



**GRAMMY MUSEUM TO LAUNCH
ONLINE STREAMING SERVICE**
pg 08

**SHOTS FIRED IN THE HIMALAYAS: A
DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT IN THE
CHINA-INDIA BORDER STANDOFF**
pg 04

**HBO WORKING ON 'THE
WESTING GAME' ADAPTATION**
pg 08



Summit **TIMES**

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**83-year-old is
Sikkim's 8th
COVID casualty**
SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:
An 83-year-old person residing near ICICI bank, New Market, Gangtok, was brought dead to STNM Hospital this evening. On testing he was found COVID positive. He had the comorbid condition of diabetes and the case is being recorded as a COVID death, it was informed in the Health Bulletin.

**Legendary
statistician
CR Rao
turns 100**

NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI): Eminent statistician and mathematician C R Rao, known for his path-breaking contributions to the field of statistics, turned 100 on Thursday.

The Department of Science and Technology felicitated him on Wednesday and the event was virtually attended by top scientists, mathematicians and statisticians.

Describing him as an institution builder, DST Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said Rao trained generations of scientists, mathematicians and statisticians.

While there are different verticals (fields) in science, statistics is a horizontal that cuts through all these lines, Sharma said.

Sharma said data is the new water and the future is going to revolve around it.

Industry 4.0 and beyond is all about creating data, analysing data, building on data and making great discoveries with it, he said.

Prof. C R Rao was working on the science of data 70 years ago and was much ahead of his times. He is not only a scientist but also an institution builder. The country and the world will always be indebted to Prof Rao for his pioneering contributions to the field of statistics, Sharma said.

Born on September 10, 1920 in Huvinahadagali, Karnataka, Rao completed his MA degree in mathematics at Andhra University. He did his MA degree in statistics from Calcutta University in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Rao is known for concepts like 'Cramer Rao inequality', 'Rao Blackwellisation' and 'Rao metric'.

He also worked at the Indian Statistical Institute for 40 years. Later, he moved to the USA and worked for another 25 years at the University of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania State University.

Rao is the author of around 475 research papers
turn to pg 02

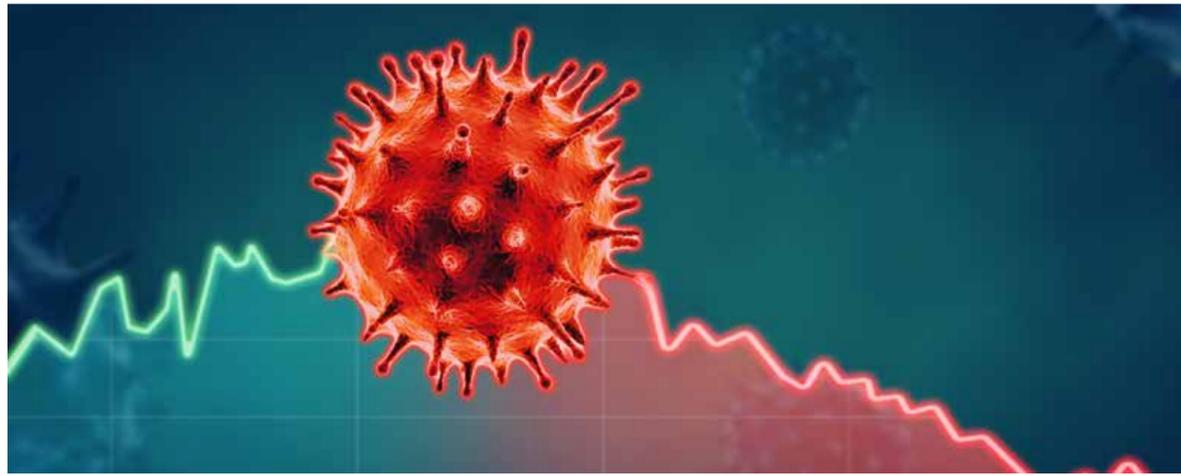
Sikkim records 71.85% recovery rate, 57% of total cases from pharma companies

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

Sikkim currently has a recovery rate of 71.85 per cent and testing rate of 67.4 per thousand persons in terms of COVID-19, according to the Health Department. The national recovery rate is 77.74 per cent.

As per data updated till 09 Sept, the number of COVID infection is higher in males compared to females with 1,397 of the 1,989 people infected so far being males and 592 being females. This is in line with the scenario the world over where COVID-19 is affecting more males than females.

It is unlikely though that females are less susceptible to the virus and the much higher number of infections among males can be explained



to the higher number of men in the workforce, and hence out and about, and also the high number of positive cases among paramilitary personnel, all of whom are males.

It will be interesting to see how this ratio plays

out when distilled further to cover only the local population and further to rural areas.

Pharma companies in the state have been the largest contributors to the COVID tally with 554 cases detected among pharma

company employees till 23 Aug. This figure does not include those who are not pharma company employees but could have been their primary or secondary contacts and went on to test positive.

Till 23 Aug, the date

till which such data has been collated, 57% of total cases recorded are pharma company employees, the Health Department informs.

While the biggest cluster of COVID infections till date is Rangpo

with 256 cases, paramilitary forces have contributed 191 cases to the state's COVID tally.

The Rangpo cluster, it may be recalled, can be traced to two funerals at Chanatar and Mamring. The first case in the urban

population of Gangtok was also traced to one of the Rangpo funerals.

Rongli, the first cluster in the local population, with 66 cases has slipped to third place as Gangtok has seen a spurt in recent days becoming the second largest cluster in the state. Till 23 Aug the capital recorded 78 COVID cases.

The state has had four 81-year-olds as the oldest COVID patients. On the opposite end of the spectrum, there are 56 COVID patients aged between 0-10 years. Meanwhile, a majority of 733 cases are aged between 21-30 years and 584 cases are aged between 31-40 years. Of the 1989 cases recorded till 09 Sept, 1317 are between 21-40 years which is good news for Sikkim.

Record 95,735 infections, 1,172 fatalities take COVID caseload past 44 lakh, death toll to 75,062



NEW DELHI, SEPT 10 [PTI]: The country saw a record single-day spike of 95,735 infections and 1,172 fatalities taking India's COVID-19 caseload past 44 lakh and death toll to 75,062, while recoveries surged to 34,71,783 on Thursday, according to the Union Health Ministry.

The total cases mounted to 44,65,863, the ministry data updated at 8 am showed. The fatality rate has dropped to 1.68% while the recovery rate was at 77.74%.

There are 9,19,018 active cases in the country which comprise 20.58% of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20 lakh mark on August 7, it went past 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5.

According to ICMR, a total of 5,29,34,433 samples have been tested up to September 9 with 11,29,756 samples being tested on Wednesday.

The 1,172 new deaths included 380 from Maharashtra, 128 from Karnataka, 74 from Andhra Pradesh, 71 from Punjab, 70 from Chhattisgarh, 65 each from Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, 53 from West Bengal and 31 from Madhya Pradesh.

The total 75,062 deaths included 27,787 from Maharashtra, 8,090 from Tamil Nadu, 6,808 from Karnataka, 4,638 in Delhi, 4,634 in Andhra Pradesh, 4,112 in Uttar Pradesh, 3,730 in West Bengal, 3,149 in Gujarat and 2,061 in Punjab, 1,640 from Madhya Pradesh, 1,178 from Rajasthan and 927 from Telangana.

The Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," it said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to verification and reconciliation.

Sikkim's COVID tally crosses 2000 with 20 new cases

10-day-old child also tests positive

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:**

Sikkim's COVID tally crossed the 2000 mark on Thursday with 20 new cases being recorded in the last 24 hours. All new cases were detected in East Sikkim.

There are now 532 active cases while the number of cases recorded so far in the state has reached 2009. Meanwhile, 41 persons have been discharged from isolation facilities with the highest number of 24 persons being discharged from SICUN COVID care centre in Assam Lingzey.

In the health bulletin, State IEC Officer, Sonam Bhutia informed that 13 of 141 samples tested via RTPCR returned positive. Among these one is a patient admitted at STNM Hospital who was a primary contact of a patient from Arithang, three are

from area near Lingding school Golai, one from the emergency ward STNM Hospital, one GMC worker who was in a facility quarantine, one below Arithang gumpa area, four near Sadar Thana, Tibet road which is a containment zone, one from Lumsey, Tadong, opposite Shruti warehouse and one from Pani house below Kanchenview.

Mr Bhutia said that 6 out of 29 samples tested positive via Rapid Antigen Testing. Three tested positive at CRH Tadong: one from Namnang below housing area; one ITBP personnel from ITBP Camp near metro point Tadong and; one from Lingding school Golai.

At Singtam Hospital, three tested positive via RAT: one from Sangkhola; one from Majhitar and; one from Shantinagar, Singtam.

One of 31 samples, tested positive via Truenat, that of a 10-day-old child who is the youngest person to test positive for COVID-19 so far in the state. The child is currently in the pediatric intensive care unit of STNM hospital.

Serum Institute pauses COVID-19 vaccine trials in India

NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI): Serum Institute of India (SII) on Thursday said it is pausing clinical trials of AstraZeneca Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate in the country.

Earlier this week, AstraZeneca said it had paused the trials because of 'an unexplained illness' in a participant in the study.

However, SII on Wednesday said it was continuing with the trials and had not faced any issues.

SII's latest announcement also comes against the backdrop of the central drug regulator DCGI issuing a show-cause notice to SII for not informing it about Astra-

Zeneca pausing the clinical trials of the Oxford vaccine candidate in other countries.

"We are reviewing the situation and pausing India trials till AstraZeneca restarts the trials," SII said in a statement.

The Pune-based vaccine maker also said it is following instructions of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), it added.

In the show-cause notice, DCGI V G Somani had asked SII as to why the permission granted for conducting phase 2 and 3 clinical trials of the vaccine candidate in the country be not suspended till patient safety is established.

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Mundane challenges of Gangtok life

JIWAN RAI

One of the promises made by the new government of Sikkim was to ensure direct road connectivity to each household. As horribly daunting as that challenge is, even seemingly impossible, a well thought through plan is worth the effort. I have often heard that the last Chogyal of Sikkim had planned the city of Gangtok for just about 20 thousand households. I have never come across a document that supports the claim. But I'm sure we must sometimes regret that such a beautiful blue print, if it did really exist, was torn up. Consequently, the quality of life in Gangtok, in general, is extremely poor.

A young man recently told me that he felt we must all raise some funds to buy stretchers to distribute among different settlements in Gangtok. That's not a bad idea. A trek from Manjal Hospital to Daragaon would be an epiphany for many. Hundreds

of houses are built on the cliff with extremely steep and narrow foot paths connecting them to the main road. The government has spent a lot of money in training drains or johras and beautifying footpaths. However, the lack of a masterplan has banished the entire settlement

of houses are built on the cliff with extremely steep and narrow foot paths connecting them to the main road. The government has spent a lot of money in training drains or johras and beautifying footpaths. However, the lack of a masterplan has banished the entire settlement

load rates to reference. If you try to bargain with them, they leave you alone and go to other clients. Masonry, plumbing, carpentry and so on have the same story. Are we being ripped off? Well, Gangtok is chota Dubai - no issues.

Suppose you are a new entrant into Gangtok and you want a water connection. If your house is oddly located (and late comers seldom find suitably located land to buy), you have several options. Get your water connection from a nearby connection-point, which means the water flow is snail-paced. It will hardly climb to the first floor. If you want a high speed water flow, you either have to buy a connection from somebody who has cleverly connected a few extra pipes under the highway or you have to go to each household and seek their permission to lay your pipe connection through their area. Some can be violent and even disallow you.

VIEWPOINT

to everlasting inconvenience and irredeemable congestion. Senior citizens with mobility issues can be literally 'quarantined' or, shall we say, isolated from the rest of the world. The only way to take sick people to the hospital is by stretcher. The steepness of the footpath makes even that option a precarious one. The same is the case with several other settlements in Gangtok like Pani House, Syari, Arithang, Tathenchon and so on.

As if these steep stairs were not challenging enough, when we finally make it to the road it is only to be further encumbered with suffocating congestion and

limited by these mundane challenges. People throwing out garbage in dingy corners, dog droppings on footpaths, erratic power outages, limited water supply to tenants, and exorbitant head load charges by porters are a few other mundane challenges that impede Gangtok life. With half the porters gone home during the Covid-19 pandemic, the precious few are having a ball. My neighbor is constructing a house. He is paying ₹7000 for a truck of sand carriage - for a distance of two minutes from the highway. They charge ₹60 per bag of cement for the same distance. There are no head-

turn to pg 02

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Automakers seek delays, exemptions to government's planned new rules for parts

NEW DELHI, 10 SEPT [REUTERS]: Foreign automakers are seeking delays and exemptions to government's planned new quality rules for imported auto parts, arguing the regulations will increase costs, hurt sales and disrupt supply chains, sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keen to reduce imports to boost local manufacturing to make India more self-sufficient and enable it to play a bigger role in the global supply chain. That said, the move is seen mainly aimed at slashing the amount of lower-quality imports from China.

"There is short term pain but there is long term gain," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told an auto convention last week, saying India has become a dumping ground for low-quality goods by not having standards similar to other countries.

New rules mandating stricter quality checks have been flagged in stages for various auto parts since early this year and tighter regulations for wheel rims could be introduced as soon as October, according to a draft government notice.

All automakers will have to comply, but foreign premium brands such as Daimler's Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi will suffer most as they have the highest ratio of imported parts, four auto executives told Reuters.

"It's just an additional compliance burden and will not lead to higher local production because the volumes for luxury are too small to achieve economies of scale," said one of the executives.

The sources declined to be identified, citing sensitive negotiations with the government.

Luxury carmakers account for less than 1 per cent of India's annual passenger car sales in terms of volume although they contribute roughly 10 per cent in terms of revenue.

Executives from premium German brands as well as Volkswagen AG, Ford Motor Co and Toyota Motor Corp have held several rounds of talks with government officials in recent weeks, sources said.

Martin Schwenk, head of Mercedes-Benz India, said in a statement to Reuters that additional requirements "will make low volume business unviable". His company is requesting a "reasonable time line for mid to long term implementation, and exemptions for low volume manufacturers in the short-term."

Volkswagen Group's India unit also said in a statement that for premium vehicles it was not possible to localise a "majority of components or spares as the total size of market is marginal".

Toyota's India unit is working to meet the rules but the timelines are too short, a spokesperson said.

Implement NYAY, protect small and medium businesses, stop privatisation: Rahul to Govt

NEW DELHI, SEPT 10 [PTI]: The Congress on Thursday demanded jobs and relief for the youth amid the alleged rise in unemployment with Rahul Gandhi urging the Modi government to transfer money directly in the bank accounts of the poor, protect small and medium businesses and stop privatisation.

Several senior Congress leaders urged the government to implement the Congress-proposed minimum income guarantee scheme NYAY and create job opportunities for the youth as part of its 'Speak Up for Jobs' campaign being run on Thursday from 10 AM for 10 hours.

As part of the campaign, Gandhi also put out a video in support of the youth in which he also attacked the government over alleged job losses.

He also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remaining "silent" on issues such as the state of the economy and China.

"Why are you silent. You should speak, you have not said anything since many days — you neither speak about the economy, nor on China. Say something, the country is looking towards you," Gandhi said.



"Before the coronavirus pandemic, I had said that a storm is going to come, prepare for it, but the government made fun of me," he said.

Gandhi said he also gave suggestions like putting money in the bank accounts of the poor directly as recommended by the NYAY scheme, protecting and helping the small and medium enterprises, and protecting and stabilising strategic industries, but the government did not act on it.

Instead lakhs of crores of loan waiver and tax break was given to PM Modi's "15-20 friends", he alleged without elaborating.

The BJP has dismissed all such allegations

made by Gandhi and the Congress in the past.

Alleging that the economy has been "destroyed" and the future of the youth "spoiled", he urged the prime minister to act and provide relief.

He said, "1. Make a direct money transfer in the bank accounts of poor people. 2. Save the backbone by protecting the small and medium businesses and give them money. 3. Stop this privatization."

Later in a tweet, Gandhi took a dig at the government, saying India is like a ship traversing the ocean with the captain staring into the rear view mirror of history.

"It's going nowhere really fast. It won't be

long before the ship runs aground," he said.

In an earlier tweet, Gandhi alleged that the policies of the Centre have caused loss of crores of jobs and appealed to people to make the Modi government "listen to their voice".

"The policies of Modi Govt have caused the loss of crores of jobs and a historic fall in GDP," Gandhi alleged in the tweet.

"It has crushed the future of India's youth. Let's make the Govt listen to their voice," the former Congress chief said.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra claimed that there is a "big threat" to jobs due to "increasing privatization, cuts in govern-

ment spending and the bad economic policies of the BJP government".

"The government has also stopped recruitment in existing jobs. We have to speak for the future of this country. I am speaking, you also speak," she tweeted as part of the Congress' 'speak up for jobs' campaign.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the promise was of providing two crore jobs every year and claimed that instead of providing 12 crore jobs in six years, 14 crore jobs were "snatched away".

The youth has now woken up and demands an answer, he said.

The Congress, on its official Twitter handle, said, "One devastating policy after another, BJP has snatched away the livelihoods of crores of Indians & pushed our youth into a bleak future".

"Join our #SpeakUpForJobs campaign & raise your voices against BJP's misadventures," the party tweeted.

Videos of several party leaders were posted on Congress' official Twitter handle in which they attacked the government over the alleged rise in unemployment and demanded jobs for the youth.

Central Pendam teacher engages youth in health and fitness



SUMMIT REPORT GANGETOK, 10 SEPT:

Teacher, Central Pendam Senior Secondary School, Sawan Dhakal, has taken the initiative to reach out to the young for health awareness and physical fitness, a press release informs. Suneel Dungal, teacher of Central Pendam Sr Sec School and Sudershan Khatiwara of Pachak Secondary School

are also part of this unique initiative.

Under this programme, 7 km jogging and 7 km walk with career counselling, environment preservation activities, cleanliness drive and other activities are carried out on a daily basis. Total of 25 joggers have been taking part from the village, following all Covid-19 proto-

cols of the government.

The initiative began with the group 'Young Joggers Pendam' who took an oath to bring health awareness among the youth under the slogan 'Run from Heart - Run for Good Health'. New joggers are joining daily under which 5 to 6 female joggers have started their journey recently.

Sensitization on Poshan Abhiyan at Singhik-Sentam



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 10 SEPT:

Panchayats of Singhik-Sentam GPU were sensitized on Poshan Abhiyan and the critical role of Panchayats to ensure success of the Poshan Maah campaign and to monitor and review nutritional status of children at Gram level on 08 Sept. Poshan Maah is being celebrated from 01-30 Sept.

The programme also hosted an open discussion on various ways to make the GPU malnutrition free. They also highlighted various women centre schemes and how Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme plays a key role in providing facilities to women.

A Mahila Sabha was also held during the day with discussion on various topics like severely

malnourished child at Kazore where the ICDS team along with Ward panchayats have decided to make a joint visit.

The programme was organised by CDPO Chungthang in coordination with Panchayat president, Singhik Sentam GPU. Women welfare officer (MSK) North was also present as guest speaker.

Poshan Month at Chungthang

MANGAN, 10 SEPT (IPR): Observing 'Poshan Month' on its 4th day the Block Task Force, Chungthang, North Sikkim conducted Home Visit (door to door campaign) by Anganwadi Supervisor and CDPO to severely and moderately malnourished children and counselling on good

nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, causes of malnutrition, anemia and prevention was done and also advised the parents to focus on development of Nutri garden. Posters with message on malnutrition were pasted on shops and other prominent places as a drive to mark Poshan Month.

Bank agent held for credit card fraud in Delhi

NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI): A 25-year-old bank agent was arrested for making fraudulent transactions worth over Rs 69,000 using a customer's credit card details which he obtained by secretly installing a remote access app on his mobile phone, police said on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Mukesh Okheda, who hails from Beldadi in Nepal. He was arrested from Baprola Vihar in southwest Delhi, they said.

The police said a probe was initiated in March after a complaint was received from one Rajesh Rajput.

According to the complainant, some unknown person made fraudulent transactions amounting to Rs 69,334 using his credit card. However, he had not shared his banking-related information with anyone.

Based on his complaint, a case under Section 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at the Delhi Cantt police station and an investigation was taken up, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Devender Arya.

The transaction details were sought from

the complainant's bank and it was found that the transactions were done through Paytm and Mobikwik. Further, the withdrawn amount was transferred to the bank account of the accused, he said.

The accused had also used the amount to recharge a few mobile numbers, he said.

It was learnt that Okheda kept changing his address in Delhi. He was arrested from his residence here in Baprola Vihar using technical surveillance and a tip-off from a secret informer, Arya said.

During interrogation, the accused disclosed that in February-March 2020, he had facilitated issuance of the credit card of a private bank to the complainant. During the process, he installed a remote access app onto the complainant's mobile phone. Later, he sought details using the app and made transactions from the complainant's bank account, the officer said.

Two mobile phones, credit and debit cards, Aadhaar and PAN cards used to open bank accounts were recovered from the possession of the accused, the police said.

Bengal reports 41 COVID deaths, 3,112 new cases

KOLKATA, SEP 10 (PTI): The COVID-19 death toll in West Bengal rose to 3,771 on Thursday after 41 more patients succumbed to the disease, a bulletin released by the state health department said.

The coronavirus tally also mounted to 1,93,175 after 3,112 people from various parts of the state

tested positive for the contagion. Since Wednesday, 3,035 patients recovered from the infection taking the discharge rate to 85.95 per cent.

The number of active cases stood at 23,377, the bulletin said.

During the last 24 hours, 44,347 samples were tested for COVID-19 in West Bengal.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

Legendary statistician...

published in prestigious journals and 11 books.

He also founded the C R Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science (AIM-SCS) in Hyderabad.

Principal Scientific Adviser K VijayRaghavan said Rao's work has immensely benefited the country.

Some of Prof. CR Rao's work has had deep impact on genetics and that has great influence on the work we do now, VijayRaghavan said.

Bimal Roy, Chairman, National Statistical Commission, recalled that Rao's understanding of statistics as a subject was not limited to that field alone, but he looked at it to find solutions in the other disciplines as well.

Recalling his interaction with Rao in early 2000, Shekhar Mande, Director General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), said when the legendary statistician came to Hyderabad, the scientific community in the city organised a lot of conferences.

The scientific community in Hyderabad was pretty excited. He sat through all the conferences, including one in which I presented a paper, taking keen interest in them, Mande said.

Mundane...

The untold stories behind sewerage and electricity connections can be left for another day. There was an old Nepali belief that less fortunate people die as soon as they move into a new house. In Gangtok, one has to be extremely fortunate to survive all of these stresses and still be in the pink of their health to enjoy life in their new home.

I am writing this account of Gangtok city in 2020. In 2030 someone else will be writing the same story about another suburban area of Gangtok and other towns of Sikkim. The complete lack of vision and master plan is robbing us of a quality of life which is so vital to modern life. The state of affairs in the newly developed suburban area - Lingding is a case in point. Grand buildings and new houses have changed the look of the place. But what is so disturbing is the extremely narrow road that runs across the town. Imagine life there just a few years from now. Hundreds of cars parked on the road will tell us one thing - even after experiencing the nightmarish parking issues and traffic jams of Gangtok, we haven't learnt our lesson. This battle for a few inches of land has been doing us in for far too long.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

LAND FOR SALE

Two plots available - 30X40 sq ft and 50X30 sq ft
Junker 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 9593373387 and 9434406761

LAND FOR SALE

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

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.

Building for sale

A two storey building constructed on plot area 50x40 ft. Situated at Upper Phong near Phong SS, South Sikkim is on sale. Cost Rs 60 Lakhs (Negotiable). Interested may contact : 8145829309, 7864937800, 9749897695.

Chiefs nix headdresses, face paint to start NFL season

MISSION, KAN. (AP): Kansas City Chiefs fans who file into Arrowhead Stadium Thursday for a masked and socially distanced start to the NFL season won't be wearing headdresses or face paint amid a nationwide push for racial justice following the police-custody death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The move by the reigning Super Bowl champions has pleased Native Americans as a good first step, but frustrated some of the 17,000 fans who will be in the stands as the team becomes the first to take the field in front of a crowd — albeit a smaller than normal one — during the coronavirus pandemic. Enforcing the new restrictions also comes as the team tries to require masks, which has proven challenging at some public practices.

NFL teams with Native American mascots are facing increased scrutiny after the team in Washington chose to drop Redskins as its nickname after a long and often contentious dialogue with fans and the public. The Chiefs also announced last month that the team was discussing the future of its tomahawk chop celebration amid complaints that it's racist.

Students at nearby Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, are among those who demanded changes. "Using this mascot and having this fan base of predominantly white people wearing face paint and headdresses and doing the tomahawk chop, and it energizes them and gives them this sense of power, and then thinking there is nothing wrong with doing that is just mind boggling to me," said William Wilkinson, Haskell's former University Student Government Association president.

Wilkinson, who is Navajo, Cherokee, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara, said that eventually the team nickname also must change.

"It dehumanizes us and gives us Native Americans this picture of being this savage beast that is hungry for fighting when in real life we are nothing like that," said the 22-year-old business major from Madison, Wisconsin.

Ty Rowton, a self-described superfan who goes to games as the X-Factor, dressed with an Arrowhead on his head, beads and a cape signed by players, has made one change to his costume. Instead of face paint, he will stick Duct tape with Bible verses on his face.

He was stopped by security when he wore the getup for a training camp practice but said he has since gotten clearance for the ensemble. Still, he thinks the team's changes are an overreaction and said fans love to pose with people wearing headdresses. He also thinks the team also should keep the tomahawk chop.

"It is something that gets us riled up together and that we do as one. It has never been meant to be disrespectful at all," he said.

Governor chairs webinar on Self Reliant India



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad attended the inaugural session of webinar on "Self Reliant India: Entrepreneurship and Employment Opportunities" organized by the ICAFI Uni-

versity, Sikkim today.

A Raj Bhavan release informs that the Governor attended the webinar as the chief guest which was joined by Foreign Secretary of India, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Dr. Hari Eppanapally, Chair-

man, The CIC Group, Inc., New Jersey, USA, Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, Vice Chancellor of The ICAFI University Sikkim, Sandhya Rani Pant, Deputy Registrar.

In his inaugural address, the Governor spoke and appreciated the initiatives taken by

the centre on self-reliant India (Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan). The Governor stated that Northeast region has ample of opportunities under the Self Reliant India which promotes Vocal for Local and enhances the creativity, skills and capacity of the people. Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan creates more job opportunities and entrepreneurship in north-eastern region.

The Governor urged educational institutions to generate awareness on Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan which will play a great role in creating economic opportunities for the investors.

Rotary Club Siliguri felicitates 6 teachers



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:

Rotary International District 3240 under the leadership of District Governor Subhasish Chatterjee has announced the "Shiksha Samman 2020" and requested each Club to recognize one or more distinguished Teacher(s) from their respective localities & felicitate them in this September, a press release informs. In many places social meeting is not possible due to Covid, so he urged Rotarians to visit the nominated teachers at their resi-

dence and honour them.

To recognise their devotion & excellent contribution towards Nation Building 92 Rotary Clubs of District 3240 has felicitated 927 Teachers from seven states of north-east, Sikkim and parts of West Bengal with the "Shiksha Samman 2020" award which was signed by Rotary International Director & District Governor.

Among them Rotary Club of Siliguri Metropolitan felicitated 6 eminent teachers from various schools. Teacher (Maths), Mad-

habi Roy, Ramkrishna Sarodamoni Vidyapith;

Headmaster, Samsul Alam (Siksha Ratna Awardee), Muraliganj High School, Bidhannagar;

Ranjana Dhar, T-I-C Shivmandir Narayanpally Sishu Siksha Kendra; Atyuha Bagchi (MABED in Geography), Headmistress Siliguri Girls' High School; Teacher (Life Science), Surendra Chettri, Paramananda Nepali High School, Milan More, Champasari; and Teacher (Commerce), Deepak Sharma, Siliguri Hindi High School were felicitated today.

Hazlewood hoping for 'enough red-ball cricket' before first India Test

MANCHESTER, SEP 10 (PTI):

Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood is hoping to get enough game time in red-ball cricket before the first Test against India later this year and has expressed a desire to see the series opener being played in "lucky" Brisbane.

India are scheduled to tour Australia for a four-match Test series later this year.

Considering the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said even a practice game against Australia A squad would work well with him.

"The summer is becoming a bit clearer as the days go by and I'm sure we'll get enough red-ball cricket before that first Test, whether it's Australia versus Australia A or something like that," he was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"I'm quite happy with just one long-form game, I feel like that's enough for me to get up and running. That's what I've done last five or six years, one Shield game and straight into the Test matches."

Hazlewood admitted his teammates would ideally like to start the Test series in Brisbane, where Australia have not lost since 1988.

"Things are out of our control a bit at the moment. Obviously, we'd love to start in Brizzy with our great record there," he said.

"We play well there and sort of get on a role, but this year will be a lot different. We love playing in Adelaide whether it's red ball or pink and it's always a great wicket."

The series India won two years ago started in Adelaide, where the visitors won, and Brisbane was not among the venues.

Hazlewood is among many Australian players, including fellow pacer Pat Cummins, who will head from the ongoing tour of England to the IPL, where he has a contract with Chennai Super Kings, before returning home in early or mid-November.

The pacer, who played his first T20I in four years on Tuesday, said he has adjusted to the game's shortest format.

Tata Marcopolo BSVI buses to replace old fleet of pharma buses



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 10 SEPT:

Nimdao Motors delivered the first phase of Tata Marcopolo BSVI buses under the supervision of Sikkim National Transport to replace the present fleet of buses in pharmaceutical companies, a press release informs.

These buses follow the latest emission

norms of BSVI and come with superior chassis and high-end technology under the hood.

Nimdao Motors has confirmed bookings and delivery of further twenty buses by next month.

CEO of Nimdao Motors, Guru T Ladakhi said, "Our priority is to provide efficient, clean and

affordable value proposition to our customers without compromising on safety and the comfort levels of passengers. We expect this kind of transport will further enhance the beauty of our state while providing opportunities for self-employment as encouraged by the present government.

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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.

<p>Symptoms of nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever ● Difficulty in breathing ● Dry Cough ● Severe acute respiratory syndrome ● Pneumonia - like symptoms 	<p>Precautions to Prevent nCoV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
<p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition. ● No vaccinations available as of now. ● Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected 	<p>If you seek help, you may call :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Toll free no. 104 District surveillance Officer EAST : 7029372100 WEST : 9593297809 NORTH : 9641957468 SOUTH : 7407691463 New STNM AMS : 9434711402

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Working Together to Prevent Suicides

If only it was so simple. And maybe it is

Yesterday, 10 September was World Suicide Prevention Day and this section returns to that frequently visited theme again. As per the World Health Organisation, as many as 8 lakh people commit suicide every year [that's one suicide every 40 seconds around the world] and around 25-times more attempt it.

The numbers paint a scary picture and make this a challenge requiring the world's attention. Remember, apart from the 8,00,000 lives lost to preventable reasons, there are 2 crore others who have tied a noose for themselves or attempted some other form of ending their lives! If their triggers are left unattended, they will be among the statistics of those who 'successfully' self-destructed in the coming years. They are also clearly grappling with serious issues and even if those around them do not notice (or choose to ignore) the suicidal tendencies, they cannot be left untouched by the deep trauma of such conditions. When one takes this aspect also into consideration, then the impact of suicides and suicidal tendencies multiplies many times over because each victim and person at risk is part of a family, belongs to a circle of friends, goes to school, college or office and touches many lives on a daily basis and no matter how consciously one tries to camouflage the condition, it does get out and affect others; and with every death to a suicide, everyone associated with the person is hit by a sense of guilt at not having intervened in time. Hence, as much for the lives that can be saved through some timely intervention as also to save those left behind from wracking guilt, the theme for WSPD this year needs to be taken to heart. World Suicide Prevention Day was observed across the world reflecting the sentiment - 'Working together to prevent suicide.' This is the third year in a row that this has been the theme of the day, bringing home the need to collaborate, not ignore.

What is being underlined through this theme is our collective responsibility as a community to look out for those struggling with suicidal thoughts, notice their condition and engage with them in a non-judgmental way, hear them out, offer sound counsel if we can and help them access professional assistance. Suicide is the result of a convergence of genetic, psychological, social and cultural and other risk factors, sometimes combined with experiences of trauma and loss.

Suicide is a vexed problem facing Sikkim which is why more people here need to spare a minute to muster the resolve to get engaged. Studies across the world have borne out that most times, all that it takes to pull a person back from the brink is a gentle word of support, even a gesture conveying that they need not suffer in isolation.

This section has spoken often about how Sikkim is seeking to address the challenge of suicides without having figured out why so many here ending their own lives. That is an important data analysis to undertake and should be done soon, but today, let's also focus on the need to remove the stigma still associated with suicides and suicide attempts, not just on the victims but also on their families. This stigma stops many from seeking help and also denies the community the opportunity to learn and prepare for the challenge. It is important that people who have lived through a suicide attempt to be able to share their experience more widely and teach others about the value of human engagement. Societies which have sought the assistance of survivors to inform the suicide prevention programmes have learned that words and actions of others are important mediums of saving lives. Those who have overcome suicidal tendencies have often spoken movingly about reaching the point where they could see no alternative but to take their own life, and about the days, hours and minutes leading up to this. They often describe realising that they did not want to die but instead wanted someone to intervene and stop them. Many say that they actively sought someone who would sense their despair and ask them whether they were okay. That is where the investment of a minute to notice these signals becomes important. The agencies engaged in addressing the problem of suicides can help by informing people at large about how they should respond and act when they notice someone around them struggling with such dark thoughts, because, let's also accept that most of us do not know how to face such situations. And because we do not know, we choose to ignore.

As the WHO message for the day shares, "Joining together is critical to preventing suicide. Preventing suicide requires the efforts of many. It takes family, friends, co-workers, community members, educators, religious leaders, healthcare professionals, political officials and governments. Suicide prevention requires integrative strategies that encompass work at the individual, systems and community level."

Data reveals that in the wake of every suicide, 135 people suffer intense grief or are otherwise affected. Given the number of suicides Sikkim has suffered, it would be safe to vouch that just everyone here has been affected by a death due to suicide. That, in itself, should be reason enough for everyone here to work together to prevent suicides. The theme for this day has been carefully chosen. After all, it highlights the most essential ingredient for effective suicide prevention - collaboration. We all have a role to play and together we can collectively address the challenges presented by suicidal behaviour in society today.

Shots fired in the Himalayas: a dangerous development in the China-India border standoff

STEPHEN PETER WESTCOTT
theconversation.com

In the midst of all the stories about China's oppression in Hong Kong and Xinjiang and its expulsion of foreign journalists, a recent clash on its border with India may pose the greater threat to Asian security.

For the first time in 45 years, shots were fired this week.

CONFRONTATION ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

During the evening of September 7, Chinese and Indian troops confronted each other along their undefined, de facto border, known as the "Line of Actual Control" (LAC).

This in itself was not unusual. The two sides have been locked in several tense standoffs along the LAC since May.

What makes this confrontation stand out is it involved the first known use of firearms on the border in almost half a century.

WHAT HAPPENED?

China and India have accused each other of provoking this confrontation, which occurred in the Rezang-La heights area, just south of Pangong Lake.

According to Indian reports, there were between 30 and 40 Chinese troops involved. Photographs published in Indian media show Chinese soldiers armed with crude Guandao-style polearms, as well as standard issue rifles.

It is unclear how many Indian troops were involved or how they were equipped.

China claims Indian troops crossed the LAC and "blatantly fired shots" when Chinese border troops moved to deter them. India, has strenuously denied this, saying Chinese soldiers crossed the LAC

and were blocked by an Indian forward position, who they then tried to intimidate by firing "a few rounds in the air".

No troops have been reported injured or killed. Regardless of which side actually fired the shots, the tactic did not work. Both Chinese and Indian soldiers remain in a stand-off, reportedly only 200 metres apart.

UNRAVELLING RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

This recent exchange represents a troubling escalation between the two countries. It directly contravenes the rules and norms painstakingly established by China and India to govern behaviour on the border.

Negotiations on the disputed border have always been tough for China and India. The two sides took nearly 12 years of tentative negotiations before signing their first treaty in 1993, in which they agreed to "maintain peace and tranquillity" along the LAC.

Subsequent agreements were reached after negotiations in 1996, 2005 and 2013. These govern military conduct on the border and guidelines for a diplomatic resolution.

The prohibition against the use of weapons along the LAC was first laid out in the 1996 agreement.

Neither side shall open fire, cause bio-degradation, use hazardous chemicals, conduct blast operations or hunt with guns and explosives within two kilometres from the Line of Actual Control.

Until this week, China and India have upheld this agreement, even when previous border patrol confrontations became heated.

However, both sides have been pushing the limits of what the other will tolerate and have trying to exploit loopholes and technicalities for several years now.

Border confrontations have gradually escalat-

ed from farcical shoving matches to fully-fledged brawls and stone flinging, which caused injuries in 2017.

This year has seen both sides up the ante, with the introduction of makeshift clubs in a lethal melee at the Galwan Valley in June and China now seemingly equipping some border patrols with polearms.

Earlier this month, Indian media reported India was using new rules of engagement. This change allows its border troops to use whatever means are available for "tactical signalling" against the Chinese.

A DANGEROUS DEADLOCK

As two of the world's largest militaries - and two nuclear-armed countries - even a limited border war between China and India would be devastating for regional peace and stability. It would likely ruin what little cooperation there is left and potentially pull in third parties, such as Pakistan or the United States.

It is clear from the flurry of diplomatic activity between China and India over the past months that they feel the gravity of their situation.

But despite both sides proclaiming they seek a peaceful resolution to the ongoing standoffs, a culture of mistrust continues to poison discussions.

China and India's foreign ministers are scheduled to meet in Moscow on Thursday to discuss the border standoff in person for the first time since the crisis began.

Both countries will now need to engage in some masterful and innovative diplomatic work to find a way to rejuvenate their diplomacy.

And find a mutually face-saving way to disengage before the standoff escalates out of control.

[the writer is Post-doc research fellow, Murdoch University]



How to read coronavirus news and learn what you actually need to know about staying safe in the pandemic

THOMAS J. HRACH
theconversations.com

With COVID-19, a news story that may be 100% accurate can still unintentionally mislead readers about the greatest threats of the pandemic. The unintended outcome results from a lesson taught to every journalism student: Use "real people" to "humanize" the news.

The "real person" in COVID-19 stories may be a mom concerned about her child getting sick in the classroom, used as an example in an article about schools reopening. It may be the family member of a person who died from COVID-19, who gives a moving account for a story about the virus's effects on young adults.

News is about people, so it makes sense to highlight real-life stories. Viewers and readers relate more to personal tales than they do to dry statistics.

But one person's experience is, well, one person's experience. Media studies research suggests readers should not be unduly swayed by one person's tale of woe - or joy - because examples don't necessarily represent the whole.

HARROWING, MEMORABLE AND INCOMPLETE

Six million Americans have contracted the coronavirus, experiencing radically differing symptoms, illnesses and outcomes. So terrifying individual tales in a news story can't tell people all they need to know.

For example, National Public Radio recently did a piece on people recovering very slowly from the coro-

navirus. The gut-wrenching story told first-person accounts of two women who continue to suffer months after getting the virus.

The interview was harrowing - enough to scare one into wearing a mask at all times - and memorable. But most people will not become COVID-19 "long haulers." Evidence suggests it takes usually two weeks to recover from mild cases and six weeks from serious cases.

While scientists don't yet fully understand COVID-19, the overall recovery rate from the virus is between 97% and 99.75%.

NPR included information on typical illness length in its story on COVID-19 long haulers. But the two women's horrific accounts are what many listeners will likely recall - and tell others about.

Another exemplification that could lead people to misunderstand pandemic risk is the story of the first child under age 5 to die from the virus, in South Carolina. Distributed nationally by the Associated Press, this piece ran in local papers across the U.S. It would naturally have parents concerned.

Yet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says children so young are nine times less likely to die from COVID-19 than young adults and 270 times less likely than people in their 50s.

This information was not included in the story, potentially skewing parents' thinking when it comes to decisions about everything from play dates to school attendance.

ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE IS...AN-

ECDOTAL

This problem goes beyond coronavirus coverage.

Another common tactic in the news business is the "anecdotal lead" - the short story that starts a news article or TV news broadcast, meant to grab attention. For example, one widely reported anecdote during the anti-racism protests following the police death of George Floyd was a store owner in Santa Monica, California, who protected his liquor store from looting in June by standing out front with an assault rifle.

Be wary of such opening anecdotes.

The Santa Monica snapshot, while true, is not indicative of how unrest across the nation is playing out. Most protests are peaceful, and when looting breaks out business owners generally leave armed defense to the police. Some press charges against those who damage their property. Other small business owners have fled, protected and joined peaceful protesters.

All those stories are told in the media, too. Yet Brian Dunning, executive director of Skeptoid Media, which produces a podcast dedicated to debunking bad science, said the opening anecdote is usually what readers and viewers remember from a news story - not so much the bigger picture it is supposed to convey.

The human brain is "hard-wired to think anecdotally," said Dunning in a recent interview with a group of journalism educators.

Science backs this up. Research into cognitive processing finds that people consume information con-

stantly, and their brains eventually get so full that only a few scant details can be recalled.

"So most news story content is never adequately processed and quickly forgotten," write Stanely J. Baran and Dennis K. Davis in a primer on mass communication. "Even when we do make a more conscious effort to learn from news, we often lack the information necessary to make in-depth interpretations of content."

THE BIG PANDEMIC PUZZLE

Despite the foibles of human memory, journalists still gravitate toward "the intriguing case report" and the "exemplar-laden account," explain researchers Dolf Zillman and Hans Bernd Brosius in their 2000 book "Exemplification in Communication."

There's a simple reason: It sells. "Journalism dedicated to unexemplified, abstract accounts of phenomena, no matter how reliable and effectively informative, has rarely, if ever, been considered a winning formula," say Zillman and Brosius.

The real-person story is not useless. It can help people understand today's complicated world of deadly pandemics, civil unrest and economic devastation.

But examples are only part of a bigger picture that may well be abstract, nuanced and ever-changing.

The wise news consumer will consider each example as just one piece of the pandemic puzzle as they make daily decisions to keep themselves healthy and their families safe.

[the writer is Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Strategic Media, University of Memphis]

Assam leaders switch sides ahead of assembly election

GUWAHATI, SEPT 10 [PTI]: Nearly 500 people, including former BJP MLA Dilip Moran, from various political parties and social groups joined the opposition Congress on Wednesday, while almost an equal number of people joined the saffron party ahead of the assembly polls due next year.

Moran, who was a BJP legislator from Doom Dooma, joined the Congress in presence of its state chief Ripun Bora in Guwahati. BJP leader Niranjan Nath also switched sides to the opposition party.

The Asom Gana Parishad's (AGP) Bakkar Ali Ahmed and Ismail Husain joined the Congress along with 50-odd party workers. Petros Basumatary of the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) too joined the same party.

The AGP and the BPF are constituents of the ruling BJP-led coalition.

Abdul Khandakar and Shahjahan Ali of the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) joined the Congress with over 100 supporters. These two leaders unsuccessfully contested the 2016 Assembly polls.

Apart from them, a number of singers, actors, dancers, music composers and others joined the Congress.

On the other hand, nearly 500 Congress workers switched allegiance to the BJP in Nagaland in presence of party MLA Rupak Sarmah.

"The Congress workers are frustrated at their party's alliance with the AIUDF. We have been telling it from the beginning that if the two opposition parties join hands, the BJP will be the maximum gainer," Sarmah said.

The election to the 126-member Assam Assembly is due in April next year.

147 new cases push Arunachal's COVID-19 tally to 5,545

ITANAGAR, SEP 10 (PTI): As many as 147 more people, including 17 security personnel, have tested positive for COVID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh, taking the northeastern state's tally to 5,545 on Thursday, a senior health official said.

The Capital Complex region reported the highest number of new cases at 51, followed by 15 in Lower Dibang Valley and 11 each in East Siang, West Kameng and Changlang districts, he said.

"Seven ITBP personnel, six Assam Rifles jawans and four Army men are among the new patients," State Surveillance Officer, Dr L. Jampa, said.

Barring five, all the new patients are asymptomatic and they have been shifted to COVID-19 care centres, he said.

As many as 183 more people have been cured of the disease, Jampa said, adding the recovery rate among the COVID-19 patients in the state has improved to 70.44 per cent.

Nagaland Govt issues revised guidelines for returnees & travellers entering state

DIMAPUR, SEPT 09 [NAGALANDPAGE]: Eight days after lifting of restrictions of inter-state and intra-state movements, the Nagaland Government has issued revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for returnees and other travellers entering the State with immediate effect. The revised SOP was issued on Wednesday following a meeting of the High Powered Committee on Covid-19 earlier on Monday.

The fresh SOP for returnees to the State entails self declaration and registration for inbound travellers/returnees, and reporting to the Screening Centre which may be located at the designated Points of Entry or in a convenient location as decided by the respective District Task Force. Returnees can also opt for Home Quarantine, instead of paid or institutional quarantine on fulfillment of certain norms.

No returnees/ travellers would be allowed to proceed beyond the screening centre without proof of submission of the Self Declaration and Undertaking if opting for home quarantine and Registration in the nCOVID Nagaland Visitors App and Aryogya Setu at the time of screening.

Any returnee/ traveller will be permitted to enter the State, subject to normal Inner Line Permit (ILP) restrictions wherever applicable, through Dimapur by Train, Air or by Road through the New Field Check Gate and the Dillai Gate; through Khuzama in Kohima district by Road, through Tsutapela and Watiyongpang in Mokokchung district by Road, through Naginimora and Tizit in Mon district by Road, and through Bhandari in Wokha district by Road. Entry into the State through any other route, or by any other mode of travel will not be allowed, except under special circumstances with the



approval of the Home Department.

As per the fresh guidelines any person who goes out of the State by road in self-arranged conveyance and returns within 24 hours without night-halt through the same point of exit, and asymptomatic on arrival at the point of entry will be exempted from quarantine. But movement permit would be required from the respective District Task Force under which the point of exit/entry falls. Any person, including truckers and attendants of any goods vehicles, transiting the State without halting anywhere would also be exempted from quarantine.

The Nagaland Government had opened most border entry points to the State and announced a slew of relaxations earlier on September 1 as part of Unlock 4 guidelines, with the rider that revised SOP for returnees to the State would be announced later. The delay in issuing revised rules for the returnees had created an atmosphere of confusion especially in Dimapur, the main entry point to Nagaland. While returnees/inbound

travelers arriving at Dimapur by train or flight had to undergo quarantine at paid-quarantine centres and Government quarantine centres, no restrictions were imposed at the New Field Check Gate and the Dillai Gate in Dimapur.

Since September 1, there has been free movement of people and vehicles at both the check gates, besides various other entry points. When Nagaland Page contacted Deputy Commissioner Dimapur, he informed that the District Task Force was awaiting issue of fresh directives and guidelines.

Free movement through the two main check gates at Dimapur will be restricted once the new SOP is put into effect, but sources in Dimapur district administration told Nagaland Page that screening of inbound travelers/visitors as per the new guidelines would be a near impossible task.

"First of all, the district administration simply does not have manpower for such a mammoth task. We will need complete cooperation of

the Police and Medical department. Moreover Dimapur has porous borders with many Nagas living on the Assam side of the border," an administrative officer said.

Sources in the district administration feel that the borders should not have been opened without first putting a monitoring mechanism in place. Regarding the different yardsticks applied to those arriving at Dimapur by train/flight, and by road, the officer said the confusion over quarantine was also created in the absence of revised SOPs.

As per the guidelines issued today, every returnee/ traveller who is found asymptomatic will undergo quarantine for 14 (fourteen) days. The returnee/ traveller on his own volition may either opt for home quarantine, or institutional quarantine in a facility managed by District Task Force or paid quarantine in the designated hotel/lodge.

All returnees/ travellers showing COVID-like symptom will be subjected to medical protocols. In case the returnee/inbound traveller is bound

for some other district, then based on the fitness, will be retained in the District in which the entry point falls, or transported to the respective home/destination district in a separate transport facility. All the returnees/travellers showing no symptoms on screening will proceed to their respective districts managing their own source of conveyance. Returnees/ travellers, if found symptomatic on arrival, would be immediately tested. Any person who develops symptoms during the course of quarantine would be tested immediately. If the person in quarantine remains asymptomatic throughout the 14 days quarantine period, no testing would be required for release from quarantine.

Any person who has to immediately attend to essential and urgent works/duties on his/her entry into the State from outside and hence can't quarantine, or because of unavoidable reasons is not in a position to quarantine, may be exempted from undergoing quarantining on entry subject to certain conditions.

Persons who are currently undergoing quarantine under provisions of the previous SOP for returnees will be released from quarantine if tested negative on TrueNat/RT-PCR, or are asymptomatic. No charge for tests will be levied on them.

Moreover, new guidelines have also been issued for movement of military/para military personnel. Respective units will have to make their own arrangements for screening of their personnel entering Nagaland at the entry point, and thereafter for transportation to the camps for mandatory 14-day quarantine.

Nagaland Chief Secretary, Temjen Toy has stated that the SOP will be uniformly implemented in the State without any deviation and without modification.

Animal Rights activist gets bail after two months in Nagaland



DIMAPUR, SEPT 09 [NAGALANDPAGE]: Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench on Wednesday granted bail to Hema Choudhury, who was arrested on July 17 last for passing derogatory remarks against the Nagas in a social media post.

According to the Court Order issued today, Justice Hukato Swu, Judge of Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench granted the bail on condition that the accused shall be released on furnishing a local surety and the accused and the bailer would sign a bail bond of Rs 1 lakh each.

The Order said the accused should not leave the jurisdiction of the Court without prior permission and shall report to the IO, once in a week till the filing of the chargesheet.

The Order further stated that Hema Choudhury be released on fulfillment of the mentioned conditions before the learned Special Judge, ST & SC (POA), Kohima.

Earlier, during the hearing, Counsel Moa Jamir appearing for the petitioner/accused submitted that she has been languishing in jail for the last 55 days and has been developing medical problems as is seen in the reports.

Arguing that bail is the rule and

jail is the exception, Jamir submitted that even in serious criminal offences and also serious offences affecting the country's economy, the Apex Court has granted bail to the accused on the principles laid down. Jamir pleaded that the accused is a female where the provision of the CrPC has clearly provided that the category of individuals who are female, children and aged, sick and inform persons should be released on bail, if not involved in heinous crimes of murder and sentence carrying life sentence. He said none of the charges that has been leveled against the accused carries life sentence and added that she is a female having medical complications.

He prayed that the bail may be considered under any conditions as deemed fit by the Court.

Appearing for the State, K K Wotsa, Public Prosecutor produced the prescribed report of the investigation wherein it has been made sufficiently clear that the accused has committed the offence charged against her and she has caused anxiety and also incited her followers to take action against the Nagas by circulating objectionable videos.

Wotsa mentioned that the accused has used the word 'Chinki'

to describe the people of Nagaland, which is ultimately scathing insult and secondly, Hema Choudhury has also threatened to kill Nagas on the streets. Thirdly, the accused has also appealed to masses outside the state, restaurant owners to look into the bio data especially with respect to what they eat before they give appointment which may cause harm and prejudice the Nagas in the matters of employment, Wotsa stated.

The Public Prosecutor argued that the accused/petitioner has admitted and has also volunteered to make public apologies for her misdeeds. This being the facts of the matter, sentiment hurting and proven case, bail should not be considered, the Public Prosecutor stated and objected to the consideration of bail at this stage.

The Court observed that the accused/petitioner has already spent 55 days in the custody and furthermore, she is shown to be a diabetic patient. The Judge found that all the charges against the accused are below 5 years and also that 55 days of incarceration have made her realize her mistakes and she has offered to tender apology to the Naga community, which is infact gratifying.

Meghalaya CM requests Sitharaman for more bank branches in state

SHILLONG, SEPT 09 [PTI]: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Wednesday met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi and requested her to prioritise the setting up of new bank branches in rural areas to increase the reach of banking system in the state, officials said here.

The chief minister accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong also submitted a memorandum to Sitharaman requesting the Government of India to increase Meghalaya's share of central taxes.

The Union Finance Minister was also apprised on the overall financial position of Meghalaya by the CM,

they said. After meeting Union Finance Minister, Sangma and Tynsong also met Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur and discussed on way forward for initiating externally funded World Bank and New Development Bank projects in the state.

They also apprised Thakur of the three externally aided projects that focus on Health, Tourism and Road Infrastructure development in the state, according to a statement from the CMO.

The CM and Dy CM also met Union Minister for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying Giriraj Singh and discussed prospects and interventions to be tak-

en up in the state to promote cattle breeding, piggy and fisheries for economic growth and sustainable development, it said.

They also called on Minister of State Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Arjun M Meghwal and discussed various issues related to the introduction of electric vehicles, particularly for short distance public transport.

Later in the day, the chief minister met Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. In the meeting, Sangma expressed his gratitude to the Union Minister and the Ministry for funding the construction of P. A. Sangma Stadium in Tura.

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VIDEO NEWS SECTION
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Too much perspective? Bring on the trivial luxury of the Premier League

Marina Hyde

LONDON, 10 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: We began the lockdown with politicians tilting piously at a familiar scapegoat. "The first thing that Premier League footballers can do," prioritised health secretary Matt Hancock, "is make a contribution, take a pay cut and play their part."

Regrettably, for the government, that wasn't the last thing Premier League footballers did. By the time we got to June, footballers had raised vast sums for NHS workers, and the cabinet were gritting their teeth to thank Marcus Rashford, 22, for handing their arse to them on the matter of free school dinners over the summer holidays for Britain's poorest children. "I think it is the right thing to do," said a straight-faced Boris Johnson, whose own government had long resisted doing it, "and I congratulate Marcus Rashford on his campaign." Education secretary and full spectrum disaster-class Gavin Williamson opined of Rashford: "He represents the best of Britain and is a role model for all of those children who look up to him for inspiration." Shame he can't be a role model for Gavin. Still, the minute I hear the news about Williamson or Hancock taking a pay cut, so will you.

So as the Premier League season gets under way, we've probably got at least three weeks grace before actual secretaries of state start using sportsmen as a deflector shield again.

In the meantime, though, we have now spent a veeeeery considerable time hearing about how the pandemic has put football into perspective. And you know, I get it. I got it in March. We have been through quite a lot, as the politicians who have helped put us through quite a lot of it keep telling us.

But five long months on, what far too few people are talking about is the sheer JOY of a completely lost perspective. Honestly, what's so bad about not having any perspective? There really is a deliciously carefree pleasure to reacting to things in a manner quite out of proportion to their importance.

When my middle child was born, he required surgery a few days into his life, and then a long stay and fairly painstaking recovery in hospital. At the start, naturally, I made deals with deities I didn't even believe in, and had great flashing revelations that of course nothing that I had ever thought mattered actually mattered at all. My goodness – the sheer insignificance of the things I had previously obsessed about! The incredible triviality of stuff I had devoted so much as five seconds to thinking about!

However, after a few weeks, there does come a point where you think: Wow, I can't WAIT to get really exercised by something that doesn't matter.

Serena Williams digs deep against Pironkova to reach US Open semi-finals

KEVIN MITCHELL

NEW YORK, 10 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: It was not quite the mother of all battles of the mothers, but Serena Williams was plainly relieved to put behind her a fretful three-set win against the grasscourt specialist Tsvetana Pironkova to reach the semi-finals on Thursday night.

Naomi Osaka, who plays Jennifer Brady on Thursday on the other side of the draw for a place in Saturday's final, will be favourite to win the US Open for a second time but Williams, who suffered again to beat the unseeded Bulgarian 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, in 2hr 12min, is not quite out of the reckoning yet.

Along with Victoria Azarenka, her semi-final opponent, the 38-year-old Williams and 32-year-old Pironkova were the last standing of the nine mothers who started the tournament and the American, a six-time US champion, was comforted to have Alexis Olympia court-side, just a week after her third birthday.

Waving to her daughter, Williams said court-side: "It just shows how tough moms are. If you can birth a baby, you can do anything. She was incredible today. You play a match and go home and you're still changing diapers. It's like a double life, surreal."

The intimidation has waned noticeably. Her greatness now comes not in dominance but desperation, of which there was plenty in this quarter-final. Pironkova had taken just two sets off her in their four previous meetings but was unnervingly



cool under pressure.

They started 22 minutes after the advertised local time of midday thanks to another dawdle to the battlefield by Williams, who kept her opponent waiting in the corridor for a quarter of an hour. Not good.

Once they got going, Williams got serious – as did Pironkova, left thigh heavily strapped but smoothly into her trademark flat backhand down the line to break after 17 minutes. A solid hold stretched her lead to 4-2.

Williams gulped in a big load of oxygen at the start of the seventh game and, with her forehand spluttering, held to love. Pironkova grabbed two set points on her serve

and sealed it with an angled forehand after 40 minutes. The exchanges were still close enough to suggest there was plenty of tennis left in the contest, but Williams was profligate and frustrated.

She came from a set down in the third round against Sloane Stephens, but her fellow American was curiously out of sorts. This time, Williams received no such luxury from an opponent using making the most of her big moment. Williams helped her in the first set with 11 unforced errors.

Pironkova broke again at the start of the second and Williams needed to draw on their shared past

for inspiration. In two of their previous meetings, she had come from a set down to impose herself and, after waiting 50 minutes for her first break point, she scrambled back to parity. Her forehand was still malfunctioning, as she hit wide and long on key points, and the upset was still part of the equation – a Pironkova specialty.

Williams hit her 50th ace of the tournament – more than anyone in the draw – to dig herself out of trouble in the third game of the second set, and another to steady her nerves. But, having fashioned a break point in the fourth game, she again overcooked it from the back of

the court with Pironkova stretched. A love hold lifted Williams's spirits. Pironkova is a very good player, but not a great one; Williams is so obviously a great player, but too often lately capable of some inexplicable dips. It made the match close, uneven and compelling.

Williams gathered her composure to break for 5-3 after a 27-shot rally, the longest of the match, that left them both with hands on knees. When she levelled at a set apiece with her 16th ace, her scream was surely audible outside the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

There was marginally more authority in her finish, as she held on to an early break in the third set, but it was not her most convincing performance. Even 4-2 up, she was relying on Pironkova's mistakes for many of her points, and was breathing heavily after only two hours on court.

But she is proud, stubborn, a fighter – always has been. She broke again through two deuce points, with a classic crosscourt backhand winner, and wrapped up the match with a 20th ace and a barrage of unreturnable serves, dominant at last.

When Williams was 17, three times she came back from a set down – against Kim Clijsters, Conchita Martínez and Monica Seles – before beating the world No1, Martina Hingis, in the final. She never had such a challenge here again – until 21 years after her first triumph. She came back against Stephens, and she did so against Pironkova. How much she has left not even she knows.

Liverpool will struggle to win Premier League title again, says Gary Neville



SEAN INGLE

LIVERPOOL, 10 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: It will take a "superhuman effort" for Liverpool to win the Premier League again unless they sign another top-quality player such as Thiago Alcântara, Gary Neville has warned.

Neville said history had taught him to expect a drop-off from Jürgen Klopp's side this season, and predicted it could lead to Manchester City pipping them to the title next May. "To get to a Champions League final, win it the following season, and then to go again to win the Premier League title is a huge emotional drain on that group of Liverpool players for three years," he said. "To ask them to go again and achieve that same standard would be a superhuman effort."

"It wouldn't be ridiculous to suggest there will be a slight drop-off, if they don't somehow stimulate that squad by doing something to give them that lift again. Thiago would be the big one. He is world class and would give them a world-class presence in an area of the field where they don't have one."

Thiago's contract with Bayern runs out next summer, and while Liverpool have been linked with the Spain international they are yet to make a bid. But Neville warned: "Liverpool are not perfect. They have a world-class goalkeeper, centre-back and strikers. They have really good midfield players with good work ethic but with Thiago would be another step. He would control the game with that weight of pass, that nous."

Neville also expressed his disappointment in Manchester United's board for not doing more to back Ole Gunnar Solskjær in the transfer market this summer – and said he was also concerned that the battle for the No 1 spot between David de Gea and Dean Henderson could prove an unwelcome subplot.

"It's never an ideal situation," he said. "You're always better having an excellent No 1 and a quite clear, very good No 2. Henderson isn't going to sit around and wait. And every time De

Gea makes some mistake we'll be asking: is this Henderson's moment?"

"Certainly when we had a changing goalkeeping situation, say between Roy Carroll and Tim Howard, it was unhealthy as none of them really knew who the No 1 was. None of them probably felt fully supported – and they always probably felt like they were one mistake away from the other one playing. That could happen with De Gea and Henderson. It's going to be a real challenge of Ole's management skills to keep them both happy, because I think that's impossible."

Neville also urged United's board to move quickly to bring in new players to help Solskjær get closer to Liverpool and City. "A trophy and breaking that top two has to be the next step. But that's going to be difficult. Ole needs more players and support from the board to do that."

"When you look at the bench, the game changers aren't there, the depth is not there. They definitely need a centre-back, a midfield player, a forward and a right winger, and potentially another defender, maybe a left-back too. I am disappointed because I wanted the players that Chelsea signed to go to United."

Neville said that while he expected City to win the Premier League he remained concerned with their defensive failings. "Last season, with Vincent Kompany leaving and Aymeric Laporte getting injured, the reaction in transition to losing the ball was nowhere near as good as it had been in the previous two seasons, but I think Pep Guardiola will want to bounce back."

The Sky Sports pundit also predicted Leeds would provide "the most fascinating story" of the season. "When people say football was better 20 years ago, absolutely not. Promoted teams were rigid but nowadays we're seeing managers come up with philosophies. Marcelo Bielsa is front foot. They are going to Anfield on the first day, and while they might get a bloody nose they'll get one fighting the way he wants to fight."

Roles reversed with England as Australia set out on road to next World Cup

GEOFF LEMON

LONDON, 10 SEPT [THEGUARDIAN]: For the longest time, England did not beat Australia at one-day cricket. In the general sense, not the specific. There were matches along the journey that went England's way, even brief periods of ascendancy. But as a rule, that team did not beat Australia. It was always the exception.

The first one-day international ever played, as a fill-in match in Melbourne in 1971, the home team won. England's worst losing streak stretched to 14 matches in March 2003. In the first 15 years of the current century, England's win-loss record read 18-45. That was when everything changed.

Since then, England's one-day team has gone 13-3 against Australia. The era began in the northern season of 2015. The Australians had already won that year's World Cup while England got bounced out of the tournament without making the final eight teams. The champions duly won the first two games of a series. England though had started a complete rebuild of the one-day team: personnel, tactics, attitude. Their new combination bounced back to win the next two.

An opener named Jason Roy blazed a fast fifty in that first win. So did the captain, Eoin Morgan. The spinners, Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali, controlled the middle overs. Liam Plunkett took wickets. In the second win Moeen did it again, after left-arm swing bowler David Willey took bulk wickets in the opening overs. Australia recovered, but the English pulled off what would become their party trick of chasing scores over 300. Morgan was prominent again.

Those were the kind of per-

formances that would defend England's successful next four years. Ben Stokes was in that 2015 team too, with Jonny Bairstow, Chris Woakes and Alex Hales. Mark Wood played the next match, Jos Buttler had played previously in the series. The only players from 2015 who were not still in the mix approaching the 2019 World Cup were batsman James Taylor, retired prematurely with a heart problem, and fast bowler Steven Finn.

The lesson in all of this is that World Cup planning starts early. The England team of 2015 was not the finished product, and ended up losing the fifth and deciding match of that particular series to Australia. But the England team was at least close to a fixed product, which gave its players four years to learn how to pursue the game together. That team would go on to knock Australia out of the Champions Trophy and the next World Cup, along with steamrolling a couple of bilateral series in the meantime.

In 2020 the roles are pretty well reversed. The English are now are the world champions who will have to refocus, the Australians are the ones who have to move on from a limp World Cup exit. In this context, there is an argument for Australia to settle on a plan and back it rather than experiment.

This is where there is a big difference between England's 2015 and Australia's 2020. When coach Trevor Bayliss assembled his England team, the players were not unknowns but they were mostly on the younger side and picked on promise. Some were project players, others had ability that had not quite been channelled yet. Almost

all of them were aged between 24 and 26 at that point, with Plunkett the only one just over 30.

The Australians conversely have a team built around players who have been doing their thing at international level for a long time. Experience is valuable and age need not be a determining factor, but it is a consideration when the next World Cup is three years away. On the evidence of this tour the plan involves Aaron Finch and David Warner contesting the tournament at 36 years of age. Matthew Wade would be 35, Glenn Maxwell 34, Steve Smith and Marcus Stoinis 33. Usman Khawaja's omission probably had as much to do with not having another 33-year-old as not needing another top-order batsman.

Of the current bowlers, AJ Tye would be aged 36 by the next Cup, Nathan Lyon 35, Mitchell Starc 33, Josh Hazlewood and Kane Richardson 32, Sean Abbott 31 and Mitchell Marsh 31. Daniel Sams, often referred to as a young all-rounder, will be 30, as will Adam Zampa. Pat Cummins and Ashton Agar would be 29. The only players on the younger end of things would be Marnus Labuschagne, Josh Philippe and Riley Meredith.

All those experienced players can deliver. The question then is more about game style than the talent on offer. A style was what England developed so clearly in 2015 and stuck with throughout. Australia looked to lack a clear style during last year's World Cup. They beat England in a warm-up match and in the group stage by grinding away with their bowlers, but could not hold back the local batting approach in the semi-final.

Perez to leave Racing Point, opening door for Vettel

LONDON, SEP 10 (AP): Formula One driver Sergio Perez announced he is leaving the Racing Point team after this season, opening the door for Sebastian Vettel to replace him.

Perez posted a statement on social media on Wednesday saying that "after seven years together, my time with the team will come to an end after the season."

Vettel had already been linked with a move to Racing Point, which will be rebranded as Aston Martin next season, and Perez's

departure could pave the way for the four-time F1 champion. Vettel is leaving Ferrari at the end of this season but has yet to sign with a new team. Racing Point's other driver is Lance Stroll, the son of co-owner Lawrence Stroll, who is keeping his seat for next season.

Perez, 30, played a key role in helping Racing Point, previously known as Force India, from going out of business in 2018.

It hurts a bit as I bet on the team during very rough times. We

managed to overcome obstacles and I am very proud of saving the jobs of several of my teammates," Perez said. I will always be grateful for the opportunity given to me by (former owner) Vijay Mallya, who believed in me in 2014 and allowed me to continue my F1 career with Force India."

Vettel will be replaced by McLaren's Carlos Sainz at Ferrari next year.

Perez said he will look for a new team, with Alfa Romeo and Haas seen as possible options.

European Central Bank's stimulus train to keep on rolling

FRANKFURT, GERMANY (AP): The European Central Bank left its key stimulus policies unchanged on Thursday, with almost a trillion euros (dollars) still in the pipeline to bolster the eurozone economy's rebound from the severe coronavirus recession.

ECB President Christine Lagarde said the economy had shown "a strong rebound in activity" since the lockdowns eased but remained "well below" pre-virus levels.

She said high uncertainty about the path of the economy's recovery meant that "ample monetary stimulus remains necessary" and repeated intentions to keep the ECB's pandemic emergency bond purchase stimulus running through mid-2021.

The comments may be a prelude to even more stimulus later this year as the ECB and global counterparts like the U.S. Federal Reserve make clear their determination to maintain their massive support to the economy to limit the damage from the virus outbreak.

The bank's governing council made the decision Thursday to keep benchmark interest rates, the size of its bond-buying stimulus programs and its outlook



unchanged.

Many analysts think that the ECB will add to its pandemic emergency bond purchase stimulus at its December meeting, when it will have new inflation and growth forecasts.

The economy of the 19 euro currency countries plunged 11.8% in the April-June quarter. Activity is picking up quickly but isn't expected to regain pre-virus levels before 2022.

The bank is pumping 1.35 trillion euros (\$1.6 trillion) in newly printed money into the economy through purchases of government and corporate bonds, on top of 20 billion euros in monthly bond purchases from a

stimulus effort launched before the outbreak.

Those measures come on top of cheap, long-term credit for banks to help them lend to businesses, and a negative rate penalty of 0.5% on deposits left overnight by commercial banks as an incentive for them to lend the money rather than let it pile up at the central bank.

The ECB stimulus effort comes as the Fed has shifted its 2% interest rate target to an average, meaning that it could maintain stimulus for a longer period by letting inflation run higher than the target. Both central banks have struggled to raise inflation to their goals. The ECB saw the

inflation rate fall below zero in August with an annual figure of 0.2%, far from the bank's goal of below but close to 2%.

ECB officials have stressed that while they are taking action to help the economy, the key factor in the recovery will be getting the virus under control. And that has raised cause for worry. After some initial success in reversing large outbreaks in Spain, Italy and France, and after Germany's success in containing a disastrous first wave, cases have started to rise again as people have returned from summer vacations and as some restrictions have been eased.

European govern-

ments have made big economic efforts at the national level, paying companies to keep workers on and extending loans. That has kept unemployment in the eurozone down at 7.9%, thought the rate is likely to rise after those programs expire.

At the EU level, governments have agreed to fund a 750 billion-euro recovery fund supported by common borrowing. The money would be spent from 2021 on projects aimed at supporting growth, digitalization and transforming the economy to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas blamed by scientists for climate change.

Global markets turn lower with focus on tech stocks

BEIJING (AP): Global stock markets turned lower on Thursday, with Wall Street futures were slipping ahead of the open as investors focused on the recent volatility in tech stocks.

Some investors appeared encouraged by hopes of possible additional stimulus from the European Central Bank, analysts said. But they warned the recovery was fragile.

"To the extent that 'buy the dip' mentality persists, this market may possess a somewhat more stubborn bullish streak," said Mizuho Bank. However, "markets will be prone to more volatility."

In Europe, the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.7% to 5,969 and the CAC 40 in Paris was 0.4% lower at 5,025. The DAX in Frankfurt was flat at 13,236.

On Wall Street, futures for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average were down 0.5%.

In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.6% to 3,234.82 after spending most of the day in positive territory. The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo added 0.9% to 23,235.47

while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gave up 0.2% to 24,428.23.

The Kospi in Seoul advanced 0.9% to 2,396.48 and Sydney's ASX-S&P 500 gained 0.5% to 5,908.50. India's Sensex added 1.3% to 38,676.69. New Zealand and Bangkok advanced while Singapore and Jakarta declined.

Global markets have recovered most of this year's losses, but that was based largely on strong gains for tech stocks while other companies are lower.

Forecasters warn the stock price recovery might be too big and too early to be supported by uncertain economic activity as coronavirus infection numbers rise in the United States, Brazil and some other countries. Some governments have re-imposed anti-disease controls that hamper business.

On Wednesday, Apple, Amazon and other U.S. tech companies that had lost momentum late last week all regained some ground.

The Dow climbed 1.6% while the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite rose 2.7%. It had

dropped 10% over the previous three days.

The U.S. Congress is at an impasse on whether to approve a new economic aid package after additional unemployment benefits ran out. The Senate is due to vote this week on a Republican-proposed package but it has little chance of passage because Democrats want more aid.

A Senate vote this week on a trimmed-down relief package proposed by Republicans has only a slim chance of passage as Democrats insist on more sweeping aid.

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude lost 52 cents to \$37.53 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.29 on Wednesday to settle at \$38.05. Brent crude, the international standard, declined 43 cents to \$40.36 per barrel in London. It added \$1.01 the previous session to \$40.79.

The dollar declined to 106.13 Japanese yen from Wednesday's 106.18. The euro gained to \$1.1839 from \$1.1823.

Huge fire breaks out at Beirut port a month after explosion

BEIRUT (AP): A huge fire broke out Thursday at the Port of Beirut, the site of last month's catastrophic explosion that killed nearly 200 people and devastated parts of the capital. The new fire nearly 40 days after the blast triggered widespread panic among traumatized residents of the area.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire at the facility, which was decimated by the Aug. 4 explosion when nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated. The blast triggered a shock wave that blew out windows, doors and walls miles away and was felt as far away as the island of Cyprus.

A column of thick black smoke billowed from the port at midday Thursday, with orange flames leaping from the ground. Smoke covered the capital and firefighters and ambulances rushed to the scene. Army helicopters were taking part in efforts to extinguish the fire.

"We opened all windows and are in the corridor right now," said Dana Awad, a mother of two girls in a Beirut neighborhood. "I am still feeling the earth shake. Living a flashback." She was referring to the tremor that preceded the Aug. 4 explosion.

The Lebanese army said the fire started at a warehouse where oil and tires are placed in the duty free zone, adding that efforts to battle the fire were ongoing.

Politics plague Israeli virus response ahead of holidays

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (AP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long cultivated a symbiotic relationship with the country's ultra-Orthodox parties, doling out generous subsidies and leaving their insular way of life unperturbed in exchange for ironclad backing that has helped crown him Israel's longest serving leader.

Now, with the coronavirus pandemic raging and the Jewish High Holidays approaching, Netanyahu finds himself caught between his ultra-Orthodox partners and the need to drive down surging infection rates. This balancing act could plunge the country into a new lockdown ahead of the holidays, which begin next week.

Netanyahu has faced a national furor over his handling of the coronavirus, but that anger is boiling over among the ultra-Orthodox, or Haredim, who have used their political muscle to fend off what they see as discriminatory restrictions.

"The entire Haredi public won't forget the injustice carried out against it," a group of mayors from ultra-Orthodox cities and towns wrote in a letter to Netanyahu this week. "The decisions you made, time after time, were made with no regard for logic or health benefits, and were clearly aimed at the Haredi public. We consider you the only culprit for these punitive measures."

Israel this week imposed new restrictions on some 40 cities and towns with worrying outbreaks, which include nighttime curfews, strict limits on public gatherings and the shuttering of schools. The restrictions mostly affect ultra-Orthodox as well as Arab communities, which have also been hit hard in recent weeks.

The government had been expected to approve a stricter lockdown on many of the localities, as called for by the country's coronavirus czar, Ronni Gamzu. But after intense pressure by ultra-Orthodox politicians and the scathing letter by the Haredi mayors, Netanyahu suggested the compromise, which some experts believe will not help bring

down infection numbers.

In a video aimed at the ultra-Orthodox population, he attempted to ease frustration over the latest, watered-down restrictions.

"You know how much I care about Torah study and prayer. These are things that are important to me just as they are important to you. And with that I say we need to take steps that prevent the spread of morbidity," he said.

Some ultra-Orthodox politicians have pushed for a broader lockdown on the entire country. Gamzu has opted instead for more pinpointed measures aimed at hard-hit towns and neighborhoods, earning him scorn from the ultra-Orthodox. Netanyahu has said a lockdown remains an option. But imposing one on all Israelis after walking back the restrictions on the ultra-Orthodox could be viewed as political surrender.

"Netanyahu has a commendable record of folding magnificently but this time it concerned life and death," wrote Yossi Vertter, a political commentator, in the Haaretz daily. "Because of petty politics Israel may experience disproportionate collective punishment."

No formal decision has been made yet about the holidays. Israelis typically hold large family gatherings and pack synagogues, especially during the important fast of Yom Kippur, settings that could send infection rates spiking.

Officials have floated the idea of a nationwide lockdown, as they did during the Passover holiday in April. This could have limited economic fallout because much commercial activity stops over the holidays. But that would anger many Israelis and health experts say a limited short-term lockdown may not be effective.

Also unresolved is the issue of an annual holiday pilgrimage to the tomb of a revered rabbi. Tens of thousands of faithful descend on the Ukrainian city of Uman around the Jewish New Year for prayer and festivities. Gamzu has tried to block travel and Ukraine closed its borders in the lead-up to the event.

But religious leaders say their communities are being unfairly targeted and Netanyahu has appointed a senior Cabinet minister to try to devise a compromise that would allow at least some people to make the pilgrimage.

Israel appeared to have contained its outbreak by swiftly closing its borders and imposing tough lockdown measures last spring. But after a hasty reopening and what's been criticized as government mismanagement, infection numbers have shot up to record levels. The country now has one of the world's worst outbreaks, adjusted for population.

Infection rates in ultra-Orthodox communities have been disproportionately high. The ultra-Orthodox tend to live in poor, crowded neighborhoods where sickness can quickly spread. Synagogues, the centerpiece of social life, bring men together to pray and socialize in small spaces. Lack of internet use also hindered public education, though officials have since turned to religious leaders and car-mounted loudspeakers to spread the word.

As the initial outbreak grew, the ultra-Orthodox were on the receiving end of some of the tightest restrictions. In April, a police-enforced lockdown was imposed on the large Haredi city of Bnei Brak in central Israel, with movement restricted and the military assisting local authorities. Prayers in synagogues have been limited countrywide to 20 people.

Israel has also imposed restrictions on secular bastions such as restaurants, cultural institutions and event spaces. But with beaches and malls packed, and weekly mass protests taking place against Netanyahu, many ultra-Orthodox feel they are being singled out.

"They see this and they say 'they are tormenting us because we are Haredim,'" said Ari Kalman, the political correspondent for the ultra-Orthodox Behadrei Haredim news outlet. "It causes them to lose trust."

Assange extradition hearing paused over COVID-19 risk



LONDON, SEP 10 (AP): The London hearing on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's extradition from Britain to the United States was suspended Thursday because one of the lawyers may have been exposed to the coronavirus.

District Judge Vanessa Baraitser ordered the proceedings adjourned until Monday while a lawyer representing the US government is tested for the virus.

Assange's attorney, Edward Fitzgerald, said it had to be assumed that the lawyer had the virus and COVID will be in the

courtroom.

Court staff themselves would be at risk, and you yourself may well be at risk," he told the judge.

"Finally, our client Mr Assange, who is vulnerable you are aware, would be at risk in court. The judge asked for submissions from both legal teams about what to do if the lawyer is confirmed to have COVID-19.

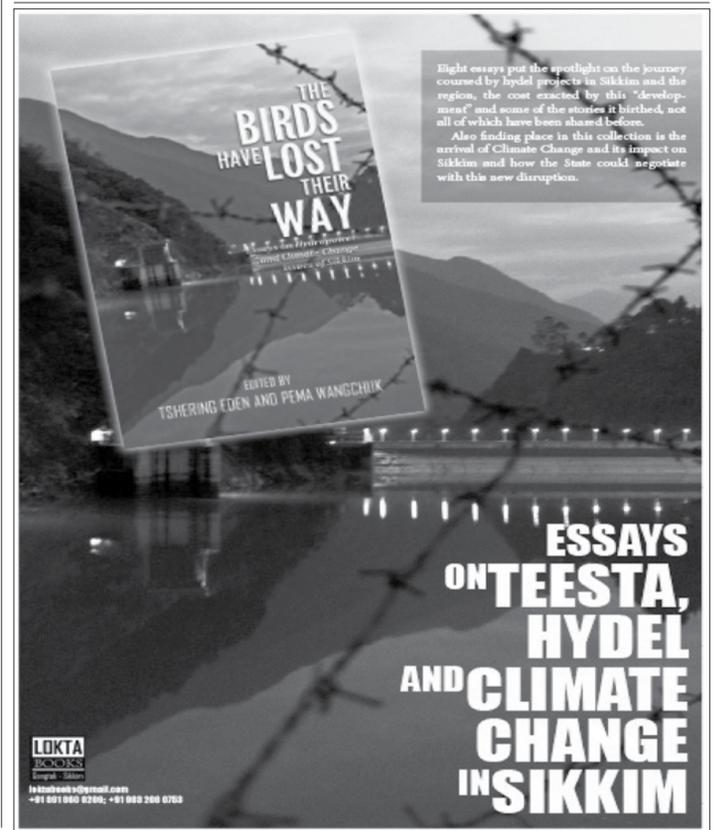
Assange is fighting American prosecutors' attempt to get the British government to send him to the U.S. to stand trial on spying charges.

US prosecutors have

indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret U.S. military documents a decade ago. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

Assange's lawyers say the prosecution is a politically motivated abuse of power that will stifle press freedom and put journalists around the world at risk.

The hearing started Monday at London's Old Bailey criminal court and is scheduled to last about a month.





SUNSHINE SIPS! Model Winnie Harlow celebrated Labor Day weekend with some sunshine and a cocktail made with CÍROC Summer Watermelon.

Tabu to present award at TIFF Tribute Awards

NEW DELHI, SEP 10 (PTI): Indian star Tabu has been announced as one of the presenters for the Tribute Awards at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The ceremony will be broadcast on September 15 during the 45th edition of the prestigious movie gala.

The 49-year-old actor joins global stars Colin Farrell, Jodie Foster, Olivia Colman, Regina King, Delroy Lindo and filmmaker Ava DuVernay as presenters for the awards.

The festival organisers had earlier announced that veteran actor Anthony Hopkins, directors Chloe Zhao and Mira Nair will be honoured at the TIFF Tribute Awards ceremony.

Nair and Tabu, who previously worked together on 2006 feature "The Namesake", recently collaborated for the filmmaker's BBC series "A Suitable Boy".

The director will be honoured with the Jeff Skoll Award in Impact Media during the ceremony, while Hopkins, an Oscar winner for "The Silence of the Lambs", will receive a TIFF Tribute Actor Award.

Zhao, the director of indie hit "The Rider" and upcoming "Nomadland", will be recognised with the TIFF Ebert Director Award.

The festival previously announced that another Academy Award winner Kate Winslet will receive a TIFF Tribute Actor Award.

The ceremony will also present Grammy Award winning composer Terence Blanchard with TIFF Variety Artisan Award and "Beans" director Tracey Deer with TIFF Emerging Talent Award. The awards honour the film



industry's outstanding contributors and their achievements, recognising leading members, acting talent, directorial expertise, new talent, and a below-the-line artiste and creator.

The festival, which runs from September 10 to 19, will close with Nair's "A Suitable Boy".

Filmmaker Chaitanya Tamhane's "The Disciple", set in the world of Hindustani classical music, follows a young vocalist who struggles to reconcile the purity of his art with the demands of a fast-changing world, is also a part of the festival.

Grammy Museum to launch online streaming service

The Grammy Museum is launching its own online streaming service featuring performances and interviews from A-list musicians, as well as material from the museum's archive.

COLLECTION:live will debut on Sept. 17 and the monthly subscription will cost \$2.99 (the yearly price is \$29.99). About 40 programs will be available at the launch, including performances and interviews — some old, some new — from Billie Eilish and her producer-brother FINNEAS, Barbra Streisand, Selena Gomez, Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss, Alessia Cara, Burt Bacharach, Panic! at the Disco, the Avett Brothers, Ben Platt, Run the Jewels and even Quentin Tarantino.

New programming will be added weekly. On Sept. 24, newly recorded content from BTS, Tame Impala, Rufus Wainwright, The War and Treaty and more will be available.

"It's an honor to be part of this new series and to support The GRAMMY Museum, a place that had such a huge impact on us growing up," Eilish, who recorded a new interview for the launch of COLLECTION:live, said in a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday.

Eilish won five honors at the Grammy Awards earlier this year, including album of the year for "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" — which FINNEAS produced, co-wrote

and engineered. Eilish shared four wins with her brother, who won two additional awards, making him the show's top winner.

"Without the GRAMMY Museum, we

public programs at its Clive Davis Theater in Los Angeles, but since March it has recorded digitally.

"COLLECTION:live represents another phase of the Grammy Museum's



wouldn't have gotten to experience or learn about so many important artists before us," FINNEAS said in a statement. "Their programs provide a unique access, insight and education that we consider hugely instrumental in our own careers and musical development. We are proud to be part of this series."

The Grammy Museum is a nonprofit organization through The Recording Academy, which annually produces the Grammy Awards. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the museum recorded its

continued success with delivering music and museum-related content in a new and accessible way for our members, students, and music lovers," Michael Sticka, president of the museum, said in a statement.

"Creating a streaming option for our programming was always a part of our strategic approach, but COVID-19 brought it to the forefront. We look forward to continuing to grow this platform, even after we re-open our doors to the physical museum."

HBO working on 'The Westing Game' adaptation

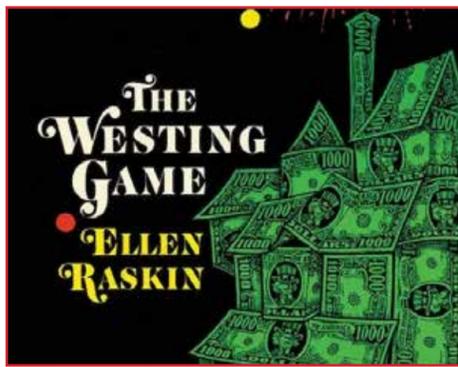
LOS ANGELES, SEP 10 (PTI): HBO Max is planning to adapt classic children's novel "The Westing Game" into a series.

The potential adaptation of the book, which was written by author Ellen Raskin in 1978, hails from MGM/UA Television, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Julie Corman, who owns rights to the novel, will serve as an executive producer.

"The Westing Game" is an ensemble mystery-comedy that begins with the death of millionaire Samuel Westing. The reading of his will sets in motion a game for his 16 heirs unlike any other, the winners of which will walk away with his \$200 million fortune. The book had won the

Newbery Medal and was number one among all-time children's novels by School Library Journal in 2012.



HBO Max, MGM and Corman are currently interviewing writers and directors who will adapt the book for television.

John Malkovich, Tyrese Gibson to lead 'Red 48'

LOS ANGELES, SEP 10 (PTI): Veteran actor John Malkovich and "Fate of the Furious" star Tyrese Gibson are set to feature in upcoming action movie "Red 48".

The movie will be directed by Jon Keeyes of "The Harrowing" fame from an original script by Mickey Solis, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Actor Michael Jai White, best known for movies such as "Never Back Down" series and "The Dark Knight", will also star in the film.

The story is about Kyle Snowden (Gibson), a troubled former Marine

turned child protective service officer who must save an immigrant child from a dangerous criminal who has trapped them and other hostages inside a convenience store.

Adding more power to the keg: The store is owned by the Snowden's stepfather, Sam Safty (Malkovich). White will essay the role of Sparks, the Safty's no-nonsense bodyguard and confidant.

The project will be produced by Gibson and Keeyes alongside Jordan Yale Levine and Jordan Beckerman of Yale Productions banner.

Kool & the Gang co-founder Ronald 'Khalis' Bell dies at 68

LOS ANGELES (AP): Ronald "Khalis" Bell, a co-founder, singer and producer of the group Kool & the Gang, has died. He was 68.

Bell died at his home in the U.S. Virgin Islands Wednesday morning with his wife by his side, publicist Sujata Murthy said. The cause of death has not been released.

Kool & the Gang grew from jazz roots in the 1960s to become one of the major groups of the 1970s, blending jazz, funk, R&B and pop. After a brief downturn, the group enjoyed a return to stardom in the '80s.

Bell started the group with his brother Robert "Kool" Bell along with neighborhood friends Dennis "D.T." Thomas, Robert "Spike" Mickens, Charles Smith, George Brown and Ricky West.

Kool & the Gang won a Grammy in 1978 for their work on the soundtrack for "Saturday Night Fever." The group was honored with a BET Soul Train Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 and inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame four years later.

As a self-taught musician, Bell created his own signature sound using horn lines, bass and synthesizer.

Bell wrote and composed some of the group's biggest songs including "Celebration," "Cherish," "Jungle Boogie" and "Summer Madness," which was used in several films including "Rocky" and "Baby Boy." The song was also used in a Nike shoe commercial in 2006 featuring LeBron James.

ARIES:

You've been going back and forth on this decision, Aries, and it isn't serving you well. The cards are urging you to be clear with your manifestation game and leave no room for error. What you desire will be yours in divine time. Communication is also the need of the hour, which can only be achieved when you have clarity on what you are working towards. Remember, you've got all the tools required to make this change. Trust yourself.

Tip: Be clearer with both your communication and your manifestation.

TAURUS:

It's important to remember that when something you're consciously manifesting is withheld from you, it's not because the Universe is punishing you or keeping you from what you deserve. Maybe what you're asking for is not in alignment with your truth. Maybe the timing isn't quite right. What the cards are saying to you right now is 'not yet'. Consider this rejection (or delay) as redirection, Taurus.

Tip: You'll know when it's time to get, set, go!

GEMINI:

This week, you're in the mood to revisit the goals you set for yourself earlier this year. So what if the past few months have been chaotic? You still have until December to achieve all the things you set out to. Don't wait until tomorrow to get into action mode, Gemini, or for the Universe to show up at your doorstep with a giant signboard. The cards are also pointing towards a business idea that you have been mulling over. It is divinely guided. Trust it and move forward.

Tip: Your business idea is divinely guided.

CANCER:

Two sources of income are indicated. Cancer, one that puts money in your bank and the other that satisfies your soul. It doesn't have to come down to making a choice. You can strike a balance between the both of them as long as you know how to manage your time. Some of you may feel like your side hustle is becoming more important than ever before. Be cognisant of the opportunities showing up in your reality, as they are aligning with the life you were always meant to live.

Tip: Time management is key.

LEO:

What you share with them is a rare and precious connection, Leo. A deep understanding that transcends the boundaries of space and time. Honour and acknowledge what you've been given, and know that your unconditional love will create an environment for the other to discover their true potential. The cards are also speaking about balance and harmony in every aspect of your life. You are finding a middle ground between the material and the spiritual plane of existence, which in turn is making your life enriching.

Tip: Honour this sacred connection.

VIRGO:

What are you going to do with all that money in the bank? There's a fine line between saving and hoarding, Virgo. The cards are reminding you that pleasure is a virtue. So, let go of your lack mentality and allow yourself to enjoy what you have been yearning for. Indulging in self-care rituals is also going to be a big mood around here. So what if you can't venture out? Give yourself a facial and a mani-pedi at home.

Tip: Allow yourself to indulge in the worldly pleasures you've been yearning for.

LIBRA:

On the upside, a brand new opportunity on the work or money front is indicated. On the downside, it may not be in alignment with your expectations. Remember, you don't have to 'settle' if you don't want to. Find a way to have a conversation with the other in a kind and gentle manner. Given the cosmic climate, it may take a while for them to get on board with your ideas. Patience will serve you well at a time like this.

Tip: Have a conversation with the other in a kind, loving, and gentle manner.

SCORPIO:

What's keeping you up at night, Scorpio, and what is the root of this trauma? Old wounds are coming to the surface so they can be healed with loving awareness. Remember, there's no shame in seeking help, in turning to a counsellor or therapist. We all need somebody to hold space for us every once in a while. If the demon of insomnia is something you're struggling with, consider sipping on lavender, chamomile or ashwagandha tea before bed. Placing an amethyst stone below your pillow also promises to alleviate stress.

Tip: There's nothing a good night's sleep cannot solve.

SAGITTARIUS:

Weekly reminder, Sagittarius: your desires are coming through from that sacred place within yourself. Pay attention to what you are being guided to create, as it is a part of your soul's purpose, one that will bring with itself a deep sense of satisfaction. Fun, laughter, and playfulness are also indicated. Spending more time with your children (or the children in your tribe) will remind you of all the reasons why life is a lot simpler than you've made it out to be in your head.

Tip: Pay attention to what you are being guided to create.

CAPRICORN:

Aren't you glad you didn't give up when things got turbulent? Aren't you glad you listened to your inner voice despite the resistance? What the cards want you to know is that you are stepping into a period of fulfillment. A certain project you've been working towards is about to complete itself, bringing with it success and acclaim. Take a bow, Capricorn. You've earned this.

Tip: Success and acclaim are indicated.

AQUARIUS:

Just in case you need a reminder: you're doing great, you are where you need to be, and your career is progressing at the right pace. Trust what's unfolding for you, Aquarius, and continue to put in the work. You will go places. The cards are reminding you that your need for immediate gratification is hindering your growth. So, surrender your worries and let go of the need to figure out 'the how'. As long as you are focusing on your dharma (or purpose), everything will be taken care of.

Tip: Put in the work.

PISCES:

Birth and fertility are big themes for you right now. You and yours could be having 'the talk' or planning to welcome a new member into the family. Remember, you're never really ready, yet you are. The Universe wants you to know that you will win it when the time comes. What you want to keep in mind is that you are not your parents. You have worked on yourself and healed your childhood traumas. So don't be worried about repeating the same mistakes. You're far more evolved than you give yourself credit for.

Tip: You could be planning to welcome a new member into the family.