



**SHRADDHA KAPOOR & RUMOURED BOYFRIEND ROHAN SHRESHTA GO ON A BIKE RIDE TOGETHER AFTER RELIEVED LOCKDOWN RULES**  
pg 08

**FOR REAL ISSUES, LOOK BEYOND AVERAGES**

pg 04

**ANNA KENDRICK REVEALS SHE WAS 'MISERABLE' FILMING 'TWILIGHT': IT WAS LIKE A 'HOSTAGE SITUATION'**  
pg 08



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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*No fresh cases, says Health Secy*

## SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 JUN:

There was some confusion today regarding the number of COVID-19 cases in Sikkim as the Aarogya Setu app was showing that there were 13 positive cases in the State.

However, Health Secretary, Dr PT Bhutia, later clarified that 3 recovered patients have not been discharged from the isolation ward of STNM hospital as yet which is why the app was showing 13 positive cases.

The recovered patients could not be discharged because there was some problem with the ambulances that were supposed to take them home.

## Cross check before sharing news, appeals SP

### SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 10 JUN:

Superintendent of Police (CID), Sikkim Police, Tenzing Loden Lepcha, who is also the team leader for the Fact Checking Team for COVID-19 constituted in the State to check fake news, has made an appeal to the people not to believe everything that is shared on social media as news. He has asked people to verify news with media houses before sharing them with friends and family.

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

# 11,831 Sikkimese registered, 6332 returned

## ONLY PAID QUARANTINE FACILITY AFTER 18 JUNE

GANGTOK, 10 JUN (IPR):

After carrying out the herculean task of evacuating stranded Sikkimese people from various parts of the country, organised evacuation is now in its final phase.

This was informed by Secretary, Coordination (Covid-19) cum State Nodal Officer for Evacuation/Coordination, Rinzing Chewang Bhutia, and Members of the State Evacuation Cell in an interaction with State IPR Department today.

Commencing on 1st of May, 2020, the State Evacuation/Coordination Cell comprising of an efficient team of officers and staff of the State Government successfully carried out the evacuation drive.

Till date, the Evacuation Cell has received 11,831 registrations while 6,332 people have been

evacuated from different parts of the country through various means of transportation.

Very few Sikkimese people are now stranded outside the State. The number of people returning to the State everyday has come down drastically, it was informed.

From 18th June onwards, most of the free quarantine centres will be closed and those who wish to return to Sikkim will have to opt for paid quarantine facility. Only a few free quarantine centres will be operational to cater to people who cannot afford to stay in paid quarantine centres.

It was informed that the Evacuation Cell will gradually hand over the evacuation data to the Information Technology Department, Government of Sikkim, which will

maintain the data base.

It was further informed that for people who will return to the State after 18th June, scheduled bus services will be available from SNT Siliguri. From there, the buses will drop them to Rangpo and Melli Screening Centres, from where they will be sent to designated quarantine centres on their own expenses.

Secretary Coordination, Rinzing Chewang Bhutia on behalf of the State Evacuation Cell expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang and the Cabinet Ministers, for entrusting the Cell with the task of facilitating the return of Sikkimese people to their home State.

He thanked the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, S.C. Gupta for



his guidance and support throughout. He also thanked the Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House New Delhi, officials in Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri for their coordinated

efforts, and all the frontline workers, officials from State Government departments within and outside the State for their continuous service during the pandemic.

## SKM mourns passing away of two pioneering women

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 JUNE:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has conveyed heartfelt condolences on the passing away of the first woman legislator of Sikkim, Hemlata Chettri and the first woman journalist, Santosh Nirash on Wednesday.

The party also observed a two-minute silence today here at the party head-office at Tibet Road to pray for the departed souls.

Speaking to media persons here this afternoon, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, conveyed the condolence message of the SKM president, Chief Minister PS Tamang, and mentioned that both personalities have set strong examples with the struggles



and successes in their respective fields not only for the women of Sikkim but the entire Sikkimese community.

They will always remain sources of inspiration for the Sikkimese people, he said.

He mentioned that Hemlata Chettri was the first woman legislator of Sikkim and was elected

in the year 1974 from Gyalshing constituency. He added that Santosh Nirash was the editor of Hindi weekly "Zamana Sadabahar" and also the first female journalist of Sikkim and also a social worker and a philanthropic person.

He mentioned that the CM has expressed that their demise was

an irreparable loss not only to the political and social spaces, but for the entire Sikkimese society. "The CM has expressed his deep condolence towards the bereaved family members and assured that the government and the party will always stand by the bereaved family in their time of bereavement," he informed.

## Tourism Deptt working on portal for online registration of tourists

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 JUN:

The Tourism Department has proposed an amendment to the Sikkim Tourist Trade Act and its rules to monitor arrival of tourists better in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sikkim, of course, continues to be closed for tourism at present, the ban scheduled to remain in place for domestic tourists till 15 October. As things stand, the State is closed

to foreign tourist for the entire year.

Meanwhile, as per the proposed amendment, the State government is making it mandatory for all tourists to register online through an app or any other online technology which will be put in place before tourists are allowed in.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Additional Chief Secretary, Dr K Jayakumar, informed that the State government is cur-

rently developing a portal to enable digital operations for registration, renewal of licenses, permits, regulated booking and permissions to allow the entry of tourists and travelers.

Dr Jayakumar added that the lockdown has caused the hospitality sector a loss of Rs 16,530 crore and Rs 700.18 crore in transport sector.

He further said that under Sikkim Tourism Development Corpora-

tion is projected to lose Rs 4.60 crore in revenue in the current fiscal year, Rs 1.21 crore from its helicopter service alone and the remaining Rs 3.58 crore from rent and booking at Rangpo Tourist Lodge, Travel Division, Sikkim House in Salt Lake and Middleton in Kolkata and lease rent.

Sikkim has lost Rs. 1.65 crore it was expected to earn from the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

busy preparing the fields for paddy as rains have arrived, Medge said.

Talekar said the cyclone which hit Raigad coast on June 3 and passed through the Pune district proved to be a double whammy for the Dabbawalas as it destroyed houses, cattle sheds and farms.

"Many of them can not be even contacted as electricity in villages has not been restored," he added.

As in the case of labourers in other unorganised sectors, Dabbawalas are also expecting help from the government, he said.

lockdown was imposed, many of them returned to their villages in Junnar, Ambegaon, Rajgurunagar, Maval, Haveli, Mulshi and other parts of the district. Due to the sudden coming into force of lockdown, they could not even collect payments for March, and most of them exhausted their saving soon.

"It was difficult to survive in Mumbai. Therefore I returned to my village," said Raghu-nath Medge, speaking from Kadus in Rajgurunagar tehsil.

He will return only when local trains start and currently he was

## PRESS CLUB MOURNS PASSING AWAY OF VETERAN "In Maaji's passing, an era has come to a close"

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 JUNE:

Santosh Nirash, fondly known as 'Maaji', the editor of Hindi weekly "Zamana Sadabahar," and also the first female journalist of Sikkim passed away Wednesday morning at her residence in Gangtok. She was 92.

Born on 03 October, 1928, at Pind Dodan Khan, Punjab, Pakistan, Ms Nirash was a noted figure in the field of education and journalism in Sikkim.

She started her career in Sikkim as an educationist and was always involved in social work and charity. Her initial work as a journalist was featured in the news bulletin, Asian Features following which she started publishing Broader News and Views for Sikkim and then switched to her Hindi weekly, Zamana Sadabahar. Ms Nirash also contributed to radio through regular broadcasts on All India Radio, Gangtok. Through her interventions she also extended a helping hand to many helpless women and children of Sikkim. She



worked as a counselor in the family court and provided free counseling, tuitions and legal aid to the needy.

Known for her energy and passion for work, Maaji was a source of inspiration to all the journalists of state. She was one of the founding members of the Press Club of Sikkim, and was the advisor of the organization till date.

She was decorated with the number of prestigious awards like Khangchendzonga Kalam Puraskar, Sikkim Sewa Samman (Journalism), Nirman Puraskar etc. On the occasion of State Day 2018, Ms Nirash was honoured

for her outstanding contribution to the field of journalism in the state of Sikkim with the prestigious 'Kashiraj Pradhan Lifetime Journalism Award' by the government of Sikkim.

Ms Nirash was not only a journalist but also a social worker and a philanthropic person. A chapter in the history of journalism in Sikkim has come to an end. Her demise is a great loss not only for the media fraternity, but for the entire state of Sikkim.

Press Club of Sikkim has offered its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayers for the departed soul. May her soul rest in peace.

## Number of recoveries exceeds active cases for first time

NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

(PTI): The number of recovered COVID-19 patients has exceeded the total active cases in India for the first time on Wednesday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

India reported close to 10,000 new instances of the infection in the last 24 hours till Wednesday 8 am, pushing the country's cumulative caseload to over 2.7 lakh.

The country has recorded 279 new fatalities due to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 7,745.

The number of active cases in the country stands at 1,33,632, while 1,35,205 people have recovered and one patient has migrated, the minis-

try said.

"Thus, 48.99 per cent of the patients have recovered so far," an official said.

Dr Neeraj Gupta, professor in the Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi, said the data shows that more and more people are recovering which is as per global trends that 80 per cent are likely to have mild disease and make 100 per cent recovery.

"This should provide hope to the people of India at large who are having a mortal fear of the disease. But then this should not make them complacent and people should follow social distancing and sanitization

guidelines," Gupta said.

As per global evidence, 80 per cent of COVID cases are mild cases, while remaining 20 per cent may develop complications which would require hospitalisation.

Out of the hospitalized cases of COVID-19 only 5 per cent may require ICU care, an official said.

According to the ICMR, a total of 50,61,332 samples have been tested till 9 am on Wednesday, with 1,45,216 samples been tested in the last 24 hours.

India currently is the fifth worst-hit nation by the COVID-19 pandemic after the US, Brazil, Russia and the UK, according to data issued by the Johns Hopkins University.

## For Dabbawalas of Mumbai, future is uncertain

MUMBAI, JUN 10 (PTI): When lockdown was announced, the famous Dabbawalas or lunch box carriers of Mumbai returned to their villages.

Some of them had their agricultural farms to fall back on, but then came Cyclone Nisarga, which laid waste to their houses as well as crops in the fields.

Like others in the unorganised sector, they too need help from the government, said Subhash Talekar, spokesperson of the Mumbai Dabbawala Association, on Wednesday.

Dabbawalas stopped their service on March 19 after the coronavirus

scare began to spread. The government is now allowing offices and businesses in Mumbai to reopen, but there is uncertainty about when Dabbawalas would be able to resume their service.

"Our service is completely dependent on suburban trains. We cannot start our service until local trains start.

When would the train services start, in July or August? Nobody knows," Talekar told PTI.

There is also uncertainty about customers' response.

"In most buildings in the city, housing societies have banned the en-

try of even relatives. Will they allow us to enter to pick up and drop lunch boxes even though we are ready to take utmost care by wearing masks and using sanitizers?" Talekar asked.

On ordinary days, over 5,000 Dabbawalas deliver over two lakh lunch boxes to office-goers in Mumbai. They are now almost world-famous for their efficiency and punctuality; in 1998 Forbes Global magazine awarded them a Six Sigma rating.

Most Dabbawalas come from Maval area of Pune district, nestled in the Sahyadris. After

lockdown was imposed, many of them returned to their villages in Junnar, Ambegaon, Rajgurunagar, Maval, Haveli, Mulshi and other parts of the district. Due to the sudden coming into force of lockdown, they could not even collect payments for March, and most of them exhausted their saving soon.

"It was difficult to survive in Mumbai. Therefore I returned to my village," said Raghu-nath Medge, speaking from Kadus in Rajgurunagar tehsil.

He will return only when local trains start and currently he was



## Former Legislators mourn passing away of Sikkim's first woman MLA

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 JUN:**

Former Legislators' Federation of Sikkim has expressed deepest condolences on the passing away of Hemlata Chhetri, an FLFS member and Sikkim's first woman MLA, who breathed her last in Siliguri on Tuesday evening.

She was elected as a member of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in 1974, "a rare feat for Sikkimese women at that time when Sikkim had not entered the national mainstream and democracy was in its infancy," FLFS states in a press release issued today.

She entered main-

stream politics with the 1973 movement for democracy and was elected MLA from Gyalshing constituency in 1974 contesting on a Sikkim National Congress Party ticket.

FLFS remembers her as practical, thoughtful, sincere and dedicated leader who resolved the

issues of the common people with her grit and determination.

Apart from being the distinction of being the first woman MLA, she was known for her social work and sincere contribution for strengthening women and child welfare in Sikkim, the FLFS release adds.

## Transport Minister calls on Governor

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 JUN:**

Minister of Transport and Buildings Department, Sanjit Kharel called on Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhavan today.

It was a courtesy call by the Minister wherein various issues related with development and specific initiatives to be taken in near future were discussed, a press release informs.



## COVID-19 cases in Delhi cross 31,000-mark

**NEW DELHI, JUN 10**

**(PTI):** COVID-19 cases in the national capital breached the 31,000 mark on Tuesday with 1,366 fresh cases, while the death toll mounted to 905, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin.

The bulletin issued on Wednesday said there are 18,543 active cases, while 11,861 patients have either recovered, been discharged or migrated.

No health bulletin was issued on Tuesday.

According to the health bulletin, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Delhi rose to 31,309 with 1,366 fresh cases.

A total of 34 fatalities were declared on June 8, the bulletin said, adding that these lives were lost between May 28 and June 7.

It, however, said the cumulative death figure refers to fatalities where the prima-



ry cause of death was found to be COVID-19, according to a report of the Death Audit Committee on the basis of the case-sheets received from various hospitals.

Facing criticism for "under reporting" COVID-19 deaths, the Delhi government recently issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) for hospitals and other health-care facilities in the city on reporting fatalities due to coronavirus.

A total of 2,61,079 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the national capital till Tuesday, it added.

The number of COVID-19 patients under home isolation stood at 14,556. As many as 320 patients are on ventilators or in the ICU. The number of containment zones stands at 188, the department said.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday held a review meeting with officers of the Health department, DGHS, CDMOs and medical directors of Dedicated Delhi Government Hospitals for COVID-19, to review the status of COVID-19 situation in Delhi.

The Delhi government on Tuesday direct-

ed 22 private hospitals to reserve more beds for coronavirus patients, revising its earlier allocation limit.

In an official order, it directed 22 private hospitals to allocate 2,015 extra beds for coronavirus patients.

Delhi government hospitals and private facilities here were also directed on Tuesday to prominently display information about the availability of beds on a flex board at their main gates.

It came in the wake of several families, whose members may have been positive or suspected cases of COVID-19, alleging that they were turned away by various hospitals despite beds being available.

On Monday, the total number of cases stood at 29,943 with 1007 positive cases, while the number of fatalities stood at 874.

## Lockdown has created atmosphere of weariness, says Mumbai HC

**MUMBAI, JUN 10 (PTI):**

The coronavirus lockdown has created an atmosphere of weariness and exasperation, the Bombay High Court said while granting bail to a man who was arrested for allegedly attacking three policemen when they questioned him for roaming on a road at night during curfew.

Justice Bharati Dange issued the order on Tuesday while hearing the bail application filed by Karan Nair (27), an architect, who claimed he was mentally disturbed on the day of the incident last month due to per-

sonal reasons.

Nairs advocate Niranjan Mundargi refuted the police's case that the accused was carrying a chopper.

Mundargi said Nair was an architect and was carrying a tool used by architects.

According to police, Nair was found walking in the wee hours of May 8 at the Marine Drive in South Mumbai.

When a patrol team spotted him and tried to question him as to why he was outside during the lockdown, Nair charged at the policeman and tried to run away.

He was chased by police and arrested.

Three policemen - inspector Jitendra Kadam, sub-inspector Sachin Shelke and constable Sagar Shelke sustained minor injuries in the scuffle, according to police.

The court in its order noted police were under tremendous pressure to maintain law and order in view of the prohibitory orders imposed in the city, and the applicant (Nair) was apprehensive that he would be arrested and hence, tried to flee.

The pandemic situation has brought on an atmosphere of weariness and exasperation and a young person like the applicant has fallen trap, the court said in its order.

In the absence of any criminal antecedents and the fact that the accused is a young person belonging to a reputed family, escaping the court of justice is obscure, the judge noted while granting him bail.

The court granted bail to Nair on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and directed him to appear before the police station concerned as and when required.

## Unlock 1.0: Air quality witnessing a dip in Kolkata

**KOLKATA, JUN 10 (PTI):**

Air quality in the city is witnessing a dip with more vehicles on the roads since Monday when the first phase of the unwinding of lockdown restrictions began and environmentalists are worried that the situation may worsen quickly.

The air quality had improved considerably due to a halt in industrial activity and vehicular emission during the lockdown, the environmentalists said.

The uprooting of around 15,600 trees in cyclone Amphan also caused a significant loss

in green cover which will lead to higher number of particulate matters hanging heavy in air as more vehicles will ply on the roads, they said.

An official of West Bengal Pollution Control Board said on Wednesday that the average PM 10 air quality index (AQI) count was 50 at Fort William automated air monitoring station.

PM 10 stands for airborne particulates upto 10 micrometers in size.

In Ballygunge area of south Kolkata, the average PM 10 count was 46, while it was 37 at Jadavpur, the official said.

The index showed

that PM 10 stood at 31 in Bidhannagar.

The average PM 10 remained at 48 in the city on June 8 and June 9, on the first two days of the week when the city was limping back to partial normalcy, the official said.

An AQI from 0-50 is considered good but a jump from 30/24 in April and May to the reading in past three days indicates that air quality is witnessing a slight dip, the official said.

Voicing concern that air quality will gradually worsen in coming days, environmentalist Somen-dra Nath Ghosh said, "In

September, in the run up to Durga puja, even if the city partially witnesses the situation as in the past, the AQI may breach past the 150-200 mark in many parts where it is beyond 50 now. We have to chalk out a concerted actionplan."

Opening of small roadside hotels and reduced tree cover in the post-Amphan period will also cause substantial rise in the AQI, the environmentalist said.

Green activist Subhas Dutta also said the spurt in the number of vehicles plying on the roads daily is linked to a slow rise in pollution level.

## NHPC contributes Rs. 1 cr to International Solar Alliance Corpus Fund

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 JUN:**

NHPC, India's hydro-power major, which has diversified its portfolio to include Solar Power business has contributed Rs 1 crore to International Solar Alliance-Corpus Fund as part of first installment, a press release informs.

NHPC is eyeing on becoming Corporate Member of the ISA to avail the benefits of its membership.



The bank advice of contribution was presented to Director General, Upendra Tripathy, International Solar Al-

liance by Executive Director (Renewable Energy), RK Jaiswal, NHPC at New Delhi on 10 Jun, 2020. General Manag-

er (Renewable Energy), Himangshu Saha, NHPC and Senior Consultant, KS Popli, ISA were also present on the occasion.

## PTA meet at Rhenock JHS



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 10 JUN:**

Government Junior High School Rhenock Bazaar convened the 2nd phase PTA meet today while following all social distancing and sanitation norms, a press release informs.

The meeting was held with parents or guardians of students who are still not connected through WhatsApp

or any other electronic means. The meeting was held in the presence of CRC coordinator, Lizamit Lepcha from Tarpin Secondary School.

After having convinced the parents about the importance of online classes by the CRC coordinator followed by sort of counselling for them by her, some guardians came forward to help those parents who do

not have or can't afford smart phones for their children by sharing their handsets with them.

It also came to the notice that how some of the ex-students of the school, Rupa Kumari for instance, has been helping four students of the school namely Rupam Kumari (Cl VIII), Master Sandip Kumar (Cl II), Manisha Kumari (Cl III) and Master Manish Ku-

mar(VII), living in her locality in their daily studies at home for free of cost.

The effort of Samina Begum and Rupa Kumari was appreciated and applauded by all.

School Head, Sonam D Has requested all the guardians to extend support in helping the deprived children if any in their localities with phones.

## MLB players cut to 89 games, want prorated money

**NEW YORK, JUN 10 (AP):**

Baseball players moved toward teams but remained far apart economically in their latest proposal for starting the pandemic-delayed season, adamant they receive full prorated salaries while offering to cut the regular season to 89 games.

The proposal by the players' association, given to Major League Baseball electronically Tuesday evening without a negotiating session, was detailed to The Associated Press by a pair of people familiar with the negotiations. They spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcements were authorized.

MLB did not appear to view the proposal as productive but made no comment. MLB has said that absent an agreement it could go ahead with a shorter schedule of perhaps 50 games.

Players made their move one day after management cut its proposed schedule from 82 games to 76. The union proposed the regular season start July 10 and end Oct. 11 the day before a possible Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

The union accepted MLB's plan to expand the postseason from 10 teams to as many as 16. However, if management announces a schedule without an agreement, it would not be able to alter the established postseason format.

The players' plan would have the World Series end in mid-to-late November, and players said they would accept MLB's proposal to have the ability to shift postseason games to neutral sites.

Teams say they fear a

second wave of the coronavirus and do not want to extend the World Series past October. Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem told the union a 76-game schedule could not be staged unless players agreed to a deal by Wednesday.

Players continue to insist on full prorated salaries as specified in the March 26 agreement between the perpetually feuding sides. The deal gave players service time in the event no games are played this year along with a 170 million salary advance.

MLB says that because the season likely would be played in empty ballparks without fans, the absence of gate-related revenue would lead to a loss of 640,000 for each additional game played, a figure the union questions.

MLB's proposal would guarantee players 50% of prorated salaries and another 20% if the postseason is completed, and teams would fund a 50 million pool for players' postseason shares even if no or few tickets or sold.

MLB also would forgive 20% of the salary advance.

Players had been set to earn about 4 billion in salaries this year before opening day was pushed back from March 26 due to the new coronavirus, and the union's initial economic proposal on May 31 called for a 114-game schedule running through October and salaries totaling 2.8 billion. The shorter schedule in the new plan lowered the amount to about 2.2 billion.

MLB's offer Monday was for just under 1.3 bil-

lion in salaries, but only about 1 billion would be guaranteed. The rest is contingent on the post-season's completion.

Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole, the highest-paid players with 36 million salaries, would get 19,777,778 each under the union's plan. MLB's offer would guarantee each 8,723,967 with the chance to increase to 12,190,633 apiece if the postseason is completed.

A player at the 563,500 minimum would earn 309,577 under the union plan and up to 244,492 from MLB's offer. Those at 1 million about half those on current active rosters would get 549,383 under the union proposal and up to 389,496 in the MLB formula.

A 50-game schedule with prorated salaries would total just over 1.2 billion and leave Cole and Trout at 11,111,111

each.

Players proposed that 5 million from joint management-union funds be marked toward supporting non-union minor leaguers and social causes. Players would agree to participate in events such as an offseason All-Star Game and/or Home Run Derby and to broadcast enhancements such as wearing microphones during games.

The union did not accept management's offer to suspend free-agent compensation this offseason, which would eliminate the qualifying offers that cause some teams to decline to pursue players.

Players accepted MLB's proposal that high-risk players could opt out of this season while receiving salary and service time, but that other players who opt out would not receive salary or service time.

## ~ 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 Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

### LAND FOR SALE

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



## BJP Sikkim Mahila Morcha condoles

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 JUN:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Mahila Morcha has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of the first woman MLA of Sikkim, Hemlata Chettri and pioneer of journalism in Sikkim, Santosh Nirash on Wednesday. The party expressed that losing two prominent women personalities of Sikkim is an irreparable loss for the state.

## Cong mourns passing away of Santosh Nirash and Hemlata Khatiwada

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 JUNE:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has conveyed condolences on the demise of the first woman journalist of Sikkim, the editor of a Hindi newspaper, 'Jamana Sad-abahar', Santosh Nirash, and the first woman MLA from Sikkim, Hemlata Khatiwada, on Wednesday.

The party expressed that both had made substantial contributions and carved a special identity for themselves in journalism and politics in Sikkim.

## USOPC forming group to look into Olympic protests

**DENVER, JUN 10 (AP):** The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee is creating an athlete group that will look into loosening restrictions on protests at the games.

CEO Sarah Hirshland tweeted the plans for a new group, which is being formed in response to George Floyd's death last month and the worldwide protests that followed.

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn't breathe.

The USOPC put out a statement last week signaling its solidarity with black athletes, but received blowback from several athletes, most notably hammer thrower Gwen Berry, who is serving a 12-month probation for raising her fist on the medals stand at the Pan-Am Games last summer.

The USOPC has consistently cited the IOC's Rule 50, which bans inside-the-lines protests at the Olympics, as a reason for its own position barring such protests. The IOC reiterated its support of the rule earlier this year and has not given any indication about changing it.

The most famous Olympic protest came at the 1968 Mexico City Games, when sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists on the medals stand. They were sent home from the games, and were largely cast out of the U.S. Olympic family for decades. Berry pointed that out in an op-ed piece published by Around the Rings on Tuesday.

# ITBP chief calls on CM, seeks help to establish High Altitude Permanent Check Post

**GANGTOK, 10 JUN [IPR]:** IG [Eastern Frontier], Indo Tibetan Border Police, SS Mishra, called on Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] at his residence at Lumsey here in the capital today. He was accompanied by DIG ITBP Sector HQ, Gangtok, KD Dwivedi and Commandant (Staff) Sector HQ, Gangtok, AP Yadava.

During the call, IG Mishra submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister seeking his help for establishment of High Altitude Permanent Check Post and other related logistics to ITBP.



The Chief Minister assured him to clear all the blockades for the

establishment and construction of Permanent Border Checkpost in Sik-

kim. He informed that National Security is our main priority and also

## Roads & Bridges Minister visits Lachung

**LACHUNG, 10 JUN [IPR]:** Roads & Bridges Minister Samdup Lepcha today visited Lachung.

He was accompanied by the both the Pipons, Chultimpas and members of Lachung Dzumsa along with president and members of International Human Rights Commission [North District].

Under the guidance of the Minister, the Dzumsa has decided to keep the people of Lachung Dzumsa at the Khedum CRC for 14 more days after completing 14 days compulsory quarantine.

The International Human Rights Commission's North district members have also de-

cided to clean the entire CRC at Khedum and sponsor mattresses, pillows, buckets, jugs and a hose.

The Minister assured that very soon, the Khedum Chempo will have no problems reaching Khedum Monastery the connecting road to which is in poor condition. The Minister has asked the Pipons to make a proposal for its repairs at the earliest.

The Minister also showed keen interest in the tea plantation undertaken at Khedum which is a unique species of tea.

Minister assured that he will extend all



necessary help to farmers serious in their interest in tea plantation. He further suggested that Khedum be turned into a tourism hot spot with a tea garden and proper road connectivity.

For the youth, the Minister assured that a sum of Rs 10 lakh will be provided by the state Government to those

youth interested in Trout Farming.

After Khedum, the Minister visited Leema where Pipon Yankoo Tashi Lachungpa put forward the proposal for beautification of the Leema community centre which the Minister assured will be done.

The Minister also interacted with the peo-

ple of Lachung on his way to Lachung from Chungthang.

He also advised the people to wear face masks and observe social-distancing norms very strictly.

The people of Lachung offered traditional beaten cornflakes to the Minister on his way to Lachung.

While the first shift will be from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm, the second shift will be from 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm, she said.

"The manner in which the coronavirus is spreading is a matter of concern. I will request people to maintain social distancing. We will also consider people coming late to

work. We have taken the decision of introducing shifts to help people in this scenario," Banerjee said.

For the officers above the rank of deputy secretary who use official vehicles, there will be no such staggering of work hours, she said.

The order will be effective from Thursday.

Banerjee also urged private schools not to hike fees this year owing to the critical economic situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is my request to private schools not to hike school fees this year. I urge you because people do not have money in their hands," she said.

Schools in West Bengal are closed till June 30.

## Sanitation drive at Majhitar



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 JUN:

After a person residing in a quarantine centre in Majhitar, East Sikkim, tested positive on Tuesday, a sanitation drive of the entire area was started by the Doctor Safe team of Mount Dis-

tilleries Limited [MDL], a press release informs.

The drive started from Upper Majhitar on Tuesday and has reached in Lower Majhitar. Various bank premises, business establishments, along with petrol pumps have been sanitized.

## West Bengal govt announces shifts for its employees

**KOLKATA, JUN 10 (PTI):** The West Bengal government announced shifts for its employees on Wednesday to prevent crowding at workplaces and help them avoid rush-hour commuting.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the attendance of officers and staff up to the level of deputy secretary will be staggered.

While the first shift will be from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm, the second shift will be from 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm, she said.

"The manner in which the coronavirus is spreading is a matter of concern. I will request people to maintain social distancing. We will also consider people coming late to

work. We have taken the decision of introducing shifts to help people in this scenario," Banerjee said.

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## Delhi added 10,000 cases in just eight days from June 1

**NEW DELHI, JUN 10 (PTI):** With an average of 1,250 COVID-19 cases daily, Delhi added 10,000 cases in just eight days from June 1, a sharp spike from the 79 days it took to reach the 10,000 mark, analysis of data provided by the city government reveals.

The city took 13 days for the tally to progress from 10,000 to 20,000.

Delhi reported its first case on March 1, when a businessman in East Delhi was diagnosed with COVID-19 after returning from Italy.

By May 18, the na-

tional capital reported a total of 10,054 cases at an average of nearly 127 instances of the infection daily. In the next 13 days, the tally rose to 19,844, the Delhi government data shows.

The number of deaths also saw a three-fold increase -- from 160 till May 18 to 473 by May 31.

According to the Delhi government's health bulletin on Monday, the total number of COVID-19 cases reported in the national capital stood at 29,943 while 874 have died of the disease. The tally of total cases breached the

30,000 mark and the death toll rose to 905 the next day.

On June 3, the city witnessed the highest single-day spike in coronavirus cases at 1,513.

It was on May 28 when the national capital for the first time recorded more than 1,000 cases. Delhi reported over 1,000 coronavirus cases for four days in a row between May 28 and May 31.

On May 31, as many as 1,295 fresh cases were reported, while on May 30, 1,163 cases were detected. May 29 saw an

addition of 1,106 cases while on the day before, 1,024 new cases were added to the tally.

On June 1, there were 990 new cases but from June 2 onwards, the daily spike was above 1,000.

Amid the surge in cases, the Delhi government has said that current doubling rate of the infection in the city was 14 days, so by that estimation will it will see over 56,000 cases by in the next two weeks.

The cases will explode to 5.5 lakh by July-end, it said.

In an online briefing on Wednesday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Delhi will need 1.5 lakh beds in healthcare facilities by July 31 once people start coming to the city for treatment from other states.

The chief minister said of the 1.5 lakh beds, it is estimated that 80,000 will be required for Delhiites, adding that the calculation is based on numbers that show 50 per cent of the beds in hospitals in the national capital were occupied by those from other states before the coronavirus pandemic.

The cases will explode to 5.5 lakh by July-end, it said.

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The famous temple of Goddess Kali, situated on the banks of River Hooghly, was built in 1855 by Rani Rashmoni, who had appointed Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa as the main priest of the temple.

The temple committee had not opened the religious institution on June 1, the day when many other places of worship were opened as per a state government directive.

## Bengal's Dakshineswar Kali temple to reopen from June 13

**KOLKATA, JUN 10 (PTI):** The doors of the Dakshineswar Kali temple in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal will be reopened for devotees from June 13, more than two-and-half months after the religious institution was shut due to the COVID-19 outbreak, temple authorities said on Wednesday.

The temple gates will be opened for the devotees from 7 am to 10 am and 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm

every day from June 13 with certain restrictions in place, Trustee and Secretary of the temple committee, Kushal Choudhury told reporters.

The devotees will be thermally screened and sanitised before they enter the temple premises but they will not be allowed inside the sanctum sanctorum, he said.

"Devotees will maintain social distancing inside the premises and after offering puja, they

will not be allowed to loiter inside the temple compound," Choudhury said.

Only offerings of sweets and fruits will be allowed and those will have to be given to the priest from a distance of six to eight feet. Flowers and vermilion powder offerings will not be permitted, he said. "We will allow 400 devotees inside the temple compound at a time in small groups to ensure social distancing," Choudhury said.

## Possible locust threat: Telangana on high alert

**HYDERABAD, JUNE 10 (PTI):** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy on Wednesday instructed officials to be on high alert as there may be a possible attack of locusts swarms in the state.

Rao held a review meeting

here on measures to be taken to protect the state from the possible attack by the locusts, after obtaining the latest information on the location and movement of the grasshoppers.

The swarms, which had entered the country last month in three phases in

the worst invasion in years, came up to Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The insects which had come near Telangana recently were now said to beat Azmi village near Ramtek in Maharashtra, about 200 km away from the state borders, an official release said. If they travel towards

the South, they may reach Telangana within a short span of time, it said.

According to experts there is a possibility of locusts hitting the state anytime between June 20 and July 5 during which time monsoon crops season would begin in Telangana.

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### What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

#### Symptoms of nCoV

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

#### Treatment

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

#### Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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

If you seek help, you may call :

- Toll free no. 104
- District surveillance Officer
- EAST : 7029372100
- WEST : 9593297809
- NORTH : 9641957468
- SOUTH : 7407691463
- New STNM
- AMS : 9434711402

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



## For Real Issues, Look Beyond Averages

*Focusing too much on “rates” can distract from the real concerns*

Sikkim, with a population of barely over 6 lakhs, finds itself elated and despondent at frequent intervals when national report cards on economic and social indices are released. Data is invariably crunched on averages and Sikkim's small size, depending on how the data is worked, invariably delivers the State either effusive accolades or embarrassing brickbats. The projections on school dropouts in Sikkim, crime rate and even suicide numbers, when calculated on formulae worked out for national statistics end up projecting prevalence rates which appear much more distressing than they actually are. Make no mistake, all of these are worries, but probably not of the scale that the “rates” project. That is the trick that percentages and averages can play, and as many times that Sikkim has been flustered by such figures, it has also found size-skewed data provide it with reasons to celebrate. Fact is that Sikkim's entire population is little more than half the average voter strength of a Lok Sabha constituency, but it has the trappings and largesse of a State, data of percentages and averages then becomes a very unreliable yardstick to measure performances by.

To Sikkim's benefit, its size is so small that report cards in the people's eyes do not need complicated figures or bombastic claims; every change, improvement, success and failure is universally palpable and open to immediate public appraisal or ridicule. That should be the yardstick by which the politicians and executive measure performance and delivery instead of awaiting what the number might register.

Unfortunately, the obsession with statistics has infiltrated these sections as well. Some years ago, too much breath was wasted on the school dropout rates, with the Opposition parties haranguing the government about it and the ruling party and concerned department introducing their own calculations which worked down the rate to a third of what the Union Ministry was claiming. Matters had come to such a pass that the entire debate was centred around the numbers, and were no longer about the trend it recorded. When a debate on discussion gets fixated for too long on the numbers, it can end up inuring the people and the policy makers on the actual issue. In a situation where governments are now bound by law to ensure that every child is in school till the age of 14, any dropout should be considered too much. When one debates on averages and rates, the limitations of statistics for a small pool come to the fore. The dropout rate debate was about a staggeringly impossible 80+% claimed by Delhi to a dramatically lower 25% claimed by the Department and this was then reflected against the 56% national average. When so juxtaposed, the still jaw-dropping 26% dropout rate somehow becomes acceptable when presented alongside the national average of around 56%. These are old figures, and the numbers are comparatively better and much lower now, or so is being claimed. But to continue with the thought – when these numbers were released in 2009-10, the national figure related to the academic record of more than 13 crore students in class I to V. Sikkim, by comparison, was handling 82,992 students from classes I to V.

In the battle for numbers, what ends up getting sidelined is the fact that as per the HRD Department's own records, a decade ago in 2007-08, between 20 to 25 per cent of the students failed in every class between classes I to VIII. This led to dropouts and also reflected on the efficacy of the classrooms. Since then, the no failure rule has come into play, so the question that needs to be asked is whether the now less than desperate dropout rates are more because the shortcomings of the classrooms are taking longer to sink in since children are moving along from class to class? The board exam results usually attract a lot of media attention and analysis, but such consistently high failure rates in beginner classes itself had not been paid much attention to.

What are the schools imparting by way of education if starting from class-I itself, a quarter of the class manages to fail? Let's accept for now that they would fail because nothing much has improved by way of how the schools are staffed. These are the more important questions which one expects the people's representatives to raise and debate and take the Department and school managements to task for. But that is not happening. And that is because Sikkim continues to refuse to look beyond the averages to notice the real issues.

### WRITE US:

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

# How to support kids' and teens' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic

JAVEED SUKHERA  
THECONVERSATION.COM

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant amount of attention on our mental health. While organizations are compiling a wide range of online toolkits and templates, the impact of the pandemic on those with pre-existing mental health challenges seems to be missing from our collective conversation. Although all of us are feeling more vulnerable, there are members of our community who were already struggling before physical distancing restrictions were in place.

Among the most vulnerable individuals are children and youth with pre-existing mental health challenges. Before the pandemic, rates of mental illness and emergency department visits had been steadily increasing. Years of chronic underfunding have led to a fragmented system marked by excessive wait times and difficulty accessing treatment.

As the pandemic unfolded, my clinical work as an academic child and adolescent psychiatrist also changed. Some of the families I work with are doing better, yet many are experiencing more extreme and varied struggles than they were before the pandemic hit. Although the proliferation of online supports has been helpful for many individuals with mild difficulties, every young person and family is unique.

### CALM IS CONTAGIOUS

Alongside the many young people who are suffering, caregivers are also struggling. For many caregivers, trying to help our loved ones can be profoundly challenging when we feel overwhelmed and helpless. The most important thing we can do is to take care of ourselves. We have to put our oxygen masks on before we try to help others.

Although anxiety and fear can be contagious, calm is also contagious. The work of Dr. Bruce Perry, a child psychologist and trauma expert, high-



lights that caregivers can help their kids regulate by modifying the strategies they use to control their own anxiety, to enhance a sense of control, predictability and moderation.

### STRUCTURE AND SLEEP

Enhancing control, predictability and moderation at home can be addressed through balancing structure and flexibility in daily routines. Some caregivers have found it difficult to implement a routine while juggling their responsibilities.

Others have tried to implement routine but have been too rigid. Most often, I recommend a “Goldilocks” approach to structure and routine during the pandemic. Avoid extremes, be easy on yourself and keep in mind that balance is everything.

For example, if your child or teen is experiencing “sleep cycle reversal,” where they are up for most of the night and sleeping during most of the day, try to encourage small steps towards improving their routine. Dial back the time they wake up slightly instead of making drastic changes. Discourage naps during the day, encourage them to come out of their room at scheduled times or for

a specified amount of time each day.

Be flexible and take baby steps. Let them sleep in a little, and ensure that any changes are discussed, negotiated and fine-tuned to your loved one's needs.

Child and adolescent psychiatrists have published some fantastic tools that help with structure.

### WHEN EXISTING STRATEGIES DON'T WORK

Another issue for caregivers of young people with pre-existing mental health challenges is that using existing strategies to regulate anxiety may not be sufficient. The chronic stress of the pandemic can amplify existing anxiety. Many caregivers have said that tried-and-tested tools such as paced breathing are not enough.

Meanwhile young people have said they are experiencing a complex mix of emotions that they struggle to describe. They want to feel better, but when existing strategies don't seem to work, they experience a cycle of frustration, helplessness and hopelessness that leads them to feel worse.

Many approaches to addressing anxiety encourage us to try to reason with our emotions. These approaches

emphasize how we can fix our feelings through changing how we talk to ourselves. During the pandemic, however, there is a tremendous amount of uncertainty around things that are simply outside of our control. When we are confronted with major stress or trauma, trying to fix how we are feeling can sometimes make things worse.

### ACCEPTANCE-BASED STRATEGIES

When encountering stressors that are significant and persistent, I encourage the families I work with to shift to acceptance-based strategies.

Acceptance involves being aware of your present experience so that you can accept your thoughts and feelings as valid and reasonable while working to prevent them from controlling you. For caregivers, this means accepting what you cannot control and encouraging your loved one to do the same. By accepting that the emotions we are feeling are normal and valid given the circumstances, acceptance helps us to avoid falling into a spiral of self-blame.

Validating our emotions and the emotions of our kids and teens helps to prevent these emotions from taking over. When we try to ride an emotional wave, it is also natural that there will be times when these emotions may feel particularly intense or threatening. Rather than try to fight them too hard or swim against the current, we can remind ourselves that we are built for resilience, wired to survive and that with every hardship comes ease.

Although none of us knows exactly what lies ahead, whatever comes our way, we will get through it together. For any young person or caregiver who is struggling and feels like they cannot cope, please do not forget that the mental health system is still open and here for you. Please do not be afraid to reach out and ask for help.

[the writer is Associate professor, Psychiatry, Western University]

# Why violence is a hallmark of Kenyan policing. And what needs to change

DOUGLAS LUCAS KIVOI  
THECONVERSATION.COM

Kenya has a long history of policing with excessive force, often resulting in unnecessary deaths. Recently at least six people died from police violence during the first 10 days of a dusk-to-dawn curfew. Moina Spooner, from The Conversation Africa, asked Douglas Kivoi, an expert on police reform and policy, to shed light on the situation.

### WHAT CAN ACCOUNT FOR THE USE OF VIOLENCE BY KENYA'S POLICE FORCE?

The brutality exhibited by Kenya's police force is a result of a number of factors. These include its beginnings under British colonial rule, poor recruitment policies, corruption and poor accountability for police actions.

Under the British colonial government the role of the police was to protect the interests of the administration. It was not to serve the interests of the general populace.

Successive post-independence leaders used the police units to advance their own interests. For instance, Kenya's first president, Jomo Kenyatta, used the police force to suppress dissenting voices. An example of this was the Kisumu massacre in 1969 when police fired into a crowd protesting at the president's visit. At least 11 were killed and hundreds were injured.

His successor, Daniel arap Moi, used the police as a tool for repression and assassinations as well as detention and torture of his political opponents.

The main role of the police service is to prevent, control, detect and investigate crime. But in practice, its members act more like a paramilitary unit trained to deal with conflict and serious disorder. This orientation takes on a different nuance in how the police approach and treat civilians.

Another factor that contributes to violent behaviour is the recruitment process. Corruption, nepotism, tribalism and professional misconduct are all part of the process.

Apart from physical fitness, no attention is paid to their mental and emotional state. It's unclear what training they receive once recruited. To my knowledge, the training model and curriculum used to induct fresh recruits has never been made public.

The Kenyan police force is known to be one of the country's most corrupt public institutions. The corruption is not simply a problem of the lower ranks. It can be found at all levels of the police organisation. And there are reports that those who refuse to pay bribes are sometimes brutalised,



maimed or even killed.

Police corruption points to larger systemic problems caused by an absence of checks and balances and fragile institutions. This means it's hard to hold them accountable for their actions.

### WHY ARE THE POLICE OFFICERS NOT BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS?

The level of accountability within police agencies in Kenya is very low. They operate with impunity, because they know they will get away with it.

There are two major bodies mandated to ensure police accountability: the Internal Affairs Unit and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority. Both appear overwhelmed and dysfunctional.

The Internal Affairs Unit, within the police force based in Nairobi, is meant to handle complaints against officers of policing agencies. Very few Kenyans know it exists and those who do don't trust it because it's run in an opaque manner by police officers. The main allegation against it is that it covers up crimes committed by colleagues.

The Independent Policing Oversight Authority's mandate is to provide for civilian oversight over the work of the police in Kenya. It is also tasked with investigating deaths and serious injuries caused by police action, and investigating police misconduct.

The authority appears overwhelmed by the sheer number of police misconduct cases reported to its offices. Its work is further undermined by a hostile environment. Officers are sometimes subject to hostility, a lack of compliance and intimidation from senior officers. Staffing levels are also low. Though nearly a decade old, the authority has secured convictions for fewer than 10 cases, despite receiving more than 9,200 complaints.

Finally, police are able to get away with violence because there's also a lack of political will to press for accountability.

What types of reform are needed and why haven't they happened sooner?

Several reforms need to take place.

Policing falls under the National Police Service Commission. But police salaries are still processed

by the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, which falls under the office of the president. This link means the national police service is not truly independent. Police salaries should be prepared by the commission itself since it is the one that recruits and manages personnel within the police service. Otherwise, their loyalties lie elsewhere.

The way officers are recruited must also change and be made more transparent. Individuals must be properly vetted by the National Intelligence Services. For instance, any criminal records must be scrutinised. The vetting of police officers should also be a continuous exercise to weed out rogue elements.

There must be more emphasis on their training. This should include the development of a policing policy which would cover, among other things, how the police should interact with communities. No such policy exists.

And more must be done to investigate suspicious deaths and hold those responsible accountable.

There is also a gap in the investigation of violent, sudden and suspicious deaths at the hands of the police. A law passed two years ago allowed for the creation of a National Coroners Office. This was meant to provide complementary forensic medical science services to police investigations. But it has yet to be established.

In addition, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations lacks modern forensic tools to solve crimes.

The Internal Affairs Unit needs to be decentralised to local police stations and their investigations should be made more public.

Police officers are yet to see misconduct by their colleagues as being detrimental to their own work. This, coupled with other external factors like lack of political will and the rudimentary recruitment process, makes the much hyped reforms a mirage.

[the writer is Principal Policy Analyst, Governance Department, The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPR)]



## TMC leader shot dead in Bengal

**KOLKATA, JUN 10 (PTI):** A local leader of the ruling Trinamool Congress was shot dead by unidentified persons in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Wednesday, police said.

The incident happened when 56-year-old Amir Ali Khan was out for morning walk in Basanti area of the district, a police officer said.

Three others were also injured when the assailants hurled crude bombs while escaping from the scene, he said.

The attack is suspected to be a result of a factional feud within the ruling TMC,

police sources said.

Trouble has been brewing over the TMC's youth wing and the main party vying to control the area, they said.

After the incident, several locals ransacked the house of a youth TMC leader.

Police has recovered several crude bombs from the ransacked house, the sources said.

The local TMC leadership has denied any involvement in the incident and dismissed allegations of a factional feud, squarely blaming the opposition parties for the attack.

## Two firefighters die in gas well blowout blaze in Assam

**DIBRUGARH/GUWAHATI, JUN 10 (PTI):** PSU major Oil India on Wednesday said two of its firefighters died at the site of a major blaze at its Baghjan well, which has been spewing gas uncontrollably for the last 15 days in Assam's Tinsukia district.

The two firefighters had gone missing after the well caught fire on Tuesday and their bodies were recovered by an NDRF team this morning, Oil India Spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika told PTI.

"Their bodies were recovered from a wetland near the site. Prima

facie it looks that they jumped into the water and got drowned as there is no mark of burn injury. The exact cause will be ascertained only after a post mortem," he said.

The duo has been identified as Durlov Gogoi and Tikeswar Gohain, both assistant operators of the fire service department of the company, the official said.

A firefighter of the state-owned ONGC suffered minor injuries during efforts to control the blaze, which Oil India said could take as long as four weeks to be put out.

## Fresh case of COVID-19 in Nagaland, total rises to 128

**KOHIMA, JUN 10 (PTI):** A person tested positive for COVID-19 in Nagaland on Wednesday, taking the total number of cases in the state to 128, Health Minister S Pangnyu Phom said.

Four patients also recovered during the day, bringing down the number of active cases to 114, officials said.

Of the 273 samples tested in the last 24 hours, one was found to be positive, Phom said, adding that the new patient was lodged at the Kohima quarantine centre.

State Nodal Officer

for Integrated Disease Surveillance Program Nyan Kikon said that four patients undergoing treatment at the Dimapur district COVID-19 hospital have recovered.

All the cases were detected among those who returned to the state from other parts of the country, he said.

Dimapur has recorded the highest number of cases at 100, and of them, 12 have recovered. Kohima reported 22 cases and two people have recovered, Tuensang has five cases and one case was detected in Peren district.

## 42 fresh COVID-19 cases in Assam; count rises to 3,092

**GUWAHATI, JUN 10 (PTI):** Forty-two fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in Assam on Wednesday, taking the state's tally to 3,092, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Nineteen of these cases were reported in Nagaon, 16 in Kokrajhar, four in Lakhimpur, two in Jorhat and one in Dhemajji, he said.

Assam breached the 3,000-mark late on Tuesday night after 215 people tested positive for COVID-19.

Also, a record 313 people recovered from the disease on Tuesday.

Out of the total 3,092 cases, 1,987 are active and 1,097 people have recovered. While five patients have died, three migrated out of the state.

Assam has witnessed a surge in COVID-19 cases after interstate travel resumed on May 4. The state's tally has grown by more than 3,000 since then.

There were only 42 COVID-19 cases in the state on May 4. The number crossed the 100-mark on May 17 and the 500-mark on May 25.

The number of cases crossed the 1,000-mark on May 29 and the 2,000-mark

# AIIMS nurses body calls off strike

**NEW DELHI, JUN 9 (PTI):** The AIIMS Nurses' Union called off their nine-day protest over poor working conditions amid the COVID-19 crisis on Tuesday, stating that the administration has agreed to most of their demands.

Several healthcare workers at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have been infected by the disease with around 50 of them being nursing staff, sources said.

The nurses' body had put forth a number of demands, including implementation of a uniform four-hour shift with personal protective equipment (PPE) in COVID-19 areas of the hospital, a uniform rotation policy between COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 areas, and establishment of proper donning and doffing area.

They had also warned off an indefinite strike from June 15 if their demands were not met.

According to the minutes of the meeting chaired by the Director, AIIMS on Tuesday, it has been decided that six-hour shifts shall be maintained in the COVID-19 area, which would include the time for donning/doffing of PPE and handover/takeover in the wards by the nursing personnel.

It was also decided to provide appropriate breaks and that 25 per cent of the nursing staff deployed in the COVID-19 area shall be rotated to the non-COVID-19 areas every two weeks.

"It was also accepted that given the daily increase in patient load, there may come a

time when a large part of the entire institute will have to be converted into a COVID-19 hospital and deployment of nursing as well as other staff will have to be increased as would the working hours to meet the challenge.

"It was also agreed that given the working conditions in the COVID-19 areas, efforts should be made to further improve upon them through appropriate framing of duty roster, providing basic amenities etc," the minutes of the meeting read.

It has also been decided that additional 100 nursing personnel will be provided to the AIIMS Trauma Centre which is a dedicated COVID-19 hospital to cope with the patient care.

The process of allotment of temporary ac-

commodation for staff on COVID-19 duty in the Powergrid Vishram Sadan shall be simplified and the transport section shall make arrangements of a vehicle-on-call from 11 pm to 6 am for nursing staff for movement between the main hospital and The Powergrid Vishram Sadan, the minutes said.

The AIIMS Trauma Centre and other COVID-19 areas shall make necessary arrangements of drinking water, electrolyte etc in the donning and doffing areas.

Besides the Hospital Infection Control Committee will also examine all the donning and doffing areas of the institute and recommend appropriate action for strengthening them, keeping in view increasing work load and appropriate infection control.

## After a month, A&N reports two fresh covid cases

**PORT BLAIR, JUN 10 (PTI):** A month after staying infection-free, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has reported two fresh coronavirus positive cases, both flying back here from outside, health officials said on Wednesday.

One male passenger flying back home from Chennai on June 7 tested positive, while a female arriving from Delhi on the same date was found infected, Deputy Director of Health department, Avijeet Roy, said.

Both of them are undergoing treatment in separate hospitals here, Roy, who is nodal officer for coronavirus of the Union Territory, told PTI.

He said the woman testing positive is wife of a defence staff posted in Andaman. She is a housewife and had got stuck in the national capital during lockdown and flew back to Port Blair on June 7 by an Indigo flight, he added.

The second patient, a native of Prathapur in Port Blair, came in a plane from Chennai on the same date, Roy said.

The family members of the two have been put under home quarantine, he said.

The Prathapur colony of the Chennai returnee has been sealed and samples of around 50 persons who had come in his contact have

been sent for test, the officer said.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands had stayed free of infections for past one month when all the 33 patients had tested negative after recovery by May 10.

Of the 572 islands in Andaman and Nicobar, 37 are inhabited.

Novel coronavirus had knocked on the door of the archipelago when nine persons, who returned from Delhi's Tablighi Jamaat event mid-March, were found to have contracted the disease in late March, Director General of Police Deependra Pathak had said recently.

They were immedi-

ately separated to check spread of infections.

The first wave of infections with the arrival of the Jamaatis was managed well, but unfortunately two others who had gone to Chennai tested positive for the virus on return, he said.

They, in turn, infected several others, raising the count in the Union Territory to 33, he added.

Rigorous containment exercise helped prevent spread of the virus in the island and all the previous cases were cured and patients went back homes.

Detection of two fresh cases has send the administration in alert mode.

## Goa govt allows people to skip COVID-19 test on arrival

**PANAJI, JUN 10 (PTI):** Starting Thursday, those entering Goa will have the option of skipping the COVID-19 test, provided no symptoms were found in them during the screening at the entry points, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Wednesday.

However, those who choose not to undergo the test will have to remain home-quarantined for 14 days, he said.

Sawant said the government has brought a change in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to execute this new plan considering the strain on the testing facilities in Goa in view of the rising number of people arriving in the state.

"As per the change in the SOP, people will be allowed to enter the state without having to undergo the COVID-19 test. Those not found carrying any COVID-19 symptoms will have this option. It will come into effect from June 11. However, it is mandatory for those who choose to skip this test to observe 14-day home

quarantine along with the family members," he said.

"Those who decide to undergo COVID-19 test on their arrival in Goa will have to remain under institutional quarantine till their test results are declared," the CM said.

People can carry the medical certificate of being COVID-19 negative from any ICMR-affiliated laboratory, which should be issued less than 48 hours before their arrival, Sawant said.

"Everyone entering the state will have to go through thermal scanner check, and if found symptomatic, that person will be taken to a quarantine facility, where test would be conducted," he said.

"The change in SOP has been brought as the testing facilities are getting stressed due to increasing number of people arriving in the state," he said.

On the status of the COVID-19 patients in Goa, the chief minister said that so far, 359 pos-



itive cases were found in the state, of which 67 have recovered.

"We have 292 cases, which are active, of which only 21 are symptomatic. None of the patients had to be put on ventilator," he added.

Sawant said that except for three patients, all others are natives of Goa.

"Of the total cases, 194 were from Vasco's Mangor Hill area, which has been declared as a containment zone," he added.

The chief minister said that eleven health workers who were working to curb the spread of COVID-19

## Rajya Sabha candidates clear scrutiny in Mizoram

**AIZAWL, JUN 10 (PTI):** Nomination papers filed by all the three candidates for election to the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Mizoram were found to be valid in the scrutiny held on Wednesday, an official said.

Candidate of the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) is K. Vanlalvena, while Zoram Peoples Movement (ZPM) has fielded B Lalthanzova and the Congress nominee is Dr. Lallianchunga.

Assembly commissioner and secretary H Lalrinawma, who is also the returning officer told PTI, the Election Commission and the state chief electoral officer have been informed that all papers were found valid in the scrutiny.

Meanwhile, preparations are on for the Rajya Sabha election on June 19, he said.

"In view of COVID-19, we have prepared standard operating proce-

dures (SOP) for the election and have sent the same to the ECI. Polling will be held under strict social distancing norms and thermal scanners will be used," the returning officer said. A medical team will be deployed and an isolation room has been set up at the assembly secretariat in case of members having fever during polling.

Counting of votes will be held from 5 pm on June 19, he said.

*We never ask for revenge, we ask for equality and respect: Bravo on racism*



**KINGSTON, JUN 10 (PTI):** "Enough is enough", said West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo as he opened up on the raging issue of racism and called for "respect and equality" for black people, who have faced discrimination for years.

Bravo joined the likes of his former captain Darren Sammy and Chris Gayle in denouncing racism in the wake of African-American George Floyd's killing at the hands of a white police officer in the USA.

"It's sad to see what's going on around the world. As a black man, we know the history of what black people have been through. We never ask for revenge, we ask for equality and respect. That's it," Bravo told former Zimbabwe cricketer Pommie Mbangwa in an Instagram live chat on Tuesday.

"We give respect to others. Why is it that we are facing this over and over? Now enough is enough. We just want equality. We don't want revenge, war."

"We just want respect. We share love and appreciate people for who they are. That's what is most important."

The 36-year-old, who has played 40 Tests, 164 ODIs and 71 T20Is

for West Indies, said he wants the world to know that they are powerful and beautiful people and gave the example of greats such as Nelson Mandela, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan.

"I just want our brothers and sisters to know that we are powerful and beautiful. And at the end of the day, you look at some of the greats of the world, whether it is Nelson Mandela, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan we have had leaders who paved the way for us," he said.

Two-time T20 World Cup-winning captain Sammy had earlier alleged that a racist nickname was used to address him during his IPL stint with Sunrisers Hyderabad and demanded an apology.

Sammy said he was called 'Kalu' while he was in India. 'Kalu' is a derogatory word to describe black people.

Gayle, who too plays in the IPL, took to Twitter to back Sammy, saying that racism does exist in cricket.

"It's never too late to fight for the right cause or what you've experienced over the years! So much more to your story, @darensammy88. Like I said, it's in the game!!" Gayle tweeted.

## Elderly migrant found dead in Odisha's quarantine centre

**BHADRAK (ODISHA), JUN 10 (PTI):** An elderly migrant lodged in a quarantine centre in Odisha's Bhadrak district was found dead on Wednesday morning, an official said.

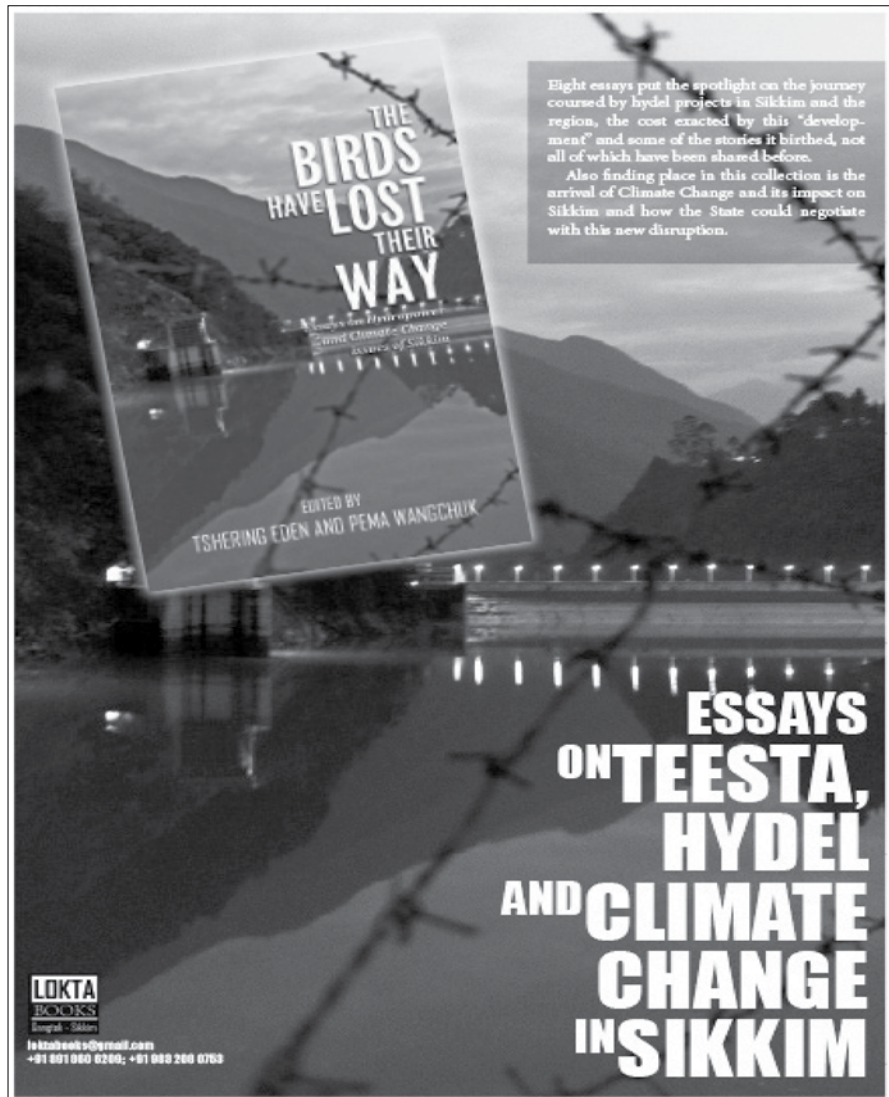
The deceased, identified as 65-year-old Radhashyam Pani of Korkora gram panchayat, had returned from Kolkata on Tuesday, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Bhadrak Shyama Bhakta Mishra said.

The man who was staying in a temporary quarantine centre of the village was found dead in his room, he said.

The swab samples of the man was supposed to be sent for COVID-19 test on Wednesday, the ADM said.

The exact reason for his death was not immediately known.

Family members said, the man had diabetes and age-related health problems.





# La Liga restart preview: silent Seville derby kicks off Spain's new normal

SID LOWE  
MADRID, 10 JUN [THEGUARDIAN]: There will be no smoke engulfing the doorway of the hotel Lebreros and no crowd of supporters, squashed in and shouting, waiting for the players to walk through them like gladiators into the ring. No fireworks as the bus edges its way through the flares to the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán, one of the noisiest stadiums in Spain on its noisiest night.

There will be no bus at all unless one of the managers decides to park one. There will not be thousands of fans at training or any at the match but at least there will be a match, football returning behind closed doors after 93 days in limbo.

“Playing without fans is as sad as dancing with your sister,” the Spain manager, Luis Enrique, said. Everyone knows that by now but there may be no fixture that brings it home quite like this. It will have to be brought home: watching live will be barely two hundred people.

La Liga returns on Thursday with the Seville derby, the city's first game since Betis beat Real Madrid 4km away and a lifetime ago. It is the first of 110 matches in which everything is still in play – the title, Europe, relegation – and it is some way to begin, a celebration. Back with a bang. Or without one.

The last time Sevilla and Betis met, Sergio Reguilón declared: “I’m blown away; this is wild”; the last time they met at the Sánchez Pizjuán a huge banner read “Seville is passion”. It was Easter and it was the derby – two events postponed amid the pandemic. They have missed it but this game – like all the others – will be missing something. If any game is defined by atmosphere, noise, the people, it is this one and there



will be none of that.

Being here at all is a victory, though; it may even be football's salvation. To return is to win, says the slogan La Liga has used once it was clear that it would. The president, Javier Tebas, had warned of the dire consequences of not doing so. The pandemic has hit hard anyway but completing the season, even without fans, protects the TV income clubs depend on. The league's calculations predicted a €350m loss by doing it this way; had the season been abandoned the figure was just short of €1bn. This, Tebas repeated, is an industry that accounts for 1.37% of Spain's GDP and indirectly employs 800,000 people, one that needed to be protected.

That point was impressed on people in power and the resumption, which comes earlier than some had anticipated, is Tebas' success above all. In the opening days of the crisis, familiar fights between the federation and the league meant few were optimistic but he has been bullish and energetic.

An eight-hour meeting called by Irene Lozano, the secretary of state for sport, and attended by Tebas and the president of the federation, Luis Rubiales, brought progress in mid-April. Tebas promised economic support – €50m shared between the state's sporting body

and the RFEF – and got a commitment from the government to help bring back the league.

From there momentum gathered, Tebas's determination dragging everyone to this point. There was a single voice from the league and it belonged to him. In the final month it has been heard on TV each Sunday night, almost like he was addressing the nation, which in a way he was. There was a unity of purpose, a clarity, that made the contrast to the Premier League striking.

Detailed protocols were drawn up for the return to training and then to matches, always dependent on the support of the health ministry. A green light to carry out tests was the start of a process that brought training back and brings us here, while the government's parallel plan for the relaxing of the lockdown fits with the football.

The league gained concessions, too. Although the state's sporting body, the CSD, blocked Real Sociedad's attempts to get back to training early, its protocols pushed for the return of professional sport. It was going further than the league had, although without the league it might not have gone far at all. The league's protocols for training and matches proved more flexible and less strict than initially planned and the pro-

cess accelerated. Players were not forced into training-camp accommodation, for example, and clubs went into full training together, regardless of which phase of the lockdown their region was in.

And then on 23 May, the prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, gave permission for football to return from 8 June. It was time, he said, to get the “ball rolling”. Although some supporters' groups have protested against the restart, declaring this is just business not football for as long as they are locked out, most are pleased. Likewise the few fears made public by players have been largely allayed. And if the first, surreal training sessions were like “being in a movie”, as the Sevilla striker Luuk de Jong put it, everything now feels more natural.

Beyond football, life is too, the contagion curve is heading sharply downwards and Spain has reached days without deaths. The game's return helps hasten and deepen a sense of cautious recovery.

Without fans it may not feel entirely normal but TV coverage will offer the option of crowd noise and computer-generated images of supporters in the stands. Supporters in the flesh may even follow and far sooner than expected. Tebas had warned clubs not to expect to have fans in stadiums until after Christmas

but the Las Palmas president last week suggested that clubs in provinces now in Phase III of the de-escalation could seek permission from regional health authorities to let in fans. The CSD said no, citing the integrity of the competition, but Tebas supports the plan, even if only some clubs can take advantage. Even some journalists will be allowed in: six per game, for now.

On the pitch there is everything to play for and the whole thing will be done quickly. There are 11 rounds in five weeks, games every day for almost 40 days. Barcelona are two points ahead of Real Madrid. There are only five points between third and sixth (Sevilla, Real Sociedad, Getafe, Valencia). Below that, at least three more teams have European ambitions. And there could be as many as eight, maybe more, concerned about relegation.

Nothing is certain. How will teams react to the break? How will they cope with the compressed schedule? To playing without fans? To playing away from home, in the case of Levante and Real who have moved out to allow for building works on their grounds? Will five subs change things? Will the heat? What will it mean for Luis Suárez and Eden Hazard to get an unexpected second chance after injury? How, above all, will it feel? Thursday will provide the first glimpse, a day earlier than announced, and there could be no bigger test of what's being called the “new normality”.

“Sadly, I won't be able to live the madness that everyone has told me about,” Reguilón has said. “I'll miss that atmosphere in the team hotel, in the stadium, the chance to live this day with our fans. But despite it all, I'm sure they'll support us from their homes, like they always do.”

## Roger Federer will miss the rest of 2020 after further knee surgery

LONDON, 10 JUN [PA MEDIA]: Roger Federer has ruled out a return to tennis until next year after revealing he has undergone further surgery on his right knee.

Federer, who will be 39 in August, has not played since his Australian Open semi-final defeat to Novak Djokovic in January and had his first bout of surgery the following month. The tennis season is under lockdown owing to the coronavirus pandemic and Federer has written off returning until the new year.

In a message on his social media channels Federer wrote: “A few weeks ago, having experienced a setback during my initial rehabilitation, I had to have an additional quick arthroscopic procedure on my right knee.

“Now, much like I did leading up to the 2017 season, I plan to take



the necessary time to be 100% ready to play at my highest level. I will be missing my fans and the tour dearly but I will look forward to seeing everyone back on tour at the start of the 2021 season.”

Federer's decision mirrors the premature ending of his season because of the same injury in 2016, returning to win two more grand-slam titles the following year.

The ATP Tour is shut down until at least the end of July, with the US Open and

French Open set for a hectic back-to-back schedule in August and September.

Federer's absence is another blow to the sport, with Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal having cast doubt on the wisdom of staging the US Open during the health crisis.

Djokovic this week called the quarantine restrictions for New York “quite extreme” and intimated he could delay his return until Paris the following month.

### When Finch sought advice from umpire Gough to break Kohli-Rohit stand

LONDON, JUN 10 (PTI): At its best, the Virat Kohli-Rohit Sharma combo can make any opposition look ordinary and on one such occasion, the desperate rival skipper, Australia's Aaron Finch, ended up turning to the umpire for advice on how to get the two out.

The umpire in question was Englishman Michael Gough and he

recalled telling Finch, “you're on your own.”

The 40-year-old Gough, who has so far officiated in 62 ODIs including the two recent India-Australia bilateral ODI series in 2019 and 2020, recalled a conversation that he had with Finch while the Indian run-machines went about their business with ease.

### Shakur Stevenson stops Caraballo in boxing's return to Vegas

LAS VEGAS, JUN 10 (AP): Shakur Stevenson ended the most unusual week of his boxing life with his usual dominance in another victory. Stevenson stopped Felix Caraballo with a body-punch knockdown in the sixth round Tuesday night in the first major boxing event held in North America since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Stevenson (14-0, 8 KOs), the WBO featherweight champion, trained and lived in isolation in the days leading up to the fight. He still put on an impressive show in his non-title bout against the Puerto Rican veteran, capping the sport's return to the world's fight capital in a fan-free room at the MGM Grand casino complex's conference center.

It's a different atmosphere,” Stevenson said.

Losing the weight was different. Training in general was different. Fighting without a crowd, I was catching him with mean shots and you don't hear no no 'Ooohs' or 'Aaahs.'”

After a three-month break in major boxing competition, Top Rank led the sport back into action with five fights on ESPN. Although pretty much every bout was a mismatch, the favorites still provided entertaining performances for the sport's starved audience.

Stevenson knocked Caraballo to one knee in the first round, and the U.S. Olympic silver medalist's brutally accurate power continued to hurt Caraballo. Stevenson injured his left hand in the fifth round, but he finished the fight with precision midway through the sixth, opening up Caraballo's defenses with a right hand to the side before putting a left

directly into Caraballo's solar plexus, crumpling the challenger.

My mindset was focused on getting him out of there, Stevenson said.

I hit him with everything I could early. I wobbled him a bunch of times. He took a lot of punishment, and I started realizing that head shots weren't going to get him out of here. So I started going to the body more.

Stevenson, who turns 23 years old later this month, and heavyweight Jared Anderson both wore T-shirts reading Black Lives Matter in the ring. Stevenson also walked out to Changes, the Grammy-nominated anthem of social change written by Tupac Shakur, after whom the boxer is named.

My people right now, they're protesting and there's a lot going on in our community, a lot of people trying to stand up for what's right, Stevenson said.

I couldn't really go out there and protest with them because I had a fight coming up and I didn't want to risk catching corona. Now that the fight is over, I'll go out there and protest. Mask up, gloved up, I'll go out there and help my people out. Mikaela Mayer was scheduled for a showcase in the co-main event, but the U.S. Olympian was pulled from her scheduled fight with Helen Joseph on Sunday when she tested positive for COVID-19. Mayer is asymptomatic, but she remained in quarantine and her positive test forced Stevenson to fight without coach Kay Koroma, who works with both fighters due to their shared Olympic background. Koroma's COVID-19 tests are negative, but

“I remember a match between India and Australia, and Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were putting on a huge partnership,” Gough told Wisden Cricket Monthly.

“I was stood next to Aaron Finch at square-leg and he said to me, during the game, how it was unbelievable to watch these two great players.

he stayed away in accordance with the health protocols set up for the return of combat sports in Nevada. Koroma also was scheduled to work in the corner of the 20-year-old Anderson, who easily improved to 4-0 with a stoppage of Johnny Langston in the penultimate bout.

Top Rank's precautions also included no face-offs at the weigh-in, ample social distancing for everyone from judges to the ring announcer, and masks on nearly everyone involved.

The card opened with an impressive victory for Robeisy Ram rez, the Cuban two-time Olympic gold medalist. In his fourth pro fight, Ram rez (3-1, 3 KOs) dropped Dominican opponent Yhuri Andujar twice in the first 48 seconds.

Ram rez is the last man to beat Stevenson, winning a decision over the then-teenager in the Rio bantamweight final in August 2016. Ramirez defected from the Cuban team in July 2018 and signed with Top Rank, and he has rebounded from a surprising split-decision loss in his pro debut last year with three straight stoppages.

Ram rez said he intends to get a professional fight with Stevenson, but he doesn't expect it to happen immediately, given Stevenson's two-year head start on him in the pro game. Italian heavyweight Guido Vianello stopped Donald Haynesworth with 44 seconds left in the first round after a one-punch knockdown. Haynesworth had a 65-pound weight advantage on Vianello (7-0, 7 KOs), a Rio Olympic super heavyweight, but got up shakily after Vianello flattened him with a chopping right hand to the balance center behind the ear.

## Novak Djokovic considers missing US Open due to 'extreme' restrictions

LONDON, 10 JUN [AP]: World No 1 Novak Djokovic is thinking of skipping the US Open – if it is played – and instead returning to competition on clay ahead of the rescheduled French Open.

Speaking to Serbia's state broadcaster RTS on Tuesday, Djokovic said the restrictions that would be in place for the Grand Slam tournament in New York because of the coronavirus pandemic would be “extreme” and not “sustainable.”

World No 1 Novak Djokovic is thinking of skipping the US Open – if it is played – and instead returning to competition on clay ahead of the rescheduled French Open.

Speaking to Serbia's state broadcaster RTS on Tuesday, Djokovic said the restrictions that would be in place for the Grand Slam tournament in New York because of the coronavirus pandemic would be “extreme” and not “sustainable.”

## 'Nobody will leave the island': Abu Dhabi to host UFC's Fight Island

LONDON, 10 JUN [AP]: UFC chief Dana White has confirmed the mixed martial arts promotion's Fight Island will be located in Abu Dhabi and will host four events next month including UFC 251.

White said in April the UFC was close to securing a private island to stage bouts for international fighters unable to enter the United States due to travel restrictions amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said Yas Island was being prepared to host UFC 251 on 11 July and three Fight Night events – on 15, 18 and 25 July – with all the infrastructure needed being set up at the venue which is less than a mile from the international airport. “Everything will happen on the island,” White

said on the UFC's Facebook page. “Nobody will leave the island. They're going to have their own private training quarters where people can train themselves.

“We really do have an Octagon [for training] out in the sand. The infrastructure's going to be unbelievable. The people in Abu Dhabi do everything right.”

The three championship fights in UFC 251 will be headlined by the welterweight bout between challenger Gilbert Burns and champion Kamaru Usman.

A huge safety zone featuring the arena, hotel, training facilities, and dining establishments open only to fighters, coaches, UFC and hotel staff will be enforced on the island to ensure the event

complies with public health guidelines.

“We came up with the idea of having fights on Fight Island because we needed a destination to hold international events during the global pandemic,” White said.

“Abu Dhabi has been an amazing location to hold fights over the past 10 years and it is the perfect place for these events.

“The infrastructure we are building will be such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the fighters that's never been done before – from the arena, the private training facility, and the Octagon on the island – it's going to be an experience that none of us will ever forget.”

The UFC postponed several events scheduled between March and May



due to the coronavirus outbreak, which has killed over 110,800 people in the US.

The promotion resumed action without fans present on 9 May in Florida.



*WHO takes U-turn on asymptomatic transmission of coronavirus 'very rare' statement*

I was responding to a question at the press conference. I wasn't stating a policy of WHO or anything like that. I was just trying to articulate what we know," epidemiologist Kerkhove said

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday took a U turn on its statement that asymptomatic transmission of coronavirus is very rare, after it drew flak from scientists and social media all across the world.

Maria Van Kerkhove, an infectious disease epidemiologist and the technical lead on covid-19, WHO Health Emergencies Programme had said in a press conference in Geneva on Monday that it seems to be very rare that an asymptomatic person actually transmits onward to a secondary individual. Kerkhove continued her claim on twitter on Tuesday that too attracted criticism.

In order to clarify the issue, the apex global health agency on Tuesday organized a live question and answer (Q&A) session streamed on social media platforms where the WHO official retracted her claim. "I was responding to a question at the press conference. I wasn't stating a policy of WHO or anything like that. I was just trying to articulate what we know," Kerkhove said. "And in that, I used the phrase 'very rare,' and I think that that's misunderstanding to state that asymptomatic transmission globally is very rare. I was referring to a small subset of studies," she added.

In order to further clarify her comments, Kerkhove went on saying that studies show that about 16% of the population may be asymptomatic and some models developed by other scientists suggest as much as 40% of global transmission may be due to asymptomatic individuals. "Some estimates of around 40% of transmission may be due to asymptomatic, but those are from models, so I didn't include that in my answer yesterday, but wanted to make sure that I covered that here," Kerkhove maintained.

Calling asymptomatic spread of the coronavirus by asymptomatic individuals as a "big open question," Dr Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's emergencies program, said after Kerkhove further clarified that majority of transmission is from people who have symptoms and are spreading it through infectious droplets but there is a subset of people who don't develop symptoms. She added that to truly understand how many people don't have symptoms, we don't actually have that answer yet.

The WHO in the guidance note issued on June 5, said that there is also the possibility of transmission from people who are infected and shedding virus but have not yet developed symptoms; this is called pre-symptomatic transmission. The incubation period for covid-19, which is the time between exposure to the virus and symptom onset, is on average 5-6 days, but can be as long as 14 days.

# Defense: Harvard professor charged in China case is 'victim'

**WASHINGTON, JUN 10 (AP):** A Harvard University professor accused of lying about his ties to a Chinese-run recruitment program is the victim in the case, not the perpetrator," his lawyer said Tuesday, after authorities announced his indictment on charges of making false statements.

Charles Lieber, the former chair of the department of chemistry and chemical biology, was arrested in January on allegations that he hid his involvement in China's Thousand Talents Plan, a program designed to recruit people with knowledge of foreign technology and intellectual property to China.

Lieber has been indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts of making false

statements to authorities a charge that calls for up to five years in prison if he's convicted, authorities said. Prosecutors say he will be arraigned in federal court at a later date.

Lieber's lawyer, Marc Mukasey, said in an email that the government has this wrong. The attorney said Lieber has dedicated his life to science and his students.

He is the victim in this case, not the perpetrator, Mukasey said. But he's also a fighter he always has been so we're not taking this lying down. We're fighting back. And when justice is done, Charlie's good name will be restored and the scientific community again will be able to benefit from his in-

tellect and passion."

Authorities say Lieber, 61, was paid 50,000 a month by the Wuhan University of Technology in China under his Thousand Talents Program contract and awarded more than 1.5 million to establish a research lab at the Chinese university.

In exchange, prosecutors say, Lieber agreed to apply for patents and do other work on behalf of the Chinese university.

Authorities say Lieber lied about ties to the program and the university, telling federal authorities that he was never asked to participate in the Thousand Talents Plan. When the National Institutes of Health questioned Harvard about Lieber, the professor caused the school to falsely report that Lieber



is not and has never been a participant in China's Thousand Talents Plan, prosecutors said.

Harvard said in January that Lieber had been placed on administrative leave.

## Facing electoral headwinds, Trump brings back 2016 team

**NEW YORK, JUN 10 (AP):** As anyone who has ever heard him speak knows, President Donald Trump loves to relive 2016.

He recycles old attack lines once aimed at Hillary Clinton. He recounts the drama of election night, complete with impersonations of stunned news anchors putting state after state (Pennsylvania! Wisconsin!) in the Republican's column. And at other times, in private calls from the White House residence, he reminisces about the camaraderie of those days, turning nostalgic as he remembers being surrounded by a rag-tag team of campaign staffers as his private plane flew from one distant city to another.

Now, Trump is getting the band back together again.

The president in recent days has signed off on hiring a number of his 2016 veterans for his 2020 campaign, a re-enlistment of loyalists that follows the return of other members of his original team to the West Wing. A creature of habit who demands loyalty and trusts few, Trump has moved to recreate the magic of his original team five months before he faces voters again.

But 2020 is not 2016. And Trump's advisers are increasingly worried about the state of the campaign as the president faces multiple crises, from the health and economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic

to the mass protests that have swept across the nation.

It's fantastic to have the 2016 group back together, but the facts are the facts. He barely won and he has done nothing at all to grow out his support, said Sam Nunberg, who advised Trump early in his first campaign.

He can't win on nostalgia. It's not the same race. This is not going to be about slogans or themes, it's going to be about what you did for me and why I should reelect you based on your record, said Nunberg, an informal adviser who will not be rejoining the campaign.

He can't just fight the last war. It's time to adapt or die. The reinforcements are arriving as Trump comes to terms with the idea that he can't run the type of campaign he had planned for years one that looked feasible as recently as January, according to three campaign and White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Trump had expected to run on the back of a strong economy before the pandemic crippled it. And he had hoped to revive a number of culture war and deep state accusations while facing a Democrat from the liberal wing of the party whom he could paint as socialist. He wasn't expecting the more moder-

ate Joe Biden.

Though outwardly confident, Trump has privately told advisers he cannot believe polls that show him trailing and he has angrily snapped at campaign manager Brad Parscale over the state of the race, according to the officials.

The campaign, which has far greater infrastructure and staffing than the slipshod operation of four years ago, played down the idea that the return of the 2016 veterans was influenced by the state of the race or reflected a lack of confidence in Parscale.

For over three years now, Brad has been building the biggest and best political campaign in history, said Tim Murtagh, the campaign's communications director. Our latest staff additions are making Team Trump even stronger and solidify Brad's leadership.

In the last week, the Trump campaign hired Jason Miller, communications director in 2016, to focus on strategy and coordinate between the campaign and the White House. Miller has co-hosted a pro-Trump podcast with the president's former campaign chief executive, Steve Bannon.

Boris Epshteyn, who after 2016 became a commentator for the conservative Sinclair Broadcast network, came back to be a strategic adviser for coalitions. Bill Stepien, a

top adviser in 2016, was recently promoted to deputy campaign manager. And Justin Clark, another longtime aide, has led the Republican Party's legal fight over voting rules.

Every president who has successfully run a first go-around looks to add on people who were in that effort to the reelect," said Miller, before touting the resources of the 2020 bid. But this is the Starship Enterprise as opposed to a rusted fishing boat we used in the first campaign." Familiar faces have also returned to the White House.

Hope Hicks was Trump's original campaign spokeswoman before becoming one of his most trusted West Wing aides. She left the White House in 2018 only to return two years later and was one of the driving forces behind the president's controversial photo op with a Bible after he walked through Lafayette Square last week to a nearby church once the area was cleared of protesters.

Johnny McEntee, who served as Trump's personal aide before being fired by then-chief of staff John Kelly in 2018, returned in January and has been focusing on staffing the administration with loyalists.

While Corey Lewandowski, Trump's first campaign manager, and David Bossie, a trusted aide, have both remained officially outside

ies making up the majority of the cases.

Mahipala has recommended an "intermittent lockdown" approach.

However, advisor on Health Zafar Mirza told the media that no such policy is under consideration.

The WHO country head pointed out that after the partial relaxation on May 1, and complete relaxation on May 22 the infection rate has increased on both occasions.

Pakistan had lifted the virus restrictions in view of an under-control rate of transmission and the health system's ability to "detect, test, isolate and treat every case and trace every contact".

## Shock and fear as Burundi mourns veteran president

Burundians were in shock Wednesday after the sudden death of veteran President Pierre Nkurunziza, with condolences pouring in from across Africa as the troubled country grappled with the complex legacy of his 15-year rule.

Flags in Burundi were lowered to half mast after the death of the 55-year-old leader, who according to the government died on Monday of a heart attack after feeling unwell for a two days.

First lady Denise Bucumi, who had been recovering from the coronavirus in a Nairobi hospital, flew back to Bujumbura late Tuesday, a source in the presidency told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Among African leaders, President John Magufuli praised Nkurunziza's "strong leadership and his efforts to fight for peace, development and democracy" but critics regretted he had died without justice being served for rights abuses under his rule.

Nkurunziza, a fit sports enthusiast and evangelical who believed he was chosen by God to lead the East African nation, leaves behind a country in political and economic turmoil after his divisive rule.

His 2015 run for a third term in office sparked protests and a failed coup, with violence leaving at least 1,200 dead while some 400,000 fled the country.

A climate of fear marked by a crackdown on the opposition and media settled over Burundi, while a personality cult grew around Nkurunziza which saw the ruling party name him a "visionary" and "supreme guide for patriotism."

Nkurunziza had been due to step down in August after his surprise decision not to run in a May election, which was won by the ruling CNDD-FDD's handpicked successor, Evariste Ndayishimiye.

- 'A catastrophe' -

Members of the ruling party were in shock after the news of Nkurunziza's death.

"It is a catastrophe, it is as if the sky has crashed down on us. What will become of us without our supreme guide," one party leader said, sobbing, on condition of anonymity.

Gerard, a party member in Nkurunziza's home province of Ngozi, told AFP he could not understand how Nkurunziza "had died just like that... we are obliged to believe this official version, but I don't understand."

Rumours swirled on social media, with some wondering if he had been poisoned, while others suspecting he had been infected by coronavirus.

Burundi has largely ignored the pandemic, which Nkurunziza declared had spared Burundi thanks to God.

Under the constitution, the president of the National Assembly, Pascal Nyabenda, should take over on an interim basis before Ndayishimiye's swearing-in in August.

Nyabenda had been Nkurunziza's first pick to succeed him, however powerful generals in the ruling party chose Ndayishimiye instead.

- 'Worried for the future' -

Some in the country were gripped by anxiety over what comes next.

"I am very worried for the future of course, because we don't know what is going to happen in the coming days, if the CNDD-FDD is not going to tear themselves apart over the leadership," said Raoul, a young opposition supporter who works in a bank, and like many only gave his first name.

However life in Bujumbura had returned to normal after residents rushed home following the news on Tuesday.

"Everything seems normal even if we see groups of people gathered together talking in hushed voices," said civil servant Jean-Marie, 40.

Gertrude, a teacher living in exile in Rwanda, said she had been "surprised" by Nkurunziza's sudden death. "I am not going to cry after everything he has done to us ... extrajudicial executions, torture and all of that, but I regret that he died before being judged for these crimes." Nkurunziza was a sports teacher who became a leader in the ethnic Hutu rebellion during the country's 1993-2006 civil war with the minority Tutsi-dominated army. The war left some 300,000 dead.

He was elected by parliament as president in 2005 and re-elected in a general election in 2010.

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the ministry said.

Out of the total 113,702 cases, Punjab has registered 43,460 patients, Sindh 41,303, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 14,527, Balochistan 7,031, Islamabad 5,963, Gilgit-Baltistan 974 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir 444.

The ministry said that 23,799 tests were done in the last 24 hours, taking the tally of total tests in the country to 754,252.

The virus is spread-

ing fast but the government has refused a proposal by the World Health Organisation to follow the "intermittent lockdown" policy of two-week lockdown followed by two-week relaxation on alternate basis.

In a letter to Punjab province Health Minister Yasmin Rashid dated June 7, WHO Country Head, Pakistan, Dr Palitha Mahipala said the coronavirus has spread to almost all districts in the country with big cit-



## Anna Kendrick Reveals She Was 'Miserable' Filming 'Twilight': It Was Like A Hostage Situation'

Anna Kendrick was no fan of filming the 2008 mega-hit 'Twilight.' She likened the experience to 'traumatic event, such as 'surviving a hostage situation.'

Actress Anna Kendrick is spilling some serious tea about being part of the mega-hit 'Twilight' film franchise. Not only was she sure she'd never get cast in the original film, when she did she was absolutely miserable. Anna made the comments while discussing her career with Vanity Fair in a new video. The 34-year-old said her experience filming the original 2008 Twilight movie was like a traumatic "bonding event" among the cast, similar to "people who survive a hostage situation." Though it seemed that the on-set weather in rainy Oregon played a major factor in her feelings. You can check out Anna's comments at the 3:04 mark in the above video.

"The first movie we filmed in Portland, Oregon, and I just remember being so cold and miserable," Anna revealed. "And I just remember my Converse being completely soaked through and feeling like, 'You know, this is a really great group of people and I'm sure that we would be friends at a different time, but I want to murder everyone,'" she snarked.

"Although, it was also kind of bonding. There was something about it, like if you go through some trauma event. Like you imagine people who survive a hostage



situation, and you're kind of bonded for life," Anna laughed, adding her trademark sense of humor. She played Jessica Stanley in the franchise, the best friend to Kristen Stewart's lead character of Bella.

Fortunately, the rest of Anna's Twilight experiences weren't so traumatic. "The second movie, for whatever reason the weather wasn't quite as intense and I think that's sort of where we all got to know each other a little bit better," Anna said of her cast-mates. She then joked that the films "All sort of blended into one at some point, because my whole job was to just go, like, 'This family of very pale people who we never see eating. They're really weird, right?'"

Anna then dished about her appearance in the final Twilight film, al-

though she actually first referenced the third movie, Breaking Dawn Part 1 (she wasn't kidding about the movies blending into one for her). "I was in the fourth movie. It was a wedding scene. Again I'm like 'These people are so weird,'" she laughed.

Anna added about the actual finale, Breaking Dawn Part 2, "You're in like half-frozen mud in what was the final scene of filming for everybody. I get to come in and work for a week or two and everybody else has been giving their blood, sweat and tears to the project for months. I show up at the end and I'm like 'Guys, we did it! Its over!'" Anna said, raising her hands in the air in triumph. Anna has since gone on to star in the Pitch Perfect franchise and provided a lead voice in the two Trolls animated films.

### Ryan Murphy expecting third child with husband David Miller

**LOS ANGELES, JUN 10 (PTI):** Writer Ryan Murphy has revealed that he and husband, photographer David Miller are set to welcome their third child together.

The "American Horror Story" creator shared the news in a self-written profile for Architectural Digest published on Tuesday.

"We are expecting another baby, a boy, in August," Murphy wrote.

The couple are already parents to sons Logan, seven, and Ford, five.

Murphy also opened up about how starting a family

added "more colour" to their life.

"My career took off right around the time we had Logan, in 2012, and I went from one or two shows to sometimes 12. Those shows, too, were often colorful and baroque.

"One day, it suddenly dawned on me that I wanted to live with less: less color, less clutter, fewer things. An edited life," he explained.

Murphy and Miller tied the knot in 2012, months before Logan was born. Both of their children were born via surrogate.

### Sanjay Gupta on 'Shootout 3': Tried to reinvent, not repeat

**MUMBAI, JUN 10 (PTI):** Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta has finished writing the first draft of the third installment of the "Shootout" franchise and says the effort has been to "reinvent" the series with the latest film.

For the film, Gupta has collaborated with screenwriter Rajat Aroraa, who has penned hits like "Once Upon a Time in Mumbai", "The Dirty Picture" among others.

"So my buddy @rajatsaroraa and me have finally finished the first draft of 'Shootout 3'.

"It's been an arduous task given the lockdown but nevertheless a most satisfying

one. Now it's time for reactions. This wait is the most excruciating," the filmmaker tweeted.

The first part, "Shootout at Lokhandwala" was helmed by Apoorva Lakhia and starred Sanjay Dutt, Vivek Oberoi, Suniel Shetty among others and was released in 2007.

The second installment, "Shootout at Wadala" was directed by Gupta and featured an ensemble of John Abraham, Anil Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut, among others.

The director said the challenge with penning a sequel is how to move ahead.

### Supergirl star Chyler Leigh thanks fans for "outpouring of love" after opening up about sexuality



*"I'm grateful to see more clearly and breathe a little easier." Supergirl star Chyler Leigh has thanked her fans for their support after opening up about her sexuality.*

**On Monday (June 8),** the actor published a short essay on Create Change, the online platform she co-founded with her husband, explaining how her character Alex Danvers' coming out arc would "become a variation of [her] own" in real life.

Later that same day, Leigh took to Instagram to share her appreciation for the "outpouring of love" she'd received

since the article emerged online.

"Once we face our own true selves, we can better see the world around us, as well as how we can make a positive and lasting change for the sake of equality and love," she said.

"I'm grateful to see more clearly, breathe a little easier, and I'm proud to contribute to all that I believe in with an honest, open heart."

Several of her co-stars flooded the comments section with their own positive reactions, including Supergirl herself, Melissa Benoist, and Floriana Lima, who played Alex's former fiancée Maggie Sawyer on the show – a character that was instrumental in her coming to terms with the fact that she's a lesbian.

"Love you sister," Benoist replied, as Lima wrote: "Chy, I'm so unbelievably PROUD and HAPPY for you. You are a beautiful example of fearless honesty, and I couldn't admire you more."

Elsewhere, Nicole Maines, who plays Nia Nal AKA Dreamer, added: "I'm so incredibly proud of you and I am so happy for you. Sending you all my love and support."

"Wonderful, Chyler," David Harewood wrote, as Querl Dox actor Jesse Rath said: "I love you, Chyler!"



### SUMMER SUN! The Pretty Little Liars alum and new mom, Shay Mitchell steps out for a walk in Los Angeles.

### Shraddha Kapoor & Rumoured Boyfriend Rohan Shreshta Go On A Bike Ride Together After Relieved Lockdown Rules

It has been reported several times that they are dating and some reports also suggested that they will get married this year.

Staying in lockdown has surely been tough for Shraddha Kapoor. That's why the first thing beautiful actress did after Unlock 1 was going out on a bike ride with rumoured photographer boyfriend Rohan Shreshta.

Soon after the lockdown got easy, Shraddha Kapoor & Rohan Shreshta went for a bike ride in the Mumbai suburbs. The alleged couple was caught by the cameras wearing the mask and enjoying a ride together. The pictures went viral on social media soon.

Well, the pictures remind us of Ok Jaanu's title track in which we see Shraddha Kapoor and Aditya Roy Kapur enjoying a bike ride on the Mumbai roads.

Shraddha Kapoor and



Rohan Shreshta have been creating waves together for a long time. It has been reported several times that they are dating and some reports also suggested that they will get married this year. However, the actress denied the reports.

In an interview with Times Of India, Shraddha Kapoor said that she is too busy with her professional commitments to even think about marriage. Answering the question she laughed and

said that it's just a buzz.

Earlier Shraddha Kapoor has also been linked to her co-stars Aditya Roy Kapur & Farhan Akhtar.

On the work front, Shraddha Kapoor was last seen in Street Dancer 3D & Baaghi 3. While Street Dancer 3D did decently well at the Box Office, Baaghi 3 faced dent due to Coronavirus Pandemic and theaters being shut down. She will be next seen in Luv Ranjan's next also starring Ranbir Kapoor in lead.

#### ARIES:

You weren't thrilled about the idea of staying indoors when the lockdown began, but you've surprised yourself, Aries. You learned to find joy in the small, simple things and perfected the art of coming to yourself. With things opening up slowly, you may find that this is a time of establishing new rituals and routines. However, don't be in a rush to move forward or do something you're not prepared to. It's best to take it one step at a time.

#### TAURUS:

There's deadlines to meet, presentations to make, and Zoom meetings to attend. It doesn't help that there are things at home that need your attention too. Washing dishes or doing the laundry is never fun, Taurus. But you've got to do what you've got to do. So embrace every task with the precision of a Zen Master. Find a way to make the mundane meditative. Chances are, you're having to take care of your family members too. Remember, it's important to set certain boundaries so you can take care of yourself as well.

#### GEMINI:

Gemini, this is a time of abundance and fruition in your world. You're looking at your creations lovingly with the inner knowing that you've put in your best. The Universe applauds

the progress you're making right now. Your interpersonal relationships are also blossoming at the moment. Is there something you have been angry about or somebody you have been holding a grudge against? Now is the time to breathe, let it go, and bring forth the energy of love.

#### CANCER:

Your circumstances are anything but picture-perfect at the moment, but you're learning to transcend fear and bring forth the vibration of peace, harmony, and love. The Universe reflects the energy we put out there, Cancer. So, get ready to witness a magnificent shift in your world. Given you've been hiding in your burrow for a long time, you're likely to feel inspired to reconnect with your tribe. The virtual world provides a plethora of options for you to 'socialise'.

#### LEO:

Property-related matters have your attention, Leo. If the lockdown rules have been eased where you are, you may even be able to put your money on something you love and hopefully host a not-so-virtual housewarming soon. For others, this may be a time of transforming their house into a home. There's nothing like indoor plants to get the good chi flowing. Have a friend who is a vaas-

tu/feng shui expert? Get them to recommend the right crystals for your space—something that will bring forth the energy of peace, prosperity and love.

#### VIRGO:

What makes a house a home, Virgo? Let's bring out the crystals and incense, shall we? While you're it, get your hands on indoor plants too. The goal is to raise the vibration of your space and help the circulation of good chi. Some of you may even be thinking about giving co-habitation a shot. You don't have to say 'I do' if you're not ready to, but you can certainly consider sharing your sanctuary with the one you love.

#### LIBRA:

Grand proposals are overrated, Libra. If you think you want to spend the rest of your life with them or give co-habitation a shot, let your feelings be known. Chances are, they're on the same page as you. Remember, you don't have to move in immediately, but you can start working towards the given goal. Married Venusians who have been struggling with co-existence will find that the winds of change are blowing in their favour. This is your chance to ensure peace and harmony are restored.

#### SCORPIO:

It's funny how energy works. A conflict that

took place a few days ago could still be lingering in the house. Word for the wise: a cleansing ritual may just be the secret to restoring peace, balance, and harmony right now. Here are a few witchy tips to assist you in this process. 1: Place a black tourmaline in the affected area. The powerful crystal is known to dispel negativity and create a psychic shield. 2: Smudge the space with the help of incense, sage or palo santo depending on where you live and what is available as you say a prayer of protection. 3: Place a bowl of salt water in the room for a few hours and then, visualise the stagnant energy being released as you drain the bowl.

#### SAGITTARIUS:

"I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn." Golden words by Anne Frank to inspire you to put pen to paper and allow the words to flow. The process of free writing will not only help you release stagnant emotions, but also bring forth ideas from the beyond. Who knows? You may be inspired to give poetry and prose a shot. Remember, you're not here to pander to your audience.

#### CAPRICORN:

Spoiler alert, Capricorn: we have no control over our circumstances. Our response to what transpires, however, is completely in our

hands. It's true that you're having to deal with unexpected changes, especially on the money front. Instead of mourning over what isn't working out, redirect your energy towards something that could potentially bring forth abundance. Thinking on your feet is the need of the hour.

#### AQUARIUS:

You may or may not be able to meet your crew physically, but that doesn't mean you can't connect with them virtually. The world wide web is providing you with a plethora of options to stay in touch with the ones you love and connect with fellow warriors from across the world. Attending a gathering based on your interests is a good way to extend your social circle. PS: How about signing up for a meditation circle or ecstatic dance party?

#### PISCES:

The full moon and eclipse may have passed us by, but we're still under its spell, Pisces. The cosmic energy speaks of death and rebirth. It speaks of death as a portal to the new self—metaphorically, of course! Take a moment to turn inwards today and ask yourself the question, "What do I need to let go of in order to step into my magic?" Your spirit team is clocking in extra hours to provide you with support.