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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Tibetan group holds protests against China in Delhi

NEW DELHI, JUL 11 (PTI): A small group of Tibetans held a protest against China here on Saturday, police said. The protest was held around 11 am, they said. "Three protestors came here to protest. They were detained from near the Chinese embassy at central Delhi when they were trying to move ahead," a senior police officer said. They were taken to Chanakyapuri police station and will be released soon, he said.

India's COVID-19 tally reaches 8.2 lakh with 27,114 new cases, death toll climbs to 22,123

NEW DELHI, JUL 11 (PTI): With a record single-day increase of 27,114 cases, India's COVID-19 tally zoomed past the eight-lakh mark on Saturday, just four days after crossing the seven-lakh post, according to health ministry data. This was the eighth consecutive day that COVID-19 cases in the country increased by more than 22,000. According to data updated at 8 am, the death toll climbed to 22,123 with 519 people succumbing to the disease in 24 hours.

While the total coronavirus caseload surged to 8,20,916 on Saturday, there were 2,83,407 active cases and 5,15,385 recoveries. The total number of confirmed cases include foreigners. "Thus, around 62.78 per cent of patients have recovered so far," an official said. Of the 519 new deaths reported, 226 are from Maharashtra, 64 from Tamil Nadu, 57 from Karnataka, 42 from Delhi, 27 from Uttar Pradesh and 26 from West Bengal.

Rongli Bazaar contained as probable hotspot for COVID-19 following outbreak at GREF camp

64 ARMY AND PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL DETECTED COVID POSITIVE SO FAR

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:**

After twenty-three persons from Rongli GREF camp tested positive for COVID-19 today, the entire Rongli Bazaar has been declared a containment zone with various restrictions put in place till 19 July. East District administration issued an order today stating that Rongli Bazaar "may become a probable hotspot". It may be mentioned that on 08 July, six GREF personnel from the Rongli GREF camp had tested positive for COVID-19.

The camp had been declared a containment zone and was reported to house 47 personnel at the time. Following the latest COVID detections from the Rongli GREF camp, Rongli Bazaar has been declared a containment zone, Health Secretary, Dr PT Bhutia informed in his daily bulletin. He also informed that Antigen testing for the Army and paramilitary forces personnel has begun from today. All personnel entering Sikkim will now undergo antigen testing at Rangpo and

those who test positive will not be allowed to pass through and the entire group travelling together turned back to Siliguri where the forces are reported to have their quarantine centres. Meanwhile, Officer Commanding 130 RCC GREF has been served a show cause notice by the East District administration for not adhering to orders regarding quarantining of employees, drivers, laborers and other instructions and directions of the state government pertaining to containing the spread of COVID-19. These orders were

communicated on 19 April 2020 and further supplemented on 31 May 2020 but were clearly ignored resulting in the present outbreak at the GREF camp at Rongli. The GREF OC has been directed to show cause why action under Disaster Management Act and Indian Penal Code should not be initiated against him for negligence and dereliction of duty. So far, 22 Saschastra Seema Bal personnel, 13 Army personnel and now 29 GREF personnel have tested positive for COVID19 in the state.

Cane bridge over Mantamlake collapses



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 11 JUL:**

The cane bridge across Mantamlake which was the lifeline for Tingvong, Bey and Sakyong-Pentong villages was washed out by the raging Rongyong River on Friday night. Today DM North, Tenzing T Kaleon along with SKM Incharge, Dzongu constituency, Chungkipo Lepcha, BDO Dzongu, Tempo Bhutia, panchayat and zilla members, officials from Roads & Bridges Department led by Divisional Engineer, Karma Lachenpa visited the Mantam lake in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim. The incessant rain has also damaged the roads and log bridge leading to Sakyong-Pentong GPU. The DC North directed the BDO Dzongu to immediately start the

construction of suspension foot bridge. He also informed that the Sakyong-Pentong GPU, the last habitation in that direction, has been badly affected. Essential commodities would have to be air dropped here in case of emergencies. SKM Incharge Dzongu, Chungkipo Lepcha informed that the government will look into the matter at the earliest and construction of foot suspension bridge will begin as soon as possible. One of the affected villagers from Tingvong village, Ongda Lepcha highlighted the people's plight. He further appealed that a doctor and some paramedical staff be recruited at Tingvong PHC as it is not possible for patients to be taken to Mangan during medical emergency.

26 new cases take number of active COVID cases to 67

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:**

In his daily Bulletin on Saturday, Health Secretary, Dr PT Bhutia informed that 23 GREF personnel and 3 persons from SICB Jorethang facility quarantine have tested positive for COVID19. All the cases are asymptomatic, he added.

Dr Bhutia also said that one person was discharged from STNM on Saturday. The number of active cases in Sikkim now stands at 67. The Secretary mentioned that late on Saturday evening he received reports of another 4 testing positive for COVID-19.

However, he said that details of the cases will be provided on Sunday. He informed that antigen testing has begun at Rangpo for all Army and Paramilitary personnel entering Sikkim. If anyone is found positive in the antigen test, they will not be allowed to enter the State.



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Fire Hose handling training by LPG Bottling Plant



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

LPG Bottling Plant, Bageykhola in East Sikkim organized Fire Hose handling training program for all officers, staff, contract labourers and security personnel, a press release informs. Training comprised of demonstration of fire fighting

equipments, hands-on training and hose handling competition. Two best performing teams were awarded with gifts. Plant Head, Suman Tamang briefed on the significance of firefighting and disaster management, role of each individual in safeguarding the plant with firefighting and safety precautions.

Police campaign continues to lock-down Siliguri



SUMMIT REPORT
SILIGURI, 11 JUL:

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the district administration has announced a complete lock-down in nine wards of Siliguri. The policeis

carrying out continuous campaigns to strictly implement lock down in these wards. On Saturday, on the third day of the lock down, police continued to question people who

were unnecessarily roaming outside without wearing masks along with the drivers of the areas. Even in the heavy rains, police personnel were seen in these areas trying to implement the lock down.

Two-day alert issued in Adarshgaon as water levels rise

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

As the Teesta swells in monsoon fury fuelled by incessant rain in the state, a two-day alert has been issued for AdarshGaon area of South Sikkim - adjacent to the town of Singtam. The area has houses precariously close to the river bed and the residents are worried.

In a coordinated effort of North, East and South District Administration along with the Police and NHPC team closely monitoring the situation, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority has formed in the village a Disaster Management Committee comprising of local volunteers which is helping the agencies monitor the situation closely, said an State SDMA official.

Since there are dams on the river, it becomes even more dangerous due to timely discharge of water as dams cannot hold it for a long period. This poses danger to low lying areas of Singtam



bazaar located opposite Adarshgaon.

For safety and security of people, SIKKIM SDMA has allowed movement as long as water level does not reach the danger level.

A temple has been identified in the area as relief centre in case of evacuation.

At another town in South Sikkim in Jorethang the situation is comparatively normal on the banks of River Rangit. However it was informed that all Revenue Surveyors of South district have been alerted as the weather forecast suggests that its will rain for the next two days.

Plantation programme by Shiloh Church

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

Plantation programme ON the theme "Save the Mother Earth" was organized by Shiloh Church of Singtam in association with Department of Forest at Lower Lingzey under Namcheybong Constituency of East Sikkim today, a press

release informs.

Around 150 saplings were planted by members of the church which included jackfruit, mango, guava, jarool flowers, etc.

Range Officer, Am Narayan Sharma, Block Officer, NK Gautam and Head FG, Tashi Bhutia guided the plantation programme.

Panchayat Lower Lingzey, Pramila Chettri, Panchayat Upper Lingzey, Phul Maya Gurung, Pastor Nawraj Rai, Pastor Issac Chettri, Pastor Roshan Chettri, Pastor Marvin Lepcha and litterateur Sumati Chettri participated in the plantation programme among others.

SikkimSCAN

Heavy rain inundates Siliguri



SUMMIT REPORT

SILIGURI, 11 JUL:

Heavy rainfall has inundated Siliguri and surrounding areas. There are reports of

water seeping into people's homes in some low-lying areas of the city. Due to continuous rains, the water level of small and big rivers of

the city has increased considerably. All the rivers are overflowing. The river Mahananda, which flows through the city, is also in full spate.

NPS records 100% Board results



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

Namchi Public School has achieved 100% pass percentage in ICSE & ISC 2020 Board Exams, a press release informs. The results were declared on Friday evening.

Nine students have scored perfect 100 in

ICSE History. 18 students had marks between 94 to 99 and 5 students between 90 to 93, the release mentions.

The school's topper in ICSE is Suchal Chettri with 94% and in ISC, the topper is Tenzin Kunsang with 90%.

The Director of NPS, Rev. Fr. George A.

D'Souza, congratulated the Teaching staff and the students for the excellent results. He specially thanked Rev. Fr. Stany Sequeira, the Principal of the school, who teaches History in the ICSE and ISC levels in the school, for such magnificent scores in the History subject.

SDF condemns Minister Sanjit Kharel's comments against Chamling

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

Sikkim Democratic Front has strongly condemned the statement of the Minister Sanjit Kharel against former CM and SDF president, Pawan Chamling. The party alleged that this was a cheap attempt by the

Minister to burnish his political standing by going against Mr Chamling.

An SDF press release informs that to challenge the former CM to win from Gangtok constituency was irresponsible. On the same, the release adds that Gangtok was a BL

reserved seat and the statement of the Minister shows his bad intentions against BLs.

The release adds that instead to challenging Mr Chamling to win from Gangtok constituency he should first prove his own standing by becoming a CM for 25 years.

SKM's CLC meets at Namthang

SUMMIT REPORT
RANGPO, 11 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a Constituency Level Committee meeting at the party's Namthang office today for Namthang-Rateypani constituency.

The meeting was attended by the party's CLC president, RS



Tamang, advisor HP Kharel along with other committee functionaries and Nari Shakti teams.

The meeting

resolved to start work immediately to form the party's committees for the 9 GPUs and 55 wards in the constituency.

60 families leave SDF to join SKM



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

More than 60 families left SDF to join SKM today at Nimthang ward No 3, under Syari Constituency, a press release informs. The mass joining programme was attended by Area MLA cum Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, accompanied by CLC

president, Lakpa Kagatey, Norzang Chopel (Vice-President Panchayat cell), Ratan Tamang (State Panchayat cell), and all the CLC executives and ward president of various ward under Syari Constituency.

Among the 60 new joiners were ex-Panchayat, Chandra Maya Khadka, NB Subba

(ex-panchayat), SDF (CEC), Ratna Bdr Gurung, Homnath Khadka (CEC) and all the villagers of Nimthang. They were all welcomed into SKM with khadas.

Meanwhile, the Minister also inaugurated the party office at the residence of Homnath Khadka (SDF CEC).

Rajendra Chettri is new STDC CEO

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

The Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC) has got a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Rajendra

Chettri has been newly appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of STDC. Previously he was Director (IT) in Education Department, Government of Sikkim.

Dzongu MLA visits landslide affected areas



SUMMIT REPORT
DZONGU, 11 JUL:

MLA Dzongu Constituency, Pintsongyal Lepcha today visited landslide affected Upper Gyathang, Ravong and Bringkatam wards under Hee-Gyathang GPU in Lower Dzongu, North Sikkim. He was accompanied by Zilla Members, Samroo Ugen Lepcha, Panchayat

members and affected villagers.

The MLA crossed several dangerous landslides to reach the affected areas. Most of the houses and land along with the footpaths and bridges are damaged and need immediate restoration.

The MLA assured that the government is working tirelessly for relief and restoration.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT:

Two and half storeyed (1st to 3rd floor) complex is available for rent in the heart of Ranipool Bazaar (Opposite UCO Bank). The building area is 35'x60' appx. In each floor ad is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks tec. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Riverside land [General] along Ra-nipool-Rumtek Highway near Adampool, stretching from the roadside down till the river bank. Total area measuring 0.2348 Hectares [approximately 25,274 sq ft]. Ideal for developing a Resort. Parties interested in purchasing the entire plot can contact 9083826462 and 9832556698. Brokers will not be entertained.

FLAT FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available – 30X40 sqft and 50X30 sqft Junkeri Dara, Samlik Marchak
Price negotiable Contact: 6296366498, 9641878315, 9593262407

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at 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



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fresh lot of rapid information

CM inaugurates Antigen Testing Facility at Rangpo

GANGTOK, 11 JUL (IPR):

The Rapid Antigen Testing Centre for Covid-19 at Rangpo Screening Centre was inaugurated by Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) today.

The Chief Minister was briefed in detail about the protocol for Antigen Testing, by Principal Secretary, Health, K Shrinivasulu and officials of the Health Department. The Chief Minister took a detailed stock of the screening centre and interacted with the health workers deployed in the facility.

As informed by DG cum Secretary Health, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, the Rapid Antigen Testing is a new category of tests for the diagnosis of Covid-19 in the Country which has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical



Research (ICMR). The Rapid Antigen Testing is an easy and faster method to detect Covid-19 cases and can provide results within 30 minutes.

With this inauguration, Sikkim becomes one of the first States in the country to start Antigen Testing for Covid-19.

Dr Bhutia further informed that the Rapid Antigen Testing will be done on returnees upon their arrival at the Screening Centre at Rangpo from today onwards. If any of the returnees test positive, they will be immediately sent to the Isolation ward of STNM hospital, Gangtok.

The returnees would be asked to wait until results come out so that they can be assessed and advised on further protocol. It was also informed that the Army and the paramilitary forces will also be tested and if their reports come out positive, they will be returned to their designated quarantine centres in West Bengal.

The function was attended by Speaker SLA, LB Das, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr MK Sharma, Minister for Transport Department, Sanjit Kharel, Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling, Principal Secretary Health and Family Welfare, K Shrinivasulu, DG Cum Secretary Health, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, Secretary to CM, SD Dhakal, DC East, SP East, officials from health and other concerned departments and host of other dignitaries.

HPWU demands release of aid collected in the name of tea workers

SUMMIT REPORT

DARJEELING, 11 JUL:

An organizational meeting was held yesterday at the Darjeeling branch office of the Central Committee of the Himalayan Plantation Workers Union and reiterated the demand that monetary relief be provided to tea plantation workers in light of the setback suffered by them due to the ongoing pandemic.

Executive member of HPWU, DK Gurung, said, "All members of the central committee were present for the meeting. We have repeatedly been demanding immediate payment of the amount raised as GTA Chairman Relief Fund for the tea workers during the lock down period but so far the amount has not been provided to the workers but now they are going to various tea gardens to

collect the bank account numbers of the workers.

I want to remind them that they have collected such details in the past as well and still not paid any compensation. If you really want to help the workers then don't ask for bank account numbers and instead visit the tea garden workers personally and hand over the aid. Many tea workers do not have bank accounts."

Sikkim Agarwal Kutumbh's first state-level committee elected

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

Sikkim Agarwal Kutumbh constituted its first state-level committee with Pawan Kumar Mittal of Gangtok becoming president uncontested.

The organization now has 10 advisors and

14 executive committee members.

Formed in 2014, the Kutumbh has S a t y a n a r a y a n Bansal (Singtam), Narsingh Agarwal (Jorhang), Sajjan Kumar Agarwal (Tadong), and Sanjay Aggarwal, resident

of Gyalshing as vice-presidents.

Similarly, Ajay Kandoi (Gangtok) is general secretary, Sanjay Agarwal (Rangpo) joint secretary, Hemant Agarwal (Gangtok) cashier and Pradeep Aggarwal (Namchi) joint cashier.



Karnataka, Arunachal, Meghalaya announce mini lockdowns

NEW DELHI, JUL 11

(PTI):

A number of states on Saturday reimposed lockdowns as part of cluster containment plans in the wake of alarming rise in coronavirus cases with the duration of one of these restrictions as brief as two days.

On Saturday, Karnataka, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya were among some states that announced lockdowns, including area-wise, for varying periods.

Shops and business establishments, other than those dealing with essential services, remained closed. People have been advised to stay at home and not venture out unless it was absolutely necessary.

The Karnataka government in the evening announced complete lockdown in Bengaluru urban and rural for one week from July 14.

"As COVID-19 cases are increasing in the state day by day, based on the advice of experts complete lockdown will be imposed in Bengaluru urban and Bengaluru rural for one week from July 14 Tuesday 8 pm to 5 am on July 22," Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said in a statement.

As of July 11 evening, cumulatively 36,216 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in the state, which includes 613 deaths and 14,716 discharges, a government bulletin

said.

Bengaluru urban district tops the list of positive cases, with a total of 16,862 infections.

In Assam, the ongoing lockdown in Kamrup Metropolitan district, under which Guwahati city falls, has been further extended for a week from July 12 due to large-scale spread of COVID-19 cases.

Assam Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna said the 14-day lockdown in the district was scheduled to end at 6 pm on Sunday but the district magistrate reported that rising cases may be a major threat to public health, hygiene and safety of the general population.

"Due to extensive testing, isolation and other restrictive measures, community spread of COVID-19 has been contained to some extent and this necessitates further extension of prohibitory measures to contain the spread of the pandemic," he stated.

Guwahati city has reported a surge of positive cases with 6,221 since June 24 following which a complete lockdown was imposed in the entire district on June 28.

The lockdown in Arunachal Pradesh's capital complex was extended for another week in view of the spurt in COVID-19 cases in the region, a top official said on Saturday.

The state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Pema Khandu took the decision to extend the total lockdown in the capital region for another week till 5 am on July 20, Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar said.

The previous lockdown which was imposed in the capital complex comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa on July 6 was scheduled to end at 5 pm on July 13.

The total coronavirus caseload in the country on Saturday surged to 8,20,916 while the death toll climbed to 22,123 with 519 people succumbing to the disease in a 24-hour span, according to data updated at 8 am.

The rise in the number of coronavirus cases has gained pace significantly. It took 110 days for the number of cases in the country to reach one lakh but just 53 days more to cross the eight-lakh mark.

In Uttarakhand, a three-day lockdown was imposed from Saturday in Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district, which alone accounted for 41 of the 68 cases reported in the state on Friday.

Strict lockdown restrictions were also reimposed on Saturday in parts of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district following a spike in coronavirus cases. The entire Rajouri city and adjoining areas were sealed and people were asked to

stay indoors as part of the efforts to slow the spread of the infection, they said.

"The restrictions were reimposed as a precautionary measure after some locals were tested positive for COVID-19. While in most cases the source of the infection is known, there are some cases where the source is unknown," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Rajouri, Sher Singh, said.

Rajouri recorded the highest single-day spike of 51 cases on Friday.

A 10-day lockdown will be imposed in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and a few other parts of the district starting July 13. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Pune district saw its highest 24-hour period jump in COVID-19 cases with 1,598 people testing positive, taking the count here to 35,997. The death toll crossed the 1000-mark and reached 1,007 as 28 people succumbed to the infection.

Nagaland has decided to extend the ongoing lockdown in the state till July 31. The ongoing lockdown in the state was supposed to end on July 16.

Planning & Coordination Minister Neiba Kronu said the decision was taken after reviewing the existing

measures and the rising cases of coronavirus infection in the state.

Till Friday, the number of active cases in Nagaland was 428 while 304 patients have recovered from the disease.

The Meghalaya government announced a two-day total lockdown in capital Shillong from Monday. Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said the decision was taken to contain the spread of COVID-19, besides ensuring behavioural changes among citizens to follow coronavirus-related guidelines.

Earlier in the day, the state reported 76 new cases, taking the total to 312.

There are 215 active cases in the state at present, officials said.

In West Bengal, a seven-day lockdown was clamped from Thursday on the state's containment zones, spread across 20 of the 23 districts.

The Uttar Pradesh government had reimposed restrictions in the state from 10 pm on Friday to 5 am on Monday. Chief Secretary RK Tiwari said the curbs have been imposed to check the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

The Gautam Buddh Nagar administration has warned that a fine of Rs 500 will be slapped each time for non-compliance if people are found without face cover or masks outdoors.

Terminated employees demand that Hathway treat them better



SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 11 JUL:

Seven bill collectors of Hathway Digital Pvt Ltd, Gangtok, who were recently terminated from service, have demanded that the company either take them back or provide them Rs 5 lakh each as compensation.

They have threatened to sit on dharna outside the Hathway office and/or approach the courts if their demands were not addressed. They have also appealed to the State government to intervene in the matter and get them justice.

Out of the 21 bill collectors employed at Hathway, seven were served termination orders citing poor performance as the reason, it is informed.

They alleged today that this was phase-one of the company's move to terminate services of all the bill collectors.

Addressing a press conference here this afternoon, they got emotional while sharing the problems faced by them owing to their

sudden termination amid the lockdown.

They also expressed their deep dissatisfaction over the reason given for their termination. They informed that although the company has already served them termination letter but they have not accepted it yet.

"We have been working hard for many years to bring the company to this level and now the company is terminating us without proper reason. We stood with the company during its difficult initial days and now the company is throwing us out during this lockdown period," they said.

"As Hathway has started online recharge service, they may not need us anymore so if the company is not taking us back into service it should provide us compensation of at least five lakh rupees for us to be able to make some decent start," they expressed.

It is informed that they have been working as bill collectors since

Nayuma Television and few are from Sikkim Cable time and have been with Hathway since 2016 when the ownership changed hands.

They started work on commission basis with Hathway and were later provided salaries and again the management tried to bring them again on commission basis last year but the employees refused.

It is further informed that the management is also cutting EPF from their salaries.

They mentioned that the termination order was issued from the Kolkata office and that the management here has said it cannot help in the matter.

"The company management appealed us to save the company in 2019 and we even put our money and stood with the company to save the company during its difficult time but now when they don't need us then they are terminating us during this pandemic period without proper reason," they said.

REPORTERS
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What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

Symptoms of nCoV	Precautions to Prevent nCoV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever ● Difficulty in breathing ● Dry Cough ● Severe acute respiratory syndrome ● Pneumonia - like symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash your hands often with soap. ● Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer ● Observe good personal hygiene. ● Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. ● Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms. ● Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats. ● Avoid travel to nCoV affected places. ● Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome. and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.
Treatment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition ● No vaccinations available as of now ● Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected 	

If you seek help, you may call :
 -Toll free no. 104
 District surveillance Officer
 EAST : 7028372100
 WEST : 9583297809
 NORTH : 9641957468
 SOUTH : 7407691463
 New STNM
 AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
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Learning from Achievers

Rewinding to when Sikkim extended Samman

In the current environment of hypersensitivity about issues of identity and belonging, it would perhaps be apt to step back and rewind to a moment fifteen years ago, when, at exactly this time of the year in 2004, the Sikkim hosted a grand Sikkim Samman Sammelan. One misses the event and hopes that it will be revived in the coming years so that people of the region realize that despite all the ignorance in the mainland about their “status as Indians”, a staggering number of them have done the region and their respective communities proud, have broken stereotypes and have helped create new introductions for the people provided they are interested in leveraging them.

As mentioned, the Sikkim Samman Sammelan was a grand affair and managed to achieve a lot. Apart from lavishing honour on those who truly deserve it, it brought to Sikkim’s midst, as also the regions, people who have gone against the grain so to speak - people who have shaken off the languor which characterises the professional pursuits of the Hill people; People who have persevered and proven wrong the prejudices which brand every person from these parts a “kancha or Bahadur” in the boorish indifference of the plains. Success did not have easy for any of the 63 achievers felicitated on the occasion. Of course, success does not come easy to anyone, but the Nepali-speakers who received Sikkim’s Samman in 2004 were also combating stereotypes and chauvinism, so they had to sweat and persevere even more, much more, and hence the Samman, and hence the need to take more inspiration from them. Not only did they go up against a system which did not understand them or their ambitions, they did so from home bases which were equally confused [if not downright unsupportive] of their pursuits. What is more, they achieved what they did in the absence of precedence or grooming. They are people, everyone, even tangentially associated with them, can be proud of.

But why was it Sikkim that had organised the felicitations, some might ask? Well, for the simple reason that only Sikkim, of all parts that Nepali-speaking people reside, has the resources of a State at its disposal. To applaud the initiative some more - because it is now apparent that only Sikkim cares any more. But the event was not just about felicitating achievers. There was much more meaning attached to it than just philanthropy. Unfortunately, not all the nuances got through.

At a certain level, the issues debated (it was a three-day affair of felicitations, speeches and deliberations) were not just about a particular community, but representative of the aspirations of all the people of the region, their right to an identity and individuality and recognition for what they are. It was a good beginning. It is another matter that the moment did not grow into confident pride, and identity continues to depreciate into tokenism and superficial displays in these parts. The lesson of perseverance that the achievers exemplified should have infused the expressions of selfhood with self-belief, but leaders continue to deal in self-denial and paranoia. And they are not called out. When people are fed doubts and fears more than ambition and confidence, they are easily riled into violence (with triggers as puny as Facebook posts) and as easily cowed into submission with calls to keep the larger picture in sight. Gangtok Bhanu Jayanti 2004 had attempted to show a different path, but that path has not received enough takers.

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One vaccine to beat COVID, Sars, Mers and common cold – possible?

SHEENA CRUICKSHANK
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SARS-CoV-2 – the virus that causes COVID-19 – belongs to the family of betacoronaviruses that cause everything from the common cold to Mers (which kills about one in three people infected). Despite causing a wide range of symptoms, these viruses all share similarities. If they’re similar enough, could one vaccine prevent infection from them all? Scientists have certainly been considering it.

Before we explore this question, though, we first need to take a detour into the fascinating anatomy of betacoronaviruses.

Betacoronaviruses are microscopic balls covered in spikes that encapsulate a central core of genetic material. The virus must infect cells in order to replicate, and to do this it must first attach to the cells.

Betacoronaviruses use their spikes to attach to cells by latching onto specific targets on the cells called receptors. Scientists from countries including the US and France have examined these spikes and discovered that they are made up of two pieces, or “domains”, imaginatively called S1 and S2.

These spike domains help the virus attach to host cells in a variety of ways. For example, the viruses that cause COVID-19 and Sars both use a part of the S1 domain called the receptor binding domain (RBD) to stick to the host cell receptor (ACE2). But the cold-causing viruses do not.

By comparing the features of the spikes between all the betacoronaviruses that cause human disease, researchers have discovered similarities and differences between them. Whereas S1 domains are quite variable between virus family members, the S2 domains are quite similar.

Similarities in virus structure are important because they can help our immune system get tricked into responding and fighting several types of closely related viruses. This happens because similar domains



will have similar features that can be detected by our antibodies.

Antibodies are made by specialised white blood cells called B cells. They have several functions in infection, such as helping other white blood cells detect and kill viruses or virally infected cells. Antibodies can also stop viruses from getting into cells by blocking the cell receptors, such as ACE2 in the case of COVID-19.

However, as powerful as they are, antibodies take time to generate – it can take seven to ten days to start making protective antibodies. Once the B cells know what antibodies to make, they will remember, and if they meet the same infection again, they can react almost instantly and make even more antibodies than before. This feature is termed the memory response.

Vaccines work by trying to create immune memory by supplying the features of the virus that will trigger natural antibody production without the need for a full-blown infection. Could structural similarities between related betacoronaviruses be used to make vaccines that will generate antibodies recognising several virus family members?

CROSS-REACTIVITY

To unpick this puzzle, it is necessary to look at whether antibodies can recognise more than one type of virus, a phenomenon

known as cross-reactivity. Tests like this showed that antibodies to the RBD part of the S1 domain of the spike protein that causes Sars cross-reacted with the virus that causes COVID-19.

Researchers have also found that antibodies to parts of the S2 domain of the spike protein were cross-reactive (albeit weakly) with the other betacoronaviruses in a study that has not yet been peer-reviewed. However, antibody binding is not enough to say whether a target is suitable for further development into a vaccine or drug.

These discoveries of potentially cross-reacting antibodies are exciting because they could open the door to new drugs and vaccines that tackle COVID-19. A side product could be the potential to offer some protection against future coronaviruses that we have yet to encounter.

DISEASE ENHANCEMENT

However, a cautionary note is warranted. Although antibodies can be powerful allies in the fight against infection, they can pose serious threats to our health. Antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) is a phenomenon that can occur when an antibody bound to a virus actually helps the viruses to enter and infect cells, including cells it could not normally infect, such as some types of white blood cell.

Once the virus gets inside the

white blood cell, it hijacks the cell and effectively turns it into a Trojan horse. These Trojan horses enable the virus to hide and thrive within the cell and get spread around the body – in effect amplifying and accelerating the course of disease.

ADE is not known to occur in COVID-19 but has been observed in dengue fever. There is still much we don’t understand about ADE, but the likelihood appears to be highest when there are several variants of a particular virus circulating in a population.

A huge question, therefore, is whether a vaccine that exploited similarities between the cold-causing viruses and COVID-19 would cause a bigger risk of ADE? Most COVID vaccine trials are focused on the RBD region of the spike protein, which does not elicit such broadly cross-reactive antibodies and, as such, are less likely to pose a risk of ADE.

Another possible risk antibodies can cause is the condition known as vaccine-associated enhanced respiratory disease (ERD). ERD occurs when high levels of antibodies bind to viruses, causing clumps of virus and antibody. The clumps can cause blockages in the small airways in the lungs with potentially devastating results. This risk, although rare and unlikely, emphasises the need for caution to ensure any vaccines and new drugs are properly tested for safety before they are widely used.

On balance, given the questions around the functionality of cross-reactive antibodies alongside the potential risks, it seems unlikely that in the near future there will be a COVID-19 vaccine that will also protect us from Sars, Mers and some types of common cold. What is clear, though, is that the more we learn about how these viruses evolve, their similarities and differences and the way our immune response reacts, the better chance we have to win the war against COVID-19.

[the writer is Professor in Biomedical Sciences, University of Manchester]

How literary censorship inspired creativity in Victorian writers

STEPHANIE MEEK
THECONVERSATION.COM

In an open letter published in Harper’s Magazine, 152 writers, including JK Rowling and Margaret Atwood, claim that a climate of “censoriousness” is pervading liberal culture, the latest contribution to an ongoing debate about freedom of speech online.

As we grapple with this issue in a society where social media allows us all to share extreme views, the Victorian writers offer a precedent for thinking differently about language and how we use it to get our point across. How limits of acceptability and literary censorship, for the Victorians, inspired creative ways of writing that foregrounded sensitivity and demanded thoughtfulness.

NOT CAUSING OFFENCE

There are very few cases of books being banned in the Victorian era. But books were censored or refused because of moral prudishness, and publishers often objected to attacks on the upper classes - their book-buying audience. Writer and poet Thomas Hardy’s first novel, *The Poor Man and the Lady*, was never published because the publisher Alexander Macmillan felt that his portrayal of the upper classes was “wholly dark – not a ray of light visible to relieve the darkness”.

However, more common than publishers turning down books was the refusal of circulating libraries to distribute them. These institutions were an integral part of literary consumerism during the Victorian period as the main means of distributing books.

Most influential of these was Charles Mudie’s Select Library, established in 1842. Mudie’s library

was select because he would only circulate books that were suitable for middle-class parents to read aloud to their daughters without causing embarrassment.

This shaped how publishers commissioned and what writers could get away with. Victorian literary censorship, while limiting, managed to inspire writers to develop more creative and progressive ways to get their points across.

CENSORSHIP AS PRODUCTIVE

George Eliot’s publisher, John Blackwood, criticised her work for showing people as they really were rather than giving an idealistic picture. He was particularly uncomfortable when Eliot focused on the difficulties of working-class life.

In Mr Gilfil’s Love Story (1857), Eliot’s description of the orphan girl, Caterina, being subjected to “soap-and-water” raised Blackwood’s censorious hackles:

I do not recollect of any passage that moved my critical censorship unless it might be the allusion to dirt in common with your heroine.

As well as dirt, alcohol consumption was also seen as an unwanted reminder of working class problems. Again in Mr Gilfil’s Love Story, Eliot describes how the eponymous clergyman enjoys “an occasional sip of gin-and-water”.

However, knowing Blackwood’s views and anticipating she may cause offence galvanised Eliot to state her case directly to the reader within the text itself. She qualifies her unromantic depiction of Mr Gilfil with an address to her “lady” readers:

“Here I am aware that I have run the risk of alienating all my refined

lady readers, and utterly annihilating any curiosity they may have felt to know the details of Mr Gilfil’s love-story ... let me assure you that Mr Gilfil’s potations of gin-and-water were quite moderate. His nose was not rubicund; on the contrary, his white hair hung around a pale and venerable face. He drank it chiefly, I believe, because it was cheap; and here I find myself alighting on another of the Vicar’s weaknesses, which, if I cared to paint a flattering portrait rather than a faithful one, I might have chosen to suppress.”

Here, literary censorship enriches Eliot’s writing. Eliot’s refusal to suppress her work becomes part of the story and reinforces her agenda to portray Mr Gilfil as he really is, a vicar who mixes gin with water because he is poor.

POWER IN NOT TELLING

As well as inspiring narrative additions, censorship was also powerful because of what was left out of a text.

One of Hardy’s most loved books, *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, highlights the crimes of sexual harassment in the workplace and of rape. Because Hardy had to be careful about the way that he presented the sexual abuse of Tess, his descriptions were very subtle. This is how he portrays the scene where Tess is sexually assaulted by her employer, Alec D’Urberville:

“The obscurity was now so great that he could see absolutely nothing but a pale nebulousness at his feet, which represented the white muslin figure he had left upon the dead leaves. Everything else was blackness alike. D’Urberville stooped; and heard a gentle regular breathing.

He knelt, and bent lower, till her breath warmed his face, and in a moment his cheek was in contact with hers. She was sleeping soundly, and upon her eyelashes there lingered tears.”

The influence of censorship meant that Hardy could not describe this scene in graphic detail. Instead, his depiction is more sensitive and thoughtful. Hardy does not dehumanise Tess by depicting her as a sexual object to entertain the reader.

By focusing on Tess’s “gentle regular breathing” and the poignant image of her tear-stained eyelashes, Hardy avoids gratuitous depictions of violence while at the same time making us painfully aware of the injustice she has suffered. This makes his portrayal of Tess more powerful and poignant. It can be argued that this was achieved because of the limits placed on his writing, not in spite of them.

In these instances, we can see how literary censorship influenced writers to tread more carefully upon difficult territory. It made them think about whether including violence or socially controversial depictions were necessary or gratuitous to their narratives.

For Hardy and Eliot, censorship and its limits inspired creativity, sensitivity and thoughtfulness. These examples can provide food for thought in the debate today about free speech and censorship. As Hardy and Eliot wrestled with as they wrote, can things be said differently and, in some cases, do they need to be said at all?

[the writer is PhD Candidate in English Literature, University of Reading]

Arunachal: Body of woman missing after landslide found

ITANAGAR, JUL 11 (PTI): The body of the 20-year-old woman who went missing after a massive landslide swept away her house in the Modirijo area in Arunachal Pradesh was found on Saturday, officials said.

The body of Lokam Minu was found around 10.30 am by personnel of the state disaster response force, Superintendent of Police (Capital) Tumme Amo said.

Minu was in her house when a major landslide hit it at around 11.30 am on Friday. While the bodies of three other persons



were found at the spot, she went missing and operations were on to find her, officials said.

The rescue operation was stopped Friday evening. It resumed again at daybreak and the body was found, Amo said.

In all, eight people have died in two landslides on Friday,

even as the landlocked state grappled with a series of earthfalls due to incessant rains for the last couple of days.

In another incident, four members of a family, including an eight-month-old baby, were buried alive as a massive landslide hit their house at Tigdo village in Papum Pare district in the early

hours on Friday.

The death toll due to monsoon-related incidents in the state has climbed to 15.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief over the loss of lives and said all possible assistance is being provided to those affected.

Chief Minister Pema

Khandu appealed to the people residing in vulnerable places to maintain extreme caution and move to safer places.

Incessant rains for the last five days have triggered landslides and floods, leaving a trail of devastation in the state, damaging roads and houses and inundating low-lying areas.

Landslides have been reported from various locations in and around the state capital region.

Besides, road communication has been badly affected and the water level in the streams and rivers in the state capital has risen.

Toddler among 33 fresh COVID-19 cases in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, JUL 11 (PTI): Thirty-three more people, including a two-year-old child, tested positive for COVID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh, taking the state's tally to 335, a Health Department official said on Saturday.

Of the new cases, 28 were found in the Capital Complex region, three in Changlang district and two in Namsai, he said.

The Capital Complex comprises Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa towns.

"The detection of 33 patients is the second-highest single-day spike of COVID-19 cases in Arunachal Pradesh as 37 people had tested positive for the disease on July 3," State Surveillance Officer Dr L Jampa.

Of the fresh cases in the Capital Complex, 14 were reported from an apartment complex in E-sector of Naharlagun, he said.

"Eleven more people, including a two-year-old child, had come in contact with the first coronavirus patient from the E-sector of Naharlagun. The child is a nephew of the COVID-19 patient detected earlier," Jampa said.

Three medical staffers, two from the Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIHS) and one from the Directorate of Health Services, were also found positive for the disease from the Capital Complex region, he said.

Two of the three fresh coronavirus patients from Changlang district are returnees from Karnataka and the other is a frontline health worker at Miao quarantine centre, the official said.

Jampa said the two from Namsai had recently come from

Gujarat and West Bengal.

"Eight new patients from the Capital Complex region have symptoms of the coronavirus infection, while others are asymptomatic," he said, adding that they have been shifted to COVID Care Centres.

A week-long total lockdown has been imposed in the Capital Complex on July 6 after the region witnessed a spike in the number of coronavirus cases.

The Capital Complex region has so far registered 114 cases, the highest in the state, followed by Changlang (38), West Kameng (19), Namsai (13) and Lower Subansiri (12).

At present, the state has 213 active cases, while 120 people have recovered from the disease and two died of the infection.

A total of 29,834 samples have been tested so far in the state, Jampa added.

936 new COVID-19 cases in Assam; eight more die

GUWAHATI, JUL 10 (PTI): Eight more people, including a policeman, died due to COVID-19 in Assam on Friday, while the state's infection tally crossed 15,000-mark with 936 more people testing positive, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The new fatalities pushed the death toll to 35. The state has seen 21 coronavirus deaths in the last four days. The total number of cases now stand at 15,536, including 6,221 in Guwahati city alone.

While seven patients succumbed to the infection at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, one died at the COVID-19 centre set up at the IIT, Guwahati on the northern bank of the capital city, Sarma said in a series of tweets.

The policeman was first from the force in Assam who died due to COVID-19 virus. Assam



Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyot Mahanta expressed condolences to the family of the deceased personnel.

"With a heavy heart, we are saddened to inform that Hav. Hareswar Nath, 16 IRBn, who tested positive for #CoronaVirus on July 7, 2020 passed away today. Our deepest condolences are with the bereaved family and colleagues," the Assam Police tweeted.

Sarma said the state has reported 936 new

COVID-19 cases on Friday, including 521 from the state capital.

The state has 5,650 active cases, he said in a tweet.

In a separate tweet, Sarma said 701 patients have recovered from the disease and were discharged from various hospitals across the state during the day.

So far, 9,848 people have been cured and were discharged from hospitals, while three more patients have

migrated to other states, he added.

The Guwahati city reported a total of 6,221 COVID-19 cases so far, of whom 5,778 people tested positive in the last 17 days since June 24.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) G P Singh said on Twitter that a total of 431 personnel of force have tested positive till date, out of whom 165 have recovered.

The state has so far tested 5,25,485 samples for COVID-19 across

755 new COVID-19 cases take Odisha's tally to 11,956

BHUBANESWAR, JUL 10 (PTI): Odisha on Friday registered its highest single-day spike of 755 COVID-19 cases, taking the state's tally to 11,956, while the death toll mounted to 56 with four patients succumbing to the disease, a health department official said.

Ganjam, the worst-hit district, accounted for 34 deaths, followed by Khurda (8), Cuttack (5) and one each from Angul, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Gajapati, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Puri, Rayagada and Sundergarh, the official said.

The COVID-19 fatality rate in the state stands at 0.46 per cent against the national average of 2.72 per cent, he said.

Two more coronavirus patients - a 57-year-old man from Sundergarh and a 70-year-old man from Bhadrak - died but their deaths were attributed to "non-COVID reasons". They were suffering from cancer, the official said.

The number of COVID-19 patients, who succumbed to other diseases, increased to 17 in the state, he said.

Of the new cases, 508 were detected in different quarantine centres, while 247 were found through contact-tracing.

Contact-tracing and follow-up action of new patients are underway, he said.

Ganjam reported a maximum of 320 fresh cases, followed by Jajpur (86), Sundergarh (62), Khurda (59), Cuttack (55), Keonjhar (32), Gajapati (30), Malkangiri (18), Nayagarh (16), Mayurbhanj (12), Bolangir (12) and Puri (11).

There are 11 more districts where the number of fresh cases are in single-digits.

Odisha, which had reported its first COVID-19 infection on March 15, recorded the biggest single-day recovery on Friday with 565

patients have been cured of the disease, the official said.

The recoveries now stands at 7,972, which is 66.67 per cent against the national average of 62.42 per cent.

Odisha has 3,911 active COVID-19 cases.

A total of 3,21,443 samples have been tested so far in the state.

Institute of Life Science director Dr Ajay Parida said the state has decided to increase the number of daily COVID-19 tests to 8,000.

"Plans are made for conducting 6,000 RT-PCR and 2,000 antigen tests," he said, adding preparations are underway to develop SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack as the hub of the plasma therapy in the state.

While door-to-door health screening is being undertaken in slums in Bhubaneswar, the district administration of Gajapati on Friday put a ban on travel to

neighbouring Ganjam district, which emerged as the coronavirus hotspot.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) also tightened its enforcement activities, including imposition of penalty on people and shop owners for not following COVID-19 guidelines.

An amount of Rs 2.67 lakh has been collected as fine for violation of restrictions, an official of the civic body said.

Meanwhile, the Odisha Assembly has been shut for three days after parents of an employee of the House tested positive for COVID-19, Speaker SN Patro said.

The headquarters of the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack police commissionerate is also being closed for sanitisation.

As of now, 5,958 COVID Care Homes are operational in 6,798 Gram Panchayats of the state, the official said.

79,430 samples have been tested so far in the state for COVID-19.

At present 4,759 patients are in home isolation and 329 patients are in institutional quarantine.

In view of the spurt in the coronavirus cases, the Tripura government has decided to carry out rapid antigen tests for detection of COVID-19, state Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath told reporters on Friday night.

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Tripura's COVID-19 tally rises to 1,932

AGARTALA, JULY 11 (PTI): The COVID-19 tally in Tripura rose to 1,932 after 141 more people tested positive for the virus in the state, officials said on Saturday. Of the 141 new cases, 63 are from Khowai district, 35 from West district, 15 from Dhalai district, 10 from Gomati district, 11 from Sepahijala district, six from South district and one from North Tripura district, they said.

There are 545 active cases in the state while 1,372 patients have recovered from the infection, one person has died and 14 persons have migrated to other states, the officials said.

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, in a tweet, on Friday night had requested people of the state to be cautious.

He said, "141 People found COVID-19 POSITIVE today out of 2125 samples tested."

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, in a tweet, on Saturday morning said "spoke to CM Sh @BjpBiplab ji who assured me that situation is well under control. Door-To-Door Rapid Antigen Covid Testing shall start full swing Monday onwards. Aggressive testing & containment measures are being taken after Covid cases shot up recently."

According to the officials,

Madrid beats Alav s 2-0 for 8th straight win in title march



BARCELONA, JUL 11 (AP): Karim Benzema helped Real Madrid move one step closer to dethroning Lionel Messi’s Barcelona. Benzema scored one goal and set up another to lead Madrid to beating Alav s 2-0 on Friday and restoring a four-point lead over Barcelona in the Spanish league with only three rounds left. Benzema scored a penalty kick in the 11th minute and assisted Marco Asensio in the 50th to ensure an eighth straight victory since La Liga resumed play after stopping for three months due to the pandemic. Benzema has four goals during the winning streak and provided a superb assist for Casemiro to score in a 1-0 win at Espanyol

three rounds ago. Madrid will finish the season with matches against Granada, Villarreal, and Legan s. Barcelona has games against Valladolid, Osasuna, and Alav s before the competition concludes on July 19. Madrid holds the tiebreaker on head-to-head goals if they finish level on points. Still, Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane refused to say the league was Madrid’s to lose. Anything can happen until this is over, Zidane said. It is a good result and how we have three to go. **NEW DEFENSE** Zidane had to experiment in defense with Sergio Ramos and Dani Carvajal serving suspensions and Marcelo

and Nacho Fernandez injured. While the left side was held down by the experienced Raphael Varane and sometimes starter Ferland Mendy, the right side went to der Milit o in just his ninth league start of the campaign and Lucas V zquez, a forward. The new-look defense kept a fifth clean sheet in a row for Madrid. V zquez’s inexperience in defense showed three minutes into the match when Edgar M ndez dribbled past him and sent a cross to the second post, where Joselu Sanmart n headed the ball off the bar. Casemiro then had to block a follow-up header of the rebound by Lucas Prez. We deserved to have

scored that early goal, new Alav s coach Juan Mu iz said. You can’t miss those kinds of opportunities and still have much of a chance of pulling out the match. (Against Madrid) you have to take advantage of the scant opportunities you get. Mendy, who may play more after Marcelo was sidelined with a muscle injury earlier Friday, cued Madrid’s first goal. He broke into the area and was tripped by Ximo Navarro from a clumsy tackle attempt. With Ramos, Madrid’s regular penalty taker, unavailable, Benzema converted. His 18th league goal of the season is second only to Messi’s 22. Alav s tried to rally through Oliver Burke.

The Scottish forward drew a save from Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in the 27th. Minutes later he dribbled past V zquez and Milit o, only to see Sanmart n scuff his dangerous pass back to the center of the area. Madrid took full control just after halftime when Benzema broke Alav s’ offside trap to reach Rodrygo’s through-ball. Benzema drew Alav s goalie Roberto Jim nez to him and laid off for Asensio to tap into the open net. A video review had to overturn the initial decision that Benzema was offside. Alav s was playing its first match under Mu iz, who replaced Asier Garitano after the team lost five in a row. The new defeat left the Basque Country club three points above the relegation zone. The match was played without fans in Madrid’s smaller Alfredo Di St fano Stadium while Santiago Bernab u Stadium is undergoing renovations. **GRANADA WINS** Domingos Duarte scored the winning goal after setting up Granada’s opener in a 3-2 victory at Real Sociedad, keeping alive his side’s chances of qualifying for the Europa League. Granada was level on points with Valencia, and one point behind Sociedad. The three are in contention with Getafe and Villarreal for a spot in the Europa League. Granada hosts Madrid on Monday.

Fans, coach Landon Donovan return to pitch for USL relaunch

WASHINGTON, JUL 11 (AP): Fans get to watch U.S. pro team sports in person for the first time in four months when Landon Donovan resumes his fledgling coaching career in a United Soccer League match. Due to social distancing rules, only about a quarter of the 20,000 seats at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah, will be available Saturday for the game between Donovan’s expansion San Diego Loyal and the defending USL champion Real Monarchs SLC. While it’s a step toward normalcy, Donovan is OK that ticket sales will be capped at about 5,300. I don’t think it’ll change anything from our standpoint, said the former U.S. national team and MLS star, who is two games into his coaching career. If you think about stadiums, the noise and home-field advantage comes from people sitting next to each other making noise. If they’re spread out in a 20,000-seat stadium, it’s not that daunting. Donovan’s first coaching win came in an empty stadium when the Loyal won 2-1 at Tacoma on March 11, right before the coronavirus pandemic shut down sports around the world. It was strange. Very strange, Donovan said. It was an interesting experience. It was weird because usually when you play without fans, it’s a preseason game or one that has no meaning. You walk out of the tunnel and it was bizarre. You just have to adapt. Donovan is eager to find out what his team will look like on the pitch after the long layoff followed by a gradual resumption in training. The Loyal will wear alternate kit with Black Lives Matter” on the back of the jerseys. I think eager is a massive understatement, Donovan said. This has been a long haul for everyone. We do keep it in perspective, because it could be a lot worse. But this is what we do for a living and it makes us happy and subsequently it makes other people happy. We’ve been waiting for this day for a long time and our guys are really excited. San Diego is 1-1-0. That’s great, but my focus is more on the process, Donovan said. This is a long-term project for me and the club. I don’t want to get too caught up in early results. We’re trying to go on a journey where we get someplace meaningful. The results help, don’t get me wrong, and we want to win. I’m more focused on performance and the process. The Loyal tied Las Vegas 1-1 before a sold-out crowd of 6,100 at the University of San Diego in Donovan’s coaching debut on March 7. Our first match was not good. We did not play well. It was not what I wanted the team to look like. The second match, we showed glimpses and we were better. That was the frustrating part at that point. We wanted to keep progressing, and now in essence we have to start over. I feel we’ve made progress but I don’t know. After it became clear that the shutdown was going to drag on, Donovan said he told his players to treat it like the offseason. If you run two to three times a week, do that. If you do nothing and let your body rest, do that. In mid-May, the team was able to start doing twice-a-week Zoom workouts, and then it was able to do

some training with small groups and no contact. The team resumed full-contact training last month. Donovan said teams normally need five weeks to get up to speed. Only 3 weeks is a big challenge. It’s also a bit of an injury risk. We’re trying to prepare the guys so they’re ready to go. We’ll know more this weekend. The team has been following protocols such as wearing masks when not on the field and social distancing. We’re being smart about what we’re doing. The reality is, at some point in our league or somewhere, someone is going to get coronavirus. The goal is to make sure one person gets it, not 12. You have to make sure you’re giving yourself every possible opportunity to prevent spread. I guess we’ve done well. We’ve tested twice and everyone has been negative. The guys understand they can’t mitigate all the risks but you do the best you can.” Nashville SC and FC Dallas have withdrawn from the MLS is Back Tournament due to a number of positive coronavirus tests. In some ways, that’s all you need to say: ‘Listen, if a few guys get it, that’s one thing, but if 10 to 12 guys get it, we probably don’t get to play this year and that’s on you,’ Donovan said. On Friday, the Loyal announced it has partnered with the Midway Sports and Entertainment District, one of four developers submitting proposals for the San Diego sports arena site. The plan includes a modular stadium that would seat 12,000 to 15,000 and cost about 15 million to 20 million. It would be used for seven to 10 years while the Loyal planned a permanent stadium.

Vega stopped Cristian Roldan on a clear chance in the first half. Vega then made a pair of key saves late in the match. He denied Raul Ruidiaz inside the penalty area in the 84th minute. Vega finished with six stops. It was the first match of the revamped Group B that lost FC Dallas when it was removed from the tournament after 10 players tested positive for COVID-19. Nashville was later removed after an outbreak of positive tests and Chicago was moved from Group A to Group B to fill out the tournament with six groups of four teams. San Jose has been

Anderson first bowler who could bowl ‘reverse’ reverse swing: Tendulkar

NEW DELHI, JUL 10 (PTI): Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar believes James Anderson is the only bowler who could bowl a “reverse outswinger” with a wrist position of a conventional inswinger. Tendulkar has termed that ‘reverse’ reverse swing. Speaking to West Indies legend Brian Lara on his ‘100MB’ app, Tendulkar explained why Anderson could be vital for England in the ongoing Test against West Indies at the Ageas Bowl. “With reverse swing, Jimmy Anderson was possibly the first bowler who bowled reverse swing also reverse,” Tendulkar told Lara. In lucid terms, in case of conventional inswing to a right hander, the shiny part is on the outside and rough part on the inside. In case of reverse outswinger, the trajectory changes (moving away from

right hander) but shiny part will still remain on outward side. The wrist position is different on both occasions. According to Tendulkar, when he checked Anderson’s wrist position, he saw him bowling the reverse outswinger but with wrist position of conventional inswinger, which is unheard of. “What I experienced, over a period of time, that he would hold the ball as if he was bowling outswinger, but the release point, he would try and bring the ball back in. “...and number of batters would look at the wrist position, and what he has actually done, he’s shown you that he’s bowling inswing, but the imbalance between both sides of the ball would take the ball away from you,” he added. Tendulkar said by changing his wrist position quickly Anderson forces the batsman to commit to a shot.



“What he has done is, he’s got you to commit to play, for an inswinger and the ball, after covering almost three-fourths of the length of the pitch, starts leaving you. But you had already committed, because you’ve seen that inswing position, and that is something which was new to me. Nobody had done that.” Tendulkar said several bowlers

including Stuart Broad have started using the same trick to trouble the opposition batters but it was Anderson who started the trend. “Now number of guys, you see their shine, and what they’re trying to do - I spotted even Stuart Broad trying to do that at some stage, but Anderson started this long time ago. So I rate him very very highly. One of the best exponents of

reverse swing,” he said. Anderson is England’s leading wicket-taker in Test cricket. With 871 international wickets to his name. Meanwhile, West Indies captain Jason Holder took a career-best 6-42 as hosts England were bowled out for 204 in the first innings. The second day ended with the visitors putting up 57 runs on the board for the loss of one.

Frei, Vega standout as Seattle and San Jose play to 0-0 draw

LAKE BUENA VISTA, JUL 11 (AP): Seattle goalkeeper Stefan Frei made eight saves, including a diving stop on a deflected shot in the 70th minute, and the Sounders and San Jose played to a 0-0 draw in the MLS is Back tournament. The West Coast squads seemed to wilt in the heat and humidity of Central Florida as they combined for 28 total shots but could not beat either goalkeeper on Friday. Frei had the more highlight-worthy saves, the best coming off Jackson Yueill’s deflected shot. But San Jose goalkeeper Daniel Vega was his equal.

Vega stopped Cristian Roldan on a clear chance in the first half. Vega then made a pair of key saves late in the match. He denied Raul Ruidiaz inside the penalty area in the 84th minute. Vega finished with six stops. It was the first match of the revamped Group B that lost FC Dallas when it was removed from the tournament after 10 players tested positive for COVID-19. Nashville was later removed after an outbreak of positive tests and Chicago was moved from Group A to Group B to fill out the tournament with six groups of four teams. San Jose has been

in Florida longer than any other MLS team. It was not permitted to practice in its home market prior to the start of the tournament and arrived in Florida 16 days before Friday’s first match. The Earthquakes started the season with a draw against Toronto before losing to Minnesota United in the final match before the league came to a stop in mid-March. Seattle opened the season with a win over Chicago and a draw against Columbus. The Sounders are now unbeaten in their last nine MLS matches dating to a Sept. 22, 2019, loss to D.C. United.

Take your appeal to ECB if you want to resume playing cricket: PCB to Kaneria

KARACHI, JUL 10 (PTI): The PCB on Friday advised banned Test leg-spinner Danish Kaneria to approach the England Cricket Board (ECB) if he wants to resume playing club or domestic cricket. A desperate Kaneria, banned since 2012, want to resume cricket activities to earn his livelihood but the PCB said it can’t do much since the punishment

was handed to him by the ECB. “Article 6.8 of the ECB Anti-Corruption Code, which is applicable in this case, clearly states only the chair of the anti-corruption tribunal, which has imposed a period of ineligibility on a player, had the discretion to permit the player to participate,” the PCB said in a press release. “As such, you are

advised to approach the ECB as per Article 6.8 of the ECB Anti-Corruption Code,” it said. Kaneria is only the second Hindu to play Test cricket for Pakistan. He scalped 261 wickets before being banned by the ECB for life for spot-fixing in English county matches. Kaneria after denying his involvement in spot-fixing and pleading

his innocence finally admitted in late 2018 to a foreign television network he was guilty. Kaneria maintains that he suffered unimaginable and in comprehensible hardships, both professionally and personally, and continues to suffer with each passing day. But the PCB reminded Kaneria that since he had

exhausted all his avenues to appeal against the life ban, only the ECB can now review his case. “The life ban was imposed by the ECB and upheld by all ICC Members as per Article 9 of the ICC/PCB Anti-Corruption Code, and the only way it could have been overturned was by way of appeal, an avenue which has already been explored,” the PCB release said.

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UN encouraged experts may get to visit oil tanker off Yemen

UNITED NATIONS, JUL 11 (AP): The United Nations said Friday it is encouraged that a UN team may be able to visit an oil tanker loaded with 1.1 million barrels of crude oil that is moored off the coast of Yemen, posing a serious risk to Red Sea marine life, desalination plants and shipping.

Houthi rebels, who control the area where the ship is moored, have denied UN inspectors access to the vessel.

But UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the local authorities recently signaled they would approve a UN mission to the site.

We?are?following up with them now to confirm details, he said.

We hope logistical arrangements will be quickly completed so this work can begin.

Internal documents obtained by The Associated Press last month show that seawater has entered the engine compartment of the FSO Safer tanker, which hasn't been maintained for over five years, causing damage to the pipelines and increasing the risk of sinking.

Rust has covered parts of the tanker and the inert gas that prevents the tanks from gathering inflammable gases, has leaked out.

According to AP's June 26 report, experts say maintenance is no longer possible because the damage to the ship is irreversible.

Dujarric said the UN remains extremely concerned about the tanker.

He said water in the engine room could have led to disaster and a temporary fix has been applied, but it is unclear how long this might last.

He gave no further details.

Dujarric said the assessment mission will conduct feasible light repairs and will help to determine the appropriate next steps.

The Iranian-backed Houthi rebels are in control of the western Red Sea ports, including Ras Issa, 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from where the FSO Safer tanker has been moored since the 1980s.

They are at war with the internationally recognized government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition and the United States. President Abed Rabbu Mansour Hadi is in exile in Saudi Arabia and his government in disarray.

The floating tanker is a Japanese-made vessel built in the 1970s and sold to the Yemeni government in 1980s to store up to 3 million barrels pumped from oil fields in Marib, a province in eastern Yemen, before it was exported.

The ship is 360 meters (1,181 feet) long with 34 storage tanks.

Iran denies latest blast reports and accuses west of disinformation

Tehran says incident in early hours in garrison town of Gamdareh was a power outage. Iran has denied reports that fresh mysterious explosions have rocked two towns close to Tehran, accusing the west of waging psychological warfare by spreading false messages on social media.

Reports suggested that the blasts had occurred in the early hours of Friday in Gamdareh, a residential town that houses a number of military garrisons, including bases of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), and in Shahr-e Qods. Officials insisted the reports were false but accepted there had been a power outage.

Iran has acknowledged there have been a number of explosions over the past three weeks at key sites including nuclear facilities and oil refineries, but it has not yet conceded that the incidents could be deliberate attacks.

The series of incidents at sensitive locations, the most high-profile being a fire at the Natanz nuclear site, have led to speculation that Israel may have launched a covert sabotage campaign.

Rejecting claims that there had been a fresh attack on Friday,



Iranian news agencies quoted Leila Vaseghi, the governor of Shahr-e Qods, a town west of Tehran, as denying an explosion had taken place and saying only that there had been a power outage. She said: "The power outage also occurred in a limited area for five or six minutes, and power outages did not occur extensively."

Rumours of the latest incident began circulating online at about midnight on Thursday, according to reports by the state-run Irib news agency. Locals reported hearing three or four mortar-like sounds similar to anti-aircraft weapons, government-run news agencies said.

A small number of social media accounts claiming to be from Garmdareh reported hearing sounds, but the images posted of a giant fire and damaged buildings were found to be old.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman, Abbas Mousavi, also dampened speculation about the cause of a recent incident in Natanz nuclear site, rejecting claims that it was the work of Israel. "It is still too early to make any judgment on the main cause of the blast [in Natanz], and relevant security bodies are probing into every detail of the incident," Mousavi said on Friday.

If Iran concludes that foreign elements were involved, it will be announced and there would be repercussions, he added.

Speaking on Saturday, Israel's foreign minister, Gabi Ashkenazi, said his government's long-term policy was not to allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. "It is better not to mention our actions in Iran," he said.

In an effort to

avoid prompting retaliation, Israel rarely acknowledges attacks on foreign soil. However, it has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in neighbouring Syria, including on Iranian forces stationed there that Israel sees as a threat.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, has also previously lauded what he said were intelligence operations that acquired tens of thousands of documents on Iran's nuclear ambitions from a warehouse in Tehran.

Following the Natanz incident, Iran's government spokesman, Ali Rabiei, said Iran's nuclear activities, which he insisted were peaceful, could not be stopped "despite the hostilities of enemies".

"The Israeli regime should be aware that creating of norm-breaking narrative on any attack against our

nuclear facilities, even if it only propaganda, is considered as stepping in the path of violating redlines of global peace and security," Rabiei said on Tuesday, according to Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency.

Israel and Iran have also accused each other of launching cyber-attacks in recent years.

Ronen Bergman, a senior political and military analyst for Israel's top-selling newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, wrote this week that if the country was responsible for what happened in Natanz, it would qualify "as a new stage in the secret war that isn't quite so secret any more".

He added: "The objectives, presumably, were to make it clear to Iran that Israel would not allow it to move forward with its nuclear programme, and to delay that plan by several months."

Singapore PM Lee returns to power with clear mandate'; Oppn gains



SINGAPORE, JUL 11 (PTI): Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has secured a clear mandate with his ruling People's Action Party (PAP) winning 83 of the 93 contested parliamentary seats in the general election held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Opposition gaining ground by winning a record 10 seats.

The ruling party, in power since independence in 1965, secured 61.24 per cent of the total votes cast in the election, down from 69.9 per cent in 2015. About 2.6 million Singaporeans voted on Friday.

We have a clear mandate, but the percentage of the popular vote is not as high as I had hoped for, 68-year old Lee told a PAP's post-results press conference on Saturday morning.

The opposition Workers' Party secured 10 seats and defeated a team in the Group Representation Constituency of Sengkang led by former Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Ng Chee Meng who is also the Secretary-General of the power National Trades

Union Congress (NTUC).

The Prime Minister assured it is only right that Workers' Party's Indian-origin secretary-general Pritam Singh be formally designated as the Leader of the Opposition, and that he will be provided with appropriate staff support and resources to perform his duties.

Lee took the results in these circumstances as an endorsement of the party's policies and plans as he had called the elections amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

We'll take this forward and work with Singapore to realise those plans and solve the problems which we have, Channel News Asia quoted the premier as saying.

Lee, who leads the PAP as secretary-general, said, Singaporeans understand what's at stake and why we must come together to uphold our national interests.

He pledged to use this mandate responsibly to deal with the COVID-19 situation and economic downturn, to take Singapore safely through the crisis and beyond.

The results reflect the pain and uncertainty that Singaporeans feel in this crisis, the loss of income, the anxiety about jobs, the disruption caused

by the circuit breaker and the safe distancing restrictions, he said.

This was not a feel-good election, said Lee, Singapore's third prime minister who faces the city state's worst recession with economy projected to shrink between 7 and 4 per cent.

Lee acknowledged that the result also showed a clear desire for a diversity of voices in Parliament.

Singaporeans want the PAP to form the government, but they, and especially the younger voters, also want to see more opposition presence in parliament, he noted.

Lee added that he looks forward to the participation and contribution of the Opposition in parliament.

Singh, whose Workers' Party team retained Aljunied Group Representation Constituency (GRC), will have 10 elected MPs now, up from six previously. His fellow member also retained the Hougang single member constituency seat.

Whether it works out and whether it's seen as a strengthening of Singapore will depend not only on what the PAP does, but also on what the Opposition does because the Opposition now has 10 MPs elected from constituencies, said Lee.

He assured that the ruling party will listen to Singaporeans and do its best to address their concerns, and try to win their support, whether or not they voted for the PAP.

When asked by the media if the party had lost the youth vote, he

noted that different generations have different life experiences, and the young have significantly different life aspirations and priorities compared to the older generations.

That'll have to be reflected in our political process and in the government's policies, because in the end, the government's policies must be to achieve the aspirations of every generation of

Singaporeans, Lee said, assuring Singaporeans.

He hoped that the new generations of Singaporeans look critically, but with an open mind at what previous generations have done, examine what's relevant and what continues to make sense to them in a new environment and learn from these experiences hard won by their parents and grandparents.

UN fails for 2nd time to agree on Syria aid from Turkey

UNITED NATIONS, JUL 11 (AP): A divided UN Security Council failed for a second time Friday to agree on extending humanitarian aid deliveries to Syria's mainly rebel-held northwest from Turkey as the current UN mandate was ending, leaving nearly 3 million people at risk of losing aid.

Russia and China vetoed a UN resolution backed by the 13 other council members that would have maintained two crossing points from Turkey for six months.

A Russian-drafted resolution that would have authorised just one border crossing for a year failed to receive the minimum nine yes votes in the 15-member council, with only four countries voting in favour while seven voted against and four abstained.

Diplomats said Germany and Belgium, who insist two crossings are critical especially with the first COVID-19 case just reported in Syria's northwest, circulated a new text.

That resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, would extend the mandate through the Bab al-Hawa crossing for a year and the mandate for the Bab al-Salam crossing which Russia wants to eliminate for three months to wind up its activities.

Council members continued discussions Friday night and diplomats said a meeting was possible Saturday to vote on the German-Belgium draft as well as likely Russian amendments.

German Ambassador Christoph Heusgen said the Russian vote should be a last-minute wake-up call for Security Council members to resolve their differences.

He said Germany, which holds the rotating council presidency, was ready to work around the clock, and he urged

council members to think of the millions of Syrian waiting for them to decide their fate."

To leave this weekend without a solution would send a signal of disappointment and despair to the people in the region, Heusgen said.

The actions Friday capped a week of high-stakes rivalry over cross-border aid.

Russia, Syria's closest ally, has argued that aid should be delivered from within Syria across conflict lines. But the UN and humanitarian groups say aid for 2.8 million needy people in the northwest can't get in that way.

The initial German-Belgium resolution authorising two crossings for one year won support from 13 of the 15 council members on Tuesday but was vetoed by Russia and China.

A Russian draft resolution authorising one crossing for six months failed to get the minimum nine yes votes on Wednesday. And a similar Russian amendment to the latest German-Belgium resolution was dramatically rejected Thursday, getting only two yes votes from Russia and China.

In January, Russia scored a victory for Syria, using its veto threat to force the Security Council to adopt a resolution reducing the number of crossing points for aid deliveries from four to two, from Turkey to the northwest. It also cut in half the yearlong mandate that had been in place since cross-border deliveries began in 2014 to six months.

US Ambassador Kelly Craft tweeted Friday: Russia & China are using politics to prop up the Assad regime while more than 3 million people are in desperate need of aid. We cannot allow the Bab al-Salaam border crossing, where 30 per cent of UNICEF's aid enters Syria, to close. The lives of 500,000 children are at risk.

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SummitTIMES



CITY STROLL! The model, Emily Ratajowski is spotted in a face mask and cute dress on the streets of NYC.

Armie Hammer, Elizabeth Chambers to divorce after 10 years of marriage



LOS ANGELES, JUL 11 (PTI): Actors Armie Hammer and Elizabeth Chambers have decided to part ways after being married for a decade.

Hammer, 33, and Chambers, 37, announced their split in a joint statement posted on their respective Instagram accounts.

Thirteen years as best friends, soulmates, partners and then parents. It has been an incredible journey, but together, we've decided to turn the page and move on from our marriage, the actors said.

As we enter into this next chapter, our

children and relationship as co-parents and dear friends will remain our priority. We understand this news lends itself to public dialogue, but in the interest of our children and our family, we're asking for privacy, compassion and love during this time, they added.

Hammer, best known for his performance in films "The Social Network" and "Call Me by Your Name", got married to the "Game plan" actor in 2010.

They share two children -- daughter Harper Grace, five, and son Ford Douglas Armand, three.

that they will come around to your way of thinking. Just keep talking and making suggestions.

CANCER:

When you can learn to be flexible with an obstinate person, you can learn to do just about anything! A touchy and stubborn person will cross your path today, and they will tell you that it's their way or the highway -- despite the fact that the ideas you have (that they don't want to hear) will make their life easier. Never mind -- laugh it off and do what they say.

LEO:

Chaos has been constant for some time now. But there is an inner knowing within you that everything is taking place in divine order, and that endings make way for magical beginnings. Trust where the signs are leading you towards. For some of you, a new opportunity may be on the cards with an organisation that is seemingly fancier than yours. But, don't go by the outward appearance of things. Introspect on how you feel about the given offer and if their values are in alignment with yours

VIRGO:

The world will always try to confine you to a box. But that doesn't mean you have to play by the rules of the matrix, Virgo. This is a time of inner revolution. You're being encouraged to strip away the layers and meet your true self. This will give you clarity on the path

Disney World to reopen as coronavirus cases surge in Florida

ORLANDO (US), JUL 11 (AP): The Most Magical Place on Earth is reopening after nearly four months with new rules in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom are reopening Saturday, while Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios will follow four days later.

The reopening comes as a huge surge of Floridians have tested positive for the new coronavirus in recent weeks. Many cities and counties around the state have recently reinstated restrictions that had been lifted in May, when cases seemed to drop.

All of Disney's Orlando parks closed in mid-March in an effort to stop the virus's spread. Universal Orlando and SeaWorld Orlando closed around the same time but reopened several weeks ago after instituting similar rules to protect employees and customers from the virus.

Disney's new rules include mandatory masks and social distancing.



Visitors will need reservations to enter a park, and they won't be allowed to hop between parks. Both visitors and employees will receive temperature checks when they enter. Fireworks shows and parades have been suspended to prevent drawing too many

people together.

Disney has been opening its parks back up around the globe for the past two months. In May, the company opened Disney Springs, a complex of shops, restaurants and entertainment venues in Lake Buena Vista.

Indian-American elected delegate to GOP convention for fifth consecutive time

WASHINGTON, JUL 11 (PTI): An Indian-American has been elected as a Republican delegate for the fifth consecutive term to the party's August convention in Florida that would formally nominate President Donald Trump as its candidate for the November presidential elections.

The Republican National Convention (RNC) in Jacksonville, Florida is scheduled to be held from August 24 to August 27.

Dr Sampat Shivangi, the national president of Indian-American Forum for Political Education and a long-time Republican leader, has been elected to the RNC for the fifth consecutive time.

"This convention and the upcoming presidential election is going to be historic for our nation, possibly for India and to the whole world. I am glad that I can contribute

a little, to my beliefs in nation building," he said in a statement on Friday.

"This is my fifth time to be part of the RNC delegation to nominate and help to elect our next president of USA," Shivangi said.

The Indian-American physician was first elected as a delegate at the Republican convention in New York City in 2004, to nominate President George W Bush. In 2008, he was elected as a Republican delegate at Minneapolis to nominate John McCain and in 2012 at Tampa, to nominate Mitt Romney.

In 2016, Shivangi attended the RNC convention in Cleveland, Ohio as a delegate to nominate and elect the current president, Donald Trump.

"It is a great honour to be a part of this historic convention to re-nominate and re-elect Trump for another four years," he said.



"Under President Trump, the United States has made unprecedented progress. Until, we were hit by coronavirus, the US economy was at an all time best. And to top it all, under President Trump, India and Indian-Americans have the best ever friend in the White House," Shivangi said.

Disney+ Finally Has a Live-Action 'X-Men' Movie and Fans Are Surprised it Isn't Censored

There's finally a live-action X-Men film available to stream on Disney+, and surprisingly it's arrived without edits to its more mature content.

Often regarded as one of the best films in 21st Century Fox's X-Men series, Days of Future Past is available for streaming on the platform in the U.S. So far there hasn't been a lot of superhero movies outside of the Marvel Cinematic Universe on Disney+, but it would appear Disney is finally drip-feeding some of its formerly Fox-owned catalogue to viewers. Other X-Men movies are poised to appear on Disney+ later this summer, too, with Apocalypse, The Wolverine, and the original X-Men

scheduled to arrive in the coming weeks.

Interestingly, unlike some content on Disney+, X-Men: Days of Future Past hasn't any censorship despite feature Hugh Jackman's caboose and a notable f-bomb. Both scenes appear intact, and fans have already begun to notice. So far there's no confirmation if First Class, which also has a notable f-bomb scene, will make it to Disney+ down the line or not. It's worth noting that Apocalypse also has an instance of "fuck," too.

Some fans have begun to



ponder whether this is the first instance of the word on Disney+, opening the possibility for other PG-13 rated titles to follow.

As the A.V. Club reported earlier this year, the Disney+ version of the Tom Hanks movie Splash edited out the butts. Maybe there's some

double standards when it comes to nudity in film, or maybe Disney feared a strong reaction from X-Men fans who want Jackman's ass to appear as originally intended. Whatever the reason, Days of Future Past is now available for streaming in its PG-13 form.

ARIES:

There will be a lot of inefficiency in your group today -- everybody is following their own whims and losing focus on what would be best for everyone. You see this, so you have an obligation to help others see it, too. Step up and take control. Point people in the right direction, give them an objective, and delegate responsibilities. Being a leader is something you are quite skilled at, even though it isn't always your favorite thing. But being the grownup is necessary sometimes.

TAURUS:

What used to seem like an outrageous idea to you will suddenly seem rather reasonable today. You're evolving your position on various issues and surprising some of the people who have known you for years. You can expect someone to question you about it, but you'll have all the answers you need at your fingertips -- you can defend your positions so easily because you've thought so much about it. Being the odd one out in a crowd of like-minded thinkers will feel good.

GEMINI:

You should share your open-mindedness and new point of view with someone who thinks the way you thought, in the past. Spread the enlightenment around. At first they might think you are being a know it all and talking down to them, but keep at it -- soon enough, they will see that you have their best interests at heart. They are smart enough to get it eventually, so don't give up hope

that they will come around to your way of thinking. Just keep talking and making suggestions.

CANCER:

When you can learn to be flexible with an obstinate person, you can learn to do just about anything! A touchy and stubborn person will cross your path today, and they will tell you that it's their way or the highway -- despite the fact that the ideas you have (that they don't want to hear) will make their life easier. Never mind -- laugh it off and do what they say.

LEO:

Chaos has been constant for some time now. But there is an inner knowing within you that everything is taking place in divine order, and that endings make way for magical beginnings. Trust where the signs are leading you towards. For some of you, a new opportunity may be on the cards with an organisation that is seemingly fancier than yours. But, don't go by the outward appearance of things. Introspect on how you feel about the given offer and if their values are in alignment with yours

VIRGO:

The world will always try to confine you to a box. But that doesn't mean you have to play by the rules of the matrix, Virgo. This is a time of inner revolution. You're being encouraged to strip away the layers and meet your true self. This will give you clarity on the path

you're meant to take. Some of you may be inspired to sign up for a course or go back to your books.

LIBRA:

What if each word you utter is a spell, Libra? A spell that's helping you create the life you've always dreamed of? One that's emotionally, spiritually, and physically satisfying? The Universe is listening in. So set your intentions with awareness. As such, you'll find that this is a time of manifesting miracles. Something you've been hoping and praying for will come to fruition, bringing with it the affirmation that you are on the right track.

SCORPIO:

Endings could be a big theme in the Scorpio HQ. Slow down. Breathe. Be present to what's coming up from the murky realms of the subconscious instead of putting on the garb of normalcy. Remember, you're allowed to be a 'hot mess' for as long as you want. You may not always understand why the Universe is taking such drastic measures on your behalf, but you understand that it's for your greatest good and that you're clearing space for something that's more in alignment to enter your life.

SAGITTARIUS:

We often mistake surrendering as an act of defeat, but it is a wakeful collaboration with the Universe. The understanding that everything takes place in divine time and that there is something higher looking out for us. You are not meant to worry about the given situation,

Sagittarius. You are meant to surrender what's weighing you down to the mysterious forces above and trust that you will be taken care of. This is a time of healing and transformation.

CAPRICORN:

What are you consciously manifesting in your life, Capricorn? Do you desire a level up as far as your career is concerned or a partner who loves you as you are and supports your growth? The Universe is listening in on your conversations with yourself. Just for today, let go of the idea of limitations, the belief that there is a cap on the blessings that you can call in.

AQUARIUS:

Don't you love how some things do not change with the passage of time and tide? The connection you share with those close to your heart, for instance. Today, you're in the mood to reconnect with that friend who's been on your mind for some time now, share anecdotes from your life, refresh old memories, and laugh like nobody's watching

PISCES:

If your business has been in a funk due to the lockdown, trust that things are about to turn around. But don't expect drastic changes overnight. Keep your desired destination in mind and vow to take one step at a time. It's best to leave the 'how' to the mysterious forces above. Pisceans who've been in the 'maybe' and 'let's see' territory could discover that what they share is true love.