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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**Lockdown, rain  
bring down  
pollution level  
in Kolkata**

**KOLKATA, APR 29 (PTI):** Very little commercial activity during the over one-month-long lockdown and the spells of rain have improved the air quality in Kolkata, an official of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) said on Wednesday.

The Air Quality Index monitoring station at Ballygunje in south Kolkata recorded an AQI of 33 (PM 2.5) at 2 PM on Wednesday, which is 'good' in environmental parlance.

At the same time, readings at the AQI stations of Bidhannagar, Jadavpur, Rabindra Sarobar and Victoria Memorial were 28, 29, 36 and 33 respectively.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderately polluted', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-500 'severe', while the AQI above 500 falls in the 'severe plus' category.

The AQI hovered between 100 and 260 across different air monitoring stations before the lockdown began on March 25, the official said.

## Vehicle disinfection gate conceptualized by West Sikkim lad inaugurated at Rangpo

**RANGPO, 29 APR [IPR]:** Minister of Land Revenue & Disaster Management, Kunga Nima Lepcha, inaugurated a vehicle disinfection gate at Rangpo check-post in the presence of IPR Minister LN Sharma, Minister of Buildings & Housin and Transport, Sanjit Kharel, LRDM Secretary and other officials today.

The innovative design for the vehicle disinfection gate to sanitize the entire body of a vehicle has been conceptualized by 22-year-old Bishu Hang Limboo of Bermiok-Sumbuk in West Sikkim with the aim to help the State government in its battle against Novel Coronavirus.

It may be recalled that a demonstration of the experimental model of the gate was presented in Gangtok on 16 April before concerned Ministers for approval by the State government.

Addressing press and media personnel at Rangpo guest house today, Minister Lepcha



lauded Bishu Hang's passion and commitment towards science and innovation at such a young age.

While mentioning other inventions by Bishu Hang, Minister Lepcha stated that Sikkimese youth have the potential to lead the entire nation as pilots of creativity and revolution.

The Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, in coordination with Mines & Geology Department and other line departments such as Police, Health, Power, PHE, NDRF, CMO's office and others have worked in coordination for the successful execution and setting up of the vehicle

disinfection gate at Rangpo.

Minister Lepcha stated that the disinfection gate would be made a regular feature at all check-posts and major administrative offices in the near future while also deliberating on the potential of the said project in creating job opportunities.

Minister LN Sharma, who is also Bishu Hang's area MLA, in his address, held up Bishu Hang's invention as "historic" and took great pride over the setting-up of the first-of-its-kind vehicle disinfection gate at one of the main entry points of the State.

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## Irrfan Khan: ever the actor, never the star

**NEW DELHI, APR 29 (PTI):** Always the actor, never the star, Irrfan Khan shone bright in a cinematic universe that unspooled from the Hindi film industry across the seas to Hollywood and one he made his very own with powerhouse performances in films as diverse as The Namesake" and Maqbool .

Understated and self-effacing, Irrfan was the man with a difference in the tinsel world of showbiz, transitioning from TV soaps to the big screen and then from Indian films to world cinema with so little fanfare and so smoothly that no one really noticed an actor was born.

And when he died on Wednesday, losing a two-year battle with neuroendocrine tumour, a rare form of cancer that targets various organs of the body, he left behind an Irrfan shaped hole that no one will ever quite fill.

He was just 54, packing into his three decades in cinema a variety of roles he stamped with his own deft touch, sometimes frothy and light as in his role of a never-can-get-it-right suitor in Life in a Metro , sometimes intense like in Maqbool , a retelling of Macbeth , and other times introspective as in the much acclaimed The Life of Pi .

Tall and gangly, and not conventionally good looking, Irrfan, his directors said, portrayed it all with his eyes and chameleon like ability to slip into layered characters of bewildering variety, a rare actor at home both in the west and in India.



The performative intensity was seen early in his career with Haasil , where he played the role of a student leader with negative overtones. It continued through a remarkable filmography that saw him playing melancholic immigrant Ashoke Ganguly in Mira Nair's The Namesake , an athlete-turned-dacoit in the biopic Paan Singh Tomar , the problematic father longing for a son in "Qissa" or the loner striking a tentative relationship with a woman he has never met in The Lunchbox .

And yes, though he appeared in mainstream films as well, Irrfan probably never shook a leg or sang in his films.

The remarkable career in acting almost didn't happen. Born to a Muslim Pashtun family in Jaipur in 1966, Irrfan initially wanted to become a cricketer. But his parents his mother had a royal lineage and his father was a businessman were not too keen and he tried his hand at business.

*Turn To Page 2*

# My week as a COVID-19 patient

**KUNAL PATIL**

Mumbai, Apr 28 (PTI): As a photojournalist waiting to capture some of the most crucial happenings around me, nothing could have prepared me for a week as a COVID-19 patient. While the viral outbreak engulfed Maharashtra and Mumbai, in particular, I continued documenting these unprecedented times, but a phone call on April 20 changed my life forever.

The morning began like any other as I prepared to head out for an assignment. I received a call from a photographer friend, who informed me that an official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had confirmed that he tested positive for COVID-19 and would soon be taken to a hospital in an ambulance.

We had all undergone swab tests after a few of our fellow photojournalists had tested positive.

Soon, I received the dreaded phone call from an unknown number and a man asked me curtly, "Where are you? I am calling from the BMC and want to inform you that your report is positive."

It felt surreal but my first instinct was to prepare my family. I rushed home and waited outside, calling out to my parents and wife. I asked them not to touch me or come near me, as I sat at my doorstep waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

Meanwhile, I received a call from another friend who had tested positive. He told me that the civic body would quarantine asymptomatic patients at a hotel for the next 14 days.

As it seemed like it would take some time for the

ambulance to arrive, I decided to head to the hotel in my car.

Once I reached there, I became an "untouchable". The moment I exited my car and some of my friends and other suspected patients came near the hotel entrance, I saw people from adjacent buildings and shops staring at us but the worse was yet to come.

A hotel staffer gave us our room numbers and threw water bottles and sanitisers at us from a six-foot distance. The next day (April 21) we were informed that we would have to collect food from near the elevator.

My wife called to inform me that five people from my housing society had tested positive for the virus and the complex would be sealed for the next 14 days. I was saddened to know that other residents were forced to stay indoors because of me and my friends and was worried that my family may test positive for the disease.

Soon a BMC ward officer told some of us to pack our bags as we were being shifted to another hotel. Within hours, a doctor informed us that patients suffering from co-morbid conditions such as hypertension and diabetes will be shifted to Seven Hills Hospital in Andheri. I was among four media persons who were transported there.

Entering a hospital had never been so terrifying in the 39 years of my life. As we entered the gate, we saw a man standing with a sanitiser machine, who first sanitised us, then our bags and lastly, the ambulance

we had travelled in.

I was admitted in a ward kept for patients from Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital in collaboration with the BMC, which has 56 COVID-19 beds at Seven Hills Hospital. That's when I met head training nurse Agnes Kuttiani.

"When the hospital officials asked us to serve COVID-19 patients, I was the first one to raise my hand. My husband was scared, but my daughter told me to do my duty," she said, beaming with pride, as I clicked her photograph.

My third day began with a second swab test at 5 am. This was followed by an ECG and a basic parameter check. Soon I fell into the daily rhythm of the hospital, but my thoughts often went to my sexagenarian parents. They had undergone the swab test, while my wife and daughter were spared as they did not show any symptoms.

To keep negative thoughts at bay, I started speaking to the hospital staff, who kept the COVID-19 fight going despite the risks involved.

My conversations with Moroba Kamble, a cleaner, were the most memorable. "I do my job wholeheartedly; I don't know if it is great work. I only hope that if I get infected and die, I will be called a shahid (martyr). I am glad my family supports the work I do for patients and my country," Kamble said.

I also met Mahesh Kharvi, an autorickshaw driver who was working at the hospital during the

**Govt allows movement of  
stranded people with conditions**

**NEW DELHI, APR 29 (PTI):** Migrant workers, tourists, students and other people stranded in different parts of the country were on Wednesday allowed to move to their respective destinations with certain conditions, giving a big relief to the distressed people.

In an order, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said buses shall be used for transport of such groups of stranded people and these vehicles will be sanitised and will have to follow safe social distancing norms in seating.

The Home Ministry order, however, did not specify whether a person or a family can travel in a private vehicle, and if allowed, under what conditions.

"Due to lockdown, migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons are stranded at different places. They would be allowed to move," he said in an order issued to all states and union territories.

Listing the conditions, the ministry said all states and union territories should designate nodal authorities and develop standard protocols for receiving and sending such stranded persons.

The nodal authorities shall also register the stranded persons within their states and union territories, it said.

In case a group of stranded persons wish to move between one state and union territory and another state and union territory, the sending and receiving states may consult each other and mutually agree to the movement by road.

The moving persons would be screened and those found asymptomatic would be allowed to proceed, according to the Home Ministry.

The states and union territories falling on the bus transit route will allow the passage of such persons to the receiving states and union territories, it said.

On arrival at their destination, they would be assessed by the local health authorities, and kept in home quarantine, unless the assessment requires keeping the persons in institutional quarantine, the order said.

They would be kept under watch with periodic health check-ups, it said.

All those people who avail the opportunity will be encouraged to use 'Aarogya Setu' app through which their health status can be monitored and tracked.

The union home secretary issued the order in his capacity as the chairperson of the National Executive Committee under the Disaster Management Act.

The Home Ministry also said the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on home quarantine should be followed by the authorities concerned. The decision of the central government will be a big relief to several lakh migrant workers, students, tourists and other people who are stranded in different parts of the country.

Several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Punjab, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, have brought back thousands of their students and tourists stuck in different parts of the country by bus. However, most of the migrant workers, tourists and other people continue to stuck in their places of work or shelter homes.

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# IHRC distributes relief materials

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 29 APR:**

International Human Rights Council [IHRC] Sikkim State has been distributing foodgrain packages to the needy from the day the lockdown started in the state, a press release informs.

Today was the 4th phase of the distribution organised at IBM, Rangpo where in 102 families were provided

packages by IHRC. State president of IHRC, Ganesh Sharma mentioned that they distributed materials such as rice, soyabean, dal, oil, potato, face mask, hand sanitizer and Salt.

IHRC State in-charge, Chotelal Prasad, Executive Member, Sunil Tamang, Santosh Prasad, Amarnath Sharma, Sunil Sherpa and others were also present during the distribution.



# Dry ration in lieu of MDMs in South Sikkim

## NAMCHI, 29 APR [IPR]:

Since educational institutions in Sikkim are closed due to the nationwide lockdown, the Education Department has begun providing foodgrains (rice) to meet the nutritional requirements of students of standard one to eight under the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme so that their immunity can be safeguarded.

With the schools shut temporarily, giving cooked meals daily is not possible so the Education

Department has permitted to hand out foodgrains to students and concerned parents.

Officials from Education Department, South, along with heads, In-charges of the schools and other stakeholders have been given the responsibility to oversee the smooth distribution process in their respective schools.

This process is being undertaken with proper precautionary measures for COVID-19 specially the norm of

social distancing.

It may be mentioned here that the foodgrains were already stocked in schools before the lockdown began and the same is being given out to students according to the enrollment of schools so that it can be disbursed equally amongst the pupils.

Till yesterday, a total of 86 schools had been provided foodgrains: 3-3.03 Kg (Primary) and 4.035-4.090 Kg (Upper primary).



# SBJM distributes relief materials

## SUMMIT REPORT

**Gangtok, 29 Apr:**

Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch [SBJM], Rangpo Branch distributed relief materials to daily wagers, homeless and others in and around Rangpo, a press release informs.

The materials were handed over to people

affected by the lockdown.

Secretary of Rangpo Branch, Ajeet Sharma informed that they are trying their best to ease the distress of affected individuals during this lockdown period.

The teams are also visiting different areas in Rangpo to identify those in need of relief.



# Yangthang Panchayat felicitates police personnel



## RUDRA KAUSHIK GYALSHING, 29 APR:

Yangthang GPU felicitated police personnel on duty in their area today.

The Yangthang GPU Panchayat team visited Gyalshing Bazaar and offered khadas to on-duty police personnel there and thanked them for their service.

They also offered khadas and thanked GMC workers and media personnel.

Yangthang GPU Panchayat President, Kala Subedi said, "This is

an initiative to encourage Sikkim Police personnel for their selfless service during this tough time of a global pandemic. Policemen are giving their best to the public during this nationwide lockdown and this is commendable and we should respect the law and Police personnel. Police and administration officials who are on duty day-and-night should be honoured and respected and we thought about honouring them."

SHO, Gyalshing Police

Station PI, CP Shilal thanked the Yangthang Panchayats for the gesture. He said West District police was on 24/7 duty and appealed to the public to cooperate and support the police force for better law enforcement and public safety.

Later, the Panchayat team visited West District Administrative Centre at Rabdentse and thanked the District Collector, Karma R Bonpo and West District SP Tenzing Loden Lepcha there.

# SPCC believes a COVID-19 hospital at old STNM complex is a better option

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 29 APR:**

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] today contended that although the Prime Minister has praised Sikkim for staying COVID-19 free thus far, the State itself has not even made basic preparations for protection from this pandemic.

The party has suggested that transforming the old STNM Hospital into a COVID-19 hospital

would have been better than creating the facility in the new setup. The party has asked the State government to immediately prepare quarantine rooms and a separate hospital for COVID-19 like is being done in other States of the country.

The release adds that the establishment of a COVID-19 hospital at the new STNM Hospital carries a high risk of transmission of the infection to patients and

health workers, hence the government should carry out required repairs and disinfection to make the best use of the old STNM Hospital. An SPCC press release asserts that the establishment of a blood-testing lab would help the people.

The party stresses that the blood test route was the first step to know more about COVID-19 infection and that the governments of Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha and some other states have used this well.

# Dry ration provided to ICDS children



## MANGAN, 29 APR [IPR]:

North Sikkim has started distribution of Dry Ration to children enrolled at ICDS centres in the district.

Since the Anganwadi centres are closed due to the nationwide lockdown, the ICDS Department has begun providing dry ration to meet the nutritional

requirements of ICDS children so that their immunity can be safeguarded.

Since the centres have been shut temporarily, giving hot cooked meals daily was not possible, hence door-to-door delivery of dry ration consisting of Rice, Dal, soyachunks, potatoes and oil

is being done by Aanganwadi workers in coordination with CDPOs and supervisors.

This process is being undertaken with proper precautionary measures for COVID-19 specially the norm of social distancing and the parents have also been given awareness on Aarogya Setu App.

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## Govt allows movement...

While Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Assam, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh brought back their stranded students from Kota in Rajasthan, Punjab has brought back stranded pilgrims from Maharashtra, besides students from Kota.

A group of around 360 stranded people of Rajasthan is also being brought back from Assam. While transporting these students, pilgrims and other people, the states have used buses and other vehicles.

There have been at least three protests by migrant workers in Surat in Gujarat in recent weeks as they have been demanding passage to their home states.

A few hundred people had also gathered about a fortnight ago in Bandra in Mumbai after being influenced by rumours that trains would ply to North India.

However, the Bihar government has been seeking the strict implementation of the lockdown, saying that people should remain wherever they are during the entire period of the lockdown.

While announcing the lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said people should remain wherever they are.

In the beginning of the first phase of the lockdown, thousands of the migrant workers have started moving by foot from cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad to their respective places, creating a humanitarian crisis.

This led to the Home Ministry directing the state governments not to allow the migrants to move, arrange shelter homes for them and provide them food. The states were also allowed to even use money from the National Disaster Response Fund for providing food and shelter to the migrant workers.

The desperation of the migrant workers was such that the police found a group of migrant labourers, who were travelling from Telangana to Rajasthan, inside a container truck in Maharashtra.

The government has already allowed industrial activities in rural areas with conditions. Similarly, apart from the shops for the essential commodities, standalone business establishments of non-essential goods were also allowed to open during the lockdown.

However, markets, malls, restaurants, parlour, liquor shops continue to remain shut.

The lockdown was first announced by the prime minister on March 24 in a bid to combat the coronavirus pandemic. It was further extended till May 3.

## Irrfan Khan:

That didn't work too and the young Irrfan found himself drawn to local theatre. But his dream seemed too far-fetched for him to share with anyone.

"I was not cut out to be an actor... If I told people I wanted to be an actor, they would have killed me. I couldn't even share it," Irrfan told PTI in an interview in 2017.

'Sahabzade Irfan Ali Khan' quickly learnt to carve his own path. He first dropped Sahabzade and Ali. Then, over the years, added an 'r' to his first name and eventually dropped Khan too.

"I don't believe in the power of a surname. What makes you powerful are your deeds and karma," Irrfan said in an interview with the Hindustan Times.

"Actually, I don't use my surname Khan in films, but in passports, surname and religion are required. I was stopped not once, but several times at airports in the US," he said in a TV show.

He added the extra 'r', according to various accounts, because he liked the sound of it and not because of numerology as is common in the film industry.

In 1984, he applied to the National School of Drama hearing about greats like Naseeruddin Shah and Om Puri. And the rest, as they say, is Irrfan's history.

During his NSD years he met his wife Sutapa Sikdar and formed long-lasting friendships with directors such as Tigmanshu Dhulia.

It is a measure of how intensely private a person Irrfan was that when he died, few could recall his wife's name. Or that he has two sons. Babil and Ayaan.

In one interview, he recalled his relationship with his mother Saeeda Begum, who died just four days ago in Jaipur. It was an equation where he was constantly seeking approval and they would argue a lot.

He moved to Mumbai after his NSD degree and the acting journey took off in 1985 with the TV show Shrikant, based on Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya's novel. Then came shows like Darr, Banegi Apni Baat and roles in Doordarshan serials like "Bharat Ek Khoj", "Kahkashan", "Chanakya" and "Chandrakanta".

Television kept him occupied until acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair offered him a cameo in her 1988 movie Salaam Bombay! . But his role was edited out in the final cut of the movie. Nair promised to cast Irrfan in the lead in a film and 16 years later gave him The Namesake, one of his most memorable roles.

Irrfan's break in world cinema came with London-based director Asif Kapadia giving him the lead in The Warrior, making him a known face and showcasing his range and ability to those in Hollywood.

His big international films include "A Mighty Heart", "Darjeeling Express", "Partition", "The Slumdog Millionaire", "The Amazing Spider-Man", "The Life of Pi" and "Jurassic World".

The last Hollywood project was with Tom Hanks in 2016's "Inferno", where the Hollywood actor said he was struck by Irrfan's beguiling eyes.

In the deeply philosophical The Life of Pi, Irrfan's character, Pi or Piscine Molitor Patel, says, "I suppose in the end, the whole of life becomes an act of letting go. But what always hurts the most is not taking a moment to say goodbye."

Irrfan bids adieu to a multi-splendoured innings in celluloid with "Angrezi Medium", which released in the theatres last month, just before the India-wide lockdown began on March 25. He shot the film while still under treatment for his cancer but could not make it for the promotions.

And left behind a message instead.

Hello brothers and sister This is me Irrfan. Today I'm with you but also not with you," he begins.

"There is a saying 'When life gives you lemons, you make lemonades out of it. It sounds good. But when life actually puts lemon in your hands, it becomes really tough to make lemonade Enjoy the trailer and be kind to each other And yes wait for me, he says.

The words echo in the silence of a promise never to be kept.

~ SummitTIMES ~  
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Pragati Foundation completes relief distribution drive

SINGTAM, 29 APR: Distribution of relief packages by the Pragati Foundation of Singtam bazaar concluded today. In the photograph here, the organisation’s president, Osim Sheik, and executive members with the relief packages in their office on Wednesday.

Minister visits Slaughter House at KhaniKhola



RANGPO, 29 APR (IPR): Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, AH&VS and IPR, LN Sharma visited the Slaughter House located at KhaniKhola in Majhitar today. He was accompanied by the HoDs and other officials of the concerned departments. During his brief visit, the concerned officials apprised the Minister about the sanitation standards of the slaughter house and informed him about water supply and waste management activities. The Minister directed the officials to expedite the construction works of the new slaughter house infrastructure being established at the premises and urged public works officers to ensure that facilities constructed are of good quality and are durable. LN Sharma also visited the Horticulture Farm and Integrated Mushroom Unit at Majhitar and Model Floriculture Centre at Namli.

RDD Minister attends video conference convened by Union Minister

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 29 APR: Minister Sonam Lama, Rural Development Department, along with officials of the Rural Development Department attended a video conference convened by Union Minister of Rural Development, Narendra Singh Tomar, to review the ongoing COVID-19 preventive measures and different schemes being executed under the RDD in Sikkim. The Union Minister stressed on the implementation of MGNREGA, Prime Minister Housing Schemes and National Skills Development schemes, it is informed. In response to the Union Minister directives and guidelines, Minister Lama ensured that the pro-people schemes will be implemented smoothly although there was an extraordinary situation created for two-three months by the COVID-19 situation, informed Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, CS Rao, over the phone.

De Villiers denies being approached to lead South Africa

MUMBAI, APR 29 (PTI): Star South African batsman A B de Villiers on Wednesday denied being approached to lead the national team hours after a TV channel quoted him as saying that an offer has been made by the country’s cricket board. "Reports suggesting Cricket SA have asked me to lead the Proteas are just not true. It’s hard to know what to believe these days," de Villiers tweeted. The explosive batsman retired from all forms of international cricket in 2018 but there has been talk of a return in the national team. Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected', in a press release, quoted him as saying that he has "been asked by Cricket South Africa to lead the Proteas again." The 36-year-old played 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20s for the national side before his retirement. The former captain said that he will only make a comeback if he feels that he is good enough to play at the international level even though he has been a regular on franchise circuit. "The most important thing to me is that I have got to be in top form and I have got to be better than the player next to me. If I feel I deserve my spot in the side, it becomes much easier for me to feel that I should be part of the playing XI," he said. "I have not been part of the Proteas for a while and I feel that it's important for myself and for other people to see that I am still good enough to be there," he said. South Africa coach Mark Boucher had earlier said that de Villiers would be considered in the national team for the T20 World Cup to be held in Australia only if he shows good form and proves himself to be the "best man for the job". But in wake of COVID-19 pandemic, de Villiers said he is not sure of a comeback if the T20 World Cup, to be held in October-November, is postponed.

Vehicle disinfection gate..

He recalled how Bishu Hang’s cost-effective proposal had impressed him in the wake of the Novel Coronavirus outbreak and further encouraged young minds of the State to utilize their talent for the development of the society. He also shared plans to extend the disinfection system to Melli check-post and other suitable locations. The Minister extended gratitude towards Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] for regulating immediate measures to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak in Sikkim and urged for cooperation and support from all to maintain Sikkim’s zero COVID-19 status. The programme was also addressed by Director LRDM who explained the logistics and fabrication process of the vehicle disinfection gate and informed that the disinfectant (Sodium Hypochlorite solution 1%) in the device is being used as per the Standard Operating Procedure recommended by WHO. Likewise, SDM-Rangpo informed about the various challenges faced during setting up of the gate and how the line departments, along with the support of the NDRF, persevered to resolve the issues. While explaining the mechanism of the vehicle disinfection gate at the set up site, Bishu Hang extended gratitude towards his area MLA for recognising the potential of his invention and providing the logistics required for completion of the project. He also thanked the LRDM officials for providing expert assistance throughout the project.

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### What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

#### Symptoms of nCoV

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

#### Treatment

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

#### Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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

If you seek help, you may call :

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## Institutionalize Monitoring

*For once, let's try engaging affected people in genuine collaborations*

Projects, whether hydel, road or industrial, go through a lot of teething problems. Given their labour-intensive and landscape-ruining nature, they arrive neither with aspirational job openings nor pleasing environmental interventions. This is why mantras like “nation-building” and “development” are played out on a spool to win public endorsement. Speaking about Sikkim, experience also shows that the initial resistance to such projects is tranquilized with handsome compensations and tall promises. But these projects have a long gestation period and even longer construction phases which leads to a situation where the compensations along with the solatium component are long spent before the project has been completed. Resentment returns, and every slight gets amplified, leading to a complete breakdown of trust between the local community and the project-investors and their personnel on site. Sikkim has seen this cycle play out with just about every project, and occasionally the distrust manifests in gheraos and confrontations which then find mention in newspapers. Most of the times, however, the ill-will festers under a façade of apparent normalcy. This is not a healthy situation because the bitterness does not always find release against the management of such units and sometimes erupts against the establishment and other agencies which the people feel did not look out enough for their interests. Surely, these are not developments that the planners or the executors originally had in mind. And yet these are situations which develop often.

In the latest instance, Sikkim saw “affected people” of the 96 MW Dikchu hydel project lay out a litany of complaints against the project managers. Similar complaints and all allegations have been heard against pharma companies and the promoters of other hydel projects. Like in those cases, this bushfire will also be addressed piecemeal, focused only on the immediate demands, but ignoring the larger issue of the lack of adequate consultations, information-sharing or over-watch. The problem, hence, will remain. What is required is for every project to begin with a more transparent public hearing preceded by gram sabhas where every aspect and the fine print are discussed in detail. The state machinery should only provide information and not exert influence. Every project should have a project monitoring committee with affected people in majority representation and ex-officio posts for government officers and public representatives only in secretarial responsibilities of taking the minutes and drafting resolutions. Proper schedules should be dictated to keep these committees updated on project components and these committees should then be required to brief the gram sabhas or other panchayat meetings on a regular basis. This way, not only transparency, but even accountability can be ensured, and once this is achieved, possible problems can be addressed in advance and issues resolved before things boil over. Such engagement will also reassure the local community and, in the long run, help the projects as well because once the people are involved in the decision-making process, even if it is only by way of regular and clear updates, they will develop a sense of ownership and extend sage advice where the current system of things leaves them only with the option of registering condemnations.

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# Coronavirus is revitalising the concept of community for the 21st century

FAY BOUND ALBERTI  
THECONVERSATION.COM

With more than a third of the world's population in lockdown, there are widespread fears of social breakdown. As a historian of loneliness, I have recently been interviewed by journalists in Brazil, France, Chile and Australia, all pondering the same problems: what will the long-term effects of social isolation be? What techniques or habits might help us learn how to be alone?

Or conversely, how do we get away from other people if we are isolated with family, housemates, or an abusive partner? How do we cope with the loneliness of distant relations? Will it be hard for us to integrate back into society when the lockdown lifts? And what if we don't want to? What if we love being alone and not having to attend social functions?

These are important questions. As never before, we are required to think about the nature of solitude, the quality of our relationships, whether we enjoy social contact, and what kinds. We must consider what belonging and community means to us, whether it's gaming, “Quaranteen” Whatsapp groups set up by teenagers like my son, online birthday parties or mutual support groups connecting friends and family.

Yet something quite profound is also happening in terms of our relationships with people we don't know. Despite negativity about the societal impacts of COVID-19 - from increased levels of loneliness to the limitations of social media - we are seeing some positive and unexpected results, including widespread outpourings of charity, togetherness and empathy for complete strangers. We might even be seeing a grassroots redefinition of what “community” means in the 21st century.

### MUTUAL AID

All around the world the failings of the state are being taken up by ordinary people without concern for recompense. In Wuhan, China, volunteers worked to provide lifts for care workers. Indian-Americans across the US have set up a helpline to provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for hospital workers in New York. Faith groups in Canada are providing food for impoverished international students and the elderly, and



more than 27,000 volunteers have signed up to get food and services to the most vulnerable. In Brazil, volunteers are providing food aid to people living in slums, and drug gangs impose the curfews that the president refuses to implement.

In the UK, neighbours are looking out for vulnerable people and volunteering to offer support. University students and services are donating food and equipment to local hospitals, while urban and city dwellers alike stand outside their homes to clap every Thursday for hospital workers. Londoners are walking the dogs of people they have never met.

These forms of community action are self-organised and dependent on the same social media networks that have previously been condemned as antithetical to real relationships. And they seem to be spreading, virus-like, between cities and countries.

This may turn out to be influential when the lockdowns are lifted. It's early days, and there is every possibility that self-interest will kick in, overriding these waves of determined goodwill (in stark contrast to the stockpiling panic and toilet roll obsessions of a mere month ago). But what seems to be at stake in these varied ways of supporting strangers is the very definition of community itself, a term which in recent history has become overused to the point of being meaningless.

### COMMUNITAS

Community, like loneliness, is frequently used without reference to specific origins and contexts. The

word also means many different things.

It can be regional - a group of locals living in the same region, or international - a community of beliefs, rather like the European Union. Community can mean people who share the same religion, job, ethnicity, or, increasingly, an online group, such as a fan site, in which the only shared element is a love of Kim Kardashian. Community can mean shared rights of access (a community park, for example), which takes us a little closer to its historical meanings. Or it can mean something more nebulous and difficult to articulate: a feeling of sharing and belonging - a “sense of community” - that is about place and time and emotional rootedness.

In my book, A Biography of Loneliness, I suggest that understanding community is critical to preventing unwanted loneliness. But to truly belong to a group or a place, in a way that is psychologically meaningful and encourages resilience, requires more than a shared interest. It demands a sense of shared obligation and commitment, something both emotional and practical.

This rendering of community as a place of exchange is evident in the origins of the word itself. “Community” is a late Middle English word, from the Old French comunete and the Latin communitas (communis or common). When used to describe common land, or “commonwealth” (common good), it denoted functional and practical connotations: mutuality and

commitment, certain rights, the give and take of social obligation and a shared investment in its survival.

In post-industrial, individualistic societies, this original meaning of community is missing, which is one of the reasons a language of loneliness predominates. “Community” is both everywhere and nowhere. Individuals might inhabit multiple online and offline communities, but those based on shared interests (whether that's the Kardashians or cabbages), offer less give and take than communities of place, based on where they work or live.

People seldom inhabit communities of interest physically, though they might feel connected briefly and intensely. Their connections are often transitory, intense and fickle.

### HERE TO STAY?

These historical differences in the meanings of community are important. Practices that are based on a sustained, engaged concern for the wellbeing of others - especially those situated around habits of place and space - or that connect to established ways of sociability (in the way that cinema dates might be supplemented by Netflix Party) will likely continue after the current outbreak has passed. Other invented traditions will evaporate, unless they are incorporated into everyday practices - and with them, any hope of sustained social change.

The opportunity exists to bring online and offline communities together as never before, to reframe the responsibilities of the individual to society, and vice versa. If social media is seen as helpful in the support of elderly and vulnerable self-isolators (as has become apparent during the pandemic), for instance, it needs to be integrated into everyday lives, and developed with aged bodies in mind. Elderly people won't start using Zoom unless they have access to training, devices and wifi, as well as hearing and visual aids.

Coronavirus is changing what is possible. Amid emotional devastation and uncertainty, it is providing the potential for more connectedness, as well as less, and for radically changing the meanings of community itself. This pandemic might, paradoxically, bring people closer.

*[the writer is Reader in History and UKRI Future Leaders Fellow, University of York]*

## Coronavirus: Is this the moment of maximum risk?

CHRISTIAN YATES  
THECONVERSATION.COM

It seems that the UK is over the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak in terms of both cases and numbers. Many other countries are in the same situation. This is undoubtedly good news, but it's perhaps not as good as many might hope. Indeed, in his first speech after recovering from COVID-19 on Monday, the UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson called it “the moment of maximum risk”.

Part of the reason he defined it as such is because the peak that the UK has passed is, in many senses, artificial - a result of the stringent lockdown measures citizens have been forced to endure for the last month. This is not the same peak from the “flatten the curve” rhetoric of early government briefings.

The aim of flattening the curve seemed to be to allow the disease to spread through the population slowly enough that, eventually, a large proportion of people in the country would have had the disease, while the peak demand on the health service was kept at a manageable level.

If herd immunity - having a sufficiently large proportion of the population that has recovered from the disease with immunity to deny the virus the fresh susceptible people it needs to propagate - was not explicitly the stated aim, certainly none of the flatten-the-curve schematics acknowledged the possibility of a second peak. It seemed to be suggested that, at the end of this flatter peak, most restrictions might be lifted and life might go back to normal.

This is not what the UK has achieved. It would have needed extremely finely calibrated interventions to slow down the infection rate to just the right degree to keep the disease in check while still allowing some transmission. Most cartoon schematics (like the one above) that illustrate flattening the curve are misleading. The peak would need to be way lower. And to imbue the population with herd immunity at such a slow rate of spread, it would also have taken far longer. A realistic comparison of the expected

peak demand on UK critical care beds and the potential capacity is given in the figure below.

Far from the inert firebreak promised by herd immunity, the vast majority of the UK population are probably still susceptible to the disease - a tinder box just waiting for a spark to reignite it.

### THE WAY OUT

The reproduction number of the disease tells us how many people a single infectious person will infect on average at a given point in time. If the reproduction number is above one, the disease will take off. If it's below one, the disease will die out as each new infectious person passes the disease to fewer than one other person on average.

The reproduction number depends on three factors: the transmissibility (how easily the disease passes between people); the infectious period (the longer it is, the more chances there are for an infectious person to pass on the disease); and the number of susceptible people in the population.

The aim in eradicating the pandemic is to alter one or more of these factors in order to bring the reproduction number permanently below one. The infectious period is largely beyond our control (certainly without effective antivirals). Transmission can be significantly reduced by the strict social distancing, quarantine and isolation rules many of us are currently subject to. We have succeeded in temporarily reducing transmission and bringing the reproduction number below one, which in turn has led to a decline in cases of COVID-19.

But for things to return to normal, the only real strategy is to bring down the number of susceptible people. This is the reason why vaccination can wipe a disease out. It effectively reduces the susceptible population. Without a vaccine, though, the only other way to derive immunity is to have the disease. For COVID-19, rough estimates suggest that we need up to 60% of the population to have had the disease to achieve herd immunity.

So although we are slowly descending from the peak of the first small ridge of the epidemic, without the large number of people gaining immunity through having the disease, the mountain metaphor is unhelpful. The laws of epidemic gravity won't help to pull us down on this descent. If the UK relaxes social distancing now, while most of the population is still susceptible, it runs the very real risk of a second wave.

A better analogy would be to the decelerating influence of a parachute. Social distancing and other measures have slowed the spread to a point at which the impact of the disease is currently manageable. But cut the parachute too early, before the danger is averted, and the outbreak will accelerate again.

### THE END OF THE BEGINNING?

Thankfully, the peak the UK has experienced has had nowhere near the magnitude of the peak that would have hit had the virus been allowed to pass through the population unhindered. Instead, it has been brought under control and the health service has been protected. The consequence, however, is that the vast majority of the population remain susceptible.

A second wave isn't inevitable, but unless the UK can scale up its ability to test, isolate and trace contacts of infected people, putting out each new fire at source, then a significant loosening of restrictions will inevitably have to be re-tightened as cases begin to grow again.

Famously, after a significant victory against Rommel's forces at El Alamein in 1942, Churchill said, in the context of the tide turning in the Allies' favour during the second world war: “Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Although the UK is over the peak of the first wave, in the context of the battle against COVID-19 we still have a long way to go before we draw close the end of the beginning, let alone the beginning of the end.

*[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Mathematical Biology, University of Bath]*

# Home at heart, man travels 3,000 km with friend's body

**AIZAWL, APR 29 (PTI):** Home is where the heart is, in life and in death, too.

The 23-year-old Raphael AVL Malchhanhima was a distraught man when his friend Vivian Lalremsanga died of suspected heart attack on April 23 in Chennai.

The lockdown had shuttered the city and cluttered his mind.

The post-mortem was conducted and the local authorities suggested that Lalremsanga's last rites be performed in Chennai, over 3,000 km away from home, as transporting his body was out of the question.

Lalremsanga had recently completed a course in hotel management and was waiting to collect the certificate, and hoping to start a career in an industry which held great promise before the coronavirus sank it into an unfathomable abyss.

But fate willed otherwise and his body

was found outside his rented apartment.

Despite the authorities in Chennai suggesting that Lalremsanga be buried at a cemetery there, Malchhanhima could not bring himself to accept the idea of leaving his 28-year-old friend miles and miles away from home.

It was then that 'Tlawmngaina', the Mizo code of ethics, which espouses the moral of self-sacrifice for the common good, showed him the way. He had made up his mind. His friend's lifeless body will not remain in the bowl of earth in faraway land.

The Mizoram government and the Chennai Mizo Welfare Association stepped in.

"The body was at the mortuary of a hospital and we were thinking of ways to transport it to Mizoram amid the lockdown. Two ambulance drivers saw our plight and came



forward to help us, saying they had earlier been to Assam as lorry drivers," Chennai Mizo Welfare Association secretary Michael Lalrinkima told PTI.

The drivers, however, insisted that somebody from Mizoram accompany them. Malchhanhima volunteered.

And then began Lalremsanga's journey homeward, embalmed and enshrouded, in an ambulance with his caring friend and the

two good samaritans - Chinnathanbi and Jeyanthiran -- through deserted highways and bleak landscapes on April 25.

"The thought of my friend being buried far away from his home troubled me. My father, a preacher, also encouraged me to accompany the mortal remains of my friend withstanding the difficulties of the journey," Malchhanhima, a native of the remote

Hmawngbu village in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district, told PTI.

He said they were stopped by police at several places and would travel long hours at a stretch without food as most highway eateries were shut. When they would find one, they were asked to wait outside and collect the packaged food which they ate inside the ambulance.

Before reaching Mizoram on Tuesday, after a four-day back-

breaking and emotionally draining journey, they were screened at Vairengte check-gate on the state's border with Assam.

Once in, the pervasive sombreness of the occasion lifted momentarily, when people greeted and thanked them for bringing back Lalremsanga home, among his own people, before he joined the invisibles.

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! You've just shown what every Mizo heartbeat means when it comes to the term 'Tlawmngaihna'," Chief Minister Zoramthanga tweeted.

Malchhanhima has been put under quarantine for 14 days at a designated facility, while his friend Lalremsanga rests in everlasting peace at a cemetery near his home in Aizawl's Model Veng.

## 4 persons recover from COVID-19 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, active cases at 18

**PORT BLAIR, APR 29 (PTI):** Four persons, including the 39-year-old police radio operator from the Bambooflat area, recovered from COVID-19 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, officials said on Wednesday.

They tested negative twice, following which they were declared cured, a senior official said.

The police radio operator and his three family members have been shifted from the GB Pant Hospital to a government guest house where a quarantine facility has been set up, he said.

With the recoveries, the number of active cases in the Union Territory dropped to 18, he added.

Chief Secretary Chetan Sanghi said there will be no let-up in vigil and caution.

"Long and tough road ahead," he said in a tweet.

The Union Territory, home to several vulnerable tribes, has reported 33 cases. Eleven of them -- 10 with links to the Tablighi Jamat event in Delhi and a student who travelled with them in a flight from Kolkata to Port Blair -- were declared cured weeks back.

The police radio operator tested positive for the COVID-19 on April 17 and 21 persons who came in contact with him got infected. They were either his family members or neighbours or acquaintances.

Those declared cured will have to remain in institutional quarantine for 28 days and will be discharged after that, Avijit Roy, the nodal officer for COVID-19 in the UT, told PTI.

A total of 3,246 samples have so far been sent to the Regional Medical Research Centre here for testing, and of them, reports of 169 are awaited, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the administration.

Teams have been set up to conduct door-to-door surveillance in the containment zones -- Atlanta Point, Dignabad, Round Basti, Sisti Nagar, Mohanpura, Biggiline, Bambooflat and Shorepoint, among others. So far, they have reached 1,39,370 people, officials said.

Additional restrictions have been imposed in both containment and non-containment zones in South Andaman, from where these 22 cases were reported, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, they said.

The administration is keeping a close watch on the potential suspected cases in the Islands and the Health Department has kept ready 159 isolation beds in GB Pant Hospital, INHS Dhanvantri Hospital, Pillar Hospital and other medical facilities, officials said.

Besides, quarantine facilities have also been created in government guest houses and private hotels for asymptomatic suspicious cases, they said.

Officials said total 930 persons are currently in institutional quarantine facilities in the Islands.

## SC asks I-T dept to refund Rs 733 cr to Vodafone Idea

**NEW DELHI, APR 29 (PTI):** The Supreme Court Wednesday granted partial relief to Vodafone Idea Ltd by asking the Income Tax department to refund Rs 733 crore to the telecom firm within four weeks, for assessment year 2014-15.

Vodafone Idea, formerly known as Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd, had however sought Rs 4,759.07 crore in tax refund from for AYS - 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The top court did not order I-T refund pertaining to AYS other than 2014-15.

Insofar as AY 2014-15 is concerned, final assessment order passed under Section 143(3) of the (Income Tax) Act indicates that the appellant (telecom firm) is entitled to refund of Rs 733 Crores; while for



AY 2015-16 there is a demand of Rs.582 Crores, a bench comprising Justices U U Lalit and Vineet Saran said in the judgement.

The top court also noted that the Income Tax department would be entitled to invoke requisite power under Section 245 of the Act to set off the amount of refund payable in respect of AY 2014-15 against tax

remaining payable.

Since the requisite action is not even initiated, we say nothing in that respect. In the premises, we direct that the amount of Rs.733 Crores shall be refunded to the appellant (telecom firm) within four weeks from today subject to any proceedings that the Revenue may deem appropriate to initiate in accordance with law, the

top court said.

The bench also directed the Tax department to conclude as early as possible the proceedings relating to the demand of refund of the telecom firm and the scrutiny of income by the IT department with respect to assessment years 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Except for the directions as indicated

, we see no merit in any of the contentions advanced by the appellant (Vodafone). This appeal is, therefore, dismissed without any order as to costs, the judgement said.

The telecom company had earlier moved the Delhi High Court alleging that there was complete inaction on part of I-T department in processing its ITRs and

in issuing appropriate refund to it.

The firm had sought a direction to the government department to process and grant refunds for the AYS 2014-15 to 2017-18, along with interest under Section 244A of the Act.

The Delhi High Court on December 14, 2018 dismissed the petition and against that decision an appeal was filed in the apex court.

## Scribe arrested in Andamans over corona tweet

**PORT BLAIR, APR 29 (PTI):** A well-known journalist was arrested in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands over a tweet where he questioned the rationale of the authorities allegedly asking people to be home-quarantined after they had spoken to COVID-19 patients by phone, police said on Wednesday.

The charges under which Zubair Ahmed has been booked include one about circulating "rumour".

Zubair Ahmed, the editor of 'Light of Andaman', a popular weekly newspaper which is now published online, was summoned to the Bambooflat police station in South Andaman district on April 27 for questioning over his tweet and then arrested, police said on Tuesday.

He was then taken to the Aberdeen police station where he spent the night in a lockup, it said.



"Can someone explain why families are placed under home quarantine for speaking over phone with Covid patients?" he tweeted on Monday, tagging the local administration.

In another tweet a day earlier, he said: "Request #Covid19 quarantined persons not to call any acquaintance over phone. People are being traced and quarantined on the basis of phone calls."

Ahmed was produced before a court on Tuesday

afternoon which granted him bail.

He has been charged under IPC sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and 505 (1) that relates to publishing or circulating any statement, rumour or report, police said.

Besides, sections 51 and 54 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 were also slapped.

While Section 51 deals with punishment for obstruction, Section 54 pertains to punishment for false warning.

Andaman and Nicobar Media Federation President K Ganesan condemned the arrest.

The Bambooflat area has reported the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the Union Territory and is a hotspot. Over 20 people from there have tested positive for the coronavirus infection.



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VIDEO NEWS SECTION



# Premier League set for points-based work permits post-Brexit

**MANCHESTER, APR 29 (AP):** All players from overseas seeking to join Premier League clubs are set to be subject to points-based criteria for work permits after Britain's departure from the European Union is complete.

Currently, only players from outside of the European single market have to meet certain soccer-specific immigration requirements. But new regulations are required because clubs will no longer have the unrestricted ability to sign players from the continent after the transition period for Britain's divorce from the EU.

The English Football Association disclosed in its annual financial report on Tuesday plans for a points-based system for the Premier League, which had wanted a way of maintaining the status quo.

The FA and Premier League are yet to come to an agreement on the specifics of the number of homegrown players in the 25-man squads, with eight currently required.

The new points system will expand the



current assessment for work permits for non-European players, so taking into consideration the number of international appearances by players, the FIFA ranking of their country, the transfer fee, and salary to establish the need of the club to sign them.

The FA said it was proactively trying to mitigate and leverage the risks and opportunities presented by Brexit.

This has a potential

negative impact on the number of European players entering the English game, which could result in a devaluation of the domestic rights of English competitions but could be an opportunity for the English players in the Premier League but also other leagues from the EFL to the Women's Super League," the FA said in its strategic report.

Given its role in overseeing the national

teams, the FA also wanted to maximize the opportunities for English talent to play in the Premier League.

The FA said it was working with other soccer bodies to gain approval from the Home Office to update the Governing Body Endorsement requirements that are already applied to players from outside of the European Union or European Economic Area.

Premier League clubs, like European

counterparts, are currently allowed to transfer 16- and 17-year-old players between countries in the region under an exemption from FIFA regulations. But after Brexit, British clubs will only be allowed to sign foreign players over the age of 18.

Britain officially left the 27-nation bloc on Jan. 31, but remains within the EU's economic and regulatory orbit until the end of the year.

# Tiémoué Bakayoko back in Chelsea limbo after Monaco season ends



**JACOB STEINBERG LONDON, 29 APR [THEGUARDIAN]:** It is unlikely to be a glorious return for Tiémoué Bakayoko. There is no gaping hole for the Frenchman to fill in midfield. West London beckons only because the forced cancellation of the Ligue 1 season has brought a premature end to Bakayoko's loan at Monaco, who are unlikely to have the finances required to complete a permanent deal for a player once regarded as one of the brightest young talents in Europe.

Three years ago Bakayoko was one of the hottest properties around, dominating opponents as Leandro Jardim's dashing young Monaco side pipped Paris Saint-Germain to the French title and motored to the Champions League semi-finals. The team included Fabinho, Bernardo Silva and Kylian Mbappé, all of whom have played brilliantly since leaving

Monaco at the end of that campaign or, in Silva's case, a year later, but Bakayoko was not out of place in their company. He was technically adroit, a powerful presence and, with France a year away from becoming world champions, looked set for a big future on the international stage.

Chelsea, who had won the Premier League title in Antonio Conte's first season at Stamford Bridge, were impressed. Nemanja Matic was on his way to Manchester United and Conte needed a new partner for N'Golo Kanté. Bakayoko, apparently more dynamic than the defensively minded Matic, seemed a good fit. Chelsea paid Monaco £40m and there were promising early signs when Bakayoko marked his first start with a strong display in a 2-1 win over Tottenham at Wembley.

Yet the positive vibes did not last long. With Bakayoko unable to build

an understanding with Kanté, Conte's mood darkened. The Italian was unhappy with the club's business in the summer of 2017 – £30m on Danny Drinkwater sums it up, while Álvaro Morata was the wrong player to replace Diego Costa up front – and Bakayoko cut an increasingly awkward figure as the team's champion form disappeared. His confidence evaporated, the crowd turned on him and his first season in England would be remembered for a farcical performance in a 4-1 defeat at Watford.

Bakayoko was in the starting line-up when Chelsea ended the campaign by beating United in the 2018 FA Cup final but his star had waned. There was no place for him in the France squad that won the 2018 World Cup. Maurizio Sarri replaced Conte and signed Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic. Bakayoko's status as a flop was

cemented. A loan to Milan offered a fresh start and a chance for Chelsea to recoup some money.

Yet despite some encouraging displays in Serie A, Milan opted against buying Bakayoko. He returned to Chelsea last summer and found that Sarri had been replaced by Frank Lampard. Still, though, there was no route back into the fold. The new manager watched Bakayoko's listless displays in pre-season – his efforts in a win over Reading left much to be desired – and quickly decided he would not be part of his plans.

Another loan beckoned, this time back at Monaco, and Chelsea were hopeful of moving him on after including a £38m option to buy in the deal. Yet the coronavirus pandemic has altered the picture. The French season is over and Bakayoko, who scored once in 21 appearances for Monaco,

finds himself in limbo. Signing him permanently is likely to be beyond Monaco's means and, although there are hopes of the Premier League resuming in June, Bakayoko will not be eligible to play for Chelsea in the remaining matches of the 2019-20 campaign.

Not that there is any room for him in Lampard's plans. Chelsea, who are interested in West Ham's Declan Rice and Lille's Boubakary Soumaré, have no shortage of midfielders. Lampard's options include Kovacic, Jorginho, Kanté, Mason Mount, Ross Barkley, Billy Gilmour and Ruben Loftus-Cheek, while Ethan Ampadu and Conor Gallagher will hope to break into the senior squad when they return from loans. For Bakayoko, who has been linked with PSG, the task now is to find a new home. He is only 25. There is still time for someone to revive a wayward talent.

# Ligue 1 delays decision on season fate until Thursday



**PARIS, APR 29 (AFP):** The French league (LFP) has said its executive board will meet on Thursday to discuss the effect of Prime Minister Edouard Philippe's earlier announcement about cancelling the season.

Philippe said professional football and other sports in France cannot resume until

September because of coronavirus restrictions. France's sports ministry told AFP after Philippe's speech that fixtures could not take place even behind closed doors before the end of July, leaving open the possibility that some matches could still be played in August.

A source told AFP that sports minister

Roxana Maracineanu had confirmed the later announcement with club directors from Ligue 1 outfits.

LFP's administrative council will meet at a later date and are set to formally cancel the campaign before calling a general meeting where the end of season standings will be decided.

# Latham, Southee feature in NZ Cricket's virtual awards Latham



**WELLINGTON, APR 29 (AP):** Opener Tom Latham has won the Redpath Cup as New Zealand's best batsman, breaking a seven-year streak in which the trophy was won by either Kane Williamson or Ross Taylor.

Latham won the annual award for the first time after scoring 608 runs in nine tests at an average of 40.53. His best innings was his 154 against Sri Lanka in Colombo in August which helped New Zealand win the second test and level the two-match series.

Latham was selected as an opener in the International Cricket Council's world test team of 2019.

"This season we faced some of the very

best bowling attacks in the world and Tom was an absolute rock at the top for us," New Zealand coach Gary Stead said.

Tim Southee won the Windsor Cup as New Zealand's best bowler for the first time since 2014. The trophy has been won by either Trent Boult or Neil Wagner over the previous five seasons.

Southee took 40 wickets at an average of 21.47 in the awards periods, contributing to test match wins over Sri Lanka in Colombo, England in Mount Maunganui and India in Wellington and Christchurch.

"The way we played our test cricket at home this summer was especially pleasing," Stead said.

"To beat England first up was a great effort and then to perform so well against a very good Indian side was immensely satisfying."

The trophy winners were unveiled Wednesday on the second day of New Zealand Cricket's virtual awards ceremony, with organizers going digital for the first time.

New Zealand finished off its home schedule for 2019-20 with back-to-back test wins over India in February, then had its limited-overs series in Australia disrupted because of border closures and travel restrictions implemented because of the coronavirus pandemic.

# Deutschland Tour cancelled due to virus

**PARIS, APR 29 (AFP):** This year's Deutschland Tour originally set for August 20-23 has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, organisers have announced.

Large-scale public events in Germany have been banned until August 31 due to the COVID-19

outbreak.

"As big as the disappointment is, the current circumstances and the decision by the German authorities make it clear that the Deutschland Tour cannot take place this year," race director Claude Rach said in a statement.

Next year's race will take 2020's course starting in the north-eastern town of Stralsund and ending in Nuremberg.

Cycling's three Grand Tours have all been postponed with the Tour de France re-scheduled for August 29-September 20.

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# Biden wins Ohio's mail-in primary delayed by coronavirus

**COLUMBUS, APR 29 (AP):** Joe Biden won Ohio's presidential primary Tuesday, clinching a contest that was less about the Democratic nomination and more about how states can conduct elections in the era of the coronavirus.

The primary was the first major test of statewide elections via mail amid an outbreak.

There were reports of confusion but no widespread disruption. It wasn't like Wisconsin earlier this month, when voters were forced to overlook social distancing guidelines to stand in line wearing masks to cast ballots.

Within the context of the threat of the virus, it's a decision that we will have made the best of, Republican Ken Blackwell, a former Ohio elections chief who chairs the bipartisan International Foundation for Electoral Systems, said of mail-in balloting.

Overall turnout was surprisingly strong, said Secretary of State Frank LaRose. While his office said about 1.5 million votes had been cast as of midday Saturday, down sharply from the 3.2 million cast in Ohio's 2016 presidential primary, he said some larger counties received tens of thousands of additional ballots Tuesday.

It was better than OK. It was great, he said.

The primary, originally scheduled for March 17, was delayed just hours before polls were supposed to open. Citing a health emergency, Republican Gov. Mike DeWine recommended that in-person balloting not be held until June 2. But amid legal challenges,

officials moved balloting to this week while converting to a mail-in process since the state remains under a stay-at-home order.

Most Ohioans casting absentee ballots had to run at least three pieces of mail an application, a blank ballot and a completed one through the U.S. Postal Service. Only homeless and disabled people were initially encouraged to cast in-person ballots at county election board offices, though anyone not receiving ballots by mail in time to participate could also turn up in person.

Lynne Marshall, of Sylvania, opened her mailbox Tuesday and was disappointed to see that her ballot had not arrived. She then agonized over whether to cast a vote in person at the election board and put her health at risk or stay home and skip an election for the first time she can remember.

What should I do? she asked. I'm just really disgusted with it all. Of course, I'll feel guilty if I don't vote.

LaRose said that after he raised concerns last week, the Postal Service relocated a sorting facility into Ohio, searched meticulously for all in-transit election mail and deployed top-level executives to sites to oversee the effort.

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law said it fielded calls and complaints. It called on Ohio to mail ballots directly to eligible voters in the future, as other states do, a proposal so far rejected by the Republican-controlled state Legislature.



With his last competitor, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, leaving the race weeks ago, Biden has emerged as the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, and the Ohio results were never in doubt. Still, moving to a mail-in primary on the fly was watched around the country as states with upcoming elections grapple with how to fulfill one of the most basic functions of American democracy, voting, while battling the coronavirus's spread.

Some governors have suggested they would consider moving to an all-mail voting system for the November general election, something President Donald Trump has strongly opposed.

Polling suggests that Democrats are now more in favor of their states conducting elections exclusively by mail than Republicans are a partisan divide that has grown amid the coronavirus outbreak and may have been

exacerbated by Trump's opposition.

Five states currently conduct all elections entirely by mail: Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Utah, but none had to adopt such practices amid a pandemic.

Maryland was also balancing balloting and voter safety on Tuesday for a special election to finish the term of the late Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings. Democrat Kweisi Mfume, a former NAACP leader, defeated Republican Kimberly Klacik, returning to the seat that he held before Cummings.

Most of the focus, though, was on Ohio, which also held congressional primaries. It's traditionally a battleground state that has shifted to more consistently Republican in recent cycles.

Trump won it by a surprisingly high 8 percentage points in 2016, after Barack Obama, with Biden as

his running mate, carried the state twice.

Jen Miller, the head of the League of Women Voters in Ohio, said it will be impossible to know how many people stayed home because they didn't get a ballot in time.

We've had people waiting weeks and weeks, Miller said.

Meanwhile, Ohio's early voting began Feb. 19, meaning Sanders was in a position to still pick up some of its delegates though he was held to just a handful in Ohio.

The senator has reminded his supporters that his name will be on the ballot in all upcoming races and urged them to vote for him so he

can amass delegates and better shape the Democratic Party platform at its national convention in Milwaukee in August.

But Sanders has endorsed Biden, and a group of his top advisers announced Tuesday that they were forming an outside political committee to promote the former vice president and progressive values. The efforts at unification of Democratic forces against Trump in November could defuse tensions heading into the party's convention.

Blackwell, the former Ohio election chief, said he didn't see Tuesday's results setting a precedent.

China to hold annual Parliament session from May 22



**By K J M VARMA**

**BEIJING, APR 29 (PTI):** China will hold its annual Parliament session from May 22 which was earlier scheduled to be held from March 5 and got postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic outbreak in the country, the state media reported on Wednesday.

The decision was made at a regular session of the National People's Congress' (NPC) Standing Committee, the country's top legislature, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The third session of the 13th NPC, which was to be held in early March, was postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. It will now open in Beijing on May 22, it said.

The Standing Committee of the NPC met in Beijing in February and approved a draft decision on postponing the NPC's annual session, one of China's biggest political events, due to the spike in the number of coronavirus cases in the country.

As of Monday, the overall confirmed cases in China reached 82,836, including 648 patients who were still being treated and 77,555 people discharged from hospitals.

China's imported cases increased to 1,639, of which 552 were being treated with 21 in severe conditions.

Also on Monday, 40 new asymptomatic cases, including three from abroad, were reported in the country.

With a decrease in the number of cases in China, authorities in Beijing will be closing a COVID-19 special hospital after clearing all the cases.

The move to shut down the hospital comes after China's coronavirus epicentre Wuhan recently closed 16 temporary hospitals and discharged its last patient on Sunday.

## British PM's partner gives birth to baby boy



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's partner Carrie Symonds on Wednesday gave birth to a "healthy baby boy" in a London hospital, a spokesman for the couple said.

The news came as a surprise, as Symonds, 32, was not thought to be due for several weeks, but she was said to be doing "very well".

The birth comes just days after Johnson, 55, returned to work after being admitted to hospital with coronavirus, including three nights in intensive care.

"The prime minister and Ms Symonds are thrilled to announce the birth of a healthy baby

boy at a London hospital earlier this morning," the spokesman said.

"Both mother and baby are doing very well.

"The prime minister and Ms Symonds would like to thank the fantastic NHS (state-run National Health Service) maternity team."

The announcement explains why Downing Street officials were reluctant to confirm that Johnson would appear at his weekly question and answer session with members of parliament.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who deputised for him during his illness, is expected to take his place later on Wednesday.

Johnson is believed

to have at least five children, including four with his second wife, Marina Wheeler, from whom he split in 2018.

He has been publicly dating Symonds, a former head of communications for the Conservative party, since early 2019.

They announced in February that they were getting married and expecting a baby "in the early summer".

On her Instagram page, which is set to private but details of which were reported in the media, Symonds revealed they got engaged at the end of last year.

Johnson only returned to work on Monday, two weeks after being discharged from

hospital for an illness that he said "could have gone either way".

Symonds had moved out of their Downing Street flat before he became ill, but later reported having symptoms of coronavirus herself. She recovered at home.

She has kept a low profile as the "first girlfriend", largely keeping out of the election campaign last December that saw Johnson win the best result for the Conservatives since the 1980s.

An avid environmental campaigner, after leaving the Conservative party she worked for an ocean conservation charity.

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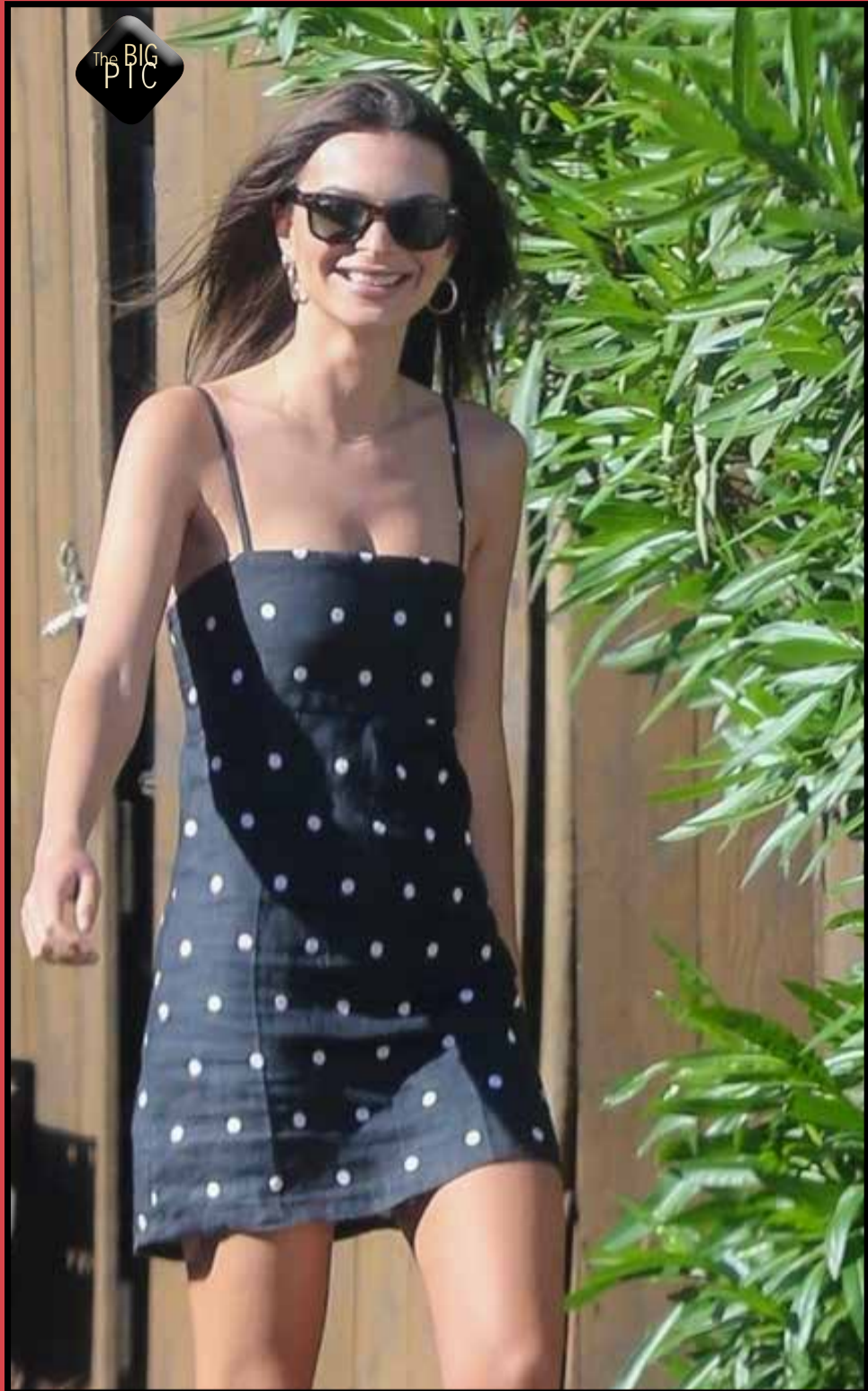
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**SummitTIMES**



**ALL SMILES!** The model, Emily Ratajowski steps out showing her pearly whites while walking her dog in Los Angeles.

## Golden Globes updates film eligibility rules due to coronavirus

**LOS ANGELES, APR 29 (PTI):** The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the organisation which conducts Golden Globes, is making more changes to its eligibility rules for the forthcoming awards in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

The HFPA implemented new rules last month that are in effect until April 30.

However, the HFPA announced on Tuesday morning that the date has been extended indefinitely because of theatre closures due to the global health crisis, reported Variety.

"The HFPA will continue to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on motion picture distribution and exhibition and may make other temporary

variations to those rules as it considers appropriate in the future," the organisation said in a statement.

The organisation has suspended the rule that a film had to be screened for HFPA members at a third-party facility in the greater Los Angeles area.

According to new guidelines, distributors must contact the HFPA to arrange a screening date on the official HFPA calendar that meets the timing requirements of the awards eligibility rules.

Distributors must provide all HFPA members with a screening link or a DVD copy of the film on the date the screening is scheduled so that members may view it at home adhering to the social distancing

guidelines.

The rules for a film's release have also been changed.

Instead of only considering a movie that was released in theatres or made available on pay-per-view cable or pay-per-view digital delivery in the greater Los Angeles area for a minimum seven days before December 31, the HFPA will now consider titles that had a theatrical release planned to begin in Los Angeles starting March 15, with no cut-off date.

Following HFPA's suit, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences also announced changes to its eligibility rules to allow only films streamed online for the forthcoming Oscars in the wake of the industry-wide shutdown caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

way of reflecting our beliefs back to us. Instead of referring to the world as a bad place, bring your awareness to the parts that need to be healed and integrated. Have a conversation with your inner child about how beautiful they are. You may or may not see magnificent changes overnight, but your heart knows that this is a step in the right direction.

### CANCER:

"You have to spark a light in you so that you can in your own way illuminate the world." Let Oprah Winfrey's words inspire you to step out of the closet of your limitations and share your gifts with those around. Remember, you don't have to be perfect. You simply have to be you. The cards are also encouraging you to be cognisant of the ideas that are coming through as they are divinely guided. What if bringing them to life is a part of your soul's purpose? Take inspired action, Cancer.

### LEO:

To think that abundance refers to money alone is a limiting mindset. It is inner richness that determines the quality of our lives. The experiences we attract, the books we read, and the people we surround ourselves with all contribute to this experience. Send out a prayer of gratitude to the mysterious forces that make your life fulfilling in every way! On a side note, today promises to be a rather artsy-

# Irrfan Khan dies in Mumbai hospital



**MUMBAI, APR 29 (PTI):** Irrfan Khan, one of India's finest and most versatile actors, lost his battle with a rare form of cancer and died in a Mumbai hospital on Wednesday, a statement from his family said. He was 54.

Irrfan, who was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour in 2018, is survived by his wife Sutapa and his sons Babil and Ayaan.

It is the second tragedy for the family in less than a week. The 'Maqbool' actor lost his mother, 95-year-old Saeeda Begum, in Jaipur just four days ago and could not attend the funeral because of the nationwide lockdown.

Irrfan, that rare actor who straddled multiple worlds, making his mark in both international and Indian cinema in roles intense and light-hearted, was admitted to the intensive care unit of the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital with a colon infection.

"It's saddening that this day, we have to bring forward the news of him passing away. Irrfan was a strong soul, someone who fought till the very end and always inspired everyone who came close to him. After having been struck by lightning in 2018 with the news of a rare cancer, he took life soon after as it came and he fought the many battles that came with it," the statement from his family said.

"Surrounded by his love, his family for whom he most cared about, he left for heavenly abode, leaving behind truly a legacy of his own. We all pray and hope that he is at peace. And to resonate and part with his words he had said, 'As if I was tasting life for the first time, the magical side of it,'" it added.

The news of his death was first confirmed by his "Piku" director Shoojit Sircar who sent his condolences to the family and doffed his hat to the actor's fighting spirit.

"My dear friend Irfaan. You fought and fought and fought. I will always be proud of you.. we shall meet again.. condolences to Sutapa and Babil.. you too fought, Sutapa you gave everything possible in this fight. Peace and Om shanti. Irfaan Khan salute," the director said on Twitter.

Irrfan's death came the morning after news that he had been admitted to the ICU with a colon infection.

The self-effacing National Award winner, who acted in films as diverse as 'Life of Pi', 'The Namesake' and 'Haasil', had stayed away from the public eye after his diagnosis in 2018 when he went to the UK for treatment.

He returned home in 2019 and shot for 'Angrezi Medium', the sequel to his 2017 hit 'Hindi Medium'. However, his health condition prevented him from promoting the movie, which hit the theatres in March just before the lockdown that began on March 25.

## AMC will no longer play Universal Studios films

(Reuters) - AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc, the world's largest movie theater operator, said on Tuesday it would no longer play Universal Studios films in any of its theaters globally, arguing that the studio is "breaking the business model".

The decision came in shortly after the Wall Street Journal quoted NBCUniversal Chief Executive Officer Jeff Shell as saying on.wsj.com/35cWMQQ he expects to release movies simultaneously in theaters and direct-to-home formats.

Universal Studios is owned by NBCUniversal, a subsidiary of Comcast Corp. AMC has 1,000 theaters across the globe.

"AMC believes that with this proposed action to go to the home and theaters simultaneously, Universal is breaking the business model and dealings between our two companies," AMC Chief Executive Officer Adam Aron said in a letter addressed to Universal Studios Chairman Donna Langley.

With movie theaters worldwide shuttered since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic, AMC said the action was effective from Tuesday and would apply as and when its theaters reopen.

Universal said it was disappointed



by the decision and labeled it as a "seemingly coordinated attempt" to "confuse our position and our actions."

"We absolutely believe in the theatrical experience and have made no statement to the contrary. As we stated earlier, going forward, we expect to release future films directly to theaters, as well as on premium video on demand (PVOD) when that distribution outlet makes sense," a Universal spokesman said.

Major film releases have been postponed as theaters across the United States have shut down as part of the

preventive measures taken to curb the spread of the virus, prompting studios to release some movies directly online.

The three main movie theater chains - AMC, Regal and Cinemark - have said they do not expect to reopen until late June or July.

Some films, including Universal Pictures animated "Trolls World Tour," have been released directly to streaming platforms or video on demand. Universal will do the same with the upcoming Judd Apatow comedy "The King of Staten Island."

**ARIES:** Endings have their own beauty and grace too. Aries, this is a time of growth and learning. You are acknowledging what Spirit is revealing to you and turning your wounds into wisdom. Trust that this is just a phase and will end soon. Rams experiencing a heartbreak, think of what transpired as protection and redirection rather than rejection. For now, take time off to heal and nurture your inner child. The worldly responsibilities can wait.

### TAURUS:

The truth isn't always pretty, yet it must be said. Communication issues are going to be a constant, Taurus, but that's only because Spirit wants you to step up and become the most assertive version of yourself. How you choose to learn from this lesson will determine your soul's growth. On the work front, you may have to become the bearer of bad news. Take a moment to reflect upon the motivation behind this action. If your intention was never to harm anybody, there is no reason to bring guilt into the given equation.

### GEMINI:

Self-love doesn't come easy, Gemini. Loving the parts you deem as "acceptable" is one thing. But what about the parts you've been shamed of? Or the ones that make you feel like a lesser version of yourself? The world has an uncanny

crafty day in the Leo HQ. It's not about having access to fancy materials. It's about upcycling like a queen and giving your studio a hipster makeover with what you already possess.

### VIRGO:

We're constantly waiting on somebody else to take action. But, what if we decided to take things in our own hands? Spirit is reminding you that your desires are within reach. It's time to take the first step with the inner knowing that your needs will be met. This will prove to be especially true on the work and career front. If there's somebody you feel inspired to sync your forces with, approach them from a space of confidence.

### LIBRA:

If manifestation was about setting intentions alone, then our lives would look very different, Libra. The cards are drawing your attention towards inner work, which is the real deal in this equation. While you've been saying all the right things to the Universe, there's a part of you that is unwilling to receive what you have asked for. Could unworthiness be the reason for your unhealthy beliefs? Bringing your awareness to that which is unhealed is the first step to transformation.

### SCORPIO:

It's so easy for us to get stuck in the past and obsess over the things that didn't work out

the way we would have liked them to. Take a moment to feel the weight of this resentment inside your body. Does it chain you to the darkness or does it make you feel free? Word for the wise: forgiveness is about you, not the other person. There's a lesson in here for you, Scorpio. Let go of expecting people to be a certain way. Nobody is obliged to play a role that you've written out for them.

### SAGITTARIUS:

Take a moment to assess your priorities. Do you want to win this argument at all costs or are you the kind of person who values inner peace? The answer is simple, Sagittarius, but it requires you to move beyond the ego and put your sword down. Consider this not as a downfall, but as your biggest victory today. The cards are also urging you to be mindful of the words you use, especially when you are triggered. You don't want to become the reason for somebody else's pain.

### CAPRICORN:

Our conversations in public tend to centre around our victories; all the ways in which we are winning the game of life. But putting on an act of having it all together comes with its own burden—a burden you're unwilling to carry at this time. There's an inner awakening within you that's learning to accept all parts of this story, the parts that are unhealed and the parts

that are yet to be integrated too. What you need to keep in mind when you are faced with your inner demons: failure teaches us things success never will.

### AQUARIUS:

As an air sign, sitting still and silencing the chatter of your overactive mind doesn't always come easy. But who says meditation is limited to sitting for hours with your spine erect or chanting mantras that you will never understand in this lifetime? Word for the wise: get creative with how you connect with yourself and the divine. Art, music and movement promise to open the gateway to an expanded consciousness. As Eileen Miller puts it, "Art can permeate the deepest part of us, where no words exist."

### PISCES:

"I move from poverty thinking to prosperous thinking." A Louise Hay affirmation to turn your life around. The money you make is not just a reflection of efforts, but also beliefs about abundance. You are about to step into a prosperous phase, Pisces. An internal adjustment of your attitude will help you become fully present to what the Universe is about to offer you. Another wonderful practice suggested by Hay is the art of blessing each bill. Remember everything you put into the Universe has a way of coming back to you manifold.