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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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54 per cent of Hyderabad's population estimated to have antibodies against coronavirus, study finds

HYDERABAD, MAR 4 (PTI): A seroprevalence study done in Hyderabad has revealed that around 54 per cent of the city's residents developed antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, indicating prior exposure to coronavirus.

According to a CCMB release on Thursday, the joint study by the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and vaccine-maker Bharat Biotech considered around 9,000 samples. The scientists checked for antibodies against the virus in people across 30 wards of the city.

Nearly 300 people from each ward, all of them older than 10 years of age, were tested, it said. Most of the wards showed a similarly uniform range of seroprevalence, from 50-60 per cent. However, a few wards showed as much as 70 per cent or as low as 30 per cent as well.

Women showed a marginally higher seropositivity rate (56 per cent) than men (53 per cent). Those above 70 years of age showed a lower seropositivity (49 per cent), perhaps because of limited mobility and extra care taken by the older people during the pandemic, it said.

Unsurprisingly, those who had COVID-19 positive cases in their own households, showed the maximum seropositivity of 78 per cent. This was followed by those with known COVID-19 contacts outside their household (68 per cent), the release said.

"This multistage random sampling study on 9,000 people in the city of Hyderabad showed that more than 75 per cent of the seropositive population did not know that they had contracted coronavirus in the past.

This suggests sero-conversion, that is antibody formation has happened even with silent infections," the release quoted R Hemalatha, Director, NIN, as saying.

According to the study, individuals who had displayed prominent COVID-19 symptoms as well as those who were asymptomatic, both had equivalent seroprevalence of around 54 per cent.

Eighteen (18) per cent of the study group had been tested earlier and found to be positive for the coronavirus. Ninety per cent of them were found to be seropositive, suggesting that they retain the antibody response.

SDF CELEBRATES 29TH FOUNDATION DAY

SDF only lost an election, not principles: Chamling

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 04 MAR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front president and former Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, appeared in front of a large gathering of supporters today, for the first time in over a year. Addressing his party's 29th foundation day celebration at SDF Bhawan on Thursday, he said that SDF has only lost an election, not its principles and passion.

The former CM was accompanied by his wife, Tika Maya Chamling, senior leaders, workers and supporters.

In his address, Mr Chamling urged party workers to learn from mistakes made in last 25 years and evaluate the good work done by the party in order to work for the state in the future. He further urged them to accept the challenge to work harder in days to come in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

An emotional Chamling



said, "I wanted to leave politics but was not able to do so due to the love for Sikkim and its people. I am very concerned for the future and the existence of Sikkim and its people so I am still in politics to save Sikkim for its people."

He stated that SDF is a democratic and inclusive party and the party will follow collective leadership.

"I am just the party president but every worker is a leader in SDF. So every worker has a responsibility and is answer-

able towards the party. Now the party will encourage collective decision making," he said.

Mr Chamling stated that the party workers should not get saddened and demoralized because the party is not in power. The party's princi-

ples and spirit of revolution is still alive, he said.

"We were silent till date because we wanted to give time to the government brought to power by the people of the State to work but in these two years, Sikkim has

repeatedly lost due to suicide goals made by the SKM government. So now SDF has come on the field to help Sikkim win," he said. He alleged that people gave a chance to SKM but it has failed to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people. SDF will now reach out to every nook and corner of the State with new energy, he added.

While speaking on the joining of SDF leaders and workers in other parties, the SDF president said that most of the senior leaders and workers have left the party but it is for the good as it has now created more opportunities for youngsters.

"As many seniors have left, the young people need to come forward to take over these responsibilities. We will now work harder to handover Sikkim in the right hands of youths," he said.

turn to pg02

Construction of Rs 53 Cr Herbal Medicine & Spiritual Healing Complex begins

**BIKASH CHETTRI
NAMCHI, 04 MAR:**

The construction of Herbal Medicine and Spiritual Healing Complex worth Rs 53 crore began at Nandugaon, South Sikkim, today.

The project under Tourism Department is being implemented by contractor, MD Khalid. The project is to be completed within 2 years.

Construction began with prayers this afternoon which was attended by leaders of Heavenly Nirvana Path Sikkim, Vyasamanda Guru who is also the chairman of



Commerce and Industrial Development Board, Advisor of the Land Use and Environment Board, Bhagirat Rai, state vice president of Heavenly

Nirvana Path Sikkim, PD Rai, amongst others.

A structure already exists at the site which will be dismantled and the new structure will come up in

its place. The new design will have tourist friendly elements of cafeteria and parking arenas in addition to the spiritual meditation and healing complex.

Three more file nominations in Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat

GYALSHING, 04 MAR (IPR): On the fourth day of filing nominations, a total of three candidates filed their nomination papers for Municipal Election 2021 at the office of the Assistant Returning Officer, West today.

Durga Singh Kariki Chettri has filed his nomination for 05-New Gyalshing, Chunkila Bhutia has filed her nomination for 03-Naya Bazaar ward, Nirmala Hingmang has filed her nomination for 02-Byadung.

In West District a single local body will be going for Municipal Election i.e. Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat consisting of 05 wards. The reservations of seats in the said Municipal Areas are as follows: 01-Kyongsa (ST), 02-Byadong (SC), 03-Nayabazar ST (W), 04-Central Gyalshing UR (W), 05-New Gyalshing OBC (S).

It is pertinent to mention that the total number of voters under

Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat is 1255 (Male) and 1225 (Female) with total number of 2480 voters.

Under Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat there will be five polling stations namely, Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa for 01-Kyongsa ward, SPWD AE Office for 02-Byadong ward, Community Hall, Gyalshing Room-1 for 03-Nayabazar ward, Community Hall, Gyalshing Room-2 for 04-Central Gyalshing ward and Community Hall, Gyalshing Room-3 for 05-New Gyalshing ward, respectively.

Further, the State Election Commission under 243ZA of the Constitution of India has appointed SCS Secretary/Horticulture Department, MT Sherpa, as Election Observer for Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat to oversee the election process and for the smooth conduct of election.

4 new cases and 2,234 more vaccinations in Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 FEB:**

Four persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours in Sikkim taking the state's tally of confirmed Covid cases to 6,154 on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the number of recovered cases further improved to 5,890 with the discharge of one more person from an isolation facility. There are currently 32 active cases of novel coronavirus in the State.

In his daily health bulletin on Thursday, Health Department State IEC Officer, Sonam Gyaltsen Bhutia, informed that the four new cases were picked up in the test-

ing of 105 samples on Wednesday.

All the four cases were detected in RT-PCR testing of 79 samples, while all the 10 samples tested by TrueNat and 16 through rapid antigen testing returned negative.

As for the new cases, one person is from Zero Point, Ranka, one from near Old Children's Park above MG Marg and two from Amdo Golai, all in Gangtok.

While providing details of the vaccination drive, Mr Bhutia informed that 2,234 persons, including 464 healthcare workers, 353 frontline workers, 257 persons in the 45-59

age-group with comorbidities and 1,160 above 60-year-olds were vaccinated for COVID-19 in Sikkim on Thursday.

The detailed breakdown is as follows:

329 healthcare workers, 156 frontline workers, 30 persons in 45 to 59 age-group and 254 above-60 in East District; 19 healthcare workers, 61 frontline workers, 37 in 45-59 age bracket and 703 above-60 years in South District; 01 healthcare worker, 41 frontline workers, 55 persons aged 45-59 and 150 aged 60 and above in North District and 115 healthcare workers and 95 frontline workers in West District.

Five file nominations in North

MANGAN, 04 MAR (IPR): On the fourth day of filing for nominations, five candidates filed their nominations for the Municipal Elections 2021 at the Office of the Municipal Returning Officer North, for 7 Mangan Nagar Panchayat today.

1. Hangu Lachenpa from Rinzing Namgyal Marg
2. Premkit Lepcha from Power Colony
3. Norkit Lepcha from Pentok
4. Ugen Palzor Kazi from Upper Mangan Bazar

5. Tenzing Chime Kazi from Lower Mangan Bazar

The seat reservations for 7 Mangan Nagar Panchayat are as follows:

Upper Mangan Bazar (ST) Pentok (ST-W) Power Colony (UR-W) Rinzing Namgyal Marg (ST) Lower Mangan Bazar (UR-W)

The last day for filing of nominations is 08 Mar, 2021, which will be followed by scrutiny of documents/papers and the date for withdrawal (if any) is 11 Mar, 2021.



SummitTIMES IN NEPALI



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Nearly 17.14 Lakh Vaccinated In Three Days As Confidence In Vaccines Grow

NEW DELHI, 04 MAR [NDTV]: Nearly 17.14 lakh people - from India's general population - have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine in the first three days of the second phase, as the country's vaccination graph continues to improve.

The increase is evident on the ground, and especially at private hospitals, where long queues can be seen all day which are seeing long queues all day.

In Delhi, daily vaccinations at private centres have seen a huge jump from the initial 150 per day, with prominent hospitals like Apollo and Max vaccinating nearly 600 each on Thursday.

"People in the senior citizen age group have been coming out in huge numbers and we are trying our level best to ensure the process is smooth for them. Initially there were hiccups in the system and that was expected... but now I think it is gradually becoming better," Dr Sahar Qureshi, Medical Superintendent at the Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital in Delhi's Saket, told NDTV.

"We are carrying out approximately 400 vaccinations per day and that number is increasing with each passing day. So far we have vaccinated more than 2,000 people," he added.

The rush at private hospitals has now compelled many - like Indira Agarwal, 65, a retired teacher and her husband Pradeep, 65, a retired banker - to turn to a government hospital like LNJP.

Mrs Agarwal said: "There is a huge rush in Max Hospital. Phoenix Hospital also has long queues. People told us that one has to wait for several hours. So we thought it is best to get vaccinated here. Why go there and wait? Here at LNJP there is social distancing as well as cleanliness."

Apart from members of the public, several high-profile figures also got vaccinated today.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Himachal Chief Minister Jairam Thakur, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal, and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha all got their shots.

Doctors say the increase in the number of people turning out is also the result of the public's growing confidence in the safety and efficacy of the vaccines, particularly after seeing senior leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind getting vaccinated.

"For the last two to three days a lot of people have been coming. They have seen both the Prime Minister and many Chief Ministers getting vaccinated. A lot of people's confidence has been boosted because of that reason. People are coming in huge numbers," Dr Suresh Kumar, the Medical Director of the LNJP Hospital, told NDTV.

Breaking down silos to look beyond examinations

ANITA KARWAL [PIB]

An over enthusiastic Head of an urban school that I was visiting told me that she took great pride in the fact that during school hours there was always pin-drop silence in her school. I was aghast. Taking pride in a school culture that takes the joy out of being a child, a culture that assumes that the animated chatter of children as they play, collaborate, express their ideas, help their peers, is nothing short of indiscipline, shows how far some schools may have digressed from the path of real education. Gijubhai Badheka, better known as the educationist who helped bring Montessori to India, wrote in his brilliant book - Divya Swapna - "The school culture we have in our country demands that the thousand and one things of children's interest ranging from insects to stars, be considered irrelevant to classroom study. An average teacher works on the assumption that his job is to teach from the textbook and to prepare children for the examination: He does not perceive that it is a part of his responsibility to develop the child's curiosity. Nor does the school provide conditions in which the teacher could fulfil the responsibility." This book was written in the 1930s but strikes a resonating chord even today!

If the goal of school education were indeed to prepare children for examinations, there was no need for the country to run 15.07 lakhs schools, with 96.86 lakhs teachers and enrol 26.43 crores students in these schools. All we had to do was to prepare rigorous SOPs and typical Kunji-like textbooks, and hand them over to children at their homes, for appearing on designated dates at examination centres to fact-check on their powers of memorisation. Examinations cer-

tainly are not the final goal of a rewarding learning experience in schools. They are at best one of the multiple milestones to be crossed by a child on her path to holistic growth and development.

There are two very interesting phrases used in the National Education Policy, 2020: "no hard separations" and "elimination of silos". Of course, these terms are used in the context of areas of learning, however, they are implied in almost all areas of education. As the country initiates earnest work on the implementation of the NEP 2020, it is imperative to understand these phrases and their implications. Here is an example. NEP 2020 requires prescription and achievement of common standards for high-quality education in all schools - that is, no silos between public and private schools - through the setting up of State Standard Setting Authority (SSSA). Similarly, it requires ensuring of a continuum in learning from pre-school to higher education - no hard separations.

The most significant implications of removal of "hard separations" however, are at the classroom level. The barrier of language needs to go first, by introducing mother tongue/language spoken by the child as the medium of generating understanding of numeracy and all other languages taught, particularly in the foundational years. Pedagogy can no longer be disconnected from the child and remain confined to the silo of the chalk and board. Pedagogy shall have to be activity-based and experiential, where cognitive growth happens through story-telling, art and craft, sports, theatre, etc. Classrooms need to break the silo of the typical seating plan (all children facing the board) for classrooms to be joyful and integrated with art, sports, games and other engaging activities. The seating plan shall have to be

flexible - sometimes in a circle, but often in groups. Learning based only on prescribed textbooks is a hard separation, and it needs to be diversified by bringing in a variety of teaching and learning materials and methods, from toys to puppets, to magazines, worksheets, comic and story books, nature walks, visits to local crafts persons, class orchestras, choreography, role plays, etc.

The buck stops at examinations in the present education system. This is where the

VIEWPOINT

NEP 2020 seeks to break a huge silo - that is, the silo of testing only what is written in the textbooks. It is well-researched and evidenced that in an enabling environment a child is constantly learning - learning to collaborate, to think critically, solve problems, be creative, communicate, be media literate, etc. The end of the year examination does not reflect the full potential or uniqueness of the child as a child's learnings are not limited to textbook knowledge. Therefore, we need to look beyond examinations, and look at assessment only as a means of learning, nothing more. With the force of the NEP behind it, the way we assess is at the cusp of change. We plan to assess less yet more - less curriculum but more in-depth; less content but more competency; less textbooks but more diverse learning; less commonalities but more uniqueness; less stress but more joy; less teacher but more self and peer assessment. And finally, though it goes without saying: less silos but more connections!

(Students, parents and teachers are invited to participate in yet another exciting edition of Pareeksha Pe Charcha with the Prime Minister on <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/ppc-2021/>).

SSB donates dustbins in West Sikkim



GYALSHING, 04 MAR [IPR]:

The 72nd battalion of Sashastra Seema Bal stationed at Yuksam, under its Civic Action Programme in North Eastern Region, distributed 19 stainless steel twin dustbins to 19 villages and tourist places like Sopakha, Lingay, Kumukh Sepi, Jhankri Dhunga, Karmatar, Intake, Melli Aching, Khecheopalri, Rabdentse, Pemayangtse Monastery etc in West Sikkim at a function held at the Community Hall, Sopakha, today.

The programme was chaired by SK Awadhiya, Officiating Commandant, 72 Bn SSB as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Awadhiya said that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was a much-needed initiative and deserved complete support of all the people.

Recognizing the welfare initiatives and activities undertaken by 72 Bn SSB in the area, the Sopakha Samaj Kalyan Samiti felicitated Mr Awadhiya on behalf of the people of Sopakha GPU.

New Delhi Municipal Council ranks No.1 in "Municipal Performance Index"

NEW DELHI, 04 MAR [PTI]:

The New Delhi Municipal Council, which covers the high-security Lutyens' zone of the national capital, was ranked number one in the Centre's "Municipal Performance Index" in the "less than a million population" category.

According to the index released by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday, in the "million plus population" category, Indore secured the top position while South Delhi, East Delhi and North Delhi were ranked 28th, 42nd and 48th respectively among the 51 cities.

New Delhi Municipal Council topped the chart in the "population less than million" category.

It was followed by the civic bodies of Tirupati, Gandhinagar, Karnal,

Transport Minister visits Bhaleydhunga Ropeway site



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 04 MAR:

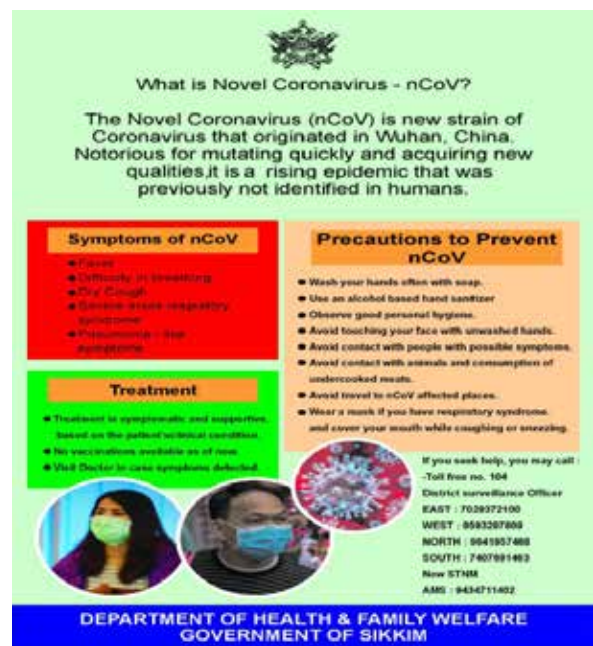
Transport Minister, Sanjeet Kharel visited the construction site of the ropeway to Bhaleydhunga located at Yangang, South Sikkim, today, a press release informs.

He was accompanied by Confidential Secretary to CM, Bikash Basnet and SKM workers from Rangang Yangang constituency. He visited the site after attending a Shiv Mahapuran.

Mr Kharel expressed his happiness over the progress of work on the ropeway project and said that it is due to the SKM

government that work has intensified and will be completed soon. He mentioned that the previous government only started the project but there were no budgetary provisions due to which it was on the verge of getting scrapped.

After formation of SKM government, the CM allotted the required funds and in a short span of time the progress of work has intensified, said the Minister. He also added that this project will not only benefit people of Yangang but will boost entire tourism sector of Sikkim.



SDF only lost...

While talking about the work and achievements of the SDF government in the education sector, Mr Chamling alleged that the present government has expelled four students only because they asked for early completion of their college campus.

He further added that students were arrested and were called terrorists and anti-national because they demanded their rights. The current dispensation should take back their statements terming students "terrorists and anti-national", he demanded.

He further demanded that the Education Department revoke their expulsion, apologize to the students and suspend the Principal of Gyalshing Government College. He asserted that SDF will always stand in the interest of students and youth.

On the upcoming municipality election, Mr Chamling alleged that although it is a party less election, SKM has formed election campaigning committee and is even pressurizing genuinely independent candidates to withdraw their nominations. He added that if the state government reserves seat for Sangha in the municipal election then it should also reserve seats for other religions otherwise it would be injustice to them.

"SDF party will now engage in politics to save the existence and identity of Sikkim and its people. It will continuously fight to safeguard the special provisions of Article 371F. SDF will work to establish the rule of people in Sikkim," he said.

SDF party has adopted 15 resolutions during its 29th foundation day. Among the 15 resolutions, the party has adopted the resolution to uphold the social, economic, and political rights of all sections of the population of Sikkim based on article 371-F, demand for restoration and inclusion of the left-out communities of Sikkim, safeguard the rights and interests of the Bhutia-Lepcha community enshrined under Article 371-F, demand reservation of seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities of Sikkim as per article 371F (f) read with article 332, Income tax exemption for the old settlers of Sikkim, give continuation to party based elections for Panchayats and others.

Earlier, the function started with the welcome address by SDF senior vice-president, GM Gurung, who is also the president of the celebration committee.

ANTHYESTI KRIYA

All relatives ,friends & well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at Shri Ramayan Prasad Residence, Reshi Bazar West Sikkim.

We also like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during time of our bereavement.

Contact : 9609988195 / 9933827853 / 7866832906



TNA Alumni Carnival this weekend



SHRAVAN CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 04 MAR:

Tashi Namgyal Academy is all decked up to host the ambitious Tashi Namgyal Academy Alumni Carnival over

the weekend on 06 and 07 March.

Organised, as the name suggests, by the TNA Alumni Association, this is a first of its kind initiative and has the VN

Langar Futsal Cup as its headlining event. The tournament, named in the memory of the premier school's first principal, will be played on an intra-alumni format and

will feature a staggering 27 teams being fielded by alumnus from batches going back to 1972!

The veterans will also get a futsal match and the Carnival will include a

cricket mela organised in association with Sikkim Cricket Association and an alumni entrepreneurship mela.

"The alumni association has been really active in the past years with back to back events, but unfortunately we couldn't do much for the past two years hence we planned this carnival to increase our engagement with our school," shared Jigme Namgyal, the TNAA president.

The entrepreneurship mela will feature various products developed by the TNA alumnus turned entrepreneurs over the years while the Cricket Mela is being organised as a talent hunt.

West meets to prep for Nasha Mukth Bharat



GYALSHING, 04 MAR

(IPR):

A meeting regarding the Nasha Mukth Bharat Campaign was held at the office of the District Collector-West in Gyalshing today.

The meeting was chaired by the Additional District Collector West, Agawane Rohan Ramesh, and attended by SDM-HQ, Anant Jain, Deputy Superintendent of Police/ West, Sonam Wangdi, Deputy Director/ Education, Jiwan Prakash Chhetri, Panel Advocate, Pujan Kharka representatives of concerned departments and NGOs.

The ADC briefed the meeting about the Nasha Mukth Bharat Campaign and its objectives.

As for today's meeting, he informed that the motive was to discuss management of a mass

campaign for Nasha Mukth Bharat.

He suggested that sub-divisional level competitions be held to generate wider awareness and reiterated the focus on educational institutions and recommended that music, street plays and dances be used on the theme of Nasha Mukth Bharat at the Secondary, Senior Secondary and College levels.

He also suggested that a nodal officer be designated at each sub-division and further advised that people who could play a vital role in awareness generation programmes be involved in the campaign.

An interactive session was also held to collect feedback and requirements which were discussed in detail.

CRH observes World Hearing Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 MAR:

World Hearing Day 2021 was marked by Department of ENT, Central Referral Hospital (CRH), Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) by conducting a Free ENT Camp on 03 March 2021, a press release informs.

Free OPD Consultation with Audiometry

was done for beneficiaries who attended the Department during the camp. The World Health Organisation has set "Hearing care for all" as the theme of this year's celebration.

The Department of ENT, CRH offers Pure, Speech impedances & Brainstem Evoked Audiometry testing with ASSR to diagnose the cause of

hearing loss.

"Hearing is an important sense and awareness for prevention of preventable hearing loss is essential. Regular screening and New-Born hearing screening programmes help early detection and possible correction of deafness and prevents deaf and mute children," the release mentions.

IHCAE kicks of mountaineering course after one year gap



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 MAR:

After a gap of almost a year, the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco Tourism, Chemchey, South Sikkim, kicked off its 13th Basic Mountaineering Course for 28 days, a press release informs.

Additional Secretary, Tourism Department, Kapil Meena attended the inaugural program as the chief guest along with other officials. IHCAE Administrator, Rajiv Rai welcomed all the guest

and trainees from various states of India.

In his speech, he requested all trainees to be disciplined and make the best use of the training. He also directed the trainees to follow COVID-19 protocols.

Deputy Director [Training], Kazi Sherpa briefed the gathering on the technical aspects of the program. AD Adventure Tourism, Manoj Chettri, spoke on the advantages of adventure and eco tourism.

In his address, the

chief guest apprised the trainees on various activities that the department and the state government are undertaking to encourage the youth in adventure and ecotourism. He also informed about the various projects and programs that the department will be taking up in the field of tourism.

The program was also attended by owner of Adventure Zone, Gangtok, Raju Rai who is also the Technical Advisor to Paragliding Association of Sikkim.

Umang Programme for differently abled by Culture Dept



GANGTOK, 04 MAR (IPR):

Culture Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Dimapur (Nagaland) is organizing two-day Umang Programme-Workshop on paper bags, gift bags making & dry flower/artificial flower bouquets at Syari, Gangtok, East Sikkim from 04-05 Mar, 2021.

The main aim of the workshop is to provide opportunities for the development of artistic skills as per the National Policy of Government of India for a person with disabilities by making paper bags & gift bags making and Dry flower/artificial flower bouquets etc.

Students of special school for speech & hearing impaired and special school for intellectual disability from Gangtok and its surroundings will

participate in the workshop.

Chairperson of the Khadi Board, Chung Chung Bhutia attended the inaugural session as chief guest. Culture Department officials and care providers of the differently abled children were also present.

Chung Chung Bhutia while addressing the function said that such programmes provide exposure to the Divyang (differently abled children) to express their emotions.

She also thanked Culture Department for organizing this program for the differently abled children in and around Gangtok. She urged the participants to take full advantage of this workshop.

The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by OSD, Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, Bhawani Ghimray.

SBB holds meeting on People's Biodiversity Register



GANGTOK, 04 MAR (IPR):

The Sikkim Biodiversity Board under the Forest & Environment department is in the process of field data addition for the documentation of People's Biodiversity Register for all the Biodiversity Management Committees in the State. For this purpose, a meeting was co-ordinated by the Sikkim Biodiversity Board with the Technical Support Group and

the PBR-Coordination at Barbet Hall, Forest Secretariat, Deorali on 24 Feb, 2021, 10.30am.

In the meeting, which was chaired by Member Secretary of Sikkim Biodiversity Board, Dr D Manjunatha wherein he explained to all the participants on the importance of collection and maintenance of extensive field data.

It was also explained that the maintenance of

the PBRs is mandatory. DFO (Sikkim Biodiversity Board), Bhumi Rai explained how the data collection should be facilitated between all the parties involved in the process.

Dr Bharat Kumar Pradhan, Technical Associate (Sikkim Biodiversity Board) gave an insight as to what type of data is to be collected. The meeting also included discussion amongst the participants.

One files nomination in South

NAMCHI, 04 MAR (IPR):

On the fourth day of filing nominations one candidate has filed her nomination for Municipal Elections, 2021 at the office of the Municipal Returning Officer (South).

Unisha Pradhan filed her nomination from 03 Daragaon Ward under Naya-Bazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat. The said ward is reserved for candidate of OBC (State List).



The remaining days of filing the nominations for Municipal Elections is on 05 and 08 Mar, 2021. Candidates shall file their nomination

papers in the prescribed format before the Municipal Returning Officer (South), M Bharani Kumar between 11.00am and 3.00pm.

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| <p>EXISTING FACILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ULTRASOUND ➤ DIGITAL X-RAY ➤ ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY ➤ COLOR DOPPLER ➤ PATHOLOGY ➤ MICROBIOLOGY ➤ BIOCHEMISTRY ➤ ENDOSCOPY ➤ B M D ➤ E C G ➤ DENTAL O P G ➤ GASTRO CLINIC ➤ PAEDIATRIC CLINIC ➤ MEDICAL CLINIC ➤ ORTHO CLINIC ➤ E N T CLINIC ➤ GYNEA CLINIC ➤ PHYSIOTHERAPY ➤ SPECIALISED TESTS <p>BLOOD COLLECTION CENTRES AT :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sushruta Medical, Ranipool. Arihant Medical, Opp. CRH gate, 5th Mile. | <p>COMPLETE E N T FACILITIES UNDER ONE ROOF</p> <p>ENT O P D Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 2.30 pm</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ENT OPD CLINIC 2. ENT ENDOSCOPES 3. MICROSCOPIC PROCEDURES 4. MINOR O T PROCEDURES 5. VERTIGO MANAGEMENT 6. AUDIOMETRY, TYMPANOMETRY AND HEARING AIDS. <p>CONSULTANT ENT SURGEON DR. ONGDEN GYATSO, MS (AIIMS)</p> <p>GASTRO CLINIC & O P D 8.00 am to 9.00 am</p> <p>MEDICAL CLINIC & O P D 9.30 am</p> <p>ORTHO AND GYNEA CLINICS & O P D 3.00 pm</p> <p>PAEDIATRIC CLINIC & O P D 8.00 am And 6.00 pm</p> <p>VACCINATION CLINIC</p> |
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Either Instill Mediocrity or Prepare Achievers

Not quotas, expand access to quality education instead

Little over a decade back, it took the Supreme Court to hold the Centre's hand from forcing a 27 per cent blanket reservation for Other Backward Classes in elite educational institutions without a clearly reasoned out plan. This reservation was eventually extended, but only after it became more effective, and this was done by excluding the “creamy layer” from partaking in the quota envisioned for backward classes. In its original form, the reservation was clearly inspired by vote-bank politics, an impertinence which compromises futures, sidesteps merit and, more dangerously, undermines genuine issues. To stay with the topic, back in 2006 during the initial hearings on the case, the Supreme Court did not stay the proposed reservation because OBC's did not deserve it or because the general category students would have suffered; its hand was forced when it became clear that the well-being of OBC's was not the real reason why the quota was being proposed. Had it been so, the Central Educational Institutions Act [which allows for the reservation] would have been a more intelligent piece of legislation, not one that justified the reservations on the basis of census data collected in 1931! Had those who drafted and pushed the quota plan been even remotely motivated to improve the lot of the OBC's, they would have first informed themselves better with at least up-to-date data on how many there were still OBC and a clear idea of who the 'socially and economically backward' people of the country were. Neither of this was apparently done.

This is not a rant against reservations/ quotas, because these are clearly required in a country where discrimination continues to dominate decisions and in such an environment, a dictated-by-law quota is the closest that sections of the society which have traditionally been denied and left-out can receive a stab at access, and through such access, equality.

Returning to what this piece began with, why was the original proposal so superficial? The simple answer is - when vote-banks can be captured with rhetoric and sops, there is no pressure for genuine affirmative action. But the initial SC observations brought people out on the streets protesting or celebrating the Supreme Court ruling, depending on which side of the divide they found themselves - with emotional responses. That is where things go wrong, in India and even in Sikkim. Emotions are necessary to motivate interest; reactions and stands, on the other hand, should flow from intelligent debate, sound reasoning and long-term perspective. It is here that those who have enjoyed quotas and reservations need to step back and take stock. Has reservation delivered? Obviously not, because while those already within the quotas are seeking more exclusive niches, those on the outside are shoring up arguments to justify inclusion in the reserved categories.

Quotas, protectionism and reservations kill competence in the long run... they snigger at ambition. What these vote-banks should demand is a stronger foundation. The demand should be for the setting up of quality schools equipped with the best infrastructure and staffed with the best educators available, teaching from syllabus and courses that are contemporary and forward looking. These should be institutions of such excellence that everyone will want to study in them and arrangements should be made for a quota for general students instead so that the interaction makes everyone richer in experience. If this is done, the marginalized and the socially and economically backward will turn the tide in one generation. Where seventy years [for India] and 42 years [for Sikkim] of protection and reservation have met with only limited success, this one instance of delivery on a genuine need will succeed within less than a decade. The nation will probably never come around to undertaking something like this, but Sikkim could, and it probably should. In fact the country has tried, but those initiatives were compromised by red-tape and half-baked initiatives. Sikkim could learn from those shortfalls and deliver a model which grooms proud achievers and does not churn out insecure ambitions. For instance, there is talk of setting up hostel facilities for students from the Primitive Tribe Group of Sikkim. While this will be handy for now, for the long run, PTG representatives should demand a top-up on whatever crores are being provided for these hostels to set up an “international level” school in, say, Dzongu. The best school possible for Lepchas in Dzongu with a quota for general category students filled through competition. Don't allow short-cuts, ensure quality facilities and quality education and reap the benefits.

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5 Ways to Address Internalized White Supremacy and its Impact on Health

ROBERTA K. TIMOTHY
theconversation.com

During the summer of protests, workplaces, institutions and many businesses seemed to have finally “awakened” to the plight of Black folks and the injustices we face. But the conversation needs to go further.

We need to also have a discussion about the impact of white supremacy (also known as internalized racism) on our physical and mental health. The definition of internalized racism is “the acceptance, by marginalized racial populations, of the negative societal beliefs and stereotypes about themselves.” There are many spaces where internalized white supremacy has created detrimental impacts on Black people's health. To continue Black resistance, decolonization, and dismantling white supremacy we need to address some of these realities.

In this era of multiple pandemics — COVID-19 next to systemic anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism — discussing the impact of internalized racism on our health is crucial to furthering Black resistance, healing and emancipation.

As a global social justice health researcher and psychotherapist with a private practice, I have collected both research-based evidence as well as clinical experiences from this past year (and my many years working in community mental health) of the damage of white supremacy and internalized racism.

Some of the earliest conceptions and seminal researchers who have work on internalized racism are: W.E.B Du Bois in his 1903 *The Souls of the Black Folk*, Marcus Garvey in 1923, Franz Fanon on Black masks in 1952 and *The Wretched of the Earth* in '65, Albert Memmi's work on the colonizer and the colonized in 1965, to name a few. For a review of psychological literature on internalized racism, check out the 2019 paper by: E.J.R. David, Tiera M. Schroeder and Jessicaanne Fernandez.

WHITE SUPREMACY

White supremacy is maintained through systems of punishment and religious indoctrination. The over 400 years of colonization's violence on Black people's lives, including the killing, mass incarceration, co-optation and demonizing of our

resistance movements through white supremacist systems and practices, have been internalized and as a result impact our health.

Internalized white supremacy is a direct result of systemic anti-Black racism and intersectional violence. It creates pain, suffering, and rifts and divisions in our communities and movements. It occurs when folks of colour believe racist stereotypes and act them out in their daily lives. Internalized white supremacy supports systematic violence by ensuring that oppressed peoples are consumed by “whiteness” or proximity to it, as the measure of greatness or goodness.

Meanwhile, “Blackness” and other racialized identities are internalized as subservient or bad. Internalized white supremacy has its history in Black communities through the brutal enslavement of Africans.

The separation of African families and the threat of death, sexual and physical violence, racist scientific experiments, and other cruelties created feelings of powerlessness and trauma that purported whiteness as superior, and Blackness as inferior.

There is continuing research in the fields of psychology, health, medicine and education, to name a few, on internalized white supremacy (internalized racism) and its detrimental impacts on our physical and mental health.

ADDRESSING WHITE SUPREMACY

If you are trying to figure out if you have experienced or witnessed internalized white supremacy, here are some anecdotal examples that I have seen:

- When Black, Indigeneous or people of colour activists publicly discredit other Black folks who they deem are not as “woke” as them.
- When white activists are given more props and support for joining Black resistance than Black folks.
- When Black folks do not credit Black queer communities for supporting and creating spaces for Black resistance.
- When Black, Indigeneous or people of colour activists deem protesting as the only or most “real” form of activism, and question other forms of resistance.
- When you are the only director/manager/

tenured faculty and you do not advocate for other Black, Indigeneous or people of colour folks at your work or distrust hiring, or mistreat Black people.

- When you preface excellence, knowledge and opportunity with “whiteness.” within academia, government, health-care, business and community among others.

The need to emancipate ourselves from internalized white supremacy is critical for our well-being and health. Our survival and continued ability to thrive depends on it. My current research, *Black Health Matters COVID-19*, addresses internalized white supremacy and health, among other areas. Resistance against internalized white supremacy is inevitable, over 400 years old and counting.

5 WAYS TO RESIST INTERNALIZED WHITE SUPREMACY

- Understand the root causes of internalized white supremacy. Make the connections between white supremacy and entitlement and internalization.
- Respect our heterogeneous identities and experiences, address intersectional violence, commit to a purposeful connection for meaningful Pan African resistance and unity.
- Join a healing circle with Black folks who can openly discuss the impact and ways through the pain and strain. Seek anti-oppression counselling to support the anxiety, depression and other mental health impacts.
- Exercise, eat healthy food and engage in intimacy and relaxation to reduce the impact of grief and stress on your body, mind and spirit.
- For allies, white people and non-Black folks: Step up, be accountable and responsible for dismantling white supremacist systems and practices. Call out your own community and structures. Pay for health reparations.

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Belarus: Opposition Pressure Continues Inside and Outside the Country – Will it Work?

JENNIFER MATHERS
theconversation.com

Six months on from the disputed re-election of Alexander Lukashenko as president, the opposition in Belarus shows no signs of giving up on its demands. Protesters are calling for Lukashenko to resign, for an end to the regime's use of violence against its own citizens, and for the release of political prisoners.

The odds are undeniably stacked against them. The leaders of the opposition are dispersed. Some, such as Maria Kolesnikova are imprisoned. Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who is widely regarded as the actual winner of what many believe was a rigged presidential election in August 2020, fled Belarus after she was threatened by the regime.

In a recent interview, Tikhanovskaya has indicated that the path to political change in Belarus will be a long and difficult one, but she outlined the opposition's strategy of putting both internal and external pressure on Lukashenko and those who support him.

Tikhanovskaya herself is leading the campaign to encourage external pressure on Belarus, playing a vital role in keeping the country's political woes on the international agenda and pressing world leaders for tougher measures against the regime.

This effort is paying off. In December the EU imposed a third round of economic sanctions against key individuals and companies in Belarus, while in February the Biden administration expanded the list of senior

officials in the country who are no longer welcome in the United States.

KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE

Tikhanovskaya also heads a “Coordination Council”, effectively a government in waiting. This body is drafting a new constitution and keeps in regular, frequent contact with key groups and individuals in Belarus to ensure that the opposition in exile does not become detached from the people who are keeping up the pressure on Lukashenko from within.

This internal pressure is most visible in the daily protests in towns and cities across Belarus, which have continued despite harsh crackdowns by the security services. In fact, research by the Centre for East European and International Studies in Berlin indicates that many of the protesters – and especially younger people – have been motivated to support the opposition precisely because of the harsh response by the regime.

These protests are remarkable for their peacefulness and good humour, as well as for their creativity. They have evolved from mass outpourings onto the streets to “creative guerrilla warfare”: actions that are smaller in scale and easy to disperse. Flash mobs appear to stand silently and clap or to sing. Small groups walk through their own neighbourhoods chanting demands for change. The red and white Belarusian flag that has become the symbol of the opposition is displayed widely – and even painted on the snow.

Spontaneous, grassroots acts of protest are supported by longstanding Belarusian non-governmental

organisations and have, in turn, given them a new sense of purpose. Viasna (“Spring”) was founded in 1996 during another period of mass protests against Lukashenko. It documents human rights abuses, using its website to profile hundreds of current and former political prisoners of the regime.

Similarly, the Belarusian Association of Journalists dates from 1995. It monitors violations of freedom of expression and freedom of the media across the country and highlights the arrest and prosecution of journalists for covering the current wave of protests.

BREAKING RANKS?

An important component of the opposition's strategy for achieving real, lasting change in Belarus is to appeal to those who are keeping Lukashenko in power. These are the officials who work in structures of the state, especially law enforcement. The regime relies heavily on the use of violence, detention and arrest by the police and security forces, as well as on the courts to deliver convictions and prison sentences.

So far the security forces on the ground display undiminished enthusiasm for brutally suppressing the protests. There are, however, now signs of some breaking of ranks, especially among more senior civil servants.

BYPOL (or Belarus Police) Initiative is composed of former law enforcement officials from Belarus who gather and disseminate evidence of the human rights abuses carried out by agents of the regime. The members of BYPOL are all in exile, but they remain in contact with their for-

mer colleagues in Belarus, who supply detailed evidence. This includes video recordings of the treatment of protesters held in detention that are uploaded onto the group's YouTube channel.

It is impossible to know how far sympathy for the opposition extends within the ranks of Belarusian security forces. Tikhanovskaya and her colleagues in the Coordination Council are hopeful that they can exploit existing splits in law enforcement agencies and persuade more officials to work for the opposition.

Even if the opposition achieves this, it is likely to face yet another, even more daunting obstacle in the shape of Russia. As long as Lukashenko is secure in his position, Vladimir Putin seems content to limit Russia's involvement to rhetorical and financial support. But all that could change if the opposition succeeds in undermining the foundations keeping Lukashenko in power. Putin has indicated that he is prepared to send forces to Belarus under the terms of the Collective Security Treaty Organization the two states are members of.

The prospect of a Russian military intervention is the ultimate guarantor of Lukashenko's grip on power. It also explains the intensity of Tikhanovskaya's efforts to keep Belarus at the centre of world attention. The opposition in Belarus will need to have powerful friends if it is to persuade Lukashenko to go – and Russia to allow that to happen.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in International Politics, Aberystwyth University]

TMC demands removal of dy EC Sudeep Jain

KOLKATA, MAR 4 (PTI): The ruling TMC in West Bengal Thursday demanded the removal of Sudeep Jain, the deputy election commissioner in-charge of the state, accusing him of being biased against it and breaking norms of the federal structure.

TMC spokesperson Sougata Roy said that party leader Derek O' Brien has written to the Election Commission demanding that Jain be removed as he has a "track record" of being biased against it during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

"During the last parliamentary poll Sudeep Jain had taken several steps which were not only against the norms of the Election Commission but also against those of the federal structure. We don't have any faith in him."

"We (TMC) apprehend that this time too he will take steps which will either directly or indirectly help the BJP," Roy said at a press con-



ference here. "We want him to be removed as in-charge of elections in West Bengal for the sake of free and fair poll. We have already written to the Election Commission where we have placed

our demand," he said.

The state election this time, will see a stiff contest between the TMC and BJP and will be held in eight phases beginning with polling in 30 seats on March 27. Votes

cast in the poll for all the 294 seats will be counted on May 2. After having a marginal presence in the politically polarised state for decades, BJP has emerged as the main rival over the last couple of years. It had won 18 out of 42 seats in the Lok Sabha polls of 2019 and followed up its quest for strength by inducting TMC MLAs, one of its MPs and ministers into the party.

Meghalaya Cong MLA Azad Zaman dies of cardiac arrest

SHILLONG, MAR 4 (PTI): Congress MLA from Meghalaya's Rajabala constituency Dr Azad Zaman died at his home in West Garo Hills district in the early hours of Thursday following a cardiac arrest, family sources said.

He was 42. Zaman is survived by his wife and three children.

The first time Congress MLA suffered a sudden cardiac arrest and breathed his last at around 2 am, his family members told PTI.

Meghalaya Assembly Speaker Metbah Lyngdoh has condoled the death

of Dr Zaman.

"He will be remembered as a dynamic legislator who dedicated his life in the service of his people. He was an active legislator and enriched the House with his knowledge and experience," Lyngdoh said in a statement.

The strength of Opposition Congress has been reduced to 17 in the Meghalaya Assembly after Zaman's death.

Last month, another Congress MLA David Nongrum, representing the Mawryngkneng constituency in East Khasi Hills district had died.

Nepal govt lifts ban on Chand outfit's activities



KATHMANDU, 04 MAR [KATHMANDUPOST]: The government on Thursday lifted a ban on activities of the Netra Bikram Chand-led Communist Party of Nepal.

A Cabinet meeting endorsed the three-point agreement signed between the government and the Chand party earlier on Thursday, Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali told the Post.

The government had imposed a ban on Chand party's activities in March 2019 following twin blasts in the Capital in which one person had died.

Earlier on Thursday, the group signed the agreement, which states that the outfit will address all its political issues through dialogue,

carry out all political activities in a peaceful manner and the government, in return, will lift the ban imposed on the party's activities.

The agreement also paves the way for the government to free Communist Party of Nepal cadres and withdraw court cases against them. The modality, however, is not clear yet and the government is expected to make public details on Friday.

With the decision to lift the ban, Chand, who has remained underground for two years, is going to attend a public function in the capital on Friday. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Chand will address the function in which Chand is planning to make public his agenda

and political course. Cases against Chand's cadres will be withdrawn after consultations with various government agencies, said a home ministry official. Over 2,000 leaders and carders from the group face various charges in almost 60 districts—some of them are in prison.

"First, we need to collect the numbers of cases and evaluate their nature. Only then can we recommend the Cabinet to withdraw them based on 'political grounds'," the ministry official said. The Office of the Attorney General and the district attorney will write to the respective district courts, district administration offices, and the district police before such arrangements are made."

Shiv Sena extends support to TMC in Bengal

KOLKATA, MAR 4 (PTI): After the Rashtriya Janata Dal and Samajwadi Party (SP), the Shiv Sena on Thursday extended its support to TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee, and said it would not contest assembly elections in Bengal.

Hailing Banerjee as the "real Bengal tigress", the party, which had earlier said that it would join the electoral battle in the state, vowed to "stand in solidarity" with the

TMC camp. Senior Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut, in a tweet, made the announcement and said that the decision was taken following discussions with party president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Raut took to Twitter and said "at the moment, it appears to be a Didi vs All fight".

"A lot of people are curious to know whether Shivsena is contesting

West Bengal Polls or not? So here's the update after discussions with Party President Uddhav ji Thackeray."

"All 'M's' - Money, Muscle and Media are being used against 'M'amata Didi. Hence, Shivsena has decided not to Contest West Bengal polls & stand in solidarity with her. We wish Mamata Didi a 'roaring' success, 'cos we believe She is the real Bengal Tigress," he added.

Former TMC leader does squats on stage after joining BJP

KOLKATA, MAR 4 (PTI): In a curious gesture, a former Trinamool Congress leader did squats on stage moments after joining the BJP in Purbo Medinipur district on Thursday, describing the act as an attempt to "atone past sins" during his tenure with the ruling party.

Sushanta Pal, known to be a loyalist of TMC turncoat Suvendu Adhikari, suddenly started doing squats, stopping his speech midway after receiving the BJP flag during a rally at Pingla

area. "This is atonement for my sins when I was with the tyrant TMC, and had to follow whimsical and anti-people orders of the top leadership. I regret it now," the former vice-president of Kharagpur Number 2 Block of the party said.

Alleging that the TMC did not allow free and fair panchayat polls in 2018, occupying the local bodies by force, Pal said, "I have joined the BJP as I was feeling claustrophobic. I wanted to protest but my voice was muzzled." As Pal did squats

on stage, BJP supporters present at the rally chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans, while many looked on in bewilderment.

The district unit president of TMC, Ajit Maity said, "Pal had been stripped of all responsibilities four years back. He is now indulging in 'dramabaji' (theatrics) at the behest of the BJP."

Earlier, several local TMC leaders, who were loyal to Adhikari and occupied posts such as municipality chairman, switched over to the BJP.

Amazon opens first UK cashier-free grocery store in London



LONDON (AP): Amazon has opened a cashier-free supermarket in London, its first bricks and mortar expansion outside the U.S. as the company bets on strong demand for its contactless shops.

The online retailing giant opened the doors to its Amazon Fresh shop in West London's Ealing neighborhood on Thursday, in what it said will be the first in a wave of shops in the British cap-

ital using its automated checkout technology.

Shoppers use a smartphone app to scan a QR code so they can enter the store. They can fill their shopping bags with milk, eggs or other groceries while cameras and sensors track what's taken off shelves.

Purchases are charged to an Amazon account after leaving and a receipt sent by email. There's no need to wait in

line to pay at the checkout, a feature that has more appeal after the pandemic highlighted the need for social distancing.

Amazon already operates 26 cashier-free convenience stores in the U.S. under the Amazon Go brand and two larger supermarkets called Amazon Go Grocery. As part of its U.K. launch, Amazon also unveiled its new private label food brand, by Amazon.

Pandemic pulls Nepal's economic growth into negative territory

KATHMANDU, 04 MAR [KATHMANDUPOST]: Nepal's economy saw a negative growth of 1.99 percent in the last fiscal year, ending mid-July, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new national accounts statistics unveiled on Thursday.

Earlier in April last year, the country's economic growth rate was revised to 2.27 percent.

In the first quarter of this fiscal year, the economic growth rate is also negative by 4.6 percent but it is "recovering at a V shape," said Hem Raj Regmi, deputy director general of



the Central Bureau of Statistics during a programme organised to make public the new national accounts statistics.

This year the economic growth has been based on a rebasing of the economic indica-

tors, which has been done on an interval of every 10 years.

The country's gross domestic product, based on the revised estimate, stands at Rs3.94 trillion, said the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Odisha logs 81 new COVID-19 cases, tally 3,37,529



BHUBANESWAR, MAR 4 (PTI): Odisha's COVID-19 caseload mounted to 3,37,529 on Thursday after 81 more people tested positive for the infection, a health department official said.

The coastal state's death toll remained unchanged at 1,917 as no fresh fatality was reported since Wednesday.

Of the 81 new cases, 49 were cases of quarantine -- at home or designated centres -- and the rest were detected during contact tracing, the official here said.

The positivity rate stands at 4.02 per cent.

Sambalpur accounted for the maximum number of new cases at 14,

followed by Mayurbhanj at eight.

Currently, Odisha has 792 active cases, while 3,34,767 patients have recovered from the highly infectious disease.

Fifty-three COVID-19 patients have died due to comorbidities, according to the official.

Over 84 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the state so far, including 21,850 in the past 24 hours.

As many as 28,260 people, comprising senior citizens, health care workers, other frontline COVID-19 warriors and people in the age group of 45 to 59 years, were inoculated across the state on Wednesday, the official added.

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David scores 2 as Lille wins to stay two points clear of PSG

PARIS, MAR 4 (AP): Canada forward Jonathan David scored two late goals as Lille beat Marseille 2-0 to stay top of the French league.

David netted in the 90th minute and again two minutes into injury time on Wednesday. The northern side remains two points ahead of defending champion Paris Saint-Germain, which won 1-0 away to Bordeaux.

Marseille goalkeeper Steve Mandanda kept out shots from United States forward Timothy Weah and David in the second half to frustrate Lille.

But the veteran France No. 2 spilled an angled shot from Jonathan Ikone in the 90th and David finished from close range.

Defending champion PSG was missing Kylian Mbappe through suspension and was without the injured Neymar, while striker Moise Kean was ruled out after testing positive for the coronavirus earlier Wednesday.

Winger Pablo Sarabia filled in and scored in the 20th minute when he turned in Idrissa Gueye's cross from the left.

Bordeaux winger Hatem Ben Arfa should have equalized against his former club when he ran through in the 70th, only to shoot just wide of the left post.

The top three sides all won 1-0, with Lyon edging out Rennes at home to stay one point behind of PSG.

Lyon is now four points clear of fourth-place Monaco after it lost 1-0 at Strasbourg for a first defeat in 13 league games.

DEPAY DELIVERS Lyon forward Memphis Depay created the winning goal for substitute Houssem Aouar in the 73rd minute.

Depay sprinted through down the right, but then lost his balance after shrugging off a defender just outside the penalty area. He got quickly back up and slid-tackled the ball to Aouar, who clipped the ball neatly over the goalie.

Lyon had struggled to break down a well-organized Rennes side whose coach Julien Stephan resigned on Monday after a bad run of form.

Tino Kadewere had a goal ruled out for off-side midway through the second half, and strike partner Karl Toko Ekambi went close before Depay delivered.

OTHER MATCHES Fifth-place Lens continued its good form with a 3-2 win at Saint-Etienne while sixth-place Metz slipped to a 1-0 home defeat to Angers.

Brest beat last-place Dijon 3-1 at home and Nice moved into midtable by downing struggling Nimes 2-1.

Also, Reims beat Nantes 2-1 and Montpellier drew 1-1 with Lorient.

There are 10 rounds left.

Alexis Mac Allister: 'I keep my roots. I had a barbecue when we almost had snow'

JACOB STEINBERG LONDON, 04 MAR [THEGUARDIAN]: Alexis Mac Allister is struggling to finish his sentence. The thought of wearing the No 10 shirt for Argentina is absurd enough to leave the Brighton midfielder in a fit of giggles. The 22-year-old is the latest in a long line of Argentinian playmakers but he is not about to let his ego get the better of him. "I could wear the No 10 in the Under-23s," he says. "But I don't want to wear it in the first team. Hopefully Messi will wear that number for a long time."

It is an answer that sums up Mac Allister's love of football. This is player who joined Boca Juniors on loan in 2019 because "my heart told me I had to". There is an innocence to Mac Allister, who felt shy when he met Lionel Messi on international duty, and a romanticism to the way he puffs out his cheeks when he remembers playing at La Bombonera, Boca's atmospheric ground.

Mac Allister, who has impressed for Brighton in recent weeks, takes a sip from a cup of mate tea. "Maybe it's a little weird for another country," he says. "But we drink a lot in Argentina. I drink it every day. I always try to keep my roots, with mate or Argentinian TV. It's not necessary for it to be summer to have a barbecue. I've done it two weeks ago when we almost had snow."

Mac Allister has brought an Argentinian flavour to Brighton, who signed him from Argentinos Juniors in January 2019. Yet his adaptation to English football was challenging. Unable to secure a work permit, he returned to Argentinos Juniors on loan before a brief spell with Boca and had to wait a year before



arriving in England. He made his Premier League debut against Wolves on 7 March, just before the pandemic plunged Britain into lockdown and led to the season's suspension.

"My mother came with another friend and they couldn't go back to Argentina," Mac Allister says "They stayed for maybe two months. It was hard – I wanted to play. I couldn't play with fans in the stadium; maybe I couldn't feel English football. English football is with fans. Mentally it was difficult, I couldn't train, but I am happy to be here. I love the city. My girlfriend loves it as well."

Mac Allister watched the Premier League when growing up in Buenos Aires, focusing on Carlos Tevez and Sergio Agüero at Manchester City. "I knew the most difficult part

to adapt would be physically," he says. "That was my worry. I tried to improve my English then my physicality. There are not many players who came directly from Argentina to England. The difference was there – I felt it."

It has not been straightforward for Mac Allister, who was substituted at half-time during Brighton's defeat at West Brom last Saturday. Although he helped Brighton avoid relegation after Project Restart, this season started slowly. He contracted Covid-19 in November and was not a regular in the side. He scored a last-minute equaliser against Crystal Palace, but Mac Allister considered another loan before earning a chance in the loss to Manchester City in January. "The gaffer [Graham Potter] trusts me," Mac Allister says.

"I feel happy because I am playing more."

Football is in Mac Allister's blood. His father, Carlos, was a left-back who lined up alongside Diego Maradona for Argentina; his uncle Patricio played professionally; and his brothers, Francis and Kevin, play for Talleres and Argentinos Juniors respectively.

Mac Allister's father even asked him and his brothers to help with scouting reports. "He was an agent a few years ago," he says. "He used to give us paper and we put down how many passes or shots or crosses a player has done. My uncle and my father are always trying to give us experience."

Mac Allister, who could represent Argentina at the Copa América and the Olympics this summer, had a ball from a young age. When

he was five he went with his brothers to Club Social Parque, a famous academy in Buenos Aires. "Many players played there," he says. "Tevez, Esteban Cambiasso, Juan Román Riquelme. I was a child but I learned a lot.

"We trained twice a week and they gave us the love for football. The difference is not thinking about money. There are fathers who just want their son to play for money. That's not good. When you grow up maybe it's normal because it's a job. You do play for money and it's fine. But the most important thing is enjoying football.

"That's the principle. Then every day you train technically. You play in a small pitch, five v five. Then physically you can improve. When you have the technical skills from childhood you can do whatever

er you want."

Mac Allister matured after moving temporarily to Boca, playing well enough for the team he supported as a boy to catch the eye of Argentina's manager, Lionel Scaloni, who called him up in August 2019. Boca loved Mac Allister, whose ancestors came to Argentina from Ireland. He played alongside Tevez, who told him about English football, and scored on his debut against Atletico Paranaense in the Copa Libertadores. But disappointment struck when Boca lost in the semi-finals to River Plate, their biggest rivals. "Boca-River is like the end of the world," Mac Allister says. "If you lose you are the worst. If you win you are the best."

Mac Allister, born in La Pampa, has not experienced a similar atmosphere in England. He did, however, taste derby defeat when Brighton lost to Palace last week. Brighton had all of the ball but their finishing is poor and they lie four points above the bottom three before hosting Leicester on Saturday. "Two counterattacks and they score twice," he says. "We trust the way we play but we have to improve."

Trust in Potter is key. "He is very talented," Mac Allister says. "We are in a bad position but this is the way to achieve big things."

Mac Allister is ready to scrap. He was kicked as a teenager at Argentinos Junior and responded by helping them win promotion to the top flight. Now, under pressure to help Brighton survive, he thinks of Tevez's spirit. "He has a big connection with Argentinian people because he plays with the heart," Mac Allister says. "He came from a poor area and achieved many things. It's an example for all players."

SAI approves swimmer Rawat's training in US

NEW DELHI, MAR 4 (PTI): Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Mission Olympic Cell has approved swimmer Kushagra Rawat's three-month long training-cum competition stint in the USA.

Rawat is a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme's (TOPS) development group.

During his three-month stint in the USA, he will train with Dave Kelsheimer, who was the assistant open water swimming coach for the 2016 USA Olympic swimming team.

During his time in the US, Rawat will also be participating in competitions to achieve the Olympic A cut for direct qualification.

"I had trained under this coach in 2020 when I was in Australia. Some of the swimmers whom I trained with, have already achieved the Olympic A cut. I know the coach and his training patterns, which will be



beneficial," Rawat said in a statement issued by the SAI.

The freestyle swimmer has already made the Olympic B cut in three events -- 400m, 800m and 1500m.

Rawat is confident that with his stint in the USA, he will achieve an Olympic A cut. He was last week in Bengaluru

training under renowned international sports scientist Genadijus Sokolovas, who was on a visit supported by TOPS.

"I learnt a lot about swimming techniques. After all the analysis, I am more aware of myself," Rawat said about his stint with Sokolovas. Kelsheimer is currently the head coach of

Team Santa Monica, California and was the USA swimming coach at the 2017 and 2019 World Championships.

He has trained a number of Olympians including Jordan Wilimovsky, who finished fourth in the 1500 metres and fifth in the 10000 metres open-water marathon at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

fourth seed Kidambi Srikanth, fifth seed B Sai Pranee, Sourabh Verma and Ajay Jayaram have progressed to the last 16 and they will take the court against their respective opponents later in the day.

HS Prannoy, Parupalli Kashyap, Lakshya Sen and Sameer Verma, however, have made first-round exits from the men's singles event.

Man United, Leicester stumble to draws in Premier League

LONDON, MAR 4 (AP): As a grueling and intense Premier League season heads toward its conclusion, Manchester United and Leicester are stumbling their way toward Champions League qualification.

United has completely lost its attacking spark, with a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace on Wednesday at a fog-shrouded Selhurst Park making it three straight goalless stalemates in all competitions for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team.

Leicester also had to make do with a point, drawing 1-1 at Burnley, though manager Bren-

dan Rodgers wasn't too unhappy considering his growing injury list.

United and Leicester remain second and third, respectively, but have won just five of their last 16 league games combined. They are giving their top-four rivals a big opportunity to reel them in, with West Ham, Chelsea, Liverpool and Everton all within eight points of United and having games in hand.

BATTLING BLADES Sheffield United's players aren't leaving the Premier League without a fight.

Chris Wilder's last-place team held on after

a 57th-minute red card to veteran center back Phil Jagielka to beat Aston Villa 1-0.

With 11 games left, Sheffield United is 12 points from safety so securing a third straight season in the top flight remains highly unlikely.

The players aren't giving up, though.

"We're all still fighting for our future and for this club," said striker David McGoldrick, who scored the winner from close range in the 30th minute.

"The saying is, It's not over till the fat lady sings.' We're all fighting to the end.

Mohammedan SC face TRAU in battle for crucial points

KALYANI, MAR 4 (PTI): Mohammedan SC will eye all three points to reduce the gap at the top as they clash with Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU) in the I-League here on Friday.

Mohammedan SC and TRAU were pegged to a 2-2 draw when the two teams met last time this season. However, the script can be different on Friday for both teams.

Pedro Manzi stepped up and delivered for Mohammedan SC in the last game as the Black Panthers beat the unbeaten Real Kashmir and secured their place in the top-six.

As they enter the final phase of the league, Mohammedan sits in third place behind Churchill and Real Kashmir after picking up 16 points in the first 10 games.

Speaking at the virtual pre-match press conference, head coach Sankarlal Chakraborty said, "There are many positives from the last game. Each player is now approaching the next game with a positive mindset. We are united and

working as a team and are focused to fight for the title."

Sankarlal said "TRAU are among the best-attacking units in this season."

"They are fit and fast on the attack. Their squad is filled with many quality Indian and foreign players. My philosophy is on a balanced game of football—we defend together, and attack together," he said.

TRAU came back from a goal down twice and beat Sudeva Delhi securing their place in the top-six. The Red Pythons sit in sixth place with 16 points from 10 games, level on points with Mohammedan, and five points adrift of leaders Churchill Brothers.

"It was a tough game against Sudeva a very challenging game. The pressure was on us as Mohammedan had won their game, and it made me very anxious. But the result made me happier. The boys gave their heart out on the field and returned with a victory," head coach Nandakumar said.

House passes sweeping voting rights bill over GOP opposition



WASHINGTON, MAR 4 (AP): House Democrats passed sweeping voting and ethics legislation Wednesday over unanimous Republican opposition, advancing to the Senate what would be the largest overhaul of the US election law in at least a generation.

House Resolution 1, which touches on virtually every aspect of the electoral process, was approved on a near party-line 220-210 vote. It would restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to a murky campaign finance system that allows wealthy donors to anonymously bankroll political causes.

The bill is a powerful counterweight to voting rights restrictions advancing in Republican-controlled statehouses across the country in the wake of Donald Trump's repeated false claims of a stolen 2020

election. Yet it faces an uncertain fate in the Democratic-controlled Senate, where it has little chance of passing without changes to procedural rules that currently allow Republicans to block it.

The stakes in the outcome are monumental, cutting to the foundational idea that one person equals one vote, and carrying with it the potential to shape election outcomes for years to come. It also offers a test of how hard President Joe Biden and his party are willing to fight for their priorities, as well as those of their voters.

This bill will put a stop at the voter suppression that we're seeing debated right now, said Rep Nikema Williams, a new congresswoman who represents the Georgia district that deceased voting rights champion John Lewis held for years.

This bill is the Good Trouble' he fought for his

entire life.

To Republicans, however, it would give license to unwanted federal interference in states' authority to conduct their own elections ultimately benefiting Democrats through higher turnout, most notably among minorities.

Democrats want to use their razor-thin majority not to pass bills to earn voters' trust, but to ensure they don't lose more seats in the next election, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said from the House floor Tuesday.

The measure has been a priority for Democrats since they won their House majority in 2018. But it has taken on added urgency in the wake of Trump's false claims, which incited the deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol in January.

Courts and even Trump's last attorney general, William Barr, found his claims about the election to be with-

out merit. But, spurred on by those lies, state lawmakers across the U.S. have filed more than 200 bills in 43 states that would limit ballot access, according to a tally kept by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University.

In Iowa, the legislature voted to cut absentee and in-person early voting, while preventing local elections officials from setting up additional locations to make early voting easier. In Georgia, the House on Monday voted for legislation requiring identification to vote by mail that would also allow counties to cancel early in-person voting on Sundays, when many Black voters cast ballots after church.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court appeared ready to uphold voting restrictions in Arizona, which could make it harder to challenge state election laws in the future.

When asked why pro-

ponents sought to uphold the Arizona laws, which limit who can turn in absentee ballots and enable ballots to be thrown out if they are cast in the wrong precinct, a lawyer for the state's Republican Party was stunningly clear.

Because it puts us at a competitive disadvantage relative to Democrats, said attorney Michael Carvin. Politics is a zero-sum game."

Battle lines are quickly being drawn by outside groups who plan to spend millions of dollars on advertising and outreach campaigns.

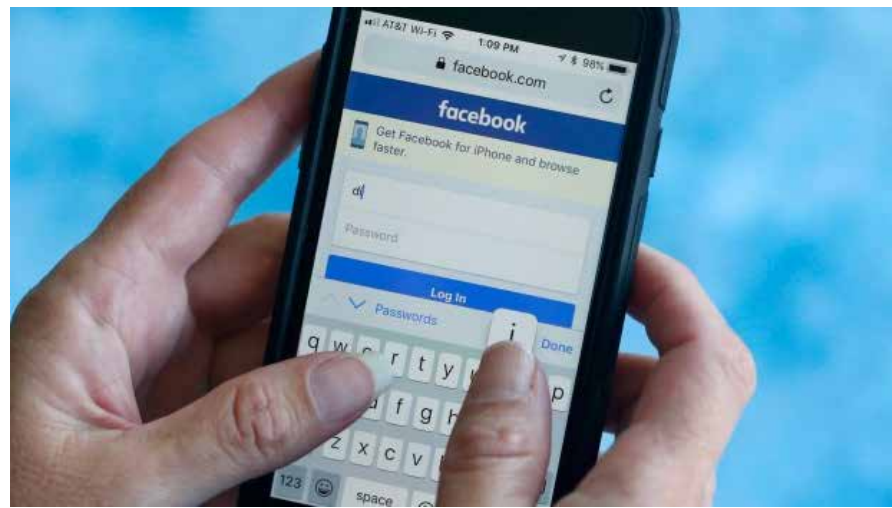
Republicans are not even being coy about it. They are saying the quiet parts' out loud, said Tiffany Muller, the president of End Citizens United, a left-leaning group that aims to curtail the influence of corporate money in politics. Her organisation has launched a USD 10 million effort supporting the bill.

For them, this isn't about protecting our democracy or protecting our elections. This is about pure partisan political gain.

Conservatives, meanwhile, are mobilizing a USD 5 million pressure campaign, urging moderate Senate Democrats to oppose rule changes needed to pass the measure.

H.R. 1 is not about making elections better, said Ken Cuccinelli, a former Trump administration Homeland Security official who is leading the effort. "It's about the opposite. It's intended to dirty up elections.

Thailand probes Facebook's removal of army-linked accounts



BANGKOK (AP): Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha says he has assigned the Royal Thai Army to investigate after Facebook Inc. removed 185 accounts and groups allegedly engaged in an information-influencing operation in Thailand run by the military.

That followed Facebook's announcement a day earlier that it had deleted 77 accounts, 72 pages, 18 groups and 18 Instagram accounts for violating its policy against government interference, which is defined as coordinated inauthentic behavior on behalf of a government entity.

"Facebook took action like this. It can be interpreted in many ways. We must make it clear," said Prayuth.

About 703,000 accounts followed one or more of these pages, about 100,000 accounts joined at least one of these groups and around 2,500 people followed one or more of the Instagram accounts. Facebook said.

Facebook says the network of accounts originated in Thailand and targeted domestic audiences in its southern provinces, where the army faces a long-standing insurgency movement. The people behind the network used both authentic and fake accounts, posting their content on multiple pages to make it look more popular than it was. The majority of page postings appear to have occurred in 2020.

The Facebook report says the network posted primarily in Thai about news and current events, including content in sup-

port of the Thai military and the monarchy. The posts included calls for non-violence, regional Covid-19 updates, allegations of violence by the insurgent groups in southern Thailand and criticism of separatist and independence movements.

"Although the people behind it attempted to conceal their identities and coordination, our investigation found links to the Thai military's Internal Security Operations Command," Facebook said.

On Thursday, three activists including Yingcheep Atchanont, Sarinee Achavanuntakul and Winyu John Wongsurawat, filed a suit with the Administrative Court in Bangkok seeking an order to stop the Royal Thai Army's information operation. The three said they have been targeted in such operations.

They said they also planned to contact Facebook and the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression seeking an investigation into army's information operations against Thai civilians.

"The army has no authority to commit such information operations," Yingcheep told reporters. "The government should protect people who want to express their opinions, not create propaganda and attack those who have differing views."

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German panel approves AstraZeneca vaccine jab for over 65s

BERLIN (AP): Germany's independent vaccine committee has formally approved giving the AstraZeneca shot to people age 65 and over, the health minister said Thursday.

The decision was "good news for older people who are waiting for a vaccination," said the minister, Jens Spahn. "They will get vaccinated faster."

The vaccine made by British-Swedish company AstraZeneca is one of three authorized for use in the 27-nation European Union. But several countries, including Germany, initially restricted it to people under 65, or in some cases under 55, citing a lack of data on its effectiveness in older people.

But the publication of data and pressure to speed up the EU's slow vaccine rollout has prompted authorities across the bloc to revise their guidance.

The independent committee, known by its German acronym StiKo, also advised waiting 12 weeks between administering the first and second AstraZeneca shots, as studies show this increases the vaccine's effectiveness, Spahn said.

He said both recommendations will be

swiftly incorporated in Germany's vaccine rules, which the government announced late Wednesday would be overhauled to allow more people to get the shots sooner.

Restrictive rules and a rush of deliveries mean Germany is sitting on a stockpile of more than 2 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine even as many who want it can't get the shots.

France, Belgium and Italy already loosened their age restrictions for the AstraZeneca vaccine earlier this week as they scramble to confront a looming third spike in COVID-19 cases driven by more contagious virus variants.

Data published this week from England's mass vaccination program showed that both the AstraZeneca and the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines were around 60% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in people over 70 after just a single dose. The analysis released by Public Health England, which hasn't been peer reviewed yet, also showed that both vaccines were about 80% effective in preventing hospitalizations among people over 80.

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim missile hits Saudi oil facility

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (AP): Yemen's Houthi rebels said they attacked a Saudi oil facility in the port city of Jiddah on Thursday, the latest in a series of cross-border missile and drone strikes the group has claimed against the kingdom amid the grinding war in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia's state-owned media did not immediately acknowledge any incident in Jiddah. But overnight, the military coalition the Saudis are leading against the Houthis announced that the Houthis had fired two explosives-laden drones toward Khamis Mushait, a southwestern city home to the King Khalid Air Base, and later a ballistic missile toward the southern province of Jizan. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Brig. Gen. Yehia Sarie, a Houthi military spokesman, tweeted that the rebels fired a new Quds-2 cruise missile at the facility. He posted a satellite image online that matched Aramco's North Jiddah Bulk Plant, where oil products are stored in tanks. The Iran-backed rebels claimed they hit the same facility last November, an attack the Saudi-led coalition later acknowledged had ignited a fire at the plant.

While such attacks

rarely cause damage or casualties, strikes on major oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, have shaken energy markets and the world economy.

The Jiddah plant, which serves as a temporary storage facility for gasoline, diesel and other petrochemicals before distribution, sits just southeast of the city's King Abdulaziz International Airport, a major airfield that handles Muslim pilgrims heading to Mecca.

Flights coming into the airport diverted or otherwise flew in circles early Thursday morning without explanation, according to tracking data from website FlightRadar24.com.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene did not see any smoke immediately rising from the installation Thursday morning. The U.S. Consulate in Jiddah issued a warning to Americans citing the attack on the Aramco facility, among other reported drone strikes on the kingdom's south. It said it wasn't aware of any casualties and urged Americans to "review immediate precautions to take in the event of an attack."

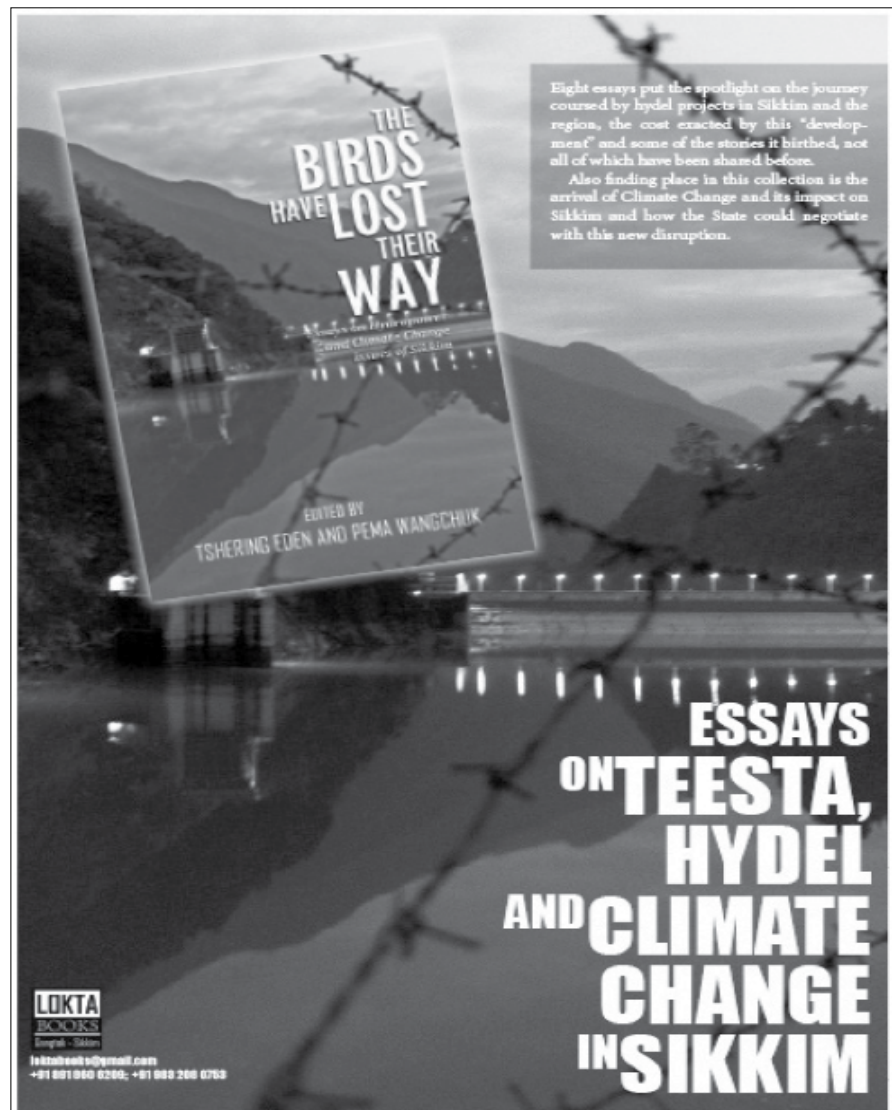
Saudi Aramco, the kingdom's oil giant that now has a sliver of its worth traded publicly

on the stock market, did not respond to a request for comment. Its stock traded slightly up Thursday on Riyadh's Tadawul stock exchange as the international crude benchmark, Brent, rose to more than \$64 a barrel.

Since 2015, the Houthis battling the Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen have targeted international airports, along with military installations and critical oil infrastructure, within Saudi Arabia. In recent months the rebels have escalated their attacks, repeatedly crashing drones and missiles into the kingdom's Patriot missile batteries. Earlier this week, a ballistic missile reached as far as the capital, Riyadh, where it was intercepted and exploded in the sky, scattering shrapnel debris over the city.

The conflict in Yemen erupted nearly six years ago, after the Houthis swept into the capital and seized much of the country's north. A Saudi-led military coalition launched a bombing campaign to dislodge the Houthis and restore the internationally recognized government.

Now mired in stalemate, the war has killed more than 12,000 civilians, pushed millions to the brink of famine and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis.



Shah Rukh Khan's Kal Ho Naa Ho Co-Star Jhanak Shukla On "Not Earning Anything" And Retiring At 25

Remember Jhanak Shukla, the girl who played the role of little Gia Kapur in Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta and Saif Ali Khan's film Kal Ho Naa Ho? She

occupied the top spot on the list of trends on Thursday after a recent video of her talking about "not earning anything" at the age of 25 surfaced on the Internet. In a video for Brut India, Jhanak opened up about taking a break from acting when she was 15 and already feeling "retired." Jhanak Shukla, the daughter of actress Supriya Shukla, is also known for her performance as robot Karishma in the TV show Karishma Kaa Karishma.

Talking about taking a break from films and shows early, Jhanak said: "My retirement has already begun. My parents say that because I don't work as much. I chill. I make soaps. I roam. I write sometimes. And I've done my masters so I'm like, 'It's okay.'"

When asked about if she gave up acting because she was fed up of it, Jhanak said: "I was not actually fed up of acting. I was 15 or 16 so I was like, 'I have to

chill now.' Because during childhood I had worked a lot but also my parents, they made me take breaks in between. I used to even go to school on a regular

track when it comes to acting."

Jhanak Shukla is now an archaeologist. She loves her life now but this isn't what she had imagined when she was a



basis and I did my homework and everything, it was fun but somewhere I missed a small part of my childhood. So, my parents were also like, 'Take a break now.' So, that's somewhere I lost the

kid. "When I was small, I had in my mind that I will be 24, I will be earning a lot, I'll be married and settled. I am 25 and not earning anything. But my parents are very supportive."

Rapper OMB Peezy charged in music video shooting



ATLANTA (AP): An Alabama rapper was arrested in connection to a shooting at music video set in downtown Atlanta, authorities said.

OMB Peezy was arrested Monday and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime, news outlets reported.

The shooting happened on Feb. 21 at a scrap yard where rappers Roddy Ricch and 42 Dugg were filming a music video. Atlanta police said two men were wounded in the gunfire. Another man was injured at the scene but it's unclear whether he was shot.

Atlanta police spokesman Officer Anthony Grant said all three men were in stable condition. Neither

Roddy or Dugg were wounded.

Another man was arrested at the scene and charged with drug possession, Grant said. The man wasn't considered a suspect at the shooting.

Fulton County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Tracy Flanagan said Peezy, whose real name is LeParis Dade, was taken to the Fulton County Jail, where he remains on a \$60,000 bond. Dade must wear an ankle monitor and surrender his passport before he can post bond, Flanagan said.

It's unclear whether he had an attorney who would comment on his behalf.

Peezy, 24, has over 550,000 subscribers on YouTube, where he's posted music, cooking and advice videos. He's known for his song "Big Homie," which has over 32 million views.

Nicole Kidman, Cynthia Erivo to feature in Apple anthology series 'Roar'

LOS ANGELES, MAR 4 (PTI): Apple TV Plus has green lit a new anthology series which will feature a star-studded cast of Nicole Kidman, Cynthia Erivo Allison Brie and Merritt Wever.

Titled "Roar", the show is a collection of darkly comic feminist fables. It has been created by Liz Flahive and Carly Mensch, the streamer said in a statement.

The series, based on Cecilia Ahern's book of short stories of the same name, will contain eight half-

hour episodes, told from a uniquely female point of view.

The series is the first project to be released under Mensch and Flahive's overall deal with Apple.

The duo will also serve as show-runners and executive producers.

Kidman and Per Saari will executive produce through Blossom Films, alongside Bruna Papandrea, Steve Hutensky, and Allie Goss.

"Roar" will be produced by Endeavor Content.

Reinaldo Marcus Green to direct Bob Marley biopic

LOS ANGELES, MAR 4 (PTI): Paramount Pictures has roped in Reinaldo Marcus Green, director of "King Richard", to helm a biopic on reggae legend Bob Marley.

The feature film will focus on the life and career of the famed Jamaican singer-songwriter, one of the pioneering voices of reggae, whose discography includes hit tracks "One Love/People Get Ready", "High Tide or Low Tide", and "No Woman No Cry".

Bob Marley's wife singer Rita Marley, two of their children, musicians Ziggy and Cedella, will produce on behalf of Tuff Gong. Robert Teitel will also produce the film.

Over the course of his career Bob Marley became known as a Rastafari icon, and he infused his music with a sense of spirituality.

He is also considered a global symbol of Jamaican music and culture and identity, and was controversial in his outspoken support for the legalisation of marijuana, while he also advocated for Pan-Africanism.

In 1977, Bob Marley was diagnosed with acral lentiginous melanoma; he died as a result of the illness in 1981 at the age of 36.

Green said audiences want to know the real Bob Marley, the man as well as the legend.

"I trust this film will bring us closer to understanding his journey, his music, and continue to carry the torch of his legacy with humility and grace, and most of all, love," the filmmaker said.

Ziggy Marley said the film will be like "opening a window" that has never been open before.

"It's an incredible responsibility that we take on with Reinaldo and the team at Paramount to tell the story of our father in a way that truly honors him and will also entertain, enlighten, uplift and inspire his fans and audiences around the world," he added.

Green made his feature debut with the 2018 Sundance favourite Monster and Men, starring John David Washington.

Janet Jackson's documentary to arrive in 2022

LOS ANGELES, MAR 4 (PTI): A four-hour documentary on the life and career of singer Janet Jackson will be simulcast on Lifetime and A&E in early 2022, which marks the 40th anniversary of her eponymous debut album.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, producers Workerbee have been filming the feature for three years, working with Jackson and given exclusive access to archival footage, unseen home videos and interviews with famous contemporaries.

Ben Hirsch, known for documentaries on Idris Elba and "Bruno v Tyson", serves as director.

Jackson, 54, will also serve as an executive producer on the two-part project alongside Randy Jackson (no relation) and Workerbee's Rick Murray and A+E Networks' Miranda Bryant.

The tentatively titled documentary "Janet" will see her discussing her famous family, including the deaths of brother Michael and father Joseph, her late-in-life motherhood and, perhaps most notably, 2004 Super Bowl appearance with singer Justin Timberlake.

Timberlake recently addressed his complicity in Jackson's career downturn after one of her breasts was exposed during their infam-



mous halftime show performance in the wake of the criticism he received for ill treating his former girlfriend and singer Britney Spears as depicted in the explosive documentary "Framing Britney Spears".

Timberlake apologised to both Spears and Jackson for his past actions.

Aries: Things are looking good for you on the professional and creative front. You and your team are vibing off each other in a way you never have before, and are working dedicatedly towards bringing those magical ideas to life. Communication and mutual respect promises to be the secret to your success, Aries. On the personal front, your friends and family members are offering the leg up you need right now. Allow yourself to receive all that love! Tip: It's all about working in harmony with others.

Taurus: Spoiler alert, Taurus: Things are unlikely to go according to your plan. But that doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing. Pay attention to what the Universe is pointing you towards. Looks like there is another way to navigate the given situation. Flexibility is a superpower that will help you emerge triumphant. Tip: Replace the rigidity with flexibility. That's all!

Gemini: Don't you love when things fall into place magically, restoring peace and harmony in your world? You have so much to be grateful for, Gemini. A good time to send out that prayer of gratitude is now. What the cards want you to remember: you are where you need to be. So, remain in that state of flow. Be receptive to what the signs are leading you towards. As for the troubles? Think of them

as minor disturbances on an otherwise beautiful journey.

Tip: Stay in that flow.

Cancer:

Sometimes, 2 + 2 equals 4. At other times, it equals 13. But, you know that already, don't you, Cancer? As a seeker, you understand that not everything can be explained logically. That there is more to this life than what meets the eye. So, trust the guidance you are receiving from the unseen realms. The signs and the symbols that are pointing you in a certain direction. New pathways are opening for you and they require you to seize the day confidently.

Tip: Trust the guidance you are receiving from the unseen realms.

Leo:

What if we said everything you need is already within you? Turn your gaze inwards, Leo. Tap into that which remains still despite the ever-changing emotions. The answers you are seeking will come through in these moments. What the forces want you to remember: everything will be alright despite what your physical reality looks like, and the help and resources you require at every step will be made available to you. PS: You are three seconds away from that miracle!

Tip: The answers you're seeking will come through in moments of stillness.

Virgo:

Virgo, it's time to put your boss lady/man pants on, and focus on managing the show from the top. Yes, it will be easy to get caught up in the drama and fuss over the minute details of the plan. Consciously remind yourself of what is and isn't worth your time at each stage. That's the only way to remain focused on the big stuff. PS: All eyes are on you, so do what it takes to make this unveiling a grand one.

Tip: Focus on the big stuff.

Libra:

Experts say it's easier to talk about sex than it is about money. Could this be true in your case, Libra? Chances are, you are being weighed down by financial worries because you are supporting the lifestyle of your SO or somebody close to you. Remember, you are not responsible for everybody. You cannot heal or fix everybody's problems. Stop acting from a space of fear or guilt and talk to them about what's weighing you down. Finding a way to share the load will free you, beloved.

Tip: It's time to talk about what's weighing you down.

Scorpio:

There's a lot going on in the Scorpio HQ, enough to give the best of us a panic attack. So why are you adding more to your plate? Why are you making commitments

that you will never be able to fulfil? It's okay to have limitations—we all do. Acknowledge them and move on. Remember, you have nobody to impress here. This conversation is between you and yourself.

Tip: Not all that glitters is gold!

Sagittarius:

Things you're grateful for today: 1. The winds of change that brought you to this point in your existence. 2. The support you received in each moment. 3. And your inner strength that helped you get through it all. No, it wasn't easy. But, you made it, Sagittarius! Give yourself the pat on the back that you deserve. What you're making space for today is a brand new chapter, one that is synonymous with truth, freedom, and love.

Tip: You're grateful for the winds of change that brought you to this point in your existence.

Capricorn:

What if we said you don't have to do it all alone? What if we said Spirit is your dreamweaving partner in this process? Trust the signs and keep moving forward. You are being supported in more ways than you can imagine. If your relationship is something you're struggling with, keep the faith. Chances are, your partner is mirroring you at the moment. Instead of letting your triggers get the better of you, become aware. This will help bring light to the shadows within and transform you on a deep level.

Tip: You are being supported in more ways than you can imagine.

Aquarius:

We tend to think of karma as the bad guy, but it's neither good nor bad. It simply is. Understanding the higher reason behind why things are unfolding in a certain manner will help you honour the soul lessons you are meant to integrate at this time. So, call upon your higher self, Aquarius. Liberate yourself from the vicious cycles that have been keeping you in the darkness. When it comes to decision making, check in with your heart and your head. Finding a balance between the two will help you move forward with grace.

Tip: Understand the higher reason behind the circumstances you have attracted into your Universe.

Pisces:

Moody and broody is not a cute look on you, Pisces. Pay attention to what your body is telling you. It's time to prioritise rest and rejuvenation. Sometimes, 8-10 hours of uninterrupted sleep is all it takes to get your mojo back. Been zzz-ing well but cannot shake that feeling of tiredness? Consider treating yourself to a spa weekend. There's nothing like a Balinese massage to release the stress and ease the muscles.

Tip: Sometimes, you just need 8-10 hours of uninterrupted sleep.