



YOU'RE NEXT STAR NICHOLAS TUCCI DIES AT THE AGE OF 38 AFTER PRIVATE HEALTH BATTLE
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Summit TIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM assures full support for NHPC projects in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR: Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC, Abhay Kumar Singh, met Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang, on 06 Mar in New Delhi, a press release from NHPC informs. During the meeting, various issues concerning hydroelectric projects in Sikkim were discussed. Chief Minister assured that all the obstacles related to 520 MW Teesta-IV Hydroelectric project shall be resolved by the end of this month. He also assured that full support of the Sikkim State Government will be extended for these Hydroelectric projects, namely 500 MW Teesta-VI, 120 MW Rangit-IV and 520 MW Teesta-IV to be executed by NHPC in Sikkim, the release mentions.

Runway ready, SpiceJet not yet, AAI tells High Court

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Airport Director, Airports Authority of India, Pakyong, has informed the High Court of Sikkim that the runway at Pakyong has been sufficiently widened and that the airport is now ready for operation; SpiceJet, however, has not taken any steps to start flight operations. In an affidavit submitted to the High Court on 03 March, AAI informs that the required widening of the runway at Pakyong airport to 40 meters, to meet civil aviation requirements, was completed in January itself. Since then, even though the Airport Director has written to SpiceJet the airline has not taken any steps to resume flight operations from Pakyong Airport.

These details were provided to the High Court in connection with the suo moto case taken up by the Court after SpiceJet suspended flights to Pakyong Airport in June 2019 and had issued notices to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airport Authority of India, SpiceJet Airlines and the State Government enquiring about what was done to prevent suspension of the flights and what plans were in place to resume the service. Pakyong Airport is a Category 2C airport under Director General Civil Aviation norms and with the latest widening of the runway was now clear for operations. Now, a division bench of the High Court comprising of Chief Justice Arup Kumar Goswami

and Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai has directed SpiceJet to respond within 15 days with its stand on resuming its service for Pakyong Airport. AAI also informed the Court that it explored introducing Instrument Landing System (ILS) but this was not found feasible hence an alternate Required Navigation Performance-Authorization Required (RNP-AR) approach is being explored with the help of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The next date of hearing of operation of airport is fixed on 20 March, later this month. The first commercial flight to the airport was seen on 04 October, 2018 and continued intermittently till 31 May, 2019.

Worried customers queue up at Yes Bank



ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Anxious Yes Bank account holders of Sikkim have been thronging to the bank to try and withdraw cash from their accounts after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) placed the bank under moratorium on Thursday suspending all its banking activities except withdrawals. The bank has more than 2500 customers in Sikkim. On Thursday, the Reserve Bank of India put Yes Bank under a moratorium. It suspended its board and installed a new Chief Executive Officer. Those who have deposits in the bank can only withdraw Rs 50,000 per month. And soon after this limit was announced, net banking as well as debit and credit cards stopped working, with knock-on effects for various digital banking services that depended on Yes Bank. The extreme step was necessitated after the bank's roster of Non-Performing Assets reached an untenable level due to a suspected mix of compromised management and crony capitalism. Yes Bank's loan book grew from Rs 1,32,000 crore in FY 2017 to Rs 2,41,000 crore in FY 2019. That is an increase of Rs 1,09,000 crore or 80% in just two years, when most banks were finding it difficult to lend. In just two years, Yes Bank nearly doubled the loan book it had built over the previous 17 years of its existence. Clearly, good money was being poured after bad to already stressed commodities and this has now reached breaking point leading to the present situation. Harish Sharma who owns a business in Gang-

tok and has an account in Yes Bank said, "We are unaware of what has happened to Yes Bank and we are worried about our money in the bank and we hope it is safe." He further said that scams like Sahara, Tina, Bharosa have affected Sikkim badly in the past and this Yes Bank crisis might be the same. "We are worried about our money but right now there is no other option than to withdraw the allowed cash amount," said Harish. Yes Bank Gangtok has been cooperating with every customer and allowing them to withdraw money within the limit allowed. As per the bank, no customer has left empty handed. "There is no need to panic as the bank has not collapsed. RBI has put it under moratorium and the problem will be solved

turn to pg 02

Man arrested for communal remarks after Khas Association files FIR

RUDRA KAUSHIK
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Akhil Sikkim Khas Chhetri Bahun Sangathan [ASKCBS] filed an FIR today against one PB Rai for allegedly posting derogatory remarks against the community on social media sites. A delegation led by ASKCBS working president, Narayan Khatiwara filed the FIR in West Sikkim today. Following the FIR, the accused was arrested by the police. Speaking on the issue, president ASKCBS, Raju Basnet, said, "It is very unfortunate that

this gentleman wrote derogatory and communally charged statements against the Khas community of Sikkim. We need to nip such thoughts in the bud and should never give room to communally tinged remarks. If left unchecked, such people can corrupt other innocent minds. We must follow zero tolerance policy as far as communal hatred is concerned. Our association believes that Sikkim prides itself to be peaceful and that all communities live together in harmony. This

should always remain and people who propagate hatred and communal disharmony should be punished in the harshest ways possible. I also, on behalf of the community take this opportunity to thank the Police Administration for their promptness in handling this issue and taking the culprit behind bars." The newly formed ASKCBS has appealed to members of all communities to further brotherhood and unity amongst all sections of societies and communities.

Guj: Samples of 42 suspected coronavirus patients test negative

AHMEDABAD, MAR 7 (PTI): The samples of all 42 people in Gujarat who were suspected to have been exposed to the novel coronavirus have tested negative, the state government said on Saturday. A government official said 29 of these samples were tested at the BJ Medical College's laboratory here, while 11 were sent to Mumbai. turn to pg 02

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Subjects and Citizens: The Politics of Being and Becoming Sikkimese in India

VIEWPOINT

SUNIL PRADHAN

The Sikkim High Court judgment quashing Government of Sikkim's notification which limited the enforcement of Certificate of Identification for third generation descendants of 'non-Sikkimese' parents in GOS employment [in service on or prior to 31 December, 1969] again opens the debate on the discourse of rights in Sikkim. The rights discourse in Sikkim remains unencumbered by ethnic/ community perception than liberal individual perceptions of rights. This debate is topical for locating multi-level citizenship framework in India as it evokes relevant contestation between individual and group rights, legal pluralism versus legal universalism, special provisions of Indian Constitution versus general application of Indian Constitution and customary law versus legal law enforced through judiciary. Therefore, the judgment citing violation of Article 14 of Indian Constitution which guarantees equality before law for all its citizens is a step towards making legal interventions to declare the domain of customary rights/ laws, old laws of Sikkim null and void. Often, the triumphant liberal project in Sikkim makes its grand entry in veils as a form of policy

intervention, the magnitude of which is to provide space for Indian nation-state to nationalise Sikkim's distinct socio-cultural space and mobilise Sikkim's non-national natural resource management lodged in the logic of India's national interest. Objections of the few so-called Sikkimese pressure groups and activists sets an inspiring precedence for aspirants aspiring to accrue Sikkim Subject status in the near future. From a superficial level, this judgment firstly honours the rights of citizens from a liberal conception often upheld by western democracies and United Nations in its charter of Human Rights. Secondly, it contradicts India's track record of prioritising the individual as a bearer of liberal rights, which at the commencement of Indian Constitution made exceptions to acknowledge and compliment its enormous diversities amidst regional complexities. Noteworthy, this subject of integrating regions and its people within the dominion of India required finer balance of pragmatism and principle and subtle balance of coercion and freedom. Consequently, India's citizenship regime which is defined under Part II of the Indian Constitution lays down the parameters of its practices and rights. In addition, Article 9 under Part II of the Indian Constitution prioritises uniform citizenship

law throughout the territories of India but makes distinctive exceptions for regions and its cultural communities as a landmark for territorial integration within the dominion of India. In what marks the debate over citizenship law and nation building processes in the Constituent Assembly in reality was a debate between integrationist model over assimilation techniques as a road map for consolidating nation-state construct with heterogeneous Indian peculiarities. The trajectories of India's nation-building imperative and citizenship laws had prioritised the principle of jus soli or citizenship by birth as opposed to jus sanguinis or citizenship by descent. The heterogeneous social had found honourable mention entrenched within citizenship enactments necessitated through reorganisation of states and regions. One such principle covering the aspect of citizenship laws as governed by the Indian Constitution highlights a tenuous balance between citizenship rights conferred under special provisions of Indian Constitution and fundamental rights enshrined under Part III (Articles 12-35) of the Indian Constitution. As a corollary of distinct citizenship law, Sikkim's experiences with Indian Citizenship acquired through territorial acquisition is much different from the rest of

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Subjects and...

India's experiences. In order to effect Indian citizenship for Sikkimese nationals in a territory that comprised the then Kingdom of Sikkim, the Indian Parliament, in exercise of its authority under section 7 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 Sikkim Citizenship Order, 1975 of the India's Citizenship Act, was extended for Sikkim. This was inclusive of the important provisions under Article 371-F(n) of Indian Constitution. The Sikkim Citizenship Order, 1975 defines Sikkimese as per Sikkim Subject Regulation, 1961 under the relevant rules prescribed under Article 371-F (K) of the Indian Constitution. Only, those Sikkimese who immediately before the 26th day of April, 1975 were Sikkim Subjects under Sikkim Subject Regulation, 1961 were deemed to have become citizens of India with exclusive Sikkimese status. There were a few awaiting registration under SSR, 1961 prior to 26 April, 1975 who became stateless. The Indians citizens residing within Sikkim's territory courtesy Sikkim-India Friendship Treaty, 1950 did not undergo this historical mutation since it was Sikkimese who were mutating in to the figure of legal Indian citizen by preserving its Sikkim Subject status.

Under the new Indian dispensation Sikkim Subject status for legal descendants of Sikkimese nationals remains enforced through the distribution of "Certificate of Identification" while those in possession of original Sikkim Subject Certificate issued by Sikkim Darbar retained their Sikkim Subject certificate as a dual proof of Subjecthood and Indian citizenship. The rationale of attesting such a distinct citizenship practice in Sikkim actually differentiates local residents of a particular historical specificity from later 'immigrants' swarming Sikkim in the wake of Indian accession. This continues to remain a pull factor encouraging in-migration to Sikkim from geographically contiguous territory. The distinct feature of this citizenship question is that it figures as a form of differentiated citizenship model where facilities and entitlements—employment rights, land rights, representation rights, fiscal concessions is accrued are monitored and distributed amongst this empirical category of Sikkim Subject.

Therefore, Sikkim Subject status distinctively privileges this empirical category of citizens from the rest of the Indian citizens by drawing ire of non-Sikkimese residing in Sikkim. Therefore, Sikkimese perception of rights as advocated and practiced in Sikkim are perpetually in conflict with liberal perceptions of rights as advocated in western democracies and Human Rights under UN charter. To say the least, rights discourse not just in Sikkim but throughout India remains encumbered through the notion of ascriptive categories leaving the question of liberal project subservient to customs and personal laws in India. As a result, vast numbers of Indians are custom bearing individuated citizen. Now in assuming Fundamental Rights integral for prioritising Indian citizen as rights bearing individual with access to rights most commonly personified as equality before the law, freedom of—speech, expression, religion and culture, peaceful assembly, right to religion and right to constitutional remedies for the protection of civil rights remains suspended in states under the purview of special provisions of the Indian Constitution.

Therefore, the High Court judgment quashing the Government of Sikkim's notification is a question that covers multi-dimensional aspect of citizenship and nationality. Foremost of all, when Sikkim Subject Registration Act, 1961 legislated under the aegis of Sikkim Darbar as Sikkim's first ever nationality law it was ethnically endowed to persons belonging to Lepcha, Bhutia and Tsong communities. An amendment effecting inclusion or Nepalis in 1962 within SSR, 1961 advocated additional land tiller criterion or Raiyats prior the 1961 benchmark. SSR, 1961 did not allow persons to hold dual citizenship of Sikkim and any other foreign country. This meant severing of citizenship ties if one wished to become a Sikkim Subject. This was not mutable and tenable for many Indian citizens residing in Sikkim courtesy Sikkim India Friendship Treaty, 1950. For citizens of democratic India this meant a regressive path onto subjecthood of a protectorate kingdom.

As the curtains of Indian citizenship in Sikkim were raised SSR, 1961 acquired the basis of legal status, claim and practice of citizenship. The rules prescribed under Article 371-F (K) of the Indian Constitution uphold Sikkim's Old Law reinforcing 'second grade' citizen status which is bereft of equal rights in terms of access to employment opportunities or subsidies meant for recorded Sikkim Subjects. In view of this, the Supreme Court in its judgment of State of Sikkim vs Surendra Prasad Sharma, 1994 (2) SLR 685 justified the impugned circular under Sikkim Service Rules as necessary and constitutional. In observing Sikkim's distinct social history, the SC judgment observed that there was no justification to hold the impugned notification dismissing non Sikkimese from GOS services as discriminatory or against Article 14 of the Indian Constitution which guarantees fundamental rights to its citizens.

On the contrary, the recent High Court judgment citing the notification as violating Article 14 misses the actual objective of qualifying all the sub clauses of Article 371F with the omnibus notwithstanding anything in the Constitution. Therefore, the cumulative import of this judgment is the entrenchment of a conception of citizenship which is inconsistent with the relevant rules under Article 371F of the Indian Constitution. At the end of the day, contemporary citizenship debate in India continues to remain encumbered by community categories as against fundamental rights. Therefore, Sikkim model with SSR, 1961 as criteria prioritising Sikkim Citizenship Order 1975 under Citizenship Act, 1955 echoes Sanjib Baruah's analysis of citizenship both of India and state as presenting an alternative political idiom to that of indigeneity and territoriality. As explained by Baruah himself, this had the potential to define political communities in civic terms but the plausibility of introducing dynamic element by incorporating new members as suggested in North East India seem to contradict rules relevant under Article 371 F (K) of Indian Constitution in Sikkim.

In some sense, Indian citizenship in Sikkim has not given a crucial break from the notion of Sikkim for Sikkimese that owes so much to the Kingdom of Sikkim's predisposition of fixing Sikkimese to their supposedly homeland. Therefore, this parameter informs the ebb and flow of citizenship and subjecthood in Sikkim.

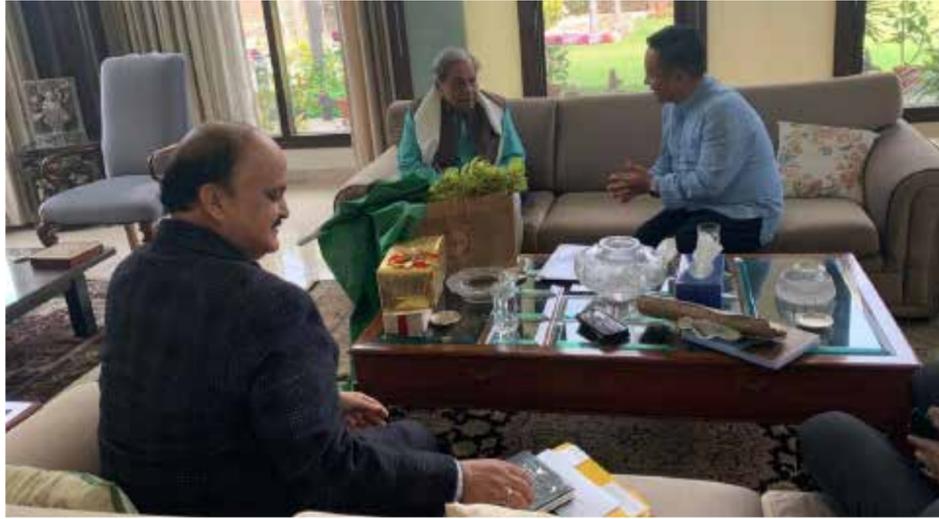
[the writer is Assistant Professor, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi]

CM calls on Finance Commission Chairperson, seeks State-specific grants

NEW DELHI, 07 MAR

[IPR]: Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] called on the Chairperson of the 15th Finance Commission, NK Singh, at the national capital today.

The CM apprised Mr Singh about Sikkim's dependency on transfer of funds from the Union and that despite the relatively high per capita income, the tax base of the State was very low since a bulk of the GSDP of the State which is derived from manufacturing and power generation does not result in a corresponding increase in local consumption. More than three-fourths of the revenue receipts of the State come by way of tax transfers from the



divisible pool and from various grants from the Central Government, he pointed out.

The Chief Minister in-

formed the Chairperson that Sikkim has a mountainous landscape and difficult terrain which causes difficulty in carrying out

developmental works.

He also mentioned the uncertainty in resource flows from the Centre, and at times back

loading of these transfers near the end of the year creates financial constraints for the state.

He also requested sup-

port and cooperation in the State's debt redemption.

Keeping this in mind, the Chief Minister requested for State Specific Grants which he felt were necessary to provide additional resources for certain schemes which the state considers important.

In this regard, the Chief Minister submitted a list of state specific demands.

After a patient hearing to the demands placed by the CM, the Finance Commission Chairperson assured full support and cooperation from his end.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Addl Chief Secretary VB Pathak and the Secretary to the Chief Minister, SD Dhakal.

Child protection awareness at Martam



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

District Child Protection Unit, East, organised an awareness cum sensitization program to the Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLPC) and Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLPC) at Martam BAC, a press release informs.

The resource person from DCPU, East, Amrit Sharma highlighted the issues related to Child Rights, POCSO Act and various support system

provided by the Department to the children.

The Committees consist of personnel from different stakeholders and departments like Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, teachers, DCPU, Health department, civil societies to make the Child Protection Scheme functional at grassroots level.

DCPU East has already completed the said program in Ranka and Rhenock BAC and will complete the other remaining BACs shortly.

Child Parliament formed at Men Rongong



MANGAN, 07 MAR (IPR): Village level Child Parliament of Men Rongong GPU was formed today for children of all the six schools within the GPU. The program also involved sensitization of the children on safe-unsafe touch, POCSO Amendment Act 2019, and awareness on the services provided under Child Protection Scheme, SJ&WD.

The programme was organized by the District Child Protection Unit North in collaboration with the Village level Child Protection Committee, Men Rongong GPU.

The Chairperson of the committee who is the Panchayat President, Zongmoo Lepcha urged the children to speak up

on violation of any rights and welcomed them to the child friendly room in the GPK. She administered the oath taking of the child parliamentarians along with the members of the VLPC.

DCPO North, Wendy Lepcha, sensitized the children on good touch-bad touch and encouraged them to report such incidents. She informed them of the Village Level Child Protection Committee in the GPU to assist & protect their rights and of all the child protection mechanism existing in the District/State.

The program concluded with the children playing a space game and understanding their roles as child parliamentarians.

Governor appeals for "serious precautions" against Coronavirus

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Governor Ganga Prasad has appealed to all Sikkimese to "take serious precautions and protective measures to effectively contain" the spread of Coronavirus [COVID 19] in Sikkim.

"The State government has put its preventive mechanism in place including extensive screening of travellers entering Sikkim at the entry check points in the border. Skilled manpower has been deployed to tackle any eventuality related with the disease.

At this hour of imminent crisis, I appeal my fellow Sikkimese to remain calm and informed about the symptoms of the diseases widely being publicised through official media sources and televisions and sup-

port the efforts of the government to prevent its spread," the Governor conveys in a message released today.

The Governor has also appealed to everyone to remain alert against false and malicious information being circulated through various social media platforms to create panic in the public.

"We should stand firm and united to tackle this menace by spreading awareness and enhancing our preparedness.

Further, in view of the impending Holi festival this week, I advise my fellow Sikkimese to avoid celebrating Holi in crowd. I urge everyone to follow absolute hygiene and precautionary measures while enjoying the festival of colors among friends and family members."

Pre Holi celebration at Tiny Tots School



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Pre Holi celebration with the message of safe and happy Holi was celebrated at Tiny Tots School Rangpo

today. School Director, Gopal Baraily and Principal, Ajit Sharma celebrated the festival with all the students, teaching and non-teaching staff.

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Worried...

soon," said one of the senior bank officials.

Bank officials refused to give any statement on record but as per sources the bank is allowing withdrawal of cash amount upto Rs. 50,000 per month as stipulated by RBI but in case of emergencies people can be allowed to withdraw upto Rs 5 lakh.

Bank sources also informed that there is no cash crunch in the bank and can make payments to people coming for withdrawal.

As per the RBI guidelines, an account holder of Yes Bank during the moratorium period is allowed to withdraw only Rs 50,000 and allowed ATM withdrawals only through Yes Bank ATMs.

Online Transaction via ATM, Mobile App and Withdrawal via third party or other Bank ATMs are not allowed.

"I don't see any situation to panic, as the Bank has assured the security and safety of our money but it is just that we cannot withdraw a huge amount at a time. Bank has assured us to allow withdrawal of any amount from 03 April onwards," said Hemant Agarwal, a business man in Gangtok and an account holder of Yes Bank.

He further said that the Gangtok Branch of Yes Bank is cooperating with the customers and people are easily withdrawing cash.

Bank source also claimed that since it's the beginning of the month, more people are coming to the bank and not due to the fear of closure of the bank.

Guj: Samples...

As per an official release, 2,068 people with travel history to China were placed under surveillance, and 1,146 of them have completed their 28-day observation period and are in fine health.

As many as 18,018 passengers of 162 flights have been screened at the Ahmedabad airport as also 1,989 crew members on 49 ships in ports in the state, it informed.

A new coronavirus testing lab has been set up in Jamnagar while a request has been sent to the Centre to provide testing facilities at Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot.

The government is also using mass media tools such as radio jingles and public announcements to disseminate information on 'dos and don'ts' to prevent coronavirus infections, the release said.

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NHPC organizes flower show and competition at Balutar



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:
NHPC's Teesta-V Power Station organized a two-day Flower Show and Competition at its administrative building at Balutar in East Sikkim on 06 and 07 Mar, an official press release in-

forms. Inaugurating the show on 06 Mar, Buildings & Housing Minister, Sanjit Kharel, remarked that he was delighted to see the "magnificent" display and appreciated the efforts of the floriculturists who participated in the event.

Earlier, the Minister also inaugurated the "Wild Hut," a tree house, constructed in the Teesta-V Power Station colony. Tourism Minister, Bedu Singh Panth, was present as chief guest for the closing ceremony today.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Panth appreciated NHPC's efforts in educating people of the area about floriculture. Head of the Power Station, Sahadev Khatua, who is also the CEO, Teesta-VI HE Project, informed that the flower

show had become a regular feature of the power station and attracted participation of floriculturists from Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

He also informed that the flower show received an overwhelming response by way of attendance from flower enthusiasts, students, associations, SHGs, individuals, nurseries and surrounding villages.

Himalayan Beauty Nursery of Yangyang, South Sikkim received First Prize in "Flowering Plant" category, TLD-III Power Station, Darjeeling received First Prize in "Ornamental Plant" category, Garden Glory Nursery, Raley, East Sikkim received First Prize in "Orchid" and "Overall Presentation" Categories.



Music to help heal

Gangtok-based musician, Divya Jyoti Baraily, serenaded MG Marg, Gangtok, with a 3-hour solo guitar performance on Friday to raise funds for an ailing child. The aim was to support the lung transplant procedure required for 16-month-old Nayan Biswakarma who is currently admitted in the New STNM Hospital's ICU ward and, finances permitting, will proceed to AIIMS, New Delhi, for further treatment. [from NISIM SUBBA]

Udyam Samaagam at Majhitar



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR:
A two-day East District Udyam Samaagam concluded at AIC-SMUTBI, Majhitar, today. Organised by the District Industries Centre (East & North), Commerce & Industries Department, and supported by the Office of Development Commissioner, MSME, and AIC-SMUTBI, the event was inaugurated by Speaker LB Das yesterday.

Entrepreneurs took up 26 stalls and sat through plenary speeches by experts from the State and Centre from different fields in MSME, agriculture and Spices. The entrepreneurs were informed about the different schemes and avenues for development and growth of MSME enterprises.

Today, the event saw 19 participants pitch business ideas in a competition. The pitching session was judged by panel comprising of Atul Yeshwant Sant, Vice President (Manufacturing) CIPLA, Umesh Misra, Senior

Vice President INTAS, Dr Tej S Chingtham, CEO, AIC-SMUTBI, N Jasant, Director (MSME) and Sumita Pradhan, Director (Industries), Department of Commerce & Industries.

Pranay Kumar bagged the first prize in the business idea category for his pitch on "The Chakras Farm"; Shova Sharma bagged the second prize for her "The Queen's Candles" idea and Sonam Choden Bhutia bagged the third prize for her business idea, "Handmade Corn Husk flower".

SBI sets Rs 10k-cr cap for Yes Bank investment

MUMBAI, MAR 7 (PTI): State Bank of India, which can pick up 49 per cent stake in crisis-hit Yes Bank under the RBI's draft scheme of reconstruction, has set a maximum investment limit of Rs 10,000 crore for the lender, its Chairman Rajnish Kumar said on Saturday.

Announcing a draft scheme of reconstruction for cash-starved Yes Bank on Friday, RBI said the strategic investor bank will have to acquire 49 per cent stake and it cannot reduce holding to below 26 per cent before three years from the date of capital infusion.

SBI's board has already given 'in-principle' approval to explore investment opportunity in Yes Bank.

Kumar said if SBI becomes the sole investor in the bank and picks up 49 per cent stake, then the immediate investment requirement would be Rs 2,450 crore.

"I have already set the (investment) boundary of Rs 10,000 crore," Kumar told reporters here. The cap of Rs 10,000 crore is based on the assumption of higher capital requirement by the bank, he added.

Yes Bank has been struggling to raise capital. It sought to raise USD 2 billion initially during this fiscal, which was then pruned to USD 1.2 billion as it could not rope in any investor.

Kumar said SBI has received the draft scheme of reconstruction and its investment and legal teams are doing their due diligence of the scheme.

"Once we complete our due diligence, we will go back to the RBI with our comments," he said.

The suggestions and comments on the scheme have to be given to the RBI by March 9, 2020, after which a final call will be taken by the central bank. Kumar further said many potential investors have approached SBI after seeing the draft scheme of reconstruction of Yes Bank.

"For Yes Bank, people have reached out to us. These are all initial discussions. Our investment team will discuss

with them and work out the possibilities," he said.

In a rare move, the RBI late on Thursday (March 5) placed Yes Bank under a 30-day moratorium.

Kumar said the effort will be that the resolution plan is approved and implemented before the timeline set by the RBI. He also said the proposed plan will not have any impact on SBI's balance sheet.

"There is a very marginal impact on bank's capital adequacy ratio. As a policy, we maintain all ratios 50 basis points above the minimum regulatory requirement. We will continue to do that without any further raising of the capital from the market and there is no question of requesting the government for any capital," he said.

Even the interest of SBI's shareholders will not be compromised under the plan, he said. SBI's investment in the private sector lender will not lead to conflict of interest, he said.

Asked about the impact of raids by the Enforcement Directorate at Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor's Mumbai residence, Kumar said it will not affect the lender's restructuring exercise.

"Yes Bank is an entity and Rana Kapoor is an individual. So if an individual has done something wrong, they will pay the price for that but why should the enterprise suffer," he said.

Kumar said involvement of SBI in resolving the crisis at the private lender will allay fears of investors and depositors. "Today if the resolution has to happen, you need a credible name with the investors, creditors and depositors of the bank. With SBI standing behind it, there will be stability in the financial market," he said. He also assured depositors that their money is safe.

The draft scheme of reconstruction of Yes Bank came a day after the RBI imposed a moratorium on the bank, restricting withdrawals to Rs 50,000 per depositor till April 3.

CM's greetings on Women's Day

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 MAR [IPR]:
On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang has extended his best wishes to Sikkimese women and women around the world.

In his message, the Chief Minister spoke of the role of women not just as mothers, sisters, and daughters, but as building blocks of our social fabric.

He expressed the value of women's participation in economic, political and social works and stated that the equal contribution of men and women is a sign of a strong nation.

This Women's Day, the Chief Minister has urged each one of us to take the time to recognize and appreciate their vital role in shaping and strengthening our communities, families, government, and businesses.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister has added that the Government shall always commit to promoting equal opportunity for women everywhere.

Training on Vegetable Production at Siktam Tikpur

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 MAR:
Mevedir service provider agency organized training on Off Season Vegetable Production for women farmers of Anden ward under Siktam

Tikpur GPU, West Sikkim on 06 Mar, 2020. The resource person of this program was Suzan Ahmed (Mevedir Agronomist), along with field staff, Mangal Moti Limboo, a press release informs.

TRAU poised for tricky clash against Indian Arrows

IMPHAL, MAR 7 (PTI): TRAU FC will look to stay clear of the relegation zone with a win over a rejuvenated Indian Arrows side in their I-League match here on Sunday.

Buoyed by their recent win against Churchill Brothers, TRAU will be hoping to beat the Indian Arrows which will give them some breathing space in their quest for survival in I-League.

The debutants from Imphal are four points clear of Neroca (10th place) but have played a game more than their city-rivals and have a tough run ahead, starting with an away trip to Srinagar next.

After the Real Kashmir test, TRAU will be taking on Gokulam Kerala back at home before travelling north again to face Punjab

FC in Ludhiana. TRAU skipper Princewill Emeka said that his team did not have any fear of slipping down to the relegation zone.

"We consider every opponent to be equally tough. There are not many games left, so we have to ensure that we collect as many points as we can," he said. "The Arrows are always a threat. They will pounce on any mistake you make. They keep running until the last minute of the game, so we have to be alert. We won the reverse fixture against them 2-0 and it was not easy at all."

On the other dug-out, the visitors will be bolstered by the inputs of India senior national team head coach Igor Stimac who conducted one of the Arrows' training sessions in Mumbai.

Swachhata Pakhwada cum Healthy Baby Competition

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 06 MAR:
Singtam Rural Project (East District) under Social Justice & Welfare Department in association with State Resource Centre for Women under Social Justice & Welfare Department organised a Special Awareness cum Healthy Baby Competition at Rangpo, Primary Health Centre to celebrate Swachhata Pakhwada, a press release informs.

The program was attended by Municipal Executive Officer, Prakash Chandra Kharel as the chief guest. CDPO, Yamini Pradhan, Singtam Rural Project in her address specially highlighted about Swachhata Pakhwada and Poshan Pakhwada. She mentioned that the Swachhata Pakhwada is a National Project being observed all over the country by the Social Welfare Department and related agencies from 01 to 15 March. Poshan Pakhwada is being observed from 08 to 22 March.

Healthy baby show was the main attraction of the Day. Top three healthy babies along with one consolation prize was awarded prizes. A rally was also organized on the day.



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



MANGAN NAGAR PANCHAYAT

MANGAN NORTH SIKKIM

Email: mnpnorth@gmail.com

Sealed Tender are invited from individual having COI/SSC and registered organization for the award of Bazar Contract, Car Parking Contract, Car Wash Centre, Pay & Use Toilet Contract and Restaurant under Mangan Nagar Panchayat for the year 2002-21.

The details of the contract and the tender documents can be obtained from the office of the Municipal Executive Officer, Mangan Nagar Panchayat, Mangan, North Sikkim on Payment by depositing the amount at Canara Bank, Mangan on all working days between 11 A.M to 3 P.M.

DATES

1. First Date for issuance of Tender Documents : 16/03/2020
2. Last Date for issuance of Tender Documents : 19/03/2020
3. Last Date for Submission of Sealed Tender : 20/03/2020 (By 12.00 PM)
4. Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 20/03/2020 (1.00 PM onwards)
5. The rate quoted below the offset price will be out rightly rejected.
6. The details term and conditions can be seen in the Tender Documents.

MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MANGAN NAGAR PANCHAYAT

SHQ(GTK) ITB Police Force, Notice Inviting e-Tenders

On behalf of President of India, Dy. Inspector General, SHQ(GTK), ITBP, Gangtok, PD Sandoz, Gangtok, East Sikkim invites e-procurement tenders under two bids system for the works:-

- 1- Name of work :- Construction of 02 Nos Organic Waste compost Machine yard at BHQ of 48th Bn ITB Police, Kathar(Bihar).
- 2- Estimated Cost Rs. 17,36,825/- : Earnest Money Rs 35,137/- Period of completion 12(twelve) Months.
- 3- NET NO :- 11014/ITBP/SHQ(GTK)/Engr/11th, 13th, 48th Bn NET/98A/2019-13-14 dtd 4/3/2020

Bid submission End Date/Time : 23.03.20/1500 Hrs.
Bid Opening Date/Time : 24.03.20/1500 Hrs.

All details regarding the subject Tenders are available on our website www.itbp.gov.in and www.eprocure.gov.in. If any change/modification in the tender enquiry will be intimated through our websites only Bidders are therefore requested to visit our websites regularly to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-
Dy. Inspector General, SHQ(GTK), ITBP

davp 19112/11/0468/1920

Sikkim Needs to Do Right by its Daughters

End tokenism, give them independent identities first

Daughters of Sikkim married to non-locals and relegated to less than second-class citizen status is a denial that Sikkim has allowed for far too long. The practice has settled so deep that most Sikkimese, including too many women, have internalized it to an extent that they accept this offensive regulation as on that is required to keep Sikkim, well, Sikkimese. There are also some regressive minds which even see it as desirable. While nothing can be done about minds so deeply infected with insecurities, at least when Women's Day comes around, as it does on 08 March, perhaps some earnest discussions are in order.

A while back, a group of Sikkimese women married to non-Sikkimese approached the then Chief Minister, reminding him of his announcement to do away with the humiliation, yes it is humiliation, requiring Sikkimese women to submit unmarried certificates while applying for government jobs or claiming their identity. At the root of this practice is Sikkim's insistence that a woman draws her identity from the men in her life. She is Sikkimese because her father or brother is one, but should she marry a non-Sikkimese, she loses her Sikkimese identity, and with it her rights and privileges as a Sikkimese.

While there is no justifying this reasoning, given that it was first promulgated nearly fifty years ago, one can explain it away to the open sexism of the times and try and move beyond that. However, to still think that Sikkimese women are gullible and/or not as proud of their Sikkimeseness as the men-folk and would allow Sikkim's interests to be compromised by their non-Sikkimese husbands is offensive. That said, it is wrong to have different sets of rules for men and women. It is about time to have this important discussion.

But that is unlikely to happen even on International Women's Day. Do not expect the larger issues to be addressed as unbridled male chauvinism will remain routine affairs in our midst with male politicians who cannot accommodate women leaders beyond their "traditional" hospitality and culture roles claim being gender sensitive even at official functions where women are delegated hostess roles but not a seat on the table. Unless the society accepts ambition in women as a normal progression of initiatives like the "beti padhao" tokenism, everything will remain superficial lip-service. The relegation of women in second-class citizens with limited access to identity, ownership, and, yes, ambition, is unfortunate because that is not how things began.

Women have had an eventful march through history. At the start of humankind, women were edified and almost all prehistoric legends refer to a Mother Goddess as the Creator. We find this in Sikkim too. But man remained a hunter-gatherer at heart and as civilizations grew, he started embodying the idea of god with traits of himself. Soon, everything that could not be understood was given a female form, perhaps because most aspects of womanhood remained inscrutable to men. Whatever they could not understand, they applied a negative female force to. Soon, the woman started getting seen as the corruptor. These instincts continue to inform contemporary rules and regulations.

It is this prejudice that occasions like the International Women's Day should strive to eradicate. It has had but limited success and more often than not, ended up celebrating stereotypes instead. This, despite the fact that women are not even demanding much. They do not want to be returned to their original position of reverence. All they ask for is an equal standing, but even that is proving difficult. Things have changed though. At the turn of the last century, when automobiles were first introduced to the world, the policy makers refused to allow women to drive, saying that they did not have the wherewithal to handle machines. Until a decade ago, a woman driver was a rare sight in Sikkim. Now, they do not even attract a second look. What survive though are the snide comments that women don't make good drivers. That is a bad enough attitude and gets internalized into imposing stereotypes. It is this attitude which perhaps explains why women disappear after college. Even if they enter the job market, they land in positions that are not important enough. This is even more ironic in Sikkim's context given the fact that the first Sikkimese to have passed the IAS exams was a woman. And yet, when it comes to making a mark at the work-place, women are pushed to the background; referred to as the weaker sex!

The problem is not with the people at the work-place alone or men at large, it is the manner in which the role of women has been stereotyped even at home that holds women back. It is this stereotype that needs to be broken. Ambition should not be seen as an unwomanly trait. Then, we would be looking at real change. But before one can even begin walking towards that goal, the society needs to wake up and realize that Sikkimese women deserve an identity independent of men and equal rights and privileges independent of their personal decisions.

China's coronavirus cover-up: how censorship and propaganda obstructed the truth

PAUL GARDNER
theconversation.com

China's political leaders will be hoping that when concerns about the coronavirus eventually start to recede, memories about the state's failings early on in the outbreak will also fade. They will be particularly keen for people to forget the anger many felt after the death from Covid-19 of Dr Li Wenliang, the doctor censured for trying to warn colleagues about the outbreak. After Dr Li's death, the phrase "We want freedom of speech" was even trending on Chinese social media for several hours before the posts were deleted.

Dr Li had told fellow medical professionals about the new virus in a chat group on 30 December. He was accused of "rumour-mongering" and officials either ignored or played down the risks well into January. "If officials had disclosed information about the epidemic earlier," Dr Li told the New York Times, "I think it would have been a lot better. There should be more openness and transparency".

I am currently researching the Chinese party-state's efforts to increase legitimacy by controlling the information that reaches its citizens. The lack of openness and transparency in this crucial early phase of the outbreak was partly because officials were gathering for annual meetings of the local Communist Party-run legislatures, when propaganda departments instruct the media not to cover negative stories.

However, the censorship in this period also reflects increasingly tight control over information in China. As Chinese media expert Anne-Marie Brady notes, from the beginning of his presidency, Xi Jinping was clear the media should "focus on positive news stories that uphold unity and stability and are encouraging".

CURTAILING MEDIA FREEDOMS

The deterioration in the media's limited freedoms under Xi Jinping was underlined by a visit he made to media organisations in 2016, declaring that "All Party media have the surname Party", and demanding loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

There have been a series of good quality investigative reports, notably by the business publication Caixin, since the authorities fully acknowledged the virus. As political scientist Maria Repnikova argues, providing temporary space for the media to report more freely can help the party-state "project an image of managed transparency". However, the clampdown has undoubtedly had a significant effect on the media's ability to provide effective investigative reporting, particularly early on in the outbreak.

Online, there have been a succession of measures to limit speech the party deems a threat. These include laws that mean the threat of jail for anyone found guilty of spreading "rumours". In an authoritarian regime, stopping rumours limits

people's ability to raise concerns and potentially discover the truth. A point made only too clearly by Dr Li's case.

The party focuses its censorship on problems that might undermine its legitimacy. Part of my ongoing research into information control in China involves an analysis of leaked censorship instructions collected by the US-based China Digital Times. This shows that between 2013 and 2018, over 100 leaked instructions concerned problems about the environment, food safety, health, education, natural disasters and major accidents. The actual number is likely to far exceed this.

For example, after an explosion at a petrochemical factory, media organisations were told to censor "negative commentary related to petrochemical projects". And after parents protested about tainted vaccines, the media were instructed that only information provided by official sources could be used on front pages.



State media play a key role in the CCP's efforts to set the agenda online. My research shows that the number of stories featuring problems about the environment and disasters posted by People's Daily newspaper on Sina Weibo (China's equivalent of Twitter) fell significantly between 2013 and 2018.

Around 4.5% of all People Daily's Weibo posts between 2013 and 2015 were about the environment, but by 2018 had fallen to as low as 1%. Similarly, around 8%-10% of all posts by the newspaper were about disasters and major accidents between 2013 and 2015, but this figure fell to below 4% in the following three years.

The party wants people to focus instead on topics it thinks will enhance its legitimacy. The number of posts by People's Daily focusing on nationalism had doubled to 12% of the total by 2018.

CITIZEN JOURNALISM FIGHTS BACK

As well as investigative reports on the outbreak in parts of the media, some Chinese individuals have also gone to great lengths to communicate information about the virus and conditions in Wu-

han. However, the authorities have been steadily silencing significant critical voices and stepping up their efforts to censor other content they deem particularly unhelpful.

The censors do not stop everything, but as the China scholar Margaret E. Roberts suggests, "porous censorship" can still be very effective. She points out that the Chinese authorities' efforts to make it more difficult for people to access critical content that does make it online, while flooding the internet with information the CCP wants them to see, can still be very effective.

When a problem cannot be avoided, my research shows that the propaganda authorities try to control the narrative by ensuring the media focus on the state's efforts to tackle the problem. After a landslide at a mine in Tibet, the media were told to "cover disaster relief promptly and abundantly". Coverage of such disasters by People's Daily focuses on images of heroic rescue workers.



This same propaganda effort is in evidence now. As the China Media Project's David Bandurski notes, media coverage in China is increasingly seeking to portray the Chinese Communist Party "as the enabler of miraculous human feats" battling the virus.

After Dr Li's death, CCP leaders sought to blame local officials for admonishing him. However, the actions taken against Dr Li were fully consistent with the Party's approach to controlling information under Xi Jinping.

It is impossible to know how many people have died, or might die in future, because people have decided to self-censor, rather than risk punishment for spreading rumours, or because the authorities have sought to avoid information reaching the public. The coronavirus outbreak highlights the risks of a system that puts social stability and ruling party legitimacy above the public interest.

[the writer is PhD Candidate in Chinese Studies and Political Communication, University of Glasgow]

Coronavirus: how to stop the anxiety spiralling out of control

JO DANIELS
theconversation.com

As the novel coronavirus proliferates on a global scale, worry and panic is on the rise. And it is no wonder when we are constantly being told how to best protect ourselves from being infected. But how do you stay safe in this climate and simultaneously make sure that the fear doesn't take over your life, developing into obsessive compulsive disorder or panic?

Fear is a normal, necessary evolutionary response to threat - ultimately designed to keep us safe. Whether the threat is emotional, social or physical, this response is dependent on a complex interaction between our primitive "animal brain" (the limbic system) and our sophisticated cognitive brain (the neo-cortex). These work busily in concert to assess and respond to threats to survival.

Once a threat has been identified, a "fight or flight" response can be triggered. This is the body's biological response to fear and involves flooding us with adrenaline in a bid to ensure that we are able to escape or defeat any threat, such as a dangerous animal attacking. The response produces a range of intense physical symptoms - palpitations, perspiration, dizziness and difficulty breathing - which are designed to make us run faster and fight harder.

However, this system can be prone to glitches, sometimes responding disproportionately to threats that aren't actually that serious or imminent. Worrying about health conditions such as heart attacks, stroke and even COVID-19 (the disease caused by the coronavirus) can therefore also trigger a fight-or-flight response.

That's despite the fact that there is no role for a primitive biological response to COVID-19 - no running or

fighting is necessary. Instead, it is our high-level, cognitive neocortex that is required here, a rational and measured approach to infectious disease, without the messy complications of panic.

Sadly, this is easier said than done. Once the fear has kicked in, it can be hard to stop it.

VULNERABLE GROUPS

It is highly unlikely that a viral outbreak, even at pandemic levels, will trigger mental health problems in people who don't already have them or are in the process of developing them. Research shows that most mental health problems start between early adolescence and the mid-20s, with complex factors being involved. Around 10% of the global population experience clinical levels of anxiety at any one time, although some estimates are higher.

People who are chronically and physically unwell - the ones who are the most vulnerable to the coronavirus - are at particular risk of spiralling anxiety. This should not be ignored. Their concern is warranted and is vital in motivating them to take up precautionary measures. But it is important that these individuals have the support they need in dealing with their emotions.

People with health anxiety, preoccupied with health-related information or physical symptoms, are also at risk of worsening mental health as the virus spreads. So are individuals who are prone to frequent or increased "checking", such as constantly making sure that the oven is off or that the front door is locked. Those at the extreme end of the scale when it comes to such behaviour may be displaying signs of obsessive compulsive disorder.

People who have a lot of background anxiety, and are not easily reassured, may also benefit from assessment and support in the shadow

of the coronavirus outbreak. This may include people with generalised anxiety disorder or panic disorder, which have strong physiological features.

WAYS TO MANAGE THE STRESS

If you find yourself excessively worrying about the coronavirus, this doesn't necessarily mean that you have a psychological disorder. But high levels of emotional distress, whatever the source, should be appropriately and compassionately attended to, particularly if it is interfering with normal day to day activities.

At times of stress and anxiety, we are often prone to using strategies that are designed to help but prove counter-productive. For example, you may Google symptoms to try to calm yourself down, even though it is unlikely to ever make you feel better. When our strategies for de-stressing instead increase our anxiety, it is time to take a step back and ask if there is anything more helpful we can do.

There are actually ways to dampen down the physical and emotional symptoms associated with anxiety. One is to stop checking. For example, avoid looking for signs of illness. You are likely to find unfamiliar physical sensations that are harmless but make you feel anxious. Normal physical changes and sensations pass in time, so if you feel your chest tighten, shift your focus onto pleasurable activities and adopt "watchful waiting" in the meantime.

In the case of COVID-19, checking may also include constant monitoring of news updates and social media feeds, which significantly increases anxiety - only serving to reassure us momentarily, if at all. So if you are feeling anxious, consider tuning off automatic notifications and updates on COVID-19.

Instead, do less frequent checks of reliable, impartial sources of in-

formation updates on COVID-19. This might include national health websites rather than alarmist news or social media feeds that exacerbate worry unnecessarily. Information can be reassuring if it is rooted in facts. It is often the intolerance of uncertainty that perpetuates anxiety rather than fear of illness itself.

At times of stress and anxiety, hyperventilation and shallow breathing is common. Purposeful, regular breathing can therefore work to reset the fight or flight response and prevent the onset of panic and the unpleasant physical symptoms associated with anxiety. This is also true for exercise, which can help reduce the excess adrenaline build-up associated with anxiety. It can also give much needed perspective.

Perhaps most importantly, don't isolate yourself. Personal relationships are crucial in maintaining perspective, elevating mood and allowing distraction away from concerns that trouble us. Even in imposed isolation, it is important to combat loneliness and keep talking - for example, via video chats.

We are globally united in living with a very real yet uncertain health threat. Vigilance and precautionary measures are essential. But psychological distress and widespread panic does not have to be part of this experience. Continuing normal daily activities, maintaining perspective and reducing unnecessary stress is key to psychological survival. In other words, where possible, keep calm and carry on.

If you continue to feel anxious or distressed despite trying these techniques, do talk to your GP or refer to a psychologist for evidence-based treatment such as cognitive behavioural therapy.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer of Psychology, University of Bath]

Brands go all out to celebrate Women's Day

NEW DELHI, MAR 7 (PTI): Lavish brunches, refreshing spa sessions, or enticing discounts on clothes, accessories and jewellery, come Sunday and women in the capital will be spoilt for choice as brands go out of their way to celebrate the International Women's Day.



So if you are an avid foodie, out and out shopaholic, or someone craving for a "me time" to relax at a high-end luxurious spa, worry not, because there is a store full of offers to get you going on the special day.

For female shoppers, like always, malls across the city would be the place to be at, thanks to their lucrative discounts and out-of-the-box offers. Case in point, Pacific Mall, which has come out with "Be Our Own BAE" campaign, where on shopping of Rs 5,000-15,000 it is giving customers a chance to win "diamond pendants, assured F&B and complimentary beauty vouchers" from Saturday till March 15.

Joining the bandwagon are other brick-and-

mortar stores too.

While retail chain 1-India Family Mart is giving shopping coupons worth Rs 500 on shopping of Rs 999 on a vast variety of products ranging from fashion apparel to home accessories, Kalpana an ethnic female garment store has come up with a one-of-its-kind quirky offer on the occasion.

"For two days, today and tomorrow, get discount equal to 5 times your height in feet. For example, 5 feet 6 inches = 5.5 feet = 27.5 per cent discount," read the advertisement of Kalpana in a national daily.

Of course, things are pretty hot in the online platforms too where discounts are maximum and inconvenience minimum.

Flipkart and Amazon are offering irresistible discounts ranging from "30-80 per cent" on western wear, ethnic ensembles, shoes, watches, bags, jewellery and whatnot.

But then shopping is not for everyone, especially for the woman who is looking for a break from their daily chores, and won't mind whiling away their time at a fancy spa and unwind.

If that is the case, Yes Madam, a beauty and wellness services platform, and a few other spa and salons at five-star hotels, can be your go-to place to relax and rejuvenate.

"At Yes Madam, we have several beauty packages for Women's Day across all the 20 cit-

ies. So, ladies can pick an appointment as per their convenience to relax and rejuvenate at their own comfort and affordable prices," said Mayank Arya, co-founder, Yes Madam. That said, this was just the appetizer in the list of goodies that are in the offing, as the main-course here literally includes elaborate brunches and buffets curated for the occasion for the "sheroes".

Topping the chart here is the aptly titled, "Sheroes Brunch" by The Westin Gurgaon New Delhi. The menu includes gastronomical delights ranging from delectable summer salads like "Orange Beetroot with feta", "tangy street food and chaats" and Indian delicacies like biryani

First liver transplant from a living donor in Odisha



BHUBANESWAR, MAR 7 (PTI): A hospital here has successfully conducted first liver transplant from a living donor in Odisha, doctors said.

The doctors of the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here along with the Hyderabad Yashoda Hospital, successfully conducted a living donor liver transplantation on Thursday.

The surgeries were conducted on 55-year-old Jayanta Biswal, a resident of Nilagiri in Balasore district, and his young son Saumya Ranjan Biswal (19), a BCom student, who donated a portion of his liver. Both

the father and son were doing fine after the marathon surgery. They are presently kept under observation in the ICU, said Prof Manoj Kumar Sahu, the head of Gastroenterology at SUM hospital.

Biswal had been suffering from non-alcoholic fatty liver and it was decided to conduct the transplantation to save his life, Prof Sahu said, adding that patients in Odisha can now expect to get liver transplantation with low cost.

Prof (Dr) P Balachandran Menon, Chief Liver Transplant surgeon from Yashoda Hospital assisted by doctors of IMS and

SUM hospital, led the team during the surgery.

"Cirrhosis of liver is the end stage liver disease with an invariably progressive course. The number of patients suffering from cirrhosis of liver is on the rise in Odisha mainly because of the change in people's lifestyle," Dr Sahu said, adding the prohibitive cost of such surgery also stood in the way of patients availing the facility elsewhere.

Prof Sahu said, "while a liver transplantation outside costs above Rs 25 lakh, we hope to provide the service at about Rs 10 lakh.

SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

in celebration of

"INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" ON MARCH 8, 2020 OBSERVES "LEGAL SERVICES WEEK FOR WOMEN"

FROM MARCH 8, 2020 - MARCH 14, 2020



IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN IN INDIA	LEGAL PROVISIONS	A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	B. EYE TEASERS BEWARE	C. DISCRIMINATION AT WORK PLACE	Abolition Act, 1976												
<p>The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only guarantees equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women to make efforts to bring them at par in the cumulative socio economic, education and political fields. Fundamental Rights, amongst others, ensures equality before the law and equal protection of law, prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth within the framework of a democratic polity. Our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. India has also notified various international conventions and human rights instruments to secure equal rights of women.</p> <p>Constitutional Provisions for Women:-</p> <p>i. Equality before law for women [Article 14]</p> <p>ii. The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them [Article 15 (1)]</p> <p>iii. The State shall not be prevented from making any special provision in favour of women and children [Article 15 (3)]</p> <p>iv. Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State [Article 16 (1)]</p> <p>v. The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the rights to an adequate means of livelihood [Article 39 (a)]; and equal pay for equal work for both men and women [Article 39 (d)]</p> <p>vi. To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities [Article 39 A]</p> <p>vii. The State to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief [Article 42]</p> <p>viii. The State shall promote with special care the education and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall, protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation [Article 46]</p> <p>ix. The State shall raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people [Article 47]</p>	<p>To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support services especially to working women. Although women may be victims of any crime such as 'Murder', 'Robbery', 'Cheating' etc, the crimes, which are directed specifically against women, are characterized as 'Crimes against Women'. These are broadly classified under two categories:</p> <p>I Crimes Identified Under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Punishment for Rape (Sec. 376 IPC) 2. Kidnapping and Abduction for different purposes (Sec. 363-373) 3. Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Deaths or their attempts (Sec. 302/304-B IPC) 4. Torture, both mental and physical [Sec. 498-A IPC] 5. Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC) 6. Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC) 7. Impersonation of girls (up to 21 years of age) (Sec. 366-B) <p>II The Crimes identified under the Special Laws (SLL). Although all laws are not gender specific, the provisions of law affecting women significantly have been reviewed periodically and amendments carried out to keep pace with the emerging requirements. Some of the Acts which have special provisions to safeguard women and their interest are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. 2. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC/PNDT) Act, 1994. 3. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace [Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal] Act, 2013. 4. The Family Courts Act, 1954 5. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 6. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 7. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with amendments in 2005 8. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 9. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 1955) 10. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 11. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 12. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1985. 13. The Contract Labour (Regulation and 	<p>Any act of violence or abuse against a single woman, sister, widow, mother, daughter or even women in live-in relationships amounts to domestic violence. Women can seek protection under the 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005'.</p> <p>II. EYE TEASERS BEWARE</p> <p>Any indecent act including lewd comments, cat call, or whistling, touching, groping indecent exposure that degrades the dignity of women comes under sexual and mental harassment. The offender is punishable by a maximum jail term of three years and fine.</p> <p>C. DISCRIMINATION AT WORK PLACE</p> <p>A major problem faced by the working women is sexual harassment at the workplace.</p> <p>A majority of the working women continue to be denied their right to equal pay, under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and are underpaid in comparison to their male colleagues.</p> <p>The Hon'ble Supreme Court has laid down certain guidelines in Vishaka vs. State of Rajasthan. (1997) 6 SCC 241. In order to protect the women against Sexual Harassment and the right to work with dignity, the Parliament has enacted the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 further in Civil Appeal No. 1632 of 2012 (Arising from SLP(C) No. 34153 of 2010 Seema Lepcha vs. State of Sikkim & Other passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India wherein certain guidelines were issued for the protection of working women.</p> <p>D. WOMEN CAN CLAIM MAINTENANCE</p> <p>A woman's legal right to claim maintenance from her husband is recognized under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Section 18 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 entitles a woman to claim maintenance from her husband. Also, the claim for maintenance is extendable to her minor children. Even as per provisions of PWIDV Act 2005 women can claim maintenance from her husband, father, partner etc. Further, these laws provide that maintenance can be claimed prior to divorce, during separation or after divorce till she is alive or till she is married to someone else.</p> <p>ESAY RD TO ECONOMIC ABUSE</p> <p>Women are entitled to monetary help from spouses, parents or guardians in case of natural emergencies like treatment. Husbands cannot dispose of jewellery or dowry without consent of his wife. If he does, he is guilty of economic abuse.</p>	<p>x. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practice derogatory to the dignity of women [Article 51 (A) (e)]</p> <p>xi. Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat [Article 243 D (3)]</p> <p>xii. Not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level to be reserved for women [Article 243 D (4)]</p> <p>xiii. Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Municipality shall be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Municipality [Article 243 D (3)]</p>	<p>14. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976</p> <p>15. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006</p> <p>16. The Criminal Law (Amendment), Act, 2013.</p>	<p>A woman is entitled to free legal aid u/s 12 (c) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Hence any woman in need of legal aid and services may contact the office of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim or at any of the District Legal Services Authorities or Taluk Legal Services Committees in all the Districts and Sub-Divisions as per the addresses mentioned below:-</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No : 03592-287751 Fax : 03592-287753 E-mail : sikkim_slsa@rediffmail.com</p> </td> <td> <p>District Legal Services Authority (West), Nyayoga, Gyalsing, West Sikkim. Phone No: 03595-250861 Email id: districtwest@rediffmail.com</p> </td> <td> <p>Taluk Legal Services Committee (North), Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Fentok, Mangon, North Sikkim. Phone: 03592-234383. Email id: districtnorth@rediffmail.com</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>District Legal Services Authority (East), District Court's Complex, Sirhey, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Phone No: 03592-284462 Email id: district2017@gmail.com</p> </td> <td> <p>District Legal Services Authority (South), District Court's Complex, Ranachi, South Sikkim. Phone: 03595-264356. Email id: districtsouth@rediffmail.com</p> </td> <td> <p>Taluk Legal Services Committee, Changthang, North Sikkim. Email id: districtnorth@rediffmail.com</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>District Legal Services Authority (North), Fentok, Mangon, North Sikkim. 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SIKKIM STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

NBA mulls games without fans over virus fears: report

LOS ANGELES, MARCH 7 (AFP): The NBA has reportedly told teams to look into strategies on how to play games without fans in the arena amid concerns over the new coronavirus outbreak.

As fears grow over the spread of the virus, and sports leagues formulate contingency plans, the NBA on Friday sent a memo to its teams telling them to start "developing" plans on how to play games with only "essential staff" in attendance should that be deemed necessary, American sports broadcaster ESPN reported.

The NBA had sent out a previous memo to teams earlier this week, recommending players to use fist-bumps instead of high-fives with fans. It also said to avoid taking items such as pens, balls and jerseys from fans to sign.

"The health and safety of our employees, teams, players and fans is paramount," the NBA said in a statement on Monday. "We are coordinating with our teams and consulting with the CDC and infectious disease specialists on the coronavirus and continue to monitor the situation closely."

The global spread of COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the international sporting calendar with Formula One motor racing, golf and athletics among the sports canceling or postponing events.

In Italy, the hardest-hit European country with 148 deaths from the novel coronavirus, all major sports events, including football matches, will be played behind closed doors until April 3.

Davis Cup tennis ties in Italy and Japan are being played behind closed doors this weekend.

The World Health Organization has called the spread of the virus "deeply concerning" as a wave of countries reported their first cases of the disease -- which has now killed nearly 3,500 people and infected more than 100,000 across 92 nations and territories.

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Jaffer's insatiable hunger for runs ends, retires

MUMBAI, MAR 7 (PTI): Former India opener Wasim Jaffer on Saturday announced retirement from all forms of cricket after amassing a mountain of runs in a glorious first-class career that spanned almost a quarter century.

Since making his first-class debut in 1996/97, the 42-year-old became the highest run-scorer in the Ranji Trophy and Irani Trophy, besides scoring close to 2000 runs with five centuries in Test cricket.

"After all these years in cricket, it is time to move on. But just like the red ball format which is very dear to me, it's the end of only the first innings," Jaffer said in a statement.

"I am looking forward to the second innings in any capacity, be it in coaching, commentary etc., as long as I stay involved with the game as this game has given me so much."

He remembered those who helped him shape his career, his life. "A special thanks to all my coaches, right from my school days to professional cricket, for helping me polish my skills. A heartfelt thanks to the selectors who showed faith in me."

The Mumbaikar leaves the scene as the only batsman to



score 12,000 runs in Ranji Trophy and he also has the highest number of first-class hundreds to his name.

Internationally, Jaffer played 31 Tests, scoring 1,944 runs at an average of 34.11. Besides five tons, he has 11 fifties in the highest format of the game, with 212 being his best.

"First of all, I would like to thank The Almighty Allah, who gave me the talent to play this beautiful game. 'I'd

like to also thank my family - my parents and brothers for encouraging me to pursue the sport as a profession and my wife, who left the cosy life of England to create a lovely home for our children and me," Jaffer said.

The veteran, who made his Test debut against South Africa in 2000, is one of the few Indian batsmen to have scored a double hundred in the West Indies.

Jaffer, the first player to

play in 150 Ranji Trophy matches, guided Mumbai to title wins in the 38th and 39th edition of the domestic tournament. He has also won two Ranji titles Vidarbha in the last three seasons.

"My gratitude to all the captains I played under and all my colleagues from whom I learnt so much about the game and shared some life-long memories. I would also like to thank all the support staff who were a constant pil-

lar of support in my long journey." The stylish right-handed batsman made his first-class debut in 1996-97 season and went on to score 19,410 runs from 260 matches.

Jaffer, who thanked the BCCI, MCA, and VCA, said getting his India Test cap, scoring 202 versus Pakistan, 212 against West Indies and winning the Test series in West Indies and England 2006-07, are among the moments that he will cherish the most. "I

am honoured to have shared the dressing room with the likes of Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Anil Kumble, VVS Laxman, Virender Sehwag, and MS Dhoni to name a few," he said. "What can I say about Sachin (Tendulkar)? He was my role model. Feel really blessed to have watched him play from such close quarters. In my opinion he was one of the best players of that era along with Brian Lara," added Jaffer.

He said he imbibed the quintessential 'khadoos' Mumbai attitude during his long stint with them.

"My longest association was with the Mumbai team and it's here that I learned about the khadoos nature of cricket that Mumbai players are known for.

"I feel privileged to have shared the Mumbai dressing room with Tendulkar, Vinod Kambli, Zaheer Khan, Amol Muzumdar, Nilesh Kulkarni to name few. "After becoming the captain in 2008, I hope I passed on some legacy to Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Surya Kumar Yadav, Aditya Tare and others."

Jaffer also thanked former India stumper Chandrakant Pandit, the current Vidarbha coach, for giving him an opportunity there.

Ecuador upset Japan to advance to Davis Cup finals

TOKYO, MAR 7 (AFP): Underdogs Ecuador, maintaining their early lead, swept their Davis Cup qualifier against Japan on Saturday to win a ticket for the finals, played behind closed doors due the coronavirus outbreak.

Gonzalo Escobar and Diego Hidalgo of Ecuador outperformed Ben McLachlan and Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 in a deciding doubles match in Miki, western Japan.

Ecuador, ranked 27, who took a 2-0 lead on Friday against world number 17 Japan, added another victory to win their qualifier 3-0 and

advance to the Madrid finals in November.

The remaining two singles were cancelled on account of Ecuador's three wins.

Japan were without two star players -- injury-hit Kei Nishikori and world number 48 Yoshihito Nishioka, who decided not to join the team to avoid the possibility of being quarantined due to the outbreak on his return to the US. The Davis Cup matches were held without spectators as a growing number of sporting events across the world are affected by the outbreak.

Sounds of smashing the ball echoed in the

empty arena as ball kids wore gloves and used baskets for players to toss their towels in so they would not have to touch them.

A limited number of people allowed to enter the arena, including journalists, were required to check their body temperature, with some organisers wearing masks.

The spread of the novel coronavirus has led to the postponement of sporting events in Japan, raising fears that the outbreak could affect the Olympics due to begin on July 24 but Tokyo 2020 organisers said that preparations were "continuing as planned".

Harmanpreet's words stirred me up: Poonam



MELBOURNE, MAR 7 (PTI): It was a stinging rebuke from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur during the tournament opener against Australia that fired up Poonam Yadav, who eventually played an instrumental role in India's march to their maiden Women's T20 World Cup final.

The 28-year-old Indian has emerged as India's wrecker-in-chief in tournament with nine wickets, including a four-wicket haul against defending champions Australia in the opening match.

"When I got hit for a six in the first over, she (Harmanpreet) came to me and said, 'Poonam, you're one of the most

experienced players in the team, and we expect better from you," Poonam was quoted as saying by the ICC.

"So, that kind of stirred something within me. I told myself if my captain has that much faith in me, I should be able to make a comeback.

"I took a wicket in the very next ball, and didn't look back since. Now when I look back at that moment, it means so much in the context of my individual performance and run to the Final," said the bowler from Agra.

India's highest wicket-taker in T20 cricket, Poonam had missed the preceding tri-series, involving Australia, due to an injury in her left in-

dex finger.

Poonam said she used her time on the sidelines to analyse the weakness of her opponents which came handy during the World Cup.

"I had not even played the tri-series, so thanks to the selectors for showing faith in me," she said.

"When I was on the sidelines, I worked quite hard knowing the quality of competition in the World Cup.

"So, I would watch a lot of videos of the Australian and the England teams and tried to find out their weaknesses. My preparation that way was good, so despite the pressure, the nerves I was able to do well," she added.

Fist bumps replace handshakes, sweaty towels off limits in Davis Cup

PARIS, MARCH 7 (AFP): Davis Cup qualifying started Friday under the shadow of the deadly coronavirus with fist bumps instead of handshakes, ball boys and girls keeping their distance from sweat-stained towels and two ties even played out in eerily-empty arenas.

With matches taking place from Australia to Japan to Europe and in South America and Hawaii, 12 teams are bidding to join defending champions Spain, 2019 runners-up Canada, semi-finalists Great Britain and Russia, as well as wildcards France and Serbia in the Madrid finals in November.

Two of Friday's encounters had to be staged behind closed doors with spectators banned in Miki, where Japan are hosting Ecuador, and in Cagliari as Italy faced South Korea.

"Conditions were strange," said Italian number one and world 11 Fabio Fognini after cruising past 251-ranked Lee Duck-hee 6-0, 6-3 in just over an hour at the Circolo Tennis venue.

"It was not difficult to focus but it was a bit strange to play in front of 100 people. But safety first and then sport," Fognini told daviscup.com.

Italy has been the worst-hit European country with 197 deaths from the coronavirus.

As a result, all sporting events are being played behind closed doors for the next month.

On Friday, only teams, media and support staff were allowed into the arena where world number 79 Gianluca Mager then extended the Italian lead to 2-0 overnight after a 6-3, 7-5 debut



win over Nam Ji-sung.

"There's too much silence for a Davis Cup crowd," said Italy skipper Corrado Barazzutti after a day in which players and backroom staff exchanged fist bumps rather than the traditional post-match handshake in an effort to reduce the risk of a virus spread.

In Miki, Japan, without their top two singles players Kei Nishikori -- who hasn't played Davis Cup since 2016 -- and Yoshihito Nishioka, slipped 2-0 down to Ecuador.

Emilio Gomez defeated Go Soeda 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) while Roberto Quiroz shrugged off a gap of 186 places in the rankings to beat Yasutaka Uchiyama 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 7-6 (10/8).

- 'DO NOT TOUCH' -

Ball boys and girls wore gloves to handle the balls and used baskets for players to toss their towels. Japan has reported 360 confirmed cases of coronavirus and six deaths.

It all added to a miserable day for Japan who were without Nishikori,

still recovering from an elbow injury which has sidelined him since the US Open, and Nishioka.

World number 48 Nishioka decided not to join the national team to avoid the possibility of being quarantined on his return to the United States ahead of next week's ATP event in Indian Wells.

Elsewhere, 28-time Davis Cup champions Australia were 2-0 up on Brazil in Adelaide.

Jordan Thompson saw off Thiago Monteiro 6-4, 6-4 before John Millman recovered from a set and 5-3 down to defeat last week's Santiago ATP champion, 19-year-old Thiago Seyboth Wild 4-6, 7-6 (7/0), 6-2.

"That's what Davis Cup is all about, never giving up," said Millman.

In Zagreb, 2005 and 2018 champions Croatia were 2-0 up on India after Borna Gojo beat Prajnesh Gunneswaran 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 and former US Open winner Marin Cilic saw off world number 182 Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-6 (10/8), 7-6 (10/8). In Bratislava,

three-time champions Czech Republic were 2-0 ahead of Slovakia in their first meeting since the countries split into two independent nations in 1993. Sweden were 1-1 with Chile in Stockholm on a contrasting day for the home side's Ymer brothers.

Mikael beat Marcelo Tomas Vera 6-2, 6-3 but older brother Elias lost to Alejandro Tabilo 6-4, 6-3.

Other ties were also locked at 1-1 -- Kazakhstan v Netherlands, Austria against

Uruguay, Hungary at home to Belgium, Germany's tie with Belarus and Colombia v Argentina.

Later Friday, record 32-time champions the United States took a 2-0 lead over Uzbekistan in Honolulu.

American Taylor Fritz easily swept aside little known Sanjar Fayziev 6-1, 6-2 and Fritz's teammate Reilly Opelka beat Denis Istomin in straight sets, 6-2, 7-5.

The qualifying round will be completed on Saturday when each tie will feature a doubles clash and reverse singles.

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China virus fight sparks outcry over female frontline

BEIJING, MAR 7 (AFP): China's fight against the coronavirus epidemic has triggered anger over the neglect of frontline female workers who have struggled to access menstrual products, battled with ill-fitting equipment and had their heads shaved.

Reports that some medical staff were given birth control pills in order to delay their periods have also prompted outrage.

As the world marks International Women's Day, women in China have rallied against measures they deem discriminatory as the government races to contain the crisis, which has disrupted the lives of tens of millions of people under lockdown in central Hubei province, the virus epicentre.

Shanghai resident Jiang Jinjing became concerned about how female medical workers were dealing with their periods, after workers spoke out about avoiding using the toilet to conserve their protective suits.

The 24-year-old asked about the issue on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform, and received thousands of comments, including urgent anonymous appeals from women in Hubei.

"Many female medical workers sent messages, saying their periods were really causing a lot of trouble," said Jiang, who launched a donation drive of sanitary products.

"Can't even eat or drink all day while wearing the isolation suit, let alone change sanitary



napkins," one told her. Her efforts galvanized individuals and companies to send more than 600,000 sanitary pads and period-proof underwear, which can be worn for longer, to frontline workers.

China ordered fast-track routes for emergency supplies entering Hubei province -- but sanitary products weren't initially considered necessities.

Some hospital officials have turned the donations away, Jiang said, because they didn't have "sufficient awareness of this issue".

"The leaders are all male comrades," one nurse in Hubei's Shiyan city told AFP, who asked to remain anonymous.

While the provincial leaders are overwhelmingly male, women account for the majority of nurses and doctors on the frontline, according to the official All-China Women's Federation. Jiang also had to face troll-

ing from online critics. "Even human lives can't be protected, why care about that issue in the crotch of your pants?" one wrote in response to her campaign.

But Jiang and her volunteers remain unfazed. "We're very happy that we can do a little work for women's rights," she told AFP.

The portrayal of women fighting the virus has prompted a rare wave of criticism in a country where online discussion is usually tightly restricted.

A Shanghai university hospital, which praised the "woman warriors" that made up 79 percent of its reinforcement team to Hubei, said it was donating 200 bottles of pills to "postpone female team members' 'unspeakable' special periods."

The hospital later defended itself, saying the women took the medication voluntarily, but the hospital was slammed

by Weibo users who accused officials of depriving women of control over their bodies.

"In order to avoid providing sanitary pads, you have created this kind of volunteering!" said one.

"Of course they would rather take progesterone than stain their protective suits with blood." Propaganda videos of female medical workers having their heads shaved -- supposedly to improve hygiene -- have also backfired, with many doubting that the women, some of whom were weeping, had participated willingly.

"Stop using women's bodies as tools for propaganda," read one widely-shared essay responding to the videos on a WeChat-based blog.

The essay was later removed from the platform for "illegal" content.

A social media post from state broadcaster CCTV which described

unnamed workers posing in oversized hazmat suits as "cute" drew similar ire.

Weibo users pointed out that they were likely to be female workers given the ill-fitting suits.

"Fat lot of good being cute does when it comes to safety!" wrote one user, whose comments were reposted more than 27,000 times.

The strength of online debate shows that public awareness of gender equality has grown, said activist Feng Yuan, who co-founded a Beijing-based non-profit focusing on women.

But stereotypes and propaganda "erase" women by portraying them as "recipients of help, or as long-suffering caregivers, or eulogized victims or self-sacrificers," she said.

"Instead of living people, this kind of propaganda conversely strengthens gender stereotypes.

Trump names Rep. Mark Meadows his new chief of staff



WASHINGTON, MAR 7 (AP): In the midst of one of the most daunting crises of his administration, President Donald Trump on Friday announced he had made a major staff overhaul, replacing his acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney with Republican Rep. Mark Meadows.

While much of the country was focused on the spreading coronavirus, Trump announced the surprise reshuffle by Friday night tweet, saying Mulvaney would become the U.S. special envoy for Northern Ireland.

I have long known and worked with Mark, and the relationship is a very good one, he wrote, thanking Mulvaney who never shook his acting title for having served the Administration so well.

The long-rumoured move comes as Trump has been pulling together a team of loyalists and allies ahead of what is expected to be a bitter reelection fight.

But the timing as his administration was already facing criticism over its handling of the outbreak threatened to exacerbate concerns about the government's ability to protect the nation from a virus that has now infected more than 100,000 people worldwide.

Mulvaney had been leading the administration's interagency response to the virus until Trump designated Vice President Mike Pence to lead the whole-of-government effort more than a week ago.

It was just one of a long series of downgrades for Mulvaney,

whose relationship with Trump began to sour not long after he was named to the position in December 2018. Indeed, Trump had been eyeing the change for many months,

according to people familiar with his thinking, but wanted to wait until after the impeachment saga was over to make his move.

Meadows, the one-time leader of the House Freedom Caucus, is a longtime Trump confidant and sounding board, whose political instincts Trump respects. He announced last year that he would not be seeking reelection for his North Carolina House seat, and said at the time that he expected to join Trump's team in some capacity. He will be Trump's fourth chief of staff in as many years.

He was officially offered the job Thursday, according to one of the people familiar with the matter, who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the changes publicly. Mulvaney was informed Friday.

Some outside advisers had cautioned Trump that making such a high-profile switch during the coronavirus crisis would rattle markets craving stability, and his decision to make the announcement after Wall Street had closed Friday was partly informed by those concerns, the people said.

A former congressman from South Carolina, Mulvaney had portrayed himself as a happy warrior, satisfied with letting Trump be Trump" as he focused on boosting White House staff morale and wooing lawmakers at the Camp David presidential retreat.

And while he never grated on Trump or other White House staffers like the two men who had held the post before him, Mulvaney had been relegated to the sidelines even before a disastrous

mid-October press conference in which he insisted quid pro quo was normal when it came to foreign policy, undercutting the president's position that there was no such thing in his dealings with Ukraine.

Trump was furious about Mulvaney's handling of the impeachment probe, and also faulted Mulvaney who feuded with the White House counsel during the probe for not mounting a more robust defense of his actions.

Still, his allies had repeatedly brushed off rumblings of his imminent departure and had said as recently as last month that he planned to stay at least through the election in November.

Ever since he was acquitted by the Senate on impeachment charges, Trump has been on a tear to rid his administration of those he deems insufficiently loyal.

And he has been assembling a team of trusted confidants as he prepares for a tough reelection fight.

Meadows, a close ally and friend of the president, has made clear to the White House and those close to the president that he has no plans to try to rein in Trump, as others like Mulvaney's predecessor, retired four-star Gen. John Kelly have tried and failed to do. One person close to Mulvaney insisted he was pleased with the decision to bring in Meadows, noting the two were friends and had served together on the House Freedom Caucus.

Indeed, they said Mulvaney had raised the idea of Meadows as chief of staff before he even had the job and discussed the plan with Trump following his trip to India last week.

Indian among 15 new coronavirus cases in UAE



DUBAI, MAR 7 (PTI): An Indian national is among 15 new cases of the deadly coronavirus in the UAE, taking the total number of confirmed infections in the country to 45, health officials have said.

The Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) on Friday said in a statement that 13 out of 15 new cases in the UAE recently arrived from abroad.

They were diagnosed through early monitoring and reporting systems implemented in the country and are three Emiratis, two individuals from Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Iran as well as a person each from Thailand, Morocco, China and India, the statement said.

"The UAE announces recovery of two cases of COVID-19 and reported a 15 cases of different nationalities have tested positive for the virus, taking to 45 the total infections in the country," the MoHAP tweeted on Friday.

Five individuals in close contact with COVID-19 patients have also been screened,

placed under health quarantine and subjected to preventive measures to curb the spread of the virus in the country, the statement added.

All cases are being monitored round-the-clock, are in a stable condition and are receiving all necessary health care required, the statement said.

Meanwhile, two Chinese patients, including a 10-year-old boy, diagnosed with the deadly coronavirus in the UAE have recovered from the illness, the MoHAP said, adding that the total number of recovered cases in the UAE now stands at seven.

The virus that first emerged in China's Wuhan city in the Hubei province in December last year has spread to 97 countries and has infected 102,180 people, including 80,651 in China, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus tracker.

China has reported 28 new fatalities from the deadly coronavirus outbreak, taking the death toll in the country to 3,070, Chinese health officials said on Saturday.

One more victory: Biden wins most Super Tuesday delegates

WASHINGTON, MAR 7 (AP): Former Vice President Joe Biden has put an exclamation point on his Super Tuesday victories by winning the most delegates on the presidential primary calendar's biggest night.

The Associated Press has allocated more than 92% of the 1,344 delegates that were up for grabs on Tuesday, and Biden has such a commanding lead that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders cannot catch up as the remaining votes from that day's 14 state primaries are counted. Biden built his delegate lead on Tuesday by racking up huge victories in Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia, while scoring a narrow win in Texas. In all, Biden won 10 states and Sanders won four.

Look, not long ago the press and the pundits declared this campaign dead, but this week we saw tremendous support across the nation, Biden told supporters by phone Friday evening. We changed the whole narrative."

Sanders won California and three other states Colorado, Utah and his home state of Vermont. Although Sanders won the biggest state, California, he didn't rack up the commanding lead required to surpass Biden's haul. Biden has won at

least 610 delegates from Tuesday's contests, while Sanders has won at least 513, according to the AP delegate count. There are 102 delegates still to be allocated.

Most of the delegates still not allocated are in California, with the next biggest chunks in Colorado and Utah. Despite Sanders winning all three states, he has already been awarded the largest share of delegates in those states.

Many of the delegates are being withheld because it is unclear whether former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg will finish above the 15% threshold in California, which would score him a significant number of statewide delegates. Regardless of whether Bloomberg reaches the threshold, Sanders can't catch Biden because many of the remaining delegates would then go to Biden.

Bloomberg dropped out of the presidential race on Wednesday.

Overall, Biden has 664 delegates to Sanders' 573. Sanders started the week with a six-delegate lead. Biden's performance was all the more remarkable considering his slow start in the first three contests. Less than a month ago, Biden didn't win a single delegate in New Hampshire.

The contest could now become a drawn-out two-man battle for delegates to win the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in July. It takes a majority of pledged delegates won in primaries and caucuses 1,991 to win the nomination on the first ballot. With only two viable candidates left in the race, the prospect of a contested convention is remote.

The race now enters a key stretch as voters in 10 states cast ballots over the next two weeks. Sanders scrapped an appearance in Mississippi to campaign in Michigan the largest prize on Tuesday, when six states representing 352 delegates vote. Sanders' move was an acknowledgement that he stands little chance of blunting Biden's edge with black voters in the South and must focus on fighting back in the Midwest.

Four states vote on March 17, including delegate-rich Illinois, Ohio and Florida, where Sanders could struggle because of the state's older electorate and his recent praise of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

When Sanders ran against Hillary Clinton in 2016, Clinton won in Florida, Illinois and Ohio the three states with the most delegates at stake in the mid-March primaries.

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LOVELY LEADING LADIES! Actresses, Tessa Thompson, Evan Rachel Wood and Thandie Newton posed together at the season 3 premiere of Westworld in Los Angeles.

Justin Bieber Downsizes Stadium Tour Dates After Soft Ticket Sales

The coronavirus scare continues to impact the live music market.

While the music world's attention was focused on South by Southwest's cancellation due to concerns over coronavirus on Friday, eight dates on Justin Bieber's 45-date stadium tour in support of his new album "Changes" were scaled down to arena appearances.

There was no official announcement from Bieber's social media accounts, although eight arenas posted notices on Twitter telling fans that the show has been moved to their venue from a nearby stadium due to "unforeseen circumstances." The changes have been reflected in the tour dates section of Bieber's website.

A source close to the tour describes it as "a hard decision" based on softer markets in select cities where tickets went on sale just days before the coronavirus hit.

The ambitious tour was announced on Christmas Eve and follows Bieber's first album in nearly five years and his first tour in nearly three. Slow ticket sales are unlikely to improve, it was concluded and reinforced at the end of a week that has seen two major music festivals cancelled due to concerns over coronavirus. And while perception as a result of weak sales was a concern, ultimately, the business decision was made to instead fill an arena in the same city and not take on the financial burden of a stadium.

Bieber's latest album "Changes," while opening at No. 1, has not had the commer-



cial or critical success of his previous effort, 2015's "Purpose," though hits with Ed Sheeran ("I Don't Care") and Luis Fonsi ("Despacito" feat. Daddy Yankee), as well as a 10-part documentary series, has maintained a near-con-

stant presence for the singer — and a positive one at that.

The affected dates and their new venues are listed below:

June 5 Glendale, AZ Gila River Arena
June 27 Houston, Toyota Center (formerly 02 July)
June 28 Dallas, American Airlines Center (formerly 27 June)
July 11 Nashville, Bridgestone Arena
Aug. 8 Columbus, OH Schottenstein Center
Aug. 14 Indianapolis, Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse
Aug. 21 Washington, DC Capitol One Arena
Aug. 30 Detroit, Little Caesars Arena (formerly 29 Aug)

ARIES: There's a difference between inspiring people and doing the work for them. The latter will create a sense of dependency, which in turn is detrimental to your own being. Protect yourself from those who feed off your energy by creating firm boundaries. In extreme cases, you may even have to physically distance yourself from certain people. Tip: Be more assertive of your time and space. **TAURUS:** A drop in energy levels and the absence of joy is your body's way of telling you that it has had enough. Dear Taurus, when you are putting so much effort into making the space around you spic and span, why are you ignoring the vessel you reside in? Skipping meals only to binge later is not only cumbersome for your system, it also deprives your body of important nutrients that are required for growth and regeneration. One word: detox. Tip: Respect your body. **GEMINI:** Have you ever noticed a bud which is about to transform into a flower? The slight opening on the top gives you a hint of the colours which will soon come to

life. You may be impatient to see the flower in its full glory but you know that the process cannot be rushed. The process of growth and evolution is much the same. You are not where you want to be but you are on your way there. Tip: Make space for growth and evolution. **CANCER:** But what about the wild and the unknown, Cancer? Mamma Nature wants to see more of you. So consider venturing out into the forest where the winds whisper sweet nothings into your ears and the trees dance to their own rhythm. Don't have the option to run off? Let your local park offer respite. You are also becoming increasingly sensitive to what's happening in the world around. Tip: Step outside and reconnect with nature. **LEO:** To this date, psychologists have been having the free will vs destiny debate. Do we have any control over the way things pan out or is everything predetermined? If you side with the determinists, you will have a forever excuse for the things that are not going your way. Believing that the reins are in your hand will empower you like nothing else

ever will. Decide you're in charge here, Leo, and the Universe will meet you halfway. Tip: You are the creator of your destiny. **VIRGO:** The thing about comfort zones is that they are 'comfortable'. But comfort equals stagnation and that is never a good thing. The cards are asking you to take the power back, acknowledge your fear, but know that your reservoir of courage is far greater. Tip: Be bold, be wild, be free. **LIBRA:** The process of yin or non-doing is just as important as the yang aspects of creation. No great work of art can be created without retreating into 'shunya' or the womb space. Understand the importance of decluttering your schedule so divine inspiration can strike, Libra. This is the secret to taking your work to the next level. Creative blocks could be weighing some of you down at this moment. Acknowledge them. Be grateful for their presence. Tip: Allow yourself to retreat into the space of nothingness. **SCORPIO:** Often, asking for help is mistaken as a weakness. Dear Scorpio, you are

You're Next Star Nicholas Tucci Dies at the Age of 38 After Private Health Battle

"Nick chose to keep his illness private so that he could continue to pursue his professional and artistic dreams," Nicholas Tucci's father said in a statement.

Actor Nicholas Tucci has died. He was 38.

His father Alexander Tucci announced the news in a statement on Facebook on Friday, explaining Nicholas had an illness that he chose to keep private.

"This is Alexander Tucci, Nick's father. On Tuesday, March 3, Nick died at the Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut," Alexander shared.

"Nick chose to keep his illness private so that he could continue to pursue his professional and artistic dreams for as long as possible," the statement continued.

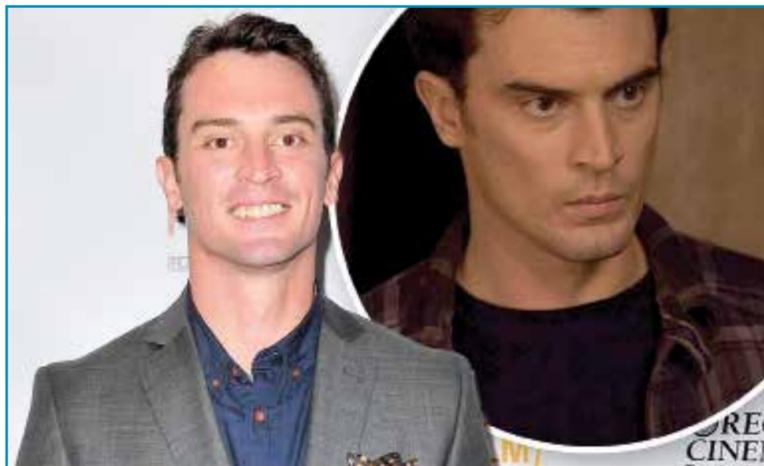
"In the last year, he was able to audition, go on location, and continue the work he loved so much." Alexander then went on to thank the many people that have supported his son throughout his career.

"To those of you in the film, television, and theater communities... thank you for guiding, encouraging, and supporting Nick. To those of you who enjoyed Nick's work on the screen and stage... thank you for recognizing his talent and appreciating his efforts. To all... thank you for your gift of friendship to my son."

PEOPLE has not been able to confirm independently what illness Nicholas had. A rep for the actor declined

to comment further, but told PEOPLE, "Nick and I recently started to work together again and Nick was very excited about his future in the business. I was shocked to receive a phone call from his dad a couple days ago informing me of his passing." Nicholas, who is originally from

portrayed Felix. RIP Nicholas Tucci," one fan tweeted. "On what feels like a weekly basis, without any sort of reason or context whatsoever, I'll find myself muttering the words 'Felix, you f--- lowlife' because of how much I love You're Next. RIP Nicholas Tucci," a different user ex-



Middletown, Connecticut, has appeared in a number of films and television series including, Pose, Ramy, Homeland and Quantico.

He is perhaps best known for his role as Felix in the 2011 horror movie You're Next, which follows a wealthy family as they come under attack by a gang of killers during their wedding anniversary getaway.

Since his death, a number of fans have paid tribute to him on social media.

"You're Next is my top 5 favorite horror movies of all time and I loved how he

pressed on Twitter.

"I love the movie You're Next is really scary slasher dark comedy and Nicholas Tucci is really his best horror villain RIP," another fan wrote.

"You're next is a favorite of mine and his work in it was amazing... very sad news... RIP Nicholas Tucci!" another fan tweeted.

"RIP Nicholas Tucci. Incredibly nice man, and our limited interactions were really great. My condolences to his friends, family and loved ones," a different tweet read.

Legendary Jazz Pianist McCoy Tyner Dead at 81

Influential musician who came to prominence as a member of John Coltrane's quartet also played with Sonny Rollins, Stanley Clarke, more Legendary jazz pianist McCoy Tyner has died. The news was shared on Tyner's official social media accounts. "It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of jazz legend, Alfred 'McCoy' Tyner," the captions read. "McCoy Tyner's music and legacy will continue to inspire fans and future talent for generations to come." He was 81 years old.

Born in Philadelphia in 1938, Tyner began to play piano and take lessons at age 13. By the time he was in his early 20s, he was performing alongside Bennie Golson and Art Farmer in the Jazztet, the jazz sextet that launched his career. Not long after he began playing with the Jazztet, Tyner departed the group to join John Coltrane's quartet, playing on iconic records such as My Favorite Things, A Love Supreme, and others. His tenure with the quartet cemented his legacy as one of the most influential jazz musicians and piano players of the 20th century.

In 1965, Tyner left the Coltrane quartet and began to pursue a career as a band-

leader, organizing his own groups and releasing albums on vaunted jazz labels like Milestone, Blue Note, and Impulse. He would also perform with other notable names, such as Sonny Rollins (who toured with Tyner and Ron Carter as the Milestone Jazzstars in 1978) and bassist Stanley Clarke.

When asked in 2001 about what he felt was the greatest reward of playing on A Love Supreme, Tyner had this to say:

"To put it simply, it was the fact that I played in a great band. Also, the fact that we functioned like one person. It wasn't like we were four guys on stage doing his own particular kind of thing. In other words, it had to be in relationship to the total. To me, it's a wonderful way to not only think, but behave. I think to create civility in life and society itself, to think of yourself in relationship to other people. What you do, may affect someone else. We have to be conscious of that, that we don't function by ourselves. When you get in a situation where everyone is thinking democratically, thinking in terms of what is played and how it affects you affects those around you.

Mission Impossible 2 star Dougray Scott could have played Wolverine but Tom Cruise "wouldn't let him"



"He was a very powerful guy." It's common knowledge that actor Dougray Scott was signed on to play Wolverine in the X-Men movies before Hugh Jackman took over and absolutely made the role his own.

Scott was filming Mission: Impossible II, which famously ran way over time and budget, and Fox couldn't continue to wait for the actor before beginning production. But, in an interview with The Telegraph, the actor says that he blames M:I leading man Tom Cruise for keeping him from playing the clawed mutant.

"Tom Cruise didn't let me do it," he said. "We were doing Mission: Impossible and he was like, 'You've got to stay

and finish the film' and I said I will, but I'll go and do that as well. For whatever reason he said I couldn't."

"He was a very powerful guy. Other people were doing everything to make it work."

Still, he doesn't bear any ill will against Jackman, stating that: "I love what Hugh did with (the Wolverine character). He's a lovely guy."

Interestingly, X-Men wasn't the only major movie that was affected by Mission: Impossible's lengthy filming. In fact, it might be one of the most important movies of the century so far.

Recently, Scott joined a superhero project as he signed up to play the titular hero's father in The CW's Batwoman.

Tip: Release the need to control this situation as you plant the seeds of a bright and fulfilling future.

AQUARIUS: The process transformation is both painful and confusing. Who are you if you are no longer the person you used to be? Let go of the need to cling onto a false sense of identity. Let go of the need to find all the answers. Know that Spirit is protecting you right now and in this moment, Aquarius. You will soon find a way to cross the troubled waters. Need an affirmation that you're not losing your mind? Tip: The future is going to be better than you imagine.

PISCES: "Exercises are like prose, whereas yoga is the poetry of movements. Once you understand the grammar of yoga; you can write your poetry of movements." An Amit Ray quote to inspire you to get down and dirty with your may. There's something about connecting with your body temple that awakens the god(ess) within. Not one for structure? Put on your favourite Cardi-B tracks and make some time for movement meditation. Tip: Get in touch with that God(ess) within.