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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Justice AP Subba sworn in as Lokayukta



**GANGTOK, 10 JUL (IPR):** Justice AP Subba was sworn in as the Chairperson, Lokayukta of Sikkim at a function held at New Raj Bhawan, Gangtok today. Justice AP Subba was administered Oath/Affirmation of office as Chairperson, Lokayukta of Sikkim by the Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad.

The swearing-in ceremony was followed by offering of traditional khadas to the Chairperson, Lokayukta by the Chief Minister and all dignitaries present.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary, SC Gupta read out the warrant of appointment.

It may be mentioned here that Justice AP Subba is the first Sikkimese Judge to be appointed as the Chairperson, Lokayukta of Sikkim. He is also the first Sikkimese to be appointed as the Judge of High Court of Sikkim. Prior to his appointment as the Chairperson, Lokayukta of Sikkim, he was holding the post of Chairman, Law Commission, Sikkim.

The Swearing-in-ceremony was attended by Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly, LB Das, Judge High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, MPs, Zilla Adhyakshya East, Mayor GMC, Chief Secretary, Member State Human Rights Commission, DGP, Heads of various departments and host of other dignitaries.

## Sikkim a role model in battle against COVID-19: Health Principal Secy



**SAGARCHHETRI  
GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

Health Department Principal Secretary, K Srinivasulu today said that the recovery rate of COVID-19 in Sikkim is now 60% and there has been no mortality due to COVID-19 in the state. He further expressed that Sikkim has become a role model for the country by establishing the viral lab in a record 26 days and for its efforts in containing COVID-19 in the State.

Addressing a press conference, he thanked doctors, nurses, paramedics and all officials and staff of the department for working day and night in the fight against COVID-19. He appreciated the hard work and team work of all frontline workers in management of COVID-19 in the State.

Likewise, Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia expressed that as the government decision was clear regarding screening, quarantine and testing for returnees, it was easy for the department to work effectively.

Head of Microbiology Department, Dr Tara Sharma mentioned that the establishment of viral lab was a big achievement for the State to get the test result on time and to contain COVID-19 effectively. She mentioned that the team at the laboratory has been working 24 hours to give results on time and as the load of testing has been decreasing, the laboratory has been able to give results on the same day.

She informed that the testing at VRDL started on 29 May and has tested 9237 samples so far in which 131 samples tested positive while the other three positive results were reported from North Bengal Medical College.

Head of Department, Medicine, Dr Suresh Madan Rasaily expressed that the government was proactive and resourceful for management of COVID-19 in the State. The hospital has been able to cure a 65-year-old diabetic woman and a 2-year-old child, he said.

"This is due to good team work and our own team protocol," he added. The recovery rate is very good so if more cases do not come, Sikkim could be COVID free within few weeks, said Dr Rasaily.

## 8 more make full recoveries, active COVID cases down to 41

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

Eight COVID patients were discharged after testing negative for Novel Coronavirus twice in 24 hours, taking the total number of cured and discharged COVID-19 patients in Sikkim to 80. With no new positive cases reported today, the number of active cases in the State has also come down to 41, all of whom are admitted in the isolation ward of STNM Hospital.

In his daily health bulletin on Friday, Health Department DG-cum-Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia, informed that a total of 107 samples were tested

by RT-PCR at the VRD Lab at STNM Hospital and all reported negative.

He added that since the 13 army personnel who had tested positive in Sikkim have been shifted to the Army Hospital at Bagdogra and are now added to West Bengal as per the IDSP portal, the COVID-19 tally for Sikkim is now 121.

Out of 121 COVID-19 cases, 60 were reported from East District, 22 from West Sikkim, 38 from South Sikkim and one from North Sikkim.

The Secretary further informed that senior officials of the Health Department were working on a war-footing to

make arrangements to start Antigen testing at Rangpo check-post from Saturday.

He informed that 15,000 Antigen testing kits have already arrived in the State and demand has already been placed for more kits.

"We have also planned Antigen testing for Army and paramilitary personnel returning to Sikkim free of cost for the first 15 days and if any jawan tests positive then the entire group will be asked to return to their quarantine facility in Siliguri," he said.

He added that Antigen testing would further strengthen surveillance at the borders.

## Record single-day jump of 26,506 COVID-19 cases in India

**NEW DELHI, JULY 10 (PTI):** India saw yet another record single-day jump of 26,506 COVID-19 cases pushing its tally to 7,93,802 on Friday, while the death toll climbed to 21,604 with 475 people succumbing to the infection, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The number of recoveries stands at 4,95,51, while there are 2,76,685 active cases of coronavirus infection presently in the country, the updated data at 8 am showed.

"Thus, around 62.42 per cent of patients have

recovered so far," an official said.

The total number of confirmed cases included foreigners.

Of the 475 deaths, 219 are from Maharashtra, 65 from Tamil Nadu, 45 from Delhi, 27 from West Bengal, 17 from Uttar Pradesh, 16 from Karnataka, 15 from Gujarat, 13 from Andhra Pradesh, 9 from Rajasthan, eight from Bihar, seven from Telangana, six from Assam, five each from Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, four from Odisha and one from Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand and Meghalaya.

## CM chairs 3rd State Employment Guarantee Council meeting



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

The Third State Employment Guarantee Council (SEGC) was held at Samman Bhawan, Mintokgang, Gangtok on 09 Jul, 2020, an official press release informs. The meeting was chaired by Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang and attended by Minister Rural Development Department, Sonam Lama, Zilla Adhakshyas of all four districts, Chief Secretary, Additional Secretary cum Development Commissioner, Economic Advisor to Government of Sikkim and other members of the Council.

Principal Secretary of Rural Development Department, CS Rao delivered the welcome address. Detail presentation on the key achievement under MGNREGA was made by Additional Secretary cum PD MGNREGA, Sarika Pradhan. The key achievements of the program were highlighted.

During the last financial year a total of 57818 households out of the registered 83446 household have been provided an average of 51 days of employment during the last financial year 2019-20. Women work force has increased from 48% in 2017-18 to 51% in last two year. The State has also registered an increase in employment provided in the first quarter compared to the last three years.

During the 1st quarter of the

current FY 2020-21, a total of 8.80 lakh man-days of employment have been provided to 42795 household despite difficulties due to COVID 19 pandemic. Funds to the tune of Rs.19.65 have been directly transferred to the accounts of the job cardholders in this period.

The meeting was also apprised that 92% of works started up to March 2019 have been completed and 98.8% of Phase I assets have been geo-tagged in the State and Phase II assets are being geo-tagged three times - Before/ During and After Completion of the work.

Further the house was also informed that MGNREGA has moved from traditional practice of estimate preparation to online mode using SECURE (Software for Estimate Calculation using Rural Rate for Employment) and Ministry has mandated GIS based planning for all Gram Panchayat with 4 GPs per block currently under pilot. Two new projects namely Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP) and Project UNNATI have been launched by the Ministry and will be implemented in Sikkim from the current FY.

Convergence has emerged as key strategy for rural development, MGNREGA has played vital role in converging with various schemes and department in the last many year. Today MGNREGA has been converging with more than 12 schemes of the Central

and State government and many new convergence projects are in pipeline. MGNREGA alone has contributed about 117. 13 crores in convergence with other department in the last 6 year with more than double the investment from other line department / schemes. The convergence and unique initiatives such as Dhara Vikas, lake revival work, horticulture development, construction of water harvesting tanks, dairy development, ensuring village water security was also presented.

The Council approved the following proposal placed by the Principal Secretary RDD to (i) approach the Ministry to increase the unskilled labour wage rate under MGNREGA at par with the best performing Hill states having equal per capita income or as per the realistic index. (ii) set up a State Level Committee for Convergence and appointing a Nodal officer in each Department to coordinate with MGNREGA Cell, RDD. (iii) provide one-time extension of Social Audit Unit based on their performance for a minimum period of three years to ensure continuity under MGNREGA instead of annual renewal (iv) relaxation of terms and rank for eligibility for Ombudsmen's, State Quality Monitor (v) proposal for increasing technical manpower under MGNREGA at Gram Panchayat level by

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## CISCE declares class 10, 12 results; no merit list this year

**NEW DELHI, JUL 10 (PTI):** The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on Friday announced results for class 10 and 12 exams even as it decided against bringing out a merit list this year in view of "exceptional circumstances".

While the board recorded a pass percentage of 99.34 per cent for class 10 exams, up by 0.8 per cent since last year, the pass percentage for the class 12 exams stood at 96.84 per cent, recording a marginal increase.

The board had to cancel its pending exams in view of the spike in COVID-19 cases and the result has been calculated on the basis of an alternative assessment scheme decided by it.

"Given the exceptional circumstances, this year CISCE will not be publishing a merit list for either the ICSE or ISC year 2020 examinations," CISCE Chief Executive and Secretary Gerry Arathoon said.

"This year has been exceptionally difficult for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple national and states' lockdowns, coupled with many other related problems," he added.

As per the results announced, a total of 2,06,525 candidates have cleared the class 10 exams, known as the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), while 1,377 candidates have been unsuccessful.

The class 12 exams, called the Indian School Certificate (ISC) exam, have been cleared by 85,611 candidates while 2,798 students have been unsuccessful.

"At this point, I would like to commend our candidates, who have shown exemplary resilience and fortitude during this crisis period, faced with the agony of a long wait for a possible delayed examination in the remaining papers, the subsequent prolonged wait for the results while simultaneously continuing their studies of the next class or preparing for the entrance examinations. Your patience and perseverance are to be admired," Arathoon said.

The ICSE examination is conducted in 61 written subjects of which 22 are Indian languages, nine are foreign languages and two classical languages. A total of 2,341 schools had presented their candidates in the exam.

The ISC examination is conducted in 51 written subjects of which 15 are Indian languages, six are foreign languages and one is a classical language. A total of 1,125 schools had presented their candidates in the exam.

The board had last week announced an alternate assessment scheme for the two classes after the pending exams were cancelled in view of a spike in COVID-19 cases.

As per the scheme, candidates have been assessed based on the best three percentage marks obtained in subjects for which board exams were conducted and the marks of their internal assessment as well as project work were taken into account.

The exams, which were earlier postponed due to the lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus, were scheduled to be conducted from July 1 to 14.

The board had later announced that class 10 and 12 students can choose not to appear for the pending board exams and be marked as per their performance in pre-board exams or internal assessment. However, the exams were cancelled in view of the spike in COVID-19 cases.

The students who want a revaluation of their exams can apply for rechecking up to July 16.

## 100 new COVID-19 cases in Goa on Friday, count now 2,151

**PANAJI, JUL 10 (PTI):** Goa on Friday reported 100 new COVID-19 cases, the third consecutive day the rise has been in triple digits, taking the state's overall count to 2,151, an official said.

On Thursday, the rise was 112 while it was 136 on Wednesday.

A total of 74 people were discharged during the day, leaving the state with 895 active cases, he added.

"Of the 4,500 samples tested, 100 were positive, 1715 negative and 2,685 reports are awaited," he

said. State health minister Vishwajit Rane said 30 vials of Remdesivir to be given to patients between the 5th and 8th day as per treatment protocol laid down by All India Institute of Medical Sciences had been procured.

"We have also put in requisition for 1000 vials of Remdesivir," he added.

Goa's COVID-19 figures are as follows: Positive cases: 2,251, new cases: 100, deaths: 09, discharged: 1,347, active cases 895, Samples tested till date: 87,865.

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## LN Sharma attends national video conf of Agri Ministers, seeks strengthening of NABARD in Sikkim

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL [IPR]:** Agriculture Minister Lok Nath Sharma attended a video conference of Agriculture/Cooperation Ministers of States and Union Territories from the National Informatics Centre, Gangtok, today. He was joined by the Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture Department, R. Telang, Secretary Agriculture Department Rinzing C. Bhutia, Secretary Horticulture Department MT Sherpa, Secretary Cooperation Department AB Subba, CEO Sikkim Organic Mission Dr S Anbalagan, Principal Director Horticulture Padam Subba and Additional Registrar Co-operation Department J Thapa.

The national meeting conducted through video conference was chaired by the Union Minister Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar from Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi accompanied by Minister



of State Parshottam Rupala and Minister of State Kailash Choudhary. Minister Sharma, while interacting with the Union Minister sought strengthening of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in the State with the establishment of infrastructures at district level.

Speaking in the context of PM Kisan Yojana, the Minister outlined long pending issue of network

connectivity in difficult terrains of rural area and, sought to address at the earliest for convenience of the farmers in online monetary transactions. He also touched upon herbal potential of the Himalayan state of Sikkim and requested to grant loan for medicinal plantation also.

He also put forth his suggestion to the Union Ministry, Government of India to prepare separate guidelines for

the Himalayan states like North Eastern region to ensure its relevance in practical implementations of schemes in the field.

Drawing light on the new guidelines of "one district one crop", the Minister expressed that a concept of cluster farming has also been encouraged by the State, at block level.

Minister also updated the Union Minister about the initiatives taken by the State government

in coordination with the bankers. Further, he apprised on the review committee constituted at the District level to ensure subsidised credit to the farmers.

Minister also informed the Union Minister about the distinct nature of Organic State and requested for subsidy on purchase of organic inputs such as organic manure, bio-fertilizers etc. to the State.

Union Minister Tomar emphasised on PM KISAN Yojana and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) drive. He asked all States and Union Territories to work for benefits of the farmers. He advised to encourage investment, production and marketing for growth of rural economy. Tomar expressed his happiness for active participation of the States and mentioned that the Ministry has noted all points raised by the State and assured to reply in written at the earliest.

## Coordination meeting between North drivers & Traffic Police



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 10 JUL:**

A meeting was held with Mangan Local Taxi Drivers Association (MLTDA), Mainline taxi drivers association, North district Tata drivers association and Mangan Traffic Police on 10 Jul.

The meeting was chaired by SP(N), Ongmu Bhutia, SHO Mangan PS, Sher Bdr

Manger, president Lepcha, treasurer, Suresh Lama & members and Topgay Lepcha from the Traffic Police and staff.

The programme included awareness and discussion on some drivers overcharging passengers.

President, MLTDA, Ongmu Bhutia, SHO Mangan PS, Sher Bdr

wherein he said that passengers should complain to the association if any driver overcharges them.

Chairperson, SP (N), in her address thanked all for organizing the first coordination meeting. She informed that drivers and police both should be disciplined and maintain good relationship with coordination.

## SKM Youth Wing of 7 constituencies meet



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Youth Wing of seven constituencies of South District held a meeting in Namchitoday.

The main purpose of organizing today's meeting was to interact with the newly formed body of all seven constituencies of

the district.

The meeting was attended by the Transport Minister, Sanjeet Kharel, Central Committee Youth Wing President, Lakpa Moktan, General Secretary, Sadev Sharma, Vice President of the party, Bhojraj Rai, South District In-charge, Satish Chandra Rai along with the entire

Executive and District members of the South District along with Central Executive Member and Party workers.

In the meeting, Mr Kharel challenged SDF president, Pawan Chamling to contest and win from any constituency in the next election.

## Sikkimese ranks 2nd in orchid photography contest

**RUDRAKAUSHIK GYALSHING, 10 JUL:**

An amateur photographer from West Sikkim, Prakash Limboo secured second position in a national level orchid photography contest. The online photography contest was organized by the Orchid Society of Assam and the result was declared on 07 July.

Prakash Limboo, a teacher by profession, is also an orchid grower and hails from Tikpur under Daramdin constituency of West Sikkim. The photograph of longipetala species of orchid sent by Prakash Limboo was selected as the second best in the contest.

Prakash informed that the online photography contest was organized to encourage orchid growers from different states of the country and also create awareness among orchid growers on the need of conserving various rare species of orchids on the verge of extinction.

He added that though the photography contest was conducted in the national level, photographers from Thailand, Bhutan, Australia also had taken part in the contest.

"I am an avid orchid lover and a person involved in orchid farming rather than a photographer but winning was indeed a memorable moment for me," shares Prakash.

Prakash informed that he has more than 300 species of orchids in his farm. He opined that orchid farming could be a source of livelihood if done the right way.

"Orchid farming needs dedication, knowledge, suitable weather condition and patience for a good harvest. Sikkim can lead the way in orchid farming in near future," he said. He further informed that as a reward for securing second position in the contest, he has been made a member of Orchid Society of Assam and was also awarded a cash prize and certificate of appreciation by the organizing committee.

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## SKM HOLDS COORDINATION MEET FOR RHENOCK Bhasmey awarded cash prize for highest number of votes



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha held a coordination meet at Padamchey under Rhenock Constituency today. The objectives of today's program were to welcome all Panchayat Presidents and Panchayat members under Rhenock constituency from the opposition to SKM party, formation of Constituency Level Committee and formation of CLC Nari Shakti.

Around 29 Ward

Panchayat members from 42 wards of Rhenock Constituency including Panchayat Presidents, Vice Presidents and Ward members attended the event. On behalf of party president cum Chief Minister, PS Tamang-Golay, they were formally welcomed into the party by Area MLA cum STCS Chairman, Bishnu Kumar Khatiwara.

Similarly, eleven members were appointed in different posts in Rhenock Constituency Level Committee. Parsuram Dahal and Chandra Bdr Subba have

been appointed as CLC advisors, Suk Bir Bhujel and Pravech Chhetri as CLC vice-president, and Kamal Giri as CLC general secretary.

On the other hand, CLC Nari Shakti was successfully formed wherein Sushila Thapa has been appointed as CLC Nari Convener and Dil Maya Tamang as CLC Vice Convener. Bindhya Thapa as CLC Nari Coordinator, Geeta Bista as CLC Nari General Secretary and Nuna Koirala as CLC Nari Secretary respectively.

Area MLA fulfilled his

promise to give Rs 51,000 to the booth which cast highest number of votes in favour of SKM in the 2019 election. Upper Bhasmey and Lower Bhasmey Booth had cast highest number of votes in favour of SKM, accordingly, the MLA handed over Rs. 51,000 to the Upper Bhasmey and Lower Bhasmey Ward Level Committee as a reward.

Area MLA, Bishnu Kumar Khatiwara on his address congratulated all the new appointees under different wings of CLC, Rhenock.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR RENT:

Two and half storeyed (1st to 3rd floor) complex is available for rent in the heart of Ranipool Bazaar (Opposite UCO Bank). The building area is 35'x60' appx. In each floor ad is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks tec. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

Riverside land [General] along Ra-nipool-Rumtek Highway near Adampool, stretching from the roadside down till the river bank. Total area measuring 0.2348 Hectares [approximately 25,274 sq ft]. Ideal for developing a Resort. Parties interested in purchasing the entire plot can contact 9083826462 and 9832556698. Brokers will not be entertained.

### FLAT FOR SALE

4BHK flat, total area 2376 sqft  
Ninety Bazaar, Near Paljor Stadium, Gangtok  
Contact: 9563083895

### LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available – 30X40 sqft and 50X30 sqft Junkeri Dara, Samlik Marchak  
Price negotiable Contact: 6296366498, 9641878315, 9593262407

### 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 Road-side 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



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## Bewitched By Butterflies

GRACE KERENGURUNG

Butterflying may not be as popular as birding, but many have been bewitched by the astonishing beauty of butterflies. Enthusiasts dedicate their time with great perseverance to observe and study butterflies. Butterflying is becoming increasingly popular in Sikkim and now we have another youngster who has taken this field up with passion.

Bharat Karki a Zoology student at Namchi Government College claims to have spotted and photographed 300 species of butterflies at Lingi, Kaw Khola and Lingmoo, South Sikkim. He informs that he has contributed photographs of 50 species of butterfly to



the Indian Foundation for Butterflies or I Found Butterflies [IFB], an organization founded by professional butterfly biologists, amateur naturalists

and other enthusiasts to study and conserve Indian butterflies.

Bharat Karki is a resident of Lingi, a village where he spotted 170 species of butterflies alone.

He informs that among his collection is a rare species of butterfly; Dusky Striped Ringlet which is protected in India under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Bharat shares that he developed interest in butterflies during his final years of schooling.

"At first it started as fondness for photography but later I was hooked to knowing more about these butterflies. I then started to do in depth research on different species of butterflies," Bharat adds.

In future he wants to complete his Master's Degree and wants to continue discovering and learning more about these fascinating creatures.

## 2 Sikkimese scholars awarded SMU Dr TMA Pai Research Grant Fund



(Dr. Polly Lama and Dr. Karma Gurmey Dolma receiving the SMU Dr TMA Pai Research Grants from outgoing Vice-Chancellor of SMU, Lt Gen MD Venkatesh)

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 JUL:

Associate Professor, Dr Polly Lama, Department of Anatomy and Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS), Dr Karma Gurmey Dolma under Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) have been awarded with a project grant of Rs 10 lakh each from the SMU

Dr TMA Pai Research Grant Fund for the year 2020-21, a press release informs.

The title of Dr Polly Lama's Project is "Focal uncoupling of cell matrix interactions activates processes leading to chronic pain and degeneration in human intervertebral discs". The main aim of the research is to aid in understanding the link between cell, extracellular matrix and mechanobiology that

associates with pain. The knowledge from this project will likely lead to development of interventions that will prevent and reduce pain in patients with severe back problems.

This project is in collaboration with Professor Christine Le Maitre, Head of Tissue Regeneration Laboratories, Sheffield Hallam University, UK. Part of this project will be tested

at the Sheffield Hallam University.

Dr Karma Gurmey Dolma's Project is "A study on the Aspects related with Latent Tuberculosis Infection among the Ethnic Races of Sikkim, India: an ALTER study."

Over the years, Sikkim has reported one of the highest TB and multi-drug resistant TB cases in India. Hence, the aim of this Project is to mainly focus on the tribal

population of Sikkim and understand the transmission dynamics of Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). The study will mainly allow accurate identification of patients at each level, identifying the latently infected people who are at highest risk for progression to disease, which ethnic races, which comorbid factors and which particular samples will be most useful.

### SKM forms Block Level Committee at Gerethang



SUMMIT REPORT  
YUKSAM, 10 JUL:

A block-level meeting of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha was held at Gerethang GPU under Yuksam-Tashiding constituency

on Thursday with JB Darjee nominated president, Dependra Luitel vice president, and Nar Hang Limboo general secretary.

During the meeting, 10 families

left SDF and joined SKM, a press release informs.

The meeting was chaired by SKM's Yuksam-Tashiding CLC president, Basant Tamang.

### CM chairs 3rd State...

assigning part of the manpower specifically for MGNREGA (vi) appointment of 50% or more women mates at MGNREGA worksite (vii) hiring of existing employees on deputation for Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP) and (viii) deployment of Barefoot Technicians (BFTs) across the state under MGNREGA as per directions of the Ministry.

The Chief Minister, in his address, said that there is a need to realign the roles and responsibilities of every employees working at the Gram Panchayat, block level to ensure that every individual delivers to his full potential since there is no shortage of employees. A dedicated technical team at the Gram Panchayat level for MGNREGA must be deputed to ensure timely implementation of the work.

The State Employment Guarantee Council meeting is being held after a gap of 3 years since the last one in 2017. He directed that such meetings must be an annual feature as mandated by the guidelines and he urged the department to make this an annual feature so that there is a regular sharing between the department and the council members. This will also ensure that any grievances and policies related issued with regards to MGNREGA get immediate attention it deserves.

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(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**

### China rejects prospect of joining arms control talks with US

BEIJING, JUL 10 (AP): China on Friday rejected any prospect of joining in nuclear arms limitation talks with the US, calling reports from Washington that it would do so a distortion of its stated position.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters the US was neither serious nor sincere in the proposed negotiations and should instead respond to Russia's call for an extension to the existing New START treaty limiting the number of nuclear warheads.

China's objection to the so-called trilateral arms control negotiations is very clear, and the US knows it very well. However, the U.S. is persistent on the issue and even distorted China's position, Zhao said at a daily news briefing.

China, with the world's biggest nuclear arsenal after the US and Russia, has maintained it will not join in talks with Washington and Moscow on reducing its number

of warheads.

However, Zhao appeared to hold open the door to some form of discussions saying Washington needed to create conditions for other nuclear-weapon states to participate in nuclear disarmament negotiations. The U.S. pointedly noted the Chinese absence at talks with Russia in Vienna two weeks ago on extending or replacing NEW Start, a 2010 arms reduction treaty that expires in February.

The pact is between the US and Russia, long the world's major nuclear powers. The Trump administration wants China, as a rising military power, to join.

Fu Cong, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's arms control department, on Wednesday called that demand unrealistic because China has a much smaller nuclear arsenal than the other two. By inviting China to join, the US is creating a pretext to walk away from the talks without replacing the treaty, he said.

## Sikkim Ishai KDS Society contributes to CM's Relief Fund



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 10 JUL:

Sikkim Ishai KDS Society contributed Rs10,000 to the CM's Relief Fund on behalf of the people of Christian Scheduled Caste

community. The society represented by its president BinayGazmer and general secretary SangeetPariyar handed over the draft to the Chief Minister, PS Tamangon Thursday

at SammanBhawan, Gangtok, a press release informs.

They also submitted a memorandum to the CM seeking legislation for reservation to Christian SC community of Sikkim.

## Lingmoo Payong GPU organizes CoVID awareness for drivers



SUMMIT REPORT  
LINGMOO, 10 JUL:

Lingmoo Paiyong Gram Panchayat Unit, supported by Zilla Panchayat Lingi Paiyong ZTC, organized a two-day awareness programme on various aspects of COVID-19 (Preparedness and Management) for taxi drivers (local and service) at Lingmoo-Lingi Fatak near Kimbubotey, South Sikkim.

The team from GPU distributed hand sanitizers, masks and

pamphlets published by Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim, today.

The team urged the drivers to download Aarogya Setu app on their smartphones and only follow the health bulletin published by Health Department to avoid rumours and fake news.


They also requested all the participants to maintain social distancing norms and follow other safety

protocols to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Today's programme was attended by volunteer team from Zilla Panchayat and Gram Panchayat, panchayat functionaries and OFOJ staffs.

Drivers and passengers of around 58 vehicles from Lingmoo Paiyong GPU, Lingee Sokpay GPU and Kolthang Tokday GPU were sensitised today during the programme.

The programme will continue on Saturday.



### 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**



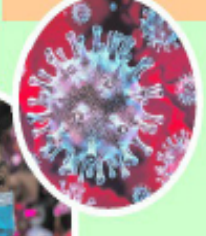
- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

**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

**Precautions to Prevent nCoV**

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

If you seek help, you may call :

-Toll free no. 104

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## Crowded Out by Cars

*Instead of cursing parking problems, collaborate to find a solution*

There is a footpath lining the highway in Gangtok, and yet parents are not comfortable sending children out on their own. Even the thinning of the traffic by the lockdown has not made the roads any safer. Two decades back, children would rarely stay at home, gathering in groups and heading outdoors. That is an escape denied to the generation still young because outdoors in the capital is a now a jumble of parking lots and dangerous traffic. In the latest instance, another park has been snuffed out for the convenience of the better heeled vehicle owners. People have been noticing the increase in traffic on Gangtok roads, many have even ventured explanations and some have stuck their necks out with criticism, and all have come to the same conclusion – Gangtok has been taken over by cars. Cars have captured public spaces and pushed everything else away. The neighbourhood streets, even those which lead to dead-ends, have been consumed, and the town still needs to come up with more and more ingenious ways to park its cars.

Despite the obvious glut on the roads, the rush is showing no signs of abating. Some years ago, a study by the Central Road Research Institute [yes, there is such an institute] revealed that vehicles were occupying almost as much space [10.8%] as the forest cover [11.5%] in the National Capital Region of Delhi. Anyone who has watched the explosion of vehicles in Gangtok will agree that Sikkim's capital too is trying hard to bring vehicular occupation at par with its green cover. Here, the plant life is not only getting hacked away to make space for more parking and driving, but is also being choked to death by the swarm of idling engines stuck in impossibly long traffic jams which grip the roads during peak office hours [a suffering Gangtokians have been alienated to in the past four months]. There might not be too many people who remember how long a pony ride from Ranipool to Gangtok took in earlier times, but it could not have been much longer than what it used to take to make it from Tadong to MG Marg in a four-wheeler in the pre-NCov days.

Admittedly, all this description is not required because it is obvious to every Gangtokian that parking and cars have become a problem and a nuisance. What has still not been accepted is that this problem needs to be addressed. The only initiative taken to address the problem of too many cars has been the commissioning of more parking lots some of which are built and ready but await an inauguration. While more parking is definitely required, this is not enough of a solution primarily because the parking space being created will already be too cramped by the time the structure is completed. For another, more parking space does not address the problem of vehicular movement. In this regard, Gangtok's topography and building practices play spoilsport, making the creation of alternate roads impossible.

The only real option then is to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads. This cannot be achieved by stronger legislations [in case someone is floating that idea], but can be pulled off with an approach which combines structured parking fees, safe and spacious parking in the outskirts [of the congested areas, say beyond Deorali or Tadong at one end or Burtuk at the other end or even along the bypass] and fast, frequent and reliable public transport. Bigger cities around the world have worked this combo quite well and there is no need why Gangtok should not try out the model as well. This is but one option that can be mulled and what would be even better for Gangtok to attempt will be a series of brainstorming meetings aimed specifically at addressing its traffic and parking challenges. Experts from diverse fields can be invited to study the problem and offer solutions. Think about it the next time you drive around looking for parking space in what has become a frustratingly car-dense town.

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# Book Review: Hidden Hand – Exposing How the Chinese Communist Party is Reshaping the World

ANDREW PODGER

THECONVERSATION.COM

In Hidden Hand, China scholars Clive Hamilton and Marieke Ohlberg examine the Chinese Communist Party's influence in Europe and North America in a similar way to how Hamilton dissected the CCP's influence in Australia in his 2018 book, Silent Invasion.

In my review of the 2018 book, I wrote "Perhaps Hamilton's book is a useful reminder that we must not be naïve about our relationship with China. But his prescription, premised on China being our enemy and determined to achieve world domination, is precisely the wrong direction for addressing the genuine issues he raises."

The new book warrants a similar conclusion, though President Xi Jinping's continued strengthening of CCP controls and pursuit of hegemony in our region add to the importance of not being naïve.

Hamilton and Ohlberg chronicle the various ways the CCP has attempted to wield influence in North America and Europe, from political and business elites to the Chinese diaspora, media, think tanks and academia, as well as through espionage and diplomacy.

Central to the book's thesis is the diagram on pages 124-5 summarising most of the channels of influence from Chinese institutions (particularly party institutions) to various groups and organisations in Western nations. This is a one-direction diagram and assumes a totally coordinated strategy.

The book's presentation is extremely detailed, including not just the names of Chinese institutions but the individuals said to be directing the strategies of influence. Similarly on the receiving end, the authors describe not only the groups and organisations in the West they claim are being influenced, but many of the individuals involved.

This level of detail is highlighted by the book's 113 pages of footnotes and a 24-page index.

Despite this, the book is not a balanced, scholarly document. The narrative centres on a single-minded Communist Party that has always sought a Leninist world and is now taking advantage of its increased economic power to advance that objective more effectively.

There is little recognition of the huge shifts in Chinese economic, social and strategic policies over the past 50 years, or of the scale of the changes to its institutional arrangements and the role of government.

The authors also do not allow those in the West who they claim have been successfully (and naively) influenced the opportunity to respond, let alone to present evidence of their influence in the other direction.

CONTAINMENT VS. 'ENGAGE AND CONSTRAIN'

Hidden Hand is right to remind people that:

- China and the CCP are not one and the same
- China has a party-state system of government that is authoritarian and not democratic
- China does not have Western-style rule of law
- it does not recognise universal human rights in the way we understand them.

What is missing is a balanced discussion of the central debate about the appropriate approach to be taken in the West's relations with China.

As Peter Varghese, the former head of DFAT, recently put it, the choice for Australia is between trying to "contain" China or "engage and constrain".

Containment, he argues, is gaining traction in the US and among cheerleaders in Australia, but risks dismantling the global economic system and the supply chains that support it. For Australia, Varghese says, decoupling from our largest trading partner would be "sheer folly" irrespective of legitimate complaints about China's behaviour.

The "engage and constrain" approach he favours involves expanding areas of cooperation where mutual interests are served, while holding firm to our values and strengthening our capacity to resist Chinese coercion through increased investment in defence and diplomacy.

This would show Beijing that "leverage is a two-way street" and that, with others, we are willing to "push back" if China pursues its interests in ways that do not respect our sovereignty.

While increasing investment in defence may well be justified,

boosting our spending in diplomacy is even more important.

In this light, viewing China as our "enemy" is counterproductive and ignores the mutual benefits and increased sharing of interests that have resulted from China's opening up since 1978. (Hidden Hand does not repeat the explicit description of China as our enemy found in Hamilton's earlier book, but it comes close, saying for the past 30 years China has viewed both sides of the Atlantic as its enemies).

Diplomacy may influence China's perceptions of its national interests and, where significant differences remain, help to forge important alliances elsewhere.

Hamilton and Ohlberg seem to favour the "containment" strategy, warning on page 96 that "in fact, today it (the party-state) is more powerful than ever because of market forces" (emphasis in original).

ENGAGEMENT CAN STILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT

The implication, presumably, is that we should no longer contribute to China's economic growth. This dismisses the remarkable benefits involved in China's growth, including not only massive reductions in poverty, but also, for most Chinese, freedoms that were unimaginable in the Mao Zedong era. There have also been flow-on benefits for the rest of the world.

China's opening up has of course not led to Western-style democracy, and is unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future. Indeed, under Xi, the CCP's position has been consolidated and many of the reforms of the 1990s and 2000s have been wound back. Human rights have been seriously curbed, most recently in Hong Kong.

But Hidden Hand's presentation of a single, continuous CCP Leninist agenda ignores the existence of different views among the leadership and elsewhere in China, including those who favour further liberal reform (as described in Richard McGregor's 2019 book, Xi Jinping: The Backlash).

And it fails to appreciate the underlying contradictions of China's "socialist market economy" and Xi's "China Dream", which offer avenues for Western leaders and academics to influence debates in China through engagement –

as has happened over the past 30 years.

As the main coordinator of the Greater China Australia Dialogue on Public Administration, which organises annual workshops of scholars and practitioners from across the PRC (including Hong Kong and Macau) and Taiwan, I have witnessed some of the winding back of academic freedoms since Xi's 2016 restrictions on social science teaching and research. This includes some of the specific CCP restrictions mentioned in Hidden Hand.

But this surely makes it even more important to continue the engagement while resisting the pressures involved.

Similarly, I am not at all convinced by the book's attacks on any cooperation with the Belt and Road Initiative.

While the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has more sound governance, there are similar arguments for participation in BRI, providing support from the inside for transparency, proper cost-benefit analysis of projects and good understanding of debt obligations. It would also limit opportunities for China to pursue improper methods of influence.

HOW THE WEST SHOULD RESPOND TO CHINESE INFLUENCE

The book's afterword provides a slightly more moderate position on what should be done to counter Chinese influence moving forward. It still overplays its hand in promoting an "active pushback strategy" and its recommendation the Western "elites who acquiesce to or actively support Beijing deserve public scrutiny and robust criticism."

But the other recommendations have merit: defending democratic institutions through greater transparency and foreign interference laws, addressing the underfunding of universities and financial challenges facing our media, reducing vulnerability of our industries to CCP pressure and promoting more alliances, including with developing countries.

We cannot lose faith in liberal economics as Hamilton and Ohlberg seem to suggest, relying only on democratic forces to ensure freedom. The truth is, we need both.

*[the writer is Honorary  
Professor of Public Policy,  
Australian National University]*

# Coronavirus media coverage must avoid the mistakes of the Aids pandemic in Africa

LUDEK STAVINOHAA

THECONVERSATION.COM

As COVID-19 becomes the most intensely covered virus in history, there are important lessons to be drawn from the media's reporting of another global pandemic: HIV/Aids.

Whose lives the world deems worthy of saving depends, at least partly, on the stories that journalists tell. This was one of the findings of my research into British media coverage of Africa's Aids pandemic, in which I analysed 1,281 news reports between 1987 and 2008.

At the height of that pandemic, journalists helped to expose how intellectual property laws and the business models of big pharmaceutical companies disregarded the health needs of those living in poorer countries. Such reporting played an important role in creating the political momentum for the mass roll-out of life-saving treatment across the global south.

But Aids also provides a darker lesson about the capacity of the media to normalise millions of deaths taking place around us.

BURYING THE STORY – AND THE DEAD

Until the late 1990s, millions of people dying of Aids-related causes across sub-Saharan Africa were a non-issue for the British media, much like the initial wave of coronavirus deaths in China barely registered on the international media radar. My analysis showed that BBC News reported only 14 times about Aids in Africa between 1987 and 1995, mostly in passing. The Financial Times carried a mere 18 stories in the same period.

Little changed following the discovery of life-saving antiretroviral therapy in 1996, which remained out of reach for the majority of people living with HIV/ Aids. In 1999, there were more than 24 million HIV-positive people in sub-Saharan Africa. Some countries saw prevalence rates rise above 20%. Yet, by then the pandemic had merited just one front-page story in the British press.

As late as 2001, The Economist concluded that: "The world is not going to rescue Africa from Aids. Only Africans can do that, by changing their behaviour." The

spectacular concentration of the pandemic in Africa, Economist readers were told, was driven by Africans' presumed hyper-sexuality, cultural "myths" and the incompetence of the continent's leaders. Poverty was also to blame, since, as the magazine wrote in 1998, "those who cannot afford television find other ways of passing the evening"

Rooted in thinly-veiled racist assumptions, these assertions steered attention away from the ways that the rules of the global economic order undermined the public health capacities of developing countries.

The global Aids pandemic has been shaped by the complex interplay of epidemiological, behavioural and cultural factors. But its unequal distribution is also linked to the punishing legacy of external debt and conditions for governmental reforms imposed on the continent by the IMF and World Bank. Stephen Lewis, the UN's former Special Envoy for HIV/Aids in Africa, denounced this as "a form of capitalist Stalinism" that decimated Africa's health care infrastructure during the 1980s and 1990s.

Yet, in more than two decades, I found only one instance that explicitly linked the Aids crisis to Africa's encounter with neoliberalism. Published in The Guardian in July 2000, it was a letter to the editor by a medical aid worker entitled "Our guilt in the land of the dying".

It is this capacity of media reporting to mask the way that pandemics are shaped by the world's grotesque inequalities that is perhaps the most disquieting finding of my research as COVID-19 spreads to countries with fragile health care systems.

OF PROFITS, PATENTS AND POWER

The struggle over access to life-saving HIV medicines that took place at the turn of the millennium showed that this need not be the case. Pitting the world's powerful pharmaceutical companies against a coalition of activists and NGOs, the international media became a central arena in which this battle unfolded.

In the early 2000s, Aids suddenly became the subject of front-page news, op-eds and investigative reports as journalists shone the spotlight on the

murky world of international trade politics, exposing how western governments were colluding with drug companies in protecting their patents.

The story of profits, patents and power became enveloped in deeply empathetic accounts of human suffering. Aids sufferers were no longer mere objects of our pity or moral judgement. They now had names, families, friends, and tangible places of origin, as in The Guardian's "Saving Grace" series from Malawi. This period was exceptional in the history of the media's treatment of HIV/Aids – though since the mid-2000s coverage has declined sharply.

CORONAVIRUS WARNINGS

As the search for COVID-19 vaccines intensifies, journalists must aggressively question whether governments and pharmaceutical companies are enacting all measures to ensure universal access.

It's déjà vu for those who led the campaign for access to affordable Aids drugs. Alarmed by the prospect of profiteering by big pharmaceutical companies, they are concerned that coronavirus treatments may again remain out of reach of the less privileged.

There are some hopeful signs that big pharmaceutical firms will not seek to aggressively assert their monopoly rights. Perhaps they are fearful of another monumental public relations debacle, as occurred when a number of pharmaceutical firms sued the South African government over Aids drugs in 2001. Still, some experts are less sanguine about COVID-19, and fear it will be pharmaceutical companies who ultimately decide who lives and who dies.

How COVID-19 will end depends, in part, on the script that journalists write and their ability to tell stories that acknowledge pandemics are always rooted in the history of accumulated global inequalities – and so our own role within them. With all eyes on the coronavirus, it's sobering that HIV/Aids continues to claim almost half a million lives in sub-Saharan Africa alone every year.

*[the writer is Lecturer in Media and International  
Development, University of East Anglia]*



# SC issues notices to Centre & Assam on plea against delimitation process

**NEW DELHI, JUL 10 (PTI):** The Supreme Court Friday sought responses from the Centre and the Assam government on a plea which has questioned the exercise of delimitation of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the state, saying it is proposed to be conducted on the basis of "stale figures" of Census 2001.

The plea, filed by All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), has sought the apex court's direction to defer the delimitation exercise until the ill-effect of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is over.

It said that Census 2011 has already been conducted while Census 2021 is underway.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde issued notices to the Centre and the state government on the petition which has sought quashing of this year's February 28 order which "rescinded" an earlier notification of February 8, 2008 that had deferred the process of delimitation



for Assam.

The plea has alleged that decision to conduct the pending process of delimitation in Assam "is not only an arbitrary and hasty decision but stands contrary to the very idea behind conducting delimitation, having proposed to be conducted not on the basis of the population figures obtained from the most recent Census but rather on the basis of stale figures of 2001 Census."

The plea alleged that ever since introduction

of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 till the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, the state has seen widespread violent protests.

It said the situation in Assam had grown so out of control that the entire state was declared as a "disturbed area" for the purposes of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 with effect from August 28 last year for a period of six months.

It said subsequently,

the Assam government had declared the entire state as "disturbed area" up to six months beyond February 28 this year, unless withdrawn earlier.

The plea has also sought a direction that delimitation in the state be deferred until the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise is completed in the state and Assam is relieved form "disturbed area" by the competent authority.

"The delimitation proposed to be carried will change the constituencies and will have an impact on

the voting rights and preferences of large number of voters and candidates," the plea said.

It claimed that as the data relied upon for the proposed delimitation is outdated and atmosphere in the state at present is not conducive for the exercise, "it is feared that many citizens may lose their right to vote if the exercise is carried out in the present scenario".

"Unless the data is up-to-date, delimitation of constituencies and redrawing them will cause a large number of voters to be left out," it said.

The apex court tagged the petition of AIUDF with an earlier plea in which it had issued notice to the Centre and the Assam government.

The earlier petition had sought that delimitation of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the state be deferred until the completion of Census 2021.

The plea, filed by two Assam residents, had also sought quashing of this year's February 28 order which "rescinded" an earlier notification of February 2008 that had deferred the delimitation process in the state.

## 5 more die due to COVID-19 in Assam, toll rises to 32

**GUWAHATI, JULY 10 (PTI):** Five more people succumbed to COVID-19 in Assam, pushing the death toll to 32 in the state, Health and Family Welfare Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

While four patients lost their lives at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, one died at the COVID-19 centre set up at IIT-Guwahati on the northern bank of the capital city, Sarma said.

"Very sad to inform that four #COVID patients - Sri Rakhil Deb (42), Sri Ramesh Kayastha (68), Sri Sukhamay Bhowmik (72), Smt Aarahi Baruah Saikia (70); admitted at GMCH ICU succumbed to the infection," Sarma tweeted.

"With a heavy heart I inform you that Shri Hareswar Nath, 53 years old, a non-symptomatic patient with no co morbidities succumbed to COVID

19 at IITG COVID care centre. His oxygen levels plummeted to 90 within hours and he collapsed... My heartfelt condolences to their families," he said.

With these fatalities, the death toll due to COVID-19 has reached 32, of which 18 people have lost their lives in the last four days.

Assam has so far reported a total of 14,600 coronavirus cases, including 5,700 in Guwahati itself.

## Mamata invited to speak at Oxford Union debate next year

**KOLKATA, JUL 9 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee has received an invitation to speak at The Oxford Union Debate next year, party sources said.

This is the second time that the Oxford Union, considered the most prestigious student society in the world, has invited

Banerjee to speak at the debate after 2017.

"She has received the invitation on Wednesday. Most likely she will attend it," a senior TMC leader said.

The Oxford Union Society plans to organise the debate in the first half of 2021 and has sought her dates, the leader said.

Founded in 1823, the Oxford Union had

earlier hosted several world leaders and legends from various fields, as speakers.

The illustrious list of speakers included US presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher, scientist Albert Einstein, spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, singer Michael Jackson and actor Morgan Freeman.

## 23 people test positive for COVID-19 in Mizoram

**AIZAWL, JUL 10 (PTI):** As many as 23 people, including 15 Assam Rifles jawans and seven National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel, have tested positive for COVID-19 in Mizoram, taking the state's tally to 226, officials said on Friday.

A statement issued by the state Information and Public Relations department said the new patients, including a 26-year-old woman, were confirmed COVID-19 positive at the Zoram Medical College (ZMC) on Thursday night.



The Assam Rifles jawans are posted at Zokhawsang near Aizawl and the NDRF personnel at Lungverh, about 15 km from here, the statement said.

The woman patient

had returned from Kolkata and belonged to Aizawl district, it said.

Mizoram has so far reported 226 COVID-19 cases, of which 83 are active cases while 143 people have recovered.

## ATK Mohun Bagan retain iconic green and maroon jersey

**KOLKATA, JUL 10 (PTI):** Keeping alive the club's 131-year-old legacy, ATK Mohun Bagan board of directors on Friday decided to retain the iconic green and maroon jersey and the sailing boat logo.

The new entity will be known as ATK Mohun Bagan and the Mariners' historic 'sailing boat' logo will also remain barring the addition of ATK, which has acquired an 80 per cent stake in the century old club.

"The culture and tradition which has made the brand a household name has been preserved. The logo retains its essence," the merged entity said in a statement.

"The addition of ATK within the logo ensures that the fast growing and passionate following built on a short but highly successful period is also being carried forward," he said.

The club also announced its plans to build a world class football academy in Bengal and to refurbish the existing Mohun Bagan facility so that ISL and AFC home games are held there.

"Mohun Bagan have been close to my heart since childhood. I have had the honour to watch the Green and Maroon play some of their best football," principal owner Sanjiv Goenka said.



"We respect legacy and have retained the same jersey which generations down the line have embraced, adored and loved.

"My dream is to establish ATK Mohun Bagan as a world class team which earns its place in the international circuit."

Steps are being taken to ensure that ATK Mohun Bagan gets access to the best infrastructure and training facilities to compete in the international arena, it added.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who is a co-owner of ATK and a director of the board, also attended the virtual meeting lasting less than 30 minutes.

"I salute the coming together of ATK and Mohun Bagan. Together the brand name ATK Mohun Bagan will create history," the former India captain said.

Welcoming Mohun

Bagan to into the ISL, founder & chairperson of Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) Nita Ambani said the new entity holds vast potential for not just West Bengal or Indian football but internationally.

"The coming together of these two heavyweights marks a momentous chapter in the history of Indian sports. The new entity, 'ATK Mohun Bagan FC', holds vast potential for not just West Bengal or Indian football but internationally too, as we endeavour to establish Indian clubs as strong players in AFC competitions," Ambani was quoted saying by ISL Media.

ATK, who had announced the merger in January this year, won a record third ISL title this season beating Chennaiyin FC 3-1 in the final in March.

Mohun Bagan on

the other hand won the I-League with four rounds to spare before the tournament was called off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like Dempo, Mohun Bagan have been India champions five times since the National League began in 1996-97.

Mohun Bagan directors Srinjoy Bose and Debashis Dutta said they're delighted that the Board agreed to keep the colour green and maroon and the 'Pal Tola Nauka' (sailing boat) image.

"These have been the heartbeat of millions of ardent football followers spread all across the globe. The spirit of sports and camaraderie lives on," they stated.

"We have utmost faith and confidence that this entity under the able guidance of the Board will carry forward the 131 years of Legacy and Heritage which will resonate in the global

arena of Football. In one sentence this avatar will be glorious past, vibrant future."

The meeting was also attended by ATK co-owner Utsav Parekh, Gautam Ray and Sanjeev Mehra the other directors of the Board.



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## Mizoram launches mobile app for farmers

**AIZAWL, JUL 10 (PTI):** The Mizoram government has launched a mobile application for farmers to give them the latest agriculture related information, an official said.

Agriculture minister C Lalrinsanga, who launched the App on Thursday, said that the state government has been making massive efforts to alleviate the difficulties faced by

farmers, who have been greatly affected by the coronavirus induced lockdown.

He expressed hope that the new mobile application will be of great help to the farmers.

Lalrinsanga said that the 'farmers helpline', which was launched in April, has greatly benefitted the farmers.

He said that

technological and mechanical innovations are highly important to augment farmers income.

The agriculture minister said that technology and mechanisation will ease and help the farmers in different ways.

He said that maize cultivation is being practised in a massive way for the first time in the state

under the states flagship programme - Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP).

The newly launched mobile application will have various features, including information on cultivation of various crops, maximum requirement for seeds and estimated total production in first cultivation, and protection of crops from pest infestation.



# Anderson first bowler who could bowl ‘reverse’ reverse swing: Tendulkar

**NEW DELHI, JUL 10 (PTI):** Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar believes James Anderson is the only bowler who could bowl a “reverse outswinger” with a wrist position of a conventional inswinger. Tendulkar has termed that ‘reverse’ reverse swing.

Speaking to West Indies legend Brian Lara on his ‘100MB’ app, Tendulkar explained why Anderson could be vital for England in the ongoing Test against West Indies at the Ageas Bowl.

“With reverse swing, Jimmy Anderson was possibly the first bowler who bowled reverse swing also reverse,” Tendulkar told Lara.

In lucid terms, in case of conventional inswing to a right hander, the shiny part is on the outside and rough part on the inside. In case of reverse outswinger, the trajectory changes (moving away from right hander) but shiny part will still remain on outward side. The wrist position is different on both occasions.

According to



Tendulkar, when he checked Anderson’s wrist position, he saw him bowling the reverse outswinger but with wrist position of conventional inswinger, which is unheard of.

“What I experienced, over a period of time, that he would hold the ball as if he was bowling outswinger, but the release point, he would try and bring the ball back in.

“...and number of batters would look at the wrist position, and what he has actually done,

he’s shown you that he’s bowling inswing, but the imbalance between both sides of the ball would take the ball away from you,” he added.

Tendulkar said by changing his wrist position quickly Anderson forces the batsman to commit to a shot.

“What he has done is, he’s got you to commit to play, for an inswinger and the ball, after covering almost three-fourths of the length of the pitch, starts leaving you.

But you had already

committed, because you’ve seen that inswing position, and that is something which was new to me. Nobody had done that.”

Tendulkar said several bowlers including Stuart Broad have started using the same trick to trouble the opposition batters but it was Anderson who started the trend.

“Now number of guys, you see their shine, and what they’re trying to do - I spotted even Stuart Broad trying to do that at some stage, but

Anderson started this long time ago. So I rate him very very highly. One of the best exponents of reverse swing,” he said.

Anderson is England’s leading wicket-taker in Test cricket. With 871 international wickets to his name.

Meanwhile, West Indies captain Jason Holder took a career-best 6-42 as hosts England were bowled out for 204 in the first innings. The second day ended with the visitors putting up 57 runs on the board for the loss of one.

## Take your appeal to ECB if you want to resume playing cricket: PCB to Kaneria

**KARACHI, JUL 10 (PTI):** The PCB on Friday advised banned Test leg-spinner Danish Kaneria to approach the England Cricket Board (ECB) if he wants to resume playing club or domestic cricket.

A desperate Kaneria, banned since 2012, want to resume cricket activities to earn his livelihood but the PCB said it can’t do much since the punishment was handed to him by the ECB.

“Article 6.8 of the ECB Anti-Corruption Code, which is applicable in this case, clearly states only the chair of the anti-corruption tribunal, which has imposed a period of ineligibility on a player, had the discretion to permit the player to participate,” the PCB said in a press release.

“As such, you are advised to approach the ECB as per Article 6.8 of the ECB Anti-Corruption Code,” it said.

Kaneria is only the second Hindu to play Test cricket for Pakistan.



He scalped 261 wickets before being banned by the ECB for life for spot-fixing in English county matches.

Kaneria after denying his involvement in spot-fixing and pleading his innocence finally admitted in late 2018 to a foreign television network he was guilty.

Kaneria maintains

that he suffered unimaginable and incomprehensible hardships, both professionally and personally, and continues to suffer with each passing day.

But the PCB reminded Kaneria that since he had exhausted all his avenues to appeal against the life ban, only the ECB can now

review his case.

“The life ban was imposed by the ECB and upheld by all ICC Members as per Article 9 of the ICC/ PCB Anti-Corruption Code, and the only way it could have been overturned was by way of appeal, an avenue which has already been explored,” the PCB release said.

In a similar appeal

by former Test captain, Salim Malk, PCB said it won’t be able to help him unless he co-operates.

Malik was banned for life for match fixing by the PCB in 2000 on the recommendations of the Justice (retd) Malik Qayyum inquiry commission but his punishment was set aside by a lower court in 2008.

In a reply to Malik, the Board said that he had failed to respond to transcripts provided by ICC of April 2000 conversation.

“You chose not to respond to the contents of the transcripts of a conversation that took place in April 2000. In the backdrop of the above, the PCB will be unable to proceed any further until such time you respond on the said matter,” the release said.

The PCB reminded him that he himself had accepted the “wrongdoing” and his appeal does not change that fact that he cheated.

## Physical evolution in women’s football ‘faster than in Premier League’



**SUZANNE WRACK LONDON, 10 JUL [THE GUARDIAN]:**

Research into the 2019 Women’s World Cup has outlined the huge physical evolution of the game. The changes found by researchers in the space of four years matched those in a study of Premier League players across seven seasons from 2006.

A 169-page physical analysis report produced by Dr Paul Bradley,

a reader in sports performance at Liverpool John Moores University and a consultant for Barcelona, and England’s physical performance manager, Dawn Scott, found more distance was completed at much higher speeds in 2019 than at the 2015 World Cup in Canada. Bradley, in a Fifa webinar to launch the report, also made a comparison with the Premier League.

“There was a common held belief in

the media and within the game itself that the game had evolved physically and it just lacked a bit of evidence,” Bradley said. “Intuitively, when I was watching it I could see what was happening but that is fairly subjective; the really cool thing about science is that it confirms tangibly and quantitatively that observation. More

importantly, it gives us a percentage, a magnitude of that change.

“When myself and Dawn looked at the intense running distance we could clearly see across positions that it had increased by approximately 15 to 30% from 2015 to 2019. That’s massive. And to put that into perspective, I did a bit of research on the evolution of the Premier League. We looked at the evolution of the Premier League over seven years [a study between 2006-07 and

## Holder says support towards BLM ‘meant world to him’, thanks Holding for powerful speech

**SOUTHAMPTON, JUL 10 (PTI):** West Indies captain Jason Holder says both his team and England putting up a united front to show support for the ‘Black Lives Matter’ campaign before the start of the first Test meant the “world to him” and he felt Michael Holding’s powerful speech on racism “in his veins”.

Both teams took the knee for 30 seconds in solidarity with the BLM movement before the start of play on Wednesday.

“It meant the world to me. Just the support from everyone, everyone understanding the moment, everyone understanding the occasion. And to see both teams coming together the way they did, it sent a really strong message,” Holder told ‘Sky Sports’ on Thursday.

“I happened to be on social media last night, and I saw a few Aussies posting the same pic of everyone on the knee, and it just shows the cricket world is actually unified. But I think we could come a lot closer, we could do a lot more for cricket in general.”

Holder led from the front on day two, taking a career-best 6 for 42 to put his team his in a good position.

With the rain delaying the start of play on Wednesday, Holder’s powerful address on racism went viral on social media and moved the entire cricketing fraternity.

The West Indies great said racism would not stop until the entire human race is educated on the subject. He said achievements of blacks have been deliberately omitted from the education system

2012-13 involving more than 1,000 Premier League players] and found near-enough identical percentage changes over seven years that the women’s game did in just four years, so it could possibly indicate a slightly more rapid evolution from a physical perspective when we look at the women’s game.”

Using a multi-camera computerised tracking system to survey the 436 players who competed at the 2019 tournament, the report found that England “had by far the biggest increases in both technical elements and the highest-intensity distances and efforts completed during games”, with the highest ball possession of any of the semi-finalists. The US women’s national team had the lowest increase in physical output of the final four teams, with their 2019 figures very similar to those of 2015.

and the race has been dehumanised over several years.

“I must say, I saw the interview with Mikey yesterday, and I felt in my veins, to be honest. To me it was powerful, I think he hit the nail on the head, he was spot on,” said Holder.

“For me it’s more of an education. Guys need to make themselves aware of what’s in front of us. There’s a bigger picture sometimes in sport, but in the grand scheme of things, I just think we just need to be aware, we need to educate ourselves, and we need to have a level playing field for everyone.”

Holding was listening to Holder’s interview and responded by saying that “I don’t think you need to thank me, Jason. I think you guys need to just take the baton and keep on running with it.

## Sevilla rallies to move closer to Champions League spot

**MADRID, JUL 10 (AP):** Sevilla rallied in the second half to beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1 in the Spanish league, moving closer to a Champions League berth.

The come-from-behind victory in Bilbao on Thursday left Sevilla tied on points with third-place Atletico Madrid and increased its gap to fifth-place Villarreal to six points with three rounds to go. Only the top four qualify for next season’s Champions League.

It was the third league win in a row for Sevilla. It had drawn four straight before that.

Ninth-place Athletic, which lost ground in the fight for a Europa League spot, opened the scoring through Ander Capa in the 29th but the visitors bounced back with goals by ver Banega from a

free kick in the 69th and Munir El Haddadi from a header in the 74th.

League leader Real Madrid hosts relegation-threatened Alav s needing a win to regain a four-point advantage over second-place Barcelona, which on Wednesday got to within a point of the top after defeating last-place Espanyol 1-0.

KUBO THRIVES

Japanese teenager Takefusa Kubo scored late to help Mallorca beat Levante 2-0 at home, keeping alive the team’s hopes of escaping relegation.

The 19-year-old Kubo, who is playing on a loan from Real Madrid, hadn’t scored since a league match in November. Colombian forward Cucho Hernandez also scored for



Mallorca.

The victory moved Mallorca within three points of Alav s, which has lost five straight ahead of its trip to face leader Real Madrid on Friday.

Mallorca has won two

of its last three matches. It next visits Sevilla. Levante stayed in 12th place.

**RELEGATION FIGHT** Eibar stayed four points from safety after being held to a 0-0 draw at home by second-to-last-place Legan s.

Legan s stayed six points from safety with three rounds to go.

Last-place Espanyol was relegated for the first time after 26 straight seasons in the top flight after the loss at city rival Barcelona on Wednesday.

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Texas hits record with 105 new COVID-19 deaths in single-day

**HOUSTON, JUL 10 (PTI):** Texas has reported more than 100 new coronavirus deaths in a single day for the first time making this the deadliest week so far of the COVID-19 pandemic while newly confirmed cases continue to rise in the state, the health officials said.

The grim milestone marks the third consecutive day the state broke its record for single-day COVID-19-related deaths, with 98 fatalities on Wednesday and 60 on Tuesday.

Texas also reported 9,782 new cases on Thursday, bringing its total to 230,346, with 2,918 resulting in death, state figures show.

In addition to 105 new deaths on Thursday, Texas also reported a new high for hospitalisations for the 10th consecutive day and the rolling rate of positive tests inched closer to nearly 16 per cent the highest in the pandemic yet.

With cases of the new coronavirus and related hospitalisations rising at alarming rates, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, expanded his ban on elective medical procedures to cover more than 100 counties across much of the state.

Surgeries and other procedures that are not immediately, medically necessary which have already been on hold in many of the state's biggest cities and several South Texas counties are now barred in much of the state, from far West Texas to much of Central Texas, Southeast Texas and the Gulf Coast.

"We are freeing up more resources to address upticks in COVID-19 related cases, Abbott said in a statement.

The State of Texas will continue to do everything we can to mitigate the spread of this virus and support our hospitals and health care professionals as they care for their fellow Texans.

Mayor Sylvester Turner said the coronavirus pandemic in Houston and in Texas is out of control and that Houstonians actions in the next few weeks were critical to slowing the spread of the deadly virus.

Turner said with the need for ICU beds, the city is currently in phase 2. He continued to encourage residents to stay home, work remotely and wear a mask when out in public or inside a building.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported that 9,689 COVID-19 patients were being treated in Texas hospitals on Thursday, hitting a record for hospitalisations for the 11th consecutive day.

The state has 22 trauma service areas. The Texas Department of State Health Services issues a daily report for each area that includes the number of available hospital beds, intensive care unit beds and hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

# 136 congressmen, 30 senators seek reversal of Trump admin's decision on international students

**WASHINGTON, JUL 10 (PTI):** A group of 136 US Democratic congressmen and 30 senators, including Indian-origin Kamala Harris, has urged the Trump administration to reverse its "cruel" order that bars international students from staying in the country if they do not have in-person classes to attend.

The lawmakers, in separate letters to Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf and Acting Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Matthew Albence on Thursday, expressed concern over the ICE's recently announced modifications to the Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP).

The new guidelines have created panic among international students, a majority of whom come from China and India.

In its July 6 order, the ICE declared that nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online or taking only online courses will not be permitted to take a full course load and remain in the United States.

The modifications also limited many students at normally operating schools from taking more than one class or three credit hours online in order to

remain in the country.

The letter, signed by senators Robert Menendez, Cory Booker and Harris, the Indian-origin senator from California among others, expressed concern that the ICE's guidance is motivated not by the public health considerations, but rather by animus towards non-citizens and immigrants.

It said that the move is a flagrant attempt to hold international students hostage in order to force schools to reopen even as COVID-19 cases are rising.

"The ICE's announcement of their plans to force out or deport international students who remain at US colleges and universities and who are taking a full online course load is cruel and unconscionable.

"These students are already in the United States, are established members of educational communities, and have been determined through the visa screening process to pose no danger to the United States," the senators wrote.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, there were over a million international students in the US.

We call out this policy for what it is: a cruel, senseless, and xenophobic attempt to use non-citizens as



political pawns in order to financially coerce colleges and universities to reopen campuses this fall, despite what is best for public health.

"This policy is dangerous to the health and well-being of numerous communities," they said.

The House letter is co-led by congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Chairwoman Susan Davis, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, and Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren.

Observing that the students and schools are facing unprecedented challenges, the letter said that the ICE's

announcements only add to these burdens, and potentially put more students at risk.

The ICE's SEVP exemptions for the spring and summer semesters permitting students to take more online courses than usually permitted was sensible given the risks of the pandemic.

The administration should consider the wisdom of these earlier exemptions and cease the finalisation of their modifications.

These modifications have also not thought out the practical challenges of remote learning for international students, said the letter.

Students who must move a continent away or to the other side of the world will have to participate in online classes in time zones

hours apart from where they are located, which could have detrimental effects on their education, health and livelihood.

Other students may return to regions where internet connectivity needed to participate in online classes is inadequate, leaving them unable to receive the full value of the education they are paying for, the lawmakers said.

For some students, being forced to leave the country may lead them to leave the school permanently and fail to receive a degree into which they have put so much time, effort, and tuition dollars, they continued.

This will also deprive universities of needed revenue at a time of great financial stress, straining resources for

the students who remain at schools and make it harder for those with financial challenges to meet.

Moreover, forcing students to leave in short order will place financial burdens on them. Many have housing or automobile leases that they cannot break, or other financial obligations in the United States, the Congressmen wrote.

The loss of international students, according to the letter, only serves to isolate them at a time when they need the support of their faculty and classmates.

This policy sends a message to international students that they are not welcome in the US and disregards their well-being and the well-being of student bodies.

These modifications will only further disincentivise international students from coming to the U.S where they enrich campus life and our society through their talents and contributions, they said.

The letter is supported by the University of California, Advancing Justice, South Asian Americans Leading Together, Central American Resource Center, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and Sikh American Legal Defence and Education Fund, among others.

## State-sponsored terrorism very challenging issue, could undermine world's stability: Top UN official

**UNITED NATIONS, JUL 10 (PTI):** State-sponsored terrorism is a very challenging issue as it could undermine the stability in many parts of the world, the head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism has said.

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov, at a virtual press briefing on Thursday, said that the state-sponsored terrorism is for the member states to discuss.

Of course, it is a very challenging issue because it could undermine stability in many parts of the world, Voronkov said.

He said this while responding to a question about state-sponsored cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan against India and demands that Pakistan

take action against terror groups operating from its soil.

Voronkov said that his mandate from the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions is designed not for state terrorism but his office deals with non-state terrorism.

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism said that during the ongoing virtual counter-terrorism week, it was really a very difficult discussion between India and Pakistan on this very issue. This is the fact of the life. I could confirm that it was really a very difficult discussion on this very topic during the counter-terrorism week.

During the counter-terrorism week, India had slammed Pakistan, saying that while the world is coming together to battle the pandemic,

it is unfortunate that Pakistan, a state which sponsors cross-border terrorism, continues to use every opportunity to peddle false narratives and make baseless, malicious and egregious allegations against India and interfere in our internal affairs.

India said that Pakistan is seeking to portray its military, financial, logistical support to cross-border terrorism against India as a freedom struggle.

He said that the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism is speaking constantly about the threat of terrorism globally.

We are speaking that terrorism is a risk for global stability. We are trying to attract attention of the member states to the issue of bilateral relations connected with

misperceptions and possible and different military engagement. We're doing this part of the job but again, it's not my task to deal with this bilateral issue which are connected with so called state-sponsored terrorism.

Asked that the fight against terrorism cannot be complete unless state sponsored terrorism, difference between liberation movement and terrorism and the

root causes of terrorism are addressed, he said I can only agree with you. Still we have no clear definition, what does it mean international terrorism.

We are proceeding from General Assembly and especially Security Council resolutions defining what does it mean - terrorist groups. I think this is again a question to the member states, not to the Office of Counter-Terrorism,

which is doing the job on the base of the Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions.

He said that if there is a legal base, we can move forward in this regard, but it should be a common will of the member states to proceed forward with the definition of international terrorism and different parts of this international terrorism activities.

Coronavirus death toll in Pakistan crosses 5,000-mark

**ISLAMABAD, JUL 10 (PTI):** The coronavirus death toll in Pakistan crossed the 5,000-mark on Friday with 75 new fatalities, the health ministry said.

According to the Ministry of National Health Services, another 2,751 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the national tally to 243,599.

The ministry data showed that Sindh became the first province of the country where the number of coronavirus patients crossed the 100,000-mark.

The ministry reported that 5,058 patients have died while 149,092 recovered while another 2,375 were in critical condition.

Out of the total 243,599 infections, Sindh reported 100,900 cases, Punjab 85,261, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 29,406, Islamabad, 13,829, Balochistan 11,099, Gilgit-Baltistan 1,619 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir 1,485 cases.

A total of 1,514,858 coronavirus tests have been conducted, including 23,255 in the last 24 hours. Minister for Planning Asad Umar has said that people adopted standard operating procedures and precautionary measures due to which the number of coronavirus cases have decreased to great extent.

Radio Pakistan reported that Umar told a private news channel that the government has taken solid steps and also instructed the masses to strictly follow Standard Of Procedures (SOPs) to contain the spread of the COVID-19.

The minister said all the stakeholders were effectively working and devising strategies to combat the pandemic.

He hoped that people would follow the SOPs set by the government in connection with Eid-ul-Azha, which is in August 12, to contain the spread of outbreak.

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**Taking the Cake!** American Actress, Ariel Winter picked up an ice cream cake at Baskin Robbins on her way to a birthday party in Los Angeles.

## Jagdeep made Soorma Bhopali unforgettable: 'Sholay' director Ramesh Sippy

**MUMBAI, JUL 10 (PTI):** Sholay director Ramesh Sippy says veteran actor-comedian Jagdeep's pitch perfect performance made the character of Soorma Bhopali iconic.

Jagdeep, who passed away at the age of 81, did more than 400 films but Soorma Bhopali's popularity stayed with him throughout his life.

Remembering Jagdeep's contribution to the role in his 1975 classic, Sippy said the actor was his only choice for the part.

"It takes a superb artiste to get all the nuances of a local character like that. Comedy is not easy. The timing has to be perfect and the reaction has to be right. It is not possible without talent. As a director, I cannot make an actor do comedy. I can only ask for improvisation, Sippy told PTI.

The director said he had seen Jagdeep in Brahmchari and when he read Salim-Javed's script, the actor's name came to his mind.

There are times when you think of an actor when you have a character. Only he could play it and he played it so well. It was a perfect casting and a perfect performance," he added.

Recalling the scene where Amitabh

Bachchan's Jai and Dharmendra's Veeru had to retrieve money from Bhopali, Sippy said they shot the segment in two days with hardly any retakes.

"Javed saab had been to Bhopal and Salim saab is from Indore. When you go (there), you come across a character (like that). There is a way of speaking and Jagdeep was aware of it. Javed saab had written some wonderful lines that go well with the scene about how he is boasting about throwing Jai and Veeru in jail, Sippy recalled.

The popularity of the character, pushed Jagdeep to eventually direct and play the lead in a film titled Soorma Bhopali in 1988.

"He felt like doing it and I didn't mind. In those days, we were not fussy about it. He played the original character so why not make a film? That was a different world we lived in then. It must have been on his mind as people did not forget this character, the director said.

The filmmaker said Jagdeep, whose real name was Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri, will be missed.

"We will miss him a lot. His legacy will live on through his sons Jaaved and Naved and his grandson Meezaan, who will continue the good work," Sippy concluded.

## After future Captain America Anthony Mackie's anti-Marvel comments, Avengers directors respond



The Russos directed Mackie in Captain America: The Winter Soldier and Captain America: Civil War, before going on to make the third and fourth Avengers films. Mackie plays Sam Wilson, aka The Falcon, in the MCU. He will reprise his role in the upcoming Disney+ series The Falcon and the Winter Soldier, which will see him explore his new role as Captain America.

In a recent episode of Variety's Actors on Actors series, Mackie claimed that hiring practices on Marvel projects were 'racist'. "It really bothered me that I've done seven Marvel movies where every producer, every director, every stunt person, every costume designer, every PA, every single person has been white," he said, adding, "But then when you do Black Panther, you have a Black director, Black producer, you have a Black costume designer, you have a Black stunt choreographer.

And I'm like, that's more racist than anything else. Because if you only can hire the Black people for the Black movie, are you saying they're not good enough when you have a mostly white cast?"

Mackie concluded by saying Marvel Studios should ultimately "hire the best person for the job. Even if it means we're going to get the best two women, we're going to get the best two men."

Marvel is trying to diversify both in front of and behind the camera on its future projects. Ryan Coogler will return to write and direct Black Panther 2; Chloe Zhao is directing The Eternals, starring a multiracial cast; Cate Shortland directed Black Widow; Destin Daniel Cretton is directing Shang-Chi, starring a mostly Asian cast, and Deborah Chow is in talks to direct future projects.

## 'Ramy' renewed for third season on Hulu

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 10 (PTI):** Streaming platform Hulu has renewed critically-acclaimed comedy Ramy for a third season.

Created by Egyptian-American actor-comedian Ramy Youssef, the series is loosely based on his life and explores what it's like to be caught between a religious community that believes life is a moral test and a millennial generation that doubts an afterlife even exists.

Youssef writes, stars in and executive produces Ramy. Co-creators Ari Katcher and Ryan Welch also executive produce along with Ravi Nandan of A24, Jerrod Carmichael and Chris Storer.

The renewal comes six weeks after the second season premiered on Hulu, reported Variety.

Youssef won the 2020 Golden Globe for best actor in a television series musical or comedy for Ramy.

The series also stars Hiam Abbass, Amr Waked, Laith Nakli, May Calamawy, Dave Merheje, Mohammed Amer and Steve Way. Season two featured Oscar winner Mahershala Ali as well.

## Lucy Liu to star in ABC's workplace comedy pilot

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 10 (PTI):** Kill Bill star Lucy Liu is set to play the lead in a multi-camera comedy from Friends alum Shana Goldberg-Meehan, CBS Television Studios and 20th Century Fox TV.

The untitled series will be directed by Christine Gernon, reported Variety.

Liu will play Devin, the head of a successful

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 10 (PTI):** Reality competition series Legendary has been renewed by streaming platform HBO Max for a second season.

The renewal was announced on the same day that HBO Max dropped the final two episodes of show's first season, reported Variety.

The new season of the series, highlighting modern day ball culture, will see Ballroom legend Leiomy Maldonado, fashion stylist Law Roach, actor Jameela Jamil and rapper Megan Thee Stallion return as judges.

Dashaun Wesley will reprise his role as ballroom MC.

Legendary celebrates ballroom culture

which started in New York as a subculture that served as a safe space for the LGBTQ community -- primarily for Black and Latinx people.

Legendary was an HBO Max, day one premiere. We knew we had something special and are proud that critics and audiences alike have embraced the series. Bringing this incredible world back for a second season furthers our commitment to high quality, compelling storytelling, said Kevin Reilly, Chief Content Officer at HBO Max, President, TNT, TBS and truTV.

The series is executive produced by David Collins, Rob Eric and Michael Williams of Scout Productions.

modern furniture company, who is unfamiliar with failure. But when she adopts a baby, she's not prepared for the task of parenting and feels at a complete loss as to how to be a mom.

Liu will also be serving as a producer.

Goldberg-Meehan will pen the script and executive produce the comedy, which was previously titled Bossy and Kids Matter Now.

### ARIES:

It's necessary to weed out the garden every now and then in order to maintain hygiene. Similarly, it's important to analyse the weeds in your own life which could be posing as a challenge to your growth. Notice how you feel after certain interactions. A sense of fulfillment is an indicator that you're on the right track. Feeling drained, on the other hand, is a sign that the given person or situation is detrimental to your mental health.

### TAURUS:

Mercury retrograde has a reputation for creating errors in communication. It is for this reason that many shy away from signing contracts or engaging in paperwork at this point. But your circumstances may be unavoidable, Taurus. So read the offer document carefully before signing it. Get a second and third opinion from an expert if required. Above all, trust what your instinct is telling you.

### GEMINI:

Roll your eyes all you want, Gemini, but you're clearly suffering from the glass-half-full syndrome today. Despite your formerly skeptic ways, there's a sense of lightness about you—one that's making you feel like you're where you need to be, there's something higher looking out for you, and that you will find a way to move past the given obstacles in divine time. Practice the art of gratitude as you are practicing the art of surrendering

### CANCER:

This is a time of divine union for those who've been in the 'maybe' and 'let's see' territory. If anything, the chaos has made you realise how much you value this connection and that you're in it for the long haul. We wouldn't put a grand proposal past your beau this month! Coupled Cancerians could find themselves renewing their vows or revisiting the rules of engagement. Dealing with paperwork on the work front may also be on the cards for some.

### LEO:

Chaos has been constant for some time now. But there is an inner knowing within you that everything is taking place in divine order, and that endings make way for magical beginnings. Trust where the signs are leading you towards. For some of you, a new opportunity may be on the cards with an organisation that is seemingly fancier than yours. But, don't go by the outward appearance of things. Introspect on how you feel about the given offer and if their values are in alignment with yours

### VIRGO:

The world will always try to confine you to a box. But that doesn't mean you have to play by the rules of the matrix, Virgo. This is a time of inner revolution. You're being encouraged to strip away the layers and meet your true self. This will give you clarity on the path

you're meant to take. Some of you may be inspired to sign up for a course or go back to your books.

### LIBRA:

What if each word you utter is a spell, Libra? A spell that's helping you create the life you've always dreamed of? One that's emotionally, spiritually, and physically satisfying? The Universe is listening in. So set your intentions with awareness. As such, you'll find that this is a time of manifesting miracles. Something you've been hoping and praying for will come to fruition, bringing with it the affirmation that you are on the right track.

### SCORPIO:

Endings could be a big theme in the Scorpio HQ. Slow down. Breathe. Be present to what's coming up from the murky realms of the subconscious instead of putting on the garb of normalcy. Remember, you're allowed to be a 'hot mess' for as long as you want. You may not always understand why the Universe is taking such drastic measures on your behalf, but you understand that it's for your greatest good and that you're clearing space for something that's more in alignment to enter your life.

### SAGITTARIUS:

We often mistake surrendering as an act of defeat, but it is a wakeful collaboration with the Universe. The understanding that everything takes place in divine time and that there is something higher looking out for us. You are not meant to worry about the given situation,

Sagittarius. You are meant to surrender what's weighing you down to the mysterious forces above and trust that you will be taken care of. This is a time of healing and transformation.

### CAPRICORN:

What are you consciously manifesting in your life, Capricorn? Do you desire a level up as far as your career is concerned or a partner who loves you as you are and supports your growth? The Universe is listening in on your conversations with yourself. Just for today, let go of the idea of limitations, the belief that there is a cap on the blessings that you can call in.

### AQUARIUS:

Don't you love how some things do not change with the passage of time and tide? The connection you share with those close to your heart, for instance. Today, you're in the mood to reconnect with that friend who's been on your mind for some time now, share anecdotes from your life, refresh old memories, and laugh like nobody's watching

### PISCES:

If your business has been in a funk due to the lockdown, trust that things are about to turn around. But don't expect drastic changes overnight. Keep your desired destination in mind and vow to take one step at a time. It's best to leave the 'how' to the mysterious forces above. Pisceans who've been in the 'maybe' and 'let's see' territory could discover that what they share is true love.