



**HOLLYWOOD STARS TO BE EXEMPT  
FROM UK'S CORONAVIRUS  
QUARANTINE RULES**  
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**AS U.S. BUYS UP REMDESIVIR,  
'VACCINE NATIONALISM' THREATENS  
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**NICK CORDERO, BROADWAY  
ACTOR, DIES AT 41 AFTER  
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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Health Secy dismisses rumours surrounding taxi driver who tested positive

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 06 JUL:**

After a taxi driver engaged in ferrying returnees to quarantine centres from the border tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, rumors started floating on social media platforms fanning fears of community transmission in the state. Whatsapp forwards started doing the rounds which said that the daughter of the driver has been roaming around with her friends, some of whom were salesgirls. There were also others who said that apart from returnees, the driver was ferrying other commuters as well.

Addressing these rumors, the Health Secretary, Dr PT Bhutia on Monday clarified that



the taxi driver was not staying with his family but in a transit camp and his daughter was only 3 years old. The driver was exclusively ferrying returnees and not other commuters, Dr Bhutia added.

The wife and daughter

of the taxi driver have been shifted to a quarantine centre and their samples will be tested on Tuesday. This, the Secretary said, was a precautionary measure. The transit camp where the driver was staying has

also been declared a containment zone.

The driver had ferried the returnee lodged at Himalayan Pharmacy Institute Boys Hostel who had tested positive on 03 July. Two other drivers in his group were also engaged in ferrying returnees to the quarantine centre at HPI Boys Hostel on the same day but they have tested negative for Covid-19. Meanwhile, 11 other drivers who were staying in the transit camp at Rangpo will also be tested on Tuesday. He urged the people not to believe such fake news and rumours.

The Secretary mentioned that Melli check-post will be closed for returnees and all returnees will now enter Sikkim only through Rangpo check-post from Tuesday onwards. He further mentioned that all returnees will be quarantined in East Sikkim.

In his daily health bulletin on Monday, he explained that the decision to allow returnees to enter Sikkim only from Rangpo check-post was taken as numbers of returnees are decreasing and to expose fewer frontline workers to the virus so that they can work during emergencies, if any, in the future.

He mentioned that there are 47 active cases at present and 65 have recovered and been discharged while 13 have been migrated out to Army Hospital at Bagdogra.

## Gym owner accuses District Administration of victimization



**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 06 JUL:**

A bodybuilder and gym owner, Sanjay Chhetri has accused the East District Administration of unfair treatment and harassment.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Chhetri mentioned that the administration had sealed his gym located in Rangpo on 23 May after it was found open on 22 May during the lockdown period. However, he stated that the gym was not opened for members but he along with some friends were in the gym for some other work.

"Following proper protocol, I approached the District Collector [East] with a request to reopen the gym but he

did not respond properly and later forwarded the request to the ADC. Later, the DC ordered the SDM and SHO Rangpo to file an FIR against me," he said.

Mr Chhetri informed that many other shops found violating the lockdown rules were sealed but the administration allowed them to reopen after paying fine of Rs 300. However, his gym was not allowed to open because his case has been registered under rules different from the ones the others have been registered under.

He alleged that this is harassment and discrimination by the district administration. He further accused the DC of asking him to talk to a ruling party leader on the matter.

Speaking for Mr Chhetri, advocate Nawin Kiran Pradhan, who is also the vice-convenor of Sikkim Subject Committee, said that the government can seal the gym during lockdown but rules and regulations should be the same for everyone. Mr Chhetri should have been allowed to reopen his gym after paying fine of Rs 300, he said.

How can the DC ask the police to register a case against Mr Chhetri and ask him to talk to the ruling party leader?, asked Mr Pradhan. He said that he will approach the court on the matter.

Likewise, another advocate, Bina Rai presented some facts about the case during the press conference.

## Single-day jump of 24,248 COVID-19 cases pushes India's tally close to 7-lakh

**NEW DELHI, JUL 6 (PTI):** Another big single-day jump of 24,248 COVID-19 cases took India's tally close to the 7-lakh mark on Monday, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 19,693 with 425 new fatalities, according to the Union health ministry.

With this, the country has recorded over 20,000 cases of the infection for the fourth consecutive day.

India went past Russia on Sunday to become the third worst-hit na-

tion by the COVID-19 pandemic. Only the US and Brazil are ahead of India in terms of total coronavirus infections.

According to the Monday morning update of the Union Health Ministry, a single-day jump of 24,248 COVID-19 cases pushed India's tally to 6,97,413.

With a steady rise, the number of recoveries stands at 4,24,432 in the country, while one patient has migrated. There are 2,53,287 active

coronavirus cases in the country, the data showed.

"Thus, 60.85 per cent of the patients have recovered so far," the ministry said.

The total number of confirmed cases also includes foreigners who tested positive in India.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a total of 99,69,662 samples were tested for the disease in the country till July 5, with 1,80,596 just on Sunday.

## Chinese Army removing tents, seen withdrawing troops from Galwan Valley: Sources

**NEW DELHI, JUL 6 (PTI):** In the first sign of de-escalation of tension in eastern Ladakh, the Chinese Army has removed tents and started to withdraw its troops from Galwan Valley as decided during high-level talks between the two militaries, government sources said on Monday.

Galwan Valley was the site of a violent hand-to-hand clash between the two militaries on June 15 that left 20 Indian soldiers dead.

China's People's Liberation Army was seen removing tents and structures at patrolling point 14, the sources said, adding rearward movement of vehicles of Chinese troops was seen in the general area of Galwan and Gogra Hot Springs.

They said disengagement of Chinese troops in the area has begun as per decisions arrived at during the Corps Commander-level talks.

The sources said there was clear sign of withdrawal of structures and troops from the patrolling point 14 in Galwan Valley and that they are likely to move back more than a kilometre in the area.

The sources said it would not be possible to know immediately how much distance the Chinese troops are going back and that there will be clarity only after a proper verification process is conducted.

The clashes in Galwan Valley took place after Indian troops strongly opposed the erection of a surveillance post by the Chinese side near patrolling point 14.

It is not immediately known whether the de-escalation initiative has also been started in the Pangong Tso area

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## CS CHAIRS MEETING WITH ARMY AND PARAMILITARY FORCES

## Suggests testing after a week in Siliguri quarantine centre

**GANGTOK, 06 JUL (IPR):** Chief Secretary, SC Gupta convened a meeting with senior officers of the Army, ITBP, SSB and GREF today to discuss the latest situation of surge in the number of COVID-19 cases especially from army and the paramilitary forces.

The Chief Secretary sought information about the mechanism of quarantine administered by these forces in Siliguri. He emphasized on enhancing the frequency of testing to ensure that cases are detected early and required action taken by the medical team.

The Chief Secretary suggested that each person lodged in the quarantine in Siliguri should be tested from the seventh day onwards instead of waiting for



them to complete 14 days of quarantine.

He suggested the army and the paramilitary forces to immediately start randomized testing, before they travel to Sikkim.

The Chief Secretary also informed that the army and paramilitary forces will be tested mandatorily at the Rangpo checkpost once the Anti-gen testing commences.

The Chief Secretary

also suggested for random testing of drivers and staff engaged in transportation of essential commodities for the army and other forces on a regular basis.

The Chief Secretary categorically stated that Melli Checkpost has been sealed for entry of returnees. He said that the same would apply for exit of the forces through the border check post. He requested

*turn to pg 02*

**DHARAMSHALA (HP), JUL 6 (PTI):** The Dalai Lama on Monday turned 85, his birthday celebrated through prayers here at the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile which also condoled the deaths of Indian soldiers in the recent clash with Chinese troops.

In his message to the Buddhist community from his home in McLeodganj, the Tibetan spiritual leader asked people to recite the om mani padme hum mantra.

With this practice, you will create some roots of virtue that you can dedicate to me Avalokiteshvara's messenger to live for 110 or 108 years or so, the Dalai Lama said.

This year, the celebrations remained a low-key affair due to restrictions imposed by the government in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

Prayers marked the occasion at the community's main temple in McLeodganj.

The Tibetan spiritual leader too said it was not possible to hold a large celebration due to the pandemic.

And it's not necessary either, he said, asking his followers to recite



the mantra if they wished to celebrate the occasion.

In a statement, the Tibetan parliament-in-exile said, "We pray with great hope that His Holiness the Dalai Lama may live for a hundred aeons, that all his wishes may be seen fulfilled with spontaneity, and that the just cause of Tibet may be seen to prevail with indubitable certainty."

It said the Dalai Lama was just 24 when he entered India from Tibet on

March 17, 1959, almost a decade after China began the armed invasion of Tibet.

"The Dalai Lama adopted broad-mindedness and fortitude when the Chinese government acted with brutality and violence, relying only on the non-violent method that ensured no harm to the other side," the central Tibetan administration, also known as the Tibetan government-in-exile said.

As the situation in Tibet became

"even more critical and dangerous", it became "inevitable" for His Holiness the Dalai Lama to leave, it said.

The statement said the People's Liberation Army of the communist-ruled China continued to make "attempts to encroach into India from all across its border areas".

And recently, a dispute in Galwan Valley in Ladakh led to a clash between the troops from the two sides with the result that 20 Indian soldiers died and several others were injured. The Tibetan parliament-in-exile wishes to express our condolences to India for the tragedy which resulted from that unfortunate incident, the statement said.

The Dalai Lama's office in Dharamshala said the spiritual leader received birthday greetings through Internet or social media from across the world, including former US president George Bush.

Laura (former first lady) and I send our very best wishes on your 85th birthday. I admire you, I care for you and I love you, Bush said.

Indian Union minister Kiren Rijiju too wished him on his birthday.

## 4-yr-old who loves butterfly

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 06 JUL**

Nyima Ozer Bhutia is probably Sikkim's youngest butterfly enthusiast who can get a butterfly to sit on his body. The 4-year-old hails from Yuksom, West Sikkim and is an LKG student of Saint Mary's Convent School, Gyalshing. President of BAMOS [Butterflies and Moths of Sikkim], Nawang Gyatso Bhutia, informs that he is coaching the little one as the lockdown has shut all schools.

"Once I was getting a butterfly to sit on my hands and Nyima was watching. Suddenly he shouted from behind me and I turned to find that he also had a butterfly on his finger which he then put on his nose. I was



quite surprised by this and thought of teaching him more about butterflies," shares Nawang.

Nyima's hobbies include butterflying, watching sports and watching TV (Animal Planet).

Udara dilectus pale hedge blue is the butterfly Nyima has lifted in the given picture.

## MP visits under construction Sports Complex at Dentam



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 JUL:

Lok Sabha Member Purnima Hang Subba along with SKM Area In-charge, Purna Hang Subba, visited the under-construction 'Sports Complex' at Dentam, West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The MP was accompa-

nied by ACS (Sports and Youth Affairs, GOS), Secretary (Sports and Youth Affairs, GOS), CE (Sports and Youth Affairs, GOS), AE (Sports and Youth Affairs), DPO (West), SDM (Dentam), BDO (Dentam), CLC president (Maney-bong-Dentam Constituency), BLC members and WLC Members.

## SKM forms WLC for Tingting and Mangsabong



### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha constituted a ward level committee at Tingting and Mangsabong Ward in Yuksam-Tashiding in West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

SKM West District Coordinator, Nandu Gurung, CLC vice president, Nar Bdr Limboo along with Constituency, Block

and Ward Level Committee and general public were present on the day.

Ten families and some youth from SDF joined SKM on the occasion, the release mentions.

The SKM Tingting ward was constituted with Tumhang Subba as its president, Sunil Subba as general secretary and Tashi Lepcha as publicity secretary.

## Facebook, others, block govt requests on Hong Kong user data

Hong Kong, Jul 6 (AP): Facebook, WhatsApp and Telegram will deny law enforcement requests for user data in Hong Kong as they assess the impact of a new national security law enacted last week.

Facebook and its messaging app WhatsApp said in separate statements Monday that they would freeze the review of government requests for user data in Hong Kong, pending further assessment of the National Security Law, including formal human rights due diligence and consultations with international human rights experts.

The policy changes follow the roll out last week of laws that prohibit what Beijing views as secessionist, subversive, or terrorist activities, as well as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs. The legislation criminalizes some pro-democracy slogans like the widely used Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our time, which the Hong Kong government has deemed has separatist connotations.

The fear is that the new law erodes the freedoms of the semi-autonomous city, which operates under a 'one country, two systems' framework after Britain handed it over to China in 1997.

That framework gives Hong Kong and its people freedoms not found in mainland China, such

as unrestricted internet access.

Spokesman Mike Radonikas said Monday that Telegram understands the importance of protecting the right to privacy of our Hong Kong users.

Telegram has been used broadly to spread pro-democracy messages and information about the protests in Hong Kong.

Telegram has never shared any data with the Hong Kong authorities in the past and does not intend to process any data requests related to its Hong Kong users until an international consensus is reached in relation to the ongoing political changes in the city, he said.

Social platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp have operated freely in Hong Kong, while they are blocked in the mainland under China's Great Firewall.

Though social platforms have yet to be blocked in Hong Kong, users have begun scrubbing their accounts and deleting pro-democracy posts out of fear of retribution. That retreat has extended to the streets of Hong Kong as well.

Many of the shops and stores that publicly stood in solidarity with protesters have removed the pro-democracy sticky notes and artwork that adorned their walls.

## Agri Minister visits Karfectar Dairy Farm and Sikkim Milk



### JORETHANG, 06 JUL [IPR]:

Agriculture Minister Lok Nath Sharma visited Karfectar Dairy Farm and Sikkim Milk Union Dairy Plant at Karfectar today.

Minister, LN Sharma inspected the dairy farm premises thoroughly where he was accompanied by Dr. Phurba Lepcha, Deputy Director (Karfectar), Dr. N.K Pradhan, Deputy Gen-

eral Manager (DGM) alongside the field functionaries and staff of the Dairy farm.

During the visit, Minister Sharma took stock of the functioning of the farm while also inspecting the number of livestock present, fodder plantation, piggery and poultry farming and future scope of dairy industry in the district. Additionally, he

also examined the Bull rearing shed in the premises of the dairy farm wherein he was briefed about the cultivation and distribution of various varieties of fodder for dairy cattle. He also interacted with the staff of the farm and gave a patient hearing to the grievances of dearth of manpower, necessary equipments and strengthening of infrastructure.

During the latter

half of the day, Minister visited the regional office of Sikkim Milk Union at Karfectar and met and interacted with the staff and employees there. DGM, Dr. N.K Pradhan presented a brief achievement report of the plant before the Minister during the course of the interaction.

## SSC questions SKM silence on Melli episode, reiterates demand for judicial enquiry

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 JUL:

Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convener, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, today questioned the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's studied silence on the matter of the unchecked entry of five persons into Sikkim from Melli check-post.

Highlighting that SKM had a moral responsibility to explain the issue since it was in office in Sikkim, he alleged that the incident has put a question mark on the efficiency and work ethic of the State government.

He reiterated his demand that the State government constitute a judicial enquiry committee to get to the truth of the matter.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Pradhan stressed that the people have not accepted the clarification given by Sikkim Police through the DIG [Range].

"The police clarification cannot be digest and if feel like I am watching



a web-series with thousands of lies just to hide one mistake," he said.

He further alleged that the entire clarification was confined to "in" or "out" by the police and that this was not enough.

Mr Pradhan demanded the State government institute a judicial enquiry and keep the Chief Secretary and DGP out of the committee. He contended that the State Government was operating with separate rules for the poor and the rich and pointed out how Sushmita Subba and her family were still struggling to return to the State having been refused entry because they do not have

domicile documents. In the Melli episode, a family of five was given passage through the checkpoint without meeting any of the required formalities based on a phone call from the DGP.

SSC member, Rajesh Walling, in turn alleged that the Article 14 of the Constitution which guarantees equality before law has been bypassed in Sikkim since the formation of the SKM government.

As for the Sikkim Police explanation, he said that the press conference was scripted and all evidence provided was pre-planned drama aimed to muddle the issue.

## French woman thrown from roller coaster dies as husband tries to grab her feet

The 32-year-old mother was celebrating her 2-year-old child's birthday on Saturday

A woman fell to her death from a roller coaster in France as her husband desperately attempted to catch her feet, reports said.

The unidentified 32-year-old mother was celebrating her 2-year-old child's birthday Saturday at Parc Saint-Paul in Oise, about 50 miles north of Paris when she was thrown from the Formula 1 coaster.

"She went over the [safety] bar and her husband tried to catch her by the foot," a witness named Farida told the Courier Picard newspaper.

The witness said she'd been waiting with her own children to get on the ride when she heard screams and saw the horrifying incident.

Park officials said in a press release that a woman died at the scene Saturday after falling while the ride was "in operation." "The park area has been completely cut off for visitors," the statement said.

"All the teams join the family to express their deep sadness following this event."

It was reportedly the woman's first visit to the park, and she had been joined on the outing by her mother and sister, in addition to her husband and child.

Another female witness told Le Parisien that her own daughter was on the ride and saw the young mother plunge to her death as the roller coaster made a turn.

The girl is "extremely shocked," said the woman, only identified as Priscilla. The mom said she rushed over to the ride after hearing a man scream.

"I came closer and saw a bloody woman at the foot of the roller coaster," she said. "It was horrible."

## SKM Govt has failed taxi drivers: SDF

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 JUL:

Sikkim Democratic Front has accused the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha government of failing to provide any relief to taxi drivers of the State. Taxi drivers have been facing lots of difficulties due to lockdown as there are no tourists and taxis are still running on odd-even basis, the party has said.

A press release from SDF vice-president and driver's front incharge, GM Gurung alleges that its inability to provide relief to taxi drivers, shows the state government's weakness.

SDF has demanded that the State government immediately provide a one-time relief fund of Rs 10,000 to every driver.

The release adds that the SDF government led by Pawan Chamling passed the regulation in 1995-96 to provide ex-gratia from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh to drivers and also had provisions to provide ex-gratia to drivers from other States who run taxis in Sikkim.

The state government should provide relief package to all taxi drivers without any discrimination to drivers from Sikkim and other States working in Sikkim, the party states.

SDF further demands that the state government provide relief amount to drivers who are ferrying people from quarantine centres to hospital and those bringing essential materials from Siliguri to the State.

## Chinese Army...

where the Chinese side has significantly enhanced its presence, particularly in areas between Finger 4 and Finger 8.

On June 30, the Indian and Chinese armies held the third round of Lt General-level talks during which both sides agreed on an "expeditious, phased and step wise" de-escalation as a "priority" to end the standoff.

The first round of the Lt General talks were held on June 6 during which both sides finalised an agreement to disengage gradually from all the standoff points beginning with Galwan Valley.

However, the situation deteriorated following the Galwan Valley clashes as the two sides significantly bolstered their deployments in most areas along the LAC.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise visit to Ladakh during which he said the era of expansionism is over and that the history is proof that "expansionists" have either lost or perished, in comments which were seen as a clear message to China that India is not going to backoff and would deal with the situation with a firm hand.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks.

The tension escalated manifold after killing of 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan Valley. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

Both sides have held several rounds of diplomatic and military talks in the last few weeks to ease tension.

Following the Galwan Valley clashes, the Army has sent thousands of additional troops to forward locations along the border besides moving in heavy weapons.

## Suggests testing...

the forces to use the Rangpo Checkpost route for both entry and exit.

The meeting concluded with the consensus of the officers of the forces on the decisions made.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Health, K Srinivasulu, DG cum Secretary, Health, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, and Secretary, IPR Department, Namrata Thapa.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available – 30X40 sq ft and 50X30 sq ft  
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

### 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 and is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks etc. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.



## Rotary Club Siliguri holds virtual installation ceremony

### SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 JUL:

Rotary Club Siliguri Metropolitan held a virtual installation ceremony today. Former Rotary International president, C Bhasker along with District Governor 3240, Subhasish Chatterjee, Assistant Governor 3240 Zone 5, Sandeep Ghosal, dignitaries and fellow Rotarians were present in the function, a press release informs.

Shiv Shankar Sarkar took over as president 2020-21 from outgoing president Vikas Dungarwal. President, Shiv Shankar Sarkar introduced the Board members along with Sec-

retary, Rakesh Garg and an oath was given by chief guest.

The function saw a live performance by star singer Shubham and Prakash Chettri. The Club introduced Honorary Member, Bhaichung Bhutia and honoured him with memento during the ceremony.

A presentation was shared about different projects taken in the last one year. Installation Project Chairman, Yogesh Pradhan along with Co Chairman, Deepak Agarwal, Jyoti Dey Sarkar, Manish Jain and CA Amit Goyal thanked the house for attending the Installation Ceremony.

# GSWTJDA president accused of misappropriating funds

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 JUL:**

A section of Gangtok South West Taxi Jeep Drivers Association [GSWTJDA] has made a serious allegation against their president, Karma Tshering Lepcha and his team of misappropriation of the association's funds. They threatened to pursue the matter legally if the president does not call a meeting with all members of the association immediately and give proper accounts of the funds. They also demanded that the ad-hoc committee should be dissolved immediately and election should be conducted to constitute the executive committee of the association.

Addressing a press conference here today, a member of the as-



sociation, Phateyman Tamang informed that an adhoc committee was formed with Karma Tshering Lepcha as president, Sonam T Bhutia as vice-president and Dinesh Tamang as advisor for the time being. However, he alleged that

they had chosen some more persons in the committee without the consent of all the members.

"We approached the president to use the funds of the association to provide relief to member drivers who have been suffering in this

lockdown period but he directly refused. When we asked him about the funds collected after the formation of the association on 31 August last year, he refused to give any details," he alleged. He further alleged that the president has been refusing to

conduct a single meeting with members.

He demanded that the president immediately conduct a meeting with members to give clear details of the funds of the association and distribute relief to affected members of the association.

He mentioned that there was around Rs 13 lakhs in the association's funds collected through membership fee and the counter for West and South vehicles. He further alleged that the president has been trying to threaten members to keep shut and is not listening to their grievances and suggestions. On the same, he demanded that the adhoc committee be dissolved in order to form the new committee.

# Police arrest 13 SUCI members in Siliguri

**SUMMIT REPORT  
SILIGURI, 06 JUL:**

Thirteen Members of Socialist Unity Center of India (SUCI) were arrested by the police in Siliguri today.

According to sources, SUCI had organized a protest rally today on the alleged murder of a SUCI member, Sudhanshu Jana. SUCI district secretary, Gautam Bhattacharya was among those arrested today.

Two people were also reportedly injured in the scuffle with the police.



## Philippines reports spike in coronavirus cases

**MANILA, JUL 6 (AP):** The Philippines has reported its biggest spike in coronavirus infections in recent days as the government eases quarantine restrictions to revive the economy, raising the possibility its crowded capital may be placed back under a strict lockdown.

The Department of Health reported a total of 2,434 cases in recent days, most of them in metropolitan Manila, raising the number of confirmed cases nationwide to more than 44,250, including 1,297 deaths. The infections and deaths are among the highest in Southeast Asia.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said there's a possibility the capital area may revert back to a lockdown if the uptick continues and hospitals get filled to capacity again.

At least one major Manila hospital, the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, said its COVID-19 ward was running at full capacity and appealed that new patients be taken elsewhere.

President Rodrigo Duterte eased the lockdown in metropolitan Manila, an epicenter of infections, on June 1 to bolster an economy on the brink of recession. One major commercial and tourism region, central Cebu city, was placed back under a strict lockdown in mid-June due to alarming infection spikes.

## Gwalior: Not wearing mask? Work as volunteer in hospital

**GWALIOR, JUL 6 (PTI):** Citizens found without mask or not following the COVID-19 prevention guidelines at public places in Gwalior will have to work as volunteers in hospitals and police checkposts for three days, an official said on Monday.

Fines would also be imposed on those violating the COVID-19 protocols, he said.

An order of this effect was issued by the district administration in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday after Collector Kaushendra Vikram Singh held a meeting with officials concerned on the ongoing 'Kill Corona' campaign, he said.

The order said those found without mask or not following the corona-

virus guidelines at public places will not only have to pay a fine, but they would also have to work as volunteers for three days in hospitals and fever clinics treating COVID-19 patients and at the police check-posts.

The collector said in the meeting that those coming from Indore, Bhopal and other states should be strictly screened at the district's borders, the official said.

The Madhya Pradesh government has undertaken the 'Kill Corona' campaign across the state for a door-to-door survey to identify COVID-19 patients.

On Sunday, Gwalior reported 51 COVID-19 cases, taking the district's tally to 528.

## US Newspaper owner: Sorry for equating mask rule to Holocaust

**TOPEKA (US), JUL 6 (AP):** A Kansas county Republican Party chairman who owns a weekly newspaper apologized Sunday for a cartoon posted on the paper's Facebook page that equated the Democratic governor's coronavirus-inspired order for people to wear masks in public with the mass murder of Jews by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Dane Hicks, owner and publisher of The Anderson County Review, said in a statement on Facebook that he was removing the cartoon after some heartfelt and educational conversations with Jewish leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

The newspaper posted the cartoon Friday, and it drew dozens of critical responses and international attention.

A blog post by Hicks on Saturday defending it also drew critical responses.

Hicks is the GOP chairman for Anderson County in eastern Kansas. The state party chairman deemed the cartoon inappropriate. Gov. Laura Kelly, who is Catholic, called for it to be removed and she and other critics called it anti-Semitic.

I can acknowledge the imagery in my recent editorial cartoon describing state government overreach in Kansas with images of the Holocaust was deeply hurtful to members of a culture who've been dealt plenty of hurt throughout history people to whom I never desired to be hurtful in the illustration of my point," Hicks said in his statement.

The cartoon depicted Kelly wearing a mask with a Jewish Star of David on it, next to a digitally altered image of people being loaded onto train cars.

Its caption is, Lockdown Laura says: Put on your mask ... and step onto the cattle car. Hicks said Saturday that he put the images together and planned to publish the cartoon in the paper's next edition Tuesday.

His newspaper is based in the Anderson County seat of Garnett, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City and has a cir-

culation of about 2,100, according to the Kansas Press Association.

Kelly did not immediately respond to Hicks's apology, but her office said she could address the issue during a news conference Monday.

The governor issued the mask order because of resurgence in reported coronavirus cases that increased the state's total to nearly 16,000 as of Friday, when Kansas finished its worst two-week spike since the pandemic began.

State law allows counties to opt out of her mask mandate, and Anderson County has done so. It has about 7,900 residents in a conservative swath of eastern Kansas, and President Donald Trump carried it with nearly 73% of the vote in 2016.

The state health department has reported only four coronavirus cases for Anderson County, all of them since May 8.

State and local officials across the U.S. have faced resistance to mask requirements from Trump's supporters.

Fritzie Fritzhall, a survivor of the Auschwitz death camp and president of the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, north of Chicago, said anti-mask protesters have often compared government actions during the pandemic to those of the Nazi regime. She called it ignorant and offensive.

In this time of uncertainty and fear, imagery and slogans can be used to unite us in a common desire to return to civil discourse or divide us in ways that give a voice to hate and divisiveness, she said in a statement.

Biff Rubin, a small business owner in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kansas, who is Jewish, said the cartoon was painful for his family and the state's Jewish community. He said he appreciated Hicks' apology and is thankful that the U.S. is in a time of learning and reflection.

Rubin's hometown was the site of three fatal shootings at a Jewish community center and retirement home in April 2014 by an avowed anti-Semite who was sentenced to death for the crimes.

## Rotaract Club's first District Project 'Rakshitam'



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 JUL:**

Rotaract Club of Gangtok Hills-Youth Wing of Rotary Club of Gangtok South, completed its first District Project i.e. Rakshitam - Guarding India's COVID-19 Warriors, a press release informs.

The project was executed at Gangtok Mu-

nicipal Corporation office to honour Safai Karamcharis. The event was supported by Tashi Chopel, a poet, writer and a bureaucrat based in Sikkim.

Mayor, Shakti Singh Chaudhary, Gangtok Municipal Commissioner, Hem Kumar Chettri, ZRR-Zone II, Deeden Bhutia

and District Chairman - Rotary India Literacy Mission, Palmu Bhutia were present during the execution of the project.

The club handed over the following items to the GMC Commissioner for the Safai Karamcharis: Hand Sanitizers - 50 pieces; Face Shield - 20 pieces and; PPE KIT- 5 sets.

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## CHIEF MINISTER'S 'A DAY FOR MOTHER EARTH' APPEAL

My beloved citizens, as you may be aware that the Government of Sikkim last year had launched a new green initiative of dedicating "A Day for Mother Earth" on 07 July every year. Likewise, this year also, we will be celebrating the day with great zest and fervour taking up environment friendly activities across the State. The day is also coinciding with the closing day of Van Mahotsav Week i.e. 01 to 07 July.

Amidst COVID-19 pandemic, making sure of social distancing in place, let each one of us spare some time at our homes and neighbourhood to dedicate our green good deeds to the Mother Earth by contributing in whatever small way possible. Clean and healthy environment starts from our homes. During the Van Mahotsav, let us clean and beautify our neighbourhood, plant native saplings, resort to eco-friendly lifestyles and create low carbon footprints. Hence, it is the duty and responsibility of every citizen to be well aware and be conscious about environmental issues and put green ideas into action.

Last year's seven minute of no vehicular emission was a grand success. Similarly, this year as well, I request all the environment friendly citizens of Sikkim, Government Departments/ Agencies, Taxi Drivers Association and so on NOT to ply any vehicles (except emergency vehicles like Ambulance, Police, Fire services etc) for seven (7) minutes from 11AM to 11.07am on this day (07 July) as our affirmative action towards ameliorating the deteriorating environmental effects.

We all are aware that man animal conflict is on the rise. Wild animals including monkeys are coming out to our homes and farmlands. To tackle this, State Government will be raising seedlings and carrying out plantation of wild edible fruit tree species such as phunchey, bhadrashey, amphi, kattus, okhar and lapsi on mission mode.

I appeal to one and all to resort to reduce, re-use and re-cycle practices and manage our natural resources efficiently and make this a habit and way of life in this beautiful Mountain State which is the need of the hour to safeguard future generation or posterity.

### What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

#### Symptoms of nCoV

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

#### Treatment

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

#### Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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



If you seek help, you may call :  
-Toll free no. 104  
District surveillance Officer  
EAST : 7029372100  
WEST : 9593297809  
NORTH : 9641957468  
SOUTH : 7407691463  
New STNM  
AMS : 9434711402

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

## When Disasters Come As a Surprise, They Expose Ineptitude

*Study every aspect of the Passingdang disaster to formulate a better advance warning system*

The monsoon has opened up in earnest. The first major calamity has been reported from Dzongu where a Passingdang was inundated by an innocuous jhora breaking its banks and pouring down tonnes of slush and debris destroying homes. Thankfully, no one was injured in the incident, thanks primarily to providence because as far as all the disaster management teams are concerned, none, it appears was too bothered by the risk which residents of the area had flagged at least a year back.

After the affected people have been safely and comfortably rehabilitated and the slide zone adequately contained, one hopes that experts are called in to study and explain what happened there. It is not enough to blame the rains, because although the weather was wet, it was not unseasonably so for this time of the year. Given the reams of paper and data used up in circulating press releases claiming disaster preparedness meetings and constitution of task forces, one would have expected much better, well, preparedness. Perhaps we expect too much from our officers. For the sake of the people though, it may be time that the people wrested disaster preparedness away from the babus and returned to their traditional models of ensuring public safety. Let the officials keep busy with ex gratia and rehabilitation because years of living with natural disasters has more than established that when it comes to preparedness, the administration draws a naught.

The lessons that the Passingdang disaster has to share need to be learned well because flashfloods are not new to Sikkim and have been exacerbated by the developmental models forced on regions which were getting fine until they could decide on how their resources were harnessed. The lesson from Passingdang need to learned at two levels – physical signs and departmental procedures.

To address the former, isn't it better for warning signs to be noticed and responded to in time and casualties avoided? Sikkim is urbanizing on a fast clip, but there is no reason why it should blunder along recklessly as well. And it is not just the municipal corporation, council and nagar panchayat areas which are urbanizing, even rural areas are building up in urban style, every photograph from Passingdang bears that fact out. Studying the Passingdang episode could offer significant pointers on how amenities should be planned, drainage organized and drive home how important it is for disasters to be met more with preparedness and advance warning systems than the current, almost exclusive, emphasis on response and mitigation. It is necessary that this approach is taken, if not for better planning, then at least to ensure that no one is caught off-guard or unprepared despite the many advance warnings that disasters invariably send out before the event actually occurs.

At Passingdang, the administration ignored all complaints and because the state has usurped all disaster preparedness and mitigation tasks, the people could do nothing more than petition and pray. The result is there for all to see. If anyone is serious about preparedness, they should also study and correct why warnings communicated by people are ignored so routinely.

The point being made here is that repairs are short-term measures; measures that anyone confronted with a broken jhora will devise. What one expects of agencies with the human and material resources to look out for Sikkim are more long-term corrections and better advance planning. It confounds all logic that a more permanent solution is not available for landslides that come down every year around the same spots. In these times of scientific temper, it is bewildering that the mechanics of landslide containment has not developed beyond wiremeshed retaining walls and bull-dozer clearances.

By now, a special cell should be monitoring rainfall records at regular intervals [if real-time is too difficult] to ensure reliable advance warning and support equipment the moment precipitation hits the red band for a particular area. This should be adopted down till the Gram Panchayat level for habitations and settlements.

### WRITE US:

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

## As U.S. buys up remdesivir, 'vaccine nationalism' threatens access to COVID-19 treatments

JOEL LEXCHIN  
*theconversation.com*

At the end of June, the United States government announced that it had secured the entire supply of remdesivir, an antiviral drug that shortens hospital stays for COVID-19 patients, until September.

In March, there were reports that Donald Trump's administration tried to buy a German company working on a COVID-19 vaccine in order to secure the entire supply for the U.S. A group formed by France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands struck a deal in the past few weeks to secure 400 million doses of AstraZeneca's potential vaccine, although other countries are also encouraged to join the group on the same terms. Whether poor countries could afford the terms is another question.

It certainly doesn't seem that "we're all in this together" — it's looking more and more like a dog-eat-dog world. The group that's most likely to be eaten are those living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Gilead, the maker of remdesivir, has licence agreements with manufacturers to supply remdesivir in 127 LMICs, but those agreements exclude large middle-income countries such as Brazil, China and Mexico.

### VACCINE NATIONALISM

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is creating a facility that will enter into advance purchase agreements with pharmaceutical companies guaranteeing the purchase of any eventual vaccines. But this proposal has generated significant global concerns about its impact on equitable access for populations, especially in developing countries. Under the agreement, rich countries will get the first crack at enough vaccine to cover 20 per cent of their population, and only then will poorer countries be guaranteed the vaccine — and only for their highest priority populations.

The Serum Institute of India has entered a licensing agreement with AstraZeneca to acquire one billion doses of AstraZeneca's potential COVID-19 vaccine for LMICs, with a commitment to provide 400 million doses before the end of 2020. But the terms and conditions of the agreement are unknown, including the price and the number of countries eligible for supply.

South Africa has started a trial of the vaccine being developed by the University of Oxford in partnership with AstraZeneca to try to avoid being left behind in the race to secure a supply. Helen Rees, chairwoman of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, said in a briefing: "That debate about vaccine nationalism now is very critical...There has to be an equitable distribution of vaccines. It cannot be all for some and none for many others."

### COSTS, SUPPLY AND CONTROL

The cost of remdesivir in the U.S. is going to be US\$390 per vial, which would amount to US\$2,340 per five-day treatment course. It's estimated that remdesivir could be made for under US\$1 a dose, less than a quarter of one per cent of what Gilead will be charging. At Gilead's price, the company could earn well over US\$2 billion in the first year the drug is on sale. The cost will hopefully be much lower in countries that are the recipients of Gilead's licences, but what about the excluded countries? At this point, no one knows. That includes Canada.

Gilead is in the process of submitting an application for approval of remdesivir to Health Canada

How is the federal government going to ensure that Canadians have access to COVID-19 treatments and vaccines?

Right now, we don't have the capability to manufacture a vaccine in the country. Connaught Laboratories, which was instrumental in helping to develop the polio vaccine, used to be able to make vaccines, but it was sold off by the federal government back in 1989 to a French firm.

The federal government should be looking at setting up a Crown corporation to ensure a domestic supply of critical drugs and vaccines at reasonable prices. Until that can be done, the government should extend the compulsory licensing provision in its emergency legislation so that generic compa-



and, according to Health Canada, the review will be conducted under expedited timelines due to the seriousness of COVID-19. Of course, under the new deal between the U.S. and Gilead, there won't be any remdesivir for Canada to buy until the end of September. Canada could issue a compulsory licence to allow generic companies to make remdesivir, but currently that authority expires at the end of September so we may be stuck with Gilead as the only supplier.

Gilead controls the supply of remdesivir because it holds the patent on the drug. When Jonas Salk, the inventor of the polio vaccine, was asked if he was going to patent it, his famous response was: "There is no patent, could you patent the sun?" In other words, the vaccine was a public good meant to be used by everyone.

Gilead obviously doesn't hold the same view about remdesivir, despite the fact that U.S. taxpayers contributed at least \$70.5 million to developing the drug.

### CANADA'S ROLE

What should Canada be doing about all of this?



## How to help someone you live with who has depression

MONIKA PARKISON & MARIA LOADES  
*theconversation.com*

The coronavirus pandemic has meant sudden changes to our daily lives, with restrictions on free movement, imposed lockdowns and social distancing. Many of these measures will have taken a toll on people's mental health.

These changes have increased our exposure to known risk factors for developing depression, such as physical inactivity, lack of structure and routine, lack of social support, loneliness, and limited opportunity to do enjoyable and valued activities.

Also, evidence from previous pandemics, such as Sars and swine flu, suggests that disease-containment measures, such as quarantine and social isolation, may be detrimental to mental health. There is growing evidence that the effect of these changes on people's mental health across the age groups is significant, especially for those who are younger.

Rates of depression in adults and young people are already concerning, and are predicted by the World Health Organization to rise. By 2030, depression will be the highest burden of disease globally, which refers to the overall impact of a health problem, in-

cluding the financial cost. So although the initial focus during the pandemic has understandably been on physical health, it is therefore crucial that we also turn our attention to people's mental health, particularly as the two are related.

A lot of advice addresses the person with depression, but here we give advice on what you can do if you live with someone who is depressed.

### CLUES IN THEIR BEHAVIOUR

Many people find it difficult to ask for help and to let others know how they are feeling. Don't assume someone is OK just because they say they are. It's better to ask more questions and risk being annoying than to miss something important, such as symptoms of depression. If they don't want to tell you, watch their behaviour and notice anything unusual, such as sleeping much later, not eating, staring for long periods, cancelling and avoiding many things.

People's feelings are often linked to their thoughts and behaviour, and this is demonstrated in the cognitive behavioural therapy model. When people feel depressed, they often experience repeating streams of negative thoughts. It can be helpful to encourage someone who is thinking this way to try to look at different sides to

a situation. Useful questions might be: "What advice would you give a friend in this situation?" or "What would be a more helpful way of thinking about this?"

Depression gives rise to self-critical thoughts, such as "I'm no good", "I shouldn't feel this way". Not surprisingly these thoughts then fuel the depression further. It's helpful to let the depressed person know that you can see how they are feeling and that their feelings are understandable and valid, and will pass in time. This type of validation can help someone who is depressed refrain from criticising themselves for having difficult feelings and to develop more self-compassion.

People who are depressed commonly withdraw from other people and activities. By doing fewer enjoyable and valued activities, it can compound a person's depression. Try to counteract this by helping the person to re-engage with things that are important to them. Start with small things such as putting some structure into the day and perhaps increasing exercise, or time spent in nature, if possible. Help the person gradually re-introduce activities and social contacts that they see as valuable. Make some small plans together for the fu-

ture (short, medium and long-term).

A person with depression may commonly find it difficult to problem-solve, and daily activities and issues can quickly start to feel overwhelming. It's helpful to stay calm and keep conflict and stress in the house to a minimum. Support the person to generate simple solutions to problems and encourage them to put these solutions and ideas into action rather than avoiding things.

### SEEK OUTSIDE HELP

There are a number of other effective treatments for depression. Encourage the person you are supporting to seek extra help if needed. This might be in the form of online information and online courses for both adults and young people; through self-help books; or by contacting your local healthcare provider or mental health services in your area.

Remember, your wellbeing is extremely important when supporting someone with depression. Take time for self-care so you can model positive behaviours and be replenished enough to provide this crucial support.

*[Monika Parkison is Research Fellow and Clinical Psychologist, University of Reading; Maria Loades is Senior Lecturer, Clinical Psychology, University of Bath]*

# NSA Doval and Chinese FM Wang agree on expeditious disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh

**NEW DELHI, JUL 6 (PTI):**

A day before Chinese military began pulling back from Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed on an expeditious withdrawal of troops, holding that a complete disengagement at the "earliest" was necessary for full restoration of peace in border areas and both sides should not allow differences to become disputes.

Doval and Wang, who are special representatives for boundary talks between the two countries, held a telephonic conversation on Sunday during which they had a "frank and in-depth exchange" of views on the recent developments in the western sector, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Monday.

Significantly, Chinese troops began removing tents early on Monday and started to withdraw from Galwan Valley, the site of a violent hand-to-hand clash between the two militaries on June 15 that left 20 Indian soldiers dead, government sources said.

Rearward movement of vehicles and troops was seen in Gogra Hot Springs as well but there was no confirmation of similar disengagement in Pangong Tso area, said the sources. They said Chinese troops moved back around one kilometre from patrolling point 14, 15 and 17 in Galwan Valley. In the talks, Doval and Wang re-affirmed that both sides should "strictly respect" and observe the Line of Actual Control and should not take any unilateral action to alter the status quo, the MEA said.

The two special rep-



resentatives agreed to continue their conversations to ensure "full and enduring restoration" of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

It was the first time that Doval and Wang held talks during the ongoing stand-off.

Government sources said India is strictly monitoring whether China was withdrawing its troops from friction points, adding global support to New Delhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong message during his visit to Ladakh last week may have had some impact on Beijing agreeing to move back its army.

The MEA said it was agreed to "take guidance from the consensus of leaders" that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas

was essential for the further development of bilateral ties and that two sides should not allow differences to become disputes.

"Therefore, they agreed that it was necessary to ensure at the earliest complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC and de-escalation from India-China border areas for full restoration of peace and tranquillity," it said.

"In this regard they further agreed that both sides should complete the ongoing disengagement process along the LAC expeditiously. The two sides should also ensure a phased and step-wise de-escalation in the India-China border areas," the MEA added.

It was re-affirmed that both sides should "strictly respect and

observe" the LAC and should not take any unilateral action to alter the status quo, besides working together to avoid any incident in the future that could disturb peace and tranquillity in border areas.

The MEA said the two special representatives agreed that the diplomatic and military officials should continue their discussions, including under the framework of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China border affairs, and implement the understandings reached in a timely manner.

"It was also agreed that the two special representatives will continue their conversations to ensure full and enduring restoration of peace and tranquillity in the In-

dia-China border areas in accordance with the bilateral agreements and protocols," the MEA said.

The Indian and Chinese armies are locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last eight weeks. The tension escalated manifold after killing of 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan Valley. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

Both sides have held several rounds of diplomatic and military talks in the last few weeks to ease tension in the region. However, there was no visible sign of any end to the standoff.

On June 30, the Indian and Chinese armies held the third round of Lt General-level talks during which both sides agreed on an "expeditious, phased and step wise" de-escalation as a "priority" to end the standoff.

The first round of the Lt General talks were held on June 6 during which both sides finalised an agreement to disengage gradually from all the standoff points beginning with Galwan Valley. However, the situation deteriorated following the Galwan Valley clashes as the two sides significantly bolstered their deployments in most areas along the LAC.

On Friday, Modi made a surprise visit to Ladakh during which he said the era of expansionism is over and that the history is proof that "expansionists" have either lost or perished, in comments which were seen as a clear message to China that India is not going to backoff and would deal with the situation with a firm hand.

## Former Siliguri Mayor beats COVID-19



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**SILIGURI, 06 JUL:**

After approximately 21 days, Ex-Mayor of Siliguri, Ashok Bhattacharya won the battle against COVID-19 and returned home from the COVID Hospital in Siliguri.

He was admitted at the Neotia Getwell Hospital with some symptoms of COVID-19 on 16 June.

Secretary of CPIM (Siliguri), Jibesh Shakar said, "After 21 days, Mr Bhattacharya has fully recovered and returned

home from the hospital today. We are very thankful to all the members of Neotia Getwell hospital who are working very hard to look after the patients and are supporting them not only physically but mentally as well."

## Posters of Vikas Dubey put up at all toll plazas in UP

**LUCKNOW, JUL 6 (PTI):** In a bid to tighten the noose around Vikas Dubey, posters of the gangster have been put up at all toll plazas in Uttar Pradesh, a senior police official said on Monday.

Dubey is involved in the killing of eight police personnel in Kanpur on July 3.

"Posters of Vikas Dubey have been put up at all toll plazas in the state so that as soon as he crosses any of these toll plazas, information on his whereabouts can be obtained, Inspector General of Kanpur Range Mohit Agarwal told PTI.

He said 25 police teams drawn from 40 police stations have been



pressed into action to search the criminal.

"Some teams have also been sent to other states. We are expecting good news soon," Agarwal said. Police sources said surveillance teams are also keeping a watch on the close contacts of Dubey.

Eight police personnel, including a DSP, were

gunned down in a village near Kanpur by the henchmen of Dubey.

Seven others, including a civilian, were injured in the attack from a rooftop on a police team after it entered Bikru village to arrest Dubey, a history-sheeter who has faced about 60 criminal cases.

## 5 more BSF staffers test COVID-19 positive in Mizoram

**AIZAWL, JUL 6 (PTI):** Five more Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Mizoram tested positive for coronavirus infection, taking the state's COVID-19 tally to 191, a state health department official said on Monday.

The five persons - four jawans and a cook are posted at the BSF camp in Vanhne in south Mizoram's Lunglei district.

The four jawans recently returned to the

state from Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya and were under quarantine, while the cook has no travel history, the official said.

The five, who are aged between 27 and 52 years, are asymptomatic and out of danger, he said.

A total of seven personnel of Vanhne camp are now afflicted with the disease.

Mizoram now has 58 active cases while 133

patients have recovered from COVID-19.

According to the health department, Lunglei district accounted for the highest number of 54 cases, followed by Aizawl with 53. The remaining 84 cases were reported from eight other districts. Only Hnahthial district is still COVID-19 free.

All the coronavirus infected patients of Kolasib, Serchhip, Khawzawl and Saitual districts have already recovered.

## Three more policemen suspended over Kanpur encounter

**KANPUR/LUCKNOW, JUL 6 (PTI):** Uttar Pradesh police have suspended three more of their men, suspecting that they tipped off Vikas Dubey whose gang members killed eight policemen in an ambush at a village near Kanpur last week.

Police on Monday also increased the reward for Dubey arrest to Rs 2.5 lakh, up from the Rs 1 lakh offered earlier.

UP Director General of Police H C Awasthy said police are conducting raids to track down the gangster, based on information they get.

Police had earlier suspended Vinay Tiwari, station officer at Chaubeypur station and were examining the possibility that he informed Dubey that a police team was heading to his Bikru village to arrest him.

The gangster, who has faced about 60 criminal cases over the years, then allegedly set up an ambush for the policemen, killing eight of them in the early hours of Friday.

Kanpur's Senior Superintendent of Police Dinesh Kumar P said more Chaubeypur policemen have now been suspended.

Three police personnel have been suspended for their suspected role in leakage of information, he said. They are sub-inspectors Kunwarpal and Krishna Kumar Sharma and constable Rajiv.

"A preliminary enquiry has been initiated against the three suspended policemen, he said. Superintendent of Police (Rural Area) has been asked to probe the matter.

He said an FIR would be lodged against the suspended policemen if the inquiry showed their involvement in the attack at Bikru village.

A police officer said all three policemen had accompanied the then Chaubeypur station officer Vinay Tiwari in the raid, meant to arrest Vikas Dubey following a complaint by local businessman Rahul Tiwari that he was thrashed the alleged gangster.

## TMC government has to go lock, stock and barrel: Nadda

**KOLKATA, JUL 6 (PTI):** BJP president J P Nadda Monday launched a broadside against the TMC government in West Bengal, alleging criminalisation of politics and corruption have scaled new heights and calling for its ouster.

Lauding Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee for fighting for a united India and opposing the "appeasement politics" of Jawaharlal Nehru, Nadda said it is an honour to celebrate his birth anniversary at a time when the Modi government has fulfilled his dream of scrapping Article 370 that bestowed on Kashmir a special status.

On the one hand, we have Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who fought for a united India and always kept his ideals and principles above anything, and on the other, we have the present TMC government in Bengal for which "clinging to power by any means is everything".

"Criminalisation of politics has scaled new heights, now we all hear about cut money in Bengal. We need to cut to size these leaders. We need to restore Bengal's glory and remove this govern-

ment lock, stock and barrel," Nadda told a virtual rally for West Bengal on the birth anniversary of Mookerjee. Bengal used to lead the country once upon a time.

Syama Prasad Mookherjee had taken Bengal to new heights... but it is a matter of shame that standards of education have now plunged to abysmal levels. Now, if you are not associated with the ruling party of the state, you would be graded accordingly. We need to change this, he said. The BJP leader also deplored "politicisation of education" resulting in falling standards of learning. "This trend is worrisome for Bengal. We must dedicate ourselves to restore education in Bengal back to its glorious standards," he said.

Speaking about Mookerjee's contributions to the nation, Nadda asserted it was because of the efforts of the Jana Sangh founder that West Bengal and large parts of Punjab are with India.

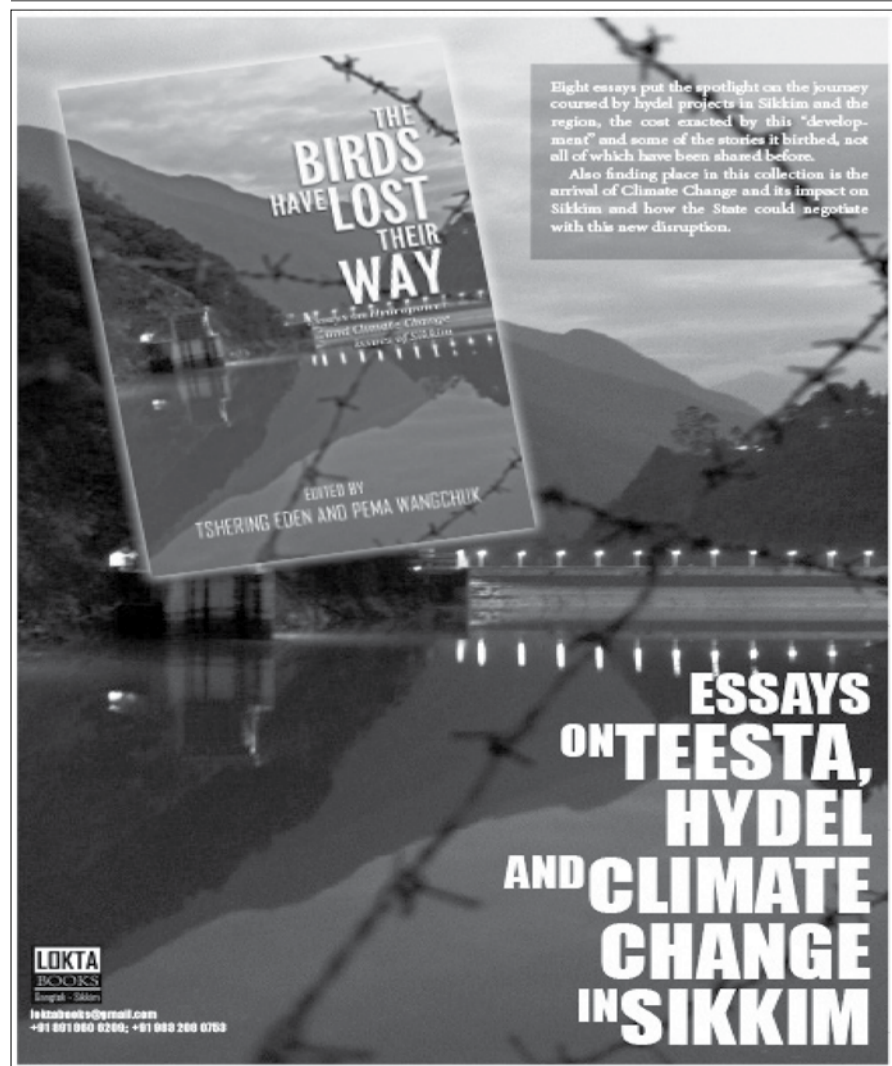
"It is due to Syama Prasad Mookerjee that Bengal and Punjab are with India. Otherwise, they would have gone

to Pakistan during Partition... He opposed the appeasement politics of Nehru in post-Independent India.... but the Congress has a bad habit of stifling democratic voices," he said.

When their ideals didn't match, he resigned from Nehrus cabinet. The Nehru-Liaquat pact made him resign because it cheated the minorities in Pakistan... Dr Mookerjee questioned the reason behind special rights being given to Jammu and Kashmir through Article 370. But Nehru Ji and Sheikh Abdullah were doing the job of executing their trick, he said. He also attacked the state's Mamata Banerjee government over its handling of the COVID-19 crisis.

"The West Bengal chief minister doesn't believe in cooperative federalism. She is not keen on sharing COVID data with the Centre," he alleged.

Reacting to Nadda's allegation against the TMC government, state parliamentary affairs minister Partha Chatterjee termed it baseless and an attempt to mislead the people of Bengal.



# Teenage substitute Juwara helps Bologna beat Inter 2-1

**MILAN, JUL 6 (AP):** Teenage substitute Musa Juwara helped Bologna come from behind to win 2-1 at Inter Milan in a pulsating Serie A game which saw both teams reduced to 10 players and the Nerazzurri miss a penalty.

Juwara canceled out Romelu Lukaku's opener before Musa Barrow scored the winner 10 minutes from time.

"I really want to thank the coach for showing me that trust against Inter," the 18-year-old Juwara said.

"I'm really happy to score my first goal, which I want to dedicate to my family and all those who've helped me on my journey.

"The coach deserves the praise for this win. This is a dream for me and a day I'll remember for the rest of my life. Inter remained third in Italy's top tier but is just a point above Atalanta, which won 1-0 at 10-man Cagliari.

"There's not a lot to say because what happened is quite clear, and all of us need to take responsibility," Inter coach Antonio Conte said. "I'm primarily responsible, then it's the players. We gifted them the match, and this is happening too often.

"I'm hugely disappointed, and I hope the lads are too ... It's not the first time that something like this has happened. I'm asking myself questions and the players need to do so too." The Nerazzuri



were looking to cut the gap to second-place Lazio to one point and took the lead in the 22nd minute. Lautaro Martinez headed Ashley Young's cross off the right post but Lukaku was on hand to tap in the rebound.

Barrow came close to equalizing early in the second half but his effort hit the right post.

It appeared as if Bologna had thrown away the match when

midfielder Roberto Soriano was shown a red card for dissent in the 57th and then moments later the visitors gave away a penalty when Mitchell Dijks tripped Antonio Candreva.

However, Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski parried Martinez's tame penalty and then reacted swiftly to also stop Roberto Gagliardini's follow-up.

The penalty was among a number of chances Inter missed and it was left to rue its profligacy as Bologna leveled in the 74th.

An awful clearance from Gagliardini came out to Juwara who fired it in powerfully for his first Serie A goal.

Moments later, Inter was also down to 10 men when defender Alessandro Bastoni was shown a

second yellow for a foul on Juwara and sent off.

Barrow netted the winner three minutes later, finishing off a counterattack with an angled drive which squirmed under Samir Handanovic.

**RECORD PACE**

Atalanta extended its club record run of successive league wins to eight.

Cagliari thought it had taken a surprise lead when Giovanni Simeone curled into the far corner but it was ruled out for handball.

Cagliari's chances of getting something from the match diminished in the 26th when teenage defender Andrea Carboni was shown a second yellow card and sent off for a shove on Ruslan Malinovskyi and Luis Muriel converted the resulting penalty.

Atalanta also hit the post in each half.

**OTHER MATCHES**

Lorenzo Insigne curled a stunning strike into the top right corner to help Napoli beat Roma 2-1 and move level on points with the fifth-place capital side.

Insigne scored eight minutes from time after Henrikh Mkhitaryan had canceled out Jos Callej n's opener for Napoli.

At the other end of the table, Genoa boosted its chances of avoiding relegation with a last-minute equalizer to draw 2-2 at fellow struggler Udinese.

Andrea Pinamonti's penalty was saved but he fired in the rebound. Genoa moved two points above the drop zone, and five points below Udinese.

Brescia is six points from safety after a surprise 2-0 win over Hellas Verona but last-place Spal lost 3-0 at Sampdoria, which moved seven points clear of the relegation zone. Fiorentina won 2-1 at Parma.

## Kerala reports 193 fresh COVID-19 cases, two deaths

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUL 6 (PTI):** Kerala's COIVD-19 tally on Monday touched 5,622 with 193 fresh cases being reported, as the death toll rose to 27 with two more people succumbing to the virus.

Of the positive cases, 92 had come from abroad and 62 from other states, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said addressing the media online from his residence as triple lockdown has been imposed in the state capital since this morning.

Thirty-five have been infected through contact.

The two deceased are a 82-year-old man, who had returned from Saudi Arabia recently and was suffering from cancer, and a 66-year-old man, under treatment at the Ernakulam medical college hospital.

Vijayan said community spread was a threat and the government was taking various steps to prevent it, including triple lockdown and widespread testing.

Triple lockdown has been imposed for a week in Thiruvananthapuram since this morning.

All government offices,private establishments are shut and public transport is off the roads.

Giving the break-up of cases, Vijayan said Malappuram recorded 35 cases, Pathnamthitta26, Ernakulam 25, Alappuzha and Kozhikode 15 each, Thrissur 14, Kollam and Kannur 11 each, Wayanad and Palakkad eight each, Thiruvananthapuram seven, Kottayam, Kasaragod and Idukki six each.

The number of active cases in the state hastouched 2,252.

Today, 167 people have recovered.

About 1.83 lakh people areunder observation and 2,075 in hospitals, including 384 admitted today.

## City loses 1-0 at Southampton after moment of magic



**SOUTHAMPTON, JUL 6 (AP):** Che Adams scored from a spectacular long-range lob for his first goal for Southampton to earn a surprising 1-0 win over Manchester City in the Premier League.

Making his 30th appearance of a frustrating first season at the club, Adams pounced on a loose ball after City defender Oleksandr Zinchenko was dispossessed.

Adams struck a curling first-time effort from around 40 meters that sailed over stranded goalkeeper

er Ederson Moraes and into an unguarded net in the 16th minute.

Southampton then relied on a series of wonderful saves by goalkeeper Alex McCarthy to consign City to a third straight away defeat in the league the first time that has happened to a team managed by Pep Guardiola in his distinguished coaching career.

City's players had 26 shots on goal in a one-sided game at an empty St. Mary's Stadium, but lacked the cutting edge they had

in their 4-0 win over Liverpool on Thursday and which might have been provided by top scorer Sergio Aguero had he not been injured.

Kevin De Bruyne and rising star Phil Foden started on the bench and couldn't inspire an equalizer after coming on as 59th-minute substitutes.

The result left second-place City 23 points behind already-crowned champion Liverpool with five games remaining. Southampton climbed to 13th place and is assured of another season in the Premier League.

## Test captaincy just too much for me to handle, don't need all that stress: De Kock

**JOHANNESBURG, JUL 6 (PTI):** South Africa's limited over skipper Quinton de Kock didn't want Test captaincy as "extra pressure" of leading the team in traditional format would have been "too much stress".

The 27-year-old had replaced Faf du Plessis as ODI skipper in January this year with South Africa's director of cricket Graeme Smith announcing in April that De Kock would not be elevated to Test captaincy.

De Kock said he had a discussion regarding this with coach Mark Boucher.

"Me and Bouch had a very informal chat and I told him, look, I don't know how I feel about being Test captain also. The reality is that's just

too much for me to handle. I know that and I realise that. I don't need all that stress on myself," he was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"I could see from a mile away that I didn't need that on top of my shoulders. I'm wanting to come up the order in Test cricket and so I don't need all that extra pressure."

With the coronavirus forcing a cricket shutdown in March, De Kock has not hit a ball in over three months.

The wicket-keeper batsman said he will hit the nets only when "serious cricket" resumes even though Cricket South Africa (CSA) has received the go ahead from the country's Sports Ministry to resume play-

ers' training.

"I haven't done anything. Obviously I've kept up with fitness. I've done my training in the gym but I haven't hit a ball yet," said de Kock, who was named the men's 'cricketer of the year' at Cricket South Africa's (CSA) annual awards ceremony, held virtually, on Saturday.

"There's still so much time until the next serious cricket game is going to happen. So to go back to serious training, I don't know when it needs to happen.

"I mean, you can go back to hitting balls, for now. But we could actually be hitting balls for no reason. That's where I feel I'm at."

The 27-year-old will have to turn up for the

'3TCricket' competition on July 18, which would mark the resumption of live cricket in South Africa following the coronavirus-forced break.

The Solidarity Cup will see 24 of South Africa's top cricketers feature in three teams -- The Eagles, Kingfishers and The Kites -- playing two halves in a single match.

De Kock, who is due to captain The Kites, was also part of the 45-man high performance squad, who were asked to return to training at their franchise grounds last Monday.

However, the skipper said he hasn't done it yet.

"Because of the regulations, it's hard to have such a big squad in a certain environment," he said.

## Questions will be raised if T20 World is postponed but IPL happens: Inzamam

**KARACHI, JUL 6 (PTI):** Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has said that questions will be raised if Indian Premier League is slotted in the window allotted to ICC T20 World Cup in Australia, which in all likelihood will be cancelled in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

The ICC is yet to decide the fate of the T20 World Cup in Australia which is scheduled to take place from October 18 to November 15.

"There are rumors that the World Cup was clashing with the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Australia-India series, therefore, it (T20 World Cup) won't take place," Inzamam said in his YouTube channel on Sunday.

"The Indian board is strong and has control in the International Cricket Council (ICC). If Australia says that we cannot hold the World Cup because of the COVID-19 pandemic,

then their stance will be easily accepted, but if any such kind event happens during the same time, then questions will be raised," he said.

The 50-year-old former batsman, who has scored 8830 runs in 120 Tests and 11739 runs in 378 ODIs for Pakistan, further said: "People will think, if a country could host 12 to 14 teams (16 teams), then why the ICC could not look after the teams, after all Australia is such an advanced country.

"Another thing is the ICC should not be allowed to give priority to private leagues (IPL) on international cricket. This will lead to young players forcing on private leagues other than international matches."

The former coach, however, agreed that it is not easy to host 16 nations during the T20 World Cup.

"Australia can say that it was difficult for

it to manage 18 teams (16) for the mega event as it is not easy. Likewise, the Pakistan team was in England in a hotel and all the facilities were being provided there, therefore, it has not been easy to manage 18 teams (16)," he said.

The fate of Asia Cup which PCB will be hosting in a neutral country for security reason is also an issue as no one knows the fate of the tournament originally scheduled in September.

Inzamam said: "I have also heard that objections are also raised on the dates of the Asia Cup as it is clashing with some other event.

"The ICC, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and all cricket boards should sit together and give a strong message that any such kind of impression (giving priority to private leagues instead of international cricket), won't take place," he said.

## Seasoned Broad could miss first Test vs West Indies due to tactical reasons: Reports

**SOUTHAMPTON, JUL 6 (PTI):** Senior England pacer Stuart Broad might be dropped from the playing XI for the first Test against West Indies starting Wednesday with Jofra Archer and Mark Wood being tipped to partner James Anderson.

According to a report in "The Guardian," Broad faces the prospect of missing a first home Test match in eight years as England give serious consideration to unleashing the dual pace of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood at the earliest opportunity."

Both Wood and Archer have had their injury issues but are now match fit. Wood, who had suffered a stress fracture during England's tour of South Africa is now good to go.

With only one spinner in offie Dom Bess, Broad's place in the playing XI has come under doubt.

"With no spare batsman in this final group for Wednesday and one spinner, Dom Bess, it leaves the make-up of the seam attack as the only issue still to be debated by Chris Silverwood, the head coach, and Ben Stokes, his stand-in captain," the paper reported.

Even Chris Woakes despite his good show in the intra-squad warm-up game is likely to miss out in the Ageas Bowl game.

Broad last missed a home Test when he was rested against West Indies in 2012 and with 485 Test scalps is only second to Anderson in terms of highest wicket-takers for England.

England head coach Silverwood and stand-in captain Stokes, however, might go for Wood, who is known to bowl at 90 miles per hour.

However with six back-to-back Tests against the Windies and

Pakistan, the rotation policy could be used to keep the paces fresh.

"Three back-to-back Tests against West Indies, followed by three more in quick succession versus Pakistan in August, make rotation inevitable this summer and mean the seamers who miss out first up may not be on the sidelines for long," the paper reported.

England squad: Ben Stokes (capt), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler (wk), Zak Crawley, Joe Denly, Ollie Pope, Dom Sibley, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

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# Australia to seal off 6.6 million people in virus-hit state as outbreak worsens

(CNN): Australia will isolate 6.6 million people in the state of Victoria from the rest of the nation at 11.59 p.m. on Tuesday, as authorities take drastic action to control a coronavirus outbreak in the city of Melbourne.

The border between Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) -- Australia's two most-populous states -- will be closed for the first time since the pandemic began, Victorian State Premier Daniel Andrews announced Monday.

Military personnel and police will line the border, allowing very few people to cross, according to CNN affiliate 7NEWS.

Victoria has struggled to contain a second wave of coronavirus cases, leading to fears that the infection rate could soon rise across the country. Last week it emerged that some contracted workers in Melbourne were not following protocols at a hotel used to quarantine international arrivals to the state -- including reportedly having sex with people under lockdown.

The surge in cases has forced authorities to reimpose stay-at-home orders on dozens of suburbs and, on Saturday, 3,000 residents of nine densely populated public housing estates were suddenly put under a total lockdown.

On Sunday, Victoria recorded its highest daily spike of 127 new cases,

including 16 in the nine public housing towers.

Coronavirus has infected 2,663 people and killed 22 in Victoria. Across Australia, more than 8,500 people have been infected and 106 have died, according to Johns Hopkins University's tally.

"It is the smart call, the right call at this time, given the significant challenges we face in containing this virus," Andrews said of the decision to seal off Victoria.

There are 55 ground crossings between Victoria and New South Wales, including four major highways, 33 bridges and two waterways. People who need to cross them, such as those who work in a different state, will be able to apply for permits to do so, Andrews added.

According to a statement released by the NSW government, all travelers returning from Melbourne and the state of Victoria will be required to go into 14 days of self-isolation, or face heavy penalties and fines.

It is unclear how this will impact the numerous border communities between the two states, or the constitutionality of the border closure. Section 92 of Australia's constitution says that "trade, commerce, and intercourse among the states, whether by means of internal carriage or ocean navigation, shall be absolutely free."

"Hard lockdown"

The hard lockdown imposed on the 3,000 public housing residents in Melbourne was initially intended to last for five days, but it could be extended if more cases are found, or if people refused to get tested, Andrews said.

All residents in the towers are being screened for the virus. So far, 398 tests have been conducted and 53 positive cases found. Tenants of the densely populated blocks are not allowed to leave their homes for any reason, and police have been stationed outside the towers to enforce the order.

Residents under stay-at-home orders in other parts of Melbourne, meanwhile, can still go out for grocery shopping, to exercise, and to work and school, if they cannot do so remotely.

Emma King, chief executive officer of Victoria Council of Social Services, said the hard lockdown in the tower blocks would "scare many people, and trigger memories of past trauma."

"Some public housing tenants have fled war or family violence. Some are dealing with mental health challenges. Many don't speak English as their first language. Many others work casual or insecure jobs," said King.

On Sunday morning local time, Andrews said residents would be provided with free rent and financial support. He ac-

knowledgeed that many residents of the public housing units were in "poor health" and said that "this is not going to be a pleasant experience."

Thousands of meals as well as other essentials have been delivered in a "massive logistical exercise" to support the public housing residents, Andrews said, adding that there is "substantial" mental health and pharmacotherapy support for those in need.

Judicial inquiry

Last week, Australian officials launched a judicial inquiry amid allegations that the new coronavirus outbreak in the state of Victoria was sparked by some contracted workers not following protocols at a hotel used to quarantine international arrivals.

Andrews announced Thursday that the state government would provide \$3 million to support the inquiry. He has previously said a number of cases in late May and early June could be linked to "an infection control breach in the hotel quarantine program."

Authorities in Australia have commandeered a number of hotels across the country as part of strict border controls intended to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Anyone who arrives in Australia must undertake a 14-day mandatory quarantine at the facilities, which are managed by the government.

Only Australian citizens and permanent residents are allowed into the country, with a few exceptions.

National broadcaster ABC reported 31 cases have been linked to Melbourne's Stamford Plaza hotel, while other infections have been linked to the Rydges on Swanston hotel, which is also in the state capital. CNN has reached out to both hotels for comment.

"It is abundantly clear that what has gone on here is completely unacceptable and we need to know exactly what has happened," Andrews said in the statement.

According to CNN affiliate 9 News, the alleged breaches include claims some workers had sex with guests in isolation, and a lack of training for the guards. A contracted security guard told the broadcaster's Today show that he received just five minutes of training before starting the job.

Officials have not confirmed the allegations, and CNN has reached out to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services -- which manages quarantines in the state -- for comment. In an interview with CNN affiliate Channel Seven on Thursday, Australia's Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, said: "There are two cases where it appears that there have been clear breaches with significant ramifications."

# Airstrikes hit Libya base held by Turkey-backed forces



**CAIRO, JUL 6 (AP):** Libyan officials in the capital of Tripoli have said that overnight airstrikes hit a key military base on the city's outskirts that was recently retaken by Turkey-backed forces.

A spokesman for the Tripoli-based forces, Col. Mohamed Gnounou, said on Sunday the strikes were carried out by foreign jets allied with military commander Khalifa Hifter.

Hifter's forces are backed by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia, while Tripoli is backed by Turkey, Qatar and Italy. Libya has been divided between these two rival governments since 2015 one in the east, allied with Hifter, and the U.N.-supported government in Tripoli.

Many of these foreign backers are apparently jockeying for influence in order to control Libya's oil resources, the largest in Africa.

The airstrikes late Saturday on the al-Waitya airbase in the desert southwestern of Tripoli destroyed military equipment recently brought in by Turkey, including air-defense systems, according to officials in Tripoli. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

An official with Hifter's forces, Brig. Gen. Khaled al-Mahjoub, said

at least nine targets at the base were hit.

Turkey's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the airstrikes damaged some systems at the base, but did not elaborate on what kind of systems.

The Tripoli-allied forces had wrested control of the base in May after launching weeks of attacks using Turkish-supplied drones. Turkey has also deployed thousands of Syrian mercenaries including militants affiliated with groups such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State to fight alongside Tripoli-allied militias. On the other side, there were hundreds of Russian mercenaries fighting with Hifter's forces.

Capturing al-Waitya was a heavy setback for Hifter's forces, which had to retreat in early June from most of the areas captured in their yearlong offensive on the capital.

The Tripoli-based forces are now threatening to retake the Mediterranean city of Sirte birthplace of former dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who was ousted and killed in 2011. Capturing Sirte could allow them to gain control of oil fields and facilities in the south that Hifter had seized.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi warned over the weekend that any attack by the Tripoli forces on

Sirte or the inland Jufra air base would amount to crossing a red line. He said Egypt could intervene militarily to protect its western border.

The airstrikes came after Turkey's Defense Minister Hulusi Akar and the chief of military staff Yasar Guler made a surprise visit Friday to the war-torn Libyan capital, where they met with Tripoli-based Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj and other officials.

Sarraj's office said they discussed military and security cooperation between Tripoli-based government and Turkey. It did not elaborate further details.

Akar's visit was the second by high-ranking officials in President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government to Libya. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak along with intelligence chief Hakan Fidan met with Sarraj in Tripoli in June 17.

Meanwhile in the eastern city of Benghazi, thousands of Libyans protested Sunday against Turkey's military intervention on the side of Tripoli-based administration.

We are against the Turkish conquest, and against the Government of National Accord in Tripoli, and, God willing, we will be victorious, said protester Mona al-Farsi.

## Over 7 Lakh Indians May be Asked to Leave Kuwait as Gulf Country Approves Expatriate Quota Bill



The legal and legislative committee of the Kuwait's National Assembly approved the bill in order to reduce the number of foreign workers that would reportedly impact about 7-8 lakh Indians.

At least 7 lakh Indians might be required to leave Kuwait after the Gulf country on Monday declared a draft law, proposing a quota for expatriates, as constitutional.

The legal and legislative committee of the Kuwait's National Assembly approved the bill in order to reduce the number of foreign workers that would reportedly impact about 7-8 lakh Indians.

The Bill, which proposes that the number of Indians should not exceed 15 per cent of the country's 4.8 million population, will be transferred to another committee for a comprehensive plan to be chalked out. Indians number about 1.4 million in Kuwait, forming the largest expatriate community in the country followed by

Egyptians. The bill proposes similar quotas for people belonging to other nations, too.

With Kuwaitis turning into a minority in their own country, the bill is seen as a manifestation of the fact that Kuwait no longer wants to remain an expat-majority nation and is working on reducing its dependence on foreign workers.

The anti-expat rhetoric spiked since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic with lawmakers and government officials calling to reduce the number of foreigners in Kuwait.

Kuwait's prime minister Sheikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah reportedly proposed decreasing the number of expats from 70% to 30% of the total population.

India has not yet made any statement on the issue, however, sources said that the Indian embassy was closely following developments related to the proposed legislation.

## Spain's coronavirus antibodies study adds evidence against herd immunity

**MADRID (CNN):** Spain's large-scale study on the coronavirus indicates just 5% of its population has developed antibodies, strengthening evidence that a so-called herd immunity to Covid-19 is "unachievable," the medical journal the Lancet reported on Monday.

The findings show that 95% of Spain's population remains susceptible to the virus. Herd immunity is achieved when enough of a population has become infected with a virus or bacteria -- or vaccinated against it -- to stop its circulation.

The European Center for Disease Control told CNN that Spain's research, on a nationwide representative sample of more than 61,000 participants, appears to be the largest study to date among a dozen serological studies on the coronavirus undertaken by European nations.

It adds to the findings of an antibody study involving 2,766 participants in Geneva, Switzerland, published in the Lancet on June 11.

There have been similar studies in China and the United States and "the key finding from these representative cohorts is that most of the population appears to have remained unexposed" to Covid-19, "even in areas with widespread virus circulation," said a Lancet commentary published along with Spain's findings.

"In light of these

findings, any proposed approach to achieve herd immunity through natural infection is not only highly unethical, but also unachievable," said the Lancet's commentary authors, Isabella Eckerle, head of the Geneva Centre for Emerging Viral Diseases, and Benjamin Meyer, a virologist at the University of Geneva.

Doctors are uncertain whether having antibodies to the coronavirus means someone cannot be infected again. It's not clear how long or how well antibodies protect people from the virus.

Spain's peer-reviewed study began in April while the nation remained on a strict lockdown, and was conducted by leading government research and epidemiological agencies.

"The relatively low seroprevalence observed in the context of an intense epidemic in Spain might serve as a reference to other countries. At present, herd immunity is difficult to achieve without accepting the collateral damage of many deaths in the susceptible population and overburdening of health systems," the report reads.

The Spanish study's lead author, Marina Pollán, who is director of the National Center for Epidemiology, told CNN: "Some experts have computed that around 60% of seroprevalence might mean

herd immunity. But we are very far from achieving that number."

Spain has been one of the countries in Europe hit hardest by the coronavirus, with more than 28,000 deaths and 250,000 cases.

The Lancet published results of the first phase of Spain's study, conducted from April 27 to May 11, which showed a nationwide antibody prevalence of 5%.

But the Madrid metropolitan area, the hardest-hit in the country by Covid-19, had more than 10% prevalence, and densely urban Barcelona had 7%, while many other coastal provinces had far lower rates.

Similarly, Geneva's prevalence was 10.8% in the Swiss study conducted from April to early May, the Lancet reported.

"With a large majority of the population being infection naïve, virus circulation can quickly return to early pandemic dimensions in a second wave once measures are lifted," the Lancet's commentary authors Eckerle and Meyer wrote of the findings.

Spain's second study phase results were released on June 4, showing a 5.2% national prevalence, just slightly higher than in the first phase. The results from the third and final phase are due to be released Monday. They will be "in line" with the two interim results, Pollán told CNN.

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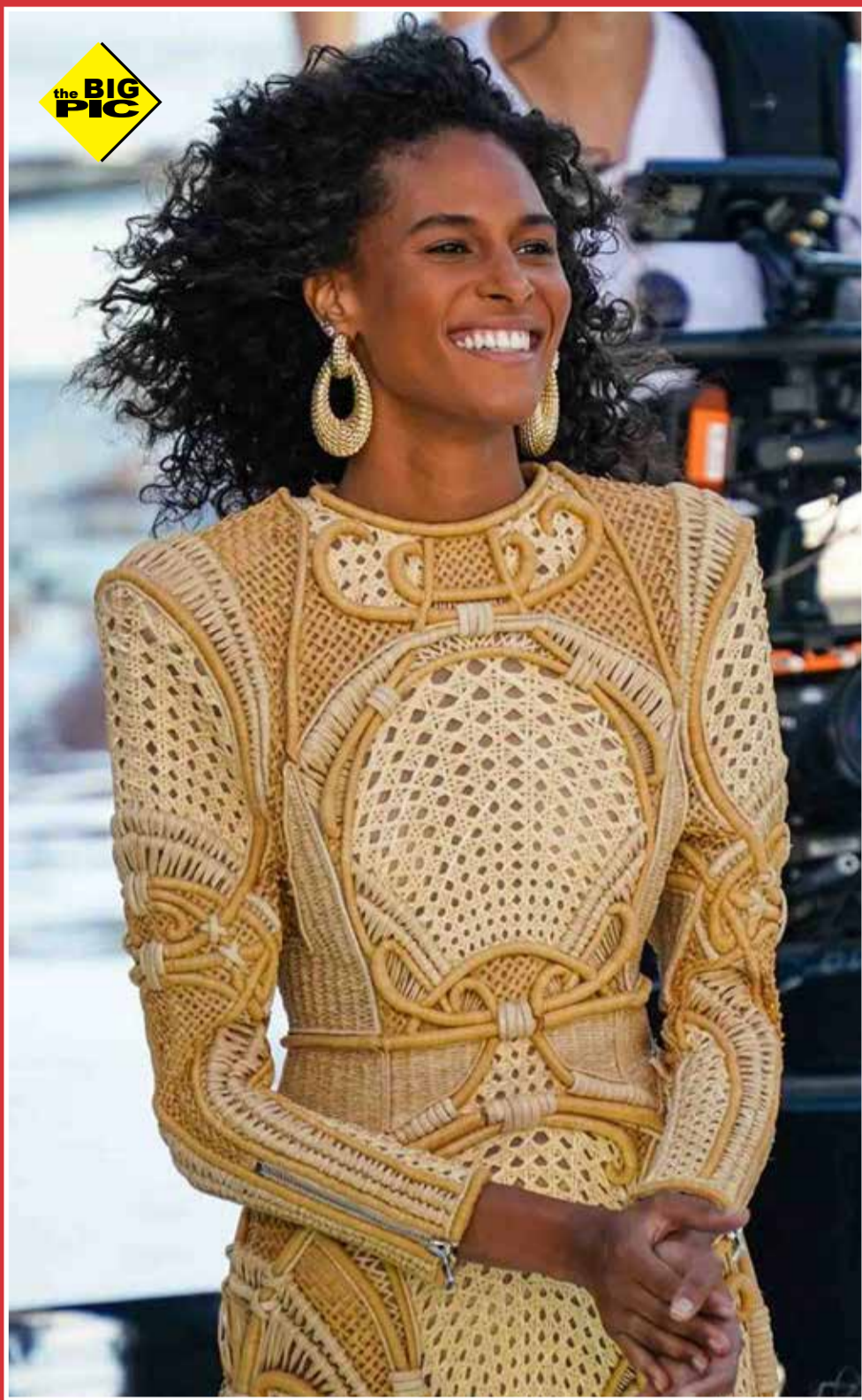
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**GLOWING!** The model, Cindy Bruna is seen on set during a performance for Balmain in Paris, France.

## 'Stormbreaker' star Alex Pettyfer on his directorial debut: "It was a life-changing experience"

On-set bust-ups and a reputation as a 'bad boy' derailed the former teen heartthrob's Hollywood aspirations. Can 'Back Roads' help put his career on the right track again?

15 years ago, Alex Pettyfer was the next big thing. Cast as teen super-spy Alex Rider in Stormbreaker, he was supposed to lead a long-term, lucrative franchise. The Stevenage-born, Oxford-educated teen star with chiselled cheeks and a jawline you could cut glass with seemed destined for success, even if Stormbreaker didn't quite come good (the film struggled to make back half of its rumoured \$40m budget).

Leads in more big budget flicks followed, but rumours of on-set difficulties and a growing reputation as a 'bad boy' who was difficult to work with, followed the actor who, at just 30, has more recently decided to take matters into his own hands by setting up a production company funding – and in the case of new indie Back Roads, directing – his own films.

Set in a sleepy US town where not a lot happens, Pettyfer plays Harley, the son of Bonnie (Juliette Lewis), a woman locked up for murdering her husband, leaving Harley to raise his two sisters and eke out a living working in a supermarket. With the family dogged by a violent, abusive past, Harley has to come to terms with his own childhood before he can help his sisters.

Before the film's debut online, we spoke to Pettyfer about working with Juliette Lewis, making his directorial debut and why he's

been so open about his past on-set fallouts.

"It was such an amazing life-changing experience for me, creatively. Previously, as an actor, I was really focused on my own character's arc and journey, and when you're directing a movie this collaborative experience starts to transpire. You start to realise that the filmmaking experience is about collaboration and that's key, so my whole psyche towards making films, and moving forward as an actor, has completely changed."

Who are your biggest influences as a director?

"A lot of the influence that I had was came from working with Steven Soderbergh [Ocean's Eleven, Erin Brockovich] who does these long Steadicam shots, and the European and French filmmakers that I grew up watching and admired. Ultimately the main influence for Back Roads came down to the financial situation really, if I'm honest. We were on a tight budget and I was making a hard drama. I was given around 19 days on the budget that we had raised to make the film which was near to impossible to complete."

Did you get a thrill out of seeing your shots come together on set?

"The feeling that you get when you're shooting is the same feeling that a painter gets when they become one with the painting. When you are really immersed in what you are doing, which is a meditative state, when you're behind the camera and you're seeing these things that you're really not expecting, but would love to have happen.

# Nick Cordero, Broadway actor, dies at 41 after battle with Covid-19

(CNN): Nick Cordero, a Broadway actor who had admirers across the world rallying for his recovery, has died after a battle with Covid-19, according to his wife, Amanda Kloots.

He was 41.

"God has another angel in heaven now," Kloots posted on her official Instagram account Sunday night. "My darling husband passed away this morning. He was surrounded in love by his family, singing and praying as he gently left this earth."

Kloots has been regularly updating her social media accounts with news of her husband's ups and downs as he battled the virus and complications, including an amputated leg. She said Cordero battled the disease for 95 days.

Born in Canada, Cordero grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, and eventually made his way to the Big Apple.

In 2014 he was nominated for a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award his role in "Bullets Over Broadway," a role that earned him a Theatre World Award and Outer Critics Circle Award.

Cordero originated the role of the husband, Earl, in the Broadway production of "Waitress," as well as the role of Sonny in the musical version of Chazz Palminteri's "A Bronx Tale."

He also found success on the small screen, making appearances in episodes of "Blue Bloods," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and "Lilyhammer."

Cordero and Kloots, a fitness trainer, relocated to Los Angeles, where he starred in the musical "Rock of Ages" in

2019. He met Kloots, a former Broadway dancer, when they were both performing in "Bullets over Broadway" and they married in 2017.

According to Kloots, Cordero was initially hospitalized in March at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

She shared on social media that Cordero spent some time on a ventilator, suffered multiple Covid-19 com-

then eventually PT will help him get stronger."

Earlier in the month she had said her husband had a low blood count but was not bleeding internally.

Yet on another front the news was not great.

"However, we did learn that due to COVID Nick's lungs are severely damaged," she said. "To look almost like he's



plications and in April had to have his leg amputated. He spent weeks unconscious, even as doctors brought him out of sedation, and the hashtag campaign #WakeUpNick sprung up on social media to support Cordero as he recovered.

In May, Kloots posted that her husband was awake and while very weak, was making progress.

"Even closing his eyes, takes it out of him," she said. "They're waiting for him to regain strength, of course, time and recovery will help with that and

been a smoker for 50 years they said. They are that damaged."

Kloots recently told "CBS This Morning" co-host Gayle King that Cordero had been so critically ill that he may have needed a double lung transplant.

"That is most likely the possibility," she said. "A 99% chance that he would be needing that in order to live the kind of life that I know my husband would want to live."

In addition to Kloots, Cordero is survived by their 1-year-old son, Elvis.

## Lin-Manuel Miranda says this is why he wouldn't do a Hamilton movie

By now, you'll have probably watched Hamilton on Disney+ anywhere from 30 to 40 times, and if not, you'll definitely know someone who has. The stage musical landed on Disney+ on Friday last week, giving fans the chance to watch the sell-out show without the eye-watering ticket prices or the struggle to actually get hold of said tickets. But if you were hoping for a big Hollywood film version of the Broadway hit, you're about to be disappointed, as Lin-Manuel Miranda has said he won't be doing one.

In an interview with Variety Miranda spoke about why we shouldn't expect a film version anytime soon, saying, "I don't love a lot of movie musicals based on shows because it's hard to stick the landing," he said. "I'm very proud of [director] Jon Chu's version of In the Heights," (In The Heights is Miranda's Broadway show that is getting a film version, coming in 2021).

"It is a different animal than the stage production. As long as I think of those as different things, it's exciting. I don't know what a cinematic version of Hamilton looks like. If I had, I'd have written it as a movie."

## Hollywood stars to be exempt from UK's coronavirus quarantine rules

Mission Impossible's Tom Cruise among key staff who can resume filming as part of a drive to kickstart film production in the UK

The government has announced that major Hollywood stars, including Tom Cruise, will be exempt from quarantine regulations as part of its drive to get film production in the UK back up and running.

Culture secretary

Oliver Dowden

announced the move, which will cover sporting events such as the British Grand Prix as well as production on films such as Mission Impossible 7, to allow key personnel to travel to the UK without having to quarantine for 14 days on arrival.

Dowden's statement said that "any such individuals will be required to remain for 14 days within a 'bubble' that includes only their place of accommodation and production location".

Dowden said he had spoken to Cruise about Mission Impossible 7 and 8, on which back-to-back production had been due to restart in September after being halted in February. Dowden added: "We want the industry to bounce back and exempting small numbers of essential cast and crew from quarantine is part of our continued commitment to getting cameras rolling safely again."

Productions caught up in the film in-

dustry shutdown include The Batman, Fantastic Beasts 3, and the Netflix series The Witcher.

Ben Roberts, chief executive of the British Film Institute, welcomed the news, saying: "Film and television are worth £9.9bn to the UK economy and being able to get production back up and running as



quickly as possible is going to help our industry and its 77,000 production workers contribute to the UK's economic recovery."

According to Adrian Wootton, chief executive of the British Film Commission, outside productions were worth over £3bn in 2019, and said: "The immensely welcome news is also a clear recognition of the importance of the film and high-end TV inward investment sector to the UK's economy."

The announcement follows the publication of guidelines designed to enable the safe resumption of film and TV production, which include rules on physical distancing, safety training and temperature tests.

### ARIES:

What happens when we operate from our ego selves? We give into the lower vibrations of fear and scarcity. Tapping into our higher selves, on the other hand, helps us expand our consciousness, move beyond the illusion of separateness, and stay connected to the cosmic flow of abundance. Remembering that we are part of a benevolent Universe will help you share from a place of fullness and embrace the spirit of generosity.

Tip: Share the bounty with those around you, Aries.

### TAURUS:

In the golden words of Georges Braque, "Art is meant to disturb, science reassures." Your thoughts exactly, Taurus. You see your art as a vehicle of change—a weapon in the fight against oppression. Now is not the time to play it small or safe. It's the time to give your larger-than-life dreams a tangible form. Some of you may come to realise your side hustle is more than something you engage with in your free time.

Tip: Give your larger-than-life dreams a tangible form.

### GEMINI:

The current energy speaks of co-creation and collaboration. But it's not just your work life that is benefiting from this cosmic alignment. Your domestic life is getting a major boost too. Consider gathering your crew for an arts and craft session followed by an evening of board games that indulge your competitive side. If you're in the mood for something more 'woke', this is the perfect time to host a full moon ritual or meditation.

Tip: Get the soul crew together for a game night.

### CANCER:

It's time for a vibe check, Cancer. What are the things in your life that make you feel depleted? Watching the news or engaging in egocentric conversations, for instance. Carefully eliminate the triggers that are detrimental to your mental and emotional health. Next, take a moment to notice the activities that raise your vibrations. Walking barefoot on the grass, for example, or engaging in a movement therapy session.

Tip: Engage in activities that make you feel good about yourself.

### LEO:

Letting go of the false layers continues to be an important theme in the Leo HQ, especially if you've built your life around what society deems appropriate. But that doesn't mean your life has been full of wrong turns. Observe the things that worked out for you seamlessly. The activities that brought you joy and made you feel like you were living your ikigai. Remember, time is an illusion. The Universe will hold space for you to realign whenever you feel ready.

Tip: It's time to strip away the false layers.

### VIRGO:

Virgo, you are standing at a crossroads today. The first pathway reeks of familiarity while the second promises to open the door to infinite possibilities. Which one will you choose? If the omens are anything to go by, you will let your adventurous side prevail. Remember, following your instinct is the key to manifesting the wealth and abundance you deserve.

Tip: The path less trodden beckons.

### LIBRA:

They leave you on 'read' every now and then and reach out only when it's convenient for them. You've been seeing the signs for a while now, Libra. It's time to stop making excuses for other people and accept this relationship for what it is. Sometimes, it's easier to leave than to hang on to something that isn't yours. As such, chaos and conflict could be a big theme this week. Keep your conversations minimal and avoid saying anything controversial.

Tip: It's easier to leave than to hang on to something that isn't yours.

### SCORPIO:

Authenticity is a big theme for you right now, but in order to get to a place where you feel secure, you need to examine all the ways in which you are being inauthentic. Start by examining the lies you've been told about yourself since you were little. Spoiler alert, Scorpio: you are a magnificent being. A god(ess) in human form. A force to be reckoned with. Stepping into your power will help you undo the damage.

Tip: You're making your way back to yourself.

### SAGITTARIUS:

Our life is a sum total of our own choices. The thoughts we put out into the cosmos play an integral role in directing this script. In other words, we always have the power to switch to a parallel timeline. But, in order to activate the energy of change, we must recognise the thoughts and beliefs that are keeping us stuck to this reality.

Tip: It's time to break past the illusion that's keeping you stuck in this time and space reality.

### CAPRICORN:

The week ahead sees you working with the energy of the full moon and eclipse in your sign to dismantle dated beliefs, let go of the old paradigm, and transmute past pain. Capricorn, this is going to be your biggest metamorphosis yet. But that doesn't mean the transition is going to be easy. Summon your higher self to help you power through these changes.

Tip: This is going to be your biggest metamorphosis yet.

### AQUARIUS:

The world will always engulf you in one drama after another. Remember who you are and why you came here. This week, you're being encouraged to curate your very own artist/writer's retreat at home. The Muse needs your undivided attention, especially if you are planning to publish your work. Remember, everybody can have their 15 seconds of fame courtesy social media. But only a few people manage to leave a legacy behind, one that they will be remembered for long after they are gone.

Tip: Curate your very own artist/writer's retreat at home.

### PISCES:

Your heart is the ultimate alchemist, Pisces, one that possesses the power to transform 'baser emotions' like anger, sadness, and jealousy into the higher vibrations of joy, love, and ecstasy. How strong is your intention to bring forth the energy of change? Trust that the Universe is helping you free yourself from the old narrative.

Tip: The Universe is holding space for you to transmute the past pain.