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SummitTIMES

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CISCE allows class 10,12 students to change exam centre, appear for boards later

NEW DELHI, MAY 31 (PTI): The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has allowed students to appear for the pending board exams from the city they are in at present and also given an option to candidates to take up the exam later during compartmental tests, according to officials.

The exams, which were postponed in view of a nationwide lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19, have been scheduled from July 1 to 14.

However, many students have moved to different locations after the lockdown came into effect on March 25.

"We have received requests from schools and parents for a change in the candidate's exam centre. To ensure that students who are not present in the district where their school is located, the candidates have been allowed to appear for the remaining examinations from an exam centre located in a CISCE-affiliated school in the location they are in," said Gerry Arathoon, chief executive and secretary, CISCE.

Students who are unable to appear for the remaining exams due to COVID-19 will be permitted to take the exams at the time of conduct of compartmental tests, he added.

The students have been asked to make request for change in the exam centre by June 7 with their respective schools. The Council has also asked schools to ensure social distancing is followed and directed candidates to carry hand sanitisers and wear face masks.

Unlike the CBSE, which will conduct the pending exams in only 29 subjects crucial for promotion and admission to higher educational institutions, the CISCE will hold all pending exams.

The pending Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exams are scheduled from July 1 to 15. The CBSE has already announced that the students who have moved to a different district or state during the lockdown can take the pending exams from their present location.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16 when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of a slew of measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

Later, the government announced a nationwide lockdown which began on March 25. The lockdown was initially imposed for a 21-day period till April 14. However, it has been extended thrice. The current phase of the lockdown will last till May 31.

The schedule for the board exams has been decided in order to ensure that they are completed before competitive examinations. While engineering entrance exam JEE-Mains is scheduled to be held from July 18 to July 23, medical entrance exam NEET is scheduled for July 26.

India records highest single-day spike of 8,380 cases; death toll climbs to 5,164

NEW DELHI, MAY 31 (PTI): India registered its highest single-day spike of COVID-19 cases on Sunday with 8,380 new infections reported in the last 24 hours, taking the country's tally to 1,82,143, while the death toll rose to 5,164, according to the Union Health Ministry.

The number of active COVID-19 cases stood to 89,995, while 86,983 people have recovered and one patient has migrated, it said.

"Thus, around 47.75 per cent patients have recovered so far," a senior health ministry official said.

The total confirmed cases includes foreigners.

The death toll has gone up by 193 since Saturday morning, of which 99 were from Maharashtra, 27 from Gujarat, 18 from Delhi, nine each from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, seven from West Bengal, six each from Tamil Nadu and Telangana, five in Bihar, three from Uttar Pradesh, two from Punjab, and one each from Haryana and Kerala.

Viral Lab gets operational at STNM Hospital, keeps a busy weekend

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 31 MAY:**

The Viral Lab at STNM Hospital, the one which can conduct RT-PCR tests, the only definitive procedure to test for COVID-19, kept a busy weekend with doctors and technicians there working till close to midnight on Saturday to process a staggering 211 samples.

Health Secretary, Dr Pemba T Bhutia, brought

the good news in his health bulletin on Sunday evening that not only is the lab fully operational now, but that all the 211 samples it processed tested negative for COVID.

Of the 211 tests, 199 were carried out on Saturday alone.

The lab, it is informed, can test 90 samples in one go.

Meanwhile, North Bengal Medical College also

cleared some of Sikkim's backlog sitting with it over the weekend and reported that 72 samples sent to it from Sikkim have tested negative as well.

The Health Secretary also informs that nearly 1,300 Trunat tests, a screening test for COVID were also conducted. Of these, results for 51 samples are awaited and 1,249 have returned negative.

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To mitigate the losses owing to the Corona pandemic

- Rs. 2 lakh crore have been allocated to provide additional concessional credit through Kisan Credit Card.
- Rs. 6000 is being given in three equal installments of Rs. 2000 each under PM-KISAN.
- 9.72 crore farmer families have been given Rs. 19,457 crore during the lockdown period.

Strengthening Farm-gate infrastructure, to increase farmers' income

- A scheme worth **Rs. 1 lakh crore** launched to strengthen cold storage chain and supply chain.

Creating better pricing structure for farmers

- In addition to the APMCs, several agriculture market reforms carried out to provide better market options. Farmers can now sell their crops anywhere and avail better prices.
- Amendments announced in Essential Commodities Act, APMC Act, Mandi Act to offer better price to Farmers.
- A scheme worth Rs. 10,000 crore is dedicated to over 2 lakh unorganized Micro Food Processing Enterprises. This will help in them establishing their own brand.

Standing by Fishermen

- A provision of Rs. 20,050 crore financial assistance has been made under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana to give an unprecedented boost to marine and inland fisheries.

For the Animal Husbandry Farmers

- A total of Rs. 15,000 crore have been allocated to revive the animal husbandry sector.

War Against Corona - Nation's Victory lies in your victory



"The crisis the world is facing today teaches us that way forward is - Aatmanirbhar Bharat (A self-reliant India) "
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



For more information, visit - transformingindia.mygov.in/aatmanirbharbharat

dayp22112/13/0005/2021

Delhi Police loses 2 ASIs to COVID within 24 hours

NEW DELHI, MAY 31 (PTI): Two Delhi Police Assistant Sub-Inspectors have died due to COVID-19 since Saturday evening, taking the overall coronavirus casualty figure in the force to three, officials said on Sunday.

While a 52-year-old ASI died around 11.30 am Sunday during treatment at the Army Base Hospital here, another officer of the rank passed away at the same facility Saturday evening, they said.

Officials said that the ASI who died Sunday morning was posted in the Sultanpuri Police Station of Outer District and was on highway patrol duty in the area since May 1.

He was declared negative for the virus in two tests -- conducted on May 11 and May 22, they said.

However, he felt unwell on May 25 and went to the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital where the doctor advised him one week medical rest, the official said,

Back at his residence in Kirari Suleman Nagar here, he started feeling difficulty in breathing early next morning, said Anil Mittal, Additional PRO (Delhi Police).

On May 26, he was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, and later in the evening, he was shifted to the Army Base Hospital here and was undergoing treatment there, he said.

His third COVID-19 test, conducted at the hospital on May 26, came positive, Mittal said, adding the ASI breathed his last Sunday around 11.30 am during the course of treatment.

Before him, the policeman who died on Saturday evening was a 54-year-old ASI who worked with the Finger Print Bureau (FPB) of the Crime Branch in Central Delhi's Kamla Market area, another set of officials said.

He was an ex-Army personnel and had joined the Delhi Police on November 1, 2014. He hailed from Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh and was residing at Naraina village in west Delhi, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central), Sanjay Bhatia, said the ASI was tested for coronavirus on May 26 at the Lady Hardinge Medical College here after he complained of fever and cough.

His result came positive for the virus on May 28, Bhatia said, adding the ASI was admitted to the Army's Base Hospital in Delhi Cant and died on Saturday evening.

The Delhi Police had reported its first COVID-19 fatality earlier in the month when a 31-year-old constable, posted at the Bharat Nagar police station in northwest Delhi, had succumbed to the disease.

Paid Quarantine Centres of South Sikkim

NAMCHI, 31 MAY (IPR): The South District Administration with the cooperation of Health and other allied Departments have been doing their best in providing a safe and suitable passage for the people arriving at Melli Screening center ever since 05 May, 2020. After due screening, the symptomatic passengers are supposed to be isolated and moved to designated hospitals while the asymptomatic passengers are to be sent to facility quarantine centres. So far, the people of South have all been asymptomatic hence they have been quarantined in various paid and free of cost quarantine centres. There are a total of 5 paid quarantine centers in South District. They are namely Cherry Resort Temi, Hotel Pangolin Assangthang, Yatri Niwas Chardham, Buddha Park and River view resort.

The Paid Quarantine Centres in South District are mostly hotels which have volunteered their premises for this purpose. All of these five properties have been selected owing to their access to a tertiary medical center, parking space, room ventilation capacity, basic infrastructure, recreational facilities and room amenities. Moreover these places have all been following proper guidelines of basic sanitisation along with an advisory of main-



taining adequate or minimal distance between the healthcare professionals, supporting staff and the ones quarantined. The quarantined people are also being tended to by the support staff under the guidance of Government Healthcare authorities. The tariff for the accommodation and services provided in these facilities have been fixed at 1000 rupees per night excluding additional charges.

The South District Administration and Health Department has ensured the availability of an on-duty doctor and nursing staff on 24x7 basis in these centres. The doctor have been monitoring the contacts or cases in quarantine twice a day (morning and evening) daily on basic parameters of temperature, pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate and keeping record of the same. Special care is also



been taken to provide room services for freshly cooked food, duly following physical distancing and environmental sanitation. To ensure biomedical waste management in the facility takes place as per standard guidelines, separate bags and foot operating dustbins are kept at each floor and outside the facility. Similarly, designated places are earmarked outside the building for collection and

treatment of bio-medical wastes. Furthermore, the Administration have also mandated that the people housed under quarantine have all downloaded the Aarogya Setu application which should remain active at all times. All measures are also being undertaken to disinfect the used linens, towels, rooms, surfaces of walls and windows and the premises religiously as per the said medical guidelines.



All things considered, paid quarantines for the individuals of South district are nothing less than a safe space for the people completing their 14 day quarantine. It is a matter of time when the individuals under quarantine are allowed to leave the centre at the end of the 14 days incubation period, hale and hearty ready to be re-united with their loved ones. As such the society should

also welcome them with open arms as they reintegrate back into their daily lives with a hope to have transcended a pandemic that nearly brought the world to a standstill. Perhaps the saying "Nothing can be accomplished without the hope of accomplishment", truly personifies the situation of the ones who have successfully concluded their quarantine.

Passang Sherpa protests govt move to place BDOs above pannchayats



SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 31 MAY:

Passang Sherpa today contended that a recent government notification regarding committees headed by BDOs as chairpersons and elected panchayats as members to select beneficiaries for different developmental schemes were illegal and unconstitutional.

Mr Sherpa, who had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as an Independent, while strongly condemning the notification, appealed to all panchayats to write individual letters to the Prime Minister against the notification because it was aimed at diluting their rights and making elected representatives

subservient to government officers.

The notification in question explains that due to social distancing rules in place, Gram Sabhas cannot be conducted to finalise beneficiaries for various rural developmental scheme, hence committees headed by the concerned BDOs were being constituted to make the selection.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Sherpa argued that the Panchayati Raj system was the very foundation of a democracy.

He also pointed out the irony of the State Government only recently freeing panchayats from "political influence" by ending the party-

based panchayat regime in Sikkim and now stripping panchayats of their powers by placing them under BDOs.

"If the rights of panchayats are snatched like this, then there will soon be no work for MLAs either as they will be made subservient to the Chief Secretary," Mr Sherpa said.

He asserted that panchayats should be given independent charge instead of the latest move which sets a very unhealthy precedent.

Mr Sherpa also took the opportunity to inform that the State government has refused him permission to hold an all-party meeting to prepare a socio-economic report on the impact of the COVID-19 situation on Sikkim.

He believes that although the excuse given was restrictions placed on political meetings and gatherings because of the social-distancing rules, the real reason was the State Government's worry that its lapses and mistakes will stand exposed should such a survey be undertaken.

13 recover from COVID at SRM Hospital



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 31 MAY:

Thirteen Coronavirus patients admitted at SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Kattankulathur, have been

successfully treated with the help of Allopathy and Siddha medication in five days, an SRM press release claims.

The treatment was done in association with

National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram, the release adds.

Along with the prescribed government medication, the patients were also administered kabasura kudineer, it is informed.

Among those treated was a high risk patient Ramachandran. This 63 year old male patient had recently undergone a heart surgery and also has diabetes and asthma.

Minister Kharel provides facemasks and sanitizers onwards distribution



SUMMIT REPORT RANGPO, 31 MAY:

Ratepani Namthang MMLA, Sanjit Kharel, provided 3,000 facemasks and 1,500 bottles of hand sanitizers for onwards distribution to the people to his party's women's wing leaders and elected representatives for distribution in Kateng Pamphok and Turung -Mamring Gram Panchayat Units, Block Development Office, Mamring Outpost and Police personnel on duty.

Mr Kharel, while distributing these items, appealed to all the Panchay-

ats to extend full support to the lockdown.

He also appealed to all the Panchayats to distribute the facemasks and sanitizers to villagers of their wards conscientiously.

During the distribution programme, Mr Kharel made a brief address lauding the State Government initiative to ensure safety of the people.

He also appealed to all motorists to wear face masks even when inside their vehicles and follow the instructions and guidelines issued by the state government.

Swachhta Pakhwada at NHPC



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 31 MAY:

NHPC Teesta-V Power Station organized Swachhta Pakhwada [Cleanliness Fortnight] at Balutar in East Sikkim from 16 to 31 May, a press release informs.

As part of observance, the administrative office and residential colony were sanitized as a measure against Coronavirus, the release adds.

A discussion on Swachhta and prevention of COVID-19 was held on 30 May.

As part of the program, the Medical Services Division demonstrated Do's & Don'ts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hand sanitizers, Hand Wash, Facemasks, soaps and Gloves were distributed to R&M Contract workers, drivers and residents of the area.



72 students complete quarantine in Namchi

Namchi, 31 May [IPR]: A total of 72 inmates were discharged from the quarantine centre established at the Namchi Government College. They were handed over to their parents after following all procedures of the undertaking. They will be under mandatory Home Quarantine for another 14 days.

Viral Lab gets...

Trunat screening tests are currently focused on returnees to allow them to return home from their quarantine centres earlier. They will however have to complete their quarantine schedules at home even after testing negative on Trunat.

~ SummitTIMES ~
CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

History in the making: SpaceX propels two NASA astronauts into orbit

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, MAY 31 (PTI): A rocket ship built by Elon Musk's SpaceX company on Saturday successfully blasted off with two NASA astronauts into orbit from the US state of Florida on their way to the International Space Station, marking the dawn of a new age in commercial space travel.

The blastoff from Kennedy Space Center in Florida also assumes significance as it marks the launch of humans into orbit from US soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

The SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft, carrying NASA astronauts Bob Behnken (49) and Doug Hurley (53), lifted off at 3:22 pm EDT Saturday atop the company's Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

With the liftoff, SpaceX became the first private company to launch people into orbit, a feat achieved previously by only three governments: the US, Russia and China.

The reusable, gum-drop-shaped capsule called Crew Dragon, would now take the two American astronauts to a 19-hour journey to the International Space Station (ISS). The spacecraft is scheduled to dock with the ISS at 10:29 am EDT on Sunday.

The successful launch, which was postponed early this week due to inclement weather,

gave Americans something to cheer about as in the last three months they have lost over 100,000 of their countrymen due to the coronavirus that has brought the country's economy to its knee. More than 40 million people have lost their job and the pandemic has pushed the economy into a recession.

Top US leadership including President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, and thousands of curious Americans had gathered to watch the launch live on a bright Sunday afternoon.

Congratulating Musk, NASA and the astronauts, Trump described the launch day as a great day for the country.

"I'm so proud of the people, of NASA, public and private. When you see a sight like that, it's incredible. When you hear that sound the roar you can imagine how dangerous it is," he told reporters soon thereafter.

"I think this is such a great inspiration for our country. Our country is doing well... We suffered something that was terrible. It should have never happened it should have never come out of China... That's one of the reasons why I wanted to be here today and I think any one of you would say that was an inspiration to see what we just saw," Trump said.

The President said he spoke with Musk, whom he called one of

the "great brains." He also spoke with the two NASA astronauts prior to takeoff.

"What a historic opportunity to watch the first launch of astronauts from American soil to the Space Station since 2011," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. "Launch America is the first big step on our roadmap to the Moon for Artemis," he said. NASA's Artemis programme, the US initiative to explore more of the lunar surface, aims to land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.

"This is a dream come true for me and everyone at SpaceX," said Musk, who is also the CEO of Tesla.

"It is the culmination of an incredible amount of work by the SpaceX team, by NASA and by a number of other partners in the process of making this happen," he said.

"Today a new era in human spaceflight begins as we once again launched American astronauts on American rockets from American soil on their way to the ISS, our national lab orbiting Earth," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine.

"The launch of this commercial space system designed for humans is a phenomenal demonstration of American excellence and is an important step on our path to expand human exploration to the Moon and Mars," he said.

"Today, in lifting our ambitions and our imaginations to the heavens, the United States has once more reshaped the future of space travel," said Joe Biden, former US Vice President and Democratic Party's presumptive presidential nominee.

"When Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a mission to the ISS, they added their names to the long list of heroes who have changed the way we think about our universe and our place in it, he said.

"Their voyage not only marks the return of American astronauts travelling to space from US soil, but a pioneering new phase of public-private cooperation for the peaceful exploration of space," Biden said as he asserted that the seed of today's launch was planted by the Obama-Biden administration.

"We planted the seeds of today's success during the 2009 Recovery Act, which according to NASA, has saved taxpayers up to USD 30 billion and invigorated an aerospace industry in Florida that accounts for more than 130,000 jobs in the state," he said.

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas said, "Today marks a new era in space travel".

"It's been nearly 10 years for we last launched American as-

tronauts from American soil on an American rocket. The successful launch today is the culmination of years of hard work and commitment through NASA's Commercial Crew Program," he said.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy said the launch of the spacecraft is a "testament to American ingenuity and our country's profound ability to overcome challenges as they arise, particularly in the age of COVID-19".

Congresswoman Kendra Horn, chair of the Space Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, congratulated NASA and SpaceX on successful demonstration launch of astronauts Hurley and Behnken to the ISS.

Known as NASA's SpaceX Demo-2, the mission is an end-to-end test flight to validate the SpaceX crew transportation system, including launch, in-orbit, docking and landing operations. This is SpaceX's second spaceflight test of its Crew Dragon and its first test with astronauts aboard, which will pave the way for its certification for regular crew flights to the station as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Programme.

After successfully docking, the crew will be welcomed aboard the International Space Station, where they will become members of the Expedition 63 crew, which currently includes NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy.

First batch of Sikkimese stranded in Nepal return home

NAMCHI, 31 MAY [IPR]:

A total of 33 Sikkimese stranded in Nepal returned to the State today through the Kakarvitta border. The returnees comprised of 30 from East District and 03 from South.

The returnees arrived at Panitanki, India, on foot through Kakarvitta border, Nepal. They were assisted by OC WBP, Panitanki Pradip Trikhatri along with WB police and SSB personnel.

The returnees were received by officials and staff of the State Government [SNT, Siliguri] at Panitanki, from where they were brought back to Sikkim in two SNT buses.

It is informed that stranded people from Sikkim and Assam have been allowed by the Nepal Government (as per a request from Government of India) to proceed to Panitanki

from Kakarvitta border. On their way back, the returnees were provided food packets by officers and staff of BDO office, Khoribari.

It may further be informed that people who were left out today will be evacuated tomorrow through a similar arrangement.

[As per official information received from DGM, Transport Department, SNT Siliguri, Bhubendra Chhetri].

DU to hold mock tests to make students accustomed to online open-book exams

NEW DELHI, MAY 30 (PTI):

The Delhi University on Saturday released a list of measures to be taken by various colleges for conducting online open book examinations for final year students from July 1.

The measures include holding mock tests for students, notifying students through e-mail and other modes about the exams, and filling up of a pro forma by students stating that no unfair means are being adopted by them.

The university also said in case students miss out on taking the open-book exam (OBE), they will be given an opportunity to appear for pen and paper exams when the situation normalises.

"For students residing in Jammu and Kashmir and other such areas which lack the internet and hardware facility required for the OBE, the university has finalised to engage Common Service Centres (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology," it said.

The students shall be allowed to use information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure resources available with the CSC academy for downloading and taking printout of question papers, scanning and uploading an-

swer sheets on the portal, the varsity said.

The students can avail all these facilities for free at CSCs. There are more than two lakh functional CSCs located at almost all gram panchayats at village level throughout India and all of them shall be available for students, it said.

The university's decision has been met with opposition from student groups and teachers' bodies who have listed the problems of internet connectivity, possibility of adoption of dishonest practices by students.

Notwithstanding that, the university on Saturday issued directives to colleges on the measures to be adopted for the exams.

"In view of the prevailing situation of COVID-19 pandemic, it is felt that the examinations cannot be conducted in conventional mode as per the existing government norms of maintaining social distancing and ensuring safety and health of students," the university said.

It said that after much deliberation, it was decided that as a one-time measure, open-book examinations shall be adopted as an alternative for the final semester, term or year students for the 2019-2020 academic session.

Open-book exam

don't entirely require online platform, rather only limited access to internet for downloading question papers and for uploading answer sheets after completion of the test, it said.

To check the use of any unfair means during the examinations, each student shall be sign an undertaking by clicking a button on the portal along with scanned images of answer scripts, the university said.

Colleges should remain in contact with their students. Besides using the official e-mail and SMS services, messaging apps like WhatsApp may also be adopted for sending important information to the students, it said.

Colleges may invite online requests from students in case they need to use ICT infrastructure during examinations. If these requests are in high number, the students can be advised to avail the facilities available at Common Service Centre (CSC) near their residence.

The examination branch shall e-mail the question papers to the college on each day of exam for every session 45 minutes prior to the commencement of the examination. Students shall answer the questions on plain A4 size paper.



SAATHI OBSERVES WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY:

SAATHI observed World No Tobacco Day with the support of the Tourism Department on 31 May by handing over 200 facemasks and 200 bottles of hand sanitizers to the Children's Home at Bojhoghari and students of Padma Odzer Choeeling School at Chongey.

US Open plan in works, including group flights, COVID tests

New York, May 31 (AP): Charter flights to ferry U.S. Open tennis players and limited entourages from Europe, South America and the Middle East to New York.

Negative COVID-19 tests before traveling. Centralized housing. Daily temperature checks.

No spectators. Fewer on-court officials. No locker-room access on practice days.

All are among the scenarios being considered for the 2020 U.S. Open -- if it is held at all amid the coronavirus pandemic -- and described to The Associated Press by a high-ranking official at the Grand Slam tournament.

"All of this is still fluid," Stacey Allaster, the U.S. Tennis Association's chief executive for professional tennis, said in a telephone interview Saturday. "We have made no decisions at all." With that caveat, Allaster added that if the USTA board does decide to go forward with the Open, she expects it to be held at its usual site and in its usual spot on the calendar. The main draw is scheduled to start Aug. 31.

"We continue to be, I would say, 150% focused on staging a safe environment for conducting a U.S. Open at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on our dates. It's all I wake up -- our team wakes up -- thinking about," Allaster said.

"The idea of an alternative venue, an alternative date ... we've got a responsibility to explore it, but it doesn't have a lot of momentum."

An announcement should come from mid-June to end of June, Allaster said.

All sanctioned competition has been suspended by the ATP, WTA and International Tennis Federation since March and is on hold until late July. The French Open was postponed from May to September; Wimbledon was canceled for the first time since 1945.

There is no established COVID-19 protocol for tennis, a global sport with several governing bodies.

"Everybody would agree to the fundamental principles, I'm sure: protecting the health of participants, following the local laws and minimizing the risk of the transmission of the virus," said Stuart Miller, who is overseeing the ITF's return-to-tennis policy.

"But then you have to get down into the specific details. One such detail: The USTA wants to add locker rooms including at indoor courts that housed hundreds of temporary hospital beds at the height of New York's coronavirus outbreak and improve air filtration in existing spaces. Also being considered: no locker-room access until just before a match.

So if anyone goes to Flushing Meadows just to train, Allaster said, "You come, you practice, and return to the hotel. The USTA presented its operational plan to a medical advisory group Friday; now that will be discussed with city, state and federal government officials.

Mount Distilleries sanitization drive at Ranipool



SUMMIT REPORT
RANIPOL, 31 MAY:

The Doctor Safe team from Mount Distilleries carried out sanitisation at Ranipool, East Sikkim today.


The sanitization started from the Sun Pharma gate at Setipool and covered the

entire bazar, Police Station, banks, ATMs, traffic booths, foot paths, petrol pumps in Ranipool.

The team also carried out sanitisation at 32 No. covering the police outpost and bazar area there.



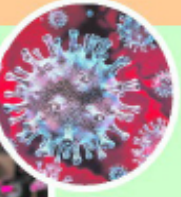
Earlier, Mount Distilleries had carried out sanitisation drives at vari-

ous towns and villages of East District and had also sanitized the quarantine centres at the Sikkim Mining complex, Himalayan Pharmacy and Mahitar school. The Doctor Safe team also carried out sanitization Pakyong and Tadong led by the respective MLAs.



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	Precautions to Prevent nCoV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever ● Difficulty in breathing ● Dry Cough ● Severe acute respiratory syndrome ● Pneumonia - like symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
<h3>Treatment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition ● No vaccinations available as of now ● Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">    </div> <p>If you seek help, you may call :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Toll free no. 104 District surveillance Officer EAST : 7029372100 WEST : 9583297808 NORTH : 9641957468 SOUTH : 7407691463 New STNH AMS : 9434711402
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM	

Going Green

Inspire the Young to Develop 10-Minute Dedication into Life-long Pact

The State Green Mission was a wonderful idea, pleasantly imaginative and reassuringly evocative of the need to recognize Green as The Colour for the next generation and headlined as the mission to ensure sustenance. It was a mission launched by the previous government, but it should not be seen just as a government programme. It might have ended up there, but the original idea was to catalyze public participation in ecological conservation; no, not the government ‘approved’ joint resource management assemblies, but a more from-the-people initiatives. It should have worked as an introduction and familiarity with nature, an engagement which should have made people question ironies like Forest Department cutting down trees which have grown for more decades than governments have survived in Sikkim.

Tree plantations should have been the trigger that reintroduced Sikkim to greenery and nature and the need to nurture it and not just ‘organise’ plantation drives to get photos taken and press releases drafted. The act of planting trees should have ideally led to understanding Sikkim’s ecology more intimately than the token ‘biodiversity hot-spot’ introduction that completes most understandings of what the State contains. This obviously did not happen because most plantation drives were undertaken with saplings that the ‘volunteers’ neither recognized, nor even bothered to enquire about, leading to a situation where the survival rates of planted saplings remain anybody’s guess. The fault was not with the idea though. Maybe, the people’s participation which might have been cultivated gradually was compromised by eager-to-please and prompt-to-be-counted organizations and departments which usurped the initiative, and as is wont, distanced the people from the idea with their fawning and obsession for hierarchies. Do plantation drives need a chief guest, for instance?

Of course, it is very possible that the general public has grown too lethargic even to engage in an initiative which conserves their own future, but hopefully, the generation still in the making is more open and willing. Ideas like the State Green Mission, then the 10 Minutes to Earth Initiative and now the Mith-Mithni connect being established with trees should address them directly by informing them in schools and colleges and inviting them over to power the Mission. It is in this light that the “10 Minutes to Earth” initiative had brought fresh hope. The expressed intent was to unite the entire population of the State in a simultaneous plantation drive across the State. It was a huge task, and would have succeeded not if all the 6 lakh residents of the State actually plant a sapling each at the same time, but if, for those 10 minutes, Sikkim came together to acknowledge the environment and stood together to recognize that they have a responsibility towards it.

Many have seen the 10-Minute dedication as a gimmick, and they would not be completely wrong, because a gimmick it is. And a gimmick is what is prescribed to shake loose the propensity acquired by Sikkim to lie to itself and simply pretend that all is well. The Batti-Bandh campaign in Sikkim several years ago was a gimmick as well, a global one at that, but it worked, because it reminded the people of the need to conserve energy. The 10-Minutes to Earth needs to be seen in similar light – as a means to compel all of Sikkim to notice all they have lost, what they still retain and what they could nurture and conserve in the environment they inhabit. For the dedication to lead to commitment, the young will need to be roused, not the departments and Panchayats. The young, if they are adequately inspired, will keep the pact for life where the official arms will only keep the date. It is the former that the 10 Minutes to Earth and every other initiative aimed it public engagement and conservation should seek to establish. In these lockdown times, community level plantation drives are not possible, but that should not mean that 10 minutes cannot be dedicated to nature on world environment day.

Riot or resistance? How media frames unrest in Minneapolis will shape public’s view of protest

DANIELLE K. KILGO
theconversation.com

A teenager held her phone steady enough to capture the final moments of George Perry Floyd’s life as he apparently suffocated under the weight of a Minneapolis police officer’s knee on his neck. The video went viral.

What happened next has played out time and again in American cities after high-profile cases of alleged police brutality.

Vigils and protests were organized in Minneapolis and around the United States to demand police accountability. But while investigators and officials called for patience, unrest boiled over. News reports soon carried images of property destruction and police in riot gear.

The general public’s opinions about protests and the social movements behind them are formed in large part by what they read or see in the media. This gives journalists a lot of power when it comes to driving the narrative of a demonstration.

They can emphasize the disruption protests cause or echo the dog whistles of politicians that label protesters as “thugs.” But they can also remind the public that at the heart of the protests is the unjust killing of another black person. This would take the emphasis away from the destruction of the protests and toward the issues of police impunity and the effects of racism in its many forms.

The role journalists play can be indispensable if movements are to gain legitimacy and make progress. And that puts a lot of pressure on journalists to get things right.

My research has found that some protest movements have more trouble than others getting legitimacy. My co-author Summer Harlow and I have studied how local and metropolitan newspapers cover protests. We found that narratives about the Women’s March and anti-Trump protests gave voice to protesters and significantly explored their grievances. On the other end of the spectrum, protests about anti-black racism and indigenous people’s rights received the least legitimizing coverage, with them more often seen as threatening and violent.

FORMING THE NARRATIVE

Decades ago, scholars James Hertog and Douglas McLeod identified how news coverage of protests contributes to the maintenance of the status quo, a phenomenon referred to as “the protest paradigm.” They held that media narratives tend to emphasize the drama, inconvenience and disruption of protests rather than the demands, grievances and agendas of protesters. These narratives trivialize protests and ultimately dent public support.

Here’s how this theoretically plays out today:

Journalists pay little attention to protests that aren’t dramatic or unconventional.

Knowing this, protesters find ways to capture media and public attention. They don pink “pussy” hats or kneel during the national anthem. They might even resort to violence and lawlessness. Now the protesters have the media’s attention, but

what they cover is often superficial or delegitimizing, focusing on the tactics and disruption caused and excluding discussion on the substance of the social movement.

We wanted to explore if this classic theory fit coverage from 2017 – a year of large-scale protests accompanying the first year of Donald Trump’s presidency.

To do so, we analyzed the framing of protest reporting from newspapers in Texas. The state’s size



and diversity made it a good proxy for the country at large.

In all, we identified 777 articles by searching for terms such as “protest,” “protester,” “Black Lives Matter” and “Women’s March.” This included reports written by journalists in 20 Texas newspapers, such as the El Paso Times and the Houston Chronicle, as well as syndicated articles from sources like the Associated Press.

We looked at how articles framed the protests in the headline, opening sentence and story structure, and classified the reporting using four recognized frames of protest:

Riot: Emphasizing disruptive behavior and the use or threat of violence.

Confrontation: Describing protests as combative, focusing on arrests or “clashes” with police.

Spectacle: Focusing on the apparel, signs or dramatic and emotional behavior of protesters.

Debate: Substantially mentioning protester’s demands, agendas, goals and grievances.

We also kept an eye out for sourcing patterns to identify imbalances that often give more credence to authorities than protesters and advocates.

Overall, news coverage tended to trivialize protests by focusing most often on dramatic action. But some protests suffered more than others.

Reports focused on spectacle more often than substance. Much was made of what protesters were wearing, crowd sizes – large and small – celebrity involvement and flaring tempers.

The substance of some marches got more play than others. Around half of the reports on anti-Trump protests, immigration rallies, women’s rights demonstrations and environmental actions included substantial information about protesters’ grievances and demands.

In contrast, Dakota Pipeline and anti-black racism-related protests got legitimizing coverage less than 25% of the time and were more likely to be described as disruptive and confrontational.

In coverage of a St. Louis protest over the acquittal of a police officer who killed a black man, violence, arrest, unrest and disruption were the leading descriptors, while concern about police brutality and racial injustice was reduced to just a few mentions. Buried more than 10 paragraphs

down was the broader context: “The recent St. Louis protests follow a pattern seen since the August 2014 killing of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson: the majority of demonstrators, though angry, are law-abiding.”

As a consequence of variances in coverage, Texas newspaper readers may form the perception that some protests are more legitimate than others. This contributes to what we call a “hierarchy of social struggle,” in which the voices of some advocacy groups are lifted over others.

LURKING BIAS

Journalists contribute to this hierarchy by adhering to industry norms that work against less-established protest movements. On tight deadlines, reporters may default to official sources for statements and data. This gives authorities more control of narrative framing. This practice especially becomes an issue for movements like Black Lives Matter that are countering the claims of police and other officials.

Implicit bias also lurks in such reporting. Lack of diversity has long plagued newsrooms.

In 2017, the proportion of white journalists at The Dallas Morning News and the Houston Chronicle was more than double the proportion of white people in each city.

Protests identify legitimate grievances in society and often tackle issues that affect people who lack the power to address them through other means. That’s why it is imperative that journalists do not resort to shallow framing narratives that deny significant and consistent space to air the afflicted’s concerns while also comforting the very comfortable status quo.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Journalism, Indiana University]

How African diaspora footballers juggle the identity question

DAVID STOREY
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Sport is a useful prism through which to explore aspects of national identity. This is particularly so with football, given its popularity and global reach. International teams are often portrayed as the embodiment of the nation for the duration of a match. They carry the nation’s hopes and dreams.

Yet it’s becoming common to see footballers competing for a country other than the one they were born or raised in. The regulations allow this if they are eligible for citizenship of the country.

This raises questions for those interested in issues of identity, citizenship and belonging. An investigation into how many players transfer their sporting allegiance and why can shed light on the often complex, multi-layered and contingent nature of national identity.

I conducted a study into the question of the identity choices of players with African family backgrounds. This revealed that players choose which country to represent for different reasons. Some players may be motivated by a sense of cultural affinity. For others it’s an opportunity to play international football and advance their career.

SWITCHING ALLEGIANCE

In recent years, a number of African countries have opted to select players born outside the national territory. The sizeable African diaspora in Europe provides an expanded field of potential talent. Colonial history and continuing migrant links mean

there are many European-born footballers with close ethnic and family ties to African countries, so it makes pragmatic sense to tap into that resource.

Morocco and Algeria have for some time been prominent in drawing on their diasporas. They have relied heavily on European-born players of Algerian or Moroccan descent such as Riyad Mahrez and Sofiane Boufal. Some of these players represented France in youth or under-age teams but elected to play for the country of their parents at senior international level.

The extent of this phenomenon is clear if we look at the squads from recent international tournaments. Of the 368 players registered in the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations tournament, 93 were born outside the country they were representing. The majority of these (69) were born in France. A further 22 players, although born in Africa, grew up in a European country.

If these are added to the 93, then approaching one third of players at the tournament were playing for a country they were not born in or had not lived in since early childhood.

At the 2018 FIFA World Cup, five African countries participated in the finals. Morocco had 15 European-born players, plus another two who grew up in Europe. Tunisia and Senegal each had nine while Nigeria had four (plus two more who grew up in Europe). In total, 38 players for these five countries were born in Europe, the majority in France (25).

At the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations, of the 552 players registered in the

tournament, 129 were born outside the country they were representing. Once again, most of these were born in France – 86. And a further 30 players grew up in a country other than the one in which they were born. Nineteen of Morocco’s squad were born outside the country, 10 of them in France; 14 of Algeria’s squad were born in France.

Overall, it seems francophone African countries in North and West Africa are more prone to draw on their diasporas. France’s colonial past leaves a big footprint on Africa’s sporting present.

IDENTITY CONUNDRUM

Some players have made it clear in press interviews that identity issues influence their decision. For example, the French-born former Cameroon international Benoît Assou-Ekotta (son of a migrant Cameroonian footballer) has publicly expressed a strong sense of Cameroonian identity.

“Me playing for Cameroon was a natural and normal thing. I have no feeling for the France national team; it just doesn’t exist. When people ask of my generation in France, “Where are you from?”, they will reply Morocco, Algeria, Cameroon or wherever.”

His comments appear to reflect a wider set of issues relating to marginalisation and discrimination surrounding ethnic minority groups in France and elsewhere, highlighting disaffection and a rejection of French identity.

More pragmatic issues can be seen in the case of Swiss-born Joël Kiessling. In a television pro-

gramme, the then Swiss youth international goalkeeper displayed little interest in his father’s country of DR Congo. (He ended up playing for them at senior level, though.)

In 2013 Saido Berahino, born in Burundi but who came to the United Kingdom as a refugee at the age of ten, spoke of his desire to play for England in highly functional terms: “I want to play at the best level with the best players at the best tournaments.”

Five years later he said he would “always be a Burundian” and switched to playing for that country.

The failure to advance to senior level may lead to a decision to represent another country. But it may ultimately come down to the simple issue of which country asks first.

Paul Pogba may be happy to represent France but, had he been less gifted, the French opportunity would likely not have arisen and he might well have followed his brothers’ decisions to represent their parents’ country of Guinea.

Professional motivations may underpin many decisions, but these surely also reflect the duality of the players’ identities. A player’s background will clearly shape their self-identity but the wider socio-political context may have a bearing too. Whatever the feelings and motivations of players, the declaration of a sporting nationality that may differ from an “official” one reinforces the need to see identities as fluid and flexible rather than fixed and unchanging.

[the writer is Principal Lecturer in Geography, University of Worcester]

It's now mission Amphan relief for archer Banerjee

TAPAN MOHANTA

KOLKATA, MAY 31 (PTI): Cut off from his sport due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian archer Rahul Banerjee has busied himself with relief work for victims of cyclone Amphan, travelling to the affected areas with friends.

If the pandemic was not enough, West Bengal was ravaged by the fiercest cyclone to have hit the state in 100 years, on May 20.

Moved by the plight of those affected by the natural calamity, the former Commonwealth Games gold medallist decided to do his bit.

"As our car went into a village (Kultuli), people started running after our car. They were so desperate for relief materials. We had about 200 packets and 150 tarpaulin but the demand was much higher," Banerjee told PTI in an interaction.

He called up a couple of his friends and they set out on their own in



a car loaded with tarpaulin, food packets and sanitary napkins. They headed straight to the affected areas in South 24 Parganas on May 25 morning.

"All the farmlands had turned into large lakes. There was water everywhere and roofs of all the houses were damaged. We felt so helpless and devastated. We felt this

was not enough." Banerjee, along with his friends Niloy Das (a tattoo artist) and Priyam Middey (a dance teacher), returned with a resolve to give more and engage more people from their respective fraternities.

They made their next trip to Sandeshkhali and then to Sunderban, and the picture was the same everywhere. "Everything

has been washed or blown away. I had to park my car far away and the civic police escorted us to the locals and when they spotted us it was like they had struck gold, so eager to grab a few packets of basic necessities.

"The smiles on their faces when they thanked us were worth the effort," he added.

Since then, Banerjee

and his friends' relief work has grown and they have already made four trips in a mini van loaded with food packets and tarpaulins.

"We are also now helped by an NGO and many of our friends have started chipping in with funds, dry foods, tarpaulins, old clothes etc.," Banerjee, who visited Bakkhali on Sunday, said.

They have taken all measures to distribute the items, wearing protective gears to combat the spread of the pandemic, but Banerjee fears a spike in cases as the Amphan-affected people are running around for help without maintaining social distancing.

"All they want is relief material as they do not have food and shelter and they care least about COVID-19.

"No one was wearing a mask and everywhere there were scores of people waiting for help. Such has been the devastation," he concluded.

Arunachal villagers build huts to quarantine returnees



ITANAGAR, MAY 31 (PTI): Residents of a remote village in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang district have built huts to quarantine locals returning to the settlement from other parts of the country.

Fourteen bamboo huts, with piped water and electricity facilities, have been set up for the purpose by residents of Debing village in Ruksin circle, a village committee member said on Sunday.

The 'quarantine huts' have been established a kilometre away from the village as a precautionary measure, he said.

The village, home to around 150 households, shares border with Jonai sub-division of Dhemaji district in Assam, where one COVID-19 case was recently reported.

The residents of the village have set up the huts under the supervi-

sion of the Debing Bane Kebang (village committee), its secretary Kaling Moyong said.

Around 40 people from Debing work in different parts of the country and several of them are already on their way back home, he said.

While one person who has returned from Telangana was housed in one of the huts on Saturday, four others will join him on Sunday, Moyong said.

"The returnees are being quarantined in the huts for 28 days, only after having completed the institutional quarantine period and testing negative for COVID-19.

"After the quarantine period in the huts, a health check-up will be conducted on the returnees and if all is well, they will be allowed to go home," he said.

Of the 14 huts, two are for the volunteers

who will monitor the returnees 24/7, Moyong said. He said the villagers had decided to set up the 'quarantine huts' after they had received calls from local people who wished to return home.

Moyong said quarantining people during epidemics, however, has been practised by several tribes in the state since time immemorial.

The huts have been segregated as per the category of the area the person was in before his or her return, All East Siang District Students' Union vice president Kalut Dai said.

"People returning from red zones will stay in the huts demarcated for them. Volunteers will ensure that the quarantined persons maintain social distancing and other norms," Dai said.

Local self-help groups will provide the quarantined persons with food, he added.

Assam crosses 1,200-mark in COVID-19 with 159 new cases

GUWAHATI, MAY 30 (PTI): Assam's COVID-19 cases crossed the 1,200-mark on Saturday with 159 people, including 20 air travellers, across districts testing positive for the disease, state Health and Family Welfare Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

With these cases, the total number of COVID-19 patients has gone up to 1,216 in the state from 1,057 on Friday. Of the total cases, 1,046 are active, Sarma said in a tweet.

"Alert -- 31 new cases of COVID-19. 20 Air travellers, Morigaon 11," the minister added.

Earlier during the day, Sarma said samples of 128 persons from across the districts tested positive.

Kokrajhar and Chirang reported 26 cases, 20 in Hailakandi, 13 each in Kamrup and Dibrugarh, nine in Jorhat, seven in Golaghat, five in Dhubri, three in Barpeta, two in Cachar and one in Bongaigaon, he said.

The minister said 29 people have tested positive for coronavirus but the districts to which they belong are yet to be ascertained.

In a separate tweet, he said 38 patients have recovered from the disease and discharged from hospitals after their samples tested negative twice. These include 14 at Silchar Medical College and Hospital, 11 at Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital, eight at Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital, three at Jorhat Medical College and Hospital, and two at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital.

Out of the total cases, four patients have died, while 163 have been cured and were discharged from hospitals, Sarma said, adding three more patients have migrated to other states.

Pvt bus owners in Bengal divided over resuming services

Kolkata, May 31 (PTI): The West Bengal government has allowed inter-district movement of state transport undertaking and private bus services from Monday, but the private operators are divided over recommencing services with a lesser number of passengers owing to the social distancing norms.

While the Bus Minibus Samannoy Samity on Sunday said that it will recommence services in some routes on an experimental basis, the Joint Council of Bus Syndicates said it will not be possible to run buses with only sitting capacity passengers on current fares as that would lead to losses.

In a meeting of the Joint Council of Bus Syndicates on Sunday, it was decided that a memorandum will be given to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Transport Minister Suvendu Adhikary on Tuesday, seeking formation of a regulatory body for revising fares, its general secretary Tapan Banerjee said.

Rahul Chatterjee, secretary of Bus Minibus Samannoy Samity (coordination committee), another body of bus owners in the state, said that buses will be run on some routes in Kolkata and the districts from Monday on an experimental basis.



They, however, demanded that the government consider an increase in fares so as to keep the services going without causing losses to the owners.

"As it is, the buses have been idling since March 22.

A lot of money has to be spent to make these roadworthy again.

We seek the government waive road tax for the period that the buses have not been plying and also seek the Centre's intervention in reducing insurance premium," Chatterjee said.

He said that the government should also provide its infrastructure for sanitising the buses at its various facilities and also provide face masks and gloves and hand sanitis-

ers to the staff.

The West Bengal government, in an order issued on Saturday, allowed intra-state (inter-district) movement of government and private buses from June 1, with passengers not more than the actual seating capacity of the bus.

"No passenger shall be allowed to travel standing in the bus. All passengers shall wear face masks and gloves during the entire journey," the order said.

It has not said anything about restarting of inter-state bus services.

West Bengal Transport Corporation is already running buses on 40 city routes, while SBSTC and NBSTC are running buses in the districts in south Bengal and

north Bengal.

All these STUs have already recommenced inter-district bus services from May 27.

Private bus operators have stayed away from resuming services as their demands for increasing fares were not met by the state government.

The private bus operators had demanded a nearly three-time hike in fares, claiming that carrying only 20 passengers at a time in each bus as per the government directive for maintaining social distancing norms owing to the coronavirus pandemic would lead to huge losses for them.

The state government had earlier allowed only 20 passengers in a bus at a time.

Arunachal reports fourth COVID-19 case

ITANAGAR, MAY 31 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh reported its fourth COVID-19 case after a 12-year-old student, who recently returned to the state from Delhi in a bus, tested positive for the disease, a senior official said on Sunday.

The boy had returned to the state on May 25 along with a group of students and was placed under institutional quarantine, he said.

"The student, who hails from Upper Siang district, is asymptomatic and was housed in a COVID-19 care centre in Yinkiong, the district headquarters. His test reports arrived on Sat-

urday night from the Regional Medical Research Centre at Dibrugarh in Assam," state Health Secretary P Parthiban said.

The swab samples of the other people who were on the bus with the boy have been sent for tests and the results are awaited, the health secretary said.

This is the third case reported in the state in a span of a week.

Earlier, on May 24, a 30-year-old Delhi returnee was diagnosed with the disease, almost a month after Arunachal Pradesh was declared coronavirus-free.

A 19-year-old student, who recently returned to the state from

Chennai in a Shramik Special train, had tested positive for the disease on May 27. The first patient in the northeastern state, a 31-year-old man from Lohit district, was discharged from a hospital in Tezu on April 16 following his recovery.

Meanwhile, the state health department said that a batch of 260 samples will be sent to Delhi during the day for tests.

The state Cabinet had on Friday decided to outsource COVID-19 testing to clear the backlogs in the laboratories. The results of 1,334 samples from the state are awaited so far, of the total 8,016 collected till Saturday.

COVID-19: Bodies to be sent to mortuaries within 2 hrs

NEW DELHI, MAY 30 (PTI): Bodies of persons who died of COVID-19 or suspected to have died of it at hospitals are to be sent to mortuaries within two hours, authorities said on Saturday.

Delhi government's health department announced additional guidelines for disposal of bodies of patients who had COVID-19 or were suspected to be suffering from it.

The death toll from COVID-19 in Delhi on Saturday rose to 416.

Bodies of persons who died of COVID-19 or suspected to have died of it at hospitals, or those

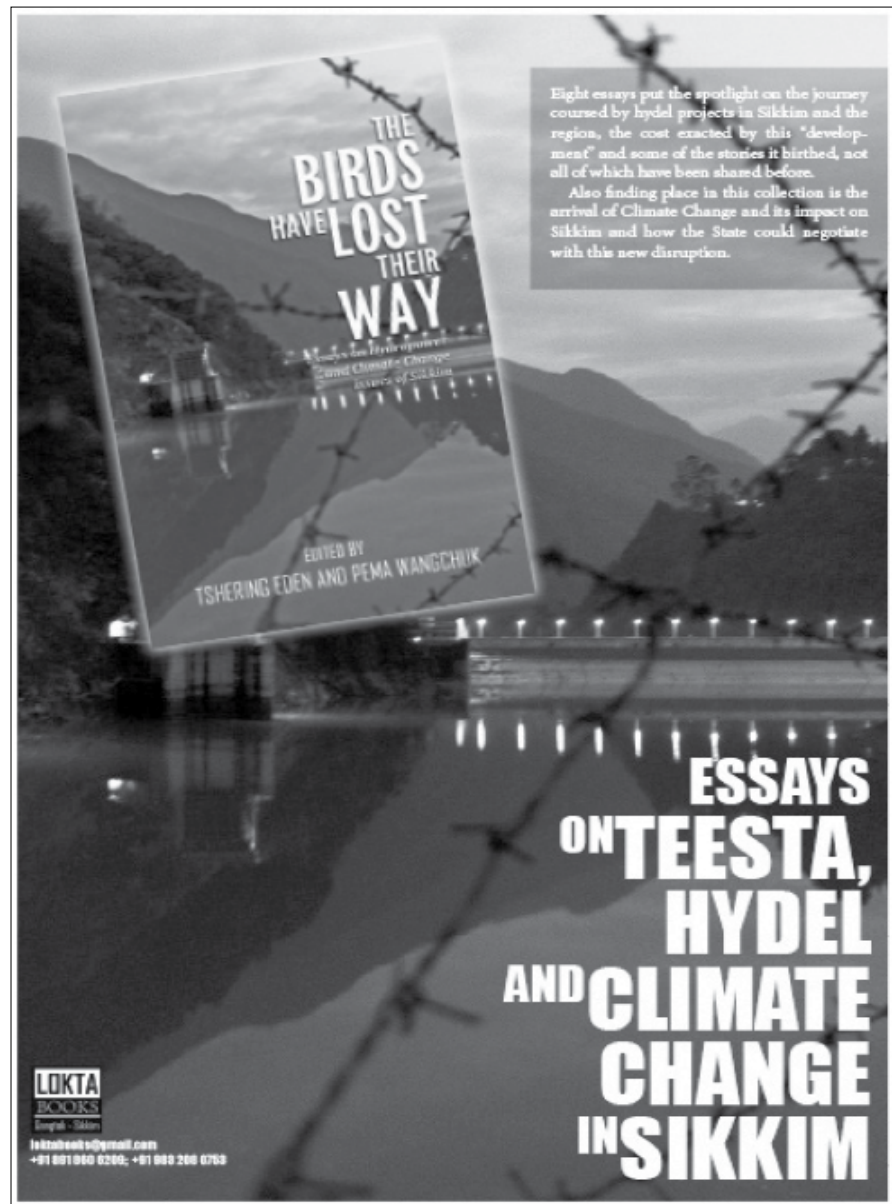
brought dead at hospitals are to be sent to mortuaries within two hours, the order said. If the family or relatives of the deceased, themselves contact mortuary authorities within 12 hours of death, the hospital shall schedule cremation or burial within 24 hours in consultation with the family and the area's municipal corporation, it added.

If the family or relatives do not contact within 12 hours, an intimation be sent out to them informing about the place and time of the cremation or burial, authorities said. In case of unidentified or abandoned bodies of persons who

died of COVID-19 or suspected to have died of it, the Delhi police shall complete all legal formalities within 72 hours of death and dispose the body in next 24 hours as per the protocol, it said.

If the address of the deceased happened to be outside Delhi, medical director of hospitals must send a notice to resident commissioner of the respective state or Union territory, seeking communication from the other side in 48 hours, according to the order.

If no response is received, the body is to be cremated by the hospital in the next 24 hours, it said.



Asian Games medallist hopeful of promising future as Esports sees uptick in engagement

Aparajita Upadhyay
New Delhi, May 31 (PTI): The Esports industry is thriving in India with the disruption caused by the coronavirus and the country's lone Asian Games medallist in competitive video gaming, Tirth Mehta, is optimistic the upward trend will continue in the times to come.

The coronavirus outbreak has massively affected the global sporting calendar, with stadiums that once lit up with the roar of the crowd lying in silence.

At a time when social distancing has become the norm, Esports has managed to pierce the mainstream consciousness as more and more people in India indulge in competitive video gaming.

Tirth, who won the bronze medal in Hearthstone -- a popular online digital collectible card game -- at the Esports demonstration event at the 2018 Asian Games, feels the pandemic has helped the Esports industry expand its reach.

"The coronavirus has had a positive effect on the Esports industry," Tirth told PTI from Hyderabad, where he works in an Esports start-up.

"The general numbers are going up everyday. There's a huge surge in participation in tournaments, viewership has also increased," he added. The number of Esports tournaments has also increased in the country as organisers try to capitalise on the changing times.

Around the world, sports icons like 19-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal, world champion Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel and Argentina's star footballer Sergio Aguero, also couldn't resist the charm of Esports and picked up the gaming console.

Esports also made its way to television as broadcasters tried to provide audiences with live action in the absence of traditional sports.

"Esports is also being telecast on the sports channels so it has definitely piqued the interest of the people," Tirth said.

The 25-year-old is optimistic that the surge in numbers will motivate potential stakeholders to invest. "I assume the players, and hopefully, the sports channels will realise there is an actual audience for this and this number continue increasing even after the situation is back to normal."

"I think it will continue to grow. Obviously, it will not see the same spike but it will continue going upwards," he added. Some of the popular Esports games in India include PUBG, Counter Strike, Dota 2, Hearthstone and Star Craft: Brood War.

Atin Suri, Founder of Esports Experiential, a platform that uses experiential marketing to encourage Esports for young Indian consumers, is also confident of the industry's success in the country.

Premier League restart will not be football as we know it

PAUL WILSON

LONDON, 31 MAY [THE-GUARDIAN]: Football and its followers can start to cheer up a bit now that there is a Premier League restart date to look forward to, though no one could be foolish enough to imagine normality will return on 17 June.

Cynics are already pointing out, for a start, that on that date the two outstanding games in hand are going to be played first, so that if anything goes wrong all the clubs in the Premier League will at least have played the same number of matches should curtailment of the season suddenly reappear as an option.

Perhaps that is taking far too gloomy a view when the Bundesliga is already up and running, without spectators and, perhaps more important, without any police insistence on neutral venues. We have all become wearily resigned over the years to the police running the football calendar for reasons of crowd control, but if they are now saying empty grounds represent an unsupervisable threat to public safety it is quite a development, especially at a time when the nation's pubs and bars are also standing silent and unused.

Unless football fans in the south of England have become too timid, trustworthy or tangential to cause any concern, the apparent northern bias detectable in the fixtures the police have asked to be moved probably has more to do with Liverpool being on the verge of a first title in 30 years.



Some sort of public partying can only be expected when that achievement is confirmed, as even if only half the remaining games can be played no one is going to argue with the right of Jürgen Klopp's team to be called champions. A 25-point lead at the top of the Premier League sounds as ridiculous now as it did when games were suspended, and though many a joke has been made about Covid-19 and title number 19, Liverpool have been so demonstrably superior to the rest of the division this season that almost everyone has sympathy for the way their regal progress was halted by factors beyond their control.

The situation at the top of the Premier League is as un-

complicated as it is possible to be at this stage of the season, and though the battle for fourth place and the Europa League positions promises to be quite lively, at that end of the table no one is going to face financial calamity through fixtures being completed in compromised circumstances.

It is a different story at the bottom, where the clubs under threat of relegation must have enormous, if private, misgivings about playing out the season without spectators. Only a couple of weeks ago Watford were successfully arguing that the plan to play games at neutral venues would be to the detriment of clubs who were relying on their home fixtures for the points necessary to survive.

No sooner had that fight been won than news arrived from Germany that without spectators, home advantage does not appear to count for much anyway. Of the 27 games played in Germany before this weekend, only five resulted in home wins, fewer than 20%.

By contrast, 11 matches or just over 40% resulted in victory for the away side, some by thumping scores. From this (admittedly limited) evidence, home advantage has little to do with familiarity with the dressing rooms or the nap of the turf and everything to do with the presence of a vocal and partisan crowd, whether urging the home players on to greater heights of performance or intimidating opponents and perhaps the

referee. Who knew? It makes sense when you think about it, but who has ever thought about it before? It has also come to light from the German experience that games played behind closed doors tend to proceed more efficiently, with the ball in play for a greater proportion of the game than is normally the case.

Without a crowd there is evidently no point playing to the gallery or putting pressure on the referee to change his mind. Players just get on with the game, quite possibly because it has suddenly become more of a contractual duty than a means of self-expression. Even goals as exquisite as the one scored by Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich against Dortmund are not celebrated or savoured for long;

when the symbiosis between performers and spectators is missing so is the sense of theatre.

Football does not normally contain pauses for introspection; the whole point is that once the ball is set rolling it is not intended to stop. A three-month mid-season hiatus is wholly unprecedented and it is not clear how everyone will react, or indeed if everyone will react in the same way.

The possibility of Liverpool taking their foot off the pedal once the title has been clinched or mid-table teams with nothing to play for phoning in their performances to get the season over as quickly as possible existed before the lockdown. Should anything similar happen in the coming weeks it would be nothing new, except that at the moment everything is new.

This is not quite football as we know it, and to judge by Bundesliga results the season that starts again in artificial circumstances does not follow the form lines of the chunk of the programme already completed.

There can be little doubt that what the Premier League is proposing represents the fairest way of concluding the season – everyone has the chance to save themselves on the pitch – though there is going to be more of the dogfight than usual about this year's relegation scrap, and that's without even considering all the justifiable calls from hard-pressed EFL clubs for future parachute payments to be drastically reduced.

Andrine Hegerberg: 'Roma feels like a family. That helps speed up progress'

SUZANNE WRACK

LONDON, 31 MAY [THEGUARDIAN]: Andrine Hegerberg – Andy to her family and friends – laughs when I ask her about sibling rivalry with her younger sister, the 2018 Ballon d'Or winner, Ada. "I try to just turn it around," she says with a grin. "When we're playing with our dad, I'm always joking around. If I have a better practice than her, I'll be like: 'I'm better than the Ballon d'Or.' I flip the coin and use it as a motivation, rather than being jealous. That wouldn't help anyone."

The Roma midfielder, and senior Hegerberg by two years at 26, also has the upper hand from the two times the sisters have met on the pitch, with Ada at Lyon and Andy then representing Paris Saint-Germain. They drew in the league and PSG pipped Lyon to the French Cup in torrential rain. "So far I haven't lost a game against her," she says with another big grin. "At least that's something I have. During family dinners that's what can go to. My mum was like: 'OK, that's fair enough, actually.'"

It is all jesting and playful because the Hegerberg sisters are extremely close. "She's really humble and she would work the same way if she won or didn't," Andy says of Ada. "If she wins a prize she works even harder to remain at the top level. It's something that I admire and we keep pushing each other, even though she might win prizes, I know there's some days that are more rainy than others and the important part for us is just that we keep backing each other."

To talk to either sister is to be immediately struck by their overwhelming desire to change the game for the better and their awareness of its social impact. Where does that social consciousness come from? "I've been thinking a lot about it myself," says Andy. "We were born and raised in a small town, with 7,000 people living there and I think we both got our values from there. It was a sort of humble way of life with lots of people helping and supporting each other."

"I didn't have any big role models growing up, but I had a lot in the community that helped me and pushed me when life got harder really. I feel like that stuck to the whole family throughout. And we're still the same people. We're still from Sunndal. No one even in Norway knows where that is. It's such a

small place. But I think that's shaped us, and is still with us every day and still I just feel like when you have the opportunity to give back, it's important too."

The sisters joined the German side Turbine Potsdam when they left Norway, from then their paths split – Ada went to Lyon while Andy has played for Göteborg in Sweden, Birmingham, PSG and, now, Roma.

"That's actually a bit special," she says when I ask about the picture of her as a child in a Roma shirt. "It's always been Roma for me growing up. It's a cliché but it is kind of dream come true."

"There was a lot of Serie A on television. I don't really know why. I watched [Francesco] Totti, of course, and we visited Rome on holiday, went to the Roma store and that was it. I had, like, four or five jerseys and a hang up on Roma. I really love them."

Women's football in Italy is somewhat in its infancy – despite providing some of the game's first professional environments in the 1970s. For Hegergerb being involved at the start of a project and using her experience to help drive standards is hugely motivating. "I like when I get responsibility, when I feel like I have ownership. That's when I perform the best. And in Rome I feel like I've got that role. Roma feels like a family too. That helps speed up progress. People care about each other."

The league has impressed her. "It's really, really competitive," Hegerberg says. "There's no easy game, which might have surprised me a little bit. Even the bottom teams fight really well, defend well, and there's a lot of individual talents. That's where I think they can grow, they have the talent. When they bring together the styles that's when I think the league will be really, really strong."

"I think the league also has stuff to work on when it comes to professionalism. The pitches we play on, some have been really bad. That needs to be taken care of, for the product to keep developing and grow. The players, with the talent and hours we put down working to progress the game, deserve better arenas."

"The World Cup really helped the league in Italy. So there's a lot of enthusiasm and I feel like we're being taken seriously and that's also something that motivates me to keep pushing and develop."

'Am I next?': Coco Gauff, Stephen Jackson join outcry over George Floyd killing

NEW YORK, 31 MAY

[THEGUARDIAN]: Former NBA player Stephen Jackson has said he will not allow the police to "demean the character" of his childhood friend, George Floyd. Jackson's words come amid growing outcry from athletes over Floyd's death in police custody, including teenage tennis star Coco Gauff.

Jackson was speaking at a rally in Minneapolis in remembrance of Floyd, who died in handcuffs on Monday after being pinned to the ground and pleading that he could not breathe. Jackson told ABC News on Tuesday that his friendship with Floyd dated back to their days growing up in Houston, where they "looked out for each other".

"I'm here because they're not gonna demean the character of George Floyd, my twin," Jackson said to onlookers at the Minneapolis City Hall Rotunda on Friday afternoon. "A lot of times, when police do things they know that's wrong, the first thing they try to do is cover it up, and bring up your background to make it seem like the bullshit that they did was worthy."

"When was murder ever worthy? But if it's a black man, it's approved."

He continued: "You can't tell me, when that man has his knee on my brother's neck – taking his life away, with his hand in his pocket – that that smirk on his face didn't say: 'I'm protected.' You can't tell me that he didn't feel that it was his duty to murder my brother, and that he knew he was gonna get away with it. You can't tell me that wasn't the



look on his face."

Jackson, who played 14 seasons in the NBA and was a starting forward on the San Antonio Spurs' championship team in 2003, spoke along with actor Jamie Foxx and others at the downtown rally, which was also attended by Minnesota Timberwolves players Karl-Anthony Towns and Josh Okogie.

Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was seen on video kneeling on the neck of Floyd, was arrested Friday and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter, Hennepin County attorney Mike Freeman said.

"We can't love forever and the hate is coming out and I'm afraid," Jackson said at Friday's rally. "I'm honestly afraid because I know what comes from hate, from us, and I know why y'all are so scared. Because y'all are scared that we're going to pull a you on you. I know why y'all are scared. Y'all have been doing us wrong for so long, y'all think karma's going to hit you right back."

"But we're going to do this shit right and it ain't gonna stop. I don't have

no more tears honestly. I've cried enough. I've cried enough. I'm here for one reason. For my brother's honor"

A growing number of figures from the sports world have expressed their anger and grief over the death since LeBron James, Lewis Hamilton and Colin Kaepernick first spoke out in the immediate aftermath.

Tennis star Coco Gauff, an emerging 16-year-old sensation in a sport where top players have traditionally avoided speaking out on social issues, posted a TikTok video invoking Floyd's death, along with other victims of racial violence including Ahmaud Arbery, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin and Breonna Taylor.

In the video, Gauff holds her hands up as a caption appears, reading "am I next?" The video begins with the caption "this is why I am using my voice to fight against racism," and ends with "I am using my voice. Will you use yours?" Gauff also posted the video on Twitter, but it has since been deleted.

Cincinnati Bengals rookie quarterback Joe Burrow, one of the few

white US sports stars to make a public statement, said that the "black community needs our help" on Twitter.

"They have been unheard for far too long," said Burrow, the Heisman Trophy winner from Louisiana State and No 1 overall pick in last month's NFL draft. "Open your ears, listen, and speak. This isn't politics. This is human rights."

Brian Flores, head coach of the NFL's Miami Dolphins and one of only four active minority coaches in pro football today, made an appeal for "honesty, transparency and empathy" in a statement to ESPN.

"Many people who broadcast their opinions on kneeling or on the hiring of minorities don't seem to have an opinion on the recent murders of these young black men and women," Flores said. "I think many of them quietly say that watching George Floyd plead for help is one of the more horrible things they have seen, but it's said amongst themselves where no one can hear. Broadcasting that opinion clearly is not important enough."

"I lead a group of young men who have the potential to make a real impact in this world. My message to them and anyone else who wants to listen is that honesty, transparency and empathy go a long way in bringing people together and making change. I hope that the tragedies of the last few weeks will open our hearts and minds to a better way of communicating and hopefully create that change."

40 million children aged 13 to 15 years using tobacco products globally: WHO

UNITED NATIONS, MAY 31 (PTI): The tobacco industry invests USD 9 billion every year to advertise its products targeting youngsters, with over 40 million children aged 13 to 15 years presently using nicotine items globally, the World Health Organization has warned.

The UN agency is focusing on spreading awareness among teenagers to mark World No Tobacco Day on Sunday.

"More than 40 million young people today aged 13-15, have already started to use tobacco," the WHO said, as it launched a kit for school students aged 13-17 to alert them about the marketing tactics of THE tobacco industry

"Every year the tobacco industry invests more than USD 9 billion to advertise its products. Increasingly, it is targeting young people with nicotine and tobacco products in a bid to replace the 8 million people that its products kill every year, the agency said.

Even during a global pandemic, the tobacco and nicotine industry is pushing its products, the



WHO said, adding that these addictive substances limit people's ability to fight coronavirus.

"Educating the youth is vital because nearly nine out of 10 smokers start before 18 years. We want to provide young people with the knowledge to speak out against tobacco industry manipulation," said Director for Health Promotion at WHO Ruediger Krech.

In a bid prevent addiction among 13 to 17-year-olds, the agency has highlighted commonly used tactics to watch

out for. It points out that smoking e-cigarettes and hookah pipes -- marketed as "safer" alternatives to conventional cigarettes -- is harmful, addictive, and increasing the risk of developing heart and lung disease.

The WHO also noted that the 15,000-odd flavours of tobacco items which are sold -- such as bubble-gum and candy -- are introduced in the market to attract youngsters who are likely to become serious nicotine users later in life.

Marketing strategies

during the COVID-19 pandemic have included the offer of free branded masks and home delivery service during quarantine.

The tobacco industry has also lobbied for its products to be listed as "essential", the health agency said.

With the view to reach maximum young people, the WHO has also launched the #TobaccoExposed challenge on youth online platform TikTok, and welcomed social media partnerships with other plat-

forms including Pinterest and YouTube.

The WHO has also launched a classroom activities kit that puts the students in the shoes of the tobacco industry to make them aware of how the manipulative tactics used by the industry.

"Countries can protect children from industry exploitation by putting in place strict tobacco control laws, including regulating products like e-cigarettes that have already begun to hook a new generation of young people," the WHO said.

Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem reopens after two months

Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound -- the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia -- reopened on Sunday after being closed for more than two months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Dozens of worshippers in protective masks were let into the compound before the first prayers of the day, held in a cool and windy night.

Chanting "God is greatest, we will protect Al-Aqsa with our soul and blood", the group gathered in front of the large wooden doors were welcomed by mosque director Omar al-Kiswani, who thanked them for their patience.

It followed a fraught day in annexed east Jerusalem, where the compound is located.

Israeli police on Saturday shot dead a disabled Palestinian they mistakenly thought was armed, prompting furious condemnation from the Palestinians. The re-

ligious site, which houses Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, had closed its doors in March as part of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Muslims believe the Prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven there, and the site has often been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is also the holiest site to Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount and believe it to be the location of two biblical temples -- the second of which was destroyed in 70 AD.

On the first day of the Eid holiday, scuffles had broken out between Israeli police and Palestinians as worshippers tried to break through barriers to enter the compound.

Known to Muslims as the Haram al-Sharif, the site is under the custodianship of neighbouring Jordan, which controlled the West Bank, including east Jerusalem, up until occupation by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967.

With the number of COVID-19 cases declining, in recent days both Israel and the Palestinian territories have eased restrictions.

Israel has reported more than 17,000 cases, including 284 deaths.

Fewer than 500 infections and just three deaths have been confirmed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, which have a combined population of around five million.

Following the deadly shooting on Saturday, the Palestinian leadership demanded that whoever killed the man be brought before the International Criminal Court.

The incident happened in the alleys of the walled Old City near Lions' Gate, an access point mainly used by Palestinians.

There have been fears that Israeli plans to take advantage of a controversial green light from US President Donald Trump to annex swathes of the West Bank could stoke further violence.

US: Massive protests raise fears of new virus outbreaks

LOS ANGELES, MAY 31 (AP): The mayor of Atlanta, one of dozens of US cities hit by massive protests in recent days, has a message for demonstrators: If you were out protesting last night, you probably need to go get a COVID test this week.

As emergency orders are lifted and beaches and businesses reopen, add protests to the list of concerns about a possible second wave of coronavirus outbreaks. It's also an issue from Paris to Hong Kong, where anti-government protesters accuse police of using social distancing rules to break up their rallies.

Health experts fear that silent carriers of the virus who have no symptoms could unwittingly infect others at gatherings with people packed cheek to jowl and cheering and jeering, many without masks.

Whether they're fired up or not that doesn't prevent them from getting the virus, said Bradley Pollock, chairman of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of California, Davis. One Atlanta protester said she has no choice following the death last Monday of George Floyd, a black

man, after a white police officer in Minneapolis pressed a knee into his neck. It's not OK that in the middle of a pandemic we have to be out here risking our lives, Spence Ingram, a black woman, said after marching with other protesters to the state Capitol in Atlanta on Friday. But I have to protest for my life and fight for my life all the time.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, in her warning Saturday evening, said there is still a pandemic in America that's killing black and brown people at higher numbers.

After another night of unrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said that many protesters wearing masks were simply trying to hide their identities and cause confusion and take advantage of this situation.

The state's health commissioner has warned that the protests are almost certain to fuel new cases of the virus. Minnesota reported 35 deaths on Thursday, a single-day high in the outbreak, and 29 more on Friday.

We have two crises that are sandwiched on top of one other, Minne-

apolis Mayor Jacob Frey said. The protests come at a time when many US cities are beginning to relax stay-at-home orders. When Los Angeles officials announced the reopening of stores last week, they said political protests could resume but with a cap of 100 people.

That didn't stop several hundred people from showing up for a protest that shut down a freeway. Most wore masks, but many did not observe a buffer zone.

Even for the many protesters who have been wearing masks, those don't guarantee protection from the coronavirus. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends cloth masks because they can make it more difficult for infected people to spread the virus but they are not designed to protect the person wearing the mask from getting it.

In Europe, unions in Paris flouted a ban on large gatherings Saturday at a march to protest conditions for workers in the country illegally. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowds and said they had banned the march due to the health risks that such an event is likely to generate.

Playing cricket under ICC guidelines will look really weird and off-putting: Sangakkara

NEW DELHI, MAY 31 (PTI): Sri Lankan batting great Kumar Sangakkara says it will look "really weird" and "off-putting" to play cricket under the strict guidelines laid down by the ICC but he understands that there is no better option.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently come out with comprehensive guidelines to get the sport up and running around the world while at the same time maintaining the highest safety protocols.

"I understand the guidelines are going to restrict players, playing of the game, it's going to look really weird, and off-putting even for me when I think about it," Sangakkara said on Star Sports' show 'Cricket Connected'. "But the priority is health and safety. Health is absolutely paramount at this time, especially for players to have the confidence to get back to cricket, to get back to playing, to have grounds may be at some point open to spectators."

The safety measures announced by ICC include the appointment of chief medical officers, a 14-day pre-match isolation training camp and use of gloves by umpires while handling the ball.

Weighing on the governing body's guidelines, Sangakkara, who is also the President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), said: "It's got to be a partnership because when you are under contract, your employer is responsible for creating a safe environment and educating the players and insisting that the environment that they come to work in is very safe.

Curfews and clashes as US race protests escalate

Curfews were imposed on major US cities as clashes over police brutality erupted across America with demonstrators ignoring warnings from President Donald Trump that his government would stop the violent protests "cold."

Minneapolis, the epicenter of the unrest, was gripped by a fifth consecutive night of violence on Saturday with police in riot gear firing tear gas and stun grenades at protesters venting fury at the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, during an arrest in the city on Monday.

Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta were among two dozen cities ordering people to stay indoors overnight as more states called in National Guard soldiers to help control the civil unrest not seen in the United States for years.

From Seattle to New York, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets demanding tougher murder charges and more arrests over the death of Floyd, who stopped breathing after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

In Los Angeles, officers fired rubber bullets and swung batons during a testy standoff with demonstrators who set fire to a police car.

Police and protesters clashed in numerous cities including Chicago and New York, with officers responding to projectiles with pepper spray while shop windows were smashed in Philadelphia.

Multiple arrests were reported by US media in Minneapolis, Seattle and New York as rallies continued through the night.

Trump blamed the extreme left for the violence, including widespread looting and arson in Minneapolis, saying rioters were dishonoring the memory of Floyd.

"We cannot and must not allow a small group of criminals and vandals to wreck our cities and lay waste to our communities," the president said.

"My administration will stop mob violence. And we'll stop it cold," he added, accusing the loose-knit militant anti-fascist network Antifa of orchestrating the violence.

Democratic candidate Joe

Biden condemned the violence of the protests, but said on Sunday that US citizens had every right to demonstrate.

"Protesting such brutality is right and necessary," he said. "But burning down communities and needless destruction is not."

- National Guard deployed - Peaceful protests occurred too, including in Toronto as the movement spread beyond America's borders.

Demonstrators nationwide chanted slogans such as "Black Lives Matter" and "I can't breathe," which Floyd, who has become a fresh symbol of police brutality, was heard saying repeatedly before he died.

"We're not turning the cheek anymore. Black lives matter. They will always matter. And we're here today to show that," said makeup artist Melissa Mock, who joined several thousand in a daytime protest in Miami.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said he was mobilizing the state's entire 13,000-strong National Guard to deal with rioters who have looted shops and set fires in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

All major freeways leading into Minneapolis were closed Saturday night with military helicopters overhead as the state braced for more rioting, arson and looting, with locals saying much of the violence was being perpetrated by outsiders.

Earlier, people congregated and chanted peacefully in Minneapolis, carrying brooms to help clean up damaged shops and streets.

Some placed flowers in front of the shop where Floyd was arrested on Monday, before his death in the hands of police was recorded in a horrifying cellphone video since seen around the world.

In Houston -- where Floyd was born and raised -- an old friend of his, Sam Osborne, said as an African American he feared for his life.

"I'm really messed up they killed him up. I'm wondering like, what could possibly happen to me?" he told AFP.

Houston's mayor announced at a press conference that Floyd's body would be brought back to the Texas city.

At least eight states -- includ-

ing Texas, Colorado and Georgia -- activated the National Guard, who were also deployed around the White House to help handle the protests there.

- 'Black lives matter' - In Washington, protesters faced off with secret service agents outside the White House for a second straight night as Trump faces the most serious spate of civil unrest of his presidency, in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic.

Looting occurred in Miami, where a curfew was also announced, while in New York mayor Bill de Blasio said a video appearing to show an NYPD police car drive into protesters in Brooklyn was "upsetting" but that he did not blame the officers.

In Los Angeles, the city's mayor expanded a curfew order as looting broke out. Stretched emergency services scrambled to put out two blazes on Melrose Avenue, as similar scenes played out in Washington with officials extinguishing a major fire at a hotel off Layfayette Square.

There were also multiple instances of journalists covering the protests being wounded, with reports of pepper balls and rubber bullets being used on members of the press.

Protests are expected to continue even after Chauvin, the now-fired Minneapolis police officer accused of Floyd's death, was arrested and charged with third-degree murder on Friday.

Floyd's family and many protesters want a tougher charge brought and have also demanded that three officers who assisted him be charged as well.

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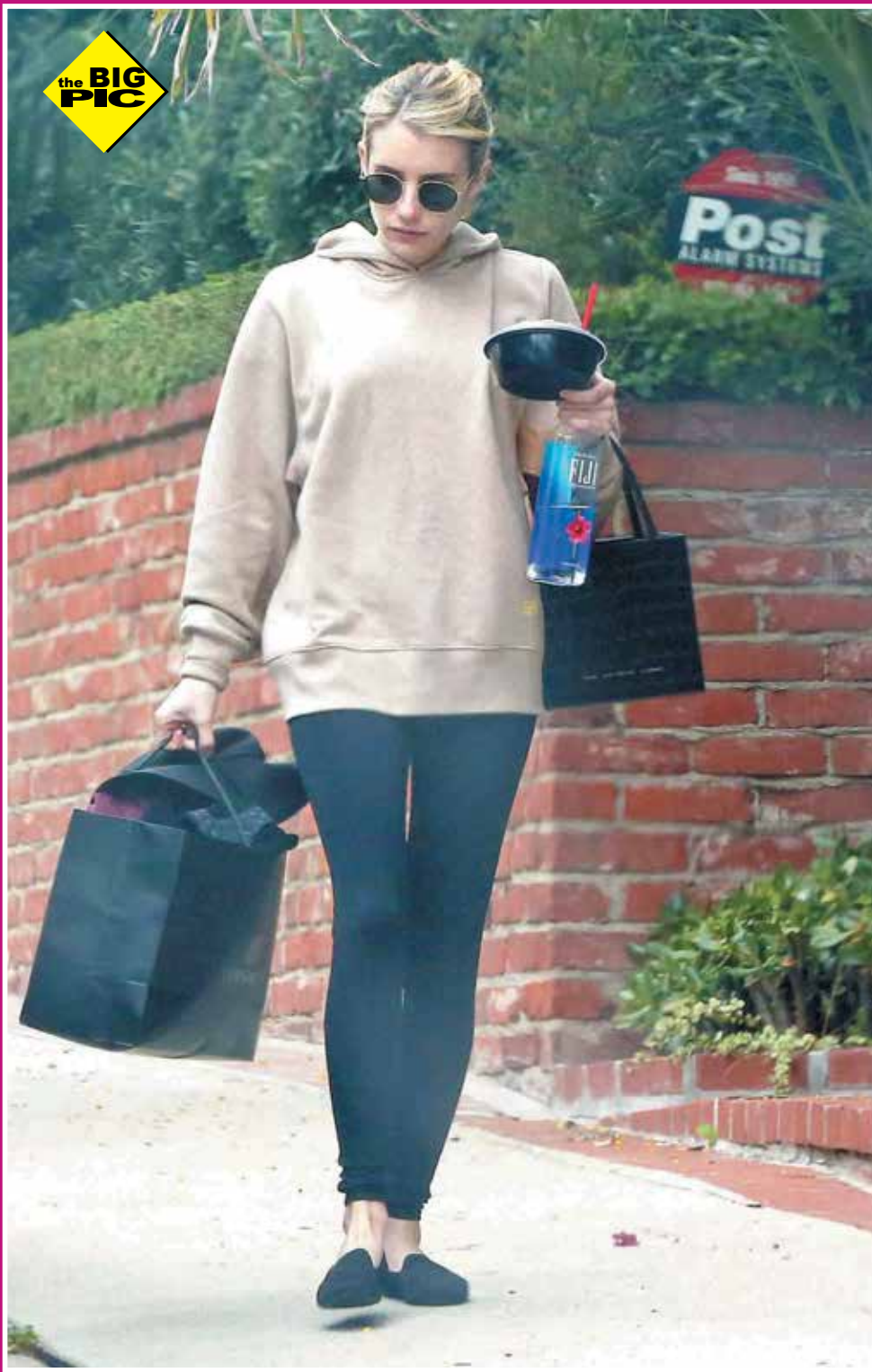
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VIDEO NEWS SECTION



GOODIES GALORE! Actress, Emma Roberts had her hands full while visiting a friend in LA.

Don Lemon Calls Out Hollywood Leaders “Sitting in Your Mansions and Doing Nothing” Amid Protests

The ‘CNN Tonight’ host said he had been receiving texts and tweets from famous faces who were afraid to “hurt [their] business” by speaking up.

Don Lemon called out Hollywood leaders and stars for inaction amid nationwide protests over the death of another unarmed black man in police custody during an emotional monologue on his Saturday show.

“What about Hollywood? Strangely quiet,” the CNN Tonight host said during a conversation with Rev. William Barber as the fifth night of protests over the death of George Floyd unfolded in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New York and other cities nationwide. As he screened footage of fires and looting in cities nationwide, Lemon continued, “I’ve seen them on Twitter, I see them, ‘Oh, I’m loving what Don Lemon’s doing’ ... But they gotta do more than that.”

As for both black and white celebrities, he continued, “Why aren’t they helping these young people? These young people are out there standing on a platform at the edge of an abyss by themselves.”

Lemon noted that some boldfaced names had had texted him and tweeted at him saying that they liked his show or that they were distraught by the state of the nation. “Yes, I’m calling you out, and you can be mad at me all you want. And what they’re doing, you’re sitting there and watching TV and you’re b***tching about it... Get on television or do something and help these young people in-

stead of sitting in your mansions and doing nothing. And have some moral courage and stop worrying about your reputation and your brand.”

The speech was a continuation of Lemon’s monologue, where he called on millionaires, billionaires, leaders and stars to lend their support to the many less powerful individuals involved in protests nationwide. He noted that many stars have told him they can’t come on his show to discuss the protests or other political matters because “I don’t want people to see me mad, it might hurt my business, I’m so upset I have to go to my country house.” The CNN host noted that Beyoncé had called for justice for George Floyd in an Instagram post. “You can’t?” he asked of other Hollywood figures. Lemon added during the monologue, “If you’re not going to do it now, when are you going to do it?... Stop making excuses.”

So far, Oprah, Tyler Perry, Ariana Grande, Tinashe and Insecure actor Kendrick Sampson have notably spoken up about Floyd’s death and the protests they have sparked. On Sunday, Sampson could be seen on an Instagram video being hit by rubber bullets and a police officer’s baton during a protest in Los Angeles.

In Los Angeles, individuals could be seen looting stores including Nordstrom and the Apple store at the Grove, as well as a Whole Foods across the street, during a protest in the area. During his show, Lemon streamed footage of others looting a shoe store in Los Angeles.

Fox News reporter attacked, chased from demonstration

NEW YORK (AP) — A Fox News reporter was pummeled and chased by protesters who had gathered outside the White House early Saturday as part of nationwide unrest following the death of George Floyd.

For several journalists across the country, the demonstrations were taking an ominous, dangerous turn.

A television reporter in Columbia, S.C., was hurt by a thrown rock Saturday and a journalist in Minneapolis was shot in the thigh by a rubber bullet. A television news photographer in Pittsburgh said he was beaten by demonstrators, and police in Louisville, Kentucky, apologized after an officer fired what appeared to be pepper bullets at a television news crew.

Fox’s Leland Vittert was rattled following the Washington attack that he said was clearly targeted at his news organization.

“We took a good thumping,” he told The Associated Press. A live shot he was doing was interrupted by a group of protesters who shouted obscenities directed at Fox. Flanked by two security guards, he and photographer Christian Galdabini walked away from Washington’s Lafayette Park trailed by an angry group before riot police dispersed them.

Vittert said there were no markings on him or the crew’s equipment to identify them as from Fox. But he said during the demonstration, one man continually asked him who he worked for. He didn’t answer, but the man found a picture of Vittert on his cell phone and shouted to other protesters that he was from Fox.

“The protesters stopped protesting whatever it was they were protesting and turned on us,” he said, “and that was a very different feeling.”

He compared it to when he was chased away from a demonstration in Egypt during the Arab Spring of 2011 by a group that shouted, “Fox News hates Muslims.”

A correspondent from the website The Daily Caller followed Vittert and the demonstrators as they left the park. At one point, someone took Vittert’s microphone and threw it at his back. One woman chasing him wore a t-shirt that said, “I can’t breathe,” a reference what

Floyd said earlier this week when a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against his neck.

Vittert said he was “extremely grateful” to the Daily Caller for documenting the scene; Galdabini’s camera was smashed. “They were putting themselves at risk,” he said.

“It makes me proud to do my job and to be a journalist,” he said. “I’m proud to be an organization that is unyielding

and kicked him at a demonstration there. Smith, who said other protesters jumped in to save him, posted a picture on Twitter showing him with a bruised face and bloody hand.

In Louisville, WAVE-TV was on the air covering a demonstration when video showed a police officer aiming a rifle at reporter Kaitlin Rust and her crew. She was heard yelling, “I’ve been shot! I’ve been shot!” and described them as



in our coverage. We’re going to keep on telling our story and doing exactly what we’re doing.”

Suzanne Scott, CEO of Fox News Media, said in a memo on Saturday that Fox was taking all necessary security precautions to protect its journalists covering the story.

“We are truly living in unprecedented and transformative times and freedom of the press is a vital element to the foundation of our society,” Scott wrote.

On Friday, CNN correspondent Omar Jimenez and his two-person crew were arrested while covering overnight protests in Minneapolis. They were quickly released, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz apologized to CNN.

CNN’s headquarters in Atlanta was damaged later Friday by a group of protesters who also fought with police and set cars afire. While police tried to keep them away from the CNN Center, demonstrators broke windows there and scrawled obscene graffiti on the network’s logo.

Ian Smith, a photographer for KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh, said that he was attacked by protesters who stomped

pepper bullets. Louisville Police spokeswoman Jesse Halladay apologized for the incident, and said police would review the video for potential discipline.

Two Associated Press photographers have been hit by projectiles while documenting protests, one in Minneapolis on Thursday and another in Los Angeles on Friday. Neither was seriously injured.

Demonstrators surrounded the police department headquarters in Columbia, S.C. on Saturday and a scuffle broke out with someone wearing a “Make America Great Again” hat. Rocks were thrown and Miranda Parnell, a television reporters from WIS-TV, was injured and taken to the hospital, according to a tweet from network anchor Judi Gatson.

It was not clear who threw the rock that hit Parnell.

In Minneapolis on Saturday, a Swedish journalist was shot in the thigh with a rubber bullet, apparently from a police gun, while covering a protest, according to the Norwegian newspaper VG. Later Saturday night, a CNN crew said some of its members were hit with rubber bullets.

Cush Jumbo exits ‘The Good Fight’ ahead of season five

LOS ANGELES, MAY 31 (PTI): Actor Cush Jumbo will not return for the fifth season of acclaimed legal drama “The Good Fight”. The English actor played attorney Lucca Quinn on the CBS All Access show, after she starred in the parent series “The Good Wife”, fronted by Julianna Margulies.

According to Deadline, the season four storyline for Jumbo’s Quinn was cut short by three episodes due to the coronavirus-induced production shutdown.

Jumbo said although they weren’t able to wrap up her character’s graph, she would like to come back the next season to do justice to the part.

“I have had the most amazing time over the last five years working with Robert, Michelle and the crews of both ‘The Good Wife’ and ‘The Good Fight’.

“I will miss them all so much, but am so excited to explore pastures new. Due to the pandemic forcing us to shut down

early we weren’t able to wrap up Lucca’s story fully and so I hope if schedules allow I can return next season to do that,” the actor said.

Creators Robert and Michelle King also echoed Jumbo’s sentiments.

“We’ve loved every moment of working with Cush for the last five years and everyone in ‘The Good Fight’ universe will miss her terribly.

“Given the pandemic-forced premature ending of season 4, it’s our hope that Cush will be able to return when we resume filming season 5 in order to give Lucca a proper send-off,” they said.

Actor Delroy Lindo, who starred as Adrian Boseman, a name partner at Reddick, Boseman & Lockhart, also recently departed the show ahead of season five to headline “Harlem’s Kitchen”.

“The Good Fight” also saw the earlier departures of series regulars Rose Leslie, Erica Tazel and Justin Bartha.

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ARIES:
Listen to what your heart is telling you, Aries. This idea is worth investing in. Ready to take the next step? As you do, resist the urge to compare your journey with other people’s, or check in on the market trends. Stay true to the original message. Have the courage be an artist in a world of content creators. Trust that those who are meant to benefit from your work will find a way to align themselves with you.
Tip: Stay true to your message.

TAURUS:
Silencing the mind doesn’t come easy, Taurus. Like everything else, it takes practice. Today, instead of making excuses, set up a sacred space, and allow yourself to journey inwards. The thoughts will come and go. But you always have the option of becoming an observer of your emotions. If the thought of sitting in silence intimidates you, start with a guided meditation.
Tip: Inner peace is not a myth, Taurus.

GEMINI:
We tend to look at the world as ‘good and evil’ or ‘black and white’. But, what if everything exists within a spectrum? What if your side of the story is just as valid as that of the other person sitting on the table? So, instead of going into a space of judgements, practice active listening. This will not only help you gain a broader perspective, but also learn something you didn’t know in the past.
Tip: Practice active listening.

CANCER:
“I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing at all.” Socrates had the secret to life down pat. Today, you’re being asked to seek inspiration from his life and

move beyond the ego self. Trust that you will find the answer to life’s toughest questions if you approach them with the naivety and innocence of a child. Tap into the power of your imagination, Cancer. This will help you give the things you’ve been practicing on autopilot a reboot too.
Tip: A beginner’s mind could help you unravel life’s toughest questions.

LEO:
Motivational speaker Esther Hicks, who is a part of the law of attraction crew, once said, “When something really really really matters to you, let it go! Say to the universe: ‘You know what I want.’ Give it to me in the path of least resistance.” Just the wisdom you are being asked to apply to your circumstances at the moment. Your dream is not out of your reach, Leo. In fact, you are very close to manifesting what you desire—the abundance you have been working towards too. The secret to turning things around is believing that what you have asked for is already yours.
Tip: Align yourself with miracles.

VIRGO:
It’s easy to get overwhelmed given how much you have on your plate. But for today—just for today—Spirit wants you to consider the ‘less is more’ philosophy with your to-do list. Eliminate the non-essentials that are weighing you down so you can focus on what truly matters. Trust in your power to delegate and be open to receiving help in all forms. As for the finances you need for the given project, trust that they will find their way to you too. The how and the why is not for you to worry about.
Tip: Consider the ‘less is more’ philosophy.

LIBRA:
When was the last time you did something special for somebody you love without the expectation of receiving anything in return? Acts of service are a love language, Libra, and nobody understands the importance of spreading joy like you do. But don’t limit your kindness to the soul squad alone. Awaken your inner activist, philanthropist and healer. Become a flag bearer of light in a world that’s plagued by darkness. What you will learn in the process: no contribution is too small or big.
Tip: Become a flag bearer of light in a world that’s plagued by darkness.

SCORPIO:
Shedding old skin has been a constant in the Scorpio HQ. Along with the old you, you are shedding the fears and inhibitions too. What a wonderful feeling it is to meet your true self, free of the masks that keep you safe in the outside world! This metamorphosis is triggering a change in your relationships too. You’re letting go of the old judgements and looking at the world through a fresh lens. Kindness and compassion are becoming your weapons of choice. As Baba Ram Dass famously said, “Treat everyone you meet like God in drag.”
Tip: Kindness and compassion are becoming your weapons of choice.

SAGITTARIUS:
You’re in the mood to acknowledge your journey and celebrate your personal breakthroughs. The joy that comes from doing the things you were once intimidated by. Take it all in, Sagittarius. Shower yourself with words of affirmation. Let your own experiences give you the motivation you need to move forward with

wisdom and courage. This is just the beginning of the adventure. You have many, many more milestones to achieve.

Tip: Celebrate this moment of breakthrough in your journey.

CAPRICORN:
Remember the things that awakened your inherent creativity as a child and brought a smile to your face? What if the things you love are not random, Capricorn? What if they are a part of your sacred mission? Reconnect with that lost sense of wonder and let it help you draw a road map to the desired destination. Remember, it’s not your job to worry about how things will work out. Focus on your intention, your inner alignment, and leave the rest to the mysterious forces above.
Tip: Awaken to your gifts.

AQUARIUS:
The Universe is infinite in its glory. There is never a dearth of love, money or opportunities. It is our limited mentality that keeps us from experiencing abundance in its most glorious form. Once you understand this, you will find the courage and wisdom you need to move forward. Today, you’re being encouraged to step out of the self-imposed prison and claim what has always been yours.
Tip: Abundance is a state of mind.

PISCES:
Take a moment to examine your motivation behind the given action. Do you want to take the fast road to fame without getting your hands dirty? Shortcuts will only take you so far, Pisces. Spend some time meditating on your true path. Reflect upon what you want to create in this lifetime. Understanding that the magic lies in the journey will help you surrender to the hustle.
Tip: There are no shortcuts to success.