dean at the National academy of Medical Sciences, at Bir Hospital he said this problem was a genuine concern. "This problem should be solved permanently as it is very sensitive. Local, federal and central governments should work together to solve this problem," said Dahal.

Meanwhile, the road that leads to Prasuti Griha from Thapathali Chowk has been dug for over a month, and has been left full of dirt.

Samjhana Dhungana, whom the Post met at the maternity hospital's gate who was discharging her niece who gave birth on Saturday, said she was shocked to see the bumpy road section and the trouble faced by the pregnant women visiting the hospital.

"Last week when we brought my niece during night-time for child delivery, it was raining and the road was bumpy and was slippery at the same time, and now it's sunny and it's too dusty. Imagine its impact on pregnant women and the newborn," said Dhungana, 30, who came from Kapan.

Apart from the bumpy and dusty road, leaking sewage in front of the Norvic Hospital is a perennial problem and though Norvic is taken as a hospital for VIP people, its entry gate stinks of the sewage and the road has been left bumpy for over a month.

Krishna Prasad Pandey, 40, who has been running Palpali Bhojanalaya for the past 14-years in the area said his business has gone down due to the dusty road. "People refuse to come here to eat because of the dust, also we can't live without masks, more than of the Coronavirus, we are fed up with the dust," said Pandey.

"If the road that leads to the country's two finest hospitals seated in juxtaposition has not been maintained for over a month, you can imagine other places," said Pandey. He said he is fed up with cleaning his eatery every morning with water as a pile of mud gets inside with the little customer who comes.

When the Post contacted ward-11 chairperson Hiralal Tandukar under whose jurisdiction the construction work has been taking place at Thapathali, to inquire about the treacherous road condition, he admitted of being late. "It's because we need to be very conscious while digging the area as there are underground telephone cables, Melamchi water pipe lines and electricity lines, this

area is very complicated," said Tandukar.

He said a total of Rs 30 million has been allocated for repairing the inner road from Thapathali to Babarmahal, and for overall management work such as laying the drainage pipe and maintaining and widening the footpaths.

"There is a separate committee formed that includes the traffic police, and officials from Norvic Hospital and Prasuti Griha to coordinate the work. We will complete this work as soon as possible," said Tandukar.

However, the local shop owners say the road section is the most vulnerable, and that gets dug time and again under various pretexts and left in a sorry state.

Urban planners say that hospital areas are sensitive zones, therefore the local governments and the hospital administration themselves should be extra cautious.

"If there is a drainage issue inside the hospital premises, the hospital administration should look into the problem, and in case of Thapathali and Bir Hospital, it's the local body that should work on it without any delay," said Thapa.

After the local election in 2017, it's the local government's responsibility to look after the city's infrastructure and its maintenance, but the Kathmandu Metropolitan City has been saying that it's the Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited's Department of Water Supply and Sewerage which should look into the issue and there is a blame game going on.

"For the problem at Thapathali it's KMC's responsibility, but for the Bir Hospital KUKL is responsible, but the KMC has been voluntarily helping to resolve the problem at Thapathali," said Ram Thapa, Chief of Physical Infrastructure Department at the city.

Meanwhile, Milan Kumar Shakya, acting manager at KUKL says it has already installed a bypass drain line. "The logged water might have leaked from the drinking water pipe. I will send our official to inspect the area," said Shakya. "Last time we solved the problem because the whole blame was put on us though the city office is equally responsible for it, we are committed to addressing this problem."

There has been a lot of commitment from the officials in the bureaucracy towards solving the issue. Before being elected as the city's new mayor in May 2017, Bidya Sundar Shakya in his election manifesto had pleaded to solve Kathmandu's drainage problem as his first priority, but the problem is intact even after three years.

Another urban planner Suman Mehar Shrestha says such a tendency among government officials shows how weak our bureaucracy is at the implementation level.

"Everyone knows that hospitals are sensitive locations, doctors keep on lecturing about personal hygiene but looking at the hospitals and the mismanagement of their surroundings and the infrastructure shows how backward we are in practical approach," said Shrestha.

"If the problem of hospital's drain or hygiene is not addressed on time, this may someday cause another pandemic; this is a serious issue and it should be addressed without delay," said Shrestha.

Rajnath Singh asks armed forces to help states amid COVID-19 surge: Report

NEW DELHI, 20 APR

[PTI]: As India reels under a massive spike in coronavirus cases, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has asked the army to extend assistance to state administrations to deal with the pandemic, including by offering help in creation of additional capacities to treat COVID-19 patients.

Sources in the security establishment told news agency Press Trust of India that following Rajnath Singh's communication to Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, it was decided that the Army would consider offering treatment to civilians in its medical facilities, wherever possible, besides extending other assistance to civil administrations.

"Rajnath Singh has conveyed to Gen MM Naravane that the Army units in various states can get in touch with state administrations to understand their requirement like creation of additional capacities to deal with increasing volume of patients. Subsequently, it was decided that the senior-most army officer in a state would get in touch with



the Chief Minister to understand the requirement and take forward the process, including offering to treat civilians wherever possible," they said.

The sources told Press Trust of India that the Defence Minister has been in touch with the top brass of his ministry and the three forces on how the civilian administration across the country could be assisted in battling the COVID-19 situation.

The sources further said that it was also communicated to the leadership of the Indian Air Force and the navy to gear up their preparedness in dealing with the situation.

Separately, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar reviewed the possible areas where the armed forces can extend assistance to the civilian authorities.

Following his review,

the Defence Ministry instructed 67 hospitals run by Cantonment Boards across the country to ensure medical services to cantonment residents as well as those from outside. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has already been told to extend all possible assistance it can extend to civil administrations across the country.

The DRDO has already reopened a medical facility near the Delhi airport for treatment of COVID-19 patients. The facility has been made operational with 250 beds and their number is being increased to 1,000.

The premier organisation is coming up with a similar facility in Lucknow.

India has witnessed a massive spike in coronavirus infections as the country recorded over two lakh cases daily in the last five days.

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

Facebook.com/SummitTimesOnline

SUMMITTIMES

Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | EldsWhere | EICETERA

It's easy to relax... When you can trust the News.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANDOK:
For circulation details Contact: +91-974897695, +91-964702692
& for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427905 or at office no 03592
208498. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambekar Building, Room No.7, Tel: 963989977, E-mail: contact.nyapex@gmail.com/irahad_al1123@gmail.com

KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irahad Ali/Imteyaz, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph: 833-22124348/ fax 833-22124337/ mob. +91-9826547714/ +91-9832208073

Phone
03592-208698
+91-98322556698
+91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com
news@summittimes.com
summittimes@gmail.com
advertise@summittimes.com

Address:
Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road
Near Diesel Power House (DPH)
Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

All Proteas captains express concern over possible suspension by ICC

JOHANNESBURG, APR 20 (PTI): All the three captains of the Proteas squads have signed a joint statement expressing serious concern over possible suspension of South Africa by the ICC because of the current governance crisis at Cricket South Africa (CSA).

The players said if the current impasse is not resolved soon, South Africa may not been able to take part in the ICC T20 World Cup to be held in India in October-November.

At a time when we should be enthusiastic about the future, we have to be concerned about the future (of the game), they said.

The Proteas Men's team has an ICC World T20 event in November. The current state of cricket administration undermines our preparation in this regard. It may even lead to our suspension from this event should the ICC decide to suspend South Africa.

The impasse between the Members' Council (MC) of CSA and its Interim Board (IB), which was expected to be resolved at a Special General Meeting (SGM) on Saturday, ended with a secret ballot by the MC that refused to accept long-standing proposals for amendments to its Memorandum of Incorporation (MOI) to allow for a majority independent Board and an independent Chair.

Sports Minister Nathi Mthethwa has now indicated that he will step in to address the crisis, which has been going on for 18 months now, during which time almost all top executives and the Board at CSA either stepped down or were dismissed.

Government intervention in the sport will have dire consequences, and the captains feel that this may lead to the ICC suspending South Africa.

The right to represent South Africa may be withdrawn and the ICC may suspend Cricket South Africa.

These outcomes will in turn impact touring, broadcast rights and sponsorship deals. Ultimately, the financial viability of the game will suffer and cricket at all levels will be severely prejudiced, the players said. The Members' Council has now acted contrary to the wishes of the Minister, the Nicholson Recommendations, King IV Governance principles, and international best practice how can this be in the best interests of our game? the statement queried.

The crisis was exacerbated when, despite an initial ruling that other participants in the virtual meeting on Saturday, including the media, would have only observer status, the chairman allowed SASCOC Acting Chairman Barry Hendricks to address the meeting.

Hendricks advised the meeting against accepting the MOI because he said it first had to be sanctioned by SASCOC as the mother body for all sport in the country.

Curry hits 10 3s, scores 49 in Warriors' win in Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP): Stephen Curry stripped off his No. 30 jersey and handed stuffed duffle bags full of memorabilia to a Delaware state trooper who stopped in full uniform to shoot hoops on the playground with neighborhood kids.

"That's Curry! That's Curry!" one kid yelled after Joshua Morris shot a long 3.

Curry put on a 3-point spectacle in Philly worthy of the trooper's own effort.

Curry hit 10 3-pointers and scored 49 points to extend his sizzling stretch, leading the Golden State Warriors to a 107-96 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

Morris later gifted the kid on the video — he called him his "hype man" — a pair of Curry's basketball sneakers. The video caught Curry's attention and he invited Morris and guests to the game. Curry posed for pictures after the game and walked back to the locker room without a shirt.

"He's an amazing story ... with the little kid that was hyping him up," Curry said. "I had to show him some love. The love he showed the young man and just the foundation of impact that he shared. It's pretty impressive."

Curry wasn't so bad himself.

Curry's 3 that tied the game at 86-all gave him 11 straight games with 30 or more points, topping Kobe



Bryant for the most by any player 33 or older. Curry, who turned 33 last month, also has the longest 30-point game streak by a Warriors player since Wilt Chamberlain in 1964.

Curry had his fifth 40-point game in April and topped Bryant and Michael Jordan for most 40-point games in a month by a player 33 or older.

He buried 3s late in the fourth to whisk the Warriors past the top team in the Eastern Conference. Joel Embiid, who scored 28 for the 76ers, threw the ball away late and Andrew Wiggins scored on the other end to put away the game. The Sixers played with-

out All-Star Ben Simmons (illness) and starting forward Tobias Harris (20.5 points; sore right knee).

The Curry brothers went head-to-head — yes, in the City of Brotherly Love — in a spirited showdown from the opening minutes when Seth buried a 3 over his sibling. Steph answered with a tough 3 at the end of the first quarter and had 20 points at the half.

Even for Curry, his recent stretch of sensational shooting ranked among the best of his career. He averaged 43.8 points (.573 FG%, .545 3P%, .906 FT%), 5.8 rebounds and 5.0 assists in four games last week. Curry even shook off

an injured left ankle that he turned in Saturday's game against Boston to torch the 76ers.

"There's something beautiful about it. It really is an art," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "What he's doing is amazing to watch. Nobody in the history of this game has ever done what he's doing right now."

In the history of the game? Sixers coach Doc Rivers agreed, even insisting in an argument with his older brother in Chicago that Curry's season rivals anything Jordan ever accomplished.

"I don't know if I've ever seen anything like the run he's on," Rivers said. "I guar-

antee you there's no one that has scored (points) in the way he has."

Wiggins scored 16 points and Kevon Looney grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds.

Seth Curry scored 15 points and Danny Green hit four 3s for 12 points. Embiid had 13 rebounds and was 11 of 14 from the free throw line.

"He's really a unique force in the league today," Kerr said.

Curry showed he was still the best player on the court. Golden State's 29-29 record could keep Curry from MVP consideration but the franchise's career leading scorer — who hit at least 10 3s for the sixth time this season — is still one of the best in the league.

TIP-INS

Warriors: Signed G Gary Payton II to a second 10-day contract. ... There was no timeline on when F Juan Toscano-Anderson will return from the concussion protocol. ... C James Wiseman will rehab the torn meniscus in his right knee at the Warriors' facility.

76ers: Furkan Korkmaz and Mike Scott replaced Simmons and Harris in the starting lineup. ... G George Hill made his 76ers' debut after he was acquired at the trade deadline. He'd been out since late January after he had surgery on his right thumb. "We're not going to play him a lot of minutes in a row right now. We're just going to try to ease him in," Rivers said. Hill averaged 11.8 ppg and 3.1 apg with Oklahoma City. ... Embiid received the NBA Cares Community Assist Award for March for his continued his efforts to combat homelessness in Philadelphia.

FAMILY AFFAIR

Doc Rivers is both coach and father-in-law to Seth Curry. Rivers laughed when he said that he sees retired NBA star Del Curry more than any other member of the family. Rivers said when he visited his granddaughter on Sunday, Steph Curry also was there to see his niece.

UP NEXT

Warriors: Play Wednesday at Washington.

76ers: Host Suns on Wednesday.

Liverpool draws at Leeds amid criticism of Super League role

LEEDS, APR 20 (AP):

Liverpool conceded an 87th-minute equalizer to draw at Leeds 1-1, denying Jurgen Klopp's team a spot in the top four of the English Premier League.

Which position Liverpool finishes might not matter anymore, given the team is one of the 12 clubs behind the creation of a controversial Super League that is threatening to split the historic structure of European soccer.

The breakaway league could potentially launch as early as next season, rendering meaningless the race for Champions League qualification that currently involves Liverpool, Chel-

sea and Tottenham three of the six rebel English clubs. Liverpool stayed in sixth place, outside the Champions League places, after Spain defender Diego Llorente scored with a header from an inswinging corner to earn Leeds a point that the team's second-half fightback might have deserved.

Sadio Mane on Monday stroked the ball into an empty net in the 31st minute from a squared pass from Trent Alexander-Arnold to give Liverpool the lead and put the deposed champion on course for a fourth straight victory.

A win would have lifted Liverpool above West

Ham and into fourth place. Liverpool came in for lots of criticism ahead of the game from its own fans and those of rival clubs for being greedy and damaging the integrity of the English and wider game because of its role in the Super League plans. The club's American ownership bore the brunt of the criticism but the players were jeered and verbally abused as they arrived at Elland Road.

Leeds' players wore T-shirts during the war-mup, which had the words "Earn it" on the front and Football is for the fans on the back seemingly a message to the rebel clubs.

Moeen Ali brings all-round value to CSK: head coach Fleming

MUMBAI, APR 20 (PTI):

Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming feels that England player Moeen Ali has strengthened the team as he brings all-round value to it, which was missed in the last IPL season. Fleming said Ali's impressive batting at No. 3 has been instrumental in the team getting good scores so far this season.

"He is adding an all-round aspect to our game which we lacked last year," Fleming said of Ali, who hit a quickfire 26 and returned with figures of 3/7 in CSK's 45-run win over Rajasthan Royals on Monday night. "His contribution was just what we were looking for. We are absolutely happy with the way he has started," Fleming said at the post-match press conference.

The head coach said his team has not played "a good 20 overs with the bat" yet but still getting high scores.

"I'm really excited about the way we are playing. The long resource we have, we're using and we are pushing opposition hard. So we are playing a positive brand throughout," the former New Zealand captain said.

He said captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni would get better as he spends more time in the middle. Dhoni scored 18 off 17 balls after coming at number five. "Yes, his form is restoring, every time he gets some balls in the middle he's going to get better and better,"

Fleming said. "There will be opportunities where we would probably look to throw MS Dhoni up as with (Ravindra) Jadeja and others." Fleming said because of the "many resources" his team has, it's facing the challenge of managing the batting order.

"At the moment we are just trying to be a solid order and look for simple parts of the game and what the conditions provide us in terms of how we can attack.

"We know we have got a lot of batting and the way we are playing is really encouraging. We haven't put together a perfect innings by any means but the skipper will be a big part of it going forward," Fleming added.

He said the team will continue to back opener Ruturaj Gaikwad (10) despite his struggles and failing for the third straight game.

Robin Uthappa is waiting and Ruturaj has a little bit of time last year with the way he played. You know our philosophy, we give our players a good run.

"What they want to try and do is that the intent is there, the timing is great. We'll continue to back him. We'll make a decision to change at some point. We discuss it pretty hard but at the moment backing a good young player, he added. He said there wasn't much dew on the wicket, which was a good sign.

UEFA president urges Super League owners to reverse decision



MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND (AP):

In a direct appeal to the owners of the English clubs in the Super League project, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin urged them Tuesday to change their minds out of respect for soccer fans.

Ceferin both cajoled and criticized the six-club English group — made up of American billionaires, Middle East royalty and a Russian oligarch — less than 48 hours after the Super League was launched in alliance with three clubs from each of Italy and Spain.

"Gentlemen, you made a huge mistake," Ceferin said in a speech to European soccer leaders at the UEFA annual meeting. "Some will say it is greed, others (will say) disdain arrogance, flippancy or complete ignorance of England's football culture. It does not matter.

"What does matter is

that there is still time to change your mind. Everyone makes mistakes."

Ceferin urged them to turn back out of respect for fans in England, aiming another barb at what he earlier called "a few selfish people."

"Come to your senses," he said. "Not out of love for football because I imagine some of you don't have much of that."

Ceferin also lavished praise on UEFA executive committee colleague Nasser al-Khelaifi, the president of French champion Paris Saint-Germain. PSG has so far resisted offers to be one of the 15 founding Super League members. Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund have also stayed out.

"Nasser, thank you from the bottom of my heart. You showed that you are a great man," Ceferin told the Qatari official before also citing Bayern chief executive

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

The UEFA president also spoke about an email he received from a fan of Tottenham, one of the six rebel clubs from the Premier League.

"If you read the email you would be close to crying," Ceferin said of the fan he identified only as Trevor, whom he had given two tickets to the 2019 Champions League final, when Tottenham lost to Liverpool.

Ceferin said fans and governments have supported UEFA in resisting the proposed 20-team Super League, which threatens to directly challenge the Champions League and damage the historic pyramid structure of European soccer.

"We cannot lose this match," said Ceferin, a Slovenian lawyer.

The clubs have not said when their planned breakaway league, underwritten by American

bank JP Morgan Chase, would kick off.

On Monday, Ceferin said he wanted Super League clubs and their players banned from all UEFA competitions "as soon as possible."

It is unclear if UEFA's legal statutes and Champions League rules will allow that before Real Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester City play in the semifinals next week. Manchester United and Arsenal also play next week in the Europa League semifinals.

Earlier Tuesday in a speech that seemed to blame the club owners and absolve players, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said he can only "strongly disapprove" of the Super League. "If some elect to go their own way, then they must live with the consequences of their choice," Infantino said. "They are responsible for their choice."

31 new cases take COVID-19 tally of Andamans to 5,421

PORT BLAIR, APR 20 (PTI): The COVID-19 tally of Andaman and Nicobar Islands rose to 5,421 on Tuesday as 31 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

Nineteen new patients have travel history, while 12 fresh infections were detected during contact

tracing, he said. The Union territory now has 145 active cases, while 5,212 people have recovered from the disease and 64 patients have succumbed to the infection to date, the official said.

The administration has so far tested over 3.53 lakh samples for COVID-19, he said.

A total of 13,418 health workers have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 8,335 have been administered the second jab thus far, the official said.

Around 64,804 people aged above 45 have been administered the first jab, while 281 have received the second dose, he added.

Hungary’s poor Roma children struggle with digital education

BODVASZILAS, HUNGARY (AP): Mihaly Horvath, a 12-year-old in a village in northeastern Hungary, can’t wait for his school to reopen.

As a devastating COVID-19 surge swept Hungary in the spring, classes were suspended and students were ordered to study online. But Mihaly’s family, part of Hungary’s large Roma minority, doesn’t have a computer or internet access at their home in Bodvaszilas, and he says he’s falling behind in his lessons as a result.



“Some students have telephones, some have computers. But there are others like me who don’t have either,” he said from the yard of a dilapidated house where he lives with nine other family members. “It’s more difficult for Gypsy kids like us. Some don’t even have writing utensils or anything else.”

His is one of thousands of Roma families in Hungary that have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. Many already marginalized Roma adults lost work as Hungary’s economy buckled under coronavirus lockdowns, pushing their families deeper into poverty. Some have reported selling their belongings, like mobile phones, to make ends meet.

haly’s great aunt, said most of the Roma children in Bodvaszilas don’t have access to digital devices and aren’t completing printed homework assignments given out by the school.

“There’s no help for them. (Mihaly) can’t take advantage of on-line education since we don’t have a computer,” she said. “It would be easier because he could talk with his teacher who could help him with homework that he doesn’t understand.”

According to an August 2020 survey by the National Democratic Institute, a U.S.-based non-profit organization, only 41% of Roma households in Hungary have access to both cable and mobile internet and 13% report no access to the internet at all.

A November 2020 report from Hungary’s deputy ombudsperson

for national minorities acknowledged that for Roma children from poor families, “the transition to digital education multiplied their already existing disadvantages.”

Mihaly’s relatives, like many Roma, rely on seasonal work or informal day labor for income. But business closures and other pandemic restrictions have caused them to lose work, leading to deeper impoverishment and food insecurity.

David Vig, director of the rights group Amnesty International Hungary, said the state has done little to help such workers, who were ineligible for unemployment benefits or wage support when their jobs disappeared.

“There is zero labor protection for those who work in (day labor),” he said. “Any COVID-related state support, if you don’t have an official (work)

contract, is not there.”

Roma make up nearly 10% of Hungary’s population, according to some estimates, and many live in one of the 1,300 segregated slums across the country.

Bodvaszilas is located in one of the least-developed regions in the 27-nation European Union. It’s GDP per capita was only 40% of the EU average in 2013, according to Eurostat.

The local municipality provides one hot lunch to school-age children each weekday, in place of the free meals students normally receive at school. But Mihaly’s family still struggles to put enough food on the table.

“Sometimes me and my husband don’t eat and rather leave the food for the children,” said Bastyr, who lives with Mihaly in the three-bedroom house along with children, grandchildren

and cousins.

Two weeks ago, the family was told that the small, decaying house they rent had been sold and they must be out in a month or police would be called to evict them.

“He told us to clean up the yard, clean the house, remove all our furniture and leave. But we don’t know where to go,” Bastyr said.

“Our dream would be to have our own place where the kids could live in peace ... so me and my two grandchildren won’t have to live in this misery,” she said, through tears.

On Monday, Hungary reopened kindergartens and the first four grades of elementary schools. Mihaly is looking forward to May 10, when his grade can return to in-person classes. But by then, his family isn’t sure he’ll have a house to come home to.

Israeli police scuffle with protesters in Arab neighborhood

JAFFA, ISRAEL (AP): Israeli police scuffled with protesters in an Arab neighborhood near Tel Aviv for a second night late Monday after the assault of a rabbi over the weekend.

The protesters, including Arabs and Jews, say Jewish nationalist religious groups are buying up property in the traditionally Arab district of Jaffa, which has rapidly gentrified in recent years as luxury housing has gone up. Video taken by The Associated Press late Monday showed protesters and plainclothes police pushing and shoving as the police appeared to take a young Arab boy away in an unmarked squad car with flashing lights.

The police said a “young male” was briefly detained for setting off fireworks and



then released “due to his age” without providing further details.

The latest tensions began Sunday when two Arab men punched and kicked Rabbi Eliyahu Mali, the head of a local yeshiva, while he was out looking at properties, according to local media. Police arrested the men, and right-wing politicians condemned the attack as a hate crime.

Rival protests were held that night, with police forming a barrier between religious Jews condemning the attack and mostly Arab residents demonstrating against police. Some protesters later hurled rocks and fireworks at the police.

Jaffa was a major trading port before the creation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, when many of its Palestinian residents fled or were driven from their homes. They joined a larger exodus of some 700,000 refugees from what is now Israel. Today, Jaffa is a trendy district adjacent to Tel Aviv that is home to both Jews and Arabs.

Portland police make 2 arrests amid protest vandalism



PORTLAND, ORE. (AP): Some people in a small crowd calling for the abolition of police broke windows as they marched in Portland on Monday night, hours after authorities said that a man who was fatally shot by an officer in a city park last week had an orange-tipped replica gun.

The Portland Police Bureau said on Twitter late Monday it had made two arrests for criminal mischief after declaring the assembly of about 80 people in northeast Portland unlawful. Windows were broken at a bank building, a fast-food restaurant, a grocery store and at a Boys and Girls Club, the department said.

The protest followed the police killing Friday of Robert Douglas Delgado, 46, who had reportedly been acting like a cowboy and doing “quick-draws” with what appeared to be a handgun in Lents Park. Delgado’s gun turned out to be a replica with an orange tip, which is typically intended to distinguish toy guns or BB guns from functioning firearms.

The police investigation into the shooting was hampered by a crowd of “fairly aggressive people” who showed up at the park after the shooting. Demonstrators that night broke windows, burglarized businesses and set fires, and police made four arrests after declaring a riot.

Portland has been the scene of regular protests, many involving violent clashes between officers and dem-

onstrators, since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May. There were demonstrations for more than 100 straight days last summer, and earlier last week, a crowd set a fire outside the city’s police union headquarters following recent fatal police shootings in Chicago and Minneapolis.

Portland police on Monday issued a timeline of events as well as dispatch audio around the time of Delgado’s shooting. The first officer arrived at 9:36 a.m. with others arriving shortly after, and within about four minutes officers reported Delgado had been shot and was down.

Police haven’t said what happened before he was shot. Delgado was shot by officer Zachary DeLong from about 90 feet (27 meters) away, police said, while two officers fired a 40mm device that shoots non-lethal projectiles.

It wasn’t clear why DeLong fired his rifle as others were using less-lethal options. According to dispatch radio traffic, DeLong had reported that Delgado was “very noncompliant” and had been making obscene gestures toward officers.

“I think the gun’s in his back pocket,” DeLong radioed to dispatch at one point.

An ambulance was called and by 9:48 a.m., officers were performing CPR on Delgado, who died of a single gunshot wound, police said.

DeLong is on paid administrative leave, authorities said.

Latino groups want DOJ probe of shooting by Chicago police



CHICAGO (AP): Latino lawyers and community leaders on Tuesday will ask the Department of Justice to investigate the fatal shooting of a 13-year-old boy by a Chicago police officer.

The group also will call on Mayor Lori Lightfoot to accelerate court-supervised changes to policing in Chicago, end foot pursuits by officers, and to invest federal COVID relief dollars to help young people in the neighborhood where Adam Toledo lived and died.

Officer Eric Stillman was responding to a call of shots fired around 3 a.m. on March 29 when he chased Adam into a dark alley in the Little Village neighborhood, a predominantly Latino area southwest of downtown. Bodycam video released last week shows the youth appearing to drop a handgun and begin raising his hands less than a second before Stillman fires his gun and kills him. His bodycam footage later shows Stillman shining a light on a handgun on the ground near the boy after he shot him.

Stillman is white and Adam was Latino. The video prompted grief and demonstrations in Chicago, a city with a

long history of police misconduct and distrust between police and the community, especially among Black and Latino residents. It also came against the backdrop of a trial in Minneapolis for former Officer Derek Chauvin in the death of George Floyd and of another killing of a Black man, Daunte Wright, by a white officer in a Minneapolis suburb.

Lightfoot has said the city must allow its independent review agency to complete its investigation, but that she understands “that the surge of outrage around it is rooted in a long legacy of trauma in our city and country around police violence.”

Chicago agreed to hundreds of changes in policing under a consent decree approved by a federal judge in 2019 after a Justice Department investigation found a record of racism and abuse by Chicago police, going back decades. The investigation was prompted by the 2014 killing of Laquan McDonald, a Black 16-year-old, by a white officer. Jason VanDyke was later convicted of murder for shooting the teen 16 times, video of which the city fought to suppress.

Will continue to bat the way I love to, says RR skipper Samson

MUMBAI, APR 20 (PTI): Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson is not bothered about failures and said he would continue to play his shots and keep on batting the way he loves to in the ongoing Indian Premier League. Samson scored a blistering ton in the first match which Royals lost narrowly to Punjab Kings but failed to come good against Delhi Capitals and against Chennai Super Kings on Monday night.

“Yeah, actually it keeps on happening in this format of the game. I think IPL definitely demands a lot of risk-taking shots. And I said before when I succeeded, I took a lot of risks. That’s why I scored a hundred. So, it depends actually on the day, the mindset you are coming with,” Samson said at the post-match press conference after RR lost to CSK by 45 runs here on Monday night.

“Actually, I don’t want to restrict my shots, I want to keep on playing my shots and keep on batting the way I love to

bat actually. So, I’m also accepting a lot of failures on the way. So, I am not at all worried about getting out, but at the same time, I will definitely look to keep on contributing to my team’s victory in the coming matches.”

He said the IPL is a long tournament and it was normal to fail in a few matches.

“Pressure to perform is always there. When you play IPL, pressure is always there. Sometimes you succeed and sometimes you fail. I think IPL is a long format and you play 14 continuous matches, it is very normal to fail in a few matches. (But) it is always crucial to remember how good a team we are...So, we’ll keep on coming back and keep on trying to win the coming matches,” Samson said.

Samson said the chase on Monday night would have been easy if dew had come in.

“Looking at the previous matches, we played here or which we watched on the TV, I

think bowling first has more advantage than bowling second. So that’s why we opted to bowl first and actually restricting CSK around 180 was really good work by our bowlers.

“I thought if the dew comes on and the wicket eases out a bit, it would have been an easy chase for us actually,” he added.

Asked about the batting order, the RR captain backed Shivam Dube, who could not get going on Monday, for the crucial No 4 position.

“I think our batting order is very nicely set up. I think Shivam Dube is someone who is good at playing spin and pace. I think No 4 really suits him. It depends upon the condition actually.

“I think he has definitely done really well in the domestic season and I feel he is really looking good and we expect a lot of runs from him in the coming matches. David Miller is a really great finisher and one of the greatest finishers in world cricket.

China rejects accusations of abuses in Xinjiang

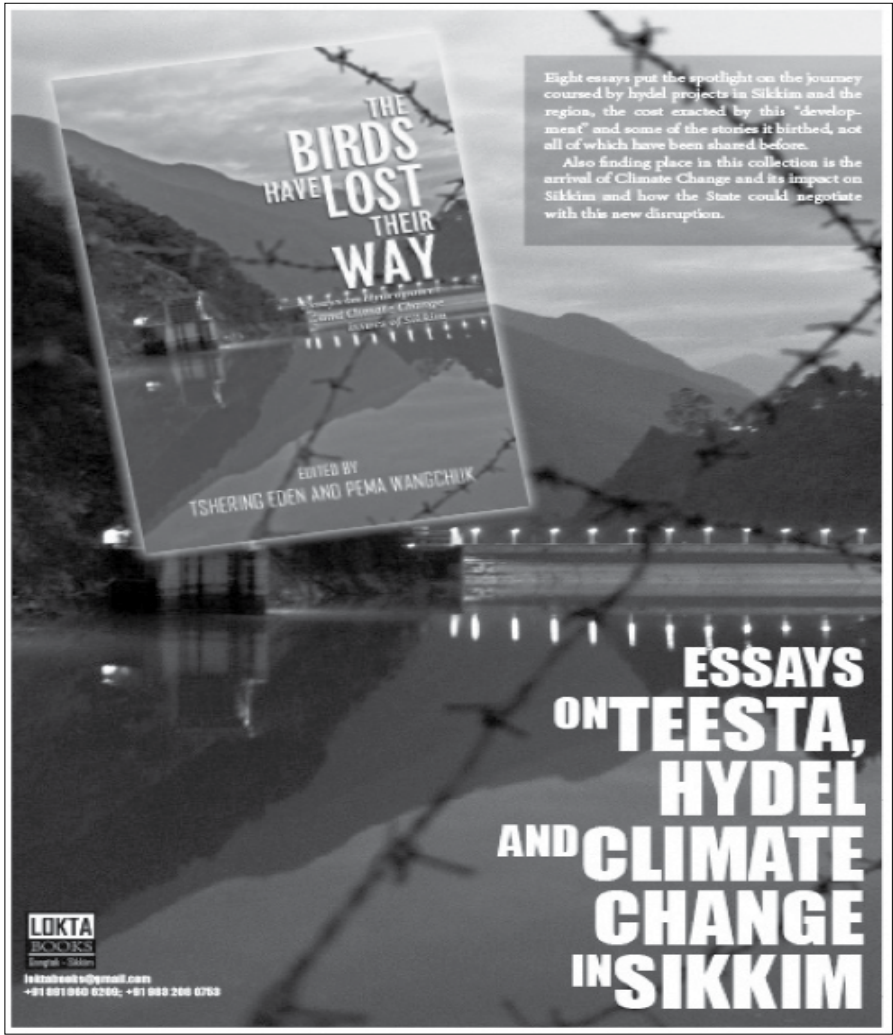
BEIJING (AP): China’s government on Tuesday rejected accusations of abuses in the Xinjiang region after a human rights group appealed for a U.N. investigation into possible crimes against humanity. Accusations of forced labor or detentions in the northwestern region are “lies and false information concocted by anti-China forces,” said a foreign ministry spokesman, Wang Wenbin. He accused critics of trying to “undermine Xinjiang’s stability and security and curb China’s development.”

On Monday, Human Rights Watch appealed to the U.N. Human Rights Commission to investigate reports of mass detention of Muslims, a crackdown on religious practices and other

measures against minorities. It said they amount to crimes against humanity as defined by the treaty that established the International Criminal Court.

More than 1 million people have been confined to camps in Xinjiang, according to foreign governments and researchers. Authorities there are accused of imposing forced labor and birth controls.

Beijing rejects complaints of abuses and says the camps are for job training to support economic development and combat Islamic radicalism. The government is pressing foreign clothing and shoe brands to reverse decisions to stop using cotton from Xinjiang due to reports of possible forced labor.



Byron Bay locals protest planned Netflix reality series

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA (AP): Angry Byron Bay locals are protesting the filming of a reality television series that some fear will damage the reputation of their trendy Australian tourist town.

Around 100 surfers paddled to sea Tuesday to form a cancel symbol off the coast of the New South Wales state town in the hope that Netflix will can the series about social media influencers.

Several Byron Bay businesses have refused to sign filming permits that would allow "Byron Baes," a contemporary abbreviation of "Byron Babes," to be shot on their premises.

"It's potentially going to threaten businesses if the portrayal of Byron is as absurd as I guess a lot of the do-co-soap-reality shows are," Byron Shire Mayor Simon Richardson told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"As a community, we should have a right to be able to not be exploited and to go about our business and also just have a community that has its real and genuine concerns and challenges shared rather than a picture postcard filmed with people who have potentially been here for five minutes," Richardson added.

Ben Gordon is refusing to allow the eight-episode series to be filmed at his business, The Byron Bay General Store.

"They're proposing to drag our name through the mud and make millions of dollars

without offering anything back to the community and completely misrepresenting who we are and it's totally wrong," Gordon told Nine Network television at the Main Beach protest. "There was no consultation whatsoever.



They just came in unannounced," Gordon added.

Gordon led a community meeting on the subject last week and complained that most of the cast were not from Byron Bay.

Netflix said its first Australian reality series would "aim to build a connection be-

tween the people we meet in the show and the audience."

"The show is authentic and honest, and while it carries all the classic hallmarks of the form and embraces the drama, heart-

as a location was driven by the area's unique attributes as a melting pot of entrepreneurialism, lifestyle and health practices, and the sometimes uneasy coming together of the traditional 'old Byron' and the alternative 'new,' all of which we'll address in the series," the statement added. The town of 9,000 people is one of the most famous in Australia, partly because acting couple Chris Hemsworth and Elsa Pataky have built a mansion there. International celebrities who are based or spend time in Byron Bay include Matt Damon, Zac Efron and Simon Baker.

Richardson, the mayor, said the town 625 kilometers (388 miles) north of Sydney did not need the type of tourists who "might be turned on by a vacuous vision of who we are." "If we become a laughing stock through a really vacuous, fake show, it could have big — not just sensitivity challenges for us — but also economic challenges," Richardson said.

Byron Bay activists have successfully stood up to big business in the past. The town has prevented KFC and McDonalds from opening restaurants there after protest campaigns.

'Downton Abbey 2' begins production, Dominic West joins star cast



LOS ANGELES, APR 20 (PTI): "Downton Abbey 2", the sequel to the first film from 2019, which was based on the hit British series of the same name, has been confirmed.

The production on the period drama is underway with a release date set for Christmas 2021, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Creator Julian Fellowes and all the original principal cast, including Hugh Bonneville, Jim Carter, Laura Carmichael and Michelle Dockery and Maggie Smith, would be back, Focus Features and Carnival Films said.

Actor Dominic West, Hugh Dancy, Laura Haddock and Nathalie Baye are the other cast members. Carnival's Gareth Neame's and Liz Trubridge return to produce alongside Fellowes. "My Week With Marilyn" fame Simon Curtis will direct the film. "After a very challenging year with so many of us separated from family and friends, it is a huge comfort to think that better times are ahead and that next Christmas we will be re-united with the much beloved characters of Downton Abbey," said Neame.

The 2019 film took forward the saga of the Crawley family after the hugely popular series ended its run in 2016. "There's no place like home for the holidays, and we can't imagine a better gift than getting to reunite with Julian, Gareth, and the entire Downton family in 2021 to bring the Crawley's back home for their fans," said Focus Features chairman Peter Kujawski.

DEAR READERS, IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT 9832556698 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

Pagglait' felt special from day one of shoot: Sanya Malhotra

NEW DELHI, APR 20 (PTI): Mamma, I have a feeling my life is going to change. That's what Sanya Malhotra, who says she is self critical to the point of being negative, told her mother ahead of the release of her critically acclaimed film Pagglait.

And change it did. The film, which begins with death but is the life-affirming story of a woman coming into her own, felt special from day one, says Malhotra who has been receiving high praise for her performance.

It was also for the first time that Malhotra said she decided not to be too hard on herself and just enjoy the journey.

"I don't say this before every film. To be honest. I'm quite critical, and perfectionist with all the negative connotation attached to the term. This was the first time I told my mother as it all felt special from day one of the shoot." The 29-year-old actor described her character Sandhya as an emotionally mature person who decides to take the reins of her life in her own hands while grappling with conflicting feelings after the death of her husband just five months after their arranged marriage.

"This character and the script are very close to my heart," Malhotra told PTI in a Zoom interview. With all the love coming her way for her role in the Umesh Bisht-directed film, Malhotra's intuition about "Pagglait" being special and changing her life seems to have come true.

She is a trained dancer from Delhi who moved to Mumbai in search of a career and began her innings in Bollywood with Aamir Khan-starrer "Dangal" in 2016.

After that came a variety of roles in films such as Ritesh Batra's "Photograph", Vishal Bhardwaj's "Pataakha", Amit Sharma's "Badhaai Ho", Anu Menon's "Shakuntala Devi" and Anurag Basu's "Ludo". And Pagglait, which has been consistently in Netflix's top 10 most-watched list in India as well as other countries since it released on March 26, has been the proverbial cherry on the cake.

The actor believes "divine will" was with them in the film.

Recalling her words to her mother that her life would change, she said, And it did. I

came very close to Sandhya, living her life completely. "We finished the shoot in January last year and we went into a lockdown in March. The whole of 2020 was about introspection. I realised how much I have learned from Sandhya, how she has inspired me."

Malhotra said she never learned acting.

"After 'Dangal' my aim was to do every kind of film and character so that I can learn a lot. I'm still learning. It has been a beautiful journey so far. I never imagined my career panning out so beautifully."

She said Batra's call for Photograph came just a day before the release of "Dangal". In "Photograph", the actor was praised for her internalised performance of a reticent and shy girl Melonie who bonds with Nawazuddin Siddiqui's tourist photographer character.

"It was a very big thing for me as an actor because I never thought that I won't be lining up to give auditions. I still give auditions. But I was so happy to know that he had a script for me. I was like 'Oh my god, now I'm going to read scripts and get a narration'."

The actor said Melonie was a difficult character for her to get into and equally difficult to let go of. "It took a long time for me as Sanya to pull Melonie out of my system. That was special for the film but sometimes, she used to trouble me because she is so reticent and shy... I am reticent and shy but not like Melonie." Malhotra said she picked up the habit of sketching the details of her characters from actor Geetanjali Kulkarni, her co-star in "Photograph".

"I remember she (Kulkarni) came in one of our workshops with her diary and she had a list of things about her character. I was like 'This is amazing and maybe I should also do it. That's how I started. I have done that for all the characters, except for my role in 'Ludo' because Dada (Basu) said 'please don't think anything and just come to the set'."

"There was no reading material and it was refreshing but I will be honest, I was scared to go on the set without my homework. I like to develop my characters and their backstories so that I can tap into the memory bank whenever I need. It helps me a lot as an actor." Malhotra has picked up other dos and don'ts along the way.



OUT AND ABOUT! The singer, Dua Lipa looks fashionable as she rocks thigh-high boots in London.

THE DAY AHEAD

Aries:

We've all experienced our fair share of highs and lows. We've all had our hearts broken in a multitude of ways. Should that keep us from vibrating at the frequency of love and believing in the magic that surrounds us in every moment? Anything but. The week ahead sees you making peace with the past and vowing to stay open despite your previous experiences. Remember, what you have in front of you is a blank canvas. You have the power to paint it in a manner that uplifts your soul and gives you a sense of purpose.

Tip: You have a blank canvas in front of you.

Taurus:

We all go through cycles of doing and periods of resting. Periods of giving and periods of processing. Where you are right now requires you to be in yin mode and reflect upon all that has gone by. So take a break, Taurus. Give your body and mind a time to rest it out. As you do, let go of the 'I need to keep creating in order to feel worthwhile' narrative.

Tip: Rest it out.

Gemini:

There are times we sense a certain chapter in our life has ended, yet we keep lingering at the same place in the hope that things might change. Could this be

true for where you are, Gemini? Are you holding on when the Universe is asking you to let go? Observe your patterns. Become aware of the resistance. Make friends with the unknown. You'll be surprised by how seamlessly things will begin to take place for you when you loosen the grip.

Tip: Let go and allow.

Cancer:

We all have an inner compass, Cancer, and this compass helps us make sense of what's going on in the world around us. If something is right for us, we know instantly. If something isn't, we won't be able to shake off that feeling of discomfort despite our best efforts. So observe what you're being shown in each moment. Take a decision that's guided by your higher wisdom. What you want to remember now and for the rest of the week: the scales of justice have been placed in your hands for a reason.

Tip: Take a decision guided by your higher wisdom.

Leo:

There are periods of doing and periods of being. Periods of running and periods of resting. Finding a balance between the two extremes is what keeps us from being pushed to our edge. So, observe where you are right now. Observe what your body and being are bringing your attention to. If you're being guided

to shut shop for a while, so be it. Nothing will bring you more joy than giving the most important person in your life your undivided attention.

Tip: Honour the message your body and being are giving you at this moment.

Virgo:

Not everything transpires as per our expectations. Not everything is meant to. Certain people and situations play the role of a catalyst in our lives, awakening us to a hidden truth within ourselves. Where you are right now is a place of peace and harmony. A place where you're able to look at the past through the lens of wisdom. Trust that this shift in your consciousness is making you a medium of good vibes and a magnet for miracles.

Tip: You're making peace with the past.

Libra:

We all judge people when we first meet them. We all judge people who live their lives in a way that we're not quite used to. This is all a part of our human conditioning, Libra. The conditioning that comes in the way of connecting deeply with ourselves and others. Today, you're being asked to become observant of your resistance, and let go wherever necessary. This will help you form deeper connections based on trust and loyalty.

Tip: There are loyal hearts all around you.

Scorpio:

You don't have to apply everything they say to your life. In fact, you don't have to agree with their viewpoints either. What you can bring to the table is love, kindness, compassion, empathy and openness—the kind that has the potential to transform even the most challenging relationships. PS: Something tells us you're about to make peace where there has been war.

Tip: Bring openness into the relationship.

Sagittarius:

There are times we observe and there are times we engage, and it is the realisation of this balance that keeps us sane. Where you are right now is a time of observation. A time of being a spectator to what's unfolding within and without. Remember to keep judgement out of the equation as you find an outlet for the unprocessed emotions. The Universe is giving you the chance to free yourself from the old story, Sagittarius.

Tip: You have a first row ticket to the show called life.

Capricorn:

When you're meant to do something, more often than not, things work out seamlessly. On the other hand, when something isn't meant for you, chaos refuses to leave your side. The Universe is giving you a clear indication of what is and isn't a vibrational match for

you. The real question is: 'Are you paying attention, Capricorn?' What you're being encouraged to reflect upon in the days to come is the old cliché 'all that glitters isn't gold'.

Tip: The Universe is giving you a clear indication of what is and isn't a vibrational match for you.

Aquarius:

What if we said your mind is working a mile a minute and that you're making this situation out to be a bigger deal than it actually is? Go easy on yourself, Aquarius. As you do, find the courage to speak about the things that are weighing you down. What you will realise about the process is that the other person is coming from a space of love and openness.

Tip: It's time to find a peaceful solution.

Pisces:

We tend to compartmentalise our lives. We tend to believe that everything is taking place in isolation and that one aspect will have no bearing over the other. But, that is far from the truth, Pisces. A personal calamity is hundred on hundred likely to hold you back on the work front. Therefore, personal traumas are meant to be dealt with first. So face your demons. Seek help if you need to. Do the inner work. As you do, remember the quote, 'the only way out is through'.

Tip: Address the personal traumas first.