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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## HC dismisses petition challenging Language teacher recruitment process

**APPLICANTS DEMAND DECLARATION OF RESULTS "AS ASSURED"**

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:**

High Court of Sikkim has dismissed a writ petition filed by Balkrishna Dangal challenging the recruitment process for 173 posts of Language teacher [GT] in the Education Department.

Mr Dangal had challenged the recruitment process on the ground that uniformity was not maintained for all languages as per the mandatory criteria under the NCTE norms.

In its judgment announced on 07 July 2021, the court,

while dismissing the case, said that since the State Government has withdrawn the employment notice for Language teachers which was challenged in the writ petition, the petition has been "rendered infructuous".

It may be mentioned that the state government had withdrawn the employment and other notices on 25 March 2020 effectively cancelling the recruitment process.

Meanwhile, Language teacher [GT] applicants who had completed their recruitment process in Feb 2019 to-

day expressed hope that the Chief Minister would keep his promise of declaring the results within a week of the court case being resolved.

On behalf of the applicants, Binay Limboo, Sosang Lepcha, Mohan Pradhan and Karma Loday Bhutia said that the case filed in the High Court by one Balkrishna Dangal was dismissed on 07 July, 2021.

They informed that after completing the recruitment process, instead of results they got cancellation letter from Sikkim Teachers Recruitment Board.

They were told that the

cancellation is because of a case filed in the court.

We had also met Chief Minister PS Tamang regarding this matter wherein the CM had assured that as soon as the court case is resolved, the results would be declared within a week, said Binay Limboo.

The applicants are now demanding that the result be declared as soon as possible.

We had gone to meet Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha and Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya today but they were busy, said Mohan Pradhan.

## CM awards grants for 2 youth headed for AYIMUN 2021



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:**

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang today provided cheques of Rs 1 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to Rishal Pandey Chettri and Aditya Chettri towards their endeavour for the upcoming event at Arab Youth International Model United Na-

tions (AYIMUN) 2021 to be held at Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), a press release from the Chief Minister's Office informs.

They have been selected to represent India in the AYIMUN event, where delegates from more than 50 countries will be participating.

The Chief Minister

congratulated them on being chosen to represent the country and extended his best wishes. He urged them to continue in the same spirit to attain further milestones and wished them success in all their endeavours. Secretary to the Chief Minister, SD Dhakal handed over the cheques to the aspiring students, today.

## 500 with no documents vaccinated in special drive

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:**

In a special three-day vaccination drive, 500 people from Lower MG Marg-Lall Bazaar ward under Gangtok Municipal Corporation who have no identity proof received free vaccination for COVID-19. This special drive for people who have no documents is being conducted from 19 to 21 July here at Thakurbari vaccination site.

Speaking to media persons here this afternoon, Ward Councilor for Lower MG Marg-Lall Bazaar, Ashok Kumar Prasad expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister PS Tamang for



this special vaccination drive for people without documents. He further thanked the Health Department and vaccination team.

He informed that in this three-day long vaccination drive, 100 beneficiaries were vaccinated on 19 July and then 200 each were vaccinated on 20 and 21 July.

The Ward Councilor thanked CLC and WLC workers of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party for working hard to ensure no person is left out in this vaccination drive. He informed that vaccination of people without documents in other municipal wards would also be held in the coming days.

## In Assam, government, opposition unite to cheer boxer for Olympics

**NEW DELHI, 21 JUL [NDTV]:**

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and several Opposition leaders rode bicycles today to support state boxer Lovlina Borgohain representing the country at the Tokyo Olympics. Ms Borgohain is the only competitor from Assam at the Olympics this year.

In pictures and videos, Mr Sarma and several other politicians are seen riding bicycles in Guwahati in a rare show of unity between the state's BJP government and Opposition. Security personnel were also seen on cycles alongside the Chief Minister at the rally today.

However, not everyone had their face masks on, and some had not worn it properly.

Mr Sarma shared photos from the rally on Twitter and called Ms Borgohain "Assam's daughter". Announcing a goodwill campaign called "Go For Glory, Lovlina", he said both the ruling party (BJP) and Opposition have come together for the 7-km cycle rally to "support their daughter".

"We are so proud of Lovlina, who is the first female athlete from Assam, to represent India at the Olympics and the second boxer after Shiva Thapa to participate in the same from the state. May you continue to bring glories to the nation," Mr Sarma tweeted.

Ms Borgohain's father Tiken Borgohain was also felicitated today, Mr Sarma said, and urged people to "come together and cheer for Lovlina".

The Chief Minister thanked Assam Speaker Biswajit Daimary, his deputy Numal Momin, several ministers, Opposition leaders and MLAs for participating in the rally in another tweet.

## Govt hikes cash incentive for Olympic Games medal winners

### SAGAR CHHETRI

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:**

The State government has enhanced the cash incentive announced for sports persons from Sikkim bagging medals at the Olympic Games. This incentive has been hiked to Rs 2.5 crore from the existing Rs 2 crore for gold medalists, Rs 1.5 crore from Rs 1 crore for silver medalists and Rs 1 crore from Rs 50 lakh for bronze medalists.

Sikkim has only one sportsperson in the Tokyo Olympics - Tarundeep Rai who is representing the country in archery.

Addressing a press conference here today, Sports Minister KN Lepcha shared that the decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister PS Tamang yesterday.

He added that the decision was taken primarily to motivate and encourage local sportspersons to reach higher levels and fetch accolades for the state and the country.

"We want to produce more Olympians and international athletes from Sikkim. The state government has been working hard at the grassroots level to spot talent and groom them for national and international events," he said.

The Minister mentioned that the State government has already enhanced job reservation for sportspersons in the state government jobs from 2% to 5%.



He added that the government is extending elaborate support and encouragement to support sportspersons in their pursuit for excellence.

Responding to media queries, the Minister expressed hope that Tarundeep will return with a medal from Tokyo.

He commented that Tarundeep's experience of already having competed in two Olympic Games and several international competitions will definitely help him perform better in Tokyo.

## Sikkim records 251 new cases and one more Covid death

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:**

After having come down to under-2K, the number of active cases of Covid-19 in Sikkim has been rising of late and clocked in at 2,616 today with 251 new cases of novel coronavirus being reported here in the past 24 hours.

These new cases were detected from the testing of 1,265 samples on Tuesday, giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 19.8%. Sikkim's tally of confirmed cases of COVID-19 detected in the State since 28 Feb, 2020, has now reached 24,047.

Unfortunately, the State also recorded one more COVID death in the last 24 hours taking the State's COVID death toll to 326. This COVID death

was reported from Central Referral Hospital, Tadong. In the meantime, 96 more persons were discharged from home and facility isolation after making full recoveries on Tuesday to further improve the number of recovered cases to 20,841.

Of the 2,616 active cases, less than 4% are nursing symptoms severe enough to require hospitalisation. There are currently 104 Covid patients in hospital while the rest are either asymptomatic or have only mild symptoms and are hence recovering in facility or home isolation.

Today was also a long while that the number of Covid patients in hospital crossed the 100-mark after having stayed in the nineties for the past few

weeks. This spike was because there were 21 new hospitalizations in the past 24 hours, nearly double of what the State had been registering of late.

There are nine COVID patients currently admitted in ICU facilities at STNM hospital and Central Referral Hospital.

As per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department this morning, 108 of the new cases were detected in RT-PCR testing of 654 samples and 143 more tested positive in rapid antigen testing of 603 samples.

Out of the 251 new cases, 104 were registered in East District, 82 in West District, 64 in South District and 01 in North District.

## "Modi Ji, this isn't personal": Mamata Banerjee's attack on Pegasus row

**KOLKATA, 21 JUL [NDTV]:**

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for the opposition to unite against the BJP today, pointing to the "threat" posed to democracy by what she called a "surveillance state" in the aftermath of the Pegasus scandal.

The Chief Minister, who was addressing the people online on Martyr's Day -- a first since her landslide victory in the state elections -- said she would go to Delhi on July 27 or 28 and will be available for an opposition meeting if one is held.


A number of opposition leaders heard her address in Delhi and other cities where it was played live on giant television screens.

"Three things make democracy -- media, judiciary and the Election Commission -- and Pegasus has captured all three," said Ms Banerjee, whose nephew and senior party leader Abhishek Banerjee was also a potential target for surveillance, according to the group of 17 media organisations across the world that investigated the leaked surveillance lists.

Calling the Israeli military grade spyware "dangerous" and "ferocious", Ms Banerjee said she cannot talk to other opposition leaders now as her phone is also tapped.

"I cannot talk to you people. To Sharad Pawar, Delhi Chief Minister, Goa Chief Minister... I have put leucoplast on my (phone) camera. This government should also be plastered over," she said.

Appealing to the Supreme Court to come to the nation's aid, she said, "Save the country, the democracy."



### call for submissions

# CONVERSE CHRONICLES

CONVERSE SIKKIM is pleased to announce its first publication showcasing writings from Sikkim entitled Converse Chronicles. It will be an anthology containing poems, short stories, essays and book excerpts. As such, entries are invited for possible inclusion from established and aspiring writers.

Mail in your entries at - [converse.sikkim@gmail.com](mailto:converse.sikkim@gmail.com)

General guidelines for both prose and poetry -

- The entries should be in Word (Document) format, mailed as an attachment with a small introduction of the writer, name and other relevant details.
- The subject of the mail should be - 'Entry For Converse Chronicles'
- Prose can be fiction/non-fiction/essays/narrative pieces.
- Word limit - 2000

Last date of submission - 10 August 2021



# Fertility Fears: Who Pays for the Bills?

NAMRATA CHATURVEDI

“May you be the mother of a thousand sons” is the archetype of blessings in mainstream Hindu Indian customs and it continues till day. In Hindu narratives such as the story of Savitri and Satyavan, the blessing that Savitri extracts from Yama, the Lord of Death is for Satyavan to live in order for her to become the mother of a hundred sons. In Kathasaritasagar, a woman finds herself in a predicament with her man’s head on another’s body and vice versa, a moral impasse that Girish Karnad explores psychologically in the play Hayaavadana- what must a woman do when she desires one man’s head and another man’s body and finds the two intermixed? In Mahabharata, Pandavas are always referred to as kunti putras while Gandhari secures supernatural powers through her penance and bestows them, albeit incompletely, on her son Duryodhana. In Dharamvir Bharati’s play Andha Yug, Krishna finds himself cursed by Gandhari for the death of her sons and God incarnate has to die a dishonourable death because of a mother’s curse. Where has the mother disappeared from our contemporary political narratives which rest heavily on a self-fashioned scriptural Hindu tradition? Where is the mother in political discourses and policy matters?

Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled the Uttar Pradesh Population Control Bill on 11th July, a proposal that find itself mired in controversies and debates on issues of electoral politics, upcoming elections and even eugenics. In articles and broadcast media coverage, this issue is being analysed from the perspectives of communal relations in Uttar Pradesh and consequently in the rest of the country and the discourse being manipulated in the context of the upcoming state elections. This details of the bill include rebates, subsidies and penalties in government as well as private sector for men (sometimes women are accidentally mentioned too) on the predictable Malthusian model. The Bill also proposes to increase interventions and proper facilities for contraceptives, safe abortions and maternal and infant health. Any objections to the communal implications of the Bill will find a formulaic counter in the Indira Gandhi government’s sterilization programmes, the horror of which is still fresh in collective memory. In discussions after discussions, the dehumanizing nature of population control policies, the blatant irony of state heads without matrimonial or paternal/maternal expe-

riences propagating such bills and programmes, the propagation of Protestant bourgeois family structures and the damaging effects on the psychological health of women do not find adequate focus. The phrase ‘safe abortions’ is the highlight of our soulless political and medical discourses that refuse to see any spiritual, emotional or mental health aspects in the process of “safely killing life in the womb” for statistical corrections.

In a story translated into English as “The Stench of Kerosene”, Amrita Pritam tells the tale of an unsuspecting woman visiting her maternal home only to find out later that her in-laws have arranged for another ‘fertile’ woman for her husband during her absence. An abandoned and traumatized wife burns herself to death leaving behind a stench that lodges itself in the heart of her husband as guilt. In the classroom readings of this story, we always found our eyes filled with tears as the horrifying reality of the narrative is a smoldering ember in every woman’s heart in the grand Indian patriarchal narrative. Men’s eyes would well up too, and the painful silences carried their own stench. In a society where the fertility meter is a ticking time bomb for every woman- married and especially unmarried (lest her fertility betrays her), the data that is doing the rounds in media is concentrated on women’s fertility index. At an orientation programme at a prestigious central University in northern India, a Professor of Life Sciences came nonchalantly into a room with majority of women scholars to demonstrate to us through a flow chart that increase in education leads to a decrease in fertility for women. This man scholar’s sense of irony must have dehydrated in the lab where he formulated the theory as he was presenting this finding as a problem to his peers. We will never know if some of it came back to him when he saw most of the educated women leave the room to return only after he had left. From University conference rooms to newsrooms of Hindi media, women’s fertility rates seem to be the favourite index of discussants and presenters. Any discourse is shaped by the people in it and it is a clear failure of our education system when we find people hyperventilating at the electoral implications of such bogus bills while the gender insensitivities embedded in the formulations itself do not even occur to opinion makers on prime time popular television shows.

More than a century before Thomas Robert Malthus propagated a statistic-driven understanding of human reproduction

popularly known as ‘population control’, clergymen and proto medicine men in England were trying to explain to women how reproduction occurred in obvious patrilineal terms. Thomas Bentley was a famous clergyman, and he blamed it all on a “marvelous small and loathsome substance” that led to procreation. As expected, women were busy disseminating what are pejoratively called “old wives’ tales”

about procreation within closed circles while men were creating and controlling public discourse on women’s bodies. It is hardly surprising that the discourse hasn’t changed significantly till today except that we don’t refer to the male creation fluid as loathsome, but venerate its power, as and when possible. We may want to do a survey to see the gender distribution in population control departments and other such policy bodies in India. Also, while the focus is on women’s bodies and how to best control, determine and restrict them, policy makers may especially want to reward queer bodies that reject reproductive markers in entirety. Or, would that be too glaring in an essentially feudal discourse?

While we are highlighting the social engineering and electoral dynamics that are at stake in such discourses, we may want to recognize that this discourse rests on the human body and as women bear the burden of reproduction almost exclusively, their bodies matter. To me, some possible scenarios after the implementation of such measures include women being blamed for their fertility, paternity denials, forced abortions, unhealthy contraceptive practices, divorces, accusations and even corporeal abuse. There has always been a thin line of difference between pleasure and procreative sexual intercourse. With the cultural capital of the Kamasstraas, Indian mainstream life practices should have been liberal and inclusive in performative aspects of pleasure. It takes little imaginative investment to realise it is ironically the opposite. Since we have collectively abrogated women’s bodies to reproductive machines, we may want to check the machine parts first before operating on them. So, where are we when it comes to maternal and foetal/infant nutritional indexes? Again, the answer is straight out of a mundane film script. What kind of contraceptive practices are we following, and what is the impact on the invasive practices on the machine’s overall health and longevity? Is it completely impossible to generate dialogue between heterosexual practi-

tioners of sex, as it concerns reproduction on a universal scale? Some say, machines have a mind of their own; sometimes, without any logic, a machine gives up or goes awry. So, the emotional aspects of maternal health and also the emotional aspects of paternal health need to be included in the larger discourse. In the seventeenth century, when men

## ViewPoint

like Bentley were propagating the myth of the “marvelous loathsome substance” being the summum bonum of procreation, women were writing poems for tombstones of their infants, or composing verses and letters for their children whom they didn’t expect to see due to life threatening parturition and high infant mortality given the medical ignorance and apathy towards maternal health. Some male poets also composed consolation poems for their wives upon the deaths of children, outside as well as inside the womb. Public discourses are powerful things, they need not be caught up in formulaic language and categorical thinking when it comes to issues as these. Along with the physical health of women and men, their mental health is a big issue that embarrassingly slips away every time we discuss parenthood. Let us think about all the women we know who didn’t want pregnancy, who were traumatized with the pain of parturition, who fell into postpartum depression, who tried unhealthy abortive practices at home, who were too ashamed to educate themselves before entering their sexual lives, who resented their children for they reminded them of their trauma, whose marital pleasures were martyred at the unholy altar of maternity, whose self-fashioning became an embarrassing dream. And men who were forced to prove their virility, who saw the pain in their partners’ eyes but gave up even before trying, who were stigmatized and ridiculed for their sensitivities, who feared emasculation more than hell, who were crushed under the weight of being providers and who never got a chance to be homemakers and ended up as cranky fathers-in-law and flutulent fathers. It was Gulzaman, in Keki Daruwalla’s poem ‘Gulazaman’s Son’ that I read as a child, who picks up a sheep and hugs it calling it his child, as his infertility was killing him, day by day.

The debate generated by this bill can become an opportunity to take the discourse into classrooms, newsrooms, living rooms and certainly into the bedrooms.

*(The writer is Associate Professor, Department of English, SRM University Sikkim)*

# Unlock sale offer –The biggest unlock sale is now in Gangtok



**GANGTOK, 20 JUL:** Brand Factory’s Big Fashion Unlock Sale at store in Tadong, Gangtok is on - bringing you the best of fashion and deals so you can go on a shopping spree, worry-free in a safe and secure shopping environment! With a truly irresistible Special 5 days Unlock Offer, On Entire Store from 21 to 25 July. It’s something you just can’t afford to miss!

Shop from a trendy collection of apparels from your favorite brands worth MRP

Rs.3500/- and pay only Rs.1499/-. With a choice of top fashion brands that include SBPRC, Scullers, Lee Cooper, Bare Denims, Zara, Levis, Crimsoune club, Wrangler, Crocodile, Killer, Lee, Wrangler, Privilege Club, Umbro, Knighthood, John Miller, Buffalo, Iktara, Celio, Twills and many more, it’s just what Gangtok needs to take the fashion world by storm. The offer is valid on the entire store, so what are you waiting for?

There are more ex-

citing deals and offers lined up for you at Brand Factory! Get ready to walk in style with some fabulous offers from Lee Cooper Men’s Footwear – Buy Sandals worth MRP Rs.1250/- to 2399/- at Flat Rs.999/- and Shoes of MRP Rs.2499/- to Rs.3499/- at just Rs.1399/-. Also avail additional benefits up to Rs.1500/- with Bajaj Finserv, on purchase worth Rs.5000/- and above.

It just doesn’t get better than this, so what are you waiting for?

# SKM team takes stock of Covid situation at Kartok Yakteen



## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:**

A Sikkim Krantikari Morcha team headed by Chief Convener (Students Wing) cum Chairman (Sikkim Housing Board) Karma Tashi Bhutia along with Chairman (Culture & Heritage Board) Sonam Sherpa, and other SKM functionaries visited Kar-

tok Yakteen village and adjoining areas under Gnathang Machong Constituency to take stock of the Covid situation.

As per an SKM release, the visit was made as per the directions of the Chief Minister, PS Tamang. The Chairman, Karma Tashi Bhutia provided PPE Kits, ration, Oximeter, face mask and

hand sanitizers in said areas and appeal to follow all the guidelines of government to protect from this deadly virus.

Similarly, Mr Bhutia and team visited Pakyong Police Station and took stock of the situation in Pakyong. He handed over PPE Kits and other equipments to SHO Pakyong to combat with this pandemic.

# TMC observes Martyrs’ Day in Darjeeling

## SMRITA KHAWAS

**DARJEELING, 21 JUL:**

Trinamool Congress observed Martyrs’ Day today at their party office in Darjeeling in the presence of TMC spokesperson, N B Khawas along with other party leaders and supporters.

“Since 21st July 1993 our party Trinamool Congress has been celebrating this day as Shahid Diwas. In 1993 a peaceful rally was organised

by Trinamool Congress to demand that only voter cards be used as a valid document for voting. During the rally, police fired at the crowd killing 13 TMC members. The day is observed to pay homage to these martyrs. We used to observe Shahid Diwas every year in Kolkata Dharma-matala, but because of Covid-19, we are observing the day in our respective party offices,” said Mr Khawas.

# SRP working president resigns complaining that party has not worked for all communities

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:**

Sikkim Republican Party’s working president, Chakrapani Sharma, today announced his resignation from his post and primary membership of the party and ended an association which had begun in 2017.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Sharma said he was resigning from the party because of his personal and social engagements.

He added that his decision was also prompted by his conviction that SRP was not being able to work for all the communities of Sikkim.

Mr Sharma also stated that various political demands of the State were pending as different political parties have not been able to work together.

He highlighted that



the people of Sikkim had participated in the 1947 and 1973 movements as Sikkimese without being divided into communities and this was why those movements had been successful.

Unfortunately, since 1973, politics has not been able to unite the Sikkimese and has instead divided the society into different communities and sections.

On the same, he asserted that Assembly seat reservation for Lim-

boos and Tamangs and other political demands of the State will remain unresolved until the people pursue these demands unitedly.

He said that no positive initiative has been taken by the leadership of the SRP despite repeated efforts by him and that this was also one of the reason prompting his resignation.

He assured to extend support to any political party which takes the entire Sikkimese society together.

# Subdued Eid celebrations across country amid Covid curbs

**NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI):** Eid-ul-Adha was celebrated across the country with limited number of people offering prayers at mosques amid gathering curbs due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on the occasion.

Modi tweeted, "Eid Mubarak! Best wishes on Eid-ul-Adha. May this day further the spirit of collective empathy, harmony and inclusivity in the service of greater good."

The Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers also exchanged sweets at various points along the border, the first time since Pakistani side shunned the custom in 2019 after the Centre abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir. A BSF spokesperson said the "exchange of sweets took place between the BSF and Pakistan Rangers on the occasion of Eid at JCP (joint check post) Attari" in Punjab’s Amritsar district.

A similar exchange of sweets took place between the two forces along the border in Rajasthan and Jammu.

Sweets were also exchanged between the BSF and their Bangladesh counterpart BGB at multiple locations along the 4,096-km-

long border. In Uttar Pradesh, the usual buzz was missing as people preferred to celebrate the festival in the confines of their homes.

Led by Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, around 50 people offered namaz with masks on while maintaining social distancing at the historic Eidgah in Lucknow.

They prayed for the eradication of coronavirus and development of the country, a statement issued by the Islamic Centre of India said.

The centre had issued an advisory for celebrating the festival in accordance with the government guidelines, which had said that not more than 50 people should gather at any place at a given time.

In Tamil Nadu, the devout offered prayers at mosques in conformity with COVID-19 protocols.

Special prayers were held across the state in mosques and other designated places and many said they prayed for an early end to the Covid-19 pandemic and all-round prosperity. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister M K Stalin, AIADMK leaders O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami extended greetings.

Meanwhile, Eid was celebrated with fervour in neighbouring Puducherry, with

prayers being held in mosques, including at Nellithoppu. Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister N Rangasamy greeted people on the occasion.

The Muslim community in Kerala celebrated Bakrid in a subdued manner at their homes sans usual social gatherings.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan greeted people on the occasion.

Mass namaz at mosques were absent this year also as the government continued to impose strict restrictions fearing resurgence of the pandemic after a drop in cases this month.

As only 40 people were permitted for prayers adhering to stringent pandemic protocol, there was no usual festive mood in mosques across the southern state, which used to witness a sea of devotees since morning during the occasion.

Devotees could be seen following social distancing norms during the prayers inside the mosques.

Considering their safety, the majority of mosque authorities have asked devotees to come for the Eid prayer in the morning after performing "Vulu" (cleaning) and to carry their own "Musalla" (sheet for niskaram)".



# The Body Shop celebrates 15th anniv in India

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:** The Body Shop India, the original, ethical and natural beauty brand based in the UK, celebrated its 15th anniversary in June 2021 in India. A pioneer in sustainable and fair trade beauty, The Body Shop launched in India in June 2006 and has been a trailblazer in bringing the best of beauty, made sustainably with fair trade ingredients from around the world. 100% Vegetarian and Cruelty Free, The Body Shop is India's largest international beauty retailer with 200 stores across the country and servicing over 25,000 pincodes through its web store [www.thebodyshop.in](http://www.thebodyshop.in)

Founded in Brighton in 1976, by the late Dame Anita Roddick, The Body Shop is a forerunner in the ethical, green beauty movement. With a history of championing local communities through its bespoke Community Fair Trade (CFT) programme, The Body Shop sources its ingredients, accessories and packaging from over 30 CFT partners all over the world. The brand has a deep connection to India with 3 of its global CFT partners

based in India.

This includes The Body Shop's first ever CFT partner – Teddy Exports in Madurai - who have been supplying the brand with a wide variety of high-quality gifts and accessories since 1987. Manorama Industries (Chhattisgarh) is a women's co-operative supplying the brand with CFT Mango Seed Oil since 2017. The brand's newest Indian CFT partnership was forged in 2019 with Bengaluru based Plastics for Change – launching the world's first fair trade recycled plastic packaging, created from recyclable plastic waste collected by waste picker communities in South India.

As a brand with activism at its very heart, The Body Shop India has also consistently championed local causes and initiatives in the market driving widespread awareness and fundraising for a variety of community projects that are aligned to its values. Continuing its founder's legacy of driving business as a force for good, the brand has numerous seminal campaigns to its credit such as Stop Violence in the Home (2007- 13), Sup-

port Her Education (2014-16), Forever Against Animal Testing (2017) and Rebuilding Bio-Bridges (2017). Most recently, the brand contributed over INR 35L to the female waste picker community struck by Covid-19, through Project NARI (Nutrition – Ability – Retraining - Inclusion) in 2020-21. For its End Period Shame campaign launched in April 2021, the brand is collaborating with Child Rights and You (CRY) to raise awareness about menstrual taboos as well as raise funds for community period projects in underprivileged communities hit by the pandemic.

Elated at achieving this milestone in the brand's journey, Ms. Shruti Malhotra, CEO, The Body Shop India said, "Celebrating 15 years in India is a truly exciting & thrilling milestone for all of us at The Body Shop India. It is a moment to thank our millions of customers who have put their faith in The Body Shop, followed and participated in our community campaigns and amplified the unique Brand voice and values of business. It is also the moment to celebrate and honour

our hundreds of colleagues and team members across our 200 stores, who continue to deliver impeccable service to our customers, even in the toughest of times and have won the hearts of so many across the country. As we look forward to the next 15 years, we are committed to ensure that our business remains a force for good. With businesses navigating many factors - the pandemic, social justice activism, sustainability - a clear purpose acts as a compass to us on this path. In these times of great social and environmental inequity, businesses with purpose is needed more than ever. We will continue to stand up and speak out about issues that impact our people and our planet; bring the best of ethically created natural products to the market. We will continue our fight as a reminder to all of us to be activists and drive change. We will continue to reach out and help communities in need and we will continue to serve our customers with their changing needs in mind with empathy and care. After 15 years, we're just getting started."

## Several TMC leaders arrested in Tripura

**AGARTALA, JUN 21 (PTI):** Several Trinamool Congress leaders and activists, including the party's Tripura unit president Asish Lal Sinha, were arrested on Wednesday in the state's Unakoti district as they gathered, violating the COVID restrictions, police said.

The TMC leaders gathered at Gournagar to pay homage to the Youth Congress activists allegedly killed in police firing in Kolkata on this day in 1993 during a rally led by then Congress leader Mamata Banerjee.

"Twenty-one people were arrested as they violated the COVID re-

strictions and made an unlawful gathering," said Parth Munda, the officer-in-charge of the Kailashahar police station.

"They were put in a temporary jail. The arrests were made in presence of an Executive Magistrate," he added.

However, Sinha claimed that 82 activists and leaders of the party, including him and TMC's Unakoti district president Anjan Chakraborty, were arrested.

"When I was hoisting the party flag to pay homage to the martyrs at Gournagar, police arrested 82 party leaders and activists," Sinha told PTI.

## Hong Kong police arrest former Apple Daily senior editor

**HONG KONG (AP):** Hong Kong national security police on Wednesday arrested a former editor at the now-defunct Apple Daily pro-democracy newspaper, weeks after the paper was forced to close after authorities froze its assets.

Lam Man-chung, who was the executive editor-in-chief of Apple Daily, was arrested on suspicion of conspiring to collude with foreign forces to endanger national security, according to the South China Morning Post newspaper, which cited an unnamed source. He is the eighth person from the newspaper who has been arrested in recent weeks.

Two other former Apple Daily journalists — associate publisher and deputy chief editor Chan Pui-man, as well as chief editorial writer Fung Wai-kong — were also detained Wednesday after their bail was revoked, according to local media reports.

Chan was among the five Apple Daily executives and editors arrested on June 17, and Fung

was first arrested at the airport late last month while allegedly attempting to leave on a flight to the U.K.

Police said that a 51-year-old former editor was arrested Wednesday in relation to a similar case in June, but did not identify him.

In June, police raided the newspaper's offices, taking away hard drives and laptops as evidence. The arrests of top executives, editors and journalists at the paper, as well as the freezing of \$2.3 million worth of assets, led Apply Daily to cease its operations last month. It sold a million copies of its final edition.

Following months of anti-government protests in 2019, Beijing last year imposed a sweeping national security law in the semi-autonomous city that critics say restricts the freedoms promised to the former British colony that are not found on mainland China. More than 100 pro-democracy supporters have been arrested, and many others fled abroad.

# VIT-AP University inks MoU with MKCI

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 21 JUL:** The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mitsui Kinzoku Components India Private Limited (MKCI) and the School of Advanced Sciences, VIT-AP University was held virtually on the 20 Jul, a press release informs.

Vice-Chancellor, Dr SV Kota Reddy,VIT-AP University after signing the MoU with MKCI, said that this collaboration will help faculty and students to get an opportunity to conduct advanced level collaborative research in Sciences and Technologies and they can get enough scope to involve themselves in different career develop-

ment activities.

Moreover, this collaboration may bring excellent research projects and industrial consultancy. Many events like training programs, faculty development programs, workshops, conferences may be organised together. Industry professionals can share their knowledge with the students in different guest lecture events. They can give their expertise to develop the courses and to prepare the curriculum industry-ready.

Shimada Masakazu, Managing Director, MKCI told that this collaboration must bring Industry and Academia together. Industry professionals, scientists, professors,

students can perform joint research ventures under this agreement. Many patents can be published and granted jointly.

Vice President, Dr SekarViswanathan,VIT, Registrar, Dr CLV Sivakumar, CH, Dr Pradeep Reddy, Deputy Director, Career Development Centre, Dean, Dr SantanuMandal,School of Advanced Sciences, HoD, Dr Paramasivam R, Chemistry, VIT-AP University, Dr IdoYouhei, Advisor to R&D, Chino Shoko, Assistant General Manager, Admin, DebasisMohanty, Assistant General Manager, HR, Assistant General Manager, Dr Rajesh Kodyiyath,R&D, MKCI witnessed the MoU Ceremony.

## Tokyo’s drinkers drown frustrations over virus limits, Games

**TOKYO (AP):** On the eve of the Tokyo Olympics, the government’s attempt to curb a coronavirus surge by targeting drinkers is drowning in liquor, frustration and indifference.

Japan has asked the city’s restaurants and bars to close by 8 p.m., if not entirely, to keep people from socializing in close contact with strangers and spreading the virus, but the state of emergency hasn’t deterred many. Instead, drinkers moved outdoors, and many bars in Tokyo’s famed nightlife districts are bustling with defiant customers.

“Nobody is convinced when (the government) victimizes people who are drinking alcohol without showing decent scientific evidence, even while going ahead with the Olympics,” said Mio Maruyama, a 28-year-old real estate industry worker who was chatting with her colleagues on the street in Tokyo’s Shinjuku district.

She says she’s interested in watching the Games, especially new sports like skateboarding and Japan’s Rui-Hachimura, an NBA star, “but when I think of how politicians are playing around with this, I’m not quite rooting for this event from my heart.”

“It’s not that we are breaking the rules just because we’re against the inconsistency between politicians’ words and actions,” she said, referring to a 40-person reception for International Olympic Committee members on Sunday that included the prime minister and the governor of Tokyo. “But when you see such things, you might think that rulebreakers were right in doing what they’re doing.”

The IOC reception happened at a time when the public is barred from

going to parties or even attending most Olympic events. Many Japanese are frustrated by that contrast — but are hardly staying home.

At around 9:30 p.m. in Shinjuku, people crisscrossed in front of the world’s busiest train terminal. Nighttime turnout was modest compared to before the pandemic, but bar districts like Kabukicho were still illuminated with neon lights from a few food establishments that were still open after 8 p.m. Exempted from the emergency state mandate, 24/7-open convenience stores were busy with shoppers. Near one of the shops, some drinkers were talking with city workers wearing green Tokyo Metropolitan Government vests who were asking people to refrain from drinking and chatting outside.

On a quiet street in east Shinjuku, Naoto Suga picked up a can of lemon-flavored liquor that his friend had just brought him. They sat on a curbside, along with around a dozen others who were also drinking on the street.

“We’ve been here every night for the past three days or so,” said Suga, 25, who works in a nearby apparel shop.

“I don’t think the Olympics itself made this (situation), but even before the Games, things like the state of emergency have remained half measures, and I think that’s making things worse,” he said. “People are all used to the state of emergency, so it’s getting less meaningful now.” Suga, who hasn’t received the COVID-19 vaccine yet, also lamented the slower rollout in Japan, especially for younger people. Everyone 12 and older is eligible to be vaccinated, but younger people are last in line. Only 22% of Japan’s population has been fully vaccinated so far.

# China fines tech giants for content exploiting children

**HONG KONG (AP):** China’s internet watchdog said Wednesday it has fined platforms operated by e-commerce company Alibaba and gaming firm Tencent for spreading sexually suggestive content involving children, as regulators seek to clean up content harmful to minors.

Platforms including Alibaba’s e-commerce marketplace Taobao, Tencent’s QQ messaging service, live-streaming site Kuaishou, microblogging platform SinaWeibo and social media and e-commerce service Xiaohongshu were fined for distributing sexually suggestive stickers or short videos of children, it said.

The companies were ordered to rectify the issue and ban accounts that use such content to attract more traffic.

The crackdown on inappropriate content involving minors comes as the government ramps up scrutiny of technology platforms in the country. Regulators are investigating Chinese technol-

ogy companies over a range of issues, including anti-competitive practices and data practices.

“With regards to the infringement of the legal rights and interests of minors, a ‘zero tolerance’ attitude will be adopted and enforced to clean up the online problems that endanger the physical and mental health of minors,” the Cyberspace Administration of China said in a statement.

In recent months, some Chinese media outlets have called out sexually suggestive photos of children used by certain stores on platforms such as Taobao and Xiaohongshu to sell clothing, as well as suggestive stickers of children on messaging apps.

The internet regulator said its campaign includes the targeting of minors on live-streaming platforms, pornographic and violent content in courses on online education platforms and animations with violent or inappropriate horror themes.


Earlier this month, the regulator said it would probe ride-hailing company Didi Global Inc. over data security concerns. Alibaba in April was also fined \$2.8 billion following an anti-monopoly probe, and food delivery giant Meituan is being investigated over alleged anti-trust practices.

The internet watchdog also recently announced that it would require companies looking to list abroad to seek its approval first.

Globally, technology companies and governments are paying more attention to how to prevent the exploitation and abuse of children online.

Last year, a coalition of technology companies including Facebook, Google and Microsoft backed a plan to eradicate online child abuse.

The U.K. last month also issued a new guidance to companies on how they can protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse on their platforms.



### SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD

(Constituted Vide Notification No. 933/HRDD, 2015)  
Upper Syari, Gangtok, East Sikkim

Memo No.:60/SSTRB/ADM Date:20/07/2021

## NOTICE

**ADDENDUM to Memo No.57/SSTRB/ADM Dated 05/07/2021**

Reference notice vide Memo No.57/SSTRB/ADM dated 05/07/2021 inviting applications from in- service eligible Graduate Teachers, Primary Teachers with Graduate Degree, Headmasters/Headmistresses (HM) of Primary Schools serving in the Government Schools of Sikkim for filling up the posts of Assistant Education Officer (AEO), following addendum are issued:

01) At Para 2, Sl No. 2, Column 3 (Professional qualification) may be read as: B. Ed/D. El. Ed from an institute recognized by the NCTE

02) At Para 3, the last date for filling up of the forms both offline and online is extended till July 26, 2021 by 4.30pm.

03) At Para 5, documents mentioned at point j and k i.e., Departmental Clearance and Vigilance Clearance, if not submitted by July 26, 2021 may be submitted in original on the date of Screening-cum-Interview.

R.O No. 109/IPR/Classi/Pub/2021-22 (Secretary)  
Dated: 20.07.21 Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board



### What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

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

#### Symptoms of nCoV

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

#### Precautions to Prevent nCoV

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



If you seek help, you may call :  
-Toll free no. 104  
District surveillance Officer  
EAST : 7029372100  
WEST : 9593287809  
NORTH : 9641957468  
SOUTH : 7407691463  
New STNM  
AMS : 9434711402

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

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9647102692  
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## Pending Issues

### *Difficult Delhi or poor follow-up?*

Any time the Chief Minister or other leaders, whether from the government or outside of it, visit Delhi and call on Union Ministers and Central leaders, they submit memorandums which reiterate a substantial list of issues “pending” with the Centre. The list of demands has remained largely unchanged for a while, and this not because Sikkim is unimaginative, but because the demands have remained pending and hence continue to be petitioned for. For instance, at a recent pep-talk meet of NDA MPs with the Prime Minister ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, Sikkim’s Lok Sabha MP went over list of Sikkim-specific issues which are awaiting a resolution by the Centre. It is a familiar list. Delhi has acquiesced to Sikkim’s demands/ requests in too piecemeal a fashion – IT exemption for the Sikkimese and ST status for Limboos and Tamangs – are the only major demands that have been granted in a long while now, and these too after too many years of dithering and delaying, and both, in their own ways, incompletely seen through.

Meanwhile, the list of demands and its follow-up has been so static that one does not even need to await an official communiqué any more before putting out a report on what Delhi was reminded about and what received a patient hearing.

That is how routine the pending nature of Sikkim’s demands has become!

One understands that the wheels turn slow in Delhi, and now that the current dispensation in office there is trying to reinvent the wheel itself, Sikkim will need to learn afresh how to get things moving in the Capital. But even as Sikkim and its representatives try and find their way around the new Delhi, a question that still needs to be asked is why Sikkim needs to keep returning to Delhi with “pending issues”. At one level, the reason is simple - because Delhi needs to be constantly reminded about them since concerns of a State that sends only one MP each to the two Houses of Parliament are rarely priority. There is nothing that Sikkim can do about that “tyranny” of slim representation. But there must be more reasons behind Delhi’s easy amnesia on Sikkim’s pending issues, for one the possible fact that Sikkim still does not have officers diligent enough to follow up on proposals which have even the PMO’s backing. Once the politicians raise a demand with Central leaders and the same gets forwarded to the respective ministries, the bureaucracy comes into play and the files start moving. Files don’t however move if there is no one pursuing them, and experience bears out that Sikkim officials rarely do so. What is worse, sometimes, they don’t even respond to queries from the Centre. There have been enough instances even in the recent past when recalcitrance has defined follow-up from Sikkim’s departments.

Sikkim should have figured out by now that Delhi lacks the capacity and the time to figure out Sikkim’s “issues”. Most of the pending issues, however, need to be resolved by Delhi which lobs the ball back into Sikkim’s court and expects a neatly packed and formatted solution to be recommended by Sikkim for enforcement by Delhi. In complicated matters, the State also needs to provide the supporting arguments and watertight justifications and a ready reckoner on Sikkim’s special status and the leeway it allows. For more routine issues, sometimes it is as simple as placing the right proposal on the right table. Since this is clearly not happening as fluidly and as professionally as is required for new demands to be framed (since too many of the old have not yet been granted), what else can the elected representatives do but keep trooping down to Delhi to raise issues that are still pending even after everyone has cleared them in principle? Sikkim needs a bureaucratic machinery at home to troop through the doors that its leaders open in Delhi. Till that happens, an annual Delhi pilgrimage with a dusty list of pending demands will remain and constant feature.

### WRITE US:

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

# Billionaire Space Race: the ultimate symbol of capitalism’s flawed obsession with growth

TIM JACKSON  
*theconversation.com*

Mars ain’t the kind of place to raise your kids, laments the Rocket Man in Elton John’s timeless classic. In fact, it’s cold as hell. But that doesn’t seem to worry a new generation of space entrepreneurs intent on colonising the “final frontier” as fast as possible.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m no sullen technophobe. As lockdown projects go, Nasa’s landing of the Perseverance rover on the surface of the red planet earlier this year was a hell of a blast. Watching it reminded me that I once led a high school debate defending the motion: this house believes that humanity should reach for the stars.

It must have been around the time that Caspar Weinberger was trying to persuade President Nixon not to cancel the Apollo space programme. My brothers and I had watched the monochrome triumph of the Apollo 11 landing avidly in 1969. We’d witnessed the near disaster of Apollo 13 – immortalised in a 1995 Hollywood film – when Jim Lovell (played by Tom Hanks) and two rookie astronauts narrowly escaped with their lives by using the Lunar Module as an emergency life raft. We knew it was exciting up there.

I remember later going to see Apollo 13 (the film) with a friend who wasn’t born when the mission itself took place. “What did you think?” I asked as we came out of the cinema. “It was OK,” said my friend. “Just not very believable.”

But we kids were glued to our black-and-white TV sets the entire week of the original mission. We watched in horror as CO<sub>2</sub> levels rose in the Lunar Module. We endured the endless blackout as the returning astronauts plunged perilously back to Earth. We held our breath with the rest of the world as the expected four minutes stretched to five and hope began to fade. It was a full six minutes before the camera finally came into focus on the command module’s parachutes – safely deployed above the Pacific Ocean. We felt the endorphin rush. We knew it was believable.

That was 1970. This is now. And here I am again on the edge of another sofa, in the lingering uncertainty of the time of COVID-19, waiting for signs of arrival from another re-entry blackout on another barren rock, devoid of breathable atmosphere, 200 million miles away. And when the Perseverance Rover finally touches down on the surface of Mars: that same exhilaration. That same endorphin rush. Quite difficult to witness the jubilation behind the masks at Nasa’s mission control without feeling a glimmer of vicarious joy. Hope, even.

But Nasa’s clever science experiment is just the tip of an expansive iceberg. A teaser, if you will, for an ambitious dream that is being driven faster and faster by huge commercial interests. A curious twist in a debate that has been raging now for almost half a century.

#### GROWTH WARS

Ever since 1972, when a team of MIT scientists published a massively influential report on the Limits to Growth, economists have been fighting about whether it’s possible for the economy to expand forever. Those who believe it can, appeal to the power of technology to “decouple” economic activity from its effects on the planet. Those (like me) who believe it can’t point to the limited evidence for decoupling at anything like the pace that’s needed to avoid a climate emergency or prevent a catastrophic decline in biodiversity.

The growth debate often hangs on the power you attribute to technology to save us. Usually it’s the technophiles arguing for infinite growth on a finite planet – sometimes putting their hopes in speculative technologies such as direct air capture or dangerous ones like nuclear power. And usually it’s the sceptics arguing for a post-growth economy. But the simple division between technophiles and technophobes has never been particularly helpful. Very few growth sceptics reject technology completely. No one at all is asking humanity to return to the cave.

My own research teams at the University of Surrey have been exploring the vital role of sustainable technology in transforming the economy for almost three decades now. But we’ve also shown how the dynamics of capitalism – in particular its relentless pursuit of productivity growth – continually push society towards materialistic goals, and undermine those parts of the economy such as care, craft and creativity, which are essential to our quality of life.

And now suddenly, along comes a group of self-confessed technology lovers finally admitting that the planet is too small for us. Yes, you were right, they imply: the Earth cannot sustain infinite growth. That’s why we have to expand into space.

Wait. What just happened? Did somebody move the goalposts? Something is wrong. Maybe it’s me. One thing I know for sure. I’m no longer the same kid I was – the one from the debating society. This house believes that humanity should grow the fuck up.

Before it spends trillions of dollars littering its techno-junk around the solar system, this house believes that humanity should pay a little more attention to what’s happening right here and now. On

this planet.

#### THE HUMAN CONDITION

Perhaps ironically, it was from space that we saw it first. In October 1957, the Soviets sent an unmanned orbital satellite called Sputnik into space. It was one of those odd moments in history (like the coronavirus) that dramatically reshapes our social world. Sputnik kicked off the space race, intensified the arms race and heightened the cold war. It was a huge blow to US self-esteem not to be the first nation to reach space and it was the jolt it used to kickstart the Apollo Moon shot. No one likes coming second. Least of all the most powerful people on the planet.

But Sputnik also signalled the beginning of a new relationship between humanity and its earthly



home. As the political philosopher Hannah Arendt remarked in the prologue to her 1958 masterpiece, The Human Condition, going into space allowed us to grasp our planetary predicament for the first time in history. It was a reminder that “the Earth is the quintessence of the human condition”. And nature itself, “for all we know, may be unique in providing human beings with a habitat in which they can move and breathe without effort and without artifice”.

Fair point. And nothing we’ve learned in the intervening years has changed that prognosis. Mars may be the most habitable planet in the solar system, outside our own. But it’s still a very far cry from the beauty of home – whose fragility we only truly learned to appreciate fully from the images sent back to us from space.

Nature photographer Galen Rowell once called William Anders’ iconic photo Earthrise – taken from the Apollo 8 module in lunar orbit – “the most influential environmental photograph ever taken”. Earthrise brought home to us, in one astonishing image, the stark reality that this shining orb was – and still is – humanity’s best chance for anything that might meaningfully be called the “good life”.

Its beauty is our beauty. Its fragility is our fragility. And its peril is our peril.

#### AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

In the very same year that Arendt published The Human Condition, a Shell executive named Charles Jones presented a paper to the fossil fuel industry’s trade group, the American Petroleum Institute, warning of the impact of carbon emissions from fossil fuel combustion on the atmosphere. It was early evidence of climate change.

It was also evidence, according to lawsuits now being filed by cities and states in the US, that companies like Shell knew it was happening more than 60 years ago – three decades before James Hansen’s scientific testimony to Congress in 1988 brought global warming to public attention. And they did nothing about it. Worse, argue plaintiffs like the state of Delaware, they lied over and again to cover up this “inconvenient truth”.

Why such a thing could happen is now clear. Evidence of their impact was a direct threat to the profits of some of the most powerful corporations on the planet. Profit is the bedrock of capitalism. And as I argue in my new book, we have allowed capitalism to trump everything: work, life, hope – even good governance. The most enlightened governments in the world have turned a blind eye to the need for urgent action. Now we’re on the verge of being too late to fix it. Achieving net zero by 2050 is no longer enough. We need much more, much faster to avoid ending up in an unliveable hothouse.

Even as I write, record-breaking temperatures, 10-20°C above the seasonal average, have forced citizens on the west coast of North America into underground shelters to avoid the searing heat. Wildfires are raging in California’s Death Valley, where temperatures have reached an astonishing 54°C. On the storm-struck east coast, flood waters have inundated the New York subway system. Thousands remain homeless and hundreds are still missing, meanwhile, as historic flooding across central Europe has left almost 200 people dead.

In the face of the blindingly obvious, even recalcitrant presidents and politicians are at last beginning to acknowledge the scale of the peril in which our relentless pursuit of economic growth has

placed the planet. And in principle they still have time to do something about it.

As I and many colleagues have argued, the pandemic offers us a unique opportunity to fashion a different kind of economy. The 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Change Convention (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021 could well be the place to do that. Whether that happens or not will depend as much on vision as it does on science. And on our courage to confront the inequalities of power that led us to this point.

It will also depend on us going back to first principles and asking ourselves: how exactly should we aim to live in the only habitable world in the known universe? What is the nature of the good life available to us here? What can prosperity possibly

mean for a promiscuous species on a finite planet?

The question is almost as old as the hills. But the contemporary answer to it is paralytically narrow. Cast in the garb of late capitalism, prosperity has been captured by the ideology of “growth at all costs”: an insistence that more is always better. Despite overwhelming evidence that relentless expansion is undermining nature and driving us towards a devastating climate emergency, the “fair-rytales of eternal growth” still reign supreme.

#### ZERO GRAVITY

It’s an ironic twist in the tale of the debate society kid I used to be that I’ve spent most of my professional life confronting those fairytale of growth. Don’t ask me how that happened. By accident mostly.

I toyed with the idea of studying astrophysics. But I ended up studying Maths at Cambridge, where I confess to being baffled by the complexity of it all, until I realised that even math is just a trick. Quite literally a formula. Believe in it and you can travel to the stars and back. In your mind, at least.

And there I was wandering around in zero G, when I woke up one day (in April 1986) to find that the Number four reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine had suffered a catastrophic meltdown. I suddenly realised that the very same skills I’d spent my life developing were leading humanity not towards the stars but away from the paradise we already inhabit.

So yes. I changed my mind. The next day I walked into the Greenpeace office in London and asked what I could do to help. They set me working on the economics of renewable energy I became, accidentally, an economist. (Economics needs more accidental economists.) And that’s when it began to dawn on me that learning how to live well on this fragile planet is far more important than dreaming about the next one.

#### MINE IS BIGGER THAN YOURS

Not so the space race billionaires. A handful of unbelievably powerful men, whose wealth has exploded massively throughout the pandemic, are now busy trying to persuade us that the future lies not here on Earth but out there among the stars.

Tesla founder and serial entrepreneur, Elon Musk is one of these new rocket men. “Those who attack space,” he tweeted recently, “maybe don’t realise that space represents hope for so many people”. That may be true of course in a world where huge inequalities of wealth and privilege strip hope from the lives of billions of people. But, as the spouse of a Nasa flight controller pointed out, it obscures the extraordinary demands of escaping from Mother Earth, in terms of energy materials, people and time.

Undeterred, the rocket men gaze starward. If resources are the problem, then space must be the answer. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is pretty explicit about his own expansionary vision. “We can have a trillion humans in the solar system,” he once declared. “Which means we’d have a thousand Mozarts and a thousand Einsteins. This would be an incredible civilisation.”

Bezos and Musk have spent their lockdown contesting the top two places on the Forbes rich list. They’ve also been playing “mine is bigger than yours” in their own private space race for a couple of decades now. Bezos’s personal wealth almost doubled during the course of a pandemic that destroyed the lives and livelihoods of millions. He’s

*turn to pg07*



Mizoram reports 725 new COVID-19 cases, 1 more death

**AIZAWL, JUL 21 (PTI):** Mizoram's COVID-19 tally surged to 29,020 as 725 more people including 138 children tested positive for the virus in the last 24 hours, pushing the state's tally to 29,020, a health department official said on Wednesday.

The single-day positivity rate rose to 16 per cent from 10.85 per cent on Tuesday, the official said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the state climbed to 126 as a 73-year-old man from Aizawl succumbed to the infection at Zoram Medical College (ZMC) on Tuesday night.

Of the fresh COVID-19 cases, 111 were detected during mass testing drive held in six localities or pockets within Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) area, he said.

Forty-four cases were confirmed through RT-PCR test, while 647 cases were detected through Rapid Antigen Test and the remaining 34 cases were detected through TrueNat test, he said.

Aizawl district reported the highest number of fresh cases at 461, followed by Kolasib (116), Lunglei (72), Mamit (33), Lawngtlai (25), Siaha (16) and Serchhip (2).

At least 342 patients were diagnosed during contact tracing, he said, adding that 651 patients have developed symptoms of COVID-19.

Mizoram now has 6,833 active COVID-19 cases, while 22,061 people have recovered from the infection, including 373 on Tuesday, he said.

The northeastern state has tested over 5.69 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 4,530 in the last 24 hours. The COVID-19 recovery rate is now 76 per cent and death rate is 0.43 per cent.

According to state Immunisation officer Dr Lalzawmi, over 6.11 lakh people have been inoculated till Tuesday.

3 poachers held for killing barking deer in Odisha

**BARIPADA (ODISHA), JUL 20 (PTI):** The Odisha forest department personnel arrested three persons for allegedly killing a barking deer in Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district, an official said on Tuesday.

They were apprehended on Monday in Uttarash forest under the Rutuguria range during a routine patrolling by the personnel of the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).

About 7 kilograms of meat of the wild animal, bows, arrows and an axe were seized from the three poachers, Similipal Tiger Reserve ACF Pradeep Kumar Dey said.

A case under the Wildlife Protection Act was registered against them, the official said.

VIPs using threat and influence to corner J&J single-shot vaccine while people stand in lines to no avail

**ARJUN POUDEL KATHMANDU, 21 JUL [KATHMANDUPOST]:** When 52-year-old Jaya Bahadur Tamang went to an urban health clinic in Kageshwari-Manohara Municipality on Tuesday to be inoculated with the Covid-19 vaccine, he was told the clinic had run out of vaccines and the immunisation programme had been suspended.

"I came here to get the vaccine during my lunch break but health workers told me that all vaccines were administered on Monday," Tamang, a labourer who hails from Barhabise, Sindhupalchok, told the Post.

Gopal Kuikel and his wife Manju, both 50 and residents of Kageshwari-Manohara Municipality, too went to a nearby health facility to be vaccinated on Tuesday.

But they too were told that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine supplied by the Health Office, Kathmandu had already been administered.

Health workers advised them to wait for a few days for the Vero Cell vaccine to arrive and they would get their jabs.

The Ministry of Health and Population began administering the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine to those between 50 and 54 years, migrant workers, and disabled among others in Kathmandu Valley on Monday and the vaccination campaign was scheduled to continue till Wednesday.

The ministry had earlier decided to roll out the Johnson & Johnson vaccine from last Thursday but authorities



later delayed the rollout so that newly-appointed Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba could inaugurate the latest drive, an official at the Health Ministry said on condition of anonymity.

However, those in the target groups have not been able to get jabs because health workers have been under pressure from political leaders and other influential people to provide jabs to those close to them.

"What can we do, when health workers are pressured and threatened to inoculate people other than those in priority groups?" Laxmi Koirala, health coordinator of the Kageshwari-Manohara Municipality told the Post. "I am also abused and threatened

by various groups to provide vaccines, but how can I arrange when we received only enough doses for the priority population in our municipality?"

The Health Office, Kathmandu had supplied 4,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to the municipality.

If the jabs were given to only those in the target groups they would have been sufficient, according to the office.

"I am getting information from many places that vaccines were given to those outside the target groups and there have been vaccine shortages," Badri Bahadur Khadka, chief of the Health Office, Kathmandu told the

Post. "Health workers are under intense pressure from various groups to provide the vaccine."

The United States gave Nepal 1,534,850 doses of the single-shot Covid-19 vaccine on July 12 through the COVAX facility.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was also given to residents of Kavrepalanchok and most of the districts of the Gandaki Province from Monday. Other districts are expected to start immunisation as per the availability of the jabs, according to Dr Jhalak Gautam, chief of National Immunisation Programme.

Dr Mingmar Gyelgen Sherpa, former director general at the Department of Health Services, told the Post that four of

his relatives aged between 50 and 54 years in Bauddha, of Kathmandu Metropolitan City did not get the vaccine when they reached the immunisation centre.

In other municipalities of Kathmandu Valley too the story is similar.

Shyam Kaji Bhandel, 74, and his wife Dolmaya, 73, from Changunarayan Municipality of Bhaktapur were told that vaccines were finished when they reached an immunisation centre near their home on Tuesday.

They were told to go to another centre in the same municipality by others who had got their shots there but when the couple got there, the centre also had run out of the Johnson & Johnson shots.

Gautam of the National Immunisation Programme, however, said that he is unaware that people from other groups are getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"I am unaware of any such report," Gautam told the Post. "We have asked the health agencies concerned to follow the priority groups at every meeting."

The mismanagement in the administration of vaccines has been a frequent occurrence.

Immunisation centres across the country ran out of jabs last week too when the government began vaccinating those between the ages of 55 to 60 with the China-made Vero Cell vaccine. The government began the drive with the 800,000 doses of the vaccine that Nepal bought under a non-disclosure agreement with the Chinese state-owned pharmaceutical giant Sinopharm last Tuesday and said it would go on for five days. But most places had to suspend the programme after three days as the immunisation centres ran out of jabs. About 2.4 million doses of the vaccine are expected to arrive later this week.

"Providing jabs to all eligible people is not wrong but if the elderly people in the priority group are deprived of vaccines, it is a matter of concern," said Sherpa. "We cannot prevent deaths, severity of illness and hospital admissions, if we ignore the priority groups. Authorities should enforce the rules, as it is scientific and necessary."

Assam cycles to wish Olympics boxer Lovlina Borgohain

**GUWAHATI, JUL 21 (PTI):** Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimary and Leader of Opposition Debabrata Saikia on Wednesday pedalled bicycles, wishing success to pugilist Lovlina Borgohain, the lone competitor from Assam in Tokyo Olympics.

Along with them, several ministers, scores of MLAs and senior officials took part in the 'Go for Glory - Lovlina', a bicycle rally that started at Last Gate and concluded at Nehru Stadium in the city.

Speaking at the event, Sarma said the rally was organised with a vision to support and motivate "Assam's daughter" Lovlina, who is representing India at the Tokyo Olympics.

He also felicitated



the boxer's father Tiken Borgohain at the event, while urging people to come together and cheer for the pugilist.

"We are so proud of Lovlina who is the first female athlete from #Assam to represent India at the #Olympics \$@\$# the second boxer after Shiva Thapa to participate in the same from the state. May you continue to bring glories to the nation," Sarma tweeted after the function. Saikia

said Lovlina is the pride of Assam and he is confident that she will make the state and country proud with her stupendous performance.

Along with Sarma, Daimary and Saikia, Deputy Speaker Numal Momin, ministers Bimal Bora, Atul Bora, Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Pijush Hazarika, Sanjoy Kishan and Jogen Mohan also pedalled through the Guwahati roads.

The Assam government had in June extend-

ed financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the Arjuna awardee to help her prepare for the mega sporting event.

Lovlina, 23, who had qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in March last year, will be competing in the welterweight category (69 kg).

The much-delayed Tokyo Olympics are scheduled from July 23 to August 8, with the boxing events starting from July 24.

2 new COVID-19 cases push Andamans tally to 7,518

**PORT BLAIR, JUL 21 (PTI):** Andaman and Nicobar Islands reported only two new COVID-19 cases, pushing the tally in the union territory to 7,518, a health department official said on Wednesday.

One patient was detected during contact tracing and another was airport arrival, he said.

All passengers arriving by flight have to undergo mandatory RT-PCR test before they are allowed entry into the islands, the official said.

The COVID-19 death

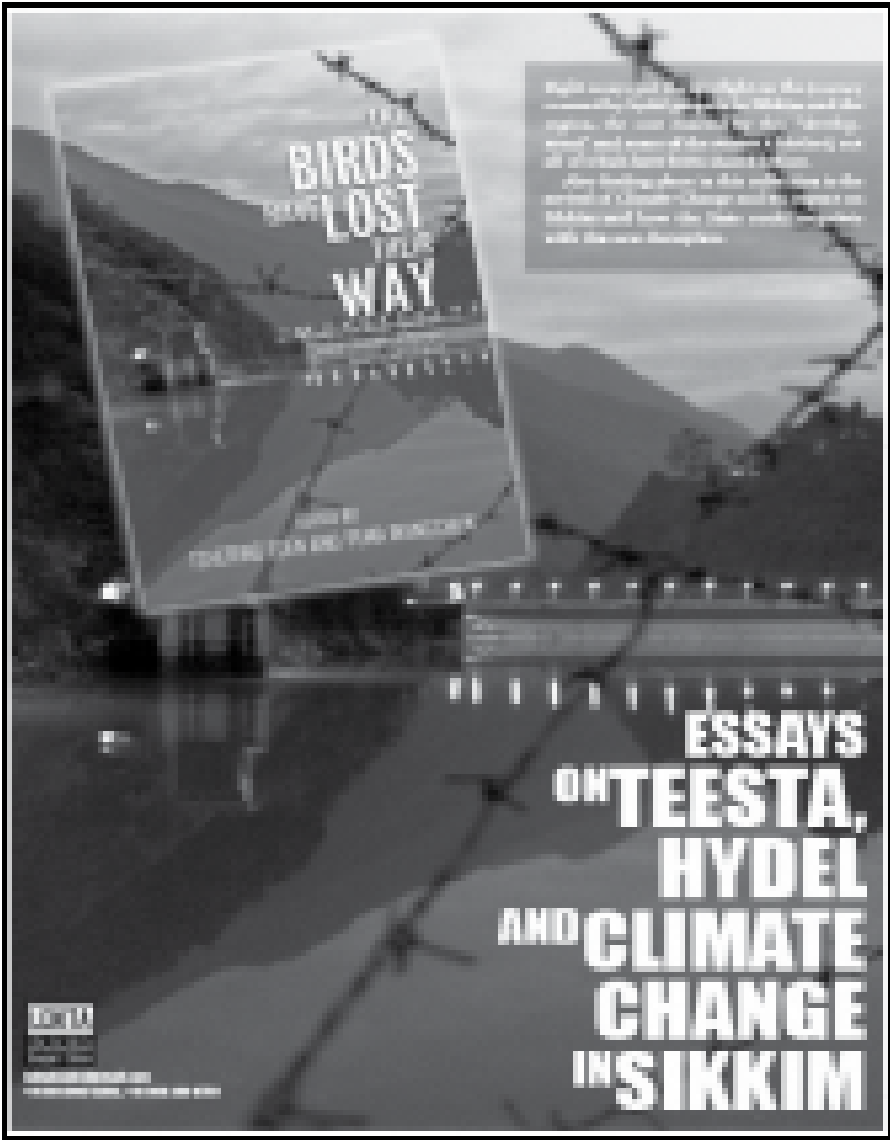
toll remained at 129 as no new fatality due to the infection was reported in the last 24 hours, the official said.

The archipelago now has 19 active COVID-19 cases of which 17 are in the South Andaman district and two in the North and Middle Andaman district. The Nicobar district is now COVID-19 free as it has no active case, he said.

Two more persons recuperated from COVID-19 during the period, taking the total number of recoveries to 7,370,

he said. The Andaman and Nicobar administration has conducted 4,28,751 sample tests for COVID-19 so far, and the positivity rate stands at 1.75 per cent, the health department official said.

A total of 2,62,687 people have been inoculated of which 1,77,955 have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 84,732 have received both doses of the vaccine, the official said, adding that the total population of the union territory is around 4 lakh.



Arunachal Pradesh reports 476 new COVID-19 cases

**ITANAGAR, JUL 21 (PTI):** Arunachal Pradesh's COVID-19 tally rose to 43,804 as 476 more people tested positive for the infection, a senior health official said here on Wednesday.

The COVID-19 death toll in the frontier state remained at 203 as no fresh fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Dr Lobsang Jampa said.

The highest number of fresh cases were reported from the Capital Complex Region at 131, followed by West Kameng (40), Tawang (38), Lower Subansiri (34), Papumpare (31), East Siang (30), Upper Subansiri and Leparada at 25 each and Longding (21).

Seventeen fresh cases were also reported from Namsai, 13 from Changlang, 11 from Anjaw,

10 cases each from Siang, Upper Siang and Tirap, eight from Lower Dibang Valley, five each from Lower Siang and Kurung Kumey, four from East Kameng, three each from West Siang and Kra Daadi and two from Kamle, the official said.

Of the fresh cases, 439 were detected through rapid antigen test, 21 through RT-PCR and 16 by TrueNat method, the SSO said, adding that 220 people were symptomatic of COVID-19.

Arunachal Pradesh currently has 4,332 active COVID-19 cases, he said.

As many as 404 patients were cured of the disease on Tuesday taking the total number of COVID-19 recoveries in the state to 39,269, Jampa said.

The COVID-19 recovery rate in the state now is 89.65 per cent

while the active percentage stands at 9.89 and the positivity rate at 8.10 per cent, the official said.

The Capital Complex Region - comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdewa areas - has the highest number of active cases at 1,134, followed by West Kameng (325), Lohit (314), Papumpare (286), East Siang (274) and Lower Subansiri at 245 cases.

Altogether, 8,71,328 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state so far, including 5,874 on Tuesday, Jampa said.

Meanwhile, State Immunisation Officer, Dr Dimong Padung informed that a total of 7,93,366 people have been administered COVID-19 vaccine doses so far in the state since the inoculation drive began in January this year.



## Go for elusive medal: Tendulkar tells Tokyo-bound track and field athletes



**NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI):** Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday urged India's 26-strong squad for Tokyo Olympics to enjoy the pressure and not be bogged down by it during the Games as he joined the Athletics Federation of India in giving them an online send-off.

In the virtual event, Tendulkar told them to chase the dream of winning an Olympic medal relentlessly.

"A lot of people say there is win or loss in sport but my message is that the loss should be for your opponent and the win for you. You should go for the medal," Tendulkar said.

"Don't stop chasing your dream and the dream should be the medal around your neck, National Anthem playing and the tri-colour flying

high." The track and field contingent will have 47 members, including 26 athletes. There will be 11 coaches, eight support staff, one team doctor and one team leader.

The contingent leaves for Tokyo on July 23.

Tendulkar said pressure is an athlete's companion in all sports and it is crucial to channelise it into a better performance.

"Expectation of people has grown because of your improved performance. That is a good thing. I had always enjoyed pressure or expectation from the people. You have to change it to positive energy."

The athletics events will be held from July 30 to August 8 and India's hopes are being primarily from javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

## IOC re-elects Ban Ki-moon as Chair of Ethics Commission

Tokyo, Jul 21 (PTI): Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was on Tuesday re-elected as Chair of the IOC's Ethics Commission during the International Olympic Committee's session here.

The 77-year-old South Korean politician and diplomat, who held the role since 2017, will serve another four-year term.

Laura Chinchilla of Costa Rica, who joined the IOC as a member in 2019, was elected as a new member of the Ethics Commission.

China's HanqinXue was also re-elected as a member of the Commission for an additional four-year term.

She had joined the Commission in 2017.

"Chair Ban Ki-moon and Xue have been elected in their capacity as personalities, independent members who are not active, honorary, honour or former IOC Members," the Olympic website stated.

"Ms Laura Chinchilla has been elected as Member of the IOC Ethics Commission in her quality as active, honorary, honour or former IOC Member," it added.

The much-anticipated Tokyo Games are slated to begin on Friday.

Ban was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, from January 2007 to December 2016.

## Marta scores twice, Brazil routs China 5-0 at Olympics

**RIFU, JAPAN (AP):** Marta became the first player to score in five straight Olympics and Brazil beat China 5-0 on Wednesday in the women's soccer tournament.

Marta finished with a pair of goals for Brazil, which is ranked No. 7 in the world. Debinha, AndressaAlves and Beatriz also scored.

A six-time FIFA Player of the Year, Marta has 111 international goals, more than any Brazilian player, male or female. After her goal in the ninth minute, Debinha added another in the 22nd to put Brazil up 2-0.

Marta added her second goal in the 74th minute before Alves scored from the penalty spot. Be-

atriz closed out the rout with a goal in the 89th. Brazil was playing its first major tournament under PiaSundhage, the former coach of both the U.S. and Swedish women. Sundhage coached the U.S. team that won the gold medal at the 2012 London Games.

China, ranked No. 15, qualified as runner-up at the Asian qualifying tournament. The Chinese were making their fifth Olympic appearance. The team's best finish was runner-up in 1996.

China's squad for Tokyo is largely inexperienced, with only five players left over from the roster for the 2016 Games.

# Brisbane picked to host 2032 Olympics without a rival bid

**TOKYO (AP):** Brisbane was picked Wednesday to host the 2032 Olympics, the inevitable winner of a one-city race steered by the IOC to avoid rival bids.

The Games will go back to Australia 32 years after the popular 2000 Sydney Olympics. Melbourne hosted in 1956.

"We know what it takes to deliver a successful Games in Australia," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told International Olympic Committee members in an 11-minute live video link from his office.

When the award was later confirmed, with Brisbane winning the vote 72-5, Morrison raised both arms in the air and gave two thumbs up.

The victory led to a fireworks display in Brisbane that was broadcast to IOC members in their five-star hotel in Tokyo.

Brisbane follows 2028 host Los Angeles in getting 11 years to prepare for hosting the Games. Paris will host in 2024.

The 2032 deal looked done months before the formal decision at the IOC meeting, which was held ahead of Friday's opening ceremony of the Tokyo Games.

The IOC gave Brisbane exclusive negotiating rights in February. That decision left Olympic officials in Qatar, Hungary and Germany looking blindsided by their own stalled bidding plans.

Though the result was expected, a high-level Australian delegation went to Tokyo amid the COVID-19 pandemic to present speeches, films and promises on stage.

The city of Brisbane sent



Mayor Adrian Schrinner, the state of Queensland sent Premier AnnastaciaPalaszczuk and Australia's federal government sent sports minister Richard Colbeck to woo Olympic voters.

They were joined by long-time Australian Olympic official John Coates, now an IOC vice president who shaped the fast-track selection process two years ago that now rewarded his Brisbane bid.

The first-time format was designed to cut campaign costs, give the IOC more control in dealing discreetly with preferred candidates and removed the risk of vote-buying.

The project was described by the IOC as "a passion-driven, athlete-centric offer from a sports-loving nation." Events will be staged across Queensland, including in Gold

Coast, which hosted the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Brisbane's renowned cricket stadium, known as the Gabba, will be upgraded and may host the sport at the Games. Cricket was played once at the Olympics, at the 1900 Paris Games.

The next three Summer Games hosts — starting with Paris in 2024 — are now secured in wealthy and traditional Olympic nations without any of the trio facing a contested vote. The IOC and its hands-on president, Thomas Bach, have torn up the template of traditional bidding campaigns and hosting votes to lock down preferred cities with the minimum risk.

Paris and LA were competing for 2024 until Bach and Coates oversaw including the 2028 rights in an unprecedented double award four

years ago. The future hosts offer stability for the IOC which was stung by the two previous Summer Games contests being tainted by allegations of vote-buying when multiple cities were on the ballot.

The 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and the postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympics are still under investigation by French prosecutors. They have implicated officials who then lost their place in the IOC family as active or honorary members.

A low-risk future beckons for the IOC following the often-troubled Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Beijing Winter Games in February, which will throw scrutiny on China's human rights record.

Key partners have also been secured through 2032. The IOC's signature broadcasting deal with NBC and top-tier

sponsors Coca-Cola, Visa and Omega are tied down for the decade ahead.

With only major cities staging the Summer Games from Beijing in 2008 through Los Angeles, Brisbane positioned itself as a new kind of project.

"We want to show the world that mid-sized cities and regions can host the Games without financial distress or missed deadlines," Palaszczuk told voters.

Brisbane said it already has 84% of stadiums and event venues in place to fit the IOC's modern demand of avoiding excessive spending and potential white-elephant projects.

A new swimming arena is planned and billions of dollars will be spent on transport projects — not because of the Olympics but in time for them, Brisbane officials said.

## Saqlain wants ICC to review 15-degree elbow rule for bowlers



**Karachi, Jul 21 (PTI):** Former Pakistan spinner SaqlainMushaq wants the International Cricket Council (ICC) to review its existing 15-degree arm/elbow extension law for bowlers.

Saqlain, who is presently head coach at the Pakistan Cricket Board's High Performance Centre in Lahore, said the law is discouraging youngsters from taking up the art of off-spin bowling.

"I would like to know how the ICC experts reached this conclusion of allowing only 15-degrees latitude to bowlers. Did they do research on Asian players, Caribbean players, others because everyone is different.

"Asian players' bodies are different, they tend to have more flexibility in their arms and some have hyper mobile joints. If you look at Caribbean or English players their bodies are different," Saqlain said in an interview.

He noted that even

carry angle, meaning flexibility in arms while in standing posture, is different in Asian players. "I think the ICC should review this law because the 15-degrees latitude is too little. It is discouraging players from the art of off-spin bowling.

"I personally believe that one can bowl off-breaks, doosra and top spin even within the law but since it came out I have seen players who used to bowl off-spin now becoming leg-spinners or wrist spinners, he said.

Saqlain, who ended an illustrious career with 208 Test and 288 ODI wickets and made the Doosra ball famous, believed that a off-spinner can also be successful in white ball formats if he has a good set of skills and it is not necessary to be able to bowl the doosra to be effective.

Saqlain also felt that teams were not relying on specialist off-break

bowlers in white ball formats because of an increasing trend of using wrist spinners.

"It is an ongoing trend in white ball formats that teams want to have maximum wrist spinners like India has Chahal and Yadav, Australia has Adam Zampa and Stephenson, England has Adil Rashid etcAnd this is discouraging players from taking up the art of off-spin bowling.

He noted that it was only in Test cricket mainly that some countries still employed specialist off-spinners successfully like Nathan Lyon was a regular for Australia and R Ashwin for India while Moeen Ali has done his bit for England.

Saqlain, 44, who has worked as spin consultant/coach with different teams including England, West Indies, New Zealand urged countries to have budgets to have regular permanent spin coaches with their teams.

"Their is also a need

to have permanent spin coaches at domestic level and the junior levels."

Saqlain had no doubt that spinners would have a vital role to play in the upcoming World T20 Cup in UAE and Oman provided the conditions remained dry.

"Role of spinners in the subcontinent and UAE is always vital but there is no dew factor because a lot of matches are held under lights.

"If there is no dew factor they will dominate in dry conditions but to do this they must be class bowlers with a very good set of skills. It is all about bowlers who try to get away with just bowling economically and those who try to take wickets as well.

Saqlain said that a spin bowler loses his bite, drifts in dew conditions and it becomes difficult to also grip the ball.

To a question, he had no doubt that India's surge in world cricket was due to the number of A team tours they arranged for their fringe players in the last 10-years.

"Pakistan cricket has suffered a lot because of no international cricket at home but India has done the right thing by investing on its under-19 and A team tours. I remember I was working in England for like four summers and once in Australia and every year I saw some Indian team touring those countries.

## Soccer players kneel to start ew era of Olympic activism



**TOKYO (AP):** The referee's whistle blew, the British players glanced at one another and they dropped to their knees. Their Chilean counterparts responded in kind, all taking a knee at the Sapporo Dome.

An hour later, it was the American and Swedish players in Tokyo taking part Wednesday in united, unprecedented gestures against racism by teams at an Olympics.

On the initial day of action at the Tokyo Games, the women's soccer players were the first athletes to use the Olympic platform for a display of activism.

Long restricted by the International Olympic Committee, such protests within limited parameters are now permitted at the Games inside the field of play.

The British players decided at a team meeting before flying to Japan to perform the gesture that has been featured over the last year at club matches in the Women's Super League in England.

Unlike in sports like the NFL, where players take a knee during the national anthem, in soc-

cer it happens just before kickoff.

It was in 2016 that Colin Kaepernick first kneeled rather than stood during the anthem while playing for the San Francisco 49ers.

Soccer previously shunned any form of activism at matches. But FIFA relaxed its policy last year after players in Europe decided to use matches to protest racial injustice sparked by the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of a white police officer.

FIFA also told referees to apply common sense and to allow players to display T-shirts with messages against racism that previously were banned in soccer.

The IOC allows gestures of activism — if permitted by that sport's governing body — only before or after the official start of events at the Olympics.

Podium protests are still off-limits, prohibiting a repeat of the raised black-gloved fists of American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.



# Belgrade residents tell rights court of bar noise ‘torture’

**BELGRADE, SERBIA (AP):** Serbia’s capital is vibrating with nightlife again after over a year of pandemic restrictions. Cafes, bars and fun-hungry customers are celebrating a summer boom in business and entertainment options, but the accompanying loud music and other noise are a bust for residents across Belgrade.

Since hot weather arrived and coronavirus rules eased, Nemanja Dragic, 36, said he can’t open his balcony door without a thunderous cacophony bursting into his apartment. He used his savings to install a thicker door and sturdier windows, desperate to muffle the sounds coming from over a dozen bars and clubs.

Dragic’s apartment overlooks a downtown Belgrade street that is one of the hot spots in a European capital with a reputation for partying after dark. He said all the carousing makes it impossible to keep his windows open during much of the summer, to rest or to spend undisturbed time in his home.

“The noise is such that some neighbors just leave the city or the street or everything,” said Dragic, an engineer.

Residents of the city’s commercial areas have complained for years about deafening noise



from bars, discos and night clubs. Faced with inaction from authorities, some citizen associations have turned to the European Court of Human Rights, filing a case that argues they have been exposed to torture and had their rights to family life and privacy violated.

Lawyer Marina Mijatovic said she took the issue to the court in Strasbourg after Belgrade authorities didn’t respond to a local court ruling last month that said they hadn’t done enough to limit noise. The European court is yet to decide whether it will accept the case, she said.

“We expect the (European) court to confirm the violation of rights and instruct Serbia to take measures to reduce the noise to the levels acceptable for normal life,” she said.

City officials didn’t reply to interview requests from The Associated Press. Belgrade authorities, after promising repeatedly to address the complaints, and have prepared new noise protection rules that envisage wider authority for a community policing unit.

Misa Relic, who heads the Association of Night Bars and Clubs, said he is aware of tensions with residents in some

Belgrade neighborhoods, but he warned against rushed solutions that on the heels of the coronavirus pandemic could jeopardize what he described as Belgrade’s signature tourist experience — the clubbing.

“I am always for an agreement between two sides who understand each other’s position and are ready for a fair compromise,” Relic said.

Though not new, the noise problem became acutely visible in late June and early July as Belgrade’s night life exploded in full force with a series of concerts, rave parties and festivals. Partying crowds also trig-

gered alarm over a potential virus resurgence as few events requested proof of vaccination or negative tests.

Ana Davico of the Belgrade Noise Abatement Society said local government should follow the examples of other major European cities with dynamic night scenes that have encouraged and provided financial support for sound-blocking equipment in night clubs.

Instead, noise limits aren’t enforced, and in the decade since her group was formed, the situation in Belgrade — and throughout Serbia — has only gotten worse, Davico insisted. “We now have depots of noise all over Belgrade and a situation where the existing regulations that offer a decent framework to solve the problem are not being implemented,” she said.

Citizens’ groups have collected thousands of complaints filed with police, videos and noise level recordings to back their case in the European court, Davico said. The noise often is much higher than the legally permitted limits, and only rarely do cafes or nightclubs use soundproofing equipment even though it is generally envisaged in the current regulations, she added.

## Billionaire Space Race...

now stepping down to spend more time on Blue Origin, the company he hopes will deliver vast human colonies across the solar system.

The declared aim of Musk’s rival company, SpaceX, is “to make humanity multiplanetary”. Just like Kim Stanley Robinson’s science fiction trilogy back in the 1990s, Musk aims to establish a permanent human colony on Mars. To get there, he reasons, we need very big rockets – or, in the original terminology of SpaceX, Big Fucking Rockets (BFRs) – eventually capable of transporting scores of people and hundreds of tonnes of equipment millions of miles across the solar system.

The BFRs have now given way to a series of (more sedately named) Starships. And to prove his green credentials Musk desperately wants these starships to be reusable. So much so that SpaceX conspired to blow up four consecutive Starship prototypes in quick succession during the first four months of 2021 trying unsuccessfully to re-land them.

Move fast and break things is the Silicon Valley motto of course. But eventually you’ve got to bring the goods home. Starship SN15 finally achieved that on May 5 – three weeks after SpaceX had landed a massive US\$2.9 billion contract from Nasa, nudging Blue Origin into the space race shadows.

Not wanting to be outdone, Bezos came up with what he must have hoped was the ultimate comeback. When Blue Origin’s New Shepard rocket – which is also reusable – made its first manned space flight on July 20, he and his brother Mark would be two of the first few passengers on board. Wow, Jeff! Kudos man! Now you really show us your cojones! Nobody likes coming second. Least of all the most powerful people on the planet.

But sometimes you get no choice. Out of the blue, without so much as a by-your-leave, Virgin boss, Richard Branson swooped in to steal everyone’s thunder. On July 11, nine days before Bezos’s big day, Branson became the first ever billionaire to launch himself into space.

And for a cool US\$250,000, he promised us, you too can be one of Virgin Galactic’s 600 or so breathless customers, waiting to enjoy three or four weightless minutes gazing back in rapture at the planet you’ve left behind. Apparently, Musk has already signed up. Bezos doesn’t need to. He’s made his own virgin space flight now.

### PROSPERITY AS HEALTH

The space rhetoric of the super-rich betrays a mentality that may once have served humanity well. Some would say it’s a quintessential feature of capital-

ism. Innovation upon innovation. A driving ambition to expand and explore. A primal urge to escape our origins and reach for the next horizon. Space travel is a natural extension of our obsession with economic growth. It’s the crowning jewel of capitalism. Further and faster is its frontier creed.

I’ve spent much of my professional life as a critic of that creed, not just for environmental reasons but on social grounds as well. The seven years I spent as economics commissioner on the UK’s Sustainable Development Commission and my subsequent research at the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity revealed something fundamental about our aspirations for the good life. Something that has been underlined by the experience of the pandemic.

Prosperity is as much about health as it is about wealth. Ask people what matters most in their lives and the chances are that this will come out somewhere near the top of the list. Health for themselves. Health for their friends and their families. Health too – sometimes – for the fragile planet on which we live and on whose health we ourselves depend.

There’s something fascinating in this idea. Because it confronts the obsession with growth head on. As Aristotle pointed out in Nicomachean Ethics (a book named after his physician father), the good life is not a relentless search for more, but a continual process of finding a “virtuous” balance between too little and too much.

Population health provides an obvious example of this idea. Too little food and we’re struggling with diseases of malnutrition. Too much and we’re tipped into the “diseases of affluence” that now kill more people than undernutrition does. Good health depends on us finding and nurturing this balance.

This task is always tricky of course, even at the individual level. Just think about the challenge of keeping your exercise, your diet and your appetites in line with the outcome of a healthy body weight. But as I’ve argued, living inside a system that has its sights continually focused on more makes the task near impossible. Obesity has tripled since 1975. Almost two-fifths of adults over 18 are overweight. Capitalism not only fails to recognise the point where balance lies. It has absolutely no idea how to stop when it gets there.

You’d think our brush with mortality through the pandemic would have brought some of this home to us. You’d think it would give us pause for thought about what really matters to us: the kind of world we want for our children; the kind of society we want to live in.

And for many people it has. In a survey carried out during lockdown in the UK, 85% of respondents found something in their changed conditions they felt worth keeping and fewer than 10% wanted a complete return to normal.

When life and health are at stake, the ungodly scramble for wealth and status feels less and less attractive. Even the lure of technology pales. Family, conviviality and a sense of purpose come to the fore. These are the things that many people found they lacked most throughout the pandemic. But their importance in our lives was not a COVID accident: they are the most fundamental elements of a sustainable prosperity.

### THE DENIAL OF DEATH

Something even more surprising has emerged during my three decades of research. Behind consumer capitalism, behind the frontier mentality, beyond the urge to expand forever lies a deep-seated and pervasive anxiety.

What does day two look like, Bezos once asked a crowd of the faithful, referring to his famous maxim about the need to innovate. “Day two is stasis, followed by irrelevance, followed by excruciatingly painful decline, followed by death,” he said. “And that. Is why. It is always. Day one!” His audience loved it.

Musk plays out his own inner demons just as disarmingly. “I’m not trying to be anyone’s saviour,” he once told TED’s head curator, Chris Anderson. “I’m just trying to think about the future – and not be sad.” Again, the applause was deafening.

A well-trained therapist could have a field day with all of this. Take that miraculous day a few weeks after the Perseverance rover started sending home the most amazing selfies in the universe, when the Ingenuity helicopter made its virgin flight in the wafer thin atmosphere of Mars. It was the kind of outcome that could have intelligence agencies drooling over far less benign uses of the technology. But there was also something pretty existential going on.

The faint whispering of the Martian wind, relayed faithfully across the solar system, doesn’t just confirm the possibilities for aerial flight on an alien planet. It’s grist to the mill of an essential belief that human beings are endlessly creative and fiendishly clever.

Our visceral response to these momentary triumphs speaks to a branch of psychology called terror management theory drawn from the work of cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker. It was explored in particular in his astonishing 1973 book The Denial of Death. In it, Becker argues that modern society has lost its way, precisely because we’ve

## Russia unveils new fighter, Putin hails country's air power

**Moscow, Jul. 21 (AP):** With much fanfare, Russian aircraft makers on Tuesday unveiled a prototype of a new fighter jet that features stealth capabilities and other advanced characteristics.

Russian President Vladimir Putin inspected the prospective warplane displayed at the MAKS-2021 International Aviation and Space Salon in Zhukovsky, outside Moscow.

The new design has been developed by aircraft maker Sukhoi under the LTS program a Russian acronym for the Light Tactical Aircraft.

Its makers said the prototype is set to make its maiden flight in 2023 and deliveries could start after 2026. They said the new design could be converted to an unpiloted version and a two-seat variant.

The new aircraft is smaller than Russia’s latest Su-57 two-engine stealth fighter, also built by Sukhoi, and only has one engine. It hasn’t received a name yet, and no details have been given about its characteristics and production prospects.

Russia’s Rostec state corporation that includes Sukhoi and other aircraft makers has advertised the new plane under the tag Checkmate, apparently intended to underline its superior characteristics.

It said the new warplane belongs to the so-called fifth generation of fighter jets a definition that assumes stealth characteristics and a capability to cruise at supersonic speed, among other advanced features.

Rostec also said the new design includes artificial intelligence features to assist the pilot and other innovative technologies. It empha-

sized that it has been designed to reduce service costs and could be easily adapted to varying customer needs.

The prospective Russian fighter jet appears intended to compete with the US F-35 Lightning II fighter, which entered service in 2015.

Rostec has run an aggressive advertising campaign in the days before the show, publishing a picture of the new fighter hidden under a black tarpaulin with wanna see me naked? written under it.

It also posted a video featuring adulatory commenters from India, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Vietnam and other countries, reflecting export hopes.

Plane spotters flocked to Zhukovsky last week to take pictures of the new plane as it was being taxied to a parking spot across the giant airfield which has served as the country’s top military aircraft test facility since Cold War times.

The Kremlin has made modernization of the country’s arsenals a key priority amid tensions with the West that followed Moscow’s 2014 annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula.

It also has strongly encouraged the development of new passenger jets intended to compete with planes built by Boeing and Airbus that currently account for the bulk of Russian carriers’ fleets.

Those programs have encountered delays amid Western sanctions that hampered imports of Western engines and other key components, but Russia has managed to make a new engine for the new MS-21 passenger plane that was also displayed at the show in Zhukovsky.



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**COMING UP ROSES!** Actress Katie Thurston was all smiles ahead of dinner at Craig's in West Hollywood.

## Amazon announces unscripted docuseries 'Tampa Baes'

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 21 (PTI):** Amazon Studios has given an order for "Tampa Baes", an unscripted docuseries that will follow a group of young lesbian friends in Tampa Bay, Florida.

The show comes from 3 Ball Productions and is set for a premiere in the US, UK, Australia, Canada, India, Ireland and New Zealand later this year, Amazon said in a statement.

"The young lesbian 'it-crowd' navigating and celebrating life in Tampa Bay Florida's LGBTQ+ hub and the place to see and be seen. Always ready for an adventure or a good party, this group of loyal friends and sometimes more than friends is ambitious and unapologetic while constantly battling stereotypes and labels," the official description reads.

"With all eyes on these fun-loving women at this pivotal moment in their personal and professional lives, there's not a challenge or hot-button issue they won't tackle, even if it means getting real with each other," it added.

The titular group of friends includes Ali Myers, Nelly Ramirez, Shiva Pishdad, Jordan Whitley, Marissa Gialousis, Summer Mitchell, Cuppie Bragg, Brianna Murphy, Haley Grable, Melanie Posner, Olivia Mullins and Mack

McKenzie.

"Working on this show has been an incredible experience, and as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I'm thrilled this type of series can exist in the premium streaming space.

"The cast is truly dynamic, refreshing and unlike any I've worked with they certainly won't disappoint! Viewers everywhere will be able to relate to them in one way or another, and I can't wait for the world to fall in love with our 'Tampa Baes,'" said showrunner Melissa Bidwell.

Vernon Sanders, Co-Head of Television at Amazon Studios, hailed "Tampa Baes" as "fun and celebratory".

"In a world where there's a dearth of content centering dynamic lesbian women, Amazon Studios is excited to bring this vibrant look at these women's lives and give the world a real entry point to undoubtedly know and love them," he added.

The show is executive produced by Reinout Oerlemans, Ross Weintraub, Jeff Altrock, Paul O'Malley and Melissa Bidwell.



## Fulfilled my dream to work on a sports movie with 'SarpattaParambarai', says actor Arya

**MUMBAI, JUL 21 (PTI):** South actor Arya says working on acclaimed director PaRanjith's 1970s-set boxing drama "SarpattaParambarai" was like fulfilling a long-cherished dream of starring in a sports movie. The Tamil-language period drama revolves around two rival clans -- IdiyappaParambarai and SarpattaParambarai -- in north Chennai and the boxing culture of the region.

Arya, who is best known for his roles in "Vettai", NaanKadavul, Madrasapattinam, Boss Engira Bhaskaran, Atlee's family film Raja Rani, action-thriller Arrambam, is a sports enthusiast in real life. He is an avid cyclist and has also trained in boxing for six years.

"I was an athlete in school and college and I wanted to represent the country in the Olympics, that was my dream as a child. When I saw Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, I was in love with the film and wanted to do a film like this.

"But I didn't have the opportunity to do that in the south because not many sports movies were made here. When this film came (to me), I was very happy as my dream to do a sports film was fulfilled, Arya, whose real name is Jamshad Cethirakath, told PTI in a Zoom interview. When he was offered SarpattaParambarai, the 40-year-old actor said his training in boxing came in handy.

The highlight of the trailer are the high-octane boxing matches, which Arya said he and the other cast members trained rigorously for close to four months under national-level players. They also did a workshop to get a hang of the precise dialect of North Madras

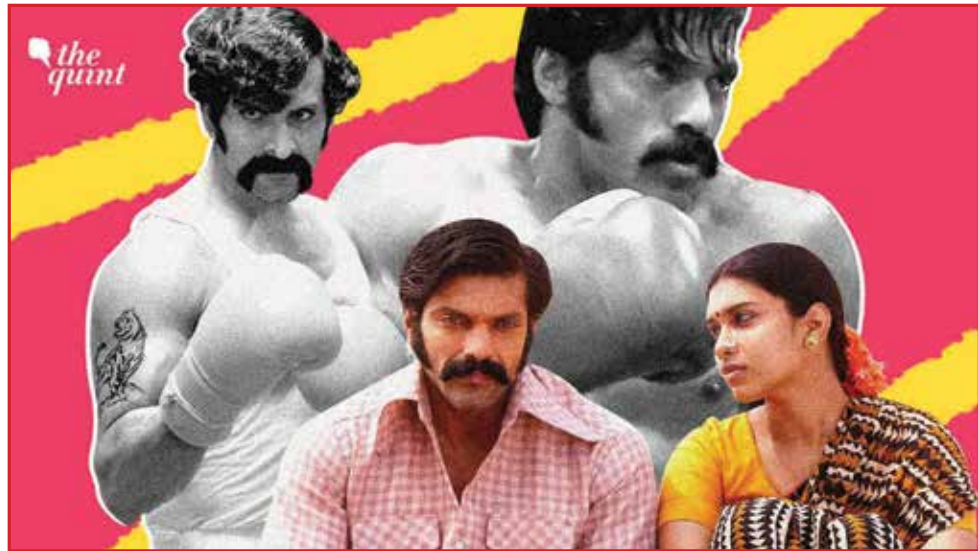
gym as well. The boxing training was for three-and-half to four months. It got extended due to the lockdown. He also wanted the pronunciation, slang and body language to be perfect.

"The training was quite intense but the beauty of it is that whatever we did before the shoot helped us a lot.

When the shoot was delayed due to the COVID-19 lockdown last year, Arya said it was difficult to retain the same look till the filming restarted.

"I had to remain fit, not knowing when things will reopen and when we will be able to finish the shoot. I had to be on a diet for a long time. It was quite frustrating. Before the lockdown, we had finished 35 days of work and had another 40 days of work left, which started in October last year, he informed.

Describing director Ranjith, known for Rajinikanth-starrers Kabali and Kaala, as a perfectionist, the actor said the filmmaker wanted the fights to look as



real as possible. "There were times when my hands would pain because of all the punching as he (director) wanted us to do the boxing with all my strength and speed as if it was a real match. We had so many cuts and bruises, he recalled.

Arya is aware that the Hindi film "Toofaan", also set in the world of boxing, has released last week but said "SarpattaParambarai" is different in its treatment and time frame. "Toofaan" is talking about contemporary boxing and they have different elements to the film. While our film is not just about boxing. We are more concentrating on the clans in the 1970s, what the boxing scenario was, how it originated, the lifestyle of boxers, etc. Our film is very emotional and it deals with many characters.

## Laura Pausini collaborating with Amazon Studios for Italian original movie

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 21 (PTI):** Pop star Laura Pausini is set to headline an upcoming Italian original movie for Amazon Studios. The untitled movie project is based on an original idea by Pausini and the script has been penned by Ivan Cotroneo and Monica Rametta, Amazon said in a press release. Cotroneo, known for movies such as "I Am Love", "Kryptonite" and "Loose Cannons", will direct the movie.

Pausini, one of the most highly regarded Italian artists in the world with over, has sold over 70 million albums worldwide. Out of her 13 albums, her 2006 record 'Escucha' had bagged a Grammy Award for the Best Latin Pop Album.

She recently collaborated with songwriter Diane Warren for the song "Io Si" (Seen) which won Best Original Song in a Motion Picture at the Golden Globes, and was the first woman in the history of Italian music to be nominated at the Academy Awards for Best Original Song.

The plot details have been kept under wraps but Amazon said that the movie will showcase Pausini's love for cinema, and unveils her true soul to the audience through exclusive never-before-seen glimpses of her private and professional life.

The audiences will also get to discover the new unknown aspects of Pausini's personality and of her world through the movie, which will be produced by Endemol Shine Italy.

"I had been receiving offers for film projects for some time, but I

couldn't find anything that was special enough to devote my time and energy to," Pausini said.

"I didn't feel any urgency to tell my story, and I was looking for an innovative script," she added.

The 47-year-old singer said she met the executives of Amazon Studios in February 2020 and found an important story that was worth sharing with the world.

"I am happy they immediately supported my artistic idea with enthusiasm. We will try to tell this story in the way I feel is the sincerest, as I have always been doing with music: this time with all my passion for cinema. "Shortly before the Golden Globe victory, I started working with an Italian author and director that I really respect, and our collaboration generated this madness I am preparing to face with great dedication and that I am sure will amaze even those who think they know me well," Pausini added.

Georgia Brown, Head of European Amazon Originals at Amazon Studios, welcomed the Italian star to the Amazon family, hailing her as an extraordinary artist who is loved and celebrated around the world.

"This Italian Amazon Original Movie is a truly innovative project and we're delighted to be working with trail-blazing creators to create a compelling, unique story for our customers. We look forward to enchanting Prime Video audiences around the world with Laura's incredible story," she added.

## 'Dhadak' team celebrates three years of Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter-starrer

**MUMBAI, JUL 21 (PTI):** Actors Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter along with director Shankha Khaitan on Tuesday clocked three years of the their romantic-drama "Dhadak".

The film was the remake of the 2016 Marathi blockbuster Sairat, a love story between an upper-caste girl, Archana (Rinku Rajguru) and a fisherman's son, Prashant (Akash Thosar).

The Hindi version marked Bollywood debut of Kapoor, daughter of late actor Sridevi and Boney Kapoor, while it was Khatter's second film after Majid Majidi-directed drama "Beyond the Clouds". Kapoor, 24, shared photographs from the sets and said the film will always hold a special place in her heart.

#Dhadak Always special. For the people, the memories, the lessons and all of the love, she wrote. Khatter, 25, too shared behind-the-scenes pictures from the film and wrote, 3 years of dhadak!!! Will remain a special one for all of us who worked on it.. And to the fans, thank you for all the love that pours in still for the film, I see you all.

The movie, which opened countrywide in 2018, grossed over Rs 110 crore worldwide.

In an Instagram post, Khaitan said he is happy to have collaborated with talented actors like Kapoor and Khatter.

#DhadakIts already been 3 years Feels like yesterday Had the pleasure of working with two talents, who I love a lot and am tremendously proud of Janhvi and Ishaan, I see you guys growing everyday as actors and as people, he wrote. "Dhadak" was co-produced by Zee Studios and filmmaker Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

Aries:

You've got a bad rep for being the most impulsive of the 12 signs, but that may be a bit of a generalisation. If there's anything the recent past has taught you, it's that slow and steady wins the race. Wednesday sees you treading cautiously and making calculated moves, not because you're operating from a space of fear but because you've got that big goals energy about you. Learning when to play the practicality card will change the game for you permanently.

Tip: Tread cautiously.

Taurus:

Joy and celebration are a constant in the Taurus HQ. You're connecting with your friends, both old and new. It's true that some people come into your life merely for a season, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't honour the love that's flowing into your life today. Some of you could be missing your siblings majority at this point. If making a trip back home is an option, plan one soon.

Tip: You're honouring your friends, both old and new.

Gemini:

You've never known a love like this before, Gemini. A love that's both deep and unconditional. A love that meets you where you are and accepts you for who you are. It's time to rise in this love, beautiful. Single Twins are being reminded that all hope is not lost. Fate has some-

thing magnificent in store for you. Trust the law of divine timing and learn to be patient.

Tip: It's time to rise in love, beautiful.

Cancer:

This is a time of separation. A time of moving away from something or somebody you love. Replace fear with faith, beautiful. Trust that this distance is helping you heal on a soul level and come into your own. Disappointment and dejection may also be a theme for some of you on the work front. The end of July is bringing with it the realisation that some things are just not worth your time and effort.

Tip: Getting some distance may work in your favour.

Leo:

The brightest of days gives way to the night, and the darkest of nights is followed by day. Both pleasure and pain exist in equal measure, Leo. It is this dance of duality that makes our human experience as wholesome as it is. Wednesday sees you looking beyond the veil of illusion and accepting life in its many colours. You're especially grateful for the chapters that threatened to break you, for these are the experiences that helped you emerge from the muddy waters like a lotus.

Tip: You see clearly now.

Virgo:

It's all about love and other intoxicants in the Virgo HQ.

You and your beloved are vibing at a whole new frequency—and this frequency is called unconditional love. Yes, this means honouring the differences in your personalities as well, for this is what makes your relationship sweeter. For some of you, this may be a time of taking your commitment to the next level or starting a family together. PS: Did somebody say baby shower?

Tip: It's all about love and other intoxicants around here.

Libra:

What brings you joy, Libra? What are the passions that give you a reason to wake up in the morning, day after day? The cards are bringing your attention to something you have been dismissing as merely a side hustle. Just for today, allow yourself to dream of a parallel reality where you are living your best life whilst doing that thing you love the most. This is the first step to welcoming a magnificent shift in your physical reality, one that will change the course of your life for the better.

Tip: Who says you can't call in the energy of abundance whilst doing that thing you love the most?

Scorpio:

Setting intentions is merely the first step, Scorpio. It's what we do after that that determines the course of our lives. Today, you're being asked to revisit the intention you set for yourself earlier this year as you

remember that you still have a little over five months to achieve those goals. Three words: take inspired action. Know that your ancestors and your spirit guides are working overtime to help turn the wheel of fortune around.

Tip: Take inspired action.

Sagittarius:

Silence isn't empty, beloved. It's full of infinite possibilities. It is the shunya from which new ideas emerge. So, allow yourself to lean into this silence without feeling that you are being of disservice to the world. Some of you may be feeling overwhelmed by your relationship(s) as well. Trust the voice in your head that's telling you it's a good idea to get some distance. Just make sure you don't disappear without conveying the same to the other person.

Tip: Here's to silence that's full of infinite possibilities.

Capricorn:

Truth be told, Capricorn: now is "not" the time to chase the thrill of the new. There are older projects that require your time and energy right now. Projects that are on the verge of making you a big success. Word for the wise: adopt 'patience' and 'persistence' as your power words. Yes, there will be days when you will feel like you're stuck in a rut and that you're doing the same thing over and over. Know that it's all a part of the process

that's challenging you to become the most invincible version of yourself.

Tip: Stay committed to your goals. That's all!

Aquarius:

There are times we start something with a heady mix of courage and confidence, only to face the demon of disillusionment halfway to the desired destination. But, what if we said this disillusionment is a part of the evolution process? Instead of resisting the discomfort, sit down with it. Pour it a cup of tea and understand what it is trying to bring your attention towards. Yes, there is something you will have to let go of. Know that it is okay to grow out of certain parts of yourself or a dream that no longer feels right.

Tip: Sit down with the discomfort, Aquarius.

Pisces:

There are times we have to do-do-do and dedicate ourselves to the hustle, but now is "not" such a time in your life. You are at a point where you're being asked to hit the pause button and refuel your reserves in preparation for the next chapter of your life. So, don't underestimate the importance of filling your own cup, Pisces. Remember to put your big expenses on hold while you're at it. Creating a reserve will serve you well in the future, beautiful.

Tip: Energy conservation mode on!