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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sikkim records biggest spike so far with 108 new cases 52 OF THE NEW CASES TRACE BACK TO RANGPO FUNERAL

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 JUL:

Sikkim saw the biggest spike so far on Wednesday with 108 new cases being recorded on a single day. The number of active cases in the state is now 326 and total number of cases reported so far is 438. Out of 108, 61 are from East, 01 from Timberbung in West and 46 in South. Among those who were tested through Rapid Antigen Testing, 52 who tested positive can be traced to the Rangpo funeral. Out of the 52, 19 are primary contacts from Rangpo while 33 are primary contacts from Chanatar.

The biggest number of cases has come from Mamring, South Sikkim where 46 have tested positive while 3 are from Singtam and 1 from Rongli.

Meanwhile, 6 tested positive in RT-PCR testing, out of which 5 are ITBP personnel from the ITBP camp at Lingdum, East Sikkim, who are contacts of the ITBP jawan who had tested positive earlier. The sixth person is the one from Timberbung in West Sikkim.

Out of 438 cases of COVID-19 so far in the State, 316 have been reported from East Sikkim, 30 from West Sikkim, 91 from South Sikkim and 01 from North Sikkim.

In his daily health bulletin on Wednesday, Health Department Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia mentioned that 37 samples were tested by TrueNat on Tuesday and all reported negative, while six new positive cases were detected from 515 samples tested by RT-PCR.

Likewise, he informed that 102 new cases have been reported from Rapid Antigen Testing of 1368 samples. He added that one new patient from Timburbong in West Sikkim is the contact of a positive patient who had attended the Rangpo funeral.

While giving a break-up of rapid antigen testing, Dr Bhutia informed that all 48 returnees at Rangpo check-post

on Tuesday tested negative in RAT, while 19 contacts at Rangpo Bazaar tested positive out of 80 samples and 33 more detected positive out of 70 samples from Chanatar, Rangpo. On the same, he added that 52 new cases detected from Rangpo during rapid antigen testing. Likewise, he mentioned that 37 new cases came out during RAT of 345 contacts from Mamring by the South District team. He stated that 46 new cases detected from contacts in Mamring after adding 09 positive patients detected a day before in the area.

Likewise, the Secretary informed that one new positive case detected during

rapid antigen testing of 405 contacts at Rongli and Dalapchand and no one tested positive out of 159 samples from Rhenock. "It seems that we have been able to contain and manage Rhenock and Rongli as number of cases from these areas are decreasing. We are now more focusing on Rangpo," he said.

He mentioned that three new persons tested positive during testing of 38 persons at Singtam. He stated that out of three new cases in Singtam, one is an electrician who works at Singtam District Hospital and the team has already started tracing his primary contacts to conduct tests.

COVID-19 tally in India climbs to 11,92,915, recoveries surge to 7,53,049

NEW DELHI, JULY 22 (PTI): India added 37,724 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday taking the country's tally to 11,92,915, while recoveries surged to 7,53,049 with 28,472 people having recuperated in a day, the highest so far, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The death toll due to the disease rose to 28,732 with 648 people succumbing to the disease in the last 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed

There are 4,11,133 active cases of coronavirus infection presently in the country, while 7,53,049 people having recovered so far. Thus 63.13 per cent people have recovered

The total number of confirmed cases includes foreigners

This is the seventh consecutive day that COVID-19 cases have increased by more than 30,000.

Of the 648 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, 246 are from Maharashtra, 75 from Tamil Nadu, 62 from Andhra Pradesh, 61 from Karnataka, 37 from Uttar Pradesh, 35 from West Bengal, 34 from Gujarat, 27 from Delhi, 18 from Madhya Pradesh, 9 each from Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan

Telangana has reported seven fatalities each followed by Odisha with six deaths, Chhattisgarh four, Goa three, Jharkhand two while Kerala, Puducherry, Punjab and Tripura have registered a fatality each

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 1,47,24,546 samples have been tested up to July 21 with 3,43,243 samples being tested on Tuesday,

Of the total 28,732 deaths reported so far, Maharashtra tops the tally with 12,276 fatalities followed by Delhi with 3,690 deaths, Tamil Nadu 2,626, Gujarat 2,196, Karnataka 1,464, Uttar Pradesh 1,229, West Bengal 1,182, Andhra Pradesh 758 and Madhya Pradesh 756

So far, 577 people have died of COVID-19 in Rajasthan, 429 in Telangana, 364 in Haryana, 263 in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir each, 217 in Bihar, 103 in Odisha, 58 in Assam, 55 in Uttarakhand and Jharkhand each and 44 in Kerala

Puducherry has registered 30 deaths, Chhattisgarh 29, Goa 26, Chandigarh 12, Himachal Pradesh 11, Tripura 8, Meghalaya 4, Arunachal Pradesh 3, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Ladakh has reported two fatality each

The Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities

Maharashtra has reported the highest number of cases at 3,27,031 followed by Tamil Nadu at 1,80,643, Delhi at 1,25,096, Karnataka at 71,069, Andhra Pradesh at 58,668, Uttar Pradesh at 53,288, Gujarat at 50,379 and Telangana at 47,705

The number of COVID-19 cases has gone up to 47,030 in West Bengal, 31,373 in Rajasthan, 28,952 in Bihar, 27,462 in Haryana, 25,382 in Assam and 24,095 in Madhya Pradesh

Odisha has reported 18,757 infections, Jammu and Kashmir 15,258, Kerala 13,994, while Punjab has 10,889 cases

A total of 6,159 have been infected by the virus in Jharkhand, 5,729 in Chhattisgarh, 4,849 in Uttarakhand, 4,027 in Goa, 3,331 in Tripura, 2,179 in Puducherry, 2,015 in Manipur, 1,664 in Himachal Pradesh and 1,198 in Ladakh

Nagaland has recorded 1,030 COVID-19 cases, Arunachal Pradesh 858, Chandigarh 751 and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu together have reported 705 cases

Meghalaya has reported 490 cases, Sikkim 330, Mizoram has registered 317 infections so far, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands has recorded 212 cases

"Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR," the ministry said, adding state-wise distribution is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

Lal Bazaar to remain closed till Sunday



ARPAN PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 22 JUL:

The biggest vegetable market in the capital, Lal Bazaar has decided to remain closed till Sunday. The local traders association and vendors have themselves decided to shut their shops till Sunday, as the recent spurt in COVID cases has everyone scared.

Just before the state went into lockdown, the vendors had announced a 10-day closure but have now decided to remain closed from Thursday till Sunday.

As vegetables come under essential commodities, SummitTIMES contacted the District Collector, East in regard to the steps taken by the

district administration to make sure that the public will not suffer in getting essential supplies specially vegetables.

DC East, Raj Yadav said that the shutting down of the shops at Lal Bazaar is not called by the administration and if there is any problem due to the shutting down of shops or if general public faces any problems, the district administration will see what can be done.

Speaking with SummitTIMES, Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Chaudhary said that the decision is taken by the traders and shopkeepers so it is upto them but the GMC had requested them to not shut the market down for 10 days.

"We have informed the District Administration about the same and we are in constant touch with the traders and hawkers association and have asked them to ensure that public

does not suffer due to the shutting down of the shops till Sunday," said Commissioner of Gangtok Municipal Corporation, HK Chettri.

He further informed that the president of Lal Bazaar Traders and Hawkers Association, has assured that they will not let the public suffer due to the shutting down of the shops but they will be available in case of any emergency during this period.

Since Thursday is the weekly closure day, the GMC is conducting sanitization of Lal Bazaar Building and the surrounding premises.

Mr. Chettri has said that on Thursday the GMC officials will also meet representatives of the traders association to discuss the issue.

Since vegetables fall under essential commodities they should keep the shops open but as per the situation that has arisen, we cannot force them to keep their shops open, said the commissioner.

COVID Warriors who did not let swarm of cases overwhelm them



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 JUL:

The eighth batch of health workers at the COVID-19 Wing of STNM Hospital was the first batch to face the real onslaught of COVID cases in the state originating from Rongli GREF camp and Sashastra Seema Bal camps. The team began their 7-day COVID duty on 11 July when there were only 42 active cases but the numbers rose, and by the time their tour of duty ended there were 128 patients. The numbers tripled on their watch. The numbers have since grown to staggering levels and the team in the COVID wing must be under tremendous stress. A peek into what an earlier batch experience

should help us get a sense of what it is like to be posted in the COVID-19 Wing of STNM Hospital.

The first big jump in patients happened on 14 July when 45 cases were detected - 15 from Rongli GREF camp, 21 from SSB Rhenock, one from Kingstone, and two from South Sikkim. The numbers have only risen since.

"We suddenly had so many people pouring in and we had to rush to prepare beds and other necessities for them. It was stressful," says Assistant Nursing Superintendent, Tashi Doma.

The 8th batch was headed by Dr BN Sharma and comprised of around 50 staff including doctors, nurses, sanitary

attendants and attendants.

"Every time a patient goes to the toilet, a sanitary attendant has to clean the floor behind them. At first you find it funny, but then you start feeling angry at the situation and then sadness comes over," shares Ms Doma.

Their team finished COVID duty on 18 July and is currently under 14-day quarantine after which they will join duty again.

There are so many heart touching stories, says Dr Tsultem Doma Bhutia who was one of the doctors in the 8th batch.

For instance, a father has recovered but his daughter has not and so he will want to stay till she does, she adds. And given the pressure on

beds in the COVID wing, it is unlikely that he can allowed to.

And the COVID Warriors deliver more than just medical care.

"There was a GREF patient whose phone stopped working. He was so worried because it was his only connection with his family. One of our staff somehow managed to get him a phone," shares Dr Tsultem.

The risks involved for the health workers are real. The stress and now with rising number of cases, the workload is also increasing which means that it is that much more difficult to stay alert all the time.

"There have been times when I have almost forgotten to wear a mask or shoe covers," shares ANS Doma.

Everyone is scared at first but after some time you even forget you are attending to COVID patients, she adds.

For the sake of Sikkim and because health workers are crucial to Sikkim getting past the COVID challenge, one hopes that they stay healthy and motivated. Their health is even more crucial given that the other line of defence - the administration - has proven to be hopelessly disconnected and inept.

Torrent Pharma workers want unit shut during lockdown

**AARON RAI
GANGTOK, 22 JUL:**

A section of employees at the Torrent Pharmaceuticals unit at 32No, NH 10 near Singtam, are demanding that the unit be closed for the duration of the lockdown.

Unchecked panic surrounding the spread of Novel Coronavirus has touched even the employees and people living near the unit and they are convinced that keeping the factory open puts them at risk.

On Wednesday, they protested at the gates demanding that the unit be closed out of safety concerns for everyone involved. COVID has come close to areas where the unit is located and where they live, with Rangpo not too far away having developed as a hotspot.

The employees claim that what they have received in response to their demand is the threat of termination from their jobs if they stay away from work.

What also has the employees riled are inconsistencies in the State Government's notifications on the lockdown.

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PRAKASH LEE RESPONDS TO NEERAJ ZIMBA’S ALLEGATIONS OF HAVING PLAYED MISCHIEF “Shared video of Zimba’s comments out of genuine concern for fellow Sikkimese”

REACTION & RESPONSE

PRAKASH LEE

The recent jibe of MLA Darjeeling (WB), Niraj Zimba Tamang towards the people of Sikkim in one of the interview had created an awkward situations in Sikkim & Darjeeling areas to which many individuals placed their serious objections to it.

In the course of event, I as a concerned individual and son of this great land Sikkim has raised my objection to it which I have done in past and shall continue to do in future too. Since I share a cordial relationship with

Mr Zimba, I had forwarded video footage to him seeking his opinions and clarity on it. As at that point I felt it could have been a serious error from his end and to deescalate the situation arising out of it. However, it was found that Mr Zimba used some unparliamentary words to my concern in his phone interview and my concern was projected wrongly to which I’m truly hurt. I have no personal grudge against him nor question his understanding but it was my genuine concern towards my fellow Sikkimese people. The people of Sikkim & Darjeeling hills shares historic, cultural and social relation since time immemorial and considering these

realities it become our prime duty to uphold the strong bonds that we share.

Now, Niraj Zimba has cleared his stand and tender his apology to all concerned and I truly appreciate his wisdom and courage. Further, I would request all leaders and individuals from both sides to abstain from issuing any such statements in the future considering as any immature statements could weaken the unity of our hills people.

Lastly, I wish all the people of Sikkim & Darjeeling hills to stay safe and fight against this pandemic unitedly.

PM to lay Foundation Stone for Manipur Water Supply Project on 23 Jul, 2020

DELHI, 22 JUL (PIB): Prime Minister, Narendra Modi will lay the foundation Stone for Manipur Water Supply Project on 23 Jul, 2020 through video conferencing. The Governor, Chief Minister of Manipur and his cabinet colleagues, MPs and MLAs are expected to join the program from Imphal.

Government of India initiated the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide safe and adequate quantity drinking water to every rural household of the

country by 2024 with the motto “Har Ghar Jal”. The programme also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting.

The Jal Jeevan Mission is based on a community approach to water and has extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the

mission. It looks to create a Jan Andolan for water, thereby making it everyone’s priority.

There are about 19 crore households in India. Only 24% have Freshwater Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). The Mission aims to provide 14, 33, 21,049 households with FHTC through partnership of all stakeholders including inter alia the State governments, Panchayat Raj Institutions and local communities.

Government of India has provided funds under Jal Jeevan Mission to Manipur for FHTCs to cover 1,185 habitations with 1, 42,749 households. Government of Manipur has planned to cover the remaining households through additional sources of funding including funds from Department for Development of North Eastern Region.

An externally funded project, the Manipur Water Supply project was designed

to provide FHTCs to remaining households in Greater Imphal Planning area, 25 Towns and for 1,731 rural habitations covering 2,80,756 households in 16 Districts of Manipur. Manipur Water Supply Project is an important component of efforts of the State government to achieve the goal of Har Ghar Jal by 2024. The project outlay is about Rupees 3054.58 Crores with a loan component funded by New Development Bank.

Cong won’t be scared by ‘raid raj’: Surjewala

JAIPUR, JUL 22 (PTI):

The Centre has created a ‘raid raj’ but the Congress won’t be scared, the party’s chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Wednesday after the Enforcement Directorate conducted searches at the home of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot’s brother.

The Congress leader also reacted to the killing of a journalist in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh and said there was gunda raj and ‘jungle raj’ in the state.

“It is clear there is no law and order in Uttar Pradesh. Becoming a journalist in Uttar Pradesh has become a

sin,” he said.

Responding to the raids against Agrasen Gehlot in Jodhpur, Surjewala told reporters, “Prime Minister Modi has created a ‘raid raj’ in the country but we are not going be scared.”

When Modiji’s and his government’s tactics failed and people and MLAs of Rajasthan did not fall prey to BJP’s conspiracy, an outraged Centre and PM Modiji started conducting raids at CM Gehlot’s elder brother’s residence, he claimed.

“His fault is just that he is the elder brother of CM Ashok Gehlot. He is not in politics nor has he any concern with

politics. But, the ED is conducting raids under security of the CRPF and the BSF,” Surjewala said.

The ED raids against the chief minister’s brother are part of countrywide raids in connection with a money laundering case linked to a fertiliser scam, officials said.

Agrasen Gehlot faces a Rs 7-crore customs penalty in the alleged fertiliser case, they said.

Surjewala added that a CBI team was sent to conduct a raid Tuesday at a location linked to legislator Krishna Poonia after the Centre’s tactics failed.

An Olympian who brought laurels for the nation is being threatened, Surjewala

said.

“The CBI also interrogated the CM’s OSD and now ED raids are being conducted at CM’s elder brother residence,” he said.

Surjewala also said that those sitting in power in New Delhi have become so unhindered and arrogant that they believe, they can crush any elected government under their feet.

Everyone is watching the deeds of the BJP government at the Centre for the past one week, he said, adding neither CM Gehlot nor any Congress legislator is going be afraid of the threats by the CBI, the ED or the Income Tax Department.

FC Goa ropes in Spanish striker Angulo

PANAJI, JUL 22 (PTI):

Indian Super League (ISL) side FC Goa on Wednesday announced the signing of Spanish forward Igor Angulo for a one-year stint.

The experienced striker has spent the past four seasons in Poland with Gornik Zabrze winning the Golden Boot in the 2018/19 season thanks to his 24 strikes, a media release from the Goan club said.

The Bilbao native scored 88 goals in 154 games during his time in Poland.

“I am excited at the prospect of playing for FC Goa and it is an adventure that I am keen to start at

the earliest,” Angulo said.

“What attracted me to the club was that I liked the way of playing, the philosophy. FC Goa is one club that is always on the attack and in doing so, are able to create a beautiful style of football.”

Starting off his career with Athletic Bilbao, the 36-year-old has gone on to play for clubs like Numancia, Gimnastic de Tarragona and Real Union in Spain.

Outside his home country, he has played for French side AS Cannes before spending his time in Greece and Cyprus. A move to Poland materialised in 2016, the release stated.

Contempt proceedings: SC issues notices to activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan, AG

NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Wednesday issued notices to Attorney General K K Venugopal and advocate Prashant Bhushan on the contempt proceedings it has initiated against the activist-lawyer for his alleged derogatory tweets against the judiciary.

The apex court directed that Twitter INC be made a party, instead of Twitter India, to the contempt proceedings it has initiated suo motu (on its own) and asked the US-based firm to file

a response in the matter.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra was told by Twitter’s counsel that if the top court directs, then they would disabuse the alleged contemptuous tweets of Bhushan.

The bench, which asked the Attorney General to assist in the matter, has posted the case for hearing on August 5.

The allegedly contemptuous tweets were critical of the top court and posted by Bhushan on Twitter on June 27 and June 29.

Steven Gerrard says Liverpool’s title triumph buried ‘a few demons’

ANDY HUNTER

LONDON, 22 JUL

[THEGUARDIAN]: Steven Gerrard has claimed Liverpool’s emphatic title triumph has helped him to bury his Premier League demons.

The league championship was the one club trophy that eluded the former Liverpool captain during his illustrious playing career, with his infamous slip against Chelsea in 2014 contributing to the near-miss under Brendan Rodgers.

Gerrard also finished second with Liverpool in 2002 and 2009 but he insists that anguish has been alleviated by the achievement of Jürgen Klopp’s side this season. In the latest Match of the Day: Top 10 podcast, the Rangers manager says: “First and foremost, for me it was fantastic to bury a few demons; not all the demons but obviously from [2014] it was certainly a big relief. Being a Liverpool

fan and ex-player I’ve known the big, long wait and I’m still in touch with a lot of the players that are in that dressing room so a lot of them shared that pain with me.

“It was fantastic for everyone connected to the club but it was mixed emotions in many ways because of my own experiences, being a fan and ex-player and a lot of my family are Liverpool fans as well. To be honest with you, I’m still on a really big high watching all of the TV coverage and seeing all of the emotions flying about.”

Gerrard credits the signings of Virgil van Dijk and Alisson as transforming Liverpool into a world-class team under Klopp. “I think Liverpool were a good team and exciting team before Van Dijk and the keeper came, but they’ve just absolutely turned them into a world-class side and the jigsaw is complete with those two.”

In breach of regulations, HDFC Bank may have clubbed GPS device with car loan



NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI)

In a possible breach of regulatory guidelines, borrowers of HDFC Bank were forced to take GPS devices along with the purchase of car for about four years till December 2019, sources said. According to sources, the executives of the country’s largest private sector lender compelled vehicle loan customers to get Global Positioning System (GPS) devices costing Rs 18,000-20,000 during 2015 to 2019.

Reportedly, these GPS devices were of a particular make indicating at conflict of interest and violation of regulatory norms.

On this issue, an HDFC

Bank spokesperson said, “As you are aware we have said (Mr Puri’s AGM address) what we had to in the matter. And there’s nothing further to add.

HDFC Bank’s Managing Director and Chief Executive Aditya Puri on Saturday while addressing shareholders in the annual general meeting had said that “disciplinary action” has been taken against a few employees from the auto loans business for exhibiting “personal misconduct”.

Puri denied there being any “conflict of interest” found by a probe launched following whistleblower complaints.

“Enquiry did bring out another aspect related to personal misconduct exhibited by a set of individuals for which appropriate disciplinary actions have been taken,” Puri had said.

There are allegations that GPS devices were bundled along with the loan and those who refused to take it were generally denied loan sanction.

The Banking Regulation Act, 1949, stipulates certain businesses that a bank may engage in, apart from its role as a lender. These have been defined under 15 broad sub-categories and the Act clearly states

that no banking company shall engage in any form of business other than those referred to in sub-section (1).”

A former group head of secured vehicle loans was denied an extension after receiving two post-retirement extensions in March.

Auto loans contributed a fifth of the bank’s retail loans and a tenth of its overall assets. Outstanding auto loans reduced to Rs 81,082 crore as of June 2020, from Rs 83,935 crore in March and Rs 81,913 crore in the year-ago period.

It can be noted that auto sales were also in the slow lane for much of the year.

According to Union Health Ministry figures on Wednesday, the number of cases in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 15,258, up from 7,497 on June 30.

The Valley has 5,263 active cases of the 6,540 in the union territory

The highest single day spike was on Monday when 751 COVID-19 cases were recorded.

in all Red districts (excluding Bandipora) of Kmr (Kashmir)? Div (Division) from today evening till 6 am on 27-7-2020,” the Jammu and Kashmir administration’s Department of Information and Public Relations said on Twitter.

The Valley counts for 243 deaths of the total 263 reported in the union territory. “Complete lockdown

Six-day lockdown in Kashmir Valley to stem COVID-19 spread

SRINAGAR, JUL 21 (PTI):

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has imposed a six-day complete lockdown across Kashmir Valley, except for Bandipora district, following a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the last three weeks, officials said on Wednesday

The decision comes into effect on Wednesday

Torrent Pharma workers....

They were elated when the first notification on the latest lockdown ordered that all factories (which would include their unit) be closed for the duration of the lockdown [till 27 July].

They were disappointed the next day when they learned that a second notification on the lockdown - an addendum - from the Chief Secretary allowed pharma units, even those in containment zones, to continue operations.

The administration appears to missed the fact that pharma companies have been allowed to remain open even in previous rounds of lockdowns. Only a day earlier, there was much confusion at Jholungey in South Sikkim over poor communication from the district authorities about the relaxation extended to pharma companies.

The Chief Secretary, in his addendum, has directed that pharma units outside containment zones continue operations maintaining prescribed social distancing norms and safety measures. As for pharma factories inside containment zones, they also can continue operations, but are required to bring in the required workforce and lodge them at the unit itself for the duration of the containment zone orders.

Lashing out against such inconsistencies and contradictory orders of the administrations, employees at the Torrent unit demanded the presence of representatives from the administration to answer their questions.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT:

Two and half storeyed (1st to 3rd floor) complex is available for rent in the heart of Ranipool Bazaar (Opposite UCO Bank). The building area is 35'x60' appx. In each floor ad is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks tec. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Riverside land [General] along Ra-nipool-Rumtek Highway near Adampool, stretching from the roadside down till the river bank. Total area measuring 0.2348 Hectares [approximately 25,274 sq ft]. Ideal for developing a Resort. Parties interested in purchasing the entire plot can contact 9083826462 and 9832556698. Brokers will not be entertained.

FLAT FOR SALE

4BHK flat, total area 2376 sqft
Ninety Bazaar, Near Paljor
Stadium, Gangtok
Contact: 9563083895

LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available – 30X40 sqft and 50X30 sqft JunkeriDara, SamlikMarchak
Price negotiable Contact: 6296366498, 9641878315, 9593262407

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).
Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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



Facebook.com/
SummitTimesSikkim
fresh lot of rapid information

Rotarians on Go Green drive



**SUMMIT REPORT
RANGPO, 22 JUL:**

Under its ambitiously titled, Project Shyamalima "Each One Plant One - Target 3240," launched recently during Forest Conservation Week, 3,100-plus Rotarians from 92 Rotary Clubs in Assam, Meghalaya,

Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, parts of West Bengal, are participating in the Go Green drive. Against a target of 3,240, the Rotarians today completed planting 3,638 saplings in their respective areas, a press release informs.

6 BSF staffers among 24 new COVID-19 cases in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, JUL 22 (PTI): Twenty-four more people, including six BSF personnel, tested positive for COVID-19 in Meghalaya on Wednesday, while seven patients recovered from the disease, an official said.

The number of active cases in the state is 433 now, Director of Health Services, Dr Aman War, said.

Out of the 24 fresh cases, East Khasi Hills district accounted for 18 - six BSF employees,

two Air Force employees and 10 others. West and East Jaintia Hills districts recorded four and two new cases respectively.

Four BSF staffers, two Air Force personnel and a civilian were also cured of the disease, taking the total number recoveries from the virus to 77, War said.

East Khasi Hills district has 366 active coronavirus cases, followed by 42 in Ri Bhoi, 12 in West Garo and five in West Jaintia Hills. Eight cases were recorded in five other districts.

Ballia district court closed amid coronavirus fears

BALLIA, JUL 22 (PTI): The Ballia district court has been closed following a surge in coronavirus cases in areas nearby, an official said on Wednesday.

"Mirdhi Chauraha and Laxmi Market areas have been declared containment zones following

detection of COVID-19 cases there. These containment areas are located 500 metres from the court premises. As per the orders of the Allahabad High Court, the district court has been closed till further orders," District Court Judge Gajendra Kumar said.

Doctor Safe team sanitizes Lower Majhitar



**SUMMIT REPORT
MAJHITA, 22 JUL:**

A sanitization drive was carried out by the Doctor Safe team of Mount Distilleries

around the Lower Majhitar area on the request of villagers today. The drive was supervised by Biswa Gurung and

Nagar Panchayat, and undertaken after permission was secured from Police Inspector, Rangpo Police Station, a press release informs.

Webinar on Atmanirbhar Bharat by Press Information Bureau

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 JUL:**

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi had announced the Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs. 20 lakh crores under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme to help the nation to recover from the crisis faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also with a vision of making India a self-reliant nation. The focus of Atmanirbhar Bharat is to encourage the domestic players to work towards getting into the business ecosystem and reduce dependency on foreign players. In this regard Press Information Bureau, Guwahati organized a Webinar on Atmanirbhar Bharat today: the way forward. Resource persons from different field shared their views and deliberated upon the scope of Atmanirbhar Bharat package in North East in the webinar.

Head of North East Zone, LR Vishwanath, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in his address said that in the announcement of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package a very



unique and innovative integration has been made by the government and under this initiative there is reform in every sector of the Indian economy. He said that it is important to have the vision to integrate each sector of the economy so that the wheels of different sectors rotate in equal unison. It is very important to give equal support to the small level industries as well, he said. Mentioning about the current crisis situation due to COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Vishwanath said that everything that comes in the way as a hindrance

offers an opportunity for innovation.

Citing the scope for entrepreneurship development in Atmanirbhar Bharat package, Managing Director, Manoj Kumar Das, NERAMAC and Former Director of Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship said that resources are plenty in North East which may be utilised properly with the robust financial package announced by the Government of India.

Calling the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package as an emerging scope for the growth of Cottage Industry

in Assam, writer and Editor, Ravi Shankar Ravi, Dainik Purvoday said that this package is an opportunity to boost the rural economy. The rural industry can get the benefits of the package and State government has major role to play here. He also emphasized that indigenous products can help a lot in promoting micro industries in Assam.

Head of the Department of Commerce, Prof SS Sarkar, Tezpur University said in his speech that the economic packages unveiled during the crisis period by the

government of India will surely help in economic growth.

Former Head of Department, Dr MP Bezbaruah, Department of Economics and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Gauhati University in his speech referred to the idea of self-sufficiency and its contemporary relevance.

Joint Director, Keerti Tiwari, PIB, Guwahati delivered the welcome address and Panthoibi Singha moderated the webinar today. Journalist Group of Sikkim has also joined in this Webinar and has Interacted with the Resources Persons about this Scheme.

Gujarat COVID-19 count rises by 1,020 to 51,485; 28 die

AHMEDABAD, JUL 22 (PTI): Gujarat on Wednesday reported 1,020 new coronavirus positive cases, taking the total count to 51,485, the state health department

said. With 28 patients succumbing to the infection, the number of fatalities rose to 2,229, it said. A total of 837 patients were discharged in the

day, taking the number of the recovered cases in the state to 37,240.

The state now has 12,016 active cases. The condition of 78 of them is critical, it said.

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My dream is to win Ballon d'Or, says Sadio Mane

NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI): It was high praise for Sadio Mane when Lionel Messi summed up the Liverpool star winger's fourth-place finish in the 2019 Ballon d'Or vote as "shameful". Boosted by the Argentine genius' admiration for him as well as his own stellar form, Mane continues to harbour hopes of winning the prestigious award sooner than later.

"Will see what's going to happen for the Ballon d'Or but my dream is to win the Ballon d'Or and would love to do it one day," Mane told Star Sports show Football

United. The 2020 Ballon d'Or awards night was cancelled recently owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He played a massive role in Liverpool winning their first Premier League title in 30 years. Last year, Mane spearheaded the Reds' charge to their first UEFA Champions League title since 2005.

This time around, he scored goals and mae assists to keep the opposition defenders on their guard all the time.

"I always say that in life, you always have to be a challenger and for sure,

football is all about being hungry in a good way - to like to win. We won the Premier League and we would like to win it again and for sure, Champions League as well," he said.

Mane missed out last time despite a remarkable run for both his club and country Senegal.

Expressing his delight on winning the Premier League, he said, "Well, it's a big pleasure and a big honour for me and my team-mates for sure. All the good support from around the world, specially from India as well. I think the wait has been so long, 30 years and finally, we did

it, so yeah, really happy."

He gave credit to manager Jurgen Klopp for Liverpool's triumph.

"He gives us a lot of advice all the time which is always important for you and all the players in our career. He helped us take responsibility in the hard times, which is not really easy."

Mane said his favourite moment in the league was when his club opened up the gap with Manchester City.


"Honestly, it was a really tough season for us, my team-mates and the fans as well because the beginning was not easy - too many

contenders Man City, United, Chelsea, Arsenal.

"If I were to choose my favourite moment was when we opened up the gap over Manchester City. I think everybody could breathe at that time."

He also had a special message for Liverpool fans in India.

"My dream is to visit India one day. I have seen a lot about the country on YouTube and I really like it. We follow all your posts and comments. I want to thank you all for supporting us, keep supporting us and we will do everything possible to make you guys proud. We are the best.



What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

Symptoms of nCoV

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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

Treatment

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

If you seek help, you may call :

-Toll free no. 104

District surveillance Officer

EAST : 7028372100



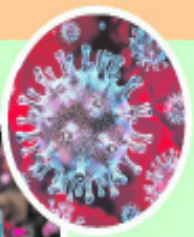
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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

Defeat Insularity, Every Time

Agent provocateurs can be persistent, but cannot be allowed to win

Some or the other attempt is always in play to whip up some scare with some high-pitched paranoia, and in the current pandemic-induced ennui, so will the bluster and pretend shock. 'Pretend' because there is nothing really surprising in any of this drama which plays on a spool. The hyperbole has been ratcheted up at the national level and noise on those lines is being heard in the region as well. To Sikkim's credit, the tenacity of the communal scaremongers is matched by the pragmatism of its people. Organisations and individuals have consistently represented the interests of their office-bearers [and/ or silent promoters] and almost never the concerns of the people they claim to [or are supposed to] represent; which is perhaps why they hyperventilate over issues which rarely receive mass, grassroots-based endorsement. It is this disconnect which also ensures that Sikkim witnesses no communal flare-ups on the streets, even though, if the press releases, press statements or Facebook posts were to be believed, the thread of civility between communities is always frayed very thin.

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

The Sikkimese people, it would hence be safe to vouch, have consistently rejected communal postures. Admittedly, there is an inherent communal streak in all people at an individual level, but the Sikkimese have done exceptionally well in ensuring that this does not become a pathological condition of the entire community. Unfortunately, not all community elders, leaders and organizations seem to have accepted this fact and continue to try and peddle prejudiced notions. One hopes that Sikkimese empathy is made of stronger stuff than the chisels with which too many are hammering away at the edifice of respectful coexistence that Sikkim has held firm thus far. In the wake of the festival reaffirming brotherhood and propitiating its Guardian Deity, Sikkim and its people should reaffirm their consistent commitment to stand fast in protecting Sikkim's interests to fend off the shallow belligerence which should continue to fail so that empathy and mutual respect continue to hold sway.

Coronavirus numbers confusing you? Here's how to make sense of them

PAMELA M. AALTONEN & CATHERINE LYNNE TROISI
THECONVERSATION.COM

Turn on the TV news, or look at a news website, and you'll see charts, graphics, and dashboards that supposedly indicate the latest with COVID-19 – statistics revealing the number of tests, cases, hospitalizations and deaths, along with where they happened and whether they are rising or falling.

Different stories are told depending on the dashboard. But one thing is certain: These indicators lag behind the actions we take, or don't take, on COVID-19. As researchers who focus on public health, we can tell you that a fully accurate, real-time snapshot of the progress of the virus isn't possible.

SOME DON'T GET TESTED

There are many reasons for this. Here's one: diagnostic testing data are incomplete. Someone infected with COVID-19 must first come in contact with the virus either through the air or (less likely) environmental surfaces. Symptoms show between two and 14 days later. But at least 40% of those infected will never manifest symptoms, or show such mild ones they don't even suspect they have COVID-19. So they may never get tested, which means they won't show up in the total number of tests, or the total number of cases.

Another example: because of the lack of testing availability – a widespread problem in the U.S. since the start of the pandemic – not everyone who should be tested gets a test.

And another: the tests themselves are not perfect. Up to one-third who get a negative result may actually be infected. This happens because they are tested before they have a viral load sufficient enough for detection. Or maybe the sampling is not adequate. Or perhaps the test itself simply failed.

CASE NUMBERS DON'T TELL THE FULL STORY

This is why problems arise when we use case numbers to determine disease levels in a community. Case counts actually reflect what was happening in a community weeks earlier. Four weeks, for instance, could elapse between the time a person is exposed to the virus and when they are reported as a case. Even the best testing results often take a week to report to public health authorities, and longer to appear on dashboards. Some testing results, seriously delayed, may take

ten days or more.

Other factors impact the metrics. Laboratory results, often released in batches, may introduce artificial variation in case numbers. Someone who tested two days ago, then got a result back immediately, might be added on the same day as someone who was sick two weeks ago, but whose test results were delayed. To smooth out these variations, it helps to look at a rolling seven-day case average.

Hospitalization is a clearer metric for assessing the level of community disease. Those who are seriously ill, in most cases, will be hospitalized whether previously tested or not. Data suggests roughly one in five infected persons are hospitalized. Individuals seem to do okay for the first week, with more life-threatening symptoms showing in the second. That means hospitalizations represent exposures that happened three or four weeks earlier.

Again, a seven-day rolling average evens out artificial variations. There is one caveat for this: Though hospitalization is a useful metric, only about 20% of infected people need it. That means hospitalization numbers alone underestimate the number of people infected and what age groups they represent.

STATES VARY ON CAUSE OF DEATH

The death numbers are not a reliable indicator either. In some states, to count as a COVID-19 death, the deceased must have had a test reporting positive. In other states, probable cases are reported.

As clinicians learn how to better treat COVID-19, fatality rates are dropping. Deaths,

the longest lagging indicator, reflect people who were infected six or eight weeks earlier. When comparing one region to another, deaths are best expressed as rates – a ratio of deaths to population.

Another issue: News reports do not always clearly distinguish between diagnostic testing, which shows if you currently have COVID-19, and antibody testing, which shows if you had it in the past, and now harbor antibodies that can fight it. So far, however, antibody testing has not provided a useful picture of who has been infected and who has not. Once that happens, it could provide researchers and clinicians with some indicators on how widely the virus has spread.

Though the dashboards are ubiquitous on television, none of these frequently used indicators they feature is perfect. Still, taken together, they provide a reasonable approximation of COVID-19 transmission in communities. But as authorities make decisions, they should take into account the numbers are weeks old.

What does this mean to you? Understanding these limitations may help you understand your risk. We are still in the midst of a pandemic that is not under control. Being educated will help all of us from becoming a part of tomorrow's lagging indicators.

[Pamela M. Aaltonen is Professor Emerita; Immediate Past President, APHA, Purdue University; Catherine Lynne Troisi is Associate professor, Management, Policy, and Community Health and Epidemiology, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston]



Bacteria and viruses are travelling the world on highways in the sky

PREDRAG SLIJEPCEVIC
THECONVERSATION.COM

Microbes are the truly dominant group of lifeforms. These invisible pieces of biogenic matter have been running Earth's affairs for billions of years. Plants and animals popped up as the by-products of microbial mergers relatively recently in our planet's history.

Understanding microbes is not easy. It took us some time to learn about the existence of the human microbiome, the collection of viruses, bacteria and fungi inside and outside our bodies that connects us to the rest of the microbial cloud that exists everywhere life can survive.

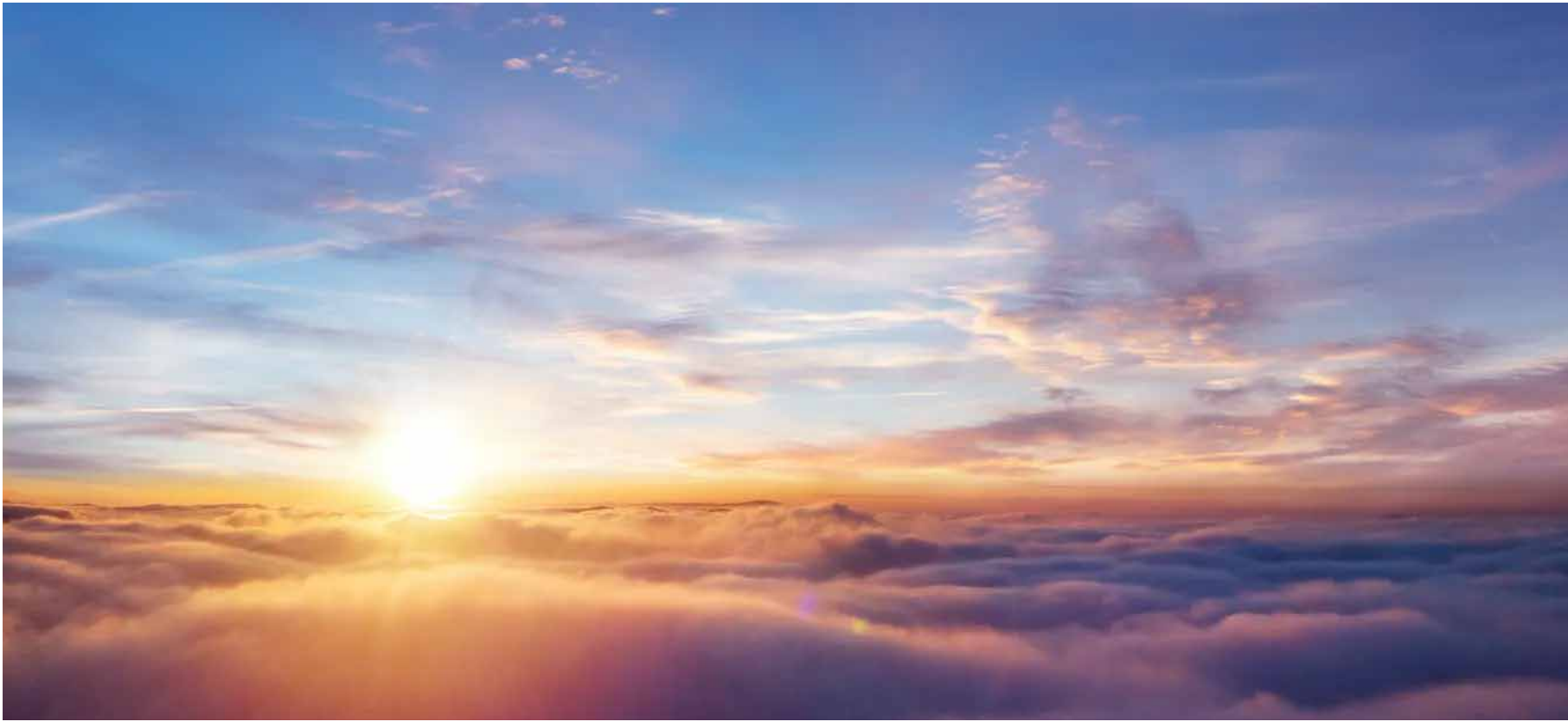
We are now learning that there is even a microbiome high in the sky. These are microbes that are swept into and then reside in the lower parts of the atmosphere. This includes the mid and upper troposphere at altitudes of between 8km and 12km above the ground, and the lower stratosphere at altitudes of up to 15km. What's more, by joining the planetary wind systems, these lifeforms create microbial highways in the sky that transport them across the world.

Scientists first reported the existence of sky-bound bacteria in a couple of pioneering studies published in 2013 and 2018. These were not isolated microorganisms found by chance. Instead, bacterial communities straddle the sky in large numbers, in the region of hundreds of thousands of bacteria for each cubic metre of air in the troposphere.

Between 60% and 100% of the bacteria in collected samples were alive and they typically lived in the sky for longer than five days. Analysing their genetic material confirmed the presence of dozens of different bacterial species. However, the tropospheric bacterial communities were less complex than some of Earth's terrestrial habitats.

But bacteria are not the only tiny lifeforms in the sky. We now know this microbiome includes viruses and even fungi. The lower atmosphere appears to be alive and teeming with microbes.

These microbes are well adjusted to their new environment. Only bacteria that already have mechanisms for coping with UV radiation, lack of water and high levels of dangerous oxidants such as ozone



survive the journey into the sky, where they feed on the carbon compounds available in the atmosphere. Given this harsh environment, researching bacterial behaviour in the sky may be useful for understanding microbial survival in space.

Bacteria also actively grow in clouds and play an important role in the processes behind the Earth's atmospheric chemistry. For example, some airborne bacteria encourage water in the air to freeze. This may occur in a similar way to how some plant bacteria use specialist proteins to enable ice to form on and damage leaves, opening a way for the bacteria to infect them. The airborne bacteria and the ice particles that some of them can carry can even become the nuclei needed to form clouds.

DISEASE ROUTE?

Understanding the atmospheric microbiome and its highways in the sky could also help us learn how

disease-causing microbes are transported around the planet. In a recent study, scientists found viruses falling from the sky in large numbers, like invisible snowflakes covering the Sierra Nevada mountains in Spain where viral detectors were placed. Thanks to the microbial highways in the sky, genetically identical viruses may be found at different and distant locations across the planet.

This kind of route might be responsible for the spread of the mysterious Kawasaki disease, which can cause heart problems in children but whose exact cause is unknown. A group of Japanese scientists has produced evidence that it may be due to a fungal toxin carried through the sky over long distances from China to Japan. Analysis of air samples over Japan during the time of year when Kawasaki disease is most common found that the most dominant microbial species was

the fungus *Candida*. Laboratory experiments have shown this fungus can produce a Kawasaki-like condition in mice.

Now the whole world is watching the saga of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know the virus spreads through human contact, but a group of doctors has recently warned the World Health Organization that the viral particle may be travelling through the air. Some scientists have even speculated that the COVID-19 virus may have been carried between countries at similar latitudes by a jet stream through the atmosphere.

As we've only just begun to understand the role of microbes down here on Earth, it seems likely there is a huge amount more to discover about those that live above our heads.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Biology, Brunel University London]

68 fresh COVID-19 cases in Arunachal Pradesh; tally rises to 858

ITANAGAR, JULY 22: Arunachal Pradesh reported 68 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the virus count in the northeastern state to 858, a senior Health department official said here on Wednesday.

Of the 68 fresh cases, 57 were reported from the Capital complex, while six were from Lower Subansiri, three from Namsai and one each from Papum Pare and Lower Dibang Valley districts, he said.

The new cases in the Capital Complex comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa were detected from various areas of the region during Rapid Antigen tests on Tuesday, while two of the total six cases in Lower Subansiri district are returnees and detected from quarantine centre, State

Surveillance Officer (SSO) L Jampa said.

The case from Papum Pare district was detected outside quarantine centre while the three people in Namsai have returned from other states and detected in institutional quarantine facilities, he said.

The person from Lower Dibang Valley infected with the virus is a driver deployed in essential services duty, Jampa said, adding that all the cases barring two are asymptomatic and were shifted to Covid care centres.

On Tuesday, 18 infected people including 16 from the Capital region and two from Lower Dibang Valley district were released after being cured of the disease, Jampa said, adding that they have been advised to undergo two weeks strict home



quarantine with self monitoring.

The Capital region has recorded the maximum number of 347 COVID-19 cases and is under complete lockdown till August 3.

Arunachal Pradesh at present has 552 active cases, while 303 people have recovered from the disease and three died of the infection.

A total of 41,772 samples have been tested in the state so far, he said.

The state witnessed a surge in COVID-19 cases since July 1 with 667 cases reported in the last 21 days.

Arunachal Pradesh remained virus-free till May 23 but witnessed a spurt in COVID-19 cases after residents of the

state started returning from other parts of the country.

The COVID-19 recovery rate in the state stands at 35 per cent, according to Jampa.

"There is a rapid rise in COVID-19 positive cases in the Capital region. But the good news is that most of them are asymptomatic," he said.

6 die of COVID-19 in Assam; 938 recover

GUWAHATI, JUL 21 (PTI): Six persons, including four women, died due to COVID-19 in Assam on Tuesday, pushing the death toll to 64, and the caseload reached 25,092, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Of the six dead, two each are from Kamrup Metropolitan and Kamrup Rural and one each from Darrang and Dibrugarh districts.

The fatality rate is 0.26 per cent and the recovery rate is 71.87 per cent.

"938 patients have been discharged today. Patients returning home healthy are our beacon of hope," Sarma tweeted.

There are 6,992

active cases, 64 have died and three have migrated out of the state, he said.

Meanwhile, jailed JNU student Sharjeel Imam, lodged in Guwahati Central Jail for his alleged inflammatory speech at an anti-CAA protest last year, tested COVID-19 positive on Tuesday, Inspector General (Prisons) Dasarath Das said.

He would be shifted to a hospital here for treatment.

Imam was booked under sedition laws for allegedly saying that Assam should be cut off from the rest of the country. He was brought to Guwahati in January for interrogation and has been lodged in

Guwahati Central Jail since then.

Das said 435 jail inmates have so far tested positive and these include peasant leader Akhil Gogoi and his two associates along with NDFB Chief Ranjan Daimary.

The minister said with the lockdown restriction easing "we expect cases to increase at an average of 900 to 1,000 daily and reach a peak by September 15".

He said efforts were on to create 10,000 additional beds to accommodate new patients and "we hope to complete it by the first week of August".

The number of samples tested in the state so far is 6,89,343.

16 paramilitary personnel among 20 fresh COVID-19 cases in Mizoram

AIZAWL, JULY 22: Twenty more people, including 16 Assam Rifles personnel and two BSF jawans, have tested positive for COVID-19 in Mizoram, taking the state's tally to 317 on Wednesday, a government statement said.

Of the 306 samples tested on Tuesday, 18 people from Aizawl district and two from south Mizoram's Lunglei district were found infected with COVID-19, the Information and Public Relations Department said in the statement.

The new patients are 16 personnel of Assam Rifles, two BSF jawans, an National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) staffer and a civilian, it said.

Thirteen of the Assam Rifles personnel have returned from Assam and two from Delhi, while one is a local resident. They all are currently posted at Zokhawsang near Aizawl.

The BSF jawans have come from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, while the NDRF personnel

and the civilian have returned from Assam, the statement said.

The paramilitary forces account for around 37% of the total 317 cases in the state, it said

The newly-infected patients are in the age group of 23-59 years and are out of danger, the statement said.

So far, 168 patients have recovered from the disease and the state now has 149 active COVID-19 cases.

The recovery rate in the state is 53%, according to health officials.

Medical team traverses muddy roads, crosses flooded river to home quarantine woman in remote Arunachal hamlet



ITANAGAR, JULY 21 (PTI): A medical team traversed landslide-prone muddy roads and crossed a flooded river to home quarantine a woman and her contacts in a remote hamlet in Arunachal Pradesh's Papum Pare district, officials said on

Tuesday.

The woman had recently sneaked into neighbouring Assam's Sonitpur district to meet her relatives without informing authorities of either state and returned to her Karbi Colony hamlet on July

18, sparking fears among her neighbours that she might have been infected with coronavirus, they said.

After being alerted by the residents of Karbi Colony, a medical team led by Dr Simanto Borah of Tarasso primary

health centre undertook a 30-km journey to reach the hamlet on July 19 and home quarantined the woman and her local contacts, Papum Pare District Reproductive and Child Health Officer (DRCHO) Dr Worar Taku said.

The health personnel completed a portion of the journey on motorbikes and covered the remaining distance on foot, crossing the Tarasso river which is in spate due to floods, Dr Taku said.

"Ten people, including the woman, her family members and other local contacts, have been home quarantined. Antigen testing kits are not available in the PHC at the moment. The quarantined persons' samples will soon be collected for COVID-19 tests," Dr Simanto Borah told PTI.

A video of the medical team crossing the

flooded river has gone viral on social media, grabbing the attention of Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Lauding the health personnel for their dedication to work, Khandu tweeted: "Immense respect to our healthcare workers & policemen who are on #COVID19 duty even in such extreme weather conditions and in inaccessible areas. Let us stand solidly behind our #CoronaWarriors."

Another elephant dies of electrocution in West Bengal

KOLKATA, JUL 22 (PTI): A male elephant died on Wednesday after coming in contact with a live electric wire in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, the second such incident in the district in as many days.

Chief Wildlife Warden, Ravikant Sinha, said the pachyderm died while trying to eat a branch of a jackfruit tree which was entangled with live wire at Nagrakata block in Bamandanga tea estate area.

Locals immediately rushed to the spot and saw the animal dead with its trunk entangled with the snapped wire.

On Tuesday, a tusker died after coming in contact with a live electric wire at Ramjhora in the district.

Sinha said Tuesday's incident was a deliberate



act by someone, while Wednesdays jumbo death is accidental.

"Both cases are very sad for us," he said.

The senior forest official said an FIR has been lodged in connection with Tuesday's incident and a local resident has been named.

Another forest official said, "We are trying to

sensitise people against putting up electric wires at places frequented by elephants. We need the involvement of everyone to protect wildlife."

On July 9, the carcass of a male elephant was found in a paddy field near Garo Busty village in the Rajabhatkhowa area adjoining the Buxa Tiger Reserve in neighbouring Alipurduar district.

Five elephants have died in Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts, including two near the Buxa Tiger Reserve, since mid-June, the official said.

Four of the five deaths were caused due to electrocution, he added.

The forest department is looking into the deaths of the pachyderms, Sinha said.



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Jürgen Klopp: Liverpool's title is one of the big stories in football history

ANDY HUNTER
LONDON, 22 JUL [THEGUARDIAN]: Jürgen Klopp has claimed Liverpool's title triumph ranks as the most prized in world football this year and the enormity of ending the club's 30-year wait will hit home when Jordan Henderson lifts the Premier League trophy.

Liverpool finally get their hands on the coveted silverware after their final home game of the season against Chelsea on Wednesday, with a ceremony taking place on the Kop to encourage fans to watch at home rather than gather in crowds outside Anfield.

Klopp was overcome with emotion when Liverpool's long wait for a 19th championship was confirmed on 25 June. But he admits the scale of his team's achievement in winning the title with seven matches to spare, and after a three-month interruption owing to Covid-19, will not sink in until the trophy is in Henderson's hands.

Klopp said: "I always

thought it would be much nicer to win the league pretty early than going to a Champions League final where everything goes to this specific point – all or nothing. Now we won the league seven matches before the season ends, which is absolutely incredible. It's 100% the moment when we get the trophy which will be what it's all about. I think it's one of the big stories in football history.

"If somebody would have said: 'You can become champion in any country this year and you can decide which team you want to be in to have it very special,' I think the choice would have been Liverpool. Because it was the one that everybody wants to be part of, and we are lucky enough to be part of this. I appreciate that a lot, to be honest, that it's a really big one. Not that other championships will be forgotten by supporters but, this one, I think nobody will ever forget. It's not possible. That makes this



pretty special."

Henderson will have lifted the Premier League trophy, Champions League, Club World Cup and Uefa Super Cup within 14 months as Liverpool captain and Klopp has told his players to savour every moment of Wednesday's ceremony.

"It was for sure the most exceptional and successful year of my career," he said. "Being champion of Europe, England and the world

doesn't happen too often. I think it makes sense that we take a picture with all four trophies [at a later date] because I don't think there are a lot of pictures in existence where a club has all four of these trophies. We will do that 100% and rightly so." In fact no one has ever held all four at the same time before.

"I have mentioned to them that this is absolutely special," Klopp said. "You talk about things after a

season but this is the moment that you really have to cherish. It didn't start for this team 13 or 14 months ago but we won all that since then so that makes it really special."

The Premier League had granted Liverpool special dispensation to allow families of the squad to attend but the council safety advisory group rejected the application.

Henderson is the only Liverpool player

who was at the club when Chelsea shattered Brendan Rodgers's hopes of winning the league in 2014. The midfielder, who is sidelined through injury, was suspended for that 2-0 defeat. "What I heard from everybody was that was the main reason Liverpool couldn't make it over the line," said Klopp.

"It is so deserved that Hendo is lifting the trophy. I heard when Liverpool won the title the last time, the captain, Alan Hansen, had a knee injury too. The circle closes if you want. The 2014 game is not a helpful one for tomorrow otherwise I would use it. It's just a nice story and Hendo had to be patient to put it right and he has done it."

The chief constable of Merseyside Police, Andy Cooke, has warned Liverpool fans his officers "will take action" should crowds gather outside Anfield on Wednesday. "We will have a full policing operation in place at the ground and surrounding areas," said Cooke.

Jofra Archer may miss third Test after racist abuse over breach backlash

LONDON, 22 JUL [THEGUARDIAN]: England cricketer Jofra Archer has hit back at the level of criticism, some of it racist, he received on social media following his breach of pandemic protocols earlier this month and warns the mental toll may mean he misses the third Test against West Indies.

The 25-year-old was removed from the squad on the eve of the second Test after it emerged he had breached his side's bio-secure bubble with an unauthorised trip to his flat in Hove. He was placed in five days of isolation at Emirates Old Trafford's on-site hotel, allowed out only for carefully controlled solitary fitness work, and later fined around £15,000 at a disciplinary hearing for his transgression.

Having come into contact with an unnamed individual during his detour, Archer then needed to get two negative Covid-19 tests before being allowed

to return to the playing group. He officially got the green light on Tuesday morning.

Writing in the Daily Mail, Archer has revealed the mental toll of the online criticism combined with his time in isolation, has him concerned he might not be "100 per cent mentally right" in time for the third Test.

He writes: "This whole week has been extremely tough and to spend five days in isolation has given me a lot of thinking time on where I am at. I give 100% every time I go out there and I don't want to go out on the field unless I can guarantee doing that"

Archer dubbed most of the online criticism he has since received "unnecessary noise", adding he had unfollowed and muted a lot of social media accounts to distance himself from the negativity. He also said some of the abuse he has received has been racist.

"Some of the abuse I have taken over the past



few days on Instagram has been racist and I have decided that enough is enough," he said. "I have forwarded my complaints to the ECB and that will go through the correct process."

An ECB spokesperson said: "The alleged racist message was brought to our attention by Jofra last week. We are supporting him and we have reported

the message through the appropriate channels and authorities."

The fast bowler wrote that he had apologised to his teammates and thanked them for their support, while singling out Ben Stokes for advising him on "how to deal with being in the spotlight of international sport".

He added that the mixed treatment of

Manchester United and England footballer Marcus Rashford, along with the varying reactions between his first and second innings in Southampton, had shown him how "fickle" professional sport can be.

While he believes the West Indies series is "there for the taking", more than anything,

Archer said he just wants to be able to feel like his old self.

"Now I have done my time, it's over, and I am trying to move on," he wrote. "I know what I did was an error of judgement and I have suffered the consequences of that. I haven't committed a crime and I want to start feeling myself again."

4-0 rout by Man City deepens Watford's relegation concerns

WATFORD, JUL 22 (AP): As the ball rolled past him and Manchester City's score racked up, goalkeeper Ben Foster increasingly feared for Watford's Premier League survival.

"You get into a state of trying to minimize as much damage as you can," he said, "and it's a dangerous way to do things."

Taking points off City was always going to be a tough task but collapsing to a 4-0 loss to the Premier League runners-up also wiped out Watford's goal-difference advantage over relegation rivals on Tuesday.

A 1-0 win for Aston Villa over Arsenal hours later dropped Watford into the bottom three, because of its inferior goal

difference to Villa.

"The confidence is so crazy, crazy low," Foster said.

It wasn't even lifted by Watford's last desperate roll of the dice firing its third manager of the season. Hayden Mullins was promoted for a second temporary stint in charge after the ousting of Nigel Pearson for the final matches against City and Arsenal on Sunday.

"You can't ever blame it on anything but your own performances," Foster said. "You just get used to it. In football nowadays, nothing seems to shock and you roll with the punches." The only record Watford is setting is for the number of managers fired in a

season.

City winger Raheem Sterling left Vicarage Road with a welcome record of his own. A first-half double a half-volley and a follow-up after having a penalty saved took his season's goal tally to a personal high of 19.

Sterling set up the third when his close-range shot was saved by Foster Watford's star performer and Phil Foden tapped into an empty net in the 63rd minute.

When it comes to assists, Kevin De Bruyne leads the way in England. The Belgium playmaker is now one away from a league record-equaling 20 assists after providing a cross for Aymeric Laporte's downward header in the 66th

minute.

Trying to secure a fifth straight season in the top tier, the only thing in Watford's favor was Gabriel Jesus having a fifth goal ruled out for offside in stoppage time.

Even if fans were allowed into the stadium they remain locked out due to the pandemic there would have been nothing for the Watford players to celebrate with them after this final home match of the season.

Watford has now been outscored 18-0 in its last three meetings with City in all competitions with three different managers in charge.

Javi Gracia was still at the helm when City crushed Watford 6-0 in the final game of

last season in the FA Cup final. The Spaniard was fired in September before he got the chance to take Watford to City later that month where Quique Sanchez Flores oversaw an 8-0 humiliation.

Flores didn't even reach the midpoint of the season before he was dismissed in December and replaced by Pearson, who was denied the chance of replicating the shock over Liverpool in February that ended the eventual champion's unbeaten start.

"You can't ever blame it on anything but your own performances," Foster said.

"We have to look at ourselves. For a City side that has

already surrendered the Premier League trophy to Liverpool, one comfort will be trimming the deficit to 15 points from 25 when the league was paused in March for 100 days to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The Champions League doesn't resume until August when City will be protecting a 2-1 lead over Real Madrid in the last-16.

"It's really good if all the attacking players are attacking and assisting running up to the game," Foden said, looking ahead to City protecting a 2-1 lead over Real Madrid in the last-16.

"It seems like everyone in front of the goal is going to score in our team.

Trezeguet repays gamble and boosts Villa's bid to stay in Premier League

ED AARONS
LONDON, 22 JUL [THEGUARDIAN]: In terms of weekends away, Dean Smith's trip to Cairo last June could prove to be one of the best he has ever made. Accompanied by the Aston Villa sporting director, Jesús García Pitarch, the manager was in the Egyptian capital to run the rule over Mahmoud Trezeguet one last time before handing him the opportunity of a lifetime.

The winger had been starring for the Turkish club Kasimpasa and outshone Mohamed Salah by scoring in the hosts' opening victory at the Africa Cup of Nations. An anonymous performance in Egypt's shock defeat to South Africa in the last 16 did not dissuade Smith from taking the plunge for just £8.5m. How the player, who was given his moniker at the age of nine by a teacher due to his apparent resemblance to the former France striker, has repaid that gamble.

A priceless goal that his namesake who famously scored the winning goal at Euro 2000 would have been proud of gave Villa their first home victory over Arsenal since December 1998 under John Gregory and, more importantly, a real chance of Premier League survival. "It's funny, Trez is one that came in late last summer and it's taken a while in terms of adaptation along with the likes of Douglas Luiz," Smith commented a couple of weeks ago. "His attitude is spot on and he works his socks off."

For the 12th Egyptian to play in the Premier League, following in the footsteps of Mido, Amr Zaki and, of course, Salah has not been the smoothest of rides. Trezeguet came close to joining Nottingham Forest as a teenager and was also courted by Celtic before eventually joining Anderlecht on an initial loan in August 2015. Despite a promising start that earned him a permanent move, he was sent out on loan to struggling Mouscron, whose manager Mircea Rednic was less than complimentary about the Egyptian winger's tactical discipline. "He runs in every part of the pitch except the part we need him to go to," the Romanian said.

Hugely popular in his homeland having started his career at Cairo giants Al Ahly – he now has almost two million followers on Twitter – Trezeguet's move to Turkey was

heavily scrutinised in the Egyptian media. His form for the mid-table Super Lig club Kasimpasa almost earned him a move to Internazionale in 2018. Instead, he became part of Villa's £144.5m splurge on 12 players after their victory in the Championship play-off final last year, joining compatriot Ahmed Elmohamady at the club and fulfilling a lifelong dream to play in the Premier League.

Against Arsenal, five of those signings started the match, with Pepe Reina and Mbwana Samatta also included after they joined in January following the long-term injuries to England goalkeeper Tom Heaton and Wesley – the Brazilian forward who cost a club-record £22.5m. But while Smith has become used to relying on the academy product Jack Grealish to inspire his side, the 25-year-old from Kafr El Sheikh in the Nile Delta has been the architect of their recent revival.

Villa's talisman admitted in the aftermath of their victory that he has been struggling with fitness issues, although he looked back to his best during the second half against Arsenal. Ominously for Villa fans, Grealish also hinted that his future could lie elsewhere once this season is completed but Smith may already have a ready-made replacement. After scoring in 2-1 defeats against Liverpool, Wolves and Chelsea before the league was halted in March, Trezeguet's main contribution in a Villa shirt until this month had been his last-minute winner in the second leg of of the Carabao Cup semi-final against Leicester.

Yet following two goals in the victory over Crystal Palace that kick-started their survival push this month, his intelligent positioning at the back post for Conor Hourihane's corner proved to be a masterstroke. While Reina looked grateful that his butterfingers moment after Eddie Nketiah's header came back off the post did not prove fatal, the defensive discipline of Trezeguet and Grealish were integral in helping Villa to see out the victory that could prove so vital to their hopes of staying up.

Out of the relegation zone for the first time in five months, suddenly their destiny is in their own hands when they face West Ham at the London Stadium on Sunday.

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U.S. orders China to shut Houston consulate in move China calls ‘unprecedented escalation’

BEIJING (REUTERS): The United States has told China to close its consulate in Houston, both countries said on Wednesday, deepening a deterioration in bilateral relations, and a source said Beijing was considering shutting down the U.S. consulate in Wuhan. Washington had “abruptly demanded” closure of the Houston consulate on Tuesday, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said, and the editor of an official media outlet said on Twitter that China had been given 72 hours to do so.

Beijing condemned the order and threatened retaliation, but did not say what measures it might take.

Late on Tuesday in Houston, local media reported that documents had been burned in a courtyard at the consulate building. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the consulate was operating normally, declining to comment further on those reports.

Ties between the United States and China have worsened sharply this year over a range of issues, from the novel coronavirus and telecoms gear maker Huawei to China’s territorial claims

in the South China Sea and its imposition of a national security law on Hong Kong.

The U.S. Department of State confirmed the Houston closure decision.

The move was made “in order to protect American intellectual property and American’s private information”, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortugas said in a statement.

“The United States will not tolerate the PRC’s violations of our sovereignty and intimidation of our people, just as we have not tolerated the PRC’s unfair trade practices, theft of American jobs, and other egregious behavior,” she added, using an acronym for China’s official name, the People’s Republic of China.

RETALIATION THREAT

It was not immediately clear why China’s Houston consulate had been singled out.

“The unilateral closure of China’s consulate general in Houston within a short period of time is an unprecedented escalation of its recent actions against China,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular news briefing.

“We urge the U.S. to immediately revoke this



erroneous decision. Should it insist on going down this wrong path, China will react with firm countermeasures,” he said.

The U.S. government had been harassing Chinese diplomats and consular staff for some time, Wang said, and “intimidating and interrogating Chinese students and confiscating their personal electrical devices, even detaining them”.

He said the United States had interfered with China’s

diplomatic missions, including intercepting diplomatic pouches and confiscating Chinese items for “official use”. He did not specify whether the actions were related to the Houston consulate.

WUHAN CONSULATE

A source with direct knowledge of the matter said China was considering closing the U.S. consulate in Wuhan, where the State Department withdrew staff and their families early this year amid the coronavirus outbreak that

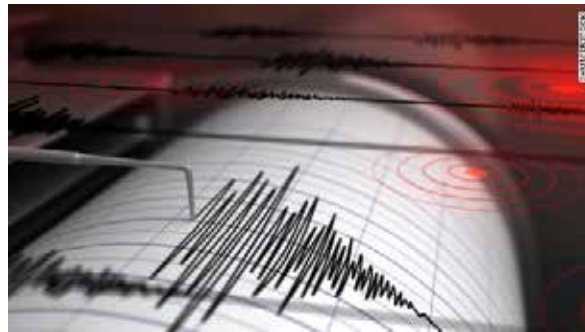
first emerged in the central city.

It was not immediately clear what other measures China may consider.

China’s foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether it would shut the consulate.

The U.S. embassy in Beijing referred a query to the State Department. Last month, it had said that the United States would soon resume operations at the Wuhan consulate.

Preliminary magnitude 7.8 earthquake strikes off coast of Alaska



(CNN): An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.8 struck off the coast of Alaska early Wednesday morning.

The earthquake was centered 60 miles, or 98 kilometers, south-southeast, of Perryville, Alaska, according to the US Geological Survey. The quake is considered shallow at about six miles, or 10 kilometers, deep.

“Anything below 70 kilometers is considered a shallow quake,” CNN meteorologist Allison Chinchar previously said. “That’s important, because shallow earthquakes often cause the most damage, compared to the ones that are deeper, regardless of the strength.”

A tsunami warning had been issued following the earthquake, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The

warning was in effect for south Alaska and the Alaska peninsula -- Pacific coasts from Kennedy Entrance, Alaska (40 miles southwest of Homer) to Unimak Pass, Alaska, according to the Tsunami Warning Center.

But all tsunami warnings and advisories were canceled early Wednesday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

Earthquakes are more likely to develop into tsunamis if they are high in magnitude, are shallow, and are thrust earthquakes rather than strike slip earthquakes, according to the USGS. Quakes between magnitudes 7.6 to 7.8 have the potential to produce destructive tsunamis.

There have been at least 11 after shocks ranging from magnitudes of 3.9 to 6.1, according to CNN meteorologist Pedram Javaheri.

Global coronavirus cases exceed 15 million: Reuters tally

SYDNEY/LONDON

(REUTERS): Global coronavirus infections surged past 15 million on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally, with the pandemic gathering pace even as countries remain divided in their response to the crisis.

In the United States, which has the highest number of cases in the world with 3.91 million infections, President Donald Trump warned: “It will probably, unfortunately, get worse before it gets better.”

The top five countries with the most cases is rounded out by Brazil, India, Russia and South Africa. But, the Reuters tally shows the disease is accelerating the fastest in the Americas, which account for more than half the world’s infections and half its deaths.

Globally, the rate of new infections shows no sign of slowing, according to the Reuters tally, based on official reports.

After the first COVID-19 case was reported in Wuhan, China, in early January, it took about 15 weeks to reach 2 million cases. By contrast, it took just eight days to climb above 15 million from the 13 million reached on July 13.

Health experts stress that official data almost certainly underreports both infections and deaths, particularly in

countries with limited testing capacity.

The official number of coronavirus cases at 15,009,213 is at least triple the number of severe influenza illnesses recorded annually, according to World Health Organization data, while the death toll of more than 616,000 in seven months is close to the upper range of yearly influenza deaths.

RELAX OR TIGHTEN

With the first wave of the virus still to peak in several countries and a resurgence of case numbers in others, some countries are reintroducing strict social distancing measures while others relax restrictions.

Stung by low approval ratings for his handling of the epidemic and downplaying the risks during the early stages, Trump made a significant shift in rhetoric on Tuesday, encouraging Americans to wear a face mask.

While the epidemic worsened in the United States, Trump’s focus ahead of a presidential election in November has been on reopening the economy, and governors in the hard-hit states of Texas, Florida and Georgia continue to push back hard against calls for stricter restrictions.

In Brazil, more than 2.15 million people have tested positive including President Jair Bolsonaro, and more than 81,000



people have died. While Bolsonaro has played down the outbreak, its scale has made Brazil a prime testing ground for potential vaccines.

India, the only other country with more than 1 million cases, reported almost 40,000 new cases on Wednesday. Having been keen to reopen its economy, India is now facing the twin challenge of combating the pandemic and massive flooding in the country’s northeast.

Two ministers in South Africa’s cabinet were admitted to hospital with COVID-19, as Africa’s most-industrialised country counted a total 372,628 confirmed cases and 5,173 deaths.

Other countries

are reintroducing restrictions in response to fresh outbreaks.

In Spain, the number of people allowed on Barcelona’s beaches was limited after crowds flocked to the seaside over the weekend despite advice to stay home.

In Australia, residents of Melbourne, the country’s second biggest city, were ordered to wear masks in public from Wednesday after the country reported a record 501 new cases.

Officials in Canada were closely watching a spike in cases as the economy reopens, attributing the rise in part to large numbers of young people gathering in bars.

China, meanwhile, announced that passengers on inbound

flights must provide negative COVID-19 test results before boarding, as authorities

seek to reduce the risk of imported cases amid increased international travel.

Trump campaign raises USD 20 million through virtual fundraiser

WASHINGTON, JUL 22 (PTI): US President Donald Trump raised a whopping USD 20 million during his first ever virtual fundraiser, his campaign said. Over 300,000 donations contributed to this virtual fundraiser hosted on Tuesday by President Donald J Trump and Trump Victory Finance Committee National Chair Kimberly Guilfoyle, a statement said. Trump Victory’s

groundbreaking fundraising record proves the American people are passionate about gaining four more years under President Trump’s strong leadership. Across the nation, the SILENT MAJORITY are coming together to donate their valuable time and hard-earned money to help make this President’s re-election a reality, Guilfoyle said in the statement.

“The most important

measure of success in this race is enthusiasm, and the enthusiasm from President Trump’s supporters cannot be matched, she said.

Trump is being challenged by former vice president Joe Biden from the Democratic party in the November 3 presidential elections.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Biden has been holding most of fundraising

virtually from his residence in Delaware.

But for Trump, who is seeking re-election for his second four-year term, this was his first virtual fund raiser.

In addition to virtually meeting with this group of donors, Trump held a Zoom call with our contest winner, a supporter from Texas who teaches at a school for students with learning differences, his campaign said.

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SummitTIMES



SHE WEARS SHORT SHORTS! Model, Hailey Bieber arrived to The Hollywood Roosevelt hotel wearing short jean shorts, a long purple shirt and a face mask amid the coronavirus pandemic in Los Angeles.

Kim Kardashian Is 'Most Upset' That Kanye West Claimed Kris Jenner Can't See Their Kids: Source



“She feels that it’s disrespectful, not only to her, but to her family,” a source tells PEOPLE of Kim Kardashian’s reaction to husband Kanye West’s recent Twitter rant. Kim Kardashian West isn’t happy about husband Kanye West’s overnight Twitter spree — especially his claim that her mother Kris Jenner can’t see their four children. Kardashian, 39, and West, 43, share four children: North, 7, Saint, 4½, Chicago, 2½, and Psalm, 14 months. On Monday night, the rapper tweeted: “Kriss don’t play with me you and that calmye are not allowed around my children. Y’all tried to lock me up.” West seemed to be directing the message at his mother-in-law and her boyfriend Corey Gamble. The tweets have since been deleted. “She was most upset that [Kanye] said that Kris isn’t allowed around the kids,” a source tells PEOPLE of how the KKW Beauty founder is feeling now. “Nothing could be further from the truth. Kris is an important part of the kids’ lives and Kim loves the bond they have. She’s 100% allowed around the kids.”

ARIES:

Gone are the days when you needed to bury yourself in a pile of work in order to validate your existence. You understand the importance of silence, of being, of non-doing. Today, you’re being asked to delve deeper into ‘shunya’, or what the Buddhist philosophy describes as ‘nothingness’. Meditate. Self-reflect. Become an observer of your thoughts as you move beyond your mind with every breath you take.

TAURUS:

Emotional ups and downs could be a constant in the Taurus HQ. Be gentle with yourself. There is no rush to do anything or get anywhere. Give yourself the time you need to integrate on a mind, body, and soul level. Some of you could be facing a reality check on the interpersonal front. The relationship you’ve been investing in has been one-sided all along.

GEMINI:

Embrace the unbecoming. Honour the process of shedding old skin and letting go of dated beliefs. Healing is never a straight road. It is synonymous with both the ebb and the flow. But you have a way of making messy look beautiful. Trust that you will have blow-your-mind revelations when you sit down to converse with your wounds! This is also a time assessing your relationship with your soul circle and nurturing the ties that bring a smile to your face.

CANCER:

Ready for a cup of truth tea, Cancer? The most

powerful love spell you will ever perform is the one that invokes your love for yourself. This is a time of immense transformation in your world. You no longer feel the need to apologise for who you are or fit yourself into boxes that were never meant to be yours. Today, you’re letting go of the need for external validation as you find a sense of wholeness within yourself.

LEO:

It’s a coffee and book kind of day in the Leo sanctuary. You’re in the mood to escape into a fictional world created by authors you love and engage in imaginary conversations with your favourite characters. Who’s to say what’s real anymore? Some of you may be in the midst of redirecting the course of your career. Do you have the expertise required to make the given change? If not, now is a good time to brush up on your skills or sign up for a course that will help you move closer to your goals. PS:

VIRGO:

Your time is your currency. Your energy is your currency. Be mindful of what you’re giving your attention to. The cards are urging you to examine the projects at hand. There’s a good chance the ones you’re focused on are not in alignment with your highest good. But you don’t need us to tell you what is supporting your growth and what isn’t, do you? One word: prioritise.

LIBRA:

The earthly realm or wheel of samsara, as told by the

Buddhists texts, is synonymous with pain and suffering. To be human is to sign up for experiences that may not always be pleasant in nature. But, what does one do when they are faced with a karmic cycle? Libra, you can only bring forth the energy of change by acknowledging the karmic lesson. So call upon your higher self for assistance. Reflect upon what it is that needs to be transformed within.

SCORPIO:

It doesn’t matter how many times you have had your heart broken. Everything transpired for a higher reason—this you believe with your whole heart. You’re grateful for where you are now: a place of joy, harmony, and love. For coupled Scorpions, this could be a time of deepening their commitment, of standing by each other in a way you never have before. Single Scorpions could realise there is more to this connection than meets the eye.

SAGITTARIUS:

What is your relationship with joy, Sagittarius? What are the things that awaken the song in your soul and bring a smile to your face? Let’s forget about the to-do lists for a second and focus on the inner landscape. Write down the things that bring you closer to your higher self—the things that make you feel one with the stream of creative consciousness.

CAPRICORN:

Every great artist knows that inspiration strikes unexpectedly. Today, instead of chasing the metaphorical

Cancel culture takes the fun out of life, says comedian John Cleese

(Reuters) - John Cleese does not have much time for political correctness or cancel culture, and as for the state of the world? It’s completely hopeless, the former “Monty Python” star says.

Instead Cleese, 80, is promising “a short selection of Peruvian burial ditties,” when he presents a comedic live-stream plus Q&A session from London next month.

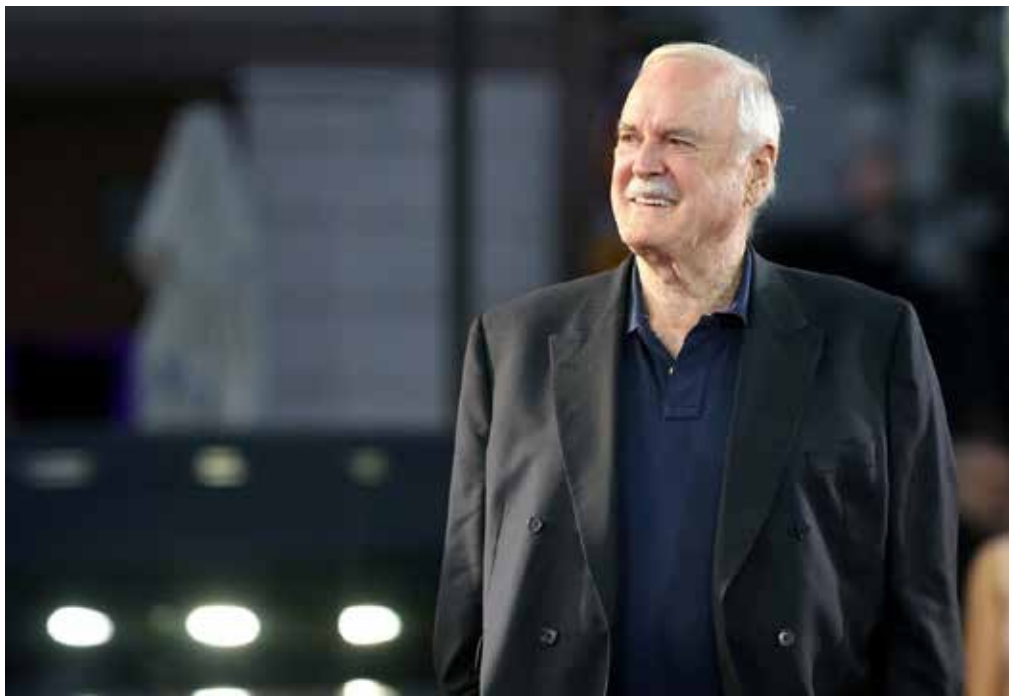
“Why There is No Hope” is described as part lecture and part comedy standup livestream. Cleese describes it as an experiment in front of the small audience required by social distancing in the coronavirus era.

The British actor is perhaps best known as rude hotel owner Basil Fawlty in the 1970s British TV series “Fawlty Towers,” and the man from the Ministry of Silly Walks in the absurdist sketch series “Monty Python’s Flying Circus.”

Cleese last month called the BBC “cowardly and gutless” for temporarily taking down an episode of “Fawlty Towers” that made fun of Germans and World War Two and also featured a character using a racial slur.

Cancel culture “misunderstands the main purposes of life which is to have fun,” Cleese told Reuters, referring to the trend in which people are ostracized because of behavior or remarks seen as objectionable.

“Everything humorous is critical. If you have



someone who is perfectly kind and intelligent and flexible and who always behaves appropriately, they’re not funny. Funniness is about people who don’t do that, like Trump,” he said, referring to the U.S. president.

The problem with political correctness, he added, is that comedians “have to set the bar according to what we are told by the most touchy, most emotionally unstable and fragile and least stoic people in the country.”

As for the Aug. 2 livestream to be held at London’s Cadogan Hall, Cleese says he expects to perform for about 50 people seated at social distance.

Cleese says he is not bothered at playing in front of such a small crowd. “I played to an audience once in New Zealand where I did not get a laugh,” he said.

Russell Crowe talks guilt over 2001 best actor win at the Oscars for ‘Gladiator’

The actor received several awards for the role Russell Crowe won best actor in 2001 at the Oscars for his role in “Gladiator,” but he doesn’t believe he earned it.

On Australian show “Today,” Crowe, 56, revealed that he thought the film’s director, Ridley Scott, should have gotten most of the praise for the success of the movie.

“[After starring in ‘Gladiator’], I got so many pats on the back, and, you know, I got some big awards and all that, and obviously that sort of stepped me up to a different level for quite some time,” the actor said.

The actor revealed that after he re-watched the movie at a live screening of “Gladiator” at the Colosseum in Rome recently, he felt guilty for his awards.

“I watched that movie, and it is a director’s film. It was one of those moments of, ‘Why did I get all the attention, when the Academy Award belongs to Ridley Scott?’” he said.

“Gladiator” also received Oscar wins for best picture, best sound, best visual effects and best costume design.

Crowe’s recent comments about the film come a month after he revealed he almost turned down his award-winning role before he met Scott, 82.



“The [initial] script they had was so bad,” he said on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.”

Crowe added: “It was just so bad! It was like, ‘OK, ummm. Yeah.’”

Troll mocks Anurag Kashyap over his failed marriages; the director hits back with befitting reply

Post Kangana Ranaut’s recent interview, social media has erupted with all kinds of debate. Everyone is talking about the Insider-Outsider debate. Nepotism and Kangana’s hypocrisy are other topics that are being discussed fervently. Anurag Kashyap also came forward and stated that the ‘new Kangana’ scares him. The filmmaker also indulged in a war of words with Ranvir Shorey and Ashoke Pandit.

Amidst all this, a troll mocked Kashyap over his failed marriages. The filmmaker was married to film editor Aarti Bajaj and actress



Kalki Koechlin previously. Being the no-nonsense man that he is, Kashyap gave a befitting reply to that troll. Read on to know what he said.

Commenting on a tweet of the director, a troll wrote, “You could not handle one wife, and still you

are trying to impart knowledge”

Now replying to the troll, Kashyap hit back by saying, “Aurat ko sambhalna nahi padta, woh khud ko sambhal sakti hai aur tumko aur tumhare khandaan ko bhi. Jab nahi jama, woh chali gayi. Ghulam nahi thi kisi ki, ki main baandh ke rakhta. Baaki aapka mahaul theek hai na (You don’t have to handle a woman. She is capable enough to handle you and your entire family. When it didn’t work they left. They were not my slaves to keep them tied up.)”

Well, with that we hope the troll got his answer.

Muse, step back and focus on the tasks at hand, mundane ones included. Who knows? You may channel the best idea of your life while scrubbing the dishes. As such, you’ll find that doing things with your hands is rather therapeutic. Not to mention, the best way to get out of your head. Consider gardening, drawing, painting, brewing potions, cooking up a storm, and other DIY projects to stay connected with that stream of creative consciousness.

AQUARIUS:

You may feel like the foundation on which you have built your life is collapsing (Yes, we’re talking about ‘tower moment’ in tarot lingo!). But here’s something to think about: the Universe never takes away what is truly meant to be yours. Today, instead of resisting the process of transformation, become aware of what is no longer in alignment with your path. This will give you the courage you need to surrender where you have been pushing against the flow.

PISCES:

There are times when we tempt fate, tread the path less trodden, and move forward with courage and conviction despite the risks this entails. And then there are times when we examine the plan of action thoroughly, carefully consider each move, and play it safe. If the cosmic climate is anything to go, you will find comfort in going by the book and taking necessary precautions at every step. Some of you may be dealing with the repercussions of your past errors, in which case damage control is the need of the hour.