



IPR CONCLUDES COVID AWARENESS EFFORT IN SOUTH SIKKIM

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INDIA'S STAGGERING COVID CRISIS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. BUT THE GOVERNMENT DROPPED ITS GUARD TOO SOON

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HSP RUNS OUT OF PATIENCE WITH SKM GOVT

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Second wave infects 67 more even as vaccination fortifies still more Sikkimese

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 APR:**

Sikkim registered 67 fresh cases of novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours taking the state's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 to 7,037 on Friday.

There are now 693 active cases in the State only 73 of whom are currently in hospital and none in the ICU.

While 60 of the new cases were reported from East District, three were detected in West District, one in South District and three in North Sikkim.

In his daily health bulletin on Friday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltzen Bhutia informed that among the cases reported from in and around Gangtok are six persons from Sichey, three from Shyari, three from Tibet Road, two from near the helipad at Burtuk, two from Bojoghari, two from Pani House, one from Arithang, one from Namnang, one from Upper

Arithang, one from Deorali, one from Kazi Road and one from Burtuk.

In cases reported from the Tadong area are six from Convoy Ground, five from the SMIMS hostel, three from 5th Mile, one from College Valley, one from Daragaon and one from Lumsey.

He informed that a 21-year-old male from Tadong has tested positive for COVID-19 but has switched off his phone and needs to immediately contact the authorities.

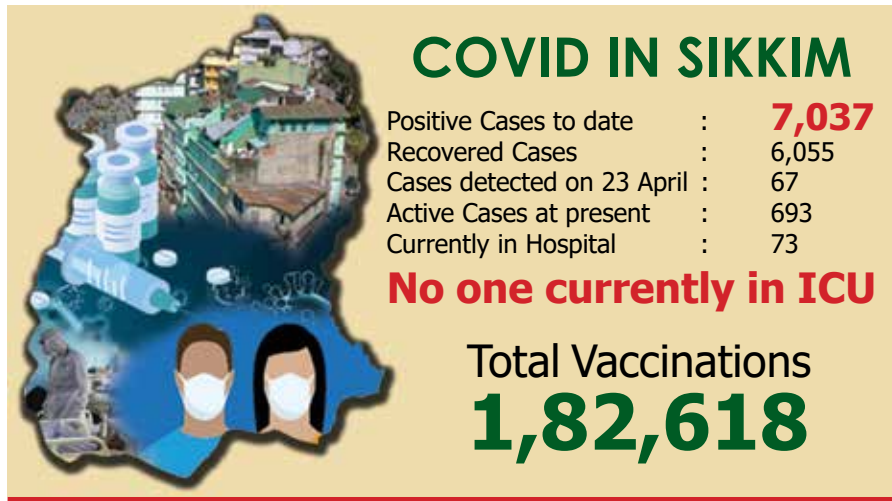
In East District, one person from Salangthang [Ranka], one from SMIT Majhitar, one from Birring, one from Samdong, one from Bardang, one from Sang Bazaar, one from Chota Singtam [Ranipool], one from Andheri Lepcha Turning on Pakyong Road, one from Chanatar, one from Nop Gaon, Pakyong and one from 32nd No were found positive for COVID-19.

Mr Bhutia informed that a tourist from Bangalore and another from

Mumbai have also tested positive and another, who was also found positive for COVID-19, has been shifted to a quarantine facility at Ranipool and the hotel which he stayed in has also been contained.

Likewise, one person from Singhik, one from Mangan and one from

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1.82 lakh vaccine doses administered in Sikkim thus far

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 APR:**

As per the Cowin website, 4,988 vaccination doses were administered at the 68 vaccination sites across the State on Fridat. This number was 1,810 on Thursday.

Data uploaded on the Cowin website reveals that 1.82 lakh doses of the Covishield vaccine have been administered in the State thus far working out to around 28% of the State's population.

Of these, 30,421 people have completed their vaccine schedule having received the second dose as well. Meanwhile, 1,52,277 people across the State have received the first dose thus far.

The 40-60 years old age-group comprises the largest segment of those who have received the vaccine in Sikkim - there are 86,446 people in this age-group who have received at least one dose of the vaccine thus far.

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Ojhal Timi comes into focus with music video



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 APR:**

The music video accompanying Bikash Rai [Thulug]'s debut in the Nepali music industry was released here on Friday evening.

The singer is also the lyricist and composer of the song which has been set to music arranged and programmed by Ajnish Rai.

The music video has been directed by Nimesh Pradhan of Mirik and features the debut performance of Leezum Lepcha, Puran Tamang and Bijayata Pradhan and has been produced by Leezum Lepcha.

The music video is

also available on the official YouTube channel - Budha Subba Digital.

The release function had Chairperson, Sikkim Film Development Board [SFDB], Pooja Sharma, as chief guest accompanied by India Journalist Union state president, Bhim Rawat, as special guest among other dignitaries.

In his address, the chief guest congratulated the team for the yeomen effort and hard work which comes through the high professional finish of the music video which has been shot at different locations across the State.

She appreciated the

singing, composition and concept of the singer and performances of all artists in the music video.

Ms Sharma encouraged local artists to continue with their creative works in music and different aspects of film-making and assured that SFDB will always be there to support local talent.

She added that the State government has been working tirelessly for the development and promotion of music and film industry in the State.

Likewise, special guest, Mr Rawat, congratulated the entire

turn to pg05



VEN. SONAM LAMA
Hon'ble Minister (RDD)
Government of Sikkim

On the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day 2021, we stand steadfast under the visionary leadership of the Honorable Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang, and Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development Department, Govt of Sikkim, Shri Sonam Lama, and firm in our resolve to empower and develop rural Sikkim to newer heights.

East District Zilla Panchayat (EDZP)

Recipient of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar 2021, Best Zilla Panchayat award by Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India.

COVID Management Group set up to manage returnees

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 APR:

The State Government has constituted a COVID Management Group to manage the mandatory quarantine of returnees and all related issues.

An office order issued today informs that the committee will consist of Secretary, Agriculture Department and Planning Department; Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department; General Manager, Transport Department; District Collectors as ex-officio members; and Under Secretary [Co-ordination].

The committee is tasked with: evolving a mechanism to seamlessly collect data of all people returning to Sikkim; to formulate a mechanism for monitoring of mandatory ten-day home quarantine of returnees; to work out modalities in such a way that unnecessary crowding and traffic jams are avoided at the checkposts.

Worries grow about Indonesian sub's crew as oxygen dwindles

JAKARTA (INDONESIA), APR 23 (AP): Indonesian navy ships were scouring the waters off Bali on Friday as they raced against time to find a submarine that disappeared two days ago and has less than a day's supply of oxygen left for its 53 crew.

The KRI Nanggala 402 went missing after its last reported dive Wednesday off the resort island, and concern is mounting the submarine may have sunk too deep to reach or recover.

The navy chief said the submarine was expected to run out of oxygen by around 3 a.m. Saturday.

We will maximise the effort today, until the time limit tomorrow 3 a.m., military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Achmad Riad told reporters.

There have been no signs of life from the submarine, but the spokesperson refused to speculate on its fate.

A total of 24 navy and other ships and a patrol plane were being mobilized for Friday's search with a focus on the area where an oil slick was found after the submarine disappeared during an exercise. Rescuers made similar massive searches in the past two days.

An Australian warship equipped with a sonar device and a helicopter was set to arrive later Friday. A second Australian warship as well as Singaporean and Malaysian rescue ships were also expected in the coming days.

These two Australian ships will help expand the search area and extend the duration of search effort, Australian Navy Rear Adm. Mark Hammond said.

On Friday, Indonesian President Joko Widodo was heading to Banyuwangi port, where the rescue ships left earlier.

HSP runs out of patience with SKM Govt

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 APR:

Hamro Sikkim Party asserted today that the party has given the SKM Government enough time to ease into its role and work for the people and was now running out of patience. Addressing a press conference, the HSP president, Dr Bina Basnet, alleged that the State government has continually turned a deaf ear to people's issues and that HSP would now raise the issues of the people at the state and national levels.

She said, "We gave ample time to the SKM government to work since we were together in the opposition earlier, but the government has been misusing its power and ignoring the people. We would no longer sit silently by and will raise



our voice against every injustice suffered by the people of Sikkim."

She further contended that HSP has placed many suggestions with the state government on different issues but were ignored.

She added that the party even placed suggestions and recommendations with the Economic Revival Committee but no action on recommendations have been forthcoming.

Dr Basnet alleged that

the government has been playing with the future of students of Sikkim by refusing to reinstate students expelled from Gyalshing Government College.

HSP will now take up the issue with the

national human rights commission and in the Supreme Court, she said while accusing the State Government of autocratic decisions.

She went on to allege that the state government has been recklessly damaging the environment with reckless felling of trees across the State.

The HSP president also shared today that the party will now launch a membership drive and reshuffle the executive committee of the party. On the same, she appealed to women to come forward and take up membership in HSP to lead the party and the State.

She stated that the party will create more awareness on women's empowerment and human rights issues.

SMPB Advisor inspects punctuality in govt offices at Rabong



SANJAY AGARWAL
RANGPO, 23 APR:

Advisor, State Medical Plant Board, Dechen Phigu Bhutia, made a surprise visit to offices in the Rabongla area today.

He visited the office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Rabong Sub-Division, accompanied by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's CLC president for Barfung, Bishnu Sharma, and some residents of the area.

During his inspection, he checked on punctuality among office staff and checked all workstations and attendance registers, it is informed.

He was apprised by the SDM that the 50% attendance roster will be implemented from 26 April onwards.

The Advisor also visited the office of the ADC Development Rabong, Block Administrative Cen-

tre and community centre library accompanied by SDM and ADC-Dev.

He found the attendance to be satisfactory and duly encouraged all employees to be diligent and punctual in their work.

Further, the Advisor instructed the HoD's to maintain a separate attendance register for staff out on field duty.

He emphasised that government employees were the backbone of the administration and the nodal office for implementation of various developmental government schemes. As such he advised the employees to follow the simple motto of "work is worship".

Later the Advisor and other Gentries visited the construction site of Shivalaya Mandir at Deythang and met with the committee members.

5KG free rice per person, per month for 80 cr beneficiaries

NEW DELHI, 23 APR (PIB):

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the poor, the Government of India has decided to allocate free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) over and above NFSA foodgrains for next two months i.e. May and June 2021 on the same pattern as the earlier "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)".

Under this special scheme (PMGKAY),

around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders (PHH), will be provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements under NFSA.

Government of India will bear all expenditure of over Rs 26,000 Crore on account of food subsidy and Central assistance to states/UTs on account of intrastate transportation etc.

Ladakh reports 198 new COVID cases, one death

LEH, APR 23 (PTI): One more person died due to coronavirus in Ladakh, taking the death toll to 135 on Friday, while 198 fresh cases pushed the infection tally to 12,937, officials said. The fatality was reported from Leh. The death toll stands at 135 -- 91 in Leh and 44 in Kargil. Of the fresh cases, 183 infections were reported

from Leh and 15 from Kargil, the officials said.

A total of 131 patients recovered from the infection in the past 24 hours, taking the number of cured persons in the Union Territory to 10761.

At present, there are 2,041 active cases in Ladakh -- 1,939 in Leh district and 102 in Kargil district.

CM greets rural reps on National Panchayati Raj Day

GANGTOK, 23 APR [IPR]: Chief Minister PS Tamang has extended warm greetings and salutation to members of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the State on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on April 24 every year and signifies the decentralization of power to the grassroots by the institutionalization of the Panchayati Raj through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, which came into force on April 24, 1993. This date thus marks a defining moment in the history of decentralization of political power to the grassroots level, he states.

The CM goes on to add, "Recently, our government has taken an innovative decision to hold the panchayat elections on a non-partisan basis by amending the Sikkim Panchayat Act to usher in true democracy in grassroots governance.

The Panchayati Raj Institutions have been able to acquire the status and dignity of viable and responsive people's bodies with adequate representation, devolution

of powers, and financial resources."

The Chief Minister has also congratulated the recipients of various awards presented by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj on this occasion. "The awards recognize the achievements of our panchayats and further empower and motivate them further," he states.

The awards bagged by Sikkim are:

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Shashastikaran Puraskar: East District Panchayat

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Shashastikaran Puraskar: Lunchok Kameray Gram Panchayat, South Sikkim

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Shashastikaran Puraskar: Budang Kameray Gram Panchayat, East Sikkim

Gram Panchayat Vikas Yojana Puraskar: Tingbhong Gram Panchayat, North Sikkim

Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar: Singhik Gram Panchayat, North Sikkim

Bal Hitaishi Gram Panchayat: Rhenock Gram Panchayat, East Sikkim.

IndiGo to temporarily suspend flights on Kolkata-Shillong route

SHILLONG, 23 APR (PTI): Private carrier IndiGo will suspend its daily flights between Kolkata and Shillong for eight days, starting from Friday, airport officials said.

The reason for the suspension of operations by the airline was not cited but sources in the Shillong Airport authority on Thursday said the decision was taken in view of the COVID-19 situation.

"All passengers are hereby informed that M/s Indigo Airlines @ IndiGo6E has suspended their #Shillong operations from 23rd April to 30th April 2021," the

airport authority said on Twitter. The authority also urged passengers to contact the airline for any query on the re-scheduling of flights or refund for the tickets.

IndiGo officials could not be reached for comments on the suspension.

The airline operates its flights to Shillong only from Kolkata.

The budget carrier had resumed its operation on this route in February this year after remaining closed for almost 10 months due to COVID-19, the official said, adding that the "passenger load has improved to 90 per cent".

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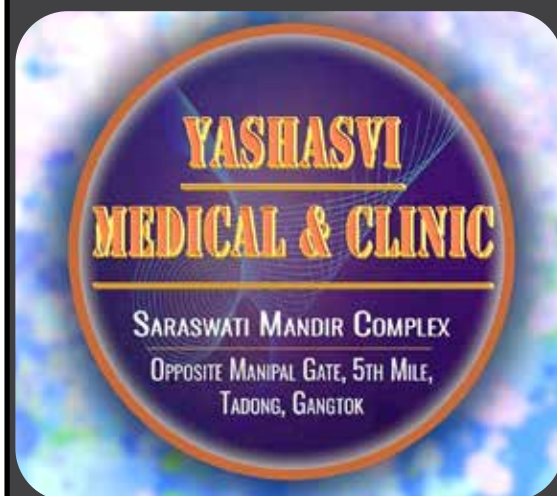
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- 6.Cardio Specialist: 4-6PM.
- 7.Medicine (Gastrointestinal Specialist) :5-6PM.

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'Kanchenjunga Square' to come up at Old STNM premises

TENZING YANGZOM

GANGTOK, 23 APR:

Demolition of Old STNM Hospital premises where Gynaecology and Orthopedic wards used to be is expected to be completed in the next one and a half year. The demolition will make way for Kanchenjunga Square, a multi-storied complex with shops, parking space and a 'park' on the terrace. The complex is being constructed under the Smart City Project.

Speaking to Summit Times, Amar

Rai who is overseeing the demolition process, said that the work began on 15 Feb 2021 and was expected to be completed within 3 months. However, people living in the surroundings complained that the demolition was causing a lot of vibration and they feared for their safety. The demolition was therefore halted for some time and then resumed without the use of heavy machinery.

The demolition is now being undertaken manually, Mr Rai informs.

DC-West inspects Nursing Training College's readiness for role as District Covid Care Hospital



GYALSHING, 23 APR [IPR]:

District Collector (West), Karma R Bonpo, along with CMO (West), Dr. Anusha Lama, and other officials from the concerned departments carried out an inspection of the Nursing Training College, Kyongsha, today, to take stock of preparedness to battle Covid-19.

After a detailed review and inspection of the hospital and its premises, the DC-West

asked for the number of requirements and necessary directions were given to Health Department.

Further, he instructed all the concerned departments to do the needful at the earliest.

It may be mentioned here that the Nursing Training College has been converted into the District Covid Care Hospital (DCCH).

As informed by the

CMO-West, this will be a 20-bed facility and will be functional soon.

She also informed that Covid-19 positive with symptoms and patients with co-morbidities will be kept at the District Covid Care Hospital and asymptomatic patients will be kept in home isolation. She also informed that serious patients will be referred to STNM Hospital for further treatment.

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Bengal Polls: JNU's Aishe Ghosh to debut for Left; Fight BJP, Trinamool in Jamuria Seat

JAMURIA, 23 APR [PTI]: One of the last remaining Left bastions, Jamuria assembly constituency in the heart of Paschim Bardhaman's coal belt will witness a triangular battle between CPI(M)'s young face Aishe Ghosh, JNU Students' Union president against Trinamool's coal miner-candidate Hareram Singh and BJP's Tapas Roy in polling slated for Monday, April 26.

Jamuria has till now withstood Trinamool's onslaught in the last two assembly elections returning CPI(M)'s Jahana Khan twice in the last two assembly elections. This time round the party decided to risk fielding Aishe Ghosh, a student debutante from the constituency replacing a veteran law-maker.

Ms Ghosh who came into the limelight during the agitation in the premier university which also threw up another Left leader Kanhaiya Kumar, the young doctoral scholar has been a prominent face in protests against the CAA and new farm laws.

The newcomer is however not a greenhorn as far as the coal belt is concerned having been brought up in the colliery belt of the Burdwan.

The Trinamool Congress has nominated Hareram Singh, a coal mine worker and a leader of the party's labour wing INTTUC-approved coal mine workers association in this area.

The TMC is betting on Singh to wrest the constituency, which has large numbers of coal miners.

The BJP, which had a huge lead in Jamuria in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as part of the Asansol constituency, has put up Tapas Roy as its candidate and is hoping to ride on a wave to win the seat.

Lack of safe drinking water, pollution and bad roads in this colliery belt are major problems faced in day to day life, according to locals, who also complain that though there are quite a few schools in the constituency, there is only one college catering to a large catchment area.

"We have to depend on primary health centres in the area for medical requirements or travel to Durgapur or Asansol for treatment," said Mukta Das, a resident of Damodarapur.

Of the 2.22 lakh voters in Jamuria, 27 per cent are from the minority community, while around 25 per cent belong to the scheduled castes and tribes, an official said.

CPI(M) area secretary Manoj Dutta claimed that apart from some sponge iron factories, no major industry have come up in Jamuria during TMC's rule in the last 10 years.

"At least two industries, including one steel factory, proposed during the Left Front government have not seen the light of the day, thus depriving local people of much needed job opportunities," Dutta told PTI.

Schools closed till 31 May, mandatory quarantine for Sikkimese returnees

WEST SETS UP TWO PAID QUARANTINE CENTRES AND A COVID CARE CENTRE

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 APR: The state government took out fresh guidelines to control COVID-19 in the state on Thursday and said that Government schools will remain closed till 31 May. Earlier, the State Government had announced that education institutions in the state would remain closed till 30 April.

The guidelines also stated that Sikkimese returning to the state from

outside will now have to undergo mandatory home or paid quarantine if they do not have an RT-PCR negative test report.

So far, only tourists were mandated to present an RT-PCR negative test report at the borders. With this, Sikkimese who have tested negative in an RT-PCR test taken in the last 72 hours will be allowed to skip a 10-day quarantine. Those who do not have the test report will have to undergo 10-

day home quarantine or paid quarantine.

The guidelines further state that asymptomatic COVID patients can also stay in paid quarantine centre if they cannot quarantine at home.

Subsequently, West District administration today announced that two paid quarantine centres have been set up in the district. Guest house of West District Zilla Panchayat [Khyongsa, Gyalshing] and Hos-

tel of Government Girls Senior Secondary School [Khyongsa, Gyalshing] have been designated as paid quarantine centres where a person will have to pay Rs 1000 per day for food and lodging.

Chief Medical Officer, West Sikkim will deploy medical manpower to monitor the health of all inmates of these centres.

The District has also set up a COVID Care Centre at Nursing College Khyongsa with 20 beds.

IPR concludes Covid awareness effort in South Sikkim

NAMCHI, 23 APR(IPR): Miking on dissemination of awareness and information which the South District team of Information and Public Relations (IPR) Department had undertaken since 13 April concluded today.

The team circulated COVID-19 related information prepared by the department at Kopchey, Kitam, Kamrang, Lower Sorok, Gom, Tharpu, Mikhola School Area, Old Primary School Area, Namchi, Sikkim and many more places.

The miking campaign was also pursued in various rural and urban locations of the South District namely at Namchi, Ravangla, Melli, Jorethang, Yangang, Damthang-Jaubari and in many other places surrounding the district.

The focus of this awareness campaign is on COVID-19 Vaccination



wherein it urges the public to visit their nearest health care centre to get vaccinated and also to follow the guidelines issued by the State Government to prevent the spreading of second wave of COVID-19 disease.

Oxygen tanker goes missing in Haryana amid shortfall at hospitals: Cops

CHANDIGARH, 23 APR [PTI]: A tanker carrying liquid oxygen, which was travelling from Panipat to Sirsa in Haryana, has gone missing after which police have registered a case and launched investigations.

Panipat police said on Friday a case has been filed on the complaint of district drug controller.

After being filled with liquid oxygen from Panipat plant on Wednesday, the tanker-truck had left for Sirsa, but it did not reach the destination, Station House Officer (SHO), Matlauda, Panipat, Manjeet Singh said.

"We are investigating the matter," he said.

The demand for medical oxygen has es-

calated due to a surge in COVID-19 cases. In another incident, Haryana minister Anil Vij had on Wednesday alleged that a tanker carrying medical oxygen for COVID-19 patients in hospitals, which was going from Panipat to Faridabad, was "looted" by the Delhi government when it was passing through their territory.

New e-book explores impact of climate change

NEW DELHI, APR 23 (PTI): A new e-book explains the impact of climate change and aims to motivate readers to reduce its outcome with the help of simple sustainable solutions.

"Climate Change Explained - for one and all", released on Thursday on the occasion of Earth Day, is written by climate activist-author Aakash Ranison. A mix of facts, data, and information about climate change, it picks topics like "Greenhouse effect, global warming, Carbon footprint" and talks about their effects on earth in the near future.

"Today, people might know the term 'Climate Change' but they don't really know how we humans are causing it and what we can do to stop it. With my book 'Climate Change Explained - for one and all' this is the gap I am trying to fill," said the 26-year-old author.

"My journey of sustainability has been about spreading awareness about climate change and with this project supporting United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13, I hope I can make a difference and we all get to learn about how our daily habits are leaving an impact on climate change," he added.

On BJP's 'free vaccine in Bengal' promise, Trinamool's Bihar reminder

KOLKATA, 23 APR [NDTV]: The claim of free COVID-19 vaccination has become the latest flashpoint between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP as West Bengal prepares for two more rounds of voting in the assembly election.

During the Bihar election campaign in October last year, at the height of the first wave of the pandemic, the BJP had promised it would vaccinate people for free in the state where Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) and the BJP are in an alliance.

The BJP has brought that promise to Bengal now. "As soon as BJP government comes to power in West Bengal, COVID-19 vaccine will be provided free of cost to everyone," the BJP tweeted from its official handle.

The BJP's promise of free vaccination in Bengal comes a day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress made the same promise in a tweet on Thursday. "Free universal vaccination for everyone above the age of 18 post May 5," the Trinamool tweeted.

The Trinamool quickly pointed out that the BJP "forgot" about free vaccine in Bihar soon after it came to power again in November last year. Ms Banerjee's party alleged the BJP will forget Bengal too, if it comes to power.

"BJP's free vaccine jumla with two phases to go in Bengal. Remember what BJP did in Bihar? They announced during the election free vaccines. Elections finished, they forgot. Free vaccine jumla, vaccines

for all in Bengal, don't believe the BJP, don't trust the BJP," Trinamool leader Derek O'Brien said in a video statement.

The Bihar government has so far vaccinated over 63 lakh people, according to data shared by the government on Thursday. Those who have been vaccinated for free are included in this. Bihar, however, lags in total vaccination compared to most other big states. Rajasthan, for example, has vaccinated 1.19 crore people so far, according

to data on the government's CoWIN website.

The Bengal election is being held amid a deadly second wave of COVID-19 that has put immense pressure on the country's health infrastructure. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ms Banerjee have cancelled their remaining rallies to avoid crowding. The Trinamool has requested the Election Commission to club the two remaining rounds of voting into one.

Voting will be held on April 26 and 29; counting is on May 2.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, SILIGURI
2nd Floor, PCM Tower, 2nd Mile, Sevoke Road, Siliguri-734001
Case No: TRC/27/2018 arising out of DRPC No.-1247, DT. 24.01.2014
(OA NO 258 / 2011)
IN THE MATTER OF
State Bank of India V/s-M/s Mother Queen Electronics & Ors.
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The under mentioned property will be sold by on line e-auction through web portal <https://drt.auctiontiger.net> "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS" basis for recovery of Certificate amount in case number mentioned hereinabove. **The property will be sold only to those persons who are Subject of Sikkim and possess valid Certificate of Identification in this regard.**

Description of the property
 "Mortgaged property being all piece and parcel of land measuring 0.4920,0.0500,0.0420 and 0.0520 hectares total land 0.6360 hectares covered by Khasra Plot Nos. 693,694,695,729 and Khatian No. 114, situated at Lasso Block, Gyalshing Mahakuma, West Sikkim, bounded by East Tap Singh Lama, West- Palden Lepcha, North- Tash Bahadur Chhettri and South- N. Kazi."

Date and time of e-auction: 27th day of May, 2021 at 15:00 hours (3:00 PM) up to 16:00 hours (4 P.M.) with auto time extension of 5 (five) minutes, till sale is conducted.

Reserve Price: The reserve price of the Property is fixed at **Rs.8,73,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy three thousand) only.**

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): EMD is fixed at **Rs 87,300/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred) only.** The intending purchasers are required to pay Earnest Money Deposit in form of Demand Draft/RTGS/ NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of **System Suspense Branch Parking Account SBI, Branch Code- 07515, No Lien Account no 37608101086 (IFSC Code-SBIN0007515)-on or before 24 May 2021 by 4:00 P.M.**


Bid Increment: Incremental bid value is fixed at Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) or in multiple thereof for both the properties.

Registration and submission of bid: The participants/intending purchasers are necessarily required to submit duly signed and filled up **Annexure I & II** of the sale proclamation to the Recovery Officer-I in the office of Debts Recovery Tribunal, Siliguri, 2nd floor, PCM Tower, 2nd Mile, Sevoke Road, Siliguri 734001 on or before **24th May 2021 before 16:30 hours (4:30 PM) along with supporting documents and proof of EMD for registration because only registered participants/intending purchaser can log in and participate in the E-auction.** However, bidders are also allowed to submit duly signed and filled up bid form and declaration in **PDF Format** along with proof of EMD to the Recovery Officer to his official e-mail ID **ro1drt.sig-dfs@gov.in** within the above mentioned date and time. No bid will be accepted after the said date and time. The user ID and pass word will be directly sent to Registered participants/intending purchaser with further directions, if any, for login and participating in the auction on their E-mail ID by the E-Auction service provider company.

The other details and terms and conditions of the sale are available on the proclamation of sale that has been uploaded on **<https://drt.auctiontiger.net>** web site.

Intending purchasers may contact **Shri Anand Bansal, State Bank of India, Singtam Branch, East Sikkim, (Tel/Mobile Number-8001196912/8001196214), e-mail: sbi07515@sbi.co.in**

Sd/-
(A.K. MANDAL)
RECOVERY OFFICER-I



No.55/GSCDL/21-22

File No.235/GSCDL/20-21/09
 Gangtok Smart City Development Limited,
 5th Floor Kisan Bazaar, Lall Bazaar Road,
 Sikkim - 737102
 E Mail - gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com
 CIN - U930909XW8001795G323807


Date:20/04/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of general public residing within the Municipal Limit of Gangtok Municipal Corporation that Gangtok Smart City Development Limited is going to conduct property survey within Gangtok Municipal Corporation wef 25th April 2021. The main purpose of conducting property survey is to capture the details of property within the city and to create a GIS based layer for future planning of water supply, sewerage, electricity, other developmental schemes and other scientific purposes.

In this regard it is hereby appealed to all the citizens residing within the city to kindly co-operate with the surveyors and enumerators by way of providing accurate information so that a robust city level database can be created.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Gangtok Smart City Development Limited



TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

PARYATAN BHAWAN
TADONG - EAST SIKKIM
Website: www.Sikkimtourism.gov.in
Phone no. 03592-232218, Fax: 03592-232216
Email: secy_tourism@yahoo.com

No:-

Dated:

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed quotations are invited from interested parties and local educated unemployed youth(s) for taking on lease "New Cafeteria at Bakthang Waterfalls" situated at Bhojoghari, East Sikkim of Tourism & Civil Aviation Department on AS IT IS WHERE IT IS BASIS". The details of the properties/assets and additional information can be obtained from the Office of Under Secretary(Assets), Paryatan bhawan, Tadong East Sikkim during office hour.

SL. No.	Name of the property	Rent per months(Rs.)	TDR(Security Deposit) (Rs.)	Cost of tender form(Rs.)
01	New Cafeteria at Bakthang Waterfall, Bhojoghari, East Sikkim	26000	1,56,000	1300

Time Schedule:-

1. Sale of Tender form

2. receipt of Tender Form along with the relevant documents

3. Opening of Tender Documents in Office of Additional Secretary, Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim.

: Dated 03.05.2021 office hour.


: Date 18.05.2021 Time : 01.00 p.m.

: Dated 18.05.2021 Time : 02.00 p.m.

The intending contractors/bidder may visit the website of Tourism & Civil Aviation Department i.e. www.sikkimtourism.gov.in for information and further details or contact Office of the "under Secretary (Assets)) in Paryatan bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim.

R.O. No. 34/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22
Dated: 22.04.2021

Sd/-
Additional Secretary
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department



Government of Sikkim
Department of Information & Public Relations


"I appeal to everyone to get vaccinated for the safety of oneself and others against COVID-19"

- Ganga Prasad
Governor of Sikkim

Do not believe in rumours being spread about the vaccine

Focus on the 5 fold strategy

Follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour



Thankyou Govt. of India for making this possible

I did not hesitate

#SikkimFightsCorona

#VaccineSavesLives

#Unite2FightCorona

Let's come together to make the Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative "Dawai Bhi Kadai Bhi" successful and beat COVID-19

Instead of Bans, Practice Better Management

To stop things is a short-term measure

The monsoon is still not upon Sikkim, but the Nor'Westers have been intense. Anyone who drove out in Gangtok last weekend would have wondered whether all emergency services, like the VRD Labs, take Sundays off. The roads were littered with debris of all kinds. It is still early days, but wait a month and Sikkim will revert to its ban measure that masquerades as monsoon preparedness will have arrived. An order banning (actually stopping, but this is a season of bans) all ongoing construction works and unloading of construction material on roadsides is a routine when monsoons arrive. The order is always welcome. At the same time, when it does arrive, it will also be reflective of how little the State has learnt and prioritised any real defence against monsoon-related calamities.

That said, such halts are welcome because construction sites are invariably poorly managed tinder boxes with the potential to amplify the damage that rains can wreck. Given that most roadsides already have buildings on them, the new constructions are coming up behind these, and this requires for construction material to be dumped on the road and then carried away by the head-load to the sites. Most of the drains run along the roads and sand and stone chips flow fast when it rains and add to the debris content of slush which tear up tarmac and clog drains. Trucks dripping construction material on the highway are potential disasters in the making and travel could become more relaxed without them on the highway at this time of the year. Construction sites, with their rudimentary safety measures, are other accidents in the making during wet weather that the State could do without.

For all these reasons, a direction to stop all construction works during monsoon is welcome. But it is not enough and it is too knee-jerk. To begin with, this, if past government press releases are to be believed, should have happened at least two weeks before they eventually did, with the arrival of the pre-monsoon showers. The decision that construction related works should desist with the arrival of monsoons was taken several years back, but every year, the order gets issued only after the rains have wreaked some damage. If the state is looking at long-term mitigation efforts as far as constructions are concerned, then the ban should be lifted and instead of that builders should be required to make their sites monsoon-proof. This would entail storing of all construction related material on site with proper care taken to ensure that none of it joins a water courses. A relaxation can be made to accommodate the time taken between unloading on the road side to transfer to work site.

Take a drive along the highway and one will invariably come across orphaned sand and stone chip dunes probably left over from a completed construction as well. They lie unattended and pose a larger danger than kitchen waste which shares the road side with it. A ban on construction during monsoons is a short-term measure that Sikkim has been taking for the past decade, it is time that its officers prescribed and monitored the construction habits better. That will make the town safer than a row of incomplete buildings awaiting the dry winters.

What cannot be ignored either that it is not just constructions, but also finishing works which require better material management, and when the focus is on "stopping" construction works, loopholes are found and potential risks continue to remain present, which is why the focus has to be on improved oversights and construction practices.

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India's Staggering COVID Crisis Could Have Been Avoided. But the Government Dropped its Guard too Soon

PRADEEP TANEJA & AZAD SINGH BALI
theconversation.com

India reported 314,000 new cases of COVID-19 on April 22, the highest-ever infection tally recorded by any country on a single day.

Many hospitals across the country are unable to cope with the unprecedented demand for life-saving necessities. Family members are scrambling to buy oxygen cylinders and medication for their loved ones in hospitals, often paying exorbitant prices in the black market.

Around the world, several countries such as the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Pakistan, have imposed new restrictions on travellers from India, including flight bans.

While many countries around the world have faced multiple waves of infections, what has led to this massive — and sudden — spike in India?

Complacency is certainly to blame. But so, too, is the government's feckless handling of the crisis, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ineffective leadership in recent weeks.

Perhaps nothing illustrates this more clearly than Modi's televised address this week in response to the growing crisis, when he sought to use his personal appeal to encourage Indians to practice COVID-safe behaviour.

He offered little in the form of concrete measures to contain the surge in infections, and counselled the state governments against using lockdowns. Unlike Modi's public addresses during last year's first wave, there was little that appeared to resonate across society.

PANDEMIC FATIGUE SETS IN

India was one of the first countries to enforce a nationwide lockdown when infection rates started to rise in March 2020, and this response, along with public vigilance, appeared to be successful in bringing cases under control. New cases peaked at nearly 100,000 in mid-September to under 10,000 in early February.

As case numbers declined, Modi's popular-

ity soared. And since late last year, businesses, government offices and ordinary people have returned to their pre-COVID routines, with many defying guidelines on wearing masks or practising social distancing. Some did so out of necessity to enable them to work, while others simply flouted norms out of arrogance or sheer ignorance. It was as if COVID-19 was no longer a major concern.

The complacency and pandemic fatigue evident in society was echoed in the actions of the Modi government. The government dropped its guard and started to boast about its success at controlling infections and India's low mortality rate compared to many other countries.

Following a win for his party in the elections in the populous state of Bihar in November, Modi claimed the "results have endorsed the way we have tackled the coronavirus crisis situation in the country."

However, the situation in the country now is looking increasingly grim. So, what did the government get wrong?

CONFLICTING MESSAGING AND A BOTCHED VACCINE ROLL-OUT

First, the government did not prepare the country for the possibility of COVID-19 returning with a vengeance, as had happened in other parts of the world.

Despite rolling out a national vaccination drive, it did very little to shore up capacity in hospitals to handle a sudden surge of infections and hospitalisations. This has led many hospitals across the country to panic, struggling to meet the growing demand for oxygen.

Second, even as the virus spread like a wildfire, Modi and his cabinet ministers kept campaigning in state elections in five states, addressing massive rallies and praising the crowds for turning out in large numbers.

This resulted in conflicting messaging. It mattered little to the government that pandemic protocols were being flagrantly violated by those organising and attending the rallies. As cases continued

to soar, Modi was forced finally to call off election rallies in the state of West Bengal.

Third, the second wave of infections has been fuelled by one of the world's largest religious festivals, the Kumbh Mela, held in the holy city of Haridwar every 12 years. It became a super-spreader event.

From April 10–14, over 2,000 people who attended the festival tested positive for the virus. By the time Modi appealed to the religious leaders in a tweet on April 17 to keep the Kumbh Mela "symbolic" — meaning not to attend in person — the festival had already been going for more than two weeks. Two prominent Hindu seers had also died of COVID.

Finally, this week, religious leaders decided to wind down the festivities.

And the fourth misstep of the government has been in its handling of the vaccine rollout. While nearly 10% of India's population has received the first dose, many vaccine distribution centres have in recent weeks run short on supplies.

This is partly a result of the Modi government prioritising its vaccine diplomacy initiatives rather than vaccinating its own people. According to the Indian Express, India had exported more vaccines (60 million doses to 76 countries) by late March than it had administered to its own citizens (52 million doses).

As India is one of the world's largest manufacturers of vaccines, it could have used this as an opportunity to vaccinate a greater share of its population while simultaneously addressing the fault lines within the health system that have been exposed by the second wave of infections.

But the government didn't take this approach — and now India is paying the consequences. Perhaps the Modi magic is finally beginning to wear off.

[Pradeep Taneja is Senior Lecturer in Asian Politics, School of Social and Political Sciences, The University of Melbourne; Azad Singh Bali is Senior Lecturer in Public Policy, Australian National University]

First Human-Monkey Embryos Created – a Small Step Towards a Huge Ethical Problem

JULIAN SAVULESCU & CÉSAR PALACIOS-GONZÁLEZ
theconversation.com

Scientists have created the world's first monkey embryos containing human cells in an attempt to investigate how the two types of cell develop alongside each other. The embryos, which were derived from a macaque and then injected with human stem cells in the lab, were allowed to grow for 20 days before being destroyed.

We have a term for this type of life form: a chimera, named after the fire-breathing monster of Greek mythology that was part lion, part goat and part snake. It's hoped that part-human chimeras – essentially animal bodies with some human organs or other characteristics – might one day offer clues to help us treat human diseases, as well as providing organs to transplant to humans. But for these purposes, part-human chimeras will first have to be born, and this research takes us one step closer to that eventuality.

That's ethically controversial, because these creatures could possess an ambiguous moral status: somewhere between that of humans, which we don't tend to experiment upon, and animals, which we do. How we end up treating part-human chimeras will depend upon the moral status we assign them – a task that these latest embryonic experiments only makes more pressing.

Why make chimeras?

There are several rationales for pursuing this line of research. Human-monkey chimeras could be created to study parts of the brain, for instance, so we can better understand Alzheimer's Disease. Another

goal is to grow human organs for transplantation by "deleting" the relevant organ from the animal's genetic instructions, and replacing it with human stem cells to fill the developmental niche.

Previously, the same researchers explored this avenue in pigs – seen as ideal because their organs are about the same size as ours. However, not enough human cells "took" to create a functional chimera, and the research failed.

Monkeys are evolutionarily closer to us, so there's a greater chance that cells will interact effectively with each other. The stated goal of the human-monkey experiments is to understand and perfect the development of chimeras in primates before transferring the technology to pigs.

As we intensively farm and eat pigs, there are thought to be fewer ethical concerns with harvesting organs from pigs. Hence, primate research is a stepping stone, not a goal itself.

Future chimeras

Whether part-pig or part-primate, living chimeras that feature human cells are certainly possible in the future. How such animals would look and function would depend, in part, on the numbers of nonhuman and human cells. Previous experiments, for instance, have produced a goat-sheep entity that had both woolly and coarse hair.

This research clearly has the "yuk factor", meaning it's likely to provoke moral revulsion. If pigs or monkeys are eventually developed with humanised features, it could cause major public opprobrium, perhaps setting back public acceptance of science significantly.

However, this must be balanced against the severe shortage of organs for transplantation. In the US, for example, more than 100,000 people are currently waiting for an organ.

We tend to get over the yuk factor when lives are at stake. The production of the AstraZeneca vaccine, for instance, uses cell lines that originated from foetal cells. But behind the chimera yuk factor lies a thorny ethical problem: the issue of the moral status of monkeys or pigs that could have a brain closer to that of a human.

Moral status

Moral status is the concept of treating life forms according to their interests and capacities. For example, humans are generally thought to have higher moral status than monkeys, who have higher moral status than pigs, who have higher moral status than worms. Moral status is linked to mental capacities such as consciousness, self-consciousness, moral capacities and rationality.

In the future, some human-nonhuman chimeras could develop mental capacities between ordinary animals and humans. That presents a huge challenge for those of us who work to determine the moral status of living creatures, and the rights and obligations that follow that status.

Moral status is already one of the most contested areas of practical ethics. Recent work on "speciesism" makes a compelling case that we have wrongly assigned animals a lower moral status. Despite this, human-nonhuman chimeras will probably be regarded as "lesser" than humans, though by how much it is difficult to determine.

There are two ways to tackle ethi-

cal concerns over the moral status of part-human chimeras. Scientists could genetically edit human stem cells so they do not become brain cells – but this may not be possible or even desirable, in the case of building models for human brain disease.

Alternatively, scientists could allow such chimeras to be born so that we can determine their moral status by studying them. This would raise other ethical issues, as it would require the newborn to be subjected to novel behavioural tests of cognition, communication and other mental capacities.

Hybrid futures

Further into the future, chimera discoveries could give humans capacities found elsewhere in the animal kingdom, like a bat's sonar. If we accept moral status based on a creature's capacities, such enhanced humans could one day be regarded as superior to us.

Seeing as we're already struggling with issues of equality between human beings, it would seem we're poorly prepared for the ethical challenges presented by future advances in chimera research.

The issue of moral status is a philosophical and ethical question. Science might help us in detecting it – with information about the extent of a non-human animal's capacities, for instance – but it cannot tell us what it is. This new research shows it's a concept in urgent need of attention.

[Julian Savulescu is Visiting Professor in Biomedical Ethics, Murdoch Children's Research Institute; César Palacios-González is Senior Research Fellow in Practical Ethics, University of Oxford]

No case of new COVID-19 variants in Mizoram: Official

AIZAWL, APR 23 (PTI): Mizoram has not reported any case of new COVID-19 variants till date, an official said on Friday.

The Mizoram government has sent 326 samples of COVID-19 infected positive patients to National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) in West Bengal for genome sequencing, state spokesperson for COVID-19 Dr Pachau Lalmsawma.

The samples were sent between December, 2020 and April this year, he said.

"Of the 326 samples, results of 69 samples have been received and all of them tested negative for new variants of COVID-19," Pachau told PTI.

He said that the results of the remaining samples are awaited.

Mizoram has so far reported 5,220 COVID-19 cases of which 4,600 patients have recovered from the disease.

The state now has 608 active COVID-19 cases while the death toll so far is 12.

The state capital Aizawl and 10 other district headquarters are now under virtual lockdown to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission.

The virtual lockdown will end on April 26 at 4 am.

According to Pachau, who is also the state nodal officer of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), 4,216 people, including 1,001 security personnel were diagnosed with COVID-19 in 2020.

While 2,220 patients have travel history, the rest 1,996 were locally infected, he said.

He said that at least 1,004 COVID-19 cases were reported from first January till April 23 this year and 552 cases were locally transmitted while the rest 452 patients have travel history.

Mizoram reported its first COVID-19 case on March 24 last year.

Aizawl district reported the highest cases at 3,502, followed by Lunglei district, which reported 454 cases till Friday.

Nepalis in Kuwait worry for own safety after deaths of compatriots from Covid-19

CHANDAN KUMAR MANDAL

KATHMANDU, 23 APR [KATHMANDU-POST]: Hari Krishna Neupane spent 17 years working in Kuwait and Iraq. He started as a general worker for a Kuwaiti food and beverage company, and working between the two countries, Neupane rose to the position of restaurant manager.

"I worked between 2006 and 2010 in Iraq where the Kuwaiti company had its branches," said Neupane, now 42. "Every six months, I would return to Kuwait. After years of hard work, I could become a restaurant manager and take care of my families back home."

But Covid-19 came as a shock to him like tens of thousands of Nepali migrant workers in the Persian Gulf. Neupane lost his job and also contracted Covid-19 in Kuwait last May.

"As I was working in the food and beverage sector, I was laid off," said Neupane, who later got a job in another restaurant. "I also got infected with Covid-19 and that left me physically weak."

Before everything would get back to normal in the country, the looming second wave of Covid-19 in Kuwait once again hampered his daily life. It has been three months since the restaurant, where he worked, had only been providing takeaway and delivery.

As the cases of Covid-19 started seeing a surge in Kuwait and his job prospects were again affected, Neupane decided to return home.

On April 9, Neupane landed in Nepal.

"Honestly, I got terrified of the Covid-19 situation and decided to return home. The second wave of Covid-19 is strong and cases have constantly been rising in Kuwait. I could not risk my life again," said



Neupane. "With the first Covid-19 infection, my health has declined. Since last year, my family wanted me to return home after I got infected. Although my visa is still valid, I returned home and won't go back again."

As of Thursday, Kuwait has recorded a total of 261,307 cases with a total of 1,482 Covid deaths. The daily cases are fast increasing with over 1000 new Covid-19 cases being recorded every day.

With the cases rising, the safety of Nepali workers in Kuwait, one of the popular labour destinations for Nepalis, has once again become a cause of concern.

The death of three Nepali workers due to Covid-19 last week, in a span of two days, has left Nepali workers further scared of their own safety in the country.

"Of late, the Covid situation has

been turning frightening here," Bishnu Paudel, another Nepali, who is running his recruitment business in the country, told the Post from Salmaia, some 15-km far from Kuwait City. "While cases have already been rising, the recent deaths of Nepali workers have further left Nepali workers worried."

Last Thursday [April 15], two Nepalis had died and the following day, another Nepali died from Covid-19 infections, according to Neupane, who is also a journalist and closely follows the developments in Kuwait.

"Two people who died last Thursday were young and physically strong — one was 36 and the other was 42. Last year, at least six Nepalis had died. We've heard reports of three more deaths, but that's not verified," said Neupane, who is immediate past president of the Kuwait Chapter of the Federation

of Nepali Journalists. "The two who died Thursday were popular among Nepalis here and were involved in community activities. These recent deaths have left everyone anxious for their own safety."

Following the latest surge in Covid-19 cases, the Nepali embassy in Kuwait issued a notice and advised Nepalis there to remain safe by following the safety protocols issued by the Kuwaiti government and other general safety guidelines like wearing masks and avoiding crowded places, among other things.

"We have confirmed that three Nepalis have died from Covid-19 in the last one week," Rebanta Bahadur KC, third secretary at the Nepali Embassy in Kuwait, told the Post. "Covid-19 cases have been rising in the country. We have asked Nepali workers to remain protected and practice safety guidelines."

According to KC, the country has currently imposed night-time restrictions on movement in its attempt to contain the contagion.

"Vehicular movement has been prohibited from 7 pm to 5 am," said KC. "A daily three-hour relaxation on public movement, only for walking outside, has been enforced considering the Ramadan festival."

However, Nepalis like Paudel find themselves in a fix, mainly because of the rising cases and the compulsion to go to work.

"Covid-19 infections continue to increase in the country and more Nepalis are getting infected. But people like me have no option but to use public transport to go to work," said Paudel, who reached Kuwait in January after his previous employer terminated his contract in June last year when he was on a vacation in Nepal. "Public transport is crowded during rush hours, especially the last few buses are packed increasing the risk of infections."

Owing to the Covid-19 restrictions, Nepali workers' migration to Kuwait, which hosts nearly 70,000 Nepalis, has been halted for more than a year now. Kuwait is among the top-five labour destinations for Nepalis.

What is more scary for the Nepali workers in Kuwait is the overwhelmed health facilities there.

"Nepalis who work on the frontlines like supermarkets and airports among other places were vaccinated," said Neupane. "While the second wave is making people sick at a faster rate and considered more dangerous, the local hospitals do not admit patients unless they are critical. Many of my infected friends have been relying on bottled oxygen at their apartments."

Govt mismanagement leads to crowding at hospitals in Nepal

ANUP OJHA

KATHMANDU, 23 APR [KATHMANDUPOST]: After standing in a queue for three hours at Alka Hospital in Bhanimandal, Lalitpur, Tularam Panday returned to his room in Doodhpati, Bhaktapur without getting the Chinese Covid-19 vaccine BBIBP-CorV. "I had arrived here at 9am taking leave from my school and stayed in line but only at 12:30pm hospital officials started distributing vaccination cards and when my turn came officials said the hospital had run out of the cards," Panday, a school teacher, said on Thursday.

The hospital in its announcement had said the vaccination drive was being held on Thursday from 10am to 4pm, for the 18-59 age group, but it didn't say anything about the quota it had of the number of people it would vaccinate. "Now I can't go to school, as I had taken leave, and I am told that today is the last day for vaccination," said Panday.

It was not just Panday who did not get the vaccine. Many people who had waited for over four hours in the morning rain and the scorching sun were turned away.

Prabesh Paudyal, 37, was shouting at the big crowd for not getting his turn even after waiting in the queue for over four hours.

"They should have informed us or should have registered our names before we stood in line," said Paudyal, who came from Samakhushi.

"Now I am afraid that I may have got infected with the coronavirus, as the crowd was too big and unmanaged," he said.

"This is gross negligence by the government." He even complained that those who had their links with hospital administration were allowed to get inside without getting a pass or standing in line.

The government began vaccinating people with the 800,000 doses of the BBIBP-CorV vaccine that China provided in a grant from April 7.

According to the data provided by the Health Ministry, over 100,000 people had been vaccinated till April 18 from 23 vaccination centres.

Over 1.9 million people had received Covid-19 vaccine up to Sunday including over 100,000 Chinese shots. Data after Sunday was not immediately available. Nepal had begun its vaccination campaign on January 27 with Covishield (Oxford/AstraZeneca) vaccine manufactured in India.

The government reduced the number of centres after Sunday. The Chinese vaccine was administered from five centres in the Kathmandu Valley—APF Hospital, Janamai Hospital, Chhetrapati Free Clinic and Iwamura Memorial Hospital, Bhaktapur besides Alka Hospital—on Thursday. When the Post contacted the administration of Alka Hospital it said that it only provided the venue and was not responsible for crowd management.

"The chief district office asked for the venue. The storing and the distribution of the vaccine is being done by the district administration office under the supervision of District Covid-19 Crisis Management Centre," said Prakash Dhungana, media coordinator of Alka Hospital.

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1.82 lakh vaccine...

The data also informs that only 0.14% of the vaccinated people have developed Adverse Events Following Immunisation [AEFI] with two of those who receive the vaccine on 22 April displaying signs of AEFI.

The record for the highest number of vaccination administered in a day belongs to 09 April when 9,095 doses were administered.

Ojhal Timi comes...

team and further encouraged them to continue with their efforts to come up with such more projects in the future.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Bikash Rai shared that the music video has been an idea he had carried for a long time and has now finally turned into reality. He assured to come up with more such projects in the days to come.

The function also included a conversation session moderated by journalist Arpan Pradhan with the team members.

The release function, which was conducted by RJ Prabal Rai, concluded with vote of thanks proposed by the producer, Leezum Lepcha.

Second wave infects...

Teesta Urja, Singhik in North District and one person from Rupsay, one from Dodak, one from Middle Begha, one from Chumbung and one from Budang, Soreng in West District were also found positive for COVID-19. He added that one person from Yangyang in South District was tested COVID-19 positive.

In the meanwhile, fourteen more persons were discharged from home isolation after completing their isolation period to further improve the figure of recovered cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim to 6055.

On the other hand, a total of 4663 persons have taken the COVID vaccines at different parts of the State on Thursday. Out of 4663 persons, 1978 were vaccinated with the first dose and 2685 completed their vaccine schedule with the second dose.

62 new COVID-19 cases push Mizoram's tally to 5,220

Aizawl, Apr 23 (PTI): At least 62 people, including a 32-year-old man who has received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine, tested positive for coronavirus in Mizoram, pushing the tally to 5,220, an official said on Friday.

The man, who is a personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF), has received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine on March 27 tested positive for coronavirus on arrival at Lengpui airport from Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, he said.

Of the 62 fresh cases, 32 patients have travel history, while the rest 30 were detected during contact tracing, he said.

Mizoram now has 608 active COVID-19 cases, while 4,600 people

have recovered from the infection.

The COVID-19 death toll in the state is 12 and the death rate is 0.23 per cent, he said.

The state has tested 2,85,702 samples for COVID-19 till date, including 3,200 on Thursday.

According to the health department, 1,52,170 people, including 37,370 senior citizens have been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine till Thursday and 38,950 of them have received both doses.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to ramp up its COVID-19 facilities due to rising cases.

Health minister Dr R Lalthanglian said that

the existing hospitals and Covid-19 Care Centres (CCCs) are now congested due to the spurt in COVID-19 infected patients.

State health family welfare board chairman Dr ZR Thiamsanga said the state has about 36 CCCs and most of them are non-functional now.

All the non-functional CCCs will be reactivated, he said.

Generally, symptomatic patients are treated at Zoram Medical College (ZMC), which is a hospital cum medical college, while asymptomatic patients are put under care and observation at CCCs.

Thiamsanga said that the ZMC will be re-declared as a dedicated COVID-19 hospital.

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Gold-medal project: Judo seeks solutions in police training

DOUGLAS, Wyo. (AP): The stakes were clear to the two dozen police officers who gathered for a workshop with an ambitious and increasingly urgent mission — recalibrating the way police interact with the public in America.

The class took place the same week as jury selection for the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis officer who was convicted Tuesday of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of George Floyd.

No one attending the conference would deny that the profession failed the day Floyd died with Chauvin’s knee on his neck. They came to the classes with the idea that judo, the martial art with a deep global history and an imprint at the Olympics, but still shallow roots in the United States, might be able to help fix it.

“The social contract between police officers and the public is degrading a bit,” said Joe Yungwirth, a trainer at the workshop who built his career doing counterterrorism work for the FBI and now runs a judo academy in North Carolina. “All law-enforcement officers I know, we feel we need to bring that back in line somehow.”

That’s been a common refrain over a year’s worth of police shootings and protests, all of which have been underscored by calls for police reform.

The judo project is, by any account, an outside-the-box idea. Because the sport, known by insiders as “the gentle way” of martial arts, has little emphasis on striking and is considered less violent than some of its brethren, some leaders in judo, and in policing, saw an opportunity to use the discipline to rethink officer training. Last summer’s headlines pushed these courses, which had been in development since 2018, to the top of the priority list.

The main concept over the week of classes held at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy centered on teaching cops how to engage suspects verbally, then employ physical judo techniques if needed, to deescalate confrontations without using deadly force.

The goal is to avoid situations the likes of which led to Floyd’s death and, just last week, to the death of Daunte Wright, whose funeral was Thursday. Wright was shot and killed by an officer who thought she was reaching for her taser when it was, in fact, her gun.

Jim Bacon, a former athlete on the U.S. judo team who now serves as a police officer in Lafayette, Colorado, says the most damning police-on-suspect encounters — many now caught on police body cameras or by onlookers holding iPhones — have this in common: “The cop resorts to higher levels of force



than should’ve been used. If they have more skills, they might not have to rely on the gadgets on the belt,” he said.

The workshop also offered a window into the different role an Olympic organization, and maybe the Olympics themselves, can play in society at large. The USA Judo P3 Program is sponsored by USA Judo, the six-person operation in Colorado Springs, Colorado, that has helped Kayla Harrison and Ronda Rousey, now of Ultimate Fighting Championship fame, bring Olympic medals back home, but that also must constantly nourish its own grassroots system.

The national governing body has been losing ground on both fronts, most recently because of the pandemic, and over the years because of the growing popularity of other martial arts, such as jujitsu and taekwondo, that have kept judo in the shadows in America.

With an emphasis not on hitting, but rather on using leverage and body position to execute holds and takedowns, judo has long been easy to overlook, both in the days when Bruce Lee kicked and nunchucked martial arts into the American conscience, then more recently, when UFC octagons overshadowed boxing rings among a wide, big-spending cross-section of 21st-century sports fans.

“This hits a societal issue,” USA Judo CEO Keith Bryant said. “And for us, it has potential to get more people on the mat.”

In an exercise that cut to the core of the judo training, conference planners Taybren Lee and Mike Verdugo played suspects who were impaired, or mentally unstable, and challenged the

officers to use judo to deescalate the situations. The scenarios were acted out as though they were happening in public, with pedestrians shooting the action from every angle on their phone cameras.

“If we can talk to you, if we can keep you up, that’s going to change the whole visual, especially when people have their iPhones recording,” Verdugo said. “This is a matter of keeping you up on your feet and not grinding you into the ground.”

Lee says the public would be alarmed at how little training the average police department provides to officers for street confrontations. And because so many more interactions are now caught on video, police are being scrutinized in ways previously impossible.

“It’s not the officers’ fault that they don’t have the training,” said Lee, an officer with the Los Angeles Police Department who also teaches judo for the youth-based Police Athletic League, a sponsor of the training program. “Sometimes, the departments haven’t spent the money for the training, and in a lot of ways, the training hasn’t caught up to the realities of the technology that’s out there.”

The officers for the initial workshop came from Fort Worth, Texas; Billings, Montana; Meridian, Idaho; and other small towns scattered around the West. Another workshop for other cities is being planned for next month.

Spearheading this sort of endeavor is hardly the traditional role for leaders at an organization such as USA Judo, whose most high-profile mission is to help Americans bring home Olympic medals. But, as the past 13 months have shown,

this could be an ideal time for the nonprofits that make up the backbone of the U.S. Olympic system to reinvent themselves.

USA Judo was among the 70% of U.S. national governing bodies that asked the government for loans under the federal government’s Paycheck Protection Program during COVID-19. It cut two of its eight-person staff. It currently has one Olympic medal contender, Angelica Delgado, in a sport that fans will have to scour the listings to find among the 7,000 of hours of NBC coverage this summer.

Over the course of the pandemic, most of the 400 clubs that USA Judo sanctions across the country were forced to close or severely curtail operations. With no sanctioned events to offer — the NGB will hold its first national competition in 17 months this weekend in Salt Lake City — its membership has dropped by half, to about 5,000. By comparison, there are between 600,000 and 800,000 judoka in France, host of the 2024 Olympics, and between 150,000 and 200,000 in this year’s Olympic country, Japan.

“People have always said, as soon as we get a gold medalist, then judo will grow” Bryant said. “But people thought that before. We had a gold medalist who won two gold medals (in Harrison). It didn’t really move the needle.”

The unheralded and unglamorous art of police training might not, either. But Bryant sees judo as one of those rare sports — unlike, say, gymnastics or basketball — that has a spot both in a competitive venue and in real-world situations.

Among the program’s task force members are 2004 Olympic judoka Nikki Kubes Andrews, now a detective for the Fort Worth Police Department. And Bacon, the former U.S. national team member who is now an officer in Colorado.

“The public wants police officers to be better trained,” Bacon said. “That’s why we’re trying to integrate judo, so we can be more effective in these situations without hurting the other person.”

USA Judo is offering free memberships to officers who participate in the training, and has hopes the police initiative could spark new interest in the sport. But Bryant readily concedes that growing the sport in America will take time — and that none of this is designed to bring home gold medals from Tokyo this summer.

He is also acutely aware that there are other ways to measure success during a difficult time in America.

“We sat down and started talking,” Bryant said, “and we agreed that when you look at George Floyd, and all these situations, we felt like if these officers had been trained in judo appropriately, it wouldn’t have happened.”

Atalanta draws 1-1 at Roma to remain 3rd in Serie A

ROME, APR 23 (AP): Ten-man Atalanta wasted a chance to move into second place in Serie A with a 1-1 draw at Europa League semifinalist Roma.

Still, Atalanta extended its unbeaten streak to six matches. Also, Napoli beat visiting Lazio 5-2 to move within two points of the Champions League places.

Former Atalanta midfielder Bryan Cristante equalized with a long-range shot midway through the second half shortly after Atalanta fullback Robin Gosens picked up his second yellow card.

Ruslan Malinovskyi had given Atalanta an early lead.

Third-place Atalan-

ta remained one point behind second-place AC Milan and moved level on points with fourth-place Juventus, which it beat last weekend. Roma also finished with 10 men when Roger Ibaez picked up his second yellow in the final seconds of stoppage time.

Atalanta has qualified for the Champions League the past two seasons, reaching the quarterfinals and the Round of 16. The success of the small Bergamo-based club has been cited as one of the reasons why the failed Super League proposal wouldn't have been fair.

Atalanta represent the antithesis to the Super League, Atalanta general manager Umber-

to Marino said. Football is about dreams, about earning your results.

Roma, which faces Manchester United in the Europa League semifinals, remained seventh.

INSIGNE DOUBLE

At the Diego Maradona stadium, Italy forward Lorenzo Insigne scored twice and Matteo Politano, Dries Mertens and Victor Osimhen also found the target for Napoli, which extended its unbeaten run to nine games. Ciro Immobile and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic scored late for sixth-place Lazio, which ended its run of five straight wins. Mertens' drew level with Antonio Vojak for most goals by a Napoli player in Serie A with 102.

Ibrahimovic to keep playing with AC Milan when he's 40

MILAN, APR 23 (AP): Zlatan Ibrahimovic is going to keep playing with AC Milan when he's 40. And he'll likely make his return to the Champions League.

Milan announced Thursday that Ibrahimovic, who turns 40 on October, had signed a one-year contract extension.

While financial details were not disclosed, Ibrahimovic is expected to maintain the same salary of 7 million euros (8.4 million) per season.

Ibrahimovic's return at the start

of last year signaled a turnaround for Milan that saw the Rossoneri leading Serie A for much of this season. Milan is currently in second and still in the Champions League places.

Milan, a seven-time European champion, has not played in the Champions League since the 2013-14 season.

Ibrahimovic has scored 15 goals in 17 Serie A games for Milan this season. However, he has also missed many games through injury, the coronavirus and suspension.

IOC approves Tchaikovsky music as Russian anthem at Olympics

LAUSANNE, APR 23 (AP): Russian gold medalists at the Tokyo Olympics are set to hear music by Tchaikovsky as the replacement for their national anthem, which has been banned as punishment for state-backed doping.

The International Olympic Committee said Thursday it approved Piano Concerto No. 1 by Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky for use at the Tokyo Games this year and the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

It was proposed by Russian Olympic officials after their first choice, the patriotic folk song Katyusha, was blocked by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. It was previously used at skating

world championships this year.

A CAS ruling last year banned Russia's flag, anthem and team name from the next two Olympics in the latest punishment for an extensive doping program and cover-ups, including at previous Olympic Games and testing laboratories in Moscow and Sochi.

The team will be known by the acronym ROC, for Russian Olympic Committee, in Tokyo and Beijing.

It will use the flag of the country's Olympic committee rather than the national tricolor, though official team uniforms unveiled last week are in the white, blue and red colors associated with the national flag.

Nadal beats Nishikori in 3 sets at Barcelona Open



BARCELONA, APR 23 (AP): Rafael Nadal beat Kei Nishikori 6-0, 2-6, 6-2 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Barcelona Open. The 11-time tournament champion looked ready to roll to a quick victory after dominating the first set, but Nishikori responded with some fine net play to level it at 1-1.

Nadal broke Nishikori twice in the decisive set, converting his second match point by driving a forehand winner down the line.

The top-seeded Nadal is still searching for his best tennis after being upset in the Monte Carlo quarterfinals by An-

drey Rublev. He needed three sets to beat 111th-ranked Ilya Ivashka of Belarus in his first match in Barcelona on Wednesday. I didn't play a lot last year so I know that I will struggle, Nadal said.

I have been improving and I'm on the right path. I know the process. It doesn't happen overnight. Nadal will face Britain's Cameron Norrie next. Norrie advanced after David Goffin retired in the second set of their match due to injury.

Nishikori won the outdoor clay-court tournament in 2014 and 2015 when Nadal was battling injuries.

One in top four has to score big: Sangakkara

MUMBAI, APR 23 (PTI): Rajasthan Royals team director Kumar Sangakkara said one among the top four of his batting line-up will have to score big for the side to bounce back from its current slump.

Rajasthan have managed just one win from four matches so far. The most recent debacle came against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Thursday night as they went down by 10 wickets in a lop-sided contest.

RR set a target of 178 for RCB, whose openers Devdutt Padikkal (101) and Virat Kohli (72) took their team home in just 16.3 overs.

"...you see the ability, there is just need to build those partnerships and one of the top four they need to get a big score," Sangakkara said in the post-match press conference.

The RR top four features the big-hitters like Jos Buttler, skipper Sanju Samson and David Miller. The team, however, struggled in the powerplay yet again and was reduced to 32 for 3 in the first six overs.

If it hadn't been for Shivam Dube (46 off 32 balls) and Rahul Tewatia's (40 off 23 balls) counter-attacking innings, RR wouldn't have been able to post 177.

"We need to bat smartly in the powerplay and keep those partnerships going and one or two need to score those big scores. Unfortunately, today we didn't manage that," Sagakkara said.

"The middle order and lower middle order really fought well and that was quite impressive to see." All-rounder Dube and Tewatia shared nine fours and four sixes.

Nearly 400 passengers run away at Assam's Silchar Airport to avoid COVID-19 test

SILCHAR, 23 APR [PTI]: As many as 385 passengers, who landed at the Assam's Silchar airport on Wednesday, created disorder and fled the facility to escape mandatory COVID-19 testing, officials said on Thursday, and asserted criminal action will be initiated against them. Cachar District Additional Deputy Commissioner (Health) Sumit Sattawan said a total of 690 passengers arrived at the airport from various parts of the country aboard six aircraft.

He said they were supposed to undergo swab tests at the airport and the nearby Mahatma Gandhi Model Hospital in Tikal. Mr Sattawan said hundreds of passengers created chaos at both places, mainly over payment of ₹ 500 for the tests, the government-fixed rate.

The Assam government has made it mandatory for all air passengers arriving in the

state to undergo a free Rapid Antigen Test and an RT-PCR test for ₹ 500 even if the report of the RAT comes negative. Asserting that the passengers had violated the rules, the officer said, "We have their database and will track them. We will initiate criminal action under Section 188 of the IPC (disobedience to order duly brought into effect by public servant) and other relevant provisions."

The ADC later filed a complaint with the Cachar Superintendent of Police against the violators, seeking initiation of proceedings for flouting government orders and putting the society at risk during the pandemic.

"... A total of 385 passengers skipped mandatory testing at Silchar Airport," he said in the complaint, containing the list of the violators with mobile phone numbers received from flight carriers.

Of the 690 passengers, 189 were tested and

six found infected with the virus. Many were exempted from testing as they were transit passengers on way to neighbouring states like Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Mr Sattawan said. In a statement late on Thursday, Silchar airport director said the incident was not reported inside the airport and "no passenger escaped from security checks or from the designated area at the passenger terminal building".

"However, the matter was related to the screening of the arriving passengers by transporting them from outside the airport, through ASTC buses to the Mahatma Gandhi Model Hospital, Tikal (Salganga). There, both RAT and RT-PCR tests are being conducted by the district health department," it added. Quoting Mr Sattawan, the Airports Authority of India release said around 300 passengers moved out of the system without being tested, shouting at health department personnel.

Putin foe Navalny to end prison hunger strike on 24th day

MOSCOW (AP): Imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Friday he is ending his hunger strike after getting medical attention and being warned by his doctors that continuing it would put his life at risk.

In an Instagram post on the 24th day of his hunger strike, Navalny said he will continue to demand a visit from his doctor to address numbness in his legs and arms – his main demand. But he said he would stop the strike after having been examined by doctors who were not affiliated with the prison doctors, something he called “a huge progress.”

He also acknowledged the mass pro-Navalny protests across Russia on Wednesday.

“Thanks to the huge support of good people across the country and around the world, we have made huge progress,” Navalny said in his message. “Two months ago, my requests for medical help were prompting smirks. I wasn’t given any medications. ... Thanks to you, now I have been examined by a panel of civilian doctors twice.”

Another reason he was ending the hunger strike he began March 31 was that some of his supporters were refusing to eat in a show of solidarity with him, Navalny said.

“Tears flowed from my eyes when I read that. God, I’m not even acquainted with these people, and they do this for me. Friends, my heart is full of love and gratitude for you, but I don’t want anyone physically suffering because of me,” said the 44-year-old politician, who is President Vladimir Putin’s most prominent critic.

He said he would start “coming out of the hunger strike” on Friday and the process of ending it will take 24 days.

Navalny’s doctors said Saturday that they feared he was close to dying because his test results showed sharply elevated levels of potassium, which can bring on cardiac arrest, and heightened creatinine levels that indicated impaired kidneys. He was transferred Sunday from a penal colony east of Moscow to the hospital ward of another prison in Vladimir, a city 180 kilometers (110 miles) east of the capital.

The day after mass protests demanding his freedom swept across Russia, a team of his doctors released a letter urging him to end his hunger strike.

The letter revealed that Navalny was taken to a regular hospital Tuesday in Vladimir, where he underwent tests and was examined by specialists “in accordance” with requests from his doctors. It said they were given the results of those tests through Navalny’s lawyers and family on Thursday.

The doctors said they would continue to insist on access to Navalny but also urged him “to immediately stop the hunger strike in order to save life and health,” saying that they considered being examined by “civilian” doctors from outside the prison and undergoing “objective tests” enough to end the strike.

Canada bans passenger flights from India, Pak for 30 days due to surge in COVID-19 cases

TORONTO, APR 23 (PTI): The Canadian government has banned all passenger flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days due to the unprecedented spike in COVID-19 cases in the region, the longest country-specific travel ban imposed by Canada.

The flight ban took effect from midnight Thursday, Transport Minister Omar Alghabra said on Thursday.

A number of countries like the UK, Australia and Singapore have banned travel to and from India due to surge in coronavirus infections.

Over 3.14 lakh new coronavirus cases were registered in India on Thursday, the highest-ever single-day count in any country. While the death toll increased to 1,84,657 with a record 2,104 new fatalities. The national recovery rate fell below 85 per cent.

Transport Minister Alghabra said the government imposed a 30-day ban, the longest travel ban Canada has put on any individual country, on passengers flights from India and Pakistan, based on advice from federal health



officials in order to buy time to assess more data, and to provide certainty for Canadians considering travelling to the region, the Toronto Star reported. However, the cargo flights are not banned and Ottawa is still hoping that India, which has suspended vaccine exports, will send the bulk of 1.5 million AstraZeneca doses Canada had purchased through the Serum Institute of India.

Those doses about 1 mil-

lion are now in limbo, at least until June due to export controls in India, officials admitted Thursday.

The moves come after the Liberal government came under fire from the Conservative opposition, the premiers of Canada’s two largest provinces, and even their own MPs to tighten border restrictions as COVID-19 variants continue to spread in Canada.

The government said it had taken advice from chief

public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam, who just a day before had said country-specific targeted measures can only go so far, and no border measures are completely 100 per cent effective. Tam said layers of protection are needed, especially given most cases here arise from community transmission, not travellers.

In recent weeks, 50 per cent of travellers arriving in Canada who tested positive for COVID-19 came from In-

dia, even though those flights were only 20 per cent of all international arrivals. And an alarming number of positive cases also showed up in travellers from Pakistan.

Health Minister Patty Hajdu said those COVID-19-positive travellers were identified and required to quarantine.

But it is a significant volume. And given the epidemiological situation in India, it makes sense to pause travel from that region while our

scientists and researchers have an ability to better understand...where the trajectory of the cases in that region is going. On Thursday, Canada’s deputy chief medical officer of health, Dr. Howard Njoo, referred to the situation in India as a raging epidemic.

At the same time, he said, from a public health perspective it’s almost impossible to stop viruses from spreading because borders are artificial.

The variant detected in India has now been detected in Quebec, B.C. and Alberta.

According to federal data, 121 international flights between April 7 and April 18 had at least one passenger with COVID-19. That number included 32 from India, where a COVID-19 variant B.1.617 has brought the country’s health-care systems to the point of collapse, the report said. Canada last December briefly suspended flights from Britain over concerns about outbreaks of a COVID-19 variant.

According to Johns Hopkins University, Canada has 1,164,108 confirmed coronavirus cases and 23,810 people have died from the virus.

Israeli police arrest dozens in night of chaos in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP): Israeli police say 44 people were arrested and 20 officers were wounded in a night of chaos in Jerusalem, where security forces separately clashed with Palestinians angry about Ramadan restrictions and Jewish extremists who held an anti-Arab march nearby.

Tensions have spiked in recent days in Jerusalem, which has long been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and is home to holy sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Residents braced for possible further unrest as police stepped up security and the U.S. Embassy appealed for calm.

There were concerns the violence could reignite following Friday prayers at a major holy site in Jerusalem, but thousands of worshippers dispersed peacefully after Muslim religious leaders called for restraint. The Islamic militant group Hamas meanwhile staged demonstrations across Gaza reiterating its support for armed struggle.

Palestinians have clashed with Israeli police on a nightly basis since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The tensions began when police placed barricades outside the Old City’s Damascus Gate, where Muslims traditionally gather to enjoy the evening after the daytime fast.

Late Thursday, hundreds of Palestinians hurled stones and bottles at police, who fired a water cannon and stun grenades to disperse them. Dozens of Palestinians were wounded in the melee.

Meanwhile, a far-right Jewish group known as Lahava led a march of hundreds of protesters

chanting “Arabs get out!” toward the Damascus Gate. The show of force came in response to videos circulated on TikTok showing Palestinians slapping religious Jews at random. Other videos made in response to them appear to show Jews assaulting Arabs.

Police used metal barricades to halt the far-right protesters a few hundred meters (yards) from Damascus Gate. Later, they used water cannon, stun grenades and mounted police to push them back toward mostly Jewish west Jerusalem. Videos circulated online showed smaller clashes and fires elsewhere in the city. One video showed what appeared to be a group of Palestinians beating an ultra-Orthodox Jew near Damascus Gate. They could be seen punching, kicking and throwing him to the ground before police chased them off.

The police statement did not specify whether those arrested were Palestinian or Jewish and did not refer to any specific instances of violence. The police did not immediately respond to a request for more details.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 war and annexed it in a move not recognized by most of the international community. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem to be the capital of their future state. Its fate has been one of the most divisive issues in the peace process, which ground to a halt more than a decade ago.

The U.S. Embassy said it was “deeply concerned” about the violence in recent days. “We hope all responsible voices will promote an end to incitement, a return to calm, and respect for the safety and dig-

nity of everyone in Jerusalem,” it said in a statement.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians attended weekly prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem’s Old City on Friday. The site is the third holiest in Islam and the holiest for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount.

Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, condemned the “police and settlers’ attack on Palestinians in Jerusalem” in his Friday sermon. But he called on worshippers to remain calm and not to give the other side an excuse to storm the compound. They dispersed peacefully after prayers and there were no immediate reports of unrest.

The sprawling hilltop compound has seen clashes on a number of occasions over the years and was the epicenter of the 2000 Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, meanwhile staged dozens of protests across the territory expressing solidarity with Muslim worshippers in Jerusalem.

Addressing the protesters, senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar condemned the decision of some Arab states to normalize relations with Israel last year and lashed out at the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank for continuing its security coordination with Israel.

“After a long series of protests and demonstrations, we have reached the conclusion that without weapons, we cannot liberate our land, protect our holy sites, bringing back our people to their land or maintain our dignity,” he said.

Japan to issue 3rd virus emergency in Tokyo, Osaka area

TOKYO, APR 23 (AP): Japan is set to issue a third state of emergency for Tokyo and three western urban prefectures amid skepticism it will be enough to curb a rapid coronavirus resurgence ahead of the Olympics in July.

Health and economy ministers in charge of the virus measures were meeting with experts on a government taskforce to obtain their preliminary endorsement for the plan.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is set to formally announce later Friday a state of emergency for Tokyo, Osaka and its two western neighbors Kyoto and Hyogo from April 25 through mid-May.

Japan’s third state of emergency since the pandemic began comes only a month after an earlier emergency ended in the Tokyo area. For days, experts and local leaders said ongoing semi-emergency measures have failed and tougher steps are urgently needed.

Past state of emer-

gency measures, issued a year ago and then in January, were toothless and authorized only non-mandatory requests. The government in February toughened a law on anti-virus measures stipulating that authorities could issue binding orders for non-essential businesses to shorten hours or close in exchange for compensation for those who comply and penalties for violators.

Measures this time are to include shutdown orders for bars, department stores, malls, theme parks, as well as theaters and museums. Restaurants that do not serve alcohol and public transportation services are asked to finish early. Schools will stay open, but universities are asked to return to online classes.

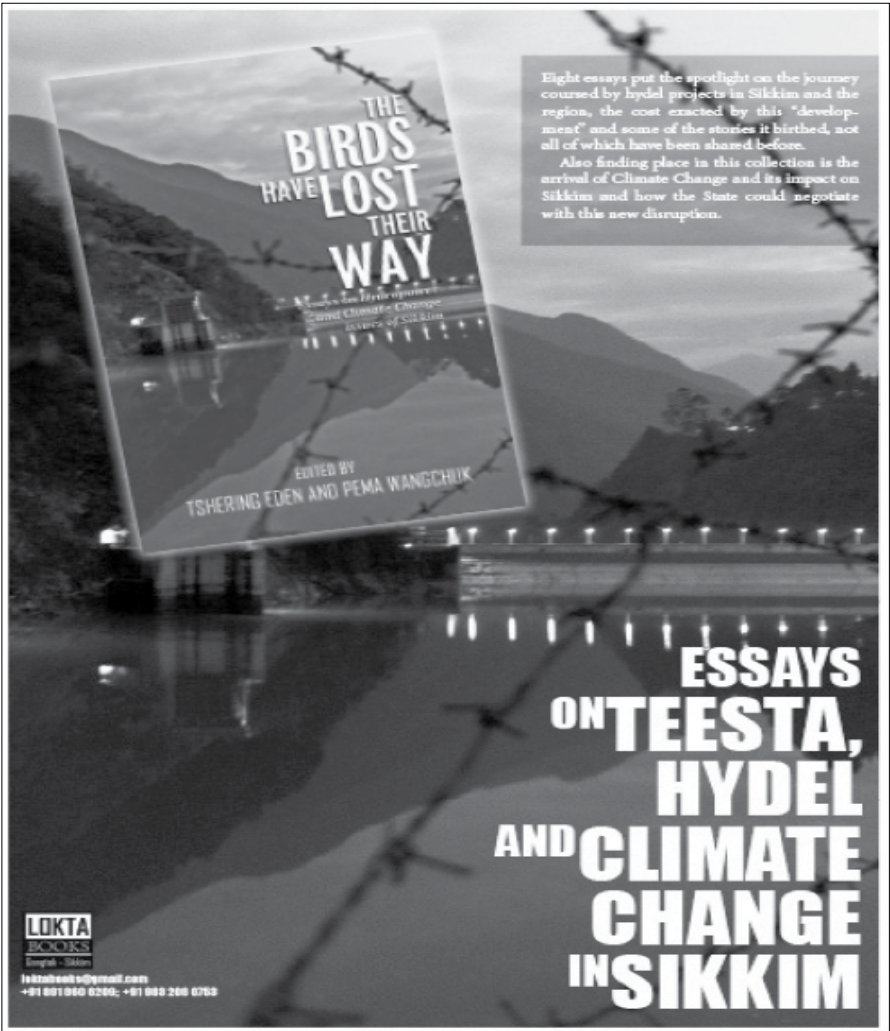
Mask-wearing, staying home and other measures for the general public remain non-mandatory requests, and experts worry if they will be followed. Japan, which has about half

a million cases and 10,000 deaths, has not enforced lockdowns. But people are becoming impatient and less cooperative and have largely ignored the ongoing measures as the infections accelerated.

Osaka, the epicenter of the latest resurgence, has since April 5 been under semi-emergency status, and the alert has since been expanded to 10 areas including Tokyo through May 11, a step promoted by Suga’s government as an alternative to a state of emergency with less economic damage.

Osaka Gov Hirofumi Yoshimura, who requested the emergency Tuesday, said semi-emergency measures were not working and hospitals were overflowing with patients. Osaka doctors said a number of people were forced to wait at hotels and on ambulances.

Japan’s latest resurgence, fuelled by a new, more contagious variant detected earlier in Britain, has spread rapidly across the country.



NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY

24th APRIL 2021

शुभकामना सन्देश



राष्ट्रिय पञ्चायतीराज दिवसको अवसरमा राज्यभरिका विशिष्ट व्यक्ति जो पञ्चायतीराज संस्थान मार्फत जनसेवामा कार्यरत छन्, वहाँहरू सबैलाई हार्दिक बधाई तथा अभिवादन गर्दछु।

ग्रामीण जनजीवनको अभिलाषा परिपूर्तिका निम्ति पञ्चायतहरूले प्रभावशाली भूमिका निभाएका छन्। जनसाधारणको सहभागितामा राज्यको चौतर्फी विकासमा पञ्चायतद्वारा ठूलो योगदान पुगेको छ।



२४ अप्रेल १९९३ मा ७३ औं संविधान संशोधन लागू भएपश्चात् यस दिनलाई राष्ट्रिय पञ्चायतीराज दिवसको रूपमा पालन गरिँदै आएको छ। संविधानका ७३ औं संशोधनले पञ्चायतीराज संस्थानलाई विभिन्न अधिकार प्रदान गरेको छ र पञ्चायतहरू सक्षम भएर काम गरिरहेका छन्। पञ्चायतीराज संस्थानलाई डिजिटल बनाउनका निम्ति विभिन्न कार्यहरू भइरहेका छन्, ई-ग्राम स्वराज पोर्टल यसको एउटा खुड्किलो हो। यसमा पञ्चायतहरूको सबै कार्यक्रम एवं लेखा-जोखा लगायत सबै दस्तावेज हुन्छ र एकै जग्गाबाट सम्पूर्ण जानकारी प्राप्त गर्न सकिन्छ।

वर्तमानमा कोरोना भाइरसको संक्रमणको संकटमा सबै पञ्चायत प्रतिनिधिले अहम् भूमिका निभाएका छन् र यदि जनप्रतिनिधिहरूको सक्रिय सहयोग नहुनु हो भने यस आपदको नियन्त्रण गर्न धेरै मुश्किल हुने थियो।

पञ्चायतहरूको सम्मान गर्दै उत्कृष्ट कार्य गर्ने पञ्चायतहरूलाई राष्ट्रिय पञ्चायतीराज दिवसको अवसरमा राष्ट्रिय पुरस्कारले पुरस्कृत गरिन्छ। यस वर्ष सिक्किमका एक जिल्ला पञ्चायत र पाँच ग्राम पञ्चायतलाई विभिन्न तहका राष्ट्रिय सम्मान गरिएको छ, जसमा:

१. पूर्व जिल्ला पञ्चायत	: दीन दयाल उपाध्याय पञ्चायत सशक्तिकरण पुरस्कार।	४. तिङ्गभोङ्ग ग्राम पञ्चायत	: ग्राम पञ्चायत विकास योजना उत्तर सिक्किम पुरस्कार।
२. लुन्चोक कमेरे ग्राम पञ्चायत दक्षिण सिक्किम	: दीन दयाल उपाध्याय पञ्चायत सशक्तिकरण पुरस्कार।	५. सिङ्गिक ग्राम पञ्चायत उत्तर सिक्किम	: नानाजी देशमुख राष्ट्रिय गौरव ग्राम पुरस्कार।
३. बुदाङ्ग कमेरे ग्राम पञ्चायत पूर्व सिक्किम	: दीन दयाल उपाध्याय पञ्चायत सशक्तिकरण पुरस्कार।	६. रिनोक ग्राम पञ्चायत पूर्व सिक्किम	: बाल हितैषी ग्राम पञ्चायत पुरस्कार।

सबै पुरस्कृत पञ्चायतीराज संस्थानलाई हार्दिक बधाई एवं उत्कृष्ट कार्यहरूलाई निरन्तरता दिइरहने शुभकामना साथै अरू पञ्चायतीराज संस्थानहरूलाई यसबाट प्रेरणा मिल्ने र भविष्यमा पुरस्कृत हुने मंगलमय शुभकामना व्यक्त गर्दछु।

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