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**MICHAEL CAINE SAYS HE
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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Positivity rate rises again, one more dies of Covid

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 AUG:

Sikkim recorded 90 fresh cases of novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours taking the tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported so far to 29,729. These new cases were reported from the testing of 810 samples on Friday and the daily positivity rate of COVID-19 has again risen to 11% compared to Friday's positivity rate of 5.2%.

On a somber note, Sikkim's COVID-19 related death toll increased to 369 as one more person succumbed to coronavirus infection in the State. This new COVID death was reported from STNM hospital.

As per the daily COVID-19 report issued by Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of Health Department, 54 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in RT-PCR testing of 373 samples, while

35 more cases were found in Rapid Antigen Testing of 432 samples and one more in TruNat testing of five samples.

Out of 90 new cases in the State, 55 were registered in East District, 16 in West District, 16 in South District and 03 in North District.

On the other hand, 98 persons were discharged from home isolation on Friday after completing their isolation period to further improve the figure of recovered cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim to 27,746. The current recovery rate of COVID-19 in the state is 94.2%.

The number of active cases of coronavirus in the State has further come down to 1,333. Of these, nine are currently admitted in ICU facilities of STNM hospital and Central Referral Hospital, Tadong. There are six new admissions of COVID patients in hospitals in the State.

31.2% of 18+ population receive both doses of Covid vaccine

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 AUG:

As per the daily report of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Progam, 31.2% of the 18+ population of Sikkim have received both doses of the Covidshield vaccine so far. Out of 5,36,728 persons aged 18 years and above, 167,793 have received both doses of vaccine.

Meanwhile, 508,419 persons have received the first dose of the vaccine so far.

Amongst those vaccinated, there are 22,081 healthcare workers [11,770 first dose & 10,311 second dose], 32,228 frontline workers [17,503 first dose & 14,725 second dose], 296,896 persons in the age group of 45 years & above [164,627 first dose & 132,269 second dose] and 325,019 persons in the age group of 18 to 44 years [314,519 first dose & 10,488 second dose].

Intellectuals have a duty to expose lies of state: Supreme Court Judge

NEW DELHI, 28 AUG

[NDTV]:

Public intellectuals have "a duty to expose the lies of the State", Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud said Saturday morning, stressing that in a democratic country it is important to hold governments in check and guard against falsehoods, false narratives and fake news.

Delivering the 6th Chief Justice MC Chagla Memorial Lecture, Justice Chandrachud also cautioned against an over-reliance on the government to provide social, political, economic, cultural and, in the current context, medical truths.

He also highlighted the importance of a "press that is free from influence of any kind... political or economic" to ensure that governments can truly be held to account for actions and policies.

"One cannot rely only on the State for truth. Totalitarian governments are known for their constant reliance on falsehoods to consolidate power... we see there is an increasing trend among countries around the world to manipulate COVID-19 data," Justice Chandrachud said.

His remarks have been viewed against the backdrop of concerns expressed by experts, activists and journalists that

governments may have fudged Covid data to hide the true spread of infections.

"The phenomenon of fake news is on the rise. The WHO (World Health Organization) recognized this during the COVID pandemic... calling it 'infodemic'. Human beings have a tendency to get attracted to sensational news... which are often based on falsehoods," he explained.

As early as February last year - when the pandemic was beginning to spread throughout the world - the WHO warned of a wave of fake news and misinformation emerging on social media, including "deliberate attempts to disseminate wrong information".

Justice Chandrachud acknowledged that social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook should be held responsible for false content, but said people should be vigilant and, crucially, be open to reading about, debating and, perhaps, even accepting different opinions.

He spoke about a "post-truth" world, in which "there is a contest between 'our truth' vs 'your truth', and a tendency to ignore a 'truth' not in alignment with one's perception".

"We live in a post-truth world. Social media platforms are responsible... but citizens are also

responsible. We incline towards echo chambers and don't like opposing beliefs... we live in a world that is increasingly divided along social, economic and religious lines," he said.

"We only read newspapers that align with our beliefs... we ignore books written by people who do not belong to our stream... we mute the TV when someone has a different opinion... we do not truly care about the 'truth' as much as we do about being 'right'," Justice Chandrachud explained.

"To counter fake news we need to strengthen our public institutions. We must ensure that we have a press that is free from influence of any kind... political or economic. We need a press that will provide us information in an unbiased manner," he added.

Justice Chandrachud also called for a positive atmosphere in schools and colleges - one in which "students can learn to differentiate truth from falsehood (and) question those in power".

He also urged people to be kinder and more sensitive to those around them, saying, "We should not be quick to judge others for their opinions. We need to remove barriers based on gender, caste, religion, language or economic status."

Massive landslide blocks Namchi-Rangpo road



BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 28 AUG:

A massive landslide at Namchi View Point has completely blocked the Namchi-Rangpo road via Phonga, Namthang. Due to shooting boulders, two

families were evacuated to safer location.

At Lower Gom, two houses were damaged out of which one kutchra house has been severely damaged. The family residing there has been shifted to a safer location.

Three houses at Kopchey, Namchi, have also been partially damaged. The concerned Revenue Surveyors along with Disaster Management Team visited all the spots.

The District Administration

was quick to respond and provided all necessary relief materials like tarpaulin and others. The sites were also visited by SHO Namchi, DE Roads Department, DPO (Disaster Management), BDO Namchi and others.

External Affairs Minister meets Governor and CM

Summit Report

GANGTOK, 28 AUG:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, Meenakshi Lekhi paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence, Mintokgang, today.

The Minister is on a three-day visit to the State and is accompanied by a senior officer from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

A press release from the Chief Minister's Office informs that the dignitaries discussed various aspects related to the development of the state and also deliberated on continuing to work in close collaboration under the guidance of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and dedicate more towards the



welfare of the people of Sikkim.

On her arrival, the Minister called on Gov-

ernor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad, at Raj Bhawan, where she was accorded a warm welcome by Sec-

retary Protocol, Home Department, Government of Sikkim, S.K.Pradhan, Special Secretary,

Raj Bhawan, B.K.Lama, and Deputy Secretary, Raj Bhawan, Diwash Gautam.

Some in Assam Police may have provoked mob, alleges injured Meghalaya cop

SHILLONG, 28 AUG

[PTI]:

Meghalaya's Deputy Superintendent of Police Firoz Rahman, who was severely injured in a mob attack at the state's border with Assam, alleged today that Assam Police did not help him when he was assaulted and this may have been the result of instigation by some of its personnel.

Mr Rahman, posted in the Ri-Bhoi district, was sent by the district administration on Wednesday to oversee the situation at Umlaper, a day after local people had gheraoed a camp set up by the Assam Police.

"Acting on information

that some trouble is brewing in the area, I and my team immediately left for that place. On reaching the disputed area, they (the mob) allowed us to enter but while coming back they blocked the road," he told PTI.

He said he expected the Assam Police to provide cover but they did not respond to the calls for help.

"They (Assam Police) were there but they did not respond to our calls for help. Local boys started assaulting us. The Nepalis and Karbi people came and started attacking me and my driver," he said.

At present, the police officer is recuperating at a private hospital in Shillong.

On Tuesday, a team of the Ri-Bhoi Police and a contingent from Assam reached Umlaper after angry residents, mostly Khasis, dismantled a police camp set up in the area when two boys were beaten up the night before.

Mr Rahman and his team were sent to the area again on Wednesday following reports of fresh trouble. It was at that time that they were attacked.

"They started assaulting us and my driver was thrown into the nearby paddy field. I somehow

managed to run away. If I hadn't run away, they would've killed me!" he said.

"There was no provocation from our side. In fact, the same people talked nicely to us on Tuesday. But on Wednesday, they assaulted us. I think some Assam Police personnel may have provoked the crowd, since they didn't come when we sought their help," he said.

Mr Rahman also pointed out that the Assam Police personnel were in full gear during the mob attack.

"What was the intention (of the Assam Police) of wearing bulletproof

jackets if they were not apprehending some trouble?" he said.

"We tried to escape from the area but they (the mob) blocked our vehicle with some other vehicle. They hit me with a stone, and I got five-six stitches. My driver was also badly injured," the police officer said.

Assam and Meghalaya have at least 12 border flashpoints, including Umlaper.

Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma have jointly agreed to resolve the long-pending border issue between the two states, having met twice this year.

CM'S MESSAGE ON RASHTRIYA KHEL DIVAS

“Draw inspiration from veteran sportspersons”

On the occasion of Rashtriya Khel Divas (National Sports Day), I extend my best wishes to all the sportsperson of our country.

Rashtriya Khel Divas celebrates the importance of sports in our daily lives and is observed on the birth anniversary of sporting legend Major Dhyani Chand who is also known as 'Wizard of Hockey'.

Sports helps in building self-confidence and promotes a healthy lifestyle, especially among the youths and can be an excellent source of employment. The recent Tokyo Olympics has showcased the potential of our athletes and sportspersons and I believe it will improve further with the right amount of training, guidance

and facilities. Once again, I congratulate all those who participated and those who won accolades for the Nation.

The state government is determined to provide every platform and facility to our local sportsperson to assist them in their career. Starting next year, we will be commencing with the 'Sikkim Rajya Khel Puraskar' to honour the contribution of our sportspersons in their respective profession. Our government is also upgrading the playgrounds of scores of schools across the state to provide basic facilities to our children in their foundation years.

On this day, I remember those veteran sportspersons who excelled in their respective fields with little or no resources. I acknowledge their achievement and urge our younger generations to draw inspiration from them and work with full dedication.

SDF holds coordination meet at Singtam

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 AUG:

Sikkim Democratic Front coordination meeting of Khamdong-Singtam constituency concluded at Singtam, East Sikkim, today, a press release informs.

Vice president of the party, GM Gurung chaired the meeting which focused on re-vamping the Constituency Level Committee with participation of youth and members of



the Constituency. During the meeting, the Central Executive Members of the party interacted with the participants and shared new visions and ideas.

The meeting was hosted by secretary (East), Mojesh Rai, while the welcome speech was delivered by CLC president, NB Pradhan and vote of thanks was presented by CEC, Ram Kumar Darjee.

SKM holds constituency-level committee meetings in West



PRITAM LAMA
GYALSHING, 28 AUG:

West district wing of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a co-ordination meeting with SKM Soreng-Chakung Constituency-level committee today at Soreng party office as part of the series of SKM coordination meetings being held with Constituency-level committees.

The meeting was chaired by party's vice-president in-charge, DB Gurung, who is also the SBS Chairman, and attended by PHE Chairman, Hari Narayan Subedi, SKM west district president, A B Subba,

general secretary, Sudesh Subba, district coordinator, Nandu Gurung, additional Political Secretary to CM [West], Madhu Sudan Sharma, SKM Jan Kalyan Prokoshita Chief, Prabhakar Golay and others.

The meeting was convened with CLC to understand the progress at the grassroots level.

The party conducted two consecutive coordination meetings today at Soreng-Chakung and Daramdin consecutively.

In his keynote address, the organising secretary West, Sudesh Subba explained the idea behind this state-wide

series of coordination meetings of the party.

"This coordination meeting with Constituency-level committee is being conducted under the direction of the party president to discuss the party's strategies to be implemented at the grassroots level in coming days. The coordination meetings are also being convened to understand the party's recent developments at the grassroots and also to understand the party's weaknesses in the respective Constituencies and how to strengthen it," he said.

During the meeting, open discussions were

held wherein various CLC executives put forth their suggestions and feedback with the district-level committee.

Addressing the co-ordination meeting at Soreng-Chakung, DB Gurung stressed on coordination with Gram Panchayats at the grassroots level to effectively implement Government's policies and welfare schemes for the people.

The coordination meetings started from Yuksam-Tashiding and will conclude on Sunday with a meeting with Zoom-Salghari Constituency-level committee at Jorethang.

Aaditya Thackeray launches Mumbai's first Climate Action Plan

Mumbai, 28 Aug [NDTV]: Mumbai, which has been battling freak weather conditions and erratic rains over the last few years, launched an ambitious plan to tackle the impact of climate change today.

The city's civic body Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) launched Mumbai's first climate action plan with technical support from the World Resources Institute India.

As part of a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change - the C40 Cities Network - Mumbai was "encouraged to draft its Climate Action Plan by the end of 2021 and is doing so in compliance with C40 guidelines and ambitious standards", the

city's civic body said in a press release.

Maharashtra's Environment and Tourism Minister Aaditya Thackeray, who was present at the launch, tweeted, "I had the honour to preside over the launch of the Mumbai Climate Action Plan by @mybmc to develop a climate change mitigation & adaptation plan, taking suggestions from citizens and experts,

"The MCAP will focus on building the city and moving the citizens toward climate-resilient and sustainable development, ensuring adaptation and mitigation. From November onwards, the suggestions will be included, and the policy action will initiate for #MumbaiClimateAction-

Plan," he added.

Warning about the implications of climate change, especially for coastal cities like Mumbai, Aaditya Thackeray said, "While many of us believe that we have the luxury of time in climate change action, it is a false notion. This is the time to act. We must go beyond messaging and make climate change action our policy mission and personal habit, ensuring its implementation."

Mumbai faces two major climate challenges - urban flooding and increasing heat. Additional Municipal Commissioner Dr Sanjeev Kumar said in the release. As a coastal city, Mumbai experiences high levels of humidity, resulting in

humid heat, he said.

Rainfall trends over the last 10 years show an increase in extreme-rain-fall-events (EREs) resulting in frequent conditions of waterlogging and flooding, the press note said.

Over the next three months, MCGM with support from WRI India will conduct a series of stakeholder consultations to seek feedback and recommendations from organisations and sector experts for the six action tracks, it said. This includes Sustainable Waste Management, Urban Greening and Biodiversity, Urban Flooding and Water Resource Management, Building Energy Efficiency, Air Quality and Sustainable Mobility, the release added.

Holistic Rural Development Programme at Ratomatey

GYALSHING, 28 AUG (IPR): Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Lok Nath Sharma attended a Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP), being implemented by Gramin Vikas Trust under Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) at Ratomatey, under Gyalshing Bermiok constituency, West District, today.

A total of fourteen villages under Hee Martam, Soreng and Gyalshing Block, have been identified for the implementation of Holistic Development Rural Programme. The programme is being funded by HDFC Bank.

During the programme, 26 beneficiaries from the identified villages received Cardamom saplings and Bio Fertiliser. Two beneficiaries from each village received two thousand and seven hundred cardamom saplings. Minister Lok Nath Sharma also handed over 33 goats to three beneficiaries from the adopted villages in special presence of the Advisor Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Durga Prasad Pradhan.

The programme also had the presence of Di-



rector, Horticulture, Sadan Tamang, Additional Directors from Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, District Incharge, Block Developments Officer Hee Martam, Pratiba Tamang, Programme Manager of Gramin Vikash Trust Rajeev Kumar, National Project Head from Noida, Tripti Khanna, field functionaries, Panchayats, Beneficiaries, Bamboo crafting trainees and others.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Minister expressed his gratitude to the HDFC Bank for utilizing the CSR fund on priority sectors like Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husband-

ry and Veterinary Services. He acknowledged the Gramin Vikas Trust for their working spirit in creating opportunity and availing resources to strengthen the economy of rural population.

He also threw light on the pivotal role of the Village Development Committee, constituted in every village for monitoring of practices in the field so that the targeted goal of Holistic Development can be achieved, successfully.

Minister Sharma also urged all other nationalized banks to utilise CSR funds on priority sectors for the holistic development and benefits of rural populations.

He also applauded the Bamboo creativity

potential of Livelihood Business Incubation Centre and urged the trainees to imbibe the imparted training session properly and adequately utilise the obtained skill in generating sustainable source of livelihood. Sharma touched upon relentless efforts of the state government with a sole motive for the upliftment of every community and development of the state as a whole.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated the office of Gramin Vikas Trust and inspected the newly installed Charcoal cum Vinegar Extraction Plant. He also interacted with the trainees attending the ongoing Bamboo Crafting session in the livelihood centre.

STA thanks CM for prioritizing education sector

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 AUG:

Sikkim Teachers Association [STA] has expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, PS Tamang, Education Minister, KN Lepcha and officials of Education Department for giving priority to the education sector and facilitating the teaching fraternity with a platform to share and address issues.

An STA press release issued by its president, KB Bhandari, mentions that a meeting chaired by the CM was held here on Friday to discuss the present scenario of education and the status of educators in the State.

The meeting was also attended by the Education Minister, Advisor to the Education Department, MP Subba, Additional Chief Secretary to Education Department, GP Upadhyaya, Secretary Education Department, Anil Raj Rai, Special Secretary Education Department, Bhim Thatal and other officials of the de-

partment. A 13-member team of STA represented the stakeholders led by STA president, KB Bhandari.

It is informed that the meeting primarily focused on measures needed to compensate for the loss incurred in the education sector due to the pandemic and how to revitalize the goal of enhancing quality education in the State.

In the meeting, the present status of teachers and the teaching-learning process were also discussed. The meeting discussed an 18-point memorandum, which had been submitted by STA to the CM earlier, the release adds.

Other relevant issues included providing avenues for promotion to all cadres of teachers, provision of availing third

advancement grade for teachers, provision for fully paid study leave for teachers, providing tablets to students of Sikkim including junior classes were also placed in the meeting. The release mentions that the CM assured to look into all matters raised by STA and further affirmed that majority of the genuine demands would be sanctioned very soon.

What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

Symptoms of nCoV

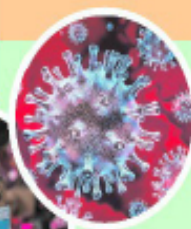
- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

Treatment

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

Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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



If you seek help, you may call :
-Toll free no. 104
District surveillance Officer
EAST : 7028372100
WEST : 9593297809
NORTH : 9641957468
SOUTH : 7407691463
New STNM
AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

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SICA signs 6 guest players for 2021 season

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 AUG:**

Sikkim Cricket Association [SICA] has signed three male guest players from Karnataka and three female cricketers from West Bengal and Mumbai by conducted trials at Bengaluru and Rangpo.

As the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] announced the schedule for Season 2021-22, SICA signed three male guest players - Liyan Khan, Karthik CA and Kranthi Kumar from Karnataka and three women cricketers - Rinki Rajak and Manizha Mumtaz from West Bengal and Jetsun Narbu Chee from Mumbai, informs a SICA press release.

The release mentions that SICA started signing guest players on the basis of their biodata and performance since 2018.

"SICA should give a platform to talented and young players from top performing States who are capable and can be with SICA for at least a few years," stated SICA president, Lobzang G Tenzing.

The president also expressed that the message should be loud and clear for the cricketing fraternity in India that SICA not only promotes local talent but also supports many deprived players from top cricket playing States, as per the release.

Liyan Khan, aged 29, is a Right-hand top-order batsman and Leg Spinner and represented Karnataka in Under 19, Under 23, Under 25 categories and also played Ranji



Trophy for the State. He has also represented South Zone in the Under-19 category.

Kranthi Kumar, aged 28, a Right-hand batsman and Right-arm medium-fast bowler has represented Karnataka in Under 19, Under 22, Under 25 categories and List A matches. Along with Liyan Khan, he has also represented South Zone in the Under-19 category and was enrolled in the BCCI Specialist Academy. Kranthi has also played for Hubli Tigers in Karnataka Premier League.

Karthik CA, aged 28, is a top-order batsman and the right-arm medium-fast bowler and

was in the probables of Karnataka in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy. He was part of the age categories team of the state in Under 19, Under 23, and Under 25. Karthik played for Ballari Tuskars in Karnataka Premier League.

Rinki Rajak, aged 22, is a Right-hand batter and right-arm off-spinner. She has represented Bengal for 4 years in various categories and has been part of the All-India Super League, East Zone Under 19 team in one day. She is also associated with Sikkim since the 2019-20 season and is the leading scorer for Sikkim in

both U-23 and Senior categories.

Manizha Mumtaz, aged 20, a Right-hand batter and right-arm medium pace bowler and has been playing cricket for over seven years and represented Bengal and Mizoram in the Under-23 category and also led the Mizoram side as a captain.

Jetsun Narbu Chee, aged 16, is a Right-hand wicket-keeper batsman. She is a part of the Under 16 Mumbai team and was in the probables of Mumbai in Under-19 and senior categories. In 2018-19, she was awarded the MI Junior Best Wicket-Keeper.

Mangan runs to join Fit India Movement

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 28 AUG:**

As a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' celebration to commemorate 75 years of India's independence, the Nehru Yuva Kendra, Mangan, today conducted 'Fit India Freedom Run' which was participated by 50 people aged between 18-65 years from all walks of life.

The event also aimed to raise the spirit of patriotism and consciousness for health and fitness.

The run was flagged off by Chairperson Welfare Commission, Nim Tshering Lepcha as chief guest in the presence of SP North, Ongmu Bhutia, ADM North, Sonam Lepcha, NYK State Director, Shibashish Banerjee, MEO, Mangan Nagar Panchayat, Tempo Bhutia, president MNP, Norkit Lepcha, Sibasis Banerjee,



NYK State Director, programme coordinator, Jigme Norbu Bhutia, NYK Mangan staff and participants. The 2.0 marathon was conducted from Little Flower private school to

Raffong khola via Mangan Lall Bazaar and culminated back at the starting point. The participants were handed over certificates by MEO, Mangan Nagar Panchayat (MNP).

Assam floods affect over 1.33 lakh across 11 districts

GUWAHATI, 28 AUG [NDTV]: The flood situation in Assam is worsening after over 1.33 lakh people across 11 districts were affected, a bulletin issued by the state's disaster management agency on Friday said.

Districts affected by floods due to heavy rainfall in catchment areas are Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Sivasagar, Sonitpur and Tinsukia.

So far 243 villages have been affected due to flooding of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

Fortunately no loss of lives (human or animal) have been reported so far, the bulletin said.

162 people and 40 animals have been evacuated with the help of boats so far.

6,217 people have taken shelter in 66 relief camps set up by the district administrations of Bongaigaon and Chirang. Five camps in Dhemaji district and three more in Tinsukia are on standby.

SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK-737101

Memo No. 65 /SSTRB/ADM

Date: 27. 08. 2021

Date of Interview for the Post of Headmaster of Secondary School, Pracharya & Pradhan Adhyapak of Sanskrit Pathshala

The date of Screening-cum-Interview for the posts of Headmasters for Secondary Schools, Pracharya & Pradhan Adhyapak for Sanskrit Pathshalas, under the Department of Education, notified by SSTRB vide advertisement Memo No.63/SSTRB/ADM dated 26.07.2021 scheduled from 6.08.2021, Friday, onwards and was later postponed vide Notification Memo No.64/SSTRB/ADM dated 02.08.2021.

The Screening-cum-Interview for the aforementioned posts shall now be held from September 06, 2021 (Monday) to September 14, 2021 (Tuesday) at SSTRB: Syari, Gangtok.

For any assistance, please contact:

Mr. M.K Pradhan, Exams Officer, SSTRB

+917872861250

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Email:sstrb2019@gmail.com

Sd/-

(Secretary)

Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board

R.O No. 164/IPR/PUB/Classi, Dated: 27.08.21

India records 46,759 COVID-19 cases, 509 deaths

NEW DELHI, AUG 28 (PTI): With 46,759 people testing positive for COVID-19 in a span of 24 hours, India's infection tally rose to 3,26,49,947 on Saturday, while the count of active cases registered an increase for the fourth consecutive day, according to Union Health Ministry data.

The death toll has climbed to 4,37,370 with 509 more fatalities being recorded, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The number of active cases has now increased to 3,59,775 which comprises 1.10 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 97.56 per cent, the ministry said. An increase of 14,876 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The count of daily new cases has stayed below 50,000 for 62 consecutive days now, the ministry said.

Also, 17,61,110 coronavirus tests were conducted in the country on Friday, taking the cumulative number of such examinations done so far to 51,68,87,602.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.66 per cent. It has been below three per cent for the last 33 days.

The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.19 per cent. This has been below three per cent for 64 days now, according to the Health Ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,18,52,802, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.34 per cent, the data stated.


India administered a record 1,03,35,290 COVID-19 vaccine doses on Friday. With this, the coronavirus vaccination coverage in the country surpassed 62.29 crore, as per provisional reports till 7 am on Saturday, the ministry said.

This has been achieved through 67,19,042 sessions, it added.

India's COVID-19 infection tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7 last year, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5, 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and one crore on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore infections on May 4 this year and three crore on June 23.

The 509 new fatalities include 179 from Kerala and 170 from Maharashtra.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND
VETERINARY SERVICES
KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG**

No. 2444/AH/VS(Admin) Dated: 26.08.2021

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Applications are invited from local domiciled (COI and SSC holders) candidates for filling up of 08 (Eight) posts of Veterinary Officers in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services. The selection and engagement of above pots is purely on temporary/adhoc basis for the period of two years. The incumbents shall not have any right or claim for regular appointment in the department after the expiry of stipulated period of appointment.

SL. NO	NAME OF POST	NO. OF VACANCY	MONTHLY PAY (CONSOLIDATED)	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	AGE LIMIT
1	Veterinary Officer	08	Rs.35000/-pm	B.V.Sc & A.H	18-40 years.

Interested eligible candidates may apply with photocopies of all requisite documents such as qualification, age, experience (if any), COI/SSC for registration on or before 10th September 2021 to the office of the undersigned.


Further, candidates must bring requisite documents in original at the time and venue of Walk-in-Interview to be held on 16/09/2021 at department's Training Centre located at Sokeythang from 10 am onwards. The candidates selected are subjected to be posted at various farms or offices established by the department across the state. The decision of the selection committee constituted for conducting Walk-in-Interview shall be final and binding in all respect.

List of selected candidates shall be notified in the Notice Board of the department at Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok after the completion of Walk-in-Interview.

No TA/DA shall be paid for attending the interview.

*Sd/-
Khemray Bhattarai, SCS
Joint Secretary to the Government of Sikkim
Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department.*

R.O. No. 162/IPR/Pub/Classi/21-22 Date 27.8.2021



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SOCIAL JUSTICE & WELFARE DEPARTMENT
MILE LUMSEY, TADONG
GANGTOK**

Memo No. 23/GOS/184/SJ&WD/EC/2021-22 Dated: 26.8.2021.

RE-AUCTION NOTICE

The social Justice & Welfare Department located at Lumsey in East Sikkim shall be auctioning a non-functional Biscuit Manufacturing Plant on 'AS IS WHERE IS' basis. The lowest value for the available has been kept as Rs. 6,02,000/- (Rupees six lakhs two thousand) only.

- Interested parties inspect the material from 31/08/2021 to 10/09/2021 during office hours and sealed quotations may be sent to the office of the undersigned on or before 16/09/2021 till 1.00 pm along with security deposit (5% of Rs.6,02,000/-) Rupees Six lakhs two thousand) only in the form of TDR/FDR for an amount of Rs.30,100/- (Rupees thirty thousand one hundred) only drawn in favour of CAO, SJ&WD, for a validity period of 3(three) months.
- The quotations shall be opened on 16.09.2021 at 2.00 pm in presence of the interested bidders and the highest bidder shall be allowed to lift the materials after the production of Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Managing Director, Extruder Food Processing Plant for the rate quoted.
- Form for quotation can be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer (N/E) on submission of Bank Receipt (drawn from the State Bank of Sikkim on Head of account 0235.60.800.03 other receipts) for an amount of Rs. 2500/- (Rupees two thousand five hundred) only.
- The last date for obtaining form for quotation is on 15/09/2021 (during office hours).
- Certificate of Identification (as a proof of Sikkim Subject) should be invariably submitted with the quotation).
- Further, the materials, should be lifted within a period of one month from the issue of the lifting order, failing which the TDR shall be forfeited and offer shall be given to the second highest bidder. Rate quoted below the set back value shall be summarily rejected. The second highest bidder shall be given one month's time to lift the materials after duly depositing the quoted amount. If he/she fails to lift the materials within stipulated time, his/her TDR shall be forfeited and fresh tender as deem fit by the government will be taken up.
- The Department reserves the right to reject the bid without assigning any reason thereof.

*Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Social Justice & Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok.*

R.O. No. 159/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22 Date: 26.08.2021

Democracy Is About Listening

Bully at Your Own Risk

A friend narrated an interesting episode recently. He was on board an evening flight out of Kolkata. In these days of slow economies when airlines are not even maintaining their fleets properly, it comes as no surprise that they are also cutting back on housekeeping expenses. As a result, this plane was infested with mosquitoes. Yes, even that happened despite all the sanitizing protocols. Everyone was swatting around until one of the passengers called in the stewards and requested them to do something about the machchars. The hostess said they could do nothing about it and pointed out that even they had to deal with the pesky insects. This happened recently, so there was the worry of dengue and malaria as well. This passenger kept complaining. All anyone wanted was for something to be done. Even a polite excuse might have worked. The plane had not yet taken off. A few minutes later, the captain radioed the air traffic controllers “reporting” that one of the passengers had become a dangerous nuisance and needed to be disembarked. This person was being obnoxious at worst, not a dangerous nuisance and the only potentially dangerous presence in the plane was the swarm of mosquitoes and the officials would not even tortoise-coil them away. The Captain, as the friend put it, did what the Indian state invariably does when it cannot or does not want to reason with someone – brand them a nuisance/ spoilsport/ antinational etc and get rid of them. In another incident, the other day a cabbie was pulled over by a traffic cop who had received a wireless alert claiming that the vehicle had stopped at an unauthorized spot to pick up a passenger. The driver insisted that he had allowed in a passenger at a traffic jam (not of his making) and the passenger attested to as much. The cop was gruff and insisted he had to do his job. The cabbie had two choices – cough up the fine then and there or go to court, fight it, waste time and pay double if he loses.

If you are in the airline business, you will see nothing wrong in what the air crew in the first instance did. If you are taxi driver, vehicle owner or even a regular commuter, you will empathise with the challaned taxi driver because we have witnessed too many instances when traffic rules and driving etiquette are applied exclusively on the lay citizens and don't exist for anyone in khaki (and also the two shades of blue in Sikkim's case). We also see such attitudes manifest from positions of authority every time they even suspect a hint of emancipation rising in the cattle class (the mango people, as we like to call them nowadays). Sample what happened with the govt-student clash in 2014. Officials at HRDD were stereotypically pompous in addressing the concerns raised by the students, the college management was typically spineless in discussing the issue and the cops played to role when they went at the kids with rolls instead of some more patience just because the kids were not being quickly obedient enough. That day, however, the kids had had enough. They pushed back. Hard. Even though we have done everything to infantilize them by dictating their syllabus and routines and putting them into uncomfortable uniforms, they had shuffled through enough humiliation for the day. Later, the authorities continued to talk down to them during negotiations, and the young, who had never been allowed to think for themselves made poor negotiators unable to either frame their demands or conditions with any coherence or build consensus on what was to be done. Soon, the issue spilled out of the campus and everyone with an axe to grind against the government, the administration and all its other manifestations took to the streets and even slapped down the students when they said they wanted out.

There are lessons to be learned from all this, and the first one is for the authorities to realize that India is not a colony anymore. The cops maintain law & order for the benefit of the people and are not given uniforms and authority to keep the people in line. Air crews were given the power to deplane passengers because an out of control passenger midair posed a safety risk. They cannot throw off people for being obnoxious just as cops cannot be allowed a free run to interpret rules as they want and enforce them as they please. One understands the difficulties of allowing freedoms while enforcing order, but come on, we had seven decades to figure that one out. Democracy allows us safe releases for pent up frustrations, dissents and disagreements, but we plug those every time we allow authority to play the bully and impose indignities on the people. Then, occasionally the people explode. In Sikkim, such outbursts do not have any lasting effects, but always leave a bad aftertaste. There is no need to suffer those when it could have been avoided and healthier democracy created in its lieu.

JEAN EDDY SAINT PAUL
THECONVERSATION.COM

The powerful earthquake that struck Haiti on Aug. 14, 2021, followed a long series of natural and human-caused disasters to rock the country. Unfortunately, if history offers any clues, earthquake relief efforts will be complicated by the nation's recent political unrest.

President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated less than six weeks earlier, on July 7. Many Haitians felt hatred for the controversial president who, while running for office, was bribed by the oligarchy that has run Haiti's economy since the 19th century.

Moïse campaigned on a promise to feed the starving population. But he failed to ensure a fairer distribution of wealth. He soon became an unpopular president who increasingly ruled as an autocrat.

As a sociology professor who has written extensively on Haitian politics, I predicted Moïse's assassination.

That's because Moïse remained defiant in the face of mass protests in 2019, refusing to heed calls for his resignation amid fuel shortages and spiraling inflation.

There was also a palpable split between Moïse and powerful business magnates as the country's economic crisis worsened.

PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATIONS IN HAITI

Moïse is the latest of five Haitian presidents to be killed in office since the country's founding in 1804.

Power struggles and strong economic interests, both local and with other nations – mainly the United States – have motivated those assassinations. Throughout Haitian history, the U.S. has been actively engaged in undermining the legitimacy of Haitian leaders who refused to bow to American imperialism.

Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Haiti's founding father, proclaimed the country's independence from

France on Jan. 1, 1804, after a 12-year war.

One of his first executive orders was intended to prevent the abuse of land ownership. It called for a fair distribution of land among racial groups in a country that had won independence because of strategic alliances among Blacks, biracial people and a few white soldiers.

Dessalines is often portrayed by mainstream media as a cannibal and assassin. That's because he was abhorred by white Europeans and Americans – leaders of the global economic system who were intimidated by the Haitian Revolution.

Additionally, the elites in Dessalines' circle disapproved of the power he had concentrated, and they assassinated him on Oct. 17, 1806.

His death accelerated Haiti's political disintegration.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE AND POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS

The 30 billion euros in today's currency that Haitian President Jean-Pierre Boyer agreed to pay France in 1825 as compensation for property losses during the war has destabilized the country.

It has also allowed foreign powers to undermine Haiti's sovereignty.

In 1823, the U.S. passed the Monroe Doctrine, which says “that the American continents ... are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.” The declaration, meant to keep Europe out of the continent, has justified U.S. interventions in the region.

Between 1889 and 1891, the U.S. unsuccessfully negotiated with Haiti to acquire the Môle St. Nicholas port, which would have given it a military foothold in the Caribbean.

More than 20 years later, the murder of President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam offered the U.S. the perfect rationale to invade Haiti.

On same day as Sam's assassination, July 28, 1915, Woodrow Wilson authorized the American warship USS Washington to invade Haiti. The U.S. occupied Haiti until 1934.

During that occupation, U.S. officials altered Haiti's Constitution to allow foreigners to become landowners. That change also gave the U.S. control of Haiti's customs agency and finances.

Racial discrimination and segregation were the norm in the U.S. South at the time, and most U.S. Marines sent to Haiti were Southerners, accustomed to Jim Crow.

This Southern influence among U.S. Marines played a big role in Haitian history. During the occupation, the U.S. picked only light-skinned Haitians to serve as presidents. And after 19 years in the country, the U.S. left behind a racially divided society that remains intact today.

US-TRAINED ARMY

The U.S. also trained the Haitian military ideologically to defend U.S. interests. These forces eventually engineered many coups against Haitian leaders who were popular with locals but rejected by the U.S.

Between 1946 and 1950, under the presidency of Dumarsais Estimé, Haiti enjoyed political and social stability. However, on May 10, 1950, Paul-Eugène Magloire, trained during the U.S. occupation, overthrew Estimé and changed Haiti's political trajectory.

Magloire established a corrupt political regime. Then the army provided support for U.S.-backed François “Papa Doc” Duvalier, from his presidential election in 1957 to the establishment in 1959 of his dictatorship.

In 1959, Duvalier created the Tontons Macoutes, a paramilitary group trained by U.S. Marines that killed more than 60,000 Haitians. The Duvalier regime, led by Papa

Doc's son Jean-Claude after his death in 1971, lasted until 1986.

THE ARISTIDE ERA

Between 1991 and 2004, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide – who won over Haitians with his anti-imperialism – was overthrown twice by the Haitian military.

On Sept. 29, 1991, the army, with CIA help, removed Aristide from power for his nationalistic views, and for his attempts to hold accountable powerful business leaders with strong ties to Washington.

On Oct. 15, 1994, amid huge protests, the Bill Clinton administration restored Aristide to power, after Washington coerced him to sign l'Accord de Paris, an agreement to reinforce the implementation of market-oriented reform policies in Haiti that reduced local influence over the economy.

Aristide was forced to privatize social services and public institutions, and he had to facilitate the entry of foreign agricultural goods into the Haitian market. These moves undermined the economy and compromised Haiti's social development.

In 2000, Aristide again won the presidency. But a February 2004 coup, engineered by Washington and Paris, overthrew him once more.

Under foreign influence, Haitian politicians have been unable to develop a stable society for their fellow citizens. Because of their lack of vision and their erroneous conception of political power, they have given powerful transnational forces the opportunity to shape Haiti's political leadership.

Both Democratic and Republican U.S. politicians have imposed on Haitian society a political leadership supportive of U.S. interests but noxious for any nation-building project on the Caribbean island.

[the writer is Professor of Sociology, Brooklyn College]

Five ways to help your dog live a longer, healthier life

JACQUELINE BOYD
THECONVERSATION.COM

As anyone who has ever lived with a dog will know, it often feels like we don't get enough time with our furry friends. Most dogs only live around ten to 14 years on average – though some may naturally live longer, while others may be predisposed to certain diseases that can limit their lifespan.

But what many people don't know is that humans and dogs share many genetic similarities – including a predisposition to age-related cancer. This means that many of the things humans can do to be healthier and longer lived may also work for dogs.

Here are just a few ways that you might help your dog live a longer, healthier life.

1. WATCH THEIR WAISTLINE

One factor that's repeatedly linked with longevity across a range of species is maintaining a healthy bodyweight. That means ensuring dogs aren't carrying excess weight, and managing their calorie intake carefully. Not only will a lean, healthy bodyweight be better for your dog in the long term, it can also help to limit the impact of certain health conditions, such as osteoarthritis.

Carefully monitor and manage your dog's bodyweight through regular weighing or body condition scoring – where you look at your dog's physical shape and “score” them on a scale to check whether they're overweight, or at a healthy weight. Using both of these methods together will allow you to identify weight changes and alter their diet as needed.

Use feeding guidelines as a starting point for how much to feed your dog, but you might need to change food type or the amount you feed to maintain a healthy weight as your dog gets older, or depending on how much activity they get. Knowing exactly how much you are feeding your dog is also a crucial weight-management tool – so weigh their food rather than scooping it in by eye.

More generally, good nutrition can be linked to a healthy ageing process, suggesting that what you feed can be as important as how much you feed. “Good” nutrition will vary for each dog, but be sure to look for foods that are safe, tasty

and provide all the nutrients your dog needs.

2. PLENTY OF WALKS

Exercise has many physiological and psychological benefits, both for our dogs (and us). Physical activity can help to manage a dog's bodyweight, and is also associated with anti-ageing effects in other genetically similar species.

While exercise alone won't increase your dog's lifespan, it might help protect you both from carrying excess bodyweight. And indeed, research suggests that “happy” dog walks lead to both happy dogs and people.

3. TEACH THEM NEW TRICKS

Ageing isn't just physical. Keeping your dog's mind active is also helpful. Contrary to the popular adage, you can teach old dogs new tricks – and you might just keep their brain and body younger as a result.

Even when physical activity might be limited, explore alternative low-impact games and pursuits, such as scentwork that you and your dog can do together. Using their nose is an inherently rewarding and fun thing for dogs to do, so training dogs to find items by scent will exercise them both mentally and physically.

Other exercise such as hydrotherapy – a type of swimming exercise – might be a good option – especially for dogs who have conditions which affect their ability to exercise as normal.

4. BONDING

Like many companion animals, dogs develop a clear attachment to their caregivers. The human-dog bond likely provides companionship – and often, dog lovers describe them as a family member.

A stable caregiver-dog bond can help maintain a happy and mutually beneficial partnership between you and your dog. It can also help you recognise subtle changes in your dog's behaviour or movement that might signal potential concerns.

Where there is compatibility between care-



giver and dog, this leads to a better relationship – and even benefits for owners, too, including stress relief and exercise. Sharing positive, fun experiences with your dog, including playing with them, are great for cementing your bond.

5. DON'T SKIP VET VISITS

Modern veterinary medicine has seen substantial improvements in preventing and managing health concerns in dogs. Successful vaccination and parasite management programmes have effectively reduced the incidence of disease in both dogs and humans – including toxocarasis, which can be transmitted from dog faeces to humans, and rabies, which can be transmitted dog-to-dog or dog-to-human.

Having a good relationship with your vet will allow you to tailor treatments and discuss your dog's needs. Regular health checks can also be useful in identifying any potential problems at a treatable stage – such as dental issues or osteoarthritis – which can cause pain and negatively impact the dog's wellbeing.

At the end of the day, it's a combination of our dog's genetics and the environment they live in that impacts their longevity. So while we can't change their genetics, there are many things we can do to improve their health that may just help them live a longer, healthier life.

[tewh writer is Senior Lecturer in Animal Science, Nottingham Trent University]

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6 drug peddlers held in Guwahati

GUWAHATI, AUG 28 (PTI): Assam Police have arrested six suspected drug traffickers with psychotropic substances and seized a large quantity of illegal IMFL in the city in separate operations, a police spokesperson said on Saturday. The operations were conducted over the last two days in different parts of the city, he added.

Four suspected drug peddlers, all in their twenties, were apprehended from Pub-Sarania area of the city, the spokesperson said.

Altogether 2.79 gm heroin packed in 28 plastic vials, two air rifles and seven mobile phones were seized from their possession, he said.

“The recovered material was seized as per procedure and a case under NDPS Act registered,” he added.

Earlier on Friday, a woman was arrested from Gorchuk area and 14 plastic vials containing brown sugar was seized from her possession,



sion, the spokesperson said.

Another woman, hailing from Aizawl in Mizoram, was apprehended from a hotel room in Bhangagarh area of the city on Thursday and approximately 8,500 meth tablets seized from

her possession, he further said.

The woman had come from Meghalaya capital Shillong and was staying in the hotel when she was arrested, he added.

In a separate operation, based on a tip-off, police conducted a

search at a parking lot in Betkuchi area on Friday night and recovered 20 cartons of beer, stored without any permission, the spokesperson said.

Earlier on Friday, 90 bottles of IMFL, kept hidden in a car, were seized from a dhaba,

which did not have license to sell liquor, from Basistha area.

Nearly 100 bottles of IMFL were also seized from two other eateries without liquor selling license from Basistha area on Thursday night, the spokesperson added.

Arunachal Pradesh logs 126 new COVID-19 cases



ITANAGAR, AUG 28 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh reported 126 new COVID-19 cases pushing the tally to 52,760, a senior health official said here on Saturday.

The COVID-19 death toll in the frontier state remained at 260, as no new fatality due to the disease was reported in the last 24 hours, State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Dr Lobsang Jampa said.

The Capital Complex Region recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 26, followed by West Kameng (17), Dibang Valley (15), Lower Subansiri (13), Lower Dibang Valley (9) and six each from West Siang and Tawang, the official said.

Fresh cases each were also reported from Papumpare, Lower Siang, Pakke Kessang, Lohit, East Siang, Upper Siang, Tirap, Namsai, Kamle, Anjaw, Kra Daadi, Siang and Upper Subansiri districts, the SSO said.

Of the fresh cases, 117 were detected through rapid antigen test, 4 through RT-PCR and 5 through TrueNAT method, the official said.

Arunachal Pradesh currently has 1,112 active COVID-19 cases, while 51,388 people have recovered from the disease, including 164 patients on Friday, Jampa said.

The COVID-19 recovery rate in the state is now 97.40 per cent while

the active percentage stands at 2.11 and the positivity rate at 3.75 per cent, the official said.

The Capital Complex Region - comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas - has the highest number of active cases at 240, followed by Lower Subansiri (110), West Kameng (107), Papumpare (83) and Upper Siang with 81 cases.

Altogether, 10,47,648 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state so far, including 3,355 on Friday, Jampa said.

Meanwhile, State Immunisation Officer (SIO) Dr Dimong Padung said that a total of 10,62,840 people have been administered COVID-19 vaccine doses so far in the state.

CIPACA expands to Tripura, sets up new ICU

CHENNAI, AUG 28 (PTI): Healthcare service provider CIPACA (Chennai Interventional Pulmonology and Critical Care Associates) said it commenced operations in the northeastern State of Tripura on Saturday, according to an official. CIPACA, engaged in establishing and managing state-of-the-art intensive care units (ICUs) in rural hospitals, on Friday

opened a 24x7 ICU by partnering with 60-bedded Unakoti Nursing Care and Hospital in the northeastern State.

“CIPACA has been recognised as the best rural provider of ICUs. We believe setting up an ICU in Kailashahar in that State is the beginning of a new era in healthcare transformation of rural Tripura,” managing director of

Unakoti Nursing Care and Hospital Dr Satyajit Pal said in a press statement here.

Kailashahar is situated about 140 kms from Tripura. Unakoti Nursing Care would be the 13th hospital of CIPACA, where it has set up ICUs.

Managing director of CIPACA Dr Raja Amarnath said, “Our tie-up will ensure ICU facility

for the rural population. Our rural ICU mission continues to get a boost with more and more hospitals as small towns are coming forward to build ICUs,” he added.

Recently, MS Multi-specialty Hospital at Pitapuram in east Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh launched ICU operations in partnership

with CIPACA.

The 21-bedded MS Multi-Specialty Hospital tied up with CIPACA to provide care to people in about 50 villages of neighbouring Kakinada and Vishakapatnam of the southern State.

CIPACA has planned to set up over 500 ICU beds in the next two-three years from the existing 300-plus, the statement added.

Sha'Carri Richardson's Eugene flop suggests a case of too much too soon

ANDREW LAWRENCE LONDON, 28 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]: Mujinga Kambundji. Javianne Oliver. Barbara Pierre. They are but a sampling of the women who have brought up the rear in the 100m dash at the Prefontaine Classic in recent years. If those names are news to you, it's probably because the TV networks tend not to go out of their way to spotlight the biggest losers.

The notable exception of course came during last Saturday's edition of the Pre, a hotly anticipated Diamond League showcase that would mark the return of Sha'Carri Richardson from a monthlong, THC-triggered drug suspension that cost her a spot in the 2020 Olympics - and on the same Hayward Field where she stole hearts from Eugene to Yokohama after clocking a 10.86 to win the US trials. What's more, Richardson would be going toe-to-toe with Elaine Thompson-Herah, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson - the fearsome Jamaican trio that locked out the 100m podium in Tokyo.

So this was a heavy-weight exhibition, the rare women's sprint race that completely overshadows the men's. And Richardson would do more than her part to stoke the hype through snarky tweets, a Nicki Minaj-inspired TikTok video, and an acrylic nail-tapping Nike advert scored to Aretha Franklin's 'Young, Gifted and

Black' that ran moments before the starting gun. ("If you need me," Richardson says in the spot, "I'll be at the finish line, waiting.") In a pre-race news conference with the three Jamaicans, Richardson came out swinging like a prizefighter at a weigh-in. "I'm not starstruck," she said with a giggle.

In the end the world was left dumbstruck. Racing in Lane 5, center stage on the track, Richardson finished ninth out of nine sprinters with a time of 11.14. Behind her aforementioned compatriot Oliver and the Switzerland-born Kambundji - who took sixth and seventh, respectively. Behind former Texas Longhorn Teahna Daniels, who came in fourth. And well behind the three Jamaicans, who locked out the podium again in exactly the same order they did in Tokyo.

Any one of those podium-finishers would've been a deserving post-race interview - not least Thompson-Herah, whose winning, windless 10.54 time was five-hundredths off of Flo-Jo's mountainous all-time mark. But instead NBC - in a heat to prove its bungled Olympics coverage was no fluke, apparently - zeroed in on Richardson, and she unraveled on live TV. "Talk all the shit you want," she said, chopping the air with her hands when she wasn't giggling more. "I'm the sixth-fastest woman in this game, ever. And can't nobody ever take that from me."

Not surprisingly, Richardson's invitation to ridicule was swiftly taken up on social media by rafts of pot-clapping Jamaicans; they were too delighted to point out that Richardson's 11.14 time wouldn't have medaled at Champs and post memes of Fraser-Pryce breezing past Richardson in the background while shooting NBC's camera a playful glance that seemed to say Is this your queen? Even Minaj had to pile on.

Not long thereafter Richardson deepened the embarrassment by pulling out of the 200m. While her peers continue to push one another this week at the next Diamond League stop in Lausanne, Richardson has retreated to social media, where she continued to urge on her haters after liking a post disparaging Jamaica as a nation of barefoot coconut eaters. Which is to say, this person doesn't much resemble the one who appeared on the Today show in the wake of her drug suspension, owned up to her transgression and committed to "heal myself". Still: Not even those missteps much dented empathy for Richardson at home - particularly among Black observers who saw her as yet another Black woman who is getting torn down for being too authentic. (Never mind the eight Black women who finished ahead of her, or the audacity of this "uplift our queen" argument coming from guys like the rapper Tory Lanez - the same guy who shot ex-girlfriend

Megan Thee Stallion in the foot barely a year ago.

Richardson even had Allyson Felix in her corner. "She's obviously been through so much, and I hope that she's supported," she said during a Jimmy Kimmel Live! appearance on Monday. "She has a great personality, and she's brought a lot of attention to the sport." But Richardson wasn't having any of the 11-time Olympic medalist's flattery. "Encouraging words on TV shows are just as real as well nothing at all," was how she captioned an Instagram story two days later.

It's one thing not to be cowed by a nation that takes track more seriously than Americans take anything. It's another to attack Felix; in addition to being a fellow American and the most decorated track and field athlete ever, she is also one of the one kindest, most sincere people in all of sports. That Richardson could read Felix's remarks as shady makes you wonder if maybe all this notoriety is a little too much too soon.

It bears reminding: Most of us met Richardson in Eugene not long after she lost her biological mother, a persistent modifier that suggests a complicated relationship. On top of that, she had to grapple with the public embarrassment of losing out on her Olympic dream because of the bad choice she made to cope with a personal nightmare. Her perseverance through it all is what won her so much support in the first place.

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Paralympic Triathlete who helped Spain fight Covid wins gold

TOKYO, 28 AUG [AFP]: During Spain's tough lockdowns, Paralympic triathlon champion Susana Rodriguez trained furiously at home and helped fight the coronavirus in her job as a doctor. Rodriguez -- who swam, cycled and sprinted to Tokyo Paralympics gold in Saturday's PTVI race for athletes with visual impairments -- said working in a hospital meant she "knew Covid was very serious, since the very beginning". In the fraught early days of the pandemic, when she was on the phone lines to assess people with symptoms, her boss would hold a meeting each morning.

"He gave the new data, and things were going really wrong," the 33-year-old told AFP before her competition at the virus-postponed Tokyo Paralympics.

"Last year, I realised that the Games would not be possible, before they said they wouldn't be in 2020."

She then put her specialisation in physical medicine and rehabilitation to use by helping patients recover from the most severe infections -- while fitting in hours on her treadmill and exercise bike between shifts.

"I was also afraid of catching Covid," said the athlete, who has albinism and is partially sighted.

"For a blind person, we rely a lot on touching things, and when (the pandemic) started, everything turned to distancing, and touch was not the best idea. So it was difficult, especially in the beginning."

Rodriguez, who has competed in para-athletics since she was a child, eventually took a break from her medical career to focus on preparing for victory.

She will become the first Spanish Paralympian to compete in two disciplines at the same Games when she runs in the women's 1500m T11 on Sunday.

The best way to keep up stamina for back-to-back events is to take things day by day, according to the Spaniard.

"I've been really used to a very stressful schedule in the last year, between Rio and Tokyo, so I am used to focusing on one day, then resting, then the next."

"I'm better in triathlon... but I really love the track," said Rodriguez, who finished fifth in her triathlon category at Rio 2016.

Her guide Sara Loehr also received a gold medal on Saturday, with the pair holding hands and grinning triumphantly on the podium.

Rodriguez says her guide athletes are "my eyes during competition", and "they know me really well. We don't need to speak, because they know if I can push harder or not."

They also help her in the Paralympic Village.

"For example, when you go for dinner or breakfast, they are telling you what food to take. In the end, they are my friends."

Cristiano Ronaldo held Juventus back: just what is it that Manchester United see in him?

JONATHAN WILSON LONDON, 28 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]: Welcome to Unitedland! With an array of nostalgic installations and familiar faces, there's something for everyone to enjoy! Gawp at the scorer of the winning goal from the 1999 Champions League in his very own technical area! Gaze on the goal-scorer from the 2008 Champions League final grazing just outside the penalty area! Even the roof has that retro feel! Season tickets start at just £532.

There was a time when clubs found jobs for former players gladhanding in corporate hospitality. Manchester United have gone much further. With Ole Gunnar Solskjær installed as manager and Cristiano Ronaldo up front, you wonder which other former greats can be brought back to the Old Trafford theme park. Martin Edwards in the boardroom? Gary Bailey back in nets? The toothpick-chewing ghost of Billy Meredith on the wing? A labyrinthodion who once roamed Newton Heath let loose on the shabby concourse?

Of course there is an appeal in bringing back a former great -- even one who until lunchtime on Friday seemed perfectly happy to join their cross-city rivals. Equally there is an appeal in seeing a popular former star dressed in the manager's suit, even if he does quite often end up looking sad in press conferences. But that fondness clouds the judgement -- as is made clear by all those delighted tweets celebrating the return of the king. It's no



different to all those unwilling to contemplate criticising Solskjær on the grounds that outsiders can't understand what he means to United fans. Perhaps not -- although all clubs have their heroes -- but that doesn't make him a good manager. Wishful thinking may bump up the share price, but it never won trophies.

There may even be celebration that United have pinched Ronaldo from City, just as there was when they swooped to prevent Alexis Sánchez moving to the Etihad -- and look how that worked out. In fact, Ronaldo is so unsuited to City, who seemingly were only ever interested in a free transfer for all their apparent need for a central goalscorer, as to raise the mischievous thought that this has worked out rather well for them, saddling a rival with an ageing player who will drain resources and disrupt tactical development.

Call it the Alexis Sánchez Protocol.

United's need is for a central midfielder to link the two halves of the side. They have apparently held back on an attempt to sign Declan Rice for financial reasons having already spent £115m in landing Jadon Sancho and Raphaël Varane. So why now is money -- £20m fee plus £20m a year salary -- suddenly available for a sentimental indulgence? And what does this mean for Mason Greenwood, who after excelling in the opening game of the season, suddenly sees an additional and expensive obstacle between him and regular first-team football? United's future is in danger of being blocked by the ghosts of its glorious past.

Three years ago, Juventus paid £100m for a 33-year-old and gave him a basic salary of £26.6m a year, a deal that must now rank as one of the worst in history. Ron-

aldo was signed to take Juventus, who had lost in two Champions League finals in the previous four seasons, to European glory. Instead they lost in the quarter-final to Ajax, then in the last 16 to Lyon, then in the last 16 to Porto. Juve had won seven scudetti in a row before Ronaldo arrived. They won it again in their first two seasons with him, but finished fourth last year. He may have scored 81 league goals in three seasons, but Ronaldo made Juventus a worse football team.

And not only has his relative immobility, his reluctance to contribute to the press -- he was in the bottom 2% of forwards across Europe's top five leagues in terms of pressures per 90 minutes last season -- held Juve back tactically, but the money spent on him has weakened the rest of the squad. There's a reason Juve were so willing to offload him now.

Ronaldo will, almost certainly, score goals, but goals weren't a particular problem for United. Last season they were the second-top scorers in the Premier League, and scored more than anybody else in their Champions League group, but still finished third. They already have a highly gifted thirty-something goalscorer in Edinson Cavani. Their problem is constructing the attacking moves that can overwhelm stubborn defences. Ronaldo will not help with that. In fact it's hard to see how he will fit tactically; United have admitted they never expected Juve to sell and so he was not part of their plans.

But Ronaldo is content -- more than a million retweets of the confirmation of his signing in the first hour -- and elite clubs these days are first and foremost content producers. This is Paul Robinson coming back to Neighbours or

Dirty Den returning to EastEnders. It's great for the narrative. There will be heightened interest. Social media engagements will go through the roof. Ed Woodward will get to churn out impressive-sounding numbers on the shareholders' conference call. Devising and implementing a philosophy is boring. It takes ages.

Put a plan in place now and it could be years before it comes to fruition. Far easier to sign a big name for the immediate dopamine hit that leads to inane talk of winning the transfer market, and is why many fans seem more excited by signing players than winning football matches. There are those who see Juve's signing of Ronaldo as indicative of Serie A regaining its mojo; on the contrary, it was emblematic of its decadence, a superclub being lured onto the rocks by the siren call of celebrity.

Celebrity in football is the enemy of coherence -- and in modern football coherence is what denotes the very best from the rest. Perhaps United fans will simply be happy to be reminded of more successful days, but it's hard to see how Ronaldo takes them any closer to mounting a serious title challenge. Rather this is a whimsical signing that fits the pattern of short-term crowd-pleasing that has characterised much of the eight years since Alex Ferguson retired.

Nothing has been learned and United look doomed to drift on amid the shadows of their past greatness.

"Proved nothing is impossible": Bhavinaben Patel on paralympics semi-final win

TOKYO, 28 AUG: India's para table tennis player Bhavinaben Patel said she never thought of reaching the finals of the Tokyo Paralympics and was only focused on giving her 100 per cent in every match. Bhavinaben continued her dream run in the ongoing Tokyo Games on Saturday as she stormed into the finals after defeating Zhang Miao of China 3-2 in her Class 4 match.

"If I keep on performing like this, I will definitely win the gold medal. I never thought of reaching the finals and only concentrated on giving my 100 per cent and I did that only," said Bhavinaben in a video by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

"And when you give your 100 per cent you can win a medal. I am mentally ready for the finals and I just want to give my 100 per cent," she added.

Bhavinaben created history by becoming the first Indian to enter the finals of the Paralympic Games table tennis competition.

Bhavinaben said she has proved that nothing is impossible after beating the Chinese player in the semi-finals.

"This is a big achievement as I have defeated a Chinese player, everyone says beating a Chinese player is impossible but I have proved nothing is impossible. Everything is possible if you want to do," said Bhavinaben.

"I want to thank everyone, PCI, SAI, blind people association and TOPS as because of their support I've reached here," she added.

Craig Overton says England must take advantage of new ball after India rally



TANYA ALDRED HEADINGLY, 28 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]: After a long day in the field, Craig Overton was frank about the importance of the new ball to England's chances of bowling India out quickly on Saturday.

"Yeah, it'll be massive," he said. "We have to be on it from ball one, hopefully we get a couple early and press on. If they start really well, we've got a real scrap of a game on."

Despite 91 not out from Cheteshwar Pujara, at home at Headingley after two stints as an overseas player, and an unbeaten 45 from Virat Kohli, India still face an uphill struggle:

needing another 139 to make England bat again.

Overton was parsimonious in his 17 overs, hauling one for 35, as well as taking his place in the slip cordon, as England wrestled with an Indian fightback and reviews that did not always fall their way. Rohit Sharma was lucky to survive a closer look at a sharp lbw appeal by Ollie Robinson on 39, when Joe Root was fractionally late to call for a review -- beaten by the clock as he pleaded with his teammates for good counsel.

"I wasn't quite sure," said Overton. "I thought he might have hit it, that's what the

umpire thought, but Jimmy at mid-on was almost certain he didn't hit it so we weren't really quite sure. It would have been nice if we'd have been half a second earlier and got that wicket."

India reach 215-2, trail England by 139: third Test, day three -- as it happened

England know that they must strike early to dismiss Kohli, on his highest score since his 62 against them at Chennai in February. Batting in a cap, he started to look once more like an irresistible force. They will not, however, attempt to fight fire with fire. "He's one of the characters that wants

to get in the battle, so as a side we're just trying to make sure that we do our business as quickly we can," added Overton. "Not ignore him but make sure that we stick to the basics of what we do well, and go from there."

India too, are determined to learn from their past errors. "We batted poorly in the first innings," said Sharma. "They bowled pretty good balls but it was definitely not a 78 [all out] pitch. As a batting unit, we accepted we batted poorly and we corrected our mistakes in the second innings, which is why we are in this position right now."

Qatar has failed to explain up to 70% of migrant worker deaths in past 10 years -- Amnesty

PETE PATTISSON LONDON, 28 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]: World Cup host Qatar has failed to investigate the deaths of thousands of migrant workers in the past decade, according to a new report by Amnesty International.

The human rights organisation said the majority of migrant worker deaths in Qatar are attributed to "natural causes", cardiac or respiratory failure; classifications which are "meaningless" without the underlying cause of death explained, according to one expert cited.

As a result, as many as 70% of deaths may be unexplained. "In a well resourced health system, it should be possible to identify the exact cause of death in all but 1% of cases," the report said.

The findings come as Qatar and FIFA face growing pressure from footballers and national football associations to protect workers' rights with just over a year to go until the World Cup begins.

Qatar's World Cup organising committee has reported 38 worker deaths on World Cup construction projects, of which 35 have been classified as "non-work-re-

lated". However, Amnesty believes nearly half of these deaths have not been properly investigated or explained.

The rights group says intense heat and humidity exposure is likely to be a significant factor and has urged the Qatari authorities to put in place better protections for workers.

"When relatively young and healthy men die suddenly after working long hours in extreme heat, it raises serious questions about the safety of working conditions in Qatar," said Steve Cockburn, Amnesty's head of economic and social justice.

"In failing to investigate the underlying causes of migrant workers' deaths, the Qatari authorities are ignoring warning signs which could, if addressed, save lives. This is a violation of the right to life."

Qatar's treatment of its migrant workforce of 2 million has come under unrelenting scrutiny since it won the right to host the competition in 2010. In February the Guardian revealed that more than 6,500 migrant workers from south Asia had died in Qatar in the past decade.

Qatari authorities

have claimed that the migrant mortality rate is within the expected range given the workforce size, but epidemiological experts quoted in Amnesty's report question "the authorities' ability to make this claim ... because of the low quality of data available".

They also said that migrant workers -- who undergo health tests before departing for Qatar -- are generally young, healthy and "in the prime of their lives".

In May, the Qatari authorities took a number of steps intended to protect workers from the heat, including extending the summer working hours ban, when workers cannot operate outdoors during the hottest part of the day, by a month. Amnesty welcomed the measures but said they did not go far enough.

The report described the devastating toll on the families of workers who die. Under Qatar law, compensation must be paid where deaths are "caused by the job", but the failure to properly investigate deaths means work-related causes may not be identified, allowing employers to avoid compensation, Amnesty said.

Afghan Minister who became a bicycle courier in Germany

BERLIN, 28 AUG [ALJAZEERA]: Sayed Sadaat used to be communications minister in the Afghan government before moving to Germany last December in the hope of a better future. Now he is a delivery man in the eastern city of Leipzig.

He said some at home criticised him for taking such a job after having served in the government for two years, leaving office in 2018. But for him now, a job is a job.

“I have nothing to feel guilty about,” the 49-year-old British-Afghan dual citizen said, standing in his orange uniform next to his bike.

He had quit the Afghan government because of disagreements with members of the president’s circle, he said.

“I hope other politicians also follow the same path, working with the public rather than just hiding.”

His story has gained

particular prominence with the chaos unfolding at home after the Taliban takeover.

His family and friends also want to leave – hoping to join the thousands of others on evacuation flights or trying to find other routes out.

With the withdrawal of US troops on the horizon, the number of Afghan asylum seekers in Germany has risen since the beginning of the year, jumping by more than 130 percent, data from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees showed.

Even though his dual citizenship meant he could have chosen to move to the United Kingdom, where he had spent much of his life, he relocated to Germany at the end of 2020, seizing his last opportunity to do so before that path was closed by Britain’s exit from the European Union.

He chose Germany



because he expected it to have a better economic future and a leading role in the telecom and IT sectors in the long term.

But even with his background, Sadaat has struggled to find a job in Germany that matched his experience.

With degrees in IT and telecommunications, Sadaat had hoped to find work in a related field. But with no German, his chances were slim.

“The language is the most important part,” said Sadaat.

Every day he does four hours of German at a language school before starting a six-hour evening shift delivering meals for Lieferando, where he started this summer.

“The first few days were exciting but difficult,” he said, describing the challenge of learning to cycle in the city traffic.

“The more you go out and the more you see people, the more you learn,” he said.

Hurricane Ida barrels down on Louisiana amid warnings of ‘life-altering storm’

OLIVER LAUGHLAND NEW ORLEANS, 28 AUG [ALJAZEERA]: Hurricane Ida rapidly gained strength on Friday evening as communities in southern Louisiana braced for a major category 4 storm with sustained winds of about 140mph and tens of thousands of residents were placed under mandatory evacuation orders.

The hurricane is due to make landfall in the US on Sunday, with officials warning of a “life-altering storm”. The cities of New Orleans and Lafayette, as well as the state capital, Baton Rouge, are under threat from Ida, which is forecast to reach the US somewhere between the parishes of Terrebonne and St Mary, slightly west of New Orleans.

“Hurricane Ida is rapidly intensifying and the situation is changing, it seems, by the hour,” said John Bel Edwards, the governor, at a briefing on Friday evening. “Now is the time to finish your preparations. By nightfall tomorrow night, you need to be where you intend to ride out the storm, and you need to be postured as you

would want to be as the storm approaches you.”

Ida made its first landfall Friday afternoon on Cuba’s southern Isle of Youth. The Cuban government issued a hurricane warning for its westernmost provinces, where forecasters said as much as 20in (50cm) of rain could fall in places, possibly unleashing deadly flash floods and mudslides.

In Louisiana, there were mandatory evacuation orders in place for a number of parishes surrounding New Orleans, including St Charles, Terrebonne and Lafourche, as the New Orleans mayor told reporters she was ordering mandatory evacuations of those living outside of the city’s levee protection system and advised many of those inside to leave as well.

“The bottom line and the greatest take-away is we do have a major storm heading our way,” LaToya Cantrell said on Friday afternoon, adding that the city was “activating every single resource at our disposal ... to respond”.



On Friday evening the National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned of life-threatening storm surge of up to 15ft in parts of coastal Louisiana. The NHC advised winds in the storm’s path: “Actions to protect life and property should be rushed to completion in the warning area.” It warned of heavy rainfall in south-east Louisiana and coastal Mississippi and Alabama of up to 15in.

The storm was traveling at 15mph with continuous winds of 80mph on Friday afternoon, with expectations it would rapidly gain speed. Coastal Louisiana was expected to experience tropical-storm-force winds by Saturday evening, leading officials to cancel a preseason NFL match between the New Orleans Saints and the Arizona Cardinals scheduled for Saturday.

Ida became the ninth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season on Thursday as it formed in the Caribbean Sea on Thursday.

New Orleans offered residents free sandbags, prompting lines of people to arrive at a number of locations throughout the city, as many people chose to wait the storm out. There were long lines at gas stations, and some were reported to be running out of gas.

Sunday will mark the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s landfall in Louisiana, which decimated New Orleans and other coastal communities in 2005.

Last year there were 30 named Atlantic storms, including seven major hurricanes, a record high. Experts have linked the climate crisis and global heating to the increased frequency of more powerful and destructive weather systems.

The storm arrives following a summer of extreme weather events in the US, including severe wildfires on the west coast and deadly flooding in Tennessee earlier in the month.

Pulitzer Prize Board awards special citation to Afghanistan journalists

NEW DELHI, 28 AUG [NDTV]: The Pulitzer Prize Board awarded a special citation to journalists of Afghanistan — “from staff and freelance correspondents to interpreters to drivers to hosts” -- on Friday for their “courageous” work. According to a press release, the Pulitzer Prize Board decided to honour “the women and men of Afghanistan who have dedicated themselves at great personal risk to create and support journalism that has chronicled decades of life and war”.

The board also stated that the efforts of such “courageous Afghan residents helped produce Pu-



litzer-winning and Pulitzer-worthy images and stories that have contributed to a wider understanding of profoundly tragic and complicated circumstances”.

relief of such individuals and their families.”

The press release quoted Pulitzer Board Co-Chairs Katherine Boo, Gail Collins and John Daniszewski, as saying, “It’s critical in a moment of stark threat to support those Afghans whose bravery, skill, and commitment to the ideals of a free press have helped create so much important journalism in recent decades.”

Earlier this month, the Taliban took control of Afghanistan’s capital Kabul, leaving many people stranded and seeking a way out of the country. On Thursday, evacuation efforts were thwarted when a bombing attack on Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul left many people dead and injured.

Months before their takeover of Kabul, in April 2021, a report in Human Rights Watch had stated that the Taliban were deliberately targeting journalists and other media workers, including women, in Afghanistan. Human Rights Watch also found that Taliban forces “engaged in a pattern of threats, intimidation, and violence against members of the media in areas where the Taliban have significant influence”.

Scientists discover ‘world’s northernmost island’ off Greenland’s coast

LONDON, 28 AUG [REUTERS]: Scientists have discovered a new island off the coast of Greenland, which they say is the world’s northernmost point of land and was revealed by shifting pack ice.

“It was not our intention to discover a new island,” polar explorer and head of the Arctic station research facility in Greenland, Morten Rasch, said of the find last month. “We just went there to collect samples.”

The scientists initially thought they had arrived at Oodaaq, an island discovered by a Danish survey team in 1978. Only later, when checking the exact location, they realised they had visited another island 780 metres to the north-west.

“Everybody was happy that we found what we thought was Oodaaq island,” said Swiss entrepreneur Christiane Leister, creator of the Leister Foundation that financed the expedition.

“It’s a bit like explorers in the past, who thought they’d landed in a certain place but actually found a totally different place.”

The small island, measuring roughly 30 metres (100ft) across and a peak of about 3 metres, consists of seabed mud as well as moraine – soil and rock left behind by moving glaciers. The team said they would recommend it is named “Qeqertaq Avannarleq”, which means “the northernmost island” in Greenlandic.

Several US expeditions in the area have in recent decades searched for the world’s northernmost island. In 2007, Arctic veteran Dennis Schmitt discovered a similar island close by.

The scientists said that although the new island was exposed by shifting pack ice, its appearance now was not a direct consequence of global warming, which has been shrinking Greenland’s ice sheet.

Rene Forsberg, professor and head of geodynamics at Denmark’s National Space Institute, said the area north of Greenland has some of the thickest polar sea ice, though he added it was now 2-3 metres thick in summer, compared with 4 metres when he first visited as part of the expedition that discovered Oodaaq in 1978.

Any hope of extending territorial claims in the Arctic depends on whether it is in fact an island or a bank that may disappear again. An island needs to remain above sea level at high tide.

“It meets the criteria of an island,” Forsberg said. “This is currently the world’s northernmost land.” Although he did warn: “These small island come and go.”

Sirhan Sirhan: six Kennedy children condemn decision to grant killer parole

MARTIN PENGELLY NEW YORK, 28 AUG [THEGUARDIAN]: Six children of Robert F Kennedy have condemned the decision to grant parole to Sirhan Sirhan, the man who shot and killed the New York senator as he ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968.

“He took our father from our family and he took him from America,” the six said in a statement late on Friday. “We are in disbelief that this man would be recommended for release.”

The statement was signed by Joseph P Kennedy II, Courtney Kennedy, Kerry Kennedy, Christopher G Kennedy, Maxwell T Kennedy and Rory Kennedy.

Two Kennedy children supported the decision.

Douglas Kennedy, a toddler when his father was killed, said he was “overwhelmed just by being able to view Mr Sirhan face to face. I’ve lived my life both in fear of him and his name in one way or another. And I am grateful today to see him as a human being worthy of compassion and love.”

Robert F Kennedy was US attorney general under his older brother, John F Kennedy, when the president was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. Five years later the younger Kennedy was a senator from New York when he was killed at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, moments after delivering a victory speech in the California primary. Five others were wounded.

Sirhan, now 77, insists he does not remember the shooting and had been drinking beforehand but was convicted of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to death, commuted to life when the California supreme court briefly outlawed capital punishment.

The hearing on Friday was his 16th attempt to gain parole. Because of laws passed in 2018, the board was required to take into account the fact that Sirhan suffered childhood trauma from the conflict in the Middle East, committed the offense at a young age and is now elderly.

Appearing by video from a San Diego county prison, Sirhan said: “Senator Kennedy was the hope of the world ... and I harmed all of them and it pains me to experience that, the knowledge for such a horrible deed, if I did in fact do that.”

The board found Sirhan no longer poses a threat to society, noting his enrollment in programmes including anger management classes, Tai Chi and Alcoholics Anonymous, even during the coronavirus pandemic.

“We think that you have grown,” commissioner Robert Barton said.

The ruling will be reviewed over 120 days then sent to the governor, who will have 30 days to decide whether to grant, reverse or modify it. If Sirhan is freed, he must live in a transitional home for six months, enroll in an alcohol abuse program and get therapy.

The six Kennedy children who oppose release said they were “devastated” and appealed to the governor, Gavin Newsom, “to reverse this initial recommendation” which had “inflicted enormous initial pain”.

The Big Pic



TWINS! The mother-daughter duo of Heidi and Leni Klum arrive for a Dolce & Gabbana event ahead of the Venice Film Festival.

R. Kelly once compared himself to Jerry Lee Lewis

R&B star R. Kelly once compared himself to rock legend Jerry Lee Lewis — notorious for marrying his 13-year-old cousin decades ago — saying they were both misunderstood geniuses, a witness at Kelly's sex-trafficking trial testified Thursday.

The witness recounted the comment while for the first time publicly accusing Kelly of luring her into having unwanted sex with him in 1999, when she was a struggling 17-year-old hotel worker. She was the third woman to take the witness stand in federal court in Brooklyn to make allegations of sexual abuse.

At one point in the relationship, she said she was at dinner with Kelly when he mentioned that he liked young girls and — “out of the blue” — brought up Lewis.

“Even look at Jerry Lee Lewis,” she claimed Kelly said. “He’s a genius and I’m a

genius. We should be allowed to do whatever we want. Look at what we give to the world.”

Lewis is credited with helping create rock ‘n’ roll in the 1950s and achieving stardom with hits like “Great Balls of Fire.” But his marriage to his cousin Myra Gale Brown caused a scandal that has dogged him through the rest of his career.

Kelly, 54, has repeatedly denied accusations that he preyed on several alleged victims during a 30-year career highlighted by his 1996 mega hit “I Believe I Can Fly.” His lawyers have portrayed his accusers as groupies who are lying about their relationships with him.

The latest witness, who testified on Thursday using only her first name, described being approached at a McDonald’s in Chicago by one of Kelly’s cronies, who gave her a note asking her to

call him. She and Kelly first had sex at a meeting at one of his studios, seen decorated with his platinum albums in photos shown to the jury.

Over time, “he was one of two ways,” she said: “He was either very nice and charming or he was controlling and manipulating.”

Kelly would order her to strip off her clothes and stay frozen in vulnerable sex positions before leaving her alone in the studio, sometimes for hours, she said.

As with the other alleged victims, Kelly also demanded to be called “Daddy” and sometimes would videotape the encounters, she said. That left her feeling that she needed to “stay in good standing with him to see if I could get them back.”

The abuse went on for about six months until she had to end it over feeling “humiliated” and “degraded,” she said.

Letitia Wright injured on ‘Black Panther 2’ set

Actor Letitia Wright suffered minor injuries due to an incident with a stunt rig on the Boston set of Marvel Studios’ “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” and was admitted to a local hospital for treatment.

“Letitia Wright sustained minor injuries today while filming a stunt for Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. She is currently receiving care in a local hospital and is expected to be released soon,” reported Deadline quoting a spokesperson for Marvel.

The 27-year-old star has since been discharged, sources told the publication on Wednesday.

The incident will not have an impact on the film’s shoot-schedule, they added.



The primary shoot of the much-awaited “Black Panther” sequel has been underway in Atlanta since the end of June.

In the upcoming superhero film, Wright is reprising

her role as the brilliant tech wiz and Wakanda princess Shuri.

Original cast members Danai Gurira, Daniel Kaluuya, Winston Duke, Lupita Nyong’o, Florence

Kasumba and Angela Bassett along with director Ryan Letitia Wright injured on ‘Black Panther 2’ set, released from hospital after undergoing treatment

Michael Caine says he spent eight years trying not to blink on screen

Veteran actor Michael Caine has revealed that he once spent eight years trying not to blink in his attempt to master the art of acting.

The Oscar-winning actor, best known for his critically-acclaimed roles in films such as “Alfie”, “A Bridge Too Far” and “The Cider House Rules”, said he learned the trick from a book called “Teach Yourself Acting”.

“One thing that stuck in my mind was, ‘Don’t blink. You must never blink’. For the next eight years, I walked around trying not to blink. People around me, my mother and everybody, thought I had gone nuts,” Caine told Mirror UK.

“They thought I was a psychopath. I used to frighten the life out of people,” the 88-year-old actor said.



Another English star, Anthony Hopkins, had tried the trick of not blinking while acting when he played Hannibal Lecter in cult classic

movie “The Silence of the Lambs”.

Caine believes that if an actor does not blink, then he can “keep the audience mes-

merised”.

“It’s not so much not blinking, it’s just being still. Stillness has an economy and a power about it,” he added.

Teenage YouTuber Prarthna Batra pens debut book

Seventeen-year-old YouTuber Prarthna Batra discusses the salient tools and mantras for young individuals to achieve success in her book, which is set to release in December.

“Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success” is a firsthand account on what it takes to make it in this competitive world.

Batra, a class 12 student from Delhi, is a content creator across various formats. She runs the YouTube channel ‘Power People and Prarthna’ and is passionate about animal rights, sustainability and more opportunities for women in India.

The book, to be published

by Om Books International, is an attempt by Batra to share her journey with millennial readers and tell them how she sees the world and how to make an impact in a competitive and dynamic world with a human-centric approach.

In the book, she has a series of conversations with industry leaders across the digital internet, food, hospitality, media, and sports.

“Writing is cathartic. This being my first book, it taught me a lot and I hope I have been able to communicate my learning and experience through the exercise. It also busts the myths that young people do not write and



read,” Batra says.

According to Ajay Mago, publisher at Om Books, “The trend of young people writing and reading books augurs well for our country.”

Om Books Editor in Chief Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri says it is “quite heartening to encounter a 17-year-old sharing her experiences on what makes this generation tick”.

Celebrity chef Ranveer Brar, who has been inter-

viewed in the book, says, “Prarthna started writing this book when she was 16 and within a year, she has completed it while preparing for her exams, attending classes and balancing so many things.”

Preeti Chaturvedi, CEO of The Sunflower Seeds brand consulting firm that represented Batra describes her as a “young talent who will go on to make a mark”.

ARIES:

You have a dynamic personality, Aries. With today’s celestial energy, you should try to avoid expending your energy on pointless conversations. Try to be a little more pragmatic. Consider any possible compromises very carefully. If you stand strong, you will reach your objectives much more quickly.

TAURUS:

Today you could learn a lot from other people who are similar to you, Taurus. They have the ability to get involved easily and go straight to the heart of any problem. The world is in constant flux. You have to question yourself if you want to attain your objectives. Try to be open-minded, adapt to the situation, and act before it’s too late.

GEMINI:

The stars will compel you to clarify your position within the collective, Gemini. You have a lot of power when you’re part of a group, but you’re sometimes clumsy about communication. You can’t always succeed. The planets’ positions will have a beneficial impact, and you will tend to put your life under the microscope.

CANCER:

Your mind is extra clear today, Cancer. Make sure you’re helping yourself as well as others. Take care of any tasks that require a great deal of brainpower. You have a tremendous ability to figure out any mental problem. Communicate with confidence. Contact people you haven’t heard from in a while. They will be pleasantly surprised to hear from you.

LEO:

You have the tendency to plan everything, Leo. You need to feel in charge of things. Today you should try to listen to others around you. Let yourself go for a while, even though you aren’t used to it. Furthermore, you need to develop your personality. You can do this by opening up to others.

VIRGO:

You’re attracted to eccentric individuals with very strong personalities. But realize that behind this attraction lies a very strong need for freedom, Virgo. In your life, freedom is more fantasy than reality. The time has come for you to do some soul searching. Try not to hide from the realities of your life.

LIBRA:

Today will destabilize you, Libra. You’re trying to rebuild your life on new foundations. Perhaps should you try to change your point of view. Also, you need to preserve your perception, because it will allow you to adapt to all situations. You need to be fully alert and prepared at all times. Try not to become discouraged.

SCORPIO:

You have a tendency to get very involved in your projects, Scorpio. Today the stars will compel you to clarify your situation. It’s already clear that you aren’t afraid to work long hours to ensure that your projects end in success. But your entourage will probably have difficulties keeping up with you. You’re too full of energy.

SAGITTARIUS:

Today the stars advise you to get back into the swing of things, Sagittarius. You will forget your past frame of mind and be able to prepare for a new adventure. Your vitality will be as strong as it has ever been. You will probably meet someone who has a beneficial influence in the days to come.

CAPRICORN:

There’s a certain quality in your personal relationships that motivates you in life, Capricorn. This is one of the reasons why your emotions play an important role in the scheme of things. You’re guided by your emotions. Today you will be in the best disposition to meet a lot of people who will give new impetus to your life.

AQUARIUS:

This period is full of difficulties and you will tend to question yourself, especially today. You will start thinking about your personality. Your ego risks bruising, and you will have the greatest difficulty turning your intention into real action. Your sensitivity prevents you from materializing your ideas.

PISCES:

It would be fair to say that you love being recognized, Pisces. Today will enable you to show off your leadership skills. You will organize the day. You will accept your responsibilities and your smarts will help you welcome the day’s challenges. But stay humble and keep your actions simple, especially after intense emotions.