



**CNN'S CUOMO, DOWN WITH
CORONAVIRUS, COMPLETES
SHOW FROM BASEMENT**
pg 08

**PROTECT FORESTS FROM
GREED, NOT NEED ALONE**
Yes, going genuinely green will re-
quire more effort
pg 4

**DOLLY PARTON LAUNCHES WEEKLY
CHILDREN BOOK READING SERIES**
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 85 | Gangtok | Thursday | 02 April 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

CM briefs Governor on COVID-preparedness, assures Sikkim has resources and manpower to meet every eventuality

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 APR:

Governor Ganga Prasad today convened a Special Review Meeting with the State Government on Sikkim's preparedness against the spread of Novel Coronavirus, a press release from Raj Bhawan informs.

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] led the State delegation which included Health Minister Dr MK Sharma, Labour Minister MN Sherpa, Chief Secretary SC Gupta, DGP A Shankar Rao, Addl. Chief Secretary to the Governor Dr K Jayakumar, Principal Secretaries of Health and Labour Departments, Secretary of Health Department and other officers.

The meeting began with the Health Minister informing that as of date there are no Corona-positive cases in Sikkim and mentioned that the State was "fully prepared with adequate manpower and PPEs and consumables to meet any eventuality."

The Chief Minister informed the Governor about the recent proactive and preventive measures taken by the State Government to prevent the pandemic from entering the State.

Students stranded at colleges and universities outside the State are being provided with a relief assistance of Rs 5,000 each and are advised not to make the effort to travel back, he informed.

He also informed the Governor about the letter he has written to all Chief Ministers requesting them to personally enquire

after and take adequate steps to ensure the safety and security of Sikkimese students stranded in their respective States and has assured a reciprocal gesture from his side for non-Sikkimese students currently residing in the State.

Migrant labourers engaged at various industries and unorganised sectors in the State have been identified and are being provided with shelter and ration in order to stop their migratory movements within and out of the State, he further detailed.

Labourers registered with State's Labour Department are being provided with the relief of Rs 2,000 each with more than 7,600 registered labourers having already been provided with this relief.

He further informed the Governor that pharma units in the State producing essential medicines have been directed to pay Rs 300 extra per day to the labourers/workers working in the respective units through the period of lockdown.

Enough stock of rations, medicines and other essential commodities have been maintained and shops selling essential commodities are kept open and regulated for strict compliance of social distancing, the Governor was informed.

Meanwhile, in order to ensure regular consignments of health equipment and consumables and other logistics which need to be imported from outside the State, the Resident Commissioner in New Delhi has been authorised and was coordinating with the State's health officials for supply and transportation, it is



informed.

The CM stated that the State was receiving "ample support" from the Union Government and the North Eastern Council to meet the emergent expenses through respective departments.

The State also has necessary provisions of funds under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for immediate relief and meet emergency expenditures.

He added that the State government was disbursing relief and assistance to the weaker sections from its own provisions as of now.

The government has also streamlined and regulated donations in cash and kind from various NGO's through the district

authorities and NGOs coming forward with donations are being encouraged to donate to the CMRF.

Since the State has sufficient manpower under its disposal, the distribution of relief and assistance directly by the NGOs and volunteers was being discouraged for compliance on social distancing guidelines, he added.

The Health Department is also preparing a manpower bank consisting of retired health practitioners and technicians whose voluntary services could be utilised to meet any eventuality related with the crisis, he added.

As an update, the CM informed that out of the over 4,000 people placed under

quarantine in the State, 2,600 are still under quarantine while 1,600 have completed their quarantine period.

Drivers of trucks bringing in essential commodities from outside the State are provided with proper PPEs and the vehicles are being sanitised compulsorily, he added.

The State government has decided that it will continue to restrict the movement of tourists and locals in and out of the State at the border check points until the threat of the pandemic totally subsides in the country, the CM added.

As relief for the people, the CM informed that the Power Department has extended the last date for payment of user charges and other revenues to the department till 30 April even as the State Bank of Sikkim has announced a three month moratorium of payment of EMIs for all loans.

Following the briefing, the Governor handed over two cheques - Rs 11 lakh from his discretionary fund, Rs 1 lakh from his personal account, Rs 1,39,448 as one-day salary contribution from Officers and Staff of Raj Bhawan, to the Chief Minister towards the CM's Relief Fund.

Further, the Zilla and Gram Panchayats of Navey Shotak GPU, the GPU adopted by the Governor, also handed over a cheque of Rs 10,000 and Rs 46,500 respectively, equivalent to their one month honorarium.

Zilla Member Chung Lhamu Bhutia and Panchayat President Tashi Doma Bhutia were present on the occasion.

2,753 under quarantine in East Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 APR:

A total of 2,753 are under quarantine in East District, a status report on persons under surveillance for COVID-19 in the district informs.

This list, released by the East District Collec-

torate this morning details that 2,238 people are under self quarantine, having returned from outside the State but not COVID-affected areas.

450 people are under self-quarantine since they returned from areas which have

reported COVID-19 cases while 65 - 10 at the Rangpo Tourist Guest House and 55 students at SICUN - are under facility quarantine.

Six people continue to be admitted at the triage facility and no one has been put under isolation.

Meanwhile, the 8th and 9th floors of STNM Hospital have been designated isolation wards for COVID-19 patients.

Thankfully, the need to put the isolation ward has not arisen yet with no one in Sikkim having yet tested positive for Novel Coronavirus.

84 complete home quarantine in South Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 APR:

A total of 84 people have completed 14 days of home-quarantine in South district, an update from IPR Deptt informs.

In a detailed list of

people under home or facility-based quarantine in South Sikkim released this morning informs that 22 people have travel history from COVID-19 affected countries.

Of these, five are

yet to return to Sikkim while four have completed 14-days home-based quarantine.

Meanwhile, 13 people are still under home or facility-based [at SIRD, Karfector] quarantine.

Meanwhile, 712 people in the district have returned from other states in India and are currently under self-quarantine while 80 have completed the self-isolation routine.

**DEAR READERS,
IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING
YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES
IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE
MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME
AND ADDRESS AT 9832556698 AND
WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER
REACHES YOU.**

1,015 under home quarantine in West district

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 APR:

West Sikkim currently has 1,015 people under home quarantine while 37 others are under assisted-quarantine at facilities earmarked across the district.

As per the daily report released by the SDM[HQ], West Sikkim, today, the most number

of people under home quarantine, 205, are in the jurisdiction of Dntam PHC.

None of the people have reported "any health deterioration" and although the table does not specify, these are all cases of preventive quarantine necessitated because the people have recently returned from outside the State.

Nothing like social distancing for Shimla's porters

DHARMENDRA JOSHI

SHIMLA, APR 1 (PTI): For Kashmiri labourers who work as porters here and call a local mosque home, social distancing is a near impossibility.

At least 300 Kashmiri labourers are staying at the masjid. It is not possible for us to maintain the required distance due to lack of space, Bilal, who is one of them, told PTI.

The labourers have been without work during the lockdown, ordered last week to contain the spread of coronavirus. In part, its aim is to ensure people maintain social distancing, keeping at least a metre apart.

Hailing from the Kokernag area of Jammu and Kashmir, Bilal has been staying at the Jama Masjid near Shimla's Mall Road for about five years.

There are about 300 others like him at the mosque in Middle Bazaar. Most of them work as porters. Local people call them Khans.

They have been stuck at the mosque since the Himachal Pradesh government imposed a state-wide curfew, a day before the nationwide lockdown kicked in.

About 100 of us sleep in a small hall, some at the two dhabas and a verandah in the mosque premises and about 50 people in the masjid itself, Bilal said.

Given the choice, most of them would return to their homes, he said, urging that the administration should arrange vehicles for them.

The labourers get their food now from the two dhabas in the mosque complex, paying from their own depleting savings.

Bilal said some people, perhaps from the administration, had come to the mosque a few days ago. They told the labourers that they would be provided dry rations, but there has been nothing so far.

District officials could not be immediately contacted.

India's 10 COVID-19 hotspots : an overview

NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI): The government is focusing its attention on 10 hotspots' across the country in its effort to control the spread of COVID-19, which has infected more than 1,200 people and claimed at least 35 lives. There are two hotspots each in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Maharashtra and one each in Gujarat and Rajasthan:

DELHI

Nizamuddin West:

Famed for the shrine of the 14th century Sufi mystic Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya, the south Delhi locality has emerged as an epicentre for spread of the coronavirus in different parts of the country after thousands of people took part in a Tablighi Jamaat congregation from March 1-15.

Six people who died in Telangana and one in Jammu and Kashmir attended the congregation in the headquarters of the Tablighi in Nizamuddin West, a colony split between the labyrinthine lanes near the dargah' and spacious residential homes.

In Delhi alone, 24 participants tested positive for the disease. Besides, 441 of the participants were hospitalised after they showed symptoms. The number is likely to swell significantly as more test

reports come.

Dilshad Garden:

The northeast Delhi locality made headlines when a woman with a travel history to Saudi Arabia tested positive for coronavirus and infected her daughter as well as two relatives in Jehangirpuri close by.

She also came in contact with a mohalla' clinic doctor in Maujpur, who was infected with the disease. The doctor, who is believed have come into contact with hundreds of people, later transmitted the infection to his wife.

"So far, the number of patients in Shahadra district (Dilshad Garden falls under Shahadra district) is 11," said a health department official.

A senior health department official added that they feared the number could have spiked in Dilshad Garden but there has thankfully been no significant rise in the number of patients in the locality. It counts for about 11 per cent of Delhi's count of more than 100 coronavirus cases.

RAJASTHAN

Bhilwara:

Of the total 83 coronavirus positive cases detected in Rajasthan, 26 are from the textile town of Bhilwara. Eight patients have tested negative after treatment.

Health department teams have taken 1,194 samples from Bhilwara.

A massive screening exercise is underway with over 26 lakh people in urban and rural areas being screened.

Two coronavirus positive deaths have taken in Bhilwara but officials maintain that they died due to co-morbid conditions.

A doctor of a private hospital was the first positive case in Bhilwara. Most of the cases that have come up so far either are of hospital staff or the patient who had gone for treatment at hospitals.

UTTAR PRADESH

Noida:

Gautam Buddh Nagar adjoining Delhi in western Uttar Pradesh has so far recorded 38 COVID-19 cases, the highest for any district in the country's most populous state.

About two dozen of these cases are linked directly or indirectly to a private firm in Noida which has now been

booked for endangering people's lives and sealed.

An estimated 626 samples have been tested so far and 1,852 people are under surveillance across Noida and Greater Noida, while another 291 have been quarantined at various isolation facilities in the district, local Health Department officials said.

On the brighter side, six of the patients have so far recovered in Gautam Buddh Nagar and discharged from hospitals till Tuesday, leaving 32 active cases of coronavirus, they added.

Meerut:

The western Uttar Pradesh district is the second hotspot in the state, where the number of cases has crossed the 100 mark, with 19 people testing positive for the disease. On Wednesday, a 72-year-old man died, the first death in the district and the second in the state.

Of the 17 samples tested on Monday, six were declared positive, officials said. Of the six, four are family members of a man who recently returned from Maharashtra. The first COVID-19 case was reported from here last Friday

Turn Pg 2.

CM greets Sikkim on Ramnawami

GANGTOK, 01 APR [IPR]: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] has conveyed warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Ramnawami.

In his message, the Chief Minister has wished the people of Sikkim good health, contentment and forbearance to deal with any adversity.

“Lord Rama was an embodiment of great virtues, righteousness, courage and compassion. He stood for the values of truth, respect for parents, kindness and love for all living be-

ings. His resolute commitment to justice, good governance and welfare of his people will continue to inspire us. Let each one of us strive to imbibe similar virtues and leave behind a better world for our future generations. Let this festival of Ram Navami or ‘Chaite Dasain’ bring about the best in each one of us,” he states.

Referring to the current global situation due to the onslaught of Novel Corona Virus, the Chief Minister has appealed to the people to stay

home and avoid social gatherings and follow all the guidelines during the lock-down period.

He has further appealed to the people to avoid any public gathering on Ramnawami and to celebrate the festival at home with family members.

It was reiterated that the State Government has made optimal preparation to fight the epidemic and thanked the people for their support during the lockdown period and appealed for continuous support to combat COVID-19.

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 APR:

Members of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim, accompanied by Pemba Lepcha, general secretary of the EPCS Council, Agriculture Minister LN Sharma, and MLA GT Dhungel, called on Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] at his residence today and extended support on behalf of the entire EPCS congregation in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, an EPCS press release informs.

At the meeting, Mr Lepcha apprised the Chief Minister that all Sikkim EPCS churches

EPCS delegation calls on CM



were fervently praying for him and his team in their initiatives to keep Sikkim safe from the virus.

The CM thanked the congregation for the support of Rs 1.50 lakh donation and requested for prayers so that the

pandemic does not cause any harm to the citizens of Sikkim and the nation. The CM also requested the religious leaders

to provide support to the Government and asked the citizens to stay inside their houses and help the administration.

Lachen Dzumsa, LTDC and Himalayan Free Church contribute to CM's Relief Fund



MANGAN, 01 APR [IPR]: Lachen Dzumsa (Kyas-er), North Sikkim, has contributed Rs One lakh towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in order to support Government to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. This has been done with consultation

of the area MLA, Minister Samdup Lepcha.

Since it is nationwide lockdown, the Pipon couldn't make it personally to hand over the cheque to the government and the cheque has been handed over to the area MLA along with the cheque received

from Lachen Tourism Development Committee (LTDC) amounting to Rs 25,000.

A total of Rs 1,25,000 was handed over to the area MLA as a small support to the Government in this difficult time of Pandemic disease.

Similarly, Himalaya Free Church (Local), Mangan has also contributed Rs One lakh towards the Chief Minister Relief Fund today.

Contribution has been made through the office of the District Collector, North.

Sensex plunges 1,203 pts; Nifty tanks below 8,300

MUMBAI, APR 1 (PTI): Equity benchmark Sensex plummeted over 1,203 points on Wednesday, in line with a global selloff as investors fretted over the impact of prolonged worldwide lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Starting the new financial year on a poor note, the 30-share BSE barometer slumped 1,203.18 points or 4.08 per cent to finish at 28,265.31.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty tanked 343.95

points, or 4 per cent, to close at 8,253.80.

Tech Mahindra was the top loser in the Sensex pack, crashing over 9 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, TCS, Infosys and HUL.

On the other hand, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Finance and Titan were the gainers.

According to traders, domestic equities plunged in tandem with global stocks as no respite from the coronavirus pandemic seemed in sight.

Extensive lockdowns to contain the spread of the virus have severely hit business outlook, they said.

Around the world, total number of infected cases surged past 8.6 lakh, while deaths have crossed 42,000.

The number of Covid-19 cases climbed to 1,637 in India, while the death toll rose to 38, according to the Health Ministry.

“For the month of April, macro risk appetite driven by news flow around potential peaking of fresh

Covid-19 cases would be the key driving force for foreign flows,” said S Hariharan, Head - Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services.

On the global front, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul and Shanghai plunged up to 4 per cent.

Benchmarks in Europe were also trading with significant losses.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, plunged 5.20 per cent to USD 24.98 per barrel.

India's 10 COVID-19 hotspots...

MAHARASHTRA Mumbai:

After several cases of random people testing positive for COVID-19 emerged on Monday in Mumbai, the state health department declared Koliwada area of Worli and the Goregaon suburb as two hotspots.

In Mumbai, the novel coronavirus has claimed eight lives and there are 167 positive cases.

As of now, there are 230 COVID-19 positive cases detected in Maharashtra. Of these, 10 lost their lives and 39 people have been discharged after recovery. There are 181 active cases of COVID-19 in the state.

Pune: Forty-six cases were reported as on Tuesday. The first two positive cases in Maharashtra

were reported from Pune on March 9.

Pune Municipal Corporation's chief health officer Dr Ramchandra Hankare said one COVID-19 patient died of multi-organ failure in a private hospital on Monday. Barring two people who are critical, rest of all the patients are stable and recuperating in the hospitals, he said.

So far 3,500 people including those who have foreign travel history, their close contacts have been “home quarantined”.

According to officials, 2,216 passengers are under surveillance. Of these, 1,403 have completed their 14-day incubation period and 813 are still under active surveillance.

GUJARAT

Ahmedabad:

Of 73 coronavirus cases registered in Gujarat so far, the highest number of 23 cases has been detected in Ahmedabad district, mostly in Ahmedabad city.

Ahmedabad city counts for three of six deaths in Gujarat. Of the five persons who have recovered so far, four are from Ahmedabad city.

“Ahmedabad city has been declared as hotspot to prevent spread of the virus in a particular area after a positive case surfaces. Ideally, a three kilometre km area surrounding the residence of that patient is contained for 14 days. It's like a total lockdown. No one can come inside or go outside except the health staff,” said Dr Prakash

Vaghela, additional director, Public Health, Gujarat.

KERALA Kasaragod:

Kasaragod is one of the worst affected districts in the country with the number of positive cases standing at 99, while over 7,725 people are under observation. A total of 163 people are in isolation wards.

Contact with already infected persons and possible infection from foreign returnees are seen as the causes of virus spread.

Pathanamthitta: Pathanamthitta may have reported lesser number of positive cases at five, but 7,254 people are under observation.

Both these districts have not reported any death so far.

IOCL provides essential commodities for its drivers and contract labourers



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 APR:

The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd bottling plant at Bageykhola near Rangpo to distributed essential commodities to its drivers, con-

tract labourers and home guards who for an important link in the supply chain of LPG cylinders.

The packets distributed today included 10 kg rice, 1 kg sugar and 1 kg daal, a

press release informs.

Plant Manager, Suman Tamang, thanked the contract labourers and drivers and urged them to keep themselves safe, healthy and practice hygiene at home and the workplace.

Governor invokes Ram's virtuousness to tide over COVID-crisis

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 01 APR:

Governor Ganga Prasad has extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Ram Navami.

His message reads: “Ramnavami, the auspicious day of the birth of ‘Maryada Purosottam Rama’ falling on the ninth day of ‘Chaitra Navaratri’ is regarded as one of the most pious day in our Indian culture. Worshipped as the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, Sri Rama's life and deeds epitomise the ideals of selflessness and duty over self. Ramayana, the chronicle of Rama is an eternal source of wisdom and light for



the people committed for the common good of society since ancient times.

At a time when the human-

ity is in battle with the global pandemic COVID 19, we must imbibe the virtue of Maryada Purosottam Rama to follow the law of the land and nature. Rama's life also teaches the humanity not to cross the limit and stay in Maryada and preserve nature in all its glory. We must also keep ourselves in Maryada at individual and community level to effectively fight with current global crisis.

On this auspicious day, let us all pledge to uphold the humanity and dedicate ourselves to our duties and responsibilities. Let us join hands to work for the wider cause of society and the country, and enrich ourselves with the core values and ideals that our culture represents.”

Six banks lost their identity today: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI): Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said six banks have lost their identity today due to bank mergers which are based on the “faulty” assumption of “bigger the better”.

He said he was opposed to merger of banks and had opposed it in Parliament too when the government proposed it.

“These bank mergers are based on a faulty assumption that bigger the better. This has never worked. There are other issues related to work culture, traditions, human resources that are forgotten in this misguide craze for bigger balance sheets,” Ramesh told PTI.

He also referred to two South Indian banks as pioneers of the industry.

“Today two pioneers in Indian banking - Andhra Bank and Syndicate Bank - lose their distinctive identity. Andhra was started by stalwart Congressman B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Syndicate by the great TMA Pai. I am not a supporter of bank mergers at all and opposed it in Parliament,” he tweeted.

The government on Wednesday brought into effect merger of six banks with other banks.

While Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India have merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank has merged with Canara Bank; Allahabad Bank has been merged with Indian Bank and Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank have been merged in Union Bank of India.

~ SummitTIMES ~
CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

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

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

SSDMA convenes meetings to reinforce COVID-19 preparedness

GANGTOK, 01 APR [IPR]: Taking note of the need to be prepared for COVID-19 in Sikkim, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority today called a series of meetings with the Rural Development Department, Helping Hands (an NGO), Health Department officials, and Police in the presence of Relief Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department and in co-chairmanship of RC Bhutia, Secretary, Home Department (Protocol).

The key objectives of the meetings were to take stock of preparations on ground at Gram Panchayat Unit level for successful implementation of protocols given by the Centre with respect to migrant labourers and daily wagers, coordination with NGOs to

strengthen awareness on COVID-19, strengthen our present health care system, and assure law and order during the lockdown.

Director, SSDMA, GC Khanal, briefed about the purpose of the meeting for involvement of NGO's for the cause of defeating entry of COVID-19 in Sikkim.

Prabhakar Rai, Director of Panchayat Raj, updated the SSDMA officials that village level data of migrant workers from other states, Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries, and the others who do not possess any documents of the state from all four districts is presently being collated and will be ready by today (1st April).

The same will be forwarded to the SSDMA.

RDD with the help

of the Gram Panchayats is presently developing a systematized way for distribution of relief to the following group of beneficiaries to ensure that no one is left behind.

Furthermore, working with the GPs, RDD is ensuring information on COVID-19 is disseminated to each family in the village through door to door campaign, whilst maintaining social distancing protocol.

He suggested that the broad guidelines and the dos and don'ts established by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) needs to be simplified and made relevant to the local context for clear and better internalization of the measures given.

The meeting with Helping Hands, the pan-Sikkim NGO led by Chairman T Lachungpa,

discussed areas where NGOs could help co-ordinate state government's work.

Taking note of the fact that COVID-19 presents a different case than previously experienced disasters, it was stated that the NGO's role should focus on strengthening people's awareness on the dos and don'ts guidelines provided by NDMA.

It was noted that NGOs could work closely with the District Collector for the distribution of relief materials. Furthermore, considering the possibility of psychological distress due to the lockdown, the NGOs could also work towards providing counselling and valid government information to migrant labourers who might have concerns about their stay in Sikkim during this period.

Nirmal, Sanju, Bikash and Robin donate Rs One lakh to CM's Relief Fund

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 01 APR:

Four professional footballers from Sikkim have contributed Rs One lakh towards the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund to support efforts of the State government in combating COVID-19.

ISL players and Indian internationals, Nirmal Chettri, Sanju Pradhan, Bikash Jairu and Robin Gurung, collectively donated this sum on Wednesday, it is learnt.

In their facebook accounts, they wrote: "The Government of Sikkim under leadership of Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang-Golay is sparing no efforts to protect our people from COVID-19. The government is also working hard to ensure minimum hardships for the people of Sikkim during the ongoing lockdown. As a support to the State Government in this unprecedented-



ed situation, we would like to contribute a sum of Rs 1,00,000/- to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. We also extend our deepest gratitude to the Health Personnel,

Police Authorities and all those frontline workers who are working diligently at this moment of crisis."

With a message to 'Stay Home, Stay Safe',

they have appealed to the people to stay indoors and not venture out during the lockdown period so that the efforts of the frontline workers do not go in vain.

Pompeo and Jaishankar discuss coordinated approach to COVID-19

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, APR 1 (PTI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke over phone to discuss a coordinated effort by India and the US to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic that has so far infected more than 850,000 people and claimed over 42,000 lives globally.

Jaishankar spoke to Pompeo over phone on Tuesday. This is the second call between the two leaders in recent weeks after the coronavirus outbreak.

Earlier on March 14,

the two top diplomats discussed ways in which India and the US could cooperate to address this global challenge.

The issue also figured in the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump during the latter's trip to India in February.

Our close cooperation is imperative to combat the coronavirus, including strengthening global pharmaceutical and health care manufacturing and supply chains, Pompeo said in a tweet after the phone call between the two leaders.

The number of those infected by the deadly disease surged to 164,000 and fatalities crossed 3,100 in the US.

In India, there are over 1,400 infections and at least 45 deaths due to the disease.

According to Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Centre, over 850,000 people globally have contracted the disease, while over 42,000 people have died of it.

According to State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortagus, the Secretary of State highlighted the importance of continued close cooperation

between the US, India and other close partners and allies to combat this international crisis.

He also reiterated the US' unwavering commitment to work with India to advance peace, prosperity and security in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe, the spokesperson said in a readout of the call.

Meanwhile, Trump on Tuesday said that the next 30 days are very vital for America in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic as he extended the "social distancing" guidelines until April 30.

Centre cautions states/UTs on giving excess exemptions

NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI): The Centre on Wednesday cautioned the state governments and Union Territory administrations against giving exemptions beyond the prescribed limit during the 21-day lockdown, saying it was a violation of laws and defeats the purpose of controlling spread of COVID-19.

In a communication to chief secretaries of all states and UTs, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said it has been noticed that some state

governments and UT administrations are allowing exceptions beyond what has been allowed under lockdown measures by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), as contained in the issued consolidated guidelines.

"This amounts to violation of the lockdown measures issued by MHA under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and may defeat the overall objective of containing the spread of COVID-19 in the country," he said.

Therefore, Bhalla said, all the state governments

and UT administrations are requested to strictly implement the lockdown measures issued by the MHA in exercise of the powers under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 in letter and spirit.

The home secretary also said based on the orders issued by the National Disaster Management Authority under Section 6(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, he, as Chairperson of the National Executive Committee, issued an order on March 24 with directions

to the ministries/ departments of government of India, Union Territories and State governments to take effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

Subsequently, two addendum orders were also issued on March 25 and 27 giving exemptions to some essential goods and services during the lockdown.

The lockdown was announced on March 24 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a bid to combat coronavirus pandemic.



HEALTHY HOSPITAL: District Hospital, Singtam, was sanitized today, the task held under the supervision of District Medical Superintendent, Dr Tempo Gyaltzen. Also in the pic, Ward Master Pranil Bagdas. [from YOGEN THATAL]

SGREWA, Singtam, contributes Rs 50K towards CM's Relief fund

SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 01 APR:

Sikkim Government Retired Employees Welfare Association, Singtam Branch, has contributed a sum of Rs 50,000 towards the

Chief Minister's Relief Fund to assist the State's battle against COVID-19.

The amount was deposited at State Bank of Sikkim, Singtam branch, yesterday, a

press release informs.

"We are with the Sikkim Government at this moment of time who is much concerned about the people of Sikkim. We further request and urge every-

one to be more responsible to fight against this virus. Please stay at home and stay safe," conveys Rinzing Lhamu Bhutia, Secretary, SGREWA, Singtam Branch.

ASTHA serves those who serve the State

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 APR:

All Sikkim Travel and Hospitality Association [ASTHA] has stepped up to liven up the days of personnel tasked with nCoV duty in Rangpo, a press release informs.

ASTHA members provide lunch to personnel at-

tached with the Sardar Thana, Traffic, SAP and GMC every day.

Between 250 to 300 packets are distributed every day.

ASTHA chairperson, Suraj Lamichaney, informs that they have 17 members, all of whom are working actively for the Society and the State.

10 Nizamuddin attendees of Manipur quarantined

IMPHAL, APR 1 (PTI):

Ten people of Manipur, who attended a religious congregation in Delhi's Nizamuddin last month, were quarantined and their samples sent for testing, officials said here on Wednesday.

The event has become a key source for the spread of coronavirus and six of its attendees from Telangana died of COVID-19.

The 10 were quarantined at Lilong in Thoubal district, while another attendee with high blood pressure has been taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in state capital Imphal.

However, none of the 11 people showed any symptoms of novel coronavirus, officials said.

The Manipur government on Tuesday said it has traced 14 people who attended the religious congregation held in Nizamuddin.

Government officials are tight-lipped about the whereabouts of the remaining three.

They, however, said 39 others who attended the programme are still outside Manipur.

Director General of Police LM Khaute said anyone from the state

who attended the religious congregation at Nizamuddin, or stayed in the vicinity of the venue or passed near it should get themselves tested at the nearest government hospital failing which legal actions will be taken


against them.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday appealed to the people of the state who had attended the congregation to come forward for a COVID-19 test.

The appeal is not aimed at spreading panic

but is a call for acting responsibly, he said.

The religious event was organized by the Tablighi Jamaat, an Islamic missionary body, which as accused of holding its meeting in Delhi defying restrictions.



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.

Treatment

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





If you seek help, you may call :

-Toll free no. 104

District surveillance Officer

EAST : 7029372100

WEST : 9593297809

NORTH : 9641957468

SOUTH : 7407691463

New STNM

AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM



LAND FOR SALE
(URGENT SALE)

BL land for sale. Road site 100ft by 50ft at Lower Syari. Enroute Ranipool to Deorali via Syari. 10 Minutes Drive from Ranipool. Serious Buyer may contact : **83720-77482/ 94341-36989/ 98320-82664**

Protect Forests from Greed, Not Need Alone

Yes, going genuinely green will require more effort

Some years ago, in the run-up to a National Art Festival that Gangtok was hosting, the sculptors had to twiddle their thumbs with no material to work with for two days because the wood they had ordered from Siliguri was held up as clearance from the Forest Department was taking too long. They might as well have contacted some locals who would have commissioned some others to chop down the required kind of wood. The worst that would have happened is that the woodcutters would have been arrested under some clause of the Forest Act. After all, much the same has transpired for much lesser a cause than Art at reserve forests across the State. Once, the people with the saws, all of them essentially daily-wagers were arrested for cutting down trees for timber reportedly required for the construction of an army garage. Only the porters languished in judicial custody, the string was never unspooled to reach to the better informed people who had placed the order.

The laws protecting our forests and wildlife are very strict. Apart from rape and murder, violations of the Forest Act are perhaps the only crimes that cannot be settled out of court or withdrawn. We have seen how strict forest officials can become when it comes to evicting encroachers from forest land when they are impoverished families like migrant labourers or rural folk who rely on the forests for sustenance. We often hear of woodcutters arrested for illicit felling and rural folk have been banned from taking their cattle to graze. How often have we heard of a raid on a palatial building which has consumed many trees just to get the flooring done and consumed still more trees for the paneling and the furniture? The porters who double as woodcutters might or might not be aware of the forest laws, they might even be felling trees knowing that it is illegal to do so, but they are driven by their need to do so. Those who order the wood from them are definitely aware of the laws against such activities and have only their greed to blame for their actions.

What has to be targeted is this greed.

No amount of legislations and laws and rules can succeed if the only people who get rounded up are those driven by their need. Greed, on the other hand, can be easily suppressed if some examples are set or a genuine stab made at raising awareness and transposing some guilt. People in need for a wage and some quick money are easily replaced so rounding them up does not address the problem until the demand remains. Our protectors of the forest have to start striking at places from where the demands are being placed from. Why is it that illicit wood is almost always caught in-transit or in houses serving only as warehouses? Why are those who place orders after which trees are felled, never booked?

Coronavirus: Europeans introduced devastating novel diseases to the Indigenous Americas – here’s what the survivors learned

FELICE S. WYNNDHAM
THECONVERSATION.COM

When infections sweep through human populations that have never experienced them before, the impacts are biological, social, psychological, economic – and all too often catastrophic. Many continue to loom large in our collective imaginations. The bubonic plague in Europe, smallpox in the Americas, and the Spanish flu are thought to have been the deadliest in history – and led to radical transformations in the societies they ravaged.

After Europeans invaded what became the Americas, from the 1490s onwards, most indigenous societies were decimated by waves of smallpox, influenza, measles, colicitzli (a hemorrhagic fever), and typhus fever. We often think of this terrible episode – when colonialism caused novel diseases to run rife through the Americas – as being a thing of the distant past.

But it has, in fact, been an ongoing, if reduced, process over the last five centuries. The neocapitalist impetus for over-connectedness and exploitation of every last redoubt of South America’s heartland means that even the last holdouts are in danger of disease contact. As an ethnographer of ecological change, I have recorded testimonials from people who have survived harrowing contact with novel diseases of this kind in living memory.

Over the past decade, I’ve collaborated with Ei Angélica Posinho – an elder in an Indigenous Ayoreo community in northern Paraguay, South America – to document her life story. In the 1970s, when she was about 12 years of age, she lived through a novel virus infection among her people.

What follows is part of Ei’s story, shared with her permission – but many, if not all, Ayoreo elders of her generation have similarly tragic accounts.

A STORY OF LOSS AND RESILIENCE

Ei, whose name means “Root” in the Ayoreo language, was born and grew up in a family whose mobile livelihood was built on gardening, fishing, hunting and gathering wild foods in “isolation” in their palm savannah, arid forest and wetland home.

Outsiders have called them “uncontacted peoples”, but most of the groups currently in isolation did interact historically with non-Indigenous groups and only later chose to physically distance themselves

for protection. Ei’s extended family members, for example, studied and monitored the Paraguayan, Bolivian and Brazilian settlers who had been encroaching on their traditional territories for years, and purposefully avoided contact with them. They knew that the white settlers carried diseases that could devastate their families.

By the 1970s, however, Ei’s extended family group had been so pressured by settler attacks and inter-group conflict that they made the excruciating decision to trek the weeks’ distance to the nearest Mission to seek refuge. They mourned what was going to happen to them in advance, because they knew they would become ill. In Ei’s words:

“After the decision to go live with the whites was made, my mama came home and my papa cried with her, his partner. It seemed as if we were going to die already. Lots of people cried. Everybody cried. They knew that with the missionaries many people would get sick and die. Most of my immediate family went with us as we left the bush at that time – we were eight people all together. Later, almost all eight of us died of sickness.”

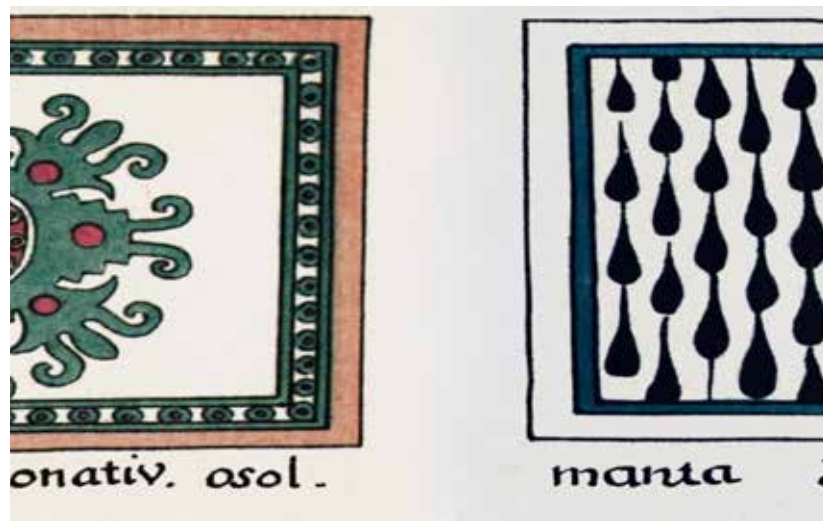
Ei’s mother and unborn sibling died soon after contact, as did her younger brother, contracting what was probably measles as soon as they interacted with the outsiders. Ei and her father became extremely ill, but survived, in part because:

“The sickness didn’t get one of my brothers, so when my papa and I became ill, he was able to go to look for food. He saved us, bringing honey that we’d mix with water and drink. We didn’t want to eat the white people’s food as it smelled terrible to us. One time my brother brought us two armadillos, and my papa was so pleased. He said to me, ‘We are so lucky that your brother didn’t get infected with this illness. He has saved us.’”

Many other Ayoreo families were not so fortunate. One of the deadliest aspects of diseases that affect everyone at once, such as in a new contact situation, is the breakdown of food procurement and care-giving. When this happens, even those who are not seriously ill may die from starvation or lack of basic care.

THE MEXICA EXPERIENCE

Such devastation caused by novel diseases has a long history across the Americas. Soon after invading Europeans arrived – in the late 1400s and 1500s, and then again in numerous, subsequent waves –



smallpox and other diseases spread across the two continents.

These first epidemics often arrived in Indigenous societies even before people there knew about the arrival of Europeans – the infections travelling in advance through existing networks of connection, from body to body, along Indigenous trade routes large and small.

In colonial Tenochtitlán (modern day Mexico City), oral histories were recorded with people who had survived the catastrophic epidemics of the 1500s. Bernardino de Sahagún and his team of Nahuatl-speaking Mexica scholars and scribes documented the experience in the 12th book of what became known as the Florentine Codex – or the Historia General de las Cosas de Nueva España (General History of the Things of New Spain).

Living in a time of utter upheaval and catastrophic loss of life, these scholars wrote about the impact of smallpox. They specifically recorded how, in 1520, many died from the collapse of food and care systems:

“There was much perishing. Like a covering, covering-like, were the pustules. Indeed many people died of them, and many just died of hunger. There was death from hunger; there was no one to take care of another; there was no one to attend to another.”

A LONG HISTORY OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Ei has relatives who to this day live in isolation in the dry forests of northern Paraguay and eastern Bolivia – they likely number between 50 and 100 individuals, but no one knows for sure. There are probably about 100 additional groups in voluntary isolation in Brazil and Peru as well.

Year after year, these small groups have chosen to remain apart from white settlers. They harvest

their traditional foods, trek their seasonal routes, speak their ancestral languages, and avoid contact with the myriad viruses circulating in the globalised, hyper-connected world of 2020.

Ei, having lived through a similar situation as a youngster, says that they are living on the run, afraid of the violence and disease invaders have brought. As many of us voluntarily isolate ourselves in our homes to protect against COVID-19, we are in a unique position to understand and respect Indigenous groups who choose to remain apart.

These last resisters of the 500-year narrative of epidemiological devastation have a fundamental right to sovereignty over their home territories. Indeed, many Indigenous groups are now blockading access to their communities, fearing COVID-19 infection. Meanwhile, governments from Brazil to the US have signalled that, in line with the historical patterns of the last 500 years, they may be poised to exploit the current pandemic to threaten indigenous land sovereignty.

But as we all now face an exponential wave of COVID-19 cases, let’s keep in mind that a key aspect of coming through events such as this with resilience is people’s ability to take care of one another and protect hard-won rights. Though industrialised nations’ food supply chains are vastly more extensive than those of the Ayoreo or the 16th-century Mexica, they are still fragile. Everyone needs nourishment and healthcare to fight off or recover from serious illness. And both are intimately coupled with social and political networks.

[the writer is Research Affiliate, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford]

Coronavirus and triage: a medical ethicist on how hospitals make difficult decisions

ANTHONY WRIGLEY
THECONVERSATION.COM

All healthcare resources are limited – staff, equipment, drugs, space and time can all run out. And these resources become even scarcer in cases of unprecedented demand, such as with COVID-19.

Decisions about the use and allocation of scarce resources are regularly made in medicine. These include the allocation of donor organs for transplant, A&E triage and surgery waiting lists. These usually proceed on the basis of those with the greatest medical need being given priority.

But the way these allocation decisions are made in crisis situations differs. This is because medical need is no longer adequate as a basis by itself – as there are more people in urgent need than resources available to help them.

Access to ventilators, for example, is likely to be one of the most challenging resources to allocate – this may mean patients dying without ventilation.

THE ETHICAL DILEMMA

Decisions on how to allocate such limited resources are made in the full knowledge that hospital staff must prioritise some people over others – and that not all lives will be saved.

Making such decisions is a deeply demanding task on healthcare staff. And when it comes to life and death prioritisation, to be justifiable, these decisions must be made from a clear ethical basis. This means hospitals must consider how they can distribute the resources they have fairly.

There are different ways of determining what is a “fair” means of allocation. Healthcare workers already have as a guiding principle “to each according to their need”. Alternatively, they might employ: “to each according to merit” – and consider a person’s social contribution. Or use a “random lottery” – as a form

of equalising chances. There could also be the approach of “helping the worst off first”, or a different school of thought: “to each according to the prospect of success”.

It is the last of these, known as “outcome maximisation”, that is often appealed to in crisis situations. This endorses a consequentialist moral view that the right thing to do is to produce the greatest good for the greatest number.

The most basic interpretation of what this “good” is in healthcare would see resources allocated in a way that results in the greatest amount of people saved.

THE PROBLEMS

This seems a simple and intuitive basic good that many people would agree upon. But this approach also has multiple problems in terms of interpretation. For example, it might be interpreted as simply the number of people saved or it might be interpreted as the greatest number of years of life saved. And if maximising the number of people whose lives are saved is the overarching ethical goal, governments and medical staff need to establish how this is best achieved.

This would mean for COVID-19 that lifesaving ventilation is offered on a basis of prioritising those who will be most likely to survive as a result of the intervention. This may also be combined with the likely speed of their recovery – as this would free up ventilators for others sooner. This combination reflects the ethical goal by offering the highest probability that the greatest number of lives will be saved overall.

But in high-pressure situations, any such approach will likely be simplistic – such as an algorithm based on the age of the patient and any health conditions. This could lead to disadvantaged groups being systematically discriminated against. The elderly and those with underlying health conditions, for example, could be deprioritised because they will be less likely

to survive or take longer to recover. Even if additional considerations are added to the process – such as the potential quality of life or subsequent length of a person’s life – these groups are likely to fair badly.

Strict adherence to the overarching moral goal of maximising lives saved might also require aspects of positive discrimination. If, for example, the patient is a highly skilled, older medic, then prioritising them might result in more lives overall being saved. While this may be reassuring for key workers, the danger is that it adds in a difficult moral evaluation as to the nature of everyone’s role in society.

FAIR PROCESS

Trying to maximise lives saved will inevitably be contentious and imperfect. But it’s still ethically justifiable to appeal to a clear and overarching moral goal through which all allocation decisions are filtered.

But other conditions also need to be satisfied to ensure the process of making these decisions was as clear, fair and universal as the underlying moral goal. This means that both government and healthcare workers need to be open, public and clear about the basis of selective prioritisation. It also needs to be made clear that criteria will be revisable as information and situations change. Such an approach would also need to be systematically enforced – so that universal and applied to all.

Without such clarity and fairness, confidence, trust, solidarity and support for health systems would become irreparably damaged in the longer term.

This is the challenge medical staff must face in the coming weeks and months – many of whom will be making difficult decisions on a daily basis while trying to save as many lives as possible.

[the writer is Professor of Ethics, Keele University]

Now you can whatsapp

SummitTIMES @

9832556698

9832080753

COVID-19 death toll rises to 4 in Bengal, total cases 32

KOLKATA, MAR 31 (PTI): The death toll due to the coronavirus pandemic climbed to four in West Bengal on Tuesday after two patients succumbed to the contagion, while 10 new cases were reported, the highest single-day rise in the state so far.

Five people did not have any travel history, while the rest either came in contact with a positive patient or had a travel history outside the state. The two persons who died were among the 10 new cases, officials said.

A total of 1,03,391 people are under home isolation in various parts of the state as on Tuesday, while the total number of positive cases stands at 32. Two persons have earlier died due to the disease.

The state government so far had identified 70 people, who had attended a religious gathering

in Delhi's Nizamuddin earlier this month.

The two persons who died of the disease in West Bengal on Tuesday are a 47-year-old woman, who had recently visited Dooars in north Bengal, but had no history of foreign travel, and a middle-aged man whose details are not yet known.

"The woman, a resident of Salkia in Howrah district, died in a hospital late on Monday night before test results came. Her test results confirmed that she was infected with the coronavirus," a health department official said.

The department has sent all the family members and those who came in touch with her to home quarantine. It also started an inquiry to find out whether or not any family member of the deceased had recently returned from abroad.

After the death of the woman, nurses, and Group D staff of the hospital staged a demonstration, alleging that the woman was initially admitted to the general ward and they attended to her for nearly three hours without wearing personal protective gear.

The fourth person died at the Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital. He was admitted to the hospital in the morning and died in the evening. His tests reports, which came after his death, confirmed that he was suffering from COVID-19, officials said.

Of the eight new active cases, three are from Kolkata and five from West Midnapore, East Midnapore, Howrah and North 24 Parganas districts. One from Salt Lake and another from Tollygunge area are undergoing treat-



ment at separate private hospitals in Kolkata.

"They did not have any history of travelling abroad or to any other state. We are trying to find out whether or not any of their family members had gone overseas or to other states. Family members of the two will also be quarantined," he said.

Another man, in his early 30s who had recently returned from

Maharashtra, was admitted to the Midnapore Medical College and Hospital.

The details of the fourth person who is in a hospital in Belgharia in North 24 Parganas is yet to be known.

Four more cases were reported from two private hospitals at Howrah, Dum Dum and R G Kar Medical College and a state hospital at Egra in East Midnapore

district.

Meanwhile, the 18-year-old youth, who was reported to be the first coronavirus case in the state, was released from the Belehata ID Hospital after being declared fit. The hospital also discharged two more people -- a woman from Habra and a resident of Ballygunge.

State Home Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay tweeted that the state

government was trying to identify those who had attended a religious congregation in Delhi's Nizamuddin earlier this month.

"All those from West Bengal who have participated in this event are being identified and will be immediately tested for COVID-19 and put under mandatory 14 days quarantine," Bandopadhyay tweeted.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee donated Rs 5 lakh each to the prime minister's national relief fund and the state emergency relief fund from her personal savings to help combat the spread of the novel coronavirus.

In the evening, she visited the Kolkata Police headquarters in Lalbazar to boost the morale of the police personnel who are working round the clock to ensure safety and security of the people.

The state government also issued an order asking cable TV operators not to

disconnect services on account of non-payment of monthly fee.

Meanwhile, after days of political bonhomie, a verbal spat broke out between the BJP and the TMC over the distribution of relief materials to people, after the saffron party alleged that the ruling party was not allowing the Opposition to take part in relief work.

The TMC denied the claims and said the government was doing everything to help the people in distress.

"If the chief minister visits various parts of the city and distributes relief material, then it's fine. But when the BJP is trying to do the same, we are stopped in the name of the prohibition of assembly of more than seven people. This is absolutely unacceptable," BJP state president Dilip Ghosh said. TMC leader and minister Tapas Roy said people should refrain from indulging in politics at this time of crisis.

Jail inmates make masks for fellow prisoners

KOLKATA, APR 1 (PTI): Amid the shortage of masks in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, inmates of the correctional homes in West Bengal have taken up the task of making masks for more than 25,000 fellow prisoners in state prisons, an official said.

Eight correctional homes across the state have been earmarked where a section of prisoners are working to make masks for more than 25,000 inmates spread across 60 prisons across the state, the official of the state Correctional Services Department said.

Presidency, Dum Dum, Midnapore, Jalpaiguri, Burdwan and three

other correctional homes have been earmarked for making masks, the official said.

"The number of masks that have been manufactured would be distributed across all the prisons within this week, so that all the inmates can have a mask. We have a regular supply of raw material for making masks. After delivery of mask to the prisoners is over, we will take orders from outside for common people," he said.

There are around 60 correctional homes in West Bengal, housing nearly 25,000 inmates. Of them 7,000 are convicts.

Earlier this week, the Correctional Services de-



partment has prepared a list of 3,000 inmates who were eligible for parole and bail, in keeping with a Calcutta High Court order that sought to decongest jails amid the growing COVID-19 threat.

The court had last week formed a three-member panel to examine the situation in all correctional homes of

West Bengal and prepare a report on the number of inmates who could be granted bail or parole to avoid crowding in prisons.

According to officials of the Correctional Services department, of the 3,000 inmates listed for relief, 2,000 are under-trial prisoners and 1,000 convicts.

Two die after consuming surgical spirit in C'garh

RAIPUR, APR 1 (PTI): Two men died after allegedly consuming surgical spirit as a replacement for alcohol in Chhattisgarh's Raipur city on Wednesday, police said.

Liquor shops and bars are shut across the state till April 7, amid the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of

coronavirus.

Ajay Kunjam (40), Asgar Hussain (42) and Dinesh Samudre (39) allegedly drank surgical spirit on Tuesday night in Golebazar police station area and their condition deteriorated soon after, a senior official said.

"While Hussain and Samudre died, Kunjam is in a critical condition," he

said.

One of them died at his home in the early hours of Wednesday, while another succumbed during treatment at Dr B R Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, he said.

After being alerted about it, police personnel rushed to the spot and recovered a bottle

of spirit from the house of one of the victims, the official said.

The bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem, he said.

The victims might have bought surgical spirit from a pharmacy to drink it as a substitute for alcohol, which is not available anywhere in the state, he said.

WB SLSA seeks report from Home Secy on allegations of police highhandedness during lockdown

KOLKATA, APR 1 (PTI): The State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) has called for a report from West Bengal Home secretary and the Kolkata Police Commissioner on an allegation of highhandedness by law enforcers with regard to imposition of lockdown over the coronavirus spread, an official said here on Wednesday.

Calcutta High Court judge Justice Dipankar Dutta, in his capacity as

the executive chairman of SLSA, has asked the authorities to submit the report by Thursday.

A lawyer had written to the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Justice T B N Radhakrishnan, in which allegations were made about police highhandedness over enforcing of social distancing and other guidelines during the lockdown that commenced in the state along with other parts of the country

last week.

The chief justice forwarded the letter to SLSA executive chairman Justice Dutta, the official said.

Justice Dutta then directed the state Home secretary to submit a report on the overall state of affairs over the imposition of lockdown in the state, while asking the city police commissioner to give a report on Kolkata.

Though people have been asked by the gov-

ernment to go out only for buying essentials and medicines and in some emergency, there have been reports of violation of these orders by some people, including that of maintaining social distancing norms.

Police and other authorities in the state have been making appeals to the people to stay at home, unless there is any urgent need, to stop the spread of the contagious virus.

Ganguly visits Belur Math, donates 2000kgs rice

KOLKATA, APR 1 (PTI): The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday donated 2000 kilograms of rice at the Belur Math, the headquarters of the Ramkrishna Mission, in his bid to help the needy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Visited Belur Math af-

ter 25 years, handed over 2000kgs of rice for the needy," Ganguly wrote on his Twitter account.

Clad in white T-shirt, the former India captain was seen wearing a black mask and taking a tour of the Ramkrishna Mission headquarters with the monks in a golf cart.

Ganguly had earlier announced a donation of Rs 50 lakh worth rice for the sufferers of COVID-19, which has left the world in disarray.

The pandemic has claimed nearly 50 lives till now, while close to 1700 positive cases have been reported so far from across the country.

Mail us at
advertise@
summittimes.
com
or call us at
:03592-208698

Efforts on to evacuate 2,000 foreign tourists from Goa

PANAJI, APR 1 (PTI): Amid the lockdown due to coronavirus, nearly 2,000 foreign tourists are stranded in Goa and efforts are underway to send them to their respective countries, a tourism body said on Wednesday.

Majority of the visitors held back in the coastal state are Britishers as tourists from various other countries have already flown out, Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) president Savio Messias said.

"There must be 1,500 to 2,000 foreigners stranded in Goa. Most of these are Britishers. We are getting calls from a number of foreigners requesting for their evacuation. Some have contacted the British Embassy and Goa Police," he said.

Many of these tourists had been holidaying in Goa since a long time, he said, adding that some of them arrived six months back.

"Most of them have been living in rented houses and are fac-

ing the problem of procuring essential items. We are helping them in whatever way possible, he said.

While flights are arriving to carry the tourists back, the worst difficulty faced by them is travelling to the Goa airport as taxis are not plying, Messias said.

The TTAG, Goa's apex tourism body, has issued special permits to about 40 taxi drivers to ferry the foreigners, he said.

"Some of the foreigners want to stay back in the state as

their visas will get renewed automatically," Messias said.

On Tuesday, a special flight carrying 317 tourists from Germany and other European Union countries took off for Frankfurt from Goa.

A Rossiya Airlines flight carrying 133 passengers from Russia and its neighbouring countries also took off from Goa on Tuesday.

The Goa Airport on its Twitter handle said it was the sixth relief flight from the state.

SummitTIMES IN NEPALI



<https://www.facebook.com/SummitTimesSikkim/>

Watch our Nepali news broadcast every evening on
Facebook at the Summit Times Daily Page.
Please like, Share, Comment and let us know how we
can improve.

Thank You



DONATE BOOKS FOR NOBLE CAUSE
TO BUILD LIBRARY

If anyone willing to donate books or
support through
Finance, than you are most welcome

"GIVING IS NOT JUST
ABOUT
MAKE A DONATION ,
ITS ABOUT MAKING
DIFFERENCE"

For more Details Contact ; 6294745117,8768809862

Email ; chitishchetttri7@gmail.com

SummitTIMES

Buttler auctions World Cup-winning shirt to raise funds for hospitals battling pandemic



LONDON, APR 1 (PTI): England's flamboyant batsman Jos Buttler is auctioning the shirt he wore during their World Cup-winning final last year, to raise funds for hospitals battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a video message posted on Twitter late Tuesday night, Buttler said the shirt would be auctioned to raise funds for the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals charity.

"As we all know, hospitals, doctors, nurses and the NHS are all doing quite an incredible job at the moment. And in the weeks and months to come they are going to need our support even more," Buttler said.

"Last week, the Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals' charity

launched an emergency appeal to provide lifesaving equipment for those two hospitals, specialising in lung and heart conditions in preparation for the COVID-19 outbreak."

The light-blue coloured full sleeves jersey, which Buttler wore during the summit clash at the Lord's where England defeated New Zealand in dramatic fashion to lift their maiden ODI World Cup trophy, is signed by all members of the squad.

"To help with their fund-raising effort I'm going to be donating this shirt, which is the shirt I wore in the World Cup final last year, signed by all the players who were members of the squad."

Buttler also tagged a number of cricketers across the world includ-

ing India skipper Virat Kohli and vice-captain Rohit Sharma, Australian Steve Smith and teammate Eoin Morgan, to spread the message.

The coronavirus outbreak has infected over 8,00,000 people and caused more than 42,000 deaths worldwide.

In the UK, more than 25,000 people, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prince Charles, have been infected and over 1,800 deaths reported.

In this time of crisis everyone is trying to do whatever they can and the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is also pitching in by providing parking and storage spaces available at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground to the National Health Services (NHS) staff.

There's no mantra for success, just hard work: Mary Kom

NEW DELHI, APR 1 (PTI): A six-time world champion and an Olympic bronze-winner, surely M C Mary Kom can be expected to have a "secret mantra for success". But as it turns out, she has none.

The 37-year-old is gearing up for her second Olympics, postponed to 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday, she was speaking on the subject "Making of a Champion" for Sports Authority of India's facebook live session for athletes, who are mostly confined to their homes or hostel rooms right now amid a national lockdown to contain the pandemic.

Mary Kom said she doesn't have any secret recipe to share for the stupendous success she has achieved.

"I don't have any mantras for success. Just work hard and be honest to what you are doing, that's all. Ups and downs are always there but you should not lose focus on your dreams," said the trailblazing boxer, who was rechristened the 'Magnificent Mary' by her sport's world gov-



erning body.

"My boxing journey was not easy. To reach national, international and Olympic level is not easy. But if you have the will, and want to achieve in life, you can," she added.

"My early life was very difficult. Coming from a poor family, it was so difficult. I can't explain the hardships. I don't want to even remember it."

Mary Kom is also a Rajya Sabha MP and was recently wrongly accused, in some sec-

tions of media, of violating the quarantine protocol after returning from the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Jordan early last month.

She was under no obligation to be in compulsory quarantine at that time and attended a breakfast hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind while being on voluntary isolation, leading to a furore.

The COVID-19 pandemic has become way more severe since then and has caused more than 40,000 deaths

globally. In India, the number of cases has crossed 1100 and the death toll has gone past 40.

The veteran sportsperson advised everyone to stay at home to combat the crisis.

"It is not easy for us human beings to stay at home. But that is the best option we have. Staying fit at this time is a good way to fight the virus," she said.

"We should not be selfish and think that 'I am healthy, I won't get it'. We should care for oth-

ers," she added.

The fierce competitor in her can't wait for the crisis to be over so that she can resume normal training.

"When all this is brought under control, we will get back to training in big way," she said.

"I am trying my level best for an Olympic gold but I am incomplete without your blessings. Pray for me," she added.

SAI has lined up more than 20 such sessions for athletes to help them cope with the lockdown.

Secrecy and suspense over Tour de France's fate

PARIS, APR 1 (AFP): Less than three months before the Tour de France's scheduled start, the possibility of cycling's greatest show taking place remains shrouded in doubt, while the organisers have thrown up a wall of silence.

The highlight of the French sporting calendar is due to embark from Nice on June 27 and end on the Champs-Elysees in Paris on July 19.

But with France entering its third week of coronavirus lockdown and more than 3,000 deaths in the country, organisers ASO are refusing to comment on their plans, other than to say they will act in the best interests of the general public.

"There will be a huge hunger for sports when this is over," ASO chief Christian Prudhomme said in early March.

With the cycling world desperate to keep the 2020 Tour alive, AFP looks at three potential outcomes:

- CANCELLATION -

This seems be the least likely scenario. Keeping the Tour on track is the key to cycling's economic wellbeing. Unless the lockdown continues well into the summer, it would be hard to imagine the Tour being cancelled.

"The Tour represents around 60 percent of earnings in a season," French team AG2R boss Vincent Lavenu said.

The 2018 champion Geraint Thomas agrees, telling the Daily Telegraph this week he feared for people's jobs if the Tour was cancelled.

"When you look back through the history books in 20 years' time,



if in 2020 there was no Tour, that doesn't matter.

"But, on the other hand, there are 20-odd teams, and companies invested in those teams, and if it went, there would be quite a few people left unemployed.

"While the result itself doesn't matter, the event does, because there are a lot of livelihoods wrapped up in it," he said.

- POSTPONEMENT -

Unless the health crisis takes a turn for the better in the weeks to come, a postponement is increasingly likely.

Most of the potential competitors are in lockdown and unable to train normally, and would clearly prefer to be in full training before taking on the gruelling Tour.

Unlike all other races, almost every contender likes to arrive at the Tour in peak form, and that requires intensive training.

Ineos star Thomas says the uncertainty is demotivating.

"If you knew that the Tour de Suisse (in June) was going to be your next race, you could just work towards that and devise a training programme. But at the moment it's all up in the air," he said.

Others agree with Thomas.

"At the latest we'd need the guys out on the roads training by May 10," the boss of French

team Arkea-Samsic, Emmanuel Hubert, told AFP. May 10 appears worryingly close given the current lockdown in France.

The International Cycling Union held a video conference meeting on the matter last Friday.

The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics was a huge relief for cycling, as it clears the whole autumn period for rescheduled events. Add in the postponement of the Giro d'Italia in May, and it means everyone will want to be at the Tour.

"If the Tour de France does go ahead in full, it'll be the best field ever," said Matt White of Australian team Mitchelton-Scott.

"With the Olympics off the cards, it does leave a window for later in July and even early August," White added.

Given there is little visibility on the potential length of the lockdown from the authorities, it is impossible to say, but August would be a fairly popular decision.

- THE ORIGINAL PLAN -

There appears to be solid support for sticking to the original dates, even if riders show up below top form.

After Euro 2020 and the Tokyo Games were postponed, the Tour is one of the year's last sporting landmarks left standing.

LONDON, APR 1 (PTI): The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has announced a 61 million pound package to help the sport "withstand" the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic but did not declare any immediate cut in the players' salaries.

According to the ECB, financial assistance will be made available at every level of the game across counties, boards and clubs.

"We understand these are challenging times and it has been our priority to provide swift and immediate support to all members of the cricket family at every level in England and Wales," Tom Harrison, chief executive officer of the ECB, said.

Around 40 million pounds will be made available immediately, with a further 21 million to follow in interest-free loans with a particular focus on ensuring that the game can survive at a



recreational level.

"We are fully aware that the situation with COVID-19 will continue to develop, and it will be months before the full financial fallout is made clear.

"We will continue work with all of our partners to protect the ongoing health of the entire

game in the short term and beyond," Harrison said.

Meanwhile Harrison said there were no plans to cut the pay of centrally contracted England players, though he warned that there would be more problems ahead if the pandemic caused the majority of the summer to

be wiped out.

"We would like to thank everyone within the cricket network who is working tirelessly to protect the game during this period of uncertainty," he said.

Last month, the ECB suspended all professional cricket till May 28, delaying the start of the new season, due

to the coronavirus outbreak.

The pandemic, which originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan in Hubei province, has claimed over 42,000 lives across the world while infecting more than 8,50,000.

The United Kingdom has so far reported nearly 1800 deaths.

Mumbai City FC CEO Indranil Das Blah leaves club

MUMBAI, APR 1 (PTI): Indian Super League franchise Mumbai City FC on Wednesday announced that its CEO Indranil Das Blah has left the club to pursue a new

opportunity.

The Club announced the development through a media statement issued here.

"Indranil has been with Mumbai City since

the beginning and has overseen all of the Club's formative years, including two memorable play-off runs," Mumbai FC co-owner Bimal Parekh stated in

the release.

Blah, on his part, said, "I wish the Club all the very best, as it enters a new chapter under the CFG ownership and I have absolutely no doubt

that the Club is in very good hands."

Mumbai City, who have never won the coveted ISL title, will be announcing a new chief executive in due course.

Ex-Marseille president Pape Diouf dies from coronavirus

MARSEILLE, APR 1 (AFP): Former Marseille president Pape Diouf has died aged 68 after contracting coronavirus, a family source told AFP.

Diouf, who was born in Chad but had French and Senegalese citizenship, led the club between 2005-2009 and helped build the side

that lifted the Ligue 1 title in 2010.

He was set to leave Dakar for Nice earlier on Tuesday to be treated for COVID-19 in France but the plane never left Senegal.

Diouf was also a journalist and a football agent before taking over at the Stade Velodrome.



US virus deaths pass 4,000: Johns Hopkins

WASHINGTON, APR 1 (AFP): The total US death toll from the coronavirus pandemic topped 4,000 early Wednesday, more than double the number from three days earlier, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

The number of deaths was 4,076 -- more than twice the 2,010 recorded late Saturday.

More than 40 percent of recorded deaths nationally were in New York state, the Johns Hopkins data showed.

On Tuesday the United States exceeded the number of deaths in China, where the pandemic emerged in December before spreading worldwide.

The number of confirmed US cases has reached 189,510, the most in the world, though Italy and Spain have recorded more fatalities.

Myanmar blocks hundreds of news sites and threatens editor with life in jail

REBECCA RATCLIFFE, 01 APR [THEGUARDIAN]: Myanmar has cracked down on journalists, blocking news websites and maintaining a long-standing internet ban in some areas, prompting warnings it is becoming increasingly hard to monitor abuses in the country.

On Tuesday, Myanmar charged a journalist under a terrorism law for publishing an interview with the Arakan Army, a rebel group that demands greater autonomy for the state's ethnic Rakhine people. The group had recently been labelled a terrorist organisation.

Nay Myo Lin, editor in chief of the Voice of Myanmar, could face life in prison. His website has also been blocked, along with other outlets that cover the ongoing fighting in Rakhine state, where about 730,000 Rohingya Muslims fled a military crackdown in 2017.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch described the charges as absurd. "Quite clearly they are trying to get rid of any lines of reporting that they cannot control," he said.

The country's army has repeatedly filed cases against publications that cover the conflict, and only weeks ago dropped a recent criminal complaint it had filed against Reuters news agency.

On top of such legal action, Myanmar has also instructed mobile operators to block 221 websites, claiming they publish fake news and contribute towards instability in the country.

The crackdown on access to information adds to growing fears that communication

China pivots to tackle 'silent' Covid-19 carriers as US says a quarter of cases may have no symptoms

GRAHAM RUSSELL, BEIJING, 01 APR [THEGUARDIAN]: Chinese authorities have shifted their focus to tackling "silent", or asymptomatic, carriers of the coronavirus as part of the next phase of the pandemic, amid concern among US health chiefs that a quarter of patients do not suffer symptoms.

The National Health Commission in China said it would start releasing a tally of asymptomatic patients from Wednesday and would order those cases into quarantine for 14 days, after the mainland witnessed its first rise in infections in five days.

Authorities reported 130 new asymptomatic cases on Wednesday, bringing the total number of such cases under observation to 1,367. Previously, China has

regarded asymptomatic patients as a low risk and not included them in their tally of confirmed cases. Asymptomatic patients, found through tracing the contacts of confirmed cases, had been quarantined and then released if they did not show symptoms.

Recent new infections likely caused by asymptomatic patients have prompted widespread public concern as the country lifts lockdown measures and citizens go back to work. On Monday, Chinese premier Li Keqiang called for increased tracking and monitoring of patients without symptoms amid fears of a resurgence of cases, leading several provinces to introduce tougher measures on Tuesday. In Zhejiang, all asymptomatic patients under-

go mandatory medical observation at a hospital for 14 days.

Those concerns were reflected on Tuesday by Robert Redfield, the director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who said in a rare interview that as many as one in four cases have no symptoms. He told NPR: "That's important because now you have individuals that may not have any symptoms that can contribute to transmission, and we have learned that in fact they do contribute to transmission."

As a result, the CDC was now "aggressively reviewing" its recommendations on use of face masks, potentially extending their use based on the assumption that more people in "high transmission zones" were already



infected but without symptoms.

US healthcare workers are already facing acute shortages of personal protective equipment, and Dr Anthony Fauci, the head of Donald Trump's coronavirus task force, warned on Tuesday that, although widening use of masks was being considered, it must not come at a cost

to frontline health workers.

Trump advised the public on Tuesday to "use a scarf if you want ... rather than going out and getting a mask."

Chinese researchers estimate that 59% of those who contracted the virus had mild or no symptoms. Documents seen by the South China Morning Post report-

edly showed more than 40,000 asymptomatic patients that would not have been included in China's total number of infections of more than 80,000.

By Monday, the latest day for which data is available, total infections stood at 81,518 in mainland China, with 3,305 deaths.

Fears in China have

increased after a case emerged in Henan province in which a woman was confirmed to have been infected after coming into contact with an asymptomatic patient. The country is seeking to loosen lockdowns but has achieved mixed results with cinemas, tourist attractions and a smattering of cafes and karaoke bars ordered to close after a tentative re-opening.

On Tuesday, China's Global Times newspaper reported the transmission risk of asymptomatic patients was similar to those with symptoms. It said 6.3% of a confirmed case's close contacts were infected with the virus, as opposed to 4.4% for an asymptomatic carrier, according to the Ningbo Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Zhejiang Province.

Myanmar blocks hundreds of news sites and threatens editor with life in jail

REBECCA RATCLIFFE, 01 APR [THEGUARDIAN]: Myanmar has cracked down on journalists, blocking news websites and maintaining a long-standing internet ban in some areas, prompting warnings it is becoming increasingly hard to monitor abuses in the country.

On Tuesday, Myanmar charged a journalist under a terrorism law for publishing an interview with the Arakan Army, a rebel group that demands greater autonomy for the state's ethnic Rakhine people. The group had recently been labelled a terrorist organisation.

Nay Myo Lin, editor in chief of the Voice of Myanmar, could face life in prison. His website has also been blocked, along with other outlets that cover the ongoing fighting in Rakhine state, where about 730,000 Rohingya Muslims fled a military crackdown in 2017.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch described the charges as absurd. "Quite clearly they are trying to get rid of any lines of reporting that they cannot control," he said.

The country's army has repeatedly filed cases against publications that cover the conflict, and only weeks ago dropped a recent criminal complaint it had filed against Reuters news agency.

On top of such legal action, Myanmar has also instructed mobile operators to block 221 websites, claiming they publish fake news and contribute towards instability in the country.

The crackdown on access to information adds to growing fears that communica-

tion blocks are making it hard to assess if Myanmar is complying a recent ruling by the international court of justice, which said that the country must implement "provisional measures" to protect the Rohingya community in Rakhine state from genocidal acts. "Despite the UN secretary general's call for a global ceasefire all around the world so that everybody can battle the Covid virus, you have the military in Myanmar doubling down on repressive actions to prevent any sort of independent information coming out of Rakhine state," added Robertson. "It indicates the Burmese military is certainly not listening to anything the UN secretary general has said."

Myanmar, which reported its first death related to the virus on Tuesday, has registered 14 cases of the coronavirus. Just weeks ago the country had maintained that it was virus free, with one official stating that people's "lifestyle and diet" protected them from infection.

The internet-freeedom group Access Now, which tracks internet shutdowns worldwide, said that the blackouts first imposed on some townships in Myanmar's Rakhine and Chin state in June were now among the most prolonged on record.

While violence in the two states has limited people's ability to move and access services, the internet blackout also "prevents people from getting informed, protecting themselves and their loved ones, and stopping the spread of the virus throughout their communities," Access Now said in a statement earlier this month.

Mexican journalist gunned down in first fatal attack of 2020

DAVID AGREN, MEXICO CITY, 01 APR [THEGUARDIAN]: A Mexican journalist has been shot dead in broad daylight as violent crime in the country – and attacks on the press – continue amid the coronavirus pandemic.

María Elena Ferral was shot eight times on Monday by the masked pillion rider on a motorcycle as she left a notary public's office in Papantla, a city plagued by organised crime in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

She was taken to a nearby hospital, but died of her injuries several hours later, according to the press freedom group Reporters Without Borders (known by its French initials, RSF).

Ferral reported for the Veracruz newspaper El Diario de Xalapa and founded the news website Quinto Poder de Veracruz,

where she investigated sensitive issues such as crime, corruption and the police.

The motive for her murder remains unclear and no suspects have been arrested. She had received death threats from a local political candidate in 2016, according to the news weekly Proceso.

Threats and harassment from local politicians prompted Ferral to seek protection from a state commission for protecting journalists. The government later withdrew the bodyguards assigned to her, according to RSF.

Ferral's death marked the first case of a murdered journalist in Mexico this year. The country registered 10 murders of journalists in 2019 and RSF ranks Mexico 144th of 180 countries on its most recent press freedom rankings.



More than 100 journalists have been murdered in Mexico since the country launched a militarised crackdown on drug cartels in 2006. And Veracruz, where organised crime and political power are sometimes hard to tell apart, has become a cemetery for reporters.

The state's ruling party has changed twice since 2016 – with an ally of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador winning in 2018 – but observers

say Veracruz remains rife with dangers for reporters and activists.

"There have been changes in government in terms of party colours, but there hasn't been any change in terms of security for journalists," said Miguel Ángel Díaz, founder of the Veracruz publication Plumas Libres.

"Investigations into aggressions against journalists and activists in Veracruz are stalled. There are no advances, there are no convictions."

VIDEO NEWS SECTION

Facebook.com/SummitTimesGangtok

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

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK: For circulation details Contact: +91-9749877695, +91-9647702692 & for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427305 or at office no 03592 208498. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

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

KOLKATA OFFICE: Irshad Ali/ Imteyaz, Synapse, 6, Modan Street, Marine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. +91-9830547774/ +91-9831083977. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/irshad.ali123@gmail.com

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

www.summittimes.com

news@summittimes.com summittimes@gmail.com advertise@summittimes.com

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

to book
advertisements in Sum-
mitTimes, call
03592-208698
9734152541

CNN's Cuomo, down with coronavirus, completes show from basement

NEW YORK, APR 1 (AP): A bleary-eyed Chris Cuomo, saying he wanted to be a cautionary tale for his audience, anchored his CNN show from his basement Tuesday after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Via remote link, he interviewed Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, an emergency room nurse and CNN medical correspondent Sanjay Gupta, who expressed worry about one of Cuomo's symptoms.

Brace yourself, Cuomo told viewers, not for a hoax. But for the next few weeks of scary and painful realities. This is a fight. It's going to get worse. We're going to suffer. Cuomo looked pale, his eyes watery and red-rimmed. He took a few deep breaths to compose himself. He repeated himself.

Even Gupta said he didn't look good, and said he'd call later to talk about a tightness Cuomo was feeling in his chest.

The 49-year-old newsman, whose brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has logged just as much television airtime lately with daily briefings on how the disease is affecting his state, said earlier that he knew it was a matter of time because of how often he was exposed to people. He said he's staying in the basement of his Long Island home to protect himself from his wife and children.

The New York governor, who appeared with his brother on CNN by remote link the night before, also used the personal story to warn others during his press briefing Tuesday. He noted that he had scolded Chris for having their 88-year-old mother, Matilda, visiting Chris' home two weeks ago.

It's my family, it's your family, it's all of our families," he said. This virus is so insidious, and we have to keep that in mind. Chris Cuomo said he thought his mom would be safer at his house than in her New York City apartment, but his brother persuaded him to have her stay at his sister's place in Westchester County.

Some competitors, including Sean Hannity and Geraldo Rivera of Fox News Channel, and Joy Reid and Ali Velshi of MSN-



BC, sent best wishes to Cuomo through social media Tuesday.

He said he appreciated the sympathy from well-wishers but tried to deflect it.

Hopefully, I'll be able to keep doing the show, he said. But who knows? One of the most unsettling things about the disease, he said, is hearing from doctors that there really isn't much he can do now except suck it up. The best medicine is not to get it prevention, he said in a pre-show discussion with colleague Anderson Cooper.

Most people who get the virus have mild to moderate symptoms and recover. But for older people, and those with underlying medical conditions, the disease can be dangerous. More than 3,000 people have died in the U.S. alone.

Andrew Cuomo, 62, and the CNN anchor are sons of the late New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, and that teasing big brother-little brother dynamic often enlivens their appearances together. The governor called him his best friend.

He is going to be fine, he said. He's young, in good shape, strong not as strong as he thinks he is, but he will be fine. Chris got a measure of revenge Tuesday night, referring to his brother as Captain Banana Hands.



CUTIES! Camila Cabello & Shawn Mendes step out for a walk to get some fresh air on a sunny Miami day.

Kim Kardashian Reveals Where She Stands With Kourtney Kardashian After "Intense" Fight

What's really going on between Kim Kardashian and Kourtney Kardashian? During last week's premiere episode of Keeping Up With the Kardashians, fans watched as the sisters got into a physical fight. The heated exchanged between the sisters stemmed from a conversation about work ethic and led to an explosive argument between the siblings.

On Monday night, Kim addressed the "intense" fight during a chat with Jimmy Fallon, revealing where she and Kourtney stand today.

"It was pretty intense," Kim told the Tonight Show host. "I feel like it's been a lot of built up resentment from Kourtney or just feeling like

she doesn't really want to film [the show] anymore. She's not the type of person to make a decision and say, 'OK, guys, I'm not gonna film.' But she would come to work with an attitude every day, kind of take it out on everyone, from the crew to us, and wouldn't really make that decision."

Kim told Jimmy they just kept "pushing" Kourtney to figure out "why she was so unhappy."

The KKW Beauty mogul went on to reveal that mom Kris Jenner "cried" when she



saw the fight between her daughters.

So, what's Kim and Kourtney's relationship like today?

"Kourtney and I obviously are fine now," Kim shared with Jimmy. "But we shut down production for a week after that. I think everyone was really shook for a minute and was like, this isn't our type of show, like, what's happening? We want everyone to be comfortable and safe."

LOS ANGELES, APR 1 (PTI):

Dolly Parton is using her famous voice to spread some cheer and a love for reading books in children amid the novel coronavirus.

The legendary country singer is launching a 10-week series, which aims to "provide a welcome distraction during a time of unrest and also inspire a love of reading and books", according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"This is something I have been wanting to do for quite a while, but the timing never

felt quite right. I think it is pretty clear that now is the time to share a story and to share some love. It is an honour for me to share the incredible talent of these authors and illustrators. They make us smile, they make us laugh, and they make us think," Parton said in a video message.

In the weekly series, the singer will read a children's book to an online audience at bedtime, selecting books from her popular Imagination Library project.

The nonprofit says the goal for Goodnight With Dolly is to provide "a welcome distraction during a time of unrest and also inspire a love of reading and books."

"The read-alongs will be a personal gift from Dolly to all families. Free of charge but not free from obligation



as the message will be to pass on the love and keep hope alive because we are all Together, You and I," Imagination Library said in a press release on its website.

The first book to be read by Parton in the 10-week series will be Watty Piper's 'The Little Engine That Could'.

Starting Thursday, the singer's readings will be posted on her Imagination Library's YouTube channel, as well as across her Dolly Parton, World Choice Investments and Dollywood channels.

Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five in participating communities within the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland.

ARIES:

Having *this* much proximity to others can be both a good and a bad thing, depending on how you choose to look at it. For everything you love about them, there are about 100 things that you cannot tolerate. But living with you is no party either, Aries! So be kind. Be compassionate. Understand where the one is coming from, appreciate what they're doing for you, and give thanks often. Remember, nobody is obliged to alter their personality to meet your expectations.

TAURUS:

It's easy to start playing the blame game. I mean you're under lockdown, your job situation is causing you so much stress, and that to-do list seems to be growing by the minute! It will become increasingly easy to snap and lose your cool with other people as the days go by. But is that the best way to deal with your circumstances? Taurus, put your adult pants on, realise that we're all in this together, and that unless you practice kindness and accept where you are right now, you will not be able to get through this.

GEMINI:

Things could have been a lot worse, but you're safe, you're indoors, you have a source of sustenance, and are surrounded by at least a few people you love. Give thanks, Gemini. Send out a prayer of gratitude into the Universe. Know that raising your vibrations will make you a magnet for the good stuff. What you could be struggling with, however, is finding moments of Zen where it's just you and yourself. How about a ritualistic bath followed by a tête-à-tête with your spirit guides? Don't worry, the world will not go on hold if you disappear for a hot second.

CANCER:

Cancer, you're making the most of your house arrest—cook-

ing, cleaning, working out *and* meeting your deadlines like a queen. Not that we'd expect anything less from you! What's making this period away from the matrix oh-so-special is that it is giving you clarity on who your real people are and the connections you want to consciously cultivate over the next few weeks. Things to do this evening: get on to HouseParty and host a games night for your crew. It's going to be a BYOS affair: bring your own sanitiser, duh!

LEO:

Confidence has always been your superpower, Leo. Then what's making you doubt your abilities now? The cards are urging you to dig into your reserves and remind yourself of your strength and the mountains that you have moved in the past. It may seem like the world is on lockdown, but this is just temporary. We will all find a sense of normalcy soon. In other words, you will be given the platform to showcase your talents and share your gifts with the world. So continue to put in the work even though nobody is watching right now.

VIRGO:

Staying indoors is no problem at all! You're secretly a caveman anyway. What this period away from the matrix is awakening you to is the fact that you are blessed with a soul crew that's holding space for you despite the turbulence they may be facing in their own lives. Celebrate and nurture these connections, Virgo. Make a conscious effort to reach out, especially when you feel like you're melting into the black hole. We need each other's support more than ever before.

LIBRA:

Sometimes we get so caught up in fulfilling our dreams that we

forget to notice when they come to fruition. Take a moment, Libra. Be grateful for the blessings. This life is no accident. You have consciously cultivated the garden you are surrounded in with love and care, and have been supported by your spirit team every step of the way. Let the harvest inspire you to keep putting in the work and create the abundance you desire. Remember, the challenges presented to you at this moment cannot be overcome by using the same tricks. Be creative. Approach everything before you with a beginner's mind.

SCORPIO:

A Wayne Dyer quote to help you tap into your inner wisdom: "A higher concept of yourself involves taking on new truths and shedding old views of what you can achieve. This is the only way you can achieve your desires." Scorpio, you're in the midst of a massive transformation, one that is making you realise you're not the person you used to be. Give yourself the freedom to explore and try on a new pair of jeans. There is no better time than the now to move closer to your true self. Not everybody will understand this metamorphosis. Let go of the need to please everybody. Those who truly love you will acknowledge the self-work and take pride in seeing you glow.

SAGITTARIUS:

This period of reflection is challenging you to turn inwards and face your inner demons. Sagittarius, know you tried your best, and that is enough. Practicing forgiveness is the only way to free yourself. Instead of thinking of life as a school, think of it as a playground, a place where you're encouraged to have fun, trip and fall, and make plenty of mistakes. As Tryon Edwards once said, "The error of the past is the wisdom and success of the future."

CAPRICORN:

You may find yourself going back and forth on a lot of decisions. Where is this feeling of uncertainty coming from? Are you blocking out your own voice in order to listen to that of others? Could you be feeling disconnected from your inner wisdom? Set some time aside to tune in, Capricorn. Meditation is a good way to facilitate the journey inwards. Observe the thoughts and feelings that arise when you are in your Zen place. You could even journal the first thought that comes to you. Remember, your guides are always communicating with you from beyond the veil.

AQUARIUS:

A major part of the growth and evolution process is acknowledging that you are no longer the person that you used to be. Change is the only constant, right? Your time away from the world is helping you uncover newer truths about yourself and the cosmos. Continue to shed the layers that feel inauthentic. You are making space for a brand new narrative, starting now. Remember, every time your inner world goes through a shift, it brings about a change in your outer reality. You will find that some relationships are just not how they used to be, while others are becoming rock solid.

PISCES:

Want to hear a cliché, Pisces? Everything you seek is on the other side of fear. Organise a Ted Talk for your demons. Strip them off the power to influence your decisions. This is the only way to move closer to the big goals you have set for yourself. The world may be on lockdown, but that shouldn't stop you from putting in the work and making your dreams a reality. Trust that the Universe will reward your commitment by clearing the roadblocks that were once hindering your growth.