



'DISAPPOINTED,' SAYS CARNIVAL CINEMAS AS 7 BIG FILMS GO DIGITAL FIRST, PVR CINEMAS ANNOUNCE SOORYAVANSHI, 83 RELEASE DATES
pg 08

THE RASH OF POCSO ACT CASES SHOULD HAVE ATTRACTED WIDER SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
pg 04

MALAIKA ARORA LAUDS THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S MOVE TO BAN TIK TOK.
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 171 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 01 July 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

HIGH COURT STAYS FELLING OF TREES IN GANGTOK

Sustainable development requires that needs of future generations are not compromised, Court points out

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

The High Court of Sikkim has stayed the cutting down of any more trees in the name of the Gangtok Smart City Project.

In orders passed on 29 June, a High Court Bench comprising of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, ordered the State Government not to chop down any more trees "whatsoever" either at Zero Point Junction, Development Area Junction or High Court Junction [where many trees have already been felled], or in any of the remaining six areas marked out for similar felling as part of the smart city project.

The High Court had taken up the matter as a Public Interest Litigation on 23 June based on a letter petition received from a Gangtok resident disturbed by the extensive cutting down of trees in Gangtok during the lockdown. Jorgay Namkha was asked to assist the Court as amicus curiae.

Amicus Curiae, literally, "friend of the court," is someone who is not a party to a case but who assists the court by offering informa-

tion, expertise, or insight that has a bearing on the issues in the case. The Courts take this option when cases are taken up suo moto, or as in this case, based on a letter petition.

Interestingly, on Monday, the Advocate General submitted to the Court that trees had to be cut down to develop Gangtok into a smart city in terms of the year 2015 Smart City Mission of the Ministry of Urban Development.

The grand smart city mission, as explained by the Advocate General, is to "provide core infrastructure and give decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment with the application of the 'Smart' solutions."

He went on to add that "although the project incorporates sustainable environment but a large number of trees have been unfortunately felled on the premise that 10 (ten) saplings each would replace each one of the matured trees so felled."

While the concerned department has not yet submitted details of how permission to bring down the trees was given and whether



compensatory afforestation has been undertaken yet, the Amicus Curiae drew the Court's attention to the fact that trees have been felled fall in the Green Belt.

The Court observed that the response filed by the agencies in-

volved in the felling of trees was not detailed enough. "Woefully deficient, bereft as it is of essential details," the Court commented on the details submitted by the State Government and has now sought all relevant files and documents

pertaining to the felling of 121 trees at Zero Point Junction, Development Area Junction and High Court Junction.

It has also sought all official records of the proposal to cut down trees at Hospital Dara Junction,

Ganju Lama Dwar Junction. Smoke Test Junction, Amdo Golai Junction, Sikkim Jewels Junction and CRH Junction.

The High Court also wants the State Government to furnish all relevant documents pertaining to the Green Belt areas in Gangtok and rules regarding felling of trees and explain how trees were felled in the Green Belt Area.

And while the departments collect and file these and more details to the court, no more trees can be felled for the Smart City project until further orders.

In their order, the Justices also put on record that "sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising on the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. It also encompasses social and economic progress along with climate protection."

The next hearing on the case is scheduled for 17 July, 2020.

Also on the Court also impleaded the Urban Development and Housing Department and Gangtok Smart City Development Limited as parties to the case.

Govt to re-appoint discharged Sanskrit Teachers in August

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

The Education Department, in an official statement issued today, informed that "appointment of 124 Sanskrit Teachers, whose service was discharged earlier, will be made in the first week of August, 2020 along with the other categories of adhoc teachers."

The 124 Sanskrit teachers had been appointed in June last year, shortly after the SKM government came to power. The order dismissing the services of 124 Sanskrit teachers was published on 28 June but had come into effect retrospectively on 01 April, 2020. This decision of the government had drawn criticism from various political parties and activists.

According to the release, appointment of these 124 Sanskrit teachers were done by the Education Department under the assurance that the fund would be provided by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sanhthaan. As per clause 4 of the appointment letter, it was made clear that 'term of service will automat-

ically expire if Rashtriya Sanskrit Sanhthaan stop releasing the fund'. However, because of no fund provided by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sanhthaan, the State Education Department managed to pay for these teachers and thereafter relieved them of their duties.

The decision to re-appoint these teachers was taken in a meeting held today which was chaired by Chief Minister, PS Tamang, Education Minister, along with Secretary and other senior officers of the Department.

It was decided that those who have B Ed degree would be given an honorarium of Rs 10,000 per month and those who do not have B Ed degree would be given an honorarium of Rs 8,000 per month.

As per the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sanhthaan, it is mandatory to have degree/diploma in teaching for the Sanskrit Teachers over and above their Shashtri/Acharya degrees. Decision was therefore also taken that those who do not have B Ed degree would be given a time of three (03) years to acquire professional degree/diploma in teaching as per the prevalent rules in order to continue in service.

Sikkim now has more recoveries than active cases

52 DISCHARGED AND 36 ACTIVE

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

Two more patients from Gyalshing isolation ward in West Sikkim were discharged on Tuesday bringing down the number of active cases of COVID-19 to 36 in Sikkim. Out of 88 cases of COVID-19 positive reported so far in Sikkim, 52 have already recovered and been discharged while there are only 36 active cases now in the State. With the discharge of 52 patients, the State has more recoveries than active cases.

In his daily health bulletin on Tuesday, Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia informed that two patients were discharged from

the isolation ward of Gyalshing, West Sikkim today after testing negative in repeat testing. He mentioned that the viral load of remaining three patients in Gyalshing isolation ward is high and still positive so they have been shifted to STNM hospital this afternoon. There is no patient now in the isolation ward of Gyalshing, West Sikkim.

The Secretary informed that out of nine patients in Namchi isolation ward in South Sikkim, four have tested positive again in the repeat testing conducted on Monday. He informed that samples of remaining five patients from Namchi isolation ward have been sent today for repeat testing.

Out of 88 cases of COVID-19 positive reported so far in Sikkim, 28 are from East Sikkim, 21 from West Sikkim, 38 from South Sikkim and 01 from North Sikkim. After the recovery of 52 patients, 27 patients are presently admitted in STNM hospital and 09 patients are in Namchi isolation ward.

The Secretary informed that the Chief Minister, PS Tamang will be inaugurating the dialysis unit at Gyalshing in West Sikkim on 02 July. However, he added that the dialysis unit will be operational after some days of the inauguration. He mentioned that SOPs have been prepared and dialysis patients will be brought back into the State in phase wise manner with a proper planning.

Chinese app ban: TikTok says in process of complying with govt order

NEW DELHI, JUN 30 (PTI):

TikTok on Tuesday said it is in the process of complying with the government's order on blocking of the app, and asserted that it has not shared information of Indian users with any foreign government, including that of China.

The short video-sharing company said it has been invited to meet with concerned government stakeholders for an op-

portunity to respond and submit clarifications.

India on Monday banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including hugely popular TikTok and UC Browser, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

Meanwhile, TikTok app has been taken down from Google Play store and Apple App store. According to sources, TikTok

has taken down the app from these app stores on its own.

"The Government of India has issued an interim order for the blocking of 59 apps, including TikTok, and we are in the process of complying with it. We have been invited to meet with concerned government stakeholders for an opportunity to respond and submit clarifications," Nikhil Gandhi, Head of TikTok, India said.

TikTok added that it continues to comply with all data privacy and security requirements under the Indian law and has not shared any information of its users in India with any foreign government, including the Chinese government.

"Further, if we are requested to in the future we would not do so. We place the highest importance on user privacy and integrity," he said.

Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
or call us at 03592-208698



Honouring Selfless Service in Disaster Management

Inviting Nominations for

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

National Award for Excellence in Disaster Management

Any Indian individual or organisation may apply

For more information and online application visit : dmawards.ndma.gov.in

Last date to apply 31st August, 2020

dayp 19106/13/0001/2021



National Disaster Management Authority
Government of India



Follow us on: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NDMA.in) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ndmaindia) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/ndmaindia)



[ndma.gov.in](https://www.ndma.gov.in)



[ndma.gov.in](https://www.ndma.gov.in)



[ndma.gov.in](https://www.ndma.gov.in)



[ndma.gov.in](https://www.ndma.gov.in)



[ndma.gov.in](https://www.ndma.gov.in)

Week-long skill development training concludes at Sawney

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

KOSIS, a 7-day skill development training programme (24-30 June) in meat sausages and handmade paper bags/envelope successfully concluded at Sawney, West Pendim Constituency of East Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The training program was conceptualized and coordinated by Sikkim Youth Foundation. Programme and was sponsored by Lupin Human Welfare & Research Foundation, and the courses were conducted by training partner Namchi Designer Candles.

KOSIS specially focuses on drop outs and less privileged women from different villages of Sikkim. The first phase of the KOSIS programme will be implemented in the East District and will be executed simultaneously in other districts by the Sikkim Youth Foundation.

In the valedictory



function the trainees were provided with completion certificates wherein trainees had to display the finished products for exhibition cum sale. Besides the group of trainees named their product as a "Hamro Kosis" which will be marketed further under the same brand name.

Valedictory programme was attended

by Assistant Director of MSME, Government of India, DR Sharma, CSR Head Lupin, Prem Kumar Chettri, Social Worker, Harka Bahadur Subba, Retired Additional Director, Purna Kumar Rai, and Ward President, Bikash Subba among others.

Coordinator Sikkim Youth Foundation, Suresh K Lama has thanked the sponsors,

instructors and all the supporters of the KOSIS programme.

At the same time Memento of Appreciation was presented to Namchi Designer Candles by Lupin Human Welfare & Research Foundation, 4th Mile, Bhasmey, and East Sikkim. Programme ended with vote of thanks by the SYF Member Anand Lamichaney.

Plantation drive at Norbu Chholing Gumpa

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JUN:

Rateypani Namthang Constituency in South Sikkim organized a one-day sapling plantation drive at Norbu Chholing Gumpa campus in Upper Nagi under Nagi Karek GPU today, a press release informs.

The program started with lighting the lamp by the Minister of Transport cum Area MLA, Sanjeet Kharel. Mr Kharel attended the campaign as a chief guest along with ACF, Thichen Lepcha, DFO, Pekila Bhenbhunga, Youth Convener, Harun Subba, and officers from Forest Department. Tees-



ta -VI coordinator, Hari Tiwari, Panchayat member of GPU with party worker and local civil society was also present.

Different types of herbal saplings were planted during the day. Minister Kharel in his brief address told the

Gram Panchayat Samiti members and Panchayat to give full priority to plantation in their respective wards.

Rotary International District 3240 forms new team

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 30 JUN:

Rotary International District 3240 formed a new team with Subhasish Chat-

terjee as the District Governor of RI District 3240, Sandeep Ghosal as the Assistant Governor (Zone V) and Sunil Agarwal as the District

Secretary, a press release informs.

RI District 3240 is a relatively new district formed in the year 1990 and encompasses nine

states of India: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and eight revenue districts of West Bengal.

India's COVID-19 tally climbs to 5,66,840, Tamil Nadu surpasses Delhi in case count

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

(PTI): With 18,522 people testing positive for coronavirus in a single day, India's COVID-19 tally climbed to 5,66,840 on Tuesday while the death toll rose to 16,893 with 418 new fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

Recording nearly 4,000 cases in the last 24 hours, Tamil Nadu has surpassed Delhi to regain the second spot among the list of worst-hit states by the pandemic, while Karnataka also recorded more than 1,100 overtaking Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

Maharashtra remained the highest contributor to the single day rise, registering over 5,200 coronavirus infections. Delhi saw an increase of 2,084 cases.

The number of active cases stands at 2,15,125, while 3,34,821 people have recovered, and one patient has migrated, according to the updated data at 8 am.

"Thus, around 59.07 per cent of patients have recovered so far," an official said.

The total number of confirmed cases includes foreigners.

This is the seventh consecutive day that coronavirus infections have increased by more than 15,000. The country has seen a surge of 3,76,305 infections from June 1 till date.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 86,08,654 samples have been tested up to June 29 with 2,10,292 samples been tested on Monday.

Of the 418 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, 181 are from Maharashtra, 62 from Tamil Nadu, 57 from Delhi, 19 each from Gujarat and Karnataka, 14 from West Bengal, 12 from Uttar Pradesh, 11 from Andhra Pradesh, nine from Hary-

ana, seven from Madhya Pradesh, six each from Rajasthan and Telangana, five from Punjab, three from Jharkhand, two each from Bihar and Odisha and one each from Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

Of the total 16,893 deaths reported so far, Maharashtra accounted for the highest 7,610 fatalities followed by Delhi with 2,680 deaths, Gujarat with 1,827, Tamil Nadu with 1,141, Uttar Pradesh with 672, West Bengal with 653, Madhya Pradesh with 564, Rajasthan with 405 and Telangana with 253 deaths.

The COVID-19 death toll reached 232 in Haryana, 226 in Karnataka, 180 in Andhra Pradesh, 138 in Punjab, 95 in Jammu and Kashmir, 62 in Bihar, 39 in Uttarakhand, 23 in Odisha and 22 in Kerala.

Jharkhand has registered 15 deaths, Chhattisgarh 13, Assam 11, Puducherry 10, Himachal Pradesh nine, Chandigarh six, Goa three and Meghalaya, Tripura, Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh have reported one fatality each, according to the Health Ministry.

More than 70 per cent deaths took place due to comorbidities, it said.

Maharashtra has reported the highest number of cases at 1,69,883, followed by Tamil Nadu at 86,224, Delhi at 85,161, Gujarat at 31,938, Uttar Pradesh at 22,828, West Bengal at 17,907 and Rajasthan at 17,660, according to the ministry data.

The number of COVID-19 cases has gone up to 15,394 in Telangana, 14,295 in Karnataka, 14,210 in Haryana, 13,891 in Andhra Pradesh, and 13,370 in Madhya Pradesh.

It has risen to 9,640 in Bihar, 7,752 in As-

sam, 7,237 in Jammu and Kashmir and 6,859 in Odisha. Punjab has reported 5,418 novel coronavirus infections so far, while Kerala has 4,189 cases.

A total of 2,831 people have been infected by the virus in Uttarakhand, 2,761 in Chhattisgarh, 2,426 in Jharkhand, 1,380 in Tripura, 1,227 in Manipur, 1,198 in Goa, 964 in Ladakh and 942 in Himachal Pradesh.

Puducherry has recorded 15 COVID-19 cases, Chandigarh 435, Nagaland 434 and Dadra and Nagar Haveli

and Daman and Diu together have reported 203 COVID-19 cases.

Arunachal Pradesh reported 187 cases, Mizoram has 148 cases, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has 90, Sikkim has registered 88 infections so far, while Meghalaya has recorded 47 cases.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR," the ministry said, adding that 7,004 cases are being reassigned to states.

State-wise distribution is subject to further verification and reconciliation, it added.

PMEYSS elects new president

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

The executive meeting of Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Sangathan (PMEYSS), which is a registered organisation that works for the welfare of Panchayats and youth development, was held today at East District Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, Gangtok, a press release informs.

The meeting was chaired by advisor of the PMEYSS, Buddha Hang Subba, who is former Zilla Upadhakshya.

The agenda of the meeting, among others, was to discuss state-wide membership drive for ZP & GP, inauguration of PMYESS office in Lumphy, and acceptance of the

resignation of the president of PMEYSS.

The meeting, after discussion, accepted the resignation of the president of PMEYSS, Ganesh Kumar Rai. Mr Rai had, in his resignation, regretted his inability to continue as the president owing to his engagements elsewhere. The meeting thanked Mr Rai for steering PMEYSS and taking it to where it is today.

The meeting then unanimously elected Samsher Bokhim, Zilla Adhakshya (E) as the new president of the organisation. The meeting was attended by the advisors, vice president, general secretary, treasurer and executive members of the organisation.



Sikkim to observe 7th July as Day for Mother Earth

GANGTOK, 30 JUN (IPR):

Minister for Forest and Environment Department, Karma Loday Bhutia, convened a press conference at Forest Secretariat today in view of the upcoming programme on "A Day for Mother Earth" scheduled to be held across the State on 7th July. The day is also coinciding with the closing day of the weeklong Van Mahotsav.

It may be recalled that the Government of Sikkim launched a new green initiative of dedicating "A Day for Mother Earth" on 7th July last year in South District as a step towards nature conservation and protection.

Minister, Karma Lo-

day Bhutia informed that this year, there is a greater initiative involving environmental friendly activities to address climate change including no vehicular movement for 7 minutes and tackling animal-human conflict through plantation of edible plants across wildlife regions in the State. These activities aims to contribute towards Nationally Determined Contributions and Sustainable Development Goals for positive climate action, he added.

In his brief address, the Minister said that the State Government has laid emphasis on conservation of forest through

various environmental measures in a weeklong nature conservation programme from 1st to 7th July 2020.

He appealed to the people of Sikkim to contribute to the initiative by observing no vehicle plying for 7 minutes except emergency vehicles on 7th July to avoid carbon emissions. He also appealed to the public for their active participation in cleaning their surroundings, jhoras and rivers throughout the week from 1st to 7th July and urged all to resort to eco-friendly lifestyles and create low carbon footprints.

Touching on the subject of man-human conflict, the Minister said that such conflicts is due to shrinking habitat and it could be tackled by introducing edible plants in the forests such as phunchey, bhadrashey, amphi, kattus, okhar and lapsi in certain regions of the State.

The Minister also informed that there will be a plantation programme for all the 32 constituencies of the State with a target of planting 1,000 saplings each.

The meeting also had the presence of Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF), B.P. Pradhan, CCF Wild Life, D.C. Nepal and Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board Dr. Gopal Pradhan.

be established in accordance with the final standings of the last "Gaprindashvili Cup", which combined the results in the open and women's sections at the Batumi Chess Olympiad 2018.

registration form will be published on the FIDE

FIDE Online Chess Olympiad to begin on Jul 22

CHENNAI, JUN 30 (PTI): The International Chess Federation (FIDE) on Tuesday announced that the 2020 Online Olympiad will be held from July 22 to August 30.

The Online Olympiad is a national team event in which all federations affiliated to FIDE have the right to participate, it said.

Each team will consist of six players, in a mixed format with a minimum quota of three female players and two junior players. The teams may have up to six reserves, plus a team captain.

The time control for the event will be 15 minutes + 5 seconds increment per move.

The event will comprise two main stages: divisions stage and play-offs stage, from the Round of 16 to the final.

FIDE further said that since the Online Olympiad is a mixed event, for pairing purposes the ranking will

LAND FOR SALE

Riverside land [General] along Ranipool-Rumtek Highway near Adam Pool, stretching from the roadside down till the river bank. Total area measuring 0.2348 Hectares [approximately 25,274 sq ft].

Ideal for developing a Resort.

Parties interested in purchasing the entire plot can contact 9083826462 and 9832556698

Brokers will not be entertained.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

FLAT FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available - 30X40 sq ft and 50X30 sq ft
Junker Dara, Samlik Marchak
Price negotiable
Contact : 6296366498,
9641878315, 9593262407

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

DEAR READERS,

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

IPR Dept gets Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine



GANGTOK, 30 JUN (IPR): The Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok, led by its president, Asha Kiran presented a Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine to the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Sikkim today in presence of the Secretary, Namrata Thapa, Officers and staff of Department.

Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok is an International Women's Organisation established in the year 2000, and has

been actively involved in various projects for the betterment of women and child. They provide voluntary services in the State of Sikkim for many causes that are in need of attention.

The President, Asha Kiran, and Nepal Vice President of the Club, Dr Neeti apprised about various voluntary works undertaken by the Club as a gesture of goodwill towards the society.

The President informed that the Sanitary

Napkin Vending machine presented by the Club is installed with 30 sanitary napkins. It is a self service napkin dispensing machine against a 5 rupee coin, as and when required.

The Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok, has already installed this machine at Government Colleges and MG Marg, Gangtok. They aim to install more of these in various State Government Offices wherein the number of women employees are higher.

SRM provides upto 35% scholarship to study abroad

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

SRM Institute of Science and Technology-SRMIST (formerly known as SRM University), Chennai, India as a member of the India Global Higher Education Alliance of the US based College Board, which conducts the SAT examinations, is offering attractive scholarships up to 35% for students with SAT scores, a press release informs.

SRMIST offers exciting options, one should never miss, be it Transfer / Twining program to study abroad after 2 years at SRM and completing the final 2 years abroad for the degree to be awarded overseas or after completing graduation or in opting for a top-notch job. With over 200 MoUs with universities overseas, the options are unlimited.

On the job front, SRMIST offers incredible opportunities for placement. This year, the achievements have been remarkable with 8500+ job offers, 625+ companies recruiting, with a top salary of Rs. 41.6 LPA, the highest ever by any university in India.

SRMIST is most preferred university in India,



QS 4 Star Rated Top No 1 Multi-Stream University in India with over 50,000 students from across India, and 64 countries, 3,200 faculty, Semester Abroad Programs, Industry Internships, Student run Clubs and Labs. It offers a wide range of programs in Engineering, Medicine and Health Sciences, Management, Science and Humanities, Law and Agricultural Sciences.

For an NRI/PIO/OCI seeking B. Tech degree, the fee is just Rs 2.5 lacs pegged at the domestic fee, by taking the entrance exam SRMJEEE and appearing for joint counseling, or alternatively, they can pick their choice of course with attractive scholarships of up to 35 % through the direct admission route. The last to apply

for SRMJEEE is July 15 2020.

Those who are NRI/PIO/OCI or Foreigner, can proceed to apply in the International Admission Category, availing amazing scholarships, fee waiver of 25% to 35% under merit and 40% for SAARC and Africa.

Others can apply in the Admissions India category, E- counselling and Interview based admissions for M.Tech, MBA, BBA, Education, Hotel Management, Allied Health Sciences (except Medicine and Dental) and Science & Humanities UG and PG programs. For all B.Tech programs, the Admission India category is only through the common entrance exam, the SRMJEEE.

Aspiring students can start the on line application processes by visiting www.srmist.edu.in

Statistics Day celebrated at NSSO Gangtok

GANGTOK, 30 JUN (PIB):

National Statistical Office (FOD)-Gangtok celebrated the 14th Statistics Day at the Conference Hall of NSO (FOD), Gangtok on 29 Jun, 2020 and the event was attended by all the members of the office. In recognition of the notable contributions made by Professor, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of economic planning and statistical development, the Government of India has designated 29 June every year, coinciding with his birth anniversary, as the Statistics Day.

The objective of this celebration is to create public awareness, among the people especially the younger generation for drawing inspirations

from Prof PC Mahalanobis about the role of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. Every year a theme is decided for more focused attention on the statistics day and the theme for the 14th Statistics Day, 2020 is 'Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3) (Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages) and & Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India organized the main event of 'Statistics Day', 2020 at New Delhi through video con-

ferencing.

The event was addressed by CSI cum secretary, MOSPI, Chairman NSC, Chairman EAC-PM, vice chairman NITI Aayog, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women, DG of Integration, Analysis and Research National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico, Director, Statistics Division UN, ESCAP, Bangkok, President FICCI & Honorable Minister of State (I/C), Rao Inderjit Singh, MOSPI.

SDGs Report and Dasboard and ISS Cadre Management portal was released on the occasion besides declaration of Prof PC Mahalanobis National Award in official Statistics 2020.

Ahmedabad adds 197 new coronavirus cases; 9 more die

AHMEDABAD, JUN 30 (PTI): Ahmedabad on Tuesday reported 197 new coronavirus cases, taking the count in the district to 20,913, while nine more patients succumbed to the infection, the Gujarat health department said.

The district reported the death of nine COVID-19 patients, taking the toll to 1,441, it said in a release.

At the same time, 137 more coronavirus patients recovered from the disease in the worst-hit Gujarat district, taking

the number of such cases to 15,968.

Out of the total 197 cases, as many as 183 were reported from within Ahmedabad corporation limits and 14 from the other parts of the district, the release said.

CM's message on National Doctor's Day

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang has extended his warm greetings to all the doctors of Sikkim on the occasion of National Doctors' Day.

National Doctors' Day is celebrated annually on 1st July across India to honour the legendary physician and Bharat Ratna, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

In his message, the Chief Minister has extended his heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors for providing selfless service to society. He says the contribution of doctors to human health is beyond comparison. They not only save and

improve human lives but also play an instrumental role in controlling epidemics.

Contagious disease and other epidemic conditions are for instance a huge threat to the health of the common people. In recent times, when the world is reeling under the global pandemic COVID-19, our doctors and health workers have been a source of inspiration for all of us with their dedication, sincerity, and commitment.

In these testing times, our doctors, nurses and paramedics have emerged as the real heroes who have not only given their best but also put their lives in the line



of fire to fight and keep us safe from the disease.

SMIT in top 17 private engineering colleges of India

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

The India Today Best Colleges Survey 2020 has listed Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology [SMIT] among the Top 17 Private Engineering Colleges in India and 3rd in the Top 25 Emerging Colleges in the country, a press release informs. In the Top 5 Region-Wise Private Colleges category, SMIT is ranked 2nd in the East

Zone.

"It is a moment of pride not only for SMIT in particular, but also for SMU and the entire State of Sikkim that two of the eminent institutes in the State have made a mark in national rankings. We continue to strive for excellence in research and development in the field of science, engineering and technology," Director, Prof Dr Ashis Sharma, SMIT said.

Similarly, the India Today Best Colleges Survey 2020 has ranked SMIMS No. 5 in the Top 10 Emerging Colleges in Medicine in India and ranked 34th amongst all Medical Colleges of India.

"Even as we are proud of our achievements, we will continue our focus to provide quality medical education to our students as well as maintaining our position as the

best medical college in the region. My compliments to all teaching and non-teaching staff for their dedication and great team work. These achievements of SMU and SMIMS could not have been possible without the continued guidance, direction and supervision and support of our Vice-Chancellor, SMU, Lt Gen (Dr) MD Venkatesh," Dean, Brig (Dr) VK Mehta, SMIMS said.

Homestay Association visits flash flood affected areas



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 30 JUN:**

A team of Homestay Association of Sikkim [HAS] visited flash flood hit areas in Dzongu, North Sikkim and met the affected people of the area on Tuesday. The team was led by its president, Jigme Dorjee Bhutia and had secretary [South District], TN Wangdi, publicity secretary Tshering Thendup and a member Avishek Rai of the association.

It is informed that the team has dropped supplies for the people badly hit by multiple landslides due to the flash flood.

"HAS will stand by the people and homestays in Dzongu during this difficult time and pray this time passes by swiftly and we also urge others to stand with Dzongu and its people," a HAS press release informs.

The association has

also thanked all executive members of HAS and special thanks to All Sikkim Contractors and Supply Welfare Association and Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club for their generous contributions.




Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)
West Block-7, R K Puram, New Delhi-110066

Inviting expression of interest for empanelment of Designer in Handicraft Sector

Applications are invited for empanelment of designers in handicrafts sector from candidates having 04 years degree from reputed institution in the field related to design, fashion etc. and having 03 years of experience in product designing with Central/State Govt., reputed institutions. Candidates with Diploma may also be considered for empanelment provided they have at least 05 years of experience with Central/State Govt., or form any reputed institutions, in the field of product designing. The validity of empanelment will be 03 years from the date of issue of certificate.

Interested candidates can apply only through the official website of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) <http://www.handicrafts.nic.in>.

Note: For more detail contact Regional Offices of Development Commissioner (Handicraft), contact details of regional offices are available at official site.

Opening date for online application: 01 July 2020
Closing date for online application: 21 July 2020

Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
davp 41103/11/0002/2021



INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (IMU)
(A Central University, under the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008
www.imu.edu.in

Admissions Open: Academic Year 2020-21
UG, PG AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES
Through Online Common Entrance Test (IMU-CET)*

1. B.Tech (Marine Engineering)	8. MBA (International Transportation & Logistics Management)
2. B.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)	9. M.Sc (Commercial Shipping & Logistics)
3. B.Sc (Nautical Science)	10. M.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)
4. B.Sc (Ship Building and Repair) Conducted only in Affiliated Institute.	11. M.Tech (Dredging & Harbour Engineering)
5. DNS (Diploma in Nautical Science)	12. M.Tech (Marine Engineering & Management)
6. BBA (Logistics, Retailing and E-Commerce)*	13. MS (By Research)
7. MBA (Port & Shipping Management)	14. Ph.D.

Online Registration will be open from **01.07.2020**

Last date for Basic Online Registration & Payment of Fees: **26.07.2020**

Last date for submission of completed form : **26.07.2020**

Date of Online CET (except BBA) : **Sunday, 16th Aug. 2020****

Commencement of Classes (IMU Campuses & its Affiliated Institutes) **05.10.2020 (Except BBA)**

Commencement of Classes – BBA Programme* **01.09.2020**

The above dates are tentative. For further details, please refer IMU's Academic Brochure 2020-21 available at www.imu.edu.in

DAVP/37208/11/0005/2021

IMU-CET is mandatory for getting admissions in pre-sea courses [Diploma in Nautical Science, B.Sc (Nautical Science), B.Tech (Marine Engineering)] approved by Director General of Shipping in all Maritime Training Institutes across India.

* Admission to BBA (Logistics, Retailing and E-Commerce) is not through IMU-CET, hence candidates (interested in BBA) need to register separately. Please refer Academic Brochure 2020-21, for further details regarding BBA Programme.

Note: For Candidates native to Andaman & Nicobar Islands or domiciled there for at least 5 years, a separate CET for UG programmes will be conducted by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration on behalf of IMU.

** The date of CET may change due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Candidates must follow IMU-Website for confirmation / updates.

Considering the prevailing pandemic (COVID-19) situation, IMU reserves the right either to conduct CET or adopt alternative method for the admission process

CONTACT

**SUMMIT TIMES
REPORTERS
SINGTAM
8170070813**

**MANGAN/ DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213**

**GANGTOK
8116388176
9832424750
8016270440**

Keeping Children Safe

The rash of POC SO Act cases should have attracted wider social engagement

Readers would have noticed that reports about sexual offences being perpetrated on minors have noticeably reduced in frequency. That does not, however, mean that they are not at risk or being preyed upon. In all probability, the lockdown has distanced spaces where children had begun reporting and discussing such crimes. Hopefully, these crimes have actually come down in number since fewer children are being left unattended around demented minds. It is unlikely though that this is the case.

That said, it also needs to be recognized that it is not as if sexual predators who prey on the young have suddenly been unleashed on Sikkim. It is more likely that now that there is a specific law – Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act – to charge such offenders with, the statistic has been standing out more prominently of late. What have also helped expose such violations are the awareness and sensitization sessions held at the school level where children are informed about the laws in place to help them and what kind of behavior is now considered a criminal offence. These sessions are necessary because in most instances, the victims don't even understand that they are being abused or that there is an escape available for them. Speak to the cops who address such sensitization programmes and most of them will confirm that reporting of such crimes invariably goes up once the children learn that there is protection available to them from sexual offences.

It is also possible that more of such cases are getting reported to the police than earlier, when they would either not be noticed at all or would be ignored or, worse still, settled. Readers would have also noticed that in several instances, it has been the teachers who have noticed the crime, rescued the child and reported the offence, and the society needs to collectively thank such teachers for looking out so earnestly for the young and for getting involved in their care beyond the confines of the classrooms. One needs to look at options of strengthening the hands of teachers more in handling such episodes and offering them more awareness sessions and training on how to handle such traumatic situations. It is also necessary now to establish a more robust counselor role/ post in schools across the state so that stronger defenses by way of proper awareness and counseling are provided to the young. With the right training, inspiration and support, these counselors can also become the first responders to best care for victims and their families.

Yes, Sikkim has child protection officers now, but a teacher at the school, because s/he has been with the children and their families for longer, enjoys more trust which is essential in situations like these.

It is also important for all those responsible for the care and protection of children to realize that most often – in up to 90% of the cases - sexual predators are people known to the kids; very often they are family members or people who have weaseled themselves close to the family to a level that others do not think twice before leaving children unattended around them. Uneasy and disturbing though it may be, accept that all children, including yours, are at risk primarily because society has preferred to look the other way when victims have been minors and the perpetrators someone with influence (within the family or in the society at large). This needs to change, and can happen only if a child's safety is put first – above everything else.

One should not be required to spell it out, but given that too many prefer to ignore this responsibility, here we underline it again – the safety and self-esteem of a child are more important than anyone's embarrassment, inconvenience, or offense. Every time a child molester is allowed to get away without a police case, those who "arranged" the compromise become complicit to the molestation or worse of the next victim. That is how this crime and culpability need to be projected for children to be kept safer. There is a lot more that we can do as families and a society to look out better for our children, but that can be easily Googled. What is important is for everyone to realize that too many children are falling in harms' way for this to be left as a law & order situation. Societal involvement needs to be brought in, wider awareness generated and with that, stronger protections erected to keep the children safe.

WRITE US:

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

COVID-19 may turn back the clock on women's entrepreneurship

WENDY CUKIER
THECONVERSATION.COM

The Canadian government responded to the COVID-19 crisis in record time. It launched programs that would normally take months or even years in a matter of days. At the same time, it's important to recognize systemic barriers to women and diverse groups are being exacerbated in the crisis.

To support them, we need to bring a gender and diversity lens to our responses, or else decades of hard-won gains will be lost.

Statistics Canada confirms small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with under 20 employees have been the hardest hit during the pandemic, and because women are more likely to own newer and smaller businesses, they are most affected.

During the pandemic, 40.6 per cent of women-owned businesses had to lay off employees. Among them, women-owned business laid off a disproportionately a higher percentage of their workers — 62 per cent laid off 80 per cent of their employees, which is much higher than the 45 per cent observed for most businesses.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS EXCLUDE WOMEN

While women are majority owners of 15.6 per cent of SMEs with one or more employees, they account for 38 per cent of self-employed Canadians. While important eligibility changes were recently made to include more businesses, many existing support programs targeting SMEs unintentionally exclude women. Successful women's ventures, particularly in the services sector, often rely on contractors instead of employees or may not meet the criteria of eligible non-deferrable expenses, excluding some from programs focused on companies with employees.

Not only are women shouldering the brunt of unemployment, they are also bearing the burden of unpaid caregiving, including child care, home schooling, household duties and elder care. The top challenge identified by women entrepreneurs is child care.

Women report feeling like failures at both roles of worker and parent, adding to mental health challenges and family stress.

Racialized, Indigenous, newcomer and disabled women face additional barriers and are also disadvantaged in accessing supports and loans. For example, with limited resources and assets, Indigenous entrepreneurs are facing unique barriers — the Indian Act prohibits reserve land from being used as collateral for bank loans.

There is also evidence that we need to further unpack many of the categories to better understanding intersectionality. For example the experience of racialized people is not uniform — anti-Black racism has a profound impact on Black women entrepreneurs.

ACCESS TO INTERNET A CHALLENGE

Under-represented groups often lack space, infrastructure and the choice of working from home or the skills needed to support home schooling. In rural communities, access to the internet is a particular challenge.

Increasing access to venture capital is of course important, but women-led businesses virtually receive none of the investment. The new government loan packages are not as helpful because women are often "discouraged borrowers" — they are less likely to seek credit. Often when they do receive it, they get smaller amounts and less favourable terms.

Unlike those who are majority owners of SMEs, many self-employed women have to put personal assets at risk. Indigenous women on reserves often do not have conventionally understood "income" to report and no property to use as collateral.

The pervasive issues around financial literacy and expert advice also present challenges. Innovative approaches, such as micro-grants and crowd-funding, have helped level the playing field for women entrepreneurs, but these models are rarely a priority.

FOCUS ON STEM ONLY

The science, technology, engineering

and math (STEM) bias in innovation and entrepreneurship has been well documented. Because women entrepreneurs are less represented in the technology sector; they are less likely to benefit from investments in STEM companies and research.

It is clear that digital transformation is critical to survival during this time and women entrepreneurs need additional support to implement technology solutions that underpin new business models. They are also more likely to combine social with economic goals, but social enterprises are usually ignored in the chatter about research, commercialization and innovation.

For women entrepreneurs to thrive in different environments, they need supports that are distinctive than those for men, such as access to incubators, mentors and training or business support. Such distinctive needs are not only caused by structural inequality, but also resulted from the socialization of women and girls, the gendered nature of entrepreneurship and a lack of role models.

Women entrepreneurs urgently need one-on-one coaching and mentoring, which extends beyond technical and financial advice to emotional and social supports in navigating post-COVID-19 realities.

WOMEN'S VOICES IGNORED

While diverse women are leading the COVID-19 health-care response across Canada and around the world, women's voices have been largely muffled in the discussion about economic recovery. We have seen a shocking revival of "manels" and mansplaining by pundits who, ignoring the perspectives of half the Canadian population, are oblivious to the particular challenges women entrepreneurs face.

I work with Canada's Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, which has been leading efforts to understand the impacts of COVID-19 and channel feedback from more than 200 business support organizations. The hub offers recommendations to support women entrepreneurs:

- Applying a gender and diversity lens and collecting disaggregated data on COVID-19 impacts, as well as on the effectiveness of programs to support entrepreneurs.

- Ensuring definitions of entrepreneurship are inclusive for self-employed women and owners of SMEs across sectors, including services, arts and social enterprises.

- Using innovative approaches to meet women's needs and preferences, such as crowd-funding, micro-grants, customized counselling, mentoring and sponsorship.

- Redoubling efforts to advance affirmative actions and preferential procurement for women and diverse groups.

- Strengthening capacity in financial and digital literacy programs to assist women in considering digitization financing, incorporation and exporting, while providing human capital to support research development and implementation.

- Paying adequate attention to supports, such as affordable, accessible child care. As economist Armine Yalnizyan said: "No recovery without a she-covy, no she-covy without child care." Experts argue child care should be considered an essential service. Similarly, supports for home schooling of children, particularly for immigrant women, is critical.

As Canada responds to the pandemic, there is a risk that we will lose the traction we've gained on gender and diversity. Women-led businesses represent a growing proportion of new startups in Canada, but their businesses are younger and more fragile than those led by men.

More than ever, it's critical to maintain intentional focus on women and other under-represented groups, and to nurture their fledgling micro-businesses from which larger businesses may grow.

[The writer is Professor, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University]

Free-range kids: Why a child's freedom to travel and play without adult supervision matters

NEGIN RIAZI & GUY FAULKNER
THECONVERSATION.COM

The recently released 2020 ParticipACTION Report Card revealed that Canadian children scored a D+ for "daily physical activity," an F for "active play" and a D- for "active transportation." Only 39 per cent of Canadian children and youth achieve recommended physical activity levels.

A decline in children's physical activity isn't a new trend. However, with COVID-19, there has been further decline in physical activity resulting from public health protocols aimed at curbing the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 has resulted in major disruptions of everyday life including school, playground and park closures that have also limited where children can play, be active and be in nature.

KIDS' MOBILITY

We study children's independent mobility — a child's freedom to travel and play in their neighbourhood without adult supervision. During the pandemic, children's independent mobility may be more essential than ever before.

Independent mobility provides children with many opportunities to experience their environment. Children with the freedom to travel independently are more physically active. However, independent mobility also provides a variety of mental health and developmental benefits including improved risk assessment, higher self-confidence and better wayfinding skills.

The opportunity to travel solo or with friends allows children to develop better decision-making skills. They gain the competence to navigate their environment safely and react appropriately to unexpected occurrences like getting lost. Parents who allow their children independent mobility are giving them confidence to navigate the world on their own.

In the current pandemic, independent mobility may help children gain access to the outside world. With many parents working from home, children's outdoor time may be inextricably linked to when parents have time to join physical activity outdoors after work or between meetings.

DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF SPACE, MOBILITY

Not all children have access to a back yard at home and may be limited in their opportunities to be active. Independently mobile children have more chances to be active by walking or biking (or rollerblading, skateboarding or scootering) to various locations close to home like the local park, schoolyard or up and down the neighbourhood block.

Our research highlights that not all children have the same amount of independent mobility.

For example, we found in a survey of about 1,700 parents in Vancouver, Ottawa and Trois-Rivières, Que., that car ownership had negative influences on children's independent mobility. So did language spoken at home besides English or French. Language spoken at home may reflect social and cultural norms, which may affect independent mobility by influencing parental decision-making.

Other research has noted that independent mobility is sometimes higher in lower socio-economic neighbourhoods due to differences in social norms and parenting styles. How independent mobility can be supported for children with a disability is less certain without adequate infrastructure.

LOWER COVID-19 RISK OUTDOORS

Our understanding of COVID-19 is rapidly changing and uncertainty about risk to our children is stressful. British Columbia has now entered Phase 2 of its restart plan and one outcome is re-opening of parks, beaches and playgrounds.

The Canadian Pediatric Society notes in an April 29 report that "the major risk factor for acquiring COVID-19 infection in childhood is household exposure," or contracting it in shared living quarters. It's less risky to be outdoors than indoors if physical distancing is maintained.

To support physical distancing, cities around the world are reallocating road space for walking and cycling, opening up green spaces and initiating car-free zones.

In Vancouver, the city council recently voted to reallocate a minimum of 11 per cent of city roads to "people-focused public space."

In some places, local environments may be doing a better job than others at alleviating parental safety concerns about letting their kids go outside and play.

BUILDING CHILDREN'S INDEPENDENT MOBILITY

Here are seven steps you can take to help your child and all children build their independent mobility.

Learn more about our research through our documentary, Running Free. Told through the eyes of three families, it explores the concept of children's independent mobility, the benefits of independent mobility for physical and mental health. It challenges viewers to consider solutions to declining independent mobility levels.

Learn the COVID-19 restrictions in your area. Have conversations with your child about how to safely be outside while still following physical distancing and hygiene guidelines such as: no physical contact with others; remain two metres apart; wear a mask when going into stores; wash your hands regularly.

Engage with your children and your community to discuss and address barriers to children's mobility. How do your children, and all children in your community, experience mobility? Learn about and support advocacy and planning for more inclusive communities that equitably support all children's freedom of movement and play.

Start early. The more time your child spends in the neighbourhood with you, the more familiar they will be with the streets, neighbours and the environment. With you, your child can learn how to safely cross the street, ride their bike and overcome unexpected situations. As you are out and about, talk to your child about what they'd do if they got lost and how to ask for help or find their way.

Know your child. Each child is different in terms of maturity, confidence and where they live. There is no specific age when a child should be independently mobile. Parents and children should engage in conversations to determine when a child is ready to explore their neighbourhood without parental escort and help their child develop the skills to do so safely.

Build familiarity with your neighbourhood. It's beneficial to know your neighbours, what locations are nearby such as green spaces, playgrounds or shops and who your child can ask for help should they need it. Is there a corner store where a child who is ready could take pride in practising appropriate hygiene, mask-wearing and physical distancing measures — and make a short trip to pick up an item?

Trial runs. Once you and your child have established their readiness, it's time for trial runs! Start with baby steps. Walk or cycle with your child — it helps everyone become familiar with the neighbourhood and landmarks. Practise getting to various destinations with your child leading the way and crossing the road where it's safest. Once familiar with the neighbourhood, your child can practice getting to various places alone or with sibling(s), the family dog, with a cell phone (or a walkie-talkie) or with a physically distant friend.

When children are outside, "they move more, sit less and play longer", interact with the environment and apply their creativity. All of this is beneficial for their physical fitness, mental health and social development. Supporting children to be independently mobile may be an important solution in protecting children's health and well-being.

[Negini Riazi is PhD Candidate in Kinesiology, University of British Columbia; Guy Faulkner is Chair in Applied Public Health and Professor, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia]

HC declines to entertain plea seeking development of standard procedure for arrests

NEW DELHI, JUN 29 (PTI): The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea seeking development of a "uniform standard procedure for arrests", saying there were enough judicial pronouncements and office orders to deal with the issue.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan said there was no need to compile all the judgements, by various courts, and office orders issued by the authorities into one single document and disposed of the petition.

"Enough lengthy procedure has been prescribed (with regard to arrests). Enough work has been done. We are not going to order summarising of it all. At present, we are not entertaining the petition," the court said.

It, however, gave the liberty to the petitioner -- financial economist Abhijit Mishra -- to approach the appropriate forum in any individual case of violation of the judgements or office orders.

Mishra, in his plea filed through advocate Payal Bahl, had also sought directions to the Centre, the Delhi government and the police to "make a comprehensive compensation policy and procedure for illegal detention and arrest" of any person.

The plea had sought that on being arrested, a citizen should be provided all the documents related to his arrest, and his family or friends should also be informed about it by the police.

The plea also wanted that the Delhi Police should make the arrest guidelines available at each of its police stations along with contact details of legal aid lawyers.

Besides that, the plea had sought directions to the Centre, the Delhi government and the police to ensure that before arresting a person, he should be informed about his rights under the Constitution and the Criminal Procedure Code.

Fellowships for books on post-Independence India

NEW DELHI, JUN 30 (PTI): Want to write a memoir, a work of reportage or a thickly-foot-noted academic study? A fellowship provides support to such writing of non-fiction books on topics related to economics, politics or culture in post-Independence India.

The New India Foundation fellowships are awarded biennially to Indian citizens for a period of one year and carry

GNLF team visits dumping ground of Darjeeling



SUMMIT REPORT DARJEELING, 30 JUN: A delegation led by chairperson of the Darjeeling Branch Committee of the Gorkha National Women's Organization, Basundhara Pradhan inspected the dumping ground at Murchahatta under Hill Darjeeling Municipality today.

A study, undertaken by a Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) researcher along with three other scientists from reputed global institutes, has sought to throw light on the origin and domestication of chicken over thousands of years.

The study used the largest ever whole-genome sequencing dataset of a global sampling of both domestic chickens and jungle fowl (JF) species.

It was undertaken by Mukesh Thakur of ZSI in collaboration with three other senior scientists from different global institutes.

The collaborative study did DNA sequencing of 863 genomes from four species of the genus *Gallus*, five sub-species

GNLF Darjeeling branch chairperson, Ajay Edward distributed masks, gloves and sanitizers to the employees working at the dumping ground.

Addressing the press, Basundhara Pradhan said that most of

the garbage in Darjeeling city is taken to the murchahatti dumping ground and dumped there. Employees at the dumping site complained that they require health check-ups every 6 months and need to be vaccinated against Tetanus

Study traces origin of domestic chicken



of Red Jungle Fowl and various domestic chicken breeds collected worldwide.

"We obtained and sequenced 142 red jungle fowls representing all five sub species, 12 Green jungle fowls, two Grey jungle fowls and four Ceylon jungle fowls," Thakur said in a note about the paper.

"...our data, for the first time, clearly demonstrates that all five red jungle fowl subspecies are genetically differenti-

ated from each other approximately 50,000 years ago (much earlier than chicken domestication), generally corresponding to their geographic ranges and taxonomic classifications," he said.

"Our study provides novel insights into the evolutionary history of domestic chickens and a valuable resource to facilitate the ongoing genetic and functional investigations," Thakur said.

every 3 months by the government but so far this has not happened.

Chairperson Pradhan appealed to the Darjeeling Municipality as well as the GTA to train the workers working at the dumping site to protect them from possible diseases and to provide them with the necessary items for safety.

The GNLF team also visited Darjeeling District Health Office and talked about the problem faced by the workers in dumping ground and the District Health Officer has promised to provide assistance to the employees working at the dumping site as soon as possible, added in-charge of GNLF Media Cell. Dinesh Sampang.

Domestic chickens initially came from the subspecies Red Jungle Fowl (RJF)- "*Gallus gallus spadiceus*" with the area centred on southwestern China, northern Thailand and Myanmar, the study said.

Thakur said in his note that the study showed that following their domestication, chickens were "trans-located across South-east and South Asia where they interbred with Red Jungle Fowl sub-species and other jungle fowl species." "The results further reveal that domestic chickens undergo genetic adaptations that underlie their unique behavioural, morphological and reproductive traits, he said.

The findings were published in Cell Research, an international journal.

lowing their return from other states.

Three others were undergoing home-isolation, the district collector said.

Altogether 38 BSF jawans have tested positive for COVID-19 in Odisha, while as many as 293 disaster response personnel were found to have contracted the disease after their return from West Bengal, where they had been deployed for restoration work post cyclone Amphan.

Malkangiri has reported 96 cases so far, of which 52 have recovered.

College & Girls Hostel," he tweeted.

Four of the 36 patients in Malkangiri were under quarantine at a temporary medical centre in the district fol-



al said.

"Of the 36 more positive cases detected in Malkangiri district, 29 are from the BSF, accommodated in the Malybanta Boys Hostel, Jr, Science

Athlete forced to sell vegetables in Jharkhand



RANCHI, JUN 30 (PTI): Budding athlete Geeta Kumari was forced to sell vegetables in the streets of Jharkhand's Ramgarh district to make ends meet.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren's intervention helped Kumari to get Rs 50,000 from the Ramgarh district administration and also a monthly stipend of Rs 3,000 to pursue her athletics career.

Soren received information on his twitter handle that Kumari has turned into a roadside vegetable seller due to financial problems. The chief minister directed the Ramgarh deputy commissioner to assist Kumari financially so

that she could pursue her athletics career.

The Ramgarh Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sandeep Singh gave a cheque of Rs 50,000 to Kumari on Monday and also announced Rs 3,000 monthly stipend to the athlete and arranged for her training at a sports centre, an official release said.

Kumari had won eight gold medals at state-level walking competitions and won a silver medal and a bronze medal in competitions held in Kolkata, the release said.

Wishing the athlete all success in the world of sports, the deputy commissioner said, "There are several sports persons in Ramgarh who are

capable of winning laurels for the country, and the administration will ensure they get support."

Kumari's cousin Dhanjay Prajapati said, "She sells vegetables and also is a final year BA student in Ananda College, Hazaribag, in the neighbouring district. Her family is financially weak and my sister wants to pursue her pet event. Now that the administration has given assistance she is very happy."

Earlier this month the Jharkhand government had provided financial assistance to national level archer Sonu Khatoon of Dhanbad district, who was forced to sell vegetables to earn a living for her family.

COVID-19 death toll rises to 25 in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, JUN 30 (PTI): Odisha reported two more COVID-19 fatalities on Tuesday, taking the death toll due to the disease to 25 in the state, while the number of cases crossed the 7,000-mark with 206 fresh ones, a health department official said.

Two women, aged 48 and 39 years, succumbed to the disease at a COVID hospital in Ganjam district, he said.

"Regret to report the death of two COVID positive patients of Ganjam district while under treatment in hospital. The 39-year-old woman was also suffering from chronic kidney disease," the official said.

Of the 25 deaths so far in Odisha, Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounts for 14, followed by five in Khurda, four in Cuttack, and one each in Bargarh and Puri, he

said. Seven other coronavirus patients had died earlier but their deaths were attributed to "non-COVID reasons", the official said.

The state had reported its first COVID-19 fatality in Bhubaneswar on April 6.

He said 206 more people, including a man from the National Disaster Response Force, tested positive for COVID-19, raising the state's infection tally to 7,065.

The NDRF man was placed under institutional quarantine after his return from West Bengal, where he had gone for restoration work in the wake of cyclone Amphan, the official said.

With this, the number of disaster response personnel testing positive for the virus increased to 293. Nine BSF jawans were also infected with

the disease, the official said.

Of the 206 cases, 192 were detected in quarantine centres where people returning from other states are housed for preliminary observation, while fourteen others were found during contact-tracing exercises.


The fresh cases were reported from 22 districts.

Malkangiri recorded the highest of 36, he said.

Other districts that reported a high number of new cases are Jajpur (28), Koraput (18), Cuttack (17), Jagatsinghpur (17), Bolangir (16) and Deogarh (15).

At present, Odisha has 2,087 active cases, while 4,946 people have recovered from the disease

Odisha has so far tested 2,65,431 samples, including 5,003 in the last 24 hours.



CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR THE UPGRADATION OF LIBRARY AT RATEY PANI SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL.

CONTACT 7384639193 TO CONTRIBUTE & HELP US IN LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR BETTER FUTURE

Tuticorin SP shunted out, put on 'compulsory wait'

CHENNAI, JUN 30 (PTI): The Superintendent of Police of Tuticorin, where a father-son duo died after being allegedly thrashed by the police last week, was on Tuesday shunted out of the district and placed under "compulsory wait" by the Tamil Nadu government.

Arun Balagopalan IPS "is brought to the compulsory wait at office of the Director General of

Police," a Home Department order said.

Villupuram SP S Jeyakumar has been appointed in place of Balagopalan.

The government also posted S Murugan, IG, Economic Offences Wing, Chennai as the IG, South Zone, vice KP Shanmuga Rajeswaran, who is retiring today.

Meanwhile, the Tuticorin district administra-

tion on Tuesday deputed officials to take "control" of Sathankulam police station, in line with a Madras High Court directive that it be brought under the Revenue department.

Collector Sandeep Nanduri deputed a Tahsildar and a deputy Tahsildar to take "control" of the police station, official sources said.

Further, a forensic team from Madurai was

involved in collecting evidence at the police station, as directed by the court.

The Madurai bench of the High Court had on Monday directed deputing revenue officers to the Police station to preserve "clue materials" seized following the death of the two, after the Principal district judge submitted policemen there were not cooperat-

ing with the Judicial Magistrate on conducting the enquiry under Cr.PC.

P Jayaraj and his son Bennicks, arrested for 'violating' lockdown norms over business hours of their cellphone shop, died at a hospital in Kovilpatti on June 23, with the relatives alleging that they were severely thrashed at the Sathankulam police station by the personnel earlier.

Watney bored in isolation, nervous about how he got virus

WASHINGTON, JUN 30 (AP): Monday marked the 10th day of self-isolation for Nick Watney, the minimum required for PGA Tour players who test positive for the new coronavirus.

He said he is feeling good except for some minor fatigue, perhaps brought on by a major case of boredom, and except for the distinction of becoming the first of what now is five players and two caddies who have tested positive since the PGA Tour returned amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

I will say, it's not the greatest feeling being the first to get it, Watney said in his first interview since he was notified June 19 at the the RBC Heritage of his positive test.

Some things are so vague around this thing, he said.

The symptoms ... some people get this, some get that. I haven't had a fever or cough the whole time, no shortness of breath. Maybe that's the reason it's so scary. I still don't know how or where I got it.

He lost his sense of smell, a sensation he described as gnarly, but said that is coming back. And perhaps the strangest sensation is being at a golf resort without playing golf.

He remains in Hilton Head Island, South Car-

olina, as the PGA Tour has moved on to Connecticut, and now Detroit this week, and then two weeks in Ohio. The show goes on.

Very, very boring, he said. Being on the road and not playing golf is a weird feeling.

Three more players tested positive during the Travelers Championship Cameron Champ before the tournament started, Denny McCarthy after his first round and Dylan Frittelli after he missed the cut. Two caddies tested positive, which caused a chain reaction of withdrawals.

Harris English tested positive Monday at the Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit. Watney spent part of Monday arranging for a rental car for the 17-hour drive to Austin, Texas, where he lives with his wife, Amber, and their four children, ranging in age from 6 years to 6 months.

I don't want to fly at this point, he said. I just think all this could be a waste of time if I left early and got someone else sick. I'd feel terrible.

He said his wife was nervous when he called her the day of the test. She managed to get herself and the children tested the following day, and the tests came back negative.

A week later, none



has any symptoms. Watney laughed at the notion he might be responsible for PGA Tour players all getting a WHOOP strap, which can provide early indications of the virus. That was part of the tour trying to tighten its protocols as it continues its schedule.

The strap is what alerted Watney. He bought one a year ago to study his sleep pattern and other health metrics, trying to do everything possible to help the 39-year-old add to his five PGA Tour victories and one appearance in the Presidents Cup.

He typically takes 14 breaths a minute. When he woke up Friday at Harbour Town, it was up to 18, which concerned him.

So he asked for a test and was at the golf course when he received the call saying he had tested positive. Once you're a member of the WHOOP service, they're always talking about per-

formance, he said.

They also sent out data from users who have gotten the virus. A common thing was the respiratory rate. I read an article they had published, and it was alarming. I didn't wake up short of breath. It wasn't difficult to breathe. But this thing has tracked my respiratory rate. And based on that, I thought I should be tested.

Watney is known to be polite to a fault, and his biggest worry was spreading the virus. He texted Rory McIlroy, whom he saw on the practice green ("at a distance," McIlroy said) before getting his result. Sergio Garcia, who flew with him from Austin to Hilton Head, said Watney texted him constantly.

He must have said, 'Sorry,' to me 25 times, Garcia said. The tour identified 11 people with whom Watney had contact. They were tested twice, with all results negative.

I was very, very nervous about giving it to other people, Watney said.

I don't know how I got it. I don't feel as though I was reckless. That part is scary. It's like this invisible, silent thing.

Watney said he went to the grocery store one time during the week of the tournament. The island was busy because of the start of summer vacation, with restaurants full and parking lots packed. Since the positive test, Watney has been in his room.

He said Bill Haas' wife, Julie, went to the store and brought him 10 bags of groceries. He has spent time on the phone calling those who have checked up on him players, caddies, RBC Heritage tournament director Steve Wilmot.

Watney went three months without playing and made it through three rounds he missed the cut at Colonial before it was time to stop. He is No. 123 in the FedEx Cup standings, and the positive test cost him at least a month of competition.

No worries there with the shortened season, his status will be unchanged for next season. He said he would feel safe after three straight days of no symptoms. He plans to start the two-day road trip on Wednesday.

I'll mask up when I find a motel, he said.

Krunal Pandya resumes outdoor training after 3 months

VADODARA, JUN 30 (PTI): Confined within the four walls of his home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, India all-rounder Krunal Pandya on Tuesday resumed outdoor training after more than three months.

The Baroda cricketer, elder brother of Hardik Pandya, had represented India in 18 T20 Internationals till date.

"Began my day with a run out on the field.. feels good to be back out there again," tweeted the elder among the Pandya brothers and also posted a picture of his workout.

Like all cricketers, Krunal had been confined to his house in Vadodara since March 25, when the centre enforced



a nationwide lockdown to curb the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

India pacer Shardul Thakur had become the first BCCI accredited player to resume training last month when he

bowled in the nets at Boisar in Palghar district of Maharashtra.

Recently, India Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara too had begun batting in the nets in his native Rajkot.

Spanish club Valencia fires coach Celades after poor streak

VALENCIA, SPAIN, JUN 30 (AP): Spanish club Valencia fired coach Albert Celades following poor results.

The announcement came a day after a 2-0 loss at Villarreal, the team's third Spanish league defeat following the pandemic break.

The result left Valencia in eighth place, eight points from fourth-placed Sevilla in the final qualification spot for the Champions League. Valencia was five points from sixth-placed Villarreal in the final Europa League spot.

Valencia won only one of its five games after the coronavirus break. It



won 15 of the 41 matches it played under Celades in all competitions, losing 14 and drawing 12. He led the team to the round of 16 of the Champions League for the first time after seven years, being eliminated by Atalanta.

Interim coach Voro Gonz lez will stay in charge until the end of the season.

Two other Spanish league coaches were fired after the pandemic break: Real Betis' Rubi and Espanyol's Abelardo Fern ndez.

Wembley empty for match for first time, FA cuts 82 jobs

LONDON, JUN 30 (AP): As the 90,000-capacity Wembley held its first game without fans, the financial impact of the pandemic on English soccer was revealed by the national stadium's owners.

The English Football Association announced plans to cut 82 jobs to cover an anticipated 300 million pound (370 million) deficit due to the coronavirus pandemic restricting crowds at games and more events being canceled.

Social distancing at stadiums meant Northampton players had to pick up the medals and trophy themselves rather than from dignitaries after beating Exeter in the League Two playoff final at Wembley to win promotion to the third tier.

It was the first time a game was played without fans since the rebuilt Wembley opened in 2007. The loss of revenue will also be felt when the FA Cup semifinals and final are staged at an empty Wembley in the coming weeks.

Wembley was due to stage seven games at the European Championship including the semifinals and finals next month but the tournament was postponed by a year.

Other events, including concerts and two NFL regular season games, have also been called off.

We have already lost that money and there is no way we can recover it, FA chairman Greg Clarke said on Monday.

The pandemic will be followed by an economic recession, so there will be problems that last for years."

According to the British government tally, there have been more than 43,500 coronavirus-related deaths since March. While sport has resumed this month, supporters are not allowed in stadiums as part of efforts to contain COVID-19.

No one knows when a vaccine will be ready or when better medical treatments will be ready," Clarke said.

"So we have to plan for extended periods of social distancing which could limit crowds ... and

could limit the number of competitions to be played.

Hospitality revenue, which can generate 35 million pounds a year at Wembley, has completely fallen away and will probably take years to recover," the FA said.

Compensation has also had to be paid for some of the canceled events, while the FA has been unable to fulfil some commitments to sponsors and broadcasters.

When Britain went into lockdown in March, the FA halted recruitment and 42 vacant positions will not be filled. Another 82 roles are being removed from the not-for-profit governing body.

FA chief executive Mark Bullingham said the focus will be spending on the key mission helping the men's and women's national teams win major tournaments.

That means we have set out in our proposals some difficult choices because we do not think we can afford to do all the things that we did before, he said.

Finch in awe of Kohli's consistency across formats

MUMBAI, JUN 30 (PTI): The weight of expectations in a cricket-mad country like India is huge but Virat Kohli has done an exceptional job leading the side, says Australia's limited overs skipper Aaron Finch. Finch said all players are expected to endure some bad time but players like Kohli, Steve Smith, Ricky Ponting and batting great Sachin Tendulkar are exceptions.

"Every player, regardless of who it is, has a bad series. But very very rarely do you see Kohli, (Steve) Smith, even going back (Ricky) Ponting, Sachin (Tendulkar), these guys they don't have two bad series in a row," Finch said on the Sony Ten Pit Stop show.

"The pressure of



playing for India is one but also leading India is another and the way he (Kohli) has done it, so consistently for a long time.

"And taking over from (MS) Dhoni , the leadership, that is huge. The expectations were high and he kept delivering and

I think that that is the most impressive thing," he added.

Finch was impressed with Kohli's consistency as a batsman too.

"What has been so impressive for so long is just his consistency across three formats. To be the best player of all-

time in ODI cricket is one thing but then to also be in Test cricket and T20 cricket as a rounded player that is remarkable,"he said.

The ICC has banned use of saliva to shine the ball and Finch said the players will have to get used to it.

"I haven't spoken to

anyone in England or the West Indies camp on how that's (saliva ban) going to go. But that is something that the players have to adapt to over the next couple of months (or) however long that it lasts. Finding different ways to shine the ball, because I think naturally, just out of instinct or habit, you lick the fingers and you rub the ball.

"So I am sure there will be some inadvertent mistakes. Everyone has to be really flexible and accommodating and understand that things are going to be different to what they were four months ago," added the 33-year-old batsman.

After the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, Test cricket will resume on July 8 when England take on the West Indies in a three match series.

My style won't change if given role of captaincy in absence of Root: Stokes

LONDON, JUN 30 (PTI): Star all-rounder Ben Stokes says he won't change his playing approach even if he is handed England's captaincy in the absence of regular skipper Joe Root for the Test series-opener against the West Indies.

Vice-captain Stokes is being speculated to replace Root, who is taking leave to be with his wife for the birth of their second child, for the first Test at Southampton from July 8.

"I hope that I always try to set the example in terms of attitude and commitment If I am in charge that's not going to change the way that I go about things," Stokes was quoted as saying by the BBC.

Stokes had a phe-

nomenal run in the past one year as he helped England to World Cup final victory and played a key role in his side's stunning Ashes win over Australia at Headingley.

The 29-year-old, who has played 63 Tests since 2013, says positivity influences his conduct on the field and that will continue.

"In terms of how I want to influence the game, I try to have a positive effect with the ball or bat in my hand. No matter what I do in terms of choosing what to do in a situation, it will always be the positive route," the Durham all-rounder said.

If Stokes is given the captaincy, he will be first all-rounder since Andrew Flintoff to lead En-



gland and 81st skipper overall.

He was named vice-captain in 2017 but he lost the position following the Bristol nightclub incident that year.

"Getting the opportunity to captain England is a huge honour - even if it's only the once you can still say 'yeah, I've cap-

tained England'.

"It's a huge honour to think about, and something I'm really looking forward to if the opportunity presents itself, but also at the same time I know I'm only stepping in for the one game because of Joe's personal situation."

Stokes does not have

experience of leading a side but would bank on support from his experienced players.

"We've got some really experienced guys out in the field who I can use. I'd like to think that I'll be quite an open captain and wouldn't want to just think that my way is the only way," he said.

WRITE US:

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

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Indian-Americans form political action committee to campaign for President Trump's re-election

WASHINGTON, JUN 30 (PTI): A group of Indian-Americans have launched a political action committee to actively campaign for President Donald Trump as they believe that he is the best hope for the US under the prevailing domestic and international conditions, including defeating terrorism and regulating immigration.

'Indian-Americans for Trump' has been formed with the only purpose to garner active support of all Americans, but particularly among Americans of the Indian Subcontinent, to have Trump reelected as the President, said its founder A D Amar.

Looking at the achievements of Trump as President since taking office, the Indian-Americans for Trump realise that his first term has indeed been focused on reviving the American economy, rightly bringing America on the world stage, defeating terrorism, regulating immigration, and establishing peace through strength, a media release said.

Furthermore, members of the committee also believe that he is the best hope for America to continue on this course of strength for the next four years.

They do not see any candidate, in either party, who could come close to him for the office of the president of the United States of America, the release said.

This is for the second time that Amar has formed a political action committee to support Trump.

He also founded and headed Indian Americans for Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Former US vice president and Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden, 77, is challenging the 74-year-old Republican incumbent President Trump in the November 3 presidential election.

Kartik Aaryan and Om Raut's action film stalled

MUMBAI, JUN 30 (PTI): Actor Kartik Aaryan's action film with director Om Raut has been put on hold as the makers want to shoot the film abroad, which won't be possible for some time amid the coronavirus pandemic. The 3D action film, produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series, was to be shot in India and various locations abroad. However, the makers have decided to take up the project at a later date.

"We are doing it (film) later. It is on hold because the film involves a lot of foreign shoot and we can't shoot abroad. The team was to shoot in Hong Kong but it can't happen due to coronavirus. We are figuring out what to do. There were other places also. It is a cutting edge action film," a source close to the film told PTI. Raut made his directorial debut as director earlier this year with "Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior", starring Ajay Devgn, Saif Ali Khan, and Kajol. The period action film grossed over Rs 350 crore worldwide.

Arizona closes bars, gyms and other businesses after 'brutal' increase in Covid-19 cases

(CNN): In one of the most drastic rollbacks of reopenings yet, Arizona is closing bars, gyms, movie theaters and other businesses for 30 days amid a "brutal" increase in Covid-19 cases, Gov. Doug Ducey said Monday.

Water parks and tubing also must also close, Ducey said at a news conference, and events with more than 50 people are prohibited.

The pullback comes as the state has seen a surge in Covid-19 cases recently. There are now almost 75,000 reported infections, up from 46,689 cases 10 days ago.

"Our expectation is that next week, our numbers will be worse," Ducey said. "It will take several weeks for the mitigations we are putting in place to take effect."

Changes in military recruiting may endure after pandemic

WASHINGTON, JUN 30 (AP): With his Army recruiting office shuttered due to the coronavirus, Staff Sgt. Anthony Holt has had to be creative to meet his enlistment goals. Using social media is one way. Signing up the grocery delivery guy is another.

Holt asked the man how he ended up with the virtual shopping job. It turned out, he wanted to be a boat operator, but a job with an Alaskan cruise company fell through because of the pandemic.

The Army also has maritime jobs, Holt told him. He found an open training slot for an Army watercraft operator. The delivery guy enlisted.

I talk to every single person that I meet no matter what, because I have no idea what their life story is," said Holt, who is based in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

If I have the opportunity to help somebody the way that the Army's helped me, I seize that opportunity.

COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on military recruiting, closing enlistment stations and forcing thousands of recruiters to woo potential soldiers online, or even on their front steps. As the virus raged, enlistments slowed and fueled worries that the armed services would have to rely more on current troops re-enlisting to meet total force requirements by the end of the fiscal year in September.

Joe Biden names Indian-American expert as digital chief of staff

WASHINGTON, JUN 30 (PTI): Indian-American Medha Raj has been named by Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden as his digital chief of staff, a key role in his election campaigns which are entirely going virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the US.

In this capacity, Raj will work across all facets of the digital department to streamline and coordinate how to maximise the impact of its digital outputs, the Biden campaign said.

Excited to share that I've joined Joe Biden's campaign as the Digital Chief of Staff. 130 days to the election and we're not going to waste a minute! she said on LinkedIn.

Raj comes from Pete Buttigieg's campaign, who has now endorsed



Just days before the

4th of July weekend, groups of more than 10 people will be prohibited from gathering at outdoor pools in Arizona, including those at apartment complexes and private facilities, Ducey said.

Arizona schools are also ordered to push back the start of the school year to August 17, he said.

Just days before the

Just days before the

Just days before the



vices would have to rely more on current troops re-enlisting to meet total force requirements by the end of the fiscal year in September.

Recruiters have had to abandon their normal visits to high schools and malls, and instead are relying almost exclusively on social media to reach young people. As that effort builds, Army leaders believe it may evolve into a new system that will allow them to scale back the size and staffing at enlistment storefronts and reduce the number of recruiters.

We're going to empower the recruiters to allow for more autonomous recruiting, said Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, head of the Army's recruiting command. That, he said, will allow the service to reduce the

size of brick-and-mortar offices since some recruiters will be working solely online and go into the office only occasionally.

If we have recruiters that are operating at a greater efficiency (online) then we don't need 10,000 recruiters. We may be able to reduce that number to 7,000 or 8,000, he said, adding that such a reduction will allow the Army to move more soldiers back into regular units and fighting formations.

But first the Army has to determine how successful virtual recruiting can be.

In the early days of the pandemic, Army enlistments fell off by about 50%.

Does that put us behind? Yeah, said Muth, adding that enlistments are about 4,000 lower



Biden.

The news was first reported by CNN, which the news channel said is part of the efforts of the Biden campaign to adapt to an almost entirely virtual campaign trail brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

The US is the hardest-hit country by the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 2.64 million official cases and over 128,000 deaths.

According to CNN, Clarke Humphrey, who previously worked on Hillary Clinton's 2016

campaign, will act as the Biden campaign's new deputy digital director for the grassroots fundraising.

Jose Nunez is the campaign's new digital organising director.

He is from the Kamala Harris' campaign. Christian Tom is the new director of digital partnerships. Over the past few months, Biden has been relying more and more on digital campaigning and raising funds virtually.

A graduate in international politics from Georgetown University,

To reopen, affected facilities must attest to public health regulations and post it for the public to see, the governor said.

The goal, he said, is to get the establishments back open in 30 days.

"We're going to be monitoring the data along the way, and we're going to do everything necessary to protect public health," Ducey said.

Restaurants will be allowed to remain open with physical distancing guidelines in place.

Last week, Ducey said he wouldn't require people to wear masks who attended President Donald Trump's Phoenix rally on June 23. Monday, he encouraged all Arizonans to "mask up," but did not issue a statewide mandate for people to wear them.

successful sending them a DM (direct message) or posting stuff about myself.

Nordin and Holt said the Army has done training sessions to teach recruiters how to get more followers on Facebook and Instagram. Often, they said, recruiters can reach out to soldiers they've enlisted in the past and ask them to share posts, expanding the views of their online messages.

As part of the new, creative methods, Muth said he took an idea from McDonald's. A few years ago the fast-food juggernaut said it would hire 50,000 people in one day. Muth said he decided the Army could try the same thing.

So, on Tuesday, Muth is launching Army Hiring Days and is calling on all service leaders at all levels to fill social media with recruiting messages. The goal is to bring in 10,000 recruits, and top leaders have already started turning to Twitter to tout soldier life.

Army National Hiring Days coming June 30-July 2! The U.S. Army's first-ever nationwide virtual hiring campaign is a three-day event with a goal of finding 10,000 men and women to join our team, tweeted Gen. James McConville, the top Army officer.

Cash will be one of the incentives.

visit us at: www.summittimes.com

Raj has earned her MBA from Stanford University.

Biden, 77, is challenging the 74-year-old Republican incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 3 presidential elections.

Former US vice president Biden would formally accept his Democratic presidential nomination at the party's scaled back convention in Wisconsin's Milwaukee city on August 20.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) on Wednesday announced its convention plan to broadcast from Milwaukee and across the nation to reach out to all Americans.

According to some of the latest opinion polls, Biden is leading by more than eight percentage points over Trump.

Philippine army outraged by fatal police shooting of troops

MANILA, JUN 30 (AP): The Philippine army chief expressed outrage Tuesday over the fatal police shooting of four soldiers, including two officers, and demanded justice with both sides providing contrasting accounts of the killings.

Eduardo Ano, a retired military chief of staff who now oversees the national police as interior secretary, ordered the police involved in Monday's violence in the southern town of Jolo in Sulu province be disarmed and restricted for investigation.

Police said the soldiers were killed in a misencounter with a group of police officers. The army has countered that its two officers and two enlisted men were on a mission against Abu Sayyaf militants, including suspected suicide bombers, when they were flagged down and later fatally shot by police without provocation even after the soldiers identified themselves.

An army statement said its commanding general, Lt. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, is enraged and vowed there will be no let up in our quest for truth and justice. The violence reflects the often-complicated conditions under which the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and its allied foreign and local militants has been waged by the military, with backing from the police, for about three decades.

The on and off offensives have considerably weakened the Abu Sayyaf, which is black-listed by the U.S. and the Philippines as a terrorist group, but it remains a national security threat. This is a very unfortunate incident that should have not happened, Ano said. Aside from a police investigation he said he

would ask the National Bureau of Investigation, Manila's counterpart to the FBI, to carry out an inquiry.

An initial police report said Jolo police were on patrol with anti-illegal drug agents in the town's Bus-Bus village when they spotted an SUV with four armed male persons, whom they stopped. The four were directed to drive to the Jolo police station for verification but when they arrived there, the said persons fled, the report said.

Police chased the four, who got out and pointed their guns at police.

Before they could pull the trigger, the Philippine National Police personnel were able to shoot them in defence, sparking an exchange of shots that killed the four suspects, the police said.

Gapay said that police at a checkpoint flagged down the four soldiers, who properly identified themselves, but the police later approached and fired upon them for still unknown reasons.

Citing eyewitnesses, Gapay said no altercation transpired between the two parties nor was there any provocation on the part of army personnel to warrant such carnage.

An army officer with knowledge of what happened told The Associated Press that while being tailed by a van of policemen, the soldiers stopped and one of the officers got out of their SUV with his hands up, apparently to indicate he had no hostile intent.

But the police opened fire and killed the four soldiers, who were in casual clothes, for still unexplained reasons, said the army officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the delicate nature of what transpired.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambekar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp.

Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:

Irshad Ali/ Inteevaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547774/ +91-9830547774. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

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

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK: For circulation details Contact: +91-9748975695, +91-944782482 & for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI: Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambekar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp.

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

Phone: 03592-208698 +91-9832554698 +91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com

newstimes@gmail.com summittimes@gmail.com advertise@summittimes.com



CITY STROLL! The model, Emily Ratajowski takes a call while out walking her dog in a summer dress and white sneakers in NYC.

Is TikTok working, when will ban come into force in India and will it hurt China

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30: India has banned 59 apps from China, including TikTok. The ban was enforced under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000, with deals with the powers to issue directions for blocking public access of any information through any computer resource.

The act says, "where the Central Government or any of its officers specially authorised by it... is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above, it may... by order, direct any agency of the Government or intermediary to block for access by the public or cause to be blocked for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource."

We received many complaints from various sources including several reports about misuse of some mobile apps... for stealing and surreptitiously transmitting us-

ers' data in an unauthorised manner to servers which have locations outside India. Since this "ultimately impinges upon the sovereignty and integrity of India, is a matter of very deep and immediate concern which requires emergency measures, the Ministry of Information and Technology said.

The government would now follow this up with instructions to the Internet Service Providers to block these applications. Very soon, the user would see a message that says that these apps have been restricted.

These restrictions would impact TikTok and UC news as they need a live feed. However users may be able to use some applications that do not need an active internet connection. However this notification would lead to both Google Play Store and Apple's App Store blocking applications such as CamScanner. It may be recalled that the Madras High Court had last banned TikTok for a few days.

However the app was available after the ban was vacated by the High Court. However this action would have far more impact as it has been taken specifically in the

context of national security. This would also have a huge impact on the Chinese businesses in India and to China as well.

TikTok is a popular app in India and has over 100 million active users. Meanwhile the desi alternative to TikTok, Chingari has announced that it has achieved a new milestone of more than 25 lakh downloads in a short time.

The downloads have gone up to 25 lakh from just 5.5 lakh in ten days. The company has claimed a 400 per cent growth. Chingari allows a user to download and upload videos along with features such as chat with friends, interact with people, share content etc. the app is available in multiple languages like English, Hindi, Bangla, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu. It can be downloaded from Google Play Store and Apple's App Store.

A Chingari user can create a WhatsApp status, videos, audio clips, GIF, stickers and photos. The app also has access to trending news, entertainment news, funny videos, song videos, wishes and memes too.

'Finally we will not be subjected to people's ridiculous videos': Malaika Arora lauds government's move to ban Tik Tok

Malaika Arora lauds the government of India's move to ban Tik Tok.

The government of India, on Monday, banned TikTok and 58 other Chinese apps, a decision that was welcomed with open arms by people across the country as well as a few celebrities. On Tuesday, Malaika Arora became the latest celebrity to join the bandwagon of support for the ban.

The actress, through her Instagram stories, voiced her solidarity for the government's decision, calling the ban the best news she's heard during the lockdown. Sharing a news flash announcing the ban on TikTok, Malaika wrote, "The best news I have heard in lockdown... finally we will not be subjected to people's ridiculous videos."

For the uninformed, we are yet to see how other Bollywood stars will react to Malaika's statements, who've been quite active on TikTok such as Shilpa Shetty, Riteish Deshmukh, Kartik Aaryan, Alaya F, Jacqueline Fernandez, and Zareen Khan.

Apart from Bollywood, a lot of TV celebs are also part of the communi-



ty and continuously create content on TikTok as well. The ban has also come as a shock to youngsters who make their living by creating content on the video-sharing app. For the uninformed, among the banned apps, TikTok has over 200 million users in India.

The order by the government of India was issued under section 69A of

the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009. The order read that these apps are "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, the security of the state and public order".

Broadway to remain closed for the rest of 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic

LOS ANGELES, JUN 30 (PTI): Broadway's theatres will remain closed until January next year as the industry figures out a plan to function amid coronavirus pandemic, trade group the Broadway League has announced.

The Broadway League said that theatre owners and producers will refund or exchange tickets previously purchased for shows through January 3, 2021, reported Variety.

Broadway's theatres have been shutdown since March 12 due to the pandemic, making it the longest period of time that theatres have been closed.

The Broadway experience can be deeply personal but it is also, crucially, communal. The alchemy of 1,000 strangers bonding into a single audience fueling each performer on stage and behind the scenes will be possible again when Broadway theatres can safely host full houses, said Broadway League board chairman Thomas Schumacher.

He said the League plans to open the theatres only when it is safe for the cast and crew involved.

The safety of our cast, crew, orchestra and audience is our highest priority and we look forward to returning to our stages only when it's safe to do so. One

thing is for sure, when we return we will be stronger and more needed than ever.

Broadway League president Charlotte St. Martin said they are working closely with the city and state officials to find the best way to reopen.

We are focused on identifying and implementing necessary measures that will enable us to resume performances safely for Broadway audiences and employees. We are determined to bring back the people who rely on this industry for their livelihood, and to welcome back all those who love this vital part of New York City, as soon as it is safe to do so, he added.

'Disappointed,' says Carnival Cinemas as 7 big films go digital first, PVR Cinemas announce Sooryavanshi, 83 release dates

The CEO of Carnival Cinemas has responded to the recent Disney+ Hotstar announcement that seven films will release online over next few months.

As streaming platform Disney+ Hotstar announced release of seven big Bollywood films online, theatre chain Carnival Cinemas expressed disappointment, urging filmmakers to show some more patience and faith as these films were meant for theatres.

Mohan Umrotkar, CEO of Carnival Cinemas, said after a seven movies announced that they will be directly going to digital, "It is very disappointing that the filmmakers are opting digital first route when we are just steps away from the theatrical releases with the reopening of cinema halls across the country with all the necessary precautions. The economy is reopening and malls have already opened. They just need to have some more faith and patience to hold the content for the big screens, that is what it was made for."

"During the lockdown we have participated in many surveys to realize that the audience is waiting for cinemas to reopen. For the entertainment industry to flourish everyone needs to stand by each other. And if films made for theaters release directly on streaming platforms it may hamper the overall growth of the ecosystem," the statement added.

Disney+ Hotstar announced the release of seven major films, including Akshay Kumar's Laxxmi Bomb, Ajay Devgn's Bhuj The Pride of India and Alia Bhatt's Sadak 2. Fans will get to watch Akshay Kumar and Kiara Advani in Laxxmi Bomb;



Ajay Devgn, Sonakshi Sinha and Sanjay Dutt in Bhuj: The Pride of India; late Sushant Singh Rajput, Sanjana Sanghi and Saif Ali Khan in Dil Bechara; Sanjay Dutt, Alia Bhatt, Aditya Roy Kapur and Pooja Bhatt in Sadak 2; Abhishek Bachchan in The Big Bull; Vidyut Jammwal in Khuda Haafiz and Kunal Kemmu and Rasika Dugal in Lootcase online over the coming few months.

The first movie of Disney+ Hotstar Multiplex will be Sushant Singh Rajput's last film, Dil Bechara, which will be available to all subscribers and non-subscribers to commemorate his invaluable contribution to Hindi cinema.

Earlier, theatre chains had expressed disappointment after Gulabo Sitabo and Shakuntala Devi, among other films, went directly to digital.

Meanwhile, PVR Cinemas made major revelation Tuesday morning as they announced theatrical release of Akshay Kumar's Sooryavanshi and Ranveer Singh's 83 for this December. "Exciting times ahead.. Gearing up to release Rohit Shetty's Sooryavanshi on Diwali and Kabir Khan's 83 on Christmas this 2020!," the official Twitter account of PVR Cinemas said.

ARIES: Plucking the weeds out of the garden continues to be an important theme for you, Aries. Take a moment to re-examine all the relationships that didn't work out. What is the common denominator here? The fact that they didn't want to meet you where you are. You're presented with yet another half-love right now. But you know you deserve the real deal. Don't be afraid to set a boundary or say no.

TAURUS: You're in a good place. A place where you are receiving the recognition you deserve. Should that become a reason to rest on your laurels? Anything but. Today, you're being asked to revisit your goals and actively work towards achieving what you have set out to. Getting your hands dirty will prove to be the secret to your success, Taurus.

GEMINI: "No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn." Your current circumstances bring this beautiful Hal Borland quote to mind. The dark night of the soul requires courage, Gemini. Awaken to what Spirit is revealing to you. It is by acknowledging the old wounds that you will come closer to your truth. But that doesn't mean that walking through the fire of transformation is going to be easy. Call upon your tribe for a shoulder to lean on.

CANCER: What do you do when the world tries to pull you in a multitude of directions? You play hooky and come home to

yourself. It's time to pull out that yoga mat, put on some meditative music, and practice your favourite poses. Remember to ground yourself in your breath as you do. In the mood to shimmy your way to an expanded state of consciousness? Consider organising an ecstatic dance party for one.

LEO: Why do tears get such a bad rep when they help us release toxic emotions and express what words cannot say? Forget about what you have been told and the rules you've been following since the beginning of time. Both boys and girls cry, Leo. Today, without attaching a story to what's coming up or going into a space of judgements, be present to your feelings. Know that your wounds will open the portal to deep wisdom.

VIRGO: The benefits of flirting are immeasurable. But you're all too familiar with the rush of those feel-good hormones! Today you're being asked to bring the zing back into your relationship. Why not start with some dirty texting? Single Virgos are having their share of adventures too. Don't let the lockdown dampen your spirit. The virtual world has a plethora of options for those who want to mix and mingle.

LIBRA: It's easy to play out the script handed down to you by society. You know what takes immense courage? Questioning the beliefs you have grown up with. We're not

talking about rebellion for the sake of rebellion, Libra. We're talking about rebellion as a way to align with your true path. The freedom you seek is available to you in this moment, provided you're willing to embrace fearlessness.

SCORPIO: When was the last time you brewed yourself a cup of hibiscus tea, curled up with your favourite book or watched the sunset in silence? Honour the collective message which is to breathe, slow down, and be in the present. Remember we are in the midst of eclipse and retrograde season. There's a lot going on in the cosmos. Instead of playing tug of war with your energy, honour the natural rhythm of your body. If you need to rest, you need to rest, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS: Endings could be a big theme in the Sagittarius HQ. Slow down. Breathe. Be present to what's coming up from your subconscious instead of putting on the garb of normalcy. Remember, you're allowed to be a 'hot mess' for as long as you want. Your inner seeker is also calling for your attention. Feeling inspired to connect with you ancestors, spirit guides and totems? Know that the wisdom you seek is available to you in every moment.

CAPRICORN: The trouble is, you sometimes forget how powerful you are. How magnificent you are. How gifted you are. Could

your lack of self-worth be the reason you are unable to stand up for yourself and ask for what you deserve? Fake it till you make it, Capricorn. And if you have trouble doing that, remember you are indispensable to this person/organisation. They wouldn't be here in the first place if you weren't.

AQUARIUS: It doesn't matter how old you are or how long you have been together (time is an illusion anyway!), there's always room for intimacy and expression. So get out of your head and into your heart, Aquarius. Rely on both, acts of service and words of affirmation, to tell them how much you appreciate their presence. Remember, it's never about the grand gestures. It's about being fully present to them in moments of togetherness. If you're having trouble opening up, here's a Louise Hay affirmation that could help you: "My heart is open. I speak with loving words."

PISCES: Every time planets go into retrograde, themes from the past re-emerge to remind us of that which is unhealed within. Be warned: the temptation to go back to old ways (and toxic people) will be strong. Remember to look at your situation through the lens of awareness instead of succumbing to the drama. This will help you understand what needs to be released in order to free yourself from an age-old cycle.