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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Agri Minister convenes meeting between bankers and farmers, highlights need for banking support to boost agriculture

GANGTOK, 02 JUN [IPR]: Agriculture Minister Lok Nath Sharma chaired a consultative coordination meeting with the bankers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) at the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok, today.

During the interactive session, detailed discussions were held on providing term loan to FPOs for Value Chain processing under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER).

Establishment of Custom Hiring Centre Membership Drive and providing equity



support grant to FPOs were also discussed at length.

The meeting was also attended by the Principal Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture R. Telang, Secretary Agriculture Rinzing C. Bhutia, Secretary Horticulture MT Sherpa, CEO Sikkim Organic Mission Dr. S. Anbalagan, Director Dairy/Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Dr. B.M. Chettri, Senior officials, General Manager and Office-in-Charge, Reserve Bank of India (Sikkim State) Ravindra Sangvai, General Manager NABARD R. Tshering, Managing Director SISCO Bank Pema Chenzom, Chief

Managers, Sr. Managers and bankers from SBI, SBS, Central Bank, UCO Bank, NESFB, Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Indian Bank, Union Bank of India, Syndicate (Canara Bank), Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Jana Small Financing Bank, Yes Bank, IDBI, HDFC and Indusind bank.

The meeting also had the presence of representatives from seven Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) of East District from Ranikhola, Rakdong Tintek, Budang Kamarey, Amba Taza, Machong Parkha, Rongli and Khamdong Singtam.

Turn Page 2

MORE THAN 200 SIKKIMESE RETURNING FROM MAHARASHTRA AND CHATTISGARH

Separate quarantine facility for returnees from red zones

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUN:

State Nodal Officer [Evacuation Cell], Rinzing Chewang Bhutia today informed that around 200 Sikkimese are being brought from Maharashtra on a special train. The train is scheduled to reach NJP by Thursday.

Mr Bhutia informed that on Monday night at around 12 pm, a special train for Sikkimese left from Bandra Station. The train will go via Pune, Nagpur, Raipur and Bilaspur picking up Sikkimese along the way.

"We got confirmation that the special train was ready to ferry Sikkimese on Monday morning and through the day we called up all Sikkimese to prepare and reach the train station. The train was supposed to arrive on Wednesday but it got a little delayed so we are expecting it on Thursday," said Mr Bhutia.

Since many of the stranded Sikkimese in this train will be coming from red zones, special arrangements have been made for quarantine, he stated.

"Although they will be sent to their respective districts, they will be kept in quarantine facilities exclusively meant for red zone returnees. Some residents of North Sikkim, however, will be kept in the exclusive quarantine centre in East district, since North district does not have the required facilities," said the Nodal Officer.

First phase over, ERC will now hold meetings with stakeholders



GANGTOK, 02 JUN [IPR]:

The Economic Revival Committee 2020 constituted under the chairmanship of MLASonamTsheringVenchungpa, convened a press conference at Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok today.

Mr Venchungpa was accompanied by the Committee Member Secretary, Sonam Lepcha (Secretary, Planning and Development Department), and members, VBPathak (Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department), CLDenzongpa (Economic and Financial Advisor to the HCM) and DrOPDhakal (Professor, Medicine, SMIMS).

Chairperson, Mr Venchungpa, apprised the gathering about the activities and observations made by the Committee following the announcement of its formation by the Chief Minister, P.S. Tamang (Golay) last month to revive the State's economy which has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He informed that the Committee held its first preliminary meeting on 18 May to set an agenda-based methodology while identifying various stakeholders for active consultation required for economic revival of the State

Turn Page 2



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Distressed Asset Fund/ Subordinate Debt Scheme approved for MSMEs

- A scheme of Rs. 20,000 crore has been approved
- The Scheme will benefit nearly 2 lakh MSMEs

Rs 50,000 crore Fund of Funds approved for Equity in MSMEs

- Approval of Equity to put an end to challenges faced by MSMEs in their development
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Gangtok artist creates ceramic momokeychains



REBYNARANA GANGTOK, 02 JUN:

Artist, Sewon Rai of Gangtok has come with a unique souvenir for tourists and locals to take home - a keychain shaped like a momo and made of ceramic. Momos, although not unique to Sikkim, reminds many of home while visitors often take home pleasant memories of delicious momos served in Sikkim's restaurants.

Sewon has a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Indian College of Arts and Draftsmanship Kolkata as well as Master's degree in Fine Arts from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

When asked about how the idea of the ceramic momos came about, Sewon says, "When I was at Lalitkala Akademi in Kolkata in 2017, I was a painting scholar and during the annual Art Exhibition everyone was experimenting with different materials making small arts and crafts for the Annual Exhibitionsale. I was the only one from Sikkim and being a Sikkimese I felt I should choose a local subject and started making

ceramic Momos.

I though it represented all things Sikkimese and my work was different from others."

He returned to Sikkim in 2018 on the completion of his scholarship at Lalit Kala Akademi and after working for Loyola college of Education for more than a year.

"I was in touch with Anupa Rai who runs her own ceramics studio in Naitam, East Sikkim and 'Maato' ceramics studio by Reena Rai at Pakyong. I brought some ceramics clay from Anupa and started working with clay," he shares.

Sewon was soon making ceramic momos and after some experimenting, he decided to make the momokeychains.

"I never got the time to put all my energy into my work but this year due to the COVID-19 lockdown I got time to focus, experiment and develop my artworks. Besides the ceramic Momo, I made ceramic poppy flowers for my upcoming art installation," says Sewon.

He does not have a pottery furnace so he takes help from Anupa Rai and Reena Rai. The ceramic momokeychains cost Rs 150 per piece.

Agri Minister convenes...

Addressing the gathering, the Minister stated that the meeting is an initiative to draw light on the issues of farmers and strongly advocated for the support from banking sectors to earn their sustainable livelihood.

He also added that with the support and role of the Banking sectors, the GDP would also increased thereby fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the farmers.

Highlighting the farming potential of the state, Minister Mr. Sharma mentioned that the FPOs have sold vegetables worth more than Rs 50 lakh in coordination with SIMFED during the ongoing lockdown.

The increase in production of milk by 3000 liter per day in the last few month, shows the growing interest of youths in these sector. He also stressed upon the huge number of applications received from educated youths to initiate farming as an alternate source of livelihood and urged bankers to provide subsidized loans for funding. He also suggested the bankers from various sectors to generate massive awareness about the farmer-friendly loan schemes and other related provisions. The Minister expressed that the systematic and inter connected approach of the bankers would definitely benefit the farming community at large.

In his closing remarks Minister Mr. Sharma expressed heartiest gratitude to the bankers for the significant declarations and their commitments to support FPOs and farmers, magnanimously.

The Principal Secretary stressed on the need for proactive approach from bank and suggested to establish a farmers facilitation centre in all districts.

Secretary Agriculture, Secretary Horticulture, GM RBI and other participants came out with invaluable inputs to prepare an effective mechanism for financing FPOs, approach for seeking relaxation in the guidelines and its registration formalities.

In an open interactive session, the meeting passed three important resolutions which are as follows:

1. Every Wednesday would be reserved by the bank branches to resolve the banking issues of farmers.

2. A district level review meeting of Agriculture, Horticulture and AH&VS would be held on first Thursday of every month to address the issues of the farmers.

3. Credit Facilitation Camp (Bankers Borrower's meet) will be organized in an identified location on periodical basis to ensure in principle sanction of the loan to the farmers.

Earlier, CEO Sikkim Organic Mission Dr S. Anbalagan proposed welcome address and also informed about the Credit link components of scheme MOVCD-NER with its subsidy assistance details available for setting up of functional infrastructure for collection, aggregation and grading units, setting up of Integrated Processing Units, Integrated Pack House, transportation, refrigerated transport vehicle, pre cooling, cold store and ripening chamber.

Governor hands over grant to Hareshwar Gurukul



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUN:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad

handed over financial grant to Hareshwar Gurukul Educational Society, a registered

educational society at Lower Samdong, East Sikkim today in a courtesy meet with

8171 more COVID-19 cases, 204 deaths in India

NEW DELHI, JUN 2 (PTI): The novel coronavirus death toll rose to 5,598 in India on Tuesday with 204 more fatalities, while 8,171 new cases took the number of infections to over 1.98 lakh, the Health Ministry said.

The active cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) climbed to 97,581 and as many as 95,526 people have recovered and one patient has migrated, according to the data.

Around 48.07 per cent patients have recovered so far, a ministry official said.

With a total of 1,98,706 cases, India is now seventh among the worst-hit nations by the COVID-19 pandemic after the US, Brazil, Russia, the UK, Spain and Italy.

Out of the 204 more deaths since Monday morning, 76 were in Maharashtra, 50 in Delhi, 25 in Gujarat and 11 in Tamil Nadu.

Eight people each died of COVID-19 in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, followed by six in Telangana, and four each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

There were three more fatalities each in Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir, two in Andhra Pradesh, and one each in Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttarakhand.

Maharashtra tops the list with 2,362 out of the total 5,598 deaths, followed by 1,063 in Gujarat, 523 in Delhi, 358 in Madhya Pradesh and 335 in West Bengal.

There have been 217 coronavirus deaths so far in Uttar Pradesh, while 198 succumbed to the infection in Rajasthan, 184 in Tamil Nadu, 88 in Telangana and 64 in Andhra Pradesh.

The toll reached 52 in Karnataka and 45 in Punjab, while 31 people died in Jammu and Kashmir and 24 in Bihar.

Twenty-one people died from the pathogen in Haryana, followed by 10 in Kerala and seven in Odisha.

There have been six COVID-19 fatalities in Uttarakhand, while five people each died in Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Chandigarh and Assam registered four

deaths each so far, while there has been a fatality each in Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh, according to the ministry data.

More than 70 per cent of the deaths are due to comorbidities, it said.

The highest number of confirmed cases are 70,013 from Maharashtra, followed 23,495 in by Tamil Nadu, 20,834 in Delhi and 17,200 in Gujarat.

There are 8,980 cases of the contagion in Rajasthan, 8,283 in Madhya Pradesh and 8,075 in Uttar Pradesh.

The number of COVID-19 cases has gone up to 5,772 in West Bengal, 3,926 in Bihar and 3,783 in Andhra Pradesh.

A total of 3,408 people contracted the disease in Karnataka, followed by 2,792 in Telangana, 2,601 in Jammu and Kashmir, 2,356 in Haryana and 2,301 in Punjab.

Odisha has registered 2,104 infections so far, while Assam has 1,390 and Kerala 1,326 cases.

In Uttarakhand, 958 people have been

the representatives of the Gurukul at Raj Bhavan, a press release informs.

The Governor was apprised about the objectives of establishing a fully residential Gurukul at Hareshwar Shivalaya Mandir premises in Lower Samdong and the activities and initiatives taken by the members of executive committee over the last two years since the inception of the Gurukul.

The Governor expressed his pleasure on the noble initiative of the local gentries and assured to assist further in their collective effort in developing the required infrastructure in the Gurukul in coming days.

Migrant workers face bleak future back home

Prithvi Parihar

JAIPUR, JUN 2 (PTI): Shrvan Das, back home in Nagaur district after the lockdown, is worried. He has a family of six to take care of and there are no jobs in sight.

It's a big crisis. I don't know what will happen in the future, he says, reflecting the state of lakhs of migrant workers, now jobless.

Das, 42, worked as a cook in Pune for the past eight months, earning Rs 20,000 per month. He returned to Merta Road town a month back.

"There is no work here. I can't go for MGNREGA. I can't find anything like a cook's job here.

It's a big crisis, he repeats.

"My daughters are of marriageable age. These troubles shouldn't have come at least at this time, he says.

Apart from the two daughters Shrvan Das has two sons. He doesn't know whether he will be able to return to his previous job in Maharashtra.

His wife has registered herself under MGNREGA, the rural employment guarantee scheme, but her turn hasn't come yet. He has no information yet of any other government help or loan he can seek.

According to government data, over four lakh migrants had come home to Rajasthan up to last week. They had been working in Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and other states.

Khemraj Gaur, 45, returned to Bundel village, also in Nagaur. He went to Pune nearly 23 years ago and was in the catering trade.

"The catering work was doing well. We were a team of 14-15 people, everyone made a decent living, he says. He now relies on the MGNREGA, but says it provides only a limited income.

True, the lockdown is now over. But when will the situation return to normal, businesses resume? It is a big question, he says.

Gaur and his wife have three school-going children.

Jugal Kishore, worked at a sweet shop in Chennai, and is now in the family's Didwana village.

"What to do? There was no work there, everything is at standstill here as well. I am sitting at home for the past one month, he says. Don't know how long this will last."

He was in Chennai for 15 years, and had never been jobless for so long before. His eldest son is 23-year-old, followed by 20-year-old and the youngest is just eight. The family has a small piece of land in the village. The state government has said it will employ such workers under MGNREGA. Job cards have also been issued for 1.77 lakh workers. A "Raj Kaushal Rajasthan Employment Exchange" is also being set up to find jobs for skilled workers in industries.



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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

Institutional Quarantine at CCCT

NAMCHI, 02 JUN (IPR): Owing to the outbreak of COVID-19 throughout the nation and as per the direction of State Government and to accommodate the stranded people of Sikkim coming from other states, institutional quarantine centre is being set up in respective districts to undergo compulsory 14 days quarantine period.

Among such institutional quarantine centres, Centre for Computers and Communication Technology (CCCT), Chisopani which is a Diploma College has been converted into a Free Institutional Quarantine Centre for the returnees belonging to South Sikkim.

The centre is set up in two blocks catering boys' accommodation in one block and the other block for girls. Currently, the centre has the capacity to accommodate atleast 160 inmates at a time in both the boys and girls hostel. It was made fully functional on 7th May onwards duly engaging 4 medical team headed by Dr Bibuti Subba, 4



Officers from Education Department headed by Ripa Lepcha, security assisted by 13 IRBn, 15 Safaikarmachari, 10 Security Guards alongwith other staff from the centre. The centre is under the supervision of ADC (South), Satyen Kr Pradhan as the Nodal Officer and BDO Poklok-Nandugaon, Tenzing Bhutia as Incharge. In addition, the centre is also up keeping the district administration directions under the close monitoring of District Collector(South), Ragul Kand CMO (South), DC Sharma.

It maybe mentioned

here that, the first batch of returnee's arrival on 11 May comprised of 16 inmates from Siliguri and its suburbs. Since then, the center has discharged a total of 152 inmates who had completed their 14 days incubation period of COVID-19 without any symptomatic cases registered.

The management team of quarantine centre is also leaving no stone unturned to keep the functioning in a smooth and safe manner. It has provided all the basic amenities for the inmates which are free of cost. The

management team has also been ensuring and taking safety protocols of quarantine centre seriously. Bio and other allied waste generated at the Centre are disposed in a closed deep pit which has been dug in the vicinity of campus. Whereas, other kinds of waste is being transported to Sipsu by garbage van on a regular basis.

Other Activities

In an earnest efforts to keep the returnees occupied the management team has also been organising cultural programs at night. The chefs are also serving

dishes such as momos and selroti in a timely manner. Similarly, online yoga session has been introduced by means of zoom software.

The management is always keen on trying new innovative ideas for keeping the inmates more entertained. Feedback and other suggestions made by the quarantined people are taken seriously to improve and offer good quality services. In addition various local volunteers such as Nari Shakti are also distributing lunch and snacks to the inmates and frontline warriors.

Webinar deliberates combating COVID stigma through partnership in NE States



SUMMIT REPORT

GUWAHATI, 02 JUN:

A webinar on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and Combating Stigma Related to COVID-19 through partnership in North Eastern States was jointly organised and supported by Assam Don Bosco University, UNICEF, World Health Organisation (WHO), USAID and Piramal Swasthya.

125 participants from various institutions across North-eastern states participated in the webinar.

The programme was inaugurated by Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavely, Vice Chancellor, Assam Don Bosco University.

Director, Dr Ashoke Roy, Regional Resource Centre for North East States, Branch of NHSR, MoHFW, was invited to deliver the key note address on Risk Communication and Communication Engagement (RCCE) related to COVID-19. Chief, Field Office, Dr Madhulika Jonathan, UNICEF, Assam & North East, Sub Regional Team Leader for NE States, Dr Subhajit Bhattacharjee, World Health Organisation, Vice President, Sudeshna Mukherjee, Social and Behaviour Change Communication, Piramal Swasthya, National Professional Officer, Dr Ritu Singh Chauhan, WHO, Health Specialist, Dr Vivek

Singh, UNICEF, Child Protection Specialist, Laxminarayan Nanda, UNICEF, C4D Officer, Suresh Parmar, UNICEF, Dr Riju Sharma, Assam Don Bosco University participated as key resource persons of the programme.

The key themes of the webinar include- National perspective: COVID-19 – challenges and issues in North-eastern context, combating stigma related to COVID-19, psychological support to adolescents and youth during COVID-19 pandemic, Risk communication and community engagement, importance of partnership in Northeast SBCC alliance, etc.

NRM Agricultural distributes agri inputs



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUN:

NRM Agricultural, South Sikkim, has taken the initiative to distribute polypipes, organic manure and seeds to the progressive farmers of Katang

under Namthang-Rateypani Constituency, a press release informs. Minister Transport cum Area MLA, Sanjeet Kharel provided the above mentioned materials

and was accompanied by Ward Panchayat, General Secretary Student Wing, Kavita Sapkota, CLC President, Ratna Singh Tamang, Co-ordinator NHPC, Harish Chandra Tiwari and Party workers.

Cong delegation visits bereaved family at Chalisey

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUN:

A delegation Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee members called on the family which lost two members recently when a tree fell on their house Chalisey, near Rhenock, on 29 May. A mother and daughter were killed in the incident while another daughter, an 11-year-old, is presently in critical condition at STNM Hospital.

The release contends that the family had written to the Forest Department around four years back informing it that the tree in question was posing a danger and should be cut down. And now, this accident has happened.

Congress has further

claimed that although sub-divisional officials have visited the site, the family has had to arrange material for protection on their own.

The release adds that the concerned authorities have not even removed fallen tree from the spot thus far.

The party has urged the state government to immediately take action on the incident and also attend to the other victim of the incident who is struggling for her life at STNM hospital.

The SPCC delegation was led by its president, Bharat Basnet and accompanied by treasurer, Karma Tashi Bhutia and party workers Binod Trikhatri and Aita Tamang and Zilla Adhyaksha [East] Gopal Chettri.

Forest Deptt begins identifying danger-posing trees at Chalisey

SUMMIT TIMES

GANGTOK, 02 JUN:

The Forest Department has instructed its field officers to begin identifying trees posing danger to life and property at Chalisey village, near Rhenock in East Sikkim.

A Siris tree had come down here on 29 May and claimed one life and damaged property, it

may be recalled.

Similarly, in case of private holdings and other non-forest lands, the danger posing trees are to be felled completing all due procedures as per the Sikkim Private and Other Non-Forest Lands Tree Felling Rules, 2006 and after obtaining NOC from the land owner, a Forest circular informs.

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V-Guard donates garbage collection truck to Rangpo Nagar Panchayat



SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 02 JUN:

Majhitar-based V-Guard handed over a garbage collection truck to Rangpo Nagar Panchayat today. The donation was made as

part of the company's CSR initiatives.

The handing over ceremony was attended by Rangpo Nagar Panchayat president, Maya Cintury, MEO Prakash Chandra Kharel,

Councillors Pinku Kumar and Deepak Rai, GM V-Guard, Amit Mahato, HR Head, Sabika Rai Bhupen Kr, Hemu Sharma and Durga Chettri (staffs Rangpo Nagar Panchayat) and staffs of V-Guard Ltd.

Testing progresses on a fast clip in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUN:

Health Department Director General-cum-Secretary, Dr PT Bhutia, informed today that the State government has been testing returnees in fast clip and expansively despite the high cost involved.

In his Health Bulletin posted on Tuesday evening, Dr Bhutia informed that each RT-PCR test costs Rs 4,500 while a TruNat test costs between Rs

2,500 to 3,000. The State Government has already conducted 3,788 samples.

Dr Bhutia also updated that of the 1,635 samples sent to North Bengal Medical College & Hospital in Siliguri for RT-PCR testing before Sikkim had built its own capacity, results have come back for 930 samples and are still awaited for 695 samples. NBMC&H, it may be recalled is swamped with a backlog of tests.

Meanwhile, the Viral

Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at STNM Hospital has received 769 samples since it began operations on 29 May. Of these, results have already been processed for 587 samples.

On the TruNat testing front, 1,394 samples have been collected and results prepared for 1,340.

He informed that the cumulative figure of samples sent for testing was 3,788, of which one had tested positive for COVID-19.

Contribution towards CM's Relief Fund




GANGTOK, 02 JUN (IPR):

A cheque amounting to Rs. 39,653 (One day Basic pay of Government Junior High School Lingding East Sikkim) was formally handed over to the Secretary to the Chief Minister,

SD Dhakal in his office at Tashiling Secretariat this afternoon. The amount is the contribution made by the staff of the school for Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support

Government's fight against the global pandemic COVID-19.

The Secretary on behalf of the Government thanked the staff of the School for their kind gesture and generous contribution.



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 : 7028372100

WEST : 9593297809

NORTH : 9641957468

SOUTH : 7407691463

New STNM

AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Allow Local Adaptations of Centralized Models

The top-down model needs tweaking to deliver better

Given the energy with which Sikkim has been hosting programmes under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, it would appear that the State has a major problem when it comes to ensuring access and care for its daughters. Sikkim has many problems, some even gender related, but letting the girl child be born, survive and receive an education is not one of them. An important issue no doubt if the national scenario is taken into consideration, but in a State with no reported case of female infanticide, one might wonder at the necessity of such elaborate events and robust funding on what is, let us accept it, a redundant issue as far as Sikkim is concerned. The government agencies too realize this awkward emphasis and do, it appears, try and work around it to ensure that the earmarked funds end up coming to some use. So one has ingenious ways in which the BB-BP funds are being utilized.

This is shared here to highlight the disconnectedness with which centralized planning looks out for the country. India's daughters, by and large, need saving and access to education, but that is not necessarily the case everywhere that the programme is force-fed. In areas like Sikkim, it could have easily been ratcheted up some notches to speak more about gender equality, empowerment and rights; it could have moved beyond the unimaginatively routine official events and roped in activists and women leaders to push the envelope of gender rights a little further. But that did not happen. May be its time will come too, but this reference was made not to speak only about the BB-BP initiative, and is cited here to highlight how the pressures of implementing imported models saps everyone of the energy to work out local solutions for local issues. For example, while a girl-child's right to live is not threatened in Sikkim, her right to education often gets compromised; securing the best education for the daughters when a choice has to be made is quite often sidestepped. It is in this direction that Sikkim's energies need to be focused more and it would be unfortunate if the BB-BP was deployed only to reinforce an existing access to literacy. In that sense, it would helped more if centralized planning provided the overall ideology and allowed local adaptations to build on them.

Something on these lines was attempted a few years ago when Delhi announced that it was looking at releasing funds directly to the gram panchayats based on developmental agendas set up by these micro units in line with the developmental push. That said, the decentralisation process already underway in some states, including Sikkim, will achieve little if the decentralised components are not allowed the freedom to change, adapt and modulate projects and schemes to suit the needs, aspirations and ground realities of the areas they represent. Agreed, if this happens, the control that central agencies have over line organisations will weaken, but that is how things should be when one is decentralizing anyways. The parent body should decide policy and leave the implementation to the grassroots level workers who understand the severity of the problems and know which solutions will work. They are not handicapped for initiative or skill, it is only access to funds that limits their effectiveness; as does a more trusting environment which is why they are straitjacketed with guidelines and instructions. Give them the funds and an overarching policy framework to work under and see how everything that the top-down model failed to deliver can actually be rather easily achieved.

Attack of zombie companies: don't let them eat bailouts that are vital to restore the economy

ROBERT EARLE, JUNG PARK & KARL SCHMEDDERS
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Governments are all deciding which struggling companies to help out in the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the many looking for help, some have a strange deathly pallor. This is nothing to do with whether they trade in sectors whose futures look very uncertain – though many do. For years, these companies have been struggling to pay the interest on their large debts, let alone the principal, despite the long period of very low interest rates. Some were on their way to failure. The buoyant economy before coronavirus kept them just about stumbling along.

There are many of these zombies in our midst, and whatever public money they receive means less available for firms that were healthy before the pandemic. Morgan Stanley estimates that as many as 16% of US companies are zombies, while there are plenty in Asia and Europe too.

BAD MEDICINE

Various countries have given financial aid to the private sector in recent months, including extending credit and grants to companies. More aid is likely on the way. As more and more companies run into trouble, governments will have to decide when and how to step in.

Even in better times during the last three years, US bankruptcies averaged 23,000 firms per year. Some of them may have failed because of zombie firms, since research suggests they crowd out credit from other candidates even in the best of times.

In normal circumstances, however, business failures are actually good for society – tragic as they are for business owners and their employees. The victims are able to take risks and try new things, without which there can't be progress. This “creative destruction”, as the Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter described it, is a necessary part of capitalism. Governments and central bankers rightly fight the effects of recessions on citizens – this year's cash payments to American workers would be an example – but recessions are often necessary corrections to over-exuberance in business.

So while the pandemic is very unusual, in one sense we must view it like any recession. For this



reason, governments don't need to worry about the business failure rate but about the excess failure rate – for example, US bankruptcies hit around 60,000 firms in 2010, so that may be a useful yardstick this time around.

ZOMBIE HANDLING

The US government, among others, has left itself open to propping up zombies by offering emergency relief to all struggling businesses, regardless of their financial picture before the pandemic. The rush of American small businesses to access funding illustrates how quickly money can move in the wrong direction. It demonstrates the need to think out the rules carefully in advance.

It would have been smarter to focus on mechanisms that choose between struggling businesses. Whereas under the emergency relief programme, banks lend to any business knowing the government will cover the debts, one option for the future is to just to stimulate bank lending and let banks choose who to lend to. This way they have skin in the game and the weak can be allowed to fail.

Another option would be to let vulnerable companies work themselves out in the normal bankruptcy reorganisation process (Chapter 11 in the US, administration

in the UK). For example, the biggest US airlines spent almost all their free cash flow on share buybacks over the last decade, sometimes going heavily into debt to do so. This benefited their shareholders and bondholders, so it's appropriate that they take the hits. Once a company has been reorganised, government aid could then be made available to prop up the “good” parts that remain.

Some will argue that certain firms are too big to fail. Japan resisted letting their big companies die in the “lost decade” of the 1990s, but when it did the economy improved. South Korea had a similar experience with Daewoo.

Some have tried to make the same argument about Virgin Atlantic being too big to fail today. A look at the financials suggests the UK government was likely correct to initially reject its request for £500 million in state aid, especially as Virgin had not tried to seek investments from other sources.

The airline lost money in 2017 and 2019 and warned a year ago that it would not make a profit for at least another two years because of Brexit and high fuel costs. Owner Richard Branson is now trying to put together private funding of around £450 million on the basis that he can then reapply for government

assistance. He shouldn't be given that assistance. In any case, it may be unnecessary if he sells some of his other business interests.

One country that has some protection against zombie firms is Germany. Before a company can receive funding from state-owned German bank KfW, the authorities must be satisfied that it was in solid shape before the crisis. This could be a useful model for other countries.

In short, the best way to help the economy is either to let zombie companies resurrect themselves through the bankruptcy process or just return to the grave. Yes, there will be economic pain if these companies fail – including job losses. But rather than providing government aid to these zombies, it might be better directed at their former employees. For example, the Swiss government is putting more money into unemployment insurance. Feeding zombies will just make the recovery longer and slower, crowding out more worthy enterprises and wasting resources.

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George Floyd: Why the sight of these brave, exhausted protesters gives me hope

AKWUGO EMEJULU
THECONVERSATION.COM

In a way, you could say we've been holding our breath this whole time, until now.

What you're witnessing is Black America exhaling and breathing fire all over the country. We calculate, in horror, the awful symmetry of the killings of Eric Garner in 2014 in Staten Island and George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020. They couldn't breathe because America is a choking hazard. I don't think I exaggerate.

At the time of writing, there are more than 100,000 people dead from COVID-19 in the US. Black and Brown Americans are disproportionately sickened and have died from a novel coronavirus that exploits America's breathtaking racial inequalities in health, housing and employment.

Protesters shouldn't be gathering in groups as they risk infection and spreading the virus further. But protesters are assembling, at great personal risk to themselves and their loved ones, because George Floyd couldn't breathe. They inhale, exhale and raise hell in memory of him.

In cities across America and Europe you see how George Floyd is spontaneously put in conversation with other Black victims of state violence. With Atatiana Jefferson in Texas, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, Adama Traoré in France, Sarah Reed in England and Oury Jalloh in Germany. These souls have died at the hands of the police (Jefferson and Taylor), under suspicious circumstances in custody (Traoré, Reed and Jalloh) or have been shot to death by private citizens who were, until very recently, confident they would not have to answer for their crime (Arbery).

This is a gathering of the ghosts of our

past, present and future. They assemble to watch us and wonder when and how this will end. We scream, we shout and we march because we are haunted by those we could not save and by the terrifying knowledge that these violent deaths at the hands of the state – or those who know they have the full support of the state – could happen to any of us. They couldn't breathe because existing while Black is a threat to the everyday order of things – to the mundane organisation of American society that demands Black people's subjugation.

POLITICS OF EXHAUSTION

Folks are tired of this injustice. They are exhausted. Yet, even in this state of individual and collective exhaustion, protesters take to the streets. Exhaustion, it seems, is a praxis: it is a theory and practice for protest and activism. Physical and psychological exhaustion is knowledge – because if you're tired of the way things are that means you understand that things can be different. Through a haze of exhaustion, you glimpse another world. A world without police and prisons, perhaps.

Counter-intuitively, exhaustion is your imagination hard at work envisioning new futures in which your Blackness is not weaponised against you. Those folks putting their bodies on the line in the streets understand that we have to work through our exhaustion in order for it to come to an end. We must pass through exhaustion to reach repose.

This exhaustion can be used to forge solidarity. Solidarity is a deeply emotional sense of unity: the collective exhaustion of protesters and the wider sympathetic public binds us together through collective agony and action. We are scared, the future is uncertain – all we have is each other. With

each other, we can try to build something new.

LESSONS FROM THE TEAR GAS

It is, of course, monstrous that exhaustion is demanded from those who simply want to live. It is unconscionable that we must accept extreme fatigue in order to get free. The simple message of “stop killing us” is greeted by militarised police forces armed to the teeth with flash bang grenades and tear gas. Meanwhile, armed white people who intimidated elected officials in order to resume their conspicuous consumption in the middle of global pandemic were hailed as heroes.

However, this is the stark reality of living under white supremacy. Tear gas, ironically, can be very clarifying. America offers lessons every day about who it values, who belongs and who is human. Follow the tear gas: many answers to your questions about America, past and present, are there. But don't let this enduring lesson be in vain.

Seeing people stream out onto the streets is probably the most hopeful I've been since the start of the pandemic. America is experiencing mass death, incompetent and vengeful leadership and economic collapse. Even under these catastrophic circumstances, people join together to demand more and better for themselves.

We can't go on like this. The ferocity you see in the streets is driven by the grim understanding that the protesters will return after the next outrage and the one after that because the struggle for Black liberation will not be realised in our lifetimes. But we catch glimpses of the world that might be in the exhalation of breath on the streets.

[the writer is Professor of Sociology, University of Warwick]

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COVID-19 tally in Assam crosses 1,500-mark

GUWAHATI, JUN 2 (PTI): The number of coronavirus cases in Assam reached 1,513 on Tuesday after 28 more people tested positive for COVID-19, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Of the 28 new cases, five returned to the state by air, 12 are from Nagaon, 10 from Golaghat and one from Jorhat district, the minister said.

Forty people have been discharged from hospitals after recovering from the disease, he said.

Eighteen patients have been released from Silchar Medical College Hospital, 12 from Golaghat District hospital, nine from Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital in Guwahati and one from Dhemaji district hospital.

The state now has 1,182 active cases, while 324 have recovered from the infection. Four persons have died due



to coronavirus and three patients migrated to other states.

A repatriation flight from Russia is scheduled to land at the Lokopriyo Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati at midnight on Tuesday, an Airport Authority of India (AAI) spokesman said.

Earlier, a repatriation flight from Kuwait arrived here on May 29 with 155 passengers and 30 of them tested

positive for COVID-19.

Altogether 64 air passengers have so far tested positive for the disease since flight operations resumed on May 25.

Meanwhile, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has approved the Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur as an authorised testing centre for COVID-19, Sarma said.

"In yet another

development that strengthens our ongoing fight against a pandemic, I am pleased to share that @DRDO_India has approved Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur as an authorized testing centre for #COVID19. I thank @DefenceMinIndia for this", he tweeted.

The DRL will be Assam's eighth laboratory testing coronavirus samples. Several samples are

also sent to laboratories outside the state.

The minister had earlier said that the state government's aim in June would be to reduce institutional quarantine and increase the number of testing.

The number of cases in the state has increased after inter-state movement began, "but we have managed to cross a critical phase by increasing our testing facilities and ensuring a strict but humane quarantine system", he said. Sarma said 10,000 people are tested daily in the state and by June 15, a total of two lakh people are expected to be tested, he said.

"With the ramping of the testing facilities, our aim now is to reduce institutional quarantine to four days and increase home quarantine to 10 days by June 10, but only if the tests are negative," he said.

Five more test positive for Covid-19 in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, JUN 2 (PTI): Five people tested positive for Covid-19 in Arunachal Pradesh on Tuesday, taking the number of active cases to 26, a senior government official here said.

All five have recently returned to the state from other parts of the country, he said. "One of them, a 36-year-old woman, is a resident of Lohit district. She returned from Delhi around a week ago. The other four cases were recorded in Itanagar. We are trying to trace the travel history of the four new patients,"

Health Secretary P Parthiban said.

The 36-year-old woman, wife of an Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer, was placed under institutional quarantine, following her return to Arunachal with family on May 24, Lohit District Medical officer (DMO) S Chai Pul said.

"Her husband and child have tested negative for the disease. The woman has been shifted to a COVID care centre of the paramilitary force," the DMO said.

Taking to twitter, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said, "As

on 2nd June, 4.40 PM, 5 new positive asymptomatic cases have been reported; Itanagar-4 and Lohit-1. All are in quarantine centre being shifted to Covid Care Centre."

The state witnessed the highest-single day spike on Monday, with 18 people testing positive for COVID-19. All active patients in Arunachal are returnees from other states.

The state's first patient, a 31-year-old man from Lohit district, was discharged from a hospital on April 16 following his recovery.

EC issues notification for RS election in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, JUN 02 (PTI): The Election Commission on Tuesday issued notification for holding election to the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Arunachal Pradesh on June 19.

The seat will fall vacant on June 23.

The notification by the state Joint Chief Electoral Officer D J Bhattacharjee said the last date of filing nominations has been fixed on June 9 and their scrutiny will be held on June 10.

The last date of withdrawal of nominations has been fixed on June 12, the notification said.

The election process will be completed by June 22, the notification said adding, polling will be held in the state legislative assembly from 9 AM to 4 PM if required. Assembly secretary K Habung has been appointed the returning officer by the EC while Assembly joint secretary Agaab Mossang has been

appointed the assistant returning officer, the notification said.

Mukut Mithi of the Congress is the incumbent Rajya Sabha MP from the northeastern state.

The 60-member Arunachal Pradesh assembly has 41 BJP, seven JD(U), four Congress, four National Peoples Party and one Peoples Party of Arunachal members, besides three independents.

Bihar govt closes migrants' registration for quarantine

PATNA, JUNE 2 (PTI): Migrant workers returning to Bihar will not have to undergo the mandatory 14-day institutional quarantine any more, as the movement of people has opened across the country, a state government official said on Tuesday, a move that can lead to further spurt in COVID-19 cases.

The registration of migrants for the purpose of quarantine closed on Monday, the official of the Disaster Management department said.

More than 8.77 lakh people have been discharged from quarantine centres after completing the 14-day quarantine period. Besides, 5.30 lakh migrants are still lodged in block and district level quarantine centres

"We have stopped the registration of migrants from Monday for putting them in 14-day institutional quarantine..."

Why will anyone (migrant) be registered



and for what when restrictions on the movement of people have been lifted in the country. "How do you know who is migrant because now anyone can come either by train, bus, car or any other mode?" Disaster Management Departments Principal Secretary Pratyaya Amrit told PTI.

He said quarantine facilities were introduced when movement of people was either banned or restricted.

During the lockdown, people had to obtain

passes from the competent authorities to undertake travel from one place to another. But with the introduction of unlock 1, such requirement has been done away with, he said.

He, however, asserted that door-to-door health monitoring will continue.

The officer said quarantine centres will be closed after June 15 when the 14-day quarantine period of the last batch of registered migrants will end.

"Why quarantine centres will remain open when there will be no

one at these centres after the arrival of last batch which was supposed to reach Bihar by June 1?"

"We had written a letter to the official concerned to send the special (Shramik) train by June 1. If we take that into account, the quarantine period will come to an end on June 15," he said.

Schools also have to be vacated for starting academic activities, he said.

So far, 28 to 29 lakh migrants have reached Bihar in its biggest ever evacuation exercise,

he claimed. The state governments decision comes at a time when many migrants returning to Bihar have tested positive for COVID-19, leading to a massive surge in the number of cases.

According to the data released by the state Health department, the number of migrants who have tested positive since May 3 is 2,743. Bihar had reported 3,872 cases and 23 deaths till Monday evening.

19 killed in landslides in Assam

GUWAHATI / KARIMGANJ/ SILCHAR, JUN 2 (PTI): At least 19 people were killed and two others seriously injured in landslides triggered by incessant rains in south Assam's Barak valley districts of Hailakandi, Karimganj and Cachar on Tuesday morning, officials said.

Seven people, including two children and a woman, were killed and two others seriously injured in a landslide that hit a tin house at Mohanpur area near Bolobabazar

in Hailkandi district around 6 am, said a spokesman of the district administration.

The injured were rushed to the S K Civil Hospital at district headquarters Hailakandi.

In neighbouring Karimganj district, five family members, including a woman and three children, were killed in another landslide at Karimpur around 3.30 am, said district Superintendent of Police Kumar Sanjit Krishna.

In Cachar district, seven people were killed by landslides at Kolapur village of Jaypur, police officials said.

SDRF personnel have rushed to the three landslide sites and recovered the bodies, officials added.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal condoled the loss of lives in the landslides.

"Deeply anguished at the loss of lives due to landslides triggered by incessant rain in Barak valley. I have directed Cachar, Hailakandi

& Karimganj district administrations and SDRF to step up rescue, relief operations and facilitate all possible help needed to those affected," he said in a tweet.

State Minister Parimal Suklavaidya, who was in Hailakandi town to review the COVID-19 pandemic situation, has directed district authorities to immediately send their reports on the landslide to the government for payment of Rs four lakh to the next of kin of each of the deceased.

12 people test COVID-19 positive in Mizoram

AIZAWL, JUN 2 (PTI): Twelve people who recently returned from Delhi and Kolkata have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Mizoram, an official said on Tuesday. The state had earlier reported only one COVID-19 case on March 24. The first patient was discharged from hospital on May 9 after he recovered.

Ten out of the 12

new cases were Delhi returnees, while two have returned from Kolkata recently. Their sample results came on Monday night, Health Department spokesperson Pachuau Lalmsawma told PTI.

All the new COVID-19 patients were asymptomatic. Eleven of them were inmates of a quarantine facility in Kolasib district and

one was a patient of Zoram Medical College, Lalmsawma said.

The 11 COVID-19 patients from Kolasib were admitted at the ZMC early on Tuesday, he said.

Lalmsawma urged people not to panic as all the patients were placed under quarantine since their arrival to the state.

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old woman died while

returning to Mizoram from Maharashtra by a special train.

The incident occurred around 11 pm on Monday when Marlia Vanlalhmangaihual, a resident of Keifang in Saitual district fell from a speeding train near Siliguri in West Bengal, Pune Mizo Welfare Association chairman Vanlalhima told PTI.

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FIFA signals support for in-game Floyd solidarity messages

ZURICH, JUN 2 (AP): FIFA urged soccer competition organizers to apply “common sense” and consider not sanctioning players for solidarity with George Floyd during matches.

The recognition of the “depth of sentiment” over Floyd’s death came in a rare statement by FIFA telling the global game to show flexibility and not enforce laws of soccer it helps to set.

Players used weekend games in Germany to reveal messages demanding justice for Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after he pleaded for air as a white police officer pressed a knee on his neck in Minneapolis.

Germany’s soccer federation announced earlier Monday that it was assessing whether to sanction the players for breaking laws of the game that prohibit “any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images” on equipment.

“FIFA fully understands the depth of sentiment and concerns expressed by many footballers in light of the tragic circumstances of the George Floyd case,” the governing

body said in a statement.

“The application of the laws of the game approved by the IFAB is left for the competitions’ organisers, which should use common sense and have in consideration the context surrounding the events.”

FIFA controls half of the eight votes on the International Football Association Board, with the other four held by England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A law change in 2014 proposed by England led to players being banned from revealing personal statements on undergarments.

England winger Jadon Sancho was booked while playing for Borussia Dortmund on Sunday for removing his jersey with a yellow-card offense only so he could reveal a T-shirt with a “Justice for George Floyd” message.

Borussia Dortmund teammate Achraf Hakimi displayed the same message on a T-shirt after scoring in the same game on Sunday but was not booked because he did not lift his jersey over his head.

In the Bundesliga on Saturday, American midfielder



Weston McKennie wore an armband over his Schalke jersey with the handwritten message “Justice for George,” and Borussia M nchengladbach forward Marcus Thuram took a knee after scoring for Borussia M nchengladbach in another game.

The expressions of protest are being investigated by the German soccer federation’s control body.

“As is the case internationally,” federation vice president Rainer Koch said, “the game itself should remain free of political statements or messages of any kind.”

FIFA’s awareness of the depth of feeling over the racial inequalities highlighted by Floyd’s death comes amid ongoing criticism soccer is not doing enough to eradicate or punish racism.

“FIFA had repeatedly

Bihar provides condoms to migrant labourers

PATNA, JUNE 2 (PTI): To prevent unwanted pregnancies, the Bihar government is distributing free condoms to migrant labourers going home after completing 14-day institutional quarantine and those in home quarantine, an official said on Tuesday.

As of now, over 8.77 lakh people have left quarantine facilities, while 5.30 lakh are still living in block and district centres.

“Migrant labourers are going to their homes after completing the 14-day institutional quarantine. Since there are chances of unwanted pregnancies, we properly counsel them and give them tools (such as condoms) to avoid unwanted pregnancy,” a senior Health department official told PTI.

The official, who is entrusted with family planning in the State Health Society, however, made it clear that “it is purely a family planning measure and has nothing to do with COVID-19.

“As a health professional, it is our responsibility to control the population. We have been taking the support of our health partner Care India to implement the initiative.”

The official said unwanted pregnancies have witnessed a surge the world over during the lockdown and it was against this backdrop that the initiative was launched.

The initiative will continue till the quarantine centres are functioning, he added.

The quarantine centres are likely to be closed by June 15 by which time almost all migrants wanting to return will have reached the state, official sources said.

Health coordinators are distributing two packets of condoms at quarantine centres, while ASHA workers have been handing them out during door-to-door screening of people in home quarantine.

An official of Care India said the NGO is providing technical support to the health department in this initiative.

Cricket not free of racism, I faced it too: Chris Gayle

NEW DELHI, JUN 2 (PTI): Expressing solidarity with the ‘Black Lives Matter’ campaign, star West Indies batsman Chris Gayle has alleged that he faced racist remarks during his career and cricket is not free of the menace.

Gayle did not elaborate when he faced racial remarks but hinted it might have been during his stints at global T20 leagues.

“I have travelled the globe and experienced racial remarks towards me because I am black, believe me, the list goes on,” he posted on instagram on Monday night.

“Racism is not only in football, it’s in cricket too. Even within teams as a black man, I get the

end of the stick. Black and powerful. Black and proud,” he said.

The big-hitting batsman’s comments came in the backdrop of African-American

George Floyd’s death in the USA after a white police officer, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee on the handcuffed man’s neck as he gasped for

breath.

The incident has sparked violent protests across the USA.

“Black lives matter just like any other life. Black people matter,



p***k all racist people, stop taking black people for fools, even our own black people wise the p***k up and stop bringing down your own!,” Gayle wrote.

Racism in cricket was drew attention most recently last year when England pacer Jofra Archer was abused by a spectator in New Zealand.

New Zealand’s top players and the cricket board had offered apologies for the incident to the Englishman.

Also on Monday night, the England cricket team’s official twitter handle posted a message denouncing racism.

“We stand for diversity, We stand against racism,” the message read.

Floyd Mayweather to pay for George Floyd’s funeral



NEW YORK, JUN 2 (AP): Former boxing champion Floyd Mayweather has offered to pay for George Floyd’s funeral and memorial services, and the family has accepted the offer.

Mayweather personally has been in touch with the family, according to Leonard Ellerbe, the CEO of Mayweather Promotions. He will handle costs for the funeral on June 9 in Floyd’s hometown of Houston, as well as other expenses.

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck while

Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn’t breathe.

His death sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the country, some of which became violent.

TMZ originally reported Mayweather’s offer, and said he will also pay for services in Minnesota and North Carolina.

“He’ll probably get mad at me for saying that, but yes, he is definitely paying for the funeral,” Ellerbe told ESPN.com on Monday.

Mayweather, who lives in Las Vegas, has not met the Floyd family. Mayweather, who

retired undefeated after 50 fights, winning five division titles, also paid for the funeral of an opponent.

Mayweather won his first world championship when he stopped Genaro Hernandez for the WBC super featherweight title in 1998. Hernandez died 13 years later of cancer, and Mayweather handled funeral expenses.

Mayweather is considered one of the best boxers of his generation. Among the champion boxers he defeated before retiring in 2017, are Manny Pacquiao, Canelo Alvarez, Oscar de la Hoya and Miguel Cotto.

Mumbai City FC, Pratik Chaudhari part ways

Mumbai, Jun 2 (PTI): Indian Super League franchise Mumbai City FC on Tuesday announced that its central defender Pratik Chaudhari has left the club.

Chaudhari played one season for Mumbai City FC, scoring a solitary goal.

“After a year with #TheIslanders, Pratik Chaudhari leaves Mumbai City. Thank you for the commitment and your contribution to the club, @pratikch89. We wish you the best for the future!,” the club posted

on its official Twitter handle

Chaudhari on his part said that it was an honour for him to play at MFC.

“After a season of having played for my hometown club @mumbaicityfc, must say was a special feeling of pride & honour. All thanks to the entire management, coaching staff & all my beloved fellow teammates at the club for the opportunity & love over the past year. #MumbaiCityFC,” tweeted the defender.



141 more test positive for COVID-19 in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, JUN 2 (PTI): Odisha reported 141 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, taking the total number of people infected with the disease to 2,245 in the state, a health department official said.

Of the new patients, 110 had recently returned to the state from various parts of the country and were in quarantine centres across districts, while

141 others were detected with the infection as a result of contact-tracing exercises, he said.

The new cases were reported from 18 districts.

The maximum of 27 fresh cases were found in Ganjam district, followed by 26 in Khurda, 19 in Nuapada, 13 in Kendrapara, 10 in Jajpur, eight in Sundergarh, seven in Bolangir, six in Cuttack and five in Puri.

Four each were reported from Jagatsinghpur, Gajapat and Keonjhar, two each in Dhenkanal and Balasore, and one each in Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Angul and Sambalpur districts.

With these fresh ones, the number of active COVID-19 cases increased to 991 in Odisha, while 1,245 patients have recovered so far.

“Seven persons succumbed to the disease, while two others died due to non-COVID reasons,” the official said.

Odisha had registered its highest single-day spike of COVID-19 cases on Monday, with 156 people testing positive for the virus.

The state health department has so far tested 1,59,567 samples, he said.

A total of 3,877

samples were tested on Monday.

The districts, which have reported more than 100 coronavirus cases in the state are Ganjam (458), Jajpur (290), Khurda (167), Balasore (154), Kendrapara (152), Cuttack (126) and Bhadrak (120).

Of the 30 districts, only Rayagada in southern Odisha remains free from the coronavirus outbreak.

Shami distributes food and water to migrants

NEW DELHI, JUN 2 (PTI): Moved by the plight of migrant workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, India pacer Mohammed Shami has started distributing food packets and masks to refugees travelling back to their homes.

The 29-year-old has also set up food distribution centres for the poor migrants near his house in Sahaspur, Uttar Pradesh.

The BCCI posted a

video of Shami, who is seen wearing a mask and gloves, handing out food packets and masks to people travelling in buses and those at the food distribution centres.

“A s #IndiaFightsCorona, @MdShami11 comes forward to help people trying to reach home by distributing food packets & masks on National Highway No. 24 in Uttar Pradesh. He has also set up food distribution

centres near his house in Sahaspur,” the BCCI wrote.

The coronavirus enforced lockdown has triggered a migrant movement crisis in the country with lakhs of people trying to get back home battling extreme heat and hunger.

The novel coronavirus outbreak has so far claimed over 5000 lives and infected close to 2 lakh people in the country.

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Biden looks to clinch nomination as 7 states, DC vote

MONTCLAIR (US), JUN 2 (AP): Joe Biden could seize the number of delegates needed to formally clinch the Democrats' presidential nomination on Tuesday as seven states and the District of Columbia push through a pandemic and exploding racial tensions to host the largest slate of primary elections in almost three months.

Voters will be asked to navigate curfews, health concerns and a sharp increase in mail balloting as elections take place from Maryland to Montana.

Four states were originally scheduled to vote in April but delayed their contests because of the coronavirus outbreak. Pennsylvania offers the day's biggest trove of delegates and represents a high-profile test case for Republicans and Democrats working to strengthen their operations in one of the most important general election battlegrounds.

We think we're prepared, said state Democratic Party Chairwoman Nancy Patton Mills. Thank goodness we have the opportunity of working this out in the primary because we don't know where we'll be with the pandemic in November.

Biden needs to win 89% of all delegates at stake on Tuesday to clinch the nomination,

but his role as his party's clear presidential nominee is not in danger should he fall short. With a dominant showing on Super Tuesday in early March, the former vice president pushed out all his major opponents. He will almost certainly secure the needed delegates later in the month if necessary.

Still, Tuesday offers a historic opportunity for the 77-year-old Democrat, who is waging his third presidential campaign and who hopes to amass as many delegates as possible to show strength before going up against President Donald Trump.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is not actively campaigning, having suspended his operation and endorsed Biden, but his name will appear on the ballots. On the eve of Tuesday's primaries, senior adviser Jeff Weaver encouraged progressives to vote for Sanders anyway.

People who support Bernie Sanders and his agenda, who want to maximize the influence of progressives at the convention, should cast their vote for Bernie Sanders, Weaver said, reminding voters that the Vermont senator is seeking leverage to shape the party's platform and rules.

The comments serve as a reminder that Biden



may have no legitimate Democratic rivals remaining, but he must still win over skeptical activists from his party's far-left flank who worry he's too close to the political establishment.

Party unity will likely be an afterthought this week, however, as more immediate health and safety concerns dominate the national conversation.

The coronavirus death toll has surged past 100,000 nationwide, and thousands of new cases are reported each day. At the same time, several major cities, including some voting Tuesday, are grappling with protests following the killing of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered a 7 p.m. curfew, though voting places will be open until 8 p.m. Voting has been deemed essential, and city officials say voters will not be subject to arrest if they cast ballots during the curfew.

It's much the same in Philadelphia, where officials have promised that voters would not be arrested should their city's 6 p.m. curfew be extended for a fourth consecutive night.

We are in unique times and voting is a unique challenge for people, said Josh Schwerin, chief strategist for the pro-Democrat super PAC Priorities USA. He said that his organization and others will be watching closely on Tuesday to see how well it works, where issues

are, and where obstacles have been put in place. Political groups have had to adjust as some states move to a system that relies largely on voting by mail. They include Montana, where all 56 counties decided to vote entirely by mail.

Voting rights watchdogs in multiple states have expressed concerns about access to mail ballots, confusion about deadlines and a shortage of poll workers that could lead to long lines.

Those voting Tuesday include the District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and South Dakota. An eighth state holding primary elections, Iowa, chose its presidential nominee early in the year and focused on other offices.

Depression forms in Gulf, heavy rain threat for south Mexico



MIAMI, JUN 2 (AP): A tropical depression that formed Monday in the Gulf of Mexico is forecast to become a tropical storm in coming hours that could bring heavy rains and flash flooding to parts of southern Mexico and Central America.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the depression was centered late Monday about 95 miles (150 kilometers) west-southwest of Campeche, Mexico. At 11 p.m. EDT, the storm had maximum

sustained winds of 30 mph (45 kph) and was crawling westward near 7 mph (11 kph).

Forecasters said it could reach tropical storm status during the night or sometime Tuesday.

The government of Mexico has a tropical storm warning in effect from Campeche to the port of Veracruz on that country's Gulf coast. The warning means tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere in that warning area

within 36 hours.

The Miami-based hurricane center said the storm is expected to unleash heavy rains with potential accumulations of 10 to 15 inches (25-40 centimeters) over parts of the Mexican states of Tabasco and Veracruz and adjacent portions of Guatemala.

Forecasters added that 5 to 10 inches (12-25 centimeters) of rain could fall on parts of El Salvador and Honduras with possibly higher amounts in isolated areas.

New York under curfew as looters hit luxury stores

New York was under a curfew that would last until early Tuesday morning, officials said, after looters raided stores in central Manhattan, targeting some of the city's top retailers.

Upmarket fashion store Michael Kors on Fifth Avenue was among the luxury outlets hit, along with Nike, Lego and electronics shops across Midtown, before the 11:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew came into effect, AFP journalists said.

Groups of young people moved from block to block around the district, usually bustling with tourists but deserted due to the coronavirus, with entire streets blocked by police.

Images from local NY1 television showed some young people running out of a Best Buy electronics store before being apprehended by the police.

Stores in the south of Manhattan suffered a similar fate, according to an AFP photographer.

The New York Times

reported that the flagship Macy's department store had also been targeted by looters.

Police did not immediately confirm this, simply saying that "numerous stores were hit" and arrests made "in the hundreds" across the city. Mayor Bill de Blasio said a lot of stores around Madison Avenue had been hit and the situation was "really not acceptable."

As a result he said the curfew would start from 8:00 pm on Tuesday instead of 11:00 pm.

"The city is fully under control, and overwhelmingly calm and peaceful," he nevertheless insisted on NY1.

- 'Time to go home' - The imposition of the curfew had been announced a few hours earlier by the mayor and New York state governor Andrew Cuomo after protests and looting during the weekend -- notably in the trendy SoHo district.

The mayor tweeted late Monday that "protesters were

overwhelmingly peaceful today" but that some people were out to damage property and steal.

"We support peaceful protest in this city. But right now it's time to go home," de Blasio said.

"Some people are out tonight not to protest but to destroy property and hurt others — and those people are being arrested. Their actions are unacceptable and we won't allow them in our city."

New York, the economic capital of the United States, and around 40 other cities across the country have imposed curfews after violent protests against police brutality triggered by the death of African-American George Floyd in Minnesota.

Just after 11:00 pm, around a hundred people held a peaceful demonstration in front of the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, the scene of major protests in recent days, taking a knee in tribute to victims of police brutality, according to an AFP journalist.

Five police shot during U.S. protests, Trump says he could bring in military

WASHINGTON / MINNEAPOLIS (Reuters) - At least five U.S. police were hit by gunfire during violent protests over the death of a black man in police custody, police and media said, hours after President Donald Trump said he would deploy the military if unrest does not stop.

Trump deepened outrage on Monday by posing at a church clutching a bible after law enforcement officers used teargas and rubber bullets to clear the way for him to walk there after he made his remarks in the White House Rose Garden.

Demonstrators set fire to a strip mall in Los Angeles, looted stores in New York City and clashed with police in St Louis, Missouri, where four officers were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

An emotional St Louis police commissioner, John Hayden, said about 200 protesters were "jumping up and down like crazy people", looting and throwing fireworks and rocks at officers.

"We had to protect our headquarters building, they were throwing fireworks on officers, fireworks were exploding on officers," he told reporters. "They had officers with gas poured on them. What is going on? How can this be? Mr Floyd was killed somewhere else and they

are tearing up cities all across the country."

A police officer was also shot during protests in the Las Vegas Strip area, AP news agency said, quoting police. Another officer was "involved in a shooting" in the same area, the agency said.

It gave no details of the shootings or the officers' condition. Police declined to comment to Reuters.

Trump has condemned the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American who died after a white policeman pinned his neck under a knee for nearly nine minutes in Minneapolis on May 25, and has promised justice. But, with anti-police brutality marches and rallies having turned violent after dark each day in the past week, he said rightful protests could not be drowned out by an "angry mob".

"Mayors and governors must establish an overwhelming law enforcement presence until the violence has been quelled," Trump said. "If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them."

Floyd's death has reignited simmering

racial tensions in a politically divided country that has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with African Americans accounting for a disproportionately high number of cases.

CRITICISM OF CHURCH VISIT

After his address, Trump posed for pictures with his daughter, Ivanka, and U.S. Attorney General William Barr at St. John's Episcopal Church near the White House.

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church diocese in Washington D. C., Michael Curry, was among those who criticized Trump's use of the historic church for a photo opportunity.

"In so doing, he used a church building and the Holy Bible for partisan political purposes," he said on Twitter. The church suffered minor fire damage during protests on Monday night.

The White House said it was clearing the area before a curfew.

A few hours later, thousands of people marched through Brooklyn, shouting "Justice now!" while some passing drivers honked in support.

Television images showed crowds smashing windows and looting luxury stores along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan before the city's 11 p.m. curfew. Mayor Bill de Blasio

said the curfew would be moved to 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Two police officers were struck by a car at a demonstration in Buffalo, New York, on Monday night. Officials said the driver and passengers were believed to be in custody. It was not clear whether the incident was intentional.

In Hollywood, dozens of people were shown in television images looting a drug store. Windows were shattered at a nearby Starbucks and two restaurants.

AUTOPSIES

A second autopsy ordered by Floyd's family and released on Monday found his death was homicide by "mechanical asphyxiation," or physical force that interfered with his oxygen supply. The report says three officers contributed to his death.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner later released autopsy findings that also called Floyd's death homicide by asphyxiation.

The county report said Floyd suffered cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by police and that he had arteriosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease, fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use.

Derek Chauvin, the 44-year-old Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd, was arrested on third-degree

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FIT COUPLE! Actress, Brie Larson showed off her toned figure as she and boyfriend Elijah Allan-Blitz stopped by a farmer's market in Malibu.

TikTok apologizes after being accused of censoring #BlackLivesMatter posts

TikTok has said sorry after users complained that posts with the hashtags #BlackLivesMatter and #GeorgeFloyd were shown to have zero views.

Users questioned why the short-video app, which is owned by China's ByteDance, was suppressing the hashtags as protests sweep across the U.S. following the death of George Floyd, who was killed in police custody in Minneapolis just over one week ago. A number of users changed their profile pictures to a raised black fist, which is a symbol for the Black Power movement, and several told others to unfollow TikTok users that are against the protests.

"We acknowledge and apologize to our Black creators and community who have felt unsafe, unsupported, or suppressed," wrote Vanessa Pappas, TikTok U.S. general manager, and Kudzi Chikumbu, director of creator community, in a blog post.

The issue was contained to the compose screen when users were adding hashtags to captions. Users who typed #BlackLivesMatter or #GeorgeFloyd into their video captions were told the hashtag had zero views. However, the true view count was shown when users searched the app for videos that had been given the hashtags.

"A technical glitch made it temporarily appear as if posts uploaded using #BlackLivesMatter and #GeorgeFloyd would receive 0 views," they continued, adding that posts with these hashtags actually had over 2 billion views.

Other popular hashtags including #cat

and #dad were also affected by the issue, which started on Thursday and was fixed by Friday.

TikTok said it plans to set up a "creator diversity council" that will be tasked with "recognizing and uplifting the voices driving culture, creativity, and important conversations on the platform."

The company has pledged to donate \$3 million to charities helping the black community during the coronavirus pandemic and commit another \$1 million toward fighting racial injustice and inequality in the U.S. In a separate post on TikTok, the company's incoming CEO, Kevin Mayer, said: "As I begin my work at TikTok, it has never been a more important time to support Black employees, users, creators, artists, and our broader community."

"Words can only go so far. I invite our community to hold us accountable for the actions we take over the coming weeks, months, and years." Hundreds of TikTok users have posted images of black squares to the platform with the #BlackLivesMatter and #BlackOutTuesday hashtags. However, some users are concerned the sheer number of users doing this is clogging up the hashtag and making it harder for protest videos and other important information to get through.

This is not the first time TikTok has been accused of censorship. The company acknowledged that it suppressed disabled users' videos and it also reportedly hid videos of the anti-government protests in Hong Kong.

inside job, Gemini. Remember all the reasons why things didn't work out and redirect your energy towards yourself. As you do, let go of the invisible threads that bind you together with loving awareness. Be grateful for the truth they awakened you to and all the ways in which they helped you move closer to yourself.

Cancer: Inner illumination is a big theme for you, Cancer. You're being able to look beyond the drama synonymous with the physical realm as you understand that you are not the body, you are the soul. Stay connected to your higher wisdom. Set a time aside for meditative practice. Overhead at the cosmic conference: it's going to be a wild ride. Your dreams and visions are about to get trippier too (no substances needed). Pay attention to the messages that are being revealed and what they are drawing your attention towards.

Leo: Inner illumination is a big theme for you, Leo. You're being able to look beyond the drama synonymous with the physical realm as you understand that you are not the body, you are the soul. Stay connected to your higher wisdom. Set a time aside for meditative practice. Overhead at the cosmic conference: it's going to be a wild ride. Your dreams and visions are about to get trippier

Amazon introduces 'Drop In' feature to make all your home's Alexa devices work like intercom

Amazon has introduced 'Drop In' feature which will allow you to 'connect' another Alexa device or any other Echo device present in your house for a one-on-one conversation.

Amazon has updated Alexa's features and if you use multiple Echo devices at home, here's a good news for you.

In the latest update, Amazon has introduced 'Drop In' feature which will allow you to 'connect' another Alexa device or any other Echo device present in your house for a one-on-one conversation.

According to Amazon's blog, "customers can now use group 'Drop In' to instantly connect all of their Echo devices into a group conversation".

"Simply say, 'Alexa, drop in on all devices' to start an audio intercom call to have conversations like 'what should we have for dinner?' or 'does anyone want anything from grocery store,' the company wrote in a blog post.

A few more couple other functions have been added and one of them is in



the reminder feature. Users can now choose "all devices" when setting a reminder for the reminder to be played across all Alexa hardware. To enable the feature for all reminders, go to Settings in the Alexa app, then Reminders, and opt into "Announce on all devices."

As per the Amazon's blog, now a user can easily share photos with your Alexa

contacts from their Echo Show and the Alexa app. They can send a reaction back by choosing one of three animated emoji options, including "laugh," "love," and "wow", when someone shares a photo with them. Another new feature is a new Daily Music Pick skill that plays a song, album, or playlist from an Amazon Music top artist.

Boxing champ Floyd Mayweather will pay for George Floyd's funeral, ESPN reports

Boxing champion Floyd Mayweather will pay for George Floyd's funeral, a representative for the athlete told ESPN. Floyd died at the hands of Minneapolis police last week as former officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck and two other officers restrained him. A fourth officer stood by as it happened. The former officers have all been fired by the department but only Chauvin has been charged in the death.

A funeral for Floyd will be held in his hometown of Houston on June 9, family attorney Ben Crump told CNN.

Leonard Ellerbe, the CEO of Mayweather Promotions, confirmed the boxer's involvement in a statement to ESPN. "He'll probably get mad at me for saying that, but yes, (Mayweather) is definitely paying for the funeral," Ellerbe said.

Ellerbe also told ESPN that Mayweather did not want to talk about what he is doing.



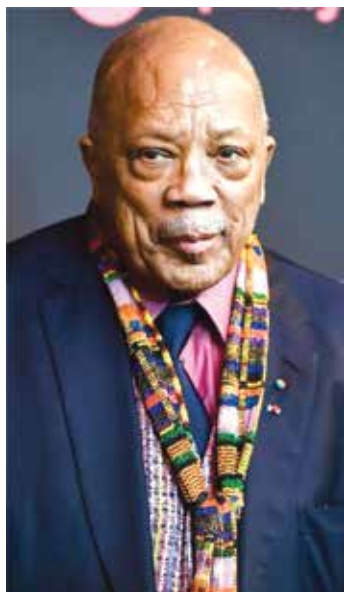
Music industry vows to pause business as usual Tuesday in solidarity with black community

Quincy Jones, Eminem, the Rolling Stones, and more agreed to take part in #TheShowMustBePaused initiative.

The music industry is taking a knee on Tuesday in solidarity with the black community to protest police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.

An initiative called #TheShowMustBePaused — created by Jamila Thomas of Atlantic Records and Brianna Agyemang of Platoon — calls upon the industry to take a day for "an honest, reflective, and productive conversation about what actions we need to collectively take to support the Black community."

"Tuesday, June 2nd is meant to intentionally disrupt the workweek," a Twitter account for the movement states. "The music industry is a multi-billion dollar industry. An industry that has profited predominantly from Black art. Our mission is to hold the industry at large, including major corporations + their partners who benefit from the efforts, struggles, and successes of Black people accountable. ... This is not just a



24-hour initiative. We are and will be in this fight for the long haul. A plan of action will be announced."

Few details were offered about what the initiative is asking those taking part to specifically do — or not do — but the movement picked up speed as artists, labels, and media companies announced their support. Several musicians referred to it as a "blackout" and vowed to "disconnect from work and reconnect with our community," while others left their plans a little more ambiguous. Artists who pledged

to observe the Tuesday blackout include Quincy Jones, Eminem, Mumford and Sons, The Rolling Stones, Marc Anthony, Rita Wilson, Biffy Clyro, Peter Gabriel, Dashboard Confessional, and more.

Labels and media companies who have shared their intention to observe the blackout includes: Universal Music Group, Capitol Records, Sony Music, Sony Latin, Warner Music, Columbia Records, Def Jam Records, Republic, the Recording Academy, the Latin Recording Academy, Live Nation, and Abbey Road Studios.

Aries: Things are about to get hot and heavy, especially if you're in close quarters with your special someone. You didn't think you'd survive this storm, did you? But you're coming out of it stronger than ever. Separated by time and space from the one you love? Get creative in the ways you communicate with one another. Who says you can't get flirty (and dirty) over text messages?

Taurus: Start your day with a quick body scan. It's best to close your eyes and examine your vessel with the help of your internal gaze. Do you notice the presence of any blocks or is the energy flowing freely? In the case of the first, take stock of your dietary habits. Ask yourself if you have been consuming mindlessly. It's true that you're weighed down by a tonne of responsibilities at this point, but you don't want your health to suffer because of this. The cards are urging you to be mindful of what you put on your plate and when you put it. If you are allergic to something, now is a good time to eliminate it from your diet.

Gemini: The thing about loneliness is that it makes us do things we could come to regret later. Do you really want to text your ex? What are going to gain out of this interaction? Closure is an

too (no substances needed). Pay attention to the messages that are being revealed and what they are drawing your attention towards. Virgo: "I'm beautiful in my way, 'cause God makes no mistakes, I'm on the right track, baby, I was born this way!" Let Lady Gaga's classic be the soundtrack of your life today, and everyday. Know that you're allowed to be 'too much', take up 'too much space', and have 'too many opinions'. Now is the perfect time to let go of the fears that are keeping you from stepping into your power. Radical self-acceptance is the intoxicant that will bring about an inner and outer revolution. Libra: Resist the urge to mince your words or sugarcoat facts. The truth needs to be delivered as it is, even if it shakes the other person up. Think of it this way: you are here to trigger growth, not keep each other stuck in the illusion. Love and longing could be a big theme for couples who are quarantined away from each other. Don't let your current reality hypnotise you into believing that that wheel of fortune will not turn around in your favour. Breathe out the fears, breathe in the love. Spirit has got your back no matter what! Scorpio: If they can't take their hands off you, you've got your stars to blame, Scorpio. You're

moving away from troubled waters to a place that's synonymous with love, harmony, and togetherness. Tap into some of that untamed Gemini season energy that's available to you at the moment. Here are three ways to up the playful quotient. 1: Play a board game together—virtually works just fine. 2: Read excerpts from a book that inspires you. 3: Sign up for an art or drama class online and help each other with the homework! Sagittarius: You've cleansed your space, aligned your chakras, set your intention, and pulled an oracle message for the day. Spirituality is no longer a weekend pursuit. Living consciously has become a way of life. There's a profound understanding within you that you are not the body, you are the soul—one who is capable of looking beyond the veil and delving into the mysteries. Trust what your intuition is guiding you towards. As Baba Ram Dass once said, "The spiritual journey is individual, highly personal. Listen to your own truth." Capricorn: We can either marinate in our miseries or move the stagnant energy and bring about a shift. The power to turn the wheel is within you. The real question: are you ready to claim what has always been yours? It all starts with inner work, Capricorn. How you perceive yourself sets the tone for the rest of the world.

So, recognise your many gifts. Honour your immense contribution to the given project. Realising you are indispensable will help you ask for what you deserve. Aquarius: No matter how far we go from home, we still carry a little bit of home with us. This includes the good, the bad, and the ugly. Yes, we're talking about inner childhood wounds that shape us and influence our interactions with the world well into adulthood. Today, without judging what's coming up, you're being asked to acknowledge the past pain. Life doesn't come with a manual, Aquarius. You didn't know better. Neither did they. The best thing you can do for everybody involved is bring forth the gift of forgiveness. Trust that you have the strength and wisdom within you to let go of the old narrative. Pisces: We're always in a rush to get somewhere, to get something done, to reach a desired destination. Aren't you exhausted by trying to control everything? Today, you're being asked to practice the 'less is more' philosophy. Less stress, worry, and anxiety. More faith, trust, and surrender. Step into the role of the observer, Pisces. You'll be surprised by how much you will be able to accomplish by the simple act of letting go and allowing Spirit to step in.