



**TAYLOR SWIFT CELEBRATES
BOYFRIEND JOE ALWYN'S
BIRTHDAY IN LONDON**
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**GET INFORMED, AND THEN
DEMAND BETTER**

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**ADLINE CASTELINO WINS
MISS DIVA UNIVERSE 2020**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sikkim begins Women's U19 One Day Trophy with two victories



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Sikkim's women cricketers continue to impress. After an impressive outing in the Women's Under-23 One Day Trophy earlier this month where Sikkim on third position of the Plate Division, the Sikkim Under-19 girls have begun their Women's U19 One Day Trophy 2019-20 with two back-to-back victories.

The tournament began on 19 February at Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, where Sikkim is scheduled to play nine matches - against Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, J&K, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Puducherry.

After winning the first match against J&K by 5 wickets, the Sikkim team down Meghalaya on 22 February at YS Raja Reddy ACA Cricket Stadium, Kadapa, by 72 runs, a press communiqué from Sikkim Cricket Association informs.

Sikkim won the toss and elected to bat first, scoring 166 runs in 50 overs with Sumi Dutta scoring 47 runs and Anuska Bhattacharya remaining 47 not-out.

Defending a clearly assailable total, Sikkim's bowlers came into their own and bowled Meghalaya out for 94 in 42.1 overs. Anuska took 5 wickets conceding just 15 runs in 8.1 overs and was well supported by others bowlers where Nandika took 4 wickets and Pranita taking 1 wicket.

With this, Sikkim earned 4 points from this victory and has 8 points from two wins in the league table.

Next, they will taking on Puducherry on 26 February.

Sonbhadra gold deposits: GSI says estimated gold reserve is 160 kg

KOLKATA/SONBHADRA (UP), FEB 23 (PTI): The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has rejected claims of around 3000 tonnes of gold deposits in UP's Sonbhadra district, saying the estimated reserve is 160 kg.

Sonbhadra district mining officer KK Rai had said on Friday that gold deposits were found in Son Pahadi and Hardi areas of the district.

The deposits in Son Pahadi are estimated to be around 2,943.26 tonnes, while that at Hardi block are around 646.16 kilogram, the official had said.

However, GSI Director General (DG) M Sridhar told PTI in Kolkata on Saturday evening that "The mineralised zone having an average grade of 3.03 grams per tonne of gold is tentative in nature and the total gold which can be extracted from the total resource of 52,806.25 tonnes of ore is approximately 160 kg and not 3,350 tonnes as mentioned in the media".

On the claim by the district official, he said, "Such data was not given by anybody from GSI.... GSI has not estimated such kind of vast resource of gold deposits in Sonbhadra district.

"We share our findings regarding any resources of ore after conducting survey with state units.... We (GSI, Northern Region) had carried out work in that region in 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The report was shared with UP DGM for information and further necessary action," he said.

Sridhar said that in its report after exploration in the district "the GSI has estimated a probable category resource of 52,806.25 tonnes of ore with 3.03 grams per tonne gold (average grade) for a strike length of 170m in Sub- Block-H, Son Pahadi of Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh".

The GSI is headquartered in Kolkata.

CM's Gold Cup begins, spotlight celebrates traditional archery

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

The 19th edition of Chief Minister's Gold Cup Archery Tournament [Compound] got underway here at Tenzing Namgyal Memorial Ground Archery Shooting Range in Tathangchen today with 23 teams in the hunt for the top honors.

Sports & Youth Affairs Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, declared the tournament, being organized by Sikkim Archery Association [SAA], open.

Teams from across Sikkim, the neighboring hills and Bhutan are participating in the prestigious traditional form of archery tournament.

The tournament has 14 teams from Sikkim, two from the neighbouring hills and seven from Bhutan.

This is also the first event organized by the newly-elected executive committee of the SAA led by Sonam Dorjee Bhutia as president.

The inaugural match was played between Penden Cement of Bhutan and Red Bull, Gangtok, in which the former out-shot the latter 38-18.

On Monday, TAC Namchi will take on Garuda, Gangtok.

Speaking to media persons, the Minister, who is also the chief patron of the association, congratulated Sikkim Archery Association for working to preserve and promote traditional



archery.

He shared that archery was a traditional and popular sport of Sikkim and urged the new committee at SAA to take promote traditional and modern archery equally and provide a wider platform to local archers.

While observing that Sikkim has huge potential in archery even at the international level, he assured that the State government would extend full support to take local archers to national and international level.

He mentioned that Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] has extended full support to make this tournament an annual event of the State.

"The CM has prioritized sports to provide opportunity and exposure and the best of facilities and infrastructure to local sportspersons," he said.

"The intention of the government is also to preserve and promote the traditional sport of archery and put Sikkim on the world archery map," Mr Lepcha said.

SAA publicity secretary, Karma Denzongpa, in turn mentioned that the main objective behind the tournament was to preserve and promote the traditional form of archery.

"We want to encourage the younger generation to come to traditional archery to take it forward. We also want to encourage youths in games and sports to keep them away from unhealthy and unproductive activities," he said.

SAA was formed in the year 1985 and conducts talent hunts, organizes coaching camps and provides exposure to Sikkim archers.

On behalf of the association and the archery fraternity, SAA joint secretary, Sangay Gyatso Bhutia expressed his gratitude towards the CM for supporting the association in its efforts to preserve the traditional sport of Sikkim.

He also thanked the Sports & Youth Affairs Minister for supporting the 19th edition of the tournament. He also thanked Sikkim State Cooperative Bank and others individuals and organizations for supporting the tournament. He also invited the people to come and support their favorite teams in the tournament.

Yangtse Tours & Travels from Bhutan is the defending champion of the tournament. The tournament carries a Rs 2 lakh prize money for the winners and Rs 1 lakh for the runners-up.

ASKCBKS reiterates resolve to work for community and State

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

The newly-formed executive committee of Akhil Sikkim Khas Chettri Bahun Kalyan Sangh [ASKCBKS] has reiterated its commitment to work with other community organizations of the State to contribute towards the development and progress of Sikkim.

The committee has further expressed resolve to work for the welfare of every member of the Khas community.

The election committee handed over certificates of election to members of the new executive



committee, led by Raju Basnet as president, at a special function held here today.

The new executive committee has Raju Basnet as the president, Narayan Khatiwada and Yogesh Sharma as working presidents, KN Shar-

ma as general secretary, TN Khanal, ML Niroula, Rajesh Kumar Chettri and DP Adhikari as vice-presidents, Pawan Parsai, Tara Prasad Bhat-tarai, Madhu Sharma and TB Chettri as secretaries, KL Timsinha as cultural president, SK Chettri

as youth president, Ramesh Chettri and Darshan Upreti as treasurer, Dewakar Basnet, Bikash Chettri, Deepak Sharma and Rajesh Dahal as joint secretaries. Addressing a press conference after the function, the new ASKCBKS president in-

formed that the association, formed in the year 1994, has been working in the interest of the Khas community and now the responsibility has been entrusted to the new team.

"Our main objective is to ensure the contribution of Khas community towards Sikkimese society," he expressed.

He further mentioned that the new committee has young members from all parts of the State and this young team will work actively in the interest of the community and the Sikkimese society.

While sharing plans and programmes of the

new executive committee, Mr Basnet mentioned that the committee would immediately start work on the construction of a Bhanwan for the community in Gangtok.

He further mentioned that the organization would immediately launch a state-wide membership drive.

Responding to a media queries on tribal status for the eleven left-out communities, Mr Basnet said that tribal status was the right of community and much-required and that the organization would work towards taking this demand to its logical end.



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

The valedictory function of the Inter Institutional Camp on Leadership and Personality Development for National Service Scheme [NSS] volunteers was held here at Paljor Stadium complex on Sunday afternoon.

The five-day residential camp was organized by the NSS Cell of the Sports & Youth Affairs Department and funded by the Regional Office, Guwahati. The camp was attended by 200 NSS volunteers from 100 educational institutions

from different parts of the

State and had Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, Kunga Nima Lepcha, as chief guest accompanied by Director [Higher Education], Education Department, Kapil Meena, as guest of honour among other dignitaries.

The entire valedictory function was managed and conducted by NSS volunteers of the

camp themselves.

In his valedictory address, the Minister congratulated the State NSS Cell team led by Additional Director, Doma Tshering Bhutia for successfully conducting the camp.

He recognized that various activities which formed part of the camp would help groom better citizens for the society and the nation. On the same, he encouraged NSS volunteers to use the

skills and knowledge gained at the camp in their own lives and give selfless service to society and the people.

The Minister also congratulated participants for donating blood and participating in other activities during the five-day long camp.

Additional Director, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Doma Tshering Bhutia, informed that two NSS volunteers each from

75 senior secondary schools, 22 colleges and 03 universities of the State had participated in the camp. She added that an experienced life-skills trainer, Ratna Singh, from Guwahati and other officials and experts from different fields had taken sessions on their respective subjects. The five-day camp also included sessions on yoga, Zumba and self-defense.

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Summit Times in Nepali

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BL land for sale. Road site 100ft by 50ft at Lower Syari. Enroute Ranipool to Deorali via Syari. 10 Minutes Drive from Ranipool. Serious Buyer may contact : **83720-77482/ 94341-36989/ 98320-82664**

BJP holds organizational meeting for Temi-Namphing

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

A constituency-level organizational meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party for Temi-Namphing constituency was held at Chalamthang in South Sikkim on Sunday.

The meeting, chaired by the state president, DB Chauhan, decided the future strategy of the party, informs a BJP press release. The meeting was also attended by Gangtok MLA, YT Lepcha, SB Kar-



ki and other leaders and party-workers.

The release informed adds that after hear-

ing out different issues raised by the party workers, the Sikkim-BJP president assured that the

party would always work in the interest of the party workers.

He further encour-

aged them to reach out to the people at the grass-roots level and generate awareness on the party programmes.

He also directed the party workers to compile a report on the issues and problems being faced by the people and assured to bring the same to the notice of the central leadership as well.

The release informs that the meeting was also addressed by the Gangtok MLA and Mr Karki.

Gyalpo Losar celebrations at Martam

GYALSHING, 3 FEB [IPR]:

The 10-day Gyalpo Losar Celebration concluded with a special function at Martam Primary School, West Sikkim, today with Minister Lok Nath Sharma, who is also the area MLA [Gyalshing Bermiok], as chief guest accompanied by Power Minister MN Sherpa as guest of honour. The programme, organised by Bhoudha Sherpa Samaj Committee, was also attended by Chairperson, Gyalshing Municipal Council, IK Neopaney, ASP [West] Nakul Pradhan, officials, Panchayats and others.

Minister Sharma ex-



tended Gyalpo Losar best wishes to the organisers and the entire community and also addressed the demands placed by the public of the area and informed that the State Government was work-

ing on a war-footing to address the necessities and grievances of public at the earliest.

He also highlighted various ongoing developmental works in his constituency and men-

tioned completion of the long-pending road connectivity from Bermiok to Gyalshing via Rungdu demand, Road Carpeting as notable achievements made thus far and also spoke about various up-

coming projects.

The Minister also encouraged the public to adopt agriculture as a profession and delved on the future scope of agro-tourism, productivity and natural potential of the area.

He also spoke about the various schemes and programmes of the Government to uplift unemployed youths and emphasised the advantages of the private sector and entrepreneurship.

Also today, the final match of the Gyalpo Losar Futsal Tournament was played between Sangku FC and Kaluk Seven Brother.

Governor inaugurates birth anniv celebrations of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Governor Ganga Prasad today inaugurated the 131st Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati at Constitution Club, New Delhi, today.

Union Minister Aswini Kumar Choube, former Governor of Sikkim BP Singh and a galaxy of dignitaries and religious leaders were present on the occasion, a press release from Raj Bhawan informs.

The Governor paid his respects and remembered Swami Sahajanand Saraswati and his contributions and dedication towards bringing progress and development of the country, the release adds.

Pratibha Milan revived



GANGTOK, 23 FEB: After a gap of some years, the Pratibha Milan programme resumed here at Nepali Sahitya Parishad Bhawan at Development

Area on Sunday. The first Pratibha Milan was held on 28 August, 2005. Today, NSP president, Rudra Poudyal, chaired the programme and two

books, Bagh Ko Doodh by Chakrapani Bhattarai and Patra Sambandh and Kriti Ka Smriti Haru by Tika Dhungel were released.

SMIT to host ISRO's Dr Sarabhai birth centenary celebration



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

ISRO programme to commemorate the birth centenary of its founder, Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, is scheduled for Sikkim with a three-day event to be hosted at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Tech-

nology from 04 to 06 March, a press release informs.

The commemoration will include exhibitions and a special quiz competition to be conducted by quiz-master Dr Bibeth Sharma, painting and essay competitions etc.

This event will offer a first-hand experience to students to learn more about rocket science.

Eminent scientists from ISRO will be at the SMIT campus speaking to the students as will ISRO's event bus. The event is open for students from Class IX onwards.

NSS volunteers complete...

Earlier, NSS volunteers, Mingma D Sherpa from SRM University, Langrip Lepcha from DIET Namchi and Dharma Raj Chettri from Sikkim Manipal University shared their experiences of the camp.

They said that the camp had been a life-changing experience and helped boost their confidence and hone their skills. They further assured to work continuously for the State.

Likewise, an NSS volunteer, Durga Thapa from SRM University gave a brief report of activities taken up during the camp.

The function, which was conducted by Pratime Bagjai from B.Ed. College, Soreng, and had started with a welcome address by Diksha Rai from Sikkim University and concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by another NSS volunteer, Ezrel.

The valedictory function has also included distribution of certificates to the Best-20 participants of the camp and to all participants.

Pranta Jyoti was adjudged the Best NSS Volunteer of the camp.

Sonbhadra gold deposits: GSI says estimated gold reserve is 160 kg

KOLKATA/SONBHADRA (UP), FEB 23 (PTI): The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has rejected claims of around 3000 tonnes of gold deposits in UP's Sonbhadra district, saying the estimated reserve is 160 kg.

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and not 3,350 tonnes as mentioned in the media".

On the claim by the district official, he said, "Such data was not given by anybody from GSI.... GSI has not estimated such kind of vast resource of gold deposits in Sonbhadra district.

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Surprise gift for Trump from Pollachi master tailor
COIMBATORE, FEB 23 (PTI): A 90-year-old master tailor from near-by Pollachi has a surprise gift for U.S. President Donald Trump during his two day visit to India -- a white khadi shirt stitched by him.

VS Vishwanathan hit upon the idea after seeing Trump on televi-

Entry gate at Motera stadium collapses ahead of Trump's visit

AHMEDABAD, FEB 23 (PTI): A day before US President Donald Trump's visit to Ahmedabad, a makeshift VVIP entry gate erected outside the newly-built cricket stadium in Motera area here collapsed due to gusty winds on Sunday morning, an official said.

The entire incident was recorded by a bystander and aired on local television channels.

The makeshift entry gate was made of welded steel rods and covered in flex banners.

After sometime, a portion of another makeshift gate structure at the

stadium's main entrance also collapsed due to the windy weather, another official said.

No one was injured in both the incidents and work was underway to put the structures back in place, he said.

"The (VVIP) entry gate collapsed when fabrication work was going on. It was not a major incident. No one was injured in the incident," said Special Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, Ajay Tomar said.

President Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will par-

ticipate in a roadshow here on Monday and later address the 'Namaste Trump' event at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Motera area where over one lakh people are expected to be present.

The stadium has already received 'Building Use' permission from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, an official earlier said.

It is the world's largest stadium with a capacity to accommodate 1.10 lakh spectators. The stadium has been rebuilt after demolishing the old one which had a seating capacity of 49,000 spectators.

transferred Rs 26,000 to his bank account as the fee for the certificate. However, the accused kept on demanding more money under one pretext or the other like payment of government fees to extract money from the victim, who ended up transferring Rs 8.23 lakh to the fraudster in three months," the official said.

Police have identified the bank accounts of the man, who is an Indian.

No arrest is made so far.

Techie loses Rs 8.23 lakh to cyber fraudster

NAGPUR, FEB 23 (PTI): A 26-year-old woman software engineer from Nagpur in Maharashtra was allegedly cheated of Rs 8.23 lakh by a man claiming to be an US government official, police said on Sunday.

The victim, who was aspiring to work in the US, was in the need of International English Language Testing System Certificate (IELTS) and had posted a message for the same on her Facebook account, a police official said.

The woman, who belongs to Nagpur, is currently working with a multinational software company in Hyderabad.

"She was contacted by a man claiming to be a top-ranking official with the US government who promised her help in getting the IELTS certificate," he said. The woman sent her picture and passport details to the accused on the Whatsapp number shared by him.

"As instructed by the man, the victim initially

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

**HAVE A
STORY TO
SHARE?**
email us: news@summittimes.com

CM prays at Rolu Mandir



Namchi, 23 Feb [IPR]: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] visited Rolu Mandir today and offered prayers there and also interacted with the priests and local gentry today. The CM is proceeding on an official tour to attend the Sustainable Development Goals Conclave of Chief Ministers of North East States scheduled to be held at the Administrative Centre, Guwahati, from 24 to 26 February.

Damage diagnosed, repairs being undertaken



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

The bylane taking off from NH-10 near Hospital Dara towards Hotel Rendezvous and servicing Ruchi Diagnostic Clinic and a host of hotels in the stretch has

been in dangerous disrepair for some years now, and now, the stakeholders have come together and begun patching it up on their own.

Led by Ruchi Diagnostic Clinic and Hotel Rendezvous, the effort

has been joined by other properties in the area - Hotel Crown Plaza, Hotel Yalung, Birds Nest and Fuzia.

The garbage container here still poses an irritant as does the clutter of telephone cables

overhead and the street-lighting which has not lit up for four years now. These, the stakeholders share, is not something they cannot correct on their own and are hopeful that GMC looks into the matter for a change.



WASTE BLOCKS ACCESS TO FAITH

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 23 FEB:

The Peepal tree [Ficus Religiosa] in the heart of Singtam town used to receive the faithful every Saturday morning as people trooped to it in prayer. Unfortunately, a litter of garbage has defiled the spot and blocked access for piety for all practical purposes. The problem of litter is not exclusive to this spot in Singtam and is arguably even worse at some other locations like the stretch at Ward No 2 where a sewage leak is raising a stink. Time that better was done by way of civic conduct and civic facilities.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: NEWS@summittimes.com

NPS hosts ARCEIS Leadership Training Camp



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

The ARCEIS Leadership Training Camp concluded today at Namchi Public School. Hosted at the school's Multi-purpose Auditorium, the camp had begun on 21 Feb with Fr Patrick Lepcha as resource person. Fr Lepcha was specially trained in Rome for two years with a Licentiate in Youth Pastoral Ministry.

School Captains, Prefects and House Captains from St. Xavier's School, Pakyong, Holy Cross School, Tadong, St. Joseph's School, Martam, Don Bosco School, Malbasey, F.C. Convent

School, Rinchenpong, St. Mary's Convent School, Gyalshing, St. Francis' School, Jorethang, Ivana Memorial School, Mamring and Namchi Public School, Namchi, participated in the Leadership Camp, a press release informs.

Participants were distributed into groups and group activities held to develop leadership qualities, team work, clear vision of what they want their team to achieve etc.

Many powerpoint presentations, movies and documentaries were shown highlighting the qualities of a

leader and some of the important attributes that go into producing a good leader were highlighted. Yoga, party games, camp fire and group discussions were also part of the leadership camp.

In the inaugural function, NPS Director, Fr George A. D'Souza, unfurled the school flag and welcomed all the participants and the animator to the Leadership Camp. NPS Principal, Fr Stany Sequeira, in turn spoke about the importance of the camp and stressed on the importance of honesty, integrity and loyalty as vital qualities for positions of dignity.

Governor greets Sikkim on Losar

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Governor Ganga Prasad has extended greetings and good wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Losar.

In his message, the Governor conveys, "Losar, the Tibetan New Year, brings with it the hope and aspiration for a new beginning. The sun gets warmer symbolising the arrival of spring season, the sea-

son of natural affluence and also brings with it the vigour and freshness in our life. We offer prayers to the deities and seek prosperity, health and wellbeing for all as blessings for the New Year.

May this New Year festival usher peace, prosperity to my Sikkimese brethren and strengthen bond of brotherhood among all faiths, communities and sects."

Losar greetings from CM

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 FEB:

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] has extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Losar.

In his message, the

CM conveys that "while celebrating Losar and welcoming the New Year, let us all strengthen the bond of brotherhood among all communities and faiths and take our state to newer heights."

Covid-19: 81 of 83 in Maha isolation wards test negative

MUMBAI, FEB 23 (PTI): The Maharashtra government on Sunday said that 81 out of 83 people admitted in isolation wards for suspected exposure to the novel coronavirus have tested negative.

While 80 of them have been discharged, three others continue to be hospitalised.

The outbreak of the virus, officially called Covid-19, was first detected in Wuhan in China in December and has since affected thousands of people across the globe.

"Out of the 83 persons, 81 have tested negative for the coronavirus infection. Of these 80 have been discharged.

Three persons are under observation in Mumbai's Kasturba Hospital," a state health department official said on Sunday. People coming from notified nations in-

cluding China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Nepal, Indonesia and Vietnam are being monitored as part of the protocol in place to tackle the outbreak, he added.

Since the outbreak of the virus in China and its spread across the globe through travellers, the Maharashtra government, acting on the guidelines issued by the Centre, has been placing people in isolation wards and screening those arriving at the Mumbai international airport from places affected by the outbreak.

Since January 18, a total of 48,295 passengers have been screened at Mumbai airport.

Officials said a 14-day follow-up of 207 of 291 people who arrived in the state from covid-19 affected areas had been completed.

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Government of Sikkim
Health & Family welfare Department
New STNM Multispecialty Hospital
Sochakgang, Gangtok

Ref No. 87/STNM Dated: 20/2/2020

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

The sealed quotations are invited from the interested and Registered Medical shop located at Gangtok for the supply of Emergency Medicines and Consumables for the Year 2020-2021 for New STNM Hospital, Sochakgang, Sichey. Dated of issue of Quotation :3rd March 2020 to 5th March 2020 (11Am to 3 PM).
Date of submission of Quotation : 19th March within 12.00 PM
Date & Time of tender opening : 19th March 2020 at 2.00 PM

Terms and condition:

- The quotation form can be obtained from the office of Senior Accounts Officer, New STNM Hospital on any working days from 3rd March 2020 to 5th March 2020 from 11 AM to 3 PM on production of State Bank of Sikkim Challan of Rs. 2000/-duly signed by Senior AO, New STNM Hospital credited under head 0210-01-800 other receipt from 11 AM to 3 PM.
- The interested Firm should produce COI/Sikkim Subject/Residential Certificate, Valid Drug License, Valid Registration Firm, Valid Trade License, GST Registration and clearance certificate, Experience certificate and full address of the shop at the time of submission of quotation form.
- The quotation should accompany TDR of Rs.1,00,000/- (One lakhs) against the supply of Emergency medicines and consumables from the State Bank of Sikkim in favour of Senior Accounts Officer, New STNM Hospital, Sochakgang. The department will not be liable to pay the interest on the said amount.
- The Tender Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotation without assigning any reason thereof and reserve to award the work to any bidder found competent.

For further information, visit or contact to the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
PCC Cum Medical Superintendent
New STNM Hospital, Sochakgang.

R.O. No. 373/IPR/Pub/Class./19-20
Date:21.02.2020

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
NORTH SIKKIM, MANGAN

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Applications from interested and eligible candidates are invited for filling up the following posts purely on Ad-hoc basis on consolidated pay, under Education Department, North District. The term of appointment will be for the current academic session., i.e.; till the end of academic session 2020 for PRTs and GTs, whereas for PGTs the term will end on 31st March 2021.

A panel list will be prepared on the basis of merit and the vacancies that may arise during the session on account of retirement/transfer/ long leave etc. will also be filled from the merit list.

The candidate who qualifies should work anywhere in North District. The appointments are made purely based on the need of a particular school. And hence, **once appointed no transfer requests will be entertained.**

If any person on the merit list denies to accept the posting given to any school, he/she has to give the denial in writing, immediately, and the next person in the list will be eligible for the appointment.

Having denied the acceptance of the posting order, the candidate will lose his merit seniority and will reach to the bottom of the list and has to wait for his next chance.

Candidates having degrees from universities outside Sikkim must get copies of their testimonials attested from Examination Cell, Education Department Gangtok. No copies without attestation will be considered.

Interested Candidates may submit their applications with relevant documents including CoI and Employment Card to the District Education Office on or before 26th February 2020. (No Applications will be accepted after 4.00.p.m. 26/02/2020)

For Further details contact: Exam Cell, District Education Office, Mangan : 9083484256, 9775979007, 9775449079

Walk-in - Interview Dates:

1. PGTs & GTs:	02/03/2020	10.00 a.m onwards
2. PRTs :	03/03/2020	10.00 a.m onwards

Venue : Conference Hall , District Education Office, Mangan.

Deputy Director
District Education Office
Mangan, North Sikkim

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

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.

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.

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

Shed the Mediocrity

Get informed, and then demand better

The talk about developing Sikkim into a “knowledge-based” society has been around for a while. What it is being said in polite terms is that effort is required to draw Sikkim away from the mediocrity of its human resource that infiltrates just about every field of activity here. Take journalism for instance. No one will praise the media in Sikkim as outstanding. Promising, may be... maybe even prolific, but not outstanding yet. At best, we can be accepted as average. Of course, we in the media will never admit even to ourselves that we compete in mediocrity, but that is another debate altogether. But why is the fourth estate so mediocre in Sikkim? Not because there is a dearth of committed media-persons in the region, but simply because no demands are made of them for excellence by the readers. Mediocrity flourishes in the absence of pressure. Much the same holds true for every other aspect of life here. Take governance for example. The bureaucracy remains somnambulant, because the public representatives don’t shake them up often enough. Take a look around, administrative basics remain ignored until too late. The motor vehicle fee confusion is only one of them. Ditto for the conundrum of the Mantam’s landslide debris-dammed lake. And then there is the confusion that is bound to strike when the deadline for the ban on liquor shops on the highway arrives. All of these situations arrived with enough advance warning, but remained unaddressed until only excuses and shifting of blame could be offered where simple outreach and consultations could have worked. That said, even public representatives don’t get pro-active. This, primarily because the people don’t demand delivery or even action from them and appear satisfied with securing favours instead of claiming their rights.

It’s a vicious cycle, but not one that is impossible to break. All it requires is involvement.

No one will strive for excellence if it is not demanded of them. Also, no one will strive for excellence if it is not recognized either. And recognition is possible only if the people differentiate between what is downright puerile, what is average and what sets the bar of performance higher. And that brings us back to the need of having a “knowledge-based” society. Simply put, only a society that is “knowledgeable” will be able to demand that its intelligence is respected. This knowledge should not be confused with literacy [Sikkim does quite well on that front]. Knowledge here is about being informed. People who are aware of what is happening around them can take intelligent decisions and once the people think intelligently, then those who serve them [from the media, to the public servant, to the public representative] will have to improve their performance too. The pressure for survival [as professionals] will itself pull Sikkim out of the mediocrity it wallows in at present.

But how does one go about it? It is not really as complicated as it sounds. For people to become more aware, all they have to do is get more involved, ask more questions, demand better answers. The government can contribute towards this transition by making information accessible. It is only after the people have been provided with information that they can mull over it and debate it. Although the debates might be immature initially, they will get better eventually. Once that happens, the people themselves will shape the knowledge-based society that Sikkim needs to grow into now.

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

Hanau attack part of pattern of white supremacist violence flowing from US

LOIS BECKETT
THEGUARDIAN

The mass shootings targeting two bars in the German town of Hanau appear to be the latest in a series of global attacks motivated by white nationalist ideology, experts said.

The 43-year-old German man identified by authorities as the gunman also appeared to be obsessed with America, and with American conspiracy theories, according to online video and documents German police are investigating in connection with the attack.

One video, posted to YouTube under the same name as the website containing the gunman’s manifesto, described a conspiracy about the abuse and torture of children in secret locations in America.

Experts in global extremism said the comments paralleled several recent conspiracies popular with American far-right, including the “Pizzagate” conspiracy, which prompted an American gunman to invade a popular pizza restaurant in Washington, DC, in 2016, believing that it was the centre of a secret child abuse ring run by high-ranking Democratic politicians. In that incident, the gunman fired his military-style rifle inside the restaurant, but no one was injured.

The Hanau attack is evidence that “conspiracy theories that are circulated by Americans in the United States, and through message boards that are predominantly American, do have an impact in other places,” said Dr Joan Donovan, a expert in technology and online extremism at Harvard University.

While no early evidence emerged linking the alleged Hanau attacker to established extremist groups or individuals, analysts said that both the online manifesto and the nine people the gunman chose to murder made it clear that his attack was part of an ongoing pattern of white supremacist terror.

“He targeted particular places where he knew he would find migrants,” said Marilyn Mayo, a senior research fellow at the Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism. “In his actions, he went to target the groups that he thought were detrimental to Germany and destroying German society and culture.”

The nine people killed at two different shisha bars in Hanau were all from immigrant backgrounds, many of them Turkish nationals. Early reports suggested that one

of the victims may have been a 35-year-old pregnant mother, and that employees at the bars targeted were also among the dead. People of Turkish background make up Germany’s single largest ethnic minority.

German authorities have described the gunman as being motivated by a “deeply racist mindset,” and are investigating the shootings as an act of domestic terrorism.

The author of the online postings associated with the attack “talked about the achievements of the German people versus nonwhite immigrants,” and “crimes committed by nonwhite immigrants,” including how “Germans who are complacent about it are part of the problem,” Mayo said. This fixation on “crimes committed by nonwhite immigrants” is a central preoccupation of mainstream racist politicians in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe, as well as previous white nationalist killers.

“What we have occurring now is white supremacy integrated on a global scale,” said Brian Levin, the director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.

The internet has helped “nationalist” extremists connect across borders and find common cause, advancing “the idea that if you act on and commit violence in one country, it’s for the good of the white race globally,” Donovan, the Harvard expert on online extremism, said.

Unlike the manifestos associated with previous white power attacks, the online postings being investigated in relation to the Hanau murders are rambling, with references to mind control and persistent delusions, and no direct homages to previous white nationalist attacks or attackers. The postings also include references “different American and Canadian New Age conspiracy theorists, and researchers who believe in alien abductions and UFOs,” Mayo said.

Experts noted that the online Hanau manifesto also included a description of the writer’s feelings of alienation from women and inability to find a partner, echoing misogynistic talking points made by the perpetrators of recent mass murders targeting women in the United States and Canada. Like many American mass shootings, the Hanau attack has a link to domestic violence: authorities said the shooter went home and shot his mother to death before killing himself.

Levin, the director of the Center for the Study of Extremism, said that many perpetrators of “mass symbolic violence” have multiple factors driving them, some primary and some secondary, including ideological motivations, revenge or personal benefit, and emotional or psychological problems.

Researchers have found people with serious mental illnesses are more likely to become a victim of violence than a perpetrator of violence, and that other factors, particularly previous violent behavior, is a much better predictor of extreme violence than mental health issues.

Within Germany, the Hanau attack follows the murder of a local German politician who had spoken out in defence of refugees and another mass shooting attack on a synagogue and a kebab shop in Halle, which left two people dead. The Halle shootings would likely have claimed more lives had the attacker not used handmade firearms which malfunctioned during the attack.

Globally, white nationalist attackers have targeted synagogues in the United States and Germany; mosques in England, Norway, and Christchurch, New Zealand; and a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, near the border between the United States and Mexico. Some attackers have described migrants and immigrants as “invaders,” as well as elaborating on the belief that a range of enemies, from Jewish people to feminists to leftists, are conspiring against the white race.

In ideologically motivated attacks, “the violence is used to get people to go back and look at the manifesto,” Donovan said, and when online platforms make it easy to share manifestos or even live-streamed footage of the attack, “We’re gong to continue to see that same tactic over and over again.”

But Donovan said that she had seen some early evidence that on Twitter, at least, the Hanau gunman’s manifesto, or messages celebrating his attack, had not spread in the same way as the footage of the attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, last March, which left 51 people dead.

Changes in Twitter’s policies, the disarray and de-platforming of certain white supremacist groups, and the German media’s practice of not using an attacker’s full name in news coverage are among the factors that might have contributed to this positive development, Donovan said.

What scientists are doing to develop a vaccine for the new coronavirus

MARC-ANTOINE DE LA VEGA
THECONVERSATION.COM

With an increasing number of confirmed cases in China and 24 other countries, the COVID-19 epidemic caused by the novel coronavirus (now known as SARS-CoV-2) looks concerning to many. As of Feb. 19, the latest numbers listed 74,280 confirmed cases including 2,006 deaths. Four of these deaths have occurred outside of mainland China: one each in the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong and France. The case in France is the first COVID-19 death outside of Asia.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared on Jan. 30 that the outbreak constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

In light of these events, health experts around the world are now divided as to whether this event will become a pandemic, or whether it will be possible to contain transmission of this virus.

TOWARDS A PANDEMIC?

In a recent New York Times article Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said it was “increasingly unlikely that the virus can be contained.” In the same article, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), said, “It’s very, very transmissible, and it almost certainly is going to be a pandemic.”

On the other hand, the WHO remains optimistic. Its head of emergency responses, Dr. Michael Ryan, told STAT News, “there’s enough evidence to suggest that this virus can still be contained” and that “until [containment] is impossible, we should keep trying.”

This brings us to the scientists and experts who are doing just that, throwing everything they have at this public health issue. Some are focused on treating patients with existing or novel therapeutics, others are focused on stopping transmission between individuals by developing a vaccine. Luckily for scientists, lessons learned during

the 2013-16 West African Ebola epidemic are now enabling the fast-track development of vaccines, without compromising their safety and efficacy.

Of course, it is critical to learn more about this specific novel virus, including its source and why transmission appears to be more efficient than with other coronaviruses.

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

CEPI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, is an international, not-for-profit organization with the mandate of accelerating the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases. On Jan. 23, it announced financial support to three institutions for the development of a vaccine against the newly identified coronavirus: Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc. and its “DNA platform,” the University of Queensland and its “protein clamp platform” and a Moderna Inc. partnership with NIAID using its “mRNA platform.”

On Jan. 31, CEPI also announced an extended partnership with CureVac, a biotechnology company, to adapt its RNA vaccine platform to SARS-CoV-2. Four days later, CEPI launched a call for proposals to develop new vaccines against the novel coronavirus, open to all organizations meeting its criteria and in possession of a readily available platform.

Johnson & Johnson has also announced its participation in vaccine development, using its “adenovirus platform,” which consists of a virus that is modified to look like SARS-CoV-2, but is unable to cause disease in humans. GlaxoSmithKline, another large pharmaceutical company, recently announced a partnership with CEPI to offer access to anyone who would like to use its adjuvant platform (adjuvants are components that can be added to vaccines to increase the generation of an immune response).

Finally, adding its name to the list, the University of Hong Kong also announced it already had a vaccine, designed from a modified

influenza virus vaccine.

ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

But what do these platforms mean? Why are so many different organizations working towards the same goal of developing a vaccine against one pathogen? Wouldn’t it be easier if everyone worked together, instead of trying such a wide variety of approaches? The answers to these questions are not so simple.

Vaccine platforms are tools that scientists can use to develop a new vaccine, using a similar system to previously successful approaches. For example, one well-known and straightforward approach is the “inactivated platform,” where the pathogen is safely replicated in laboratories, inactivated and then administered as a vaccine.

Although these platforms use different approaches, they all have the same overall goal of training the immune system of the vaccinated individual to quickly recognize a pathogen inside the body.

So why are there so many different platforms? Well, each platform has its own advantages and disadvantages. Some are easier to mass produce, some are known to induce fewer side effects, and some are just better at training particular aspects of the immune system.

The human immune system is divided into two major arms: innate and adaptive. Our innate immune system is non-specific and provides an immediate, but limited level of protection against a foreign intruder inside the body. The adaptive immune system can target a specific pathogen, but needs time to develop its full effect, about 21 to 28 days following infection, or vaccination. The adaptive side can be further sub-divided into humoral and cellular immunity.

With new pathogens like SARS-CoV-2, scientists don’t know which sub-division of the immune system will provide protection, so they aren’t certain which platform will produce the most successful vaccine.

WHAT ARE SCIENTISTS DOING

THEN?

Vaccine design looks simple on paper, but making it work all the way to human use is a whole other story.

Currently, scientists are working on identifying which parts of SARS-CoV-2 they can use in their vaccines. These parts have to be carefully selected, because they need to mimic what a real infection would look like to our bodies. This has to be done in conjunction with selection of an appropriate vaccine delivery method: the platform that will be used.

For ethical reasons, once a vaccine candidate is available, it needs to undergo safety and efficacy testing in animals (although exceptions are possible). Not all laboratory animals are susceptible to infection in the same way as humans. This is why scientists are also working to identify an animal model suitable for evaluating candidate vaccines. At this point, many months and tens of thousands of dollars have been invested in vaccine development.

Once animal trials are satisfactory, the vaccine can be administered to humans in a clinical trial to evaluate the vaccine’s safety and efficacy. This means additional months to years (if not decades), and millions of dollars in investment.

The last steps are often out of the scientists’ hands. The vaccine must be registered and receive regulatory approval, produced at large-scale and distributed. Although these steps take only a few lines to list here, they can take years to actually achieve.

On the other hand, health experts tell us over and over again that if we’re lucky and everything goes well, we could have a safe and effective vaccine in about a year. It remains to be seen at what stage of the process we will be in early 2021. If China has managed to build a 1,000-bed hospital in 10 days to counter the spread of the epidemic, who knows what can be achieved in a year on the vaccine side.

[the writer is PhD Student in Microbiology-Immunology, Université Laval]

POCSO cells in Bihar schools to hear sexual harassment complaints

PATNA, FEB 23 (PTI): Schools in Bihar would soon have 'POCSO cells' to hear complaints of sexual misconduct and exploitation, a government official said here on Sunday.

Bihar Education Project Council, an organization dedicated to achieving Universal Elementary Education (UEE) in the state, had last week issued direction to all district education officers to set up POCSO cells in schools, with students among others as its members, she said.

"We have given directions to the district education officers (DEOs) to set up POCSO cells in all schools of the state, starting March 1..."

"There will be a committee headed by the headmaster in each school, which will look into the complaints and take necessary action, according to the provisions of POCSO Act," Kiran Kumari, special project officer, Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC), told PTI.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 aims to punish those engaging in sexual crimes against children, while safeguarding their interests at every stage of the judi-

cial process.

In the first phase, the units would be established in secondary schools, she said, adding that the model would be later replicated in primary and middle schools.

Each committee will have the school principal or headmaster, a senior school teacher, a panchayati raj representative, a girl student, a boy student and a clerk as its members, Kumar explained.

"A student can either directly submit a written complaint of sexual exploitation or misconduct to the committee or leave it in the complaint box, with or without mentioning his or identity. The complaint box will be opened once every week.

"If the committee deems fit, the complaint will be forwarded to the nearest police station. It will be the panel's job to find out the identity of the complainant at the time of lodging of an FIR. As per POCSO rules, confidentiality of the complainant will be maintained," she said

Noting that the "cells would work at two levels", the BEPC state programme officer said awareness would be generated about sexual harassment in schools, as part of the initiative.

BHU team unearths 4000-yr-old crafts village in Varanasi

NEW DELHI, FEB 19 (PTI): A 4000-year-old urban settlement has been unearthed by a team of the Benaras Hindu University in Varanasi, which experts say is one of the craft villages mentioned in ancient texts.

The Benaras Hindu University's Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology which did a preliminary survey of the site in Babhanyav village, 13 km from Varanasi, said they had found remnants of one of the settlements

that have been mentioned in various literature surrounding the holy city.

Initial survey of the site in Babhanyav village in Varanasi district has found a temple dating back to the 5th Century AD through 8th Century AD, potteries which are 4000-year-old and walls which are 2000-year-old, said Professor A K Dubey of Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, BHU.

"On the basis of the surface materials at the site we can say that

the structure is anywhere between 3500 to 4000-year-old," said Dubey, who is part of the team which will excavate the site from February 23.

He said that it gains significance because of its proximity to Varanasi, which according to legend was founded by the Hindu deity Lord Shiva 5,000 years ago, though modern scholars believe it to be around 3,000 years old.

"The site at Babhanyav could be a small sub-centre of Varanasi

which also grew as an urban town," said Dubey.

The latest findings in Babhanyav village is significant as it could have been a satellite settlement and feeding centre of the Varanasi-Sarnath region, said B R Mani former Additional Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

He was invited by BHU during its initial survey and said the team has unearthed a 5-metre cultural deposit like the ones

found in Sarnath.

"While such crafts villages have been earlier unearthed in Sarnath, Tilmapur, Ramnagar and other areas, Babhanyav is an addition. They have also found a pillar with a two line text in Kushan Brahmi script which makes the findings at least 3500-4000 year old.

"Once the excavation is complete we will get a clearer picture of the findings," Mani, who now heads the National Museum, told PTI.

George Fernandes memorial inaugurated at Bejai church

MANGALURU, FEB 23 (PTI): A memorial erected for late union minister and socialist leader George Fernandes at the Bejai Church cemetery here was inaugurated on Sunday.

The memorial, built on his mortal remains as per his religious customs, was inaugurated by Mangaluru bishop Peter Paul Saldanha.

Speaking after blessing the memorial, Saldanha said the late leader always stood for the working class and fulfilled their dreams.

A son of Mangaluru, he moved to Mumbai and then to the national capital to work for different



sections of people in the country, the bishop said.

He said Fernandes, a former Defence and Railway minister, had

the extraordinary ability to dream big which resulted in the establishment of Konkan Railway project.

He knew the power of democracy and the pulse of the people, thereby earning powerful positions at the Centre.

Fernandes brother Micheal Fernandes, who also spoke, thanked the church and all others for erecting the memorial and urged the people to carry the late leaders work forward.

Church officials, former MLA J R Lobo and corporators were among those present on the occasion.

Fernandes, who was born in Bejai in 1930, had an eventful career in national politics spanning decades.

He was elected to the Lok Sabha nine times and once to the Rajya Sabha.

He died of Alzheimer's disease in 2019.

Wild boar attacks five people in UP village

MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP), FEB 23 (PTI): At least five people, including a Class X student and an elderly woman, were injured after being attacked by a wild boar in a village here, police said.

The incident happened in Tandeda village under Kakroli police station limits of the district on Saturday, they said.

The boar is said to have entered the village from a nearby jungle and attacked several people.

The injured were identified as Manish (16), Jumerati (55), Indervir Singh, Shah Nawaz and Nyaju.

All of them received treatment.

Later, the boar returned to the jungle.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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AAP eyes UP, to contest panchayat polls this year

LUCKNOW, FEB 23 (PTI): Buoyed by its decisive victory in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party has decided to turn its focus on Uttar Pradesh as it outlined its plans on Sunday to recruit 25-lakh members in the politically-crucial state and contest the panchayat polls later this year.

AAP spokesperson Sanjay Singh said party workers would visit 1.07-lakh villages in the state during the next three months, and gather public opinion and information on issues that affect people.

"The entire feedback will be submitted to Kejriwal after three months," Singh told reporters.

The Rajya Sabha member said the Arvind Kejriwal-led party planned to make 25-lakh members in the state and, within a month, 5,000 posters of the party would be put up in every assembly constituency.

The membership drive will be held from Monday till March 22 in over 12,000 wards in various cities across the state.

"AAP will contest the panchayat elections (likely in October-November) in UP," he announced.

nounced.

However, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma dismissed the claims made by the AAP, saying the party had talked about expanding itself in the past as well.

The renewed focus to diversify the AAP across the country comes nearly two weeks after the party, founded in 2012, registered a decisive win in the Delhi assembly elections for a third consecutive term.

After its win in Delhi five years ago, the AAP had made moves to expand, but did not find much base.

For Uttar Pradesh, the AAP spokesperson said, five ministers with origins in the state have been made ministers in Delhi government. "They will play a key role in various campaigns by the party," he added.

Hitting out at the Adityanath government, Singh claimed that law and order had ceased to exist in Uttar Pradesh and the youth was disappointed with the BJP government.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had campaigned for the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the Delhi Assembly election.

"The statements made by Adityanath and

the action on CAA protesters are a sign of an unsuccessful chief minister," Singh said.

"The BJP is a party with a bad mentality and is known for its bad remarks. The people have defeated BJP's politics of hatred and have given a thumbs up to Kejriwal's politics of love," Singh said, adding that the BJP was raising "all the unreal issues" while hiding the issues of inflation.

"People are tired of politics of religion," he said, stressing that AAP would focus on farmers' problems.

Singh alleged that hooliganism and anarchy were at its peak in the state and attempts were being made under the present dispensation to "harm" democracy.

"All sections of society are fed up with this government. But the CM is busy patting his back and talking falsely about development," he charged, adding only the AAP could provide a clean governance.

The party, which is eyeing the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, said it would seek votes in the name of Delhi government's "development model", which, Singh asserted, was better than the BJP's "Guja-

rat model".

"We have started making ground in the politically-sensitive Uttar Pradesh. We are sure the 2022 election will be contested on the development agenda and we will seek vote in the name of Delhi's development model," Singh told PTI.

"The Delhi Assembly election has proved people are discarding politics of hatred and preferring politics of development," he said. "In Delhi, 15 MLAs belong to UP and they will be given responsibility in the state to strengthen the party's base."

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma dismissed the claims made by the AAP.

Speaking to reporters in Firozabad, Sharma said: "They (AAP) has been talking about expansion for a long time. Last time, when they had formed the government in Delhi, they had also talked about expansion (in UP)."

"There will be no loss for the BJP. All the political parties are against the BJP. Whatever the splitting of votes takes place, it will be of other parties, and not of the BJP," the deputy chief minister added.

ter Firhad Hakim said Banerjee had met the prime minister in Kolkata and also in New Delhi over the demands.

"The chief minister will certainly reiterate the demands when she meets the prime minister again," Hakim said.

On Ghosh's claim that Banerjee sent the letter to the PM to avoid submitting accounts of funds used, Hakim said a government does its work in writing so that it is documented.

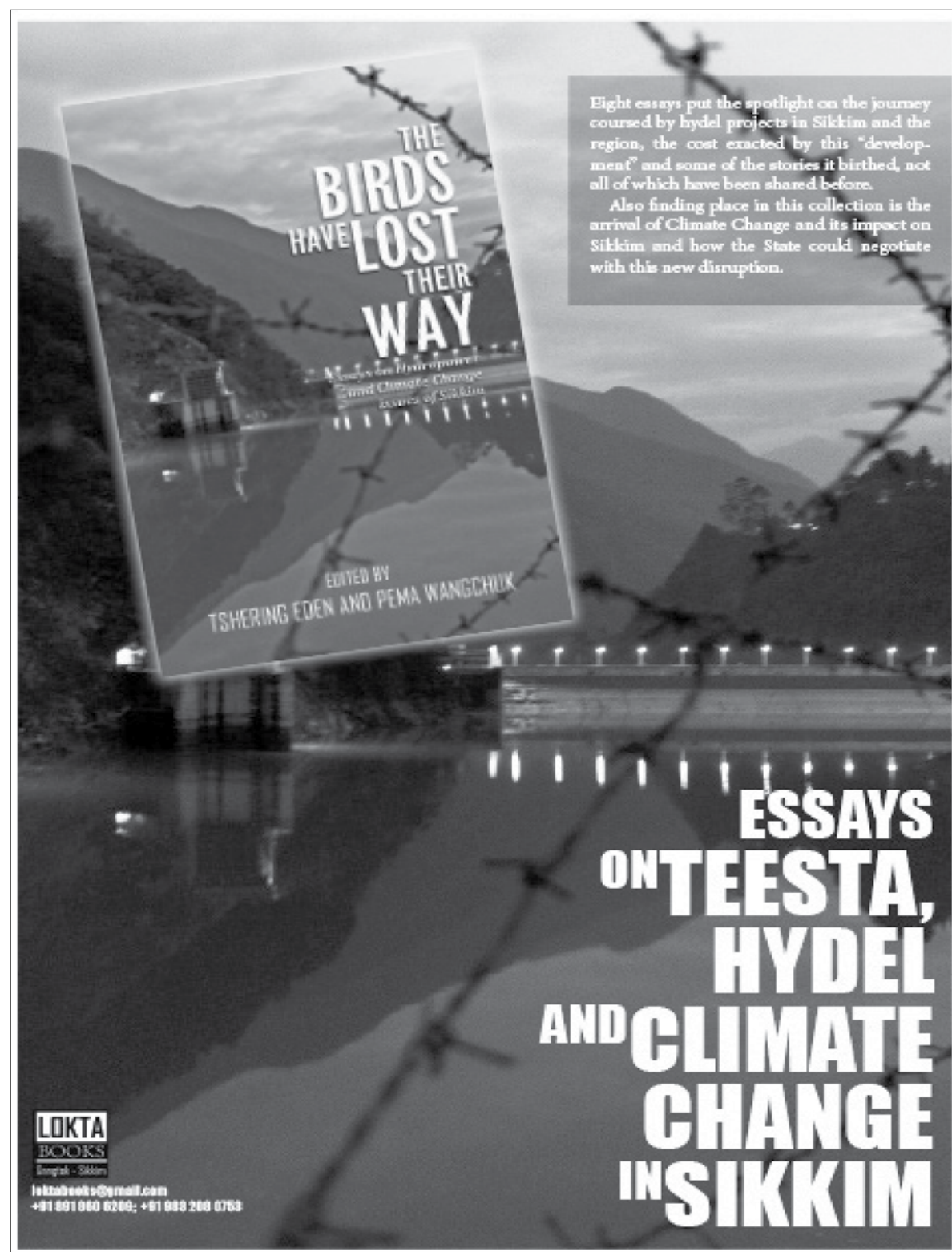
Tuskers trample 3 villagers to death, leave 5 injured

PURI (ODISHA), FEB 23 (PTI): Two wild tuskers trampled three persons to death and left five others injured in separate incidents in Puri district, police said on Sunday. The incidents took place in several villages under Delang and Pipili police station limits. While

two persons died on Sunday morning, another succumbed to his injuries on Saturday night.

Police said the elephants strayed into villages such as Gopinathpur, Rajatei and Chandradeipur on Saturday night and attacked a total of eight people.

Three of them died while five suffered injuries, police said. Forest department officials said they are trying to drive out the elephants from the human habitation areas and warned people not to come out of their houses during the exercise.



**ESSAYS
ON TEESTA,
HYDEL
AND CLIMATE
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Goa to host Indian Super League final: Nita Ambani



MUMBAI, FEB 23 (PTI): Margao in Goa will host the final match of this season's Indian Super League on March 14, Football Sports Development Limited's founding chairperson Nita Ambani said on Sunday.

The summit clash will be held at 7:30 pm on March 14 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Fatorda in Margao.

"Goa deserves to host the ISL final. There is no denying that Goa loves its football and we would like to bring the most crucial football event to the city for the people of Goa," Ambani said. The JLN stadium at Fatorda is the home venue of FC Goa, who have secured a berth in the AFC Champions League 2021 group stage by finishing on top of the league stage of the ISL.

"It has been such a joy

to watch FC Goa this season. A fantastic team and the most consistent club in ISL over last six years. My heartiest congratulations to FC Goa's captain Mandar, their lead goal scorer Coro (Ferran Corominas) and entire squad, coaching staff and the management for winning the first-ever ISL League Shield," said Ambani.

Goa had last hosted the ISL final in 2015 played between Chennaiyin FC and FC Goa, with the home side losing 2-3 in a dramatic fashion, after leading 2-1 till 90 minutes.

The winner of this year's ISL final will be eligible to play the AFC Cup qualifiers. In case the ISL winner is same as the league stage winner (FC Goa), then the league strge runners-up will be awarded the AFC Cup qualifier berth.

Lisa Nandy says trans rights pledge wording gave her 'pause for thought'

London, 23 Feb [theGuardian]: Lisa Nandy has said she was given "pause for thought" about signing a pledge card from the Labour Campaign for Trans Rights.

The pledge calls on candidates in the Labour leadership race to back the expulsion of party members who hold "bigoted, transphobic views".

It also describes Woman's Place UK, a group that backs biological sex to be acknowledged as part of maintaining women's rights, as a "trans-exclusionist hate group".

Speaking on Sky News's Sophy Ridge on Sunday programme, Nandy said the call for those who support organisations such as Woman's Place to be kicked out of the party has given her pause ahead of signing the pledge.

"I have to say, that was the part of the pledge that gave me pause for thought about whether to sign it," said Nandy. "I decided to sign it in the end because I think that the sentiment of the pledge about protecting trans rights and about accepting that trans men are men and trans women are women is really important, especially at the moment with the level of discrimination that people face."

She added: "I don't think that proscribing organisations is actually the right way to deal with disciplinary issues in the Labour party."

"I think that the question for us is always about individual behaviour and it's right to recognise that there are women who have fought for generations in order to create safe spaces for women who want to have a proper debate about how we best protect that in an era where we've recognised that trans men are men, trans women are women, and we've got to do far more to protect trans women from harm as well.

"I want to see us have an open debate, I don't want to see us close down debate and I don't want anybody who's listening to this to think that I do."

Nandy also suggested that pledge cards were being used to pit people against each other.

She said: "I think that pledge cards themselves have become a real problem in British politics and I think, with hindsight, if we could have all signed a pledge card at the beginning to say that we wouldn't sign pledge cards, we'd probably be in a much better place because one of the ways that pledge cards have been used is to pit people against one another."

"We've seen it happen with Brexit in recent years, we've seen it happen with the Israel-Palestine debate within the Labour party in recent months and, actually, it surely must be possible for us to have a better level of debate than this."

Asked whether she would be happy for people who identify as women to stand on all-women shortlists, the Wigan MP said: "Yeah, I think that you have to walk the walk in the Labour party and that means that we have to do two things - one is that we have to accept that people are who they say they are. I've never believed that politicians or even me as an individual should interfere or dictate to people who they are."

In an interview with the Observer, Sir Keir Starmer called on Labour party members to unite.

The leadership candidate said: "My message to our members is essentially that they've got a choice: we as a party can mope around, head in hands, arguing with each other, pointing fingers about who's to blame for this, that and the other."

"Or we could decide the next four years of our history is for us - we can pull together and shape what happens next."

Chelsea see off Spurs as Jesus grabs late Man City winner

LONDON, FEB 23 (AFP): Chelsea strengthened their grip on a Premier League top-four place by beating London rivals Tottenham 2-1 as Manchester City edged past Leicester despite another attack of the penalty jitters.

Sheffield United will rue missing out on the chance to clamber above Tottenham into fifth place after drawing at home to struggling Brighton on Saturday.

Liverpool's staggering 19-point lead over second-placed Manchester City means the title race is effectively over, with much of the focus turning to the scramble to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Frank Lampard's fourth-placed Chelsea went into their match against Jose Mourinho's Spurs at Stamford Bridge without a win in their past four Premier League matches and just one point clear of Spurs.

Fringe players Olivier Giroud and Marcos Alonso were recalled by Lampard and both rewarded their manager's confidence by scoring in the home win.

The result means Lampard has completed a league double against his former boss this season after their 2-0 victory at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in December.

But the match was overshadowed by a VAR controversy, with officials ruling that Tottenham midfielder Giovani Lo Celso did not deserve to be sent off for a "leg breaker" stamp on Cesar Azpilicueta.

World Cup winner Giroud put Chelsea ahead in the 15th minute when he reacted quickest to finish beyond Hugo Lloris after Ross Barkley had struck a post.

Chelsea doubled their advantage three minutes into the second half, Alonso drilling in a first-time shot after being set up by Barkley.

Alonso's free-kick hit the bar before Antonio Rudiger deflected Erik Lamela's shot into his own net in the 89th minute to give Spurs late hope.

Lampard criticised VAR after Lo Celso was allowed to stay on the pitch.

- 'LEG-BREAKER' -



"I hate to call for red cards but that is a leg breaker," he said.

"Everybody knew they made a mistake. I was just waiting for the red card to be shown."

Adding to Lampard's frustration, television broadcaster BT Sport reported that VAR officials had told them Lo Celso should have been sent off.

As it stands, a fifth-placed finish could guarantee Champions League football next season because Manchester City have been banned from Europe's elite competition for two years.

City hope to have

their appeal against the ban heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport before the start of next season.

Substitute Gabriel Jesus struck late on for City at the King Power Stadium after Aguero saw his second-half spot-kick saved by Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

City have failed to score from each of their past four penalties, with each spot-kick being missed by a different player.

But they bounced back to see off Leicester and the 1-0 win leaves them seven points clear

of their opponents, cementing their position in second place.

Jamie Vardy will rue hitting the post early in the match and Leicester had two penalty appeals turned down in an engaging contest.

"We have missed four penalties in a row but maybe we will shoot a penalty when we need it to win something," Man City coach Pep Guardiola told the BBC.

"The keepers are good too, but the next one we are going to score."

Sheffield United had a chance to steal a march on their rivals for a

Champions League place next season, with Manchester United, Wolves, Arsenal and Everton not in action until Sunday.

They took the lead at home against Brighton through Enda Stevens but Neal Maupay equalised for the south coast club on the half-hour.

The 1-1 draw leaves Sheffield United in sixth place on 40 points, level with Tottenham.

Sheffield manager Chris Wilder said he was proud of his team's efforts in tough conditions.

"There was just a relentless nature of our game, we were knocking on the door and if it don't open, it don't open, but not for want of trying and not for want of an attitude that's exceptional and has been all season," he said.

Burnley beat Bournemouth 3-0 to win for the fourth time in five Premier League matches and lift themselves to eighth in the table while Southampton won 2-0 at home to Aston Villa to move 10 points clear of the drop zone.

Runaway league leaders Liverpool host struggling West Ham on Monday.

World champion Marquez admits shoulder injury worry



DOHA, FEB 23 (AFP): World motorcycling champion Marc Marquez admitted that his long-standing shoulder problem hampered his performance on the opening day of pre-season testing on Saturday.

Honda rider Marquez, a six-time champion in the sport's elite class, was sixth fastest at the Losail track, 0.361sec behind the Suzuki of Spanish compatriot Alex Rins.

Marquez underwent surgery on his right shoulder last November after a fall in testing in Jerez, aggravating an injury originally picked up at last year's Malaysian Grand Prix.

"Today we started well but I am struggling

a bit more than in Malaysia (at a recent test) with my shoulder," said Marquez.

"In the long corners here, especially the long right handers, I feel my shoulder."

"As always, Qatar is not an easy circuit for us and we're aiming to be as strong as possible."

Qatar will host the world championship season-opener on March 8.

It was a day to forget for the Marquez family with younger brother Alex, promoted to the Honda MotoGP team this season, down in 21st place from 22 riders.

That was over two seconds off the leading Suzuki.

"I have been feeling

a little sick," said 2019 Moto2 world champion Alex.

"It's nothing serious but I do not have my full power and in MotoGP you need to be at your best."

"I had a crash today. This is how you find the limit as a rookie so I'm not focusing on it."

Rins was joined at the top of the time charts by Suzuki teammate Joan Mir.

Yamaha's Maverick Vinales was third, completing a Spanish top three.

Seven-time MotoGP champion Valentino Rossi was seventh fastest, one place ahead of Fabio Quartararo who will replace the veteran Italian at the Yamaha factory team in 2021.

Women's Euro 2021 to kick off at Old Trafford



LONDON, FEB 23 (AFP): England will kick off the 2021 women's European Championship at Old Trafford as part of an ambitious target to sell 700,000 tickets for the event and smash previous attendance records.

The final of the 16-team tournament between July 7 and August 1 next year will take place at Wembley with eight other stadiums across England hosting the other 29 matches.

"To kick-off at the Theatre of Dreams in Manchester and to have the final at the iconic Wembley Stadium shows just how far the game has come," said UEFA's head of women's football and former German international Nadine Kessler.

"This is what women's football deserves. To play in such stadia is what you strive for -- as a player, coach, referee and a fan."

England's Football Association is hoping to ride the momentum of the Lionesses' run to the semi-finals of last year's

World Cup.

A UK television audience of 11.7 million watched England's defeat in the last four to world champions the United States.

Attendances at Women's Super League games have increased this season on the back of that success, with big crowds in particular for a number of fixtures played at the likes of Stamford Bridge, Anfield, the Etihad and Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

England's 2-1 friendly defeat by Germany at Wembley fell just short of a European record for a women's match as nearly 78,000 attended.

Sheffield, Brentford, Brighton, Leigh, Rotherham, Milton Keynes, Southampton and Manchester City's Academy stadium will host 29 of the 31 matches with capacities ranging from 4,700 to 32,000.

The plan to sell 700,000 tickets is an ambitious one. At the 2017 Euros in the Netherlands, which the hosts won to

boost crowd numbers, only 240,000 tickets were sold.

The largest attendance at last year's World Cup was 58,000 and the previous record for a match at the women's Euros is 41,000.

However, having witnessed the massive transformation in the popularity of the women's game in England, Sue Campbell, the FA's director of women's football is hopeful of "raising the bar" once again.

"We want with UEFA to make this the most successful tournament," said Campbell.

"Euro 2021 is an opportunity to build on that platform and take it to another level."

"What we hope for the tournament is to raise the bar yet again for the women's game in England. We thought we had raised it pretty high in the last few years but we want to lift it again."

"More fans watching; more women playing; more women coaching; more women refereeing."

Six of top-10 cos lose Rs 29,487 cr in m-cap; Bharti Airtel top laggard

NEW DELHI, FEB 23 (PTI): Six of the 10 most valued domestic firms suffered a combined erosion of Rs 29,487 crore in market valuation last week, with Bharti Airtel emerging as the biggest loser.

TCS, HDFC, HUL, HDFC Bank and RIL were the other bluechip firms which witnessed a drop in their market

capitalisation (m-cap) for the week ended Thursday, while Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICI- CI Bank finished with gains.

Bharti Airtel's valuation tumbled Rs 10,692.9 crore to reach Rs 2,97,600.65 crore.

The m-cap of TCS plummeted Rs

10,319.06 crore to Rs 8,09,126.71 crore and that of HDFC dropped by Rs 5,162.75 crore to Rs 4,10,062.89 crore.

The market valuation of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) fell Rs 1,515.37 crore to Rs 4,86,617.28 crore and that of HDFC Bank declined Rs 1,068.34 crore to Rs 6,66,914.4 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) dropped Rs 729.01 crore to reach Rs 9,41,693.57 crore.

On the other hand, Infosys added Rs 4,471.59 crore to its valuation to stand at Rs 3,39,287.61 crore.

Bajaj Finance's valuation rose by Rs 5,863.46 crore to Rs

2,93,666.38 crore and that of Kotak Mahindra Bank jumped Rs 956.14 crore to Rs 3,22,542.94 crore.

The market valuation of ICICI Bank advanced by Rs 541.78 crore to Rs 3,53,766.96 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, RIL remained at the numero uno po-

sition, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, HUL, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance.

During the week, the BSE Sensex fell 86.62 points or 0.21 per cent. Markets were closed on Friday on account of 'Mahashivratri'.

Japan emperor's 60th birthday overshadowed by virus fears

TOKYO, FEB 23 (AP): Japanese Emperor Naruhito, marking his 60th birthday, offered his sympathy to those affected by the new virus, as concerns over infections forced the traditional gathering of tens of thousands of well-wishers outside the royal palace to be cancelled.

Sunday's birthday is a special one for Naruhito, his first since becoming emperor. Sixty is considered a landmark age in the Japanese zodiac calendar.

Festivities surrounding the emperor's birthday, however, have been toned down amid concerns about the virus. Plans for Naruhito to wave from the palace balcony to tens of thousands of well-wishers were among the events that were cancelled.

Japan has confirmed more than 750 cases, including 634 from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, which was docked and quarantined in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

As we face concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, I offer my sympathy to the patients and their families," Naruhito told reporters at a new conference held ahead of his birthday.

I hope that the escalation of the infections will be contained as soon as possible." While global attention was on the cruise ship, the virus has already made its way into Japan and is gradually spreading in the country, from Okinawa in the south to Hokkaido in the north.

Experts say the infection in Japan is in the early stages of acceleration, prompting the government to prepare for a further spread of the virus.

A series of concerts, athletic events and festivals have been scrapped, with some people starting to question whether Japan can host this summer's Tokyo Olympics as planned.

Naruhito, citing his fond memories of Tokyo's first Olympics, which he saw at age 4, said he hopes to see this summer's games carried out successfully. For me, the (1964) Tokyo Olympics was my first encounter with the rest of the world, Naruhito said. As a young prince, he watched the closing ceremony with his parents. He said watching athletes of all nationalities march together made a strong impression on him.

The scene I was able to see, I believe, became a foundation of my lasting commitment and prayer for world peace, he said. Naruhito and his wife, Masako, who is recovering from a stress-induced mental condition, have an 18-year-old daughter, Princess Aiko, who is graduating from high school and will study Japanese literature at Gakushuin University also Naruhito's alma mater, where he majored in history. Aiko is not eligible to inherit her father's throne under Japan's male-only succession rule, though there is a growing call to allow her to be an empress amid a declining royal population and shortage of male successors.

Italy towns close down amid virus case clusters, 2 deaths



CODOGNO (ITALY), FEB 23 (AP): A dozen towns in northern Italy effectively went into lockdown Saturday after the deaths of two people infected with the new virus from China and a growing cluster of cases with no direct links to the origin of the outbreak abroad.

The secondary contagions prompted local authorities in the Lombardy and Veneto regions to close schools, businesses and restaurants and to cancel sporting events and Masses.

The mayor of Milan, Italy's business capital and the regional capital of Lombardy, shuttered public offices.

A 78-year-old man infected with the virus died in Veneto. A post-mortem test performed on a 77-year-old woman in Lombardy came back positive, though it wasn't clear if illness from the virus caused her death.

Hundreds of residents and workers who came into contact with 54 people who tested positive for the virus in Italy were put into isolation pending results of their tests. Civil protection crews set up a tent camp outside a closed hospital in Veneto to screen medical staff for the virus.

In the town of Codogno, where the first patient identified in the northern cluster was in critical condition, closed supermarkets, restaurants and shops made main street practically a ghost town.

The few people out wore face masks, which were coveted items after selling out at pharmacies.

Lombardy government authorities said the region had 39 confirmed cases, all somehow traceable to the first one involving a man who hadn't traveled to China.

Ten towns in Lombardy received orders to suspend nonessential activities and services.

The Veneto region

reported 12 people with the virus, including the 78-year-old man who died late Friday. Two of the region's confirmed infections were in relatives of the man who died, Veneto regional president Luca Zaia said.

Zaia said Saturday that the contagion showed that the virus is transmitted like any flu and that trying to pinpoint a single source for the cases or to establish a link to China no longer were effective containment measures.

"You can get it from anyone," he told reporters.

"We can expect to have cases of patients who had no contact" with suspected carriers. While the virus isn't particularly lethal, it can be for the elderly or people with existing conditions, he said.

The man who died in Veneto, for example, did not meet the main risk factors for the virus when he was diagnosed with pneumonia two weeks ago: he hadn't traveled to China or come into contact with anyone who did. Therefore, the ill man wasn't originally tested for the virus.

He was only tested after he didn't respond to conventional pneumonia treatment, and by then it was too late, according to Francesca Russo, the head of healthcare for the Veneto region.

Along with eight other infected people, the man who died have formed a cluster in his

hometown of Vo'Euganeo, population 3,300. Russo expressed relief that to date, none of the hospital personnel who treated him has tested positive.

Lombardy health and welfare ministry chief Giulio Gallera said that region's 39 cases also comprised a traceable cluster.

The first person to fall ill had met with a man who returned from China on Jan. 21 and remains without symptoms. Other people acquired their infections from the patient who hadn't been in China, either through contact with him or the hospital in Codogno where he first received treatment February 18.

More than 250 tests were completed in Lombardy, though hundreds more were being processed, including among the man's colleagues at a Unilever plant near Codogno where he worked, Gallera said.

Given how contagious it is, it's possible the numbers will increase, he said.

National and regional officials approved an ordinance that put 10 Lombardy towns in effective lockdown around Lodi, southeast of Milan, after the region reported a quadrupling of cases Friday.

But individual cities outside the area covered by the ordinance, such as Cremona, issued their own restrictions after confirming there were local cases.

In Milan itself, how-

ever, life was largely continuing on as usual: Inter Milan was still scheduled to play Sampdoria on Sunday night in Italy's Serie A soccer league, and Milan Fashion Week was wrapping up, even though chatter about the rising numbers accompanied the runway shows.

"It doesn't seem to me in this moment for what regards our sector, our fashion week, that there are signs of danger," Carlo Capasa, president of the Italian National Fashion Chamber, told The Associated Press.

"We are tranquil and prudent." However, the world's largest eyewear trade fair, MIDO, announced it was putting off its Milan show until June because of the outbreak.

The number of confirmed infections rapidly changed, but by Saturday stood at 54 nationwide: 39 in Lombardy, 12 in Veneto and the three in Rome that were Italy's only cases until the clusters emerged in the north Friday.

Despite the alarm, authorities urged calm and tried to balance precautionary closures with the economic reality of regions highly dependent on tourism and commerce.

Hotel reservations in Venice were down one-third during the first weekend of Carnival, though floods in the lagoon city late last year likely scared off visitors.

This is not an Ital-

ian "Wuhan," insisted Ivana Jlenic, president of the federation of Italian tourism and travel agencies, Fiavet. Avoiding all travel at this time would just be alarmist."

In Rome, doctors at the Spallanzani infectious disease hospital treating the first three people in Italy found to be infected with the virus - a Chinese couple from Wuhan and an Italian who contracted the virus in China - reported encouraging news in the otherwise bleak day.

The Italian patient, who tested positive for the virus two weeks ago, was cleared to leave the hospital, while one of the Chinese visitors tested negative for the first time.

Separately Saturday, 19 Italians who spent more than two weeks quarantined on a virus-stricken cruise liner in Japan landed at Rome's military Pratica di Mare airport. They had been stranded on the Diamond Princess since February 5.

Following the first health checks and decontamination process, the passengers were transferred to the military campus of Cecchignola where they will spend a 14-day isolation period.

Britain also welcomed home passengers from the Diamond Princess: 32 British and other European passengers landed at a British military base in southwest England.

They will be quarantined for 14 days at Arrowe Park hospital in northwest England, where more than 80 other Britons evacuated from Wuhan, the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak, have already spent time in isolation.

Four UK nationals from the Diamond Princess who tested positive for the virus are being treated at hospitals in Japan. Britain has nine confirmed cases of the virus.

Bernie Sanders set to win Nevada Democratic Caucus



LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, FEB 23 (PTI): US Senator Bernie Sanders on Saturday was projected to win the crucial Nevada caucus, boosting his chances of being the front runner for the Democratic presidential nominee.

Multiple American media outlets declared Sanders as the winner of the Nevada Caucus for the Democratic Party's presidential primary.

The senator from Vermont had 54 per cent of the county delegates available when several national news networks, including Fox news and MSNBC, called the race with only four per cent of precincts reporting.

When last reports came in, Sanders had garnered more than half of the votes, with former vice president Joe Biden trailing with less than 18 per cent.

Sanders, 78, had

won the New Hampshire primary last week and was in a virtual tie with underdog Pete Buttigieg in Iowa. Trump congratulated Sanders in a tweet.

"Looks like Crazy Bernie is doing well in the Great State of Nevada. Biden and the rest look weak, and no way Mini Mike can restart his campaign after the worst debate performance in the history of Presidential debates," the president tweeted.

"Congratulations Bernie, and don't let them take it away from you!" Trump tweeted.

"We did it! We won the Nevada caucus, and we won BIG!" said Faiz Shakir, the campaign manager for Sanders.

"This win is our win, in large part because of the record number of donations and volunteer enthusiasm for Bernie in the state," he said.

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Harry Dunn's family want Julian Assange's extradition stopped

LONDON, 23 FEB [THEGUARDIAN]: The family of Harry Dunn has called for Julian Assange not to be extradited as long as the United States refuses to send the suspect in the teenager's death back to Britain.

The family has have accused the US government of "demonstrating an extraordinary amount of hypocrisy" in seeking the Wikileaks founder's extradition but rejecting a request for Anne Sacoolas to return to Britain.

Dunn, 19, died when his motorbike was involved in a collision with a car outside RAF Croughton in Northamptonshire on 27 August 2019.

Sacoolas, 42, the wife of an intelligence official based at the US military base, claimed diplomatic immunity and was able to return to her home country, sparking an international controversy.

The US refused an extradition request for Sacoolas last month.

Dunn's family has asked the foreign affairs secretary, Dominic Raab, to halt the extradition process for Assange before the beginning of the first full court hearing on Monday.

The Mail on Sunday quoted Radd Seiger, the Dunn family's spokesman: "Despite its disgraceful refusal to extradite Anne Sacoolas, the US continues to seek the extradition of people in the UK – such as Julian Assange. In doing so, they are demonstrating an extraordinary amount of hypocrisy."

"As Dominic Raab told us when we met with him on January 27: 'We are reviewing all options.' We want him now to exercise the option of not extraditing Julian Assange to the US."

Assange, 48, is being held in Belmarsh prison, in south-east

London, and is wanted in the US to face 18 charges over the publication of US cables a decade ago. If found guilty he could face a 175-year sentence.

Dunn's family has previously called for the Duke of York to cooperate with law enforcement in the US amid allegations around his friendship with the billionaire paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

At a press conference earlier this month, Seiger joined a lawyer for alleged victims of Epstein to call for both Sacoolas to return to the UK and Prince Andrew to face questioning from the FBI in the US.

Allegations about Andrew surfaced from Virginia Giuffre, who claimed she was trafficked by Epstein and alleged the duke slept with her on three occasions, including when she was 17 – still a minor under US law.

Andrew has strenuously denied the allegations.

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SHADES AND BLAZERS! Model sisters Gigi Hadid & Bella Hadid are seen out in similar style during Milan Fashion Week.

Benji Madden's message for Cameron Diaz and daughter Raddix will warm your heart

Benji Madden has a lot of love for Cameron Diaz and their baby girl Raddix Madden.

The 40-year-old musician praised the 47-year-old actress and their little one in a heartwarming Instagram post on Friday.

"My Wife and Daughter fill me up with so much gratitude [every day]," the Good Charlotte rocker wrote alongside a photo of three roses. "I feel so lucky. Just wanted to say it out loud!!! Much Love & Best Wishes."

The celebrity couple announced the arrival of their first child back in January.

"Happy New Year from the Maddens!" the proud parents wrote via Instagram.

"We are so happy, blessed and grateful to begin this new decade by announcing the birth of our daughter, Raddix Madden. She has instantly captured our hearts and completed our family."

While the stars were "overjoyed to share this news," they also made it clear they feel a "strong instinct" to protect their daughter's privacy.

"So, we won't be posting pictures or sharing any more details, other than the fact that she is really, really cute!!" Diaz and Madden continued. "Some would even say RAD :)"

The artist and The Holiday celeb started dating in 2014 and then tied the knot in 2015.

"Getting married to him

was the best thing that ever happened to me," Diaz told InStyle in 2019. "My husband's the best. He's the greatest human being, and he's my great partner. Marriage is certainly hard, and it's a lot of work. You need somebody who's willing to do the work with you, because there's no 60-40 in marriage. It's 50-50, period. All the time."

While Diaz admitted she didn't know if she was "ready" when she got married, she "knew Benji was special."

"He's just a good man," she continued. "There's no bulls--t. It's really refreshing. I'm really grateful for him."

Clearly, Madden is

thankful for their life together, too.

"There's so much to write, so many things that make me so proud of you and how special you are," he wrote on Diaz's birthday in 2018. "Thank you for being the best friend and partner to me and taking this journey of marriage. The way you live your life [every day], and your compassion for the world shines [through] in your eyes and you inspire me to want to be the best man I can be in this lifetime. You're the realest. I'm so grateful to be yours Always & Forever, and to call you my One & Only. True Love."

Cheers to the happy family of three!

Adline Castelino wins Miss Diva Universe 2020

MUMBAI, FEB 23 (PTI): Adline Castelino has been crowned as the winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 competition.

Castelino, who hails from Mangalore, was crowned by Vartika Singh, the winner of the previous edition, at an event in YRF Studios on Saturday.

She was closely followed by Aavriti Choudhary of Jabalpur who was bestowed with the title of Miss Diva Supranational by her predecessor Shefali Sood.

Pune's Neha Jaiswal was crowned Miss Diva Runner-up by Roshni Sheoran.

Castelino will go on to represent the country at Miss Universe later this year, while Choudhary will be India's contender for Miss Supranational pageant.

The jury for the pageant included actor and former Miss Universe Lara Dutta, Anntonia Porsild, Asha Bhat, designers Shivan Bhatiya, Narresh Kukreja and Nikhil Mehra, and actors Yami Gautam, Aditya Roy Kapur and Anil Kapoor.

"It has been a wonderful journey. All the girls are winners, however there can be only



one winner. It was difficult for the panelists to choose that one winner from all these gorgeous divas who were all truly gifted and promising.

"The winner is very deserving, and I would like to wish all the winners heaps of luck

as they stand on the brink of a bright future. I am looking forward to the prestigious Miss Universe pageant and hope that we bring the crown home this year," Lara said.

The nationwide auditions for the competition began in November and were held in 10 cities like Lucknow, Kolkata, Indore, Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai and Delhi.

The final leg of auditions were held in Mumbai in December 2019 where the 20 finalists of LIVA Miss Diva 2020 were chosen.

The participants then took part in four city sub-contest event followed by a thematic night. Lara was a mentor and a guide to finalists who underwent rigorous training and grooming for the competition.

The finale night also saw performances by actors Ishaan Khatter and Jacqueline Fernandes.

Taylor Swift celebrates boyfriend Joe Alwyn's birthday in London

What better way to celebrate your London boy's birthday than in his hometown with famous friends?

Such was the case for Taylor Swift and her famous boyfriend Joe Alwyn on Friday night. In honor of the Harriet actor's 29th birthday, he and the songstress headed out to dinner at luxurious London hot spot Bob Bob Ricard, according to an eyewitness. However, the famous lovebirds were not alone. Per the source, Ed Sheeran, Cherry Seaborn and other friends joined them at a table of six for dinner.

Of course, a birthday calls for some toasting.

"They had fun drinking champagne at the table by pushing a button that says 'Press for Champagne' and having it immediately dispensed," the eyewitness said. "They were there for several hours enjoying the night."

During the gathering, the group also stayed entertained by drawing at the table and playing a game.



Pixar's Onward features Disney's first animated openly LGBTQ character

It's a new era for Disney:

Its new Pixar film Onward features its first animated openly LGBTQ character.

Meet Officer Specter, a cyclops police officer voiced by gay Emmy-winning Master of None actress and screenwriter Lena Waithe.

In one scene, the character and her cop partner, voiced by Ali Wong, pull over a driver who claims he was distracted because his girlfriend's sons have been acting up. Specter then commiserates, "My girlfriend's daughter got me pulling my hair out," according to Slate.

Guneet Monga plans to remake 'Soorarai Pottru' in Hindi

MUMBAI, FEB 23 (PTI): Oscar-winning film producer Guneet Monga said she plans to make a Hindi version of her upcoming Tamil production "Soorarai Pottru".

Directed by Sudha Kongara and featuring South superstar Suriya, the film is based on the life of Air Deccan founder G R Gopinath.

"We have finished a Tamil film called 'Soorarai Pottru'. We launched a song, where we took a whole aeroplane. It is the story of a farmer, who makes India's first low-cost airline to make common man fly. This is my first major big film," Guneet, told PTI.

The producer said she is always looking to "diversify" and "opening new

channels" as a creative person. She added that Hindi version of "Soorarai Pottru" is already in the pipeline.

"We will do the Hindi remake of 'Soorarai Pottru'. We are working on it, so it is still too early to say whether we will go with the same cast and crew or not."

Produced by Suriya and Guneet, under their respective banners 2D Entertainment and Sikhya Entertainment, the film is scheduled for release on 9 April.

Guneet is the founder of Sikhya Entertainment, a boutique film production house, which has produced notable films like "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Peddlers", "The Lunchbox", "Masaan" and "Zubaan", among others.

ARIES: Aries, there's so much you want to do, so much you want to create, and the Universe is holding space for this magickal process. Now is not the time to doubt yourself or your abilities. You have so much to offer the world. Birth and fertility in the literal sense may be on the cards for some of you. Desire to bring your own into this world? The forces are with you.

TAURUS: "When something really matters to you, let it go. Say to the Universe, you know what I want. Give it to me in the path of least resistance. Give it to me the easiest way possible. Give it to me in any way I can get it." An Abraham Hicks quote to reinstate the joy and optimism you were feeling when you first began this journey. Don't let your vibration drop now, Taurus. You have many miracles to witness, and this is just the beginning.

GEMINI: Not every story ends in a happily-ever-after. But it doesn't have to be a tragic tale either. Be grateful for the moments you have shared, Gemini. Give thanks for the good memories you have created together. Just don't try to make this romance anything

more than what it is, which will ultimately lead to pain and heartache. Some of you could be parting ways with a loved one. Don't doubt yourself for a second. Know that the emotions you have felt in those moments are real.

CANCER: Springtime is almost upon us, Cancer, bringing with it fresh ideas and brand new possibilities. Be mindful of the guidance that's coming through. The aha moments that make you realise there's something magickal brewing inside. This could help you take your life in a whole new direction. Some of you may have made a fresh start recently, in which case this is the nurturing period. Trust that the seeds you have painstakingly planted will show the first signs of life.

LEO: Ever noticed a child armed with a crayon. For them, the world is a playground. There is no wall on the house or the neighbourhood that isn't worthy of their art. Today, we're asking you to seek inspiration from these little geniuses and allow yourself to flow with the cosmic current of creativity. There is magic waiting to be born through you, Leo.

VIRGO:

The trouble is, you already think you've lost. What you don't realise is that you are armed with inner resources, and that Spirit is co-creating with you in every moment. Let go of the fear. Release the self-doubt. Raise your vibrations to believe that you have already manifested the desired outcome. This belief will help create the shift you desire.

LIBRA:

The trouble is, you're spending too much time worrying about the 'how' and the 'why' of things, when you should be focusing on your part of the creation process. Everything else will take care of itself, Libra. Spirit is with you, co-creating miracles in every moment. So raise your vibrations and believe in the divine plan. Know that you are exactly where you need to be, and are making wonderful progress.

SCORPIO:

"Going with the flow is responding to cues from the Universe. When you go with the flow, you're surfing the life force. It's about wakeful trust and total collaboration with what's showing up for you." A Danielle LaPorte quote that accurately describes the grace with which you are riding the cos-

mic currents. As for that inner glow, it's a product of the love and acceptance you're feeling for yourself. You are not perfect, but you are you, and that is all that matters in this moment.

SAGITTARIUS: Observe the patterns in your life. The memories that refuse to leave you, even though you've tried to purge them over a period of time. Truth is, the roots of the given situation are anchored in your past. Our souls have lived millions of lives, Sagittarius. There's a chance an experience you had in one of them is triggering these emotions. Alternatively, a childhood incident may be the cause. If you are unable to work through the trauma, turn to an expert. A therapist, a hypnotherapist or a past life regression expert may help you find the answers you are looking for.

CAPRICORN: There is more than enough to go around, Capricorn. So, where is this feeling of lack arising from? Could our own limiting beliefs be creating a sense of mistrust? Is there a childhood trauma that's holding you back from believing that you are worthy of the good stuff? Awareness is the first step to breaking old patterns and raising your vi-

bration. Allow yourself to receive, wild one. Know that abundance is your true nature.

AQUARIUS:

Rise, light workers, rise! It's time for you to step out of the spiritual closet. It's time to share your gifts with the world. You have been blessed with the ability to inspire others to connect with their true purpose, and find the courage they need to realign with The Source. So, trust in yourself and actively work towards raising the Collective Consciousness. We are in the Age of Aquarius, after all.

PISCES:

Funny how we turn to others in times of crisis instead of listening to the guidance that's coming through from our own being. Everything you need is within you, Pisces. Awaken to the ancestral wisdom in your bones. You can only start to live consciously as you by re-establishing that lost connection with your inner self. A good way to become aware of the guidance that's coming through is to maintain a journal and record the very first thought or feeling that comes to you. Chances are, it's coming from a higher place.