



**CHUNKY PANDEY SAYS IT WAS  
EXCITING TO PLAY ANTAGONIST  
IN DIGITAL DEBUT ABHAY 2'**  
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**AVOID THE BABEL SYNDROME**  
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**CHRIS EVANS TO GIFT CAPTAIN  
AMERICA SHIELD TO YOUNG  
BOY WHO SAVED HIS SISTER  
FROM DOG ATTACK**  
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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## WITH 32 NEW CASES SIKKIM RECORDS 101 IN 3 DAYS

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUL:**

Sikkim has seen a surge in COVID cases in the past three days with 101 persons testing positive for the virus since 14 July. Today, 32 new cases were detected in the State taking the number of active cases to 166. Out of 32 new cases, 25 have been from reported from East Sikkim and 07 from West Sikkim. The tally of novel coronavirus cases reported so far has now increased to 254 while 88 patients have been discharged from the hospital.

In his daily health bulletin on Friday, Health Department DG-cum- Secretary, Dr Pempa T Bhutia mentioned that five persons tested positive during Rapid Antigen Testing of 116 persons at Rangpo check-post on Thursday. He added that out of five positive patients, two were guards of the cash van of a bank and both were returned to Siliguri while the other three were brought to STNM hospital. Likewise, 62 samples tested by TrueNat at STNM hospital on Thursday and all reported negative.

Dr Bhutia mentioned that 29 persons tested positive for COVID-19 out of 433 samples tested by RT-PCR at VRD Lab, STNM hospital on Thursday. These 29 new cases include 06 GREF personnel and their 15 family members, one

from STNM hospital flu clinic and 07 from SSB camp at Yuksam in West Sikkim, he informed. He added that 22 new positive patients have been shifted to STNM hospital, while seven SSB personnel have been taken to isolation ward at Ayush Hospital at Gyalshing.

Out of 254 cases of COVID-19 in Sikkim, 180 have been reported in East Sikkim, 29 from West Sikkim, 44 from South Sikkim and 01 from North Sikkim.

A team comprising of Secretary Health Department, Secretary Coordination, District Collector and Superintendent of Police of East District along with officials and staff of Health Department visited Rongli and Rhenock today.

"We visited Rhenock CHC where rapid testing is going on and later interacted with panchayats and local police officials. We were happy to know that panchayats and police are very alert and concerned about the situation and have been extending all support in contact tracing and other procedures," the Secretary informed.

He added that the team also visited Reshi check-post and later GREF area and PHC at Rongli and interacted with doctors and staff.

"We also interacted with local panchayats of the area and urged them for their support and coordination in the present situation in the area," he said.

## CM tests negative for COVID-19

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 17 JUL:**

As per a Facebook post by Chairperson, State Commission for Backward Classes, Pabitra Bhandari, the Chief Minister and his family have all tested negative for COVID-19.

The Chief Minister, his family and his support staff at his residence at Lumsey here, it may be recalled, underwent RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 on Thursday.

The test was necessitated as a precautionary measure after a COVID-positive person called on a Minister and other officials before his COVID-status was detected.

While Ms Bhandari had posted her message in the afternoon, when contacted, sources in the Health Department, informed that since more than 90 samples had been collected from the CM's residence, results had not yet come in for all the samples. An official statement will be put out only after results were at hand for the entire batch, SummitTimes was informed.

## Record single-day surge of nearly 35k COVID cases takes India's to beyond 10 lakh



**NEW DELHI, JULY 17 (PTI):** With a record single day surge of 34,956 cases, India's COVID-19 tally zoomed past ten lakh on Friday, just three days after it crossed the nine-lakh mark, according to the Union Health Ministry data

The total coronavirus caseload in the country surged to 10,03,832, while death toll mounted to 25,602 with the highest number of 687 fatalities recorded in a day, the data updated at 8 am on Friday showed

A total of 22,942 people have recuperated in

the past 24 hours, the highest number of recoveries in a day, taking the total number of recovered cases to 6,35,756, while there are 3,42,473 active COVID-19 cases presently

"Thus, around 63.33 per cent of patients have recovered so far," an official said

The total number of confirmed cases includes foreigners

This is the sixth consecutive day when more than 28,000 cases were recorded.??

Of the 687 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, 266 are from Ma-

harashtra, 104 from Karnataka, 69 from Tamil Nadu, 758 from Delhi, 40 from Andhra Pradesh, 34 from Uttar Pradesh, 23 from West Bengal, 17 from Bihar, 16 from Jammu and Kashmir, 10 each from Telangana and Gujarat and nine from Punjab

Rajasthan has reported eight fatalities followed by Madhya Pradesh with seven deaths, Jharkhand four, Haryana three, Assam, Kerala and Odisha two each while Chhattisgarh, Goa and Puducherry have registered a fatality each.

## Odisha man flaunts Rs 3.5-lakh gold face mask

**BHUBANESWAR, JUL 17 (PTI):** At a time when face masks have become an inseparable part of life to protect oneself from contracting the coronavirus, a 55-year-old businessman in Odisha has procured one which is made of gold and cost him Rs 3.5 lakh.

He got inspiration from a news report about a businessman in Maharashtra's Pune district who got himself a customised gold mask worth Rs 2.89 lakh.

Alok Mohanty, who owns a furniture store in Cuttack city and is a fan of anything made of the yellow metal, said an N-95 mask has been used as a base for manufacturing the golden

protective gear which weighs around 100 grams.

Elastic bands are attached to the golden mask for a secure fit and it is quite comfortable to wear, he said on Friday.

Asked from where did he get the idea of such a mask, Mohanty said, "While watching television some time ago, I saw someone in Maharashtra wearing a mask made of gold. Since I have a tremendous weakness for gold, I decided to get one for myself."

Mohanty got in touch with a jewellery shop in Mumbai, which sent him a catalogue. He chose a design and



placed an order and it took 22 days to make the mask. The businessman said he has caps and watches made of gold

or lined with the yellow metal.

Mohanty said he has been distributing food and other essential items

to the needy during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he also has a penchant for feeding stray animals.

## SSB camp at Melli-Aching declared containment zone after 7 personnel test positive

**RUDRA KAUSHIK  
GYALSHING, 17 JUL:**

Seven Sashastra Seema Bal personnel stationed at the Melli-Aching camp near Khechoepalri in West Sikkim tested positive for COVID-19 today. Following standard procedure of declaring any area with more than three simultaneous infections as a containment zone, the SSB camp at Melli-Aching was declared a containment zone by the district administration while all

the personnel who tested positive have been shifted to the isolation ward established at the AAYUSH hospital in Gyalshing.

Earlier on 03 July, an SSB jawan from Melli-Aching camp had tested positive for the virus. So far, 50 SSB personnel have tested positive in Sikkim.

Meanwhile, the West district administration has also appealed to the people not to use ATMs in Pelling and Gyalshing for a few days as the

SSB personnel might have used these machines.

DC West, in a notification issued today, has directed Sikkim Police to deploy adequate manpower at the buffer zone around the SSB camp to ensure strict supervision of the area.

The Chief Medical Officer, West, has also been directed to initiate regular monitoring and testing of the personnel found positive.

Entry and exit of persons from the quarantine centre has

been prohibited except for those on COVID-19 duty.

It was further informed that movement of vehicles from the SSB camp via 12th Mile Road has been prohibited.

The DC informed that 50 SSB personnel had arrived at the Melli-Aching camp as new transfers, reportedly after completing quarantine at a transit camp in Siliguri, and of them, seven have now tested positive.

He further informed that contact tracing is underway.

## Talks with China on border standoff progressing but can't guarantee what extent it will be resolved: Rajnath

**MANASH PRATIM BHUYAN**

**LUKUNG(LADAKH), JUL 17 (PTI):** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said progress has been made in the ongoing talks with China to find a solution to the border standoff in Ladakh but he cannot guarantee to what extent it would be resolved as he sent a strong message to the neighbouring country that no power in the world can touch even an inch of the country's land.

In an address to a group of Army and ITBP personnel at a high altitude forward post in Lukung in eastern Ladakh, Singh said India is not a weak country and it will give a befitting reply to anyone hurting its national pride.

"Talks are underway to resolve the border issue(with China). Whatever progress has been made, the issue should be resolved. But, I cannot give a guarantee to what extent it will be resolved. I want to assure that no power in the world can touch even one inch of India's land or can occupy it," he said from a makeshift stage just a few hundred metres from the Pangong Tso

lake. "There cannot be a better option than finding a solution through talks," he said in the backdrop of a huge Indian flag fluttering in the wind.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Yogesh Kumar Joshi, Commander of the 14 Corps Lt Gen Harinder Singh and several other senior Army officials were on the stage when Singh made the remarks.

It was Singh's first visit to Ladakh after the bitter border face-off between India and China began in multiple locations following a violent clash between the two sides on May 5 in the Pangong lake area. The visit also came a fortnight after Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an unannounced visit to Ladakh during which he signalled India's firmness in dealing with the border row with the neighbouring country.

Before reaching Lukung, Singh visited a forward post in Stakna where he witnessed a major military drill involving attack helicopters, T-90 tanks, infantry combat vehicles

and special forces.

The exercise showcased integrated combat prowess of the Army and the Indian Air Force in dealing with complex security scenarios in the high altitude terrain.

A large number of ground commandos, T-90 tanks, infantry combat vehicles, Apache, Rudra and Mi-17 V5 helicopters featured in the drill.

In his address at Lukung, Singh, referring to the Galwan Valley clashes said the Indian soldiers killed in the incident not only showed exemplary courage in safeguarding the border but also protected the pride of 130 crore Indians. Twenty Indian army personnel were killed during the clashes with Chinese troops on June 15.

"I want to say that the country will never forget them. You inspire the whole nation. We do not want unrest, we want peace. We never hurt the pride of any country. But if any country tries to hurt our self-respect and pride, we will not tolerate it at any cost. We will give a befitting reply." "India is the only country in the world that has given

a message of peace to the world. We have never attacked a nation and have never staked claim to any country's land. India considers its bordering countries as its family. We believe in the message - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family)," he said addressing the soldiers at the Lukung post located at an altitude of 14,000 feet.

The defence minister also carried out a comprehensive review of the security situation in Ladakh and India's combat readiness with the top military brass. He also interacted with the troops.

The Indian and Chinese troops were locked in a bitter standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The tension escalated manifold after the violent clashes in Galwan Valley.

Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides began a mutual disengagement process at most of the friction points from July 6. The Indian Army on Thursday said both sides are committed to "complete disengagement" of troops, and the process

is "intricate" that requires "constant verification". The comments came following the fourth round of Lt General-level talks which was aimed at finalising modalities for further de-escalation of tension in the region.

Separately, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said there is absolutely no change in India's position on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and any "unilateral attempts" to change the status quo are not acceptable to it. It also said the disengagement process was complex.

The disengagement process began a day after a nearly two-hour telephonic conversation between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on ways to bring down tension in the area. Doval and Wang are designated special representatives for boundary talks.

From Ladakh, the defence minister travelled to Srinagar where he is carrying out a review of the situation along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.

## Assam flood kills 5 more; 36 lakh affected



**GUWAHATI, JUL 17 (PTI):** Five more people died in flood-related incidents in Assam and around 36 lakh people across 28 districts are now affected, an official bulletin said on Friday.

One person each died in Dhubri, Darrang, Bongaigaon, Goalpara and Kamrup districts, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said in its bulletin.

More than 39.8 lakh people in 27 of the 33 districts in the state were affected by the deluge on Thursday, it said.

The total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood and landslides in the state has gone up to 102. While 76 people died in flood-related incidents, 26 were killed in landslides, the bulletin said.



# HC notice to govt on Swargadwara ban

**CUTTACK, JUL 17 (PTI):** The Orissa High Court Friday issued notice to the state government and asked the state special relief commissioner and Puri district collector to show cause as to why the order imposing ban on cremation of bodies at Swargadwara at Puri for persons residing outside Puri should not be quashed.

Swargadwara, which literally means gateway to heaven, has a Hindu

crematorium. Situated barely two km from the Shri Jagannath temple it is believed to be the bathing spot of Vaishnava saint Sri Chaitanya.

Thousands take a dip in the Bay of Bengal there throughout the year as it is popularly believed that those who do so attain salvation and reach heaven after they die.

In the wake of rising cases of COVID-19, the Puri district collector had earlier this month

temporarily banned cremation at Swargadwara bodies of persons who did not reside in the administrative jurisdiction of Puri district.

The district administration had, however, assured that there will be relaxations once the situation normalises.

Hearing a PIL filed by a person named Sanjeeb Kumar Chinara, a division bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq is-

sued the notices asking the respondents to file their replies in affidavits before the next date of hearing.

The HC has fixed August 12 to list the matter for further adjudication.

The decision of the district collector was severely criticised, particularly by the opposition party leaders in the state and the people in general disapproved of the decision given the strong religious sentiments at-

tached to Puri.

The petitioner pointed out that the decision of the Puri collector violates Article 15 of the Constitution which states that the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of his place of birth.

"Hindus from different walks of life have a pious desire that after their death their bodies should be cremated at Puri Swargadwara", the petition said.

## Another Congress MLA resigns in Madhya Pradesh

**BHOPAL, JUL 17 (PTI):** Days after the resignation of Pradyuman Singh Lodhi, another Congress MLA in Madhya Pradesh resigned from the Assembly on Friday.

Sumitra Devi Kasdekar, who represents Nagnagar in Burhanpur district, submitted her resignation in person to protem Speaker Rameshwar Sharma in the afternoon, said a senior Assembly official.

"It is under process for acceptance," he said.

Kasdekar could not

be contacted for comment.

After her resignation is accepted, the Congress' tally of members in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly would be down to 90.

Congress MLA Pradyuman Singh Lodhi, who is considered close to senior BJP leader Uma Bharti, resigned as a member of the Assembly on Sunday.

Lodhi represented Bada-Malhera constituency. Hours after resigning, the BJP government appointed Lodhi

as chairman of the MP State Civil Supplies Corporation and accorded him a cabinet minister's rank.

The Congress lost power in Madhya Pradesh in March when 22 MLAs, loyalists of Jyotiraditya Scindia, quit the party.

The effective strength of the Assembly now is 205. The ruling BJP has 107 MLAs. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has two legislators, Samajwadi Party one and four are independent.

## NPS adds 1.03 lakh subscribers in Apr-Jun quarter

**MUMBAI, JUL 17 (PTI):** National Pension System - a flagship defined contribution retirement savings scheme - has registered 30 per cent growth by adding about 1.03 lakh members in its subscriber base during April-June quarter, the government said on Friday.

Among the 1,02,975 subscribers registered, 43,000 have routed their subscription through their employer/corporate, while the rest have voluntarily enrolled in the scheme. A total of 206 corporates were enrolled during the first quarter of this fiscal.

"After the onset of COVID-19, employers have adopted or are willing to adopt deeper measures to ensure adequate support to employees in terms of their financial well-being," the finance ministry said in a release.

The latest addition in the subscription base resulted in a total of 10.13 lakh corporate subscribers in the age group of 18 to 65 years, it noted.

The release also said that as per a recent sur-



vey of Willis Towers Watson, over 20 per cent of employers in the private sector aim to educate employees on retirement adequacy and available savings options, while some companies are focusing on employees approaching retirement by providing independent and unbiased financial advice.

Additionally, about 30 per cent of employers are looking to address the impact of the pan-

demic on employees' financial and emotional wellbeing due to stress and concerns related to economic conditions and job security.

Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), said the NPS has been a success amongst the corporate employees.

"While financial planning often took a backseat in an indi-

vidual's life, this pandemic has brought it to the forefront, creating awareness for financial security at such testing times.

"During this pandemic, a growing realisation for both corporates and individuals has emerged that retirement planning is not a mere saving or tax benefit choice," he said.

The chairman said the role played by private corporates to take charge

of educating the employees about the benefits of NPS is highly appreciable, resulting in an interesting quarter for the pension sector regulator.

"We have also adopted various proactive measures for ensuring uninterrupted services to the subscribers in this period of unexpected crisis," Bandyopadhyay said.

In its initiative to educate the citizens and to spread awareness about pensions and NPS, PFRDA has been organising webinars in association with industry body Ficci, the release said.

As on April 30, 2020, the total number of subscribers under National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana had crossed 3.46 crore and the asset under management (AUM) has grown to Rs 4,33,555 crore.

More than 68 lakh government employees have been enrolled under NPS and 22.60 lakh subscribers are from the private sector, with 7,616 entities registered as corporate.

## Both Ohio events on PGA schedule to be played without fans

Sylvania (Ohio), Jul 17 (AP): The PGA Tour will not have spectators for the opening two events in Ohio when it resumes in two weeks.

Commissioner Mike Whan had said the Marathon Classic was contemplating capping attendance at 2,000 fans at Highland Meadows for the Aug. 6-9 event.

The tournament said it met with county and state health officials and decided Thursday to play without spectators. The tournament still have two pro-ams only of them on the tournament course and the amateurs will be tested for the coronavirus before they can play.



The PGA Tour last played Feb. 16 in the Australian Women's Open, won by Inbee Park. It is scheduled to

resume July 30 with the

Drive On PGA Championship, a one-time event hosted by Inverness Club, site of next

year's Solheim Cup.

The Marathon Classic is the following week, and then the PGA Tour goes to Scotland for

two weeks.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said tournament organizers made the right decision not to allow fans at the Marathon Classic.

Muirfield Village in Columbus is staging its second straight PGA Tour event, neither with fans. The remaining Ohio tournament is the Senior Players Championship at Firestone in Akron on Aug. 13-16. It has not decided whether to allow fans.

The Marathon Classic had planned to offer free admission to health care workers and grocery store employees, along with military, police, fire and emergency services personnel. That offer has been extended to the 2021 tournament.

## DMRC starts work on underground section of Phase 4

**NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI):** The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation on Friday commenced construction work on the underground section of its Phase 4 project, officials said.

The work began on the underground section of the 28.92 km-long Janakpuri West R K Ashram Marg corridor. This corridor consists of 7.74 km-long underground lines.

DMRC's Managing Director Mangu Singh and other senior officials joined the event via video conferencing.

"The work commenced for the construction of D Wall at the Krishna Park Extension Metro station, and the tunnel segments shall be used for tunnelling with

Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) on a 1.4-km stretch between Janakpuri West and Keshopur," the DMRC said in a statement.

In addition, this approximately 2 km-long stretch will also have the Krishna Park Extension Station in between, as well as a 365 m cut-and-cover open ramp near Keshopur, leading to the elevated section, it said.

D Walls or Diaphragm walls are structural concrete walls constructed in deep excavation based projects. Diaphragm walls are often used at congested sites, close to existing structures, where there is restricted headroom or where the excavation is of a depth that would otherwise



require the removal of much greater volumes of soil, officials said

The excavated area is secured by these walls and then the construction work of the underground station is commenced. This technology has been used for Delhi Metro's underground stations right since Phase 1, the DMRC said.

The tunnel segments

are being cast at the state-of-the-art casting yard developed at Mundka. The casting yard will make 2,100 rings for the tunnelling work, it said.

This work was awarded last December on an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis, the officials said.

In spite of all the constraints, like shortage

of labourers and materials due to lockdown, the milestone could be achieved on time, the DMRC statement said.

On June 24, the casting work of u-girders for this corridor was started.

The Janakpuri West-R K Ashram Marg corridor is an extension of the Delhi Metro's Magenta Line and will come up with 22 stations.

## CHANGE OF NAME

1, Yoland Zureal Christopher Chettri, son of Zoeland Christopher Chettri, resident of Kazi Road, Gangtok, East Sikkim, P.O. Gangtok and P.S. Sadar Solemnly declare that previously my name has been recorded/ Known as yoland Zureal Christopher.

Now, Vide affidavit No. A123993 I have change my name from Yoland Zureal Christopher to Yoland Zureal Christopher Chettri for all purpose before the Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim, Gangtok on 16th day of July, 2020

### ANTHYESTI KRIYA

The Anthyesti Kriya of our beloved father, Lt DB Shrestha who left for his heavenly abode on 10 July falls on 22 Jul, 2020 (Wednesday).

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our friends, relatives and well wishers who have stood by us during our time of bereavement and request all to pray for the departed soul of our beloved father.

The Anthyesti Kriya will be held at Shrestha Building (our residence), Below Janta Bhawan, DPH Area, Gangtok.

**Shanti Shrestha**

**Dr Kaushilya & Neeraj Pradhan: 9933922696**

**Sushila & Saroj Pradhan**

**Naresh & Varsha Shrestha: 9433169663.**



## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### LAND FOR SALE

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

### LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593737387 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

### 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 and is fit for offices, shopping complexes, guest houses, banks etc. Contact: 8509755220, 8348007688.

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General roadside land for sale measuring 30 by 45 square feet near smile land below apica garden . Contact no.7797885351/9733538899.

### CONTACT

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# SGSSS reports indiscriminate PPE kit disposal, appeals to public

## SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 17 JUL:

Members of Shantinagar Gaon Sudhar Samiti Singtam have appealed to the public not to throw used PPE kits at public places.

The appeal poster was pasted on walls in crowded places in and around Singtam, Shantinagar and Rangpo. The poster was also presented to District Hospital Singtam, Singtam Police Station, RTO Singtam Motor Vehicle Department, Dr Khan Clinic and others.

Earlier in the morning, the National Highway site between Shantinagar ATTC Hostel and Shantinagar Petrol Pump was sanitized as per the direction of Prakash Kharel, MEO - Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

This initiative was taken after locals saw worn-out PPE kits along with two polythene bags filled with food waste be-



ing thrown out of a vehicle on the National Highway near Shantinagar on the evening of 13 June. The matter was reported to Singtam Police Station with the vehicle number. The person was in-

formed and later came to collect the waste.

The Samiti's president, Krishna Chettri followed up with the matter and met with different officials of Health, Police, and MEO, Singtam Nagar

Panchayat. He even consulted president, Singtam Driver Association, Norden Tamang and president, Singtam Truck Driver Association, HB Subba. Mr Chettri further contacted SDM Rangpo and RTO Sing-

tam Motor Vehicle Department and informed them about the incident.

SGSS appeals to everyone to be more responsible and not throw waste including used face masks at public places.

## Finau leads Memorial at 65 as Woods has quiet return to golf

**DUBLIN (OHIO), JUL 17 (AP):** Tiger Woods was back on the PGA Tour for the first time in five months and saw Muirfield Village like never before. It was practically empty.

Woods opened with a 10-foot birdie and there was silence. He finished with a 15-foot birdie for a 1-under 71, leaving him five shots behind Tony Finau in the Memorial, and he walked to the side of the green and stood with Rory McIlroy, chatting briefly before they nudged their elbows toward one another without touching.

It's a different world, Woods keeps saying.

It was a reasonable return.

Got off to almost an ideal start and got a feel for the round early, Woods said.

I just didn't make anything today. I had looks at birdies, but I really didn't make much.

He left that to Finau, who seemed to make everything. Finau finished with seven birdies over his last 10 holes on a Muirfield Village course that was faster and tougher than last week in the Workday Charity Open. That gave him a one-shot lead over Ryan Palmer.

The greens are being replaced after the Memorial, so there's no concern about them dying out. They were 2 feet faster on the Stimpmeter, the wind was strong and often changed direction without notice. That showed in the scoring. Only seven players broke 70, compared with 35 rounds in the 60s for the first round last week.

This is the first time in 63 years the PGA Tour has played consecutive weeks on the same course.

Muirfield Village only looked like the same course.

It's night and day, Palmer said.

The greens, they're 2, 3 feet faster for sure. So I knew it wasn't a course you had to just go out and light up. It wasn't a course to overpower, either.

Bryson DeChambeau hit one drive 423 yards with the wind at his back, leaving him 46 yards to the pin on No. 1, a hole where he recalls hitting 5-iron in

the past. That was a rare birdie. With wedges in his hand, he still managed only a 73.

Collin Morikawa won at Muirfield Village last week at 19-under 269, beating Justin Thomas in a playoff. Morikawa opened with a 76. Thomas, who didn't make a bogey until his 55th hole last week, had two bogeys after two holes. He shot 74.

Dustin Johnson shot 80, his highest score on the PGA Tour in more than four years. Rickie Fowler shot 81.

By now, players are used to seeing open spaces with minimal distraction. That wasn't the case for Woods, who last played Feb. 16 when he finished last in the Genesis Invitational during a cold week at Riviera that caused his back to feel stiff.

The absence of spectators was something

new, and it was even more pronounced with Woods playing alongside McIlroy (70) and Brooks Koepka (72). They still had the biggest group, with 36 people around them on the 16th green. That mostly was TV and radio crews, photographers and a few volunteers.

No one to cheer when Woods opened with a birdie and quickly reached 2 under with a wedge that spun back to a foot on the third hole. And there was no one to groan when he wasted a clean card on the back nine with a bunker shot that sailed over the green into the rough.

I definitely didn't have any issue with energy and not having the fans' reactions out there, Woods said.

I still felt the same eagerness, edginess, nervousness starting out, and it was good.

It was a good feel. I haven't felt this in a while.

U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland and Brendan Steele each shot 68, with Jon Rahm among those at 69. McIlroy had two splendid short-game shots on the back nine that led to par and birdie, and he was in a group at 70 that included Jordan Spieth and defending champion Patrick Cantlay.

Cantlay hit a pitch-and-run across the fifth green that last week would have settled next to the hole. On Thursday, it kept rolling until it was just off the green.

Finau didn't play last week, so he wouldn't know the difference.

I don't know about an advantage, but I definitely felt like I played this golf course this way before, Finau said.

I don't know what the numbers might be as far

as the guys that played last week compared to this week. I've played this golf course in these type of conditions, and it definitely helped me.

DeChambeau brought the pop with five more tee shots at 350 yards or longer, two of them over 400 yards. Some of his tee shots wound up in places where players normally hit into the trees or rough and can't reach the green. But he failed to capitalize with short clubs in his hands.

He hit a wedge into a bunker on the 14th and his chip went over the green, which would not have happened last week. He had to make a 6-footer to save bogey. He also was a victim to the swirling wind at the worse time a 7-iron from 230 yards over the water to the par-5 fifth. The wind died and he never had a chance, leading to bogey.

## Bright kindergarten lessons at Bright Academy

### SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 17 JUL:

Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play, children learn how to learn. Keeping this in mind, teachers at Bright Academy arranged an interesting activity online in which Kindergartners were taught 'J' sound words like jug and joker in a fun and interactive way. Not only the little tots but the teachers were also dressed as jokers wearing polka-dot dresses with clown hats and nose bubbles. The kids danced to the rhythm and sang their hearts out. They asked inquisitive questions, laughed, played and learnt. "When life gives you lemons make



lemonade," said the Principal of Bright Academy on innovations forced by the pandemic. Academic

setting is no hindrance when teachers decide to initiate learning, the Principal said.

## VIT Engineering Entrance Examination cancelled

### SUMMIT REPORT

VELLORE, 17 JUL:

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has been conducting VIT Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) for admission to various engineering programmes

offered by VIT group of Institutions at Vellore, Chennai, Amravati (Andhra Pradesh) and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

Conducting VITEEE-2020 in various cities with rising infections has become risky

and dangerous. To keep the student and parent community safe, VITEEE-2020 stands cancelled. The admission will be based on +2 / Pre-University marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics/ Biology.

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**ADMISSION NOTICE FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-21**  
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2. DIPLOMA IN FOOD PRODUCTION - 1 ½ Years.  
3. DIPLOMA IN FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE - 1 ½ Years.

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- Minimum qualification - Passed 10+2 in the system of Senior Secondary Education (any stream) with English as one of the compulsory subject from any recognized Board of Examinations.  
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**Admission Procedure:-**  
Interested candidates should send their application in a proper format through e-mail latest by 15th August 2020. Regular Online / Offline classes will be held from 1st September 2020.  
Application form may be downloaded from official website of the Institute.

PRINCIPAL

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MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS  
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)**

Applications are invited for the post of Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.

The details of eligibility, etc. and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the post may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website: [www.persmin.nic.in](http://www.persmin.nic.in). The last date of receipt of applications in the Department is **17<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**.  
davp 32201/11/0003/2021



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**11. M.Tech** (Dredging & Harbour Engineering)

**12. M.Tech** (Marine Engineering & Management)

**13. MS** (By Research)

**14. Ph.D.**

Online Registration will be open from

Last date for Basic Online Registration & Payment of Fees:

Last date for submission of completed form :

Date of Online CET (except BBA) :

Commencement of Classes (IMU Campuses & its Affiliated Institutes)

Commencement of Classes - BBA Programme\*

**01.07.2020**

**03.08.2020**

**03.08.2020**

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2020\*\***

**05.10.2020 (Except BBA)**

**01.09.2020**

**The above dates are tentative. For further details, please refer IMU's**

**Academic Brochure 2020-21 available at [www.imu.edu.in](http://www.imu.edu.in)**

**Live webinar on IMU-CET 2020 procedures is planned on 18.07.2020. For registration please visit [www.imu.edu.in](http://www.imu.edu.in).**

**IMU-CET is mandatory for getting admissions in pre-sea courses [Diploma in Nautical Science, B.Sc (Nautical Science), B.Tech (Marine Engineering)] approved by Director General of Shipping in all Maritime Training Institutes across India.**

\* Admission to BBA (Logistics, Retailing and E-Commerce) is not through IMU-CET, hence candidates (interested in BBA) need to register separately. Please refer Academic Brochure 2020-21, for further details regarding BBA Programme.

# **Note:** For Candidates native to Andaman & Nicobar Islands or domiciled there for at least 5 years, a separate CET for UG programmes will be conducted by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration on behalf of IMU.

\*\* The date of CET may change due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Candidates must follow IMU-Website for confirmation / updates.

# Considering the prevailing pandemic (COVID-19) situation, IMU reserves the right either to conduct CET or adopt alternative method for the admission process

DAVP/37208/11/0006/2021



**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

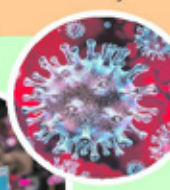
- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

### 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  
District surveillance Officer  
EAST : 7029372100  
WEST : 9593297800  
NORTH : 9641957468  
SOUTH : 7407691463  
New STNM  
AMS : 9434711402

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



## Avoid the Babel Syndrome

*Resuscitate languages and the rest will follow*

One of the more encouraging signs when it comes to the vibrancy of languages is to see the young make lists and take notes in the mother tongues. It is a rarity, because even speakers of the lingua franca nowadays take notes in English and they are already conversing on the smartphones in emojis. The worry then is that the mother tongue, the language they would be expected to be the most fluent in when conveying emotions and ideas, has now become the formal language – something they can write exams in or maybe use to speak with elders, but cannot joke or share ideas in. So, when the mother tongue becomes the language of casual conversations and spontaneous note-taking, it becomes a special moment, underlining a community's success at keeping their culture alive because no culture can survive once its language is lost.

In fact, a major concern exists in communities all over the world over the preservation of native languages and cultures. While earlier, indigenous communities could rely on traditional educational systems to ensure their cultural survival, this support system does not exist anymore. Earlier, the language would get passed down around kitchen fires and along with it would slip through the essence of ethnic cultures and traditions. As Sikkim grows more cosmopolitan, outside influences have edged out this form of education. The formal education system which includes many indigenous/ local languages in its curriculum does not include the subtlety with which cultures were instinctively fostered earlier. At best, the schools can equip the students with the language, which they should then utilise to learn. Unlike the present trend where the learning curve ends with the schooling years, the learning should in fact begin once the basics of a language have been picked up and then should launch the process of mastering it. This becomes necessary because indigenous languages are finding fewer and fewer people using them anymore and the few who have mastered the tongue need to record whatever it is they can cull from the older generation so that some element of their identity survives the march of time. In fact, this is one aspect of the cultural revivalism afoot all over the Hills that needs to be paid more attention to.

While it is all too easy to play the role of the victimised and collect sympathy, it is in proving real concern and engagement that the Hill communities are failing. This applies not just to the minority Lepchas and Bhutias of the Hills but also the Nepalese. It needs no reiteration that language is the link to identity. It is the language that keeps cultures alive. The nuances of each language highlight the influence of the past which shapes the present of individual communities. That said, let's look at the state of ethnic languages among the speakers themselves. When a language is being taught in school, it has to mean more than just a medium of communication. It has to become the tool of learning and discovery. One does not know whom to blame here, but few in Sikkim have proven that they can deploy their language skills for this purpose.

Blame it on the influence of television or now access to affordable broadband which has wiped out the reading habit or the confusion of being exposed to too many languages [Nepali, English, Hindi and the mother tongue, in Sikkim's case], but fact remains that we are grooming a generation of students who are not proficient in any language. We are talking here in terms of reading, understanding and writing. Anyone can communicate, but a student is expected to do better.

The previous generation has to shoulder most of the blame. They relied too much on tokenism. A language day here, a smattering of language skills there and they thought they had done enough. They were wrong. A language has to become relevant to survive. It can be made relevant if important and interesting books are written in that language, if popular music uses it. Just look around, how many interesting books can a lay person find in Bhutia or Lepcha which is not available in other languages. Even Nepali language essentially survives only as the lingua franca. To prove the point - can anyone recall the last work in fiction in Nepali which was a runaway hit that everyone wanted to read and possess? Fact remains, we are wiping out our cultures because we are not serious enough about our languages.

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

## China is becoming increasingly assertive - security law in Hong Kong is just the latest example

NIKI JP ALSFORD & ED GRIFFITH  
THECONVERSATION.COM

China's enforcement of a new security law in Hong Kong marks the de facto end of the "one country, two systems" model that came into effect following the British handover in 1997. This has repercussions that go far beyond Hong Kong. The Sino-British Joint Declaration, signed by both China and the UK in 1984, paved the way for the handover. It states clearly that the territory shall enjoy "basic rights and freedom" and "a high degree of autonomy" for 50 years - until 2047. The treaty was lodged with the UN and so any breach of it is a breach of international law.

Arguing that the new security law prematurely removed Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy, the UK proposed a pathway for an estimated 3 million Hong Kongers to gain British citizenship. China was quick to assert that this decision breached the terms of its agreements with the UK.

The Chinese government has made no secret of its contempt for the joint declaration in the past, deriding it as nothing more than a simple historical document. However, a number of China's other territorial claims could equally be brought into question using the very same logic. China's sovereignty over Tibet, for example, is rooted in international law governing the succession of states, which China claims makes it the successor state to the Qing government that signed the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1906.

Claims by China that Taiwan should be "reunified" with the mainland rest partially on its interpretation of the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty, which stipulates that Japan is to renounce all right, title and claim to Formosa (Taiwan) and the Pescadores (Penghu). China's claims over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands in the East China Sea - which are



disputed between Japan, Taiwan and China - are also based on the 1943 Cairo and 1945 Potsdam declarations, which declared that Japan should return all of its occupied territory at the end of the war.

All this means that China should be careful its neighbours don't take such a dismissive approach to these historical treaties as it has done with the joint declaration.

### FLEXING MUSCLES

But something more nuanced is happening in China's foreign policy towards both friends and rivals than just a rejection of a historical agreement. Recent deadly clashes along the border with India in the Himalayas, attempts to shift the parameters of the Senkaku/Diaoyu dispute with a near-continuous presence around the islands, and continuing moves to strengthen its control of the South China Sea all point to a conscious shift in China's behaviour.

What really matters, it would seem, is China's relative power in the international system - both against its neighbours in the region, and the wider world. It's likely that Chinese officials see this as a chance to shift the parameters of operations in a

number of areas while the US is distracted domestically by COVID-19 and led by a non-internationalist president.

### EXTRADITION DISAGREEMENTS

Since the new security law makes secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign intervention illegal in Hong Kong, it has certain spill-over effects. Not least is the issue of extradition, which is a controversial issue in Hong Kong. A proposed new extradition bill sparked mass protests in Hong Kong in June 2019 in which nearly 2 million people took to the streets, over fears people could be extradited to China.

The period of terror that is enveloping the island would mean that those commenting on issues of independence for Hong Kong run the risk of breaching the new security law outside of Hong Kong's territory. It's possible that even this article might fall foul of it.

This brings into question the other extradition agreements that Hong Kong has with 30 countries, most of whom do not have similar arrangements with mainland China. Canada was the first to suspend its extradition treaty with Hong Kong in early July 2020 and Australia followed

suit a few days later. These countries are right to respond to such a danger to their citizens and residents.

Others with such agreements include the US, New Zealand, the UK, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia and India. It's likely only a matter of time before others make similar decisions.

China's actions in Hong Kong are symptomatic of its changing outlook and attitude to its neighbours. The days of taoguang yanghui - the approach taken to foreign policy under Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s and 1980s that is frequently translated as "keeping a low profile" - are already long gone. However, a clear willingness to disregard international treaties in this way shows that China now has the confidence and courage to challenge the status quo of the international system.

The global reaction indicates that this will not be left unanswered, laying the groundwork for an increasingly difficult relationship between China and other world powers.

[Niki JP Alsford is Professor in Asia Pacific Studies, Director of the Asia Pacific Studies Institutes, University of Central Lancashire; Ed Griffith is Principal Lecturer in Asia Pacific Studies, University of Central Lancashire]

## Beware of where you buy your face mask: it may be tainted with modern day slavery

SARAH STEELE & LEJLA SARCEVIC  
THECONVERSATION.COM

From July 24, people in England will have to wear a face mask when inside shops, as well as on public transport. This brings England in line with many other countries that have similar rules already in place.

Once mainly used in hospitals and science labs, masks, visors and disposable gloves are now a feature of everyday life. As a result, sales of these items are through the roof. This is cause for concern for many of the world's poor, not just because protecting themselves is harder and more expensive in the face of a surge in demand, but because many will find themselves at risk of being exploited – becoming modern slaves – as production rapidly increases.

Over the last few years, following legislative reforms, big medical supply buyers, such as the NHS, have monitored their supply chains for modern slavery. They have found these practices among personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturers, textile suppliers and medical device producers.

An exposé in the Guardian in 2018 revealed exploitation and slavery around NHS rubber glove suppliers, leading to reviews, reforms and contracts ending. The textile industry and mask makers have also been implicated in using child and bonded labour and for violating human rights.

This concerns us all. Some 40.3 million people are estimated to be in slavery, 25 million of whom are involved in making goods and providing services. According to the Global Slavery Index, the G20 countries alone continue importing products at risk of being made by slave labour worth US\$354 billion (£278 billion) annually.

Coronavirus is driving many into unemployment and increasing economic vulnerability, making recruitment into slavery even easier and the profits of such exploitation higher. The International Labor Organization estimates that 1.6 billion people will lose their livelihood in the informal economy because of the pandemic. And the most vulnerable may become the unwitting victims of unscrupulous recruiters and companies that use bonded labour to ramp up production in the face of increased demand.

The issue is twofold. One, demand has surged, upending many of the usual mechanisms we use to address modern slavery. Supply chain monitoring has been reduced as urgent purchasing of PPE has become a priority and as people have bought their



own equipment. Governments have lifted bans on buying PPE from companies known to use slave labour in order to get additional supplies. Two, more vulnerable people are making riskier decisions to survive economically, making recruitment into exploitation easier.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

#### 1. MAKE AND RECYCLE

Consumerism drives a lot of the economic motivation behind exploitation. We want cheap goods, so businesses secure slaves or underpaid, exploited workers to cut costs. By shopping differently and using what we already have to make what we need, we can change this. Reusing and repurposing the textiles we already have is not only more environmentally sound, it also reduces the risk of more people being enslaved.

We can use old clothes and bedding to make many necessary pieces of PPE, including making our own masks. The World Health Organization also provides information on using homemade masks safely.

#### 2. BUY SURVIVOR-MADE GOODS

Survivors often need work after they emerge from exploitation. Empowerment is critical and survivor-made goods create the possibility of real and lasting freedom while assuring you as a consumer that you aren't supporting human rights abuses. Rethreaded and FreesetGlobal are two examples of such businesses. Look locally for survivor-run or survivor-employing businesses, many of which have

moved into making PPE during the pandemic.

### 3. BUY GOODS FROM SUPPLIERS WHO CHECK THEIR SUPPLY CHAINS FOR SLAVERY

In the past, big businesses were often afraid of exploring their supply chains for fear that they'd discover something that would get picked up in the press. Legislation around the world has made these businesses consider the possibility of slavery in the supply chain and report on it. But you as a consumer also play a role.

You can start by checking a company's modern slavery report. This often isn't possible on third-party sellers on platforms such as Amazon or eBay, so a number of businesses have emerged that are selling PPE direct to consumer, including To The Market and Masks for Freedom.

These are just a few steps you can take when buying masks and other products to keep you and your loved ones safe. A number of apps also allow you to explore your wider slavery footprint, and help you buy products that protect fair trade, good labour practices and human rights around the world.

[Sarah Steele is Senior Research Associate, Department of Politics and International Studies; Associate Research Fellow, Cambridge Centre for Applied Research into Human Trafficking; Senior Research Associate, Jesus College, University of Cambridge; Lejla Sarcevic is Forum Senior Research Associate, University of Cambridge]



## Earthquake of 4.2 magnitude hits Mizoram

**AIZAWL, JULY 17 (PTI):** An earthquake of 4.2 magnitude hit Mizoram's Champhai district on Friday afternoon, the ninth quake to rock the state in the last one month, officials said.

No loss of life and property has been reported yet, they said.

The earthquake occurred at 3.56 pm and the epicentre was 33 km south-southwest of Champhai, according to the National Centre for Seismology.

The depth of the earthquake was 10 km, it said.

## Short film to highlight importance of Hindi language

**BHOPAL, JUL 17 (PTI):** An Indore-based filmmaker has made a short film titled "14 September" to raise awareness about Hindi language.

September 14 is celebrated as Hindi Diwas in India.

Keshav Rai, who has made several short films on social issues so far, said he chose to make a film on Hindi language as he was shocked to know that a large number of school children fail in this subject in various board exams in the country, including in the Hindi-speaking state of Uttar Pradesh.

"When I read in newspapers that more than eight lakh children failed in Hindi in a major state like Uttar Pradesh, I was appalled to see the condition of the language that binds the people of the country," Rai said on Friday.

Rai said that he has written the script of the film, which has been directed by Rajesh Rathi.

"This short film aims to raise awareness among the people, especially children and teachers, about the importance of Hindi language," he said.

## Complete lockdown in U'khand this weekend

**DEHRADUN, JUL 17 (PTI):** The Uttarakhand government on Friday decided to impose a complete lockdown in the state this weekend in view of a rapid surge in COVID-19 cases.

Chief Minister Trivenra Singh Rawat, however, clarified that the decision has been taken only for this Saturday and Sunday.

"All of a sudden 200 fresh cases came in yesterday. The only solution is to create a gap and break the cycle. Even traders wanted to open the market for five days only and the situation also calls for it. So a lockdown is being imposed on Saturday and Sunday," he told reporters.

It depends on the situation if the complete lockdown on weekends will be imposed in the coming weeks too, Rawat said.

Nearly half of Paltan Bazar, the city's main market, was sealed and sanitised after the salesman of a shoes shop tested positive for COVID-19.

# Over 20K COVID cases in Assam now, death toll 50



**GUWAHATI, JUL 16 (PTI):** Assam crossed the 20,000 mark with 892 new COVID-19 cases and the death toll due to the infection reached 50 with two deaths on Thursday, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The total positive cases in the state reached 20,646 and out of the new cases, 598 patients are from Kamrup Metropolitan district which in-

clude 184 from Guwahati Central Jail, the minister said.

Two male COVID-19 patients, aged 63 and 50 years and hailing from Kamrup Metropolitan district and Baksa respectively, died due to the infection, taking the total death toll in the state due to the disease to 50.

"Disheartening to let you know that we lost two precious lives today

to #COVID19. My condolences to their bereaved families and friends", the minister tweeted.

A 93-year-old woman was among 666 patients who were released from different hospitals, taking the total number of discharged patients to 13,554 in the state, he said.

The woman was undergoing treatment for COVID-19 at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital

and was released Thursday after having "firmly defeated coronavirus," the minister said.

"At times, we get opportunity to smile amid adversity too! An incredible story also of competence of our doctors who handled this delicate case with finest precision," he tweeted.

Assam reached the 20,646 COVID-19 positive mark in 108 days with the first case reported on March 31. More than 12,000 cases were detected in the last one month.

Out of the 20,646 positive patients in the state, there are 7,039 active cases, 13,554 have recovered, 50 have died and three migrated out of the state.

The community transmission of coronavirus in Guwahati city -- 8,256 positive cases so far since June 24 -- was likely to return to a nor-

mal level by the end of August, he said.

The situation in the city, which falls under Kamrup Metropolitan district and is under complete lockdown since June 28, is still critical and more testing was required to bring it under control, the minister said while addressing a press conference in the evening.

"We will have to conduct more than three lakh tests in Guwahati city alone as testing and tracking was the sure way to control the situation," he said.

So far 1,10,000 people have been tested in the city in 31 COVID screening centres but "it has been decided to intensify the process by setting up 60 new screening centres, taking the total to more than 90, Sarma said.

The lockdown in

the city is not giving the desired result as large number of people from the police, para-military forces, jails and from places where there is community living are testing positive, the minister said.

In Assam, 726 police personnel have tested positive so far and 350 have recovered with 20 of them joining duty, while in Guwahati Central Jail 240 persons have tested positive.

The situation in Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Golaghat and Silchar were also causing concern with rising cases but the situation in the other district were stable.

The state crossed the six lakh mark in testing, reaching the total of 6,01,385 samples so far, the minister said.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to launch a nation-wide campaign for plasma

donation by recovered COVID-19 patients from other states to the Assam Plasma Bank, he said.

In many states, there are no plasma banks and so recovered symptomatic patients from other states can come to Assam and donate plasma for the treatment of other positive patients here, the minister said.

"We will launch a nation-wide publicity campaign and those from other states desiring to donate plasma will be accorded the state guest status, along with to and fro flight tickets and staying facilities", he said.

In Assam, there were few COVID-19 cases during the initial stages and as such the number of plasma donors is less now but with the increase in positive cases, there will be more donors from the next month, Sarma added.

## Nagaland cops arrest Mumbai-based animal rights activist

**MUMBAI, JUL 17 (PTI)** Animal rights activist Hema Choudhary was arrested on Friday from Mumbai by Nagaland police for allegedly making objectionable remarks against people of the north-eastern state, an official said.

She was held from her home in Oshiwara in the western part of the

metropolis, he added.

Choudhary had made the remarks in a Youtube video after which an offence was registered by cyber crime police station in Nagaland under section 153A, 153B and 505 of IPC, the official informed.

"On Friday, a Nagaland police team informed us about the



case and then went to Choudhary's residence and arrested her. She will be taken to Nagaland for

further probe," said senior inspector Dayanand Bangar of Oshiwara police station.

## Admission to colleges in West Bengal via online mode this year

**KOLKATA, JUL 17 (PTI):** Admission to colleges in West Bengal for under-graduate courses will be through the online mode this year and students will not be called for counselling or verification of documents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state Higher Education department said.

The department in a notification on Thursday said after the publication of higher secondary results, admission to all under-graduate courses in the state-funded higher educational institutions for the ensuing academic session will be made online (stand alone mode) with effect from August 10, 2020.

"Prospective candidates should not be called for counselling or verification of documents

during the process of admission," the notification said, adding that eligible candidates should be emailed by college and all testimonials will be uploaded online during verification.

Verification of documents should be done only when the students report for the classes in due course, the notice said.

Reacting to the notification, All Bengal University Teachers Association (ABUTA) said in a statement, "it will not be possible for many students in rural as well as urban areas to get the benefit of online admissions in the present COVID-19 situation."

The Left teachers' body said: "While in-



ternet connectivity is weak in many rural pockets, many parts of the state including Kolkata have been turned into containment zone. Students in containment zones will have to risk their lives to visit a cyber cafe and upload data."

ABUTA leader Goutam Maity said, "if the government maintains

classes cannot be immediately held due to COVID-19 situation, why such tearing hurry for starting admission."

Education minister Partha Chatterjee said on Wednesday that students will take admission to colleges in the state for under-graduate courses through the online mode this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Earthquake hits Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**PORT BLAIR, JUL 17 (PTI):** An earthquake of 4.8 magnitude hit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Friday morning, officials said.

There were no immedi-

ate reports of any loss of life or damage to property, they said.

The earthquake occurred at 10.31 am and the epicentre was 250-km east of Port Blair, the

capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, according to the National Centre for Seismology.

The depth of the earthquake was 10-km, it said.



## 'India For Assam to raise fund for flood-hit state

**GUWAHATI, JUL 17 (PTI):** An initiative called 'India for Assam' has been launched to create awareness about the current flood calamity in the state and help in rehabilitation.

The initiative, launched by media conglomerate Times Network, has urged all countrymen to help Assam by contributing to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, a release by the company said.

Floods are a recurrent feature every year in Assam and this year it has submerged 27 districts and affected more than 40 lakh residents.

"Assam flood situation continues to remain grim, painfully displacing both humans and wild-



life," the release said urging for donations.

Times Network MD and CEO M K Anand was quoted in the release : Assam is facing the worst of nature's fury, even as it confronts COVID-19. Efforts to restore normalcy in Assam requires our immediate attention. 'India for Assam' is a clarion

call to the nation, appealing to all Indians to step forward and generously donate to the task of relief & rehabilitation.

Times Network in its continuous news reportage through news stories, special feature, explainer videos, website articles and digital videos will extensively cover the As-

sam flood and aid the relief efforts through a fund raiser plea, he said.

The 'India for Assam' national level drive will run through Times Now, Times Now World, Mirror Now and on timesnownews.com to create maximum assistance in the rehabilitation efforts, Anand added.

## New book documents pandemic through poetry



**NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (PTI):** The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has upended our lives like never before. Here, giving some solace to isolated souls and a reality check in verses is a soon-to-come book of poetry.

The book, titled "Singing in the Dark", is an international anthology of poems which include works by over a hundred poets from across six continents written in 20 languages. Edited by eminent poet K Satchidanandan and scholar-author Nishi Chawla, the book will be released later this year, announced publishing house Penguin Random House.

The poetic record of these rather strange times include contributions by Vijay Seshadri, Grace Cavalieri, Arundhati Subramaniam, George Szirtes, Chandrakant Patil, Anamika,

Francis Combes, Rafael Soler, Jerry Pinto and Ashok Vajpayee.

"This anthology had a humble beginning with a few poets from the US and India but gradually evolved into an intercontinental collection of poetic responses to the diverse aspects of the pandemic.

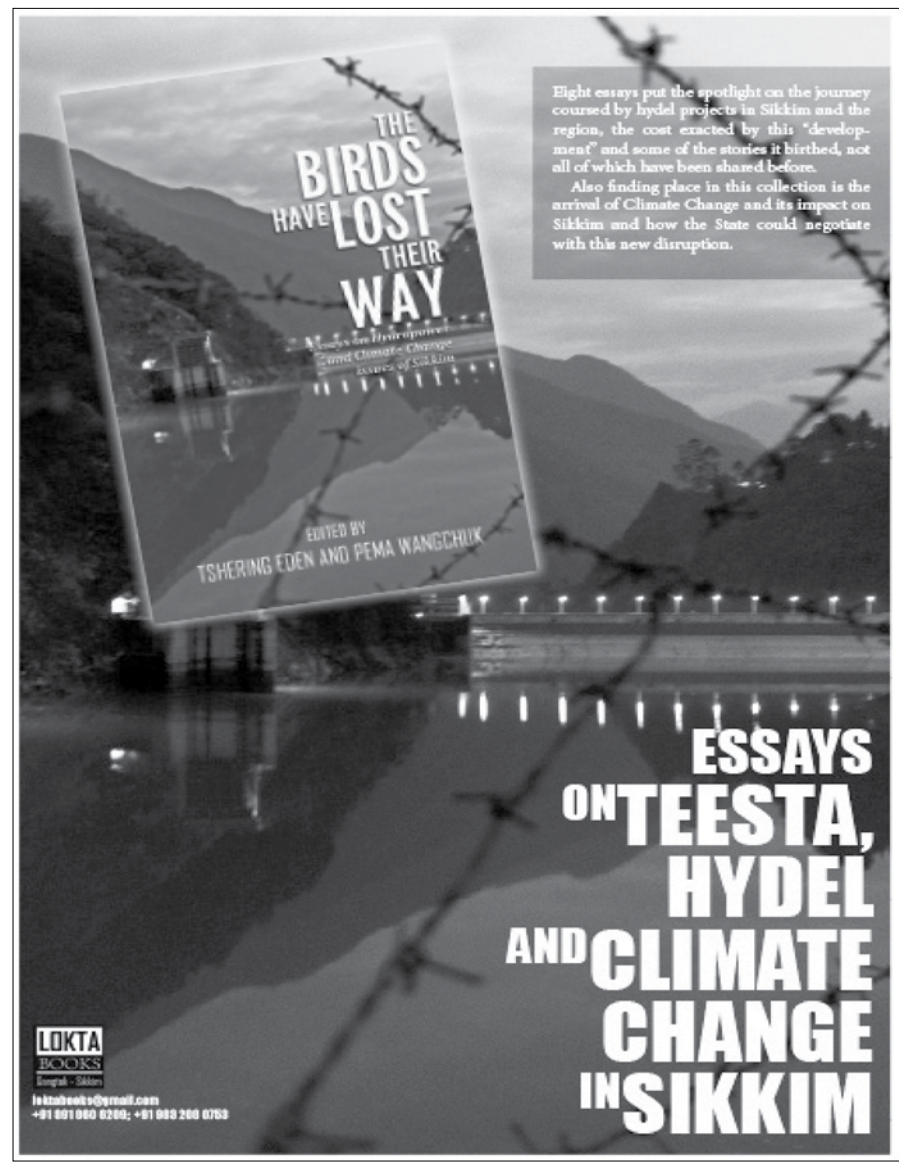
"The moods vary from quiet contemplation and choking anguish to suppressed rage and careful celebration. Consisting of poems of recall, experience and dream, this book has evolved into a virtual aesthetic archive of these strange times for generations to come," said Satchidanandan.

According to the publisher, the poems capture the anxiety and agitation of isolation, the unparalleled joys of witnessing the revival of nature, the cruel realities of an in-

equitable world, besides reflecting on the impermanence of life.

Commenting on the book, Elizabeth Kuruvilla, executive editor, Ebury Publishing & Vintage Publishing (PRHI), who commissioned the book, said "Singing in the Dark is a powerful poetic testimony to this moment and will be read by generations to come".

"No country, be it big or small, has been spared the fear of the annihilation of a vast number of its population by a strangely beautiful-looking virus... As we cling to life and try to recreate a sense of normality, we swing between moments of anxiety, creativity, loneliness and warm fellowship. It is only poetry that we can turn to in order to excavate the profound imprint that this new world will leave on our minds," she added.





# Zinedine Zidane finds his ultimate fulfilment after Real Madrid's title

SID LOWE

**MADRID, 17 JUL [THEGUARDIAN]:** Just before 11pm on Thursday night, two months after the title race was supposed to finish and a few seconds after it actually had, two men working for the local council climbed up the statue of the goddess Cibeles, tied a Real Madrid scarf around her neck, draped a flag over her shoulders and climbed back down. Wearing hi-vis shirts, wellies and waders, they were the only ones who got close. Cars passed by beeping but on the street there were more police than people. Usually the scene of celebration, thousands gathering, this time fans had been asked to stay away and the men who had won the league weren't coming either.

They were 15km north-east. "We would have liked be there at Cibeles with the fans, but there will be time for that and they'll be happy watching at home," Zinedine Zidane said. Around him, the floor was soon covered in confetti and his players wore commemorative T-shirts. We Are The Champions boomed around and a celebratory banquet was prepared, burger and chips the dinner of champions. But this was their training ground, not the Santiago Bernabéu, and when Sergio Ramos lifted the trophy only a couple of hundred people were there to see it: staff, ballboys, six reporters and Villarreal standing politely to applaud. It was, the manager said: "Strange for everyone." It had been that kind of

season.

Yet if there had been no wild celebration, no open-topped bus on the day that Spain paid tribute to almost 30,000 victims of coronavirus and figures brought fears of a more outbreaks and renewed restrictions, there was nothing empty in the embraces. Madrid's manager felt fulfilled, more than ever before. "I don't have the words; I feel huge emotion," he said. He also described it as one of the most significant days of his life. For the man who has won a trophy every 19 games, the day he won La Liga stood above all those European Cups, not last because of how far they had come. The longest season had ended with Madrid's third league in 12 years, just as he had hoped it would.

"Our season will be good, I'm convinced," Zidane had said almost exactly a year ago. Which might sound standard enough, the usual pre-season optimism soon bitten by reality, but that was in New York where his side had just let in seven against Atlético Madrid. "One great team and one set of ruins," judged one front cover; there was "no football, no fight, no plan." Only there was, and from the rubble came the champions, the hint of a new culture emerging at a club where Europe had eclipsed all else. "Zidane built the plan; the league was our objective from the start," said Thibaut Courtois on Thursday night.

It wasn't smooth and it wasn't always sparkling, but slowly



something was building even if it wasn't with the tools Zidane had in mind. Paul Pogba hadn't arrived, while James Rodríguez and Gareth Bale hadn't gone, their moves blocked after the defeat to Atlético. They were destined to play minor roles – unlike the men in whom Zidane trusted when others didn't, club included. This is not a new side, at least not when it comes to the names. Eight players have started more than 20 league games and all of them were there already. Sergio Ramos and Luka Modric are 34, Marcelo and Karim Benzema 32, Kroos 30. Between them, they have 54 seasons at the club; some didn't want them to have any more. If earlier in the season it so often felt like Madrid relied on the dynamic presence of Fede Valverde, and while Vinicius was decisive in the clásico, ultimately this feels like the success of the old guard, trusted and revived by Zidane.

Build around a spine of seven+two that have

almost always played – Courtois, Carvajal, Ramos, Raphaël Varane, Mendy/Marcelo, Casemiro, Kroos, Modric/Valverde and Benzema – Madrid have won a league in which they've had minimal contributions from their new arrivals (Mendy apart) and even less from their four most expensive players, including their two most costly signings ever and four of the all-time top six. Bale, Hazard, Jovic and Rodríguez cost €336m for an average of 8.75 games and 1.5 goals. With Hazard struggling with injuries, Benzema has led, scoring 21 league goals; that's more than all the other forwards put together. The second top scorer is Ramos, on 10.

And yet at every step, there have been key contributions at key moments. Twenty-one different men have scored: of the outfield players, only Éder Militão and Brahim Díaz (39 minutes) have not. They went top at Valladolid in January, Nacho Fernán-

dez heading in the only goal and Zidane talking about the significance of set plays. The week before Casemiro scored both against Sevilla. At Getafe, Varane scored two from set plays. At Alavés, Dani Carvajal and Ramos scored. All that in a seven-week run than included 0-0 draws at Athletic and Barcelona and a 95th-minute equaliser at Valencia, scored when Courtois went up for a corner.

There were glimpses of something more expansive – Eibar, Leganés – but that idea was taking shape. There was variety in their formations – 4-3-3, 4-5-1 4-4-2 – they pressed higher than before and the ball was brought out cleaner now, while there was also a tighter structure than in Zidane's first spell. Solidity and seriousness were the foundation stone, an idea more pronounced after the pandemic but there from the start. When Madrid dropped points in week two, giving the ball away, Zidane complained that they

should have just booted the bloody thing. In week five he did something even he hadn't done before: took a Madrid team to the Sanchez Pizjuán and won 1-0, the word solidarity a recurring theme afterwards. Two weeks after, they drew the derby 0-0, Courtois responding to suggestions of conservatism by saying: "We weren't going to go mad." "Solidity is very important; it's what gives you life," Zidane added. "If we're defensively strong, OK. We'll do something in attack."

Not that it was perfect. Beaten by Mallorca in the autumn, there were doubts. And had they lost in Istanbul in October, Zidane might not have survived. They came through those and went top when they defeated Barcelona in March, but that was their only win in four league games. Out of the Copa del Rey, they lost to Manchester City in Europe too. The week after the clásico, they lost at Betis and Barcelona were leaders again, the

situation delicate. And then everything stopped.

When it restarted, it was something else. Not so much two halves as two different things clumsily welded together, like From Dusk Till Dawn. Barcelona had never really convinced even when they led, the team desperately trying to keep the club's crisis at bay, and now they started to collapse, dropping eight of the last 30 points on course to finish with their fewest points in over a decade. Meanwhile, Madrid got stronger, the new context suiting them. If Zidane had changed Madrid's culture, it is also true that something shifted when the league became more like the Champions League, the target without touching distance, a sole focus. Five weeks to get through and nothing else, 11 games to glory. Or 10, as it turned out.

"Lockdown was good for us, to react and take the return super seriously: there was no margin for error in our minds," Ramos admitted. "What makes now different is that after lockdown when they came back they wanted to do great things; you could see it in the training sessions; they wanted to do more, and that tells you everything," Zidane revealed. Everything else stripped away – the noise, the tension, the intangibles, all those elements that bring equality – they were too strong. "When their fifth sub is Kroos ..." Athletic manager Gaizka Garitano said. The former Madrid manager Bernd Schus-

ter even suggested that it might even have been good for them to play behind closed doors, away from the pressure of the Bernabéu, where those tight games are a problem, not a pathway. One that led inevitably to the title, with 10 wins from 10, just four goals let in.

Since the restart Madrid have never been behind, let alone beaten. They started two points behind and finished seven points in front; it wasn't always brilliant – although the second half against Valencia and the first in Granada were superb – but it brokered little argument. They didn't even need all their games. Zidane insisted that the title race would run until the last day but for once he was wrong. Victory against Villarreal meant that Madrid won the league with a game to spare.

After everything that happened, everything he believes in, all the doubts that he knows are there – even from within own club, even from within his own mind – this was the competition Zidane wanted most of all. No one had appreciated Barcelona's titles like him, which is why no one appreciated this quite like him. The league was the true test, he kept insisting, the proof that you're the best, reason enough to visit Cibeles, even if that has to be some other day. "The Champions League is the Champions League," Zidane said late on Thursday, "but, the Spanish league, pfff ... the Spanish league is the dog's bollocks."

## Leicester, Man Utd win to guarantee final-day shootout in PL

**LONDON, JUL 17 (AP):** The **race** to secure the final two Champions League qualification spots from the Premier League is going to the last day of the season. And two of the three teams still in contention will be going head to head.

Leicester and Manchester United both won on Thursday to ensure their meeting in the final round of matches on July 26 will have plenty riding on it notably tens of millions of dollars in potential Champions League prize money next season.

Leicester's 2-0 home victory over Sheffield United was followed hours later by a 2-0 win for United at Crystal Palace. It left the two teams tied on points with two games remaining, with fourth-place Leicester only ahead by virtue of a superior goal difference.

Before their final-day showdown at King Pow-



er Stadium, Leicester plays away to Tottenham on Sunday and United hosts West Ham on Wednesday.

If Leicester and United both win those games, they realistically could find themselves in third and fourth place, respectively, because Chelsea currently one point ahead of them in third place is away to champion Liverpool in its next-to-last game Wednesday.

United rode its luck against Palace, which had a strong penalty appeal turned down

Wilfried Zaha appeared to be tripped by Victor Lindelof moments before going behind to Marcus Rashford's well-taken goal in the first-half stoppage time.

Palace then had an equalizer by Jordan Ayew ruled out by VAR for the narrowest of offside calls in the 55th. United sealed victory through Anthony Martial's 17th league goal of the season, which matches Rashford's goal tally.

Leicester was a more comfortable winner, with goals by Ayoze Perez and substitute Demarai Gray

seeing off Sheffield United.

Jamie Vardy struck the post for Leicester but stayed on 23 goals for the season, meaning he leads the race for the Golden Boot scoring trophy by three goals heading into the final two rounds.

Leicester will have to do without two key players playmaker James Maddison and left back Ben Chilwell for its last two games, with manager Brendan Rodgers confirming they will not recover from injury in time. **VILLA BLOW**

Aston Villa's hopes of staying up received a big blow when the team conceded a late goal to draw 1-1 at Everton.

Theo Walcott scored in the 87th minute for Everton to keep Villa in next-to-last place, tied on points with 18th-place Bournemouth. They are both three points behind West Ham and Watford, who meet Friday in their

game in hand.

Ezri Konsa put Villa ahead in the 72nd minute and the visitors should have doubled the lead minutes later, only for Anwar El Ghazi to miss what would have been a tap-in at the back post after being set up by Jack Grealish.

**BRIGHTON NEARLY SAFE**

Brighton is almost sure of another season in the Premier League after earning a 1-1 draw at Southampton.

Danny Ings scored his 20th goal in the league to earn Southampton a point but Brighton, which went ahead though Neal Maupay, was celebrating at the final whistle.

Graham Potter's team is six points ahead of both Villa and Bournemouth.

Ings joined Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in being three goals behind Vardy overall.

time with Barcelona pushing forward searching for a late goal.

I said it some time ago, that playing like this we had no chance of winning the Champions League, and it turns out we didn't even have enough to win la Liga, Messi said.

We need to take a breather, let some air in, and clean out minds of all that has happened since December. Barcelona must regroup for the second leg of its Champions League round-of-16 match against Napoli on Aug. 8. The first leg finished 1-1 in Italy.

## Inside No 9: Martial excelling in central role with Solskjær's support

ED AARONS

**LONDON, 17 JUL [THEGUARDIAN]:** What's in a number? Plenty, it seems, if your name is Anthony Martial. Before Manchester United's battling victory against Crystal Palace on Thursday, the Frenchman revealed the contents of a text Ole Gunnar Solskjær had sent him last summer:

"He said: 'Do you want to take your No 9 shirt back?'" Martial said. "I straight up said yes! He told me: 'Now it's up to you to show me you deserve it every time you're on the pitch.'" Martial was assigned the shirt when he signed from Monaco in September 2015 as a teenager. He made an encouraging start to his career at Old Trafford under Louis van Gaal, ending his first season with 17 goals in all competitions playing both as a central striker and out wide. The arrival of José Mourinho a year later saw him shifted to the No 11 shirt to accommodate Zlatan Ibrahimovic and rarely used through the middle.

There were serious doubts over whether he would be offered a new contract before Solskjær took over in December 2018. More than a few eyebrows were raised when Martial agreed an extension until 2024 six weeks later, given he had scored only 21 times in the Premier League since his breakthrough season. By April last year, Martial had started just 25 matches as a central striker and scored only seven goals. He had shown only occasional glimpses of the talent



that saw him win the 2015 Golden Boy award for Europe's best under-21 player.

Yet while most people expected Solskjær to bring in a direct replacement for Romelu Lukaku when the Belgian striker was sold to Internazionale last summer, he instead placed his faith in the player who started out in the youth team of Les Ulis – a club in the southwestern banlieues of Paris which also produced Patrice Evra and Thierry Henry. Thanks to his manager's motivational tactic straight from the Sir Alex Ferguson school of inspiration, the 24-year-old has grasped his opportunity with both hands.

At Selhurst Park, Martial's 22nd goal of the season in all competitions ensured he remains level with Marcus Rashford in their battle to finish as United's top scorer. It also capped an excellent all-round display from a player finally fulfilling his early promise. The burgeoning partnership with the England striker has parallels with the 1999 Champions League-winning Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole combination.

Earlier, Martial had created space for Rashford to score at the end of the first half after a clever decoy

run following an exchange of passes with Bruno Fernandes. The Portuguese is still the architect of it all, of course, and was unlucky not to extend United's lead in the second half after striking the post.

"It was a tight game and we didn't get the rhythm in our passing but two fantastic goals won it for us," said Solskjær. "The finish was great for Rashford's goal but there was quick interchanging passing in the buildup. We did not do it enough because they are a handful to play against; they have to trust themselves more.

"Marcus and Anthony are enjoying themselves. When they go out on to the pitch for a shift, they go out with a smile and they defend each other too. When I see those boys with that body language, I'm delighted."

Wilfried Zaha, who was only 20 when he moved to Old Trafford in January 2013, rightly felt aggrieved not to have been awarded a penalty just before Rashford's goal and showed plenty of the ability that persuaded Ferguson to make him his final United signing. How he must wish someone had shown the same faith in him as Solskjær has with Martial.



## Tokyo Virus Cases Hit Record for a Second Consecutive Day

Tokyo saw a second straight day of record coronavirus cases Friday, with 293 cases reported amid growing concern about the ability of authorities to suppress the outbreak. The city had 286 cases Thursday.

While Hong Kong and Australia have tightened restrictions on people's activities as virus cases rebounded, Japanese officials have said similar measures are not needed now. Even as nationwide cases approach peak levels, they continue to stress the differences between the current surge and the one in April when the country declared a state of emergency.

"There is a debate right now about whether to declare another state of emergency," Shigeru Omi, the head of a panel of experts advising the government, acknowledged at a briefing on Thursday evening. "At the moment we are not at that point as cases are not increasing explosively. But unfortunately we also do not expect a sudden decrease in cases."

Yasutoshi Nishimura, Japan's minister in charge of the virus, stressed at the briefing that serious cases -- those in an ICU or needing a ventilator -- weren't rising, and that while hospitalizations in Tokyo had increased to 760, the city's health-care system wasn't under pressure.

The city had seven serious cases as of Thursday, compared to 105 at the peak in April, and saw just one death in the past three weeks. It has more than 2,800 beds set aside for Covid-19 patients.

### Market Pressure

Tokyo's stock market retreated after Governor Yuriko Koike warned this morning the virus tally would be similar to Thursday's. The city has been increasing its testing, with more than 4,000 tests conducted on both Thursday and Friday, she said, more than 10 times the average in April. Koike is set to speak at a regularly scheduled briefing at 3:30 p.m.

While the recent outbreak in Tokyo was initially focused on nighttime entertainment areas such as host or hostess clubs, cases have begun to expand to bars, restaurants and workplaces. Nishimura said that the authorities' main approach would be to continue to ask establishments serving alcohol to follow government guidelines aimed at preventing infection, and encourage people not to patronize stores which flout the rules.

Other prefectures across the country have also been reporting infection surges since the lifting of the state of emergency in May. The spike in cases in Tokyo caused the national government to backtrack on a widely panned campaign aimed at promoting regional tourism and it excluded the capital from the program.

While the discount travel campaign is still set to begin next week for other regions, the government on Friday delayed applications for a similar campaign aimed at supporting restaurants.

# Anniversary of world's 1st atomic test fuels nuclear debate

**ALBUQUERQUE (US), JUL 17 (AP):** Transported in the backseat of a blacked-out Plymouth sedan was the culmination of years of feverish work a hefty plutonium core that would soon be used to trigger the world's first atomic explosion.

Within days of being taken in 1945 from a top secret installation in the mountains of northern New Mexico to a desert outpost more than 200 miles away, the core and other components were assembled for what was code-named the Trinity test.

Scientists weren't entirely sure whether the Gadget would work as intended or if the explosion would ignite the Earth's atmosphere or maybe lead to the evaporation of the planet.

They found out in the early morning hours of July 16, 1945.

The detonation forever changed the course of history, ensuring the end of World War II and marking the dawn of the atomic age. After 75 years, the test is both revered for the scientific advancements it helped to usher in and vilified for the moral and diplomatic implications that still linger in its wake.

Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, traveled to Los Alamos National Laboratory on Thursday to commemorate the anniversary.

The lab is known as the birthplace of the



atomic bomb where Robert Oppenheimer and a disparate collection of physicists went about untangling the theoretical and practical challenges of what came to be known as the Manhattan Project.

The immediacy of their work was fueled by word in the late 1930s that German chemists had discovered fission through their work with uranium and that the possibility of the Nazis setting up nuclear chain reactions had become more real and could lead to the construction of bombs.

A group of scientists that included Albert Einstein pressed then-U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt about the importance of the United States getting the jump on Germany.

Gordon-Hagerty, a self-described science and history geek, said

she often has thought about what it would have been like to stand in Oppenheimer's shoes the morning of the Trinity test.

I look to the good of what happened 75 years ago, she told The Associated Press in an interview. It has saved us from world wars. It has saved untold millions perhaps billions of lives over the past 75 years through its application in nuclear medicine and science. To me, that can't be glossed over. For others, the atomic test in southern New Mexico and subsequent tests elsewhere have left a painful legacy.

From uranium miners, truck drivers and government workers to those living in communities near test sites, thousands were exposed over the years to radiation that resulted in cancer, birth defects

and other illnesses.

Members of New Mexico's congressional delegation say radiation exposure has disproportionately affected minority communities, including those in the shadow of that first test. They lawmakers have been pushing to expand the federal government's compensation program to include downwinders" in Tularosa Basin.

The programme currently covers workers who became sick as a result of the radiation hazards of their jobs and those who lived downwind of the Nevada Test Site.

Tina Cordova, a cancer survivor and co-founder of the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, says many people who lived near the Trinity Site weren't told it involved an atomic weapon until the U.S. dropped bombs on the

Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and World War II ended.

It's horribly disheartening and unforgivable to be relegated to nothingness, like we don't count for anything while other people are being taking care of," she said, accusing the federal government of looking the other way for decades.

She said the sacrifices of those who lived near the Trinity Site go beyond health implications from the fallout. At that time, she said many women who lived in the rural area were on their own, taking care of their children, while their husbands were fighting in the war. Her grandfather was among them; he was buried in Europe.

Cordova and others also have concerns about New Mexico's continued ties to nuclear research, bomb making and the resulting waste, saying the state already has made enough sacrifices for the good of the country.

Los Alamos is preparing to resume production of the plutonium cores that serve as triggers for the nation's nuclear arsenal. There also are plans by a private company to build an interim storage site in southern New Mexico for spent nuclear fuel from power plants across the U.S., and there has long been talk about the federal government's underground nuclear waste repository near Carlsbad possibly taking on more waste.

## China acting in contradiction to its agreements with India: US congressmen

**WASHINGTON, JUL 17 (PTI):** China has been acting in contradiction to its agreements with India to change the status quo and challenge Indian troops at the border, an influential bipartisan Congressional Caucus has said and hoped that Beijing will scale back on their excessive weaponry and infrastructure at the Line of Actual Control.

The Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans on Thursday also expressed their condolences for the lives lost in the Galwan Valley.

The troops of India and China are locked in an over eight-week standoff in several areas in eastern Ladakh including Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley and Gogra Hot Spring since May 5. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead.

As members of the Caucus on India and Indian Americans, we are extremely disappointed by the events that took place at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Galwan Valley area on June 15, congressmen George Holding and Brad Sherman, co-chairmen of the Congressional Caucus on

India and Indian Americans said in a statement on Thursday.

The House of Representatives Caucus on India and Indian Americans, led by congressmen Holding and Sherman in a letter to India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, said that over the last few months, the Chinese authorities have been acting with impunity and have attempted to transgress on the LAC, which resulted in diplomatic discussions to implement a process for de-escalation along the LAC on June 6.

The letter was signed by seven other lawmakers.

Only nine days after the agreement, the Chinese attempted to build new infrastructure on the Indian side of the LAC, the letter said.

"Dissatisfied with your government's response, the Chinese troops disregarded the recently implemented disengagement process and erupted in premeditated violence, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers, it said.

The bipartisan letter was signed by four members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, two members of the

House Armed Services Committee and one each from the House intelligence, judiciary and agricultural committees.

We offer our condolences to the families of the fallen soldiers, and we will keep them in our thoughts and prayers. We are disappointed that China has been acting in contradiction to their agreements with India, in their attempt to change the status quo and challenge Indian troops at the border, the letter said.

It is my hope that they scale back on their excessive weaponry and infrastructure at the Line of Actual Control and uphold both their longstanding and new-founded agreements with India, said the letter.

The letter among others was signed by congressmen Ro Khanna, Joe Wilson, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Steve Chabot, Pramila Jayapal, Ted Yoho and T J Cox.

Over the last few weeks, bipartisan support for India against China has been increasing.

A day earlier, Senator Bob Menendez, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said US-India

partnership, based on their shared commitment to democracy, is vital to uphold international law, international norms and the institutions that can peacefully and diplomatically resolve disputes and aggression.

As India and China work to disengage along the Line of Actual Control, I remain deeply concerned by China's aggressive behaviour in territorial disputes, Menendez said.

From the 2017 Doklam standoff to the recent violence along the borders in Sikkim and Ladakh, to China's new claims to Bhutanese territory, Beijing has all too often sought to redraw the map of Asia without regard for its neighbours, he said.

Last month, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that for the sake of grabbing territory, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) appears to have instigated the most violent clash between China and India since those nations went to war in 1962.

I am extremely concerned by the ongoing Chinese aggression along the Line of Actual Control on the India-China border, said congressman

Eliot Engel, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs last month.

China is demonstrating once again that it is willing to bully its neighbours rather than resolve conflicts according to international law, Engel said.

Top Republican Senator Marco Rubio also called recently India's Ambassador to the US to express his solidarity with the people of India as they firmly confront unwarranted and lawless armed aggression by the Communist Party of China.

India has made it clear, they will not be bullied by Beijing, he said.

Senator Tom Cotton slammed China of its aggression against India.

It's time to push back against challenge posed by China: Pompeo



**WASHINGTON, JUL 17 (PTI):** The time has come for the world to push back against the challenge posed by the Chinese Communist Party, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said as he contended that the US "slept on this threat for too long."

Pompeo also said the Chinese government was aware of human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus before they shared this information with the world.

Countries not only in Southeast Asia but in Asia more broadly, in Europe, have come to understand the threat that the Chinese Communist Party presents. The United States slept on this for too long, Pompeo told Bill Hemmer of Fox News in an interview on Thursday.

I think they all did too, and I think they're coming to a joint conclusion that it's time for the world to make sure that we get this right.

"For democracies and freedom-loving people around the world, it is an imperative that we push back against the challenge that the Chinese Communist Party presents to us all, Pompeo said.

He said that for 40 years, successive US administrations just looked the other way and allowed China to trample on America.

President Donald Trump said "no more," he said.

The US is going to have fair, reciprocal trade relationships; and it is going to demand that the Chinese Communist Party treat Americans the same way that the US treats people who go there, he said.

Hemmer asked Pompeo to comment on claims by Hong Kong-based virologist Dr Yan Li-Meng, who recently fled to the United States, that Beijing knew that the virus could spread between

humans three weeks before that knowledge was made public.

Pompeo said that the World Health Organisation itself was co-opted into the same effort to deny the world the knowledge it needed to respond to this threat, to this threat from the virus that emanated from Wuhan, China.

This is a simple understanding, and President Trump is going to demand that it happens," he said.

"And of course, now too, we've seen the virus that started in Wuhan, China cost the globe hundreds of thousands of people and trillions and trillions of dollars, and I believe the world is going to unite to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for having covered this up when they could have prevented so much of this tragedy, said the top American diplomat.

The United States has been the worst-hit country with over 3.5 million coronavirus cases. The country has reported more than 137,000 deaths so far.

Pompeo refrained from responding to news reports that there could be a ban on US travel for Chinese party members and their families.

We're working our way through, under the president's guidance, about how to think about pushing back against the Chinese Communist Party. You see it in trade, you see it in other economic activity, you see it in diplomatic engagement, he added.

The rights that we have that the Declaration of Independence set forth, that are in our Constitution, are central to American foreign policy. We have to get that right. We have this deep tradition. It's under attack, he said in response to a question.

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**GLOWING!** Canadian model, Winnie Harlow America's Next Top Model is out to lunch with some friends.

## Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr reunite to create a brand new EP

Paul McCartney has opened up about working once more with Ringo Starr as the two have reunited to work on a re-release of Macca's EP A Beautiful Night. The former Beatles are working together once more on the release as well as the re-release of McCartney's 1997 record Flaming Pie. The release will arrive as part of the Paul McCartney Archive Collection which will see an astonishing 32 bonus track as well as a 128-page book containing previously unreleased images by Linda McCartney and will be released at the end of the month.

With Starr in the studio next to his old pal, Paul, it was only right that the cameras were rolling and we now have a new music video of 'Beautiful Night' being released alongside a new EP for the song.

"I'd been saying to Ringo for years that it'd be great to do something, because we'd never really done that much work together outside The Beatles," McCartney told PA. "One night Jeff (Lynne, Electric Light Orchestra co-founder) suggested, 'Why don't you get Ringo in?' and I said, 'OK.' It just sort of happened."

He goes on to say: "I had this song 'Beautiful Night' which I'd written quite a few years ago. I'd always liked it but I felt I didn't quite have the right version of it.

"So I got this song out for when Ringo was



coming in, and right away it was like the old days. I realised we hadn't done this for so long, but it was really comfortable and it was still there."

Reflecting on their fun recording sessions, Macca hinted more are on the way: "When I wasn't on the mic, in the solo breaks and stuff, I really made a point of turning round and watching this guy drum. 'And I'm thinking, my God, you know the memories across this 10-yard gap here, him on the drums and me on the bass, the lifetime that's going on here,'" McCartney added.

"So, you know, it's a sort of magic. And he and I these days get quite emotional about it, because we should. We ought to. It's a bloody emotional thing, the years. If nothing else. "You know, to sit down with Ringo is always a great thing. It's always worthwhile. It's always fun."

## Chris Evans to gift Captain America shield to young boy who saved his sister from dog attack

**LOS ANGELES, JUL 17 (PTI):** Hollywood star Chris Evans has praised six-year-old boy named Bridger Walker, who saved his younger sister from a dog attack, as a hero and will be sending him an authentic Captain America shield as a reward for his bravery.

The 39-year-old actor, who has essayed the role of superhero Captain America in various Marvel Cinematic Universe(MCU) projects, recorded a special video message after the young boy's aunt reached out to the cast of the Avengers for support.

I'm sure you've heard this a lot over the last couple of the days, but let me be the next one to tell you: Pal, you're a hero. What you did was so brave, so selfless, your sister is so lucky to have you as a big brother. Your parents must be so proud of you, Evans said in a video uploaded by Bridger's aunt Nicole on Instagram.

I'm gonna track down your address and I'm going to send you an authentic Captain America shield, because pal, you deserve it, he added.

In a post on July 11, Nicole had shared that Bridger needed



90 stitches after protecting his younger sister from a charging dog.

Apart from Evans, Marvel stars Mark Ruffalo, Brie Larson, Robbie Amell and Grant Gustin also praised the child's bravery.

People who put the well beings of others in front of themselves are the most heroic and thoughtful people I know. I truly respect and admire your courage and your heart, Ruffalo wrote on Instagram.

## Chunky Pandey says it was exciting to play antagonist in digital debut Abhay 2'

**MUMBAI, JUL 17 (PTI):** Chunky Pandey is set to make his digital debut with the second season of ZEE5's crime thriller series "Abhay" and the actor says it was a great opportunity as he got a chance to play a character different from the roles he had done in his over three decades long career.

The sophomore season, headlined by actor Kunal Kemmu, will see Pandey playing an antagonist.

This was an exciting role for me, it is my digital debut too and I have never played anything like it. My character is a normal looking guy, but not when it comes to finding ways to feed his cannibal instinct. Looks can be deceptive indeed!," Pandey, said in a statement.

The makers of the series on Friday released a promo giving a sneak-peak into Pandey's character who is an ordinary man



by day, family man by evening and killer by night.

The 57-year-old actor has previously played negative roles in films like Vidya Balan-starrer "Begum Jaan" and Prabhas's "Saaho".

Seasoned actor Ram Kapoor too has been roped in to play a villain in "Abhay 2".

Pandey said the upcoming season will be more thrilling and ruthless.

"It is set to bring to the forefront ruthless crime stories. The entire cast and crew have done an incredible job of putting together a top-notch crime series. It will give you the chills, definitely," he said.

The coronavirus-induced nationwide lockdown has affected the shooting schedule of "Abhay 2", but the team is expected to resume the work soon.

Produced by B P Singh's Firefly Productions and directed by Ken Ghosh, "Abhay 2" will premiere on August 14 on ZEE5.

## No need for CBI probe in Sushant death case: Deshmukh

**NAGPUR, JUL 17 (PTI):** There was no need for a CBI probe into the death case of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput as the Mumbai police were capable of handling the matter, said Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Friday.

The police were also examining the angle of "business rivalry" in the case, he said.

Rajput, 34, was found dead in his Bandra apartment in Mumbai on June 14 and what the police claimed was a case of suicide. In the initial investigation, the Mumbai police had found that the actor was under medication for depression.

On Thursday, Rajput's friend, actor Rhea Chakraborty, in a tweet, demanded a CBI inquiry to understand what "pressures" prompted Rajput to take the extreme step of suicide.

Chakraborty said though she has "complete faith" in the government, a CBI inquiry would help bring justice to the case.

Talking to PTI, Deshmukh said the Mumbai police were conducting a detailed inquiry into the actor's death and also recording statements of people concerned.

"There was no need to give the case to the CBI. Our police officials are capable and doing the inquiry

in right way. We are also examining the angle of business rivalry," said Deshmukh.

So far, the police have recorded the statements of more than two dozen people, including Chakraborty, filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Bollywood casting director Mukesh Chhabra and Rajput's family members, as part of probe into the suicide, which jolted the Hindi film industry.

Rajput starred in films such as 'Shuddh Desi Romance', 'Raabta', 'Kedarnath' and 'Sonchiriya'. But his most prominent role came as cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the biopic, 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story'.

## Tahir Raj Bhasin on working with Taapsee in Loop Lapeta: We will bring unique pairing on screen

**MUMBAI, JUL 17 (PTI):** Actor Tahir Raj Bhasin says he is looking forward to work with Taapsee Pannu on Loop Lapeta, an Indian adaptation of Tom Tywer's 1998 German hit Run Lola Run.

The 33-year-old actor, whose last release Chhichore was a blockbuster, said Taapsee is a phenomenal artiste and their on screen pairing will bring freshness to the screens.

Taapsee and I will bring a unique, fresh pairing on screen! Taapsee is a phenomenal actress and someone I have watched go from strength to strength in each of her films.

She exudes this infectious pos-

itivity that I'm sure will make it an amazing set to be on. The pairing and the story will give the audience a sensational out-of-the-box ride that promises to be crazy fun, Tahir said in a statement.

Run Lola Run starred actor Franka Potente as Lola and Moritz Bleibtreu as Manni. The story follows a woman who needs to obtain 100,000 Deutschmarks in twenty minutes to save her boyfriend's life.

Tahir said the classic movie is one of his all-time favourites and he is excited to feature in its Hindi adaptation.

'Run Lola Run' is a cult film that

blew my mind when I first watched it. What I loved about the original was its path breaking story, the look of the characters and the amazing background score.

I never imagined I'd be a part of the Indian adaptation and I'm just so kicked by the thought. I call it adaptation and not a remake because it's been moulded to fit an Indian context and today's time," he said.

The actor will also be seen in Kabir Khan's 83, starring Ranveer Singh as former Indian cricket team captain Kapil Dev.

Tahir plays the role of the legendary batsman Sunil Gavaskar in the film which is set to release this Christmas.

### ARIES:

You're being asked to examine the beliefs that are weighing you down. Maybe they were never yours, to begin with, Aries. Maybe they were handed down to you by your ancestors by way of the experiences they attracted—which may or may not hold true for where you are. Today, instead of trying to look outside of yourself for solutions, move inwards.

### TAURUS:

On days when life feels like an obstacle course, the best thing you can do is tap into your inner Buddha and become a witness to your circumstances. The truth is, you will not find the solutions you are seeking immediately. But that doesn't mean you have to go down the rabbit hole of fear and anxiety. You have the power to shift your vibrations and create a slice of paradise exactly where you are. Choose the path of meditation and mindfulness.

### GEMINI:

We glorify new beginnings to no end. What we forget is that it is endings that open this passageway in our lives. Today, instead of resisting the process of transformation, pay attention to what the Universe is asking you to let go of. Know that these seemingly chaotic circumstances are opening your eyes to the truth and leading you to where you are meant to be. But, you don't have to do it alone.

### CANCER:

If you wake up feeling like a domestic god(dess), you've got the alignment of your stars to thank. You're in the mood to cook up a storm, make lotions and potions loaded with good intention, review your self-care game, and give your plants the love and care they deserve. The key is to get creative with what's already available to you.

### Leo:

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 old friend who reminds you of what happiness looks and feels like. There are so many anecdotes to share and memories to refresh! Some of you could be thinking about a dear one you parted ways with a while ago

### VIRGO:

Virgo, you are attracting all the right people and opportunities that are helping you advance your career and fulfill your soul purpose. This is what living in the energy of miracles looks and feels like! If anything, this phase of your life is teaching you that we're not meant to worry about the 'how' and the 'why'. Setting a strong intention and staying committed to the path is enough

### LIBRA:

We're always talking about manifesting the big stuff. But what's standing between where you are now and where you want to be? Something to introspect on, Libra. The

waning moon is providing you with a wonderful opportunity to transform and transmute the negative thought patterns that have convinced you that you are not good enough or that you're not worthy of love.

### SCORPIO:

They say love makes the world go around, but this love would have no meaning if we didn't possess the freedom to be ourselves and make choices that make our soul sing. Today you're being asked to examine the relationships that are infringing upon this sense of freedom. Love is not meant to clip your wings, Scorpio. It's time you stop making excuses for other people as you actively work towards liberating yourself from the shackles.

### SAGITTARIUS:

If the law of attraction is to be believed, the Universe works as a catalogue. Each thought we put out there is charged with intention, which ultimately helps create our reality. By that logic, our life is the most precious canvas we will ever have the opportunity to make magic with. The real question is: will you make yours a masterpiece, Sagittarius? In the words of inspirational speaker Anthon St Maarten, "You are a divine being.

### CAPRICORN:

Are you living, existing, or merely surviving? Capri-

corn, there's a good chance you're operating on autopilot mode, checking off your to-do list and doing what's being asked of you. But a life that's devoid of joy doesn't bode well for you. Today, the cards are urging you to reflect upon the things that make you feel good about yourself.

### AQUARIUS:

We all crave the comfort of the familiar once in a while, and that's okay. Give yourself the permission to take a break from the chaos and commotion of the outside world and retreat into the sanctuary within—a safe zone where you can take off the masks and be yourself. In the wise words of Winnie the Pooh, "Don't underestimate the value of doing nothing, of just going along, listening to all things you can't hear, and not bothering."

### PISCES:

Consider each side of the argument before you make a decision. There is so much you don't know about the given situation. The truth will only come to light once you decide to stay open. Remember, everything we do has karmic repercussions. So, resist the urge to take the easy way out of this maze. If and when you need a sounding board, call upon a trusted friend who will encourage you to do the right thing.