



WB ASKS RAILWAYS NOT TO SEND SHRAMIK SPECIAL TRAINS TO STATE TILL MAY 26 IN VIEW OF CYCLONE AMPHAN
pg 05

| editorial |
BREATHE
It was, after all, only a matter of time
pg 04

AMPHAN TOLL RISES TO 85 IN WB; PROTESTS OVER ELECTRICITY, WATER SUPPLY
pg 05



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 133 | Gangtok | Sunday | 24 May 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Sikkim gets its first COVID-19 case

SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 23 MAY:

The first COVID-19 case has been reported in Sikkim with a 25-year-old male who had recently returned from Delhi testing positive for the virus. Health Secretary, Dr PT Bhutia called a press conference this evening where he informed that North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, Siliguri, had confirmed that the samples of the 25-year-old had tested positive.

Dr. Bhutia informed that the patient who tested positive hails from South Sikkim and was taking coaching classes

CM'S MESSAGE

My dear people of Sikkim, We have been strong and resolute in our fight against COVID-19 and I commend the effort and spirit shown during the lockdown.

The first positive case in the state was confirmed by the Health Department a few hours ago. Although this is unfortunate, I assure everyone we will come out of this crisis. The said person came back from New Delhi on the 17 of May and was directly transported to the quarantine facility with minimum contact.

We have been preparing for any

untoward incident are well equipped to handle the situation with trained professionals attending to the patients following every preventive measure and I pray for his speedy recovery.

This is just a hurdle which we are fully prepared to handle and I urge the entire Sikkimese people to not panic and follow the safety guidelines like they have been and be more cautious and sensible. Together we will come out stronger.

Jai Hind!
Jai Sikkim!

**SCREENING OF
RETURNEES
TO GET
STRICTER
—HEALTH
SECRETARY**

positive so for further confirmation his sample was sent for RT-PCR testing at North Bengal Medical College in Siliguri this morning. The report from Siliguri came around 3:30 PM this afternoon.

The patient is under treatment at the isolation ward of COVID-19 facility here at STNM hospital complex, Socheygang and is improving, he informed.

All the doctors and nurses who attended to the patient have not gone home and are staying in the hospital premises for the safety of their families. They will work for 7 days as per COVID-19

protocol after which they will be sent for quarantine and undergo testing.

Dr Bhutia informed that there were a total of 12 persons in the SNT bus, which comprised of 03 people from South District, and 09 from West District. All his co-passengers including the bus driver will undergo testing, said Dr Bhutia.

The quarantine facility where the patient was staying has also been contained and tests of all the residents will be conducted soon, he said.

"We have also found that some people from Sikkim had travelled with him on the bus from Delhi. We have got their

phone numbers and will contact them immediately," he informed. He stated that it is very important to do contact tracing of every person the patient came in contact with and conduct tests including those at the Melli check post.

Dr Bhutia stated that as Sikkimese are still coming back in large numbers so screening process has to be done more strictly.

He added that the department has already alerted all concerned CMOs and other officials.

Two cops, seen beating up a man in video, transferred

CHHINDWARA (MP), MAY 23 (PTI): Two policemen in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district were shunted out on Saturday after a video in which they are purportedly seen thrashing a man went viral on social media.

The incident was said to have occurred some days back at Pipla Naryanwar village under Lodhikheda police station area.

"It seems a drunk man was creating ruckus and the two policemen used force against him," Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shank Garg said.

After the video came to light, head constable Krishna Dongre and constable Ashish were "line-attached" (taken off field duty) on Saturday, he said.

A sub divisional officer of police (SDOP) would be conducting an inquiry, on the basis of which further action would be taken, he said.

Record jump in COVID-19 cases, 137 more deaths



NEW DELHI, MAY 23 (PTI): The COVID-19 cases in India saw the biggest spike for the second consecutive day on Saturday with 6,654 new infections in the last 24 hours, taking the tally to over 1.25 lakh, while the toll rose to 3,720 after 137 more deaths, the Union Health Ministry said

The active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) rose to 69,597, while 51,783 people have recovered and a patient has migrated, according to the ministry bulletin

"Thus, around 41.39 percent patients have recovered so far," a Health Ministry official said

The total of 1,25,101 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus pandemic includes foreigners

Of the 137 deaths reported since Friday morning, 63 were in Maharashtra, 29 in Gujarat, 14 each from Delhi and

Uttar Pradesh, six from West Bengal, four from Tamil Nadu, two each from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, and one from Haryana

Of the total toll of 3,720, Maharashtra tops the tally with 1,517 deaths, followed by Gujarat at 802, Madhya Pradesh at 272, West Bengal at 265 and Delhi at 208

The number of deaths due to the contagion in Rajasthan is 153, while 152 people died in Uttar Pradesh, 98 in Tamil Nadu and 55 in Andhra Pradesh

The COVID-19 death toll reached 45 in Telangana, 41 in Karnataka

and 39 in Punjab. There are 20 fatalities in Jammu and Kashmir, 16 in Haryana and 11 in Bihar

Seven people have succumbed to the disease in Odisha, and four each in Kerala and Assam so far

Jharkhand, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh each have recorded three deaths each, while there is a fatality each in Meghalaya and Uttarakhand, the ministry said

More than 70 percent of the deaths are due to comorbidities, according to the ministry website

The highest number of confirmed cases in the country are from Maharashtra at 44,582 fol-

lowed by Tamil Nadu at 14,753, Gujarat at 13,268 and Delhi at 12,319

There are 6,494 coronavirus cases Rajasthan, 6,170 in Madhya Pradesh and 5,735 in Uttar Pradesh. The number of infections has gone up to 3,332 in West Bengal, 2,709 in Andhra Pradesh and 2,177 in Bihar

As many as 2,029 people have been infected with the virus in Punjab, 1,761 in Telangana, 1,743 in Karnataka, 1,489 in Jammu and Kashmir and 1,189 in Odisha

In Haryana, 1,067 people are afflicted with the deadly disease, while Kerala has 732 cases, followed by Jharkhand with

308 and 259 in Assam. Chandigarh has reported 218 cases, while 175 people have tested positive in Tripura and 172 Chhattisgarh

There are 168 cases of the pathogen in Himachal Pradesh, 153 in Uttarakhand and 54 in Goa. Ladakh has reported 44 COVID-19 cases, while Andaman and Nicobar Islands has registered 33 infections

Manipur and Puducherry have registered 26 cases each, followed by Meghalaya with 14. Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Dadar and Nagar Haveli have reported a case each so far

"1,899 cases are being reassigned to states," the ministry said on its website adding: "Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR."

Statewide distribution is subject to further verification and reconciliation, it said.

AAP Govt recognizes Sikkim Subjects, Sikkim takes offence

CM condemns Delhi Govt advt which equated Sikkimese as being foreigners, Delhi suspends officer concerned

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAY:

Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang today demanded an unconditional apology to the people of Sikkim from Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal for not recognizing Sikkim as a part of India.

In a Facebook post, the Chief Minister shared a photo of an advertisement of the Delhi Government for civil defence volunteers where under the eligibility criteria it is mentioned that citizens of India and "subjects" of Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal residing in Delhi can apply.

This equating Sikkim with Bhutan and Nepal and the use of the term "subjects" revealed that the issuing authority was unaware that Sikkim had become a part of India 45 years back.

The CM said that the mistake in the advertise-

ment is "undpardonable". He also posted a photo of the country's map showing Sikkim as part of India and demanded an apology from the Chief Minister of Delhi.

In his Facebook post the CM, PS Tamang writes, "The people of Sikkim are emotionally integrated with the nation since 1975. Our people even cannot think of such a mistake by a responsible Government. The people of Sikkim are the lover of democracy and amalgamated with the national ethos, purity of nationhood engraved in their heart."

Later, Mr Kejriwal tweeted that the advertisement has been withdrawn and action has been taken against the officer concerned.

"Sikkim is an integral part of India. Such errors also cannot be tolerated," he wrote.

Lieutenant General, Delhi, also tweeted that a senior officer with the Directorate of Civil Defence [HQ] has been suspended with immediate effect.

When 'home' is under a flyover and life's belongings fit on a cycle



ARUN SHARMA & VINOD TRIPATHI

NEW DELHI, MAY 23 (PTI): They walked, the parents, wife and children a cluster on the move while he wheeled a cycle with jerry cans and bundles loaded on and his 12-year-old differently abled daughter cradled in a cloth sack tied to the side.

Earlier this week, as the lockdown was extended for the fourth time, Mukesh Kumar decided Delhi was no longer the place for him or his family and they would head to their village in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, even if it meant walking every step of the 500 km distance.

It was a precarious existence -- dependent on his livelihood repairing tin trunks and iron buckets -- to begin with. And with no work coming his way, starvation lay ahead.

So, the family of nine, Mukesh, his parents, wife and five children,

the youngest less than a year old, set out from their home' under a flyover in Palam in southwest Delhi on the long walk to their village. While he pushed the cycle, the others walked alongside, some holding bags, others unwieldy bundles on their heads, some barefeet as they walked on the hot tarred road under a scorching sun and others wearing flimsy footwear.

Komal, his physically challenged daughter, could not walk or sit so she was put into a cloth sack strapped to the cycle.

And that's when PTI photojournalist Arun Sharma captured them, his lens mirroring both their determination to forge on ahead and their desperate situation.

But their journey was cut short at Ghazipur near the Uttar Pradesh border and the family was sent back.

"We were stopped at Ghazipur along with others. I decided to re-

turn to Palam since I had no money," Mukesh told PTI.

The family lived in a hutment in Palam village but it was demolished about three years ago, and settled down under a flyover. And that's the home' they returned to, now biding their time along with dozens of others, entirely dependent on charity for food.

"I did not earn much even before lockdown but now work has completely dried up and my family is completely at the mercy of the good hearted people who occasionally provide us food and ration. We at least have our home in Unnao," Mukesh, who is in his 30s, said.

Sitting next to him, his father Munnail said his life has come full circle. He came to Delhi in search of work and now wants to return to Unnao because there is no life or livelihood in the big city.

turn to pg03

Newspaper vendors struggle to survive COVID-19 pandemic

Gangtok, 23 May (IPR): The current COVID-19 pandemic has been impacting us all in unforeseen and unpredictable ways. No one could have predicted the world would be where it is today. In our Himalayan State of Sikkim, it is this global health crisis that has revealed the strength of the State and the power of discipline and resilience of its people in combating the pandemic.

The pandemic has consequently unveiled a host of corona warriors working on the frontline to provide essential services to the public since the commencement of the nationwide lockdown.

However, there is a section of basic service providers who have toiled quietly behind the scenes to ensure that we get our daily dose of latest news and information every morning even after the lockdown was called on throughout the country. These are the newspaper hawkers, the unsung heroes, whose contributions cannot be left untold.

Our capital town of Gangtok has around 15-20 newspaper hawkers who have been diligently delivering newspapers around the town while considering every safety protocol and norms despite of being hit hard economically owing to the huge drop in circulation during the pandemic.

The plight of the newspaper hawkers started early on at the onset of the 21-day lockdown back in the month of March following the closure of hotels, shops and non-essential offices and establishments. Adding to their predicament was the start of baseless rumours circulating among the public with regard to the possibility of newspapers being an avenue to contract the coronavirus.

Bivek Thakur has been distributing newspapers at DPH, Development Area, Secretariat and Si-chey areas for the past two years.

For a few days post 25 March, Thakur could not do his job like regular days.

"I initially could not continue my usual delivery routine since my major deliveries at hotels, travel agencies and shops had shut down owing to the restrictive advisories placed by the government for containing the virus," Shri Thakur said.

Shri Thakur collects his share of papers for distribution from Hospital Dara and Moti Mahal, Namnang as early as 5am in the morning and sets out for his delivery destinations on foot. Today, he has a roundabout of only 30-35 customers left which is a major stumble from his earlier number of 200 subscribers.

"Some sections of readers had a preconceived notion of papers carrying coronavirus that quickly led to cancellation of many subscriptions. Sales have reduced by half. My earning today has decreased to Rs. 3000/month. In a town like Gangtok, it is hard to survive with that amount. I deliver papers on foot these days to save money," said Shri Thakur.

Owner of Moti Mahal (Namnang), the major newspaper distribution centre of the capital, Shri Ashok Oberoi, informed that the Kolkata-based newspapers had stopped flowing into the State since 22nd March itself due to transport and shipping issues. With only Siliguri and Sikkim-based newspapers, further topped up by closure of hotels/travel agencies and cancellation of many subscriptions, the hawkers had to work with meager number of papers (almost 75% sag as compared to the pre-covid scenario) which has in turn hugely affected their daily livelihood, he added.

"Around 14-15 hawkers pick up newspapers from Moti Mahal of which majority are female. Some

were even intervened by the police force at the initial stage of the lockdown for violating limitations on movement imposed by the government. Following few of such instances, many of my hawkers had stopped coming to work. In consultation with the SP, East and the Editor of Sikkim Express, I personally issued IDs for the hawkers so that they could continue their job without any interference and earn their livelihood," said Shri Oberoi.

He further informed that most of the hawkers are part-timers and make an earning based on the number of papers they distribute in a day. He added that he has been doing his best to ensure that their salaries are paid on time.

"Many subscriptions were cancelled since the outbreak of the coronavirus because most of the subscribers believed that the virus could spread through newspapers. I have been making various efforts to connect with the customers and convince them to resume the delivery of newspapers. My hawkers have also been trying to relay the information to the subscribers," said Shri Oberoi.

Another hawker, Mina Rai, said that she has 50 customers left out of her earlier 120 customers.

"Many of my customers suspended the service owing to the rumours being widespread. We convinced some of them through the advisories issued by WHO and health officials. And that was the least we could do, not just to save our jobs but also to spread awareness on various misinformation being spread since the outbreak of the virus. Some didn't pay a heed as they said that these papers are coming from Siliguri and they didn't want to take any risk," she stated.

Most of the hawkers shared similar grievances stating that some had also been tagged as

coronavirus carriers and they all have hoped for widespread basic awareness on clarifying various stigma and rumours related to newspapers and its distribution services.

Another hawker, Sabita Thapa, expressed, "I am yet to receive due payments from so many hotels but since they have been shut down because of the lockdown, the chances of retrieving them back seem very slim to me today. I am however grateful to the customers who have revoked their subscription and extended their support."

Health experts have said that there is no known risk of spread of COVID-19 through newspapers. Researchers have shared that the porous nature of newspapers and the particular sterility involved in newsprint processing makes newspapers safe. Guidelines to the national lockdown to contain the virus released by the Union Ministry have included media in the list of essential services. There were no bars on the distribution of newspapers or the movement of journalists since the start of the lockdown.

Kuber Basnet has been distributing papers in East and other districts of the State since the past 20 years and takes pride in his job, which he says is an important one. Like other hawkers of the capital, he has been helping in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring dissemination of credible information through newspapers.

"I love my job and my affection for the press is immortal. We are going through a tough time at the moment but there is so much fake news on the internet and social media these days which is why people need to rely more on newspapers during these trying times since newspapers have always remained a credible source of information," he shared.



He said that they are taking all precautions to ensure safety as they use gloves and masks and sanitise their hands at regular intervals.

Hoping for their proper recognition which he says is long overdue, Shri Basnet stated, "It is high time that we got our due recognition and support in order to preserve our hawker heritage. We have been trying to form a registered hawkers' union in the State in order to avoid unnecessary harassment while performing our duties. We need a collective effort and support from the concerned authorities for the same."

The novel coronavirus pandemic has accounted for more than 3000 deaths in the country till date. The nationwide lockdown called on with the aim to contain the spread of the virus has no

doubt affected many regardless of race, gender, social status.

As we navigate through our new normal of the COVID-19 world, it is most important to shift our mindset towards positive possibilities and refrain from encouraging misinformation, stigma and fear. The newspapers hawkers have been striving to survive through the pandemic while delivering our daily dose of news at our doorsteps and they need our support and understanding even more during this critical situation.

The pandemic has thrown us all into a tailspin but it has also given us an opportunity to come together, learn together and grow together. During these stressful times, let's stand together in spirit and have compassion for all.



Ringhim Monastery contributes to CMRF

MANGAN, MAY 23 (IPR): Ringhim Monastery, North Sikkim contributed Rs 50,000 towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support gov-

ernment's fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

Similarly, public of Ringhim also contributed Rupees 20, 310 towards CMRF.

Cheques were handed over to the Minister for Roads and Bridges, Samdup Lepcha at Ringhim Monastery today.

Minister has thanked

them for their kind gesture and generous contribution towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund in time of such a pandemic.

Non-AC buses to ply in HP from June 1

SHIMLA, MAY 23 (PTI): The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Saturday decided to permit non-AC buses to ply from June 1 and open hair saloons, among other relaxations in the coronavirus restrictions.

Parliamentary Minister Suresh Bhardwaj said the Cabinet, in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, decided to permit non-AC buses, including private and public, to ply in the

state from June 1 with 60 per cent capacity.

The night bus services will remain suspended till further orders, he added.

Similarly, salons, beauty parlours and barber shops will reopen on Monday. Small vendors can also start their businesses, Bhardwaj said.

The cabinet also decided that the private schools would be allowed to charge only tuition fee in view of the coronavi-

rus induced lockdown.

These decisions will help bringing back normalcy to life after coronavirus-induced lockdown was imposed in March, he said.

The minister said social-distancing, wearing masks and other precautions would have to be adhered to when travelling in the buses.

No person from cantonment zones will be allowed to board the buses. Similarly, passengers

cannot alight at the cantonment zones, he added.

The bus fares will remain the same as was announced before. No decision has been taken on running inter-state buses, he said. AC bus services will also remain suspended.

Taxis, autos and private vehicles may also be run in the state without passes from Monday, he added.

CM holds meeting with SKM Tourism wing

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAY:**

SKM Tourism wing held a meeting with the Chief Minister, PS Tamang at Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok, today along with representatives of various tourism organizations, a press release informs. The meeting was also attended by the Tourism Minister, BS Panth, ACS (Tourism) and officials of the department.

SKM tourism wing and representatives of tourism organizations briefed the house about the hardships faced by the stakeholders during the lockdown. They highlighted how various sectors under the tourism industry have been affected economically and its future consequences. Also, they reported the rise in unemployment rate of those engaged in



this sector.

The Chief Minister after hearing their grievances assured to provide all possible support from the government and discuss the matter with the Economic Revival Committee and act according to their recommendations.

He emphasized on capacity building in the tourism sector to maximize the engagement of both skilled and unskilled youths in this sec-

tor. He also encouraged them to promote local products and services with the help of this sector and also suggested to accommodate and employ those who were

working in the hospitality sector outside the state but had to return due to COVID-19 after the tourism industry is revived in the future.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

Economic Revival Committee holds series of meetings, sets agenda

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAY:

The six-member Economic Revival Committee formed on 15 May, 2020, under the Chairmanship of MLA, Sonam T Venchungpa held its first meeting on 18 May and set an agenda based methodology and timeline for a month long exercise for economic revival of Sikkim.

A press release informs that the ERC defined three broad aims; Bringing economy back to Normal i.e. Pre-Covid State, Communicate with various stakeholders, and Support long term economic pathway.

The Committee decided to hold consulta-

tive discussions in two tiers; tier 1 with departmental heads; tier 2 with stakeholders from civil society including entrepreneurs, NGOs, academicians, experts, local body representatives like Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha, Members of Legislative Assembly and representatives of various political parties.

Over 21 May to 23 May, the Committee held first round of consultative meetings with the departmental heads of the 13 thrust area, to get the base status of the impact of COVID-19 induced lockdown and its projections over next 6-12 months.

The heads were also advised to submit a uni-

form format report on their short and long term economic revival strategies proposed.

In its second round of consultative meeting the Committee shall invite the civil stakeholders from various walks of life, main thrust would be on business most affected owing to COVID-19, namely:

- Tourism & Hospitalities
- Agriculture & Animal Husbandry
- Small Trades/Vendors/Businesses.

The Committee has also requested the public at large to send their suggestions for short & long term economic revival.

SU Professor participates in webinar on music trends

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAY:

Assistant Professor, Dr Surendra Kumar, Department of Vocal Music, Sikkim University participated in the two-day National webinar on music perspective trend and impact on society

organized by the Department of Music Singing, Arya Mahila PG College, Varanasi, a press release informs.

Dr Surendra Kumar and Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Dr Aarti Mishra, Mizoram Central University spoke on the chang-

ing landscape of music with the changing times.

A total of 100 participants were present at the webinar and the program was chaired by Principal, Prof Rachna Dubey. The webinar was conducted by Dr Mamta Sanyal and Dr Ruchi Mishra.



RAMADAN IN TIMES OF COVID: Religious congregations are not allowed in light of Novel Coronavirus' preference for crowds, but that does not mean that the devout will not observe religious festivals. Social-distancing might have made the community aspect of Ramadan impossible, but prayers continue. Here, a young child offers namaaz at home on the eve of Id ul Fitr in Singtam. [YOGEN THATAL]

Eden spared from cyclone Amphan's wrath

KOLKATA, MAY 23 (PTI): The iconic Eden Gardens was spared from the fury of Cyclone Amphan that ravaged the city, leaving only some minor damages to the stadium.

The pitch and the outfield areas remained totally unaffected from the Amphan, one of the worst cyclones to hit the city in decades.

"Looking at the disaster that has taken place, it's natural for some damage to have occurred.

But, prima facie, we don't think there's any major damage to the Eden. That said we cannot take any chances," CAB President Avishek Dalmiya said.

"We will consult our structural engineer to look into the issues. If needed, we will implement whatever suggestion we get from the structural engineer," he added.

Elaborating on the areas that need repair, he said: "The manual score-

board (at D block) has to be looked into. Besides, few fibre sheets above blocks G and H also need minor repairs, while glass panes of two of the corporate boxes need to be replaced.

"The structural engineer will inspect the venue and submit a detailed report. Majority of the issues should be sorted very shortly," the CAB President said.

SKM urges Sikkimese to remain calm

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAY:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has urged the people of Sikkim to remain calm and pray for speedy recovery of the first COVID-19 patient of Sikkim.

"It is most unfortunate that one of Sikkim's son has tested positive. Let us pray for his steady recovery and abide true responsibility by taking precautionary measures and inculcating the same into others," an SKM release states.

The Government of Sikkim under the leadership of Chief Minister, PS Golay and the efficient COVID 19 warriors, frontline workers had been able to secure Sikkim from this deadly pandemic until now and will continue to do the same, the party adds.



Complaint filed against Patal Lok at Sadar Thana

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 MAY:

A written complaint has been filed at Sadar Thana on Saturday against the Amazon Prime Video web series 'Patal Lok' season 1 for disrespectful reference to Nepali community in episode 2 of the series.

Complainants have requested the police to take strict action against actress, Nikita Grover, producers of the web series Patal Lok, Anuska Sharma, Karnesh Sharma, Directors, Avinash Arun and Prosit Roy and some others.

Sadar Police have registered the complaint as a general diary and assured to take necessary action.

The written complaint was submitted by an advocate, Nawin Kiran Pradhan and his team to Sadar Thana SHO, PI Bijendra Thapa on Saturday afternoon.

Speaking to media persons after registering the complaint, Mr Pradhan mentioned that the SHO has given full assurance to take all necessary action after consulting with his seniors. He urged the people not to get agitated but to have full faith in Sikkim Police.

He said that the dialogue made in the said web series is racist and communal, and has hurt the sentiments of the Nepali/Gorkha community in the nation and worldwide.

Spike in stubble burning incidents in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, MAY 23 (PTI): Punjab witnessed over 12,000 incidents of stubble burning in the last five week, which is more than the number of crop burning incidents reported in 2018 and 2019 in the same period, officials said on Saturday.

From April 15 to May 23 this year, 12,574 wheat stubble burning incidents were reported in the state, as per satellite data provided by Ludhiana-based Punjab

Remote Sensing Centre.

In the corresponding period in 2018 and 2019, 11,110 and 10,357 crop burning incidents were reported respectively, as per the remote sensing data.

On Saturday, 730 wheat straw burning incidents were reported in the state which exceeds the number of burning incidents on the same day in 2018 and 2019 by 117 and 243 incidents.

Moga district at 1,153 reported the most

number of wheat stubble burning incidents, followed by Amritsar at 1,099, Bathinda at 1,056 and Ferozepur at 1,039. Mohali at 30 saw the lowest number of burning incidents.

Stubble burning is the intentional setting in the state which exceeds the number of burning incidents on the same day in 2018 and 2019 by 117 and 243 incidents.

Moga district at 1,153 reported the most

Prisoners aged above 60 to be released on emergency parole to decongest jail in Delhi

NEW DELHI, MAY 23 (PTI): Jail inmates who are above 60 years of age will be granted emergency parole in view of the coronavirus pandemic, according to Delhi Prisons department.

A circular issued earlier this week stated that the convicts in this age group are more susceptible to COVID-19 and the emergency parole will be given to decongest the jails, officials said on Saturday.

If an inmate has been convicted for less than five years and has already completed three months in jail, he or she is eligible

for the emergency parole, the circular stated.

For jail term of more than five and up to 10 years, only those convicts will be released who have completed a stay of six months and their appeal is not pending in the court.

For prisoners having more than 10 years sentence and life convicts, except those having specific direction not to be released before a specific period or not to consider them for remission, they should have completed six months or more as convict and overall period of custody undergone should be

one year, it said.

The parole will be for eight weeks.

For the emergency parole, the convicts behaviour in the jail will also be considered. The convicts whose appeal against conviction is pending in High Court or Supreme Court will not be eligible for it, said Sandeep Goel, Director General (Prisons).

For jail term of more than five and up to 10 years, only those convicts will be released who have completed a stay of six months and their appeal is not pending in the court.

NEW DELHI, MAY 23 (PTI): Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated in the country on May 25 as the moon could not be sighted on Saturday, Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid Ahmed Shah Bukhari said.

Amid the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown, Bukhari also appealed to people to offer Eid namaz at

their homes.

A meeting of Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee, Imarat-e-Sharaiyah-Hind, was held here during the day. After the meeting it was announced that the moon was not sighted in Delhi and there was also no report from any part of the country, a statement from Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind said.

Maulana Muizuddin,

396 new coronavirus cases in Gujarat, 27 deaths

AHMEDABAD, MAY 23 (PTI): The count of coronavirus positive cases in Gujarat rose to 13,669 after 396 new patients were detected on Saturday, while death toll increased to 829 with 27 more deaths, the state health department said.

289 patients were discharged from hospitals, taking total number of recovered patients to 6,169.

Out of 27 COVID-19 patients who died on Saturday, 17 suffered from comorbidities, officials said.

Gujarat COVID-19 figures: Positive cases: 13,669, new cases: 396, deaths: 829, discharged: 6,169, active cases: 6,671; people tested so far: 1,78,068.

ing but a basic mobile phone, he has no idea of how the online registration process for sending migrants to their homes through Shramik Special trains works.

"I do not know any-

thing about it," Mukesh said, showing his phone.

Taking each day as it comes, he is now waiting for the lockdown to be relaxed. And maybe earn some money to take his family home.

When 'home' is under a flyover and life's belongings fit on a cycle

Contd from pg01

He worked in a tea-shop for a while, as a construction labourer and then helping his son. The city didn't do much for him then, and even now, he said.


"There is nothing for us here now. Life was tough earlier but now there is no way but to go back home," Munnilal said.

With no money or any other resource at his

disposal, Mukesh has no idea how he will take his family back to Unnao.



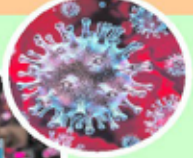
"I have heard the government is sending people to their homes in buses and trains," Mukesh said.

Armed with noth-



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.

<p>Symptoms of nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever ● Difficulty in breathing ● Dry Cough ● Severe acute respiratory syndrome ● Pneumonia - like symptoms 	<p>Precautions to Prevent nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash your hands often with soap. ● Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer ● Observe good personal hygiene. ● Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. ● Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms. ● Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats. ● Avoid travel to nCoV affected places. ● Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.
<p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition. ● No vaccinations available as of now. ● Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected. 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div> <p>If you seek help, you may call :</p> <p>-Toll free no. 104</p> <p>District surveillance Officer</p> <p>EAST : 7029372100</p> <p>WEST : 9593297809</p> <p>NORTH : 9641957468</p> <p>SOUTH : 7407691463</p> <p>New STNM</p> <p>AMS : 9434711402</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM</p>	

Breathe

It was, after all, only a matter of time

So, Sikkim has received its first case of COVID-19. After having remained Novel Coronavirus free for five months since the first case was reported in India, a stranded Sikkimese tested positive a few days after returning to the State. As expected, paranoia arrived with the confirmation but the first thing that every Sikkimese should do is send up a prayer to whatever Gods they believe in thanking them for ensuring that the youth managed to return to Sikkim before the virus manifested itself. He is back home, in the comfort and security he clearly desired and the State has received the opportunity to attend to him. Sikkim should be thankful for that. One shudders to think of the trauma that the parents and others close to him would have suffered had the youth tested positive in Delhi, too many kilometers away for anyone to draw comfort from the fact that he was asymptomatic.

The confirmation of the first case also brings the opportunity for Sikkim to finally change its conversation about the virus and how it intends to keep the State safe. While there was every reason for the State to be relieved that it was COVID-free thus far, it was ill-advised to reflect it as pride. The problem with the latter emotion is that when the virus arrived, as it was bound to eventually, it demoralized people. And that is not the mood one wants to infect the State's preparation for the virus. This is not the time to pass blame, but one needs to reiterate here that the persistent stress on Sikkim's COVID-free status was counter-productive because it somehow projected that the virus' arrival was some sort of a failure. It is not. The virus has coursed through the entire globe and it was always just a matter of time before it arrived here. The opportunity that the authorities wasted was in not using the extended no infection period to remind people that nCoV will eventually come to Sikkim and that there was no reason to panic. Yes, precautions need to be taken, but that has to come from a sense of community responsibility, not ill-informed fear. There will be some days of panic in WhatsApp groups, and that could have been avoided if Sikkim's approach at awareness was driven by pragmatism not scare-mongering.

The other approach that was ill-advised was to reassure people that the returning Sikkimese were not "infected." No one knew that for sure, but this argument was flawed because it collapses now that a returned Sikkimese has tested positive. Instead, the only argument ever offered should have been that these were people from Sikkim who had every right to return once it was possible for them to do so and that if any of them has the virus, it was also Sikkim's responsibility to take care of them. Now that Novel Coronavirus is finally in Sikkim, one hopes that the narrative shifts to a more realistic acceptance of the situation and ground realities. And now is also the time for Sikkim to stand strong behind its real frontline workers. Thus far, there is only one positive case, but from here on let's proceed with the acceptance that there will be more. Sikkim's empathy and resolve are going to get tested now and it's important that the Sikkimese deliver.

Important rethinks are also required. It is not clear where Sikkim's first COVID-19 case contracted the virus, and given the timeline, it is possible that he could have been infected on the journey home because it is when one is travelling that the chances of coming into contact with strangers who might or might not have been careful is the highest. If ever there was an argument to be made against encouraging people to travel when infections were still rising in the country, it is now. It is important for parents and guardians to realize that more effort needs to be invested in making arrangements to keep stranded Sikkimese safe and adequately provided for wherever they are instead of herding them home. And no, this suggestion is not so that the virus is kept out of Sikkim, but to ensure that Sikkimese outside are not exposed to any more danger of infection than they are already at risk of. Now is also the time for the government to seriously consider deputing officials to wherever Sikkimese are stranded so that they can coordinate with government agencies there to attend to the needs and emergencies of Sikkimese there. Now is also the time for civil society groups to measure up to the challenge and focus on dispelling stigma, fighting ignorance and quelling scare-mongering.

You have been holding your breath thus far. Now that COVID has arrived, exhale. And resolve to stand strong and calm. And focus on the real things like more aggressive testing.



7 questions answered on how to socialise safely as coronavirus restrictions ease

HASSAN VALLY
theconversation.com

You can almost hear the collective sigh of relief as coronavirus restrictions are eased across Australia.

But as we emerge from our bunkers and dust off our social skills, we must think about how to navigate this transition safely.

The winding back of restrictions does not mean the pandemic is over, although it is a recognition of how well we have done to control the spread of COVID-19 in Australia. There is still a long way to go, and it's everyone's responsibility to limit the chances of the coronavirus spreading.

So what should a social gathering look like now we're allowed to get together? Here are answers to some common questions.

HOW BIG SHOULD MY GATHERING BE?

At the time of writing, you can have five visitors in your home and gatherings of up to ten outdoors in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. In Tasmania you can only have two visitors to your home; in the ACT, South Australia and the Northern Territory you can have ten, while in Western Australia you can have 20.

Whatever the restrictions in your state or territory, it's important not to crowd too close together. You need to use common sense in deciding how many people to invite.

DO WE STILL NEED TO SOCIALLY DISTANCE AND WASH HANDS REGULARLY?

We should carry on doing the things that have so far proved successful in curbing the coronavirus.

This includes staying at least 1.5 metres from

other people, and being vigilant about hand hygiene.

Make sure you have plenty of hand sanitiser available if you are hosting or attending a social gathering, so you can disinfect your hands regularly without having to go to the bathroom repeatedly.

HOW SHOULD WE GREET EACH OTHER?

The same rules about physical contact still apply, so we should not be hugging for now. We could adopt some of the new ways of greeting, such as the elbow bump or the foot shake. Or just stick to saying hello for the moment.

SHOULD I BRING MY OWN CUTLERY TO A DINNER PARTY?

Assuming you trust the general hygiene standards of your friends (which I sincerely hope you do), this is not necessary. Cutlery should be washed properly with detergent in hot water and handled only with freshly washed hands.

Cutlery is no different to any other food surface such as crockery, glassware or chopping boards – just make sure it's as clean as possible.

CAN WE SHARE FOOD?

Although there is no evidence coronavirus is spread through food, there is still a risk of cross-contamination while eating food from a shared plate. So this is probably not a sensible thing to do right now.

While it might feel less sociable, avoiding shared grazing plates is a simple tactic to limit the risk of virus transmission. It might even stop your friend scoffing all the dip.

Similarly, avoid the temptation to clink glasses with your friends. It's only a small risk but we should take every opportunity to reduce the virus's chances.

SHOULD I WEAR A MASK?

A mask is not essential for social gatherings, assuming you maintain a safe distance and wash your hands regularly. Having said that, a mask can give people some extra reassurance so they can relax a bit more.

That's assuming it is worn (and taken off) correctly, and that people understand a mask does not guarantee protection from infection. There is no harm in wearing one, but remember to be extra friendly as your friends can't see your smile!

I DON'T FEEL 100% – SHOULD I TAKE A RAINCHECK?

It is important to factor in your personal health and risk factors in determining how you navigate your newly reinstated freedoms. For example, a 75-year-old with a pre-existing health condition, such as a heart condition or asthma, should still be very careful about limiting their contact with others, as the implications of getting sick are very serious.

You should also consider your responsibility to other people. A 25-year-old who feels slightly unwell should err on the side of caution and not socialise, to protect others.

Despite the lockdown lifting, we still need to take responsibility for our own health and also be considerate about the health of others. That way we can all start to enjoy one of the most rewarding aspects of humanity: being sociable.

[the writer is Associate Professor, La Trobe University]

Coronavirus: how to beat anxiety when going back to work

OLIVIA REMES
theconversation.com

At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, people's anxiety levels shot up. Daily reports were coming in about the number of new deaths, there was global chaos and people had to be persuaded to stay inside. And even though this was difficult, we somehow managed to pull through. We slowly became used to our new lives in lockdown, and our anxiety began to subside.

But just as we were settling in to a new reality and routine, the UK government recently announced new measures for lifting the lockdown. Naturally, this has been causing some panic and reports are beginning to surface about how people's mental health is again being affected. Many people are worrying about whether it is safe to go back to work or send their children to school.

This anxiety is mainly related to uncertainty. We don't know what the future will hold and this can keep us up at night. It can trigger excessive and uncontrollable worrying, and it can even lead to physical symptoms, such as shortness of breath and heart palpitations.

For people with a pre-existing anxiety disorder or depression, the coronavirus pandemic is a recipe for disaster. Going back out into society might trigger or revive past conditions – such as health anxiety or obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). We're advised to wash our hands frequently and keep our distance from others at all times – but there is a

point when safety behaviours begin to morph into mental disorders.

Sometimes we think that worrying serves a useful purpose, making us vigilant and prepared. We believe that it can help us arrive at a better solution by being proactive about a situation. But worrying for even a short amount of time predisposes us to even more worrying. And before we know it, we're stuck in a vicious cycle which we can't escape.

It is a myth that worrying helps us arrive at a better solution. It only makes us feel anxious and stressed – especially if the worrying becomes chronic. Just knowing this can help us take useful steps forward, because we can let go of those anxious thoughts. And most of our worries won't come true anyway. When researchers at Penn State University asked people to track their anxieties and revisit them at a later point, they saw that 91% of the participants' worries didn't come true.

GIVING UP CONTROL

Sometimes, however, this is easier said than done. Sometimes it is very difficult to stop worrying. Sometimes we can't stop cleaning, and begin to perform repetitive behaviours that can turn into OCD. The way that OCD oftentimes starts is with repetitive, fixed ideas. People read news stories about coronavirus and start worrying that they might get infected if they go back out.

To alleviate this anxiety, they begin to engage in behaviours – such as repetitive, excessive hand-washing – to avert the dreaded outcome. When they do this, they are trying to take control of the situation. But the more

they indulge their obsessions, the more – ironically – they begin to lose control. They become unable to rein in their thoughts and lose power over their actions. At this point, OCD has a stronghold over the person and they can't get out.

One way to prevent this from happening is to do what you can to protect yourself – wash your hands for only the recommended amount and wear a mask – and then let the chips fall where they may. And realise that no matter what you do, it is sometimes impossible to completely protect yourself. Letting go of control is, paradoxically, a way of gaining it back.

This can help us see things more clearly and with a calmer mindset. It also helps us make better decisions. And if you're worried about restrictions lifting and having to take a crowded tube again – remember, that any anxiety you will be feeling as you're on that tube will subside. It's temporary and you will bounce back from it. This is the nature of anxiety, and research has shown this time and again.

MASTER YOUR LIFE

Another good way to maintain your mental health during this time of constant change and uncertainty is to introduce a positive agenda into your daily routine. How do you do that? By scheduling positive activities into your life and monitoring them. This may include short walks in parks, trying a new recipe or anything else you might enjoy. It's also important to track yourself to make sure you're doing such activities on a consistent basis.

When we take the time to engage in pleasant activities, research shows that we not only begin to feel pleasure, but we gain "mastery". When you have mastery, you start to feel satisfied, having a sense of achievement and control. If you suffer from depression, this technique is particularly useful – it's like a crane that can help lift you out of a low state. And we know that low mood is something many people have been feeling during this pandemic.

But the road to mastery can be scary to some people. Scheduling things into your life that make you feel happy can be frightening, especially if depression has been a part of your life for a long time.

The rollercoaster of emotions we've been experiencing throughout this pandemic might also make us cautious of being too happy too quickly. You might have superstitious thoughts that, if you feel good, something bad will happen. You may worry that it won't last, or that you'll get hurt. Isn't it better to have low expectations – not get too excited and maintain a position of "defensive pessimism"?

Research tells us that the answer is no. Because when we don't hope and aim for happiness, our lives become a flat line. And isn't it better to experience a life with ups and down, like a wave with crests and troughs? Embracing life can have a significant impact on our mental health and places us on a path to wellbeing – even during a pandemic.

[the writer is Mental health researcher, University of Cambridge]

to book
advertisements in
SummitTimes, call
03592-208698
9734152541

Amphan toll rises to 85 in WB; protests over electricity, water supply

KOLKATA, MAY 23 (PTI):

The death toll due to Cyclone Amphan in West Bengal has risen to 85, as angry Kolkatans resorted to protest and road blockades in various parts of the city over the administration's failure to restore normalcy even after three days.

With normal life thrown out of gear by the region's worst weather disasters, the authorities scrambled in various parts of the state to restore normalcy.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to visit Cyclone Amphan hit South 24 Parganas district on Saturday and take stock of the situation.

Lakhs of people were rendered homeless as Cyclone Amphan cut a path of destruction through



half-a-dozen districts of the state on Wednesday, flattening houses, uprooting thousands of trees and swamping low-lying areas.

According to official sources, around 1.5 crore people of the state have been directly affected and more than 10 lakh houses destroyed due to

the cyclone.

Although electricity and mobile connection were restored in some parts of Kolkata, and North and South 24 Par-

ganas districts, many areas continued to remain in darkness as power poles had been blown away and communication lines snapped.

Several roads and houses in Kolkata, Howrah, and North and South 24 Parganas districts continue to remain waterlogged, as hapless citizens came out on the streets against the administration's "apathy and ineffectiveness".

People in various parts of Kolkata staged protests and blockades since Friday night demanding immediate resumption of power and water supply, three days after Amphan ravaged the state.

Firhad Hakim, chairman of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation board of administrators, assured the people that normalcy would be restored in a week, as government officials were working round the clock to improve the situation.

"More than 5,000 trees have been uprooted. We have already cleared several roads," Hakim said. "We are in touch with the private power supply provider and had asked them to restore supply as early as possible."

In Kakdwip area of South 24 Parganas district, people complained that they were not given enough tarpaulin sheets to cover the roofs of houses damaged by the cyclone.

In Hingalganj block of North 24 Parganas, people claimed they were running out of food, as shops in the vicinity were yet to lift shutters in the aftermath of the calamity.

"The entire area is underwater and we are out of food for the last three days. We are yet to get any relief," said Geeta Mahali, a resident of the area.

Several relief camps have come up in the districts, where hapless people have queued up for two squares of meal and shelter after their homes being either blown or washed away.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Relief Force have been working on a war-footing to clear the roads blocked by the uprooted trees.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had flew down to Kolkata on Friday and undertook an aerial survey of the cyclone-hit areas along with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Lauding the efforts of the state government in combating the crisis, Modi announced an advance assistance of Rs 1,000 crore for the state.

WB asks Railways not to send Shramik Special trains to state till May 26 in view of Cyclone Amphan

New Delhi, May 23 (PTI):

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has asked the Railway Ministry not to send Shramik Special trains to the state till May 26 in view of Cyclone Amphan.

The letter from West Bengal Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha to Chairman of Railway board V K Yadav dated May 22, stated that the state has been severely impacted by Super Cyclone Amphan

on May 20-21 which caused extensive damage to the infrastructure.

"As the district administrations are involved in relief and rehabilitation works, it will not be possible to receive special trains for the next few days. It is therefore requested that no train should be sent to West Bengal till May 26," she said.

At least 86 people in West Bengal have died

due to Cyclone Amphan. With normal life thrown out of gear by the region's worst weather disaster, the authorities have been scrambling to restore normalcy.

West Bengal has received the least number of Shramik Special trains since such service began to ferry migrant labourers back home amid the coronavirus-forced lockdown.

In fact, Home Minis-

ter Amit Shah in a letter had alleged that Bengal was not allowing its migrants to return. Later, it was decided that the consent of the destination state was not required to operate these trains.

So far, over 2,000 Shramik Special trains have been operated since May 1 ferrying over 31 lakh migrant workers. Around 25 trains have terminated in Bengal so far.



Nepalese national dies in quarantine centre

MAHARAJGANJ (UP),

MAY 23 (PTI): A 34-year-old Nepalese national, staying in a quarantine centre near here after his return from Delhi, died of unknown causes on Saturday, said officials.

"Dev Bahadur, a native of Syangja district in Nepal died today morning," said Nautanwa Sub-Divisional Magistrate Jasdhir Singh.

"The cause of his death is being ascertained. He was unwell for the last two days and was undergoing treatment at the Community Health Center here, he said.

The SDM added that Dev Bahadur had returned to Sonauli border on May 18 and had been quarantined at the Nautanwa quarantine centre.

"His condition worsened late on Friday night and he died early today, said Singh.

**Now you can
WhatsApp Summit
TIMES @
9832556698
9832080753**

61 fresh COVID-19 cases in Bihar; count rises to 2,166

PATNA, MAY 23 (PTI):

Sixty-one more people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Bihar, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases in the state to 2,166, health department officials said.

Of the fresh cases, the highest number was reported in Buxar (13), followed by Khagaria (nine), Gaya (seven), East Champaran (six), five each in Bhagalpur, West Champaran and Sitamarhi, three each in Begusarai, Muzaffarpur and Munger and one each in Arwal and Kaimur districts, they said.

Late on Friday evening, the health department tweeted, "61 more COVID-19 +ve cases in Bihar taking the total to 2166. We are ascertaining their trail of infection."

The patients from Buxar include two one-year-old boys and a seven-year-old girl, it said.

A 22-year-old migrant worker, who died three days ago soon upon his return from Delhi, was acknowledged on Friday as Bihar's 11th COVID-19 fatality by the state health department.

According to a senior health department official, the deceased, who

belonged to Khagaria district, had returned to the state by a special train on Tuesday.

He had a high fever and died within hours of arrival, following which his sample was collected and sent for testing. The report confirmed that he was infected with the dreaded novel coronavirus.

The contagion has so far claimed the lives of 11 people, including two each in Patna, Vaishali and Khagaria districts and one each in Rohtas, Munger, East Champaran, Sitamarhi and Begusarai districts.

Of the total 2,166 pos-

itive cases in the state, 1,526 are active while 629 COVID-19 patients have recovered.

At 186, Patna topped the list of positive cases, followed by Munger (140), Begusarai (125), Rohtas (123), Madhubani (115), Buxar (113), Jehanabad (106) and Khagaria (105).

A total of 58,905 samples have been tested so far at seven facilities in Patna, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga.

Sonowal urges Nagaland CM to reopen inter-state border

GUWAHATI, MAY 23 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Saturday urged Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio to reopen the inter-state border that was shut by the neighbouring state recently.

In a telephonic conversation between the two leaders, Sonowal said there is a need to jointly fight the COVID-19 pandemic and pointed out that economic activities must continue unhindered.

The Nagaland government sealed the border adjoining Sivasagar and Charaideo districts in Assam, following the detection of a COVID-19 case in Sonari.

Sonowal said that due to the sealing of the inter-state border, the livelihood of workers engaged in the tea gardens in the border areas have been adversely affected, according to an official statement.

The sealing of the borders has also nega-

tively affected the labour force working in the stone quarries and the movement of construction materials, he added.

Sonowal urged Rio to take expeditious measures to reopen the border so that economic activities can be carried out without any disruption.

The Nagaland chief minister assured him to look into the request and take necessary steps to reopen the border, the statement said.

40-ft whale carcass washes ashore in Odisha

KENDRAPARA (ODISHA),

MAY 23 (PTI): The carcass of a 40-foot-long critically endangered whale washed ashore in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary area in Odisha's Kendrapara district, a senior forest official said on Saturday.

The gargantuan mammal that weighed around 10 tonne was spotted on the coast at Agarnasi Island, he said.

"The mammal's body bore injury marks. The species figures in the list of IUCN Red list of threatened marine species. The forest department will conduct the post mortem examination of the endangered marine animal," Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division DFO Bikash Ranjan Dash. As there are inju-

ry marks, the mammal might have perished after being hit by either ship or trawler propellers, he said.

The mammal is a schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the DFO said.

"We are still undecided whether to bury or not the carcass after its post mortem and are also planning to preserve the skeletal remains of the mammal for posterity.

After necessary legal formalities, we would seek suggestion from department high-ups regarding preservation of the skeletal remains of the whale," the official said.

Aarogya Setu App users cross 2 cr mark in UP

LUCKNOW, MAY 23 (PTI):

The Aarogya Setu app is being continuously used in Uttar Pradesh with the number of people having downloaded it till date touching two crore, an official said on Saturday.

"As per the information from this App, 82 persons were infected while 45 have been discharged after treatment. As many as 1,079 are in home quarantine, Principal Secretary (Medical and Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said.

He added that so far, over 2 crore people have downloaded the App and 30,994 people have been called.

The principal health secretary also said a large number of migrant workers are coming from other

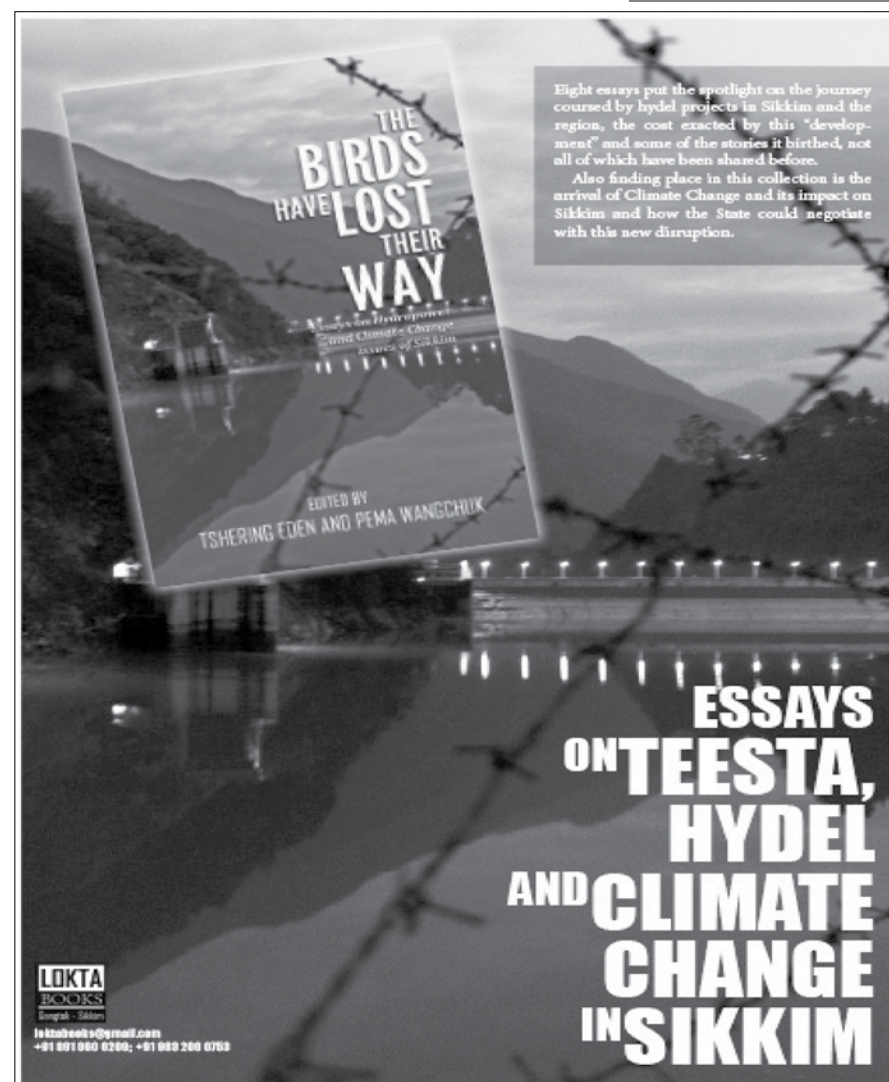
states with ASHA workers having surveyed 7.44 lakh of them so far.

Of these, 844 appeared to have corona symptoms and their samples have been taken for testing, he said.

"If no COVID-19 symptom is found in migrant workers, they are sent for a 21-day home quarantine. If found symptomatic, they are tested. On testing positive for infection, they are given treatment," he said.

Members of the village and colony monitoring committees are keeping a close watch on migrant workers, and ensuring that home quarantine is strictly adhered to, he said.

"If we strictly adhere to home quarantine and



Woods vows victory in star-studded charity match



Miami, May 23 (AFP): Tiger Woods couldn't resist a little last-minute needling before Sunday's charity showdown with Phil Mickelson, with a deadpan prediction that he and partner Peyton Manning would dominate.

"At the end of the day, our team's going to win, it's just a matter of how much we're going to win by," 15-time major champion Woods said in an interview posted on Golf Digest's YouTube channel.

"Do we keep it close, do we blow them out ... we don't want to have viewers turn off if we're 9-up through nine, that's probably not going to be good. So we'll just be 8-up through nine -- something like that."

Reigning Masters champion Woods will team with Manning, a superstar NFL quarterback who retired in 2016 after winning his second Super Bowl title.

Five-time major winner Mickelson will team with Tom Brady, who recently signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after winning six Super Bowl titles in 20 years

with the New England Patriots.

The 18-hole match will include nine holes of four-ball and nine holes of modified alternate shot, with on-course challenges for charitable funds in addition to the 10 million pledged.

With the US PGA Tour and European Tour on hiatus amid the coro-

navirus pandemic, the made-for-TV event will be a welcome glimpse of live sports action, and the long rivalries among the players promise a little intensity even if it's only a battle for bragging rights.

Television commentators include major winners Trevor Immelman and Jordan Spieth, along

with Charles Barkley, the NBA great turned outspoken broadcaster who is the owner of a famously disjointed golf swing.

Woods and Manning look to have the edge going in.

Woods is a regular at Medalist golf course in Hobe Sound, Florida, and Manning boasts a slightly better handicap than

Brady -- who has had less time to focus on his golf game as he adjusts to life with a new team amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the legion of Woods-watchers around the globe, it will be a chance to see just how far the 44-year-old's fitness has come since he lurched to a 68th-place finish at Riviera Country

Club in Los Angeles in February.

Continuing trouble with his balky back saw him skip the WGC Mexico Championship, the Honda Classic and the Arnold Palmer Invitational, as well as the Players Championship -- which was shut down early by coronavirus concerns.

- 'NIGHT AND DAY' -

Woods said in April he would have been ready for his Masters title defense -- which is now set to come in November.

"Night and day," he said of the improvement since February.

While the Woods-Mickelson rivalry may have lost some of its sizzle, Manning and Brady could add intrigue.

"They grew up playing football, not golf, but they're going out of their comfort zone on national TV to showcase their golf game," Mickelson said. "That's not an easy thing to do.

"For them to do that and create a fun, entertaining environment that's helping others, I have a lot of respect for it.

Aditi can breathe easy as LPGA extends Tour card to 2021



NEW DELHI, MAY 23 (PTI): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok is greatly relieved with the announcement that all players on the Ladies PGA (LPGA) Tour, who were exempted during this season, will also keep their cards for the next season.

"It's a great move by the LPGA. It was obviously inevitable with the international nature of the LPGA," said Aditi who has been at home for almost three months.

"Many players are from different countries so it would have been hard to coordinate with players and their country's regulations. It's a huge relief for sure and it's one less thing that we have to think about while playing."

Aditi, whose last

event was the New South Wales Open in Australia where she was Tied-4th, tried to get to the US before the coronavirus-forced lockdown came into effect.

Then came the announcement of the cancellation of the event. It was a relief that the an-

nouncement happened before she had left India, else she would have been stuck in the US.

Aditi had played just two LPGA events this year -- the Gainbridge LPGA at Boca Raton and the Australian Women's Open in February -- and she missed the cut in

both.

She stayed on in Australia and played Ladies European Tour events -- the Ladies Classic, Bonville (T-24) -- and then seemed to be hitting form right in time with a fourth place at NSW Open, when the shutters came down.

With the situation still fluid and no Tour having begun as yet, Aditi has not crystallised any plans.

"It is tough to work on that right now," she said.

With the lockdown in force in Bengaluru, she has been home, but doing practice in an innovative manner.

"I have already started doing practice a lot more on my terrace. I have been hitting balls with pretty much everything from short irons to hybrid and woods, and I have also been doing chipping, said Aditi, who began hitting the ball into a big curtain hung on terrace, as she could not get the nets because of lockdown.

She is adopting a

wait-and-watch approach before going to the course.

"I love to play on the course. But now, I have to conform to the rules, see the crowd, the timings available, see how often I can get out of the house and go play. It's going to be different, but I am sure every athlete is doing their best to prepare."

The LPGA is scheduled to resume play with the Marathon Classic from July 23-26 in Sylva, Ohio. If travel restrictions are relaxed and conditions are fine, Aditi might travel to US to play and maybe to Europe after that.

But all those plans are dependant on how things pan out in this ongoing global health crisis.

No quarantine exemption puts British Grand Prix at risk



LONDON, MAY 23 (AFP): Formula One's hopes of hosting two races at Silverstone were dealt a blow as elite sport was not handed any exemption to the UK government's plans to introduce a 14-day quarantine period for those entering the country.

The measures will be introduced from June 8 to help curb the spread of coronavirus, but will reviewed every three weeks meaning an agreement could still be found in time for the two races at Silverstone to go ahead in July.

F1 stressed the need earlier this week for a quarantine exemption by highlighting the impact the new rules will have on "tens of thousands of jobs linked to F1 and supply chains."

However, Silverstone

managing director Stuart Pringle is hopeful that an agreement can be reached that allows both races to go ahead.

"I am very clear that the importance of the industry is understood by

government," he told Sky Sports.

"So I remain optimistic that a sensible and pragmatic solution, which puts the onus on the sport quite rightly to come up with the right

solution, can be found." Seven of the 10 teams on the Formula One grid have bases in England.

"This isn't just 90 minutes of an exciting sporting race. This is about getting an indus-

try back to work," added Pringle.

"This is about 40-plus thousand people's livelihoods being ignited.

"The racing is at the very top of the pinnacle. Formula 1 is absolutely the top of the motorsport tree, it's the bit that we see and it's the most visible bit.

"But it is the stand-bearer for this industry and it's about getting an industry started again." F1 organisers are hoping to start the season with the Austrian Grand Prix on July 5 behind closed doors, followed by a second race at the Red Bull Ring a week later.

It was hoped Silverstone could then host two races in back-to-back weekends, also behind closed doors.

"We have been work-

ing closely with government on the implications of the policy for Formula 1 and Silverstone and those discussions are ongoing at this time with the aim of finding a solution with safety as our first priority," an F1 spokesman told AFP on Friday.

The quarantine restrictions could also have a major impact on the participation of British sides in European football competition.

Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea, Wolves and Rangers are all still involved in the knockout stages of the Champions League or Europa League.

UEFA is planning for both competitions to be finished in August once domestic seasons have been completed.

"As a kid growing up



Bayern won't exercise 120-million-euro option to buy Coutinho

MUNICH, MAY 23 (AFP): Bayern Munich will not activate a 120-million-euro (130 million) option to buy on-loan Brazilian star Philippe Coutinho from Barcelona, the German champions' chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told Der Spiegel magazine.

The option expired and "we haven't activated it," said Rummenigge.

"Now we're going to draw up squad planning internally (for next season) and we'll see if he still has a role to play with us or not." Coutinho joined Bayern last August but has failed to shine on a consistent basis.

He featured in 23 of 25 league games before the season was halted in March due to the coronavirus but started just 15 times.

Coutinho, who has eight goals and six assists to his name, sat out last weekend's resumption of the season having undergone ankle surgery in April.

Rummenigge also said there will be a tightening of belts in the transfer market once the crisis had passed.

So much so that paying a club record fee for a player would not be an option.

IPL has helped English cricket grow, best in the world after World Cups: Buttler

LONDON, MAY 23 (PTI): The Indian Premier League (IPL) has helped English cricket grow, feels batsman Jos Buttler, admitting that the cash-rich T20 tournament is the best in the world after the ICC World Cups.

Butler said he was desperate to be a part of this year's IPL, which now has been indefinitely suspended owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Cup-winning England wicket-keeper batsman, has been a part of two franchises in the IPL. After playing for Mumbai Indians in the 2016-17 season, Buttler moved to Rajasthan Royals in 2018.

"There's no doubt that it (IPL) has helped English cricket grow and the numbers of players who were involved in the last few years," Buttler said in the BBC Podcast 'The Doosra'.

"It was something I was desperate to play. For me it's the best tournament in the world, taking out the World Cups," he added.

Buttler, who made massive strides as a white ball player after a few seasons of IPL, said the league is like the fantasy cricket he aspired to play as kid, with the top stars of the game rubbing shoulders together.

"Some of the match ups you get to see in the IPL are great. Bangalore has been amongst the top three teams with (Virat) Kohli, AB (de Villiers) and (Chris) Gayle coming up and then to see them up against a (Jasprit) Bumrah or a Dale Steyn or (Lasith) Malinga.

"As a kid growing up



that is what you want to play -- fantasy cricket. Mix all the teams together what it will be like if Kohli and de Villiers play together," he added.

Buttler credited former skipper Kevin Pietersen, who advocated for the creation of a separate window for the IPL, paving the way for English players to be a part of the cash-rich tournament.

"English cricket has got quite an interesting history with the IPL. The documentary about Kevin Pietersen and how he wanted to get involved and the road blocks he faced," he said.

"He really paved the way for a lot of us to go and now play in the IPL with more blessing from English cricket. He is a pioneer in building the steps in place to realise just how important the IPL is for developing cricketers," Buttler added.

The 13th IPL, which was scheduled to start in March end, was indefinitely suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also put in doubt this year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

There is speculation that IPL might be conducted in October-November if the T20 World Cup in Australia is postponed.

First COVID-19 vaccine human trial finds it is safe, induces immune response

BEIJING, MAY 23 (PTI): The first COVID-19 vaccine to reach phase I clinical trial is safe, well-tolerated, and capable of generating an immune response against the novel coronavirus in humans, says a new research published in The Lancet journal.

According to the study of 108 adults, the vaccine produced neutralising antibodies, and a response mediated by the immune system's T-cells against the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2.

However, the scientists, including those from the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology in China said further research is needed to confirm whether the vaccine protects against SARS-COV-2 infection.

In the trial, carried out in 108 healthy adults, the vaccine demonstrated promising results after 28 days, with the final results to be evaluated in

six months, the study said.

"These results represent an important milestone. The trial demonstrates that a single dose of the new adenovirus type 5 vectored COVID-19 (Ad5-nCoV) vaccine produces virus-specific antibodies and T cells in 14 days," said study co-author Wei Chen from the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology.

Based on the results, Chen said the vaccine is a potential candidate for further investigation.

However, the researchers cautioned that the results should be interpreted carefully.

"The challenges in the development of a COVID-19 vaccine are unprecedented, and the ability to trigger these immune responses does not necessarily indicate that the vaccine will protect humans from COVID-19," Chen explained.

The Ad5 vectored

COVID-19 vaccine used in the trial is the first to be tested in humans, the scientists said.

It uses a weakened common cold-causing adenovirus -- which infects human cells readily, but is incapable of causing disease -- to deliver genetic material that codes for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein to the cells, the study noted.

The scientists said these cells then produce the spike protein, and travel to the lymph nodes where the immune system creates antibodies.

These then recognise the spike protein and fight off the coronavirus, the researchers explained.

In the trial, they assessed the safety and ability of the new Ad5-nCoV vaccine to generate an immune response of different dosages in 108 healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 60 years.

The volunteers were assigned to receive either a single injection of the new Ad5 vaccine at a low dose, middle dose, or a high dose, they said.

According to the study, the volunteers' blood was checked at regular intervals following vaccination to see whether the vaccine stimulated two parts of the immune system.

These are the body's 'humoral response', which is the part of the immune system that produces antibodies to fight infection, and the 'cell-mediated' arm, which depends on a group of T cells to fight the virus, the scientists said.

They added that an ideal vaccine candidate generates both antibody and T cell responses to defend against SARS-CoV-2.

Based on the results, the

researchers said the vaccine was well tolerated by the volunteers at all doses with no serious adverse events reported within 28 days of vaccination.

They said most adverse events were mild or moderate, with 83 per cent of those receiving low and middle doses of the vaccine and 75 per cent in the high dose group reporting at least one adverse reaction within 7 days of vaccination.

These reactions were mild pain at the injection site reported in over half of vaccine recipients, fever in 50 per cent of them, fatigue, headache, and muscle pain as well.

Within two weeks of vaccination, the study noted that all dose levels of the vaccine triggered some level of immune response.

Some of the participants, the researchers said, also ex-

hibited a form of neutralising antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.

After 28 days, they said most participants had a four-fold increase in binding antibodies.

The scientists also added that 50 per cent of the participants in the low- and middle-dose groups, and three-quarters of those in the high-dose group showed neutralising antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.

In the majority of volunteers, they said the vaccine also stimulated a rapid T cell response.

On further analyses, the researchers said the majority of recipients showed either a positive T cell response, or had detectable neutralising antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 as much as 28 days after vaccination.

However, they said high

pre-existing immunity to adenovirus type 5 -- the common cold virus vector used in the study, may have reduced both the antibody and T-cell response in the participants.

"Our study found that pre-existing Ad5 immunity could slow down the rapid immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 and also lower the peaking level of the responses," said Feng-Cai Zhu from the Jiangsu Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention in China, who led the study.

Citing the main limitations of the trial, the authors said the study had a small sample size and was conducted in relatively short duration, with a lack of randomised control group.

They said further research will be needed before this trial vaccine becomes available to all.

Survivor recalls horror of Pakistan plane crash that killed 97

ISLAMABAD, 23 MAY [AP]: One of the two people to survive a plane crash in Pakistan that killed 97 people has described jumping from the burning wreckage of the aircraft after it hurtled into a residential neighbourhood.

The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane came down among houses on Friday after both engines failed as it approached Karachi airport, the airline said.

Its wings sliced through rooftops, sending flames and plumes of smoke into the air as it crashed onto a street, sparking a rescue operation that lasted into the night.

Commercial flights in the country resumed only days ago, ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, after planes were grounded during a lockdown over the coronavirus pandemic.

"After it hit and I regained consciousness, I saw fire everywhere and no one was visible," Mohammad Zubair, 24, said from his hospital bed in a video clip circulated on social media.

"The cries were everywhere and everybody was trying to survive. I undid my seat belt and I saw some light and tried to walk towards it. Then I jumped out."

Zubair had suffered burns but was in a stable condition, a health ministry official said.

The airline named the other survivor as the president of the Bank of Punjab, Zafar Masud.



The health ministry for Sindh province, where the southern port city of Karachi is located, on Saturday confirmed that the 97 bodies recovered from the crash site had been on the plane.

At least 19 had been identified so far, while DNA testing was being carried out at the University of Karachi to help name the rest of the victims.

A local hospital earlier reported it had received the bodies of people killed on the ground.

The disaster comes as Pakistanis prepare to celebrate the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and the beginning of Eid, with many travelling to their homes in cities and villages.

"Eid has become meaningless not only for Karachi but the whole of

Pakistan," said Zia ul Huq Qamar, who lives near the crash site.

Several members of the armed forces who were flying home to their families to celebrate the holiday were among the dead, the military said.

Shahbaz Hussain said his mother, who was also among the victims, had been flying back to Karachi after becoming stranded by the lockdown in Lahore while visiting her daughters.

- Mayday call -

A PIA spokesperson said air traffic control lost contact with the plane travelling from Lahore to Karachi just after 2:30 pm (0930 GMT).

The pilot made a desperate mayday call after announcing "we have lost engines", according to an audio recording confirmed by the airline.

PIA chief executive Arshad Mahmood Malik described the Airbus A320 as one of the safest planes.

"Technically, operationally everything was in place," he said, promising an investigation.

On board the aircraft were 91 passengers, six cabin crew and two pilots.

Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan said the captain, Sajjad Gull, had been described by the airline as a senior A320 pilot with extensive flight experience.

The plane had first entered service in 2004 and was acquired by PIA a decade later and had logged around 47,100 flight hours, Airbus said in a statement.

Residents near the scene recounted how the walls of their homes shook before a big ex-

plosion erupted as the aircraft slammed into the neighbourhood.

They were the first to sift through the charred and twisted wreckage strewn in search of survivors, with witnesses reporting the cries of a man hanging from the plane's emergency exit door.

- 'Shocked and saddened' -

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said he was "shocked and saddened" by the crash.

Pakistan has a chequered military and civilian aviation safety record, with frequent plane and helicopter crashes over the years.

In 2016, a PIA plane burst into flames after one of its two turboprop engines failed while flying from the remote north to Islamabad, killing more than 40 people.

The deadliest air disaster on Pakistani soil was in 2010 when an Airbus A321 operated by private airline Airblue and flying from Karachi crashed into the hills outside Islamabad as it came in to land, killing all 152 people on board.

An official report blamed the accident on a confused captain and a hostile cockpit atmosphere.

PIA, a leading airline until the 1970s, has seen its reputation sink due to frequent cancellations, delays and financial troubles.

UN Secretary General condoles death of 97 people in Pakistan plane crash

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, MAY 23 (PTI): UN chief Antonio Guterres has condoled the death of 97 people in a horrendous plane crash in Pakistan on the eve of the Eid holiday, his spokesperson said.

Ninety-seven people were killed and two passengers miraculously survived the crash after the Karachi-bound Pakistan International Airlines plane from Lahore with 99 travellers on board plunged into a densely populated residential area near the Jinnah International Airport on Friday.

"I'm deeply saddened by the terrible news of the plane crash in Karachi, Pakistan, on the eve of #EidAlFitr. My thoughts are with all those affected and the families of those who sadly lost their lives," Secretary General Guterres tweeted.

UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at the daily press briefing



on Friday when asked about the plane crash that "We, obviously, send our condolences to the people and Government of Pakistan upon learning of this horrendous accident. I think it also comes on the eve of the Eid holiday."

"We understand many of the passengers were going home, which adds another level of tragedy, but our thoughts are with the families of the victims, as well as the Government and the broader people of Pakistan."

Trump declares churches 'essential,' calls on them to reopen

WASHINGTON, MAY 23 (AP): President Donald Trump has labeled churches and other houses of worship as essential" and called on governors nationwide to let them reopen this weekend even though some areas remain under coronavirus lockdown.

The president threatened Friday to override governors who defy him, but it was unclear what authority he has to do so.

Governors need to do the right thing and allow these very important essential places of faith to

open right now for this weekend," Trump said at a hastily arranged press conference at the White House. Asked what authority Trump might have to supersede governors, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said she wouldn't answer a theoretical question.

Trump has been pushing for the country to reopen as he tries to reverse an economic free fall playing out months before he faces reelection. White evangelical Christians have been among

the president's most loyal supporters, and the White House has been careful to attend to their concerns throughout the crisis.

Following Trump's announcement, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new guidelines for communities of faith on how to safely reopen, including recommendations to limit the size of gatherings and consider holding services outdoors or in large, well-ventilated areas.

Public health agencies have generally advised people to avoid gatherings

of more than 10 people and encouraged Americans to remain 6 feet (1.8 meters) away from others when possible. Some parts of the country remain under some version of remain-at-home orders.

In-person religious services have been vectors for transmission of the virus. A person who attended a Mother's Day service at a church in Northern California that defied the governor's closure orders later tested positive, exposing more than 180 churchgoers.

Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | ETCETERA

It's easy to relax... When you can trust the News.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:
For circulation details Contact: +91-9749897695, +91-9647102692
& for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

SILIGURI:
Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor, Opp. Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. +91-9832318644/ 9800682989/9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 4, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547774/ +91-9831083977. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com / irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com

Phone
03592-208698
+91-9832556698
+91-9832080753

www.summittimes.com
news@summittimes.com
summittimes16@gmail.com
advertise@summittimes.com

Address:
Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road
Near Diesel Power House (DPH)
Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

Facebook.com/SummitTimesSikkim

Charlie Hunnam to lead adaptation of dog story 'Denali'

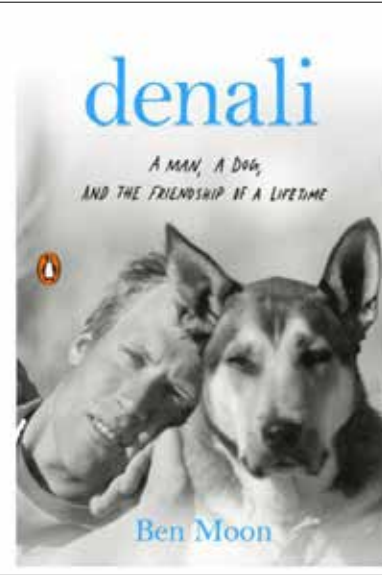
LOS ANGELES, MAY 23 (PTI): Actor Charlie Hunnam is set to star in Spyglass Media Group's adaptation of author Ben Moon's memoir "Denali: A Man A Dog, A Friendship Of A Lifetime".

The film, titled "Denali", will be written and directed by Max Winkler, who recently worked with Hunnam on drama movie "Jungleland", reported Deadline.

It started as an eight-minute film that Moon, who works as a photographer, created as a love letter to his dog.

His memoir, which was published by Penguin Random House in January this year, chronicles Moon's 15-year friendship with Denali, who Moon rescued from a shelter upon moving to Oregon and feeling an instant connection with the pup.

The two of them set out on an adventure across the



American west but their journey was cut short when Moon was diagnosed with colorectal cancer at age 29.

He faced a difficult battle with the disease, but Denali never once left his side, and ultimately, Moon made a full recovery. A short time later,

Denali was diagnosed with cancer as well, and it was Moon's turn to hold his furry friend's paw.

Hunnam, 40, will also produce the project along with Albert Berger and Ron Yerxa, with whom he previously collaborated on "Cold

Mountain".

The actor, best known for movies such as "The Gentlemen", "The Lost City of Z" and "King Arthur", will next star in Apple's series "Shantaram".

Celeste Ng's debut novel getting series treatment from Annapurna TV



LOS ANGELES, MAY 23 (PTI): Annapurna Television is developing a series based on Author Celeste Ng's debut novel "Everything I Never Told You".

According to Variety, the production house bagged the rights of the novel after a multi-studio bidding war.

The new show comes after Ng's 2017 novel "Little Fires Everywhere" was adapted into a Hulu series, starring Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington, which debuted in April this year.

"Everything I Never Told You", which was published in 2014, is about a Chinese-American family in Ohio whose lives are upturned when their middle daughter, protagonist Lydia, is found drowned in a lake.

The author and Mary Lee of A-Major Media, which produces Asian American film and TV projects, will serve as executive producers.

Megan Ellison, Sue Nae-gle, Patrick Chu, and Ali Krug will executive produce the project for Annapurna.

Hana Kimura, Pro Wrestler and 'Terrace House' Cast Member, Dies at 22

Hana Kimura, a Japanese professional wrestler who was also a cast member on the most recent season of Netflix's reality show "Terrace House," has died, Variety has confirmed. She was 22.

Stardom Wrestling, the organization Kimura was part of, issued a statement on the news on Friday.

"We are very sorry to report that our Hana Kimura has passed away," it wrote. "Please be respectful and allow some time for things to process, and keep your thoughts and prayers with her family and friends."

A cause of death was not immediately clear. However, the most recent update on her Instagram story on Friday featured a photo of her with her cat, with a caption that reads "goodbye." She had also recently posted a series of troubling tweets, one of which, according to a



fan translation, read that she didn't "want to be a human anymore."

"Thank you to everyone who supported me," read another message, which also implied that she had been cyberbullied. "I love it. I'm weak, I'm sorry."

Kimura, whose mother, Kyoko Kimura, was also a pro wrestler, made her debut at Wrestle-1 in 2016, winning

her first title, the JWP Junior Championship, later that year. She also wrestled for Stardom during that time, and officially left Wrestle-1 to join Stardom in 2019, where she was the leader of the Tokyo Cyber Squad faction. She twice won the Artist of Stardom championship, in addition to a Goddess of Stardom championship.

Kimura was also a mem-

ber of "Terrace House: Tokyo," the most recent season of the Japanese reality show which sees six young adults live together. She joined in the 20th episode, and was part of the current cast before "Terrace House," like the rest of Netflix's productions, halted shooting due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The wrestling community shared their condolences to Kimura on Friday night. "Distraught," wrestler Jamie Hayter wrote. "I don't even know what to say or feel. Numb. I can't express it. RIP Hana Kimura. Such a wonderful human being. The gaijin helper. All the potential. A beautiful soul. Kind. I just can't even put in to f—ing words how upsetting this is. I hope you found peace."

Wrestler Sü Yüing wrote, "I will always love and miss you, my friend. You are my little sister."

FX renews 'What We Do in the Shadows' for third season

LOS ANGELES, MAY 23 (PTI): FX has given a season three order for its hit vampire comedy series "What We Do in the Shadows".

The show, based on the 2014 feature film of the same name by Taika Waititi and Jemaine Clement, debuted on FX in March, 2019. Its second season dropped in April this year, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The show follows three vampires, Nandor (Kayvan Novak), Lazslo (Matt Berry), and Nadja (Natasha Deme-triou), who have been room-mates for hundreds of years.

Waititi, Clement and actor Jonathan Brugh, also guest star in the show, reprising their characters of Viago, Deacon, and Vladislav from



the original film.

"We're incredibly happy that critics and audiences are all in on 'Shadows'. Week in and week out, the producers, writers and our amazing cast continue to make one of the funniest and best comedy series on TV," said Nick Grad,

president original programming at FX.

Waititi and Clement serve as executive producer with showrunner Paul Simms, Scott Rudin, Garrett Basch, Eli Bush and Stefani Robinson.

ARIES:

If there's anything your time away from the matrix has taught you it's that happiness cannot be found outside. Aries, you're in the mood for silence and soulfulness. If you have never meditated before, give it a shot. The thoughts may or may not stop, and that's okay. Become an observer. Focus on your breath as you let the interruptions come and go. A Deepak Chopra quote to inspire you on this journey: "Silence is the great teacher and to learn its lessons you must pay attention to it."

Tip: Your rich, interior life is where the magic is right now.

TAURUS:

Tragic tales are overrated. If you like it and you want it, put a ring on it. Express your undying love and make things work, despite the odds. It's true that some things are predetermined. But don't forget that free will plays an important role in steering our chariot. As such this is a time of peace, love and happiness. You're learning to be more compassionate towards yourself and others. Nobody's perfect, right? That's what makes the journey beautiful.

Tip: You have the power to make things work despite the odds.

GEMINI:

Stop playing tragedy queen, Gemini! If you want it, go get it, and if you're unable to, know that the Universe is protecting you from getting caught in the midst of a storm. Pause. Breathe. Understand the soul lesson you're being asked to learn. Working with, rather than against the flow, is the way forward. Some of you may find yourself pining for the love of somebody who's only half interested in you. It's all in or all out. Tip: It's either in or out.

CANCER:

We're always in a rush to get somewhere, to get something done, to reach a desired destination. Aren't you exhausted by trying to control everything? What if you loosened the grip and let Spirit step in instead? If things are not manifesting in the manner you'd like them to, know that there are certain things that need to play out. Allow the divine plan to unfold.

Tip: Embrace uncertainty instead of trying to control everything in your life.

LEO:

Sometimes, you let your practical side take the wheel. At other times, you get woo-woo in a manner that helps you navigate the challenges thrown at you. But today you're being asked to marry the masculine and the feminine; the logical and intuitive aspects of your being. It is through this cosmic union that you will find the answers you need at the moment. In the realm of love, you may find that your partner is experiencing chaos and commotion. Find a way to hold space for them without getting caught up in the drama.

Tip: Find a balance between the masculine and feminine aspects of your personality.

VIRGO:

If they can't take their eyes (or hands) off you, you've got your stars to blame, Virgo. You're moving away from troubled waters to a shore that speaks of love, harmony, and togetherness. The onset of Gemini season is bringing with it the element of playfulness that had gone missing from your equation. Here are three ways to tap into this untamed energy. 1: Play a board game together tonight. 2: Read each

other excerpts from a book that inspires you. 3: Give role play a shot.

Tip: 'Playfulness' is the magic word.

LIBRA:

Things are about to get hot and heavy, especially if you're in close quarters with your special someone. Separated by time and space from the one you love? Get creative in the ways you communicate with one another. Who says you can't get flirty (and dirty) over text messages?

Tip: Love and intimacy is big in the Libra HQ.

SCORPIO:

Don't you love it when the Universe steps in and sets things right on your behalf? This is a magical time in the Scorpio HQ. You are experiencing the kind of love, harmony, and togetherness that was once a distant dream. Go on, now! Bring the walls down. Let the one you love know exactly how special they are. For some of you, a grand proposal may be on the cards.

Tip: The cards speak of love, harmony, and togetherness.

SAGITTARIUS:

What happens when we resist change instead of accepting what the Universe is pointing us towards? We attract chaos. Pay attention to the structures that are crumbling; the relationships that have moved past their expiration date. The path of least resistance is the best way forward. In the realm of love, become cognisant of the connections that are draining you. What you need to recognise here is that two halves don't make a full.

Tip: Accept things as they are instead of trying to change them.

CAPRICORN:

"A thousand half-loves have to be forsaken to take one whole heart home." Nobody understands the magic woven by Rumi's words like you do. The connection you are experiencing right now and in this moment may not be perfect, but it's beautiful, and that's so much better than perfect can ever be. Say a prayer of gratitude to the divine forces above that are keeping you intoxicated in the right way. Single Capricornians could be pleasantly surprised.

Tip: Here's to love and other intoxicants!

AQUARIUS:

This reading isn't so much about what you are attracting as it is about who you are becoming. Aquarius, you are experiencing deep, inner alchemy, one that is taking your self-love game to a whole new level. Bring forth the gift of forgiveness. Trust yourself to hold the torch of awareness in the so-called dark places.

Tip: You are learning to love yourself for who you are rather than who you were asked to be.

PISCES:

So what if you have lost in love, Pisces? So what if you've had your heart broken over and over? Don't let the old script be the reason you build fortresses where healthy boundaries are enough. The Universe wants you to stay open to miracles. Some of you may have to realise that the other person is not in the mood to commit. Recognise the sorry excuses they have presented to you over a period of time. Knowing that you deserve better will give you the courage to move on.

Tip: The Universe wants you to stay open.