



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA AND PARINEETI CHOPRA GET NOSTALGIC AS MERI PYAARI BINDU COMPLETES 3 YEARS

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CONTROLS TO MANAGE FAKE NEWS IN AFRICA ARE AFFECTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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ROBERT PATTINSON REFUSES TO WORK OUT CONSTANTLY FOR BATMAN ROLE BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO 'SET A PRECEDENT'

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**WEDNESDAY,
13 MAY
ODD NUMBER
TAXIS AND TWO-
WHEELERS
ALLOWED TO
PLY TODAY**

*Global report:
Wuhan to test
all as Germany
pinpoints
new Covid-19
outbreaks*

**JON HENLEY
LONDON, 12 MAY**
[THEGUARDIAN]: Countries are taking urgent steps to avoid a damaging second wave of Covid-19 infections, stepping up mass testing programmes and announcing strict quarantines on incoming travellers in a bid to keep the virus under control.

China, Singapore and Denmark were among countries to announce substantial expansions of their testing regimes, with the Chinese city of Wuhan, the original centre of the pandemic, saying it planned to test all 11 million residents.

Officials were ordered to submit urgent plans to test all Wuhan's inhabitants after authorities reported six new cases in a residential compound, the first cluster of new Covid-19 infections since the city reopened on 8 April after 76 days of strict lockdown.

China reported no new domestic infections on Tuesday, after two consecutive days of double-digit increases fuelled fears of a second wave, with the north-eastern city of Shulan placed under lockdown on Sunday after another outbreak emerged there.

Singapore also said it aimed to test all 323,000 migrant workers living in cramped, often unsanitary dormitories that have become a hotbed of infections in recent weeks, accounting for the vast majority of the city-state's total of 24,671 cases.

"The taskforce has drawn up a plan to allow migrant workers residing in the dormitories ... to be progressively cleared so they can be safely returned to work when the time comes," said Singapore's health minister, Gan Kim Yong, adding that infections in the dormitories had "stabilised".

Some businesses, such as hairdressers, laundry services and pet suppliers, re-opened on Tuesday, but most workplaces and schools remain closed and dining at restaurants is banned under Singapore's virus measures due to run until 1 June.

A similar problem may have emerged in Germany, where four municipalities are trying to contain new outbreaks of more

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VIRAL LAB ON VERGE OF COMPLETION: HEALTH SECY

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Health Department Director General-cum-Secretary, Dr PT Bhutia today said that the state government has been doing proper tests of every individual returning to Sikkim. He added that 1111 returnees have been screened and put into facility quarantines so far since 05 May except for few who have been sent to home quarantine since they have better facilities at home.

In his daily health bulletin, Dr Bhutia informed that 169 people were screened today, which includes 99 people from East District, 04 from North, 41 from South

and 25 from West.

"We started testing the returnees from Monday and two types of tests are being conducted. We have been sending samples for PCR testing by Truenat at STNM hospital and RT-PCR at North Bengal Medical College," he informed.

He informed that 97 samples were sent for RT-PCR testing at North Bengal MC on Monday; 20 each from South and West Districts and 57 samples from East. Likewise, 26 samples were sent today including 23 from South District and 03 from STNM Hospital to North Bengal MC.

He informed that so far, a total of 300 samples have been sent to North Bengal MC and 177 samples have been reported negative and report of samples of last two days is yet to come.

Dr Bhutia informed that 32 samples were sent for testing at STNM hospital on Monday

and all have come back negative while 64 samples were sent for testing today and results will come tomorrow.

He informed that the viral research lab is also on the verge of completion and professionals from Kolkata reached Gangtok today to give the final touch to the structure. He informed that equipment for the lab is scheduled to be dispatched from Delhi on Wednesday in a cargo plane and will be installed soon after final works of the lab is complete.

"When our lab is ready, we don't need to send samples to Siliguri for testing and will also get results faster in our own lab," he added.

Dr Bhutia appealed to the people not to visit quarantine centres to meet their children, parents or any relative. He further appealed to strictly follow the rules and protocols of the quarantine facility and to be patient. He also urged the manager and police

personnel on duty in quarantine centres not to allow any visitor to meet the people in the quarantine.

He stated that if the people start meeting people in quarantine then there is no point in having facility quarantine and all efforts of the government of creating quarantine facility will go to waste. He stated that testing will be done after the fifth day of the quarantine and if the report comes negative then they will be sent home.

"In case a person in quarantine facility tests positive then those who come in contact with such a person will get infected and numbers may go to thousands. So we appeal to everyone to support efforts of the government to keep Sikkim free from COVID-19," he expressed.

Dr Bhutia also expressed his best wishes to the entire nursing fraternity on the occasion of International Nurses Day.

Tourism stakeholders seeks Rs 200 cr relief package

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Tourism stakeholders after holding series of meetings with Government officials and Banks including the representatives from Reserve Bank of India, Sikkim, yesterday sought financial packages of Rs. 200 crore and moratorium for one year to cope with the loss accrued due to COVID-19.

It is hoped that the relief packages will help to bring the tourism industry back on track by promoting Sikkim's rural history, culture and tradition with a new approach.

For this purpose, Sikkim needs to put in place its own Standard Operating Procedures in line with COVID-19 Emergency Credit Line (CECL) as per the advisories and guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism. Tourism stakeholders have placed this suggestion before the Government.

Meanwhile, Depart-

ment of Commerce and Industries in coordination with Tourism department has placed a proposal to provide financial relief to taxi drivers.

When contacted the Minister Tourism said that the proposal has been mooted for approval of the State Government subject to the state's financial condition.

Sikkim Hotel & Restaurants Association president, Roshan Raj Shrestha says that tourism must be revived as early as possible and there are some areas where the State Government can help.

We have requested the government to waive off GST, electricity bills, garbage and other bills as part of financial support, he said.

He also urged the administration to have a dialogue with the tourism stakeholders in order to work out solutions for the sector in Sikkim.

This summer is unusual, say meteorologists

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): With no major heat waves recorded in the core zones so far and excess rainfall across the country, this summer is turning out to be unusual, say meteorologists.

Summer sets in March in the core heat wave zones of the north, central and east India, and intensifies in April and May until the first week of June, when the monsoon winds arrive. Apart from the northern and eastern plains, central India's Vidarbha-Marathwada region, Gujarat, and parts of southern India in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are known as core heat wave zones, where temperatures rise above 45 degrees Celsius.

In western Rajasthan, the maximum temperature even crosses the half-century mark. The IMD predicted above normal temperatures in core heat wave zones this summer. However, the temperature has not peaked to that level yet.

Instead, India received 25 per cent excess rainfall between March 1 and May 11, according to the India Meteorological Department. OP Sreejith, a senior scientist with the Long Range Forecast unit of IMD in Pune, said March recorded 47 per cent more rainfall than normal and April saw 8 per cent more.

"This is not a usual phenomenon," said IMD Director-General Mrunjay Mohapatra.

Mahesh Palawat, the vice president of private forecaster Skymet Weather, said there are usually two instances of heat waves in April.

The IMD declares a heat wave when temperatures rise 5-6 degrees Celsius above normal. If it is above 7 degrees Celsius than nor-

mal, the temperature has not peaked to that level yet. Instead, India received 25 per cent excess rainfall between March 1 and May 11, according to the India Meteorological Department. OP Sreejith, a senior scientist with the Long Range Forecast unit of IMD in Pune, said March recorded 47 per cent more rainfall than normal and April saw 8 per cent more.

"This is not a usual phenomenon," said IMD Director-General Mrunjay Mohapatra.

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52 Sikkimese students board bus from Tamil Nadu

RAYMOND LEPCHA

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

A group of 52 Sikkimese students from Excel College of Engineering and Technology, Tamil Nadu, started their journey home on two buses on 10 May at 4am. As of now, they have reached Odisha and are expected to reach Siliguri by Thursday morning.

Total of 52 students accompanied by two guardians have boarded two buses from Tamil Nadu wherein 27 boys are in bus A and 27 girls are in bus B. The initiative was taken up by the students: Shivraj Gurung (BE Final Year) and Shrawan Sharma (BE Final Year), Bandana Gurung (ME student), and Yangchen Lepcha (ME student).

Though the buses were allotted to the students with the help from College Director, Dr N Sengottaiyan after coordinating with Sikkim's Nodal Officer, Rinzing Chewang Bhutia, the bus fare is being paid by the students themselves. The students paid Rs. 10,000 each to the college as bus fare, mentioned leader,



Shivraj Gurung.

Two bus drivers have been allocated in each bus with proper guidelines to drop the students till SNT bus stand, Siliguri from where the Nodal Officer, Mr Bhutia is going to take charge to bring the stranded students back home.

"Being students far from the state especially during the lockdown had become difficult for us. Even though we stay in hostels 24x7 and not able to attend any classes we are suffering a lot from this pandem-

ic," says leader of Bus A, Shivraj Gurung.

"The quality and quantity of food provided in our hostels was deteriorating. We were not happy and were stressed out," mentioned another student, Rephael Lepcha.

Leader Shivraj Gurung on behalf of all the students thanked the Sikkim Government for allowing them to return home.

"The Sikkim Government has helped us by creating http portals such as <https://www.covid19sikkim.org/> and <http://registration.covid19sikkim.org/>

through which we have registered to return to the State and the relief money provided to us by the Government was helpful," says Shivraj Gurung.

The entire team also expressed gratitude towards their College Director, Dr N Sengottaiyan in helping them get buses, arranging food for the journey and passes for the buses to go through several states.

We hope the government extends support when we arrive in Siliguri, added Shivraj.

COVID-19 death toll rises to 2,206; cases climb to 67,152

NEW DELHI, MAY 11 (PTI): The death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 2,206 and the number of cases climbed to 67,152 in the country on Monday, registering an increase of 97 deaths and a record jump of 4,213 cases in the last 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry

The number of active COVID-19 cases stood at 44,029. While 20,916 people have recovered, one patient has migrated, it said "Thus, around 31.15 per cent patients have recovered so far," a senior health ministry official said.

A total 97 deaths were reported since Sunday morning, of which 53 were in Maharashtra, 21 in Gujarat, 14 in West Bengal, three from Tamil Nadu and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Haryana and Rajasthan.

According to the health ministry data updated in the morning, the highest number of confirmed

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Malnutrition leading cause of death and ill health worldwide – report

KAREN McVEIGH

LONDON, 12 MAY [THEGUARDIAN]: An overhaul of the world's food and health systems is needed to tackle malnutrition, a "threat multiplier" that is now the leading cause of ill health and deaths globally, according to new analysis.

The Global Nutrition Report 2020 found that most people across the world cannot access or afford healthy food, due to agricultural systems that favour calories over nutrition as well as the ubiquity and low cost of highly processed foods. Inequalities exist across and within countries, it says.

One in nine people is hungry, or 820 million people worldwide, the report found, while one in three is overweight or obese. An increasing number of countries have the "double burden" of malnutrition, obesity and other diet-related diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

David Nabarro, special representative of the UN secretary general for food security, said the report, written before the coronavirus pandemic, had a "heightened significance" and warned: "There is a real risk that, as nations strive to control the virus, the gains they have made in reducing hunger and malnutrition will be lost."

Last month the UN warned that the pandemic could double the number of people facing acute hunger globally.

In a foreword, Nabarro says that undernourished people may be more at risk to coronavirus, due to weakened immune systems, while obesity and diabetes were linked to worse outcomes.

Coronavirus had exposed the "vulnerability and weakness of our already fragile food systems", which had been weakened by climate extremes and "deadly healthcare disparities".

A failure to put on weight persists in the world's poorest countries, at a rate up to 10 times higher than in richer countries, the report finds, while rates of overweight and obesity are up to five times higher in richer than developing countries. The medical costs of treating the consequences of obesity are "staggering", the report says, at an estimated total bill of \$1.2tn a year by

2025, with the US by far the biggest spender. The report's conclusions echo calls by climate scientists for a transformation of food and land management, after a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) last year concluded that poor land use is responsible for a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions.

Cynthia Rosenzweig, a climate expert at the Nasa Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and the author of the food security chapter in the IPCC's report on land and climate change, said: "It is really a call to action for countries and international organisations, NGOs and the whole system, to create a transformation in the food system."

"Malnutrition is a threat multiplier. I think it has been ignored that people who are malnourished are likely to have lower immune systems."

She highlighted the inequality in food prices across the world, where the cost of an egg in Burkina Faso is 15 times more in comparison with grain and rice, compared with just twice the cost of such staples in the US.

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Trump accused of racism after clash with Asian American reporter

DAVID SMITH

WASHINGTON, 12 MAY [THEGUARDIAN]: Donald Trump on Tuesday appeared to seek to continue a confrontation with a CBS News reporter which led to the president being accused of being racist towards Asian Americans.

Seeming to tweet in response to the incident involving Weijia Jiang on Monday evening, Trump wrote without offering evidence: "Asian Americans are VERY angry at what China has done to our Country, and the World. Chinese Americans are the most angry of all. I don't blame them!"

At a briefing in the White House Rose Garden, Jiang asked the president why he continues to claim – wrongly, as he did again on Tuesday – that the US is performing better than other countries in terms of testing for coronavirus.

"Why does that matter?" asked the reporter, who was born in China and came to the US at the age of two. "Why is this a global competition when, every day, Americans are still losing their lives?"

"They're losing their lives everywhere in the world," Trump said. "And maybe that's a question you should ask China. Don't ask me, ask China that question, OK?"

The president called on another reporter but she paused as Jiang interjected: "Sir, why are you saying that to me, specifically?" The president replied: "I am not saying it specifically to anybody. I am saying it to anybody who would ask a nasty question like that."

The CBS reporter said: "That is not a nasty question." Trump then abruptly ended the briefly. His comment was condemned as racist by some commentators.

The Democratic congressman Ted Lieu, from California, tweeted: "Asian Americans are Americans. Some of us served on active duty in the US military. Some are on the frontlines fighting this pandemic as paramedics and healthcare workers. Some are reporters like [Jiang]. Stop dividing our nation."

Global report...

than 50 new infections for every 100,000 inhabitants within seven days – the threshold for a local return to lockdowns announced by the chancellor, Angela Merkel, last week.

Abattoirs and food-processing plants in Lower Saxony, Schleswig Holstein, North-Rhine Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg have been identified as the centres of the outbreaks and could be responsible for the recent increase in Germany's R-number to above 1, the country's disease control agency, the Robert Koch Institute, said.

Health authorities believe that while the virus may not have spread in the processing plants themselves, it may have found fertile ground in the overcrowded housing units shared by mainly eastern European contract workers. Germany announced on Tuesday its weekly test capacity was now at 838,000.

Meanwhile Denmark, one of the first EU states to start easing its lockdown, said the number of new infections had fallen steadily despite primary schools and some businesses reopening last month, with the country's R-number, which indicates how many people each carrier of the virus infects, falling to 0.7 from 0.9.

KSSS Gyalshing carries out sanitization drive

RUDRA KAUSHIK

GYALSHING, 12 MAY:

Kyongsa Sarwa Sewa Sangathan (KSSS), Gyalshing based Non-Governmental Organization in co-ordination with the fire department sanitized various locations of Kyongsa-Gyalshing route today. The quarantine centres established at Gyalshing Girls Senior Secondary School and the school's hostel where many Sikimese recently brought from outside the state have been placed under facility quarantine were sanitized along with other vulnerable locations such as petrol pumps of Gyalshing, veterinary centre, shops and households along Gyalshing-Kyongsa route. Sanitizers concentrate mixed in water were sprinkled along Gyalshing-Kyongsa stretch. The members of KSSS and



fire brigade personnel participated in the sanitization initiative.

Roshan Gurung, president of KSSS maintained that sanitization programme initiated by the society was part of precautionary measures taken to contain any risk of COVID-19 in the town.

He added that sanitization of Gyalshing-Kyongsa route was carried out by the society considering the urgency as quarantine and isolation centres are established nearby the route.

"We felt that sanitization of various vulnerable points was necessary and

we are grateful to fire department for their support to our initiative," he said.

Another member of KSSS, Passang Tshering Bhutia informed that the society should give continuation to the sanitization initiative, comprehensive cleanliness and sanitization of oth-

er locations of the town should be carried out on 17 May again.

Mr Bhutia further informed that the members of KSSS are also providing services such as catering food to the persons placed under facility quarantine and isolation centres of Kyongsa.

Labourers stranded in Yangang return to Jharkhand



NAMCHI, 12 MAY (IPR):

As per information given by Sub Divisional Magistrate (Yangang), Sangay Gyatso Bhutia a total of sixteen (16) stranded labourers have been dispatched to their native state of Jharkhand from Yangang today.

The labourers belong to Deoghar and Giridi district of Jharkhand. They were working at the under construction site of Sikkim University

in Yangang.

These labourers who have been staying in Yangang since lockdown were willing to return to their home state.

They were sent back in a bus provided by Police Training Centre Yangang till Rangpo Check Post following proper protocols of COVID-19. The arrangement for transportation was made by District Administration (South) after receiving

permission from the concerned state.

From Rangpo Check-post, these people will proceed to their respective districts in a bus arranged from their state i.e. Jharkhand so as to ensure that these people reach home safely.

It may be mentioned here that this is the first batch of labourers despatched from Yangang Subdivision via Rangpo Check Post.

Rlys makes installing Aarogya Setu mobile app 'mandatory' for travel

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI):

The Indian Railways, which had on Monday "advised" the passengers availing the special trains that started operating on Tuesday to install the government's Aarogya Setu mobile application, has now made it "mandatory" to do so.

While the guidelines issued by the railways for the 15 pairs of special trains running between Delhi and major cities of the country did not say installing the mobile app was mandatory, a late night (12:24 am) tweet by the railway ministry made it compulsory.

"Indian Railways is

going to start few passenger train services. It is mandatory for passengers to download Aarogya Setu app in their mobile phones, before commencing their journey," the tweet said. Sources said it was made mandatory after a Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) missive, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with chief ministers. Passengers, who do not have the app installed on their mobile phones, might be asked to do so after their arrival at the station, they added.

However, there is no clarity yet on if and how the app will be enforced, officials said.

COVID-19 death...

cases in the country is from Maharashtra at 22,171 followed by Gujarat at 8,194, Tamil Nadu at 7,204, Delhi at 6,923, Rajasthan at 3,814, Madhya Pradesh at 3,614 and Uttar Pradesh at 3,467.

Malnutrition leading...

Rosenzweig urged governments and policymakers to "seize the moment" to create equal and sustainable food and health systems in the wake of the pandemic.

Not one country is on course to meet all 10 of the 2025 global nutrition targets, the report found, and just eight of 194 countries are on track to meet four targets.

Venkatesh Mannar, a special adviser on nutrition to the Tata Trusts and the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, said: "Poor diet and malnutrition is not a matter of personal choice. Most people are not able to do this because of inequality of food systems. They not have access to a range of healthy food. The interface between the food supply chain and consumers is inequitable."

"The crisis has highlighted the need to look at malnutrition in all its forms seriously, and we believe it can be done in tandem with tackling the pandemic."

Stranded migrants see hope as trains take them homewards

NITIN RAWAT

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI):

Having been stranded in the national capital for around a month, 25-year-old Inayat Mia was not sure if he would be able to celebrate Eid with his family in Bihar this year, till he saw his name in a list of train passengers leaving Delhi on Tuesday.

"I used to work as a painter in Ladakh. I went there in March and worked for 10 days, following which the nationwide lockdown was imposed. I thought that I would not be able to celebrate Eid with my family this year. But now I am happy that I am going to Bettiah. I will call my wife and parents after boarding the train," he told PTI.

Mia reached the national capital on March 22 via a flight and said that he would go back to Ladakh after the situation returns to normal.

Three special AC trains are scheduled to leave the New Delhi railway station for Dibrugarh, Bengaluru and Bilaspur. The train to Dibrugarh in Assam will leave at 4.45 pm, while the one leaving for Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh and Bengaluru in Karnataka will leave the New Delhi station at 5.30 pm and 9.15 pm, respectively.

A total of 62 migrants left for the railway station in three buses from the Yamuna Sports Complex shelter.

Most migrants at the shelter, whom PTI spoke to, are sole bread winners of their families and are worried how their family members are making ends meet back in the village as there is no source of income during the lockdown.

Ramasis Das, 49, a native of Gaya district in Bihar, said he was living in Delhi from the last six to seven years and he worked in a leather bag manufacturing company.

"I was employed at a leather bag company in Kapashera area here. I was walking all the way from Kapashera in search of transport to reach Gaya when the police saw me walking and took me to the shelter home on May 9," Das said and expressed joy at finally being able to return home.

Mohammed Shoiab Alam (21), a native of Patna district in Bihar, said he kept praying to God during the holy peri-

od of Ramdan for a miracle which finally came true.

"I work as a pushcart puller in old Delhi's cycle market and used to earn around Rs 500 per day. I came to Delhi in 2017 and used to sleep on the cart itself as my salary was too low to afford a rented accommodation here.

"I kept praying to Allah to help me reach Patna. I am the eldest of my seven siblings. We are not facing any issues in the shelter home during Ramadan and I will come back after the situation gets normal," Alam said.

Ram Vilas, 40, a rickshaw puller, said he has witnessed this kind of situation first time in his life and is hoping that it will end soon.

"I have worked as a rickshaw puller for 20 years in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar area and have not seen this kind of situation before. I am hoping that this will end soon so that I can come back here again. Earlier, I used to earn around Rs 600 to 700 per day, but now I have a little amount of money left for my family in Bihar," he said.

Ajay Kumar Yadav, 25, a resident of Arrah district in Bihar, said he has no work in his hometown and will return to the national capital once the situation gets normal.

"My father died in 2002 when we were very young. He used to work as a mason and died after falling off a building in Delhi. I can not stop working as I have to bear the responsibility of my mother and younger brother, who is currently studying in Bihar. I came to Delhi in 2013 and started working as a handcart puller. I will return here as we have more opportunities in Delhi as compared to Bihar," Yadav said. Sohan Lal, Executive Magistrate, Yamuna Sports Complex (Shelter Home) said, "On Tuesday, 62 people were sent to the New Delhi Railway Station from the sports complex. We have given them medical certificates, along with food for two times and two water bottles for each passenger."

He said they had been providing food to the migrants thrice a day, including morning tea. "The menu gets changed every alternate day.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

Contact: 9800201335

LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Road-side just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

LAND FOR SALE

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

Governor felicitates nurses on Int'l Nurses Day

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad felicitated the representatives of Nursing fraternity of the STNM Hospital and offered token of gratitude on the occasion of International Nurses Day at Raj Bhavan today.

Four senior nursing officers led by Rajani Barfungpa, Nursing Superintendent STNM Hospital were present on the occasion, a Raj Bhavan press communiqué informs.

The team apprised the Governor on the special preparatory exercises and activities such as training and other drills for COVID-19 dedicated hospital established at



STNM by the government and mentioned that sufficient nursing staff have been deployed and kept as standby to cope with any eventuality.

The Governor expressed his pleasure on the level of preparedness and exhorted the nursing fraternity to remain dedicated and committed as frontline

warriors at this testing time of COVID-19 crisis. Governor also acknowledged the selfless service and compassion with which the nursing fraternity discharge

their duty as backbone of our health care service and conveyed his greetings and best wishes on the special occasion of International Nurses Day 2020.

CMO gets sanitizer dispenser and wall mount



GANGTOK, 12 MAY (IPR): Manoj Pradhan handed over auto foot paddle sanitizer dispenser and auto sanitizer wall mount with 20 liters of sanitizer to Assistant Public Relation Officer (APRO), Bikash Gurung at Samman Bhawan this afternoon.

The said essentials have been provided by

Krishna Rai Golay to support Government's effort to fight the global pandemic COVID-19.

On behalf of the Government APRO, Bikash Gurung expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards Krishna Rai Golay for her kind gesture and generous contribution.

Octogenarian recovers from COVID-19 at Delhi hospital



NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): An 88-year-old man from Himachal Pradesh who had worked with the IAF has now fully recovered after successfully battling coronavirus, hospital authorities said on Tuesday.

KS Jaswal, hailing from Una district, had tested positive on April 27 for COVID-19.

"He has recovered fully from coronavirus infection. He was discharged on May 9 from Kolmet Hospital, a facility affiliated with Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) here, after testing negative for COVID-19," a senior official of the SGRH said.

Born in March, 1932, Jaswal had worked with the Indian Air Force. He leads a disciplined life by doing yoga twice a day and does not suffer from any major ailments, he said. Jaswal said, "I am thankful to doctors for my recovery."

According to the COVID-19 team at Kolmet Hospital who treated him, "It was really encouraging and heartening to see an octogenar-

ian walking out safely to his home after fighting a deadly infectious disease like COVID-19."

"As we all are aware that this disease is essentially severe in the elderly and people with comorbidities but Jaswal could make it probably because of a disciplined lifestyle, strong willpower, lack of major illnesses and good supportive care," the SGRH said in a statement.

From Tuesday, City Hospital (also affiliated with Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) has also commenced operations, it said.

With 116 beds and 13 ICU beds, this hospital was made ready within one week only for COVID-19 patients, on a war footing, the statement said.

Elderly people are at a higher risk of COVID-19 due to their decreased immunity and body reserves, as well as multiple associated comorbidities like diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Migrant woman on way to UP gives birth on NH-3

BARWANI (MP), MAY 12 (PTI): A 30-year old woman who was traveling from Mumbai to Uttar Pradesh in a truck with her migrant labourer husband gave birth to a baby boy in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district, an official said on Tuesday.

The woman, named Deepa, began to have labour pains so her husband had the truck stopped at Balsamud Barrier on the intervening night of May 10 and 11, said a local official.

The family was on the way to Bahraich in UP with other migrant labourers amid the lockdown.

Dr Faizal Ali, a physician based in Ojhar, said he rushed to the spot upon being informed, only to find that the woman had already delivered a baby by the side



of Mumbai-Agra Highway (NH-3).

He then took the woman to the Ojhar primary health centre in an ambulance, Dr Ali said, adding that the baby was healthy and weighed around 3.4 kg.

Achhevar Lal, the woman's husband, said he decided to leave Mumbai as he was jobless since the last week of March.

He asked the truck driver to stop as his wife was in unbearable pain

and she delivered by the roadside, he said, adding that other women in the truck did not offer any help though the group halted its journey.

The couple already has two daughters, aged three years and one-and-a-half years.

The woman and the baby were discharged from the hospital on Monday morning as other travelers in the truck said they wanted to resume the journey, Dr Ali said.

Kerala asks for more stoppages for spl Rajdhani trains

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MAY 12 (PTI): Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday sought more stoppages at all major stations in the state for the special Rajdhani trains and preferred non air conditioned trains to prevent spread of COVID-19 infection during travel.

"We have requested the Railways to provide more stoppages in the state for the special Rajdhani trains as per the stops permitted for the regular Rajdhani Express", he told reporters here. The state also wanted the stoppages in other states to be avoided to reduce the risk of exposure to passengers and run the trains as non stop services till it enters Kerala.

Only three stops -- Kozhikode, Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram -- have been allotted to up/down trains to the state. This, Vijayan said, would create immense difficulties for the passengers, especially in Kasaragod and Kannur, as they would have to

get down at Mangaluru in Karnataka and travel inter-state. Kerala has also requested Non air conditioned trains to ferry passengers as there was a possibility of the infection spreading during the journey in AC trains.

Elaborate testing arrangements are being set up at the railway stations, Vijayan said, adding that there would be mandatory 14 days quarantine for those coming by trains.

As per the state government guidelines, those having a valid railway ticket for the journey to Kerala should apply for entry pass to the state in the COVID-19 jagratha portal.

Those not having it would be moved to institutional quarantine from the station itself.

At the entry station, there should be provision for health check up cubicles adhering to COVID-19 containment protocol, all luggage has to be disinfected at the stations and all officials should use prescribed

PPEs and sanitisers. Temperature checking must be carried out with Infra red flash thermometer.

Those coming by road should also have entry pass and they can choose the checkpost and day of travel according to the availability of slots through the portal.

The government has also made it clear that those reaching the checkpost without the pass would not be allowed to enter the state. So far over 33,000 people from other states have come to Kerala by road and 19,000 have reached the state from districts under red zones, Vijayan said.

Of the 1.33 lakh people who have applied for passes, over 72,000 are from red zones, he said, adding 89,950 passes have been issued so far.

Since seven people who had come from abroad on May 7 have tested positive, all the passengers who had travelled in the flight have been put under surveillance, Vijayan said.

PM announces special economic package

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a special economic package, and said the recent decisions by the government, the decisions by the RBI combined with Tuesday's financial package announcement come to about Rs 20 lakh crore

- nearly 10 percent of India's GDP. There is unprecedented crisis but India will neither get tired nor give up the fight against coronavirus, and asserted that "we have to protect ourselves and move ahead as well".

Special economic package is for our la-

bourers, farmers, honest tax payers, MSMEs and cottage industry, the prime minister said in a televised address to the nation.

India is standing on five pillars -- economy, infrastructure, governing systems, vibrant democracy and supply chain.

Adityanath pitches for job creation under MGNREGA

LUCKNOW, MAY 12 (PTI): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday asked for the creation of 50 lakh jobs per day under the MGNREGA, more than double the current numbers.

He said in view of the coronavirus outbreak, stranded workers are returning to the state, hence, jobs in large numbers are needed, a statement said.

Currently, the scheme provides employment to around 20 lakh rural poor per day in the state, the CM said in a video conference with gram rozgar sevaks, hired on contract for the implementation of the scheme.

The CM said lakhs of people can be given jobs

under it and at MSMEs units, for which the government has prepared a roadmap.

"We should strive towards connecting 50 lakh people every day with the MGNREGA in the state. The state's economy will get a new strength, he said.

The CM stressed that women self-help groups too can be given the task of making uniforms for over 1.80 crore school-children every year in the state.

We can inspire people and women self-help groups for many such works. Many people can contribute to job creation, he said.

The CM asked the gram rozgar sevaks to

work under their senior officials to extend the benefit of the MGNREGA to the maximum number of people.

The CM also transferred an honorarium of Rs 225.39 crore into the accounts of 35,818 rozgaar sevaks at his official residence here.

The gram rozgaar sevaks are involved in the distribution of job cards, allotment of work and taking attendance of labourers on a daily basis under the MGNREGA, the statement said.

"The Rural Development Department has solved the problems related to rozgar sevaks today. These issues were pending since November 2016," Adityanath said.

2,342 people arrive in West Bengal in two special trains

BANKURA/HOWRAH (WB), MAY 12 (PTI): Two special trains carrying 2,342 people, many of whom were stranded due to the COVID-19-induced lockdown, arrived in West Bengal from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, officials said.

In the morning, a special train from Bengaluru reached the Bankura station and at 5 pm, another train from Katpadi in Tamil Nadu reached the Howrah station, they said.

India has been under lockdown since March 25 to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus. The first and second phase of the lockdown was from March 25 to April 14 and April 15 to May 3, respectively. The third phase began from May 4 and would end on May 17.

Passengers of the train from Katpadi in Vellore mainly comprised patients and their relatives. They had gone there for treatment, and besides them, migrant labourers and students also arrived by the train.

The passengers hail from different districts of West Bengal, the officials said.

The 22-coach train to Bankura departed from Bengaluru on May 10 and reached its destina-



tion on Tuesday morning with 1,200 passengers, Bankura District Magistrate Arun Prasad said.

The special train from Katpadi to Howrah had 1,142 passengers in 24 coaches, a South Eastern Railway official said in Kolkata.

The passengers who alighted at the Howrah station were subjected to medical examination before being sent home in state government arranged buses and other vehicles, the officials said.

Those at the Bankura station underwent medical check-up and were given refreshments by the district administration, Prasad said.


He said at least 100 state-run buses were arranged to transport the returnees to their native places in Jhargram, North

24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Birbhum, Malda and Murshidabad districts.

The officials said ambulances were arranged for those who had gone for medical treatment and were still recuperating.

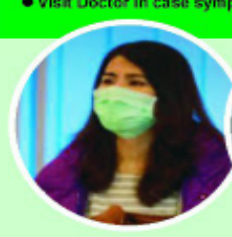

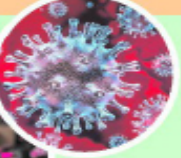
Though tired after the long journey, the passengers were visibly happy to be able to return to their homes after being stuck in the Karnataka capital for a long time owing to the lockdown.

"With little money in hand and no means to get back home, it was a very welcome move by the state government and the Railway ministry to arrange for the train to bring us back home," said one of the returnees, who had gone to Bengaluru for medical treatment.



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 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div> <p>If you seek help, you may call :</p> <p>-Toll free no. 104</p> <p>District surveillance Officer</p> <p>EAST : 7029372100</p> <p>WEST : 9593297809</p> <p>NORTH : 9641957468</p> <p>SOUTH : 7407691463</p> <p>New STNM</p> <p>AMS : 9434711402</p>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Make Corruption a Dirty Word Again

Let's stop finding excuses to justify it

Corruption is clearly not a dirty word any more. In fact, it is now routine, and even expected. Almost everyone has been at either the receiving or the bribing end of this social exchange, and this dilutes the disdain one would expect for this permanent feature of “official work”. The supporters of corruption assume that it is in fact beneficial. This goes with “greasing the squeaky wheel” or simply “grease money” argument. As a 20th century thinker put it: “Had corruption not been beneficial it would never have been so common.”

On a more serious note though, the problem with the “beneficial” argument of corruption is that the benefit is limited to a few, and what is worse, this comes at the cost of the larger community. Moreover, corruption aggravates the issue of haves and have-nots and hurts the poorest of the poor, since, once bribing becomes routine, they get cut off from even the due processes because they do not have “show money”. And it is not us who say this. A study by the World Bank has revealed that “grease money” does not speed up the bureaucratic delays to iron which out most people offer bribes; instead it creates more hurdles on the way.

The firms that pay more bribes are not necessarily more efficient, rather they are more likely to spend more, not less, management time with bureaucrats negotiating regulations, and face higher, not lower, cost of capital, the World Bank report details.

The reason behind this is simple to understand. Bribes are designed by the bureaucrats to extract rents [for the rules they sit on]; therefore, more bribes call for more regulations so that more rent can be extracted. This is also the reason why we say corruption breeds corruption. This, perhaps, also explains why governments are more keen on enacting rules and regulations and not as excited about the prospect of facilitating or even governing.

No matter how much we play around with words, fact remains that corruption has an element of perverse incentive. It not only rewards the cheater but also penalises the honest, thereby decaying the whole system. While there are those who might still argue that the problem of corruption is “too big” or “too pervasive” to be solved by the effort of an individual or an individual agency, the society has tackled many bigger problems to let this one continue without a fight. It is time the people started priming themselves to deliver this malaise the knock-out punch. Once they are so convinced, they could also brainstorm the ways and means to achieve that goal as well.

Controls to manage fake news in Africa are affecting freedom of expression

ASHWANEE BUDOO
theconversation.com

Governments across the world are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside the mountain of related challenges, fake news has become a source of frustration. Some are now referring to this fake news phenomenon as a ‘disinfodemic’.

Purveyors of fake news are disseminating propaganda and disinformation. This has increased panic amongst the public and slowed the progress of the fight against the new coronavirus pandemic.

The ‘disinfodemic’ has resulted in misinformed behaviours such as drinking alcohol and applying heat to kill the virus. Some people were led to believe that the virus only affects white people, that testing kits are contaminated, and that vaccines are being tested on Africans while the truth is that a vaccine has not yet been discovered in Africa.

Other fake news purveyors purported that shaving makes face masks more effective, made up riots, and made fake claims with falsified video evidence about Nigerians burning Chinese-owned shops in response to cases of harassment of Africans in China.

These instances are just the tip of the iceberg and governments have had to adopt and implement strict measures to combat the ‘disinfodemic’. Many have been able to contain fake news by warning or arresting those spreading it.

For example, in Mauritius, a man who falsely claimed that riots had erupted after the prime minister announced the closure of supermarkets and shops, was arrested under the Information and Communication Technology Act.

In South Africa, authorities arrested people spreading the news that the virus was being spread by foreigners. And in Kenya, a 23-year-old man was arrested after he published false information with the intent to cause panic.

But these strict controls are also affecting the freedom of expression of people on the continent.

FAKE NEWS VERSUS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Even before COVID-19, many African countries used libel and defamation laws, and internet shut downs to limit the freedom of expression of citizens and the media. Some are examples are Cameroon, Ethiopia, Chad, Egypt and Uganda.

With the advent of the new coronavirus, the pandemic is now being used as an excuse to further limit freedom of expression. In Tunisia for example, two bloggers who criticised their govern-

ment’s response to COVID-19 were arrested.

In Mauritius, a woman who published a sarcastic meme against the government was arrested for spreading fake news. And in countries such as Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia and Zimbabwe, there are increasing cases of arrests and attacks by law enforcement and security agencies on journalists covering the pandemic.

These incidents act as a limitation to the freedom of expression of Africans, including that of the press. In this regard, on World Press Day – 3 May – the UN Secretary General emphasised the role of the press as an ‘antidote’ to the ‘disinfodemic’.



Since the outbreak of COVID-19, international organisations such as the World Health Organisation and Human Rights Watch have adopted guidelines and checklists regarding the protection of human rights. This includes the freedom of expression as COVID-19 measures are implemented.

There are also many laws at the global and regional level that require countries to uphold freedom of expression even in times of pandemics. That freedom can only be limited with justification for instance where news is proven to be fake.

PROTECTION

Many of the arrests and attacks that are being made by government officials in different African countries are contrary to international conventions.

Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protects the universal freedom of expression but provides for limitations. Measures to contain fake news during COVID-19 are permissible under the protections of public health. However, these limitations do not apply when citizens critique the measures their governments have taken as long as they do not spread fake news.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression published a report last month on disease pandemics and freedom of opinion and expression. The Special Rapporteur emphasised that freedom of expression is

critical to meeting the challenges of the pandemic.

The report recommended that states must still apply the test of legality, necessity and proportionality before limiting freedom of expression even in cases of public health threats. This recommendation can still be used to combat fake news as long as the impact on freedom of expression is minimal.

At the continental level, freedom of expression is protected by Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa issued a recently press statement expressing concerns about internet shutdowns in

African countries in the time of COVID-19.

The statement recommended that states guarantee respect and protection of the right to freedom of expression and access to information. This would be through access to the internet and social media services. The Special Rapporteur emphasised that states must not use COVID-19 as “an opportunity to establish overarching interventions”.

And the African Commission recently published its Revised Declaration on Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

in Africa. According to the Declaration, freedom of expression is an indispensable component of democracy. It states that no one should “be found liable for true statements, expressions of opinion, or statements which are reasonable to make in the circumstances.”

The African Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are binding on all African states except Morocco and South Sudan respectively.

Thus, African nations must ensure that they protect freedom of expression even in times of a pandemic. This must be the case unless governments are genuinely containing fake news.

African states should adopt regulations that clearly define what constitute fake news in relation to COVID-19. They must allow the citizens and the media to express themselves. The measures being taken in response to COVID-19 must be debated without fear of frivolous charges.

Finally, African governments must not use fake news during this pandemic as a shield to violate the freedom of expression of its citizens, or settle old scores with the press.

[the writer is Programme manager of the Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria]

Sexual and gender-based violence during COVID-19: lessons from Ebola

MONICA ADHIAMBO ONYANGO
theconversation.com

The COVID-19 pandemic is a disaster that has severely disrupted the normal functioning of populations around the world and continues to proliferate indiscriminately.

Disease outbreaks like COVID-19 threaten the health of all. But women and girls are disproportionately affected. During epidemics, the very measures taken to protect populations and keep health systems afloat leave women and girls especially vulnerable to violence.

Sexual and gender-based violence is a hidden consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. As communities around the world are forced to stay at home, women and girls are at a heightened risk of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

Because disasters exacerbate pre-existing gender inequities and power hierarchies, violence in the home may worsen as prolonged quarantine and economic stressors increase tension in the household. Women and girls are isolated from the people and resources that can help them, and they have few opportunities to distance themselves from their abusers.

During epidemics, it’s harder for sexual and reproductive health workers to appropriately screen for sexual and gender-based violence. And referral pathways to care are disrupted.

Our research shows that an increase in sexual and gender-based violence was observed during the 2013-2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. During that outbreak, response efforts focused on containing the disease.

This focus was important, but protocols were never established to protect girls and women from violence during the outbreak. Quarantines and school closures were put in place to contain the spread of disease. This left women and adolescent girls vulnerable to coercion, exploitation



and sexual abuse. There is already concern that COVID-19 is leading to an increase of sexual and gender-based violence.

RIISING LEVELS OF VIOLENCE

Sexual and gender-based violence does not begin with disasters like COVID-19. But the chaos and instability they cause leave women and girls more vulnerable.

The United Nations secretary-general, António Guterres, has sounded an alarm on a “horrificing global surge” of domestic violence. In Kenya, cases of sexual, gender-based and domestic violence have increased significantly since the country began its response to the virus. In China, domestic violence reports nearly doubled after cities were put under lockdown, with 90% related to the epidemic.

Helpline calls have increased in Malay-

sia, Lebanon, France, Argentina, Cyprus and Singapore. A sharp drop in calls in Italy suggests that the lockdown also prevented many women from seeking help.

According to the World Health Organisation, 35% of women around the world have already experienced some form of

sexual and gender-based violence in their lifetime. In some crisis settings, this number skyrocketed to more than 70%.

EBOLA EXPERIENCE

Increases in sexual and gender-based violence were observed during the 2013-2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Estimates concerning the scope are difficult to obtain and vastly under-reported. Survivors of violence were ignored as health workers counted the number of Ebola cases.

According to some reports, Guinea reported a 4.5% increase in sexual and gender-based violence and twice as many rapes. More often than not, this violence was evident only by its devastating consequences for women and girls. In the aftermath of Ebola, both Sierra Leone and Liberia saw an upswing in

teenage pregnancy rates.

The parallels between the response to Ebola and COVID-19 are striking. Public health infrastructure during Ebola came to a grinding halt. In a desperate attempt to control the virus, governments employed many of the current social distancing strategies. These included school closures, curfews, and quarantines.

As Ebola spread throughout West Africa, heavily burdened relief efforts failed to account for particularly vulnerable populations. The needs of women and girls, especially concerning sexual and gender-based violence, were largely ignored in response and recovery planning.

Many organisations waited until Ebola was under control before addressing these needs. By then it was too late.

LESSONS LEARNED

One of the key lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak was that epidemics leave women and girls especially vulnerable to violence. Mistakes made during the Ebola epidemic are valuable lessons in the COVID-19 response.

Governments must ensure the protection of women and girls right from the beginning of an epidemic. However, a top-down approach is not enough. Prevention and mitigation initiatives need to be integrated across sectors.

Research has found independent women’s groups to be the single most important factor in addressing violence against women and girls. In light of this, women and girls should be involved in the development and delivery of services during COVID-19. And comprehensive data on the gendered impact of COVID-19 should be collected.

All protective services for women and girls must be classified as “essential” during any disaster. Domestic violence

hotlines, safe spaces, sexual and reproductive health services, referral pathways, and justice mechanisms are necessary in pre-pandemic times, and even more important in crisis.

Governments should identify organisations already focused on sexual and gender-based violence and give them the tools and resources to continue supporting women and girls during the pandemic. Since social distancing limits screening opportunities, these organisations should explore alternate entry ways for women to access care, especially in places like supermarkets and pharmacies.

As hospitals and clinics deal with infected patients, the health sector should collaborate with gender-violence organisations to deliver services creatively and strengthen referral pathways in accordance with virus mitigation measures.

High-quality clinical care for survivors should be accessible at all times. Community gatekeepers including religious, traditional, women, and youth leaders should play a key role in both virus and violence mitigation initiatives. They can also serve as early warning and alert groups within the community.

Frontline workers should be trained to recognise and safely refer cases of sexual and gender-based violence. And women should be aware of the increased risk during times of crisis, and where to access help.

The consequences of sexual and gender-based violence do not end when medical crises are contained. The impact of COVID-19 will be wide scale, longstanding, and likely generational. Response and recovery planning must ensure that those most impacted by COVID-19 are not forgotten.

[the writer is Clinical Associate Professor, Global Health, Boston University]

2 more BSF personnel test COVID-19 positive in Tripura

AGARTALA, MAY 11 (PTI): Two more Border Security Force (BSF) jawans tested positive for coronavirus in Tripura on Monday, taking the total number of cases in the state to 154, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said.

"In a massive COVID-19 test among 750 civilian and BSF in Dhalai dist today, 2 BSF officials were found COVID-19 positive. All patients are responding well to the treatment.

With the blessings of Mata Tripurasundari soon our state will be corona free," Deb tweeted.

Earlier, addressing a press conference, Law Minister and cabinet spokesman Ratan Lal Nath said the frequency of corona tests in the state is higher than the national average.

"When the national average is 1280 per million, it is 2400 per million in Tripura. So far as the frequency of tests is concerned, Tripura stands fifth after Delhi, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu," he said.

Nath said samples from 10,344 people were collected so far of which 9,794 tests were completed.

CISF official posted in Kolkata succumbs to coronavirus

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): A Central Industrial Security Force personnel posted in Kolkata has succumbed to coronavirus, taking the virus death toll in the force to three, officials said on Tuesday.

This is the sixth death in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or paramilitary forces, under the command of the Union home ministry, due to COVID-19 with two casualties in the Border Security Force and one in the Central Reserve Police Force.

Assistant Sub Inspector Jharu Burman, 55, posted at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSEL) security unit in Kolkata succumbed to coronavirus on Monday, a senior official said.

He was under treatment in a local hospital for sometime, he said.

Earlier, a CISF ASI posted at the Indian Museum in Kolkata and a head constable rank official posted to guard the Mumbai international airport had died of COVID-19.

The 1.62 lakh personnel strong force tasked primarily to guard civil airports in the country and vital infrastructure in the aerospace and nuclear domain has 66 active cases of the pandemic till now, as per officials.

The CAPFs like the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB-- as per latest data-- have about 758 active cases of the disease.

Factory behind Vizag gas leak operated illegally until 2019

Hannah Ellis-Petersen, Aruna Chandrasekhar & Michael Safi

NEW DELHI, 12 MAY [THE GUARDIAN]: The chemical factory that leaked gas into a coastal Indian city on Thursday morning, killing at least 12 people and putting hundreds in hospital, was operating illegally until at least the middle of 2019, documents show.

In an affidavit [pdf] filed by LG Polymers in May 2019, as part of its application to expand the plastic plant's operations, the South Korean multinational admitted it was operating its polystyrene plant without the mandatory environmental clearance from the Indian government.

"As on this date our industry does not have a valid environmental clearance substantiating the produced quantity, issued by the competent authority, for continuing operations," the company said.

In the early hours of Thursday, toxic styrene fumes began leaking from the LG plant in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh state, as preparations were underway to restart production after a nationwide lockdown. The gas enveloped residents as they slept, causing people to collapse in the streets as



they fled their homes. About 1,000 people were exposed to the gas, which causes neurological symptoms including headaches and nausea, as well as burning eyes. Twelve residents, including two children, died.

The documents show that in December 2017, LG Polymers applied to the central government for the mandatory environmental clearance, in regard to a proposed expansion. The factory had been operating since 2001, but it is unclear whether the company had ever applied for the legally required permit before this.

In its affidavit filed May 2019, LG Polymers informed central and state government it had not fulfilled its legally binding environmental requirement. Prior to this, the

factory had operated based only on consent given by the Andhra Pradesh pollution control board. The same pollution control board had also given approval on six separate occasions for LG Polymers to expand its operations.

The company then inexplicably withdrew its application in November 2019, even though the clearance had not yet been granted. The Guardian could not confirm whether it had since received the necessary permits.

Environment clearance involves carrying out scoping and pollution studies, consulting with affected communities and mapping out any potential contaminating impact of the plant, under the scrutiny of an expert panel.

"Running without an en-

vironment clearance is a crime: consent from the pollution board is not a ground on which they can operate," a Delhi-based environmental lawyer, Ritwick Dutta, said. "They should have ceased production at least then. Culpability is with the pollution control board, state and central environment authorities. They knew, they should have taken action proactively." LG Polymers did not respond to a request for comment.

EAS Sarma, a former government finance and power secretary, who lives in Visakhapatnam, has filed a legal petition against the ministry of environment, the Andhra Pradesh state government and LG Polymers, calling for them to be held accountable for failing to comply with en-

vironmental law and to pay damages for contaminating the area. The petition was heard on Friday by the National Green Tribunal, India's top environmental court. Its ruling is awaited.

The erosion of environmental safeguards and legislation has been evident since the prime minister, Narendra Modi, came to power in 2014. Green laws have been eased in favour of reduced industrial scrutiny and factories are now allowed to apply for retrospective environmental clearance. In March, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change amended the law so that smaller industrial, mining and energy projects will no longer be required to undergo environmental impact assessment.

Environmentalists said

this lack of enforcement and accountability on environmental laws meant it was not uncommon for major industries, such as construction or coal mines, to operate without clearance. Federal and local pollution and industrial safety watchdogs are often thinly staffed and poorly trained and equipped.

The cost of poor environmental regulation is high. On Thursday, as well as the LG Polymers leak, there were industrial accidents at two other factories, one in Chhattisgarh and another in Tamil Nadu, that hospitalised several workers. In April, six people, including two toddlers, died when the waste pond burst at a factory in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli region, which was allegedly operating in violation of environmental laws, releasing a flood of ash slurry.

VS Krishna of the Andhra Pradesh Human Rights Forum said there was already an attempt by state government to remove LG Polymers from any potential criminal liability for the gas leak.

"No one is talking about criminal liability, there's not been any deterrent," he said. "There's been a spate of accidents in this city and it all ends at compensation. The attempt to whitewash the South Koreans and the government has already started."

Jharkhand BJP forms 2 committees to help migrant workers

RANCHI, MAY 12 (PTI): The Jharkhand BJP has formed two committees to serve food and provide medical aid to migrant workers who are coming back to the state by road after the Centre relaxed lockdown norms to facilitate their return, a senior party leader said on Tuesday.

Party's Lok Sabha member Anapurna Devi has been appointed as convener of the 'Quarantine Centre Relief Committee' while another party MP P N Singh has been appointed as convener of the 'Highway Relief Team'.

Food packets would be distributed among the migrant workers who are returning by road, and ambulance services would be provided to them if such a need arose, another party leader said.

"The country has succeeded in containing the spread of the novel coronavirus during nationwide lockdown. But small negligence in the coming days could land the state into crisis, so the party has set up the two committees to serve thousands of labourers on national highways," BJPs state unit president Deepak Prakash said in a statement.

BJPs general secretary (Organisation), Dharampal Singh, said that the global pandemic has hurt the poor and migrant workers the most.

"They are facing double-trouble - saving themselves from the infection and being compelled to come back home due to financial distress and family responsibilities - the BJP will assist them on the national highways in this time of distress," Singh said in a statement.

If required, party workers would arrange for vehicles to transport them to their native villages, he said.

Joginder Paul's iconic Urdu novel now in English

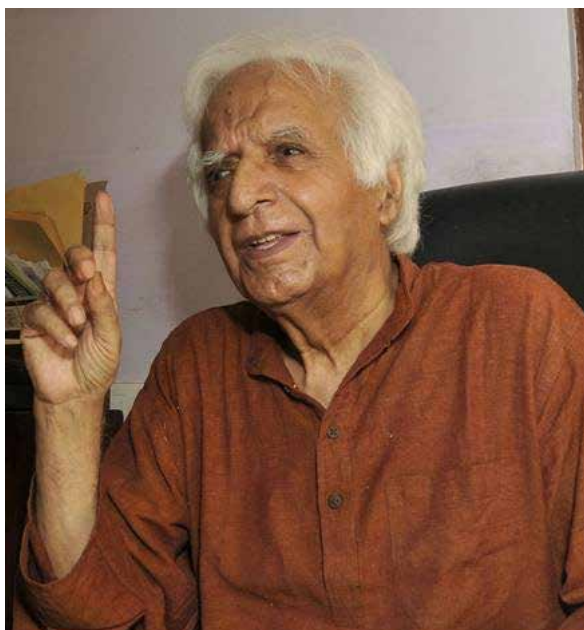
NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): Joginder Paul's iconic Urdu novel "Ek Boond Lahoo Ki", which is a powerful satire about institutional corruption and greed cleverly exploring the insidious ways in which the mighty habitually prey upon the vulnerable, has been translated into English.

Paul is regarded as one of the greatest Urdu novelists of the 20th century and wrote this book in Nairobi in the late fifties when Nehruvian socialism was very much in the air in India and the author was greatly affected by class inequalities witnessed in Kenya.

He was a penniless refugee when he migrated to Kenya after the Partition of 1947.

"Ek Boond Lahoo Ki" has been translated for the first time into English as "A Drop of Blood" by Snehal Shingavi. The ebook was released on Tuesday by Penguin Random House India.

The book was published in 1962 at the dying end of the Nehruvian



era, but expressed some of its most deeply held pieties: a socialist dispensation for India, tolerance of all religious expression, a hope for the uplift of women, and modernised and educated life for all of its citizens.

In order to capture that, Shingavi says Paul's novel deals with, among others, a secular Rajput protagonist, a Hindu/Sikh elderly woman with little education, an An-

glo-Indian nurse, an ultra-modern Muslim doctor and his daughter, a married Muslim woman and her husband, a Hindu clerk, and a range of other minor characters.

The central character is Mohan Karan, who has been blessed with exceptional good looks and a rare blood type. An orphan with few connections, he finds that his degree in English literature is unable to secure him a proper job.

However, he discovers he can make good money by selling his blood to a private blood bank. And while this opens up unexpected possibilities for this unemployed graduate, little does he realise that it all comes at great personal cost.

A writer of both short stories and novels, Paul was an important figure in the Progressive Writers' Movement.

According to Shingavi, from any post-Independence perspective, however, the fact that Paul, a Hindu, chose Urdu as the medium of his expression exposes two fallacies at the same time.

"First, that language has a religion (a commonly held misconception in South Asia today); and second, that Urdu could not successfully modernise itself," he says.

"This is part of the reason that Paul's writing is so important and has endured for so long and with so much success," he adds.

Promote all class 11 students of West Bengal boards, schools asked

KOLKATA, MAY 12 (PTI): The West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education has asked its affiliated schools to promote all class 11 students as their annual exams could not be completed due to the coronavirus-forced lockdown.

In a letter dated May 11, council president Mahua Das said as decided by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee all class 11 students should be declared promoted to

the next class. The council provides the question papers for the class 11 annual examinations, while the exams are conducted by the schools and papers are checked by internal examiners.

Some of the papers of the class 12 board examinations and class 11 annual examinations, being conducted simultaneously, could not be held on the scheduled dates of March 23, March 25 and March

27 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government earlier said the higher secondary examinations will be held any day after June 10, while there will be no further annual exams for class 11 in this academic year.

Around 11,10,000 students will be promoted from class 11 to class 12 this year with the government's decision, a council source said.

2 brothers drown in Hooghly near Kolkata



BARUIPUR (WB), MAY 12 (PTI): Two teenage brothers drowned in the Hooghly river on Tuesday in Budge Budge town near Kolkata, police said.

They have been identified as Piyush Tiwari (15) and Aman Kumar Tiwari (18), police said.

The incident happened in the Balighat area of the town in the South 24 Parganas district when Piyush went

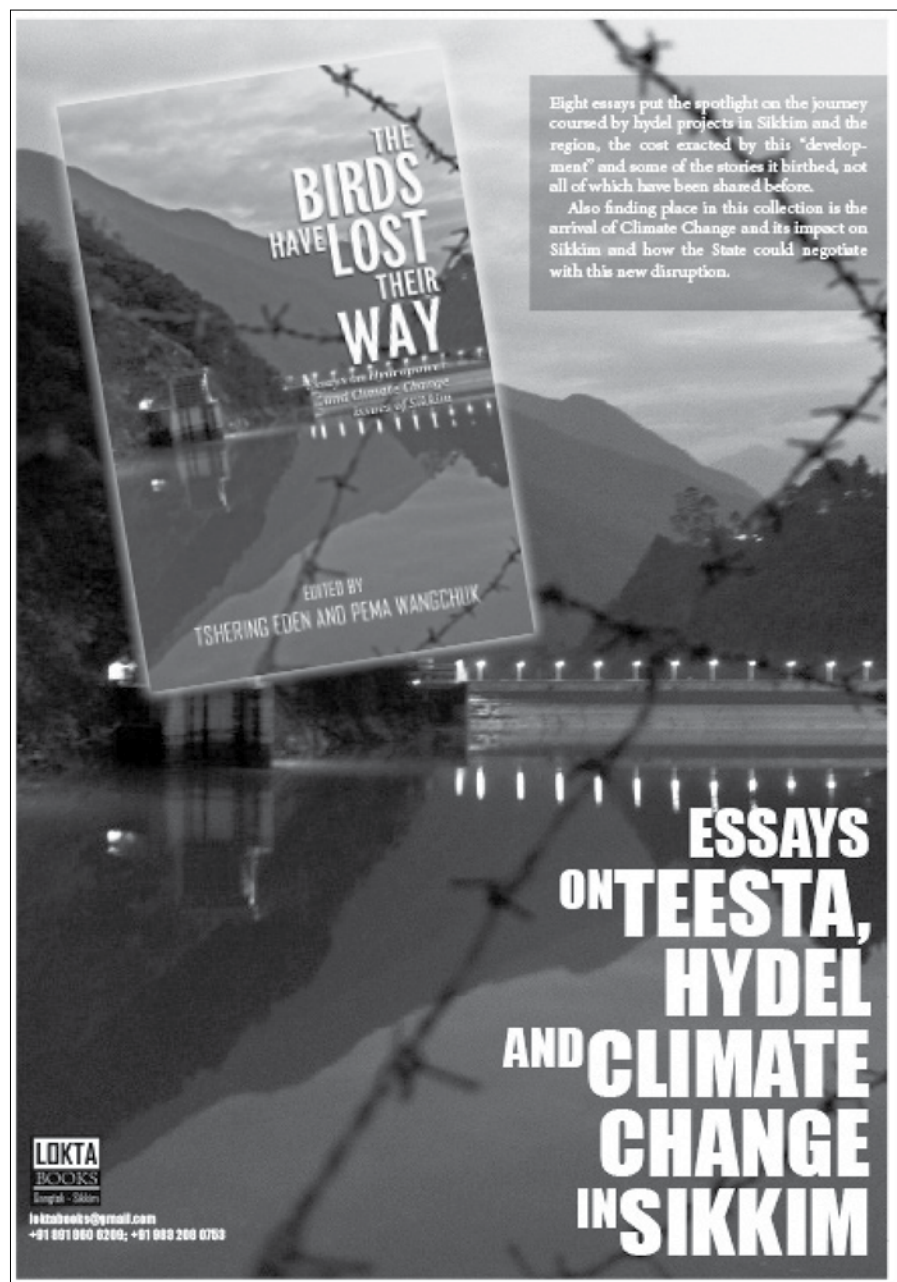
down the bank to get soil from the river, considered holy, and lost balance, they said.

Soon, Aman jumped into the river to save him but both of them drowned, police said.

Their father, Pradip Kumar Tiwari, works at a jute mill in Howrah, which is on the opposite bank. The family is originally from Bankura but lived in a rent rented

apartment at a government housing complex in the Sarengabad area in Budge Budge, police said.

The two brothers accompanied their father to the jetty from where he took a ferry to go to work and following this the incident happened, they said. The bodies were fished out of the river and sent for post-mortem examinations, police said.



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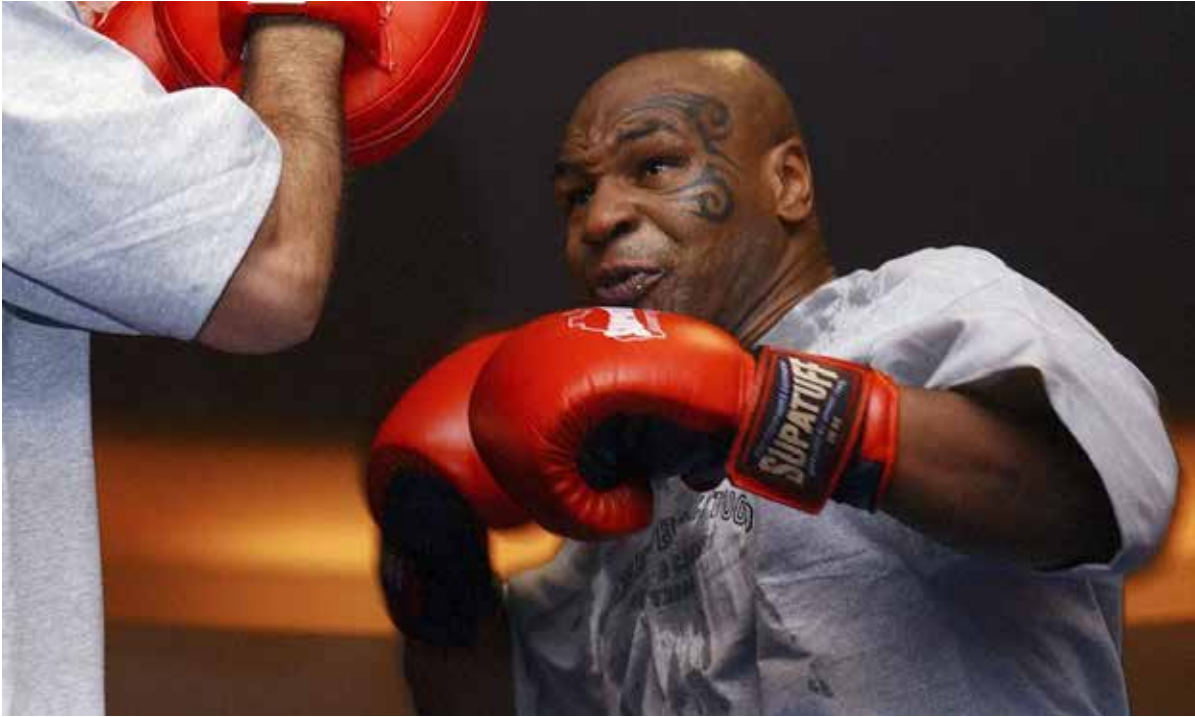
'I'm back': Mike Tyson again hints at comeback in latest training video

LOS ANGELES, 12 MAY [REUTERS]: Former-world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson has continued to tease boxing fans about a possible return to the ring by posting another training video on Instagram that ended with the message, "I'm back".

The 53-year-old caught the attention of the boxing world last week when he posted a short video of a workout that showed he possesses plenty of the punching power and speed that allowed him to become the first heavyweight to hold the WBA, WBC and IBF titles.

Tyson said then that he was considering a return to the ring for some exhibition bouts to raise money for charity.

The newest video showed Tyson growling through a workout hitting the pads in yet another display of the ferocious power that made



him one of the sport's most feared punchers.

Since Tyson hinted at a return, challengers have been lining up for a shot at the boxer known as "Iron Mike".

New Zealand rugby player Sonny Bill Williams, who has dabbled

in boxing posting a 7-0-0 record, and Australian former NRL player Paul Gallen with a 9-0-1 record in the ring, have been touted as potential opponents.

A more likely bet, however, would be Evander Holyfield with

whom Tyson engaged in several epic bouts during their professional careers.

If Tyson, who retired after a loss to Kevin McBride in 2005, does return to the ring, he will be following in the footsteps of Floyd Mayweather Jr and Manny Pacquiao in

coming out of retirement for an exhibition fight.

Tyson, who became the youngest heavyweight champion of all time when he defeated Trevor Berbick in 1986 aged 20, won 50 of his 58 professional fights before retiring.

Ibrahimovic returns to AC Milan



MILAN, MAY 12 (AFP): AC Milan star Zlatan Ibrahimovic has returned to Italy after two months in his native Sweden, as Serie A prepares to resume group training in a week's time.

Ibrahimovic was photographed arriving in Milan wearing a facemask and gloves before being driven to the team's training centre at Milanello.

The Swede is expected to spend two weeks in quarantine before joining his teammates who resumed individual training last week. Group training is set to start again on May 18.

The 38-year-old re-

turned to Sweden on March 12 days after Serie A was suspended as the coronavirus pandemic swept through Italy and Europe.

Ibrahimovic has been busy training in Sweden with players at Hammarby, a first-division club which he part owns.

Unlike much of the rest of Europe, where containment has limited or prevented athletes training, in Sweden restrictions to contain Covid-19 have been more flexible.

Serie A stars have all returned to the peninsula with Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo flying back to Italy last Monday from his native Portugal.

Akhil Kumar re-inducted into NADA disciplinary panel

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): Former Commonwealth Games gold-winning boxer Akhil Kumar has been re-inducted into the National Anti-Doping Agency's Disciplinary Panel.

Akhil, who is also serving in Haryana Police as ACP Gurugram, was formerly in the panel from 2017 to 2019.

"Not an extension, it's a case of reinduction in anti-doping disciplinary panel," NADA Director General Navin Agarwal told PTI.

The Arjuna award-winning Olympian is among the most ac-

complished names in Indian boxing and has also been the government observer for the sport between 2017 and 2019.

"I have been a part of this panel earlier and I am looking forward to being a member again. I will give my best to fulfil the responsibility which comes with this role," the 39-year-old told PTI.

In the past, the Haryana-boxer has advocated criminalising doping while expressing his views on the menace.

The NADA ADDP also features track-and-field Arjuna awardee Ashwini Nachappa among others.

'Stay away' - German fans warned ahead of Bundesliga restart

BERLIN, MAY 12 (AFP): The Bundesliga returns on Saturday in empty stadiums, but German fans are being warned to stay away and authorities have warned matches could be halted if too many supporters gather outside the grounds.

German football will be blazing a trail among Europe's top leagues by resuming two months after it was halted by the spread of coronavirus, but its strategy is fraught with risks.

In a football-mad country which boasts the highest average attendances in the world, will supporters banished from stadiums be able to stay away? In Saxony, where third-placed RB Leipzig will host mid-table Freiburg on Saturday afternoon, the state's Interior Minister Roland Woeller has issued a clear threat.

"Fans must not use matches behind closed doors as an excuse to gather in front of the stadiums or elsewhere," he said.

"This could lead to matches being stopped." His concerns are justified.

Several hundred fans gathered in Moenchengladbach when the hosts beat 2-1 Cologne on March 11 -- the only previous German league game played behind locked doors, just days before the shutdown.

Eintracht Frankfurt have appealed to their supporters before they resume their season against 'Gladbach on Saturday. "We've talked a lot with our fans and said: 'listen guys, don't show up at the stadium'," Frankfurt's sports director Fredi Bobic told ESPN.

Under German league rules put in place to resume the season, the home side is responsible for ensuring fans do not try to approach the stadium to support their team from a distance.

After weeks of meticulous planning and

mass testing of players and backroom staff, it would be a nightmare for the Bundesliga if the fans were to derail the fragile recovery attempt.

Christian Seifert, CEO of the Bundesliga, does not expect fans to play into the hands of critics who fear they will mass outside grounds despite large public events being banned in Germany.

Seifert accused the critics predicting that football fans would fail to respect the pleas for restraint of making "sweeping statements".

"I don't believe that the fan scene and the fan organisations will do their critics... the favour of behaving in exactly the way" that those doomsayers fear, he said.

The Bundesliga boss said all the talks he had held on the issue "do not give any indication" that supporters will gather.

Broadcaster Sky has agreed to show some of Saturday's matches on a free-to-air channel, allaying fears that fans will gather in bars or public places which have a subscription for the pay-per-view service.

- HISTORIC FIRST -

However, Seifert says while they are taking every reasonable step to discourage fans from meeting up, "the DFL's responsibility ends at a certain point".

The centrepiece of Saturday's return to action is Borussia Dortmund at home to Schalke in the Ruhr derby, a match which would usually draw a crowd of 82,000 to Signal Iduna Park.

Instead, it will be the first time this fixture is played behind closed doors since it began in 1925. Germany's huge stadiums - for example Bayern Munich's enormous Allianz Arena holds 75,000 - will remain empty for the foreseeable future.

There are fears in the German football scene

that the 'Ultras' -- hardcore fans who often lead the chanting at matches -- will lose their hard-earned influence at their clubs.

Some groups of these hardcore supporters are opposed to games being played in empty stadiums, because they feel the initiative is driven by financial reasons.

The clubs are eager to finish the league season before June 30 in order to collect around 300 million euros (324 million) due from TV contracts.

Helen Breit from the nationwide football supporters group "Unsere Kurve" (Our Curve) said she refused to watch a single match without fans on television.

"For me, football is in the stadiums," she told Munich-based paper Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

"I've been going to almost every Freiburg match for more than ten years and watching football on TV is not an option for me."

- FOOTBALL IS 'SICK' -

Another group feels the resumption of football during a pandemic, which has claimed 7,500 lives in Germany, shows how "sick" professional football has become.

"A continuation of the season would be sheer mockery of the rest of society," Ultras groups across Germany said in a joint statement last month.

"Professional football is sick enough and should remain in quarantine." But for the vast majority of fans, the decision to play the nine remaining round of matches behind closed doors makes the best of a bad situation.

Even if the fans cannot be in the stands in person, Moenchengladbach have found a novel way of allowing them to be seen by the players -- for 19 euros (21), Gladbach fans can buy a cardboard cut-out of themselves which will be placed on the terraces of Borussia Stadium.

Kohli is like Federer while Smith is more of Nadal: De Villiers

NEW DELHI, MAY 12 (PTI): Virat Kohli's natural talent makes him a cricketing equivalent of Roger Federer while Steve Smith's mental fortitude matches that of Rafael Nadal, said South African swashbuckler AB de Villiers comparing the two contemporary greats.

In an instagram chat with former Zimbabwe seamer Pommie Mbangwa, de Villiers spoke about the two batsmen, who are easily the game's biggest crowd-pullers right now.

"It's a difficult one, but Virat is definitely the more natural ball-striker, there's no doubt about that," de Villiers said during his interaction on 'Sports Hurricane'.

"In tennis terms, I'd say he's more like a (Roger) Federer whereas Smith is like a (Rafael) Nadal. Smith is mentally very strong and figures out a way of scoring runs - he doesn't look natural, but he ends up writing records and doing amazing things at the crease.

"I think mentally, Smith is one of the best I have ever seen. Virat has also scored runs all over the world and won games under pressure," de Villiers,himself a modern day great, said.

De Villiers also felt that when it comes to chasing, Kohli is a shade ahead of Tendulkar.

"Sachin is a role model for both of us (him and Kohli). The way he stood out in his era, the things he achieved and with the grace he did all that is a great example for everyone," de Villiers said.

"And I think Virat will also say that he set the standards for us to follow.

"But personally, in a chase, I'd say Virat is the best I've seen in my life.



Sachin was amazing in all formats and all situations, but Virat comes out on top while chasing."

The world knows Kohli as a prolific cricketer but for de Villiers, he is a friend, who has interests beyond cricket and is spiritual at one level. "He's much deeper than just a cricket player...I think most people realise after a while that there's more to life than just cricket," de Villiers said.

"...Virat's always been a thinker, he experiments (with) a lot of things, he loves trying new things out - gym wise, what he puts in his mouth. He thinks a lot about life after life - what's to come, the different religions, we talk about everything."

De Villiers said that he also shares a great bond with Indian captain's actor wife Anushka Sharma, conversing on a lot of issues including family life.

"We go pretty deep and his missus as well, Anushka, we have very deep conversations, which is fantastic. We talk about children and family. We're waiting for that first little Kohli to come.

"It's a good friendship and we always find a way to talk about cricket as well, but 90 per cent of the time we talk about other stuff. It's refreshing and in the middle of a very intense IPL tournament," he shared.

IPL, for de Villiers, is not just a tournament but also about friendships that he cherishes.

"Obviously, when it comes to the IPL in India, it's been more than friendship," De Villiers said, when asked who his best friends in cricket are.

"Virat obviously - not only during the IPL, we chat throughout the year, which means it's different than just the IPL or cricketing friendship.

Serie A set for team training on May 18 with adjusted protocol - govt

MILAN, MAY 12 (AFP): Serie A clubs can return to team training from May 18 if they make adjustments to medical protocols, the Italian government has announced.

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) met with the government's technical scientific committee (CTS) last week to discuss details for a return to group training as the country emerges from a two-month coronavirus lockdown.

Italy's sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora and health minister Roberto Speranza said in a joint statement on Monday that the CTS had largely accepted the FIGC protocol for a resumption of group sessions.

"The opinion requested by the government from the Technical Scientific Committee confirms the line of prudence," the ministers' statement said.

"The indications of the CTS, which are to be considered stringent and binding, will be sent to the Federation for the necessary adjustments of the protocol in order to allow for the safe resumption of team training starting from May 18."

Football has been suspended in Italy since March 9 amid the pandemic which has killed nearly 31,000 people in the country.

The Italian government has allowed squads to return to individual training sessions in team facilities from May 4.

But there remain issues to be decided such as the quarantine of players in case of positive tests for coronavirus.

Italian football bosses want to follow the example of Germany, which returns to action on May 16, and where only positive cases would be put into



isolation. But the CTS insists football must comply with the general rule of two weeks in isolation for those who have been in contact with positive cases.

There are still 13 rounds of football to be played for some teams between mid-June, when the FIGC hopes to return to action, and August.

Since the return to training last week, Fiorentina and Sampdoria announced 10 positive tests. In addition, a Torino player tested positive.

Spadafora later stressed the many tests that will need to be carried out on Serie A footballers would not be done "to the detriment of citizens".

"If these changes are made, there may be collective training from May 18," the sports minister told Italian television. "Whether the championship can resume, we will have to wait at least another week to see how the curve of contagion evolves and then be able to decide."

One by one players have returned to Italy, with Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo observing a two-week quarantine period and Swedish star Zlatan Ibrahimovic returning to AC Milan on Monday evening.

Italy on Monday reported fewer than 1,000 people in intensive care for COVID-19 for the first time since March 10 when the country went into confinement.

Virus hope in US as WHO hails global progress

The United States has logged a second consecutive day of fewer than 900 coronavirus deaths, as the World Health Organization hailed global progress but warned of the need for "extreme vigilance" against a second wave.

Optimism was tempered by the increasingly dire economic situation, with France showing a huge fall in activity last month and a warning that a major US airline would likely go under because of the pandemic, as jobs vanish and businesses go to the wall. The virus has now killed more than 285,000 people, according to a tally compiled by AFP. The number of infections has surpassed 4.1 million.

Infection rates in many countries have started to slow, the World Health Organization (WHO) noted, with weeks of lockdown paying dividends. "The good news is that there has been a great deal of success in slowing the virus and ultimately saving lives," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing.

But the global health body warned of a second wave of transmission, with emergencies chief Michael Ryan lamenting that some governments were choosing to "drive through this blind" by not ramping up capacity to test and trace. Swathes of the US have opened up in recent days, despite warnings that the virus is not fully under control in the world's worst-hit country.

There was some qualified good news for Americans on Monday, with a tally showing 830 deaths in 24 hours -- a second consecutive day of fewer than 900.

Nevertheless, more than 80,000 people are known to have died from the disease since it hit America's shores.

The true human cost could be much higher.

In a study, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the number of dead in worst-hit New York could be around 30 percent more than the official toll.

- White House fears -

The virus appeared to have gained a foothold in the White House over the weekend, with a second confirmed case in the West Wing.

Staff there were told Monday they had to wear masks at work, and Donald Trump said he might limit contact with his deputy after an aide to Vice President Mike Pence tested positive.

Trump, who is desperately seeking to reboot the economy ahead of the November election, said the US was making "tremendous strides" in ramping up testing and the number of virus infections is "coming down very rapidly."

He said it was essential to get the country reopened. "The people want our country open," the president said.

But Trump's top infectious diseases expert, Anthony Fauci, was set to warn the Senate Tuesday of "needless suffering and death" if that re-opening happens too quickly, according to the New York Times.

Report: Anti-Semitic incidents in US hit record high in 2019

SILVER SPRING (US), MAY 12 (AP): American Jews were targets of more anti-Semitic incidents in 2019 than any other year over the past four decades, a surge marked by deadly attacks on a California synagogue, a Jewish grocery store in New Jersey and a rabbi's New York home, the Anti-Defamation League reported Tuesday.

The Jewish civil rights group counted 2,107 anti-Semitic incidents in 2019, finding 61 physical assault cases, 1,127 instances of harassment and 919 acts of vandalism.

That's the highest annual tally since the New York City-based group began tracking anti-Semitic incidents in 1979.

It also marked a 12 percent increase over the 1,879 incidents it counted in 2018.

Jonathan Greenblatt, the group's CEO, attributes last year's record high to a normalisation of anti-Semitic tropes, the charged politics of the day and social media.

This year, he said, the COVID-19 pandemic is fueling anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

Anti-Semitism is a virus. It is like a disease, and it persists, Greenblatt said.

It's sometimes known as the oldest hatred. It never seems to go away. There truly is no single antidote or cure.

The ADL's count of anti-Semitic assaults involved 95 victims.

More than half of the assaults occurred in New York City, including 25 in Brooklyn. Eight of those Brooklyn



assaults happened during a span of eight days in December, primarily in neighbourhoods where many Orthodox Jews live.

Objects were thrown at victims, antisemitic slurs were shouted, and at least three victims were hit or punched in their heads or faces, says the report first given exclusively to The Associated Press.

The ADL defines an anti-Semitic assault as an attempt to inflict physical harm on one or more people who are Jewish or perceived to be Jewish, accompanied by evidence of antisemitic animus.

Three of those 2019 assaults were deadly.

A 20-year-old former nursing student, John T Earnest, awaits trial on charges he killed a woman and wounded three other people during an attack on Chabad of Poway synagogue near San Diego in April 2019.

The gunman told a 911 dispatcher that he shot up the synagogue on the last day of Passover because Jews were trying to destroy all white people, according to prosecutors.

Attacks in Jersey City, New Jersey, killed a police detective in a cemetery and three people at a kosher market in December.

Authorities said the attackers, David Anderson and Francine Graham, were motivated by a hatred of Jewish people and law enforcement.

A 37-year-old man, Grafton Thomas, was charged with stabbing five people with a machete at a Hanukkah celebration at a rabbi's home in Monsey, an Orthodox Jewish community north of New York City.

One of the five victims died three months after the Dec. 28 attack. Federal prosecutors said Thomas had handwritten journals containing

anti-Semitic comments and a swastika. The ADL's report attributed 270 anti-Semitic incidents to extremist groups or individuals. A separate ADL report, released in February, found that 2019 was the sixth deadliest year for violence by all domestic extremists since 1970.

The ADL counted 919 vandalism incidents in 2019, a 19% increase from 774 incidents in 2018.

Two men described by authorities as members of a white supremacist group called The Base were charged with conspiring last year to vandalize synagogues, including Beth Israel Sinai Congregation in Racine, Wisconsin.

Even before his synagogue was defaced with swastikas, Rabbi Martyn Adelberg sensed that anti-Semitic incidents in the US have been increasing as extremist rhetoric migrates from the internet's fringes to mainstream platforms.

stream platforms.

It provokes something else, too: an undying outpouring of love, he said, noting that a crowd of 150 people at least five times the normal size and consisting mostly of gentiles attended the first service at the temple after the vandalism.

The support was overwhelming.

The ADL says it helped authorities identify a suspect accused of plastering white supremacist and anti-Semitic stickers on a display case at Chabad Jewish Center in Ocean City, Maryland.

Rabbi Noam Cohen, the center's director, said anti-Semitism has ebbed and flowed for centuries.

He views the vandalism of his center as an isolated incident, not a sign of growing anti-Semitism.

Maybe I'm naive, but I hope not, he said.

The ADL tallied 1,127 ha-

assment incidents last year, a 6% increase over 2018.

The group defined these incidents as cases in which at least one Jewish person reported feeling harassed by the perceived anti-Semitic words or actions of another person or group.

The ADL report doesn't try to fully assess online anti-Semitism, but it does include incidents in which individuals or groups received anti-Semitic content in direct messages, on listservs or in social media settings where they would have the reasonable expectation to not be subjected to anti-Semitism.

The ADL counted 171 anti-Semitic incidents last year referencing Israel or Zionism, including five instances in which members of a white supremacist group, Patriot Front, protested outside Israel-aligned organizations to oppose Zionist influence over the US government.

Although it is not antisemitic to protest Israeli policies, these protests must be considered within the context of this group's well-documented antisemitic agenda, the report says.

The ADL says it tries to avoid conflating general criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.

However, Israel-related harassment of groups or individuals may be included when the harassment incorporates established anti-Jewish references, accusations and/or conspiracy theories, or when they demonise American Jews for their support of Israel, the report says.

Australian charged over 80s alleged hate crime murder of gay American



More than 30 years after American Scott Johnson was killed in a suspected gay hate crime in Australia, police said Tuesday they had arrested and charged a man with his murder.

Detectives arrested the 49-year-old in the leafy Sydney suburb of Lane Cove on Tuesday and laid murder charges the same day.

The suspect's name was not released.

The breakthrough in the cold case came two months after the victim's family doubled a police reward in the case to Aus\$2 million (US\$1.3 million).

The 27-year-old mathematician Johnson's naked body was found at the base of a cliff in the

Sydney suburb of Manly in December 1988, and police at the time ruled his death a suicide.

But a coroner found in 2017 that it was likely Johnson had been killed in a hate crime, suggesting he was either pushed over the cliff or fell while trying to escape unidentified assailants.

The inquest found that gangs roamed Sydney at the time searching for gay men to attack, and had been known to rob or assault men at the "gay beat" where Johnson's folded clothing was discovered.

In 2018, police announced an Aus\$1 million reward for information leading to an arrest in the case, which was doubled when Johnson's brother, Steve, matched the amount in March.

Steve Johnson, who had long pushed police to investigate his brother's death, said it was "remarkable" the alleged killer had been apprehended almost 32 years later.

"This is a very emotional day. Emotional for me, emotional for my family who... love Scott dearly," he said in a video statement.

"It's emotional, I'm sure, for the gay community for whom Scott had come to symbolise the many dozens of other gay men who lost their lives in the 1980s and '90s in a world full of anti-gay prejudice and hatred."

In 2018, New South Wales police acknowledged that at least 27 murders between the 1970s and 2000 were homophobic hate crimes, admitting the force had played a part in marginalising the LGBT community and enabling society's "acceptance of shocking violence directed at gay men" during the period.

"It is clear and beyond question that levels of violence inflicted upon gay men in particular were elevated, extreme and often brutal," police said at the time.

The suspect in Johnson's murder is due to appear in a local Sydney court on Wednesday.

Indian doctor in Kuwait dies from COVID-19



DUBAI, MAY 11 (PTI): An Indian dentist in Kuwait has died from the novel coronavirus, becoming the country's second medical professional to succumb to COVID-19, according to a media report.

Dr Vasudeva Rao, 54, died on Saturday in Jaber hospital where he was undergoing treatment for coronavirus infection, news website timeskuwait.com reported.

A resident of Kuwait for about 15 years, Rao worked as an endodontist at Kuwait Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, a government-owned company.

Rao was a member of Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait, an organisation of Indian dental professionals in Kuwait. The organisation mourned his

loss. On Friday, Egyptian ENT specialist Tareq Hussain Mokheimer died of COVID-19, becoming Kuwait's first such medical fatality, the Gulf News reported.

Mokheimer, 62, had worked in Kuwait for more than 20 years.

A total of 171 people arrived in Chennai from Kuwait on Sunday as part of the government's Vande Bharat Mission to bring home Indian nationals stranded in various countries.

Kuwait has reported 58 deaths and 8,688 infections due to the novel coronavirus.

Globally, the death toll due to COVID-19 has gone up to 282,727 with over four million infections reported so far, according to Johns Hopkins University tally.

Nebraska holds 1st in-person election in weeks amid pandemic

OMAHA (US), MAY 12 (AP): Nebraska on Tuesday will hold the nation's first in-person primary since a heavily criticized election in Wisconsin five weeks ago in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic.

Election officials have repeatedly urged voters to cast early, mail-in ballots, but Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts and Secretary of State Bob Evnen both pledged to forge ahead with an in-person primary even though many other states have rescheduled theirs or switched to all-mail vot-

ing. On Monday, Ricketts said members of the Nebraska National Guard will be on call help short-staffed polling sites in eight counties, including the Omaha and Lincoln areas.

He said Guard members will be dressed in civilian clothes, not their normal uniforms.

They'll be available to help out," he said.

A Guard spokesman said 135 members have gone through poll worker training but won't be dispatched unless they're requested.

The counties that might have Guard mem-

bers as poll workers are some of Nebraska's hardest-hit: Dakota, Dawson, Douglas Hall, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison and Scottsbluff.

Ricketts said he had also waived a state law that requires poll workers to live in the county where they serve, largely because of a poll worker shortage.

This year's primary is fairly low-key but will include a high-profile race among Democrats who want to unseat Republican Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District. The Oma-

ha-area district is one of the few in Republican-led Nebraska where Democrats are competitive.

The Democratic field has three candidates: nonprofit consultant Kara Eastman, Omaha lawyer Ann Ashford and Omaha business owner Gladys Harrison.

Eastman has positioned herself as a progressive, while Ashford pitches herself as a moderate.

Harrison has touted herself as a unifying voice but hasn't raised nearly as much money or gotten as much attention.

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GETTING OUTSIDE! Actor, Tobey Maguire and girlfriend Tatiana Diетeman enjoyed a walk in sunny Los Angeles.

'13 Reasons Why' sets premiere date for final season

LOS ANGELES, MAY 12 (PTI): The fourth and final season of Netflix Original series "13 Reasons Why" will debut on June 5, the streamer has announced.

The date of the last season was revealed on the Twitter page of the controversial hit show on Monday.

"On June 5, we say our final goodbye," says a video which shows the cast and crew getting emotional on the final table read.

The final season of the high school drama, based on Jay Asher's 2007 novel of the same name, will see Liberty High School's senior class preparing for graduation, but the game of keeping dangerous secrets buried and tough decisions that may impact their futures will continue.

The first season saw the events leading to Hannah Baker's (Katherine Langford) suicide as she describes in the titular tapes she

sent to various classmates, with the follow-up digging deeper into her suicide and many secrets, along with a mass shooting thwarted at a school event thanks to Clay Jensen (Dylan Minnette).

The third season, which premiered August 23, 2019, saw school jock and sexual predator Bryce Walker (Justin Prentice) being found dead making everyone at the school a potential suspect.

The final season will see Minnette, Alisha Boe, Brandon Flynn Miles Heizer, Grace Saif, Christian Navarro, Ross Butler, Timothy Granaderos, and as per the behind-the-scenes clip Prentice will also make a comeback.

Created by Brian Yorkey and produced by singer Selena Gomez, the show has earned both massive fan following and heavy criticism for its graphic portrayal of bullying, rape and suicide.

Pierson Fode added to 'Man From Toronto' cast

LOS ANGELES, MAY 12 (PTI): Actor Pierson Fode, best known for romantic comedy "Naomi and Ely's No Kiss List", has landed a role in the upcoming movie "Man From Toronto".

According to Deadline, he joins the action-comedy, which already has Kevin Hart, Woody Harrelson, and Kaley Cuoco on board.

Patrick Hughes, best known for "The Expendables 3" and "The Hitman's Bodyguard", will direct the movie from a script by Robbie Fox and Chris Bremner.

Fox developed the idea in collaboration with filmmaker Jason Blumenthal.

The story follows a case of a mistaken identity as one of the world's deadliest as-

sassin, known as the 'Man from Toronto', and a New York City screw-up named Teddy run into each other at an Airbnb. A clash of personalities, and a clash with deadly killers, ensues.

Blumenthal will also produce the movie alongside Todd Black and Steve Tisch. Bill Bannerman will serve as executive producer.

DEAR READERS,
IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT 9832556698 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

ARIES:

We're made of stardust and soil—a beautiful amalgam of heaven and earth. So why do we value one expression of our personality over the other? The cards are urging you to embrace both sides of your story. Both the sensual and the spiritual deserve to be honoured. Know that the portals of bliss can be accessed through acknowledging and embracing your own body temple.

Tip: Honour both the sensual and the spiritual aspects of your personality.

TAURUS:

The old way of life no longer applies to the new narrative we are writing together as a collective. The lockdown is urging us to slow down, to be here now, and appreciate what the present is offering us. Yes, there are deadlines to meet and chores to complete. But all of these things can be done mindfully.

Tip: Adopt a new way of life.

GEMINI:

The benefits of flirting are many—that rush of feel-good hormones is a thrill you're chasing at the moment. The cards are urging you to take charge of the situation and say what's on your mind (and in your heart). Maybe they are your forever. Maybe they're not. Don't let that stop you from exploring what you have in the now. Coupled Gemini, who said things have to get boring with the passage of time? If there is anybody who knows how to bring playfulness back on the table, it's you.

Tip: Slide into their DMs.

CANCER:

Change is the only constant, Cancer, and you understand this cliché now more than ever before. You are not the same person

you were a year ago. You're not even the same person who went into house arrest a couple of months ago. The thing about transformation is that it can be rather daunting. Roll with it anyway knowing that everything is ultimately transpiring for your highest good. There will be moments when you will be tempted to put on the garb of invisibility or dull your sparkle to fit in.

Tip: Let go of the garb of invisibility.

LEO:

"Assume the feeling of your wish fulfilled and observe the route that your attention follows." A Neville Goddard quote to inspire you to dream a little dream, Leo. To believe that you have the power to manifest what you desire despite what your external reality is showing you. Know that Spirit is working with you now and in every moment to help you co-create your best life. Some of you may feel inspired to update your vision board

Tip: Dream a little dream.

VIRGO:

Everything you experience in this lifetime is a choice, including the things you perceive as obstacles. Before you step into the physical plane of existence, you decide the challenges you will face in order to help your soul ascend. Therefore, the answers you seek are within you too, along with the tools required to transcend your circumstances. Remembering this will help you call your power back to you. What you're being asked to focus on right now: the soul lessons that are coming up.

Tip: Tap into the power of free will.

LIBRA:

Shutting down is easy. Building walls around yourself?

Easier. You know what requires an insane amount of courage? Staying open despite the wounds; despite the past hurt. This is a time of inner alchemy for you, Libra, and you're understanding the importance of living vicariously through your heart.

Tip: You're learning to live vicariously through your heart.

SCORPIO:

"Keep your focus on how you want to feel and let the Universe fill in the details," a powerful Esther Hicks quote to keep in mind when you find yourself doubting the Universal plan. The resources you require for the given project will come to you. It's not for you to ponder upon the how and the why. Your task is to merely stay in the vibration of what you are calling into your experience. Remember, you can't do everything on your own even though you sometimes believe you can. Ask for help if required and be open to receiving it when it comes along.

Tip: The abundant Universe will provide.

SAGITTARIUS:

Let's talk about angel numbers, Sagittarius! If Google searches are to be believed, then '222' encourages you to seek balance or make a significant choice. While these interpretations may apply to those who have put the meaning out there, they may not hold true for where you are in your journey. The point is, you have a direct hotline with the Universe. Only you can understand what the signs and symbols mean for you. So, how does one access this consciousness?

Tip: Explore your direct connection with the divine.

CAPRICORN:

You've been seeing the signs for a while now, Capricorn.

was my first. And I fell in love with Calcutta. Dhonobaad for all the love. Chaar saal ho gaye. #MeriPyaariBindu."

Parineeti also shared a couple of pictures and videos featuring herself and Ayushmann from the film's set and wrote: "It's been 3 years but the

ish aur music. Sigh."

Meri Pyaari Bindu showed Ayushmann and Parineeti as childhood sweethearts. The film marked Ayushmann and Parineeti's first project together. Meri Pyaari Bindu also starred Rajatabha Dutta, Aparajita Adhya,



Even though Meri Pyaari Bindu didn't fare well at the box office, it will always remain a "special film" for Ayushmann Khurrana and Parineeti Chopra, revealed the actors in their latest Instagram posts as their 2017 film clocked 3 years on Tuesday. Directed by Akshay Roy, Meri Pyaari Bindu was a romantic-drama that featured Ayushmann Khurrana and Parineeti Chopra in the lead roles. The film made over Rs 12 crore in India and approximately Rs 5 crore overseas, thus taking the worldwide collections to over Rs 17 crore. To celebrate three years of Meri Pyaari Bindu, Ayushmann shared two pictures from the sets of the film - both of which were clicked when Ayushmann and Parineeti were shooting the movie at Kolkata's St. Xavier's College. Meri Pyaari Bindu featured Parineeti as Bindu, an aspiring singer while Ayushmann as Bengali writer Abhimanyu Bubla Roy.

"Abhimanyu Bubla Roy was just like me. He loved old songs, was a compulsive writer and a sucker for nostalgia," wrote Ayushmann in his post and added: "The box office didn't pamper this gem but this film will always be special. This was clicked at St Xavier's college in the summers of 2016. We witnessed kaal baisaakhi the next day. It

climax of this film still gives me heart-ache. I can't listen to my own song Maana Ki Hum Yaar Nahi without my stomach doing a flip. If you have ever experienced a broken heart, well then, this film.... #MeriPyaariBindu did not get love at the BO but it's the most special film. Kolkata, the 90s, dost, baar-

Prakash Belawadi and June Malia in pivotal roles.

On the work front, Ayushmann Khurrana was last seen in Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan. He will next be seen in Gulabo Sitabo, co-starring Amitabh Bachchan. Parineeti's next film is Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar.

Robert Pattinson refuses to work out constantly for Batman role because he doesn't want to 'set a precedent'

Robert Pattinson has opened up about body image for men in Hollywood in a brand new interview. The actor was interviewed by GQ while in lockdown in London, and discussed his role in forthcoming Christopher Nolan film Tenet as well as his decision to become the next Batman.

Pattinson was filming Matt Reeves's The Batman when the quarantine was announced and, when asked if he's keeping to his strict fitness regime put together by a personal trainer, he said he's ignoring instructions because it sends a bad message.

"I think if you're working out all the time, you're part of the problem," he said, referring to his fellow Hollywood actors.

"You set a precedent," he continued, adding: "No one was doing this in the 1970s. Even James Dean - he wasn't exactly ripped." Reflecting upon his time in the Twilight franchise, which began in 2008, he

said: "The one time they told me to take my shirt off, I think they told me to put it back on again." Pattinson revealed his trainer pleaded with him to use the Bosu ball and single weight left with him while in lockdown, but said he's "barely doing anything".

He said he's sticking to his meal plan,



though, which includes oatmeal with vanilla protein powder sprinkled on it, as well as tuna topped with tabasco.

Christian Bale, who played Batman in Nolan's Dark Knight trilogy, famously gained 43 pounds for the role.

'The Twilight Zone 2' to arrive in June

LOS ANGELES, MAY 12 (PTI): The second season of "The Twilight Zone", hosted and narrated by writer-filmmaker Jordan Peele, will air on June 25, CBS All Access has announced.

The show, which is a reboot of the timeless anthology series created by Rod Serling, has Peele and Simon Kinberg as executive producers.

The new chapter of the anthology will dig further into socially conscious storytelling with 10 introspective episodes

that take the audience to another dimension of sight and sound but also mind, reported Deadline.

The guest star cast for this season features Morena Baccarin, Billy Porter, Tony Hale, Jenna Elfman, Sky Ferreira, Tophér Grace, Gillian Jacobs, David Krumholtz, Thomas Lennon, Joel McHale, Christopher Meloni, Gretchen Mol, Jurnee Smollett, Jimmi Simpson, and Damon Wayans Jr.

The original "Twilight Zone" from Serling premiered in 1959.

If they wanted to be in your life, they would have. If they wanted to make things work, they would have. So don't make excuses for other people. The fact that they are choosing not to be present should tell you everything you need to know about this connection. This brings us back to the basics—your relationship with yourself. If you're constantly seeking validation from people, there's more inner work to be done.

Tip: Don't be oblivious to the signs.

AQUARIUS:

We spend so much time weighing the pros and cons that we forget our first instinct. If you want to tell them how beautiful they are, how much you appreciate their presence and that their smile lights up your world, this is the time to do it. You'll be surprised by how they reciprocate your love. Coupled Aquarians, remember the first time you said the three magic words? They're just as powerful now as they were yesterday. Take a cue from your favourite rom-com and make your partner feel loved.

Tip: Say the three magic words.

PISCES:

The trouble is, you sometimes forget how powerful you are. How magnificent you are. How gifted you are. It is your lack of self-worth that's keeping you from stepping into the spotlight and sharing your talents with the world. In doing so, you are being of disservice to yourself and those around you. Looking within is the need of the hour, Pisces. Some of you could even benefit from working with a therapist or soul coach.

Tip: Inner work is the need of the hour.